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14 PAGES—FIVE O'CLOCK.

## WILL MINNEAPOLIS BE POSTAL CENTER?

### GAIN FOR CITY IF FLETCHER WILLS

Congressman-Elect Might Make Minneapolis a Great Postal Center.

### BUT HE SEEMS LIKELY TO IGNORE OPPORTUNITY

By Seeking His Old Committee Place He Will Sacrifice District.

By W. W. Jermans. Washington, Dec. 29.—It is a matter of common knowledge in Washington, among Minnesotans, that it is the intention of Loren Fletcher, congressman-elect from the Minneapolis district, to press for reappointment to his old place on the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce, at the beginning of the fifty-ninth congress, next December. When he dropped out of congress two years ago, he was succeeded on this committee by Representative Stevens of St. Paul, who is now doing work for the northwest such as has not been done for it by any northwestern member of congress for many years.

Mr. Fletcher's desire to secure his old committee assignment does not mean that Mr. Stevens is to be displaced from the position which he occupied acceptably. There are many precedents for appointing two men from the same section of state on one committee. New York and Iowa are thus honored in the present house.

Whether Mr. Fletcher will get what he wants cannot be known at this time, because the speaker, with matters of more immediate importance demanding attention, has not given serious consideration to the new house committees.

Declines a Good Field. It was the hope of a good many Minnesotans that Mr. Fletcher would not apply for a place on his old committee. He will, if appointed, be at the foot of the list, and therefore not in position to render the northwest any important service. Besides, Mr. Stevens can now very easily take care of all northwestern interests coming before that committee.

The suggestion is made to Mr. Fletcher that he try for a place on the committee on public buildings and grounds, as this would open up to him a new and important field of activity, but he declines.

With the reorganization of the post-office department during the next few years, it is probable that the country will be divided for postal purposes into some ten or twelve districts, each with a headquarters where much business now sent to the main office in this city will be transacted. It should be comparatively easy for Minneapolis to be selected for one of these headquarters cities. St. Paul, it is very generally admitted by those who are informed, will not be in position to be a competitor for this honor, and that Minneapolis would be chosen by general consent.

New Buildings Necessary. As a condition precedent to such selection, Minneapolis would have to be provided with a federal building of proper size. If Mr. Fletcher were to take a place on the public buildings and grounds committee in the next congress and work for an appropriation for a site for a new building following out the suggestions contained in the plan submitted to the present congress by Representative Lind, he would be doing his district a greater service than he has ever received in his career.

In each of the headquarters cities referred to, it is likely that a large number of postoffice department clerks will be transferred, men and women who, with their families, live in this city. To furnish room for these clerks and the postal records would necessitate the erection of a building larger than the present federal buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Turns Back on Opportunity. By insisting upon going back on the interstate and foreign commerce committee, where he is not needed, where he will have no opportunity to do work for his district, Mr. Fletcher will turn his back on an opportunity such as comes to the average member of congress but once. His decision is so entirely contrary to the practical interests of his district and state, that people here who have been advised regarding it have made it the subject of a good deal of comment.

The question is so big as almost to call for the serious attention of such bodies as the Commercial club, for it will be said once for all that unless Minneapolis has a building of this size, it is large enough for that purpose, it will not be considered in the race for selection as one of the great postal centers of the country under the reorganization scheme now being worked out.

Would Stay in Office. Mr. Fletcher has gone to Southern California for the winter, and he will not be in Minneapolis again until April. Before leaving here, however, he is strong enough to justify the belief that it is not his intention to retire from public life voluntarily at the end of the term for which he has just been elected. It will be remembered that during the primary contest last summer he stated publicly, over his own signature, that he only wanted to come back to congress one more time, as a "vindication." The character of this "vindication" at the polls was such as to lead Mr. Fletcher to believe that the people of his district are not ready to have him retire. At least, this is the impression which has been gained as the result of the very guarded statements which he was willing to make on this subject while he was in Washington.

THREE DIE IN BURNING HOME. Geneseo, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Three persons lost their lives in a fire which totally destroyed the farm residence of Charles McMan, at the head of Conesus lake, early today.

The dead are: Charles McMillan, Lottie McMillan, his sister, and Frank McMillan, his nephew. Lulu McMillan, another sister, and the McMillan family were among the prominent families of Livingston county.



SENATOR JOHN H. MITCHELL, Whom Grand Jury Questioned as to Land Frauds.

## MITCHELL BEFORE LAND FRAUD JURY

Aged United States Senator Faces Ordeal, Then Binger Hermann Goes In.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 29.—Congressman Binger Hermann went before the federal land fraud grand jury yesterday and was recalled for further inquiry today. Bent with his three score years and ten and leaning upon his law partner, the white-haired senior senator from Oregon, John H. Mitchell, who for nearly a quarter of a century has represented his state in the federal congress, also went into the federal grand jury room to tell what he knew concerning frauds which the government believes have been perpetrated upon it in the acquisition of its public lands.

What transpired in that chamber is unknown, further than that Mr. Mitchell went in with no more favor than would have been extended to the humble citizen of his country. Neither his request that he be confronted with any state papers, nor his request that he be furnished with the names of his alleged accusers was granted.

## DEPEW HAS GRIP ON SENATORSHIP

New York Conference Said to Have Resulted in His Favor.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Unless those who claim the right to speak for Timothy D. Depew in the senatorship contest, the senatorship question, which has agitated republican politicians in this state for so long, was finally settled last night, and there will be no fight.

Woodruff, who as chairman of the committee of the Platt conference, appointed to confer with Governor Odell, has been leading advocate of Senator Depew, made his report to Mr. Depew after his talk with Governor Odell yesterday. It is said that the report of Mr. Woodruff was definite. If it had not been so, and if there was anything further to be settled in regard to the senatorship, Mr. Woodruff would not have left for Chicago as he has done.

It is understood that Frank S. Black will soon issue a statement announcing that he is not a candidate for the senatorship. The next move will be in the form of an additional statement from Governor Odell, declaring that the sentiment of the republicans throughout the state seems to be for the reelection of Senator Depew and that he favors Mr. Depew for reelection.

Depew Says He Wins. Senator Chauncey M. Depew said today that he had won in his campaign for reelection to the United States senate. He made the announcement after a meeting with Governor Odell, Governor Odell, Speaker of the Assembly, Nixon and State Senators Elserberg and Malby.

The conference was not a long one and when over the senator came down stairs smiling and apparently very happy. He went to the reporters and greeted them warmly, and said: "Gentlemen, the fight is all over. A harmonious outcome has been brought about by the only man in the state that could have done it—Governor Odell. He has done magnificently in this case and the party is now harmonious."

Governor Odell announced this afternoon that the United States senatorship had been settled and that the name of Chauncey M. Depew would be the only one presented at the republican caucus.

## ROOSEVELT'S PICTURE TURNS BULLET'S COURSE

St. Ignace, Mich., Dec. 29.—A. D. Day, a cedar jobber of Naubinway, is carrying three bullets in his body as a result of being mistaken for game by hunters. Some years ago he was mistaken for a bear, and in the recent hunting season for a deer. On this latter occasion his life was saved only for the reason that he was carrying a picture of Roosevelt, which turned the course of the bullet.

HEARST CASES ABANDONED. Washington, Dec. 29.—The interstate commerce commission today, by stipulation of counsel, postponed indefinitely the hearing of arguments in the case of W. R. Hearst of New York against the anthracite coal-carrying railroad. The arguments were scheduled to take place in this city Jan. 5 next.

## SELBY CARRIES OFF COURTHOUSE

Walworth County, S. D., Building Moved Piece by Piece Across the Prairies.

Bangor Offers No Resistance to Culminating Act of Fierce County Seat War.

Special to The Journal. Aberdeen, S. D., Dec. 29.—Citizens of Selby have carried out their threats to tear down and remove the Walworth county courthouse from Bangor. They took the roof and top story yesterday and will take the remainder today. The building is a small one.

Bangor offered no resistance to the action of the Selby men, but much bitter feeling has been stirred up and charges of crooked work are freely made on both sides. Bangor is on the railroad and Selby is but a small town, and both Selby and Java aim to succeed it as the capital of Walworth county. After a hard fight last summer between the two ambitious towns, Selby won out before the county commissioners and secured the right to appear on the ballot as a candidate for the county seat.

Java then threw its strength to Bangor, and as a consequence Bangor received a small majority on the face of the returns. Selby at once took steps to contest the election, alleging that Bangor had distributed intoxicating liquors to influence the votes, and that in several townships the polls were not kept open the time required by law. It is more than probable that Java will now assist Bangor again in its fight to hold the seat, hoping eventually to win the prize itself.

## JOHN GOODNOW TO START HOME JAN. 10

From The Journal Bureau, Colorado Building, Washington.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Consul-General John Goodnow has notified the state department that he will leave Shanghai Jan. 10. It was expected that he would start for Washington early in December, but he was delayed by the error of a clerk in the state department who failed to mail the charges to him in October, as was announced. He was allowed time to get evidence in refutation of these charges, and it is assumed that he has completed his case.

Mr. Goodnow will reach San Francisco Feb. 3, and Washington on Feb. 8, assuming that he comes directly here from the coast. James T. Davidson of Austin, Minn., consul at Antung, China, who has been at Shanghai on temporary duty, will remain there in charge of the consulate until Mr. Goodnow's return or until the appointment of his successor should be decided, that he shall not remain in the service.

## CLEMENCY IS DENIED

Nettie Matthews Must Serve Out Term as Counterfeiter.

From The Journal Bureau, Colorado Building, Washington. Washington, Dec. 29.—The department of justice has received adverse reports from the district attorney and trial judge on the application for pardon of Nettie Matthews of Minneapolis, convicted in 1902 of counterfeiting and sentenced to a five-year term at Stillwater. The attorney general will therefore take no further action.

## DELAWARE REPUBLICANS AGREE

Dover, Del., Dec. 29.—In the organization of the Delaware legislature today the Union or Addicks faction and the regular republicans reached an agreement on the temporary officers. Both branches endeavored to effect permanent organization, but failed.

## MOORE IS MADE A BUREAU CHIEF

Head of National League of Republican Clubs Honored by President.

Washington, Dec. 29.—President Roosevelt has appointed J. Hampton Moore of Philadelphia, chief of the bureau of manufactures of the department of commerce and labor. Mr. Moore is president of the National League of Republican clubs and was formerly city treasurer of Philadelphia. He has accepted and will begin work about the first of the year.

## DEMOCRATS SEE PEABODY VICTORY

Colorado Senate Surely Republican, Because of Canvassing Board's Action.

Denver, Dec. 29.—By the action of the state canvassing board in issuing certificates of election as senators to Casimiro Darcia and Henry B. Millard, the republicans have secured such absolute control of the general assembly that it is now regarded in democratic circles as highly probable that Governor James H. Peabody will be re-elected. The republican plan, it is said, is to throw out the vote of all democratic wards of Denver and count the vote of the republican wards. The senate now stands: Republican, 15; democratic, 13; vacancy, 1. On joint ballot, the legislature stands: republican, 66; democratic 33.

## DANGER SIGNALS UP IN MOROCCO

Foreigners Are Warned of Pending Trouble by Their Home Governments.

New York Sun Special Service. Washington, Dec. 29.—State department officials believe that conditions in Morocco are close to the point where serious trouble may be looked for at any time, and they have taken precautions to protect the lives of Americans in the interior.

Hofenis, Philip, acting consul general at Tangier, has been instructed to advise all American citizens in Morocco to proceed to Tangier the moment that serious trouble seems imminent. The European squadron now in on its way to the Caribbean sea. An American warship could not be sent to Tangier without considerable delay, but it is expected that the British and French fleets will be able to protect foreigners there, in any event. If it becomes necessary, England or France will be asked temporarily to protect Americans.

Mr. Philip cabled the state department that the French mission to Morocco had been indefinitely postponed, the military mission recalled and French fleets will be able to protect foreigners there, in any event. If it becomes necessary, England or France will be asked temporarily to protect Americans.

Ships Being Made Ready. Toulon, France, Dec. 29.—Owing to the crisis in Morocco, the navy department shows the greatest activity. Preparations are going on to have a naval division consisting of the battleships Charlemagne and Iena and two cruisers ready to proceed to Morocco if the situation grows worse.

## LAWYERS CLASH IN KOCH CASE

Defense Demands That Evidence in the Preliminary Hearing Be Filed.

Court Does Not Rule and the Issue Is Unsettled—Juror No. 3 Sworn.

JURORS ACCEPTED. A. Rinke, retired merchant, Sleepy Eye. Emil Rasmussen, postmaster, Evan. Hans Larson, retired farmer, Sleepy Eye.

From a Staff Correspondent. New Ulm, Minn., Dec. 29.—One more juror was secured at the morning session of the court today. He was Hans Larson, aged 62, a retired farmer who lives in Sleepy Eye. Neither side challenged him, and he was sworn as the third juror. In all eleven talesmen were examined before noon.

The work of securing a jury is slow and tedious. The popularity of the Koch family and the prominence given to the case made it hard to find unbiased jurymen. Of the special veniremen summoned twenty-five were excused by Judge Webber on statutory grounds, ten have been rejected, and only eighty-four are left. Most of these are from New Ulm, Sleepy Eye and Springfield. It is possible that another venire will have to be summoned. If so it is not likely that a complete jury will be secured before Saturday night. The attorneys, however, hope to complete it before court adjourns Friday evening.

First Jangle by Lawyers. The first real clash between the attorneys came this morning when Mr. Somerville made formal demand for the transcript of the evidence taken before Justice N. Henningsen, in the investigation carried on by the citizens' committee.

It is just twenty days since that investigation was completed," said Senator Somerville, "and the transcript has not yet been filed, altho the law requires that records to be filed in ten days. We feel that we are entitled to this part of the public records, and we here make formal demand for it. General Childs has informed me that he has a copy of the evidence, and I do not think that the great state of Minnesota needs to conceal evidence when one of her citizens is charged with a crime and is on trial for his life."

General Childs said he would leave it to his associate as to whether the defense would be furnished with the transcript. Albin Pfander, attorney for the citizens' committee, admitted that the transcript had not been filed, and while he did not absolutely refuse to give the defense a copy, he evaded the demand in such a way that it is evident he does not wish to expose the evidence in the hands of the state.

No Ruling by the Judge. While Judge Webber was not asked to rule on the matter, he intimated that it was doubtful if the defense could claim the right to be furnished with a copy of the evidence. Senator Somerville said nothing more, but will probably reopen the subject later and move to compel Mr. Pfander to file the transcript.

The defendant's attorneys take the stand that this transcript is of vital importance to the defense. They know what the testimony was in a general way, but they want to be sure that the jury goes against them, they will undoubtedly plead the failure to file the transcript as an error on which to ask either for a new trial or a reversal in the supreme court.

Justice Henningsen is in California. Continued on Second Page.

## JAPS BLAST THEIR WAY INTO RII-LUNG

Mines and Shells Reduce Fortress. Another of Port Arthur's Defenses Goes Down Before Nogi's Men.



JAMES M. BECK, One of the Government Prosecutors in Paper Trust Case.

## PAPER TRUST SUIT IS FIRST OF MANY

Similar Action Is to Be Taken by the Attorney General Against Other Corporations.

New York Sun Special Service. Washington, Dec. 29.—The president's "trust busting" program was fairly launched with the filing at St. Paul of the suit against the General Paper company, which is the western branch of the paper trust. Similar suits against other corporations which are operating in restraint of trade, are being prepared and will soon be instituted. It is expected that an injunction will be secured as in the Northern Securities case.

Mr. Moody today called Secretary Taft into consultation on the subject. Mr. Taft's long experience at the bar and on the federal bench making him a valuable adviser. They spent the whole afternoon together at Mr. Moody's, going over the reports of investigations into different trusts and the evidence secured and consulting on suits that are being actively prepared. "The International Paper company, which controls the prices and distribution of paper in the east as effectively as the General Paper company does in the west, is now being investigated, and if sufficient evidence can be secured it will be prosecuted. The methods by which the International controls prices are different from those in the west and it has not finally been determined that it can be reached under the Sherman law, tho Mr. Moody believes that all of the evidence required eventually will be secured.

The department of justice also has begun an investigation of the tobacco trust. This investigation will be entirely distinct from that being conducted in Kentucky and Tennessee by Assistant Attorney General for that purpose. The investigation now being conducted in Kentucky and Tennessee probably will be fully inquired into along with the methods of the trust.

RUSSIA BELITTLES VICTORY. Officials Say Rii-lung Is of No Great Importance. St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—The war office points out that the occupation of Rii-lung mountain at the best only makes the Japanese masters of the entire terrace beyond the principal forts of Keekwan and still leaves the main line unbroken.

RUSSIANS DRIVEN IN. Heavy Attack by Japanese Compels Their Withdrawal. Chi-fu, Dec. 29.—The Japanese line at Port Arthur, as a result of the general attack beginning Dec. 25, is much closer to the Russian trenches than it was.

Chinese who left Port Arthur yesterday and arrived here today report that a greatly inferior Russian force defended the outermost of the trenches for three days, after which the Japanese artillery had secured an enfilading position. The fighting mostly was at a range of two-thirds of a mile, the Japanese fearing mines. The Russians retreated to Ching-ka-kao.

Japanese who arrived at Chi-fu today from Port Daluy say the recent fighting also resulted in the capture of a hill called by the Japanese "Lang-tai." (Possibly Keekwan mountain), enabling the Japanese seriously to harass land communication with the Liaoti forts and with the forts on Et-se and An-se mountains. The capture of Yang-tai-hai hill followed after heavy night attacks, during one of which the Japanese became confused, killed each other and retired when the mistake was discovered by the appearance of the moon.

Ching-ka-kao fort, referred to in the despatch from Chi-fu as the place to which the Russians retired after leaving the Liaoti trenches, is possibly Ching-tao, or Ching-tau fort, near the southern extremity of the Tiger's Tail peninsula.

## JAPANESE NEAR JAVA

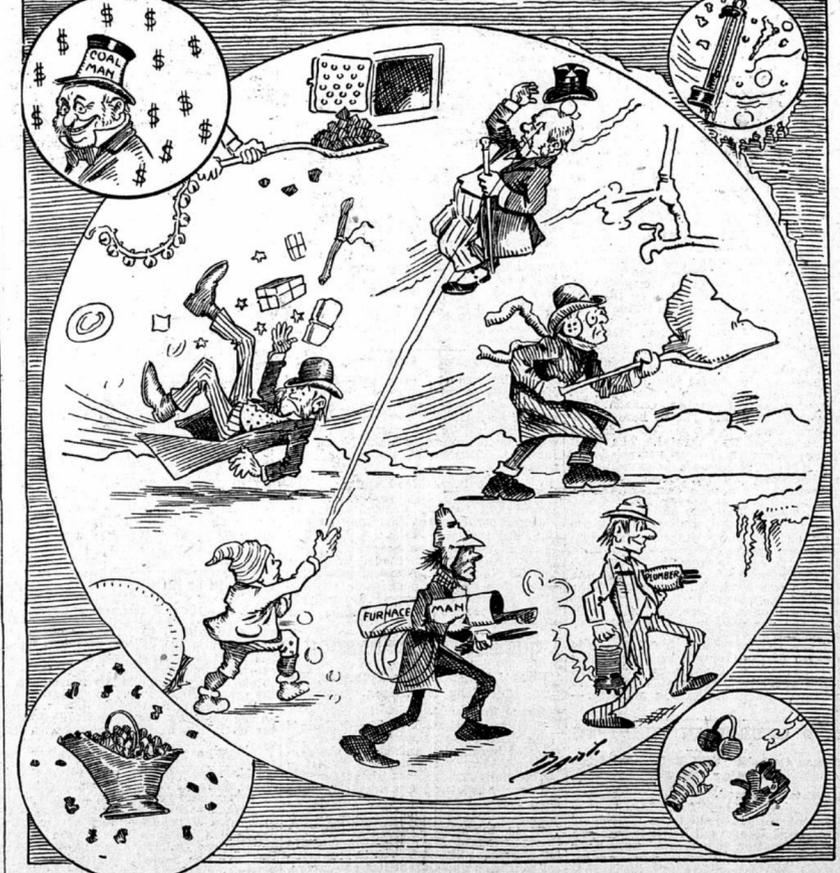
Warships There on the Lookout for Rojstvensky. Batavia, Island of Java, Dutch East Indies, Dec. 29.—Some warships showing the Japanese colors passed Anjer, sixty miles west of here, today.

JAP POWERFUL AT PEKING. But Plan Falls to Occupy Southern Manchuria with Chinese. St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—The negotiations between Japan and China for the occupation of southern Manchuria by Chinese troops to lighten the task of the Japanese armies have failed, according to a despatch from Peking, because Japan could not furnish guarantees. The same advice represents Japanese influence at Peking as all-powerful. The visit of the Japanese minister to Peking is assumed to be in connection with the possibility of early foreign complications for China.

SURPRISES CLEVERLY PLOIED. Japanese Adopt Cunning Methods to Prevent Russian Attacks. Mukden, Dec. 29.—The Japanese are adopting cunning expedients to defeat the surprise attacks of the Russian scouts, from which they have suffered much. They cover the steep approaches of their trenches with water, which freezes, forms ice slides and makes the scouts slip and fall in confusion. In other places the Japanese scatter millet stalks over the approaches, the cracking of which underfoot gives them warning.

Skyrdoff Going Home. St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—Vice Admiral Skyrdooff, commander of the Vladigrad tendered his resignation on the ground of ill health.

AUSTRIAN PREMIER QUITS. Vienna, Dec. 29.—The Neue Presse says Premier von Voerster at an audience of Emperor Francis Joseph yesterday tendered his resignation on the ground of ill health.



ZERO BACILLI. A few specimens (not rare) to be found most any old place in the United States since the weather got the drop on us.