

# KEEPING TAB ON THE WORLD

**Morton Swings His Ax In the Equitable Jungle Just as His Santa Fe Record Is Defended by the President. Prosecution of Equitable Looters to Follow Hendricks' Scathing Report. Bowen Dismissed and Censured—France Calls Kaiser's Hand—Sweden Willing to Negotiate.**

## POLITICAL

### Why Harmon and Judson Quit.

The administration took the public into its confidence regarding the much disputed Santa Fe rebate case when, June 21, it gave to the press the entire correspondence between Attorney General Moody and Special Counsel Harmon and Judson in connection with the resignations of these attorneys. The attorney general disagreed with their advice to bring criminal prosecution against the officers of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, including Paul Morton.



Judge Harmon.

Mr. Moody was in favor of prosecuting the company, but not the men, because, he said, not enough evidence had been brought to show that Mr. Morton or the other officers of the railroad were cognizant of the rebates complained of.

Writing from Cincinnati, Messrs. Harmon and Judson reiterated their opinion that the officers were guilty prima facie. They argued that since corporations could not be imprisoned and as evils are corporate in name, but individual in fact, the laws would not be obeyed until the government searched out the guilty men and made "corporate wrongdoing mean personal punishment and dishonor."

The correspondence included also a letter from President Roosevelt to Attorney General Moody, in which he incloses one from Secretary Morton denying he had any knowledge of the unlawful practices complained of and stating that he had in fact expressly forbidden such practices. The president is unwilling to have Mr. Morton singled out because of his connection with the cabinet. Mr. Morton's explanation of the Santa Fe rebates was that they existed for a time after contrary instructions had been given, just as a misplaced switch sometimes occurs without the knowledge or responsibility of the superior officials of the railroad. The president takes the ground that the only way to secure enforcement of the law would be to make it effective against all railroads alike, and that so long as it was a dead letter railroads might be compelled to disregard the law in self defense.

The president refers to Mr. Morton's new connection with the Equitable, and expresses confidence in his ability to make a new clean management. The president finds in the Equitable scandal new reason for effective supervision of all great insurance corporations by the federal government.

**Bowen's Parting Shot.**  
Former Minister Herbert W. Bowen gave to the papers an extended reply to the censure contained in his dismissal from the diplomatic service. Mr. Bowen says that at one time a promotion was offered as a bribe to silence him. He intimates that the alleged misconduct of Mr. Loomis while minister to Venezuela has been covered up and ignored by the state department. Documentary evidence is given to the public indicating Loomis' connections with the Mercado claim and his participation in certain contracts. Mr. Bowen complains that in the investigation Secretary Taft acted both as trial judge and as counsel for Loomis, and that he was compelled to cross examine witnesses himself. Bowen may appeal to congress.

**Hooker Impeachment Case.**  
The New York legislature, which was summoned in extraordinary session June 21 to consider the case of Warren B. Hooker, supreme court justice, accused of misconduct, authorized the judiciary committee to determine whether the legislature had jurisdic-

tion to remove Hooker. Justice Hooker was called to appear before the legislature June 27 to show cause why he should not be removed.

**Old Paper Turns Socialist.**  
The Appeal to Reason and other Socialist papers in the west are making much of the flop of the Portland Oregonian, a 40 old and established Republican daily, to the Socialist cause. In its editorial announcement the Oregonian declared its belief that the country is booked for Socialism because of the greed of speculators in capitalizing the wants of the public.

**City Bosses as Reformers.**  
The expected turn in Philadelphia's tide of reformation came last week when the city campaign committee of the broken Republican machine adopted resolutions declaring for personal registration, and prepared for the withdrawal of its candidates in order to accept the suggestions of certain Union League party men, who aim to effect reform within the party lines. Then came the magistrate's decision to hold ex-Chief Engineer Hill for trial on charges of forgery and falsification of records of the filtration bureau in the interest of the Durham-McNichol contract combine. Evidence against Hill was given showing that he personally directed a subordinate to falsely increase the estimate of work done by the contractor.

Mayor Weaver took the important step of authorizing the Audit company of New York to make a rigid examination into the records and contracts of the filtration work. When the accountants have got the facts together, Engineer W. Barclay Parsons of New York is to make a minute examination of the work done. This is something entirely new in the municipal government.

## LEGAL-CRIMINAL

**Mrs. Rogers' Execution Stayed.**  
By the action of Judge Wheeler of the circuit court at Brattleboro, Vt., in granting an application of a writ of appeal to the federal supreme court the execution of Mrs. Mary Rogers, condemned for the murder of her husband, was stayed. Judge Wheeler had previously denied the application of Mrs. Rogers' counsel for a writ of habeas corpus. Mrs. Rogers was remanded to the custody of the state authorities.

**To Sue Equitable Looters.**  
Attorney General Mayer of New York announced that steps would be taken speedily to accomplish the return of any profits wrongfully taken from the Equitable, to debar from holding office in that company any person faithless to his trust and to obtain an accounting for any waste of funds for any reason by anybody.

**A Fortune From Forgery.**  
It became known on June 20 that something over \$1,000,000 had been obtained from banks and trust companies by the late Benjamin H. Gaskill, a well known Philadelphia banker and broker, by means of raised stock certificates.

Up to the time of his death a few weeks ago Mr. Gaskill's credit was never questioned. By means of chemicals he raised various stock certificates a hundredfold or more, the figures being changed so skillfully as to defy detection. The raised certificates were then used as collateral for large loans from some of the most conservative banking houses in the city, including the Franklin Exchange National, the Corn Exchange National and the City Trust company. Thus he had been securing large sums of money for years.

**Death Sentence Ten Times.**  
Samuel Greason, the colored man who was accused of aiding Mrs. Kate Edwards in the murder of her husband four years ago and who has heard his death sentence read ten times, was finally set free. Mrs. Edwards having confessed that she lied in testifying that Greason was her accomplice.

## FOREIGN

**Norway Firm; Sweden Yielding.**  
The Norwegian storting adopted, June 19, an address to King Oscar, the riksdag and the Swedish people which was firm, though conciliatory. It said that what had happened could not be altered and that it was not possible to consider the various constitutional questions raised by King Oscar. The idea of humiliating Sweden was disclaimed, and it was asserted that no bitter feeling or animosity was felt toward the king or the Swedish people. The storting suggested that the Swedish government enter upon negotiations for a final settlement as to the dissolution of the union and the recognition of Norway as a sovereign state.

A declaration adopted by the Swedish council of state asked the authority of the riksdag to enter into negotiations with Norway in order to establish a basis of a dissolution on which both countries could mutually agree. The extra session of the riksdag began June 21.

**Czar Again Talks Reform.**  
Czar Nicholas of Russia has received a deputation from the congress of zemstvos, headed by Count Heyden, president of the congress. The czar in reply to the list of complaints said he was still grieved at the calamities of war and that his will favored the admission of elected representatives to works of state. The fact that the committee was received, whereas the zemstvos congress itself had not been sanctioned, indicated a change.

**Japs Must Fight On.**  
The Japanese minister of war in a formal letter has notified the army in the field of the peace proposals, but explains that nothing is assured, and instructs all to be prepared for a long continued war. Oyama continued to

press northward against the positions held by Linvitch along the Kirin road in northern Manchuria, the expected general engagement being deferred. Neither country gave much heed to the suggestion of President Roosevelt for an armistice.

**Pushing Chinese Boycott.**  
During the week 600 Chinese students, representing twenty-six colleges, have met at Tientsin and passed resolutions to boycott American goods and stimulate Chinese manufactures. Also 200 members from the commercial guilds of seventeen provinces have signed an agreement under bond to forfeit 50,000 taels if any member is reported purchasing American goods. Ten thousand copies of this agreement are being circulated.

**France Agrees to Negotiate.**  
After a week bordering on war panic the French government gave notice that it was willing to meet the demands of Emperor William for a conference on the Moroccan policy. France agreed that the existing conditions in Morocco should be maintained, the sultan's sovereignty being unimpaired. This concession on the part of France was believed to have been the only alternative except war with Germany. Premier Rouvier next requested Germany to explain her footing and intentions, thus calling the kaiser's hand. It was still uncertain whether Great Britain would follow the lead of France by joining in a conference. The British press very generally was opposed to yielding a single point to Germany.

**Indian Army on War Footing.**  
A British blue book out June 22 tells of the success of General Kitchener, the commander in chief in India, in bringing about the reorganization of the army there with a view to expected encroachments from Russia on the north; also it is announced that a royal commission has been appointed to investigate the South African scandals with powers equal to a high court of justice. This will increase the army from 80,000 to 140,000.

**Balfour Wants American Aid.**  
An utterance of great international significance was made by Mr. Balfour, the British premier, at the welcoming banquet for the new American minister, Mr. Reid. Mr. Balfour made the solemn declaration that America's duty to civilization and the cause of peace must soon impel her to abandon her traditional policy of isolation and accept her rightful responsibilities in the family of nations. His words constituted almost an invitation for America to enter into a compact or alliance for safeguarding the world's peace.

## EXECUTIVE

**Lessons of Sham War Games.**  
The joint army and navy war games which ended at Fort Monroe June 17 were conducted with secrecy that very little was understood by the public about their methods and results. No official statements are to be made about the exercises until the war and navy colleges have time to work out the problems. One of the practical results was the demonstration of the great efficiency of the shore searchlights. It also seemed conclusive that Fort Monroe could not properly protect the entrance to Chesapeake bay, as the searchlights could not pick up vessels coming in between the capes, nor could the heaviest batteries reach them. This may result in a renewal of the agitation for a fort at Cape Henry. The mine system appeared to be effective in defending the cities of Washington and Baltimore.

**Bowen Out; Loomis Criticized.**  
The peremptory dismissal of Herbert W. Bowen as United States minister to Venezuela and from the diplomatic service was ordered June 20 by President Roosevelt as a result of having brought "false and malicious charges against Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Loomis, who preceded him at Caracas." As to Bowen's denial that he had presented formal charges against Loomis the president says that it was merely a matter of terms, as numerous communications from Bowen to the state department had in fact included statements injurious to the character of his superior, Loomis. The president charges Bowen with having shown complete disloyalty to the service to which he belonged and to the country which he represented. Mr. Bowen had told the president and Secretary Taft that his resignation would be an admission of misconduct, and the president then directed that he be dismissed from the service.

Secretary Taft's report on the evidence shows that the only transaction Mr. Loomis ever had with the Asphalt trust was a transfer of funds from Caracas to New York in which Mr. Loomis was indiscreet in becoming personally interested in the Mercado claim. Elsewhere Mr. Taft says that Loomis was "trespassing on dangerous ground in bringing his official life so close to a transaction in which he must be expected to have a great personal interest." Nevertheless he is convinced that Loomis has been cruelly slandered in the charges against his integrity and sincerity.



Herbert W. Bowen.

## EDUCATIONAL

**Progress of Batavia Idea.**  
Commenting on the fact that the Batavia idea now has been completely and formally adopted by the public schools of more than 100 important cities in ten of the leading states within three years, Editor Winship of the Journal of Education says that no such record has ever been made by any similar movement. What, then, is this Batavia idea? It is a system of public school education inaugurated six years ago by Superintendent John Kennedy of the Batavia (N. Y.) schools. As defined by Mr. Kennedy himself in a recent address published in the Batavia Times, this system "consists in supplying to the slow or backward children the individual attention that will bring them forward to the class line instead of leaving them to be submerged and lost after inflicting great injury upon those who survived." Superintendent Kennedy had discovered that unrectified class teaching works widespread disaster. His new system does not abolish class teaching, but frees it and renders it operative. Besides the regular class teacher another teacher is assigned to give personal attention to the backward or bashful ones. This teacher takes the troubled ones in hand, sits by their side, warms them with sympathy and encourages them with suggestion that awakens confidence and fills them with hope. In answer to the question whether this two-teacher system does not increase the expenses, Superintendent Kennedy replies that, on the contrary, it reduces expenses. He says there are actually less teachers in Batavia than there would have been if his system had not been adopted. With a team of teachers more than two sets of children can be assembled and the class work goes smoothly on without drag. Mr. Kennedy regards the sectioning as systematic dishonesty and the room for laggards as the most objectionable form of segregation because it is a quasi penal institution. As to the objection that the weaker children will only become more dependent Mr. Kennedy says that the individual teacher leads the children to help themselves. This system humanizes organization and saves the schools from becoming mere machines. Truancy is disappearing at Batavia.



John Kennedy.

**Lehigh's New President.**  
The board of trustees at Bethlehem, Pa., have chosen Henry S. Drinker of Haverford, Pa., general solicitor of the Lehigh Valley railroad, to be president of the university, succeeding the late Dr. Thomas M. Drown.

**Fewer Professional Women.**  
President Schurman in his address at the Cornell university commencement said he believed the growing social conservatism was reflected in the fact that the total attendance of students is constantly and largely increasing at Cornell, while the number of women there is steadily declining. He thought that it indicated that the movement of women into professional fields had passed its flood tide.

**Roosevelt to College Men.**  
President Roosevelt attended the commencement exercises of Clarke university at Worcester, Mass., June 21, and was the guest at Williams college commencement next day. At the latter place he received the degree of doctor of laws. In his address at Williams the president discussed public questions and said he desired the assistance of all the colleges and college men in the country in working out the government's problems. He asked that the duty be put up and kept up as a guarantee of peace and of the Monroe doctrine as well as for the defense of the Panama canal. The most compact statement of his idea was: "Keep on building and maintaining at the highest point of efficiency the United States navy or quit trying to be a big nation. Do one or the other." The president also emphasized his well known views of federal supervision of great corporations.

At North Adams he said that the sort of kindness of parents which would keep their children from hard work or from knowing how to do the work of the household was a curse.

**More New York Playgrounds.**  
The New York city board of aldermen, after having twice defeated the plan, voted unanimously June 20 to appropriate \$1,000,000 for playgrounds on the congested east side and \$3,000,000 for athletic fields for the high schools. The playgrounds will be small but numerous, and there will be an athletic field for each of the four boroughs.

**Equitable Frauds Laid Bare.**  
The long expected report of State Superintendent of Insurance Hendricks on the conduct and status of the Equitable Life Assurance society was made public June 21. The official abuses and grafts laid bare by this drastic investigator has caused the financial world to fairly gasp for breath. Mr. Hendricks goes so far as to say that the only adequate remedy is to eliminate stock control, even though guarded, as proposed in the Ryan trust, and bring about complete mutualization. The present evils are traced back to the founder of the society, Henry B. Hyde, for inaugurating the system of using the society's money for the selfish ends of the officers, especially in renting building space at a nominal rate to safe deposit companies in which they were interested. The various crooked transactions with special organized trust companies is described, and how J. H. Hyde and his friends took stock of the increased capital allotted to the society. Mr. Hendricks says that the officers and directors who profited by these various transactions should be compelled to make restitution, and the attorney general was expected to bring suits to compel them to disgorge. He tells how the young vice president, J. H. Hyde, exacted inordinate salaries for his friends and himself, and used his stock control to justify various extravagances.

**Forgeries Close Trust Company.**  
Owing to the forgeries of Benjamin H. Gaskill, the City Trust, Safe Deposit and Surety company of Philadelphia closed its doors June 21 and went into the hands of a receiver. An excited crowd of depositors gathered about the doors, and the police had to be summoned to maintain order.

**Hyde and Alexander Out.**  
Paul Morton, the new chairman of the board of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance society, announced June 20 that he had accepted the resignations of President Alexander and Vice President Hyde. This action came suddenly, after a rigid investigation of the society's affairs had been begun by Mr. (Continued on page 3.)

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**COMMERCIAL**  
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