

INITIAL STEP IN BUILDING THE WORLD'S FAIR MARKED BY JOYOUS DEMONSTRATION.

MARK BENNETT.



W. H. THOMPSON, J. W. McDONALD, C. P. WALBRIDGE, JOHN SCULLIN, D. R. FRANCIS, JAMES CAMPBELL.



By a Republic Photographer.

WILLIAM H. THOMPSON DRIVING FIRST STAKE OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION ON THE FAIR SITE.

ROB A TRAIN AND STEAL AN ENGINE.

Bandits Hold Up Cotton Belt Passenger Train and Get Big Booty.

DYNAMITE EXPRESS SAFE.

After Completing Their Work the Robbers Boarded the Engine and Rode Safely Away.

Texarkana, Ark., Sept. 4.—The Cotton Belt passenger train leaving Texarkana at 8:25 p. m., in charge of Conductor Armstrong and Engineer Henderson, was held up and robbed near Elyau, four miles south of Texarkana, last night.

Engineer Surrendered.

The train was flagged by one of the robbers, who forced the fireman to go back and cut off the mail and baggage cars, and, returning, forced the engineer to give up the management of his engine.

One of the robbers, who, it appears, is an expert engineer, ran the engine, mail and express cars about a mile from the point where the first stop was made and forced the express messenger the open his car. The robbers then blew open the safe with dynamite, securing, it is said, a very large amount of booty. The exact amount is withheld by the Cotton Belt Railroad, and the express people, but it is known that a very large shipment was made to-night on this train.

Stole the Engine.

The robbers, after securing the loot, cut off the engine from the mail and express cars, and, forcing Engineer Henderson to get off, they took the engine, in charge of the robber engineer, and went south at full speed. At 1:30 o'clock this morning the engine had not been found.

No passengers were molested. They were, however, very badly frightened and hid their valuables. The robbers were evidently in possession of all facts concerning this particular shipment of money, together with a schedule of the train, as their scheme was successful in every respect.

Work of Railroad Men.

A suspicious character was seen to board the head end of the train leaving Texarkana. Railroad employes here seem to be confident that the robbery was committed by railroad men, from the manner in which they superintended the cutting off of the cars and the handling of the engine.

The spot selected for the robbery was well adapted for this kind of work, and is very wild and heavily timbered. The conductor and several passengers walked back to Texarkana, a distance of four miles. The Sheriff and posse have been summoned to go in pursuit of the robbers. At this hour the passenger train stands in two pieces, with the engine's whereabouts unknown. So far as known, no one was injured. There were five men in the gang.

GENERAL DE WET ISSUES.

IRONICAL MANIFESTO. London, Sept. 4.—"De Wet has issued a proclamation," says a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Cape Town, "that he will shoot all British troops found in Orange River Colony after September 15."

LEAVES GOVERNOR'S STAFF.

Chicago Man Objects to Yates's Political Associations.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Springfield, Ill., Sept. 3.—William D. Washburn of Chicago has resigned his place on Governor Yates's personal staff. The resignation came to Adjutant General Rice this morning and was promptly accepted.

Ostensibly Colonel Washburn's law practice will not permit his giving the necessary attention to his military duties. Nevertheless it is claimed that he some days ago announced to friends in Chicago that he would resign because Governor Yates was too closely identified with William Lorimer.

The resignation of Captain Ernest M. Stires as chaplain of the First Cavalry was also accepted.

LI HUNG CHANG IS BECOMING VERY FEEBLE.

Pekin, Sept. 3.—Li Hung Chang is becoming more and more feeble, and it is apparent to all his visitors that he is not probable that he will ever be able to act as Chairman of the Council of State.

WEDDING HASTENED BY BRIDE'S FATHER'S ILLNESS.

Charles H. Flanagan of St. Louis and Miss Julia Forsyth of Woodlawn Married at the Bedside of Her Dying Parent—Bride Had Only One Day to Prepare for the Ceremony.



MRS. CHARLES HENRY FLANAGAN, Who was Miss Julia Forsyth. At the request of her father, who is seriously ill, she was married at his bedside.

INCIDENTS OF THE WEDDING.

Another hurried society wedding. Dangerous illness of the bride's father is responsible. The youthful bride, aged 13 years, had one day to make ready. She wore the gown in which she made her debut three months ago. Her married brother and her sister-in-law, bride and bridegroom of two weeks, lend assistance. The bride's father is carried down to the parlor and witnesses the ceremony.

There were unusual incidents in the wedding last night of Miss Julia Forsyth of Woodlawn and Charles Henry Flanagan of St. Louis. In deference to the wish of her father, William Forsyth, the bride hastened her marriage, which was expected to take place late in the autumn, and instead was wedded last night to Mr. Flanagan, to whom she has been engaged for several months.

Two days only has the bride been allotted for preparation. She has been ill for several weeks, and was about to take a short trip for purposes of recuperation, when a week ago, her father, William Forsyth, was seized with an attack of heart trouble. He has been subject to similar attacks, but none have hitherto been so serious or so lasting. Realizing his dangerous condition, he called the young people to his bedside on Monday, and taking each of their hands

in his, told them that nothing would give him so much relief and pleasure as to see them man and wife. They determined to act in accordance with his desires, and plans were accordingly perfected for the nuptials of last night.

BRIDAL GOWN WAS DRESS USED AT HER DEBUT.

The pretty parlor of the suburban residence was decked with bridal flowers and trailing vines, as Mr. Forsyth insisted that everything should be as conventional as possible at such short notice. In the bay window, with a background of tall palms and asparagus tendrils, the youthful bride stood last night with Mr. Flanagan, and was married, the service being read by the Reverend Father Stempker of the Kirkwood Parish. The bridesmaid was Miss Frances Flanagan, the bridegroom's sister, who hurriedly came home from the country on Monday night, and the best man, the bride's brother, Robert C. Forsyth.

New and splendid wedding gowns and finery take much time for their construction, and so were quite out of the question in this case, even if the bride had so desired. So she chose to be married in simple white instead, and came down the staircase with her brother at the appointed hour—6 o'clock—wearing the same mull and lace frock in which she made her debut three months ago at the large and elaborate garden party given by Mrs. Forsyth in early June, when all suburban society and many town people came out to greet the debutante. It was one of the most successful debuts ever made by a St. Louis girl, but nobody dreamed then that the pretty white frock which won for its wearer so many compliments that afternoon would, a few months later, serve as her wedding dress. Mr. Flanagan insisted that she wear a bridal veil, and to please him the airy tulle was fastened to her bonny brown hair and draped about her slender form.

AMERICA WILL NOT BROOK FIGHTING ON THE ISTHMUS.

United States Have Formally Notified Venezuela and Colombia That They Must Not Figure in Military Plans Which Might Menace the Security of Transit Across Panama—Threatened Disturbance Is Deplored and an Appeal for Peace Is Made by the Secretary of State.

VEILED THREAT AT INTERVENTION EVOKES SOFT RESPONSES.

Washington, Sept. 3.—It is ascertained that on August 24, during Secretary Hay's recent visit to Washington, a telegraphic message was sent to the Ministers at Caracas and Bogota, directing them to inform the Foreign Secretaries of Venezuela and Colombia of the distress with which the President had heard of the likelihood of a disturbance of the relations between these two Republics.

Adverting to the possibility of the influence of the United States being exerted to compose the pending questions, the ministers were directed to say that, while the relations of this Government with both nations are equally intimate and friendly, and every opportunity is taken to show the good will we bear them, an offer of the President's kindly offices to arrange any difficulties which may exist between Colombia and Venezuela would be ineffective without the acquiescence of both.

Nevertheless, inspired by the sentiments which are common to all the Governments of the American Republics, the United States would sincerely deplore a breach of the amicable relations that at this time happily exist between the sister nations of the Western world, and would especially regret any action by either of them which might menace the security of transit across the isthmus or the neutrality of its territory and thereby constrain the Government of the United States to consider its responsibilities and functions under existing treaty engagements with Colombia.

Venezuela's Response. The text of Mr. Hay's telegram has not been made public. It is understood that an acknowledgment of its receipt has been made by the Venezuelan Government, but its purport has not been made known, although it is said to be friendly in tone, and, while charging invasion by Colombian forces on the Venezuelan border and referring to the temporary suspension of diplomatic intercourse which has occurred, the way appears to be open for explanations.

Colombia Conciliatory. Colombia also, it is said to-night, has made response to the note of Secretary Hay. While its contents are not obtainable, the statement is made that it is conciliatory in character and expresses an earnest wish that war with Venezuela may be avoided. Such a result, it is stated, would be a cause of genuine regret to the people of Colombia.

Castro Organ for War. Caracas, Venezuela, Sept. 3.—(Via Haytian Cable.)—The Republica, semi-official organ of the Government, published to-day an inspired article ending as follows: "The hour for notes has passed and its time before the world the just reasons which it has had and has for asking compensation for the grievances it has suffered. It has exhausted all the means at its disposal for settling the threatening questions between nation and nation. We have waited long enough. Now is the time for reprisals."

Colombia, it is stated, stands ready to accept the friendly intervention of the United States to avert war and reposes full confidence in the latter country.

Leading Topics in To-Day's Republic

- THE SUN RISES THIS MORNING AT 6:31 AND SETS THIS EVENING AT 6:26. For St. Louis and vicinity—Continued fair weather, with a slight rise in temperature. For Missouri—Fair Wednesday and Thursday; east to south winds. For Illinois—Fair Wednesday and Thursday; light easterly winds. 5. German Methodists in Annual Conference. Vaccination Made Compulsory. 6. Entries and Results at the Tracks. 7. Baseball Scores. Sporting News. 8. Editorial. Wallace's Senatorial Candidacy. Society Notes. 9. Sudden Death of F. B. Aglar. Will Test Koch's Theory. Fresh Air Mission Ends Active Season. Youths Arrested on Woman's Complaint. 10. Republic Want Advertisements. Record of Births, Marriages, Deaths. 11. Republic Want and Real Estate Advertisements. 12. Grain and Produce Markets. Sales of Live Stock. 13. Financial News. River Telegrams. 14. Brokers Establish a Stock "Curb." Cupid Active in a Restaurant. Methodists Meet at St. Joseph.

married two weeks ago in Nashville, Tenn., arrived a few days ago at the Forsyth residence, on their honeymoon trip, and were present at the ceremony. The bride became engaged to Mr. Flanagan late last spring, though their acquaintance dates from a much earlier period. They had in mind a large and fashionable fall wedding, but the fates decreed otherwise. Mr. Flanagan, who is well known in St. Louis society as the bride is in the suburbs, is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Flanagan of No. 347 Pine street. Late last night the couple took their departure for a short bridal trip. They will live for the present with Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth at Woodlawn.

GREAT CROWD SEES FIRST STAKE DRIVEN.

Spontaneous Outburst of Enthusiasm Marks the Beginning of Physical Work in the Construction of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition—Treasurer Thompson Leads in the Ceremony Near the Geographical Center of World's Fair Grounds and Each Director Present Lends a Hand—The Speeches.

HISTORY COMMITTEE AT WORK FOR A PERMANENT MUSEUM.

At high noon yesterday, in the presence of more than 2,000 persons who had come spontaneously to the scene, the first stake of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition was driven under a big white oak near the geographical center of the fair site in Forest Park by the officers and directors of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company. The ceremony had been planned to be of the most unostentatious character possible. No invitation had been issued either to the directors or to the public. In spite of this, almost every director in the city and a great concourse of St. Louisans attended, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

When the start for the scene of the stake driving was made a dust-shrouded, indiscriminate, helter-skelter rush of wagons, surveys, buggies, barouches, traps, rickshaws, horses, bicycles and footmen occurred that recalled the opening of a new reservation in ante-lottery days.

Chairman Thompson of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings drove home the stake of polished oak with a big ax—the complimentary offering of the Simmons Hardware Company—and then with a hatchet, admirably supplied, drove into its top a silver nail, produced by Architect Taylor, inscribed "September 5, 1901. Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1902."

Each director present, led by President Francis, struck one blow on the head of the nail, President Francis mentioning aloud in introduction the name of each director as he stepped forward.

The nail was then extracted with a clawhammer, and the stake was pulled up by Mr. Thompson himself. Hammer, ax, hatchet, stake and nail were carefully preserved and a rough, ordinary oak stake was slipped into the hole made by the first stake.

CROWD MAKES AN EGGER RUSH FOR RELICS. Scores of persons reached over the shoulder of Secretary Stevens to touch—placiously, as though it were a holy thing—the first stake, which he held in his hand, and scores fell with pocketknives upon the rough oak stake that had replaced the first stake, to slice off splinters and shavings as relics.

"The occasion was a grand, spontaneous success, that augured well for the formal celebration that will signalize the breaking of ground and the commencement of construction work on the Exposition buildings," said one of the directors later in the day.

Eleven o'clock and the Lindell pavilion had been agreed on for the meeting of those who wished to participate in the ceremonies. By 10:20 a. m. the Lindell pavilion was crowded, and each car brought accessions to the numbers, until at 11:15, when the start was made, fully 2,000 persons filled the pavilion and occupied vehicles in the adjacent driveways, ready to take part in the rush for the scene. Some business existed as to the location of the first stake, and all stayed close to the pavilion, keeping a close watch on William H. Thompson, who was recognized as the projected central figure in the event. Among those present in the pavilion were the following:

Directors—President Francis, Treasurer Thompson, Secretary Stevens, John Schroers, J. J. Wertheimer, C. P. Walbridge, Geo. L. Edwards, John Scullin, Charles H. Huttig, Murray Carleton, Nathan Frank, Charles F. Weneker, James F. Coyle, Alex. N. De Meuli, J. J. Schotten, C. F. Blake, H. W. Steinbois, J. C. Van Harcom, J. W. McDonald, James Campbell, R. H. Stockton.

Spectators—H. P. Buckler of Chicago, George J. Parker, Mark Bennett, Captain Perry Bartholomew, C. M. Selph, R. H. Sexton, L. C. Irvine, Jesse McDonald, Frank H. Gerhart, John C. Wands, Captain Isaac M. Mason, Senator Charles Schweickhardt, Parkkeeper W. S. Lamar, General Superintendent of Parks Fred W. Pope, Major C. J. Osborne, S. C. Cabanne, Richard Watson, Henry Mott, Peter G. Gerhart, Census Supervisor Jerome Higgins, Louis Cohen, Phil Kaplan, former Comptroller Isaac S. Sturgeon.

How to Reach the Spot Where Stake Was Driven. The "first stake" is located under a big white oak tree three-fourths of a mile southwest of the Lindell Railway pavilion. To reach the spot from the pavilion take the road that leads to the Moorish music stand; thence skirt the Fenianlar side—the East drive; cross Washington bridge, the new structure at the western end of the lake, following the road—Washington drive—that leads to Fairview Hill, one of the famous "lookout points"; at the first fork of the road follow the left fork—"Linden drive"—for about 600 feet. The stake is 25 feet cross-country due south in a grove of white oaks.

This point is the center of the big Exposition picture—the architectural center of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

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