

Rain tonight. Partly cloudy tomorrow.

The Washington Times

THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME WITH THE HOMEGOERS

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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 9, 1905.

PRICE ONE CENT.

WOMAN DECLARES HER IGNORANCE OF COTTON SCANDAL

Denies That She Tried to Avoid Subpoena in New York.

WILLING TO COME HERE

Mrs. Frederick A. Peckham Ridicules Excitement About Lock-Box Secrets.

The mystery of the relations of Mrs. Frederick A. Peckham to the cotton crop report leak scandal may yet be solved.

Mrs. Peckham, suspected of being able to throw especially strong light on the relations of the various people who were involved in the leaks, has been served with a subpoena to appear before the Federal grand jury here, August 15.

She was not easy to find, but was at length located in New York.

Mrs. Peckham and her husband separated some months before the explosion of the crop report scandal. They are understood not to have lived together since. Mrs. Peckham is a business woman of wide experience, and in some of her concerns has been associated with Lewis C. Van Riper, the cotton broker whose action first brought the cotton leaks to the attention of the Federal authorities.

Important Factor.

Mrs. Peckham has become a factor of much importance in the grand jury investigation because it is believed she holds some documents calculated to incriminate some of the people involved. Certain it is that during the course of bankruptcy proceedings against her a year ago, Van Riper was willing to pay a large sum in the discharge of her obligations rather than have her papers taken from a safety deposit vault and opened in court.

Mrs. Peckham, however, assumes entire unconcern about her appearance before the grand jury. Interviewed in New York last evening, she said she had no fears, as she was not in any way connected with the cotton report leak. Incidentally the wife of the cotton broker denied many of the reports which had been spread about her, and which connected her name with the dealings of Van Riper, Peckham, Haas and Holmes.

A Clever Woman.

Mrs. Peckham is a remarkably clever business woman. She is not dependent on her husband, but runs various business enterprises herself. She is of refined, pleasant manner, and talks in a well modulated, musical voice.

In the first place I want to deny the silly stories that have been printed about that mysterious box, in which it was said there reposed dark Government secrets," she said.

"I never saw any Government secret of any kind. There was nothing in the box except my personal papers, and none of these had anything whatever to do with cotton reports or kindred subjects.

Nothing to Tell.

"There was absolutely nothing to those proceedings except the fact that I disputed a claim against me, and the man to whom I owed the money instead of suing me in the usual manner began bankruptcy proceedings.

"I cannot understand why the grand jury in Washington want me as a witness. There is nothing I can tell them that would be of interest to them. I believe they have started out simply on a fishing expedition, and issued a subpoena for me because my name was printed in the papers. If they have any question they want to ask me I shall be glad to answer, but really there is nothing I can tell.

Publications Mixed.

"It is true that I said my husband carried a life insurance policy of \$50,000, but there certainly is no disgrace in that. The only way I can account for the report that he is interested in the Mining World being spread is that some one got

COLLAPSED STORE SO FAR YIELDS THIRTEEN DEAD

Thrilling Rescues of the Victims Penned Within Wreck.

DIGGING IN THE RUINS

Remains of Twenty-seven Others Probably Under Debris.

Thirteen Known Dead And Many Missing

Thirteen are known to be dead, twenty-seven injured and in the hospitals, and many are still missing, as a result of the collapse of the Albany department store yesterday morning.

All night long scores of men worked like beavers upon the ruins, and the number will be re-enforced today. That a score or more bodies still remain beneath the wreckage seems a certainty.

The injured in the various hospitals are reported to be doing well. But one death has occurred in the hospitals among the victims taken from the building alive. Miss Mary McAvoy, who was taken from the wreck at 2:15 yesterday afternoon, died at St. Peter's Hospital, at 12:20 o'clock this morning.

The property loss is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars.

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 9.—

"We are most concerned about the work of rescue now. The time to fix the responsibility will follow later," said Mayor Gauss today, after an all-night vigil over the ruins of the Meyers department store.

The laborers are pushing the work of removing the debris with all possible speed, in the hope that some of the victims may be rescued alive. As the building fell in wedge shape, the apex in the center, leaving a clear space on both sides, it is hoped that some will be found alive at the bottom.

Workmen declare that, occasionally, they hear cries and moans.

Forty of the sixty cash boys employed in the store had reported up at 11 o'clock. Many other male employees of the establishment are yet unaccounted for.

Mayor in Rescue Force.

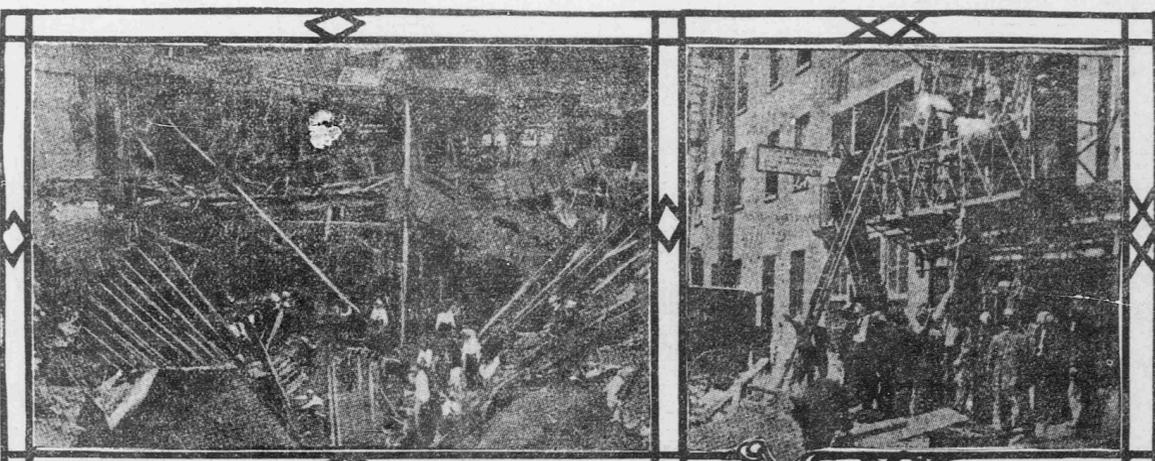
Mayor Gauss was on the scene early and remained until late last night, assisting in the work of rescue. He says a thorough investigation will be made and the responsibility fixed.

"We are anxious to clear away the wreckage," says the mayor, "and to get any person who has been guilty of negligence out of the way. It is our duty to do this. Every guilty person will be prosecuted as soon as we have placed the responsibility on the disaster, which is the worst of its kind that has ever befallen our city."

Sixth Body Removed.

At midnight, the sixth body was removed. It was that of Miss Theresa Spannbauer, of Sherman street. She was found lying across the body of a woman who was later identified as Miss Anna and their labors were continued until 1 o'clock and it required considerable effort to get at the body of Miss Cashman.

SCENES AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE IN ALBANY WHICH COLLAPSED AND BURIED OVER ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE IN THE DEBRIS



Interior of Collapsed Building Searching for the Bodies

SHAW MAY RESIGN IN NEAR FUTURE

Resents Interference in New Orleans.

PRESIDENT'S ACTS POINTED

Probably Meant to Impress His Disapproval on Secretary of the Treasury—Probable Successor.

Differences between the President and Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, growing out of the President's manifest disposition to interfere with the handling of the yellow fever situation in New Orleans, are said to have made the retirement of Secretary Shaw a possibility of the near future.

The Public Health and Marine Hospital Service is directly under the Secretary of the Treasury, but it has been noted from the beginning of the New Orleans trouble that the President has shown a disposition to step over the head of Secretary Shaw and issue orders directly to Surgeon General Wyman.

Does Not Like Shaw.

Back of all this, it is said, is the President's attitude toward the candidacy of Secretary Shaw for the Presidency, and especially the Presidential dissatisfaction with Secretary Shaw's activity in promoting his interests.

Effective Method.

No more effective method could be employed to impress this view on the Secretary than the series of interferences in the conduct of the New Orleans affair.

In case of the retirement of Secretary Shaw, the names of several men are discussed as possible appointees. Hamilton Fish, sub-treasurer at New York, is one of these. Another is Postmaster General Cortisvo.

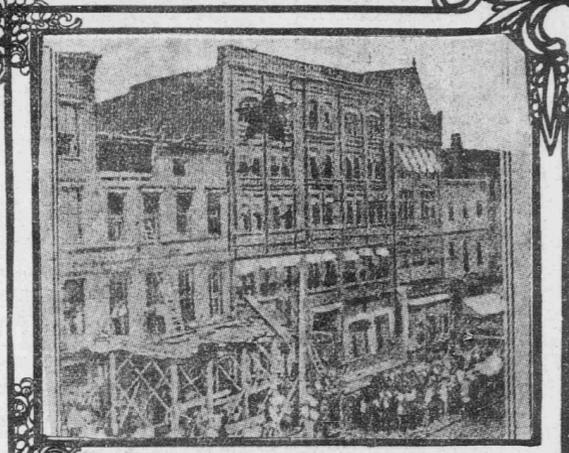
Assistant Secretary Charles H. Keop, who came from Buffalo, and is therefore available as a New York State man without being a New York city man, is talked of as a possible selection. Former Comptroller Charles G. Dawes, now connected with a big Chicago bank, and John T. Yerkes, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, are also discussed in this connection.

LEWIS NAMED FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP

Virginia Republicans Denounce "Graft."

ROANOKE, Va., Aug. 9.—The Republican convention reassembled this morning and adopted a platform which indorses the national Republican platform and planks of sound money, protective tariff, Panama canal, territorial expansion, a big navy, Roosevelt's Administration, clean elections, higher education, free school books, a non-partisan judiciary, and keeping the sacred oyster rocks of the State from invasion.

Times Want Ads Bring Results.



Star Showing Building, The Centre of Which Collapsed.

"MIDDY" JACKSON FOUND IN QUEBEC

Absence of Mind Caused Absence of Body. Events Connected With Disappearance a Blank to Him.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—Midshipman Robert Jackson, who has been missing since a week ago last Friday, when he left his ship, the Missouri, then lying in the North River, has been located by his father in Quebec.

He was working to make enough money to return to his ship. He has gone to the Missouri at Bar Harbor, Me., with his father.

Ready for Penalty.

He is prepared to meet whatever punishment may be imposed, and declares his only excuse is that the first few days after he left his ship are blank to him.

Jackson to Be Tried for Absence Without Leave

No official report has been made to the Navy Department of Midshipman Jackson's return to the battleship Missouri.

Midshipman Jackson, it is said, will be tried by court-martial. The charge against him, it is said, will be absence without leave, though technically he can be held for desertion. The admiral of the squadron will direct the court-martial. The punishment is either suspension or reduction in grade as a midshipman at the Academy.

FOUND POISONED IN BEAUTY'S ARMS

Yale Student's Companion Tells Nothing.

He Says He Tried to Kill Himself—May Recover—Woman's Identity a Mystery.

NEW HAVEN, Aug. 9.—Poisoned with bi-chloride of mercury, Owen A. Gurnsey, a young man who recently attended Yale University, and lives with his parents, at 231 Central Park, west, New York, was found unconscious early today in the arms of a beautiful girl on the steps of the residence of Dr. H. S. Welsh, opposite the Yale campus.

Times Want Ads Bring Results.

NEITHER SIDE ASKS ALIMONY

Taggart and His Wife to Live Independently.

RECEIVED IN A KIMONO

Lieutenant Fortescue Visited Mrs. Taggart at Leavenworth During Her Husband's Absence.

WOOSTER, Ohio, Aug. 9.—Though Attorney James Sterling was not able to appear, according to a statement made to the court by Dr. J. D. Beer, the Taggart divorce case was resumed at 8:30 this morning.

Sterling came in soon after and occupied a chair at Captain Taggart's table, looking ill indeed.

The first testimony was a deposition by Capt. William B. Folwell, Eighteenth Infantry, Fort Leavenworth. This set forth that Taggart was perfectly sober the night of the celebration given at the officers' club by the War College graduating class June 30, 1903.

Then when Attorney Wertz, for Taggart, offered the signed statement of Charles H. Hulburd, of Chicago, Mrs. Taggart's business agent, the alimony question was mentioned for the first time.

Taggart Might Ask Alimony.

Smyser, for the defense, assumed that Captain Taggart might ask for alimony because the agent's statement of her property was introduced. Smyser argued hotly that Mrs. Taggart could not be ordered to pay her husband alimony, as it was not specifically mentioned in the pleadings.

Mrs. Taggart's \$5,000 Income

It showed that Mrs. Taggart was in receipt of \$5,000 a year from the estate of her foster mother, the late Mrs. Charles Culver, of Chicago. In 1899 Mrs. Culver had set apart \$85,000, and after her death in 1901, \$20,000 more was found to be set aside for the benefit of Mrs. Taggart and her children.

Valet Testifies.

Lieutenant Fortescue, the Roosevelt connection, witness said, had come to the house while the captain was in Kansas City on flood duty, arriving at 9 p. m. Mrs. Taggart had then told witness to go to bed, and he had seen nothing more.

In the morning at 9 o'clock, Fortescue came and worked in without knocking, asking for Mrs. Taggart, witness said. Mrs. Taggart was upstairs, wearing a Japanese night dress, and was in her room three-quarters of an hour. Witness had gone upstairs and seen the officer come out of her room, go downstairs, and leave the house.

Taggart Children Will Not Be Called

WOOSTER, Ohio, Aug. 9.—Unexpected delay developed in the Taggart divorce trial yesterday, but while the hearing

Times Want Ads Bring Results.

ENVOYS BEGIN PEACE PARLEYS AT PORTSMOUTH

Japanese and Russian Plenipotentiaries Now in Conference.

IN BIG COUNCIL ROOM

Assistant Secretary Peirce Retires and Leaves Diplomats Face to Face.

Devious Diplomacy To End Cruel War

Today the peace envoys of Russia and Japan began their great battle of wits.

On one hand the Japanese effort will be to reap the benefit of victories won on sea and land, and to secure guarantees for future peace.

On the other hand the Russian endeavor will be to minimize the Japanese demands, making a good bargain and saving the face of the Czar.

With these ends in view both sides are bluffing. The Japanese, it is expected, will first demand far in excess of what they hope to obtain. The Russians will be able to claim victory by securing concessions from these conditions.

Prospects of an ultimate treaty of peace as the outcome of a long conference are believed brighter.

PORTSMOUTH, Aug. 9.—

The first session of the peace conference began shortly after 10 o'clock this morning in the general stores building at the navy yard.

Arriving in automobiles the envoys of Russia and Japan were escorted by Secretary Peirce to the rooms on the second floor prepared for them.

Council Chamber Turned Over.

When all were gathered in the big council chamber Mr. Peirce announced it was his pleasure, as the United States representative, to turn over the rooms for the use of the representatives of Japan and Russia and to assure them of the deep interest that the United States felt in the happy outcome of their labors.

Then, with a bow, Mr. Peirce withdrew to the rooms reserved for himself. The envoys of the two warring empires were left face to face to settle down to business.

In this simple, democratic way was inaugurated the conference which it is the hope of the civilized world will put a stop to the most stupendous and bloodiest war in history.

Results of Meeting.

After the return of the plenipotentiaries to the hotel from the navy yard, Mr. Sato, on behalf of the Japanese, made the following statement:

All Smoking Cigarettes, Envoys Go to Conference

HOTEL WENTWORTH, PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Aug. 9.—The Japanese envoys and the members of the Russian suite, and the members of the Russian suite, breakfasted in the building dining-room this morning. Count Witte and Baron Rosen, the Russian plenipotentiaries, were served in their private apartments.

Japs Eat Little.

It was 9 o'clock, however, before their wait was rewarded. Minister Takahira and Baron Komura bowingly acknowledged several salutations. They ate sparingly, and with great deliberation, and the rest of the Russian suite, at the hotel entrance before they had finished.

Lumber in Carloads at Wholesale to Everybody.

Libbey & Co., 6th & N.Y. Ave., adv.