

The News in Brief.

Five thousand Memphis Italians raised an immense relief fund for stricken Italy last week.

Memphis expects to entertain President-elect Taft next month on his return from Panama.

Wabash county, Indiana, the first to vote under the county option law, went dry by 897 majority.

A bill is being prepared by leading Democrats in Oklahoma looking to the disfranchisement of the negro.

The State of Alabama went "dry" at midnight December 30. Liquor interests propose to fight the prohibitory law, however.

Russel E. Gardner, the Banner buggy manufacturing king, has been sued at St. Louis for divorce by his wife who alleges desertion, mistreatment and other offenses.

The question of whether or not a wife can testify for trials was raised in the night rider trials at Union City and decided adversely, but the wives of some of the offenders were permitted to testify to an alibi for other defendants.

R. M. Johnson, who was serving a life sentence in the Texas penitentiary for murder and was pardoned by Governor Campbell, about two weeks ago, likes the social life of the prison so well that he has so far refused to accept his liberty.

President-elect Taft has effectually put a quietus on the desire which was beginning to develop into activity to organize "Taft clubs" throughout the South. Mr. Taft doubts the wisdom of encouraging at this time political activity in any form.

Robbers, heavily armed, blew the safe in the City Bank at Wellston, Okla., and escaped with \$2,000. The thieves erected a barbed wire fence around the building and got away after a fierce pistol battle with the citizens in which 200 shots were exchanged.

Six hundred Kansas farmers have taken possession of the big agricultural college and are studying and discussing the problems and methods of farming at their annual institute, held at Manhattan under the auspices of the extension department of the college.

Oklahoma Socialists have decided on a system of education that contemplates the teaching of Socialism from the grass root up. Every local organization in the State is instructed to organize a school for children, the latter to be put in classes and grades, according to their ability to comprehend the principles and to be instructed by competent teachers. Sessions of these schools are to be held once a week.

Returns from eleven locomotive builders in the United States and Canada show a total of 2,342 engines, about the same relative falling off as in the cars built. Of the 2,424 built in the United States, 1,668 were for domestic use and 456 for export. These figures include electric and seventy-nine compound locomotives. The Canadian engines, 218, were all for domestic service. Of these twenty were compound.

Mrs. William Marshall filed a breach-of-promise suit in the District Court at Muskogee against Frank A. Castanian, president of the Bank of Braggs, Okla., and a wealthy land owner of Sapulpa, asking for \$15,000. She charges that Castanian agreed to marry her and broke faith. She asks \$20,000 for breach of promise, \$10,000 damages for ill treatment, \$10,000 on another allegation, and \$5,000 on general principles. Mrs. Marshall is a Cherokee woman and has valuable property in the oil fields near Lenapah.

Work has begun on the erection of the new 10-story Lee Hotel at Oklahoma City. This will be one of the largest and finest hotels in the Southwest.

B. A. Breakbill, a collector, was shot at through a window while talking to an attorney in a hotel at Blanchard, Okla. The bullet passed just beneath the heart.

With the arrival of Senator Knox at Augusta, Ga., January 6 or 7, Taft's cabinet-making council will be in session and cabinet announcements may be looked for.

After repeated notices served upon him not to sell cotton below 10 cents, night riders destroyed the barn of W. A. Buck, in Pottawatomie county. Buck recently came from Iowa.

Nearly 100,000 lives were lost and a vast area of land, including several cities, towns and villages, were destroyed in an earthquake which followed a flood and fire in South Italy and the island of Sicily.

The election recently held in Texas, at which a \$25,000 bond issue for street improvement was carried by an overwhelming majority, has been declared void on a technicality by the attorney general of Texas.

William Hill, aged 50 years, was shot and killed at Isham, on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line, by his stepson, William Sowders, aged 15 years, who was protecting his mother from injury at the hands of Hill.

Mrs. Lucy Johnson of Lola, Ky., recovered \$200 from William F. Paris Jr. for a kiss he stole from her on St. Patrick's day. She asked \$2,000. One juror thought the kiss worth not less than \$500. With costs added, Mr. Paris will find the kiss worth about \$600.

The alarming conditions which have called out state troops and United States marshals at the mining town of Stearns, Whitely county, Ky., are creating some discussion in the war department over the probability of a condition arising to call for United States courts.

The second floor of a two-story building at Ellicott City, Md., fell through during the hearing before Justice R. H. Wallen, of William Pampwood, a negro charged with murderous assault. It is estimated that about fifteen persons have broken legs and arms.

Eleven pair of Hungarian partridges, supplied by the United States Government, have been received at the Wichita Forest Reserve, in Comanche County, Oklahoma, by Superintendent Frank Rush and liberated. They will be protected for two years in the reserve for breeding purposes. They will then be trapped and distributed to various sections of the State. The birds are about twice the size of ordinary quail and more prolific.

President Roosevelt and over 6,000 people, representing every land and every state and territory in the Union, exchanged happy New Year greetings at the White House. For three and a half hours the president stood receiving his guests, and when the reception was ended last year's record of attendance had been broken by over 700. Many men and women distinguished in the official and social life of Washington were present.

Governor Charles E. Hughes was Friday inducted for a second term as chief executive of New York. Among the invited guests on the platform were the governor's parents, the Rev. David C. and Mrs. Hughes, the Rt. Rev. Thomas M. A. Burke, the Rt. Rev. Thomas M. A. Burke, Roman Catholic bishop of Albany, the Rev. Richard H. Nelson, bishop coadjutor of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Albany, and Chairman Timothy L. Woodruff of the Republican State Committee.

Charles P. Taft and Senator Foraker withdrew from the Ohio senatorial race, leaving a clear field for Congressman Theo Burton.

Beach Hargis, charged with the murder of his father, Judge James Hargis, was admitted to \$25,000 bail at Irvine, Ky. He will go to Hot Springs, Ark., for his health.

New Mexico and Arizona are preparing for another brilliant dash for statehood after the close of the holiday recess. This time they will be for two states instead of one. Both territories are hopeful of success. New Mexico has been trying for almost sixty years to get into the Union and Arizona for almost half of that time.

Carleton B. Hazard, a wealthy Virginian, who lives on a thirty-acre suburban tract near Rock Creek Park, where his young daughter takes daily rides has written a letter to President Roosevelt accusing him of mistreating his daughter while horseback riding. The president had merely asked the girl to take another road.

Surveys are being made from DeVall's Bluff to Pine Bluff and from Loneke to Pine Bluff. It is understood that rights of way are being bought through the territory in which the surveys are being made and that in all probability roads will be built from these two points south into Pine Bluff.

The public school building at Conway, which has been in course of construction for some time, is nearly completed. The roof is completed and nearly all the rooms in the building have been plastered. Several rooms will be ready for occupancy in February.

For the first time in 200 years, Biloxi, Miss., is without saloons, the seven that were operating here going out of business New Years Day, when statutory prohibition became effective in Mississippi. One saloon is adorned with huge bunches of crepe and the legend "Gone, but not forgotten."

The Kentucky Anti-saloon League urges its constituents to circulate petitions addressed to Gov. Wilson, asking for a special session of the Legislature to pass the uniform county unit bill, and not to include in the call any such measures as the redistricting bill which would serve to embarrass the county unit measure, as did happen at the last regular session. Gov. Wilson is said to have already expressed his willingness to act upon the petitions, upon which the league has already been at work.

The Chicago Typographical Union has taken action on the jail sentence imposed on President Gompers and others of the American Federation of Labor. The paper indorsed by the printers calls on Congress to "frame a law that will curb the 'power hunger' of the judges."

Fire destroyed the sawmill plant and large basket factory of the Lovelace Lumber Company at Brewton, Ala. The estimated loss is \$200,000 or \$250,000, partially insured. The plant was one of the largest and best equipped in the south. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Secretary of War Luke E. Wright will do all he can to secure the establishment of an army post in Memphis, in accordance with his promise made to a special committee of the Business Men's Club, and those who have conversed with him expect him to take the subject up at once with his usual vigor.

Assistant State Mine Inspector Edward Flynn of Alabama estimated that the Alabama coal production in 1908 will show a falling off of two million tons as compared with the production last year. Business depression and the recent miners' strike caused the decrease. The production in 1902 was above \$4,000,000 tons.

PENSIONS BREAK ALL RECORD

\$155,894,049.63 Paid Out—338,341 Names Added to Rolls.

Washington.—Expenditures by the United States last year for pensions broke all records since 1893, according to the report of James R. Garfield, secretary of the interior, made public Monday. To 1,006,633 pensioners there was paid \$155,894,049.63.

In consequence of the act of February 6, 1907, which extended the pension limit, the pension office has been besieged by an army of 413,133 applicants, of whom 338,341 succeeded in getting their names on the pay roll. Death wiped off 54,366 names and at the close of the year there were 951,687 dependent upon the government's bounty.

Only two names remain on the pension list as a sequel of the Revolutionary war. They are the two daughters of the sole Revolutionary widow, who died November 11, 1906. The last pensioned soldier of the war of 1812 died May 13, 1905, but the roll still contains the names of 471 "1812" widows.

ARE LIVING AS JESUS WOULD

1,000 Young Clevelanders Have Undertaken the Task.

Cleveland, O.—For the next two weeks 11,000 young people of the city will endeavor to live as they believe Jesus would live were he on earth. Sunday night at Epworth Memorial Church 1,800 delegates from the Christian Endeavor Society and the Baptist Young People's Union gathered, and stirred by impassioned appeal by the Rev. W. B. Wallace, leader in the movement, pledged their services and their organizations to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

In his address Rev. Mr. Wallace pointed the way for the young people to follow. In making the experiment they must lead a joyous life. They will quit kicking and will go to work in a cheerful frame of mind. They will also endeavor to be honest in business. They may find this task rather hard, as one business man already has declared that his clerks, most of whom are members of one of the two societies, will be immediately fired if they try to keep their pledges around his establishment.

EARTHQUAKE FOR THE SOUTH

Prediction That Little Rock and Hot Springs Will Be Hit.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Geological researches indicate that portions of Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas will one day be visited by an earthquake more far-reaching in its area and more destructive in its effects than that from which Italy recently has suffered, according to Prof. Charles N. Gould, a member of the faculty of the Oklahoma State University and director of the State geological survey. He says that Tishomingo and Atkocia, Okla., Denison, Waco and Texarkana, Tex., and Little Rock and Hot Springs, Ark., will be in the center line of disturbances. Prof. Gould claims that the cause of the recent disturbance was the sliding of subterranean layers of rock accelerated by the tidal wave. He predicts that eventually a series of disturbances will bring the quake center beneath the central part of the United States and toward the South. He makes no prediction as to the date.

BAPTIZED UNDER ICE.

Cold Water of Lake Used to Wash Away Sins.

St. Joseph, Mich.—In the presence of 1,000 persons grouped on the snow and ice-clad shore of Lake Michigan, a class of Church of God converts were Sunday afternoon baptized by Rev. August F. Schmittz, head of the local church. Descending into the chilled water by means of a ladder, through a hole in the ice, ten persons, ranging in age from a small child to a frail woman 72 years old, were thus immersed. A cold, raw wind swept in from the lake. Clad in the robes of his church, the Rev. Schmittz solemnly led the religious procession across the ice to the open water a hundred feet from the shore, where the ceremony was to take place. After offering up a prayer he entered the water, which came up to his chest. Floating ice interfered somewhat with the rapidity with which the pastor apparently desired to work, but each candidate successfully entered the lake and quickly afterward scrambled out again. They were clad in ordinary clothing. Three of the women were barefooted.

\$20,000 LID IN GEORGIA.

Milledgeville Council Goes Limit on "Near Beer."

Atlanta, Ga.—News of the method adopted by Milledgeville, Ga., to remain dry reached here Sunday. The town council has just imposed a license of \$20,000 upon the sale of "near beer." The town has been experimenting with a \$10,000 license on locker clubs, and its unqualified success led to the "near beer" regulation.

CHIEF SAYS HOUSE MISUNDERSTOOD

Message to Lower Branch on Secret Service.

BIG STICK FALLS ON FOUR

Champions of Provision to Limit Scope of Investigators Are Raked Over the Coals by Roosevelt—Federal Sleuths Defended by Executive.

Washington.—President Roosevelt's big stick crashed down upon the heads of Representatives Tawney of Minnesota, Smith of Iowa, Sherley of Kentucky, and Fitzgerald of New York, when the executive sent a special message to the house of representatives, berating those solons for being champions of the successful move to place limitations upon the scope of the secret service.

The president also declared that the interpretation of the house of the secret service clause in his last message was misunderstood, and had there been any evidence which would point to the necessity of an investigation of members, such evidence would long ago have been turned over to the proper authorities. The message was in answer to the resolution transmitted from the house in which the representatives asked for evidence upon which Mr. Roosevelt based his statements that the "chief argument in favor of the provision was that the congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men."

For the Ananias Club.

The message in part: "I am wholly at a loss to understand the concluding portion of the resolution. I have made no charges of corruption against congress nor against any member of the present house. If I had proof of such corruption affecting any member of the house in any matter as to which the federal government has jurisdiction, action would at once be brought, as was done in the cases of Senators Mitchell and Burton, and Representatives Williamson, Herrman and Driggs, at different times since I have been president. This would simply be doing my duty in the execution and enforcement of the laws without respect to persons. But I do not regard it as within the province or the duties of the president to report to the house 'alleged delinquencies' of members, or the supposed 'corrupt action' of a member in his official capacity.' The membership of the house, by the constitution placed within the power of the house alone. In the prosecution of criminals and the enforcement of the laws the president must resort to the courts of the United States.

"In the third and fourth clauses of the preamble it is stated that the meaning of my words is that 'the majority of the congressmen are in fear of being investigated by secret service men' and that 'that motive in enacting the provision in question,' and that this is an impeachment of the honor and integrity of the congress. These statements are not, I think, in accordance with the facts."

Misunderstood, He Says.

"This allegation in the resolution, therefore, must certainly be due to an entire failure to understand my message. The resolution continues: 'That the president be requested to transmit to the house any evidence upon which he based his statements that the "chief argument in favor of the provision was that the congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men." This statement, which was an attack upon no one, still less upon the congress, is sustained by the facts.

"If you will turn to the Congressional Record for May 1 last, pages 5553 to 5560, inclusive, you will find the debate on this subject. Mr. Tawney of Minnesota, Mr. Smith of Iowa, Mr. Sherley of Kentucky, and Mr. Fitzgerald of New York appear in this debate as the special champions of the provision referred to. Messrs. Parsons, Bennett and Driscoll were the leaders of those who opposed the adoption of the amendment and upheld the right of the government to use the most efficient means possible in order to detect criminals and to prevent and punish crime. The amendment was carried in the committee of the whole, where no votes of the individual members are recorded, so I am unable to discriminate by mentioning the members who voted for and the members who voted against the provision, but its passage, the journal records, was greeted with applause. I am well aware, however, that in any case of this kind many members who have no particular knowledge of the point at issue are content simply to follow the lead of the committee which had considered the matter, and I have no doubt that many members of the house simply followed the lead of Messrs. Tawney and Smith."

Asks Reversal of Action.

Concluding, the president said: "In conclusion, I most earnestly ask, in the name of good government and decent administration, in the name of honesty and for the purpose of bringing to justice and to the punishment of law violators, that the federal laws wherever they may be found, whether in public or private life, that the action taken by the house last year be reversed. When this action was taken, the senate committee, under the lead of the late Senator Allison, having before it a strongly-worded protest from Secretary Cortelyou like that he had sent to Mr. Tawney, accepted the secretary's views; and the senate passed the bill in the shape presented by Senator Allison. In the conference, however, the house conferees insisted on the retention of the provision they had inserted, and the senate yielded.

"The chief of the secret service is paid a salary utterly inadequate to the importance of his functions and to the admirable way in which he has performed them. I earnestly urge that it may be increased to \$5,000 per annum. I also urge that the secret service be placed where it properly belongs, and made a bureau in the department of justice, as the chief of the secret service has repeatedly requested; but whether this is done or not, it should be explicitly provided that the secret service can be used to detect and punish crime wherever it is found. THEODORE ROOSEVELT."