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Daily Press

THE WEATHER
Partly cloudy and warmer
Saturday; Sunday increasing
cloudiness; variable winds.

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NEWPORT NEWS, VA., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1909.

PRICE TWO CENTS

FIGHT BEGAN YESTERDAY OVER SHIP SUBSIDY BILL

Reported Favorably to House by a Majority of Committee on Post Offices.

VOTE COMES MONDAY OR TUESDAY

Measure Recommended is Similar to Those in Force in European Countries and Japan—Outline of Its Provisions—Foreign Shipping Trust Controls Trade With South America.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—The fight on the floor of the House over the passage of the Senate ocean mail subsidy bill opened today when the majority members of the committee on post offices and post roads submitted a favorable report on the bill and the minority members were given until Monday noon to submit theirs.

The majority report was prepared by Representative Goebel, of Ohio, and states that the principal provision of the bill is that American mail steamships of 16 knots an hour or over, and of 5,000 gross tons, shall be paid \$4 a statute mile on mail carried on lines to South America, the Philippines, Asia and Australia.

Similar to Foreign Laws.

The bill, as amended is in line with the policies of Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Japan. It was declared to be in strict harmony with the recommendations of President Roosevelt in his last annual message to Congress.

It was explained that the bill would provide for a mail service to be equitably distributed on the Atlantic ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific ocean. The ships, it was declared, must be of such a nature and so equipped that they might promptly and economically be turned into auxiliary and naval cruisers.

Foreign Trust Controls.

In discussing the commercial relations between the United States and South America the statement is made that this "trade now and for several years has been monopolized by a foreign trust or combination, whose weapons are rebates, discriminations and boycotting, and whose policies are dictated from Liverpool and Hamburg."

A vote will not be taken until late Monday or Tuesday, when a rule for the consideration of the bill may be reported.

A proposition is being considered among the Democrats to filibuster against the bill.

MANY CONDEMNED TO ELECTRIC CHAIR

Two Negroes and Three Whites Will Execute Unless Executive Clemency Intervenes.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 26.—Two negroes are to be put to death in the electric chair here within the next few weeks for assaults upon girls of their own race, Howard Toler having been convicted in the Circuit Court in Pulaski yesterday for attacking Ollie Lee Morrison, 9 years old, and Perry Seaborn having been found guilty February 2 in Emporia of the capital offense.

Judge Massie yesterday sentenced Toler to pay the death penalty April 9. Judge Jesse F. West, on February 3, sentenced Seaborn to die in the electric chair March 12.

The trial of Toler in Pulaski yesterday was swift justice, as the assault was made Wednesday, and the sheriff captured Toler about four miles from that city and hurried him to jail. Judge Massie was holding court, and immediately prepared for the trial of the negro.

P. W. Morton and M. C. Gilmer were appointed by the court to defend the negro.

When the case was called yesterday the court-room was packed with people curious to hear the evidence. Commonwealth's Attorney John S. Draper put on a few witnesses for the State and made out such a strong case that the negro, when put on the stand, confessed to the whole truth, giving the details of the crime, and asking for mercy.

The jury was out for only a few minutes and returned with a verdict of "guilty."

A guard at the penitentiary this morning said Seaborn has already been brought here and is among the

three or four other condemned men awaiting execution within the next few weeks.

Seaborn was convicted of criminal assault on a negro girl and forcing her at the point of a gun to disclose the whereabouts of all the money she possessed, which was \$50. The negro was arrested about two weeks before his trial, the capture being made by Deputy Sheriff Saunders in Suffolk. He has already served a five-year sentence in the penitentiary for burglary, having been convicted in Southampton county.

March will probably be the death chair's busiest month since it began operation in October, when Henry Smith, a Petersburg negro, was the first man to pay the capital offense penalty by electrocution in Virginia.

Elijah Wright, a middle-aged man, is the last white man under sentence of the old law to hang in Virginia. He was convicted of the murder of William Sellers, in Dickenson county, but was respited.

Joseph Payne, of Bedford county, is the last negro under sentence to hang in Virginia. He was convicted of murdering his father-in-law, Redd Swain.

Probably the most brutal crime for which the death penalty is to be inflicted was that of Felix Christian, the Red four county negro, who is to be electrocuted March 22 for assaulting and murdering the little Dobbs girl at Glen Wilton.

Two white men are to die in the electric chair unless they get new trials or their sentences are commuted. They are Samuel Hardy, of Holland, Va., convicted of the murder of Thiering Gracibus Jones, and Benjamin E. Gilbert, found guilty of the murder of his sweetheart, Miss Amanda Morse, on a bridge at Norfolk. Gilbert is to be electrocuted March 19.

MISSION SUCCESSFUL

Buchanan Brings Back Protocol Signed by Venezuela.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—W. L. Buchanan, American special commissioner to Venezuela, appointed by Secretary Root, to arrange a basis of settlement of the disputed claims with that country, has returned to Washington by way of the gunboat Marietta.

Mr. Buchanan brought the protocol signed whereby two of the five claims are to be settled out of court and the remainder arbitrated.

Diplomatic relations with Venezuela are to be immediately resumed, and in about a week W. W. Russell, the former minister, withdrawn last spring, following Castro's refusal to arbitrate the claims, will return to Caracas.

BIG BOND PURCHASE

Morgan Syndicate Buys \$21,000,000 of Southern Securities.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The purchase of upwards of \$21,000,000 of general development bonds of the Southern Railway Company by J. P. Morgan & Company, as syndicate managers, was announced today. The price was stated to be about \$75.

The proceeds will be used to redeem the \$16,000,000 of 5 per cent. notes of the Southern Railway Company which mature on the first of April.

WARSHIPS TO NICARAGUA

State Department Asks That One or More Vessels be Sent.

SHIPS WANTED ON WESTERN COAST

Warnings Come From American Secretary of Legation at Managua—Situation in Central American Country May Furnish Developments.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—Because of reports of uneasiness in Central America, growing out of important military activities in Nicaragua, the state department has asked that one or more naval vessels be sent to Managua, on the west coast, to watch developments and report on the situation.

The information which the state department is acting upon came from John H. Gregory, Jr., the secretary of the legation at Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

Officials deemed the information to be of sufficient importance to warrant preparation for any eventualities. Recent unofficial dispatches from Central America have indicated a feeling somewhat akin to that reported to the state department, but have met with denials from similar sources. The state department has done its utmost in offering its good office to maintain peaceful conditions in Central America.

HOUSE PASSES THE SUNDRY CIVIL BILL

Much Debate But Few Changes of Importance—Maine Wreck Will Remain.

PANAMA SECRETARY'S SALARY CUT

Amendment to Direct Prosecution of Steel Trust Fails of Adoption—Provision Prohibiting Canteens at Soldiers' Homes Remains in Bill—Porto Rican Church Appropriation Lost.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—The house of representatives again today got down to work on the sundry civil appropriation bill.

The house overwhelmingly voted down an amendment by Mr. Fitzgerald of Pennsylvania, striking out the provision prohibiting canteens at soldiers' homes.

On the ground that it was new legislation the chair sustained a point of order against the provision admitting to national soldiers' homes all honorably discharged soldiers or sailors who have seen service in the Philippines, China and Alaska and it was stricken out.

An amendment by Mr. Bartlett of Georgia, directing the attorney general to prosecute the United States Steel Corporation for absorbing the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company and appropriating \$50,000 for that purpose, was ruled out on a point of order by Mr. Tawney.

Was in Proper Form.

A practically similar amendment offered by Mr. Hitchcock of Nebraska, was held to be in proper form, and a point of order against it by Mr. Tawney was overruled.

In speaking to his amendment Mr. Hitchcock declared that the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company was a "gigantic merger, spectacular and far-reaching in its character, which practically accomplishes the purpose of creating a monopoly in the steel interests of the United States."

He said that investigation had shown that the panic was not stayed by the merger, but that the Morgan banks forced the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company to the wall in order to secure the interests of a rival concern.

Reply from Kentuckian.

An assertion by Mr. Tawney that the amendment was offered simply to provide opportunity for political speeches brought a reply from Mr. Sherley, of Kentucky.

He said that if there was any politics in the proposition "the politics gets into it by virtue of the action of an executive without warrant of law."

If there was one indictment that lay against the government, he said, it was that the laws were not enforced impartially against violators.

Whether the action of the President was in good or bad faith, he argued, the course was taken without right and the facts developed had shown that the action was not a wise one.

Amendment Was Lost.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 81 to 112.

The provision calling for the payment to the Catholic churches in Porto Rico of \$120,000 in retirement of all property matters in dispute between the church and the United States, was stricken out on a point of order by Mr. Garrett of Tennessee.

On a similar point by Mr. Douglas of Ohio, the paragraph authorizing proposals for raising the battleship Maine in Havana harbor, went out of the bill, against the appeals of Mr. Sulzer of New York. He said it was a national disgrace to continue to allow the wreck to remain, and not take out the bodies still in the bulk.

"We had better quit remembering the Maine," exclaimed Mr. Douglas. "The bodies that were not taken out, he said, were not now bodies but food for fishes." To bring their ghastly remains home, he said, would simply be to reopen in the hearts of their families a sore which, "thank God, is now so substantially removed."

Panama's Secretary, Salary Cut.

When the provision relating to the Panama canal commission was reached, an amendment by Mr. Fitzgerald of New York, cutting down the salary of Secretary Bishop from \$10,000 to \$5,000 per annum was adopted.

Mr. Fitzgerald advised the house that Mr. Bishop was provided with a \$11,000 home, a horse and carriage, and a coachman, and said that \$5,000 salary was enough.

The clause authorizing an increase in the amount of Panama bonds from \$125,000,000 to \$160,000,000 under the

(Continued on Third Page.)

INTIMATES OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS INDECENT

Senator Tillman Asks Inquiry Into Admissibility of Home Commission Report to the Mails.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—Senator Tillman today astonished the senate by the introduction of a resolution instructing the committee on postoffices and post roads to inquire whether messages and reports recently sent to congress by the President should not be excluded from the mails as obscene literature unfit for publication.

The resolution was, on motion of Mr. Tillman, referred to the committee on postoffices and post roads, its reading in the senate and reference causing no discussion.

The resolution includes not only the President's message, but the report of the commission and the committee on postoffices is directed to consider whether the use of the mails should not be prohibited to the entire matter.

The resolution refers to the President's home commission dealing with homes in Washington, to the message on the commission's report, and to the report itself, which treats of conditions in the alley homes in the city in plain language.

T. MONCURE PERKINS IS AN INSOLVENT

Richmond Packer in Financial Difficulties—Connected by Marriage With Many Notables.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 26.—T. Moncure Perkins, trading under the name of T. M. Perkins & Company, wholesale packing business, today acknowledged his inability to meet his indebtedness and application was made for him to be placed in involuntary bankruptcy.

Mr. Perkins is a son-in-law of C. D. Langhorne, of this city, and is related by marriage to some of the leading society people of America and England.

MEMBERS "ON SIGHT"

President and Other Officials Now Genuine Farmers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—President Roosevelt, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and Gifford Pinchot, government forester, are now all full-fledged "farmers," having just been admitted "on sight" to membership in the National Farmers' Union.

The honors were conferred by President Charles S. Barrett, of Union City, Ga., of the National Farmers' Union, which organization now is in session here.

"I am delighted to be a member of your body," declared President Roosevelt, when the honor was conferred upon him, adding that his sympathies and best wishes were with the farmers.

He expressed the hope that they should meet with success in their efforts to secure legislation to prevent the dealing in futures in agricultural products.

LAMB ENTERS PROTEST.

Appeals to President to Discountenance the Tobacco Trust.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—Representative Lamb of Virginia, representing independent tobacco men, protested to President Roosevelt today against the recent award to the American Tobacco Company of the contract to supply the navy with 220,000 pounds of chewing tobacco for the next fiscal year.

The protest was based on the ground that the government has just been engaged in exposing the doings of this "big trust."

The American Tobacco Company, which holds this year's contract, was the lowest bidder for the next year's supply.

Taft's Kinsman Gets Job.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—The Columbus Memorial Commission has awarded the contract for making a statue of Columbus to be erected in the plaza of the Union station in this city toorado Taft, of Chicago, a relative of the President-elect.

Congress has appropriated \$100,000 for the Columbus Memorial, which, in addition to the statue, will comprise a large architectural fountain.

Family of Five Buried.

BAKERSFIELD, CAL., Feb. 26.—Mrs. M. W. Bookman, a widow and her four children, residing seven miles from this city, lost their lives today in a fire that destroyed their home.

It is believed they were murdered and the house then set on fire.

French Forces Defeat Pirates.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The governor of Indou China declares in a cablegram received here today that the Tonkin troops have defeated the Dethan pirates of Yenché.

CARMACK WAS NOT IN A BITTER MOOD

State Offers to Prove This by Deferring Witnesses, But Court Rules it Out.

DAY ONE OF BITTER WRANGLING

Cooper's Friend Tells Judge That Carmack Laughed at the Idea of Trouble—Testimony Not Allowed to Go to Jury—Contradicts Defendant's Chief Contentions.

(By Associated Press.)
NASHVILLE, TENN., Feb. 26.—The ninth day of actual testimony in the Cooper-Sharpe trial for the slaying of Former United States Senator Edward W. Carmack was marked by lengthy and bitter argument between opposing counsel.

At the same time an interesting law point was decided by Judge Hart.

The defense early in the case in chief offered proof of the Colonel Cooper was told by Edward Craig, whom the colonel had sent to see Senator Carmack, that Carmack was in an "ugly humor."

The defense's case was based really upon this one expression, for Colonel Cooper and Robin both testified that they armed themselves because they were led to believe from this remark that Senator Carmack might assault the elder Cooper.

State Embarrasses Defense.

Today the state offered to prove by two of the defense's own witnesses—Major Vertrees and Assistant State Insurance Commissioner T. Leigh Thompson—that Senator Carmack was not only not in an ugly mood but laughed at the idea of trouble.

The defense fought the admission of this testimony with more vim and bitterness than has characterized any argument since the trial began.

Counsel offered two reasons why it should be excluded.

First, that the state could cross examine only on such matter as had been gone over in direct examination. The court promptly rejected this theory.

Next the defense argued that unless all the conversation of witnesses with Carmack, as well as their observation of his manner and appearance had been communicated to the defendants, the testimony was inadmissible.

Court Holds With Defense.

In the question of Major Vertrees' testimony, Judge Hart excluded the jury and permitted the state to examine the major for the benefit of the court.

He admitted all that the state said he would, that Carmack laughed at the idea of trouble; said he had done nothing to provoke it, and that he wanted a revolver simply to satisfy his friends. Then counsel on both sides argued and the court held with the defense.

Later in the day, when T. Leigh Thompson was on the stand almost the same question arose and the argument began anew.

Judge Hart said that he would render his decision tomorrow, but indicated that unless the state had discovered some new authorities to support its contentions, he would rule out the testimony.

Cooper Wasn't So Liberal.

Colonel Cooper resumed the stand when court opened and said: "I wish to make one statement. My testimony yesterday as to helping an old soldier with money, as I read it in the stenographer's transcript this morning, was misunderstood, and I am afraid it is my fault. I secured \$50 of it to the old soldier, but evidently everyone thought I said \$1,050. That's all."

Cooper was then excused. After some delay waiting for a witness who did not arrive, Lieutenant H. L. Pilecher, U. S. A., who found the revolver near Carmack's body, was called by the defense.

He said that he had just left the club's block away from the tragedy before the killing and saw a crowd and as he approached found Senator Carmack lying in the gutter, face down. His right hand was extended and the revolver was eight inches from the hand. Witness picked up the revolver and broke it.

It contained four loaded shells and two empty ones. It was a .38-caliber hammerless.

EVANGELIST "BILL" SUNDAY HORSEWHIPPED

But Ex-Ball Player Floors His Assailant—They Fight While Congregation Sings.

(By Associated Press.)
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Feb. 26.—Rev. W. A. Sunday, better known as "Billy" Sunday, a former baseball player, who is now an evangelist, was horse-whipped tonight at the Sunday tabernacle, where in the presence of 8,000 persons he was conducting the opening meeting of a religious revival meeting.

The evangelist was leaning against the pulpit when a powerful man, who later said his name was Sherman Potts, sprang forward with a buggy whip and struck Sunday several terrible blows.

Sunday leaped from the platform and dashed his assailant to the floor in the center aisle. The audience was on the verge of a panic, with women weeping and children screaming, while Potts and Sunday rolled and tumbled in the aisle.

Men Fight While Choir Sings.

Mr. Pilecher, the choir leader, directed the choir and the audience to sing, and in a few moments the entire audience was calmed, few leaving their seats.

Several men soon secured Potts and they held him until policemen came and took him to jail.

Sunday said he suffered several painful bruises from the buggy whip. The prisoner said that his home was near Lorington, Ill. He made the attack, he said, in defence of the virtue of women, which he declared had been criticised by the evangelist.

The police say that Potts is a religious fanatic.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO DIRECTORS' MEETING

Trumbull Elected Chairman of Board. Dooley of Richmond Made Member—Other Features.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—At a meeting of the board of directors of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, held here today, Frank Trumbull was elected chairman of the board, and James Mackie, the road's secretary, was elected also to the treasurership.

James H. Dooley, of Richmond, Va., was made a member of the board of directors.

The executive committee was organized by the designation, to act upon it, of President George W. Stevens, Chairman Frank Trumbull, of the board of directors; Edwin Hawley, Frank A. Vanderlip and James W. Castles.

Yacht Has Trying Experience.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 26.—The yacht Surf, with John H. Hannan, of New York and party on board, bound for Nassau, came into this port this afternoon for coal after a trying experience in a storm off Cape Hatteras.

The vessel heaved to for 28 hours and was in grave danger. She was driven 300 miles out of her course. No injuries were sustained and the vessel proceeded tonight.

SPERRY SEES OFFICIALS

Holds Consultations Respecting Matters Relating to His Command.

WILL BE GUEST OF PRESIDENT TODAY

Secretary of Navy Declares There is No Intention to Relieve Admiral of His Command—Sperry Will Return on Monday.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—Rear Admiral Charles S. Sperry, commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet, spent today in Washington in consultation with naval officials respecting matters connected with his command.

He came on the Potomac river boat from Fort Monroe, which left there last night. Owing to Secretary Newberry's presence at the cabinet meeting this morning, the admiral deferred his visit to the navy department until noon, when he spent some time with Secretary Newberry.

The secretary again declared that there was no intention to relieve Admiral Sperry from his duties as commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet.

It is declared, however, should the admiral request that he be relieved another rear admiral would be appointed to take the command.

Tomorrow Admiral Sperry will be the guest of the President at luncheon at the White House. He will remain in Washington until Monday, when he will return to the flagship Connecticut.

FIVE SHIPS HAVE GONE; TWO MORE LEAVE TODAY

New Jersey Goes to Boston and the Rhode Island Will Sail for New York.

OTHERS WILL FOLLOW VERY SOON

Determining that the Admiral's Inspection Shall Be Delayed Until Later in Year—Report Reiterated That Wainwright Will Succeed Sperry. Farragut's Old Flagship Joins Fleet.

(By Associated Press.)
FORT MONROE, VA., Feb. 26.—The disintegration of the powerful naval force which has been at anchor in Hampton Roads since Monday last began this afternoon.

The Minnesota and Virginia, of the fleet which circled the world, slipped silently out of their squadron lines late in the day, and steamed away to the Norfolk navy yard to undergo docking and to receive preparations for the summer maneuvers.

The big white ships, when they leave the yard again, will be dressed in the sombre hues of "service gray."

The three scout cruisers Chester, Birmingham and Salem, sailed just before the setting of the sun. They passed out of the Virginia capes and headed for Newport, R. I.

After coaling there the three scouts will be sent out on a practice run, which is expected to demonstrate the relative efficiency of the three different types of engines with which these fleet cruisers are fitted.

As they steamed away today the three gray cruisers appeared like giant torpedo boat destroyers, their lines being much the same.

The battleships New Jersey and Rhode Island are ordered away tomorrow, the former going to Boston and the latter to New York.

Conscious of the fact that they will be the first of the homecoming fleet to enter New York harbor, the men and officers of the Rhode Island are preparing to celebrate accordingly.

The ships after finishing coaling today received a new coat of paint and will steam into the metropolis on Monday, looking spick and span as though she had just left the navy yard.

Further Inspection Unnecessary.

Other ships are to follow the New Jersey and Rhode Island very shortly, it having been determined that the admiral's inspection shall be delayed until later in the year. The ships have been under such close supervision on the way around the world and reports have been made so frequently as to their exact condition and the state of their efficiency that further inspection was deemed unnecessary by the navy department.

Just what is to be done with the ships of the third squadron, the so-called stay-at-homes, has not been determined. The men on the ships have had hard work fitting out and shaking down the new vessels and are anxious to make some sort of cruise rather than to remain at the Guantanamo drill grounds until the ships of the returned fleet are ready for summer maneuvers. It is said that the third squadron will be given a West Indian cruise, taking in such ports as Antigua, St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Barbadoes and probably Trinidad.

Presented Marked Contrast.

One of the most picturesque sights Hampton Roads has ever shown, was presented today when Admiral Farragut's old flagship, the Hartford, of "Damn the torpedoes" fame, came steaming in from Annapolis and cast anchor near the modern 16,000-ton Connecticut.

When her wooden hull and bark rig, the Hartford presented a striking contrast to the armor clad of today. She will be used in helping to transport blue jackets to Washington for the inaugural parade.

With the departure of Rear Admiral Sperry for Washington today rumors as to his probable successor again became rife.

The old report spread that Rear Admiral Richard Wainwright who was executive officer of the battleship Maine under Captain Sigsbee when that vessel was destroyed in Havana harbor, and who afterward commanded the little Gloucester at the battle of Santiago, is President Roosevelt's choice for commander in chief and that the President intends to so designate him before March 4.

Admiral Wainwright is one of the most recently promoted flag officers, and his selection as commander in chief would mean the sending down to bureau and board work in the navy department of Admirals Arnold and Schroeder, as well as Admiral Sperry, who retires in September.

Admiral Arnold, during the absence of Admiral Sperry, is acting commander in chief of the fleet.

(Continued on Second Page.)