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SUMMARY OF The St. Louis Republic

Thursday, January 12, 1905.

THE WEATHER.

FORECAST.
St. Louis and Vicinity. To-day—Clear and colder.
For Missouri—Fair Thursday; much colder in east and south; cold wave by night in east. Friday fair.
Yesterday's Conditions. The rainfall yesterday was .30 of an inch, with a maximum temperature of 42.2 and a minimum of 19.1 degrees.

3pm.	42
6pm.	37
12 m.	36
9pm.	35
12 "	30
3am.	24

The weather will be decidedly colder to-day, Mr. Bowie, the official forecaster, says, and, according to his prediction, the thermometer will approach the zero mark by to-night. Brisk northwest winds will prevail, he says.

The weather will be clear, Mr. Bowie says.

The center of the storm that has been giving St. Louisans its bad weather for the last thirty-six hours has moved to the vicinity of Chicago, giving snow and sleet in the lake regions, over the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, and through Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Rocky Mountain regions.

There has been heavy rain in the Central Mississippi and Ohio valleys and the Southern States. Much warmer weather prevails east of the Mississippi River, while in the West and Northwest it has been decidedly colder.

The thermometer has been at or below zero in North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Northwest Kansas, Eastern Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. The lowest temperature was at Deadwood, S. D., where the thermometer registered 16 degrees below zero.

The sun rises this morning at 7:18 and sets at 4:33. The moon sets this evening at 11:42.

The Republic's Want Columns Will Be Found on Pages 12 and 13.

FEATURES OF TO-DAY'S NEWS.

Page.
1. Eastern War.
Cannon Balks President's Move.
Missouri Republicans May Bolt.
2. Missouri Legislative News.
Arkansas's Governor on Negro.
3. Heimburger Hearing.
St. Louis Highwaymen.
Bribe-Money Decision.
5. Penniless Porto Rican Girls.
9. Railroad News.
10. Sport News.
14. Good-Roads Convention.
Roosevelt on Freight Rates.

WASHINGTON.

Art as an adjunct to government is extolled at a meeting of the American Institute of Architects at Washington, and President W. S. Eames declares that Congress is coming to appreciate the value of taste in public buildings. PAGE 9.

Speaker Cannon balks the President's move for tariff reform, but an extra session of Congress for the purpose of railroad rate legislation is probable. PAGE 1.

WAR IN THE FAR EAST.

It is reported in Berlin that 200 Russian reservists on their way to the front are killed and several hundred wounded in a riot at Smolensk, Russia. The Governor of the town is said to have ordered the garrison to fire on the troopers, who were running amuck and pillaging the city. PAGE 1.

A Russian Admiralty officer denies that Admiral Rojestvensky has been recalled, but insists the squadron will wait in the Indian Ocean until it is further reenforced. PAGE 1.

LOCAL AND SUBURBAN.

Fifteen penniless Porto Rican girls, imported as an experiment by the St. Louis Cordage Company, were discharged, they say, because they complained of hardships they had to endure. PAGE 5.

In their efforts to fasten the murder of Charles Mutzberg, the saloonkeeper, on the saloon robbers, the police have failed, although they say they have evidence enough to convict them on charges of robbery and assault to kill. PAGE 3.

The evidence adduced in the hearing into the official conduct of Building Commissioner George F. Heimburger may be placed in the hands of the Grand Jury. PAGE 3.

Judge Ryan yesterday handed down a decision directing that the $70,000 borrowed for bribery purposes in the Suburban deal be paid to the lender, the German Savings Institution, as it is no longer needed as evidence in the boodle trials. PAGE 3

GENERAL DOMESTIC.

Increasing bitterness between Republican members of the House creates a probability that Senator Cockrell will be elected to the United States Senate instead of Niedringhaus. Several Republicans are said to be willing to bolt the recent Republican caucus nominee. PAGE 1.

Railroads are denied admission to the National Live-Stock Association. PAGE 4

Two Republican members, Roach of Jasper and Grace of St. Louis, refuse to go into the Republican House caucus. The Filipino movement is rapidly growing. PAGE 2

Representative Hamsley of Kansas City introduces a bill providing for the election of "defending attorneys" for poor persons in the large cities of the State. PAGE 2.

Senator McNaff introduces a bill providing a tax of 25 cents on each $1,000 worth of property belonging to corporations, the amount collected by the tax to go into the good roads fund. PAGE 7.

SPORT NEWS.

Missouri Athletic Club regulars defeated the North Side Y. M. C. A. basket ball team at M. A. C. by a score of 32 to 11. PAGE 10.

Colonel Jim Williams and Fred Cook have heated argument over turf matters at New Orleans. PAGE 10.

BUSINESS.

Yesterday's bank clearings were $13,656,654, balances $1,054,064.

Local discount rates were between 4½ and 6 per cent.

Domestic exchange was quoted as follows: New York, 40c premium bid, 50c premium asked; Chicago, Cincinnati and New Orleans, par bid, 10c premium asked; Louisville, 25c discount bid, par asked.

Wheat closed lower at $1.15½@1.15¾ bid May; $1.16@1.19 nominal No. 2 red. Corn closed at 48@48½c bid May; 46½c No. 2 mixed. Oats closed at 32½c bid May; 32c No. 2 mixed.

Spot cotton was unchanged in the local market.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

Dover, Jan. 11.—Arrived: Patricia.
New York, Jan. 11.—Arrived: Georgic, Amsterdam. Sailed: Teutonic, Statendam, Prinzessin Victoria Luise.
Liverpool, Jan. 12.—Arrived: Cymbrian.
Glasgow, Jan. 11.—Arrived: Ethiopia.
Naples, Jan. 11.—Sailed: Prinz Oskar.
Yokohama, Jan. 11.—Arrived previously: Siberia, Empress of India, Numantia.
Hongkong, Jan. 11.—Arrived previously: Solom.
Antwerp, Jan. 11.—Arrived: Rhynland.
Liverpool, Jan. 11.—Sailed: Arabic, Friesland.
London, Jan. 11.—Sailed: Samoan.

NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE JEFFERSON CLUB

GLENN D. ARNOLD.
Who is Horace S. Rumsey's opponent in the race for chief executive of St. Louis's leading Democratic organization. Mr. Arnold is a Kentuckian by birth and has been practicing law in this city for several years. He has been a member of the Jefferson Club five years. The election will take place next Tuesday.

RUSSIAN WARSHIP REPORTED DAMAGED

Izumrud Said to Have Been Badly Crippled and on Way Back to Port Said.

ROJESTVENSKY NOT RECALLED

Admiralty Officials Indicate That Baltic Squadron Will Remain in Indian Ocean Till Reenforced.

Berlin, Jan. 12.—The Lokal Anzeiger's St. Petersburg correspondent says that the Russian cruiser Izumrud is returning to Port Said on the way to Cronstadt in a badly damaged condition.

(Note—The cruiser Izumrud, which is one of the vessels of Admiral Botrovsky's contingent of the Russian Second Pacific Squadron, with the other ships of the fleet, was, according to a dispatch from Suez to-night, expected to reach that place at 5 o'clock Thursday morning. This is the first intimation that any vessel belonging to Admiral Botrovsky's squadron has been damaged.)

ADMIRAL BOTROVSKY'S DESTINATION UNCERTAIN.

Port Said, Egypt, Jan. 11.—Rear Admiral Botrovsky's division of the Second Russian Pacific Squadron entered the canal at noon. Its destination is uncertain, but it is probably Madagascar, by way of Jibuti, French Somaliland.

The warships were only permitted to ship a thousand tons of coal among the seven ships, besides taking on board provisions.

DOES NOT CONFIRM SQUADRON'S RECALL.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 11.—The Admiralty has not given the slightest official confirmation of the report of the recall of Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron. On the contrary, the officials point calmly to the preparations being made to reenforce the squadron with a division of the third Pacific Squadron as sufficient evidence that Rojestvensky will not return to European waters.

The Russian icebreaker Ermack at Libau has been ordered to keep the channel clear for the ships which are being made ready for sea.

Under the French regulations it is maintained that Rojestvensky's ships could cruise in the Indian Ocean, coaling and provisioning from their own storeships at Jibuti, French Somaliland, in the waters of the Island of Madagascar and the Island of Reunion and other French islands, until reenforcements arrive, without cause of complaint from Japan, inasmuch as the regulations are the same as those issued during the Spanish-American War.

BLOODY RIOT REPORTED AMONG RUSSIAN TROOPS.

Berlin, Jan. 11.—The Berliner Zeitung to-day reported that 3,000 Russian Reservists at Smolensk, Russia, on route for the far East, ran amuck, rioted and plundered parts of the city.

The Governor ordered the local garrison out and the latter fired into the Reservists.

Two hundred of the Reservists were killed and several hundred were wounded.

The Colonel commanding the Reservists and five of his junior officers committed suicide out of shame.

LAWSON WITHDRAWS HIS CANDIDACY

Leaves the Field to Whitney and Issues Sensational Letter Attacking His Rival.

BOLDLY INVITES INQUIRY.

Says That if His Charges Are Not True It Is a Disgrace to the Boston Chamber to Allow Him to Remain a Member.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 11.—Thomas W. Lawson, to-day issued a letter withdrawing his candidacy for president of the Chamber of Commerce on the ground of lack of time and a desire not to intrude his private quarrels with Henry M. Whitney, present president, into the chamber.

Lawson was supported by a large number of members in his campaign, as President Whitney's claim that the chamber was solidly behind him in his Canadian reciprocity campaign was resented by a majority of the Republican members.

In concluding his letter, Lawson makes a bitter attack on President Whitney, in which he accuses him of having done more to debauch and corrupt the Legislature of Massachusetts than any other one man.

He states that if these charges are true it is a disgrace to the Chamber of Commerce to have Whitney in its membership, and if not true, it is a disgrace to have him (Lawson) as a member.

Lawson stated that his time, enthusiasm, ambition and energy are heavily overmortgaged for every minute of days and nights for months to come.

"In other words, I am under contract to expose the most powerful, unscrupulous and dangerous set of scoundrels that has ever menaced the liberties and happiness of the people of this country. This contract is consuming all my waking hours, and I am not doing it overwell at that, I fear.

"I know that none of you who have so emphatically shown your keen appreciation of the handwriting on the wall, which speaks the spirit of the times, and your horror of the corruption which is filling the atmosphere of our city, State and nation, will give any weight to base insinuations that I am actuated in this, or any other fight I am in, by motives of personal gain or personal revenge."

Lawson ends by saying that he will not give up his membership without the fullest inquiry, which he boldly invites.

The legislative corruption he refers to is the Bay State Gas and other gas company bills. The battle for the presidency is now between Whitney and F. A. Noyes, who entered the contest to-day.

DOROTHY DENEEN IMPROVING.

Physicians Say Governor's Daughter Is Progressing Favorably.

Chicago, Jan. 11.—Governor Deneen's daughter, Dorothy, who was operated on for appendicitis last evening, is progressing favorably.

The physicians reported to-day that she was doing as well as could be expected.

LEVI M. DONNELLY DEAD.

Was a Prominent Democratic Politician of Fulton County.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Lewiston, Ill., Jan. 11.—Levi M. Donnelly, a prominent Democratic politician, died here to-day at the age of 64 years. For the past twenty years Mr. Donnelly has been a Democratic leader in Fulton County. He had held the office of Sheriff of the county, Collector at Copperas Creek Lock and many other positions of trust and honor.

CANNON BALKS PRESIDENT'S MOVE FOR TARIFF REFORM

Speaker Confronts Roosevelt With Almost United Opposition of House Republicans.

REVISIONISTS ARE ROUTED.

Chief Executive Bows to the Will of the Leaders, So Far as Schedules Are Concerned.

EXTRA SESSION NOT DEAD.

Railroad Rate Legislation Declared to Be the Paramount Issue, and Extraordinary Meeting Is Almost Assured.

The Republic Bureau,
Wyatt Building, 14th and F Streets.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The President retreated abruptly from his stand for tariff reform to-day. Confronted with the assertion by Speaker Cannon this morning that the House Republicans stand five to one against revision, the chief executive is understood to have said:

"All right; I am willing to yield to Congress in this matter. There will be no Andrew Jackson business during my administration."

Emerging from his conference with the President cigar aslant in peculiarly cocky fashion and smiling the smile of victory, the Speaker said to newspaper men:

"You boys had better quit dreaming about this extra session. Why don't you write something about the death of the devil?"

Correspondents suggested that report has had it that the devil in the present case was far from dead, at which the man from Danville volunteered his opinion that Satan this time is indeed defunct. Of course it was Cannon who was in at the death; who routed the President and the revisionists.

However, the extra session is dead only so far as "revision" of the tariff is concerned. There goes with to-day's announcement assurances to the disaffected element that some adjustment on specially obnoxious schedules will yet be undertaken. There goes with it, too, the direct White House declaration that the President regards Federal regulation of railroad rates as the paramount issue and that should legislation fail in this Congress an extra session probably will be called, either in spring or fall, to deal with the problem.

PLEASES DEMOCRATS.

Defeat of the President and the overwhelming majority developed in the Republican party against an honest and comprehensive tariff revision is news jubilantly received by Democrats. It invigorates the minority. Out of this abortive tempest which promised and all but announced a tariff revision programme, Democratic leaders say, an issue to be taken before the people two years hence is born.

A month ago, when, as now, tariff revision talk was hot, Senator Bailey of Texas laughingly refused to consider it seriously.

"The Republican party can't touch the tariff," he remarked. "It is built upon it."

The shackles that prevent are illustrated by an incident which arose recently out of a little reciprocity treaty with an island so small that nobody ever heard of it—Turk's and Caicos Island, in the Caribbean Sea. Sponges and salt were the sole commodities affected. But the howl raised was so mighty that the treaty was killed.

When the conference of leaders adjourned at the White House Saturday, with influential Senators agreeable to the President's ideas, the understanding was that the method of procedure was the central subject for further discussion. Speaker Cannon, however, began a "vigorous campaign of education" in the House. Startling was the rush of Republicans to the banner of the "stand-patters."

New England, with several exceptions in Massachusetts, took this stand. All but three Congressmen of New York, every Representative from Pennsylvania, all but three from Ohio, a majority from Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, the Pacific Coast, and even Iowa, fell into line. That settled it.

Then came White House soft words to the effect that far was it from an intention to antagonize Congress, and that such a matter should be determined by the men who are "nearer to the people."

WESTERN OPPOSITION.

Bartholdt, at present the only Republican from Missouri, lines up against revision. He is with Rodenberg of East St. Louis and with all Illinoisans from the country districts excepting Sterling and Fuller.

George W. Smith of the Twenty-fifth Illinois District said that he had heard of no demand for tariff action in his district, and that accordingly he would support the Speaker. Practically the same explanation was offered by Vespasian Warner, by B. F. Marsh and Joseph V. Graff.

Messrs. Sterling and Fuller asserted that they are high protectionists.

Friends of the administration who defend the President's change of front on the tariff say that all along he has considered the rate problem of far more importance than that of the tariff. It is denied in the same quarter that his policy in bringing tariff revision forward was a cloak for his definite position on the railroad question.

He said positively to conferees that he would call an extraordinary session of Congress to consider interstate commerce legislation, unless action is taken at this session. These friends say, too, that as the President has never posed as an authority on the tariff, he can logically recede before the judgment of older hands at tariff-building.

PENNILESS PORTO RICAN GIRLS OUT OF WORK AND ARE SUFFERING ON WINTER'S WORST DAY

PORTO RICAN GIRLS IN ST. LOUIS WHO ARE TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO GET HOME AFTER LOSING THEIR PLACES IN A ROPE FACTORY.

LOWER TEMPERATURE AFTER SLEETSTORM

Mercury Falls Rapidly, Freezing Slush, and Increasing Hardships Experienced Yesterday.

TRAFFIC GREATLY DELAYED.

Street Cars Have Difficulty in Keeping to Schedule, While Pedestrians Are Injured by Falls.

Rapidly falling temperature early this morning froze the snow and slush which cover the streets, making walking exceedingly dangerous and the work of cleaning the downtown thoroughfares more difficult.

Pavements, which were already cleaned, are covered with a thin sheet of ice, which will increase the number of persons injured by falls on the street.

Large forces of men were kept at work all night clearing the car tracks and preparing for traffic to-day. Railroad officials say that the greatest trouble will be from breaking and ice-covered trolley wires, but they expect to be able to cope with the situation.

While the Weather Bureau predicts a lower temperature, Forecaster Bowie states that there is a chance that the cold will not be as severe as expected.

Despite the fact that hundreds of men of the Street-Cleaning Department were at work at the crossings yesterday, their labors seemed to have been in vain.

The mouths of the sewers became choked early in the day and as the snow melted pools of slush and water, curb high, were at almost every corner, making it impossible for pedestrians to cross except at the cost of wet feet and ankles.

Snow plows were kept at work all day on all the car lines and the masses of snow, two feet high, thrown to the side of the tracks added to the congestion of the sewers.

TROUBLE ON CAR LINES.

The rain and sleet in the morning caused the stopping of traffic on all the street car lines for awhile.

The lines on which few cars are run during the night were unable to take up the regular daily traffic on account of the bad condition of the tracks.

At some places the snow had drifted to such a height that it was impossible to force a car through. This was especially the case of the Cherokee line, on which all cars were forced to stop after repeated attempts to get through a snowbank at Fourteenth and Howard streets. The line was practically tied up all day.

The Olive street line cars run regularly until about 7 o'clock, when a trolley wire broke at Eighteenth street, causing a congestion of cars for more than an hour.

All cars running north and south had to suspend business for the greater part of the day, and those running east and west were laboring under conditions not much better.

A Cherokee car ran off the track on Chouteau avenue at the south end of the Twelfth street bridge and all cars were held for several hours.

The United Railways Company started men clearing the Cass avenue, Bellefontaine and Lee avenue car tracks, in the north part of the city, and it was not until a late hour in the afternoon that traffic was resumed.

TWO MEN INJURED BY FALLING ON ICE.

Thomas Taylor of No. 5454 Easton avenue and William Sanders of No. 2621 Randolph street are at the City Hospital as the result of injuries sustained by falling on the ice and sleet.

While descending a flight of steps from the second-story porch at his residence Taylor slipped and fell a distance of twenty feet. He sustained contusions of the head and body.

Sanders slipped on the ice in front of a stable at No. 1616 Dolman street. He was able to walk to the City Hospital, where it was found that he was suffering from severe bruises about the head and upper part of his body.

ONLY ONE TIE-UP OF CARS ON THE EAST SIDE LINES.

East St. Louis street-car lines, contrary to the usual condition of affairs, were in better running order yesterday than those of St. Louis, and without exception every line on the East Side carried passengers all day without a hitch.

The Denverside line was the only one

Continued on Page Six.

COCKRELL MAY BE ELECTED TO UNITED STATES SENATE INSTEAD OF NIEDRINGHAUS

Democratic House Caucus Appoints Committee to Negotiate With Republican Filipinos for a Union During Remainder of Session—Bitter Fight Is On Between Majority Members of Lower Body and Six Votes Will Probably Be Secured for Missouri's Retiring Senator—Four Are Already Counted Upon to Bolt Recent Caucus Nominee.

BITTERNESS ENGENDERED BY GRACE RESOLUTION INCREASES

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 11.—There may be a Democratic United States Senator elected from Missouri.

So far apart are the Republicans getting that the Democratic House caucus this afternoon appointed a committee to negotiate with the Republican Filipinos and see what kind of a union could be made with them during the remainder of the session.

This committee will have for one of its first duties the negotiation of six votes for Cockrell.

According to one of the members of the committee, four Republicans can already be counted upon to bolt the Republican caucus nominee. They are Elliott and Roach of Jasper, Grace of St. Louis, and Branch of Lafayette. It will take only two more.

Bohley of St. Louis is homesick, so that makes a possibility that is being taken advantage of by those who do not favor Niedringhaus.

The Constitution requires that the first joint session for a ballot on the United States Senator must be taken next Monday. An adjournment of the Assembly will be taken Friday until Monday, so there may be plenty of opportunity for delayed arrivals.

If there should be enough absences, including one or two on the Democratic side, the Republican Niedringhaus supporters might be compelled to walk out of the hall when the balloting began in order to prevent a majority of the Assembly from being present.

Bitterness Engendered.

Of course, these are possibilities. They are not improbabilities, by any means. Such bitterness has been engendered by the Grace resolution yesterday that there is no telling how far this subject may go.

There is still another possibility. Perhaps the Republican Filipinos on the senatorial question will refuse to vote for Cockrell, but will vote for a Republican like Warner, Dyer or someone of that caliber.

Provided Cockrell cannot be elected, Democrats would allow the Republicans to do this as a last resort. If enough scandal can be dragged out of the investigation, Niedringhaus might be eliminated.

In the Senate five or six Republicans could prevent an election by simply remaining out of the Assembly for the election of a Senator.

Even the settling of the controversy in the House by the withdrawal of all amendments to the resolution has not allayed matters. After these amendments had been withdrawn this morning, the resolution passed and Speaker Hill appointed the following committee: Tubbs of Gasconade, chairman; Lyons of Jackson, and Hickley of St. Louis, Republicans; Carey of Jackson and O'Donnell of St. Louis, Democrats.

As soon as this committee was announced it became certain that the Democratic Senate would see that no whitewashing would be done.

Senator McAllister introduced this morning practically the same resolution which was introduced in the House yesterday in regard to investigating the expense account of Thomas K. Niedringhaus, chairman of the Republican State Committee, and the caucus nominee for United States Senator.

The resolution named as a committee to investigate the charges therein alleged Senators M. C. David, Dowell, Vories, McIndoe and Frisby. At the request of Senator Vories, he was excused from serving on the committee, and Senator McAllister was named in his stead.

Republican Obstruction.

As was the case in the House yesterday, as soon as the matter came up the Republican members began seemingly to obstruct its passage by delay. Senator McIndoe moved to lay over for a day, but afterwards withdrew the motion. Senator Clark of Kansas City moved to amend by allowing the Lieutenant Governor to name the committee in the place of the one named in the resolution.

Senator Clark declared that he was in favor of a full and complete investigation, but that it ought to be fair, and inasmuch as the committee as named is composed of Republicans who are friends of the defeated candidates for United States Senator, another committee ought, in fairness,

Continued on Page Two.

NIEDRINGHAUS TELLS FRIENDS NOT TO WORRY.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 10.—At midnight one of the House leaders had a talk with Mr. Niedringhaus over the long-distance telephone. It is said an effort will be made to have the resolution of Grace amended to-morrow by allowing Speaker Hill to name the committee to investigate the charges.

Mr. Niedringhaus has told his friends to go ahead and not worry about him.

PLANTERS HOTEL TO BE IMPROVED

Management Will Make It Equal to Any Hostelry in West—Dividend of 100 Per Cent.

After declaring a dividend of 100 per cent, directors of the Planters Hotel, in annual session yesterday, by resolution authorized the general manager of the company to continue the work of refurnishing and redecorating that hostelry. The hotel will be put in first-class condition, and the company intends to make it equal to any other like establishment in the West.

Dan P. Ritchey is now in New York and it is understood that his mission there is to arrange the details of the work to be undertaken by the hotel company.

The stockholders yesterday elected the following directors: W. H. Thompson, August Gehner, Henry Weaver, Cecil D. Gregg and W. A. Cochran.

The directors elected the following officers: President, Henry Weaver; first vice president, Cecil D. Gregg; second vice president, August Gehner; treasurer, W. H. Thompson; secretary, W. A. Cochran.

WISHED TO KEEP WEDDING SECRET FOR ONE WEEK.

Charles E. Young and Genevieve Jones of St. Louis Married on the East Side.

A young couple, giving their names as Charles E. Young, aged 24, and Genevieve Jones, aged 20, both of St. Louis, drove to the house of Justice of the Peace Beach in East St. Louis yesterday afternoon and were married by him.

The couple was anxious that the marriage be kept secret for a week, and asked that the license be kept from the records for that length of time. The bridegroom said that he was connected with a tobacco house in St. Louis, but refused to give his or his bride's address.

The couple was accompanied by Isabel Plider and Powell Hoffman, also of St. Louis. The party drove back to the city after the ceremony.

TO ANNOUNCE DECISION SOON.

Taft Takes Home Papers in St. Louis Bridge Case.

The Republic Bureau,
Wyatt Building, 14th and F Streets.

Washington, Jan. 11.—It was stated at the War Department to-day that Secretary Taft will soon announce his decision in the St. Louis Merchants' Bridge case, which has been expected at any time since his return from Panama early in December.

Secretary Taft has taken to his house the papers in the case and is giving consideration to it as opportunity offers.