

STORM THAT CUT CAPITAL OFF

ANCHORED IN NEW JERSEY AND BUSTED THE TELEGRAPH.

Railroads Crippled Too Between Philadelphia and Washington—Sleet Did Most of the Mischief—An Old Trick of the Weather on Inauguration Day.

With the eyes of the nation centered upon its capital yesterday that city by the Potomac, where so much was going on, was practically cut off from communication with the outside world for many hours. Its isolation for a long time was as complete as when the early Presidents took the oath and most of the country took it for granted for a long time.

Practically all the wires, both telegraph and telephone, connecting Washington with the outside world went out of business in the early hours of the morning. Although General Manager Barclay of the Western Union maintained that at no time was the capital completely cut off from the information from other sources was that as late as 6 o'clock last evening no wires were working into Washington, though at times during the day a connection was established over roundabout routes. Last evening the wires were not working to any extent between Philadelphia and Washington, but connection had been established between Washington and Richmond.

The Postal Telegraph Company and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, operating the telephone lines, were frank to admit that they had no wires working and were unable to get much information from the gangs sent out from here and other cities to patch up the breaks.

The storm which hit Washington was about as bad as it could possibly be for the telegraph companies. It was a real snowstorm here and to the east and north, but for a radius of about a hundred miles from Washington it was a sleet storm, accompanied by a gale, and that combination was what caused the havoc. The damage was greatest within forty miles of Washington. The sleet froze fast on the wires, and the gale sent them swaying, with the result that pole after pole snapped under the weight.

It was about midnight that the wires running into Washington from all directions began to snap. There was little doing over the telegraph lines after that, but the telephone company had a line working up to 6 o'clock yesterday morning, when that too stopped, and then Washington seemed to be completely cut off except for occasional messages by wireless.

It was learned in the Western Union Building that there were no direct wires working regularly from New York into Washington at 6 o'clock and that the outlook was that there would not be any for a good many hours because over 1,000 poles were down between Wilmington and Washington. Some roundabout lines were constructed. The Western Union has over a hundred wires running into Washington from many different points, but the sleet storm, working in a comparatively small radius, affected all the lines.

One of the circuits constructed last night by the Western Union was as follows: New York, Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City, Memphis, Atlanta, Washington. It was said that this was one of the longest ever established. It worked for only a short time. Later there was substituted a circuit from here to Chicago, to Louisville, to Atlanta, to Richmond and thence by the Atlantic Coast Line railroad to Washington. This worked satisfactorily.

The Postal has between fifty and sixty wires reaching Washington over three routes. Vice-President Adams said in the afternoon that the storm had cut every one of these out of business. On the Aqueduct Bridge crossing the Potomac, he said, many poles were down. Communication had ceased with Washington about 1 o'clock yesterday morning. The Pennsylvania Railroad's lines were down along the Susquehanna.

The telephone company has two lines from the North into Washington and two from the South. It takes a very severe storm to break the long distance telephone wires, because they are stronger than telegraph wires. The company was able to reach Baltimore in the evening, but there were many broken wires and poles between there and Washington.

"Our damage is chiefly within forty miles of Washington," said a representative of the company. "That is where the sleet storm was the worst. Around New York we have had no trouble at all because it was snow, and we can stand any amount of that. I understand that at one time fifty trains were stalled within halting distance of Washington, and the telegraph wires were down and there was no way to give train orders, so you can see what we are up against."

The storm that mocked at the prophecies of Chief Willis Moore of the Weather Bureau was born in Oklahoma on Monday and swiftly grew from an unpretentious infant cyclone to one of the most vigorous March twisters that have swatted the middle Atlantic States in years. The chief prophet inferred that it would take the usual course of storms of its breed and roar off the coast, probably to the south of this neighborhood. A wedge of high pressure north of it prevented it from going that way. Instead of rushing out to sea the storm stopped, its centre in western Pennsylvania, and began gathering the forces that generally follow resistance to cyclonic progress. A high pressure seaward had not been reckoned on by the prophet. The storm stuck, its bill in New Jersey, tearing to tatters its skirts against the high area that it could not penetrate. It did not move off the coast until yesterday morning, its centre passing above Atlantic City.

In this neighborhood there was a fall of three inches of snow, which came after a northeast that rose to forty-eight miles on land and several miles above that in the open, causing several wrecks on the coast and in the harbor. Later when the gale shifted to the west and northwest it attained about fifty miles in force.

Two sharp flashes of lightning of the summer variety, followed by thunder that crackled and rumbled quite loud enough to startle most of the people of the five boroughs who happened to be

MORE STREET GRAFT DUG UP

BROWN & FLEMING, BANKRUPTS, FIGURE IN AFFIDAVITS

With Russell C. Veit, One of Their Receivers—Receivers' Books Seized—Inspector Arrested—More Arrests Promised—Bogus Dumping Bills Paid.

After an investigation by District Attorney Jerome at the Criminal Courts Building, which lasted until early this morning, Ralph Vicario, a Street Cleaning Department inspector, whose job was to superintend the dumping of ashes and refuse at the foot of Canal street, was arrested. It was declared by Street Cleaning Commissioner Edwards that the arrest was only one of a number that would be made as the result of alleged grafting by the contractors who had the job of carting away the refuse from the Canal street dump.

These contractors for some years were Brown & Fleming, but they went into bankruptcy in December, 1907, and their business has since been conducted by three receivers, Russell C. Veit, son of Richard C. Veit of the Standard Oil Company, James Forrester and James C. Smith. It is charged that the receivers knew that the city was paying 30 cents a load for hundreds of loads of refuse that were never dumped and that of this amount Vicario, the inspector, got 20 cents and the receivers the other ten cents.

Commissioner Edwards said that he first heard of this alleged dumping graft some time ago through a college friend who was not in the department. He worked with Deputy Commissioner Hogan for some time and then got into touch with Harry Miller, the head auditor for the receivers of Brown & Fleming. Miller made a long affidavit last night before Magistrate Corrigan, as the result of which Vicario was arrested.

The statement was made by Commissioner Edwards early this morning, based largely on the affidavit by Miller that the inspector had made thousands of dollars out of the money paid by the city for the removal of refuse that was never dumped and that part of those payments went to receivers of Brown & Fleming.

Miller's affidavit says that at various times the city paid for hundreds of loads that were never dumped at all. In one case the city paid for 400 when there were only twenty dumped. Vicario, who is a civil service appointee and has been the inspector at the Canal street dump for nine months at \$1,700 a year, is declared to have made \$1,500 a month.

Miller said that it was part of his business to superintend the affairs of the receivers and that in June, 1908, he was instructed by Mr. Veit, who is now abroad that the inspector at Canal street would make false reports stating a number of loads dumped in excess of the real amount. He says he was told that Frederick A. Richard, then employed by the receivers, would transmit a memorandum showing the difference between the actual number and the number reported by Vicario.

Miller declared that he was ordered on the next morning by Veit to draw a check for 90 cents for every load in excess, get the signature of Veit and one of the other receiver and then cash the check and hand the cash to Richard, who would hand it in an envelope to Vicario.

He said that E. Erickson and A. Scallies, employed as checkers at the Canal street dump by the receivers, reported that on July 16, 17 and 18 there were actually dumped 236 loads. The records show that on the reports by Vicario the department's superintendent of final disposition the city paid for 400 loads on July 17 alone. On this one transaction Vicario got \$124, Miller said.

Miller said he was instructed by Veit to straighten up the reports so that the reports of the checkers and inspectors would agree. Miller said he carried out these instructions in September and part of October, and during that time got a memorandum from Richard every Friday and the next Saturday drew a check, and eventually Vicario got his money.

Vicario says he is a brother-in-law of Tom O'Rourke. The authorities have an idea that possibly some of the money went for political purposes.

Commissioner Edwards said he found that he couldn't trust any one in the department, so he put a policeman in charge of the books at his office in the Park Row Building last night.

Importance was attached by Commissioner Edwards to affidavits made last night by Richard and John S. Quinn, the receiver's office. Quinn said he was ordered to doctor the books, but didn't do it. The District Attorney seized yesterday all the books in the receiver's office. Richard's affidavit shows that the receivers were discharged in October, 1908.

He said that he had received instructions from Veit to report to Harry Miller, office manager of the receivers, the difference between the loads actually delivered and the number of loads delivered to the Street Cleaning Department. He went on to say that he received from Miller on Friday of each week an envelope which he believed contained paper money, and these he gave to Vicario. The first envelope he received he got from Veit.

A month or six weeks before the receivers were discharged he said he asked Veit if he hadn't better stop taking the envelopes to Vicario, and that Veit told him to keep on delivering them until he was told to stop. On the Friday before the receivers were discharged Miller informed Richard, according to the affidavit, that that was the last envelope to be delivered to Vicario.

Commissioner Edwards said that the digging up of the graft scandal showed that A. de Wilde, superintendent of final disposition, has been lax in his work. The Commissioner also announced the suspension of the six street cleaning employees at the Canal street dump.

The Brown & Fleming plant was bought at auction in January by Henry Steers.

May Give Ballot to Nebraska Women.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 4.—The House this afternoon passed a bill by a vote of 62 to 34 submitting a constitutional amendment permitting women to vote at all elections.

For Congress and More Throat Not Better Remedies than Found than Brown's Bronchial Troch.

AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN.

Oscar Straus Likely to Be Named for the Important Post.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—It was learned to-night that one of President Taft's earliest diplomatic nominations will be that of the Hon. Oscar Straus of New York to be Ambassador to Japan. Mr. Straus was Secretary of Commerce and Labor in the Cabinet of President Roosevelt and was Minister to Turkey in the second administration of President Cleveland.

Another piece of diplomatic news that floated up Pennsylvania avenue to-night was that the Hon. Truman Newberry, who succeeded Mr. Metcalf of California as Secretary of the Navy in President Roosevelt's Cabinet, has received the offer of an ambassadorship to a European court and had declined it.

HAD MRS. HEINZE'S PEARLS.

Former Employee of Hotel Knickerbocker Says He Found Them.

OMAHA, March 4.—John Savis, a Greek railroad laborer, was arrested here this afternoon and was found to have in his possession a pearl necklace of great value. The Greek put up a stiff fight but was overpowered and his revolver taken away from him. To-night he is in the city jail, while the necklace is in a safety deposit vault.

The necklace is thought to be the property of Mrs. Otto C. Heinze of New York city and to have been lost by her at the Knickerbocker Hotel on November 26 last. It consists of sixty-three matched pearls from the size of a pea to that of a marble and is fastened with a diamond clasp worth \$1,000.

Savis says he was a sidewalk man employed at the Hotel Knickerbocker and that he found the necklace on the pavement near the cab stand about the middle of December. He did not know the value of it, he says, and asked several employees about the hotel, but was told by them that it was worthless.

According to his story he continued working at the Knickerbocker until February, when he came to Omaha to act as interpreter to a gang of Greek railroad laborers. Savis this afternoon entered a jewelry store and holding out a pearl asked the jeweler what he would pay for it. The pearl had been drilled, showing that it had belonged to a necklace, and the jeweler becoming suspicious engaged the Greek in conversation. The Greek told the jeweler he had a handful of the gems and the jeweler kept him in the store on different pretexts until policemen arrived.

In a belt next to his person the other pearls were found. They remained on the gold cord on which they had been strung around Mrs. Heinze's neck. Savis this morning approached a watchmaker with the biggest pearl and was told it was worth about 30 cents.

The police here have no doubt that the necklace belongs to Mrs. Otto C. Heinze of 14 East Seventy-second street. She reported the loss of it to the police on November 27, saying that she had missed it after having had supper in the grill room of the Knickerbocker. The necklace contained sixty-three pearls, weighing all told 540 grains, and fastened by a diamond clasp weighing 2½ carats. Its reported value was \$12,000.

Savis was employed at the Hotel Knickerbocker as a street sweeper and left there in February. The hotel management said last night that Savis was about the only employee who was not questioned about the necklace. It was thought that he would have had no opportunity to get it.

FEAT WITH WIRELESS.

Japanese Steamship in Communication With Both Shores on Passage to Seattle.

SEATTLE, March 4.—With its wireless equipment the Japanese steamship Aki performed the feat of completing a passage of 4,210 miles from Yokohama, to Puget Sound without being out of communication with either shore. Capt. J. Nagao, master of the Aki Maru, explains that the wireless service was maintained by the aid of other vessels of his line and Government stations in Japan and British Columbia.

To a point in the Pacific more than 1,000 miles off the Japanese coast instruments were almost constantly taking messages direct from Japanese land stations. As the Aki proceeded toward America she was passed by a steamship bound for Japan until another steamship was picked up. Proceeding to Puget Sound she was able to relay messages to stations on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

STEPHENSON REELECTED.

Wisconsin Senator Wins on Twenty-third Ballot.

MADISON, Wis., March 4.—United States Senator Isaac Stephenson was reelected to-day by the joint assembly of the Wisconsin Legislature on the twenty-third ballot, having received 63 of 123 votes cast.

Charles K. Lush, one of W. H. Hatton's managers in the Senatorial campaign, took the stand before the Senatorial primary investigation committee to-day. Mr. Lush did not know whether or not Mr. Hatton was Senator La Follette's candidate.

"I'll tell you what Mr. La Follette said to me," said Mr. Lush. "At his office he said, 'You know I'm taking no part in this.'"

Assemblyman D. B. Stevens of Rhineland to-day presented a resolution that the joint committee investigating the charges made by Senator J. J. Blaine be requested to report its findings without delay, the charges not having been sustained. The resolution goes over until to-morrow.

Senator Stephenson received the Republican nomination at the primaries last fall, but had been opposed for reelection in joint ballot since January 26, when the first ballot was taken. His opponents had endeavored to block his election until the joint legislative committee had concluded its hearings on charges of corruption.

Plans to Import 600 New York Girls.

DES MOINES, Ia., March 4.—Members of the Greater Des Moines Committee have decided to import 600 girls from New York to work in the local factories. This action was taken at a recent meeting of the committee, when several factory owners declared that they had not enough girls to conduct their plants.

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