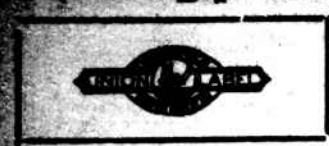


The Daily Press.



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1909.

**UNDERVALUATION OF HUMAN LIFE.**

A news despatch from Wilkesbarre, Pa., on Monday last states that:

"George W. Steele, superintendent of Mount Lookout Colliery of the Temple Coal and Iron Company, near Pittston, was today found guilty of negligence in causing the explosion of May 12th last, when twelve men were killed and thirteen others injured in the mine.

"The court held that he was negligent in failing to provide extra main doors in the gangways of the mine as required by law.

"The court suspended sentence on the ground that the conviction carries its own punishment."

Doubtless the judge's view is well grounded so far as Superintendent Steele himself is personally concerned. Indeed, if he be not utterly without human feeling toward his brother men, it is quite likely that his conscience already has inflicted no inconsiderable punishment.

However, it is generally understood that the enforcement of penalties for violation of the criminal laws, particularly those relating to the taking of human life, has a two-fold purpose.

First, the deterrent effect upon others who in the absence of fear of such penalties might commit the same offense. The visitation of physical suffering or mental anguish upon the offender, as most people understand the purposes of the law, is but a secondary consideration.

Since the twelve men died in the Mount Lookout Colliery by reason of Steele's criminal neglect, perhaps something like a thousand other miners have perished because of similar derelictions in various parts of the country.

Had Steele been promptly tried and convicted after the preventable explosion in the Mount Lookout mine on May 12 last, had a suitable penalty inflicted, it is possible that some hundreds of husbands and fathers whose lives have since been snuffed out by avoidable accidents in other collieries might yet be alive to support their families.

By a strange coincidence, upon the same day that the Wilkesbarre judge exercised leniency toward the negligent superintendent of the Mount Lookout Colliery, another explosion occurred in a Pennsylvania coal mine at Roswell, which killed one man outright and entombed eleven others, the latter at last accounts appearing also to be doomed to death.

Upon the border of our own State near Bluefield, W. Va., within the past month two explosions occurred in the same shaft just fourteen days apart. In these two disasters about 118 men gave up their lives.

Hardly a week passes that does not bring news of some such catastrophe. Yet the conviction of Steele marks the first successful prosecution against any mine official in the United States charged with the wanton sacrifice of human life within the past decade. And in his case lawful judgment is waived because one who believes the "conviction carries its own punishment."

The one who says that working below the earth's surface is a

hazardous thing even when all proper precautions are taken.

But in Europe where the laws requiring the mine operators to employ every known device and appliance to safeguard the lives of the men underground are rigidly enforced, mine disasters but rarely occur. With us the weekly or monthly slaughter in varying numbers of human beings underground has become a section of routine news matter, like police court proceedings, council meetings or pension bill day in Congress.

The mines are owned by great corporations. The Audubon Society wages war upon those who slaughter song birds in order that their stuffed bodies and plumage may adorn the feminine headgear.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals all over the country exercises the utmost vigilance to compel the painless chloroform method of ending the careers of decrepit dogs and cats.

But nowhere is to be found an organization which lifts up its voice in protest against the wholesale and needless killing of men by the corporations that prefer to sacrifice a few hundred human lives rather than expend a few hundred additional dollars.

**SOUTH AND CALIFORNIA HAVE COMMON CAUSE.**

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot is one among the few morning newspapers of Virginia resisting the efforts of the emperor of Japan to dictate the internal policy and action of an American State. Evidently the Norfolk newspaper believes with the Daily Press that the United States may not without dishonor cower before the threats of an Asiatic nation, even though by an egregious blunder we have invited the insult through stripping the Pacific of adequate naval protection.

How would Virginians feel should the President of the United States command that separation of the races should be abandoned in the public schools of the State?

Then for instance suppose that Liberia, in Africa, were a strong military and naval power, and that that country's ruler had dictated to the President of the United States that he should issue such a command.

This hypothetical question to Virginians is exactly on a parallel with the actual conditions which harass the Californians at the present moment.

Says the Virginian-Pilot:

"There was a time when the United States paid tribute to the Emperor of Morocco for the privilege of navigating peaceably the waters of the Mediterranean. That was not very much worse than having the Emperor of Japan dictate on pain of armed reprisals what the internal economy of the State of California may be. Why should we yield to blustering Japan that which has been denied to meek China? The yellow peril is the same in both cases, and the duty of repelling it is the same. There should be no compromise in the matter. If by the indifference of a treaty the school laws of California can be nullified so can those of the Southern States which segregate the negroes into separate schools. If the choice lies between fighting and allowing the Pacific Slope to be inundated by a mongrel population, then we ought to fight."

**WITHDRAWAL FROM CUBA.**

For the second time, the United States will turn over the affairs of government to the Cubans on Thursday next.

Governor Magoon declares that complete tranquillity now reigns in the island. This probably is a condition incidental to the presence of American troops. When all of these have been withdrawn, no one can now foretell how long peace and concord will endure in the Pearl of the Antilles.

Should an Army of Pacification be again compelled to land in Cuba from this country, it is altogether probable that it will remain indefinitely.

**PASSIONATELY OPPOSES DEALINGS IN "FUTURES"**

(Continued from First Page.)

changed, that unless the congress of the United States turns a listening ear to the lamentations of an outraged public, that within ten years there may be another Shenandoah Valley, there may be another Gettysburg, the red broom of war may sweep this government as it has never been swept before, and when this day shall break in all its fury, we to the crowd working the field of legislation that have laid these grievous burdens upon the backs of the crowd working the field of human endeavor.

The transactions on the New York

**PROPER CLOTHES FOR MEN**

Peysner Says

It will be an injustice to yourself if you do not patronize his great

**Clearance Sale**

Everything in every department is marked down to below zero prices. We urge you strongly to buy your

SUIT, OVERCOAT, HATS, SHOES and FURNISHINGS AT ONCE.

2715 Washington Ave. Newport News, Va.

exchange, he said, involve speculation ten times as much cotton as is actually produced in the South.

"The whole transaction," he said, "is a pure gamble, a bucket shop transaction of the worst kind, and no exchange should be lawfully empowered to continue this gambling game." This, he added, is gambling in the flesh, in the blood and in the bones of women and children of the South who are forced by the robbery and spoliation of these gamblers to toil from daylight until dark to produce the subject matter of this gambling transaction.

These exchanges, he insisted, so completely fix the price of cotton that the smallest farmer, when he carries his product to market, is told that the purchaser must consult the exchange before he buys it. When gambling in cotton is destroyed he said a better price could be obtained for the cotton of the South.

The 1,100 names of members of the New York Stock Exchange were included in Mr. Davis' remarks. These men, he said, represent wealth aggregating \$15,000,000,000,000 or about one-seventh of the wealth owned by the ninety million people of the United States and in addition to that personal ownership, he added, they represent vast railway and commercial systems that add to their influence in the financial world.

Attendance Was Small.

Only 26 senators were in their seats when Senator Jeff Davis arose to address the Senate.

Mr. Davis had not proceeded for more than a few minutes when even this small attendance was reduced to seventeen senators, only six of whom were Republicans.

The attendance in the galleries was also small.

Speaking of the publication of news concerning the exchange in which cotton is sold for future delivery, Mr. Davis said:

**ONE WEAK SPOT.**

Most Newport News People Have a Weak Part and Too Often it's The Back.

Everyone has a weak spot. Too often it's a bad back. Twinges follow every sudden twist. Dull aching keeps up, day and night.

Tells you the kidneys need help—For backache is really kidney-ache. A kidney cure is what you need. Doan's Kidney Pills cure sick kidneys.

Cure backache and urinary ills. Newport News people recommend the remedy. Mrs. M. L. Taylor, living at 816 Twenty-seventh street, Newport News, Va., says: "I have used Doan's Kidney Pills and they are without doubt a splendid remedy for disordered kidneys. For some years I suffered from kidney complaint, my back being very weak and at times so painful that I could scarcely drag myself about. I could not rest well at night and no position I assumed seemed comfortable. I doctored and used many remedies but nothing gave me relief until my attention was called to Doan's Kidney Pills. I procured a box at A. E. G. Klor's Drug Store, used them as directed and am pleased to state that the whole trouble soon disappeared. I have had no return attack since and gladly recommend the remedy that cured me."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-McMillan Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

**RAINEY CREATES A STIR**

In House Attacks Charles P. Taft and Many Others.

**SAYS THEY ARE PERMITTED TO ROB**

Mentions as Taft's Associates William Nelson Cromwell, R. L. Farnham and Various Panama Statesmen—Advocates Investigation of Affairs.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26.—A sensational and bitter attack on William Nelson Cromwell, Charles P. Taft, President Obaldia, of Panama, and others by Mr. Rainey, of Illinois, was made in the House of Representatives today.

The post-office appropriation bill was under consideration but Mr. Rainey spoke under license of general debate and he was unsparing in his charges of corruption and fraud against the persons named.

At the conclusion of his speech, which consumed over an hour and a half, Messrs. Stevens, of Minnesota and Kustermann, of Wisconsin, expressed their disapproval of his remarks and entered a defense of the accused.

During the morning hour the House passed a joint resolution making February 12, 1909, which marks the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln a legal holiday in the territories and the District of Columbia.

When the House, at 5 p. m., adjourned, the post office appropriation bill was still pending.

**Rainey's Bitter Attack.**

Charging that William Nelson Cromwell, Roger L. Farnham, Charles P. Taft and others are parties to the "most infamous railroad proposition ever submitted to any government" and that they "are being permitted not only to rob the republic of Panama, but indirectly the treasury of the United States," Representative Rainey of Illinois today directed the searchlight of publicity upon affairs in the canal zone in a scathing speech in support of his resolution providing for an investigation by congress of the Panama canal purchase. "In their efforts in this direction," he continued, "they have had so far the complete cooperation and active assistance of the present administration and of the next President of the United States."

Mr. Rainey traced the history of the proposed canal four hundred years back and warned that we have already started in the direction of the rocks upon which the French Companies were wrecked.

Referring to the government's libel suit against the New York World and the grand jury investigation now in progress in this city and in New York, Mr. Rainey said:

**Must Avoid Graft.**

"If we are to carry this project through to a successful conclusion, we must avoid graft. It is not the part of wise statesmanship to dispose of resolution asking for an investigation of any phase of the Canal question with the sweeping and absolutely unsupported official declaration that there is nothing to investigate. It is not the part of sound statesmanship and true patriotism to attempt to revive the obsolete common law remedies of two hundred years ago, and to employ all the tremendous agencies of the Government in attempting to crush newspapers which have had the courage to call attention to a questionable transaction in connection with the Canal."

He submitted for record "various papers and documents in support of many allegations contained in the speech."

Mr. Rainey was particularly bitter in his denunciation of Mr. Cromwell, general counsel for the New French Panama Canal Company and counsel and a director of the Panama Railroad, which is owned by the United States Government. He charged that "through the manipulations of Mr. Cromwell, the French Canal Company was permitted to steal from the United States government three or four million dollars" and that after he "had become an officer in fact of the United States, he became a party to an attempt to collect from the United States a fraudulent claim on the part of the Canal Company of \$2,200,000."

**Represents Corrupt Policies.**

He also was unsparing in his attack upon Don Jose Domingo De Obaldia, president of Panama, whom he said represented "as no other Spanish-American statesman in the generation all that is corrupt in Spanish-American politics."

"Without Obaldia," he stated, "Cromwell's career would have been impossible. Without Cromwell, Obaldia would have been impossible."

Against President-elect Taft, now en route to the canal zone, Mr. Rainey directed the accusation that on the occasion of his last trip to Panama in May "he did nothing on the isthmus except to openly push the candidacy of Obaldia for the Presidency." He asserted that a very thinly veiled threat to seize the Republic if Obaldia was not elected was contained in a letter written by Mr. Taft to the then President Amador and that to prevent this Arias, Obaldia's opponent, withdrew.

Roasts Senator Lodge. Reference to President Roosevelt's recent attack on Senator Tillman was made by Mr. Rainey in asserting that Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, was responsible for the expenditure on January 1 last of over one million

dollars for the purchase of the steamships Shawmut and Tremont for the Panama Railroad Company, which the Canal commission did not want and did not need but which were bought because "the constituents of the senior senator from Massachusetts wanted to sell them." He said that "for some weeks the secret agencies of the government had been at work investigating the senior senator from South Carolina. They have," he said, "discovered that he used his frank inadvertently in private correspondence, and so deprived the government of revenue to the amount of two cents and the matter was considered important enough to be embodied in a special message from the President to congress. The senior senator from Massachusetts, I believe, is still invited to White House dinners, is the President's friend and adviser and the cabinet maker for the incoming president. I have not heard of any secret service agents disturbing any senior senator from Massachusetts, and yet he is directly, individually and solely responsible that there was taken out of the treasury of the United States over one million dollars."

"A year or two after the independence of Panama," continued Mr. Rainey, "the officials of the little republic commenced to absorb ideas of patriotism peculiarly distasteful to Mr. Cromwell. Mr. Cromwell determined to displace Dr. Amador and the other leaders of the constitutional party of Panama, and put in as President some more pliant presence, less devoted to high ideas and of course in such an emergency as that his attention was directed to his old friend and ally, Obaldia. He was a man after Cromwell's own heart. So it was determined that Obaldia was to become President of Panama. Cromwell and his friends had developed certain methods for despoiling and robbing the little country, and they did not propose to be interrupted in any way by the awakened public patriotism and honesty of Doctor Amador and his friends."

"Subsequently," he said, "Obaldia's opponent withdrew on account of the interference of Secretary Taft in the elections" and Obaldia was elected. In President Amador's farewell message to the general assembly, said Mr. Rainey, he directly charged Mr. Taft with forcing the election of Obaldia.

"The plan of Mr. Cromwell and his associates," he declared was to "absolutely appropriate to their own use the revenues of the Republic and to steal the forests and the public lands. The necessity for Mr. Taft's interference and for the election of Obaldia becomes now as plain as day."

**Infamous Proposition.**

Mr. Rainey referred to the fact that there was pending and about to be adopted in the General Assembly of Panama "the most infamous railroad proposition ever submitted to any government" by which Randolph G. Ward, of New York, was to be largely the beneficiary. He called attention to what he said was the failure of Arnold Shanklin, the American Consul General at Panama, to make a report requested by the Bureau of Forestry last year because "he evidently, feels he owes his position there to William Nelson Cromwell," and charged that certain interested parties were seeking to levy tribute upon the people of a Panama and indirectly the people of the United States in connection with these timber land deals.

**C. P. Taft Interested.**

"It will be interesting to know who the gentlemen are who are attempting in this way to impoverish the Republic of Panama," he said "and he mentioned William Nelson Cromwell, Roger L. Farnham, W. S. Harvey and Charles P. Taft.

"Since the election of last November," he continued, "under the shadow of the dome of the Capitol a broad line appears daily, constantly increasing in length. If we permit the scheme of William Nelson Cromwell, Roger L. Farnham, Charles P. Taft, and others through on to the isthmus of Panama, this government will have there a broad line containing four hundred thousand people." If we "permit the men who are attempting to steal and to appropriate to their own use the revenues of this republic," we place upon the United States the burden of caring for these people, he said.

"I do not charge that the gentleman who will be inaugurated president of the United States on the fourth day of March is a party to this infamous scheme for robbing this little country. His friendship for Cromwell, Farnham and E. A. Drake, as members of the board of directors of the Panama Railroad, his continued endorsements of both Cromwell and Farnham, his interference on the isthmus of Panama, which compelled the election of a corrupt statesman, absolutely under the control of Cromwell, as president of that republic, all these things and other things for which the present administration is responsible—made possible the signing of a contract by Obaldia which may bring to the gentleman interested therein, rights beyond the dreams of avarice. It will not be long, if this scheme goes through, before the campaign contributions made by some of the gentlemen interested in this enterprise, will be returned a hundred fold."

**Charges Lobbying.**

Mr. Rainey charged that Mr. Cromwell and Mr. Farnham have been actively engaged here for two or three weeks procuring treaties affecting Columbia and Panama pending before the Senate. He said that if the plans of Mr. Cromwell and his associates go through and if these treaties are confirmed, there will be no revenues in Panama out of which to pay the million dollars or more indemnity to Columbia, payment of which is guaranteed by this country. "The United States Government will be called upon to pay it all," he predicted "and if these plans for the spoliation of Panama proceed to a successful conclusion, it will not be long until immense burdens of a different character connected with Pan-

ama will be imposed upon our treasury."

"These patriotic gentlemen," said Mr. Rainey in conclusion, "therefore, are being permitted not only to rob the republic of Panama, but indirectly to rob the Treasury of the United States, and in their efforts in this direction, they have had so far the complete cooperation and the active assistance of the present administration and of the next President of the United States."

**Rainey is Applauded.**

From the very outset of his remarks Mr. Rainey claimed the absolute attention of the House and he was applauded.

Incensed at the remarks of the Illinois member, Mr. Stevens (Minnesota) declared it to be extremely regrettable that any member of this House feels called upon to rise in his place and "slander the ruler of a friendly republic and defame the administration of his own government."

He had proceeded that far when he was called to order by Mr. Shackelford (Missouri) who objected to the use of the word "slander."

The chair admonished Mr. Stevens who promised to keep within the rules.

He argued that it was no business of the American government what other governments did with its property, provided it does not affect our interests.

**Scouts Talk of Graft.** The transaction referred to by Mr. Rainey, said Mr. Stevens, was a legitimate purchase and doing valuable service in preventing transcontinental lines from robbing the government. He knew of no work, he said, which was prosecuted as efficiently and honestly as that of excavating the canal. He scouted the talk about graft, and declared that those having the undertaking in charge were proceeding without any self interest, and in spite of the detractions at home in newspapers, by public men and by others who have ends to serve."

Mr. Stevens was followed by Mr. Kuestermann (Wisconsin), who expressed his disapproval of what he said were the slighting remarks against the President, made by Mr. Rainey.

He paid a tribute to the President and said that while the chief executive had his faults he would be recorded as one of the greatest presidents the country had ever had.

**STATE COMMISSION OF GEOLOGY CONVENES**

Governor Swanson Presides—Numerous Papers Read on Virginia Minerals—Are Ordered Printed.

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 26.—The state commission of geology convened today at the capitol at noon. Governor Swanson, presiding, Professor Thomas L. Watson, the geologist, was in attendance, with the following members of the board: Dr. Edward A. Alderman, of the University of Virginia; Dr. Paul B. Barringer, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute; General E. W. Nichols, of the Virginia Institute.

Professor Watson made a report of the operations of the commission since August 1 of last year which had been conducted by himself and by his corps of assistants. These papers were submitted:

Cement Materials West of the Blue Ridge. This was prepared by Dr. Baseler. It shows that there is an inexhaustible supply of shales and limestones for making the very highest grades of Portland cement and that the conditions show that it can be manufactured very cheaply.

The Mineral Industries of Virginia. Prepared by Professor J. L. Grady and his assistant of the University of Virginia. It shows the distribution, character and production of the ores of the state.

The following additional papers were submitted by title:

Tidewater Cement Materials. Report of the Cement Materials in Tidewater Virginia. This last is in course of preparation and will be rushed with all possible speed.

Report on the Cooper Deposits in the Virginia District. This report is in course of preparation, and is being made with great care.

Rentile Deposits Titanium. This report is in course of preparation for the printer. There is only one deposit of this mineral in the United States and that can be worked with a commercial value, and that is in the county of Nelson.

Building Stones is the subject of another paper, which is also in the course of preparation. It deals with limestones, slate, granite, marble, sandstones and other materials. This is well advanced and will be issued shortly.

These two reports are being prepared under the co-operative system between the state of Virginia and the United States geological survey. Topographic Mapping of the Copper Districts of the Virginia Districts.

General Geology and Underground Water Supply of Tidewater Virginia. The board ordered all these papers to be printed as soon as they can be gotten from the authors. Each one will make a volume in itself, and will be the first exhaustive and comprehensive work of the sort applied exclusively to the state of Virginia.

**TRANSPORTATION GUIDE.**

**Chesapeake & Ohio Ry.** Fast Trains to Richmond and the West. Leave Newport News 10:05 a. m. 5:25 p. m. Local Trains to Richmond 6:30 a. m.; 5:45 p. m. Trains arrive Newport News, 10:00 a. m., 10:35 a. m., 5:35 p. m. and 7:29 p. m. Steamers Service for Norfolk. Leave Newport News 10:40 a. m., 5:40 p. m.

**OLD DOMINION LINE**

Daily Service FOR NEW YORK—From Company's Wharf, Norfolk, foot of Church street every week day at 7:00 P. M. FARE—First-class, one way, \$8.00; Round trip, limit thirty days, \$14.00—meals and berth in stateroom included. Storage, without subsistence, \$5.00. TICKETS on sale at C. & O. Railway Ticket Office.

**NIGHT LINE BETWEEN NEWPORT NEWS AND RICHMOND, VA.** Steamers Brandon and Berkeley leave Pier "A" 8:30 every evening passengers only.

**VIRGINIA NAVIGATION COMPANY.** James River Day Line for Richmond and all James River landings. Steamer Mobjack leaves Newport News, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8:45 a. m. Leave Newport News Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5 p. m., for Norfolk and Old Point.

Steamer Hampton will leave Pier "A" daily except Sunday at 9:00 a. m., going to Norfolk, and at 4:30 p. m., going to Smithfield. Steamer "Accomac" will leave Pier "A" daily, except Sunday at 9 a. m., going to Smithfield and 3 p. m., going to Norfolk.

All business between New York and Newport News transacted at pier No. 6.

All business between Newport News, Norfolk, Smithfield and local points transacted at Pier "A" foot of Twenty-fifth st. W. H. LANDON, Agent.

**NORFOLK & ATLANTIC TERMINAL CO.**

"Sewall's Point Route." Effective Jan. 11, 1909. Subject to change without notice.

Leave Norfolk	Arrive Sewall's Point	Leave Sewall's Point	Arrive Old Point	Leave Old Point	Arrive York Avenue
7:30	8:00	6:30	6:45		
		8:45	9:00		
		10:15	10:30		
10:30	11:00	11:45	12:00		
12:00	12:30	1:15	1:30		
1:30	2:00	2:45	3:00		
3:00	3:30	4:15	4:30		
4:30	5:00	5:45	6:00		
6:00	6:30	7:15	7:30		
7:30	8:00				

**The Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Co.**

(Schedule Effective Nov. 1, 1908.) The New and Powerful Iron Palace Steamers NEWPORT NEWS, WASHINGTON and NORFOLK will leave daily as follows:

Northbound.	
Lv. Portsmouth	5:00 p. m.
Lv. Norfolk	6:00 p. m.
Lv. Old Point	7:00 p. m.
Lv. Washington	7:00 a. m.

Lv. Wash. B. & O. Ry.	8:00 a. m.
Ar. Phila. B. & O. Ry.	11:50 a. m.
Ar. N. Y. E. & O. Ry.	12:10 p. m.

Lv. Wash., Penn. Ry.	8:00 a. m.
Ar. N. Y. Penn. Ry.	11:15 p. m.