

STUDY OF THE MERGER CASE

Did the Decision Come Too Late to Prevent "A Coalition of Two Northern Lines?"

Officials at Washington Busily Engaged in Going Over the Document Line by Line.

An Alleged Request to Have the Decision Modified Refused by Mr. Knox.

New York Sun Special Service.

Washington, April 15.—Ever since the decision in the Northern Securities case the officials of the department of justice, the interstate commerce commission, the treasury department and the new department of commerce have been busily engaged in going over the decision paragraph by paragraph to find out how much it does now, and how much it will do in the future.

No one believes that such a decision by a subordinate court is of itself sufficient to cause any vast disturbance in the financial situation. There will be plenty of time to discount the effect of the merger decision before it is finally rendered by the United States supreme court.

In the opinion of expert officials of the treasury there is not the slightest necessity for any extraordinary excitement in Wall street at the present time.

Had It Outlived Its Mission? Furthermore, it is understood here that the merger decision came too late by some months to prevent the actual coalition of two northern lines of trans-continental railroads. It is no news to the people on the inside of the department of justice that the Northern Securities company practically outlived its usefulness some time ago and its affairs can be wound up without in any way disturbing the actual ownership of the great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington railroads.

No Further Move at Present. There is believed to be no intention on the part of the department of justice to institute any further proceedings against common carriers who are, as some persons believe, directly affected by the decision of the sixth circuit court in the Northern Securities case. Many inquiries have been made at the department with a view to learning what the attorney general will do as a result of this decision, but the questions have obtained little satisfactory answer. There is an organization known as the Anti-Trust league, whose membership is composed largely of agitators and whose leading officers live in Washington. This organization is clamoring for a prosecution of the anthracite coal carriers and other railroad companies, which are controlled by some of the same persons who are controlled by the Sherman law similar to that of the Northern Securities company as held by the circuit court at St. Paul.

It is certain, however, that whatever the officers of the department of justice may think of this proposition, there is no purpose to begin new prosecutions in the near future. In the case of the Northern Securities case, the department has been required to some extent into the combination that is alleged by some persons to exist, but there has been nothing like a systematic, exhaustive examination.

For all that anybody knows, Attorney General Knox may be satisfied in his own mind that the coal roads are violating none of the present statutes.

MR. KNOX SAID "NO" He Refused Overtures of Mr. Griggs for a Trust.

Chicago, April 15.—Walter Wellman in a Washington special to the Record-Herald says: Overtures for a trust to the government by representatives of the Northern Securities company were rejected by Attorney General Knox. Former Attorney General Griggs, chief counsel for the Morgan-Hill combination, came to Washington and held a conference with Attorney General Knox. Mr. Griggs proposed that the government permit the existing status of the companies and their securities to remain undisturbed pending the final decision of the appeal in the supreme court of the United States. Mr. Griggs was particularly anxious to conclude an arrangement by which the combination proposed by him could remain in statu quo without the danger of having contempt proceedings instituted by the department of justice. The attorney general, however, declined to do so, and said that it was no more than fair and reasonable that the corporations should be permitted to go on as they now are conducting the business of the railroads and paying dividends on the stocks of the holding or merger company pending the appeal.

Mr. Knox's reply was a firm "No." The law interpreted by the circuit court must be enforced. He declined to give any pledge that the government would refrain from contempt proceedings in case the decision favored the combination. He was particularly disappointed at the failure of his mission. Mr. Griggs returned to New York yesterday.

THE STEEL MERGERS Attempts of the Big Corporation to Get Out of Danger.

Pittsburg, April 15.—The Post says: Further mergers of the various subsidiary companies of the United States Steel corporation are still being considered in the general offices, but recent events may tend to hasten the original plan of the executive boards to bring about the greatest merger of all. This is with the idea of merging the United States Steel corporation, the operating mines, the steel-making corporation of the entire properties represented in the accumulated chartered concerns.

Reports in financial circles are that on account of the decision rendered in the Northern Securities case the general offices of the United States Steel corporation have decided to hasten the greater merger of all the iron ore mines, steel mills, furnaces, coke ovens, steamships, coal mines and everything now operated under individual charters into the single ownership and operation of the parent corporation.

It is claimed that this plan will place the corporation, as a whole, out of the reach of any possible clause of the law under which the Northern Securities corporation was attacked.

SITUATION NOT SO BAD Extravagant Ideas Are Being Somewhat Modified.

New York, April 15.—The extravagant

THIS IS THE RIGHT MR. WRIGHT

He Says Some Sensible Things on the Labor Problem to the Manufacturers To-day.

Place of the Strike in the Evolution of Labor Intelligence.

Report of the Resolutions Committee of the Convention Not Ready Yet.

New Orleans, April 15.—Interest in today's session of the National Association of Manufacturers centered in the report of the resolutions committee which was expected to result in a definite understanding as to the attitude the association will take towards organized labor.

The committee held three short sessions last night and began its labors again early this morning, but the announcement was made that it would be unable to com-

plete its report at the agreed hour, 11 o'clock, and the chairman expressed the belief that the report could not be made until late in the afternoon.

When the session was called to order by President Parry Carroll D. Wright was introduced and was given a hearty reception.

President Roosevelt had been invited to attend the convention and in declining named Mr. Wright to represent him. Mr. Wright said:

"Labor and Capital 'Combine.' The new combination of to-day has in it all the elements of the corporation, for it is simply an enlarged corporation, embracing more elements, more factors, and, therefore, it is more powerful for good or evil than the corporation of a quarter of a century ago. Its evils are those of management and not of constitution. These evils may be handled by law and by society, and we need not fear them."

"Conversely, the single workman, by the side of his employer, was his employer's personal associate, but as the employer developed into the firm, and the firm into the corporation, and the corporation into the combination, the single workman has developed along similar lines. Now he is grouped as the fellow-employee of thousands and thousands under the great combination, where he is still further removed in personal way from his employer."

"On the whole, the remuneration to capital is constantly decreasing and that to labor constantly increasing. This is the result so far as capital is concerned, of the accumulation of wealth which may be turned into active and productive capacity, and so far as wages is concerned, of the increased standard of living resulting from education and the culture which follows it."

The History of the Strike. The workman has risen from ignorance to intelligence, and as he has reached intelligence he has become more or less a greater complication in industrial affairs. In his ignorance he did not strike; in his intelligence he does strike. The next step in the development of his intelligence will be that he will not strike; that he will be able to accommodate himself to his conditions because he will know them and understand them better.

"Some of the methods of the labor union are to be condemned. So are some of the methods of the capitalistic organization to be condemned, but because they cannot get on together, it does not mean that either or both should be destroyed."

They Must Get Together. They must get on together. That is the necessity of the time, and it is to the intelligence of the leaders of both interests that society at large looks for the development of industry on a basis of social progress.

At noon the resolutions committee announced its report ready. The labor question immediately came to the front in

"PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIETY" IN MO.

How It Was Worked as a Lobby in the Baking Powder Legislation.

How Ex-Gov. Stone Looked After the "Literary End of the Deal."

While Kelly Did the "Strong Arm" Act—Interesting Story From St. Louis.

New York Sun Special Service.

St. Louis, April 15.—More than one of the state legislators who accepted bribes for voting for the elum baking powder law have made full confession to the Missouri grand jury investigating hoodling in the Missouri assembly and have implicated those who were with them in this disgraceful deal.

Those state senators who already have

\$800,000 FIRE ON SPINDLETOP

Over 265 Derricks Are Lost in a Terrific Blaze This Morning.

Two-thirds of the Companies Burned Out Will Not Be Able to Recover.

Beaumont, Texas, April 15.—A fire on Spindletop which started early to-day did damage estimated at from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. Two hundred and sixty-five derricks were lost. Two hundred rigs were on the producing well.

The fire started from a lantern at the Caldwell oil company's well. The fly wheel of the engine struck the lantern and spread with tremendous rapidity, three blocks, numbers 26, 37 and 23 being in ashes by 3 o'clock. No effort was made to extinguish the fire, for it was impossible to get within a hundred feet of the flames. No one was injured. It is estimated that two-thirds of the companies in the burned district will be unable to recover from the damage done by the fire.

CHARGED WITH BRUTAL MURDER

Three Owatonna Boys Arrested Here Suspected of Killing Henry Krier.

One of the Prisoners Said to Have Confessed and Implicated Others.

Says They Tried to Hold Up Krier and Shot When He Ran.

Charles Nelson, Henry Nelson and William Sutton, three Owatonna boys, were arrested this morning by Detective Charles D. Brown on Washington avenue.

Sutton's story is substantially as follows: "We were in Krier's saloon when we heard him remark to his bartender that he was going out to Glazier's to pay his rent. We winked at one another and left the saloon. We reached the railroad first, tied handkerchiefs over our faces and waited."

ATROCITIES IN THE BALKANS

They Make a Peaceful Solution of the Trouble More Remote Than Ever.

Russian Demand for the Death of St. Cherbina's Murderer Acceded To.

Constantinople, April 15.—The Albanian soldier who shot M. Stichebina, the Russian consul at Mitrovitza inflicting a wound from which the latter subsequently has been sentenced to death, the Russian embassy here having demanded a revision of the previous sentence of fifteen years' imprisonment.

Atrocities Reported. Information from Monastir shows that the situation is most deplorable. Murders, pillage, incendiarism and atrocities of every description are of daily occurrence, and are committed alike by soldiers, Albanians, Turks and Bulgarians. This last Bulgarian achievement was the total destruction of a small village with an exclusively Mussulman population of 105 men, women and children, all of whom, with the exception of a very few who fled, were massacred in cold blood. All pregnant women were disembowelled. Their corpses with those of their unborn children were scattered in the ruins of the village.

Hilmi Is Optimistic. Hilmi Pasha, the Turkish inspector general at Uskub, says that the Albanian question has been settled and that the ports have been reopened. The last Bulgarian disturbance was caused by a small and important faction, and the revolt has been in no way general. The 20,000 troops now massed around Mitrovitza would in any case overawe the malcontents. Hilmi Pasha added that he expected serious difficulties with the Bulgarian bands, whose activity was now temporarily checked by the recent bad weather, but the Turks were quite ready to receive them.

Hilmi Pasha was diffident about discussing the Albanian and Russian reforms, but said they were progressing. He hoped to be able to give proof of this in three months.

Local opinion in diplomatic and other circles does not bear out the statements of Hilmi Pasha, who is regarded as capable and well-meaning, but as being far too optimistic.

The Albanians Form a "Missa." The Albanians are reported to have formed a "missa," that is, to have temporarily abandoned all vendettas and intertribal quarrels, for the purpose of resisting the proposed program of the international mission is a farce, and the only possible solution of the trouble is complete disarmament and the military occupation of Albania. The Bulgarian bands are expected to recommence active operations.

SEARCHING FOR DEAD BODY

Omaha Police Believe They Have Evidence to Convict Knight of Wife Murder.

Omaha, April 15.—Chief of Police Donahue has received information from Cheyenne that Frank E. Knight, wanted here in connection with the mysterious disappearance of his wife, was seen in that city.

Chief Donahue stated to-day that Mrs. Stiles and her son, Malvin Dusenberry, who were placed in the "sweet box" again have made confessions which are sufficient to convict Knight should he be captured.

Chief Donahue learned last night that a wagon was seen Saturday night in the vicinity of Florence lake, where Knight lived about a year ago. The locality is also familiar to Dusenberry, and the police are now making a thorough search of the premises, which contain about twenty acres, with the hope of finding the body of the missing woman.

A special from Cheyenne, Wyo., states that Jennie Dusenberry has been arrested there on suspicion of being in some way connected with the murder of Mrs. Knight.

FOUND IN A BARREL

Secret Society Italian Murder in New York.

New York, April 15.—A body found in a barrel in East Eleventh street yesterday was to-day identified as that of a man named Quatrocci, who had come to New York from Barcelona. The identification was made by Giuseppe Bonjorno, a Sicilian, who said he had often seen the man in a barber shop in First avenue. Quatrocci was married, Bonjorno said, and had been a member of some secret society.

While the police were trying to confirm Bonjorno's identification, Quatrocci walked into the morgue. He was almost an exact counterpart of the murdered man.

The identity of the dead man is again unknown. It is probably a secret society murder.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 15, 1903.

RESULTS OF A FIGHT. George Fontaine, aged 17 years, is lying in a critical condition, the home of his stepmother, 174 La Fond street, St. Paul, as the result of a fight Monday evening. He was struck in the back of the head and fell to the sidewalk, causing the concussion of the brain. The negro who was carried into a street car and took home, his assailant has not been arrested, but the police know who he is.

WRONG NEGRO KILLED. New Orleans, April 15.—The Times-Democrat's Surovest special says: It has been established beyond doubt that the negro who was killed Saturday, and whose body was burned early Sunday morning, as the murderer of Mrs. Alice Matthews, was innocent of the crime.



NO WONDER JOHN IS EXCITED If It Coming to England.

John Bull—All That Wealth at a Wedding and Not a Cent of It Coming to England.

sworn before the Cole county and St. Louis grand jury that they did not accept bribes for their votes and knew nothing of bribes being offered for voting against the repeal of the alum law which was indicted for perjury as well as bribery.

The boodle investigation has already assumed that wide scope which was predicted. Not alone the alum affair, the text book and the race track deal will be probed; every important piece of legislation enacted or defeated by the last assembly will be made the subject of searching inquiry. Competent witnesses have declared that boodle was used in every single one of them.

Former Governor, now senator, William J. Stone, appeared before the St. Louis grand jury yesterday to testify concerning the alum legislation with which he has been intimately associated. Stone was closed for a long time. Why Mr. Stone was wanted may be surmised from the following facts established to the satisfaction of Circuit Attorney Folk and Attorney General Crow.

William J. Stone was employed in the latter part of 1896 as attorney for the baking powder trust by D. J. Kelly of New York who is charged by Lieutenant Governor John A. Lee with attempting to bribe him to defeat the alum repeal. Stone and Kelly acted together to bring about the defeat of the alum repeal bill at the 1901 session. Kelly put up the boodle while Stone looked after the literary and political ends of the deal.

The literary feat included the creation of a mythical organization to be known as the Missouri Public Health Society with its charter members "representing the best men and women in the state."

The headquarters of the society were in Stone's law office. The circuit attorney and attorney general wish to learn the name of the man who was responsible for the introduction of the "pure food bill" at the 1899 session. The alum bill, which was enacted into law, represented the expression of this popular sentiment in favor of the pure food as expounded by ex-Governor Stone, representing the society he himself created and constituted. Stone has never made any defense of his action in this matter. Nothing criminal has been charged against him but he is accused of acting as a true lobbyist and legislative agent and using subterfuges to deceive legislators and the people of the state concerning his connection with the matter.

Jefferson City, Mo., April 15.—Lieutenant Governor John A. Lee, the star witness in the legislative boodle inquiry, is ill and will be unable to go before the Cole county grand jury to-day. This was the information Attorney General Crow received from a message from the lieutenant governor this morning. Representing the Lieutenant Governor Lee and Attorney General Crow held a long conference last night at the latter's office in the supreme court building. It was past midnight when they separated. The nervous strain consequent upon this examination is thought to have brought about the lieutenant governor's indisposition.

THEY WOULD BE BOUGHT

Ratification of the Colombian-Panama Canal Treaty Is Called Doubtful.

London, April 15.—A private cable dispatch from Bogota, Colombia, says that ratification of the United States-Colombian Panama canal treaty is extremely doubtful.

PRESIDENT'S OUTING

He Expects to Reach Fort Yellowstone To-morrow.

Cinnabar, Mont., April 15.—President Roosevelt broke camp Monday and is slowly working his way to Major Pitcher's headquarters at Fort Yellowstone. He is expected to reach the fort some time Thursday. He will remain there one day, and will then start for Norris. There is a good deal of snow between the fort and Norris, and the engineer corps opening the road. Word from the president was to the effect that he is in the best of health, and thoroughly enjoying his outing. In addition to horseback riding he takes long walks over the mountain trails.

The president has not fired a shot at mountain lion, and has no intention of doing so. There are 600 of these animals in the park and they are killing many deer and elk. A determined effort is being made to exterminate them, and "Buffalo Jones," the game warden, with his scouts, is slaying them on every possible occasion. Jones has offered to round up a lion or two for the president to shoot at, but the latter has declined.

THREE TRUNK LINES

Missouri Pacific Railroad System Will Do Some Extensive Building in Nebraska.

One Line to Go Due West to Denver—Beatrice an Important Junction Point.

Beatrice, Neb., April 15.—The boldest stroke in railroad construction in this territory has just been decided upon by the Gould interests, as represented in the Missouri Pacific railroad system. The plan is the construction of three trunk lines in as many different directions across the state of Nebraska.

The starting-point will be Virginia, Neb., a town of 100 inhabitants, in Saline county in the southeastern part of the state, and one of the present terminals of the Missouri Pacific. The construction of a line from Virginia to Beatrice is now under way.

The title of the road as incorporated under the laws of Nebraska is the Kansas City, Beatrice & Northwestern. Beatrice is the first junction point of the new trunk lines. One line will be built due west to Denver.

After Dakota Wheat. The northwest branches will be built from Beatrice. A junction is to be made at a new town near Ft. Union, N. D.

From the new town the site of which has not yet been selected, one branch will go north into the northern Nebraska and Dakota wheat fields.

The other branch will go northwest, either thru Grand Island or Prosser, Neb. The Denver branch will be built thru the larger towns of southern Nebraska.

O. J. Coleman of Beatrice, one of the officials of the Kansas City & Northwestern road, says: "The objective point of the road is the wheat fields of North Dakota and the two branches will invade these territories."

One branch will go to Geneva and Grand Island, and by a direct route to the Black Hills. The other will pass thru York and Central City and north by west to the wheat fields of North Dakota.

One of the main objects is to reach the wheat fields of Dakota and the other to connect Black Hills territory with the southern division."

CHILDREN'S HOME ANNUAL

The annual meeting of the Children's Home Society of Minnesota will be held at the Y. M. C. A. rooms, 225 W. Fifth street, St. Paul, at 4 o'clock p. m. to-morrow. All are most cordially invited.