

Fair and continued cold tonight. Friday fair, warmer.

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## CONGRESS BLAMED FOR BANK FLURRY; REFORM DEMANDED

### Cortelyou Gives Critics Slap for Disparagements.

### Report to House Deals With Recent Money Troubles.

### He Suggests Laws That Should be Promptly Enacted.

Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou called upon Congress today for the speedy enactment "of wise laws for the prevention in the future of disasters due, in part at least, to the imperfect organization of our monetary system."

### Slap for His Critics.

Secretary Cortelyou deals with his critics with startling bluntness. "The Secretary of the Treasury," he says, "is given wide discretion in many matters wherein he is merely called upon to exercise it, and little, if any, in others where it is needed daily, particularly as to certain of those having to do with the vitally important subject of our currency. In times of emergency his hands are virtually tied. If in such periods of stress, in an effort to avert calamity and serve the interests of all the people, he is obliged to resort to unusual measures, criticism is unfortunately in many instances directed not to the inadequacy of the system, but solely to the effort to give relief, even though it be successful in accomplishing that purpose. It should not be forgotten that he has to deal with the practical rather than the theoretical side of the currency question."

"The failure of the adherents of the various suggested plans of currency reform to co-operate or to agree upon a practical measure would hardly appear to be a sufficient reason for holding him responsible for their indecision and inaction. The laws under which he administers his office should be made to meet the daily needs of the people, and his duties, sufficiently onerous as they are, should not be made more burdensome by restrictions which leave him with the responsibility, but with no adequate means at his disposal to meet it."

### Bold Stand of Secretary.

The Secretary's appeal is made in his annual report, presented to Congress today. Although he is merely called upon to exercise it, and little, if any, in others where it is needed daily, particularly as to certain of those having to do with the vitally important subject of our currency. In times of emergency his hands are virtually tied. If in such periods of stress, in an effort to avert calamity and serve the interests of all the people, he is obliged to resort to unusual measures, criticism is unfortunately in many instances directed not to the inadequacy of the system, but solely to the effort to give relief, even though it be successful in accomplishing that purpose. It should not be forgotten that he has to deal with the practical rather than the theoretical side of the currency question.

"What particular form this proposed legislation should take must be left to Congress," he says. "I have no pride of opinion as to the method, but I have the deepest concern that the result shall be adequately beneficial."

### Caused by Hoarding Money.

The Secretary attributes the panic to hoarding of money by banks and individuals. He says that prior to the forced suspension of several institutions the shipment of currency to the West by Eastern banks had been insignificant. To use his words, "There had been no important shipments of gold abroad, so the monetary stringency seemed to be due, in large measure, to the hoarding of funds by owners of the foreign suspended banks in every State and Territory of the Union, and de-

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## Secretary's Views On Money Flurry

### What Caused It:

Insufficiency of laws. Hoarding of money by banks and individuals.

### Who Was Responsible:

Adherents in Congress of various suggested plans of currency reform who couldn't get together.

### What Is Demanded:

Immediate consideration of remedial legislation to avert panics and provide elastic currency.

### What Is Suggested:

Simplicity of plan. Giving Secretary power to limit retirement of national bank notes. Break up huge reserve in central reserve banks and keep such money in geographical divisions.

## WOMAN FOUND DEAD; HER ROOM FILLED WITH DENSE SMOKE

Miss Mary Walters, aged fifty-five years, was found dead shortly after noon today in her room at the residence of Dr. C. M. C. Latimer, 1322 L street northwest. Death is believed to have been due to suffocation. A small gas stove was found on a table in the center of the room, which had set the table cloth on fire and had burned the tubing which led to the jet above. The room was filled with smoke.

Mrs. Latimer was attracted to the room by the smell of something burning and found Miss Walters dead in bed. The body has been taken to the morgue.

"Practically nothing is known by Dr. Latimer's family as to the family connections of the woman. She came to Washington but a few weeks ago from Baltimore, renting a room in the Latimer home."

## VIOLENCE FEARED IN MINING CAMP NEAR GOLDFIELD

GOLDFIELD, Nev., Dec. 5.—Violence is momentarily expected here today. Mine officials say they think a battle is inevitable before Federal troops can reach the camp from California even though they should be ordered in at once.

With the town's 1,800 miners, armed to a man, the mine guard under orders to open fire on anyone who approaches the workings, and both sides in a frenzy of rage, the slightest spark will fire the magazine.

President Henry McKinnon, of the branch of the Western Federation of Miners, a brother-in-law of William D. Haywood, who was recently acquitted at Boise City of complicity in former Governor Frank Steunenberg's assassination, was in conference most of the night with officers of the men's organization.

All hands and machinery at the Government Printing Office stopped at 2 o'clock this afternoon, the hour at which funeral services for former Public Printer Frank Palmer will be held in Chicago. This afternoon and for a week following, all flags on buildings used by the Government Printing Office will fall to half mast in tribute to the dead public printer.

### General orders to this effect were issued by Public Printer Stillings this morning, and received with approval by all the employees.

### VIRGINIA JURY ACQUITS MAN HELD FOR MURDER

CULPEPPER, Va., Dec. 5.—William Seal was acquitted yesterday of the charge of the murder of his son-in-law, William Smith, in Rappahannock county, in September. The witnesses for the defense established an alibi and attacked the credibility of the witnesses for the State.

Fred Jenkins, Seal's son-in-law, jointly indicted with him, will be tried immediately.

## BIG KANSAS BANK FAILS TO OPEN; BLOW TO WEST

### National Bank of Commerce Had \$35,000,000 Deposits.

### Considered Strongest Institution in Missouri River Valley.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 5.—The National Bank of Commerce failed to open its doors this morning.

The statement of the bank, which is the largest financial institution in the Missouri River valley, published today, in answer to Comptroller Ridgely's call, shows the deposits last August, when the previous call was made, were \$35,000,000, and yesterday they were \$16,000,000.

The cash on hand in August amounted to \$16,000,000 and yesterday it was \$5,000,000. The loans and discounts have declined from \$16,000,000 to \$12,000,000 and the resources from \$39,000,000 to \$24,000,000.

### Notice to Public.

The following notice was placed on the bank's doors:

"This bank is closed by order of the board of directors, and is in the hands of E. F. Bradley, bank examiner. The First National Bank of New York is the institution's Eastern correspondent. The First National is a New York bank and will not suffer, as it is very strong. The Bank of Commerce of Kansas City has about \$7,000,000 tied up in stocks and bonds. It has loans outstanding amounting to about \$12,000,000. Other banks owe it about \$3,000,000. W. S. Woods is its president; W. H. Winants, vice president, and W. E. Rule, treasurer. It has made a specialty of handling accounts of small banks. It has also been a heavy dealer in United States bonds. It was established at the close of the civil war, and has been the leading bank of this section."

### "Bank Has Not Failed."

"This bank has not failed," said Dr. W. S. Woods, president of the institution this morning. "It has merely closed its doors. We could have kept the bank open but we concluded that the struggle was not worth while."

Yesterday afternoon four other banks of the city held clearing-house claims against the Bank of Commerce aggregating \$380,000. Two of these claims, comprising the larger part of the total, were satisfied. Two other claims were not satisfied until late tonight. All were cleared up by midnight, however, after which the board of directors concluded not to open the doors this morning.

### Kansas City Bank Failure Causes a Sharp Sensation in New York Money Circles

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—Failure of the National Bank of Commerce, of Kansas City, caused a sharp reaction early this morning in Wall Street. The failure had been expected for three weeks and the only surprise in regard to it was the long time it has managed to stay open. In the last two weeks its deposits have been reduced from about \$35,000,000 to \$24,000,000. It is believed that most of the deposits which have caused the trouble have been withdrawn and that the closing of the institution now will not mean any serious trouble.

### WALT WHITMAN'S BRAIN LOST BY CARELESSNESS

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5.—Edward Anthony Spitzka, professor of general anatomy at Jefferson Medical College, and one of the foremost anthropological scholars in the world, in a remarkable report upon his study of the brains of seven of America's foremost scientists, last night revealed the fact that the brain of Walt Whitman had been lost to science. An employe of a hospital let slip to the floor a jar in which the brain had been preserved.

## Champ Clark Champions Long Beards of Missouri. Read Sunday's Times.

## Takahira Is Appointed Washington Ambassador, Says Unofficial Report



Photo copyright by Walden Fawcett. KOGORO TAKAHIRA, Former Minister to United States, Who It Is Reported, Will Succeed Viscount Aoki as Ambassador.

## FORMER MINISTER MAY FOLLOW AOKI; A BORN DIPLOMAT

### Has Been Called "Yankee of the East" and Looks Like Kipling.

Unofficial advices to Washington today from Tokyo convey the information that Kogoro Takahira, formerly Japanese minister to the United States, has been appointed to succeed Viscount Aoki as ambassador.

Inquiry at the Japanese embassy elicited the information that nothing was known as to the appointment of Mr. Takahira or any other diplomat to succeed Viscount Aoki. Official advices to the embassy relative to the reported appointment of the new ambassador are not expected for a day or two, it was said.

Former Minister Takahira is widely known and popular among Washington diplomats. He has often been described as "a Yankee of the East, looking like Rudyard Kipling." He is a deep thinker, keen observer, and a past master in the art of diplomacy.

### Of Noble Family.

Former Minister Takahira is of the noble family of Japan. He was born in 1872 and educated for a number of years by a private tutor. In 1878 he entered the foreign office of his country as a clerk.

Several years later he entered the consular service and was stationed as consul to Korea, later in New York, and afterward appointed Minister to Vienna. His next appointment was Minister to Rome, rendering distinguished service there in drafting and signing the treaty of revision of the Continental powers.

### Minister Here in 1901.

In 1901 he was appointed Minister to the United States. He and Baron Komura, the signers of the Portsmouth peace pact, in the spring of last year the legation was elevated to an embassy, and as Viscount Aoki returned Takahira the latter was excused from further service in the United States. After leaving the United States he went to Rome, where he resumed his former post.

## ALFONSO SEASICK CROSSING CHANNEL

### King Orders British Cruiser to Run for Nearest Port.

BREST, France, Dec. 5.—So limp from seasickness that he was barely able to stand, King Alfonso, of Spain, received delegations of French and English officials on the deck of the British warship Renown, in harbor here today.

The Renown was to have gone direct from Plymouth to La Rochelle, whence King Alfonso, Queen Victoria, their baby, and suite planned to take a special train for San Sebastian, Spain. Such were the King's sufferings from mal de mer, however that he ordered the vessel to run as fast as it could for the nearest port, and Brest was the most convenient.



J. M. TAKAHIRA, Wife of the Former Minister to Washington, Who Will Become Hostess of the Japanese Embassy in the Event Kogoro Takahira Returns to the Capital.

## AX FOR CLERKS OF SOUTHERN R. R. SATURDAY NIGHT

### Financial Depression and Heavy Payments Force 150 Out—More Yet to Go.

Fear and trembling are seen on all sides at the Southern railroad office, for 150 clerks will fall under the axe Saturday afternoon.

This will be the largest number of persons ever dismissed by the Southern since its general office was established. While it is known that the ax will fall Saturday, no one seems to know who the 150 recipients of undesirable Christmas gifts will be.

The general office only will be affected on Saturday, but within a week or ten days wholesale dismissals will be made in the operating department.

A large percentage of the clerks whose connection with the railroad will be severed by request on Saturday consists of women and new employees, although many persons who have labored in the interests of the road for five or ten years will also leave.

The wholesale dismissals is due, it is understood, to the financial depression and the payment of enormous sums of interest by the Southern on January 1 Monday men and women of many years' service with the Southern will be placed on an equal footing with new employees, because those who are fortunate enough to hold on to their jobs will not only be compelled to work hours overtime, but a deep slash, from 10 to 25 per cent wide, will be made in their salaries.

There was much discussion today as to the probabilities of the dismissed clerks being reinstated after the effects of the financial stringency are no longer felt, and subsequent to the payment of the large sums of interest. The wedding out and chopping down has been carefully studied by the higher officials of the road, and the dismissals are to be made systematically.

Because of the care and study beforehand, it is not thought that any persons will be "given the hook" who will have to be re-employed.

### THE WEATHER REPORT.

Fair weather is probable in the Washington forecast district tonight and Friday. Low temperatures will continue in the South tonight and Friday, although it will moderate in the east Gulf and middle Atlantic States Friday afternoon.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have brisk northerly winds and cloudy weather to the Grand Banks.

TEMPERATURE.  
9 a. m. .... 22  
12 noon ..... 23  
1 p. m. .... 23  
3 p. m. .... 31

SUN TABLE.  
Sun sets today ..... 4:33  
Sun rises tomorrow ..... 7:04

TIDE TABLE.  
High water today ..... 7:35 p. m.  
Low water today ..... 1:31 p. m.  
High water tomorrow, 8:30 a. m., 8:50 p. m.  
Low water tomorrow, 2:50 a. m., 2:45 p. m.

## LOWER SHOTS WOMAN

### Man Sends Bullet Into Own Brain After Attack.

### Visits Her Bed-Room Shortly Before the Tragedy.

### Found on Floor, Arms in Arm, By Boarders.

After firing two shots into the body of Mrs. Annie Moore, thirty-three years of age, in her room, on the second floor of the lodging-house at 476 M street southwest, shortly after 10 o'clock this morning, William White, fifty years old, an employe of the Southern railway, turned the weapon on himself, firing a bullet through his brain. They were taken to the Emergency Hospital; neither is expected to live.

The double tragedy was the result of a married man's infatuation for a married woman. For the last three years Mrs. Moore and White had been almost constantly together, and their relations had been the means of breaking up two families. Recently White had planned to go to the Philippines. Rather than give up the woman who had been between him and his wife, he decided to kill her and commit suicide.

### In Woman's Room.

White went to Mrs. Moore's room about half an hour before the tragedy occurred. Mrs. Nettie Daniels, the landlady, met him at the door. He inquired if Mrs. Moore was in, and went immediately to her room. Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. W. N. Doleman, a boarder, were the only ones in the house at the time of the shooting. Hearing the noise, Mrs. Daniels rushed out of the house and summoned assistance.

Albert Gibbs, of 1225 Huxton place, a member of the Washington patrol, was the first to enter the room. Gibbs found Mrs. Moore and White huddled in a corner of the room near a bed. The wounds on both their heads were bleeding profusely. Mrs. Moore had her head on a pillow and White had his left arm on the floor. On the floor near his right hand was the revolver.

Mrs. Doleman had notified the police of the Fourth precinct by telephone, and the man and woman were carried to the Emergency Hospital in a police ambulance.

### Met at Pesthouse.

White was formerly a watchman at the pesthouse, and when the new building was erected about three years ago, Mrs. Moore, her husband, and their two little girls were the first to be quarantined. He is now nine years old, and was stricken with the smallpox, and for several weeks was not expected to recover.

Learning of the relations of the two, she went to the house on Seventh street southwest, where Mrs. Moore was then living, and asked her to give up White. In Mrs. Moore's pocket, she asserted, this morning, were two photographs of her husband.

### White Threatened Rival.

"If I ever see you on the street wearing that cock with my husband's picture, I'll choke you until I wrench it from your neck," Mrs. White said she told Mrs. Moore.

Mrs. Moore then ordered her from the house, saying that she would not consent to any arrangement that would prohibit her seeing White.

About two months ago White went to Mrs. Daniels and said that he wanted to get a room for his sister and her two children. Mrs. Daniels gave the family two rooms on the second floor. The children called White "uncle" and for a time Mrs. Daniels did not suspect that the couple were not related. White was a frequent visitor at the house, and a few days after he installed the woman at the M street house he inquired of Mrs. Daniels at what grocery he could run an account for her.

Mrs. Moore is the wife of Walter J. Moore, a harnessmaker, employed in a shop at 409 Fourth street northwest. For the last three years, it is said, Moore has not been living regularly with his wife because of her friendship with White. For the last two weeks, however, he had been sleeping at the M street house, and friends of the couple supposed that a reconciliation had been effected.

### Shot Through Temple.

Mrs. Moore was shot twice. One of the bullets struck her in the right temple and the other passed through her right hand. White shot himself through the head just above the right ear. The bullet passed clear through his head. The condition of White was such that the doctors could not operate upon him.

### Discouraged Attentions.

Mrs. Daniels said that White and Mrs. Moore had evidently had a falling out, as the latter had been discouraging his attentions recently. For the last few days, she asserted, he would stand in front of the house and whistle, and throw stones at her windows.

"If that man doesn't stop bothering me, I am going to take some step to have him kept away from the house," she told Mrs. Daniels.

## GAS COMPANY PLEADS BEFORE COMMISSIONERS

### Attorney Declares Congress Intended Courts to Determine Value of Plant.

The District Commissioners today gave the hearing granted the two gas companies who have asked that the former rescind their recent request made to Congress that that body would suspend Section 5 of the act regulating gas companies and which gave the companies the right to petition court for an increase of capitalization. The decision of the Commissioners was reserved.

Mr. Perry, who opened the argument for the companies, made it plain in the beginning that it was the desire of the companies that the petition now before the courts on behalf of the gas companies should be allowed to stand and that they might be given the privilege of increasing their capital stock.

Attorneys R. H. Goldsborough and Wilton J. Lambert were also present for the companies. Corporation Counsel E. H. Thomas and John R. MacVicar, secretary of the League of American Municipalities, were present for the people.

### Question of Value.

Mr. Macfarland explained the gist of the meeting, and then Attorney Perry immediately began his argument by reminding the Commissioners that the actual value of the gas properties was the real matter at issue.

Mr. Perry called the attention of the Commissioners to the fact that they had told Congress at its last session that they did not possess sufficient data to make a report to that body as to the cost of gas production, and therefore they were unable to say what reduction, if any, should be made in the price of gas. If the Commissioners were any better informed at this time, he said, it had been without the knowledge of the gas companies, and had been obtained in absence of their representatives, or having afforded the companies an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses.

### Explains Intent of Congress.

He said further that he believed that the appropriation act passed by Congress, calling for the report early in the session, which was made yesterday by the Washington Gaslight Company, was passed solely to bring this matter before the courts and get it adjudicated, which action he said, the Commissioners in their recommendation were seeking to defeat.

"This act was not a command, but acted, which action, he said, the Congress for these companies to go into

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)  
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