

BIG BLACK SPOT ON MAP OF CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

Fierce Fire this Morning Threatened to Wipe Out the Entire Town and Caused Loss of Several Millions

BURNED AREA SEVEN BY EIGHTEEN BLOCKS

Churches, Schools, Factories and One Hundred Homes Were Eaten Up by the Flames During Raging Wind Storm.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] HOUSTON, Texas, Feb. 21.—Fire which broke out in the residence district of Houston at 2:30 a. m., today was still beyond control at 8 o'clock. More than fifty residences had been destroyed at that hour and more than 500 persons rendered homeless.

most of those driven from their homes were able to carry their clothing with them. In the excitement many families were separated, while their belongings caused most of the refugees to believe that the whole city was going to be a total loss.

The fire spread across into the Southern Pacific yards where a number of laden box cars caught fire and were consumed. Hurry up orders were sent to all of the yard force of the road and engines were rushed to the scene to drag out all the equipment that could be reached.

When it was seen that the fire was beyond control, the firemen resorted to dynamite to clear a space ahead of the flames. They were hampered by lack of knowledge of explosives and experienced men were borrowed from the railroad to take charge of this work.

The path of the fire was blocked wide and the flames spread with such rapidity that several times firemen tried to check their progress were cut off and forced to abandon their apparatus and flee. That there was no loss of life was due to the police who warned ahead of the fire and warned all inmates of threatened property to flee for their lives.

Loss Mounts Into Millions. HOUSTON, Texas, Feb. 21.—Fire which started at an early hour this morning threatened to completely wipe out Houston. A section of the city seven blocks wide and eighteen blocks long was destroyed. The loss may reach \$5,000,000.

A number of factory buildings were filled with inflammable material directly in the path of the fast spreading blaze and these burned like so much tinder. Churches and school houses also were consumed.

At 10 a. m. the fire was under control. It was not until after blocks of houses in the direct path of the flames had been dynamited that the firemen got the situation in hand. The area burned over adjoins the yards of the Southern Pacific railway. Cotton warehouses and loaded cars here were destroyed. It was this that brought the loss up.

The following is a partial list of factories destroyed or damaged by the flames: Ed. H. Harral Lumber company mills and yard covering three blocks; Co-operative Manufacturing company; Dew Bros. Syrup mill; Acme mill; Houston Packing company; Standard Compress; Houston and Lissett Lumber company; Magno Compress company; Rodgers Paint company and Hudson's Pencil factory.

The heaviest losses are the McFadden Compress and the Cleveland Compress, both of which were filled with cotton; the big plant of J. H. Harral Lumber company, including mills and yards, and St. Patrick Catholic church.

Fortunately there was not much suffering. The weather was severe, but (Continued on page 7.)

BLESSED GRAINS OF CORN BROUGHT GOOD LUCK

Mystic Charm Which Was Great Source of Income to Witch

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—Differences in translations of passages from the "Black Volume," the book of magic, again delayed the trial of George A. Pupauskys, its author, charged with using the mails to defraud, in Judge Landis' court today. Pupauskys' lawyers announced that one point of their defense will be that Pupauskys was guilty of no fraud, that he as well as most of his countrymen believe in the charms, philtres and magic cures of which he wrote. It is also said that the banker-magician was a writer of fables and a story teller and that if he wanted to charge one man \$85 for his book and another \$5, he had a right to do so.

the chief features of the government's case on the charge of fraud. Pupauskys is said to have realized thousands of dollars from the mystic talisman, the "Golden Grain," alone. He sold "Blessed Grains of Corn" at 25 cents each. They were blessed by the "Prince of Darkness" of whom he was the regent. These grains would make their possessors fortunate in business, if a certain formula were followed. Thousands of persons constantly kept a supply of these grains of corn on hand. The directions were: Feed 13 grains of the blessed corn to a rooster that crows three times before the dawn. Kill the rooster, take the 13 grains from his craw and place one grain in a silver urn on the pier of a rich man. After ten days, powder one grain in a mortar and work it into a loaf of bread. The more of this bread you eat, the more fortunate in business you will be.

For the convenience of the many patrons, it is charged, Pupauskys' wife "Mary Pupa, the Greatest Witch ever Known," kept the bread into which the golden grain had been worked, on sale. The price varied according to the means of the purchaser.

BANDITS FOILED ON IOWA TRACK

Five Masked Men Attempted to Hold Up Early Morning Passenger Train Near Cedar Rapids.

ENGINEER ON GUARD

Refused to Obey Signal to Stop and Got One Bullet in His Arm From Fusillade.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, Feb. 21.—Engineer D. Mansfield of Clinton, was shot through the arm as he ran his Chicago and Northwestern fast mail No. 9 through a rain of bullets fired by five masked train robbers at Bertram, five miles east of here at 2:25 this morning and saved his passengers from the bandits.

The train left Chicago last night and is due here at 2:20 a. m. As the train approached Bertram, the engineer slowed down to four miles an hour because of poor track upon which a construction crew is working. Evidently the robbers knew of this for one of them with a lantern at the side of the track signaled the train to stop. Engineer Mansfield was suspicious of the signal and instead of stopping, opened wide the throttle and as the train plunged ahead the disappointed robbers opened fire, one bullet going through the arm of the engineer as he held the throttle open.

When the train arrived here at 2:30 the police were notified and every available man was rushed to the scene in automobiles and commenced a search of the fields and timber for the bandits. The passengers in the cars were frightened by the firing of the bandits but no one was injured. Engineer Mansfield is in the hospital here today but will recover from his injuries. He held to the throttle for several minutes after being shot but loss of blood made him faint and the fireman ran the train into this city.

In the express car was a heavy shipment of bar gold, bar silver, express packages and registered mail said to be worth \$100,000. Up to ten o'clock no trace of the robbers had been found.

HOW ROOSEVELT GOT PANAMA

Charged With Having Used American Warships to Intimidate Colombians.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—That President Roosevelt used American warships to prevent Colombia from suppressing the Panama revolution in 1903—by means of which the United States secured the Panama canal zone—was the statement to the house committee on foreign affairs made by Henry N. Hall, a newspaper man, who was in Panama at the time.

Hall appeared in support of the Rainey resolution urging that the Colombia claims be submitted to The Hague.

"Secretary Hay himself told an American investor in Panama that the revolutionists could depend upon the support of the United States," said Hall, who produced affidavits and documentary evidence to support his statements.

"Why does not Secretary Knox want this case to go to The Hague?" asked Representative Gardner.

Hall replied: "He does not want to go to the court with an indefensible case, in which the judges could make no decision except that the United States owes Colombia the full intrinsic value of the isthmus, conservatively estimated at \$100,000,000."

OTTUMWA FOR TAFT BY BIG MAJORITY

Six Out of Seven Wards in That City Send Solid Delegations to County Convention.

OTTUMWA, Iowa, Feb. 21.—The city of Ottumwa last night gave President Taft an overwhelming endorsement when six out of seven wards instructed delegates to the county convention for him. The total vote was: Taft 240, Roosevelt 80. The result of the city primaries coupled with the Taft success in the county precincts last Saturday will send to the county convention over 150 Taft delegates out of the 179 the county is entitled to.

MISTAKEN FOR A SPENDTHRIFT

Young Artist Was Victim of the Taxicab Bandits Who Beat Him Because He Was Not Flush.

POLICE SUPPRESSION

Officers Tried to Hush up the Crime But Friends of the Victim Made the Affair Public.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Mistaken for the scion of a wealthy house who had blazed a path along the White Way throughout the night with empty wine bottles, displaying each time he paid the check, the proverbial "roll that would choke a horse," Robert S. Scheerer, a young artist, was the victim early today of the taxicab bandits who have terrorized this city for a fortnight.

Scheerer was hustled into a taxicab near Forty-second street and Broadway by two men who became acquainted with him in an all-night restaurant. They went through him while in the cab, taking a watch and \$30, and, disappointed that they had not secured the thousands they expected, and apparently realizing that they had mistaken their victim, they beat him into unconsciousness and tumbled him into the street.

Scheerer was found by the police and hurried to Bellevue hospital. He will recover. He gave a good description of his assailants and in many respects it agreed with that of the men who last week beat two bank messengers unconscious and stole \$25,000 from them.

The holdup and assault was particularly daring, taking place while the cab was running along streets frequented by hundreds of midnight motorists. "But the police have been unable to find anyone who saw Scheerer enter the cab or who heard his struggle when he tried to escape."

The police at first made an attempt to cover up the crime by entering in the blotter that Scheerer was suffering from alcoholism. His friends, however, say he never drank and the hospital authorities say that he was perfectly sober when taken there.

WHAT DID HE MEAN?

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Oratory without words astounded the house when Representative Theron Akin, of New York, obtaining five minutes for a speech, arose, unwrapped a huge flat bundle and calling a page, sent it to the clerk's desk. "Gentlemen: I wish to deliver a speech without words," said Akin and waved his hand toward the rostrum where the clerk had set up a huge placard bearing side by side two dinner pails. Across the top was the legend: "The Full Dinner Pail." One large, well filled dinner bucket was marked 1900 and another bent, battered, empty pail, was marked 1913 Akin sat down.

In its application to judges, Roosevelt believed there was a better remedy than the recall and that was giving the people as a whole the power to decide what they wanted in the way of laws.

"Legislators and judges alike are the servants of the people," he said, "and if these two sets of public servants disagree as to the amount of power delegated to them by the people under the constitution, and if the case is of sufficient importance, then as a matter of course, it should be the right of the people themselves to decide between them."

THE WEATHER.

Weather Forecast. For Keokuk and vicinity—Generally fair tonight and Thursday. Colder tonight.

For Illinois—Clearing, colder weather tonight and Thursday.

For Iowa—Generally fair tonight and Thursday. Colder tonight.

For Missouri—Fair tonight and Thursday. Colder Thursday.

Weather Conditions. The depression in the western gulf has developed a marked storm, which moving northeastward, is central in Tennessee this morning.

The temperature has risen in its immediate path, with heavy rain and there is light snow from the Rockies eastward to the lake region.

The pressure remaining high on the northwestern coast is causing colder weather in the mountain region, freezing temperature extending to western Texas and the colder weather extends to the Mississippi valley, with the temperature below zero in North Dakota.

Conditions indicate generally fair weather for this section tonight and Thursday and colder tonight, with the lowest temperature between fifteen and twenty above zero.

Local Observations. Feb. 20, 7 p. m., 30 degrees, cloudy. Feb. 21, 7 a. m., 24 degrees, snow. Mean temperature for Feb. 20th, 30 degrees, highest 32, lowest 28, lowest last night 24. FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.

COLONEL WANTS PEOPLE'S POWER

Roosevelt in Columbus Today Where He Made An Address But Makes No Announcement.

GREETED WITH CHEERS

Over One Thousand Cheering Spectators Were at the Depot to Greet the Ex-President.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 21.—Declaring for the people's power, so far as the initiative and referendum is concerned, although he wanted it protected by "proper restrictions," Col. Roosevelt today took the most progressive stand of his career. He also told the constitutional convention, before which he presented his "charter of democracy" that, although originally opposed to the recall, he now believed it also should be within the power of the people. He qualified the recall for judges by suggesting what he said was a better plan and avoided all reference to the tariff and certain other national issues by saying that he stood today exactly where he stood a year ago on such matters.

"The power to invoke direct action, both by initiative and by referendum," said Roosevelt, "should be provided for the people in such fashion as to prevent its being wantonly or too frequently used. In the great majority of cases it is far better that action on legislative matters should be taken by those specially delegated to perform the task. Action by the initiative and referendum ought not to be the normal way of legislation; but the power to take its debate provided in the constitution, so that if the representatives fail to truly represent the people on some matter of sufficient importance to arouse popular interest then the people will have in their hands the facilities to make good that failure."

This reference came as the climax of an eloquent appeal for increased power for the voter, who, the colonel said, should be given unbridled power of direct nominations, including therein direct preferential primaries for the election of delegates to the national nominating conventions. In this connection some of his hearers saw a barbed reference to the present situation in his party when Roosevelt said: "All good citizens are willing to acquiesce in a nomination secured by the expression of a majority of the people, but do not like to acquiesce in a nomination secured by adroit political management in defeating the wish of the majority of the people."

So far as the recall is concerned the colonel said that there exists no great necessity for it "as regards short term elective officers." However, after consideration, he said, he "believes it should be generally provided, but with such restrictions as will make it available only when there is a widespread and genuine public feeling among a majority of the voters."

In its application to judges, Roosevelt believed there was a better remedy than the recall and that was giving the people as a whole the power to decide what they wanted in the way of laws.

"Legislators and judges alike are the servants of the people," he said, "and if these two sets of public servants disagree as to the amount of power delegated to them by the people under the constitution, and if the case is of sufficient importance, then as a matter of course, it should be the right of the people themselves to decide between them."

Get Warm Welcome

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 21.—Greeted by a band and over 1,000 cheering spectators, Col. Theodore Roosevelt arrived in Columbus for a few hours visit at 10 a. m. today. The few plain clothes men detailed to guard the former president proved entirely inadequate and T. R. literally had to force his way through the throng. Accompanied by Dr. Washington Gladden, he was taken at once to the latter's home, where he remained until time for his address.

Four inches of snow under foot and a drizzling rain caused Roosevelt backers in Columbus to shudder at the prospects of a "spontaneous demonstration" which the ex-president's managers state had been planned for the strenuous one. But in spite of the weather, hundreds flocked to the station to get a glimpse of the visitor, and the state house lobby was thronged with spectators long before the time of his appearance there.

—Read The Daily Gate City.

WORST BLIZZARD OF WINTER NOW RAGING

Entire Southwest is Shivering Today Amid Gale of Wind, Deep Snow and Sudden Drop in Temperature

RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPH SUFFER

Storm is Creeping Up Through Illinois Now After Having Given the Southern States a Hard Rap.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ST. LOUIS, Feb. 21.—The entire southwest is today in the grip of the worst blizzard of the winter. A foot of snow had fallen in St. Louis and throughout Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma this morning and was still falling steadily. The storm extends down to the Panhandle section of Texas. The temperature in southern Texas dropped from 70 degrees to below freezing over night. All trains are from two to five hours late. Wire communication is practically paralyzed. In the larger cities business was nearly at a standstill.

tral Illinois today is being swept by the worst storm of the winter. Snow which began to fall last night increased in volume and driven by a high wind today is sweeping over this part of the state. More than a foot of snow already has fallen and indications are that it will continue throughout the day. Interurban and railroad traffic is badly hampered by the storm.

In St. Louis and Kansas City the streets were blocked with snow and heavy hauling was impossible. Street car traffic was completely demoralized.

Comes Up North. CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—This city was enveloped in a whirl of snow by a storm that raged all last night. Traffic was badly interrupted on both surface and elevated lines and railroad trains are all running far behind schedules. One person was killed and three injured in accidents due to the blinding storm.

Reports from Shreveport, La., state that eight negroes were killed and a score injured by a tornado which swept that city. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

Five hundred men were put to work clearing the streets early in the day and later orders were issued to take on as many more.

Throughout Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, it is feared the loss to live stock will be great. Roads are impassable and the live stock caught upon the ranges in the blizzard cannot be reached.

The weather bureau reports the storm general throughout the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. Lower temperatures for all points in the storm area are predicted for tonight.

A high wind accompanied the storm in Oklahoma and Texas, unroofing buildings and drifting the snow into railroad cuts and blocking traffic. With the disastrous fire raging in Houston, it was impossible for the city to summon outside aid because of crippled wire conditions. Nearby towns did not hear of the fire for several hours and the press associations were unable to get into direct communication with Texas points until nearly noon.

According to the government officials the storm gathered early yesterday on the Texas prairies and headed north in the form of a full fledged blizzard.

Fifty Mile Gale.

AUSTIN, Texas, Feb. 21.—It was estimated that \$2,000,000 damage was done by a 50 mile gale which swept Texas last night and early today. Hundreds of small buildings were destroyed and the loss in live stock will be heavy. All street cars were out of commission here and at other points while telephone and electric light connections were cut off. Austin spent the night in darkness.

WESTERN CIRCUIT DATES ANNOUNCED

First Races Will be Held at Marshall, Michigan, the Week of July 2d.

Frozen to Death.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Feb. 21.—W. B. Parker, 78, was found frozen to death on the street here today. He became lost in the blizzard which struck here late yesterday. Five and one-half inches of snow fell throughout Oklahoma.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—The following great western circuit race meetings and dates have been announced by the stewards of the association here: Marshall, Mich., week of July 2; Grand Rapids, July 9; Kalamazoo, July 16; Detroit, July 23; Cleveland, July 30; Decatur, Ill., August 6; Peoria, August 13; Galesburg, August 20; Des Moines, August 27; Hamline, Minn., Sept. 3; Milwaukee, Sept. 10; St. Louis, Sept. 26; Sedalia, Mo., Oct. 3; Springfield, Ill., Oct. 10; Muskogee, Oklahoma, Oct. 17; Dallas, Texas, Oct. 4; Phoenix, Arizona Nov. 1.

Illinois Getting It.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 21.—Cen-

COURT IS UNHAPPY AND NURSING HIS BRUISES

Would Challenge Assailant But He Was a Man Who Is In Trade.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Alternately nursing his bruises and discussing with friends whether he, scion of one of the oldest French houses, could challenge a plebeian former municipal court judge, bearing the name of Rosenheim, the Comte Guillaume de Classon was very unhappy today. This, too, despite the fact that he was the recipient of dozens of sympathetic notes and telephone calls from persons who had seen portions of his anatomy come into violent contact with the toe of the boot on the Rosenheim foot, early today, thus breaking up what was said to have been one of the most enjoyable soirees of the "society-Bohemian" set. Former Judge Edward G. Rosenheim had "horned" his way into the acme of exclusiveness, as represented by Mrs. Jackson Gouraud, Edmund Russell, Mrs. Allen-Sommer, and others of the society and stage set, at their Bohemian dance at the Cafe Boulevard. The count was introduced to him, invited him to share a bottle of wine with him, and then left him to pay the check. The peeved Rosenheim, after a lengthy search, found De Classon admiring the scenery adjacent to the door and "turkey trotted" him outside in a manner more forcible than polite.

Classon tried to impress on Rosenheim that his performance was very "ungentlemanly" whereupon the former judge proffered his card. But the sympathetic ladies who had rushed to the titled gentleman's aid explained that De Classon did not care to have anything to do with anyone who was "in trade."

The event was called a "farsan carnival" and was planned by Mrs. Allen-Sommer. Some 150 members of the "smart" society and stage set attended and the costumes were declared to be wonderfully picturesque. All of the latest dances, the bunny hug, the turkey trot, the grizzly bear, etc., were executed with an attention to detail never excelled on the levees in San Francisco's "bar day coast," where they originated.