

DROUGHT AND FIRES IN MANY STATES FORESTS ABLAZE AND STREAMS DRIED UP.

Pennsylvania Severely Stricken—Eastern Ohio and West Virginia in Desperate Plight.

Smoke from the extensive forest fires burning in widely separated districts of the eastern portion of the United States and Southern Canada has enshrouded the entire section beneath a murky pall, so heavy in some places as practically to obscure the sun, and through a wide area to interfere seriously with transportation and various occupations of everyday life.

From the Canadian woods and the forests of Maine, down through the Adirondack region to the Catskills, and beyond to the Pennsylvania lumber regions fires are burning in the mountain regions. At some points they have been under way for many days, adding hourly to the volume of smoke already burdening the air.

In the immediate vicinity of these fires, which of themselves are causing heavy damages, the smoke clouds are ascending to the regions of the steady air currents, seemingly being driven eastward for the most part.

In a few cases yesterday ball games in some of the big leagues had to be concluded earlier than usual because of the premature darkness brought about by the heavy smoke.

Reports last night from the woods of Maine and Pennsylvania and from the Adirondacks, in New York State, indicate that the fires are spreading.

In the Catskills, in New York State, the situation is improved, the patrol reporting that they have the fires under control.

A drenching rain is greatly needed all through the forest sections of the East, and in many places prayers are being offered up for the relief, not only to check the forest fires but to break the drought, which is severely felt in many sections.

FIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburg, Sept. 19.—With forest fires destroying much valuable property, the enforced suspension of many industries, crops ruined, livestock suffering, river navigation at a standstill and numerous small streams absolutely dry, a drought which has practically been unbroken for over two months is fast assuming serious proportions in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia.

During four days of this week a representative of The Associated Press visited more than thirty cities and towns in the tri-state district, and conditions of an alarming nature were found on account of the long dry spell.

At night raging forest fires light up miles of territory, while thousands of persons are doing everything in their power to check the flames. Methods are held at which prayers for rain are offered.

Forest fires in Somerset County, about thirty miles from Astoria, Penn., have destroyed three lumber camps and about ten million feet of lumber and timber, valued at \$150,000. Over one thousand men have been fighting the flames for forty-eight hours, working without food or sleep. It is also believed that a number of lives have been lost at that place.

CITY SURROUNDED BY FIRE. The city of Corry, Penn., is practically surrounded by fire to-day. The forests on all sides of the city are ablaze, and the heavy smoke makes it almost impossible to breathe.

At all places the populace is praying for rain. During a recent open air prayer meeting near here a brief thunder shower occurred. Instead of seeking shelter the congregation remained in the rain, singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

A tour through portions of the three states shows the seriousness of the drought. A majority of the smaller streams are dry, and their beds are being used as wagon roads. At a number of places along the Ohio and West Virginia shores of the Ohio River there is not a sign of water.

BALL GAMES ON BED OF OHIO RIVER. Near Marietta, Ohio, the large steamboat Torando, with a tow of barges for Pittsburg, is lying on a bed of gravel in the middle of what was the river. At many points small streams of water extend a few yards from either shore, and boys, after having crossed these, can be seen playing ball in the middle of the Ohio River.

Telegraph and telephone companies having cables crossing the river are busily engaged in digging trenches in the riverbed so the cables can be placed out of sight.

Many industries along the river are suspended in amount of lack of water for power purposes, and many others will be idle unless rain falls soon.

It is said of the streams now dry that it is the first time in fifty years that such a condition has existed.

In Pittsburg harbor there are between fifteen and twenty million bushels of coal ready to be shipped to points south and west of this city. Unless this fuel reaches its destination before winter comes considerable suffering will result from a coal famine. The great mass of coal has almost exhausted the supply of barges here, and the probabilities are many of the river coal mines, employing more than fifteen thousand

Continued on eighth page.

FREE DEAFNESS CURE. A remarkable offer made by one of the leading specialists in this country, Dr. Brannaman of the city of New York, is to cure permanently deafness, Head Notes and Catarrh in every stage. Dr. C. M. Brannaman, 1228 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo.—Adv.

MALARIA GRIPS CITY.

More Cases than Ever Before—Blamed on Mosquitoes.

Malaria has gripped the city in the last four months as never before, according to the Health Department physicians, but it is not of a virulent type. There was only one death in the two weeks ended September 12, and that case was said to have been contracted in the South, where the disease assumes far more dangerous proportions.

"It is more than likely that the mosquitoes were responsible," said Dr. C. F. Bolduan, one of the bacteriologists of the Health Department, yesterday. "I have heard from numerous physicians in The Bronx and in Westchester about it. The cases are seldom reported because the disease is of such a mild type. There is hardly a physician in the whole city who has not several patients under treatment."

Dr. Bolduan made an inspection of the Croton watershed recently, and heard the same story of malaria from the physicians in that section. Typhoid cases were few, and the nuisances, once so prevalent, had been done away with almost entirely. One typhoid case was found in Croton Falls, another in Mount Kisco, and another in Yorktown. Their history showed that they had been introduced into the watershed.

It was while investigating these that the malaria complaint came out. Had the season been exceptionally wet the disease might be traced to that as a cause, but investigation showed that mosquitoes were the real carriers of the germ. The Department of Health will plan a campaign against the insect so that the malaria infection may not be repeated next year.

EVANS ON PENSIONS.

Rear Admiral Favors Higher Ones for Civil War Veterans.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Sept. 19.—"Fighting Bob" Evans, the retired rear admiral of the United States navy, came out today as an advocate of higher pensions for Civil War veterans. He made a characteristic speech at the unveiling of a monument to the 15th New York Volunteer Regiment at Highland, opposite this city, in the course of which he said:

"Be good to those old men who fought in the great war that our Union might be saved. Don't give them any more of the old pension. If you are going to starve the men who all but gave up their lives for you it would be better to do it at once and not prolong the agony by day and year by year, as you have been doing."

Don't expect a speech from me, as speechmaker and speaker are not the same thing. I am an American at heart and soul, which gives me the right to be with you here at the unveiling of this monument. In honoring your dead you honor yourselves.

In the future, when war comes, as it surely will, the nation must be prepared. The same gallant war was not won in my time, but if it does all the gray heads you see here will be ready to fight again in blue and in the same gallant clean, hard hitters in every war. I saw them in the Philippines, and I saw you in Cuba and in the Philippines, and I saw you in the blue coats. They are in the navy, too, and I just took a lot of them through the Strait of Magellan. It was the talk that some body would hurt us when we got on the other side. They didn't hurt us a bit, and if they had, I would have felt sorry for the other fellow.

War must come, but keep it away as long as you can. There are no greater advocates of peace than the officers of the army and navy. They know that the only way to keep peace is by having both army and navy. The President and the cabinet are afraid to attack us. There is no danger to the liberties of the people in this policy.

You are strong enough I assure you that we will keep the peace, if we have to fight for it.

UNVEIL PENNSYLVANIA MONUMENT.

Forty-fourth Anniversary of a Battle at Winchester Observed.

Winchester, Va., Sept. 19.—A granite monument was unveiled in the National Cemetery here today in memory of Pennsylvania soldiers who fell in battle in and around Winchester during the Civil War. The occasion was the forty-fourth anniversary of the battle of Winchester. Many prominent Pennsylvanians were present, including Governor Stuart and his staff, Colonel J. M. Schoonmaker, of Pittsburg; General John W. Schall, of Allentown; Colonel Lewis M. Moore, of Philadelphia, and officers of the monument association.

Addresses were made by the Rev. Dr. J. H. Lacey, of Winchester; Governor Stuart and General St. Clair Muhlolland, and afterward the visitors were guests of the General Turner Ashby Camp of Confederate Veterans. Of the 3,000 soldiers buried in the National Cemetery here, 800 were Pennsylvanians. The monument, which is of granite, surmounted by heroic figures in bronze, cost \$25,000.

MARDI GRAS ENDS WITH BIG CROWD.

Confetti Clogs Car Tracks and B. R. T. Has to Put Sweepers on to Keep Traffic Moving.

A record crowd, numbering, according to police estimates, more than seven hundred thousand persons, flocked to Coney Island yesterday to take part in the last night's fun of the Mardi Gras and to witness the children's parade in the afternoon. About sixty small children, who became separated from their guides in the course of the parade, were taken to the Coney Island police station and placed in charge of the matron, Mrs. Duffy, who was kept busy all the afternoon restoring the lost youngsters to their distracted parents. Six hundred policemen, in charge of Deputy Commissioner Baker, Inspectors Flood and O'Brien, and Captain Thomas Kelly, kept the crowd in order.

Only one arrest for disorder was made during the evening. The prisoner was Charles D. Foster, forty years old, a broker, living in Camden, N. J. Foster is accused of annoying women on Surf avenue.

Hundreds of bushels of confetti collected in the roadway along Surf avenue clogged the car tracks and frequently caught fire from the motors of the cars. A force of men was put to work by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company sweeping the tracks and extinguishing the frequent small fires. The restaurants along Surf avenue were nearly swamped with the crowds of customers that stormed their doors.

SPEAKER WADSWORTH RENOMINATED.

Livingston County Republicans Pledge Support to Governor Hughes.

Rochester, Sept. 19.—Speaker James W. Wadsworth, Jr., was renominated for member of Assembly at the Livingston County Republican Convention at Geneseo to-day. William Carter, of Avon, was renominated for County Judge, and Frank K. Cook, of Geneseo, was named for District Attorney. Resolutions endorsing the national and state administrations and pledging support to Governor Hughes and the state ticket were adopted.

"NIGHT RIDING" CONDEMNED.

Crowd at Spartanburg, S. C., Passes Resolution—Would Hold Cotton for 10 Cents.

Spartanburg, S. C., Sept. 19.—A crowd that overtook the courthouse to-day, in response to the call of President E. L. Archer of the Cotton Association, passed resolutions condemning so-called "night riding," as practised in some cotton states, and recommending that no cotton be sold or transported for less than 10 cents, and be sold at addresses from E. D. Smith, United States Senator-elect, and C. C. Moore, president of the North Carolina Association.

TAFT ANSWERS BRYAN.

SPEAKS ON PHILIPPINES. Says Democratic Policy Would Be Disastrous to the Islands.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Cincinnati, Sept. 19.—Mr. Taft to-night addressed an enthusiastic gathering of the citizens of Norwood, Ohio, in the assembly room of the Sinton Hotel. His remarks were confined to a discussion of the Philippine question, which he declared to be an issue in the campaign because of the position taken in the Democratic platform, and answered the recent criticisms of Mr. Bryan with reference to the railroad franchises and friars' lands sale.

"The Democratic party," he said, "has declared its platform that as soon as a stable government is established in the islands we should leave them. A stable government is established, so that this is equivalent to a resolution in favor of immediate withdrawal." He reviewed the alternatives presented to the United States with reference to the Philippines at the close of the Spanish war, and asserted that there was no other course but to assume the responsibility. "And," he added, "Mr. Bryan and his followers were responsible for the cost and suffering and loss of life on both sides which arose during an unnecessary year of war."

PHILIPPINE RAILROAD FRANCHISES.

On the subject of railway franchises in the islands which has been critically referred to by Mr. Bryan recently, Mr. Taft said:

"The greatest need in the material development of the islands is the construction of railways. Under the organic act of 1902 Congress gave us authority to grant railway franchises, but, try as we would, we were not able to enlist capitalists on the enterprise except in the construction of two small lines, branches of the old road. In 1905 Congress passed a law enabling us to guarantee the interest on the bonds of any new railway to the extent of 4 per cent for thirty years, the annual payments to be made out of the railroad payable after thirty years. By this means we have secured the construction of one hundred miles of railroad in each of the three islands of Negros, Cebu and Luzon. In Luzon we secured the construction of four hundred miles of additional railway without any guarantee. It was secured in this wise: The Manila and Baguio road had been built under a Spanish franchise creating a partnership in the railroad between the government and the company, and having among its many terms a guarantee of the interest on the bonds of the company for the franchise, for eighty-eight years. Under the advice of the Attorney General of the United States that the provisions of the charter, and the franchise guarantee, not being full compliance with the organic act, the military government, before I became Governor, had declined to pay the income when demanded and repudiated the obligations of the charter. This led to the franchise being null and void. I went to Manila, and subsequent negotiations we secured a contract with the company to construct four hundred additional miles in Luzon under a special franchise by which the old railroad and the same franchise. All the railroad franchises authorized by the present government in the Philippines are perpetual, just as they are in the United States. They are subject to amendment or repeal by Congress. This arrangement was greatly for the public benefit."

This is the part of my record in the Philippines to which I suppose Mr. Bryan means to call my attention. He speaks of the Benguet railroad franchise. There is no Benguet railroad franchise. I was the author of the franchise to the Manila and Baguio Railroad franchise. It was fully discussed in an elaborate report I made to Congress in 1906. It was approved by the President and the cabinet and the ratification. Mr. Bryan is the first person, so far as I know, to question its wisdom or propriety."

FRIARS' LAND PURCHASE.

Next we bought the friars' lands and paid \$7,000,000 for them. This was done to save a new insurrection by the sixty thousand tenants on the lands, who refused to pay rent to the friars. The friars were unpopular with the people, and the tenants refused to recognize their title, claiming the Aguinaldo government had passed a law in 1898 that the lands, and therefore they would not recognize the friars as their lawful owners. The purchase rid the government of the necessity of enforcing at the instance of the friars judgments in the courts for the seizure of sixty thousand tenants, thus averting a new war.

And not only in the matter of friars' lands, but in the matter of many charitable trusts, we have effected a compromise by which the church takes over some charitable trusts and we take over others. All the church questions are settled, well settled and fairly settled. Meantime, the influence of the Catholic Church in the Philippines for good has been increased by the substitution of an American hierarchy for the Spanish hierarchy. Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches have been established there, and a great improvement has come over the islands with respect to religion and morality after the demoralization of four years' war and despoliation."

In an interview that took place even the Independistas—that is, those in favor of immediate independence in the islands—prefer Republican government to Mr. Bryan's promises. Mr. Bryan now responds with a cable from Alberto Barretto, denying this on behalf of certain authorities in the Independista party. I relied for my statement on a conversation I had last month with Señor Quezon, who is the leader of the Independistas in the National Assembly, in which he told me that although the Independistas liked Mr. Bryan's platform they preferred my election as a friend of the Filipino to Mr. Bryan's promises. This statement Señor Quezon subsequently repeated in a published interview. There is evidently a difference of opinion among the Independistas.

Mr. Taft referred to the helpful work of the churches in the islands, particularly in view of the religious nature of the natives.

BRYAN'S PLAN FOR INDEPENDENCE.

He then took up Mr. Bryan's assertion that the Republican party had adopted his policy with reference to the islands.

"Mr. Bryan's method of giving them independence," he said, "was to release them at once, immediately after the treaty of Paris, and let them make the best way they could, through bloody faction and chaos, to decent self-government; and his further method was to interfere as much as possible by agitation in this country and vehement denunciation of our policy with the efforts which we were making to bring tranquility and peace to the islands. We have always contended that the immediate independence which Mr. Bryan wishes to give to the Philippines would result in the utmost misery to the inhabitants of the islands."

"I submit there is not the slightest resemblance between our policy and that which Mr. Bryan proposes," Mr. Taft said in conclusion. "Hence I say, my fellow citizens and neighbors, that one of the great reasons for keeping Mr. Bryan out of the Presidency and his party out of the control of Congress is that they are pledged to abandon the islands, to adopt the policy of scuttling, to rid this government of the burden which it has assumed with respect to this people and to withhold the spread of civilization in that part of the Orient."

JOHN REDMOND ADDRESSES 5,000.

Boston, Sept. 19.—More than five thousand people crowded the Huntington avenue baseball grounds to-night to hear Irish League leader John Redmond, M. P., John Fitzgibbon and Joseph Devlin, M. P. Mr. Redmond traced the progress of Ireland and made an appeal for funds with which to continue his work.

DEWEY'S TWELVE YEAR PORT WINE.

H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 135 Fulton St., New York.—Adv.

SIX SAVED FROM OCEAN.

A WEEK OF SUFFERING. Fire in a Bucket Seen—Men Swim to Luckenbach's Boat.

San Juan, P. R., Sept. 19.—Captain J. B. Morris and five seamen of the schooner Mary B. Judge, from Mobile for San Juan, were rescued in the early morning hours last Thursday by the steamer Julia Luckenbach, after a thrilling experience in the hurricane. The Luckenbach, under command of Captain W. J. Connell, arrived here from New York to-day, having on board the schooner's crew.

The Mary B. Judge left Mobile for San Juan on August 8 with a cargo of lumber. She was due here the early part of September, but was delayed by calms in the early part of the voyage. She ran into a gale on September 10, and on the following day it developed into a hurricane. The schooner's masts were carried away and she was absolutely helpless. The heavy seas opened her seams and she soon filled. The captain and his crew lashed themselves to the top of the poop, which was the only part of the vessel above water. All they had succeeded in saving was a little hardtack and a gallon of fresh water.

The water was exhausted in twenty-four hours, and the hardtack was doled out one to each man daily. On the 16th the men caught two gallons of rain, and when rescued at 1 a. m. on Thursday they still had a gallon left and eight pieces of hardtack.

They had almost abandoned hope, realizing that their position was not in the regular course of vessels, but nevertheless a strict lookout was kept, the men taking turns at the watch although almost exhausted. Their hands and feet were badly swollen. The light of the Luckenbach was seen at 11:40 on Wednesday night. It looked like a tiny star in the far distance, but soon was made out to be a ship's light. With some matches and a few splinters chipped from the rail a fire was started in a tin bucket, and this was kept burning as long as the stock of matches held out.

The Luckenbach was one hundred miles off her course, having taken that direction to avoid the hurricane. Thomas Haley, chief officer, sighted the little fire on the schooner several miles away and bore down. The sea was very rough, but volunteers, headed by the second mate, William A. Steele, were not wanting, and soon a lifeboat was launched.

Coming close to where the men of the schooner were huddled together, it was found impossible to bring the boat near enough to the wreckage to take them off, and, one by one, under orders from Steele, they leaped from the schooner into the sea and were dragged aboard. The rescued men were Bernard Russell, Alfred Harris, Herbert Strand, Leon Freeman, Daniel Jackson and Captain Morrison. The mate of the schooner, George McCoy, was swept overboard on September 15 and drowned. The rescue took place in latitude 26 degrees 18 minutes north, longitude 71 degrees 27 minutes west.

TOWN MAY BE WIPED OUT.

Overdue Steamer Brings News of Disaster at St. Matheo, W. I.

The first news of a disaster on the island of Inagua, in the West Indies, in which the town of St. Matheo may have been destroyed, reached here yesterday afternoon with the arrival of the steamer Sibiria, of the Hamburg-American Line, four days overdue from Jamaica, after a terrific fight with the sea.

St. Matheo is a town of about six or seven hundred inhabitants. On the 13th the Sibiria went close to the island while the West Indian storm was at its height. According to William Vollmar, the chief officer, who is corroborated by other officers of the ship, they saw roofs of frame houses lifted high into the air. The officers say they saw many houses in flames, and that before the end of the gale, wild combers added to the mischief of the wind.

"We had followed our usual method of taking on laborers at Inagua," said Mr. Vollmar, "on our way down from New York, to have them handle bananas at the various West Indian ports we touch further south. It is customary on our way back for us to put the men off in small boats near Inagua, and they then row to shore. On this occasion we couldn't trust any small boat in the high seas which were raging. Accordingly, we raised the flags of the code to indicate that we would keep the men aboard, bring them up to New York and leave them at Inagua later. There is a signal station on the shore, Mr. Gargeloff, the American consul, acting as our agent. We received no answer, and the supposition is that the station was destroyed."

"It is probable that all the inhabitants living in the shacks along the shore fled to the interior. It was impossible for us to make out just how many houses had been destroyed, although our way back during the storm was very near that section could result in a destruction of the entire property along the coast."

The Sibiria has about thirty of the Inagua laborers aboard. They were put to work at repairing damage which the storm inflicted on the steamer, and when she reached New York had done damage to the vessel, although things had been pretty well mended during the trip. The men are all negroes, as are most of the inhabitants of Inagua, which is one of the Bahama group.

The Sibiria sighted the Elder-Dempster steamer Port Henderson, a passenger liner, which left Kingston at about the same time as the Sibiria, on September 11. In the morning of the following day Port Henderson was still in sight, which indicated that her troubles were not little. She is bound to Southampton, England.

The Sibiria's fourteen passengers were a well-served lot. The after cabin was flooded, as also was the dining room. The 25,000 bunches of bananas arrived in good condition.

FAST PASSENGER TRAIN DITCHED.

Engineer Killed, Fireman Hurt, but Passengers Escaped.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 19.—A fast passenger train of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, from Newport News, bound for this city, was derailed to-day near Lanexa, near here. J. R. Chalkley, the engineer, was killed, and the fireman, named Wakeley, severely injured. Several passengers were badly shaken up, but none seriously injured. The engine turned over.

Chalkley was forty-five years old, and had been in the employ of the road for thirty years. The cause of the accident is unknown.

VALUABLE VIOLIN STOLEN.

John Hall, alias William Wilson, of No. 555 Atlantic avenue, was arrested last night by five detectives from the Brooklyn detective bureau, charged with robbing Miss Norma Sauter, a member of the Olive Mead Quartet, living at No. 101 St. Felix street, of a violin valued at \$1,000 and five stage boxes.

In connection with the theft the detectives also arrested Mamie Abbot, of No. 290 Smith street, who, they say, received the stolen property. The violin had been sold to a musician for \$5. The detectives are looking for him and expect to recover the instrument.

PLANTERS ESC. BUNGALOW TAKE 300 LB.

Cost that to grow 10—Adv.

BOMB FOR DEMOCRATS.

Monnett Wants More Light on That \$300,000.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 19.—Former Attorney General Frank S. Monnett, who instituted the prosecution of the Standard Oil Company in Ohio, to-day threw the Democratic organization into consternation when he declared that he would not stump the Western states for Bryan until he received a satisfactory explanation of the origin of the \$300,000 contribution to the Democratic campaign fund. He said: "Governor Haskell of Oklahoma will have to resign as custodian of the funds of the national committee or there will be serious trouble in the committee. I have been assigned to speak in the West by the Democratic National Committee, but I shall not make a speech until I am satisfied from just what source the committee received that \$300,000 which it boasts it has."

KILLED BY POLICEMAN.

Member of Yonkers Mob Shot Attacking Officer.

Patrolman W. A. Kruppenbacher, of the Yonkers Police Department, was set upon and beaten as he attempted to quell a fight in a saloon in Main street, near the Yonkers railroad station, last night. He drew his revolver and, turning on his assailants, shot one of them, injuring him so badly that he died later.

Kruppenbacher was on duty at the railroad station, which was crowded with people returning from an evening in New York, when his attention was called to the fight. He entered the saloon and attempted to drive the fighters into the street.

They put aside their differences and turned on him. He was being badly beaten, despite assistance offered by a number of commuters, when he drew his gun and fired. The man, whose name was unknown, fell with a bullet in his groin, and was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital.

An hour after being taken to the hospital the man died without having regained consciousness. He was identified later as Annis Anderson, of No. 138 Webster avenue.

TWO WRECK SIGHTED.

Missing Fruiters at Jamaica—The Beacon's Rough Trip.

Kingston, Jamaica, Sept. 19.—Advices received here say that the last of the overdue fruit steamers, the Brewster, from Boston, and the Beacon, from Baltimore, have arrived safely at Port Antonio. Both were considerably battered by the hurricane, but are seaworthy and passed through the storm without injury to any one.

The Beacon's fires were extinguished by the flooding of the ship by the high seas, and she was at the mercy of the gale for forty-eight hours. After the steamer got under headway again she sighted at the east end of Bird Rock a wrecked three-masted schooner. The Beacon signalled to her, but there was no answer, the vessel was not ascertained, but is believed to be the William J. Lermond, which sailed from Philadelphia on August 22 with a cargo of 1,200 tons of coal for the Jamaican government.

The steamer Vera, which has just arrived at Port Antonio, reports the Norwegian fruit steamer Yumuri, from Baltimore September 4, hard on the rocks at the end of Castle Island.

Relief is being organized here to aid the residents of Turks and Caicos islands who suffered severely in the recent hurricane. Reports received here state that greater damage has been done than was at first indicated. A public meeting held here last night raised \$1,000. Telegrams from Grand Turk say that relief is imperative and that timber is most urgently required. The steamer Boston will sail from here on Monday with provisions for the sufferers.

ENDS CONVICT LEASES.

Georgia Legislature Passes Measure Doing Away with System.

Atlanta, Sept. 19.—The extra session of the General Assembly finished its work and adjourned sine die this afternoon after agreeing upon a bill which it is believed will effect the abolition of the convict lease system. The bill leaves any convicts not taken by counties on a pro rata distribution, not taken by municipalities at \$100 a year, or not needed on the state farm or other state institution to be disposed of at the discretion of the Governor and the Prison Commission. It is believed that this will end the lease system definitely on March 31, 1909.

The main point of difference between the houses has been as to the disposition of those "overs." This morning the Senate unexpectedly reversed its position on the convict lease system before it, and passed the measure abolishing the convict lease system practically as it came from the House of Representatives.

ASCENT AT ST. JOSEPH.

Baldwin Dirigible Balloon Tried Without Mishap.

St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 19.—The Baldwin dirigible war balloon made another ascent at the military tournament grounds in South St. Joseph this afternoon, arising at 5:06 and descending at 5:27. The balloon was manned by Lieutenant Foulois and Sergeant Ward, as on yesterday, and the trial was without mishap. A distance of six miles at a height of two hundred feet was covered.

IWU'S CAUTIOUS REPLY.

Chinese Minister Not in Fear of Recall for Indiscretion.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Battle Creek, Mich., Sept. 19.—Minister Wu, who is spending a few days at the Battle Creek Sanatorium, said to-day that he had no fear over the rumor that he is in danger of being recalled to China for being indiscreet. He said:

"When I was approached by a New York reporter, who told me that a Chinese-American alliance had been discussed by a Hong Kong editor, I replied, 'That is a very interesting subject—surely a cautious, discreet reply. The story was distorted so as to convey the impression that I had committed myself and my government on the subject, and favored such an alliance, on the ground that it would be a means of thwarting the Japanese aggression in China. But it is absurd to say that my government believed that I had been indiscreet.'

FORAKER NOT TO SPEAK.

WITHDRAWS HIS NAME. Tells Mr. Taft He Does Not Wish to Embarrass Him.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Cincinnati, Sept. 19.—Senator Foraker will neither preside over nor appear on the platform at the meeting on Tuesday evening, when Mr. Taft will address the National League of Republican Clubs. This decision was reached yesterday, and, while no statement has been given out at the Taft headquarters regarding the Hearst-Foraker controversy, this can be announced on the basis of authority. The facts were learned about 6 o'clock this evening, and a little later copies of two letters written by Senator Foraker were given out at his office. The first, addressed to John Hays Hammond, as president of the League of Republican Clubs, merely says, "I herewith inclose a self-explanatory letter that I have just sent to Judge Taft." The inclosed letter is as follows:

My Dear Judge Taft: I have read in the newspapers that some of your friends, and possibly you, are in doubt as to the propriety of my speaking with you at Music Hall next Tuesday night. I have concluded not to be at the meeting. I take this action, not because I deem the answers I have made to Mr. Hearst's charges insufficient, nor because of any lack of loyalty to your cause, but only because I do not wish to do anything that might injure the cause or embarrass you personally.

J. B. FORAKER. Senator Foraker said in giving out the correspondence that his action was entirely voluntary and that he had received no direct communication from Mr. Taft regarding the situation.

CALLS MADE BY SENATOR CRANE.

The Foraker letters were given out at the close of a day which was notable for the calls of Senator Crane on Mr. Taft and Senator Foraker, alternately, and while no information is given regarding the method by which Senator Foraker was led to write the letters it is regarded as certain that Mr. Taft refrained from making public the decision he reached yesterday, with a view to conveying that decision to Mr. Foraker through the Massachusetts Senator, whose arrival to-day was expected and whose friendship for Mr. Foraker is well known.

Senator Crane reached Cincinnati this morning, and immediately called on Mr. Taft. Next he went to Senator Foraker's office, and a little later he took luncheon at the Sinton Hotel with Senator Foraker, his son Benson Foraker and Senator Dick. After luncheon Mr. Crane returned to Senator Foraker's office, and from there went to Mr. Taft's home, where he remained until called for by Senator Dick. He then returned to Senator Foraker's office, and a little later the Foraker letters were made public.