

BOND ISSUE FOR WATERWAYS

VICE-PRESIDENT FAIRBANKS AND CARNEGIE URGE IT.

Fifth Convention of Rivers and Harbors Congress Will Ask for Expenditure of \$100,000,000 a Year for Ten Years on River and Harbor Work.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Two thousand or more delegates to the national rivers and harbors congress—enthusiastically cheered Andrew Carnegie's declaration before them to-day that if the general government has not the power under the constitution to take charge of the plans to be formulated for the development of the inland waterways and the rivers and harbors of the United States the American people could make another constitution, and would do so.

This congress, national in its purpose, has delegates present from nearly every walk of life, including Governors of States, Senators, Representatives and financiers.

Vice-President Fairbanks welcomed the delegates to Washington at the Federal Government. The Vice-President said in part: "It is perfectly obvious that the improvement of our waterways has not kept abreast with our industrial and commercial needs and with our national progress. The work of improvement is to proceed only as we are able to make progress out of the current revenues of the Government derived from internal taxes and tariff duties. It is manifest that the progress we will make will be reasonable necessities of commerce and that many years will elapse before the principal waterways or main arteries are adequately improved.

It would seem that inasmuch as the waterways to be improved and the expenditures are in a considerable degree for the future that a reasonable share of the amount should be provided for by a bond issue, bearing a low rate of interest, so that the cost would be equitably borne by the present and the future also.

President Roosevelt followed the Vice-President, and his report which he read, was referred to the committee on resolutions and will be reported for the consideration of the congress. This report outlined what it was hoped to accomplish as follows:

- First—The adoption of a large rivers and harbors bill at this session of Congress.
Second—The committee of Congress to proceed, liberally, with waterway improvement and an annual bond issue of \$100,000,000 carrying not less than \$5,000,000.
Third—The immediate adoption of some of the most important waterway projects which have been approved by the Engineer Corps with authority to prosecute to final completion the work on the projects at a fixed rate per annum of the total of their estimated cost.
Fourth—An authorized bond issue of \$50,000,000 per year for ten years for carrying on river and harbor work, in addition to appropriations from the ordinary revenues of government.
Fifth—The creation of a statutory commission of nine members to study the waterways of this country and such foreign countries as they deem advisable and suggest to Congress in a full and detailed report a comprehensive plan and policy for improving our waterways.
Sixth—The prompt passage of laws to prevent unfair discrimination by railroads against carriers by water.

Ambassador James Bryce followed, having as his subject "Waterways of Great Britain." Mr. Bryce said in part: "Our rivers are comparatively small, and the only three which carry any great traffic are the Thames up to London, the Clyde to Glasgow and the Severn and Avon to Bristol. All three are tidal, but have required a great deal of dredging in order to make them navigable for the very large vessels which now use them.

The English canals have mostly passed into the hands of railroad companies and comparatively few are still used. But upon some of them, especially on the one from Leeds to Liverpool, a good deal of freight is carried. Personally I believe that canals are of the greatest importance for the carriage of heavy freight. In conveying these bulky articles canals relieve the railways.

Andrew Carnegie, delegate to the congress from Pittsburgh, was introduced by President Roosevelt as "one of the greatest captains of industry the world has ever seen and the greatest living philanthropist." In opening his speech Mr. Carnegie commended the purpose for which the delegates had assembled, saying that it was national and one in which every section of the country was equally interested. He commended President Roosevelt for advocating the issue of bonds for the conservation of natural resources and President-elect Taft and Vice-President Fairbanks for endorsing a policy of conservation. He said that some of the steps contemplated by the conservation commission and the plan of the rivers and harbor congress might be unconstitutional, Mr. Carnegie said: "There are many things that States cannot possibly do, and if the general government has not the power under the Constitution we Americans can make another constitution."

"This work that we have met here to advance to-day," he said, "is to be so productive that I shall do all I can to urge its beginning and have it prosecuted under the same arrangements I have made in regard to the Panama Canal. I think the utilization of our own waterways infinitely more important than that canal, and I wish we had begun this work first and the canal work afterward."

"According to the report of the committee on credentials at adjournment yesterday afternoon 2,800 delegates have registered. Every State and Territory in the Union is represented except Vermont and Arizona, the delegates being appointed by 44 Governors, 281 Mayors, 27 commercial organizations and 21 waterway associations.

DEVERLY, LEXICOGRAPHER.

Misses "Banner" and Reettes His Trials in Court.

Big Bill Devery defied a "banner party" for the enlightenment of Magistrate Herrman in Jefferson Market court yesterday. A "banner party," he said, is a party where the piece de resistance is the "banner," i. e., the can of beer out of which three or four men drink.

The former chief appeared as complainant against three men who had been putting up in an empty store at 112 Greenwich street owned by Devery, as the result of close application to the "banner." Devery asked the Magistrate to sentence two of the prisoners and let the third, Joseph Beins, go, because the Devery indictment assured him that Beins was not guilty. But the others—

"They pilfer the neighborhood," said Devery, "turn off cellars and raise Cain generally. They get a load on and shoot out the neighborhood. Two or three places have been shot up already. I have made several complaints to the police, but this time they appear to have done their duty. Now, your Honor, I want 'em sent away. It has got so that every time I go into court now I get 'em."

"Who from?" inquired Magistrate Herrman. "Oh, from Mulberry Street and everywhere else. They must think I'm a joke," said Devery. "We always try to do justice here, whether we succeed or not," said the court.

He then gave the three men a judicial whipping on the bad habit of meeting in empty stores and told them they should have public libraries as their meeting place, where they would be under better surveillance.

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TAFT AND CANNON MEET

And Discuss Tariff Revision—To-day Taft Promises to Make a Public Statement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—William H. Taft, the President-elect, is to have a conference to-morrow afternoon with the Republican members of the House Committee on Ways and Means, a which Mr. Taft will outline his ideas as to what the Republican Congress should do at the forthcoming special session to carry out the pledge of tariff revision contained in the party's platform adopted at Chicago last June. The conference will be held at the residence of Representative Nicholas Longworth. Just what Mr. Taft intends to say and what the probable outcome of the conference will be is not disclosed, but Mr. Taft promised to-day to make a public statement after the conference in regard to his attitude on tariff revision and perhaps give an explanation of what the members of the committee decided to do. If any decision is reached.

As a preliminary to to-morrow's tariff newsway Mr. Taft and Speaker Cannon had a long talk to-day at the residence of W. J. Boardman at Eighteenth and P streets, where Mr. Taft is a guest for his stay in Washington. There was a great deal of talk about the details of the tariff which Mr. Cannon had left Mr. Taft to handle for the purpose of hearing some things that Mr. Taft had to say about what the House should do in undertaking tariff revision.

Another story was that Speaker Cannon had requested Mr. Taft to see him, the inference of this story being that Mr. Cannon was worried about a reported intention to fight Uncle Joe tooth and nail if he did not stand for the kind of revision Mr. Taft wanted. When this story was repeated to Mr. Taft he said that he didn't believe in splitting hairs over any such reports and admitted frankly that Mr. Cannon had come to see him on his (Mr. Taft's) invitation. Mr. Cannon declined to give any details of his conversation with Mr. Taft, holding that it had been his rule never to make public anything said to him by the President-elect of the United States, and he intended to apply the rule to the President-elect.

Speaker Cannon has maintained consistently that legislation involving a measure of compromise and that no individual, however prominent and forceful, could force Congress to enact without change a measure which contained things which did not agree with the ideas of other members who were entitled to have a say in the matter. Intimations were given to-day that Mr. Taft and Mr. Cannon were of one mind in this regard and there is a hopeful feeling that the tariff will be revised without bringing about strained relations between the next President of the United States and the leaders of his party in the Congress which will undertake the revision.

HAD A ROOSEVELT LETTER

Which Pardoned a Deserter—Now He Admits Shooting a Man.

Herbert Ackerman, who once deserted from the United States Army and after serving a year in a Federal prison for it was reinstated to citizenship by President Roosevelt so he could join the New York Fire Department, gave himself up to the Brooklyn police last night saying he had shot Frank Weber, a friend of his, in a saloon on the Bowery. Ackerman had a letter with him signed by President Roosevelt, dated October 23, 1906, which read:

In reference to your letter of the 30th inst., in which you ask for my pardon and restoration to citizenship as a civil rights man, you lost your desertion as a private in the Ninety-eighth Coast Artillery, I have directed the Secretary of War to enclose herein a warrant for your pardon and restoration to civil rights.

Ackerman enlisted in the army in February, 1902, and deserted in the month of May. After getting the President's pardon he succeeded in getting in the Fire Department and for a time served with Engine 33 in Brooklyn. Ackerman said he got into an argument with Weber and shot him before he realized what he was doing. Weber is still in bad shape. The doctors are expecting to operate on him in a few days. Ackerman fled to Chicago, where he read that the New York police had charged John J. Hyland, an ex-policeman, with the shooting. He returned to the city and with a spirit of indignation called on the station when he met two detectives and asked them to direct him there. He told them he had shot a man and wanted to be looked up.

ATTACKS ROCKEFELLER.

Minister Frees His Mind at New England Baptist Conference.

BOSTON, Dec. 9.—The Rev. R. N. Bateman of East Jeffrey, N. H., brought last night's session of the New England Baptist conference to an abrupt close with a spirited indictment of John D. Rockefeller and "tainted contributions." He said: "Rockefeller is only an incident, but what we want to get is what is behind. The question is, Shall there be freedom of speech in the Baptist denomination?"

"If there is to be such freedom I want to say that there is nothing so infamous and injurious to the young men of this country as the example of John D. Rockefeller. He has a failing memory for some things and then he is regarded as a benevolent old gentleman."

ABLAZE AMONG CHILDREN.

Woman With Clothes Afire Runs Into the Street and Falls.

Mrs. Francesca Firiandelli ran out of the tenement at 203 Forsyth street yesterday with her clothing ablaze and fell unconscious in the midst of a crowd of children who were running out of the public school on the way. She died last night in Gouverneur Hospital. The woman had been painting the rooms of her home when she accidentally dropped a lighted match into a can of kerosene. Her skirts caught fire and she ran to the street screaming.

Policemen carried her into a store after stamping out the flames and threw a blanket over her, believing her to be dead. Then they called an ambulance to have her officially pronounced dead and the surgeon found her alive.

Knapp's Nomination Favorably Reported.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—A favorable report was made to the Senate to-day on the nomination of Martin A. Knapp of New York to be Interstate Commerce Commissioner. The nomination will be confirmed at the next executive session of the Senate.

WASTE OF OUR RESOURCES

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

Says Greatest Waste is From Forest Fires, Amounting to \$480,000,000 Annually—Waste of Coal and Minerals—May Make Commission Permanent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—A national conservation commission as a permanent body, with certain administrative functions and with either an appropriation of \$50,000 at its disposal at once or the raising of that sum by an issue of bonds for the purposes of conservation of natural resources of water, land, forests and minerals, is the programme of the joint conservation conference which began its session here yesterday.

The report of the National Conservation Commission, of which Clifford Pinchot is chairman, which was read to-day, paints a doleful picture of the waste that is now going on of timber, coal and minerals and makes many suggestions for reform.

On motion of Senator Newlands of Nevada a delegation was named to wait on the Senate Committee on Commerce and Finance, which has introduced a bill making the National Conservation Commission a body created by statute with administrative authority. Congress will be urged to make appropriations and enact legislation authorizing the issuance of bonds.

There is a likelihood that the plans of the joint conservation conference may be adjusted as to fit in with those to be decided upon by the national rivers and harbors congress, which is in session here and which is also committed to a bond issue for an extension of waterways.

The report of the commission made to the conservation conference this morning was read by Gov. Blanchard of Alabama. It says that immediate steps are deemed necessary to preserve the nation's natural resources. These resources, which ought to be exploited for the benefit of the public, the report says, have built up monopolistic interests. The greatest wastes result from forest fires, amounting to \$480,000,000 annually, and through the uncontrolled flow of natural gas sufficient to light every city in the United States using gas as an illuminant. The statement is made that two-thirds of the coal mined is wasted. The commission also found that there was a loss of life "mines in the United States which it deems appalling."

Recommendations will be made by the commission of radical changes in the land laws, making it more difficult to acquire public land, reduction by States of taxation on forest land to preserve the timber thereon, legislation protecting the watersheds that furnish water for navigable streams, the prohibition of the exploitation of mineral lands for the benefit of the whole people and not for corporations or individuals, the establishment of a national bureau of woman and child labor.

The report submitted by the commission giving an inventory of the mineral resources of the United States was discussed by Gov. Johnson of Minnesota, Gov. Hoke Smith of Georgia, Gov. Noel of Mississippi, Gov. Ansel of South Carolina and Gov. C. C. Glover of Virginia. Gov. Johnson declared that he was not as pessimistic as others as to the exhaustion of the iron deposits of the country, saying that his State has practically all the iron ore that it needs, the only thing required being adequate transportation.

"The real problem of this country," said Gov. Johnson, "is the development of national waterways. What we need is a canal from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico. The United States would cost this would cost \$100,000,000, and this is not such a stupendous sum when you take into consideration that some of the railroad systems of the country have cost more."

In closing Gov. Johnson said: "If you will give us as good a system of canal transportation as I have outlined in Minnesota, I will furnish you all the iron you need for 200 years to come, and you can husband the resources of Georgia, Alabama and every other section of the country."

HANSON'S SECRETARY OUT.

R. B. Lawrence, Whose Wife is Mrs. Bingham's Niece, Resigns by Request.

Robert B. Lawrence, private secretary to Third Deputy Commissioner Hanson, tendered his resignation yesterday, to take effect January 1. Gen. Bingham admitted that he had asked for the resignation of Mr. Lawrence, whose wife is a niece of Mrs. Bingham, but gave no reason therefor.

"The request for my resignation was a great surprise to me," Mr. Lawrence said. "My relations with the Commissioner have been extremely cordial and I know of no reason why he wishes me to resign. I will say, however, that for the last eight months or so I formerly did has been gradually taken away from me, and I have even been prevented from opening official letters addressed to me by the Commissioner. Sitting around with nothing to do is a difficult matter."

Mr. Lawrence formerly had a law office at 35 Wall street. He will resume practice. There was a rumor about Headquarters yesterday that Commissioner Bingham had asked for the resignation of Inspector Max Steinbruck, who has been on sick leave since the death of his wife, the command of the Tenderloin district. The Commissioner said the report wasn't true.

CAN'T FIND "ADAM GOD."

Fanatic Leader in Kansas City Fight, Though Wounded, Disappears.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 9.—James Sharp, the fanatic calling himself Adam God, who led his followers in a battle with the police in which a policeman was killed and two hurt last night, cannot be found. He is supposed to have been badly wounded, but left no trail. Sharp's appearance is such that it will be hard for him to conceal himself without the aid of friends. He is tall and powerful, wears a picturesque costume, has a full beard and a well known face. A reward of \$100 will be paid for his capture.

With the exception of A. J. Selsor, the farmer who shot at the Senate to-day, and Louis Pratt, one of Sharp's followers, all of the wounded are better to-day. A bullet went through Selsor's right lung and the physician's fear pneumonia has been averted. Louis Pratt has a bullet in his head and will die. Thirteen persons have been arrested in connection with the riot. Two of them conduct a mission at 309 Main street.

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CREDITOR ACCUSES BENESCH.

Treasurer of Bankrupt Company Charged With Appropriating Funds.

Adolph Benesch, treasurer of the National Bottlers' Supply Company of 26 West Broadway, was arrested yesterday on the charge of appropriating \$1,500 of the funds of the company, which is in bankruptcy. Layton M. Sechoh, one of the creditors, was the complainant. Sechoh declares that Benesch went to Edward Pearl, president of the Nassau Bank, on August 6 last and told him that on the day before he had obtained control of the National Bottlers' Supply Company and would draw checks on the concern's account with that bank. According to the bank people the concern had on deposit \$5,022.51. Benesch introduced at the bank by James Graham, who had been treasurer of the supply company.

It is asserted that Benesch drew to his personal account a check for \$1,500 on the Nassau Bank, made payable to R. Lancaster & Sons, in whose offices he was at the time of his arrest. The check is said to have been marked "personal account."

Benesch was arraigned before Magistrate Steinert in the Tombs police court and held in \$5,000 for further examination on Tuesday next. He said he did not see how he could be held for spending his own money. He declared that the concern was no good from the start and that he paid estimated \$1,000 in cash and he took over the company. He had an idea, he said, that the notes were to run six months, and that instead of one month, his arrest, he said, was an outrage, and that if the creditors had any redress coming to them it was in the civil courts of the United States under the law firm of Duer, Strong & White told the Magistrate he expected to prove that the defendant had used some \$5,000 of the funds of the National Bottlers' Supply Company.

W. D. DIVIDEND UP.

Company on a Three Per Cent. Instead of a Two Per Cent. Basis.

The Western Union Telegraph Company declared yesterday a quarterly dividend of three-fourths of 1 per cent., putting the stock on a 3 per cent. basis. A statement, partly estimated, of earnings for the quarter ending December 31 showed an increase of \$1,166,057 in probable net revenues and a probable surplus of \$820,115 after the payment of all charges. The dividend is to be paid on December 30, 1909, and the company is to run on a 3 per cent. basis for the present quarter, ending December 31, our estimated net earnings over and above all fixed charges are 1 1/2 per cent., or at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and the dividend to be increased to three-fourths of 1 per cent., or at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. The company's property is in excellent condition at present and it is thought best to husband our resources so as to continue to maintain in its good condition and be prepared for any increase of traffic.

WOMAN'S BODY FROM RIVER.

Brought Up by Dredge and Had Been in the Harlem Several Weeks.

Edmund Reilly, while dredging from a barge at the site of the new Madison avenue bridge across the Harlem River, brought the body of a woman to the surface yesterday afternoon. There were no marks of violence. The police think that the body had been in the water for several weeks. One thing found that might lead to the identity of the body was a plain gold ring, which will be filed off the finger to-day. The woman was about five feet four inches tall, had brown hair and eyes and apparently was about 40 years old. Parts of the clothing included a blue coat and skirt.

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SAVE 5TH AVE. FOR A SUBWAY.

Chairman Willcox's Argument Against Degrading 42d Street.

Chairman Willcox of the Public Service Commission wrote yesterday to the Board of Estimate protesting against the plan now before the board for the depression of Forty-second street at Fifth avenue. Mr. Willcox said that to put Forty-second street below its existing grade "will prevent the construction of a subway at Fifth avenue above the present surface. To present there is sufficient space between the street level of Fifth avenue and the top of the subway in Forty-second street to permit the construction of a subway near the surface."

"If the plan before you should be carried out this arrangement would be impossible and any subway at Fifth avenue would need to be so constructed as to pass far below the surface in order to dip under the present surface. This would considerably increase the cost and would make it of less convenience to the public because of the unusual depth below the surface, as it would be upon the third level instead of upon the first. The longitudinal streets in Manhattan are so few and the demands for transportation within the city and for facilities for reaching the center of the city from suburban points and by transcontinental lines are so many that all of these longitudinal avenues will be needed for rapid transit purposes. It should also be noted that Fifth avenue runs through the center of Manhattan and is rapidly becoming a business district below Fifty-ninth street."

CAPT. CRAY FINED.

Fifteen Days' Pay for Failing to Stop Prizefighter.

Capt. Patrick J. Cray, Charles F. Murphy's brother-in-law, was fined fifteen days pay by Commissioner Bingham yesterday for failing to stop prizefights at the Roman Athletic Club, Grand and Orchard streets, on November 2.

Capt. Henry Burfield, who at that time was an inspector, testified at Cray's trial that he had instructed him specifically to raid the club if there was any violation of the law. In his defense Cray said that five plainclothes men whom he had sent to the club on the night of the fight returned to the station house and declared they were unable to get in. Three agents of the Parkhurst Society were witnesses at the trial and testified that they didn't say the slightest difficulty in buying admission tickets without "becoming members of this club." They also said that the bouts were not sparring exhibitions but such brutal fights that two of them had to be stopped by the referee.

Soon after the charges were preferred Capt. Cray was transferred from the Eldridge street station to the East Thirty-fifth. The fine imposed upon him yesterday is unusually severe for the offence.

JOHN L. WANTS A DIVORCE.

Former Champion Pugilist Enters Suit in Chicago, Where He is a Citizen.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—John L. Sullivan to-day filed suit for divorce against his wife, Annie, in the Superior Court. The decree is sought on the ground of infidelity. The marriage took place in Boston May 1, 1883, and the separation came on September 8 of the next year. Mrs. Sullivan now lives in Centerville, Ill. The pugilist names no correspondents, but says his wife conducted a resort at 4 Levering place, Boston, from 1886 to 1892. Sullivan is a legal resident of this city.

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