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## EDITORIAL BRIEFS

Dr. Frederick Cook, the arctic explorer, is to lecture in Raleigh—but then, Raleigh is Democratic, too.

Every time one faction of the Democrats bury the hatchet another faction comes along and scratches it up.

An exchange says this is "Dickens year." Doubtless many of the candidates will think so before the year is over.

Dr. Cook will not be the only Democrat to imagine he has discovered the North Pole after the next election.

The Democrats might endorse that \$75,000,000 "steal" in their platform if they are looking for a real paramount.

Wonder if Dr. Cook's visit to North Carolina was responsible for the extremely cold spell the past week?

Of course the Democratic farmer who thinks he was too prosperous can still vote the Democratic ticket and be consistent.

While Mr. Bryan has said he will not be a candidate again, he has also given his party to understand that he is not out of politics.

The Reidsville Review wants to see Bryan and Roosevelt fight it out. The Review should remember what Col. Roosevelt did for Judge Parker!

The next Democratic nominee for President will be selected just forty miles from Washington, but that is as close as he will get to the White House.

Mr. Bryan has decided to turn over his cross of gold and crown of thorns to some other candidate. He probably found there were more thorns than gold connected with work.

If every Democratic politician was given an office for life you would hear no more from them about the "robber tariff" and they would shed no more crocodile tears for "the dear people."

The Agricultural Department has issued a bulletin giving the yield of "sweet potatoes" and "yams." That information is of course instructive, still we would like to know if yams are not sweet potatoes?

And now they say Congressman Guder voted for the Sherwood pension bill because there are many ex-Federal soldiers living in his district. Isn't that awful to be poked at a Southern Democrat?

Speaking of the Presidential possibilities, an exchange says if the Democratic party is defeated this time it will probably be because it deserves defeat. And may the Democratic party again get what it deserves.

One exchange thought Professor Coon took an inopportune time to wash the State's "dirty linen" before Speaker Champ Clark. But what is the State doing with dirty linen under "pure Democracy" and "white supremacy"?

The Governor of South Carolina says that if matters keep up there will have to be some more monuments erected to editors in that State. Evidently the South Carolina editors haven't been saying nice things about Governor Bleas.

Wm. R. Hearst was lionized by the Democrats at their Jackson Day dinner. It was only a few years ago that they were trying to read him out of the party, but they have probably found out they need every voter they can get, and then some.

Some weeks ago Judge B. F. Long wrote a letter stating in effect that he would be a candidate for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court if the people thought he should run. Evidently the people didn't think he should, as the Judge has recently decided to hold on to what he has and not enter the race.

## TO CHANGE INAUGURATION DATE.

Congressman Henry Introduces Resolution to Change Date to Last Thursday in April.

The House Judiciary Committee Tuesday ordered favorably reported the Henry resolution changing the date of the Presidential inauguration from March 4th to the last Thursday in April, and the terms of Representatives in Congress to begin the second Tuesday in January instead of on March 4th. These changes would be effective April, 1917, and January, 1918.

The Henry resolution would provide for extension of the term of the President and Vice-President elected in 1912 to the last Thursday in April, 1917. Congress would convene annually on the second Tuesday in January. This would leave the biennial elections in November, except in Oregon in June, and in Maine and Vermont in September.

Several Democratic members reserved the right to amend the resolution on the floor.

The bill would also give Congress constitutional power to legislate where there is a vacancy on account of the death or inability of the President-elect and Vice-President-elect between the counting of the electoral vote and the inauguration.

## CHINA IS IN A TURMOIL

Ten Thousand Manchus are Massacred by Rebels in Shen-Si District

Many Towns Have Been Looted and Deserted—Preparing for Big Battle

The Abdication of the Emperor Continues to be Discussed, But No Decision Has Been Reached.

Peking, Jan. 15.—The Kan-Su Imperial army, after much fighting, has succeeded in pushing its way to within sixty miles of Sian-Fu. The entire province of Shen-Si is in a turmoil. Many towns have been looted and deserted.

The reported massacre of 10,000 Manchus by rebels in the Shen-Si district is confirmed. Conditions in the interior of China are graphically described in an interview with Adolph Herman, who went to Tayan-Fu to rescue women and children of the China Inland Mission.

The Provinces of Shen-Si and Shan-Si from which the reported massacre of 10,000 Manchus by rebels is now confirmed, have been hot-beds of the revolution for some months. On December 8th news was received by messenger of Sian-Fu, the capital of Shan-Si, that 8,000 Manchus had been slain in the province up to that date. A column of imperialist troops has been operating in the district to suppress the rebellion, but the slaying of Manchus has continued steadily.

## Preparing for Big Battle.

Shanghai, Jan. 15.—Three cruisers and three transports, conveying three battalions of revolutionary infantry, eight machine guns and three mountain guns, sailed from Shanghai today for Chi-Fu. A large force of revolutionaries is reported to have concentrated seventy miles South of the Su-Show-Pukow Railroad line.

## No Abdication Yet.

Peking, China, Jan. 15.—Discussion regarding the question of the abdication of the Emperor continues but up to this evening has not resulted in any decision being reached. The court is unable to reconcile the conflicting advice of the different factions.

Some Manchu leaders urge that the Emperor abdicate and remain in Peking, while the Chinese contend that abdication would be futile unless the court departs from the capital.

It is understood that the plans for the abdication have undergone delay pending the final arrangements including the place of retirement, the guarantee of pensions and other terms offered by the republicans. There has been great difficulty in devising assurances for carrying out the republican pledges. No confidence exists in the ability or in the firm intention of the Republicans to observe their promises.

## Women Voted "Wet."

A press dispatch from Los Angeles, Calif., says that Vernon, near there, the only incorporated city in the United States having no church, voted for "wet" Sundays yesterday. Fifty women voted. Most of them voted "wet."

"In case of war, a German airship will carry 300 soldiers." But where it will carry them to remains uncertain.—Richmond News-Leader.

## HITCHCOCK'S INTERVIEW

Astonishes President by Giving Out Interview Without Consulting Him

CALLED TO WHITE HOUSE

It is Understood in Washington That

There Has Been Friction Between the Postmaster-General and the President Since Mr. Hitchcock Tried to Name the Arrangement

Committee for National Convention—Rumored That the Postmaster-General May Resign—Supreme Court Sustains Interstate Commerce Commission—For Government Aid for Good Roads.

(Special to The Caucasian.)

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16, 1912.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock astonished Washington as well as the whole country by giving out an interview Sunday evening to the press stating that he would recommend in his annual report that the Government should buy all of the telegraph lines in the United States and operate them as a part of the postal system. It is said that no one was more surprised at the action of Mr. Hitchcock than was President Taft himself.

It was considered a most astonishing thing that a cabinet officer should give out an interview stating what he would recommend to Congress without having consulted his chief and especially is this true when it is known that the Postmaster-General cannot make any recommendation to Congress except through the President, and that the President never sends a recommendation from any cabinet officer to Congress unless it meets his approval and becomes, therefore, an administration measure.

On yesterday the President sent for the Postmaster-General to come to the White House and explain his action. The explanation which the Postmaster-General made was to the effect that he had intended to confer with the President before the statement was published but that he was called out of town and had forgotten the matter. It was further stated that the Postmaster-General had formerly discussed the question of a postal telegraph with the President, and that the President at that time had asked his Postmaster-General to delay the consideration of the matter for he did not want such a recommendation then to be sent to Congress.

A prominent politician, commenting upon the explanation of Mr. Hitchcock, to the effect that he had intended to consult the President but had gone off and forgotten it, said that this was the thinnest explanation he had ever heard. He asked why should the Postmaster-General have given his statement to the press before he consulted the President, because he had clearly given it to the press before he could have gone off and "forgotten it."

## Will Hitchcock Go Out of the Cabinet?

It is understood here that there has been friction between the Postmaster-General and the President ever since the meeting of the National Committee in December, at which time Mr. Hitchcock attempted to select his own committee on arrangements to prepare for and manage the next national convention without consulting the President. When the President's friends learned this they got busy and selected another and different committee and made a fight to have it elected by the National Committee instead of the sub-committee selected by Mr. Hitchcock. It is known that the fight was spirited and warm, but the President's friends won out.

Then it was that Mr. Hitchcock appealed to Mr. Hilles, representing the President, to increase the committee from five to seven, and permit his (Hitchcock's) friends to name the other two members. This was at last agreed on as a harmony measure and the two names that Mr. Hitchcock recommended to be added to the committee representing the opposition to the President were Mr. Duncan, of North Carolina, and Mr. Rosewater, of Nebraska.

There are some people in Washington who say that the only reasonable explanation for Mr. Hitchcock's action in declaring for Government ownership of telegraph lines without consulting the President is that he wanted to force the President to put him out of the Cabinet so as to leave him free to support some other candidate for President. Indeed, there are almost as many views and rumors about this sensational affair as there are different people who discuss it.

## Supreme Court Sustains Interstate Commerce Commission.

Ever since the creation of the new court known as the Commerce Court there have been a number of Congressmen and public men who have predicted that the court was unnecessary, and that it was sure to clash in its authority with the interstate commerce commission. These predictions came true a few months ago after the interstate commerce commission had lowered the rates on certain important railroads. Then the Commerce Court for an injunction prohibiting the rates from going into effect and holding that the rates fixed were too low. The Commerce Court granted the injunction.

The action of the Commerce Court aroused great antagonism among members of Congress of both parties and at once several bills were introduced in Congress providing for the abolishment of the court.

In the meantime, the interstate commerce commission appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States against the order of the Commerce Court in enjoining their rates. The Supreme Court has just handed down an opinion upholding the interstate commerce commission and stating that the Commerce Court had no authority to interfere with any rate fixed by the interstate commerce commission. The Supreme Court holds that the only way in which the Commerce Court can review the interstate commerce commission is to hold that that body has exceeded its authority under the law in a specific case. In short, the Commerce Court cannot review the rates fixed by the interstate commerce commission and can only review them on matters of law.

## For Government Aid for Good Roads.

A large good roads and automobile convention is now in session in Washington representing every State in the Union. This convention is considering a number of bills and propositions for Government aid for good roads.

The one that probably will meet with the approval of the majority is one for the Government to build at least three trunk line public highways from one ocean to the other, one running from New York to Seattle, one from Washington to San Francisco, and one from New Orleans to Los Angeles, and for these transcontinental public roads to be later supplemented by three or four cross-roads from the North to the South, extending from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and to the border of the Republic of Mexico.

It is pointed out that the Government started to build roads of this kind before the war, and the case of the famous Cumberland pile built by the Government is pointed to as a conspicuous example. It is claimed that the building of these roads will not cost half as much as the Panama Canal, and that they will be worth from ten to one hundred times as much to the people of the United States.

It is further contended that if these trunk line roads are built by the Government, that it will induce every State in the Union to build State roads connecting with the same, and that this will lead to every county and every township in the United States building similar good roads to connect with the State roads.

It is also pointed out that such highways will save to the people within ten years more money than what they will cost, and besides, will have a more or less beneficial effect in lowering railroad rates.

One prominent Congressman, commenting upon this subject to-day, said that the seventy-five million dollar pension steal which the Democratic House has recently passed would build several such trunk lines across the continent, and have money left over.

## Came Over for a Conference.

H. Kern, chairman of the Liverpool Cotton Bills of Lading Conference Committee, and James H. Simpson, secretary, at the European Bankers' Conference Committee have arrived in New York for the purpose of a conference.

To get into closer touch with American bankers, railroad men, cotton shippers, and arrange a more satisfactory system of safe-guarding cotton bills against fraud and forgeries. The New York bankers will hold a conference with them to-day. Arrangements will also be made to meet Southern cotton shippers in Memphis, Tenn., Saturday.

A deputy collector of internal revenue at Walhalla, S. C., a few days ago sold a quantity of liquor seized by the government, and was arrested for selling liquor in violation of State laws and bound over to the State court, but the case has been transferred to the Federal court.

## SERVES NOTICE ON CUBA

Uncle Sam Notifies Gomez That Military Must Keep Hands off Politics

TEXT OF NOTE PRESENTED

The Situation in Cuba as Now Reported Causes Grave Concern to the Government of the United States—A Movement is on Foot in Cuba to Prevent Any Spanish Sympathizer from Holding Office in the Island—If Order is Not Restored American Flag Will Again be Planted on Cuban Soil.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—The State Department has served notice on President Gomez that the United States will intervene in Cuba if further attempts are made by the veteran organization to nullify the law prohibiting the interference of the military in political affairs in Cuba.

The attitude of the United States is shown in the following note presented to-day to the Cuban government:

"The situation in Cuba as now reported causes grave concern to the Government of the United States.

"That the laws intended to safeguard free Republican Government shall be enforced and not defied is obviously essential to the maintenance of law, order, and stability indispensable to the status of the Republic of Cuba, in the continued well being of which the United States has always evinced and cannot escape a vital interest.

"The President of the United States therefore looks to the President and Government of Cuba to prevent the threatened situation which would compel the Government of the United States much against its desires to consider what measures it must take in pursuance of the obligations of its relations to Cuba."

The notification of the American Government was given upon President Gomez through American Minister Beaufre, at Havana. Senator Martin-Rivero, Cuban Minister to the United States, was unapprised of the action, except through the press and declined to comment upon it.

Minister Beaufre reported to-day from Havana that in defiance of a decree issued by President Gomez, forbidding officers of the army and rural guard to participate in politics which also is prohibited by military law, many army officers and rurales attended a meeting Sunday night of the National Council of Veterans, an organization of veterans of the Cuban War for Independence.

The veterans have been active in the past three months in attempting to have displaced from the civil service persons who sympathized with the Spanish cause in the rebellion. Press dispatches to-day indicated that the veterans were threatening to coerce members of Congress, now in session, to nullify the law regarding the participation of the military in politics.

This move convinced the State Department that the situation was the most serious that had presented itself since the veterans move began. It had been evident to the Department that President Gomez was practically powerless to resist the movement unless he received substantial support from the outside.

One prominent Congressman, commenting upon this subject to-day, said that the seventy-five million dollar pension steal which the Democratic House has recently passed would build several such trunk lines across the continent, and have money left over.

It is pointed out that the Government started to build roads of this kind before the war, and the case of the famous Cumberland pile built by the Government is pointed to as a conspicuous example. It is claimed that the building of these roads will not cost half as much as the Panama Canal, and that they will be worth from ten to one hundred times as much to the people of the United States.

## Would Disqualify Spanish Sympathizers.

The declared purpose of some of the veterans to make ineligible for public service a large enough of the population because they sided with Spain in the revolution had been pointed out as inconsistent with the individual freedom and rights guaranteed by the constitution of Cuba. The United States regarded the activity of the veterans therefore as likely to threaten the stability of the republic and hence the sharpness of the warning issued to-day, the United States being by treaty bound to see that the Cuban constitution is observed.

If these results are not obtained, then it may reasonably be expected that within a short time the American flag again will be hoisted over the Government House in Havana.

## Threatened Intervention Causes Some Excitement in Cuba.

Havana, Jan. 16.—The news of threatened intervention by the United States in Cuban affairs, which was published in the late editions of the Havana afternoon papers, coming without the least warning, caused intense excitement in the clubs and cafes, while in all places of public gatherings it was the absorbing topic of discussion. Astonishment and resentment against American interference were mingled with very general incredulity.

ence were mingled with very general incredulity.

Later, as the news was fully confirmed, the impression became general that the suggestion of intervention probably would have a good effect in calming the existing agitation and in quieting political excitement.

President Gomez Says Reports Are Exaggerated.

President Gomez, seen at the Palace to-night, said:

"I have only recently received Secretary Knox's note through the American Minister, Mr. Beaufre, and have not yet made a reply, but probably will do so to-morrow. I am convinced that no occasion has yet arisen for any intimation of intervention. I believe that the Washington attitude is based on an erroneous view of conditions in Cuba arising from distorted and greatly exaggerated reports from Havana."

## Preacher Arrested at Greenville.

A dispatch from Greenville, Tenn., Tuesday night, says that Rev. McFarland has been placed under arrest and is being held for the Pittsburg authorities.

Judge C. M. Cook, Greensboro, on Tuesday granted the writ of habeas corpus to Frank Winiskie, manager of the Standard Mirror Company, of High Point, declaring the proceedings recently brought against him for embezzlement were void.

## SHOULD OWN TELEGRAPH

Postmaster General Recommends That it be Made Part of Postal Service

Says He Will Send Such Recommendation to Congress at an Early Date—Claims it Would Aid Government in Dispatching Its Business and Would Give Cheaper Service to the Public.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—Acquisition of the telegraph lines of the United States by the Government and their operation as a part of the postal service will be recommended to Congress in a short time by Postmaster-General Hitchcock.

For a year or more Mr. Hitchcock has had this recommendation under consideration. After a thorough study of the operation of government-controlled telegraph lines and postal telegraph systems of foreign countries, he has decided to urge the matter upon Congress.

"Should this recommendation be adopted," said Mr. Hitchcock to-night in a statement of his intention, "I am convinced it would result in important economies and very materially lower telegraph rates than now are exacted. In approximately fifty countries of the world—notably Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Austria, and Japan—government-controlled telegraphs now are in successful and profitable operation. In many of the countries they are operated in connection with the postal service. These telegraphs serve an aggregate population of 90,000,000, and in every instance they have been found to be of immense practical benefit to the people, in both promptitude and cost of the service.

"In this country post-offices are maintained in numerous places not reached by the telegraph systems and the proposed consolidation, therefore, would afford a favorable opportunity for the wide extension of the telegraphic facilities. In many small towns where the telegraph companies have offices, the telegraph and mail business could be handled readily by the same employes. It is evident that the separate maintenance of the two services under present conditions results in a needless expense.

"The first telegraph in the United States was operated from 1844 to 1847 by the Government under authority from Congress and from many viewpoints it is desirable that Government control should be resumed. A method for the acquisition of lines is prescribed in Section 5267 of the Revised Statutes which provides that, for postal, mail or other purposes the Government may purchase telegraph lines operated in the United States at an appraised value.

"My own view is that every reason for the transmission of mail under Government control can be urged with equal force for the transmission of communications by telegraph. Because of the more extensive organization maintained by the postal service and the freedom from taxation and other charges to which private corporations are subject, the Government undoubtedly could afford greater facilities at lower rates than are afforded by companies now conducting the telegraph business. Next to the introduction of a general parcels post,

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