

Knapp explained to-day that practically nothing can be done.

L. & N. TO MR. ROOSEVELT.

President Smith Replies to Wage Reference to His Railroad.

Milton H. Smith, president of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, who is in this city, issued the following statement yesterday, in response to the reference made by his company in a communication addressed to the Interstate Commerce Commission by President Roosevelt, directing that body to examine into the justification for proposed reductions of wages of railroad employees:

As the United States government, through the Interstate Commerce Commission, undertakes "the control of railway administration through the supervision of railway accounts," and as the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company has in compliance with the order of the commission, furnished its annual and monthly statements showing results of operations, the commission is in possession of the data needed to enable it to properly advise as to the conditions obtaining on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad justifying a reduction in the wages of employees and monthly statements showing results of operations, the commission is in possession of the data needed to enable it to properly advise as to the conditions obtaining on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad justifying a reduction in the wages of employees...

KNOX WINS FIRST POINT

Race with La Follette on Employers' Liability Bills.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Feb. 20.—An interesting contest of a type peculiarly characteristic of Presidential years has been going on in the Senate between Mr. Knox and La Follette, each of whom is the author of an employers' liability bill. Each of these Senators is anxious that his bill should be reported to the Senate and placed on the calendar first. Mr. Knox had his bill referred to the committee on Judiciary, of which he is a member, and which is the committee which would naturally consider such a measure. Mr. La Follette, who did not like the complexion of the Judiciary committee, had his measure referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. Both committees met to-day.

The idea of the wide publicity which would attend public hearings appealed to the Senator from Wisconsin and at to-day's meeting he induced the Labor Committee to set a part of to-morrow and the next day for hearings on his bill. Mr. Knox, on the contrary, obtained the appointment of a sub-committee of the Judiciary Committee to consider his measure and arranged for the sub-committee to sit to-day and to-morrow. When Mr. La Follette learned this he was greatly chagrined. It doubtless means that the Knox bill will be reported to the Senate and go on the calendar Saturday noon, while public hearings had been announced. It will be impossible for the Labor Committee to report the La Follette measure until after the hearings on Saturday, and so Mr. Knox appears to have won the first trick in this interesting game.

There is little doubt, of course, that the Knox bill will be the one finally adopted by the Senate, both because it is the measure approved by the President and because of the great confidence which Senators repose in the legal ability and sound sense of the former Attorney General. It is still too early to forecast the fate of the bill in the House, where the leaders are opposed to this legislation, although they may deem it inadvisable only to antagonize the measure on the eve of a nominating convention.

FORMER STOESEL SERVANT SUICIDE.

Faints on Hearing of Russian General's Sentence—Inhales Gas.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 20.—Amelia Karris, who was formerly a servant in the family of General Stoessel, committed suicide by inhaling illuminating gas in her room to-night shortly after being informed that the Russian general had been sentenced to death. She seemed to be very fond of her former master, and when told of the decision of the court she fainted and then retired to her room. She was working here for Joseph Silver, of No. 32 Florence street.

TIED STUDENT TO TREE IN BLIZZARD.

Hazers in Hedding College Will Be Brought to Punishment by Faculty.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Galesburg, Ill., Feb. 20.—As the result of being tied to a tree in a lonely spot in Hedding College Park, at Abingdon, during the blizzard on Tuesday night Clarence Robinson, a student, is suffering from exposure, although not dangerously injured. He was seized from behind by masked students, who gagged and bound him. He struggled several hours before he freed himself from the tree, and because of numbness he was then unable to untie the rope that secured his feet, and was forced to crawl a considerable distance through the heavy snow. The Hedding faculty has taken up the case and promises to punish the hazers. The student who say the hazing was spite work. Robinson cannot identify his assailants.

SWINDLED, COMMITTED SUICIDE.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Pittsburg, Feb. 20.—Relatives in East Pittsburg of Joseph Miller, thirty-two years old, a foreman in the Westinghouse plant, who had supposed that he was in Germany, discovered to-day that he committed suicide at a hotel in Jersey City on January 28. Miller started to visit his old home in Germany with a return trip ticket and \$400 in money. At Jersey City he met a man who told him that he was likewise going to Germany on the steamship Zealand. The stranger said he had \$2,000 in a tin box, and advised Miller to place his money in the box, too. When Miller opened the box he found it was filled with paper, and he killed himself.

INJURED BY AX IN QUARREL.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Boston, Feb. 20.—Dr. George A. Brouillet, until two years ago professor in the Harvard dental school, after a quarrel, in which his brother-in-law, James L. Luce, was hit in the head with an ax and probably fatally injured, was arrested to-night. Mr. and Mrs. Brouillet, the police say, were having a quarrel in their apartment in an exclusive hotel on Commonwealth avenue, when Luce interfered and Brouillet, it is alleged, picked up the ax and hit him with it. Luce was taken to the hospital with a fractured skull.

NEW HAVEN DENTIST A SUICIDE.

New Haven, Feb. 20.—Dr. George H. Lloyd, a retired dentist, ended his life early to-day by taking carbolic acid. He came here a few years ago from Rome, N. Y.

GRANTS CERTIFICATE TO BACK.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Corning, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Justice W. W. Clark at an adjourned special term of the Supreme Court granted to-day a certificate of reasonable doubt to A. W. T. Back, former treasurer of Broome County, recently convicted of grand larceny in appropriating money of Broome County. Back was fined \$5,000.

PROBING MYSTERIOUS MAINE DEATH.

Westboro, Maine, Feb. 20.—By mutual agreement of the attorneys of both sides, the arraignment of Herbert Woodbury, the noted lawyer, who is under arrest on the charge of murdering his wife, will not take place until next Tuesday. The autopsy conducted by four physicians on the body of the victim, which was found suspended by a rope from a door knob in the unoccupied hotel of Woodbury, which was destroyed by a fire on the night of last November, was resumed to-day. Dr. William Buck testified that when the body was found the back of the neck was resting on the cord and there were no marks on the neck to indicate death by strangulation from the rope.

PROGRESS OF ADMIRAL EVANS'S BATTLESHIP FLEET.



FLEET REACHES CALLAO

Continued from first page.

western entrance to the strait were quickly lost to view. The warships then had fog for four days, during which time they kept in touch by the sound of their whistles. On the fifth day the weather cleared and remained fine until the fleet steamed into Callao this morning. The Chilean cruiser Chacabuco, with Admiral Simpson, of the Chilean navy; John Hicks, the American Minister to Chili, and a Chilean delegation of welcome on board, came out of Punta Arenas with the American vessels and accompanied them until February 11, when she put into Talcahuano to report. She returned and joined the fleet on the 12th, accompanied by three Chilean torpedo boats, the Captain Thomson, the Captain Munoz Gambera and the Captain O'Brien. These four vessels escorted the fleet to Valparaiso, which port was made on the 14th. There the American warships were reviewed by President Montt of Chili. The review of Valparaiso was made in response to an urgent request from the Chilean officials, and the visit was a great success. It afforded much satisfaction to the Chilean people as well as to the officers and men of the American fleet.

ADMIRAL EVANS'S CONDITION.

Not Permanently Disabled, Department Officials Say. Washington, Feb. 20.—While not yet formally advised by Rear Admiral Thomas that he has assumed command of the Atlantic fleet, the officials of the Navy Department were expecting some such announcement as that made by the press on the basis of preceding reports of the condition of Rear Admiral Evans. These reports do not indicate that the admiral is suffering from any permanent incapacity. He is simply again a victim of period attacks of rheumatic gout, from which he has suffered for many years and which are the result of the injury he received at Port Fisher in the Civil War. Before he sailed from Hampton Roads Admiral Evans was confined to his stateroom, and to the flagship at least, for he managed to get about the Connecticut with surprising activity considering his disability, so that nearly all of the heavy social duties incident to the gathering of the big fleet and its departure devolved on his subordinate admirals. But Evans himself, even confined to his bed or his invalid chair, with a clear head, in spite of his suffering, directed nearly all the details connected with the assembling and sailing of the fleet. His condition improved materially on the voyage southward from Hampton Roads, but puncture prevented him from accepting the bounteous hospitality and numerous dinners at Trinidad and Rio. He managed to get ashore one day at the latter port, and was reported to have improved when he arrived at Punta Arenas, but officers familiar with his old attacks believed that this one, from its severity, would last several weeks longer. Nevertheless, they fully expect that before the fleet enters Magdalena Bay Admiral Evans will again be in condition to give personal attention to the record target firing which is to take place there. Mrs. Marshall, a daughter of Admiral Evans, received a dispatch from him to-day, saying that he was well and still on duty.

BIG MAIL FOR THE SHIPS.

Officers and Men Delighted at Hearing from Home.

Callao, Feb. 20.—The hearts of the officers and the men of the fleet were made glad soon after the arrival of the ships here, for 887 mail bags, containing messages from home, were immediately put on board for distribution. Dispatches to the number of four hundred and fifty also were distributed, and as the Central Cable Company admits gratis to the United States the replies to dispatches to the officers, the movement at the cable office to-day was tremendous. Almost every man on the ship was rejoicing over the receipt of news from his family. General Espesuro, the Minister of War, paid an official visit to Rear Admiral Evans, on the flagship Connecticut, and expressed his deep regret at the admiral's illness. Visits were exchanged during the day between other officials of the government and the naval representatives.

PARSONS ON CONGRESS BILLS.

Representative Herbert Parsons will address the Republican Club of the 29th District at No. 54 East 59th street to-night in an "Important Legislative News" being in Congress. It will be the regular monthly meeting of the club. W. Holden Weeks, president of the club, will preside.

BIG SCHOONERS IN OCEAN RACE.

Vineyard Haven, Mass., Feb. 20.—The six-masted schooner Alice M. Lawrence passed here this afternoon, the leader in a race of eight of the largest five and six masted schooners from Baltimore for Boston. The Lawrence was fairly staggering under all sail before a strong north-west breeze, but it was thought that she would be compelled to anchor for the night under the Handkerchief Shoal, which might enable some of her competitors to catch up with her, it being the custom for all deeply laden vessels to pass through Pollock Rip Sluice during daylight. The other vessels which started in the race were the Fannie Palmer, Marcus L. Urann, Samuel J. Goucher, Henry O. Barrett and Governor Ames, all five-masters and the Eleanor A. Percy and Addie M. Lawrence, six-masters. The Alice M. Lawrence was the fifth of the

BOGUS VOTES, 30,000.

PLAN FOR CLEAN BALLOT.

Republican Committee Reports—State Convention on April 14.

President Parsons of the Republican County Committee announced last night from the platform that the Republican State Convention probably would be held on Tuesday, April 14, and that the state committee would meet on Saturday, March 7, for the calling of the state convention.

The time of the committee, at the Murray Hill Lyceum, was largely taken up by ex-Assemblyman E. R. Finch, who read a report from the special committee of seven on election frauds, which was forecast in The Tribune yesterday.

Mr. Finch said that the fraudulent vote in this city never falls below thirty thousand, and in important elections far exceeds that number. He said that the fraudulent voting was made possible by the lack of personal identification of the voters. After reviewing at length on systematic rascalities practiced at the polls on days of registration and election, the report says:

An absolute means of identification would be required to the point of each elector on registration and election days. This would be practically a complete means of identification, and would require the same person who put the name on the registry book to vote the same name on election day. This in itself would be a decided gain, because the class of people who are employed as the actual ballot takers is such that it is difficult to procure the same person to put the name on the book on registration day and to vote the same on election day. It is believed that it is desirable to go the length of recommending such a system of identification, because it is believed that the method which will be here recommended is sufficient to at least warrant its adoption, and that it will be attended with no inconvenience to the voter.

The committee therefore recommends that two columns be added to the columns in the registration books, and that the same two columns be added to the columns now in the poll book. The first of these two additional columns shall be stated the full name of the tenant or householder of the elector's residence, and the second additional column, being the last column in the registration and poll books, respectively, shall be headed "The foregoing statements are true," and the elector shall be required to sign his name below the above statement, and the board of electors made by the chairman of the board of inspectors, and on Election Day in one of the above mentioned books.

The committee recommends a list of close questions which would make it difficult for a voter to remember on Election Day if he tried to repeat what he said on registration day. The answers made on registration day shall not be turned to on Election Day until the voter makes answer to all of the questions. If the voter is illiterate, a comparison of the signatures of the voter made on registration and election days shall be permitted to all of the watchers, and the right to challenge the voter shall exist until the ballot shall have been deposited in the ballot box.

Then follow proposed rigid requirements for keepers of lodging houses and apartments which usually harbor floaters.

Continuing, the report says: Your committee recommend that the size of the election district be reduced by 100 from that now required, and that the same size be used in the colored vote there and the prospects of Jim Crowism will bring this out all right. I think it has gone Taft thus far by default.

"Virginia? Why, that was supposed to be signed, sealed and delivered to the administration. But we shall carry three districts, and I am inclined to think, from our reports this morning, even more. But our Washington headquarters are looking after that and are 'on the job'."

"In establishing Western headquarters in Chicago are you not intruding upon Speaker Cannon's preserves?"

"Oh, no! We scrupulously respect the boundaries of every state having a favorite son. We have been importuned to go into Pennsylvania again and again, but we have resolutely refrained from encouraging any work there, directly or indirectly, while Senator Knox remains in the field."

"I am not going to do a thing in Illinois except to hire offices in Chicago and do our Western, Northwestern and Southwestern work from there. Of course, I am going to see Brother Sam' Raymond and try to persuade him not to allow 'Uncle Joe's' enthusiastic followers to crowd us out of the convention galleries, but beyond that, Illinois is a sealed volume to the Hughes people, as it is to Mr. Fairbanks, Senator Foraker, and the representatives of the other competitors."

"Anything to say about Ohio?"

"I am glad you mentioned Ohio, because the popular conception of things there is simply ridiculous. It is true that the Taft people carried the primaries. They couldn't do anything else. Senator Foraker refused to contest them, and the result is that at the Taft state convention four delegates-at-large were nominated. A lot of silly stuff was printed East and West that the state would be sold for Taft. This is nonsense. Five district conventions have been held since, and of the five two have been carried easily for Senator Foraker—that is to say, outside of the delegates-at-large he has carried 40 per cent of the districts thus far. Does that look as if Ohio was to be held solid for the Secretary of War?"

"President Woodford will go into New England next week and into the South next month. The national headquarters will remain under the Chairman Millhollan's direction. He has decided to give his whole time and attention to it. You know he has been withdrawing from business in the last year and is prepared to give his entire attention to the Governor's campaign until his election to the Presidency, which, to my mind, is as certain as anything can be in American politics."

"Wall Street? Yes, I know Wall Street is said to be against us, but we can't help that. We must stagger along as best we can under such afflictions. You remember what 'Billy' Mason said to McKinley: 'Nobody is for you but the people.' That is the case with Hughes."

GOV. HUGHES STARTS FOR CHICAGO.

Albany, Feb. 20.—Governor Hughes left for Chicago at 10:45 o'clock to-night, to speak at the meeting of the Union League Club of that city, Saturday morning and to attend the banquet of the club in the evening. The Governor expects to be back at the Capitol Monday morning.

HIS NATIVE COUNTY FOR CANNON.

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 20.—Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois, was endorsed for President this afternoon by the Republicans of Guilford County, of which he is a native, by the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the next President of the United States we unequivocally express our preference for and pledge our unwavering support to that sturdy, broad minded statesman whose modest patriotism, earnest endeavor, unquestioned business judgment, unimpeachable integrity and distinguished services through forty years of conspicuous public life have endeared him to all true Americans—Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois.

OFF FOR HEARST LEAGUE MEETING.

Thirty-four members of the Eastern delegation of the Independence League National Conference, which is to be held in Chicago on Saturday, left this city last night in a special car. Charles E. Gehring, one of the delegates, said that between here and Chicago they would pick up other delegations. The conference in Chicago, he said, would be for discussion of the policies of the Independence League.

"Letters from a New Congressman's Wife" will end in next Sunday's Tribune. The last is no means the least of this clever series, and that is saying a great deal.

Jacob Ruppert's Lager Beer. BOTTLED AT THE BREWERY. Knickerbocker, Ruppiner and Extra Beer. Telephone 1126-79th Street. Third Avenue, 90th to 92d Street, N. Y. At Hotels, Restaurants and Dealers. Ask Your Grocer.

OUTLOOK FOR HUGHES

A. B. HUMPHREY HOPEFUL.

National Secretary Confident of Victory as He Starts West.

Andrew B. Humphrey, secretary of the Hughes National League, started for Chicago yesterday afternoon on the Limited to arrange for the opening of the Hughes Western headquarters, perfect arrangements for the convention and, incidentally, see that important people are brought into touch with the Governor when he makes his speech there to-morrow evening.

"The storm centre," said Mr. Humphrey, as he stepped aboard the train at the Grand Central, "is no longer in the South. The West is now centre stage. There will be the field of our activities for the next few weeks. There is no single state delegation there that will be instructed for Mr. Taft, and if you except Senator Lodge, his son-in-law, Mr. Gardner, and possibly Senator Frye, of Maine, I do not know a single strong Congressional leader who is today not in line against the third term, whether it takes the form of Taft or Roosevelt."

"What about the South? The battle there is won. We gobbled up another district in Alabama yesterday—the 6th—although not a line appeared in the papers about it this morning, because for the moment Mr. Taft seems to have a call on the local correspondent there. Outside of Tennessee, where we are going to have a hot fight on account of the skillful leadership of my political friend, and present enemy, General Clay Evans, we shall round up money without serious difficulty. There is not money enough in Wall Street, nor patronage enough from the federal government, to bring delegations from the South unfriendly to the Virginias to Texas. He is a veritable hero from the East where we have trouble ahead. New Jersey and Maryland. New Jersey has been organized in the interest of Taft from the top down—that is to say, the leaders, possessed with the idea that Governor Fort may capture the Vice-Presidency, have endeavored to deliver the state to the administration. We are going to organize it from the bottom up, and when we get through we don't believe that there will be quite so much confidence on the part of Brother Barber and his friends as to the solidity of Jersey on the third term proposition."

"We have only started in at Maryland. With the colored vote there and the prospects of Jim Crowism will bring this out all right. I think it has gone Taft thus far by default."

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MR. MELLEN GOES TO WASHINGTON.

President Mellen of the New Haven road left this city for Washington last evening on a trip which is supposed to have some bearing on President Roosevelt's attitude toward the reduction of wages planned by the railroad systems of the country. President Mellen received a message in the afternoon from Washington, calling him there.

PURE FOOD BOARD APPOINTED.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The President today announced the selection of a board of scientists to aid the Department of Agriculture in passing on the suits based on the use of benzoate of soda, sulphur and other preservatives in foods. The board is as follows: Dr. Ira Remsen, president of Johns Hopkins University; Dr. John Russell Chittenden, of Yale University; Dr. John H. Long, of North western University; Dr. Almon B. Taylor, of the University of California; and Dr. C. A. Hertler, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of New York.

ITALIAN LINE SHOWS NEW STEAMER.

The Navigazione Generale Italiana gave a dinner to its agents and shippers last night on its new steamer Duca degli Abruzzi, which arrived here Monday on her maiden passage from Naples. Will Monday on her maiden passage from Naples. Will Monday on her maiden passage from Naples. Will Monday on her maiden passage from Naples.

"The earth is hollow and the poles as long sought are but phantoms. There are openings at the northern and southern extremities. In the interior are vast continents, fertile and habitable, and a new world, and it is probably peopled by races yet unknown to the dwellers upon the earth's exterior."

"Captain E. S. Osborn, secretary of the Arctic Club, and who was a war correspondent with Admiral Farragut at the battle of New Orleans, read a paper touching on the disappearance of André, the Arctic balloonist."

AFTER SPARKHILL BLACK HANDER.

Police Expect Soon to Catch Man Who Frightened Family Away. (By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Newark, N. Y., Feb. 20.—The police of this place say that within twenty-four hours they will arrest the man who wrote the Black Hand letters to Wesley A. Kipp, the grocer of Sparkhill, N. Y. who was forced to leave town on Tuesday with his family. Chief of Police Hickey is convinced that the man is a German, and he has an accurate description of him. It became known yesterday that Henry C. Schuster, a merchant of Sparkhill, also received a letter from a black hander, ordering him to deposit a sum of money in the trunk near Mr. Kipp's place, where the latter was to place his money.

"Acting under the order of Chief Hickey, who was secreted in a house near the tree, Mr. Kipp deposited \$800, but Mr. Schuster failed to fall his part. Two of Chief Hickey's officers, who were near the place where the money was left, failed to see the black hander when he saw them and escaped through the woods."

Mr. Kipp's store is closed, and no word has been received from him or his wife. They took an Erie train for New York on Tuesday.

Order by Telephone. A big retail market advertiser that it has installed additional telephone facilities and organized a special telephone order department, with quick delivery for its telephone customers.

Order by Telephone. NEW YORK TELEPHONE CO. 18 Day Street.