



WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 15, 1905

ACCORDING to some Russians who have recently returned from the land of their birth the scenes of the past few weeks in the land of the Czar are but the mutterings of a volcano which in about two years' time will, by its activity, sweep autocracy from the face of the earth.

The House of Representatives will investigate the recent rejection of the Midvale Steel Company's bid for the armor plate contract and will determine whether or not the action of the Secretary of the Navy in awarding the contract to the steel trust was warranted.

ANOTHER republican Senator has turned against the President—this time Mr. Kean, of New Jersey. He made clear yesterday during the hearing on railroad rates before the Senate committee on interstate commerce when Daniel Davenport, of Bridgeport, Conn., speaking on behalf of an organization of holders of railway securities, said he had learned that the democrats had adopted as a part of their platform the theory that the Interstate Commerce Commission should be given power to fix definite rates.

THE DEATH of J. Frank Hamby, a non-union painter in Washington, from injuries resulting from a falling scaffold, who has recommended that the case be further examined by the grand jury. Hamby was at work on the front of the Cairo Hotel, when the scaffold, supported by a new rope, broke, precipitating the unfortunate man to the ground.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that a Richmond newspaper is sending out a circular of inquiry as to the strength of Mr. J. T. Ellyson, of Richmond, for the office of Lieutenant Governor. This would indicate that Mr. Ellyson may yet be a candidate for that position, although he announced some time ago that he would not be.

From Washington.

President Roosevelt returned from New York to Washington this morning to take up again the cares of his office. Mrs. Douglas Robinson, the President's sister, accompanied the party, to be a guest at the White House for several days. The one thing that most impressed the President during his brief holiday was the strong spirit of Americanism that seems to prevail on the East Side notwithstanding the foreign birth of most of those who meet.

Chairman Burrows, of the Senate committee on privileges and elections, has called a meeting of that committee for Thursday morning for the purpose of considering the evidence and arguments of counsel in the Reed-Smoot case.

The State Department today received the new protocol negotiated with the republic of Santo Domingo. It is similar to the rejected agreement negotiated January 20th, between Commander Dillingham and the Dominican authorities, but provides that its provision shall not become operative until after ratification by the United States Senate and the Dominican Congress.

Arrangements are partially complete for President Roosevelt's trip to Texas next month. No official announcement will be made from the White House, regarding the itinerary, however, until within a few days of the time set for the start, for it is within the range of probability that events may turn up in governmental affairs that would compel Secretary Loeb to advance or defer the start any where from two days to a week.

Pressure for the enactment of railroad rate legislation is growing greater. Today were presented in the Senate today memorials from the legislatures of Indiana, North Dakota, and Arkansas praying for the enlargement of the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission, along the lines proposed by President Roosevelt.

A resolution offered by Mr. Teller was agreed to. It called upon the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the Senate how many silver dollars had been coined for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904, and February 1, 1905, under the act of June 13, 1898, also the amount of silver bullion in the Treasury.

The House met today at 11 a. m., in order to debate the naval appropriation bill, and for the first time in many years a session of the House was opened without prayer. The chaplain did not know that the session was to begin an hour earlier than usual. There were not two score members in their seats.

Secretary Shaw yesterday submitted to the Senate—in response to a resolution introduced early this month by Senator Daniel—all the rulings and correspondence on the subject of the construction of the proviso of the act of August 28, 1894, relative to the sale of tobacco by farmers and growers in person and by agents. The matter is of vital interest to the tobacco growers of Virginia.

Virginia News.

Volney Purcell, a native of Loudoun county, aged about 55 years, died in Washington, on Monday.

The Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia met in Richmond last night when the officers made their annual reports.

Seven hundred residents of Richmond have been summoned by order of the mayor, for failures to remove snow from the sidewalks.

Fire destroyed the public school building at Big Stone Gap yesterday, the loss being \$25,000, with \$15,000 insurance. The World's Fair Exhibit of Wise county was also destroyed. The school-house was a stone structure.

After an illness of three days, Mrs. Elizabeth Ridings, widow of Thomas W. Ridings, of Middletown, Frederick county, died Monday, aged 78 years. She was the daughter of the late Major Anderson, of the Confederate army.

Gen. Fitzhugh Lee has loaned to the Confederate Museum at Richmond Gen. Robert E. Lee's saddle, spurs, two bridle bits and a handsome pair of field glasses. The museum also has the parole of Gen. Lee and his staff officers, issued at the surrender at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. It contains the signatures of Gen. Lee and six of his staff.

A charter has been granted to the Manassas Illuminating Company (inc.), of Manassas. The officers are: W. N. Lipscomb, president; R. S. Hyason, secretary; G. W. Payne, treasurer, all of Manassas. The capital stock is \$5,000, and the objects are to furnish light by gas or electricity for manufacturing or mechanical plants, etc.

Emmet C. Leath, 60 years old, well known in insurance circles, committed suicide yesterday at his home, in Richmond by shooting himself in the head. For the past 20 years he had been the collector for H. Selden Taylor & Co., real estate agents. Mr. Leath had been in ill health and suffering from melancholia. He recently suffered a nervous collapse. He leaves a widow and two children.

Maj. George A. Arms, of the United States Army, retired, was quietly married to Mrs. Mary Wine at the Shoreham, in Washington, yesterday. Congressman H. D. Flood, of Virginia, was the groom's best man. The groom was in the full uniform of his rank with top boots, furs and saber. Mrs. Mary Wine is the widow of the late M. J. Wine and was formerly Miss Powell, of Accomac county.

GULST OF HUNGARIAN CLUB.

For the first time since the days when he was Governor of New York, President Roosevelt last night revisited the heart of the East Side, where, as a guest of the Hungarian Republican Club, he dined and spoke at the restaurant "Little Hungary." Guarded by mounted police and secret service men, through streets cleared and cordoned by patrolmen, he drove from upper Fifth avenue into the crowded district which lies around Second avenue and east Houston street, a region of small shops and tenements and largely populated by foreign-born citizens.

From the moment his carriage entered the district he received an ovation. Never before has a president of the United States visited this little-known part of New York, and never before has a fraction of the thousands that cheered him seen a nation's ruler. Electric lights winked and blinked characteristic legends, gaudy bunting fluttered in the wind and the great East Side showed its enthusiasm in every imaginable way.

When the President drove up to "Little Hungary" last night he fulfilled a promise made to members of the Hungarian Republican Club several years ago that he would be their guest at a banquet if their prediction came true and he ever went to the White House.

The applause was deafening as the President arose and faced the crowded room. His speech was devoted to local matters and reminiscences of the East side, and the President made a number of references to by-gone days when he filled the positions of Police Commissioner and Governor.

Congressman William Sulzer, a democrat, whose district includes the section in which "Little Hungary" is located, was one of the speakers at the dinner and paid a high tribute to Mr. Roosevelt, at the same time scoring the United States Senate.

Among the telegrams read at the dinner was one from the Hungarian Club of Kansas City to President Roosevelt, which said:

"Hungarian hearts, they beat for you because they always find you true. We hope you will find the tokyak right and God will bless your appetite."

Vice President-elect Fairbanks sent a letter expressing his regret that he could not be present.

A letter was read from Count Apponyi, one of the opposition leaders in the Hungarian Diet, in which he said how much he would have liked to attend the banquet. "I have no right," he said, "to express anything like partisan feeling with respect to American affairs, but there is nothing to prevent me from giving expression to the feeling of high personal regard which I, like all Europeans, entertain for President Roosevelt, of whom every American, irrespective of party distinction, may well say what an English Tory statesman said concerning Lord Palmerston: 'We are all proud of him.'"

Today's Telegraphic News

Mysterious Suicide.

Boston, Feb. 15.—An extraordinary air of mystery surrounds the suicide at the Hotel Touraine of a handsomely dressed man, 30 or 35 years old, who, before he killed himself, destroyed everything belonging to him which he believed might give a clue to his identity. The man registered at the Touraine Monday evening as S. B. Neal, of Chicago. He was a prosperous appearing man who bore himself as though accustomed to moving in good society. Yesterday noon his body was found on the bed in his room. His arms were crossed upon his breast, a white cloth covered his face and the bed clothing was as smoothly spread over his body as though a funeral director had attended to these details.

Dr. Grant, the house physician, pronounced it a case of suicide by morphine and chloroform. The body is that of a man about 35 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 175 pounds, clean shaven, of dark complexion, having brown eyes and regular teeth. The police officials now believe that the man belonged in Washington, D. C., as a careful examination of his brown leather satchel revealed traces of letters making out that address, although rather indistinctly. The examination also showed that the initial mark on the satchel in ink had probably been "H. McC." or "H. McO." The suicide had scratched out the letters as well as he could with a knife.

Kaiser Opps Czar's Eyes?

Berlin, Feb. 15.—It is reported from a high source that "Kaiser William has revealed the truth regarding 'Bloody Sunday' and the political situation in Russia to the Czar. The Kaiser ascertained that the Czar was really ignorant of current events in his own empire. William considered it his duty as a friend to open the Russian ruler's eyes, and accordingly collected cuttings from English and German newspapers giving full accounts of events in Russia. These he sent by special courier to St. Petersburg, to be delivered into the Czar's own hands. The Russian emperor thus learned what had actually happened. The Kaiser also wrote to Czar Nicholas warning him of the dangers of remaining ignorant of the condition in Russia and offering to keep him informed at any time of the truth which the Czar's entourage seek to conceal from him. The Czar has replied to this letter, thanking the Kaiser for his valuable information, without which he would have been unable to get a real insight into the condition of affairs.

Countess Montignoso.

Berlin, Feb. 15.—The Lokal Anzeiger today prints an interview with the Countess Montignoso (former Crown Princess Louise) of Saxony, in which she says that driven by desperation she has decided to hand to King George of Saxony her child born since her elopement with M. Giron. In the interview she thus describes her state of mind: "The measure of my sufferings is overflowing. I desire the world to know how I have been hunted, humiliated, persecuted and tortured. I feel weak and broken down and so crushed I am unable to make further resistance. I have surrendered my child to escape continual persecution. I am the personification of misery."

Czar Threatened with Assassination.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—Your correspondent is informed on the most reliable authority and despite denials, that the report is correct that the Czar a fortnight ago picked up and read a letter threatening him with assassination. He showed the letter to one of his ministers. The letter was written in perfect French, on the finest gilt-edge paper, but was evidently written by a Russian. The letter was found by the Czar in one of the halls in the palace at Tsarskoe-Selo, and stated that a committee had been formed to cause his death. At the time the missive was found, the closest guard was placed on His Majesty and this extra protection continues.

Strike Spreading.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—The strike movement still continues to spread in area but it is not likely that it will again become general. An agitation is being carried on among the men, and while here and there it is successful, the majority of the men who have returned to work pay little heed to the speeches and proclamations of the agitators. At the Putiloff Works the men are working. They are picking out the men who will act on the representative commission which will meet the employers to discuss demands. In this connection the men are demanding that the government guarantee immunity from arrest for these delegates before they are elected.

Four Persons Asphyxiated.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 15.—Charles Heller, aged 50, his wife, Josephine, aged 48, his daughter, Mrs. Mary Nolan, aged 20, and the latter's husband, George Nolan, aged 25, a railroad man, were found dead in a little house on Central Avenue, here, this morning. It is supposed they were asphyxiated by natural gas, although the police suspect poisoning, and are investigating. Heller's body was found on a couch, and his wife's body was in a rocking chair. The bodies of the Nolans were found in bed.

Preparing for Outbreak.

Constantinople, Feb. 15.—The Turkish government is preparing to meet any outbreak which may occur in the spring. Troops are leaving daily by rail and by sea for Salonika. There are wild reports current that these preparations portend a war with Bulgaria, but these reports are without foundation. The real cause for the activity in the usual springtime uprising in Macedonia, which this year promises to be more serious than ever. The presence of an Austrian squadron in Greek waters is causing the Porte uneasiness, as no explanation is given.

Execution Stayed.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 15.—The pardon board, this morning, granted a continuance in the Edwards and Gresson cases. The board continued the case of Mrs. Edwards and granted a rehearing in the Gresson case. W. H. Sadtler, colored, formerly of Alexandria, Va., is one of Gresson's counsel.

The Market.

Georgetown, Feb. 15.—Wheat \$1.00 1/4, 1/4.

City Council.

The session of the City Council last night was about an hour and a half in duration. An average volume of business was transacted. Nothing of special interest was presented save the electric light matter which was discussed for a short time by the Common Council. The subject, however, was not advanced.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Six Aldermen were present, and in the absence of President Sweeney Vice President Curtin presided.

Mr. Fisher submitted an adverse report on a petition of sundry carpenters asking that all lumber sold in Alexandria be measured, inspected and marked. The report was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fisher also submitted an adverse report on a resolution providing for salaries for members of the Board of Health. In doing so he referred to an opinion of City Attorney Boothe to the effect that the new constitution did not affect the laws regarding the Health Officer of this city. The report was adopted.

Mr. Fisher, who was chairman of the joint committee of the two boards which was authorized to take suitable action in regard to the transportation facilities of the electric railway company said:

Mr. President—As chairman of the special committee appointed recently by this honorable body to take such action as they might deem advisable to remedy the imperfect service of the W., A. & Mt. V. Ry. Co., I have the honor to report as follows: I being confident that the Corporation Commission would investigate the then existing condition, your committee thought it advisable to consult and co-operate with the Mayor and committees from other organizations working to the same end. Upon consultation the fact was disclosed that we could readily procure sufficient evidence of the effect of imperfect service, but not of the cause, it became necessary, desiring to fully present to the commission our complaints, as well as the cause as the effect, considered it advisable to engage the services of experts, for which purpose a sub-committee, consisting of the Mayor, Mr. Burke, Mr. Leadbeater and Mr. Harrison, was appointed, and of their energies and success the result speaks more eloquently than I could. Believing that residents of Alexandria employed in Washington should not be made to bear the expense incident to the investigation, and because of the large number so employed, it was and is to the material interest of the city to secure the same safe and efficient transportation; hence your committee decided that the expense should be borne by the city.

Mr. Fisher then submitted a resolution appropriating \$252.50 for the purpose named and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

A number of papers were sent in from the lower board, all of which were concurred in. In some cases explanations were made by Messrs. Burke, Marbury and W. H. Sweeney, while queries propounded by Mr. Ballenger were satisfactorily answered.

COMMON COUNCIL.

The board was called to order shortly before 8 o'clock.

The bills of the city against the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway Company for inspecting the water, etc., on King, Fairfax and Prince streets were reported back by the finance committee with a recommendation that \$286.56 be accepted in full for the bill. The report was agreed to.

The combined committees, to whom the matter had been referred, advised that \$1,000 be appropriated for repairs and dredging at the fish wharf and the report was agreed to.

The Clerk of the City School Board communicated to the Council the request of the white teachers of the public schools for a full year's pay in 1904-5, with the endorsement of the School Board, and it was referred to the committees on finance and schools.

Mr. Bryan presented an ordinance providing that all tax bills on delinquent property be turned over to the Corporation Attorney for suit or collection, and asked its immediate passage.

Mr. Strauss asked how such taxes were overpaid.

Mr. Bryan was unable to state the amount, but said this was the usual procedure after a tax sale. The ordinance was unanimously adopted.

The Alexandria Free Kindergarten asked an appropriation of \$200 for the present year. The application was referred to the committee on finance.

Mr. Peter Aitchison asked permission to put mansard roofs on two brick dwellings which he proposes to erect on Duke street between Pitt and Royal streets and the permission was unanimously granted.

An application by the same gentleman for a sewer on Duke street was referred to the streets committee.

Mr. Strauss, by request, introduced an ordinance authorizing the Citizens' Telephone Company to erect poles, string wires and cables, &c., and granting the company the right to conduct a telephone company in the city. The ordinance was referred to the committees on streets and general laws.

Reporting on a resolution offered by Mr. Cochran last October fixing the salaries of the members of the Board of Health, the committee on finance and general laws submitted an opinion of the city attorney to the effect that the act of the assembly providing for health boards in the other cities and counties of the State does not apply to Alexandria. The report was adopted.

Council concurred with the Aldermen in appropriating \$252.50 to pay the cost of the examination of complaints against the W., A. & Mt. V. Railway before the Corporation Commission.

Mr. Strauss said that there was law enough but the City Engineer did not enforce the law.

Mr. Uhler declared that it was the duty of the policemen to see that the railway did not obstruct the streets. "They go along," he said, "with their heads up like turkeys out of a basket and don't see anything but what they wish to see. The police do not discharge their duty."

Mr. Strauss repeated that it was the duty of the City Engineer to see that the snow was removed.

Mr. Spinks defended the police.

Mr. Williams moved that the attention of the City Engineer be called to the matter.

Mr. Bryan moved to join the Mayor with the City Engineer, which was accepted. The motion was agreed to.

The question of the passage of the ordinance to transfer the electric light plant and franchise to Mr. C. F. Thompson and his associates was called up.

Messrs. Bryan, Leadbeater and Burke advocated the passage of the ordinance reviewing the whole case to show that the sale of the franchise would not diminish the receipts of the gas work, and would save money to the city.

Mr. Bryan read statistics to show that the introduction of electricity does not decrease the consumption of gas, but, on the contrary, results in an increase in the use of gas. He further quoted figures and argued to the effect that the present electric plant is practically worn out, the city hasn't the money to renew it, and the city, as well as the public, would benefit by the sale of the franchise.

Messrs. Strauss, Spinks and Williams opposed the ordinance and contended that the new electric plant would be a competitor of the gas works.

Mr. Bryan said that he had heard two remarkable arguments from the opposition, one that the purchasers of the franchise would make the price of electricity so high that the people could not use it, and the other, that it would be made so low that it would make the city's gas plant unprofitable.

Mr. Uhler handed up an amendment, but the chair said that the ordinance was beyond the stage of amendment.

Mr. Uhler explained his position saying he would vote for the ordinance.

The vote was then taken and stood—ayes 9, (12 being necessary), nays 5. Messrs. Strauss, Harrison, Spinks and Williams. Mr. Bryan, also voted nay, in order to move a reconsideration, which he did.

Mr. Snowden, calling Mr. Uhler to the chair, recalled the circumstances which attended the original investment of the city in the electric light. He said that at that time an offer was made by a company to put up a plant and light the city for \$5,100 a year—the price then paid for gas lighting. This proposition had been turned down as some had assured the city that a big revenue would be derived from the sale of electricity, but the promises had never materialized and the cost of lighting the city had increased to about \$7,000. He felt confident that if a private company did not erect an electric plant the city would not, and the citizens would thus be deprived of the convenience of electric lights, power &c. He said the city's gas plant would not be affected by a company owning an electric plant; the city would receive \$10,000 for the franchise and have a fixed charge for lighting the streets at a cost less than was now paid.

Mr. Spinks again held that the gas plant would be made valueless; said it was now paying a good interest on \$260,000 and that a few years ago the plant was practically valueless.

This was strongly controverted.

The motion to reconsider was then carried, ayes 10, nays 4, and the subject was laid over by the same vote.

Mr. Spinks vigorously protested against any reconsideration, contending that the vote had killed the ordinance.

The chair ruled that there was nothing before Council and, on motion, the board adjourned.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The Senate yesterday passed the agricultural appropriation bill and began consideration of the bill making appropriations for the District of Columbia. The Hansbrough amendment to the agricultural bill, relative to drawbacks on the duty on wheat, was agreed to, after an extended debate, in which tariff questions figured to a considerable extent. The usual three hours were given to the trial of the impeachment charges against Judge Charles Swayne. In connection with that case, the Senate decided to take no testimony on the point of inconvenience in the judge's residence outside of his district, also that Judge Swayne's statement to the House committee should not be used as evidence in the trial.

Most of the session of the House was devoted to consideration of the naval appropriation bill. Mr. Littlefield speaking at length regarding the necessity for keeping appropriations within the limits of the revenues of the country.

The omnibus public building bill, carrying authorization for new public buildings and the purchase of sites amounting to \$9,499,000, was reported to the House.

The bill makes, among the following authorizations for new buildings, including sites, and for increases in cost of buildings already authorized: Virginia—Roanoke, \$75,000; Winchester, \$60,000; Manchester \$60,000; Portsmouth, \$90,000.

The sundry civil bill was reported to the House, carrying an appropriation of \$65,558,880, an increase of \$7,718,669. It provides, for the following sums for Virginia.

Official.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Alexandria, Va., held February 14, 1905, there were present: Messrs. Strauss, Harrison, Ballenger, Fisher, Curtin and W. H. Sweeney.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Curtin, Vice President, presided.

Mr. Fisher, from the joint committee on General Laws and Finance, submitted an adverse report on a resolution providing salaries for members of the Board of Health.

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Resolved, That the sum of two hundred and fifty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$252.50) be, and the same is hereby appropriated, payable to the Corporation Attorney or his order; being the amount of the expenses incurred by the special committee in the recent investigation by the Corporation Commission of the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway Company.

The resolution was carried by the Common Council and their action concurred in by unanimous vote.

Report of the Committees on General Laws, Finance and Public Property recommending that \$252.50 be accepted by the city from the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway Company as its portion of the cost of surveying and inspecting on certain streets recently paved with vitrified brick and on which tracks of the company have been placed.

Report of the Committees on Public Property and Finance recommending an expenditure of \$1,000 for improvements at the corporation fish wharf.

Communications from Hubert Snowden, Clerk of the City School Board, in regard to a communication from the teachers in the public schools in reference to a recent reduction in their term of service.

Resolution providing for the collection of certain delinquent taxes.

An ordinance granting certain privileges within the city limits to the Citizens' Telephone Company.

A petition from P. Aitchison for permission to place mansard roofs upon houses for purposes to erect on Duke street, between Royal and Pitt; also for permission to tap a sewer.

Resolution in regard to the manner in which the electric railway company disposes of snow which accumulates on its tracks.

The board then adjourned.

J. R. N. CURTIN, Vice President. Tests: LUTHER H. THOMPSON, Clerk.

COMMON COUNCIL.

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the city of Alexandria, Va., held February 14, 1905, there were present: Hubert Snowden, eq., President, and Messrs. Leadbeater, Burke, Rishbell, Strauss, Williams, Bader, Brill, Cochran, Hellmuth, Harrison, Uhler, Spinks and Bryan.

The Joint Committee on Streets and General Laws recommended that the sum of \$286.56 be accepted in payment of the claims against the W., A. & Mt. V. Railway for inspection of the King street work and furnishing of certain lines and grades on Fairfax and Prince streets, and the report was adopted—ayes 11, nays 0.

The Joint Committee on Public Property, Finance and General Laws reported recommending that the sum of \$200 be appropriated to defray the cost of the river at the fish wharf and repair wharf under the supervision of the Committee on Public Property and the City Engineer, and the report was adopted—ayes 12, nays 0.

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Uhler calling the attention of the Mayor and the City Engineer to the condition of King street, caused by the electric railway throwing snow to side of track and obstructing street, was passed.

An ordinance to provide for the collection of certain delinquent taxes in the city of Alexandria was read three times and passed—ayes 13, nays 0.

A petition from the Alexandria Free Kindergarten for an appropriation of \$200 was referred to the Committee on Finance.

A communication from the City School Board recommending that the white teachers of the public schools be paid for the full term of ten months, as heretofore, was referred to the joint Committee on Schools and Finance.

An ordinance, in the interest of the Citizens' Telephone Company was offered by Mr. Strauss by request and referred to the joint Committee on Streets and General Laws.

Permission was granted Mr. Peter Aitchison to place mansard roofs on two houses to be erected on Duke street, between Pitt and Royal streets, providing the adjoining property owners do not object.