

TAFT TALKS TO INSURANCE MEN

Holds Out No Hope for Federal Law To Govern Business.

Washington, Jan. 20.—President Taft today, addressing the annual meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, held out no hope for the enactment of a Federal law to govern the companies and advised the executive officers to bend their efforts to secure uniform legislation in the States.

"You are here to secure uniformity in insurance legislation throughout the country," said the President. "You are very sorry that the United States may not find in the Constitution the right to render uniform the insurance business throughout this country. Certainly the Supreme Court seems to have settled that question. And your only recourse, therefore, is to secure such common action by the States as that the result would be similar to a single Federal Act controlling the business.

"The only function that the United States can perform is to pass a model law in the District of Columbia and there show to the world what Congress, aided possibly by a scientific commission, shall believe to be the best kind of an insurance law. I shall be very glad, in so far as any power lies in me, to encourage such action. Congress, by a model law, can effect a very great purpose, and if there is anything I can legitimately go to contribute to our object, I shall be very glad to do it."

The Association today discussed plans for conservation of the public health and measures which may be taken in the hope of lengthening the span of life. Dr. Walter Wyman, surgeon general of the United States public health and marine hospital service; Dr. M. J. Rosenau, of the Harvard Medical College, and others spoke on the subject. Conservation of the health of policy-holders is now so paramount an issue with the life insurance companies that one of the largest of them is planning a sanitarium for its policyholders.

Alfred Hurrell, counsel for the insurance department of New York; E. E. Craig, of Chattanooga, Tenn., and others, addressed the Association on the subjects of uniform life insurance legislation and amalgamation of companies.

AVIATION MEET CONCLUDED.

Curtiss Wins Speed Race With Paulhan.

Aviation Field, Cal., Jan. 20.—As dusk gathered over the old Dominguez ranch tonight, four flying machines that had been circling in the air descended, the aviators walked to their tents, the great crowd filed down the roadway and the first international aviation meet held in America was finished.

Few knew that while Charles K. Hamilton was returning from a fifteen mile flight toward the ocean the crank shaft of his machine snapped a mile from the field and he narrowly escaped death.

Hamilton shut off the engine and so levelled and swayed, his planes that he came down gently. It was a clever emergency handling of a machine, but was not seen by the spectators.

Curtiss and Paulhan furnished the excitement of the closing day. Paulhan went up at 3:25 o'clock for an endurance flight. After he had done two or three laps of the court, Curtiss started a ten-lap speed trial, half a lap, or more than three-quarters of a mile behind Paulhan. It was the first real race of the ten-days' meet.

The two aeroplanes came over the grand stand with the speed of express trains. Curtiss gained swiftly on Paulhan and on the third lap he reached Paulhan, flying above him. The Frenchman for a few seconds held even. Then Curtiss in his American machine forged ahead a length and finally half a lap.

It was no race after that. The American machine was the faster beyond question. As Curtiss rushed over Paulhan he received the greatest applause that any of his efforts had gained. Paulhan went on until he had traveled 64.4 miles and had been in the air nearly an hour and a half. Curtiss came down after a thirty-mile trip.

The race gives the whole story of the meet. The Curtiss machines won all of the prizes for speed, quick starts, perfect landings, and those events where a light swift machine showed best.

Paulhan won all the cross-country, passenger-carrying and endurance tests, having a heavier, slower machine and an engine, which he trusts absolutely.

Paulhan took more than \$15,000 in prizes and broke the world's records for altitude and cross-country flights, alone and with a passenger.

Curtiss broke no world's records and won less than \$5,000 in prizes.

Hamilton and Willard took second and third prizes in most events.

If you want a fine piano or a gold watch, or if you have a friend who wants either get into the Voting Contest we are conducting.

INSURANCE ACT SUSTAINED.

Supreme Court Rendered Important Decision Yesterday.

Columbia, Jan. 20.—By a decision of the Supreme Court yesterday the act passed at the last session of the legislature to require certain conditions on taxation to be imposed upon foreign insurance companies for the privilege of entering and doing business in this State was decided to be constitutional. The sum of about \$25,000 in taxes on insurance com-

panies is saved the State as a result of an act which Attorney General Lyon pushed through the last session of the legislature to take the place of a former act providing for a tax on all gross incomes of the insurance companies doing business in this State.

When the former act was in force the New York Life Insurance Company filed a suit against the treasurer of Abbeville county to recover back taxes paid on their gross income. The circuit court decided in favor of the insurance company. This was ap-

pealed to the Supreme Court and the decision of the lower court was affirmed. In the meantime Attorney General Lyon had framed a new act and its passage resulted in another test being brought. This act was to take the place of the old one with reference to the tax on gross incomes upon the old act being declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and the new act was put in force all of the insurance companies with the exception of two or three agreed to the provisions. The litigation continued until yesterday when the Su-

preme Court decided that the new act by Attorney General Lyon was constitutional.

BEEF TRUST TO BE PROSECUTED

Washington, Jan. 21.—The "Beef Trust" so-called is to be prosecuted by the national government. The department of justice evidently believes its existence is a leading factor in maintaining the present high prices of meats.

The contemplated action of the department follows an investigation which has been conducted by its pres-

ent agents for some months. Initial proceedings will begin before the grand jury at Chicago probably next week and may contemplate both civil and criminal action.

The firms mentioned in connection with the matter include Swift & Co., Morris & Co. and Armour & Co. all big packing house concerns, and all of whom, it is said, are interested in the National Packing Company. The three first named concerns are commonly reported to control the national corporation for their common benefit.

\$500.00

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS GIVEN AWAY!

Great Voting Contest for

Readers of : : : : :

THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHRON AND THE DAILY ITEM

A \$400 Piano and Two Gold Watches Costing \$50 Each are the Prizes.

Contest Opens Monday, Nov. 29th and Closes February 28th.

Do You Want the Piano? It is yours if you comply with the Easy Conditions and Make the proper Effort.

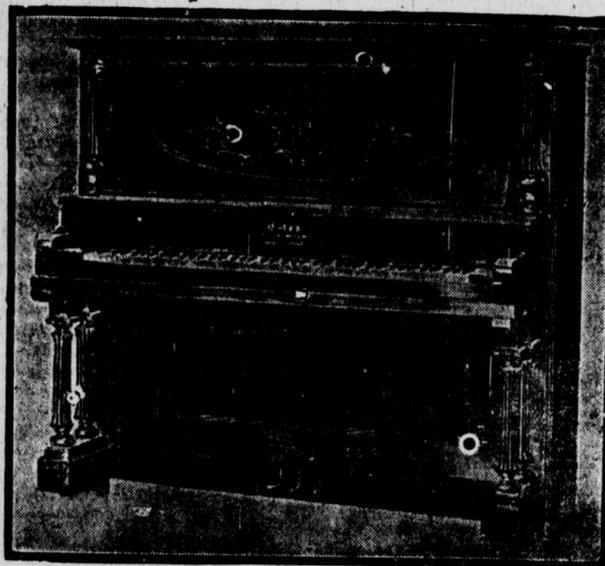
Conditions and Prizes.

The \$400 Piano, the grand prize of this contest, will be given to the subscriber or a nominee of a subscriber of the Watchman and Southron or Sumter Daily Item receiving the greatest number of votes in this contest. No matter where you live you are eligible to enter this contest.

One \$50 Gold Watch, either Gentleman's or Lady's size, as the winner may select, will be awarded to the person, not a resident of the City of Sumter, receiving the next largest number of votes.

One \$50 Gold Watch, either Gentleman's or Lady's size, will be awarded to the person resident of the City of Sumter, receiving the next largest number of votes.

The contest for the Grand Prize, the \$400 Piano, is open to all readers of The Watchman and Southron or The Sumter Daily Item. It can be won by a resident of Sumter, Lee or Clarendon County, or some other County. One Gold Watch as a special second prize to be contested for by non-residents of the City of Sumter, while the other is a special second prize to be contested for by residents of this city.



This magnificent Cote Piano, which we will give away, is 4 ft. 9 in. high 5 ft. long and weighs, boxed, ready for shipment, over 800 lbs. The finest materials and most experienced workman have produced in the Cote an instrument excellent in tone, power, durability and appearance. This piano is installed in the best homes, conservatories and music halls in the land; is well known and widely recommended by the leading musicians and teachers.

It is positively guaranteed for ten years by the Manufacturers.

Nominations.

Each and every person entering the contest must be nominated on one of the Nomination Blanks published in both the Watchman and Southron and the Daily Item. The nomination counts as 1000 votes, but only one nomination will be credited to a person.

In each issue of the Watchman and Southron and the Daily Item will be published a ballot which is good for the number of votes specified on the ballot.

How to Obtain Votes.

Every new subscriber paying in advance, will be credited for each dollar paid, 200 votes. Every old subscriber paying up back dues will be credited for each dollar paid 100 votes, and on each dollar paid in advance 200 votes. No votes will be given on payments of less than \$1.00. Every person or firm that brings or sends an order for advertising or printing and pays for same in advance will be entitled to 100 votes for each dollar paid. For money paid on accounts 50 votes will be allowed for each dollar paid, if money is brought or sent to this office. No votes will be given for money paid collector.

Nominations Close Dec. 24.

Nominations will not be received later than December 24, therefore, it is important that the blanks be mailed to this office at once. Remember every nomination blank counts for 1000 votes, but will not be counted twice for the same person. We have a supply of voting ballots at our office which must be filed there, properly signed, as the cash is paid for subscription, advertising or printing. Those at a distance wishing to vote must send the money, for which a voting ticket together with a receipt, will be mailed to the person making the remittance. The tickets must be made out, signed and returned promptly to this office.

THE WAY TO WIN.

Ask your friends and neighbors to subscribe for the Watchman and Southron or the Sumter Daily Item, and get them to vote for you as their candidate. Ask your friends and neighbors or the merchants with whom you deal to patronize the Osteen Publishing Company by advertising in Watchman and Southron and the Daily Item, and by giving us their printing, and get them to vote for you or your candidate.

If you do not want the Piano or one of the Gold Watches yourself or have no friend you wish to win one of the elegant prizes, perhaps your Sunday School, or public school, or lodge needs a fine piano, and this will be the golden opportunity. It costs nothing to enter the race or to vote. If you are now a subscriber to either of our newspapers the votes are given for payments you will make anyway. If you are not a subscriber you ought to be, for you need your home paper. If you or your friends give us your printing, you get the best work at the lowest prices consistent with good work and good material. We challenge and meet any and all competition on price and quality.

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SEE PIANO ON DISPLAY AT THE SAVOY ICE CREAM PARLOR.