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Weather for Ohio—Fair tonight and Wednesday; not quite so cold tonight in northern portion; warm on Wednesday.

It might be interesting to know to what demoralization the minister, who said Thaw did a good thing when he killed White, belongs.

The weather in the Northwest and the fuel famine in that section are conducive to a Fairbanks boom in that section.

District Attorney Jerome seems to have wakened up and come to realize that he has quite a job on his hands since lawyer Delmas took charge of the Thaw defense.

Excessive drinking will keep a man from eating, but fasting will not keep a man from drinking and allow him to live, as the friends of a Bellefontaine man has discovered.

The West Virginia legislator who proposes allowing none of the gas of that state going outside of the state's lines probably contemplates keeping the West Virginia delegation in congress at home.

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw proved that she was something of a lady when she referred to Stanford White as "the B---". She said on the witness stand the "B---" meant "the blackmailer." She might with propriety have applied stronger terms had she been less of a lady.

Granting constitutional government in the "Old World" is very much in style with rulers just now. The new shah of Persia is the last to listen to the demand of his subjects, but they could not get his ear until they had seized an arsenal and threatened a revolution. When Russia and Turkey join the others in granting the people greater liberties, there will be some hope of people of all Europe securing greater liberties.

Despite the three barrels of indictments which were returned against the Standard Oil company officials by the Findley grand jury and the troubles of the company in other courts, the trust is not sufficiently scared to prevent it from attacking competition and driving it from the field whenever and wherever it shows its head. The tactics employed are much the same as have been used by the trust in former years.

There has been a great deal of spitting over the oil trust prosecutions, but developments at Marietta and throughout the Ohio field show that the same old octopus is doing business in the same old way at the same old stand.

President Roosevelt has urged upon Postmaster Cortelyou that, if it is possible under existing laws, he shall bar from the mails papers which go into details in the Thaw case by publishing that part of the testimony which is degrading and disgusting to even the most hardened. If an individual were discovered sending through the mails a letter containing statements such as were printed in some of the dailies in the great cities, he would have been prosecuted for sending

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obscene matter through the mails, yet the newspapers are allowed to print and mail thousands of copies, the mails distribute them and nothing is thought of it.

While such details are calculated to create a feeling of disgust in persons who have not depraved minds, there is a class of persons who are really pleased with such accounts and in whose mind will be conceived plans for gaining prominence by the same tactics.

The President is right in urging that action be taken against papers which are guilty of publishing word for word the testimony in the case. The details of the direct testimony of Mrs. Thaw was disgusting enough, but when the time for cross examination comes, some still more ray testimony may be expected. Testimony which it is not necessary for every person who can read to know.

The fact that President Roosevelt has instructed the attendants at the White House that no paper going into details shall be allowed to reach his children, is sufficient to prove that he is in earnest and that he recognizes the evil which might result from poisoning young minds with such impure reading matter.

CURRENT TOPICS OF NATION'S CAPITAL (By Willis J. Abbot.)

EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK.

Mayor Schmitz comes to confer with the president on the Japanese situation.

Senator Dryden is defeated.

Senators Carter and Heyburn attack Hitchcock.

The administration considers the canal contract.

The House talks tariff revision on the quiet.

The department employes make a plea for larger salaries.

The Brownsville inquiry continues.

Indian appropriation bill passed Senate.

River and harbor bill passed the House.

House amends alcohol bill.

House authorizes \$1,000,000 loan to Jamestown Exposition.

Service pension bill passed and signed by the president.

Investigation of cotton exchanges ordered.

PROBABLE EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

The senate will consider the army appropriation bill.

The senate will consider the District of Columbia appropriation bill.

The House will debate the anti-tipping bill.

The House will consider the naval appropriation bill.

The House will consider the Post-office appropriation bill.

THE CALIFORNIANS ARE HERE.

The Californians are here. And they are here with fixed ideas as to what they will do and will not do. They are willing to meet the President half way; even willing to waive their rights in certain particulars, but if they will not assent to Japanese coolie immigration if it can be avoided.

SCHOOL PRIVILEGES NEVER DENIED THE JAPANESE.

We use the above words, "waive their rights," advisedly. No one could read the late argument of ex-Secretary of State Olney concerning the right of San Francisco to act as she has without being convinced that the Californians were well within the provisions of our present treaty with Japan. Richard Olney ought to know what he is talking about, as it was he who consummated this very treaty. But the Californians are not going to quibble over their legal rights. As Mayor Schmitz stated, "they are unwilling to stand on any technicality that will work to the detriment of the nation." As a matter of fact, the people of San Francisco have never denied the Japanese children school privileges.

DEBATE ON PUBLIC LANDS.

There has been considerable debate in this session of Congress about the public lands, but newspaper comment on this discussion has not given the public a very clear idea of what it is all about. The controversy was aroused by an order of Mr. Hitchcock, Secretary of Interior, which prohibits the issuance of a patent to land under any of the land laws, until after examination on the ground by a special agent. The President has admitted that he gave this direction to his Secretary of the Interior to practically suspend the usual operation of the land laws. President Roosevelt determined to put an end, if possible, to fraud in the acquisition of public lands, has, as usual, overstepped his authority. This is only another evidence of the executive usurpation of which Senator Rayner so eloquently spoke a few days ago.

THE EXTENT OF LAND FRAUD.

That land frauds have been perpetrated there can be no doubt. But that present day land frauds are any more glaring or numerous than those which have been practiced for years, is questionable. In fact, two Republican Senators, Mr. Heyburn, and Mr. Carter, who was Commissioner of the General Land Office, and therefore can speak with authority, have pointed out that notwithstanding the expenditures of an excessive amount of money by Secretary Hitchcock, the percentage of fraudulent public land entries for the last eight years, bears about the same annual proportion to the whole number of entries as obtained during each of the preceding forty years.

TOO MUCH HUFF, HASTE AND WAR TALK.

And then the Japanese nation flew into an unnecessary huff, and a President who ought to have known better said things in a message to Congress which had better been left unsaid. As a result, we have had an epidemic of discreditable war talk ever since.

In fact, there have been few

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WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION DEMANDS.

Yet the administration asks Congress to appropriate an extra \$500,000 in aid of their design to discredit and persecute on an average of 229,000 homestead settlers because, forsooth, 1,000 persons have fallen short of compliance with the requirements of the law. And the administration impudently asks this Congressional aid after they have overriden the laws of Congress governing the public lands, the innocent 200,000 homesteaders are quite forgotten in this Roosevelt anxiety to punish 1,000 guilty ones. After the usual homesteader has extended his land, complied with all requirements, and waited patiently for five years to elapse, and for the time to come for him to take out a patent he is notified that his patent has been held up until Congress will appropriate the necessary money to pay special agents to investigate. Fifty-two thousand patents are already tied up in this way, and this means that over a million and a half of settlers are directly involved. The country is entitled to a reply from the Interior Department to such well considered arguments as those of Senators Carter and Heyburn.

WHY DRYDEN WAS DEFEATED.

John Fairfield Dryden will no longer represent New Jersey in the United States Senate. Eight Republicans proved themselves to be moral vertebrates and held out against him. These men had no personal feeling against Dryden. They simply recognized the fact that Dryden was merely a cog in a great wheel. Dryden was simply a type of man whom the people have determined to eliminate from our legislative halls. He was a trust Senator, one who in time of need made common cause with other trust Senators, and nowadays there are only too many of them in the United States Senate.

MR. STEVENS' ULTIMATUM.

If the government decides to build the Panama Canal by contract, it must get along without the services of Chief Engineer John F. Stevens. This is Mr. Stevens' ultimatum to the President. It will be remembered that this is the same John F. Stevens who a year ago gave strong testimony before the Senate Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals favoring the building of the Panama Canal by contract. Since then he has had a considerable change of heart. Mr. Stevens now feels, after a careful consideration of the work, and the bids made by the contractors, that the government can get along just as cheaply without them. And he is right. It certainly does baffle our reason to understand why the United States should give a private contractor \$6.75 for every \$100 expended on the canal, and this, not for any work that the contractor performs, but merely for supervising the work which the government does. It really seems as if the government ought to be able to supervise its own work, if it is capable of carrying it on at all. In fact, the United States has proven its ability to do this very thing, for up to date all the preliminary work has been under government direction.

STEALING THE GLORY.

Mr. Stevens is also personally justified in the demand he has made upon the President. When Mr. Shonts resigned he stole, some of Mr. Stevens' thunder. He made it appear, and the administration acquiesced, that he, and he alone, completed the preliminary organization of the canal. There was considerable ego in all he said. But everybody knows that, while Mr. Shonts' services are entitled to full credit, those of Mr. Stevens are entitled to equal praise. And now that the work has been outlined, Mr. Stevens can see the contractor, or stepping in and making off with any thunder that Mr. Shonts did not appropriate. There are no great pecuniary inducements for skilled engineers to enter the canal work. Mr. Stevens could probably get double what the government now pays him in a private concern. He and the men associated with him are working primarily for glory. Men close to Mr. Wallace say that one of the reasons that led him to quit the work was the feeling that, after he had rendered the service some one else would step in and appropriate all the credit. The administration had better think twice before it decides to rob the brains behind the canal of the credit to which they are entitled.

FRIENDS OF TARIFF REVISION.

The friends of the tariff have been promising to revise it for some ten years now, but they have accomplished nothing more than the revision in the interests of the trusts and monopolies. The people have almost given up hope, when at last the thin edge of the tariff revision wedge has been inserted. Curiously enough, the act was done by a man who is not a member of either house of Congress. When Gov. Curtis Guild, of Massachusetts, heading a list of eminent Massachusetts Republicans, sent a letter begging for a revision of the tariff and urging that, if such a revision should

EXPLOSION OCCURS AND PEOPLE FEARED AN EARTHQUAKE

Chemical Research Department and Cordite Magazine of the Woolwich Arsenal is Wrecked—Force of Explosion is Felt for Forty Miles but There Were no Casualties.

Woolwich, England, February 11.—A huge hole in the ground is all that marks the site of the chemical research department of the Woolwich Arsenal and the cordite magazine, which exploded yesterday with such terrific force that the concussion was felt in towns 40 miles away, and the whole countryside was thrown into a panic by the belief that a violent earthquake had occurred. There was no loss of life, but buildings for miles around were wrecked to a greater or lesser degree.

Within a few minutes after the explosion, thousands of terror-stricken people, many of them half clad, thronged toward the arsenal. There were large holes in the walls of neighboring houses, and on the sides shattered doors and windows and wrecked roofs testified to the appalling force of the explosion of cordite and chemicals with which the arsenal and magazine were stocked. These buildings were practically swept away, the big blocks of stone of which they were constructed being scattered for hundreds of yards on all sides.

There was no night force working, hence no casualties. The people of Bramtree, 40 miles away, were thrown into a panic by the shock of the explosion, while in nearer towns windows were shattered and chimneys demolished.

The cause of the disaster has not yet been ascertained.

SENATOR LODGE'S STATEMENT AND PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS.

In fact, these two words were used as having been employed by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts. Now comes Senator Lodge, and denounces that publication as false and malicious. Furthermore, the Senator says that he has been unjustly treated, when it has been published time and again that he was opposed to tariff revision. When Senator Lodge takes pains to issue a formal statement that he is not averse to tariff revision, it indicates that he sees that issue looming big upon the horizon of the next Presidential campaign.

Meanwhile, Vice President Fairbanks and Speaker Cannon are manifestly alarmed and concerned over the outlook, and this is true of the other aspirants who desire to succeed President Roosevelt when his term expires.

WHO FAVOR REVISION.

There is no concealment of the fact that the entire Northwest is a blaze on the subject of a revision of the tariff immediately.

There is, in fact, a schism in the Republican ranks in the House, many Republican Congressmen, principally from the Northwest and New England, having leagued themselves together in an effort to secure a party caucus to consider tariff revision before the expiration of the present Congress. As it is only necessary to get one-fourth of the party membership to call such a caucus, the conservation of the stand patters is not without reason.

NOTHING DOING SHORT OF A SPECIAL SESSION.

However, after all, the possibilities of tariff legislation for this session are not bright. With Joe Cannon at the helm and a general air of "stand pat" about his colleagues and the administration, it is not likely that anything can be done short of a special session of the Sixtieth Congress. But, like Han, quo's ghost, tariff revision will not down.

INCREASED SALARIES.

School teachers, policemen, and firemen of the District of Columbia, members of both houses of Congress and their presiding officers, and members of the President's Cabinet, have been voted an increase of salary by Congress within a year, and these are the only government employes so far benefited. It is the clear duty of our law makers to now consider the claims of the larger body of employes—the 28,000 men and women working in the departments. Not only are their wages lower than those made by nongovernmental employes rendering similar services, but the cost of living has so far advanced, especially in Washington, as to make it practically impossible for many of them to live comfortably within their means. The force employed in our executive departments today will stand comparison with any similar body in the world.

But if the cost of living continues to rise, and the government will not meet these new conditions with increased salaries, the present efficiency of this departmental service will be seriously jeopardized. The fruit of present conditions is that the best clerks are under steady temptation to quit the service, and are regularly doing so. To prove this, one has but to cite the experience of the Patent Office, where more than half of the employes of every grade of salary have resigned in five years.

EXTEND THE CIVIL SERVICE PRINCIPLE.

But more pay is not the only need of the government service. What the department needs also is an opportunity for the clerks to earn promotions not wait upon favor or to get them. Congress must provide that civil service reform shall not stop, as at present, with the entrance examinations. A scale of promotions on merit must be devised, so that clerks will not sit side by side, as they do now, doing the same work, but drawing widely different grades of pay. Such conditions are not only unjust, but they are demoralizing.

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2-11-31

WIFE CHEERS

Continued on Page Four

story home to the hearts of the jury.

In full accord with this has been the fact that Evelyn Thaw was dressed for the part. Her girlish attire already has been set forth and dwelt upon. Now, since time has been afforded for the passing away of the first shock of the miserable laying bare of a woman's ruin one thought stands out in the minds of many who heard the telling.

In a sentence it is this: "If this childlike woman is not a consummate actress, how could she tell what she has told?"

And crowding immediately upon this is a second query, expressed by more than many: "To whom did she recite this story before taking the witness stand? who was the expert critic who had the wit to point out to her the parts to be recited, the parts to be elaborately detailed, the parts to pass over vaguely?"

Could not have come over and over the shameful story to any man save her husband, even if that man were a lawyer. Besides what man lawyer, the holders to this contention point out, could drill a woman in the use of her own feminine arts of appeal? What man lawyer could work out in elaborate detail the child clothes, the child manner, the child pose? It must have been a woman and a clever woman, and so one ever called Evelyn Nesbit Thaw unusually clever.

She is believed by those who know her best to be just what she looks—a weak little butterfly, who never in her life did anything that would suggest she could play the great part she has now chosen in order to save her husband.

The hand of a clever woman shows and plainly shows. Whose else could it be than May McKenzie's. The chief thing that interests those who hold strongly to this idea is whether the reflected cleverness can stand in the face of the cross-examination of Mr. Jerome.

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Here, it is declared, May McKenzie's constant presence by the side of Evelyn Thaw, her occupation for months of the same apartment in the Hotel Lorraine, her sitting beside the wife of Harry Thaw in the Court room is explained. It is known to all who have tried to communicate to the young wife that the barrier always encountered May McKenzie.

The former leader of the chorus of Weber's Theater is recognized as a remarkable young woman. Those who know her and those who know Thaw's wife declare their mentalities are not to be placed in the same category. The McKenzie girl is known to be a clever writer, her column in a morning newspaper not many seasons ago having attracted widespread attention by the writer's evident insight into things dramatic and into human nature and human affairs as well. She also is clever in conversation, resourceful, quick-witted, charming, alert and ready at repartee. One of her black eyes flash keenness, reserve, self-assurance, command and pride.

In short, May McKenzie is a clever young woman. She is trained in dramatic things, and understands well not only the value of a dramatic situation, but all the elements that go to make it up. Any one who knows her will tell you this.

The young wife, it is declared, could not have come over and over the shameful story to any man save her husband, even if that man were a lawyer. Besides what man lawyer, the holders to this contention point out, could drill a woman in the use of her own feminine arts of appeal? What man lawyer could work out in elaborate detail the child clothes, the child manner, the child pose? It must have been a woman and a clever woman, and so one ever called Evelyn Nesbit Thaw unusually clever.

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