



POLITICS and GOVERNMENT

Legal and Criminal.

Merger Distribution Contest.

The absorption of the Northern Pacific in a railroad system more vast than the Northern Securities company itself was involved in the petition of E. H. Harriman and W. S. Pierce against the pro rata plan of distributing the stocks of the merger announced by President Hill after the supreme court decided against its legal existence. This was brought out by ex-Secretary Root, as counsel for Hill, when the Harriman petition came before the United States circuit court at St. Paul last week. If Harriman's original holdings were to be returned he would control Union Pacific—that is, if you add the Northern Pacific to the Union and Southern Pacific systems, controlled by Harriman, the total territory and mileage would be greater than that now held by the merger. The counsel for the petitioners were able to show by the actual testimony of Mr. Hill and Mr. Morgan in the former suit that the Northern Securities company had no legal title to the stock of the component companies, but was merely a trustee; hence it seemed to follow that those who formed the merger would on its dissolution be entitled to the actual shares which they had put in trust.



Elihu Root.

The sensation of the hearing, however, was the appearance of Attorney General Knox's hand in a formal objection to the intervening petition. He maintained that the court of appeals was only concerned to see that the decree of the supreme court was faithfully observed.

Another Blow at Merger. The United States supreme court rendered its decision April 11 in the case of Minnesota against the Northern Securities company involving the validity of the latter. The decision was unanimous in reversing the circuit court and thus sending the case back to the state supreme courts. Practically the same points were involved as in the federal suit against the merger. The effect of this might be said to be favorable to the merger, as it cannot be compelled to appear in the Minnesota court, being a New Jersey corporation.

Notes. The right of the postmaster general to exclude the serial libraries from the mails has been affirmed by the United States supreme court on the ground that they lack the continuity of the periodical. Pennsylvania supreme court has decided that coupon bonds which have been stolen are good security if the party holding them is innocent of their having been improperly obtained. In a case involving the separation of destitute mother and child at Chicago recently a jury of women was impeached.

Executive.

Big Fleet Going Abroad.

The reported intention of the administration to send the whole south Atlantic squadron under Admiral Chadwick to east African points by way of the Mediterranean is a source of much speculation. The popular idea is that the president intends to fulfill his promise to make a demonstration against Turkey unless the questions at issue with that country are settled promptly.

Torpedo Boats' Record Trip.

The flotilla of five torpedo boat destroyers under Lieutenant Chandler reached Manila April 14, after a cruise of 15,000 miles, the longest trip ever made by vessels of this type.

Legislative.

Congressmen Cleared.

That no member of congress has done anything that did not appear to be within the line of his official duty "according to long established custom" is the finding of the McCall committee appointed to investigate the so called Bristow charges that congressmen had used improper influence in seeking favors from the postoffice department.

Republicans to Investigate.

Notwithstanding that the postoffice appropriation bill was passed by the senate April 12, after the Gorman and all other amendments looking to an investigation of the postal service had been voted down by the majority, Senator Lodge made it known on the following day that the Republican senators had decided to authorize the postoffice committee to conduct an investigation. This would be done, he said, by the Republicans in their own time and their own way. The announcement caused some excitement in the house, many of the members being violently opposed to any investigation during the presidential campaign. The

object of the Republicans is said to be to show the country that they are not afraid to expose the workings of the department and to escape the charge of running away from the Democratic challenge.

Philippines Bill Forced.

The house committee on rules brought in a resolution April 13 for the immediate consideration of the Philippines bond bill enabling the insular government to issue bonds for home improvements and railroad building. The rule prevented the consideration of amendments and compelled the limitation of debate so that the vote could be taken on Thursday. Then by a party vote it was passed.

Notes.

The house committee on banking and currency recommended the passage of the currency bill. It prevents customs from being deposited in national banks, repeals the monthly \$3,000,000 limit of bank note retirement and provides for the recoinage of silver dollars into subsidiary coins. Senator Dietrich of Nebraska has been exonerated by the special committee from the charges of illegal or corrupt action, the two Democrats as well as the three Republicans on the committee voting for this report.

Foreign.

British Advance in Tibet.

That British public opinion still upholds the Younghusband mission into Tibet was shown in the house of commons when War Secretary Brodrick moved that the employment of Indian troops be sanctioned to protect the mission. This was passed by 270 to 61 votes. Mr. Brodrick announced that Colonel Younghusband had reached Gyantse April 11 without the loss of a man. This is only about 140 miles from Lassa. It is the second largest city in Tibet.

Anglo-French Peace Triumph.

In the treaty between France and England, April 7, finally settling all differences between those nations, diplomacy has scored a great victory. The terms of this instrument have already been recorded in these columns, the main points being in relation to Egypt and Morocco, which get the open door to foreign trade; in relation to Newfoundland and West Africa and in relation to Siam, Hebrides and Madagascar.

Notes.

Berlin was informed that the German forces in southwest Africa had captured a stronghold of the Hereros April 9, after an eight hour battle. In a previous engagement thirty-two Germans were reported killed. Just as King Alfonso of Spain had denied the reported attempt on his life while at Barcelona, the Spanish premier, Senor Maura, in the same city, April 12, was stabbed by a young anarchist. The wound was not serious.

General.

A Point For Parker.

The success of Leader McCarren in retaining his hold on the Democrats of Brooklyn, in spite of the opposition of Leader Murphy of Tammany Hall, was believed to insure New York instructions for Judge Parker. The Brooklynites adopted the unit rule in favor of instructing for Parker. Murphy continues to oppose, however.

Teddy's New York Tag.

The New York state Republican convention held at New York city April 13 was notable for marking the virtual retirement of Senator Platt as a controlling force in the party and the triumphant entry of Governor Odell into the citadel of power. Messrs. Platt, Depew, Odell and Black were



Admiral Skrydloff.

Another Staggering Blow For Russia

Tears and mourning at St. Petersburg! Shouts of joy at Tokyo! Hundreds of Russian sailors and officers with the brave fleet commander, Admiral Makaroff, at the bottom of the Yellow sea in the costly armor clad coffins of their own great ships of war! Such is the moving spectacle now presented in the terribly real war drama being enacted in the orient.

The 13th of April was the fatal day when Makaroff ventured boldly from Port Arthur to offer battle to a portion of the Japanese fleet in the offing. But suddenly his opponent, Togo, was mightily re-enforced with many ships. On his flagship, the Petropavlovsk, Makaroff was retreating cautiously toward his base when suddenly some explosion of mine or torpedo caused his ship to turn turtle and sink, only four of the crew of 700 being saved with Captain Yakovlev and Prince Cyril, the latter wounded. Almost at the same time the battleship Pobeda was seriously damaged by a blow from a torpedo amidships, but was able to reach port. Later came word that the destroyer Bezstrashni had been surrounded by the Japanese and sunk with all except five of her defenders saved.

Over and above the actual loss of ships and men in this action Russia suffers still more from lowered prestige. This must increase the danger of a popular Chinese outbreak in aid of Japan. It will dishearten the defenders of Port Arthur, which now awaits the final onslaught of the Japs by sea and land.

The main Japanese army on the Yalu has strengthened its position and had several brushes with Russian outposts. One report was to the effect that the Russians repulsed 12,000 Japs after they had landed west of the Yalu. Vice Admiral Skrydloff, in command of the Black sea fleet, and known as the "Bulldog of the Navy," has been chosen to succeed Makaroff in charge of the naval remnants in the far-east.

chosen delegates at large to the national convention and the indorsement of the administration was adopted with a verbal variation from custom which has attracted some attention. Instead of using the customary word "instruct" the resolution "directs" the delegates to use all honorable means to bring about Theodore Roosevelt's nomination.

Captain Hobson Defeated.

The incident of national interest in the Alabama Democratic primaries on April 12 was the re-election of Representative Bankhead by the narrow majority of 400 or 500 over Captain R. P. Hobson, the hero of the Merrimac.

Folk Sweeping Missouri.

Recent indications in the Missouri governorship contest all point to a landslide for the nomination of Folk and the smashing of the old Democratic machine. The personal integrity and popularity of the circuit attorney seem to be overcoming all the power and influence of the machine with Governor Dockery at its head.

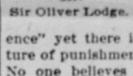
Hearst's New Jersey Bolt.

The state Democratic convention at Trenton, N. J., April 14, was controlled from start to finish by the anti-Hearst elements, and every one of the fifty Hearst delegates whose credentials were refused joined in a bolting convention for the purpose of carrying the fight before the national convention. The Hearst faction found some comfort in the failure of the regular convention to instruct for Parker. The foremost issue presented in the platform is that of the trusts.

RELIGIOUS

Would Revise Christianity.

Sir Oliver Lodge, the famous scientist, in the current number of the Hibbert Journal declares it to be generally recognized among intelligent Christians of today that "the sufferings and violent death of Christ were the natural consequences of his birth so far in advance of his age," and although the pity and horror of the event have a "purifying, sacramental influence" yet there is nothing of the nature of punishment to be detected in it. No one believes that it appeared an angry God who, on that account, would more likely treat the sins of men other than they always had been treated by "a constant and steadfast persevering universe." In fact, Sir Oliver regards the doctrine of the atonement in its concrete form as a survival of barbarous times, but believes that we are nearing a higher stage wherein man realizes that he is a part of nature and so a part of God, and that all men are moving toward some great end. He insists that we are no aliens in a strange universe governed by an outside God, and that science will some day tell us how this sense of union with divinity is "the inner meaning of the redemption of man."



Sir Oliver Lodge.

Bible Reading Perilous.

London press dispatches tell of a terrific storm aroused among churchmen by the recent words of Canon Henson of Westminster about the future of the Bible. He did not hesitate to characterize the indiscriminate reading of the Bible in public as "an extremely perilous proceeding." He explained that while educated men had some means of escape from the perplexities created by "the incredible, the puerile or demoralizing narratives" of the Old Testament the untutored minds readily recoiled from the idea of a sacred volume until it became a "pack of lies too gross for toleration."

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