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EASTERN REPRESENTATIVE. W. J. MORTON, 150 Nassau St., New York City, 87 Washington St., Chicago.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 1904.

CLEMENCY MISPLACED.

Distasteful as the task is, we believe it the duty of the public press not to pass without a word of comment the action of the board of pardons in commuting to life imprisonment the sentence of death passed upon the Nelsons for murder. We would not be misunderstood as reflecting upon men who yielded to impulses common to us all, and who were perhaps no more soft or compliant than any of the rest of us would be if put in their places and compelled to accept their responsibility. We do believe, however, that the event discloses a situation so grave that the people of Minnesota should consider it.

Here was murder, horrible, cold-blooded, without an extenuating circumstance to wipe away the stain of the act. Practically nothing except the one fact of youth could be urged in behalf of the criminals. Society as a whole has declared itself; by the enactment of laws, the assignment of punishments and the provision of all the machinery of justice for just such offenses. Why should the entire will of society be set aside and its processes reversed because an appeal happens to be made to individual pity?

These are the practical considerations that suggest themselves, and that the public should gravely deliberate upon as flowing from this act. First, in this state, where it has been proved in a memorable way that there is no such thing as life imprisonment if influences sufficiently strong are brought to bear on the other side, is there not special danger in a commutation of sentence? Second, has the substitution of a board of pardons for the vesting of this power in the executive proved a practical success, or has it not rather multiplied and aggravated evils which its creation was intended to diminish? Third, what is likely to be the effect upon criminals themselves, and more particularly upon the young, wavering between the upper and the under worlds, of clemency toward offenders of the deepest dye? Fourth, is there not the gravest menace to society in the rushing in of sentimentalists to prevent the law from dealing with evils which they have helped to create and can do nothing to prevent? Fifth, ought we not to consider the practical wisdom of abolishing entirely a board of pardons and limiting by law the exercise of the pardoning power to a very small number of set cases, including only those where new evidence had been discovered tending to establish the innocence of the accused, where errors or corruption are unearched in the trial, or where it is reasonably certain that the life or death of some innocent party depends absolutely upon his fate? We believe that not only social service, but the moral tone of the state depend upon the enforcement of these principles; from which we must, instead, draw ever farther and farther away as long as our existing system is maintained.

One drop of cyanide of potassium put the wrong Mr. Wright as nearly right as anything human could make him.

WHITAKER WRIGHT'S DEATH.

That the suicide of Whitaker Wright should close the incident which made his death much to be desired by some personages very high indeed in English society is hardly to be expected considering the attitude of the Radical press of Great Britain.

Whitaker Wright was one of the large figures in that world of finance which has to do with the floating of share-companies. He might have been a great financier had he proceeded along lines recognized as legitimate. His schemes, however, were calculated rather to appeal to the avarice than the intelligence of the investing public. He was the shrewdest investor in guinea pig values that London has produced in many years and he did not stop at the average lord when he went digging for bait wherewith to attract the attention of his fish. He sought the countenance of royalty itself. And when the bubbles that he set afloat burst there was a tremendous roar from thousands of investors who had been taken in, not by the soundness of their promise, but by the names of their endorsers.

When Wright was exposed and fled it was certainly not at the instigation of the British ministry that he was

captured and taken back to London for trial. The ministry went on record in a declaration that he could not be prosecuted on the charges made. He was finally brought to trial by the insistence of public sentiment. He was tried before a prejudiced judge and a jury that believed him guilty of something more than was charged against him. It was hoped that he would make a clean breast and give the public the names of the royal persons concerned in his schemes and who had swallowed much of the profits.

Wright sealed the lips that held secrets which might have bought his freedom. Will the British public be content to let the matter die with Wright or will the government be compelled to an investigation by the attitude of the radicals and the general public? England is due to have some of its ideals shattered and the death of Wright may start the trouble.

The Spanish ministry is being sung out of office. The native cruelty of the Spaniard is bound to crop out in spite of modern culture.

INSIST ON GROSS EARNINGS TAX.

The essential thing now in all dealings between the city and the street railway company is to insist at any cost upon the payment by the company of the gross earnings tax as provided in the charter. Our people are beginning to see the true inwardness of the negotiations that have been going forward, and the many and curious changes of base. The real purpose of the maneuvers has been concealed. The street railway company is not half as anxious for any privileges, and not half as much opposed to any concession that may be asked of it, as it is bent upon escaping payment of the gross earnings tax. That means more to it than all other things put together, and that has been its principal objective.

Upon this point we insist that every true representative of the people stand firmly on guard. It is one of immense and vital importance. It is one of justice and of public honor. Our people can a million times better afford to do without certain contemplated improvements temporarily, or even for years were that necessary, than to concede, at such an enormous cost as they would be obliged to, the contention which the street railway company raises. It means so much more to our taxpayers that this gross earnings tax should be imposed and insisted upon than that any improvements whatever to the service could be made that the two will not stand a moment's comparison.

Stand by the gross earnings tax. It is right that the company should pay it. That company is making fabulous sums of money. It is paying interest upon bonds and dividends upon stock representing an enormously inflated and fictitious capital. All this money is drawn from the pockets that the people pay. Whenever it needs a dollar for extra improvements it does not touch this income, but sells more bonds. It refuses the slightest concession in fares. It will not sell tickets at a reduced rate, and it will not grant any cheap fares to workmen. It has given us good service, but financially it yields not a jot or a little to the people.

The people must be correspondingly unyielding on the financial issue. They must insist upon the gross earnings tax. Under the opinion rendered by the corporation counsel, which is undoubtedly sound, they have the right to do. They have the whip hand. The company must ultimately settle with them. For its own purposes it cannot possibly do without certain trackage and other privileges within the city. In its own behalf it must sooner or later accept agreements that would bring it under the gross earnings tax. Think of the handsome income which that would give to the city. Think of the relief to the taxpayer, without the slightest injustice to anybody. Let the people stand together for this immediate right of theirs, and nothing be done or left undone which could invalidate their claim to that tax upon gross earnings which the street railway company, in common with all other public service corporations in this city, ought to be and can finally be compelled to pay.

"Gas" Addicks and Perry Heath will both be in Chicago when the Republican convention meets. And no provision has been made to strengthen the police force!

A STRONG SPEECH.

At the request of a very large number of Democrats throughout the state, The Globe publishes this morning the complete text of the speech of Congressman Lind on reciprocity delivered in the house some weeks ago. The address itself is an exceedingly able one, such as would be expected of Mr. Lind. He commands the respect and admiration not only of Minnesota, but of the whole country. He is listened to in the house as one of the ablest men upon the floor. His absolute integrity of character is matched by the high order of his intelligence. The Democrats of Minnesota have a right to be proud that their only representative in congress is such a man as this. It is not unnatural that they should wish to possess in full and study at their leisure an address by him that has attracted the attention of the whole country.

Even since the delivery of this

speech the progress of events have added immensely to its importance. Mr. Lind urges reciprocity with Canada as a matter of fairness, as a matter of justice to both peoples, as a matter of high national policy. He foresees the dangers that lie in postponement; but those dangers have moved even more swiftly than he or any one else could have dreamed of. Today the question is not so much whether the United States will offer reciprocity to Canada as whether any such offer that we might make would be accepted. For decades Canada has been a suppliant for fair treatment in our markets. At any time during that period she would have welcomed even a modest gift of tariff concessions, and this would have drawn the two people so closely together that political amalgamation would have been merely a question of time. Today Canada is in a position to spurn such a gift if proffered.

The policy advanced by Mr. Chamberlain has in it a larger promise than even reciprocity carries. If his ideas prevail, and it is apparent now that they will sweep the United Kingdom at an early day, then Canada will have the tremendous market of the empire for her own, protected by a preferential tariff levied upon food products of the United States, and in those markets she will buy and sell in preference to ours. We repeat, it is doubtful whether events have not already made reciprocity with Canada impossible. If there be a remaining chance of it we must move quickly. All the reasons why the walls that cramp instead of protecting us must be battered down, and especially why we should extend our commerce with our neighbors on the north, are marshalled in force and logical array by Mr. Lind. We commend his speech to all good citizens, whether Republicans or Democrats. Its value did not pass with the occasion that called it forth, but is as permanent as it is real.

Hicks, the prophet, says the summer will be a hot one. If, in addition to the gift of prophecy, Hicks could go a bit farther in magic and show us now he might be in line for the presidential nomination.

IT COMES HIGH.

We republish on this page an article from the Kittson County Enterprise, which is only one of many appearing throughout the state press upon the subject of the state's munition to Mr. M. D. Munn, of the "So" railroad, the Twin City Rapid Transit company and the St. Paul Dispatch. Corporations are corporations, and corporation lawyers are corporation lawyers; and the public evidently fails to understand why the counsel of one corporation should be maintained to fight another corporation at the expense of the state.

Such of the Republican papers as desire to apologize for the tremendous raid that has been made upon the state treasury for the alleged purpose of prosecuting an action against the Northern Securities company refer to the wonderful legal ability of the gentleman in question, and the necessity of being well represented. Let us skip the legal ability for the present. Events may throw some light upon that. But these apologists have failed to touch upon two or three points. One is that the state already possesses the services of a good lawyer, and pays for them in supporting the attorney general's office. Why don't these suffice?

Another point is that Attorney General Knox is a pretty fair sort of lawyer, and the special counsel whom he engages are men of national reputation. He had a fund of half a million dollars to draw upon. He has had to bear the brunt of conducting many big cases, yet the total draft upon that appropriation up to date has been a trifle over \$25,000, whereas nearly that much had been spent for outsiders in behalf of the state of Minnesota up to last November. Presumably there is nothing left of that \$25,000 fund today. It is known that big bills are yet to come in covering the recent hearing at Washington, and some of them seem to have been held out because of the expenses made to The Globe, the claimants preferring to wait until public opinion on the matter had become a little less sensitive.

We repeat a few simple questions. Why should the people spend their money to pay an attorney of one corporation for fighting another corporation? Why should it cost the state of Minnesota more money to conduct one law suit than it costs the United States government, with the best talent of the country at its side, to conduct several? Wherein does it profit the people of Minnesota, as our Kittson County contemporary says, to pay twice as much money out of the state treasury to aid a purely political enterprise as they would pay in other charges if all that these political conspirators against the peace, dignity and prosperity of the state alleged were true? We fancy that Mr. Munn, as an annex to this campaign, is going to be a rather heavy load to carry.

Inasmuch as it costs all the island of San Domingo is worth to steam a cruiser down there it might be cheaper in the end for us to blow the island up and have done with it. Such a proceeding would not be repugnant to the general views of the administration regarding the rights of the lesser American republics.

Contemporary Comment

Out With the Old. The party is no more bound to affirm the platform of four years ago than it is bound to reaffirm the platform of forty years ago. The platform of 1860 was declared to be a failure. The question is not whether one believes in free silver, but whether free silver is an issue in this campaign. Most people believe in many things which they would not ask to have incorporated in a political platform. So we think that Mr. Bryan's platform, in this regard, is the best interests of the country are served when there is a strong, well-poised opposition party acting on principle and not expediency. This on this ground, the Democracy has a chance to serve the American people.—Indianapolis News.

Bryan and Hearst. Mr. Bryan is a friend of Mr. Hearst, knows Mr. Hearst's candidacy for the presidency, will support him if the New York congressman is nominated, and may even throw his support to him in the national convention if the contest narrows down between Mr. Hearst and the New York trusts. And yet Mr. Bryan must know what the Hearst candidacy represents and what is propelling it. Without his enormous wealth Mr. Hearst would not figure in the presidential contest at all. He is a very rich and ambitious man, and some of his admirers go so far as to declare that if he is nominated the party's campaign expenses will be borne by him alone.—Washington Star.

The Russian Peasant. Only a radical reform which would annul the unreasonable privileges of the nobility and lessen the exactions of the government could improve the condition of the Russian peasant materially better, and such a reform would require time and protracted effort. While the present system of land tenure and prohibition against the alienation of land is, no doubt, necessary, but the permanent betterment of the condition of the Russian peasant requires a policy which cannot be hoped for until the task is approached in a very different spirit from that which controls the present court at reform.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Bryan's Folly. When, however, he comes to stake the success of the Democratic party upon the stern exclusion of all whom he terms "imperialists" and "courtiers" their opposition, and plants the party again upon free silver, it is not too much to say that passion and prejudice have again taken the place of reason and have so blinded his eyes to the inexorable logic of events that his delirance should be only regarded as an object of pity, without any force or influence.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Sunshine on Tap. Radium is called liquid sunshine in New York. In Kentucky they have a something else which they call liquid sunshine. And in Tennessee, according to the immortal poet, Optie Read, they have "the liquid essence of Southern moonbeams falling aslant the Cumberland mountains." Language is beautiful, but not so beautiful in New York as elsewhere.—St. Louis Republic.

Coddling the Crooked. Gov. Bates, of Massachusetts, thinks that prisoners should be supported by their families. That will suit the prisoners down to the ground. The better way would be to make the skalawags support themselves.—Brooklyn Eagle.

He Was Left at the Post. Mr. Bryan is unable to see that he is on the immoral side of what he declares is a "moral issue." It will be interesting to see how he manages to get the Democratic party has stood still with Mr. Bryan.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Noisy Bill is All Alone. George Fred Williams is said to be in favor of the presidential candidacy of Richard Olney. Never mind the paradox; think of the wonderful completeness of Democratic harmony this year!—Atlanta Constitution.

Now He's a St. Anthony. No scene in national politics was ever more touching than that of Marcus Alonzo Hanna in the role of St. Anthony resisting the temptation of a nomination for president.—Detroit Free Press.

And a Party in the White House. Having denied in several letters and a public statement that he is a candidate for the presidency, Mr. Bryan has every one save the Democratic editors, and every one save the Democratic editors.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Has He Reached the Dumb Stage? It is reported that Mr. Bryan has a new idea of the presidential candidacy of the last idea on the subject that will ever be developed.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Greatly Relieved. It turns out that Kentucky's volcano was only a whiffy still in a cave. Kentucky is, of course, greatly relieved.—Chicago Record-Herald.

He is a Genuine Puzzle. One of Senator Quay's favorite dishes is sauerkraut, but even this does not enable you fully to comprehend him.—Chicago Tribune.

A Tip for the G. O. P. Why not run Secretary Loeb for vice president? He's the second in command of the dinners.—St. Louis Republic.

TODAY'S WEATHER

St. Paul—Yesterday's observations, taken by the United States weather bureau. St. Paul, W. E. Oliver, observer, for the twenty-four hours ended at 7 o'clock p.m.—Barometer, corrected for temperature and elevation, highest temperature, —2; lowest temperature, —24; average temperature, —12.5; wind, S.W., 2; daily range, 22; barometer, 30.49; humidity, 96; precipitation, 0; wind, at 10 a.m., S.W., 2; at 2 p.m., S.W., 4. Minnesota—Fair Thursday and Friday; light variable winds. Wisconsin—Fair Thursday and Friday; variable winds. Iowa—Snow Thursday, Friday and Saturday. North Dakota—Fair Thursday; snow Friday, with rising temperature. South Dakota—Snow Thursday and Friday. Montana—Fair Thursday; warmer in east portion; Friday fair. Yesterday's temperatures: St. Paul High 4, low -12. Kansas City, 32. St. Louis, 28. Chicago, 28. Milwaukee, 28. Buffalo, 10. Minneapolis, 2. Boston, 18. Montgomery, 12. Albany, 18. Montreal, 0. St. Louis, 18. St. Paul, 4. Cincinnati, 14. New Orleans, 38. Cleveland, 6. New York, 29. Detroit, 2. Omaha, 14. Des Moines, 2. North Platte, 22. St. Paul, 4. Chicago, 28. St. Paul, 4. Edmonton, 20. Pittsburgh, 14. 13. Escondido, 34. Appleton, 14. Galveston, 34. St. Paul, 4. Grand Rapids, 8. St. Louis, 22. Green Bay, 28. Salt Lake, 24. Huron, 28. St. Paul, 4. Huron, 2. Washington, 22. Jacksonville, 48. St. Paul, 4. —Washington time (7 a. m. St. Paul). —Below zero.

What the Editors Say

Some Collins papers treat it as a good joke that the judge will retain his place on the bench until March 31, although he resigned some time ago. But it is not so funny for the attorney who will not support Collins for governor to appear before the judge in important cases, and be personally interviewed by the judge as to his political prospects in the attorney's home county. It isn't a very comfortable situation for the attorney to be told by the judge that he proposes to visit the attorney's locality and personally investigate the situation, and learn who his friends really are.—Little Falls Transcript.

Mayor Hugo, of Duluth, in opening his campaign this week for a third term, made the remarkable statement that if he should fail to carry the city this spring for mayor it would imperil the Republic. He is probably right, but Hugo must think that Duluth holds the balance of power in presidential elections in the United States, perhaps he may be right, but we have never heard of it before. It seems to us that a mayor asking to be continued in office would do well to find in his municipal achievements something to recommend him rather than to be obliged to call national affairs into the campaign.—Hibbing Tribune.

The Renville Star-Farmer defends the looting of the treasury so that a few corporation attorneys like the counsel for the Soo can receive exorbitant fees for doing the thing which the people pay the attorney general. Hereafter when any one wants to make a raid on the state treasury all he has to do is to raise some of the people's cry and fool all the people part of the time. The Star-Farmer is too good a paper to be caught with such chaff.—Northfield News.

One editor notifies his readers that the public will take it for granted relations of deceased persons will receive the attentions of friends and neighbors during the hour of bereavement, and the paper will decline to publish cards of condolence, and of visiting rates, but if there are people who are not appreciative and wish to say so—they can have space in the paper.—St. Cloud Times.

There is no doubt but that there are interests in the Republican party who would like to defeat Roosevelt for the nomination, but they do not wish to go into the light and then be defeated. It is very certain that if Roosevelt is not nominated, that the Democrats would have an additional increase of \$2 per month in each of the above classes. The bill increases the minimum of pensions allowed to \$8 per month, instead of \$6, which will increase the pensions of 125,394 soldiers who are now on the rolls at \$6 per month. The bill further provides that the pensions of soldiers who married the soldiers prior to Jan. 1, 1870, and who are now on the rolls drawing \$8, shall be increased to \$12. Hereafter the law has been that they could not get \$12 until their disability had been contracted in the service. This bill will give an increase to the men who served ninety days, and in the case of the men who served through the entire war, and also increases the pensions of the widows who married the soldier during or immediately following the war.

Politics is mighty slippery business. Often a candidate who is on top at the beginning of a campaign is under the heap at the close. A political veteran remarks that there is probably no sea where shores are more strewn with wreckage than the political sea.—Lamerton Star.

When Gov. Van Sant made the statement recently that this is the age of greed and graft he no doubt had in mind the enormous fees and expenses which the attorney General Douglas paid to M. D. Munn, the trust-busting attorney of the "So" road.—Lakefield Standard.

The man who is constantly and forever boasting of his superior virtues and calling attention to the vices and faults of his fellow countrymen is an object either of suspicion or ridicule. The same rule applies to newspapers.—Hubbard County Enterprise.

A St. Paul judge has decided that it was impossible for the St. Paul Gas company to get a corner on gas so long as the city owned the gas works, and as Sister Berryhill, of the Review, was the attorney and drew the suit brought by the latter. Wise judge.—Daily Journal Press.

Does any sensible person believe that Mr. Thomas Lowry, of Minneapolis, will keep his hands out of the next senatorial fight?—Princeton Union.

Among the Merrymakers

Eggs With a Corner. Little Girl—Have you any fresh eggs, sir? Grocer—Yes. How many do you want? Little Girl (viewing eggs critically)—Please, sir, these eggs isn't fresh. Grocer—Certainly they're fresh, my little girl. Little Girl (persisting)—No, they isn't, 'cause I heard my papa say my mamma had a corner on eggs, now, and these is all sm-o-o-th.

Said Maid to Mistress. "Where have you been, Jane?" "I've been to a meeting of the Girls' Friendly society, ma'am," was the maid's reply. "Well, and what did the lady say to you?" "Please, ma'am, she said I wasn't to give you warning, as I meant to. She said I was to look upon you as my thorn and bear it."—New Yorker.

Crowded Out in Church. "How did you like the way the minister announced upon the colloquialisms last Sunday?" asked Mrs. Oldcastle. "He didn't," replied her hostess. "Me and Johiah were crowded out of our own pew, and had to sit where we couldn't see him, and he was standin' up."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Huxley on Men. Prof. Huxley once wrote to Mrs. W. K. Clifford about men: "They are very queer animals—a mixture of horse-nervousness, ass-stubbornness and camel-malice, with an angelic hobnobbing about unexpectedly like the apple in the posset, and when they can't get any other pleasure they are very hard to drive."—London Truth.

Unfortunate Break. "I don't see why a man should have flared up so because I asked her if she and her husband had ever held hands before they were married." "You see, she was a manicule artist, and it was while she was operating on him that they fell in love."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Knighthood in the Bud. Citizen—Here, stop fighting that little boy. Chimmie—'Wot, and me goin' lookin' out de window? She'd take me for a quitter.—Butte Inter-Mountain.

Anything But Sudden. Without so much as a blush the 1904 girl popped the question. "Oh, this is so sudden!" exclaimed the startled youth. "Sudden, nothing!" retorted the girl. "I've been waiting eight years for you, young man." Philadelphia Record.

Rather Deeply. "Does young Snuggles go much into society?" "Not now. But he did when he first came out here. He got into it about \$700. He thanks to his pleasing manners and his power of touch."—Chicago Tribune.

A Language Limerick. To his wife at home on the bough + Said Cock Sparrow a little bit rough: "Get me some bread to eat, for I'm all in a sweat + To gobble my grub and get through." —Yale Record.

At St. Paul Theaters

Henry W. Savage's production of George Ade's musical satire, which played to large business last season, will commence an engagement of three nights and Saturday matinee at the Metropolitan, beginning tonight. Frank Moulton, who took the part of the Sultan last year, has rejoined the company.

At the Metropolitan next Sunday Dan Sully will present for the first time in this city, a new three-act play entitled "The Chief Justice," written by Fitzgerald Murphy. The play was written especially for the Sully. The story is modern and deals with the world of society, finance and law.

Little Adelaide Thurston will be seen here in her new play, "Polly Primrose," at the Metropolitan for three nights, beginning Thursday, Feb. 4, with matinee Saturday.

"The Fatal Wedding" is proving a good drawing card at the Grand this week. It will continue till Sunday.

The musical comedy, "Foxy Grandpa," will be the attraction at the Grand this week. The play is replete with musical numbers, dances and comic situations.

The bill offered by the Vanity Fair company at the Star this week should invite a large attendance at the ladies' matinee which will be given tomorrow. The sensational acrobatic work of Mile. Ani is a feature of the show.

PUTS UP PENSIONS

Bill for General Increase Is Introduced.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—Representative Sulloway, of New Hampshire, chairman of the committee on invalid pensions, today introduced a distinctly service and age pension bill, which will give to each soldier who served ninety days and who reaches the age of sixty-two years \$8 per month; sixty-six years, \$10 per month; and seventy years, \$12 per month. In addition, his bill gives to the men who served two years or more an additional increase of \$2 per month in each of the above classes. The bill increases the minimum of pensions allowed to \$8 per month, instead of \$6, which will increase the pensions of 125,394 soldiers who are now on the rolls at \$6 per month. The bill further provides that the pensions of soldiers who married the soldiers prior to Jan. 1, 1870, and who are now on the rolls drawing \$8, shall be increased to \$12. Hereafter the law has been that they could not get \$12 until their disability had been contracted in the service. This bill will give an increase to the men who served ninety days, and in the case of the men who served through the entire war, and also increases the pensions of the widows who married the soldier during or immediately following the war.

'TWOULDN'T DO TO PUBLISH SUCH

President and Secretary Shaw Decide to Keep Quiet About Cruzon.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—The president today sent to the senate a letter from the secretary of the treasury, concerning the report made by Special Agent Cullum in relation to the conduct of A. R. Cruzon, while collector of customs in Porto Rico. Senator Cullum introduced a resolution calling for the Cullum report, "if not incompatible with the public interest." The president has decided he is justified in considering the report confidential, inasmuch as Mr. Cruzon resigned more than a month ago and his successor has been appointed and qualified. Secretary Shaw, concerning such reports, says: "I regard all reports of this character as confidential, and I believe it incompatible with the public interests to make them public. The entire force of special agents of the treasury department is constantly investigating every apparent irregularity at the several posts, and the secure and confidential character of their reports. They could not obtain the information they now secure if it were liable to be made public, and they would not make the frank reports they now submit if liable to be published."

FRAUD ON HONEST NEWSPAPER MEN

Man Is Arrested on Charge of Soliciting Under False Colors.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—Captain Detective Weber today arrested W. F. McKesson, charged with "soliciting with intent to defraud" in the capitol. McKesson gave his address as 23 Park Row, New York, and his occupation as representative of the "Writers' Press association." He was soliciting contracts for an illustrated edition of "Personal Reminiscences of the Fifty-eighth Congress." In the prospectus he carried were portraits of President Roosevelt and his cabinet and a many prominent senators and members of the house with whom he claimed to have concluded contracts. Representative Mudd, of Maryland, who admits paying \$25 for a "write up," says he did so solely on the statement of McKesson that the money was for the benefit of the newspaper men doing work in the capitol. McKesson was turned over to the Washington police.

YEAR'S BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR NAVY

Secretary Moody Presents It and Committee Looks Forward to 1919.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—Secretary Moody concluded his recommendations today before the committee on naval affairs. He presented two plans prepared by the general board of the navy as the building programme for next year. The first was based on an expenditure of \$34,000,000 and included provision for one battleship, one armored cruiser, three protected cruisers, four scout cruisers, two squadron colliers and two submarine boats. The second plan provided for an expenditure of \$30,000,000 and is a duplicate of the first programme, with the elimination of one of the scout cruisers. The general discussion in committee revealed a desire that the strength of the navy by 1919 should be forty-eight battleships and half that number of armored cruisers, with auxiliary boats in proportion.

WEDGE PRIDGE OF TOPICS IN HOUSE

Race Question, Flying Machines and Politics Are Dilated Upon.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—General debate in the house today on the urgent deficiency bill digressed to a discussion of political topics, the race question and aerial navigation. Mr. Burkett (Neb.) led off with a discussion of the political situation from a Republican point of view. Mr. Cochran (Mo.) spoke for the Democrats. Mr. Harwick (Dem., Ga.) made an extended address on the race problem. Discussion of flying machines was precipitated by the report of the appropriations committee, which recommended the tabling of a resolution in opposition to the secretary of war for information as to expenditures that had been made in connection with flying machine tests. Messrs. Hitchcock (Dem., Neb.), author of the resolution, and Mr. Robinson (Dem., Ind.) spoke in opposition to the motion. The resolution was then adopted.

Democrat for Panama Canal.

The senate proceedings today included a speech by Mr. Simons, of North Carolina, in support of the Panama canal treaty. It was the first Democratic senator to favor the measure on the floor. He announced his disapproval of the intervention of the United States in the isthmus trouble, but said that, as the revolution was an accomplished fact, and was such before the treaty was made, he could not accept the theory that the treaty itself was invalid. Among the bills passed was one admitting to citizens of Porto Rico and the Philippines the right to take advantage of naturalization laws of this country, but Mr. Spooner moved to reconsider the vote, thus leaving the question undisposed of.

Desert Land Bill Up.

The bill for the relief of persons who made the first payment for desert land under the act of March 1, 1877, and who were unable to perform their entries, was taken up. It provides for the payment to the entryman of the 25 cents an acre so paid, and was opposed by Mr. Berry, who quoted the report of the secretary of the interior, stating that thousands of acres of land had been taken up fraudulently under the desert land law and turned over to corporations. Mr. Spooner found fault with the bill because it was not indorsed by the secretary of the interior and moved the recommission of the bill to a committee on public lands, and this motion prevailed, after Mr. Warren had made a speech in defense of the desert land law, and said that the effect of the operation of that law had been most beneficial.

Sitting on Canal Treaty.

In an executive session of the senate today Senator Morgan discussed the amendments which had been adopted by the committee on foreign affairs and later abandoned by the committee. Senator Cullum submitted the report of the committee disagreeing with the amendments offered, which he then withdrew the committee's report of them. He expressed a desire to have the treaty brought to a vote and said that he could see no advantage in prolonging the debate on amendments, already apparent that the treaty, ratified by the Panama government, protected every interest of this government. Senator Morgan protested and began a speech which he did not finish. Other senators will follow him, and it was made plain that the opposition senators will not be able to shorten the debate.

Mr. Shaw Stays In.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—The statement that Secretary Shaw intends to leave the cabinet is without foundation.

THE PEOPLE PAY THE FREIGHT.

Railroads Cost the Taxpayer Less Than Does Mr. Munn.

Though the legislature, at the request of the state auditor, first set aside \$3,000 and then an additional \$10,000, a fund to be utilized by the attorney general in pushing the state's fight against the Northern Securities company, a major portion of this \$33,000 has already been drawn from the state treasury and the custodian of the fund is expected in declaring that a deficit is expected. Fearing that the press of routine work would enable the attorney general to push the fight against the so-called merger, the legislature appropriated the \$33,000 to enable the state to secure any outside assistance he might deem necessary. The state is now finding the employment of independent legal talent an expensive luxury.

Attorney General Douglas, authorized by the legislature to employ the Rev. E. Munn, of the Soo railway, and Gen. George P. Wilson, of Minneapolis, to assist him in the prosecution of the case against the merger, in the past two years the two special assistants to the attorney general have drawn \$19,725.91 from the special fund, from the sum of \$1,223.91 the amount has been drawn as payment for legal services rendered. Fred G. Ingersoll, of St. Paul, also received \$3,392, bringing the total to \$23,615.91.

An inspection of the ledgers in the office of the state auditor would show that the bulk of the work in this case has been attended to by the attorney general April 17, 1902. The St. Paul attorney has been paid \$14,723.91, while but \$5,999 has been drawn by Gen. Wilson. This Van Sant anti-merger idea has already cost each farmer of the general in taxation double what they would pay Jim Hill in freight rates on their wheat to Minneapolis or Duluth for the next ten years.—Kittson County Enterprise.

PERSONAL MENTION

Merchants—H. Borgstrom, Missoula;