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The Semi-Weekly Gazette contains all the live news of the great Yellowstone valley in particular and the world in general, and as a newspaper is the "best in the Northwest."

## Reprimands Road For Not Paying Twenty Cents

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 29.—In a decision by the interstate commerce commission handed down today involving a claim of 20 per cent in an overcharge on freight made against the Aberdeen & Ashboro railway company and other lines, railroads generally are severely reprimanded for their delay in adjusting claims where there has been a palpable overcharge.

The railway had admitted the overcharge but did not settle with the shipper until the latter had exhausted ordinary methods of collection and finally had filed a formal complaint with the commission.

If carriers persist in this delay, the commission intimates it may be under the necessity of calling the attention of congress to the matter.

Commissioner Harlan, in writing the report of the commission, says:

"From shippers in all parts of the country and from local traffic associations which are making earnest attempts to secure settlements from the carriers, many complaints have been received in the last year from the inattention of carriers to plain overcharge claims and of their delay in adjusting them. And a survey of the complaints has led us to the conclusion that this practice, or rather lack of practice, among carriers is open to severe criticism."

"A substantial portion of the time and labor of this commission is given to secure through informal correspondence the settlement of claims of this character, and it is a burden from which we ought to be relieved by carriers. On the other hand, from the shippers' point of view, nothing in connection with transportation is more vexing and irritating than the labor and delay incident to the following up of an overcharge claim and securing its repayment."

The commission expresses the opinion that an ordinary claim of this character should be adjusted and paid by the carriers within 30 days and in special cases that no more than 60 days should be required for settlement and adds that it "will expect the cordial cooperation of all carriers in our request that the claims department be so organized as to give prompt results."

In another case, decided today, originating in Chicago, the complainant had died before his claims had been adjusted and the commission ordered the Chicago-Great Western railroad to pay the amount of his claim to his estate.

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## Madriz Government Asks Power to Exact War Funds From the People

Will Also Investigate Accounts of Zelaya Administration--Estrada Declares That Madriz Is Playing the Revolutionary Faction False

MANAGUA, Dec. 29.—The Nicaraguan congress met in extraordinary session today and appointed a commissioner to consider the message of Minister General Baca, who has asked the government to grant him power to exact war contributions at his own discretion.

President Madriz appointed an investigating committee of five, which is charged with the responsibility of examining the accounts of the Zelaya administration. The finance minister is made chairman of the committee, whose duties include working out a new system of finance, revision of various concessions of the government and determination of the legality of the recent act of the president in revoking grants of alcohol, tobacco and other monopolies.

The governments of Honduras and Costa Rica today made formal acknowledgment of the presidency of Madriz, expressing confidence in the stability of his administration and renewed the protestations of friendship for the republic of Nicaragua.

Zelaya, who since his arrival in Mexico has announced himself as the head of the Nicaraguan government, is technically correct. He surrendered his office for the rest of his term, but was permitted to retain the title of president that he might enjoy the immunity that the office provides. When this arrangement was made Zelaya had in mind rumors that the United States government would hold him individually responsible for the deaths of the Americans—Grove and Cannon.

There was a lively debate in congress before the commission to consider the message of Minister General Baca was appointed. Deputy Gomez, a notorious Zelayist, was hoisted in a speech in which he opposed authorization of further war taxes. Deputy Matus, replying, declared that on occasions of two previous forced loans certain intimates of Zelaya had not been assessed, and he suggested that they should now be made to pay their proportion of the expenses of the war.

This covert reference to an earlier speaker was made with shouts of approval and encouraged a member to cry, "Gomez did not pay; we can soak him now for a million!"

Congress promoted Generals Toledo, Castillo and Carlos Alegria to the rank of generals of divisions.

Minister General Baca has invited Rear Admiral Kimball to land the United States marines on an island in Corinto harbor, where the men will have an opportunity to exercise and where sanitary arrangements will meet requirements.

The father of Joaquin Passos, Zelaya's brother-in-law, who was arrested and is now in prison on a charge of misappropriation of public funds, has made inquiries as to terms on which his son would be liberated, to which the authorities have replied that it would be necessary to furnish bail in cash to the amount of \$1,000,000 in gold.

Operations to Continue. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Doubting the sincerity of President Madriz, who

BIDDING FOR THE NEW MONTANA CLIP

Demand for All Classes of Wool Continues Unusually Brisk On the Boston Market.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 28.—The demand for all classes of wool on the local market continues unusually brisk for this season of the year. Inquiry runs through all grades and comes from both clothing and combing customers. Quarterblood fleeces are in particular demand, both eastern and territory. Values hold steady in spite of the short supply. Bidding for the new clip is in full swing in the West, especially in Utah, Wyoming and eastern Montana. Scored values:

Texas—Fine, 12 months, 73@76c; fine, 6 to 8 months, 68@70c; fine fall, 60c; fall, free, 50@52c.

California—Northern, 68@70c; middle country, 63@65c; fall, free, 50@52c.

Oregon—Eastern No. 1, staple, 75@78c; eastern clothing, 70@72c; valley, No. 1, 57@58c.

Territory—Fine, staple, 77@80c; fine, medium staple, 70@72c; fine clothing, 70@72c; fine, medium clothing, 66@68c; half blood, 35@37c; three-eighths blood, 68@70c; quarter blood, 67@68c.

Pulled—Extra, 72@75c; fine A, 68@70c; A supers, 60@65c.

RAILROAD CHANGES NAME. (Special to The Gazette.)

MILES CITY, Dec. 28.—At a meeting of the stockholders of the Montana, Wyoming & Southern railway, the projected line along Tongue river between Miles City and Sheridan, held recently, it was voted to change the name to the Yellowstone, Montana & Wyoming line. The first name has been adopted by a small line running from Wyoming into Carbon county in this state. The directors of the Tongue river line are R. H. Walsh, E. M. Holbrook, John S. Field, C. S. Robinson and Malcolm Moncreiffe, all of Sheridan, Wyo., except Mr. Fields, who is a Chicago man.

has made representations to the revolutionary army in Nicaragua with the establishment of peace as the ostensible object in view. General Estrada has declined to suspend hostilities and is determined to push his army on toward Managua.

A cable dispatch from Estrada, dated Bluefields, Dec. 29, received tonight by Dr. Castillo, representative of the provisional government in Nicaragua, indicates the attitude of the revolutionists toward the proposition made by the new president. Its text follows:

"Madriz has asked me to suspend hostilities, but our military operations cannot be suspended because we know Madriz is making conscriptions of troops from the interior and is forming a division between the eastern and western sections of the republic. You know that this procedure can only result in more bloodshed and the foundation of anarchy in our fatherland. (Signed) "ESTRADA."

Madriz Not Recognized.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—As the state department has had much difficulty in obtaining from Vice Consul Caldera at Managua details of recent

important developments in the Nicaraguan capital, it has been decided to send Consul Olivarez, now on leave in Washington, to Managua, to take charge of the consulate there.

The department is inclined to attribute Mr. Caldera's unsatisfactory messages to the fact he is over-economical in spending money for cablegrams, the toll on which is 25 cents a word. A dispatch was received from Managua today that it was currently reported there that before he left Managua, Zelaya distributed 10,000 rifles among his followers. Military activity at Managua and on the west coast, it is said, continues.

Another message says that Madriz has issued an order creating a tribunal to investigate the alleged frauds of the Zelaya administration.

Commenting today upon the fact that Admiral Kimball had visited Madriz at Managua in full uniform and accompanied by his aide, Assistant Secretary Wilson said the visit was entirely without the knowledge of the state department and could not have any significance. Stories that this visit might be regarded as a preliminary step to the recognition of Madriz as president of Managua, are declared groundless.

## CHAMP CLARK IS MUCH TROUBLED

Declares That Present High Prices Are Now Here to Stay.

DRIFT TOWARD CITIES

At Present Rate in Twenty Years United States Will Cease To Be Importing Nation—Sixty Per Cent of Population in the Towns.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The present high prices for farm products have come to stay; the rural population is playing out; the present census if it classes the unincorporated villages as towns will show between 60 and 65 per cent of the population as living in towns," declared Representative Champ Clark of Missouri, minority leader in the house, today.

"At the present rate, in 20 years the United States will cease to be an importing nation for agricultural products, except as to cotton.

"One of the principal causes of the high prices of farm products is the world movement of people toward the towns and cities. While a few people in towns and cities have gardens and raise chickens, and occasionally pigs, practically the entire town and city population are non-producers of anything to eat, but are consumers only.

"Last year, for the first time, Argentine beat us in exporting corn and Argentine and Brazil are now fighting to take the frozen meat trade from us."

COMMISSIONER STITH DEAD. (Special to The Gazette.)

MILES CITY, Dec. 27.—Commissioner J. W. Stith of this county and a prominent merchant of Terry, died at the hospital here this afternoon from a relapse succeeding an operation for paralysis of the intestines.

## WOMAN MURDERED BY NEGRO THIEF

Head Bitten to Pulp and Body was Thrown Into the Platte River.

WAS SEEKING POLICE

Plucky Woman Drove Off Marauder and, Seeking Protection, Met Death—Negro Returns and Robs House—Lynching Probable If Caught.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 28.—The body of Mrs. Belle Rupp, the wife of a railroad employe, was found this morning in the Platte river. Her head had been smashed in by blows from a heavy piece of slag, welded, it is believed, by a negro who last night attempted to force his way into her house. The entire police force of the city is looking for the negro and threats of lynching are being made.

Last night, while her husband was absent, a negro tried to force his way into the house. She fired through the door twice at him and he ran away. Telling her children she was going to summon the police, Mrs. Rupp left the house and was not seen again until her mutilated body was found in the river.

According to the children, the negro returned some time after Mrs. Rupp left and took \$12 and everything else of value he could find in the house. It is believed this was done after he had slain the mother.

KILLED BY EXPLOSION. CENTRALIA, Ill., Dec. 28.—Four shot firers were killed in a dust explosion caused by a "windy" shot in mine No. 5, two miles south of here today. The explosion happened 200 feet from the cage landing at the 700-foot level.

The track was torn away and the workings badly damaged.

## Another Pure Food Discussion

Since the agitation of the pure food question, the public has been educated to the methods of those who prepare much of the foodstuffs of the nation. While it is required that the bottle or can containing any article of food shall be emblazoned with information as to the contents, the law does not require the method of preparation shall be made known. In a general way, for example, it is common knowledge that conditions are better than they used to be. In this day of close prices and keen competition, men not only adopt labor-saving methods but, if we are to believe the statements of some, absolutely cut out the labor by leaving the work to chemical agents.

An article has just come to light bearing on the methods of some canneries, in which it is alleged that, in instances at least, peaches are first stewed in lye and then canned—the caustic soda bath being for the purpose of removing the skins, and hence saving the cost of peeling them.

We reprint the statement without comment, for what it is worth:

"The pure food agitation which has been principally over the question of benzoate of soda has now taken a new turn and renewed interest will doubtless be aroused over this question.

"It is said that in most of the canneries of the country peaches are stewed in red-hot caustic soda to eat away the skins and thereby save the cost of knife-peeling, the difference in cost amounting to a cent and a half or two cents per can.

"In the process of this lye stewing almost all the flavor of the peach disappears and doubtless a little caustic soda is left on each piece of fruit as a memento of its trip through the cannery.

"Caustic soda strong enough to eat away the skin of an unripe peach must be anything but soothing to the inner man or child. The full significance of this is best understood in connection with the fact that caustic soda is used in making many kinds of soap; in fact, it is the dirt-eating part of soap.

"It is said that the great majority of the canneries use the lye process in place of the knife-peeling method. Attempts have been made for some time to get the department of agriculture to make a ruling on this question which would compel the canners who use this method to say so on the labels of their goods. It looks now as if the question will be passed up to congress for a specific law covering this phase of the pure food agitation.

"The use of caustic soda is impossible with ripe fruit because it discolors a ripe peach so that it will not pass muster with the users of high-grade canned fruits. In consequence this process is possible only with unripe fruit, and green fruit is purposely gathered for canning.

"Owing to the absence of any marks on the cans to indicate the use of caustic soda, the only way the customer can tell if he has purchased a lye-process can of fruit is by taste. Open a can of peaches, wash away the syrup from a piece of the fruit. Then taste it. If it is void of flavor, woody and pulpy, and has a soapy appearance, it is undoubtedly the lye-peeled variety."

## Let's Forget 'Em

Zelaya insists that he is still president of Nicaragua and that he only provisionally turned over the government of his country to Judge Madriz. It will be remembered that one Castro thought some such a thing and after he had waited until he thought the clouds had rolled by attempted to return to the scene of his triumphs only to run up against the restraining will of the powers.

Senor Zelaya will probably be all right so long as he lives the life of a wealthy but retired gentleman in Mexico, but the chances are that if he attempts to start something he will receive a bumping that will make the experience of Castro appear as mild as swinging in a hammock at a Sunday school picnic.

With Zelaya safely out of the country and with Madriz showing a disposition to come to terms with the Estrada faction, it would look as though the Nicaraguan should now be dropped by the press and public and he should be allowed to join Castro and Dr. Cook in the limbo of the forgotten.

The "Never Again" club will meet January 1.

We have the sand, and the stone. Nuff sed.

## Fortunate Circumstance

While there might have been some sort of satisfaction had Zelaya, recent dictator of Nicaragua, fallen into the hands of the soldiers of Estrada it is, after all, a fortunate thing that the seamen of the United States were not called upon to make good the bluff of Secretary Knox, to seize and hold to an accountability for the death of Cannon and Groce the former president of the Central American republic.

It is probable that a decidedly good effect was had upon the people of Nicaragua through the forcible message sent by the secretary of state to the Nicaraguan charge d'affaires, and doubtless this was as far as Secretary Knox ever expected the matter to go, but one cannot but wonder what would have happened if things had so shaped themselves that it was necessary to make good, and Zelaya had been captured by an American force either upon Nicaraguan soil or upon the high seas.

There is no question of the fact that the position of this government, as defined by the state department, was entirely untenable. There is not a nation on earth that would tamely submit to an attempt to put into force a doctrine that one government could individually hold responsible for his official acts the ruler of another. To admit of such a thing would mean that independence had been rendered an impossibility.

Had Zelaya been a private citizen of Nicaragua, and had he committed a crime in Nicaragua for which he might have been called to account, or having been arrested had been exonerated, how monstrous would be the doctrine that some other nation might seize his person and try him! Suppose, for instance, that John Smith should be attacked by a Mexican in Billings, and that in the melee Smith should kill the man from the south. Now, suppose that Smith should attempt to go to Hawaii and the Mexican government should station a gunboat off our coast and should seize the Billings man and should try him for a killing which occurred in the United States. How long would it be before an American fleet would be thundering at the ports of Mexico?

It was doubtless a splendid bluff that Secretary Knox worked upon Zelaya, for undoubtedly it had not a little to do with the resignation of that gentleman, but for all that it was fortunate that the Central American got "cold feet" and failed to call the bluff.

## Prevention, not Palliation

While the movement inaugurated by the Red Cross, and backed by the miners' organization and the state of Illinois for the alleviation of the distress incident to the horrible disaster at Cherry is most meritorious and worthy of every encouragement, still sight should not be lost of the fact that in the usual run of such incidents these disasters could have been avoided and the need for relief measures could have been guarded against.

It is a notorious fact that the loss of life in American coal mines is infinitely greater than is the case in Europe. The percentage of accidents in the collieries of the old world has been greatly lessened as years have gone by, while in this country the opposite is the case. States have enacted legislation looking toward the safeguarding of life and limb underground, but experience has shown that this legislation is totally inadequate.

There is not a shadow of a doubt that had there been a well-equipped bureau of mines under the control of the federal government in operation at the time, the Cherry horror could not have occurred. The power of the federal government employed to find out how the risks of life and limb incident to employment underground could be minimized would have found out how to avert such a horror, while the power of a governmental bureau, backed up by adequate legislation and a sufficiency of funds, could have seen that the protective measures were put into effect.

The efforts being made in the present congress for the creation of a bureau of mines should be crowned with success. It does not matter whether such a bureau is attached to the department of commerce and labor or the department of the interior, just so the bureau is created and it is adequately supported by legislation which will forever render unnecessary appeals to the public to succor the widows and orphans of men who go down into the bowels of the earth there to die amidst fire, smoke and deadly gases.

## Graft a Part of Cost Of all Public Works

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 28.—"The age of patriotism has yielded to the age of commercialism. Uppermost in the human mind today is not the stars and stripes, but the dollar mark."

Such was the declaration of Supreme Court Justice Wesley O. Howard in an opinion handed down today reducing the compensation of members of a commission appointed to appraise damages to property resulting from the construction of the Ashokan reservoir in Ulster county, which is to furnish a water supply for New York city.

"While the commission furnishes the avenue for the reckless escape of many dollars, there are other channels of leakage and waste fully as appalling," said Justice Howard.

"It is generally to be regretted that no public enterprise can be projected and consummated without this appalling loss called 'graft.' Graft is unnecessary wastefulness that characterizes the construction of every public venture. At least 40 per cent appropriated for public purposes is lost in graft. All things could be possible if the frightful leak could be stopped—roads, canals, libraries, asylums and hospitals.

"Graft is as much of an element to be reckoned with in computing the cost of a public structure as is cement or lumber. It has come to be a matter of course—this racket—at least recognized by all who make estimates of cost in such cases. A public structure built honestly would be a freak."

## Planning Message on Interstate Commerce And Corporations

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—President Taft discussed with members of his cabinet today the final details of the special message he will send to congress next week dealing with proposed amendments to the interstate commerce and Sherman anti-trust laws. Mr. Taft began work on the document today.

At one time it was thought the president might in this, the first of his series of special messages to congress, deal only with the interstate commerce act, leaving his proposed discussion of the anti-trust law to some future date. He has decided, however, that as the two subjects are so closely related, he will adhere to his original intention of making his recommendations for changes in the two acts in one communication.

In this message he will also submit his recommendations for the federal licensing of corporations. The proposed license will be a voluntary one, to be taken advantage of by such corporations as desire to place themselves under federal jurisdiction.