



WHERE WORDS FAIL. Bryan—Nope; I've nothing to say.

TOWNS TO THE BLACK HILLS

A Railroad Project to Link Them Together Formally Incorporated.

W. T. Coad Finally Gets His Plans in Shape to Permit This Step.

Connect at Chamberlain, S. D., With Milwaukee's Line to Minneapolis

Another Black Hills railway project has been launched under the name of the Federal Railroad company, with headquarters at Rapid City. The capital stock is \$18,000,000. The incorporators are William T. Coad, Charles D. Mattison, J. B. Henry, Rapid City; Joseph H. Muhlik, Forrest O. Murdock, Chicago.

CUBAN BILL DECIDED UPON

Ways and Means Committee Votes to Report the Reciprocity Measure.

Messrs. Tawney and Metcalfe Two of the Five Voting in Negative.

Twelve Members, Including One Absentee, Recorded in Affirmative.

Washington, March 31.—The ways and means committee to-day voted to report the Cuban reciprocity bill, 11 to 5.

"Insurgents" Meet. About thirty republican members of the house opposed to reciprocity met this afternoon to determine upon their course in view of the ways and means committee action in reporting the Payne bill.

SHRINK FROM PUBLIC POST

Some Republicans Reluctant to Accept Office at the President's Hands.

Holding Off Till They See How the Political Tide Will Turn.

Washington, March 31.—The good places in public life which President Roosevelt has to offer just now to the right men are numerous. These places are actually or prospectively vacant. The following catalogue sets forth, after a fashion, the present needs of the administration:

Secretary of the interior, commissioner of pensions, minister to Madrid, ambassador to Italy, ambassador to Mexico, commissioner of immigration, first assistant postmaster general.

Besides these there will be a minister to Cuba and several consuls soon to be appointed, and at least one assistant secretaryship in the treasury is likely to see a new incumbent.

The president is a candidate for the nomination to succeed himself. In his characteristic frank manner he has let this fact become known.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Dunn of St. Paul are in Washington on their way home from Florida. They will be here several days and then visit Mr. Dunn's brother in Philadelphia.

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RAIL AND LAKE

Things Done and Left Undone at the Conference of Managers.

Special to The Journal. New York, March 31.—The conferences of Buffalo last week of the managers of rail and lake lines were not barren of results, though not as much as was accomplished as hoped for by the former with special reference to the matter of divisions.

Another Nicollet Deal. Another big deal on Nicollet and Eleventh street has just been made by H. E. Ladd at a good figure.

DES MOINES VOTING. Adherents of Hartenbower and Breton Wage a Fast Fight.

VETS OF '61 WANT JUSTICE—NO MORE

Commander Ell Torrance Discusses the Present Situation With Regard to Pensions.

He Denies That He's a Candidate for Pension Commissioner or Any Other Office.

Judge Ell Torrance, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, is not a candidate for any political office. He laughs at the idea of his being appointed pension commissioner, and says that he would not accept the position under any conditions.

"I wish you would say in The Journal and I make it just as strong as you can, that I am not a candidate for any office. I don't want to be pension commissioner. It is an ungracious position, and I had rather stay in Minneapolis at \$500 a year than live in Washington with \$5,000 annually and that office."

"I have been asked several times recently to be a candidate for lieutenant governor this fall, but I could not accept the nomination should it be tendered me."

"I consider my present position as commander of the Grand Army too high a place to be belittled by my seeking anything else. So long as I am commander I shall neither ask nor accept any political office, either elective or appointive."

Judge Torrance returned this morning from Washington, where he was summoned by a telegram from President Roosevelt asking him to confer with the president regarding pension matters. He left Minneapolis, Tuesday.

Pension Report Discussed. The report of the G. A. R. pension committee was submitted to the president a week ago Saturday. In speaking of the matter this morning, Judge Torrance said:

The report covered the result of the committee's investigations and met with the approval of all members of the committee as well as of the commander-in-chief. The substance of the report had been agreed upon by members of the committee prior to the adjournment of its final meeting in Washington on Feb. 27, and all that remained to be done was to put it in proper form and to secure the signatures of the various members.

At the request of the president the report has not yet been given to the public and won't be for some little time to come. The president now has under consideration the selection of a successor to Pension Commissioner Evans and as soon as a decision is reached, the change will take place.

The committee, in its report, found no fault with the pension laws as they now exist. Their objections were confined solely to the manner in which the laws have been construed and administered by the pension bureau. A desire for change in the office of commissioner of pensions has been steadily growing for more than two years past until, at the present time, it is almost universal so far as the surviving soldiers of the war for the preservation of the union are concerned.

This feeling has been shared by conservative army men all over the country, for they believe, and with good cause, that great injustice has been done to many deserving and worthy claimants for pensions. Many of these who are now applying for pensions have a record of long continued and efficient service in behalf of their country as well as a long and honorable record as civilians. They gave their best energies with patriotic devotion to their country, and now, after a lapse of almost forty years since the war, they are compelled by the infirmities of age, to seek relief at the hands of the government; and because they have no hospital record and have failed to ask aid of the government at an earlier period, they are looked upon with distrust and their applications are subjected to the strictest scrutiny and evidence both as to quality and quantity of their service is exacted beyond a reasonable degree, the result, in many cases, being a denial of justice.

Veterans Ask Simple Justice. All the veterans soldier of the union desire is that the laws be justly and fairly administered according to their reasonable intent, and that all who are entitled to receive their benefits shall enjoy them without diminution or unreasonable or vexatious delays, and that every unworthy claim shall be rejected and every fraudulent pensioner stricken from the rolls.

The atmosphere of the pension bureau has been such as to create an impression that a great many frauds are attempted to be perpetrated on the government by the "old soldiers," but it is a wonderful thing to be considered the last report of the commissioner of pensions, there were, out of 159 persons convicted of fraud against the bureau last year but ten actually got away with it, of whom two were deserters and not to be properly classified as soldiers. A large number of the convicted were far advanced in years, and the old soldier and not by him. The records show that only one old soldier out of 73,000 has been convicted of fraud against the government in this matter of pensions. Certainly that is a wonderfully good showing.

I do not know who will be appointed to succeed Commissioner Evans. Neither do I know whether or not he is to be given another governmental position.

DOUBLE GRIEF NO FIGHTS

Widow of Chief Surgeon Dies at Sea Beside Her Husband's Body.

New York Sun Special Service. San Francisco, March 31.—The death of Mrs. Pope, widow of Colonel B. F. Pope, chief surgeon of the army in the Philippines, whose remains she was accompanying, occurred March 19 when the transport was in mid-ocean and formed a double bereavement for two sons and other relatives and friends who awaited the sad home-coming of Mrs. Pope.

The sons and party of friends went to quarantine to meet the transport and then learned of the death of the devoted wife and mother. She sailed from Manila March 1 with the body of her husband, and was accompanied by her little son and daughter, besides a nurse and Dr. Manley, whose attendance upon Mrs. Pope was necessary owing to her general ill health resulting from grief and worry over her property as security.

FOR VAN SANT. Senator Buckman Outspoken in Favor of Governor's Renomination.

BOYCOTT RENEWED. Cincinnati Breweries in Operation, Notwithstanding.

COULDN'T FIND HIS AFFINITY

Nevada, Iowa, Woman One of Christian Nelson's Thirteen Wives.

Nelson, a Bachelor Till 56, Was Unfortunate in His Selections.

New York Sun Special Service. St. Joseph, Mo., March 31.—Christian C. Nelson, who is probably married to thirteen women, confessed that he is a bigamist, but defends his conduct vigorously, saying:

I was a bachelor until I was 56 years old and kept out of trouble, but then I got married, and just see what a fix I'm in now. If I had been fortunate enough to get the right kind of a wife in the first place I never would have become a bigamist. I was deceived in every instance, and kept right on trying, expecting finally to meet my affinity.

Nelson confesses to marrying three widows—Mrs. A. Townsend, Conway, Ark.; Mrs. Mary A. Parker, Plattsburg, Mo.; and Mrs. A. E. Milburn, Fort Scott, Kansas. Information continues to reach the police implicating him in a dozen affairs. The latest to be heard from is Mrs. D. A. Harvey, of Nevada, Iowa, who is reported \$2,900 the loser on account of a marriage in which Nelson is said to have figured.

Three Years in the Penitentiary. St. Joseph, Mo., March 31.—C. C. Nelson, who was brought here from San Antonio two weeks ago, charged with bigamy, pleaded guilty to having three wives to-day and was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

CARRIE LARSEN'S DEATH

Trial of Alleged Murderer of Former Minneapolis Girl.

Chicago, March 31.—The story of the murder of Carrie Larsen, as believed by the authorities, was presented to a jury to-day by Assistant State's Attorney Barnes. Louis Tombs, on trial for the murder, listened unmoved.

Mr. Barnes told the jurors that Tombs, with a wife living, enticed Carrie Larsen to the steamer Peerless, then lying in the Chicago harbor, murdered her and then compelled Robert Kelsig, a carpenter employed on the boat, to help him carry the body, heavily weighted, to a hole in the ice. Kelsig later told the story to the police. Tombs has declared he is innocent and said that the boy had committed the murder and that he (Tombs) helped him to dispose of the body out of pity.

PROBABLY IT'S EDDY. Two Thousand Norwegians Hired to Work in Canada.

Christiana, Norway, March 31.—Two thousand laborers have been hired here for railroad work in Canada by an American congressman.

'PINO GOVERNMENT. Both Republicans and Democratic Bills Reported to the Senate.

BETTER WATCH RUSSIA. Sixty Thousand Rifles Landed at a Persian Seaport.

NO REGRETS

Democrats Not Weeping Over the Defeat of Chairman Jones.

Washington, March 31.—The defeat of Senator Jones brings no sorrow to the democrats here, who hope for party reorganization. He will probably also retire from membership in the democratic national committee, of which he is chairman, and a great scramble will come for the vacant chairmanship.

Senator Jones' management of the 1896 campaign was not brilliant, and he remained in charge in 1900 because Bryan's defeat was a foregone conclusion. Nobody cared to take a place which was to be crowded by defeat. A new national chairman will not be chosen for some time, but Tom Taggart of Indianapolis is the most frequently mentioned. Several younger democratic senators would like the place, among them Bailey and Carmack.

Clarke It Certainly Is. Little Rock, Ark., March 31.—Returns from the democratic primaries show that ex-Governor James P. Clarke has been endorsed for United States senator, and that Governor Davis has carried sixty-five of the seventy-five counties. At the headquarters of Senator Jones, word was received this morning that Washington county's support to the former Jones had gone for Clarke by nearly 800 majority. Clarke will apparently have a majority of twelve on joint ballot in the legislature.

W. W. Jermaine. WED SLYLY. Patrick Gets a Wife in the Tombs Under a Peculiar Law.

New York, March 31.—Albert T. Patrick, convicted last week of the murder of Millionaire Rice, and now awaiting the death sentence, and Mrs. Addie L. Francis have become husband and wife in the matron's room of the Tombs. A pen stroke did it, despite all measures taken to prevent. Not until the marriage was complete were Patrick's guards cognizant that it was even intended. The fact that Commissioner of Corrections Hynes had declared his opposition to a marriage between the prisoner and the woman who has been so faithful to him, made the Tombs officials more alert to prevent a marriage in the prison. The marriage is said to have been accomplished, however, while the matron was present, though she was so occupied that she was unaware what was going on.

Mrs. Francis, accompanied by her attorney, her sister and Patrick's father, called at the Tombs and asked for a conference with the matron's room and after a few moments the guard is said to have stepped outside. It is said the wedding contracts were then signed by Patrick and Mrs. Francis in duplicate. Under a new law this form of marriage is lawful when the signing of the contract is witnessed by two persons. To perfect the ceremony it is only necessary to file a copy of the contract with a magistrate within six months.

Samuel B. Thomas, attorney for Mrs. Francis, made the following statement to-day: As counsel of Mrs. Francis I advised her that the contract marriage was absolutely valid and binding. Mrs. Francis had been engaged to Mr. Patrick since 1898. It was their intention to be married on the day of Patrick's acquittal. They were married properly and legally, and as his wife Mrs. Addie Francis Patrick can visit him when he is confined in the death house, which would have been denied her otherwise.

TOO HOT FOR THEM AT HOME. Kingston, Jamaica, March 31.—Many Haytian refugees are arriving in consequence of the political upheaval in Hayti. The situation is serious and trouble certain.

ILL OMEN. The German Emperors' New Yacht Badly Damaged in Collision.

New York, March 31.—Meteor III, the yacht of the German emperor, was damaged while being towed clear of her berth at Shooters island for her trial spin to-day. The tug A. A. Sumner was pulling her out of her berth, when the tug's steering gear gave way and the Meteor was left helpless. She had considerable headway and collided with a pier in the basin of the dock. Her port rail was stove in and the large counterplate at her stern was badly dented.

She continued on to sea for her trial spin, but she will return to Stapleton, Staten island, for a more careful survey before she starts on her journey across the Atlantic.

DES MOINES VOTING. Adherents of Hartenbower and Breton Wage a Fast Fight.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 31.—An exciting municipal campaign ends to-day with the municipal election. An unusually heavy vote is being polled. Mayor Hartenbower is a candidate on the citizens ticket and James M. Breton is the republican nominee.

HENDERSON DOWNED, MAYBE

Likely to Be Retired to Private Life in 1904 if Not This Year.

Iowa Voters Insist That They Be Not Misrepresented in Congress.

Washington, March 31.—Speaker Henderson will not visit his district until congress adjourns. While he does not attempt to minimize the importance of the candidacy of Senator Courtwright of Waterloo, he is confident, owing to advices received from friends in the district, that his own renomination is not seriously menaced.

The speaker's friends concede that Senator Courtwright will carry Blackhawk and Wright counties, but insist that the speaker will carry the other seven counties of the district. The aspect of the opposition which seems serious to them is the fact that after twenty years' service in the house enough hostile sentiment could spring up in any part of the district to warrant an opposing candidate to come out openly and announce his intention to ask for the nomination. If Colonel Henderson were not speaker, Senator Courtwright's candidacy would not appear strange.

Some of the speaker's friends regard the affair as ominous. They predict that it is the beginning of an insurrection against the speaker which will continue until he is relegated to private life. He is out of touch with his district, a fact which is due to his elevation to the highest place in the organization of the house of representatives.

Mr. Henderson's attitude upon tariff revision is completely at variance with the attitude of his constituents. This his most intimate friends in Washington acknowledge. They say that the election of Iowa, especially the republican part of it, has become very insistent for tariff reform and that sooner or later the congressional districts of the state will send to Washington men who will be in harmony with the ideas of the voters.

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