

PAT CALHOUN IS ON TRIAL FOR BRIBERY

F. J. Heney Takes Personal Charge of Trial of Street-Car Magnate---Jurors Are Being Examined

(Associated Press.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—Patrick Calhoun, widely known as an eastern financier before he succeeded to the presidency of the United Railroads, went to trial today upon the first of seventeen indictments charging him with bribery of the supervisors who awarded the corporation a permit for overhead trolleys.

The greater portion of the first day was devoted to the examination of 150 citizens summoned as the first panel of talesmen. Judge William P. Lawlor, who presides over the trial, disregarded the custom of providing for a noon recess, and from 10 o'clock this morning until 3 this afternoon proceeded with a personal examination of the prospective jurors. As a result but forty-eight of the entire number survived to run the gauntlet of cross-examination by the opposing attorneys. During the period of two hours preceding the end of the day's work, four out of five men who sat in the jury box admitted having opinions as to Calhoun's guilt or innocence that could not be removed by testimony, and were excused after being challenged for cause. The questioning of the fifth with proceed tomorrow.

The bitterness manifested during the half dozen trials already held on the indictments arising from the exposures of two years ago, flamed up on two occasions today when there were verbal exchanges between Assistant District Attorney Francis J. Heney and A. A. Moore, who heads the staff of five attorneys engaged in the defense. During the period of Heney's presence in the courtroom today he was attended by two body guards.

MESSINA IS WHIPPED BY BAD STORMS

MESSINA, Jan. 12.—Search for the victims of Italy's great earthquake still continues and is frequently rewarded with the rescue of the living.

Yesterday noon a man named Bensaia, who has been fourteen days without food, locked in the ruins of his home, was taken out unconscious and resuscitated. He had been caught in a kind of straitjacket formed by the debris and, unable to move, was compelled to watch the lingering death of his wife and four children.

Saturday a married couple was removed not only alive, but conscious. Their imprisonment had lasted thirteen days.

Saturday night a terrific tempest accompanied by other earthquake shocks, arose at Messina, causing a number of fresh collapses in the ruined city, and spread new terror among the survivors. Most of the people of Messina were camped under tents or huts, and nearly all those tents were destroyed by the wind and blinding rain. More than sixty feet of the landing quays in the harbor were swept away, carrying off a large quantity of provisions stored there, and several horses.

Near Giarre, an immense fissure opened. It was 650 feet long, three feet wide and sixty-five feet deep, and has been styled "the mouth of hell."

The American consulate, where the stores from the relief ship Bayern are being distributed, was besieged all day yesterday by a crowd of hungry refugees.

The American committee, which has been working strenuously, is receiving expressions of gratitude from all quarters.

General Mazza, who is in supreme command here, also has thanked Ambassador Grisco warmly for the human initiative of his countrymen, suggesting that, as the great exodus

from Messina has left the city practically without any injured, the most urgent need for the Bayern's services was along the coast towns, especially Catania and Syracuse.

The Bayern has proceeded to those ports.

The supply ship Yankton will remain here to convey to Naples the bodies of American Consul Cheney and his wife, when they are recovered.

Ambassador Grisco paid a visit Saturday to the house of the Catholic archbishop, who, after confessing that his relief committee lacked both food and money, entrusted the ambassador with a message to Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, who is now in Rome, asking him to make another appeal for American aid. Food, clothing and other supplies were sent at once to the archbishop's committee from the Bayern.

NAPLES, Jan. 12.—Owing to a storm Rear Admiral Sperry has not landed from the battleship Connecticut, which arrived here yesterday. Ambassador Grisco, who arrived here on the Connecticut, received a wireless message today announcing the relief ship Bayern had stopped at Reggio on its way to Catania and Syracuse to discharge supplies for the interior towns of Calabria. The Bayern expects to take 1000 refugees to Leghorn or Genoa.

Ambassador Grisco still has \$15,000 in Red Cross and other funds at his disposal. Mrs. Grisco has been conferring here with the Duchess Aosta, arranging distribution of the funds raised by auxiliary American relief committees.

A large number of refugees are here and the influx of bad characters has compelled the authorities to adopt stringent measures. A condition bordering on martial law prevails.

HEABST CASE IS NOW ON

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—On the ground that the publication of their names as the responsible heads of the Star Publishing company, which publishes W. R. Hearst's New York American, made them personally liable for libelous matter appearing in that newspaper, Magistrate Moss today found S. Carvalho, Bradford Merrill and Edward S. Clark guilty of criminally libeling John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and technically committed them to the Tombs prison.

On notice that the defendants would apply for a writ of habeas corpus in order to test the validity of the law under which they were sentenced, the magistrate allowed them to remain in the private reception room of the prison while the counsel went before Justice Davis in the supreme court and obtained the writ. Upon granting the writ Messrs. Carvalho, Merrill and Clark were paroled in custody of their counsel until Thursday morning, when arguments will be heard.

TEMBLOR RECORDED IN MARYLAND TUESDAY

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Three earthquakes were recorded by the seismograph at the coast and geodetic survey magnetic observatory at Cheltenham, Maryland, during the past twenty-four hours. The recorded distance is very small, and no doubt caused by distant earthquakes.

SUIT ON AGAINST ATWELL

(By Associated Press.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—Suit was filed today in the United States circuit court by United States District Attorney Robert Devlin to collect \$5455.38 from William B. Atwell, former postmaster at Searchlight, Nevada, and his bondsmen, Howard Perkins and Joseph Ethen, both of California. The amount sued for represents the sum Atwell is alleged to have embezzled from the government while postmaster. He is now under arrest awaiting trial.

WILL DISSECT THE WRIGHT DECISION

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Every phase of Judge Wright's decision in the contempt proceedings and an appeal therefrom is to be considered at a conference here tomorrow between the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, now in session, and counsel in the case, including former Judge Alton Parker, of New York. The committee was appointed to consider and report upon an appeal in the contempt cases.

ANOTHER BIG MINE HORROR IS REPORTED

Second in Two Weeks in a West Virginia Coal Mine--Death List May Reach Total of 80

(Associated Press.)

BLUEFIELDS (W. Va.), Jan. 12.—An explosion of gas in the Lick Branch colliery today snuffed out the lives of between sixty and eighty persons. In these mines two weeks ago today fifty miners were killed by a similar explosion.

Mine Foreman Bowers, who was near the entrance, was blown from his feet, but managed to crawl out safely, as also did Robert Smith, a miner. A rescue party rushed into the smoking mine and tried to rescue a miner named Halliday, who was hurled back by the blast. They were driven back by the deadly fumes of after gases and were compelled to leave him to his fate.

The debris from the explosion of two weeks ago had not been cleared away and twenty men were engaged in this work. Nineteen contract miners with crews were at work in a new entry, and it is feared all these are lost.

PERKINS SUCCEEDS HIMSELF

(By Associated Press.)

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 12.—The election of United States Senator George C. Perkins of Oakland to succeed himself; introduction of several important bills, strict enforcement of the rule against lobbyists in the assembly and the report of the senate committee on rules were features of today's session of the legislature. The election of Perkins was an occasion for the first oratory of the present session, nominating speeches for the incumbent being delivered by residents of his own city, Senator John Stetson in the upper branch and Assemblyman Harry Pulcifer in the lower house, both of Oakland.

The sensation of the occasion was furnished by Senator Caminetti, the holdover Democrat from Jackson. Caminetti voted for the Republican caucus nominee, arising to a question of personal privilege to explain for his remarkable vote. He stated that in the campaign of 1906 he made the enactment of a law providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people the principal plank in his platform, and promised them he would if elected carry out the idea of his consistency by voting for the people's choice. This favorite, he declared, appeared to be Perkins and he made good his pledge by voting for the Republican.

P. H. Cavanaugh, father of twelve children, is preparing a bill for pensioning fathers and mothers of more than a dozen offspring at the rate of \$25 per month. Cavanaugh says he has a letter from President Roosevelt endorsing the scheme.

Assessment Rates Have Been Fixed

(Associated Press.)

CARSON CITY, Jan. 12.—After a war of words lasting for several hours, the state board of assessors, which met today, fixed the rate for the assessment of the Southern Pacific company at \$18,500 per mile, an increase of \$1000 over the former rate. Governor Dickerson asked for a \$30,000 rate, which the railroad representatives combated vigorously.

Rates were fixed for other roads as follows: Santa Fe, \$3000 per mile; Western Pacific, Nevada Central and Battle Mountain and Austin left to assessors; Nevada Northern, \$5000; Salt Lake route, \$9000; Tonopah and Tidewater, \$6000; Las Vegas and Tidewater, \$6000; Virginia and Truckee, \$3250.

Assessment rates on beef cattle were fixed at \$5 per head; sheep, \$3 per head. The governor declared himself strongly in favor of taking the railroad assessment power out of the hands of the present board by new legislation and creating a new board. He said he would urge the passage of a law enforcing a 60 per cent valuation on all property.

WARSHIPS TO RACE TO U. S.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—A dispatch from New York quotes James B. Connolly, the noted writer of sea stories, as authority for the statement that the president has given carte blanche to Rear Admiral Sperry's Atlantic fleet, returning from its world-girdling tour, to cut loose after leaving Gibraltar and race across the Atlantic, "ship against ship, and may the best boat win."

Mr. Connolly, it is said, has been invited by the president to return with the fleet as chronicler of the race against time and will be the guest of Captain Potter aboard the battleship Vermont.

A HOTEL FIRE IN LOS ANGELES

(By Associated Press.)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 12.—Several people narrowly escaped with their lives and three or four were slightly injured in a fire late this afternoon, which completely destroyed the three-story frame Austin hotel at Fifth and Crocker streets, together with a number of small business houses on the ground floor of the building. The fire resulted from a gas explosion in the Redondo restaurant on the ground floor of the hotel. Total loss is estimated at \$40,000.

THREE GIRLS CREMATED.

(By Associated Press.)

DICKERSON (N. D.), Jan. 11.—Fire yesterday destroyed the home of Joseph Kohl, a homesteader, twelve miles from here. Three young girls alone in the house were burned to death and a fourth was fatally burned.

(By Associated Press.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—Merchants in the Chinese quarter who have long affiliations opened their doors for business tonight for the first time in several weeks, warning long men having signed a truce today which is to hold until February 10.

SERVIA DOESN'T LIKE IT

(By Associated Press.)

BELGRADE, Jan. 12.—The Constantinople announcement that the Turkish government had accepted the Austro-Hungarian offer was a bitter disappointment to the Serbian government. The new cabinet was summoned today immediately after the foreign office received the news. The king presided and the situation created by the settlement of the Turkey-Austria-Hungary troubles was discussed at much length. Newspapers declare Austro-Hungary will have to exterminate the Serbian people before being permitted to definitely possess Bosnia.

GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR A DAMAGED COLLIER

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—The Norwegian collier Hunrik Ibsen, which has arrived at this port from Ancon, will go to Mare Island navy yard to be docked and have damages amounting to \$5000, sustained in a collision while coaling a cruiser of the Pacific fleet off Panama, repaired at the government expense.