



THE YANKEE AND THE FRENCHMAN.

Wait, Wait, Monsieur, Fifty Per Cent Discount on ze deal! Come, Buy Him!

TO HEAD OFF SPECULATORS

President Roosevelt Will Call Denmark to Time.

OFFER FOR ISLANDS

This May Be Withdrawn to Cheat Speculative Greed.

TRYING TO BILK UNITED STATES

President Takes an Important Step to Lessen the Strategic Value of St. Thomas.

New York Sun Special Service

Washington, Dec. 31.—There is a growing belief in Washington that President Roosevelt will withdraw the offer of the United States to purchase the Danish West Indian islands unless the government of Denmark very shortly cuts loose from the speculators who have prevented the consummation of the deal through their desire to share in the profits.

The president has taken one step in the direction of reducing the strategic value of St. Thomas by making over to the navy Culebra island for use as a coaling base, thus placing that island, which immediately adjoins the Danish West Indies, in precisely the same category as Tutuila and Guam. Surveying operations under Rear Admiral Bradford's direction have led to the discovery of an admirable harbor in this easternmost of American possessions.

The president and secretary of state are getting tired of the dilatory conduct of the Danish government and now that they know the reason for it are inclined to abandon the idea of purchasing the islands until Denmark is prepared to make a final offer. The whole delay is due to men who, having failed originally to sell the islands to the United States in the capacity of agents of the Danish government, are now attempting to place themselves in a position where they can collect commissions in the event of the sale being consummated.

They are the same men whose negotiations with the McKinley administration were cut short two years ago. When they found that a new Danish cabinet had entered into negotiations which were likely to be successful, they began an agitation in Denmark which has delayed the transfer of sovereignty so that they might make investments in St. Croix and St. Thomas which could be disposed of to the United States at a handsome profit.

The Danish government wants to sell the islands and appreciates that if the United States does not buy them nobody else can or will. In the pending negotiations, the Danish government will elapse before the Danish government will again find so favorable an opportunity to unload her burden in the western ocean on terms so satisfactory as those which has been offered by the United States.

New Steamship Service

Copenhagen, Dec. 31.—According to the Politiken, a syndicate for the improvement of the Danish West Indies, capitalized at 4,000,000 kroner, intends to establish a steamship service between Denmark and Central American ports, calling at St. Thomas, whether the islands are sold or not.

WOMAN'S TEETH

These and Her Foot Bring Two Footpads to Grief.

Special to The Journal

Chicago, Dec. 31.—By biting a highwayman's finger until he cried out with pain and then kicking his companion senseless, Mrs. Anna Wirsing, a widow, foiled an attempt to rob her last evening. Mrs. Wirsing was on her way to a drug store to purchase medicine for her mother when a man's hands were clasped tightly over her eyes. Mrs. Wirsing caught the robber's wrists, pulling one hand down and placing the fingers in her mouth. Then she bit with all her strength. The footpad yelled with pain, but the woman kept on biting until she felt her assailant's grip relaxing. The robber then ran.

Mrs. Wirsing was about to pick up the articles which she had dropped when the robber returned. She picked up the pocketbook, taking advantage of his stooping posture, the woman balanced herself and kicked at the man. He struck the second robber in the head and he dropped to the sidewalk and lay still. Mrs. Wirsing then recovered her pocketbook and other things she had dropped and continued on her way to the store.

SPEND A MILLION DEAL BLOCKED

Omaha - Northwestern Will Make Heavy Expenditures at Sioux City.

Special to The Journal

Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 31.—The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad has purchased lots through the heart of Sioux City, amounting to sixty acres, and in a strip a mile long, and has announced the construction of large machine shops for the entire northern Iowa and Dakota divisions, and the buildings of the largest terminal system in the city. It is known that the company is preparing to build the link to Le Mars, connecting the two sections of the Omaha railroad, and that property is already being bought for the erection of a mammoth union station for all the North-Western lines here.

A line will also be built from Merrill, Iowa, to Centerville, S. D., connecting the South Dakota lines with Sioux City. It is unofficially stated that the Northwestern's plans provide for the expenditure here of a million dollars.

HIGH SCHOOL FIRE

Heron Lake's Costly Building Burned Early To-day.

Special to The Journal

Heron Lake, Minn., Dec. 31.—The Heron Lake high school building was destroyed by fire this morning. The loss is \$25,000; insurance, \$17,000.

C. P. R. AND THE MERGER

Former's Attitude as Lowry Sees It.

HILL'S PLAN FAVORED

But the Soo's President Has Received No Instructions.

THINKS SOO WILL BE BENEFITED

He Says He Has Not Been Back of Any Attack Upon Northern Consolidation.

President Thomas Lowry, of the Soo road, and also head of the Twin City Rapid Transit company, flatly contradicts the statements made by St. Paul papers friendly to the Hill railway interests that he is taking a prominent part in the agitation against the Northern Securities consolidation. One of the papers mentioned makes the charge that it is through Mr. Lowry that the St. Paul Dispatch is making such a determined stand against James J. Hill's big scheme. The fact that M. D. Munn, local counsel for the Soo road and the Twin City Rapid Transit Company in St. Paul, is associated with the state in the action against the merger is credited to Mr. Lowry. The Soo president is also charged by the organs of the Hill combination at the instigation of the Canadian Pacific, which owns a majority of the Soo stock, because the Canadian Pacific officials want to steer the immigration now bound for the American northwest into the territory tributary to its lines. When asked by The Journal as to the truth of these statements to-day, Mr. Lowry said:

"I have not been asked to nor have I taken any personal interest in the agitation or movement against Mr. Hill's combination. My relations with Mr. Hill have always been most cordial and pleasant, and I know of no reason why they should be otherwise at this time. "As far as I know the St. Paul Dispatch runs its own business and governs its own policy. I have no interest in the Dispatch in any shape or form either direct or indirect. "When Governor Van Sant declared his intention to attack the Northern Securities company, I was in New York. I had no previous intimation of it and the very first knowledge that such a move was to be made I learned in the Associated Press dispatches while in New York. I was also absent from the city at the time the governor consulted Mr. Munn and knew nothing about it whatever. I have met Governor Van Sant but once since the election. That was at the reception tendered President Roosevelt.

"The Canadian Pacific has given: me no instructions regarding Mr. Hill's new company or plans in: any shape or form. I feel com-: dant that the Canadian Pacific: is people favor Mr. Hill's combina-: tion. Personally I feel that the: new arrangement formed by Mr.: Hill will be a benefit rather than: a detriment to the Soo road." "Individual opinions in this matter, especially those of people interested in railroads will have little effect on the result. This controversy, in any other character, will be settled upon the broad grounds of public policy and in the courts."

UNION PACIFIC FIGURES

How the Company Profited by Northern Pacific Purchase.

Special to The Journal. New York, Dec. 31.—Although the amount paid by the Union Pacific for Southern Pacific and Northern Pacific stock has not been revealed, it is believed the Southern Pacific cost it something over 50 and Northern Pacific a little above par. The Union Pacific has a floating debt of approximately \$25,000,000, caused by the acquisition of the Northern Pacific, although the purchase was not made in cash. Part of this profit might properly have gone to the interests through which the purchases and sales were made but as a matter of fact all went to the Union Pacific, which was thus able to liquidate immediately part of its indebtedness. The remainder can be paid off very easily should the company see fit to market some of the stocks which have been acquired.

When the settlement with the Northern Pacific was made the Union Pacific received a considerable amount of cash as well as securities. The profit on the Northern Pacific transaction was estimated at about \$17,000,000 and it has been understood that about \$9,000,000 were received in cash. Part of this profit might properly have gone to the interests through which the purchases and sales were made but as a matter of fact all went to the Union Pacific, which was thus able to liquidate immediately part of its indebtedness. The remainder can be paid off very easily should the company see fit to market some of the stocks which have been acquired.

ERIE TELEPHONE STOCKHOLDERS OPPOSE ABSORPTION BY BELL CO.

Special to The Journal. Boston, Dec. 31.—Efforts will be made by minority stockholders of the Erie Telephone company to prevent consolidation with the Bell Telephone company. The stock was some years ago a favorite investment for Lowell people, thousands of shares having been taken in that city. People of small means put their savings into the stock and for years were satisfied with the returns. These people are now compelled to give up one share of their stock without compensation and to accept new stock at the rate of \$25 a share. Since the new reorganization plan was announced the dissatisfaction of the Lowell stockholders has been freely and a notice appears in the Lowell morning papers calling a meeting to be held Wednesday evening to discuss matters affecting our rights and to take measures for defense. It is not believed by the majority stockholders that an attempt to block the consolidation will prove successful. A majority of the stock held by the Bell people has assented to the reorganization plan, but it is expected that the Lowell people will take the matter into the courts.

CAUSE OF PEOPLE GAINING GROUND

Moral Effect of Merger of States Against Merger of Railroads Is Already Felt in the West.

Helena Conference Will Take Final Action To-day—Minnesota's Stand Is Indorsed.

From a Staff Correspondent.

Helena, Mont., Dec. 31.—Governor Van Sant is the hero of the hour. The far west loves a fighter. Minnesota's governor just suits them. His well-tempered address at yesterday's meeting, devoid of bitterness or "grand stand play," pleased everybody. It disarmed his critics and is commended by both friend and foe. It appears to all as being both fearless and fair.

Minnesota Commended.

A deep undercurrent of feeling here came to the surface last night, when ten of the foremost citizens of Helena met the visiting state officials at the home of Governor Toole. It was purely a social occasion and discussion was barred, but after coffee, toasts went around the board. Governor Van Sant was fairly bombarded with bouquets. Every speaker took pains to declare in no uncertain style his admiration for Minnesota's stand and to indicate plainly his dread of combinations.

It is fair to say that this sentiment is shared by nine-tenths of the intelligent men of Montana, Idaho and Washington, a sentiment that has been slow to develop. Minnesota seemed far away, and, doubtful of the states' power to block the merger game, the far northwest had resigned itself to the inevitable. Long-headed business men saw the danger plainly and hoped against hope. The Helena conference has put heart in them.

The spectacle of a state confederation in such harmony has already had a great moral effect. The talk is bolder.

Where Idaho Stands.

Said Governor Hunt of Idaho this morning: "Our people, regardless of politics, are opposed to consolidations of: every sort. This railroad merger: would do us little immediate in-: jury, but a glance into the future: convinces us that the throttling of: competition will be to our perma-: nent hurt."

Washington state is very bitter against the Hill regime and the feeling is more pronounced there than here. Montana is a bone of contention between the Amalgamated Copper company and Senator Clark. The newspapers are controlled by one or the other. The Clark papers, for the selfish interests of their chief, oppose the merger. The popular feeling, regardless of factional strife, is with Governor Van Sant and his allies. Montana people are proud of the Northern Pacific, and dread to see it "chewed up," as they express it. They are tired of being bossed by corporations, and while business men, for business reasons, cannot say much in public, they are doing "heaps of thinking."

Toole in Line.

Governor Toole, a Clark man and ambitious to succeed Frank Gibson as the mining king's colleague in the senate, keeps his ear close to the ground and his hearty co-operation with Governor Van Sant is evidence that he has heard the rumble. The conference is succeeding beyond the hopes of all. No politics has developed. All look on the question from the high plane of their duty as public servants.

Adopt Resolutions.

Resolutions declaring against railroad consolidation were adopted late this afternoon by the governors and attorneys general without a dissenting vote. The morning session was fruitful in discussions and the legal remedies were gone over carefully. Shortly before noon the members began an endeavor to formulate resolutions. A rough draft was made and discussion as to the exact language took the time until 12:30, when a recess was taken until 3.

Frank Martin, attorney general of Idaho, and secretary of the conference, said during the recess: "There is no difference of opinion among us on the main proposition that the consolidation is harmful and should be prevented. We are agreed on the general form of the resolutions declaring our sentiments, and it will be perfected at the afternoon session within an hour or two."

Attorney Generals Stratton and Martin are much in earnest and the indications are that one or both will commence an action against the combine in his own state. They went into the decisions and authorities this morning with Attorney General Douglas of Minnesota, this discussion occupying much of the time.

"A Menace to Each State."

The resolutions under consideration this afternoon are strong. They declare against combinations of capital and for the checking of competition hostile to the public interest. The merger of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific is declared a menace to the interests of the states through which they pass and the best efforts of each commonwealth are

pledged to prevent the deal. Governor Van Sant is commended for his stand and promised the support of each state represented, so far as the influence of those present shall go.

"Such will be the meat of the resolutions passed," said a member of the conference. "Our discussion of the legal phases must be kept executive. We cannot give away our plans to the enemy. The statement of the resolutions that we will endeavor to prevent the merger may be taken to mean that other suits will be brought. Where and of what nature these suits will be, we cannot disclose at present."

Governor Herred of South Dakota, left on the 3 o'clock train for home, missing the afternoon session. He received a telegram hurrying his return on urgent business. Attorney General Pyle remained to represent him.

PRELIMINARIES ACCOMPLISHED

Opening Statement to the Conference by Gov. Van Sant.

Helena, Mont., Dec. 31.—No action was taken yesterday at the meeting of the governors and attorney generals of the northwestern states, called to consider plans for opposing the proposed consolidation of the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Burlington railway systems. From the discussion, however, it is considered probable that the plan of Governor Van Sant of Minnesota will be indorsed by the executives of other states and that the final action upon the railroad consolidation will be carried to a finish.

Welcomed by Toole.

The afternoon meeting was largely informal in nature. Governor Toole extended the formal welcome of the state, speaking of the practical value of the opportunity from the time of the first questions before the conference, irrespective of the decision to be reached. Said he:

"I wish to thank you for your presence, and beg to assure you that Montana feels highly complimented by the selection of this state and its capital city as the place of your conference. From the time upon the important matters to be discussed, it has been deemed appropriate that all great undertakings should be initiated at some elevated and conspicuous point. Doubtless in deference to some such worthy precedents, Governor Van Sant selected this little city. Resting on the throne of the rocks, in a robe of clouds, with a diamond of snows, the setting and proper place for so important a gathering, we give you a cordial welcome, and whether our conference portends much or little, wisdom or folly, it will be a source of pleasure and profit. It is our duty to know each other better and exchange views upon important subjects, which bring us together, in which as neighboring commonwealths and citizens of this country we have a mutual and abiding interest."

Remembered, Though Absent.

Calling attention to the absence of Governor Frank White of North Dakota, Governor Van Sant read this telegram: "Bismarck, Dec. 28.—I regret that matters have arisen rendering it impossible for me to attend the conference. Governor Van Sant then read the following telegram: "Bismarck, Dec. 31.—I will be present with attorney general of the state at the time and place indicated in your letter."

Concluding, he read Governor White's letter to him, written Nov. 26, when he expressed the hope that Governor Van Sant would succeed in his effort to down the consolidation, and added that the people of North Dakota were with him.

Van Sant's Statement.

The meeting was organized by the election of Governor Van Sant as chairman and Attorney General Stratton of Idaho as secretary. The governor made an address in speech in regard to the objects of the meeting, giving a history of the proposed railway consolidation and the effect he believed it would have on the states affected. He said:

"The state of Minnesota has had on her statute books for more than twenty-five years laws prohibiting the consolidation in any way of parallel and competing lines of railroads. It has been the settled policy of our state to maintain a free, open and unrestricted competition among the stock of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railway companies operate parallel and competing lines of railway within the state. These are practically the only roads which furnish any transportation facilities to the northern half of the state, with the exception of the two known as the 'iron ore roads.' It has been recently announced that Mr. Hill and his assistants have obtained the control of the Northern Pacific railway company and intend to operate the same jointly with the Great Northern, and in effect bring about a consolidation by removing all competition and all rivalry between these roads. To the end the Northern Securities company was organized in New Jersey to acquire a controlling amount of the stock of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railway company in exchange for its own stock, and it is through this company that the unity of management of control is to be effected."

Feels the Obligation.

As soon as this fact became known to me I felt it my duty as governor to do everything in my official power to oppose the consolidation or amalgamation of these properties within the state of Minnesota. If there is such a consolidation contemplated, and that fact seems to be practically conceded, it is an open violation of the law as well as the declared public policy of the state of Minnesota, and I feel that I should be negligent of my duties as the official head of the state if I remained quiescent under such circumstances. I have been informed that the states which you gentlemen represent as governors and attorneys general have constitutional or statute laws similar in effect to those of the state of Minnesota, and there was a question in which our state was not alone interested. Acting upon this belief, I took the liberty of asking for this conference of governors and attorneys general of the various states through which these two roads pass, believing that all such states were equally interested

ACTION IS RAPID IN POWER'S N.P. SUIT

Developments in Suit to Prevent Retirement of N. P. Preferred Follow Like Clockwork.

Case Carried to the Federal Court Where Judge Lochren Heard Arguments To-day.

Peter Power, New York capitalist and holder of 100 shares of Northern Pacific common stock, is fighting in the courts in Minneapolis against the retirement of Northern Pacific preferred stock and the consequent fortifying of James J. Hill in his supremacy over three great railroad systems.

Yesterday morning Mr. Power's attorney secured a temporary injunction against the retirement—a move which was supposed to come as a stunning surprise. Nevertheless, by early candle light, there was on file with a Minneapolis court clerk, a bulky answer from the Northern Pacific interests. This document covers thirty-one large, typewritten pages and shows evidence of careful preparation such as would ordinarily occupy at least a week of a painstaking attorney's time. Ostensibly, it was prepared in not to exceed eight hours.

It is also noted that, whereas the legal staff of the Northern Pacific is usually here, there and everywhere attending to the necessarily heavy and scattered litigation of a big railway system, all the legal lights of prominence were either waiting at St. Paul or within such easy call that they appeared in Minneapolis this morning.

In a recent New York action brought by a holder of Northern Pacific preferred stocks to prevent its retirement, it was suspected that the case was a friendly one to give the merger interests the prestige of a legal victory. Those watching the case brought in Minneapolis do not give great emphasis to any suspicions they may entertain, but they are weighing with care every feature of possible significance.

Taken to the Federal Court. After Judge Elliott had granted the temporary injunction yesterday, the defense, under its rights, took the case to the federal court.

The charter under which the Northern Pacific road is operated contains a provision permitting the board of directors to retire its preferred stock, at par, on any first of January up to Jan. 1, 1917. Consequently if the retirement is to be effected within a year the stock must be called in to-morrow at the latest.

This morning the attorneys for Mr. Power came into court and asked Judge Lochren for time to prepare a reply to the answer served upon them by the attorneys for the Northern Pacific road at 9:30 last evening. The request was denied.

TO-DAY CUBA IS ELECTING

Important Step in Attaining Independence.

ORDERLINESS IS LIKELY Sovereignty to Be Transferred From the United States May 1.

REVIEW OF PAST STRUGGLES

T. Estrada Palma, Who Will Be the First President, Is Expected to Govern Wisely.

From The Journal Bureau, Room 45, Post Building, Washington.

Washington, Dec. 31.—To-day is election day in Cuba. Under the new constitution, which, by the way, reads as if its framers knew no other model than the constitution of the United States, there will be chosen presidential electors, senators, congressmen, and a governor and legislature for each of the six provinces. Every male native or naturalized Cuban who is not a criminal, lunatic or public charge has a right to vote. Feb. 24 the presidential electors will meet and ballot for a president and vice president, just as the electoral college does in the United States. About the first of May President Roosevelt will issue a proclamation formally transferring sovereignty from the United States and the independence for which the Cuban people struggled so many long years will have been realized.

The reports indicate that it will be an orderly election. The result for president is a foregone conclusion. Practically only one candidate remains in the field, and he is not a war hero, which is singular, considering that Cuba is chock full of them. Last August there were eighteen candidates for president and a voting contest conducted by a Havana newspaper at that time seemed to indicate that General Maximo Gomez, commander-in-chief of the Cuban army in two revolutions, would win in a walk. The turn in affairs since then has been most remarkable. There were among the eighteen fire-eaters and revolutionists who were declaring the people ought to resort to arms before acquiescing in the demands in the Platt resolutions adopted by the senate last March.

Palma. The one who was not eliminated, alone among the eighteen, is said by men who have known him for many years to entertain convictions that the ultimate destiny of Cuba is annexation to the United States. Tomas Estrada Palma is for a time during the ten years revolution—1895-'98—was president of the provisional Cuban republic. He was captured by the Spaniards and transported a prisoner to Spain. Execution or a long term of imprisonment stared at him for a time, but he was finally released on condition that he would banish himself from the Spanish colonies.

He came to the United States and Continued on Second Page.

One of Our Hymns a Drinking Song

New York Sun Special Service

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 31.—"Our modern hymns are chock full of doggerel nonsense. We have wandered from the path which was originally marked out and our hymnology now deserves the denunciation given it by Professor Triggs of Chicago."

This statement was made by the Rev. Robert S. Young, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian church, at the meeting of the Toledo preachers' union. "Why, do you know," continued Mr. Young, "I have discovered that one of the hymns now sung with the greatest fervor is merely an old Italian drinking song."

"Well, what if it was a drinking song?" indignantly asked another member of the preachers' union. "People won't know the difference."