

DISCUSSING THE TRUST QUESTION.

Small Gathering at the Governor's Convention at St. Louis.

The Chief Executives of But Six States Were in Attendance.

Most of the Day Spent in Speech-Making, Almost Everyone Being Given an Opportunity to Air His Views—Several Tilt Between Speakers of Opposite Political Faith Give Spice to the Proceedings.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 20.—The Governors of Arkansas, Tennessee, Michigan, Missouri, Colorado and Iowa, most of them accompanied by their Attorneys General and other representatives of their States, responded to the invitation of Governor J. D. Sayers of Texas to meet in conference for the purpose of discussing the trust question, and assembled to-day at the Planter's Hotel, where three sessions were held.

The conference will be concluded to-morrow morning when the Committee on Resolutions will be ready to report.

Governor Sayers was present with his Attorney General, and was chosen permanent Chairman of the conference. Most of the day was spent in speech-making, and almost every one of those present was afforded an opportunity to air his views on the question under discussion.

There were several tilts between speakers of opposite political faith that gave spice to the proceedings.

At the morning session Governor Stephens of Missouri delivered himself of a partisan fling at the Republican National Administration, criticising its expansion policy, and declaring that trusts and imperialism go hand in hand.

Governor Shaw of Iowa took up the gauntlet thrown down by Stephens, and at the opening of the afternoon session answered him with a speech that brought smiles to the faces of most of those present.

In turn Governor Jones of Arkansas put Iowa's Chief Magistrate on the spit, and roasted him for using cautious language at a meeting of the Attorney General Taylor of Indiana also took occasion to rap the knuckles of Missouri's Governor.

There seemed to be a great difference of opinion as to the best method of remedying the so-called trust evil. Some of those present thought that the States should be given authority to control the operations of the combinations complained of, while others were of the opinion that uniform laws should be enacted by the several States and by Congress. Some were for the complete annihilation of the trusts while others favored their regulation.

Governors Sayers and Pingree, in the speeches delivered to-day, showed themselves strongly in favor of the first idea, as was also Governor Jones of Arkansas.

Governors Thomas of Colorado and Shaw of Iowa favored the enactment of laws to restrict the combines.

There was almost as much difference of opinion among the Attorneys General who were heard.

Governors Shaw of Iowa and Thomas of Colorado and Attorney General Taylor of Indiana left for home to-night. The Committee on Resolutions held a session far into the night.

PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL. ST. LOUIS, Sept. 20.—Morning trains brought in a number of additional Governors and Attorneys General who have come here on the invitation of Governor Sayers of Texas to hold a conference for the discussion of the trust question and to take such action as may be deemed necessary. The indications are that at least nine States will be represented at the conference.

Governor Hazen S. Pingree and Attorney General Owen of Michigan were among the first arrivals. Both registered at the Planter's Hotel, where the sessions of the conference will be held. The Governor said he had not come prepared to say much, but rather would listen and learn, for every one knew where he stood on the trust question. He did not believe in temporizing with the evil, and declared that trusts should be wiped out unconditionally. It was a sad state of affairs, the Governor said, when such big concerns as now exist have so monopolized all branches of business that the young men of the country with ambition but little capital are crowded to the wall and have no opportunity to make a beginning. Governor Pingree said he thought this question was the most vital one now before the American people, and he believed such gatherings as that recently held at Chicago and the one about to be held here would do much good in bringing before the thinking people of the country the serious aspect of affairs.

Among the other arrivals to-day are Attorney General W. L. Taylor of Indiana, Governor Benton of Tennessee, Attorney General Nolan of Montana, Governor C. S. Thomas of Colorado and Governor Leslie E. Shaw and E. R. Brown of Iowa. All are registered at the Planter's Hotel.

The conference has attracted a large number of politicians from this and other States.

Prominent among those who thronged the corridors of the hotel was Congressman Joseph Bailey of Texas, who says he is on his way home from Kentucky, where he has been looking after some private business.

Before the conference began Attorney General Monroe G. McClurg of Mississippi arrived. He stated that Governor McLaughlin was detained at home on important business. Promptly at 11 o'clock Attorney General Crow of Missouri called the conference to order in the ladies' ordinary of the Planter's Hotel, welcoming those present to Missouri.

On motion of Governor Lon V.

Stephens of Missouri, Governor J. D. Sayers of Texas was elected as permanent Chairman.

Earl B. Moore, Private Secretary of Governor Stephens of Missouri, was chosen Secretary of the conference.

Governor Sayers read a somewhat lengthy address, setting forth his views on the question of trusts, which was frequently applauded.

Governor Sayers said regarding his calling of the conference: "No motive prompted my action other than the desire to induce, if possible, concert of action among such Governors and Attorneys General of all the States as might attend, in an effort to suppress an evil, which has become gigantic in proportions and which, in the opinion of a very large number of good and patriotic citizens of the republic, threaten the most serious and disastrous consequences to the country."

It is true that in some sections money is plentiful, trade is active, speculation rife and that certain products have largely and rapidly increased in selling value. This prosperity, however, is born, in a great measure, of war, and is largely attributable to the enormous expenditures that have been and are now being made by the general Government for special purposes and in particular in connection with it, and shall continue this unusual activity will be maintained. Considering the situation conservatively, impartially and with the assistance of an intelligent experience, it cannot be reasonably expected that the prosperity will long survive the settlement of our foreign difficulties and the restoration of peace.

"Next to the war itself and the incidents connected with it, the wonderful revolution that has occurred in business life is calculated to arouse the gravest anxiety in all thoughtful minds. For the past quarter of a century we have heard much of trust formation, and notes of alarm have sounded again and again to warn the people of the danger that threatened them in that direction. But during the past two years that which was previously but a shadow on the horizon has become a dark and portentous cloud, and on every side and from every quarter are heard warnings of imminent danger that should no longer pass unheeded."

The speaker quoted from a writer who enumerated some of the largest trusts in order to illustrate the gravity of the situation in this respect, and then went on to say:

"These aggregations of capital in such extraordinary and unprecedented amounts, controlling as they do the production, distribution and sale of commodities in universal use, all under the management and direction of a few persons, cannot but excite the gravest apprehensions in the mind of every thoughtful and patriotic citizen. The power which such associations can and do exert does not accord with the spirit and policy of free institutions. The possession of extensive authority, supplemented with the means of its arbitrary and unrestricted exercise, is always denied in every just and well-regulated Government. This principle holds equally good in matters affecting industrial and economic life, where government privileges are not enjoyed by all. Every combination and association of any magnitude in this country under guise of a trust, almost without exception owes its existence to a governmental grant of privilege, exemption and power. In this form of business activity the individual shields himself under the protecting advantage and immunity of a corporate existence, created by statute."

"Were it not so trust formations would be fewer in number, smaller in magnitude and less dangerous to society. The fact that the trust almost universally owes its life to the creative power of public authority makes it the imperative duty of the Government to protect the people against any abuse or misuse of its opportunities to the detriment of the general welfare. This is, in my opinion, a complete answer to any objection that might be urged against governmental interference to restrain, and, if needs be, to entirely destroy the trust power whenever it shall become hurtful or injurious."

Governor Sayers declared that in none of the generally accepted authorities upon finance, commerce or mechanic and agricultural industry can there be found a rational defense of the system that has so suddenly and so firmly fixed its iron grasp upon the material interests of the country. The gravity of the situation, the speaker declared, could not be overestimated nor permitted to pass unchallenged by those charged with important and responsible public duties. It was not the time for evasion, nor was it a subject worthy only of discussion. Action, careful, thoughtful, intelligent and courageous action, he said, was the hour's greatest need.

"Constitutional obstacles lie in the way and the evil cannot be eradicated by either Federal or State authority acting simply," the Governor continued. "There must be co-operation between the State and Federal authorities, each working earnestly and sincerely within its sphere."

In the speaker's opinion both governments may be rightly responsible for the existence of trusts, and the subject was indisputably within the domain of Federal legislation.

The Minister also calls attention to the fact that the health of the prisoner is seriously impaired, and that he would not be able, without great danger, to undergo prolonged detention. The report of the War Minister concludes thus:

"The Government will not have met the wishes of the country, which desires pacification, if it does not hasten to effect all traces of the painful conflict. It belongs to you, M. Le President, by an act of lofty humanity, to give the first pledge of the work of appeasement which opinion demands, and the good of the republic commands."

IN CAPE NOME DISTRICT. Major Ray Requests That Vessels be Sent to Bring People Home.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—General Shafter has sent to the War Department a copy of a dispatch which he has received from Major P. H. Ray. It is dated St. Michael's, August 31st, and is as follows:

"I find at Anvil and along the beach between 3,000 and 3,500 people. Fully 2,500 of the people will be compelled to leave here before the close of navigation, owing to lack of food and shelter. From all I can learn there will be but three steamers here to return be-

DREYFUS GIVEN HIS LIBERTY.

Released From Prison at an Early Hour Yesterday Morning.

Departed From Rennes Unnoticed While Most People Were Asleep.

Arrived at Nantes at 8:17 a. m., Departing on Another Train Shortly After—Dreyfus Makes a Declaration That He Will Continue to Seek Reparation Until All France Knows That He is Innocent.

RENNES (France), Sept. 20.—Captain Alfred Dreyfus at 3 o'clock this morning left the prison here in which he has been confined since his return from Devil's Island, and proceeded to Vern, where he took a train bound for Nantes. His departure was completely unnoticed.

M. Vigie, the chief of the secret service, and M. Dureau arrived at the Minister of War's office for the release of Dreyfus. The latter walked out of the prison to the Boulevard la Enne, where he entered a waiting carriage, and was driven to the Vern station, outside the town. Mathieu Dreyfus met him at the train and accompanied him to Nantes.

While this dramatic turn in the Dreyfus drama was taking place all France slept, and the departure of the famous prisoner of Devil's Island was no more noticed than that of an ordinary traveler.

The carriage which was waiting was a private vehicle which took Dreyfus to his prison when he returned from Devil's Island. Dreyfus got out of the house where M. Labori had stayed previous to the attempt upon his life, and alighted about 500 yards from the station and walked in regardless of the drizzling rain. The Nantes train carried the great G. A. B. parade in 1890. Fully a score of bands furnished the music. Street car and other traffic was suspended along the line of march, and the police kept the crowd of spectators well back on the sidewalks.

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BOERS READY FOR THE CONFLICT.

The Preparations as Complete as Could Be Hoped For.

Officers Urging the Government to Begin Hostilities Forthwith.

Despite the Outward Show of Calm at London, the British Military Officials Are Working Night and Day Preparing for the Signal to Begin the Conflict.

LONDON, Sept. 21.—The Johannesburg correspondent of the "Morning Post" says: The Boer preparations are as complete as the Government can hope to make them. It is believed that martial law will be proclaimed on Thursday if no reply has been received from England by that time.

It is understood the dispatching of British troops to South Africa will be regarded as a casus belli.

The Boer officers are urging the Government to begin hostilities forthwith. It is felt that the Orange Free State can be best protected by a successful military demonstration on the part of the Transvaal.

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM. LONDON, Sept. 20.—Despite all outward show of calm, Great Britain is in practically the same condition to-day as was the United States a few weeks before the opening of the war with Spain. Beneath the crust of diplomatic reserve, the military officials are working night and day preparing for the signal to begin hostilities, whether that comes or not. England is not going to be caught napping any more than the Transvaal. While Lord Salisbury is quietly at home in Hatfield House, Mr. Chamberlain is buried in work at the Colonial office, and double forces at the royal arsenal and dock yards are straining every nerve to equip and transport troops to the Cape.

It may be set down for certain that Great Britain will do nothing to precipitate matters, and the Colonial Office is far from admitting that the case is hopeless.

The report that Great Britain had demanded the dismantlement of the fort at Johannesburg, together with a material reduction in the armament of the Burghers, the Colonial Office to-day would neither confirm nor deny, although it is much doubted.

Meanwhile the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, who returned this morning from Durban, has held long conferences with General Lord Garnet Wolseley, Field Marshal, and General Sir Evelyn Wood, Adjutant General to the forces, and the activity at headquarters is reflected in the contract, supply and transport departments.

The departure of the British transport Jelungue for the Mediterranean to-day with 1,100 troops was witnessed by a large and enthusiastic crowd.

At Woolwich activity increases daily, and especially in the ordnance department, where Maxim guns, balloon equipment, shells, and other munitions for limelight apparatus, water carts, ambulances, army wagons and other paraphernalia of modern warfare are being hurried forward.

Advices from Cape Town are to the effect that the Afrikaners declare that the Transvaal will not yield further, and that if the Imperial Government does not recede from its present position war is inevitable. The South African "News" supports the contention of the Transvaal that the convention of 1884 abolished the suzerainty.

According to the latest advices, the Burghers are rapidly going into Laager, while the exodus from Johannesburg reached 1,000 persons yesterday. The Stock Exchange at Johannesburg has resolved to close the moment martial law is proclaimed, but all current contracts will be carried out until the proclamation suspending all business.

At Pretoria all seems to be centered in the meeting of the Orange Free State Volksraad to-morrow (Thursday), which it is hoped may somehow suggest a modus vivendi that would save the situation.

On the other hand, advices from Bloemfontein announce the arrival there of a large number of members of the Raad, adding that the result of to-morrow's sitting is already agreed on, as the Orange Free State will throw in its lot with the Transvaal, all the Free State burghers being fully armed and ready to start at a moment's notice.

A special dispatch from Johannesburg says that 450 persons left by one train to-day.

The Uitlander Council, as the result of meetings held at Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg, has decided to address a communication to the British High Commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, urging the Imperial Government to break off negotiations with the Transvaal. The reasons for this action are that the severe distress prevailing may compel the remaining Uitlanders to accept any compromise offered, that loyal British subjects are becoming discontented, and that great unrest exists among the natives.

It should be borne in mind, however, that Pietermaritzburg has been the meeting place of the alarmists, and the "Morning Post" dispatches are inclined to be sensational.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, spent the day at the Colonial Office. He looked completely worn out by anxiety.

A dispatch from Pretoria says that at a meeting of Belgians there a corps was enthusiastically formed to help the Boers in case of war. Secretary of State Reitz is quoted as saying that in case of war the aliens could remain in the Transvaal, provided they guaranteed their good behavior.

The presence of the Orange Free State officers at Pretoria is confirmed. Numerous field cornets are at the Boer capital.

The second edition of the "Times" prints a dispatch from Johannesburg, dated yesterday, saying: "Outwardly Johannesburg is quiet. The prevailing

ARCH OF WELCOME ERECTED AT DETROIT TO BE TAKEN DOWN.

DETROIT, Sept. 20.—A large arch of welcome, which the Common Council ordered erected on Woodward avenue, in honor of the I. O. O. F. diamond jubilee and under which to-day's grand parade was to have marched, was torn down and totally destroyed to-day. A series of misfortunes had pursued the unfinished structure. It was built in two halves, both of which became strained and broken on the attempt to raise them.

Last night, when finally gotten up, they would not properly join, and to-day a great crack appeared in the sidewalk near the front of an adjacent building, caused by the strain of arch-raising tackles attached thereto. To-day a gang of public works employees lowered and destroyed the whole structure in the interest of public safety.

The parade managers state that 5,000 men were assigned places in this afternoon's parade.

For more than an hour Odd Fellows and their sisters of the Rebekah order were passing in review before Grand Sire Pinkerton, Deputy Grand Sire Cable and Major General J. P. Ellacott, Chief of the Grand Sire's staff. It was the finest and largest procession seen in France since the great G. A. B. parade in 1890. Fully a score of bands furnished the music. Street car and other traffic was suspended along the line of march, and the police kept the crowd of spectators well back on the sidewalks.

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