

Fair today and tomorrow; rising temperature tomorrow; light north to northeast winds.

The Washington Times

CRANE MAY SUCCEED GAGE.

Massachusetts' Governor Called to Washington.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

Believed to Have Been Offered Treasury Portfolio.

WHY PRESENT SECRETARY GOES.

Enjoys Confidence and Friendship of President, Who Expressed Most Sincere Regret When Informed of Mr. Gage's Intention to Retire From the Cabinet.

Whitford Murray Crane, Governor of Massachusetts, was the first caller at the White House yesterday, arriving at 7:45 a. m. and taking breakfast with the President.

Crane came from New York on the same train with Secretary Gage, leaving there at midnight. The Governor went to the Arlington Hotel, where he registered in an immaculately small hand, "W. M. Crane, Dalton, Mass." Then he called a cab and disappeared.

The early bird catches the worm. It is said, and the significance of Mr. Crane's early breakfast at the White House is that he may have caught the Secretaryship of the Treasury, if not for himself then for some other good New England Republican.

President Roosevelt has determined to go to that section of the country for a summer to Secretary Gage, and for several days he has been asking New England Congressmen about Governor Crane and about other New Englanders, who have special qualifications as business men and financiers.

Believe He Will Accept. The result of yesterday's early conference was that Governor Crane now has under consideration the question of whether he could so arrange his political and business affairs as to accept the Secretaryship of the Treasury if it should be formally offered.

The few persons who knew of his visit here and its import have the impression that the Governor will succeed in doing this. Mr. Crane is an able business man, and a politician of the Henry C. Payne order. He is to be inaugurated for his second term as Governor January 1, but that ceremony would not necessarily be interrupted with his decision to accept the office to go into the Cabinet, as Secretary Gage's formal resignation is not yet handed in, and could be made to take effect at such time as would be agreeable to Governor Crane and his political obligations.

Mr. Gage's Retirement. Secretary Gage a short time ago informed the President of his intention to retire from the Cabinet before the end of the present winter, and it is now the Secretary's purpose to present his resignation formally in writing within the next thirty days.

Until a short time ago it was Mr. Gage's intention to remain in the Cabinet for an indefinite period, and perhaps until the end of President Roosevelt's Administration. This intention was not changed by the offers which he received to become the executive head of large financial institutions in New York and Chicago.

Flattering Offers Ignored. He never seriously considered the flattering offer made some weeks ago by a large corporation in New York and he never had any idea of residing in that city. His position in regard to that offer remains unchanged. The opportunity offered to him of becoming President of a bank in Chicago was also not considered. He has not yet decided definitely in regard to his plans for the future.

His withdrawal from the Cabinet was not suggested, directly or indirectly, by President Roosevelt, and he had his full confidence and esteem as an official. Secretary Gage's close friends know, however, that he has not occupied the same intimate personal relation to the President that one or two other members of the Cabinet have enjoyed, and while Mr. Roosevelt will miss his services and respect his ability, he has not been drawn to him in the strong personal way that he has been attracted to some men who are his close advisers.

Only Unpleasant Episode. The only lack of harmony between the President and the Secretary of the Treasury occurred at the time of the selection of Senator Stranahan for collector at New York was announced. The President did not consult Mr. Gage in the matter and did not even inform him of his intention to appoint Mr. Stranahan. The Secretary was hurt by this omission, although he was willing to accept his services and respect his ability, he has not been drawn to him in the strong personal way that he has been attracted to some men who are his close advisers.

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FEAR OF A COAL FAMINE.

Recent Storm Has Practically Tied Up Anthracite Railroad.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Railroad men here and in Philadelphia say that the serious damage done by recent storms to the railroads in Pennsylvania, especially the Reading and Lehigh Valley, has practically tied up a portion of the anthracite coal region, and there are fears that a serious shortage will result.

Because of the scarcity of coal at Jersey City and Camden, the Pennsylvania Railroad gave orders at South Amboy today to seize all orders containing coal and to convert their contents to the use of the road, without regard to the shippers.

The railroad will, of course, foot all the bills.

ITALY TO RENEW PROTESTS.

Baron Fava Makes Interpellation on Subject of Lynching.

ROME, Dec. 20.—Baron Fava, ex-Ambassador to the United States, questioned the Government in the Senate today regarding the recent lynching of Italians at Erwin, Miss. He said he regretted that the guilty parties had not been discovered. He recalled President McKinley's suggestion on the occasion of the Tabalah lynchings that the Federal law should protect foreigners.

Signor Prinetti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, responding to Baron Fava said that the Italian Government and diplomatic corps had done everything possible in the matter and they had been assisted by the United States, but the reluctance of witnesses had defeated justice.

Signor Prinetti caused a sensation among his hearers, who did not understand the formula, by declaring the grand jury's verdict was that the lynchings were done by the will of God.

He added that Italy would renew her protests in the hope of obtaining satisfaction. He had expressed confidence that the United States would prevent such lynchings in the future, remaining how serious it was that the United States admitted its inability to maintain its engagements in conformity with international treaties.

Although the United States had made no written reply, it had admitted that the Italian claims were well founded and had promised to consider them in the most careful way.

The Italian Government was actuated by the principle that Italy should ensure to her subjects a broad, effective protection.

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STAND UP FOR THE DISTRICT.

Business Men Support Estimates of Commissioners.

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Strenuous Objection on Part of Fellow Employes.

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PAYNE HOPES FOR PENNY POSTAGE.

THE PROPER BASIS OF SERVICE.

Believes That Department Can Be Made Self-Sustaining Through Reforms—Not a Spoils Politician.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 20.—Henry C. Payne, the newly appointed Postmaster General, says he hopes to see penny postage in the near future. Discussing his department, he said today:

"The whole tendency of the Administration of the Postoffice Department has been to seek to bring it to a state of operation below the cost, and thus make the service self-sustaining."

Cutting Off Pensions. "There has been an endeavor to cut off the funds in the second-class matter. Fake newspapers and magazines and others which have sought to get in under the pound rate have been cut off, with the endeavor to let the honest ones to the legitimate journals. It shall be my endeavor to work out the right basis of that policy. Perhaps we shall have to consider our postage service on a right basis until penny postage has been established, and I trust that may be done some time in the near future."

A Matter of Record. "With regard to my record here," he continued, "when I was postmaster, the civil service rule was enacted, but did not apply to officers of the Milwaukee Postoffice, except upon application of the postmaster. I applied for and had the Milwaukee Postoffice placed under the civil service. I think I was responsible for the passage of the law which placed the fire and police departments under the civil service, out of the way of the spoils system. I have been called a spoils politician."

TO FIGHT AUSTRALIAN LAW. Steamship Companies Unite Against New Federal Customs Act.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—The action of the captains of the North German Lloyd steamers, Prinz Regent Luitpold and Necker, which led to their detention by the Australian customs officials on the charge that they had broken custom house seals placed on their ships' stores, was due to orders the captains had received from their owners, who refused to acknowledge the power of the authorities to forbid the breaking of seals when vessels are outside the international three-mile limit.

The directors of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company are authority for the statement that in consequence of the action of the Australian authorities in holding up steamers and retaining clearance under the new Federal customs law, where the seals on stores have been broken up between ports of the Federation, all lines trading with Australia have agreed to fight the law.

The directors will bring the matter to the attention of the privy council.

GRIEF MAY CAUSE DEATH. Mistress Heart-Broken Over Hanging of Old Servant.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 20.—Mrs. Teresa C. Duane, of Pulaski, lies in a serious condition from grief over the hanging of her old family servant, Cleo Harris, at Bristol this morning.

Governor Tyler, with whom Mrs. Duane had pleaded daily ever since the old negro was sentenced to be hanged, received a telegram early this morning from Pulaski saying that Mrs. Duane was suffering from nervous prostration and that her condition had become alarming.

The telegram causes the Governor the greatest concern. The fact that he could not conscientiously save one life may be the cause of the loss of another.

EXPLOSION'S DEADLY WORK. Three Workmen Killed and Fourteen or More Injured.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 20.—By a boiler explosion in the Black Diamond Street Works this morning three men were killed and fourteen more injured. The management says that all but one of the workmen, John Weltz, are accounted for, the workmen say that a search of the ruins will reveal at least six more bodies.

Four boilers comprise the battery that exploded. They were in the (10) hatch mill. At 4:15 a. m. the four boilers let go, breaking the building to a heap of broken timbers and twisted iron and piling the debris seven feet high.

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FINDINGS OF COURT STAND.

Secretary Long to Approve Schley Report Today.

REHEARING PLEA DENIED.

Removed Cabinet Discussion of Political Features of Case.

MAY ASK BOARD OF ARBITRATORS.

Controversy Officially Closed in All But the Letter of Formal Decision—Schley's Prayer Denied and Sampson's Protest Ignored—Arbitration Board May Be Asked.

The Sampson-Schley controversy is officially closed, as far as the Navy Department is concerned, in all but the letter of the final decision. Secretary Long, it was stated authoritatively last night, has decided to deny the prayer of counsel for Admiral Schley that the majority findings of the Naval Court of Enquiry be disapproved. The Secretary has also decided, it is stated on the same authority, to ignore the protest made by Admiral Sampson against the findings of the court. The case will not be reopened, and the verdict of the Secretary will stand as official.

Will Not Reopen Case. The final decision, it is stated, will be announced today, and will be equally unannounced to both sides. It had been hoped by counsel for Admiral Schley that the findings of the court would be remitted to the court for reconsideration. It was also demanded by the attorneys for Admiral Sampson that the minority report be disapproved, on the ground that it goes beyond the scope of the investigation and touches upon matters foreign to the present case. In both cases Secretary Long will give the same reply. He refuses to reopen the case, and, in other words, approves the findings of the court as submitted.

This marks the official end of one of the most noted naval controversies on record. Discussed by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet met yesterday, and the Schley case, it is stated, was once more discussed. Secretary Long submitted the exceptions filed by Schley's counsel and also Sampson's protest. It is stated that the tenor of the Secretary's formal reply, refusing to remit the proceedings and finally approving the findings of the court of Enquiry, was also discussed and agreed upon.

One rumor of many which was current yesterday in connection with the case had it that the Cabinet informally talked over the Schley case with the President in 1901. In view of alleged urgent demands made upon the President by Republican Senators that he approve Admiral Dewey's minority report or disapprove the entire findings of the court, that the controversy might not be used for campaign purposes.

It was rumored that the retirement of Secretary Long as a natural result of such proceedings suggested to the President as preferable to the alternative of permitting the Democrats to make capital out of the case.

The President is said to have decided to abide by the decision of the court and sustain Secretary Long in approving the report.

Board of Arbitration. It was announced yesterday that Admiral Schley and his counsel will appeal to President Roosevelt to sanction the appointment of a board of arbitration to pass on the case, the board's decision to be final. The scheme calls for the selection of three arbitrators—one by President Roosevelt, one by Admiral Sampson, and one by Admiral Schley. They are to review all the evidence. When they have done this they are to report fully to the President, and, from which there shall be no appeal.

Will Veto Vice Admirals Bill. Should Congress pass the bill promoting Sampson, Schley and Captain Clark to the grade of vice admiral it is said that it will be vetoed by the President on the ground that it seeks to interfere with the executive right of the Executive to make nominations and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to make appointments. No President has ever permitted Congress to infringe on his right.

Reply to Rear Admiral Schley's Exception. The reply to Rear Admiral Schley's exception to the decision of the court was received by Secretary Long yesterday afternoon from Judge Advocate Lemly and Solicitor Hanna. In it Admiral Schley is accused of having perverted the facts in his statement of what the court reported, and also is held to have been inaccurate and misleading in holding that only a portion of the court condemned him.

In discussing the objections, the following language is used: "It is somewhat difficult to deal with this paper on account of its general and non-specific character and sweeping, though unsupported, assertion of opinion by the majority of the court, and its judgment that in their judgment the adverse finding of the court is not justified by the evidence. The paper might be discussed as simply a not unexpected expression of dissatisfaction with the majority judgment for the fact that it contains a number of inaccuracies and particularly a number of inaccuracies and misleading use of the words majority of the court."