

The Polk County News

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ESTABLISHED MAY, 1894.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE PERISH IN FLAMES

MANY LIVES ARE LOST IN CLUB HOUSE FIRE AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.
SEVERAL PERSONS HURT
Seven Bodies Recovered—Other Victims Still Buried in Ruins of Building.

St. Louis.—That from thirty to thirty-five guests of the Missouri Athletic club perished in the flames that destroyed the building is the belief of officers of the club.
Seven bodies have been recovered and from twenty-three to twenty-nine occupants of the structure are still unaccounted for. At sundown firemen continued the search for bodies in the smoldering ruins under the glare of searchlights.
Though a committee early opened headquarters at the Press club and asked all who were guests of the Missouri Athletic club to report, thirty to thirty-five did not register and hourly the feeling grew that all these were lost.
Hope was given by Fire Chief Swingle that water would be pumped out of the ruins in one night and that search for bodies might then be resumed.

While the search continued seventeen persons injured in the fire were under treatment at public and private hospitals.
There was much difficulty in identifying recovered bodies of the dead and some were identified under two or three different names.

The blaze was the most serious as to fatalities of any fire in the city's history. It completely wrecked the seven-story building occupied jointly by the Missouri Athletic club and by the Boatmen's bank, caused a property loss estimated at \$466,000, and forced the abandonment of the intercollegiate track meet to have been held in St. Louis under the auspices of the club.

The cause of the fire was a mystery. Reports that the blaze was accompanied by a terrific explosion indicating that the fire was due to efforts of bank robbers to dynamite the Boatmen's bank were unconfirmed. Reports of explosions were denied by the night watchman of the bank.

HEIRS TO GET FEDERAL CASH

Officers Who Left U. S. Army to Be Reimbursed.

Washington.—Officers of the United States army who resigned their commissions to give their services to the Confederacy will be reimbursed for their pay and allowances they sacrificed by such action, under a bill offered by Senator Overman of North Carolina, which passed the senate. It will now go to the house.

Among those who will receive back pay and allowances are the heirs of Jackson, Longstreet, Pickett and many other famous Confederate generals who were in army service when the South seceded and when they enlisted under the Southern banners the treasury refused to pay them whatever amounts were due them for services rendered.

More than twenty-five years ago the Supreme court held that one Walker had a just claim, but this test case does not seem to have been made the basis of all the suits which have been held valid. Heirs of many Southerners are entitled to the amount.

Exchanges Gamble in Products.

Washington.—Holding that exchange gambling in agricultural products is one of the great evils of the country which ought to be speedily corrected, Representative Robert L. Henry of Texas, chairman of the house rules committee, is planning to secure action on another line of investigation. At a meeting of the committee it was practically settled that the Democratic legislative program for this session will authorize a special joint committee of the two houses to investigate the exchanges of the country.

Ten Men Exhumed Vergara. Laredo, Texas.—Information secured unofficially but from sources usually well informed, indicated that at least two Mexicans were members of the party which exhumed the body of the Texas ranchman, Clemente Vergara, from the cemetery at Hidalgo, Mexico, and returned it to the American side of the border. Eight Americans are said to have been the others in the expedition. It is also reported that one of the Mexicans remained in Mexico and friends expressed concern for his safety.

JUSTICE DANIEL T. WRIGHT



Justice Daniel Thew Wright of the District of Columbia Supreme court, against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been filed with President Wilson by Wade H. Cooper, a Washington banker.

BLEASE IN FIGHTING MOOD

GOVERNOR DIDN'T LIKE SPEECH MADE BY ONE OF THE LEGISLATORS.

He Even Pulled Off His Coat—Personal Violence Prevented by Cool-Headed Members.

Columbia, S. C.—An exciting scene marked the session of the house of representatives when Governor Blease went into the hall to reply to certain statements made by W. F. Stevenson, in a speech on the asylum probe and to deliver a message in person. Personal encounters, which at one time seemed likely, were prevented by the intervention of members.

When the governor charged that N. B. Barnwell, member of the house from Charleston, was acting in a cowardly manner by raising a technical point that the chief executive was not acting within the constitutional limits in making his remarks, Governor Blease told the members that he came prepared for a fight because he could not stand the alleged misrepresentations.

Following the tilt with Mr. Barnwell the governor left the hall and was followed by a large number of his supporters. Mr. Stevenson followed him for the purpose, it is said, of stating that he did not wish Governor Blease to understand that he had apologized for any statement made in his speech. The governor apparently thought that Mr. Stevenson wanted to fight and pulled off his coat.
"I have been in some fights, but I never take off my coat," said Mr. Stevenson, returning to the hall. General disorder reigned in the house for several minutes while the governor was making his charges.

MOORE RESIGNS POSITION

Agreed to Serve State Department Only One Year.

Washington.—John Bassett Moore, counselor of the state department and the recognized authority on international questions, concluded his service with the government when President Wilson accepted the resignation. Coming when international affairs occupy the forefront of official and public attention, the departure of Mr. Moore from a position second only to that of Mr. Bryan, attracted widespread attention and comment.
Although the resignation had been in the president's hands since February 2, to take effect now, this fact had not been generally known. There had been reports some months ago that the counselor of the state department did not find his labors entirely congenial and was about to resign, but these reports were promptly denied.

Suffragettes Engage in Riot. London.—Militant suffragettes gave further proof that their bitterest animosity is reserved for the Labor party, the only political party that has espoused their cause. As soon as J. Ramsey MacDonald, chairman of the Labor party, began speaking at a labor party rally in Memorial hall, suffragettes, aided by male supporters, started to hound him down. For nearly an hour a fierce struggle raged in the hall. There were frequent free fights between men, white women grabbed one another by the hair.

TEXAS RANGERS INVADE MEXICO

MOUNTED TEXANS DISINTERRED CORPSE OF AMERICAN RANCHMAN AND TOOK IT AWAY.

HAD ORDER FOR THE BODY

Rangers Rode Swiftly and Met With No Opposition During Their Invasion of Mexico.

Laredo, Texas.—Texas rangers, who secretly crossed into Mexico at night, brought to the American side the mutilated body of Clemente Vergara, Texas ranchman, and established the fact of his execution after he was seized by Mexican federals.

The rangers were not opposed, accomplishing their search without the slightest violence, taking the body from a grave in Hidalgo cemetery almost within sight of the Texan border.

The seizure was divested of possibly grave aspects in international complications by reason of the fact that the rangers were practically making use of permission granted officially by Mexican federal authorities several days ago for recovery of the body. This permission had been given to United States Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo, but he did not get the body because of what he reported as dangers attending search for it in the immediate vicinity of Hidalgo.

Vergara was shot twice through the head and once through the neck his skull was crushed as by a blow from a rifle butt, and the charred fingers of the left hand indicated that he had been tortured before being put to death.

Identification was made the dead man's son and by numerous friends, many of whom were in the party of ninety, led by the state border patrol, which made the grim journey to the Hidalgo cemetery during the early morning hours. The body was not so badly decomposed, despite its three weeks' burial, and in addition to recognizing the features, young Vergara took a bit of cloth from the trousers which enclosed the body and matched it to the coat which his father had on the day he crossed the Rio Grande.

The body was brought into the United States at a point 45 miles northwest of Laredo, opposite Hidalgo and near the Vergara ranch. American Consul Garrett of Nuevo Laredo, deputy sheriffs and other authorities were waiting to receive it, and, pending the arrival of an undertaker from Laredo, an armed force stood guard over the body.

NATIONAL HONOR INVOLVED

President Wishes to Develop Foreign Policy of United States.

Washington.—Development of the American foreign policy as an influence for commercial expansion and the cause of universal peace is a vital concern of the Washington administration in its efforts to have repealed the Panama tolls exemption clause. Aside from President Wilson's assertion that national honor is involved in upholding a treaty obligation, there are circumstances surrounding a settlement of the controversy which are expected by administration officials to have a broad effect on the United States' diplomatic relations with the entire world.

Behind the protest of Great Britain, it has become known authoritatively, stands the united support of European nations whose formal objections have been held in abeyance to await the outcome of England's negotiations with the United States. Underlying the settlement of the tolls dispute is an ambitious program of American diplomacy, which contemplates an early adjustment of relations with the nations of the globe so that the Panama canal may be opened in an era of diplomatic good feeling.

Austrian Women Demand Ballot. Vienna, Austria.—Hundreds of women's mass meeting in favor of woman suffrage were held throughout Austria. At all resolutions were adopted declaring it was the general demand of Austrian woman for the vote in parliamentary and local elections.

Militant Women Fight Police. London.—Militant suffragettes here fought the police on their favorite battlefield, Trafalgar Square, and in a pouring rain. The arrest of Sylvia Pankhurst for the sixth time under the "cat-and-mouse" law precipitated the conflict. Seven other women and three men were arrested. One of those taken into custody was Miss Zelle Emerson of Jackson, Mich. Miss Emerson has been arrested several times for participation in suffragette demonstrations, and may be expelled by the government.

MRS. J. J. BROWN



Mrs. J. J. Brown, prominent in society in both Denver and Newport, is preparing to make an active canvass this year for a seat in the Colorado state senate, to succeed Mrs. Helen Ring Robinson. Mrs. Brown is one of the survivors of the Titanic disaster.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT TELLS LEGISLATORS EXEMPTION CLAUSE VIOLATES TREATY.

Wilson Indicates That Failure to Repeal May Cause Trouble About Other Matters.

Washington.—President Wilson went to congress and pleaded for repeal of the provision of the Panama canal act which exempts American coastwise shipping from tolls.

President Wilson's address, in part, follows:

"Gentlemen of the congress: I have come to you upon an errand which can be very briefly performed, but I beg that you will not measure its importance by the number of sentences in which I state it. No communication I have addressed to the congress carried with it graver or more far-reaching implications to the interest of the country, and I come now to speak upon a matter with regard to which I am charged in a peculiar degree by the Constitution itself with personal responsibility.
"I have come to ask for the repeal of that provision of the Panama canal act of August 24, 1912, which exempts vessels engaged in the coastwise trade of the United States from payment of tolls and to urge upon you the justice, the wisdom and the large policy of such a repeal with the utmost earnestness of which I am capable.
"In my own judgment, very fully considered and maturely formed, that exemption constituted a mistaken economic policy from every point of view, and is, moreover, in plain contravention of the treaty with Great Britain concerning the canal, concluded on November 18, 1911.
"But I have not come to you to urge my personal views. I have come to state to you a fact and a situation. Whatever may be our own difference of opinion concerning this much debated measure, its meaning is not debated outside the United States. Everywhere else the language of the treaty is given but one interpretation, and that interpretation precludes the exemption I am asking you to repeal. We consented to the treaty; its language we accepted, if we did not originate it; and we are too big, too powerful, too self-respecting a nation to interpret with too strained or refined a reading the words of our own promises just because we have power enough to give us leave to read them as we please. The large thing to do is the only thing we can afford to do, a voluntarily withdrawal from a position everywhere questioned and misunderstood. We ought to reverse our action without raising the question whether we were right or wrong, and so once more deserve our reputation for generosity and the redemption of every obligation without quibble.
"I ask this of you in support of the foreign policy of the administration. I shall not know how to deal with other matters of even greater delicacy and nearer consequence if you do not grant it to me in ungrudging measure."
World's Tourists Welcomed. New York.—The world-girdling American baseball players came home in a snowstorm. While harbor craft tooted and envoys from the Federal League figuratively waved enticing contracts, the Giant-White Sox combination drew into quarantine. The Federal League representatives were unable to obtain passes to board the Lusitania to greet the travelers down the bay. Organized baseball was more fortunate in having obtained revenue cutter passes in advance and a delegation was able to board the ship.

SUE METROPOLITAN TOBACCO COMPANY

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL BRING CHARGES UNDER THE SHERMAN ANTI-TRUST ACT.

IS RESTRAINING THE TRADE?

Independent Dealers Say the Company is Worse Than the American Company Was, Claim Elimination Only Will Restore Trade.

Washington.—Attorney General McReynolds decided to prepare suit against the Metropolitan Tobacco Company of New York, under the Sherman anti-trust act. The decision was based on evidence of alleged restraints of trade, laid before Mr. McReynolds by H. Snowden Marshall, United States District Attorney at New York and his assistant, C. A. Thompson, who has investigated the case.

The chief complaint against the Metropolitan Company is alleged discriminations against independent dealers. The Metropolitan acts as distributing agent for producing companies that made up the old tobacco "trust" and producing companies would be parties to the action. The question of criminal prosecution of officials of the companies was not settled.

Independent dealers have charged that the Metropolitan Company's hold on the business of Greater New York, Long Island and Jersey City is so powerful that they are in worse condition than before the dissolution of the old American Tobacco Company.

According to Mr. Marshall's report, investigation has shown that the Metropolitan sells to independent jobbers at the same rates it sells to retailers, so that jobbers handle Metropolitan goods at no profit at all. Officials of the disintegrated companies of the old American Tobacco Company, which use the Metropolitan Company as distributing agents, have talked with department officials about a severance of their relations, and as a result the understanding here is that a conspiracy in restraint of trade will not be charged in the government suit, though action would be based on the allegation that there is restraint of trade.

The fact that there have been negotiations between officials of the tobacco companies and department representatives was pointed out as a reason for believing the entire matter might be settled out of court. Independent dealers, however, have charged that nothing but the elimination of the Metropolitan would restore competition to the Greater New York field.

Attorney General McReynolds has been particularly interested in the Metropolitan case because he was attorney for the government in the suit against the old tobacco "trust."

He was greatly interested in evidence produced and unless the Metropolitan is willing to conform to the department's view of the Sherman act, proceedings will be pressed.

Vergara Mystery Cleared.

Washington.—Comprehensive reports from Major General Bliss and American Consul Garrett at Laredo cleared up the mystery which had surrounded the delivery on American soil of the body of the American ranchman, Clemente Vergara.

The reports satisfied officials that no act has been committed by National or state agents in violation of Mexican sovereignty, and that if there were any offense in the removal of the body from Mexico, it was committed by individuals, so the matter could not be made an international question.

Finish Stock Exchange Hearings.

Washington.—Hearings on the pending Stock Exchange regulation bill were concluded by the Senate Banking and Currency Committee with Samuel Untermyer, who drew the measure at the conclusion of the recent "money trust" investigation hearings, as the lone witness.

Fatal Fight on Train.

Welch, W. Va.—R. L. Taylor, a deputy sheriff of Lex, McDowell county, is dead, A. D. Beavers, a former United States Deputy Marshal of Bartley, is in the Welch Hospital, in a dying condition with a pistol wound in the abdomen. D. W. Beavers, a deputy sheriff and brother of A. D. Beavers, was shot through the leg and T. E. Hickey, a non-combatant, was shot through the thigh, in a pistol battle on a crowded Norfolk & Western passenger train about 7 o'clock, between Laeger and Berwind.

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