

Rain tonight and tomorrow;
Light winds.

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TAFT BACK HOME; TALKS OF CANAL

Excavations Will Be Finished in Four Years, He Says.

THINKS BOUNDARY EASY TO ADJUST

Reports Everything Lovely in Panama, But Declines to Discuss Political Situation.

Secretary of War Taft returned home this morning from his journey to Panama, after having been absent about three weeks. The secretary arrived in Charleston, S. C., yesterday on the cruiser Prairie, and after spending several hours there, took an afternoon train for Washington, arriving shortly before 10 o'clock this morning. He found a large number of visitors awaiting him when he arrived at his office, about midday.

The excavation work on the Panama canal will be finished in three and a-half or four years, according to the opinion expressed today by Secretary Taft, who called at the White House to report to President Roosevelt on the progress of the work there, and also on the boundary question, which occupied his attention during the trip to Panama. The secretary declined, however, to estimate even approximately the date of the completion of the canal.

"It was really inspiring," said the secretary, "to go to the canal and observe the way the work is progressing down there. Everything is moving smoothly, and an enormous amount of work is being done. There is no illness in the zone, and while I did not hear of a single complaint from the laboring men."

With the way the work is progressing now, it is safe to say that the excavations can be completed within three and a-half or four years. This is based on careful estimates. It is impossible to say, however, how much more time will elapse before the canal is ready for operation. An enormous amount of work will be necessary to build the locks. It may take as much time for the construction of the locks as it did for the excavation, or it may take more.

Secretary Taft said that the boundary question which he investigated would, he thought, be solved without any difficulty. The secretary will have a conference with President Roosevelt tonight, at which time canal matters and the boundary question will be discussed. He also will take up the question of the appointment of a new engineer to succeed General MacKenzie.

Secretary Taft laughed when asked if he had any political views to express. He said he was not aware that politics was an important subject at this time. He will go to Nashville, Tenn., next Wednesday to make an address before the Tennessee Bar Association.

Metcalf, on Return, Pleased With Fleet

Secretary Metcalf, back from his review of the great naval display in San Francisco bay, took up today the work of preparing for the greater review that is to take place when the Atlantic fleet steams into harbor after its world tour, on February 22 next year. Twenty-six battleships then will be assembled, and President Roosevelt will review them. Some of these will be of the Dreadnought type, all of them in perfect condition, and with perfectly trained crews.

Secretary Metcalf said today that the effect of the long cruise of the Atlantic fleet upon the personnel was astonishing. The 15,000 men not only are perfectly drilled, but they are in the hands of officers and men who are of absolute accord.

"A better conducted body of men could not be collected," said the secretary. "The feeling is now so keen among them that if one is not up to the common level, he is given to understand by his fellows that he had better not re-enlist."

The average age of the enlisted men is twenty-three, and most of them are of the best type drawn from the interior States.

Evans Is Assigned To General Board

Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, who returned to his home in Washington last week, after having relinquished command of the battleship fleet, today was assigned again to active duty. The admiral was detailed as a member of the General Board of the Navy, to serve until his retirement—August 15.

Admiral Evans is much improved in health, and declares that he is in good condition and fit for active service. His duties with the General Board will not be very arduous.

The General Board now has its full quota of members.

WEATHER REPORT.

The barometer is low this morning in the Mississippi valley, with the greatest depression over eastern Iowa. Very general and widespread rains have occurred in connection therewith, the rain area covering the Missouri and Mississippi valleys, Tennessee, the Gulf States, and the lower Ohio Valley. The temperature about normal in all parts of the country.

Rain is indicated rather generally throughout this forecast district, although it will be fair tonight in New England and eastern New York.

The temperature changes will be generally unimportant.

WEATHER BUREAU.
9 a. m. 67
12 noon 67
1 p. m. 67

AFFLECK'S.
9 a. m. 80
12 noon 80
1 p. m. 80

SUN TABLE.
Sun rises 4:44
Sun sets 7:08

TIDE TABLE.
High water today 10:02 p. m.
Low water today 4:20 p. m.
High water tomorrow 10:33 p. m.
Low water tomorrow 4:51 p. m.

FIVE LIVES TAKEN AS LOVE'S TRIBUTE

Suicide of Despairing Suitor Starts Bloody Feud Between Families.

POISON IN CREAM SENT BY SISTER

Secret Murder and Open Battle Outrival the Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet.

ODESSA, May 18.—Five are dead and three dangerously and a score seriously wounded, as a result of a vendetta growing out of the refusal of the parents of a beautiful Circassian girl, of Elizabethport, to countenance a love affair between their daughter and a young Armenian suitor. The Armenian was finally driven from the girl's house, by her parents. In despair, he went from the house to the river and drowned himself.

The sister, Usun, then hired a bandit to kill the girl's brother, paying him 100 roubles for the crime. She herself then sent a present of ice cream, mixed with arsenic, to the family, which they ate. Two sons died within a short time, and the father and mother and a daughter became dangerously ill.

The eldest son of the family suspected Usun of the plot. He went to her house and shot her, escaping in the ensuing excitement. As Usun's family were removing her to the hospital they encountered members of the Circassian family on the street, and a battle ensued.

Others became drawn into the fight, and, in a few moments, not less than a hundred persons were warring in the streets with swords and revolvers. For a time the police were unable to disperse the combatants, but finally separated the trouble died at the hospital.

The two families involved are prominent, and it is feared that other outbreaks will follow.

TAX ON TROLLEYS UPHELD BY COURT

Texas Assessment on Railway Earnings Declared Unconstitutional.

The city of St. Louis today won a great victory over the street railways of that city, when the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the validity of the ordinance of March 25, 1903, levying a special "occupation" tax on the street railways, in addition to the franchise taxes. In announcing the court's opinion, said that none of the franchises contains a specific surrender on the part of the city of the right to levy additional taxes, and the right still existed. Arguments in the court below were reversed.

A Texas law "imposing a tax upon the railroads in the State, equal to 1 per cent of their gross receipts," was declared unconstitutional. The court divided five to four. Chief Justice Fuller and Justices Harlan, White, and McKenna dissenting.

Justice Holmes, in announcing the opinion of the court, said that the law attempted to regulate interstate commerce.

The constitutionality of the law establishing a standard of brackets on railroad trains in interstate commerce was upheld by the court.

FAIR WEATHER WEEK FORECAST OF BUREAU

Southern States to Enjoy Clear Skies, While Rain Is Predicted for Others.

The average seasonal temperature and general fair weather, with intermittent showers during the whole week, over the entire country, is forecast by the Weather Bureau. The predictions issued today for the present week are as follows:

Temperature will be about or somewhat above the seasonable average generally over interior and eastern portions of the country.

In the Middle Atlantic and New England States a period of showery weather will prevail Tuesday, and clear away Wednesday. Saturday and Sunday will cover another period of showery days promise to be fair.

In the Ohio and upper Mississippi valleys and the lake region the rains of tonight will be followed Tuesday by clearing, and the next rain period will begin about Thursday night or Friday, and continue about twenty-four hours.

In the middle and upper Missouri and Red river of the north valleys showers are indicated for Wednesday or Thursday, and again on Saturday or Sunday.

Over the Southern States the weather on the whole promises to be settled and fair.

THIEVES ACTIVE AT UNIVERSITY

Sneak thieves continue their activity at George Washington University. Henry C. Clark, of Takoma Park, reported to the police today that an umbrella and a leather satchel, containing books, were stolen from the cloak room of the main building, Fifteenth and H streets northwest. E. O. Schreiber reported the larceny of an umbrella from the same place.

LAMPHERE CASE BEFORE GRAND JURY

Forty Witnesses Summoned at Inquiry Into Firing of Guinness Home.

SUSPECTED WOMAN ON WAY OVER SEA

Hamburg Authorities Asked to Arrest Her—Traffic in Death and Arson Yielded \$50,000.

LA PORTE, Ind., May 18.—The La Porte county grand jury today took up the case of Ray Lamphere, accused of murdering Mrs. Belle Guinness and her three children, and firing the Guinness home. Forty witnesses were on hand.

Coroner Meek today received a letter from Mrs. Henry Washer, 254 Maple street, Toledo, Ohio, declaring her fear that her daughter was a Guinness victim. The girl was a graduate of Valparaiso College, the letter said, and returned home November 28, 1902. Shortly after that she disappeared.

The body of Ole Budeberg, one of the Guinness victims, was shipped to Rudberg's home, at Iowa, Wis., today. Tomorrow during will be resumed in the Guinness "private grave yard."

Mrs. Guinness Crossing Ocean.

Mrs. Guinness is on her way across the Atlantic on the Hamburg-American liner Danubia, according to information received by Sheriff Smutzer. The police authorities at Hamburg have been asked by cable to arrest the woman upon her arrival.

The identification in Galveston, Tex., of a woman who tallies with the missing murderess was made by James Stokes and Frank Dayton, who talked with the woman just as she was about to sail on the Danubia. Several of the passengers were discussing the La Porte case, and their first suspicion that the woman with whom they were talking was Mrs. Guinness was aroused by the curiosity which she manifested she had never before heard anything about the case.

She said that she was similar with Indiana, having visited in Indianapolis a number of times, and explaining her object in going abroad she said that her husband had just died and that she was going to Germany to settle his estate.

This woman is believed to have been the same one who passed through St. Louis, Mo., and was identified by the La Porte case, and their first suspicion that the woman with whom they were talking was Mrs. Guinness was aroused by the curiosity which she manifested she had never before heard anything about the case.

\$50,000 From Murders.

A calculation of the amount of money which Mrs. Guinness realized by her traffic in human life sets the amount at more than \$50,000. The following shows the amounts she obtained from various victims:

From Mads Sorenson, her first husband, life insurance, \$8,000; Peter Guinness, second husband, life insurance, \$4,000; Charles Erdman, New Carlisle, Ind., \$5,000; Herman Konitzer, Chicago, \$5,000; fire in Guinness store, Chicago, insurance, \$2,500; fire in Guinness house in Austin, Ill., insurance, \$1,500; Ole Budeberg, Iowa, Wis., \$2,000; John O. Meek, Elbow Lake, Minn., \$1,500; Annie Lett, Aberdeen, S. D., \$2,000; George Berry, Tuscola, Ill., \$1,500; Henry Gerhart, Iowa, Wis., \$1,000; from four men other than the above, whose bodies were found in Mrs. Guinness's grocery yard (estimated at \$1,000 each), \$4,000; from fifteen other men, who were in correspondence with Mrs. Guinness and mysteriously disappeared (estimated at \$1,000 each), \$15,000.

Sheriff Smutzer said his men have made careful inquiries in endeavoring to learn what Mrs. Guinness did with all this money. They are as much in the dark as to the whereabouts of the \$75,000 that Mrs. Guinness put in a safety deposit bank the day of the fire was all the money she then possessed.

MISS VANDERBILT FOUND IN CANAL

Theories of Suicide and Accident Advanced After Finding of Body Today.

PRINCETON, N. J., May 18.—Miss Bertha Vanderbilt, of Amsterdam, N. Y., assistant librarian at Princeton University, who disappeared so mysteriously last Wednesday evening, was found drowned in the Delaware and Raritan canal today, her body being located just before noon by two Trenton canoeists, between this place and Kingston.

The body bore no marks indicating violence, and it is not believed now that the girl was the victim of foul play, as was for a time supposed, although when found the hat and overskirt were missing. Her parents and other relatives believe she fell into the canal while attempting to cross a narrow bridge over which she frequently went for a walk.

They say, however, that there is still a possibility that she was attacked while walking alone and thrown into the water. The Princeton police authorities are of the opinion that the young woman committed suicide.

LITTLEFIELD TELLS HOUSE OF HIS LOVE

Representative Littlefield of Maine told the House today how much he loved the House.

Rising to a "question of privilege" as soon as the House convened, he said he desired to correct a newspaper report which had described him as having made an unjustified assault and criticism of the members of the House in a speech in Brooklyn Saturday evening.

Mr. Littlefield denied that he had ever expressed the sentiments with which he had been credited, and said his opinion of the members was the highest possible because he considered, and had so stated in his speech, that they were the "flower of the communities they represented."

BELLE WALKER HEARD, CONTRACTOR HEARD

Witness in Brennan Trial Says Fernald Gave Information.

RECEIVED NO PAY FOR HAULING DIRT

Admits Having Entered Into Contract Without Previous Understanding of Conditions.

That Charles Fernald, former Assistant Engineer of Highways, referred to Col. John Biddle, former Engineer Commissioner, as a "weak-kneed individual," at the same time informing the witness that he would get nothing by being associated with Brennan in District contracts, was the testimony offered today by Charles E. Stewart, a railroad contractor, of Westminster, Md., at the hearing of the charges of favoritism before the Commissioners today.

Mr. Stewart appeared as one of the witnesses summoned by the Commissioners at the request of P. J. Brennan. His testimony related to a contract for the removal of dirt from the site of the new House of Representatives building, and its placement on the plaza of the new Union Station.

Mr. Stewart said that he came to Washington in 1904 at the request of Mr. Brennan, who informed him that he had secured the contract for excavating the square for the House office building. The dirt, Mr. Brennan said, was to go on the plaza, but the price was to be paid by the District.

Called on Fernald.

Mr. Stewart said that he thereupon called upon Mr. Fernald, and was requested by that official not to submit a bid until arrangements were made with the McDermott & McMullen Construction Company, which was to do a great portion of the work. Fernald, he said, informed him that whatever the price paid to McDermott would be paid to him, and would not be less than 10 cents.

In this agreement with Fernald, Mr. Stewart said he went ahead with the work.

"Some time later in the summer," continued Mr. Stewart, "I saw Mr. Brennan, and he said it had been intimated to him that we were not going to be paid for dumping the material in the plaza. Brennan said he thought the best thing for us to do was to see Colonel Biddle. We stopped in to see him, and he said he would see us if we did not talk as though he looked upon the proposition to pay us with favor. We then saw him and understood that there was some talk of our not being paid. He said that he would take up the matter with the city, and when a week later, and asked him if he had arrived at a decision. He answered that he could not see his way clear to pay the money."

Reported the Decision.

Mr. Stewart said that he reported the Colonel's decision to Fernald. It was then, the witness said, that Fernald characterized Colonel Biddle as a "weak-kneed individual," adding that Hunt was at the bottom of it. Fernald, he said, declared that Hunt was sore on Brennan, and that the latter was making a mistake in attempting to "hog everything in sight," and that he ought to let Cranford get some of the work, as Cranford and Hunt were personal enemies. Mr. Stewart said that he reported the Commission's report on the fact that Mr. Stewart had no contract with the city for the work he performed, and that there was no agreement as to payment, written or oral, and that the attention of the witness to the contract for similar work with McDermott, in which it was stipulated that he was to contract with Brennan for dirt hauled from the railroad excavations in Eckington. The witness said he was not previously aware of the conditions of the contract.

"Therefore," said Major Morrow, "if you have any grudge, it should not be against the District. You say that Fernald agreed to pay you the same price given McDermott, when the fact of the matter was McDermott was paid nothing for the dirt hauled from the House of Representatives' site, the work for which you claimed payment."

In response to a question from Major Morrow, Mr. Stewart said that at no time was there the slightest intimation on the part of Fernald that he expected to receive any money from the contractor.

Protects His Witness.

Interrupting the examination of the witness by Major Morrow, Charles A. Douglas, attorney for P. J. Brennan, again resented the attitude of the Engineer Commissioner in conducting the investigation. Major Morrow was endeavoring to have the witness fix the date of a conversation between himself and Fernald, concerning the awarding of the contract in question.

Mr. Douglas arose and said that he objected to the question, on the ground that the veracity of his witness was called into question; that the charges of favoritism only were to be considered, and that the witness, called by the District, should not be placed in the light of defendants.

Following Mr. Stewart, Capt. Edwin Markham, assistant engineer, formerly in the general deficiency bill, which was for street paving work, was not made necessary for the improvement of southwest Washington, and the Cranford Paving Company was not considered.

BUBONIC PLAGUE AT PUERTO CABELLO

WILLEMSTEAD, May 18.—Bubonic plague is now reported to have broken out at Puerto Cabello. Messages from that place say it is worse than ever at La Guayana and that several cases of a sickness closely resembling it have appeared at Puerto Cabello, too. Several persons are also ill there of what is suspiciously like yellow fever.

WINS ENGLISH OPERA CRITICS

Cleveland Conductor Badly Injured When Police Arrive on Scene.

MAYOR JOHNSON DEMANDS ORDER

Says He Will Make No Effort to Settle Strike Until Thugs Respect the Laws.



MISS EDYTH WALKER, An American Prima Donna, Whose Work Is Extravagantly Praised in London.

BANK IS CLOSED TO RECoup LOSS

Cashier's Alleged Thefts Necessitate Receiver for Allegheny National.

The Allegheny National Bank, at Pittsburgh, was closed this morning by order of the Comptroller of the Currency and Robert Lyons, national bank examiner, was appointed receiver.

PITTSBURGH, May 18.—The alleged peculations of Cashier William Montgomery, who is charged with having looted the bank of \$1,300,000, are said to be responsible for the closing of the Allegheny National Bank. Efforts were made to put the bank on its feet following the discovery of the alleged shortage, but the situation was regarded as hopeless.

The shortage was discovered May 7, by Bank Examiner William L. Folds. Montgomery was arrested, but released on \$100,000 bail. Another warrant, on an additional charge, was issued Saturday, and the amount of bail increased to \$125,000. Montgomery was unable to furnish this amount, and he is now in jail awaiting a hearing before the United States commissioners. It is claimed that the bank will be able to pay its depositors dollar for dollar.

CLERKS "CONFIRM" ALABAMA JUDGESHIP

Through an error of the executive clerks of the Senate, the nomination of Oscar B. Hundley, of Alabama, to be United States judge for the northern district of that State, was reported as having been confirmed by the Senate on Saturday.

Judge Hundley's nomination was not acted upon, although the Senate Judiciary Committee has made a favorable report upon it, holding that the charges filed against him have not been sustained.

Favorable reports were made by the Senate Judiciary Committee on the nomination of J. J. Crossley, of Iowa, to be United States marshal for the third division of Alaska, and Edward T. Sanford, of Tennessee, to be United States district judge for the eastern district of that State.

The President today nominated Andrew T. Wood, to be pension agent at Louisville, Ky.

GUILD IS BOOSTED AS VICE PRESIDENT

BOSTON, May 18.—It is now practically certain that the name of Governor Guild, of Massachusetts, will be presented to the Republican national convention as a candidate for Vice President.

The governor has no desire to retire to private life, his third term as governor expiring this year, and as there is no room for him in the United States Senate the Vice Presidential nomination is the only avenue open. Both Senators Lodge and Crane have endorsed his candidacy.

"FATHER BILL" DALY ESCAPES PENALTY

NEW YORK, May 18.—"Father Bill" Daly escaped punishment today for the reception he accorded a Gerry Society agent, who called at the "Father Bill" had mistreated his daughter.

Daly was arrested on complaint of the Gerry agent, who alleged he had been beaten, kicked and thrown down stairs, but when he was arraigned before Magistrate Tighe, J., the Coney Island police court complainant, modified his original charge of one of disorderly conduct, and the magistrate suspended sentence.

STRIKERS ATTACK CAR WITH STONES

Cleveland Conductor Badly Injured When Police Arrive on Scene.

MAYOR JOHNSON DEMANDS ORDER

Says He Will Make No Effort to Settle Strike Until Thugs Respect the Laws.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 18.—Rioting was resumed in the street car strike this afternoon, a mob attacking a conductor when he left his car to throw the derailing switch at West Madison avenue and the Nickel Plate railroad tracks. The conductor took refuge in the car, and with the passengers, locked all doors. The crowd then attacked the car with rocks, and smashed every window. The police arrived in time to rescue the passengers and conductor and drove off the rioters. The conductor was badly injured.

After a night of violence and wire cutting, street car service opened this morning on all lines. On most routes cars ran on five-minute schedules, and were crowded. Service in some suspended, however, on nearly all lines through the suburbs.

Early today Henry Myers, a conductor, was attacked on Euclid avenue, as he was going to work. Fifteen men held him up and asked him why he was working.

"I've got to support my family," he replied.

Myers was struck and beaten by the crowd. A brick hit him in the head and he was severely cut. Myers finally broke away from the mob and was chased half a mile until he met a patrolman, who took him to a physician's office.

The police were kept busy, re-enforced by 500 specialists, last night. A basket of dynamite was found by the police back of the St. Clair barbers. There was no shooting, except in one instance, when a conductor fired over the heads of men who attacked him. Many car windows were smashed, and there were a few cases of car crews being pulled off the cars and roughly handled.

Members of the State board of arbitration spent almost the entire night in conference with President Malton, of the International Street Railway Men's Union, and the other international and local officers who are directing the strike. The State board of arbitration is seeking a ground on which peace negotiations can be resumed, but so far has found both the union officials and the officers of the Municipal Traction Company inclined to arbitrate at this time.

"I shall do nothing toward ending the strike until all disorder is stopped. Until then my every effort will be directed to helping preserve order. This city can not be run by mobs." This statement was made by Mayor Tom L. Johnson today.

"I had expected to meet with President Malton of the International Union, but he is not here. I shall make no effort to hold this meeting until the strikers conduct their work along legitimate lines. Then I hope to bring about an immediate settlement."

At 9:30 o'clock this morning State Arbitrator Bishop, Owen, went into conference with President DuPont, of the Municipal Traction Company, to discuss the possibilities of bringing both sides in the strike to arbitration negotiations. Bishop asked DuPont:

"Will you arbitrate until all violence ceases? If not, will you arbitrate, and there are some things I will not arbitrate."

OLD TORPEDO BOAT HIT BY LAUNCH

Boat Carrying Twenty Men Beached in Time to Save Her.

NEWPORT, R. I., May 18.—The torpedo boat Siletto was rammed and nearly sunk today by the naval steam launch Breaker. Gunner William T. Baxer, who was in charge of the Siletto, saw the water coming pouring through a gaping hole in the portside, and ran her swiftly to the main pier, where she was beached just in time. No one was injured on either vessel.

The Breaker suddenly steamed out from the house at the north end of Goat Island. The Siletto was carrying twenty members of the seaman gunners' class from the torpedo station on Goat Island to Coddington Cove and towing a mine boat full of mines. As she reached the north end of the island, the Breaker suddenly steamed out from behind the lighthouse and struck the larger boat amidships before either could change its course.

The Breaker was only slightly damaged. The Siletto is twenty-five years old, and was the first torpedo boat put into commission in the navy.

EIGHT MEN WOUNDED IN KENTUCKY FIGHT

LEXINGTON, Ky., May 18.—News reached here of a fight, in which eight men were shot, two fatally.

The battle was between the Ratcliff and Bradley families. "Doc" and Gilbert Ratcliff are believed to be fatally wounded. Riley Bradley and three of his kinsmen, whose names could not be learned, as well as two men named Shepperd, also received gun shot wounds. John Shepperd was the only one scratched. So far as could be learned no arrests have been made.

PULP MILL BURNED; LOSS \$350,000

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich., May 18.—Fire today destroyed the pulp mill and power plant of the Lake Superior Corporation. The loss is estimated at \$350,000.

Two men, Albert E. Walsh and Edward Gray, are missing and are believed to have perished in the flames.