

TAFT DENIES ANYTHING NEW

Trust Busting Campaign is Not to be Sensational But Just as Mentioned in Special Message.

MARKET TOOK A SLUMP

Taft Does Not Want a Panic in Business World, but Wants Trust to Have a Little Care.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—When the cabinet was in session at the White House, news was brought to the cabinet room of the slump in stocks on the New York stock market, attributed to the publication of statements that President Taft and the federal administration were about to engage in a general trust-busting campaign.

No statement has issued either from the attorney general's office or from the White House indicating that the purpose of the administration with reference to prosecutions under the anti-trust law other than as set forth in the message of the president of Jan. 7, 1910.

Sensational statements, as if there were to be a new departure and an indiscriminate prosecution of important industries, have no foundation. The purpose of the administration is exactly as already stated in the president's message.

The message to which the president refers was his special communication to Congress recommending amendments to the interstate commerce law and the enactment of a law providing for the issue of certificates of incorporation by the Federal Government to corporations engaged in interstate commerce.

In that message President Taft said that it was his duty and purpose to have the Department of Justice investigate, through the grand jury or otherwise, to ascertain whether there was ground to suspect that industrial corporations were violating the anti-trust law.

He suggested that sufficient funds be furnished to carry on the investigations, and referred to the task as a heavy one. The president indicated that he realized the danger to business that might come from such a course, and put forward the idea that business danger might be averted through offering to combinations a means of changing their character so as to bring them directly under federal control and supervision.

According to men close to the administration yesterday's slump in the stock market might have been avoided had attention been paid to what the president said in his special message.

Since the message was delivered to Congress a lot of gossip has come to Washington from other places that Mr. Taft's policy toward the trusts was going to be exceedingly mild, and there is some reason to believe that talk of this character following the plain statements of the president in his special message reached the White House and served to annoy Mr. Taft, who construed them as a reflection on his good faith and expressed honesty of purpose.

People who approached those high in the administration for these reports were true were reminded vigorously of what the president had said in his special message and informed that he intended to adhere to the course outlined in that document. It was what was said to these inquirers that formed the basis of the statements published in the newspapers which were alleged to be responsible for the slump in Wall street.

Elevator Sore at Railroad. DES MOINES, Jan. 26.—The farmers' elevator of Laurel is complaining to the railroad commission, charging the Iowa Central railroad with refusing to furnish stock cars for three weeks, though furnishing cars to competing points. Several other complaints charging the railroad with refusing to furnish cars were filed with the commission.

Meat Boycott at Waterloo. WATERLOO, Jan. 26.—The local union machinists held a meeting and discussed the meat situation, and a majority were in favor of supporting the boycott. A pledge will be drawn up and circulated.

THE BIG FIGHT HAS STARTED

Bullinger-Pinchot Controversy is Being Investigated by the Special Congressional Committee.

GLAVIS, FIRST WITNESS

Committee Expects to Visit the West and Even Alaska Before the Final Decision is Made.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26.—The administration probe into the Bullinger-Pinchot controversy is on. With the meeting today of the joint senate and house committee, taking of testimony in the investigation of the conservation squabble begins what promises to be the biggest overhauling of government affairs since the famous postoffice scandal of seven years ago.

L. R. Glavis, former chief of the field division of the general land office, was summoned today as the first witness. Two policies are on trial, the letter of the law and the spirit of the law, with Bullinger aligned with the former and backed by the administration strength, and Pinchot and his associates with the latter.

Before the committee of six senators and six representatives, all the parties to the controversy must appear and explain their every action in the matter at issue. Besides the principal figures, scores of others will be examined and the committee or at least a portion of it, will make a trip to the west and to Alaska during the summer to secure facts. A report of the finding of the committee, therefore, is not expected until the next session of congress.

Long before the twelve investigators were in their seats in the big hearing room of the senate office building, a crowd had filled every inch of space and overflowed into the hall.

BEGGS REMAINS ON THE BOARD

Is Only Non-Resident of St. Louis Who is a Director of the United Railways' Co.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26.—At the annual election of the United Railways company yesterday, held in the downtown office of the company in the Third National Bank building, W. J. Kinsella, president of the Hanley & Kinsella Coffee and Spice company, was chosen a member of the board of directors to succeed C. W. Wetmore, who was succeeded as president of the North American company by James Campbell recently.

The change was made, according to Mr. Campbell, because Mr. Wetmore desired to relinquish all his work on account of failing health. Mr. Kinsella was substituted to give St. Louis a larger representation on the board. All the members of the board are now St. Louisians, except John I. Beggs, whose daughter is a St. Louisan, the wife of Richard McCulloch, but who himself resides in Milwaukee.

The board is as follows: John I. Beggs, A. D. Brown, James Campbell, Murray Carleton, David R. Francis, Jr., C. H. Huttig, W. J. Kinsella, Robert McCulloch, president; H. S. Priest, general counsel; Festus J. Wade. At the meeting 330,384 shares of the total 450,000 stock were voted.

CLAIMS LIVING IS NOT HIGHER

Considering the Decrease in the Value of a Dollar, Professor Has a Beautiful Argument.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The cost of living has gone down instead of up, according to arguments last night before the Traffic club, by Prof. Joseph French Johnson, of the University of New York. "Mear," said the professor, "is cheaper than it was ten years ago, considering the decrease in the value of a dollar. The more gold you have, the less given amount it will buy. The decrease in the value of a dollar has not yet caught up with the basis of conditions. A pound of porterhouse steak cost 20 cents in 1900, today it costs 25 cents. The increased cost of meat is only 25 per cent, whereas it kept up with the proper ratio to the value of a dollar, which is 40 cents cheaper than ten years ago, that increase also would be 40 per cent."

Wreck at Boone. Boone, Jan. 26.—The San Francisco & Northwestern was derailed at Maple River. The tender of the engine and several cars were damaged and one sleeper was partially wrecked. No one was seriously injured.

McArthur a Clerk. DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 26.—W. C. McArthur, clerk of the United States district court, will probably succeed E. R. Mason, who resigned as clerk of the United States circuit court.

UNDER INFLUENCE OF THE COMET

All of Western Europe is Today in the Grip of Severe Storm With Floods, Hurricanes and Blizzards.

WIDE STRETCH OF STORM

Third of France is Under Water and Northern Part of Spain is Now in the Same Condition.

LONDON, Jan. 26.—Practically the whole of western Europe is today in the grip of a severe storm, with blizzards, floods and hurricanes that will do damage running into the thousands and a heavy loss of life.

The storm extends from the British Isles through Central Europe to Italy and from Scandinavia clear to Gibraltar. Both water and land traffic are greatly restricted. There have already been numerous reports of drownings both on the seas and in the land floods.

In addition to the terrible floods that now cover one third of France, the northern part of Spain is now suffering a like calamity.

Denver Has Wind. DENVER, Colo., Jan. 26.—Three persons were severely injured and damage amounting to several thousand dollars done last night and early today by one of the most severe windstorms in the history of the city.

Several fires were started by crossed wires and a number of small buildings were blown down. Signs were torn from the front of stores and scores of plate glass windows were broken.

DIVORCE FOR THE QUINCY BULLS

Separation was Procured Secretly in Chicago, Where They Are Now Living.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Dangerously ill at the North Shore health resort at Winnetka, her two daughters visiting in Quincy, Mrs. William B. Bull was too weak to discuss the recent secret divorce from her husband, William Benedict Bull, capitalist and clubman.

Mrs. Bull went to the resort shortly after the divorce was granted and the separation is thought to have contributed to her illness.

Mr. Bull is living at the Virginia hotel and when questioned refused to discuss the divorce. Whether alimony was granted or whether a cash settlement was made in Mrs. Bull's favor he would not say.

The two daughters, Hilda and Margaret Bull, were at the Virginia hotel until two weeks ago, when they went to Quincy, where they are with relatives of their father.

DOWNFALL OF RAG TIME COMPOSER

Author of Bill Bailey and Goo Goo Eyes Goes to the Poorhouse, Victim of Drink

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 26.—Hugh Cannon, who wrote "Goo Goo Eyes," "Ain't That a Shame," "Bill Bailey" and other classics of rag-time, was sent to Eloise poorhouse at the age of thirty-six. He told the story of his life in short, expressive sentences.

"I quit the 'coke' easy," he said. "Fifteen days in the jail cured me of that. I hit the pipe in New York for a year and stopped that. I went up against the morphine haze and quit; but booze, red, oily booze—that's got me for keeps.

TWO MEN DIED UNDER GROUND

Overcome by Gas in a Cassion Ninety Feet Below the Earth and Died Almost Instantly.

FIREMEN GOT BODIES

Bland and Yore Were Overcome by the Gas Before They Were Brought to The Surface Again.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—At the bottom of a cession, 90 feet below the surface of the earth, two men were asphyxiated by gas early today and two others were overcome in attempting a rescue. The two rescuers are in a critical condition.

The dead men are Peter Conroy and James Welch, workmen and the rescuers, Firemen Harry A. Bland and George Yore.

Conroy was sent down to the bottom of the cession in a bucket to make some repairs. The bucket operators noticed that the man fell heavily to the ground as soon as the bucket stopped. Welch was sent down to see what was the trouble and he too fell heavily out of the bucket at the bottom. A fire company was called and two men were sent down. They found Conroy and Welch dead. The two firemen after tying ropes about the two bodies, got into the bucket again and both were unconscious when drawn to the top.

BEGIN WORK ON THE BEEF TRUST

Federal Grand Jury Began Its Work Today on Investigation Into the Packing Houses of Country.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—The inquiry by the federal grand jury into the packing industry of the country today began in earnest. Thirty witnesses, all employees, appeared in the federal building at noon today in response to subpoenas issued by U. S. District Attorney Sims. No prominent officials were called as the government wishes to be careful that none of the men higher up are provided with immunity baths.

C. G. Snow, secretary and treasurer of the National Packing Co., was the first witness to appear in the building. He was called into the grand jury room shortly after noon. Arthur Colby, assistant treasurer of the National will also probably be summoned today. The examination of witnesses today was carried on by James Wilkinson, first assistant United States attorney.

Ellis Starts. WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Assistant Attorney Wade Ellis, trust buster of the administration will leave here tonight for Chicago where he will personally direct the prosecution of the beef trust.

TO OPEN MINE NEXT MONDAY

Cherry Death Cavern Will be Entered Next Week and the 210 Bodies Recovered.

LA SALLE, Ill., Jan. 26.—After an inspection by state mine inspectors it was announced that the St. Paul mine at Cherry will probably be opened on Monday to allow the recovery of the 210 bodies remaining in the underground levels as a result of the disastrous fire of last fall. The inspectors and mine manager tested the temperature, the air pressure and the gas mixtures of the mine, and, while they found the temperature a trifle high, it was said that the interior would be workable by next week.

Wade Ellis The Government Trust Buster Leaves This Evening For Chicago to Take a Hand.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—The region of inundation is steadily enlarging, and villages in scores of places are practically submerged, the people fleeing for their lives and abandoning everything. In many cases the soldiers have been obliged to use force in compelling the inhabitants to evacuate their homes. Hundreds refused to leave their homes, clamoring only for food and water.

In Paris the situation is rapidly becoming worse, the floods sparing neither the rich nor the poor. The water is invading the compactly built area, undermining buildings and forcing the evacuation of many houses. All the streets in one arrondissement are running rivers. The subway and tram service are diminishing and in every section gas and electric lights are falling.

Paris is practically cut off south and west, and if the present conditions continue the question of food supplies will become menacing. The senate appropriated \$400,000 for national relief. The public aid fund for this purpose is swelling. President Fallieres heads the list with \$4,000. The Rothschilds have given \$20,000. The entire population of Ivry-Sur-Seine and adjacent places are in a desperate state. Only the tops of houses at Alfortville are visible, the water averaging 12 feet in the streets. At this place 3,000 persons have been rescued by boats, and 20,000 from this section have found safety by their own efforts.

FRENCH FLOOD STILL ROLLS ON

Weather Bureau Offers no Encouragement and the Seine Continues to Rise and Deluge Paris.

THE SITUATION OF TODAY

Rapidly Becoming Worse and Not a Factory in Paris Along the River is Able to Operate.

PARIS, Jan. 26.—Hopes for a change in weather that would relieve the terrible flood situation were met today by a heavy snow and a rising temperature melted the snow as fast as it fell. The weather bureau promises no relief.

Reports from other sections of France and western Europe indicate that no improvement there is likely for several days. Soup and bread lines were formed in Paris today. The situation here is so appalling that no actual estimate has been attempted. It is roughly estimated that 50,000 men are unemployed in the city and suburbs and that at least 200,000 homes have been flooded. Not a factory along the Seine, which is the greatest commercial artery in France, is now in operation. The damage to the river front factories alone will be several millions.

The floods have brought disaster to a large part of France. The ordinary modest and peaceful Seine is now a raging torrent and rising at the rate of more than half an inch an hour. As it furiously rushes seaward it sounds the message of increasing misery and destruction. The general expectation that the maximum of the flood would be reached last night has not been realized. The Seine's estimate last night is that the Seine will be at least 15 inches higher this afternoon.

The victims of the flood number more than 100,000, and the monetary loss is incalculable. Thousands of poor are hopelessly ruined. The government has requisitioned army and navy material to house the sufferers, and boats for the rescue of the stricken as well as those imprisoned in the houses in the flood centers on all sides of Paris.

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The authorities had more to contend with than the turbulent waters. Groups of "Apaches" had gathered and soon were engaged in the work of piracy. They seized several of the boats and robbed, rescued, and rescuers alike. In some cases they entered the houses and carried on their depredations. Finally a force of soldiers appeared on the scene and drove off the looters.

There were many cases of drowning and death to the aged and sick as a result of shock and exposure. Aged and infirm, finding themselves unable to move, a man and a woman hanged themselves to a bedpost.

A new danger arose today in the encroachment of the waters on the city gas plant in the Granell quarters in west Paris. Nearly the entire city uses gas for lighting and

Everyone in Denmark Believed the Explorer When he Arrived There With His North Pole Tale.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Dr. Maurice Francis Egan, American minister to Denmark, arrived in Chicago yesterday as the guest of William J. Onahan, and was one of the visitors who attended the services of the jubilee of the Paulist fathers at St. Mary's church in the morning.

Dr. Egan is in the United States on a sixty-day leave of absence and will return to Copenhagen in two weeks. "My coming to Chicago," he said, "is solely for the purpose of spending thirty-six hours or so with my friend, Mr. Onahan. It has no other intent or meaning."

When the diplomat was asked to say whether or not he thought that Cook really had discovered the north pole, he replied: "I know so little about scientific matters in general that I can have no thought on that subject. As for myself, I do not know the essential difference between a theodolite and a frying pan."

EGAN TELLS OF DOCTOR COOK

They Did Not Like the Way Peary Landed on Cook and Were Saddened at the Accusation.

DANES ARE GENTLEMEN

Chicago Labor Unions Agree to a Boycott on Meat Unless the Cost is Reduced to Reasonable Price.

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"Of course, when Dr. Cook came to Copenhagen and told us that he had been as far as the pole we all believed him. Everybody believed him. But the Danes especially were enthusiastic, not only because they worship learning and are intensely interested in polar research, but also because they love Americans and all things American."

"I did all I could for Dr. Cook, even to giving him my stateroom on the ship in which he came over. Why, the Danes not only did not doubt Dr. Cook, but they did not doubt Peary when Peary announced having reached the pole. They were saddened, however, by Peary's denunciation of Cook, because the Danes are gentlemen—all of them—and they did not think Peary's denunciation was a gentlemanly thing to do."

"Let me correct one false general impression. Cook was not given any decoration by the King of Denmark. He was given the gold medal of the Geographical society and the honorary doctorate of philosophy of the University of Copenhagen, but nothing else."

"As the American minister I had every interest in accepting Dr. Cook's word. Had the question of valuable lands or mineral deposits come up at a future time in connection with the discovery, it might have become embarrassing to the government to have to admit that its representative was a doubter of the discoverer's claim. But later, when Peary came forward, I was certain that an American would be in it in any event, and I didn't care."

"Cook, in the fire of the hottest cross-examination ever given to any man, was as cool and placid as he possibly could be."

"Heretofore nobody ever has even thought of doubting the word of an explorer. But from now on it will be different. When a man comes to Denmark with a story of having discovered something he will be asked for his proofs. Of course, in the case of an old traveler like Peary, people will believe him."

Minister Egan will leave for New York this morning.

FOR SAFE AND SANE JULY FOURTH

Governors of Several States Have Promised to Join in the Civic Club Movement.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 26.—Governors Deneen, of Illinois; Draper, of Massachusetts; Prouty, of Vermont; Brady, of Idaho; Eberhardt, of Minnesota; Burke, of North Dakota; Vessey, of South Dakota; Norris of Montana, and Hay, of Washington, have promised the Civic club of this city to join the "Safe and Sane Fourth of July" crusade.

Mayor and Council at Outs. MASON CITY, Jan. 26.—The first step in the war between Mayor Krichman and the city council was taken when the council passed a resolution to lease the lower floor of the city hall to be used as city offices. The mayor says he will veto the resolution.

TUMBLING OF FOOD PRICES

Meat Boycott and Howl About High Prices Seems to Be Having Its Effect in Many Parts of Country.

BOSTON MAY STRIKE

Colorado Labor Unions Agree to a Boycott on Meat Unless the Cost is Reduced to Reasonable Price.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Jan. 26.—Prices of all food products are beginning to feel the effect of the boycott on meat which went into effect with about 125,000 people today. Cattle, hogs and lambs at the local stockyards were again lowered in price from 5 to 15 cents a hundred.

Butter and eggs, and in many instances vegetables, are being shaded in price. Butcher stalls and markets in the residential sections are almost deserted.

There was a rush on the fish markets. Fish prices are lower than they have been here in some months.

New York Prices Down. NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—Milk, eggs and butter led the procession of receding prices in food products here. The nation-wide agitation, aided by potent local influences have brought about the drop. Meat, too, is on the decline, following a greatly reduced consumption.

The state anti-monopoly laws are to be invoked in the movement to combat the trusts that have advanced food prices. A special grand jury, whose particular office it will be to consider the effect of combinations among dealers in foodstuffs and particularly in milk, was sworn in.

Milk is already down a cent a quart on at least two big dealers' routes; butter in the best qualities has been cut 5 cents a pound and eggs are off 5 cents a dozen in local markets.

Boston Threatens Strike. BOSTON, Jan. 26.—A meat strike in Boston is the alternative which the Boston consumers' protest committee, appointed at a mass meeting in Faneuil hall on Saturday, recommended if a conference with the wholesale and retail dealers today is not productive of lower prices.

Colorado Labor Joins. DENVER, Colo., Jan. 26.—The Colorado State Federation of Labor adopted a resolution pledging its members to boycott meat. It is estimated that 50,000 men in this state will join the boycott.

Confesses He Lied. ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 26.—James Hall, reputed murderer of Anna Schumacher, repudiated the confession when taken to Holy Sepulcher cemetery today.

THE WEATHER.

For Keokuk and Vicinity: Threatening and colder tonight; Thursday fair. For Iowa: Threatening and colder tonight; Thursday fair. For Illinois: Generally fair tonight and Thursday, except threatening in north portion tonight; colder. For Missouri: Fair tonight and Thursday; colder tonight and east portion Thursday.

Weather Conditions. The western depression has moved to the upper Mississippi valley, with the storm center near La Crosse, the temperature rising with its advance over the Missouri and Mississippi valleys, and there has been light rain in portions of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The eastern field of high pressure has moved to the southeastern states; it is cooler in the Atlantic states, and there has been rain in the northeastern states. The pressure continues high in California, and is increasing from the Pacific coast eastward, with somewhat lower temperature.

Conditions indicate threatening weather, with the temperature below the freezing point tonight, followed by fair weather Thursday, for this section. Local Observations. KEOKUK, Iowa, Jan. 26.—Bar. Ther. Wind. Weather. 25.7 p. m. .29.58 42 SE Cloudy 26.7 a. m. .29.39 41 SW Clear River: Frozen. Jan. 25.—Mean temperature, 37 degrees; maximum, 48; minimum, 26. FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.