

## NEW BILL FOR RAILROADS

Senator La Follette Introduces a New Liability Measure.

### BILL INDORSED BY TRAINMEN

Intended to Meet Requirements of the Recent Supreme Court Decision on Present Law.

Washington.—A comprehensive employers' liability bill was introduced in the senate and house by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin and Representative Sterling of Illinois. The authors say the bill has the indorsement of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and is intended to meet the recent decision of the supreme court in which the employment liability act of June 11, 1906, was declared unconstitutional.

Every common carrier, while engaged in interstate or foreign commerce between the possessions of the United States is made liable to its employees who are injured while employed in such commerce, when such injuries are due to the negligence or mismanagement of any officer or employee of such carrier, or when due to defect or insufficiency in equipment. This provision is made equally applicable to carriers in the territories, the District of Columbia and the Panama canal zone and carriers engaged in the transportation of the United States mails.

### As to Contributory Negligence.

The bill recognizes the doctrine of "contributory negligence" as is now recognized in the States of Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Georgia and Florida, and in the act of congress which was declared unconstitutional. It permits an employee to recover damages if he has been guilty of contributory negligence, but says the jury shall diminish the damages in accordance with the amount of negligence they may find is attributable to such employee.

It is provided also that an injured employee shall not be held to be guilty of contributory negligence in any case where the violation of law by the carrier contributed to such injury, also that questions of fact relating to negligence shall be for the jury to determine.

In the event of the verdict in favor of the employee it is required that the court shall allow as part of the costs a reasonable attorney's fee not exceeding an amount equal to 25 per cent of the judgment recovered and an additional fee, equal to 5 per cent of the amount finally recovered, for such appeal. It is made a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed six months, for an attorney to exact or receive any fee or compensation other than or additional to the amounts so allowed by the courts.

### Exempting Contracts Void.

An injured employee shall not be held to have assumed the risk of his employment in any case where the violation of law by the carrier contributed to such injury. One section of the bill specifically makes void any contract, rule or any device whatsoever, the purpose of which is to exempt the carrier from liability under the act. The statute of limitations within which suit can be brought is fixed at three years.

Receivers of common carriers are made equally liable to their employees as are the common carriers. The final section protects suits which have been brought in the territories and the District of Columbia under the act of June 11, 1906, it being contended by the employees that that act is still in fact in these jurisdictions.

### Few Japs Coming Over.

There has been an enormous slump in Japanese entering the United States. Last month shows a falling off of 4,294 over January, 1907, only 41 having passed Uncle Sam's hordes. Although the shrinkage in Japanese immigration reached 81 per cent the increase of other aliens was 2 per cent.

## WAR NOT THOUGHT OF

New Japanese Ambassador Expresses His Opinion in Very forcible Language.

New York.—Declaring that war between the United States and Japan would be "the most inhuman event in the world's history," and was "too heinous to be thought of," Baron Kogoro Takahira, the new Japanese ambassador to Washington, said upon landing in New York from the steamer Etchuria that the Japanese people know absolutely nothing of a break in the cordial relations which have been historic between the two nations. Talk of war, Baron Takahira declared, with much emphasis, was utterly unintelligible to him. The new ambassador said there might be some matters pending in Washington which would require his attention, but they were not serious.

As to the cruise of the American fleet to the Pacific ocean, he regarded it purely as a naval maneuver on a grand scale—designed to show to the world at large that America has a wonderful naval power which can be dispatched anywhere at a moment's notice, in support of a legitimate cause, which always is at the bottom of American diplomacy.

## TEN SEAMEN ARE DROWNED

Steamship Breaks in Two Off the Oregon Coast.

Portland, Ore.—The American ship, Emily Reed, 113 days out from Newcastle, N. S. W., for Portland, with coal, went ashore at the mouth of the Nehalem river, on the Oregon coast and broke in two.

The crew was swept overboard by the seas.

Ten seamen were lost, while six were saved, including the captain and his wife.

## BANK ROBBED

Cashier Locked in Vault and Remains There All Night.

Charlotte, N. C.—After seeing his bank looted by four masked men, who had covered him with revolvers, Cashier W. C. Whitman was forced to enter the vault and the doors were locked by the robbers.

The cashier remained in the vault from 10 o'clock at night until 7 o'clock next morning, and when released he was nearly dead. The robbery occurred at Granite Falls, a large factory town, in Caldwell county.

According to the Cashier, the robbers got \$5,000, overlooking in their haste several packages of money. When the cashier was missed this morning, search was instituted.

At the bank the searchers heard faint knocks on the interior of the vault and machinists were secured who opened the door and the cashier was found almost dead from suffocation.

Many people were passing the bank at the time the robbery was committed.

## TORNADO WRECKS TOWNS

Houses Blown Down and Several Persons Killed.

New Orleans.—Tornadoes that visited two Southern States exacted death toll of at least a score, entirely blew away at least three villages and wrought enormous devastation.

The storm hit about Tyler, Texas, just before daylight, wiped out at least four lives. Another north of Hattiesburg, Miss., killed not less than eight persons.

Coming from the southwest the Texas tornado swept over the main residence quarter of Tyler, leaving a trail of death and devastation.

Three Mississippi hamlets were demolished by a tornado. Reports of the number killed range from six to ten. Mossville, Service and Soar are the towns destroyed. They are all in Jones county, and each consists of a few dwellings. The tornado is reported to have carried the buildings off the lots on which they stood. Nearby fields were covered with wreckage and trees were littered with household articles.

## SEVEN ARE DEAD

Signal of Trolley Conductor to Stop Goes Wrong and Car Attempts to Pass.

Toledo, O.—Seven persons were killed and a dozen injured when a Big Four passenger train struck a Toledo & Western electric car at the Michigan Central crossing, in West Toledo. The dead are: James Myers, motorman, Toledo; Mrs. William Fisher, West Toledo; Roy Fisher, West Toledo; Clarence Beech, Sylvania, and two children of Mr. and Mrs. Beech. The injured are: Mayor Jones and wife of Sylvania; Clara Saxton, Trilby, seriously; Jerry Haskins, Trilby, fatally; Charles Dolph, Sylvania, slightly; George Braden, Toledo, fatally; Bert Blankley, Sylvania, badly hurt; Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Parker, Sylvania; John Conroy, Sylvania, slightly, and James Young, Sylvania.

## MILLS STARTING UP

Activity in Manufacturing Plants—Buyers in New York Ready For Trade.

Over 2,000 workmen, who have been idle since November and December, have resumed work in the Wheeling district. A dozen additional mills at the Aetna Standard plant have started giving employment to 500. Haskins Class plant, Martins Ferry, gives work to as many more. The starting of the Top Mill furnace and the Wheeling Steel and Iron works gives employment to over 1,000. The National Tube Company's Riverside plant will partially resume about the 20th.

More than 3,000 buyers and business men from all over the country are now in New York with orders for goods of every variety for the spring and summer trade. The great influx of buyers was expected by the jobbing houses, and is said by merchants to be evidence of the return of confidence throughout the country.

## National Capital Notes.

Governor Smith cabled the war department from Manila that he intends to promote Frank W. Carpenter, assistant secretary, to fill the position of executive secretary of the Philippines created by the death of Arthur W. Ferguson.

A bill authorizing the appointment of veterinarians in the army, not exceeding two for each regiment of cavalry and one for each battalion of field artillery, was favorably reported to the senate by the committee on military affairs.

In recognition of the growing intimacy between the regular army and the national militia, Acting Secretary of War Oliver has issued an order creating a new division in the war department to be known as the division of militia affairs. Colonel E. M. Weaver of the coast artillery has been named as chief of the new division.

General Bell, chief of staff, United States army, recommended in person to the house committee on military affairs an increased pay schedule for enlisted men of the army, along the lines laid down in the Dick-Capron bill, but differing somewhat in scale. The average proposed is 33.3 per cent.

## Survives Brooklyn Bridge Jump.

New York.—John Grant, an unemployed printer, jumped from Brooklyn bridge, and, although he landed among floating ice cakes in the river 200 feet below, escaped with only a few minor hurts. He is under arrest on a charge of attempted suicide.

Senator Foraker answered President Roosevelt's denial of using federal patronage to aid Taft by giving appointment as postmaster was held up.

## WORST CURRENCY SYSTEM

Senator Rayner Opposes Aldrich Bill For Various Reasons.

### CRITICIZES THE PRESIDENT

Says His Methods of Assault Have Contributed to Country's Financial Condition.

Washington.—Senator Rayner of Maryland spoke at length in the senate on the currency bill, condemning the present system of banking in the United States and incidentally declaring that the President by his methods of fighting the encroachments of predatory wealth had done much to intensify the panic through which the country has recently passed.

Speaking of conditions which a financial law would remedy, he said: "The truth about the situation is that the money in this country is not equitably and fairly distributed and that it is concentrated at points that dominate the banking interests of the land, and that the people who need the money and the agricultural sections of the country, and the country banks, and the country towns and mercantile and farming interests, are all unable to procure it when the necessity arises for its use, and are all sacrificed to gratify and appease the demands that are concentrated around the financial centers of the country."

"We will never have any permanent relief until we strike at the root of the evil and reform our entire banking system from its foundations in the interests of the American people against the special interests."

"Why, sir," said he, "the native savages upon the banks of the Senegambian river, with elephants' teeth and the bark of the mahubery tree as a circulating medium, have a better system of finance than this."

He referred to the reserve laws as the worst part of the financial system and said: "I appeal to this body not to pass a bill which perpetually declines to make any change whatever in this system of reserves, and permits this blundering and flagrant injustice to permanently disgrace the values of the United States."

"And now I say, with great deference and respect, both for the office and for its occupant, that the President of the United States has also, with the best intentions, unconsciously contributed to the misfortunes that have overtaken us. I unite with him in the warfare that he is waging against the violators of the law and the oppressors of the people. I differ, however, with the President in his method of assault."

"Malefactors should receive penal punishment and a whole generation of innocent people ought not to suffer for the sins of their oppressors. One day of imprisonment would do more work better than all the heavy fines that can be levied upon the institutions they represent."

"The diagnosis of the President is perfectly correct, but in most of the instances he cites his remedies are either unlawful or impractical."

## FLOOD CAUSES DAMAGE

Many Factories Shut Down and People Driven From Their Homes.

Attaining an officially registered maximum height of 30 feet 2 1/2 inches shortly after noon Sunday, the flood in Pittsburgh stood stationary until after 3 o'clock, and then commenced to fall slowly. The low districts were flooded and many factories were compelled to close.

A cinder dump 30 feet high constructed across low ground in Mingo Junction, O., by the Carnegie Steel Company to protect company houses and other residences from high water in the Ohio river, gave way under the pressure of the back water Sunday afternoon and 50 houses were flooded.

All the occupants escaped by wading, and there were many narrow escapes from drowning, as nearly 200 persons fled in confusion to higher ground.

## \$60,000 Necklace Stolen.

Berlin.—A pearl necklace and pin of extraordinary beauty, valued at \$60,000, have been stolen from the Countess von Wartensleben. The Countess is the wife of General Alexander von Wartensleben of the cavalry, who is a warm personal friend of the Emperor.

## EXPLOSION KILLS NINE

Workmen in a Powder Plant Thaw Out Dynamite.

Montreal.—Nine men were killed by an explosion in the Standard explosive works at Vaudreuil, a summer resort, 25 miles from here.

All the particulars available about the explosion are that the men were thawing out dynamite and the explosion was the result.

The Russian ministry of war is preparing plans for the speedy conversion of Vladivostok into a first class port, involving expenditures of about \$1,000,000. Completion of the work within three years is held to be imperative, in order that Russia may not be caught napping, as at Port Arthur, in case of future trouble with Japan.

## Railroads Ask Hearing.

Washington, D. C.—Since the announcement by the interstate commerce commission respecting its authority to extend the nine-hour law to railroad telegraphers, which goes into effect March 4, application already has been made by four railroad systems for a hearing on the subject—the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, the Southern Railway, the St. Louis & San Francisco and the Seaboard Airline. The commission has set February 27 for the hearing of the applications.

## BOX OF CARTRIDGES SEIZED

Washington Has Word of an Intended Revolutionary Plot in San Domingo.

Washington.—Rumors of a revolutionary plot in San Domingo were received at the war department several weeks ago and prompt steps were taken to avert trouble.

According to press reports from San Juan, several boxes containing cartridges, but marked "old iron" were confiscated and five Dominicans and two Porto Ricans were arrested. The boxes contained a supply of 50,000 cartridges, which it is supposed were to be transported to San Domingo. It is not known to whom they were consigned in San Domingo.

The cruiser Tacoma left Hampton Roads yesterday for San Juan, and other ports in the West Indies, but it is denied both at the state and the navy departments that her cruise has any connection with the rumors of trouble in San Domingo.

## BLACK HAND WORK

House in Rochester Blown Up With Dynamite—Decapitation Promised Next.

Rochester, N. Y.—Black Hand operators exploded a stick of dynamite under the porch of the home of Vincenzo Manelli, 107 Frankfort street, at midnight, blew the entire side of the building into fragments and endangered the lives of Manelli's family and two others that occupy the house.

Several people in the house were bruised by the flying debris. Manelli received three letters last October, asking him to place \$500 in a designated place, under pain of death and a wrecked home. "Failure means decapitation," the letters added. Manelli did not comply with the demand.

After the explosion he ran out of his wrecked home, but saw no one nearby.

## STRIKE RIOTS IN ALASKA

Troops Ordered to Fairbanks To Protect Russian Miners.

Washington, D. C.—By direction of the President Acting Secretary of War Oliver ordered a company of infantry from Fort Gibbon in Alaska to Fairbanks, in that territory, to preserve order during the mining strike.

Telegrams from Fairbanks to the attorney general say open air mass meetings are being held by the strikers and that threats of violence have been made. The strikers have picketed the trail between Valdez and Fairbanks. Most of the newly arrived laborers are Russians.

Fairbanks, Alaska.—United States Marshal Perry has sworn in 250 special deputies. Mobs have been trying to capture recent arrivals here to deport them. The marshal's force has dispersed the rioters. All saloons are closed.

## UNCLE SAM'S NEW CRUSADE

Gets After Express Company for Carrying Unstamped Letters.

Cincinnati.—Violation of the postal laws by carrying first class mail matter was charged against the American Express Company in a suit filed in the United States district court here by District Attorney McPherson.

The suit is the first gun in a campaign which the government purposes to wage against common carriers for carrying first class mail matter. Attorney McPherson alleges the company on January 6 carried an unstamped letter from Belton, Tex., to Cincinnati, the writer ordering from a glove company 12 pairs of gloves and enclosing an express money order for \$2.47. The penalty for this violating this law is \$100.

## More Pay for Enlisted Men.

Washington, D. C.—The long deferred agreement to report favorably a substantial percentage increase of pay for the enlisted men of the United States army was reached by the house committee on military affairs. The committee has decided to recommend an average increase approximately 27 per cent, or 6 per cent less than was requested by General Bell, chief of staff. This increase will apply also to the enlisted men of the marine corps.

## OIL PRICES HAVE ADVANCED

Standard's Quotation for Indiana and Ohio Crude Said to Indicate Increase.

Lima, O.—The advance of five cents a barrel in the price of Ohio and Indiana crude oil made by the Standard Oil Company is said here to be a forerunner of higher prices for crude, there having been drains of from 500,000 to 1,000,000 barrels in the past six months.

The increase makes North Lima 99 cents and South Lima and Indiana 94 cents. The added price is the first advance in the crude oil market of Ohio and Indiana in a year.

## Former Governor Indicted.

New York.—Indictments charging perjury were returned by the grand jury against Foster M. Voorhees, former governor of New Jersey, and formerly president of the Bankers Life Insurance Company, and against Frank H. Combes, formerly secretary of that company. The charges are based on reports made to the New York state insurance department in 1904.

## Nine Miners Are Killed.

Central City, Ky., Feb. 10.—Nine miners were killed and one was probably fatally injured today by an explosion of gas in the mine of the Moody Coal Company at South Carrollton. The accident was caused by a slow blast setting off the gas which had accumulated in the interior.

## Mob of 2,000 Took a Negro From a Company of Militia in Mississippi and Lynched the Prisoner Within 100 Yards of the Court House.

## TAFT WINS OUT IN OHIO

Carries Everything Over Foraker At The Primaries.

### PRIMARIES DECLARED LEGAL

Decision Will Establish a Precedent in Matters Relating to Authority of Committees.

Cleveland, O.—Secretary of War William H. Taft, won a sweeping victory in Ohio at primaries which were held on the 11th, in 36 of the 88 counties to select delegates to the state convention. In only two counties was any sort of a contest made, Cuyahoga and Knox. In Cuyahoga the decision of the state supreme court put the Foraker men out of the running, while in Knox the Taft ticket was named, but Foraker men may contest.

The other counties of the 88 held no primaries as there were but single tickets in the field and the state committee decided that it was not necessary to go to the expense of holding primaries under such conditions.

It is understood Foraker and Knox, claiming that the primaries of Tuesday did not give a fair expression of the voters, will issue a call for mass state convention and have named a contesting delegation from Ohio to the national Republican convention. Foraker men also intend to fight Burton for renomination for congress in the Twenty-first district at the congressional convention next month. Burton, however, will go to the national convention as a delegate from this district.

### Court Against Foraker.

The supreme court knocked the last prop from under the Foraker men in Cleveland. The court not only affirmed the common pleas and circuit court in refusing to grant an injunction against the holding of primaries in Cleveland under the call of the Taft committee, but declared that the board of elections is without authority to ignore an executive committee recognized as legal by the state central committee. The decision not only affirms the legality of the Taft committee, but established an important precedent in making the state central committee the final authority in contests between local committees.

In Lucas county, where an independent ticket was put in the field by those who object to the bossism of State Chairman Walter Brown of Toledo, court proceedings were brought that limited the delegates to those favoring Taft. The independents claim they were not opposed to Taft, but want to oust Brown. The national committee probably will be asked to straighten out the wrangle.

In several of the counties full tickets were nominated, but generally throughout Ohio, county tickets will be named at conventions.

### WHO PAID EXPENSES?

Resolution to See Whether Violators of Law Were Contributors in Years Past.

Washington.—A resolution was offered in the house by Mr. Pou, of North Carolina, directing the speaker to appoint a committee of five representatives to ascertain what corporations contributed to presidential campaign funds in the years 1896, 1900 and 1904, especially with a view to discovering whether such a list will include any of the corporations mentioned as law violators by the President in his recent messages.

The resolution requires the committee to report to congress some time in the present session, so that the facts may be laid before the people prior to the coming presidential campaign.

### To Disfranchise Negroes.

Annapolis, Md.—The constitutional amendment designed to disfranchise the negro voters of the state was passed by the senate. The measure will be submitted to the people for ratification at the general election in November, 1909. It provides for an educational or property qualification.

### Recovers \$8,000 for an Arm.

Chicago.—Judge Plackney ordered judgment for \$8,000 to be entered against Armour and Company, in favor of Walenty Buida, an employe who accidentally struck his wrist against a pickling needle used for the injection of a preservative into hams. Blood poisoning developed and it was found necessary to amputate his arm.

### Oklahoma For Bryan.

Guthrie, Okla.—In the Democratic primaries in the state, to elect delegates to the state convention, W. J. Bryan was indorsed by every one of the 75 counties.

### Burn \$100 in Bills.

Youngstown, O.—Children playing with fire in the residence of Joseph Ferrao, burned \$100 in bills. The money was secreted in a bed, which ignited. Other damage was small.

### Presbyterians to Raise Sum and Conduct Work Like Business.

Philadelphia.—The Presbyterian Men's Foreign Missionary convention concluded its work here tonight. The one general resolution to henceforth carry on missionary work on the broad principles practiced in business was adopted.

The most important business of the convention was the adoption of a resolution at the afternoon session appealing to Presbyterian churches throughout the country to raise \$2,000,000 for foreign missions next year. The resolution also call upon the men to pray at noon each day for the evangelization of the world.

### Yaqui Indians Captured.

Hermosillo, Mexico.—The Federal troops have rounded up more than 1,500 Yaqui Indians in the mountains and valleys east of Hermosillo during a flying campaign covering a period of six weeks. Hundreds of peaceful Yaquis and their wives and children are said to be included among the captives. All will be deported to Yucatan.

### Marked Increase in Railroad Traffic.

Cleveland.—Railway officials here state that there has been a very marked increase in both freight and passenger traffic during the past two weeks. The Lake Shore road is moving more cars of freight than on any day since the first part of December. Passenger officials of both the New York Central and Pennsylvania lines say that the number of passengers now being carried equals, if it does not exceed, the number carried during the same time last year.

## EPOCH IN IRON TRADE

Concerted Movement Among Ore Producers for Stable Prices Marks New Departure.

New York.—The Iron Age says: The ore firms at Cleveland who find their market largely among the merchant blast furnaces of Ohio and Pennsylvania have fallen in with the general movement of producers of pig iron and steel. The decision reached at Friday's meeting at Cleveland that no reduction from last year's prices is advisable for 1908, marks a departure of the lake ore trade. Ore buying was not expected to follow it and time must be given for any effect of the action to appear further down the line.

Lake Superior's ores are being turned into pig iron at about 40 per cent of the rate at which they came down the lakes last year.

Apart from the ore meeting interest has centered this week in a conference of the pig iron producers of the Central West and the Chicago district, held at Cleveland Saturday. The previous effort in this territory to maintain a stable market has not been successful. Some of the causes of irregularities have now been removed and the furnace companies expect the action of the ore men to be of some avail in holding prices on a \$17 valley basis for No. 2 foundry iron.

Southern makes have of late received less than their usual percentage of orders in foundry and forge grades. All pig iron markets have been dull in fact. In the east pipe makers have been buyers on a moderate scale. In light rails the mills have done a surprising business.

In general, finished lines have shown some improvement upon January, even though slight, and January in turn was better than December. Consumers of important products into which iron and steel enter are yet to pass on prices which thus far have not been seriously tested.

The wire and tin plate trades still lead in activity. Wrought pipe mills have found it necessary to increase their active capacity. Current business in railroad bridge work is less than 25 per cent of the fabricating capacity of the country.

Considerable buying of cast iron pipe is reported and about a normal business for February being done.

## INDIANS JUMP INTO SEA

Six Succeeded, the Other Ten Being Dragged Aboard a Mexican Government Transport.

Mazatlan, Mex.—Sixteen Yaqui Indians, deported from Sonora, and en route to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and to Yucatan, tried to commit suicide by jumping into the ocean from the government transport when a short distance from Mazatlan.

Boats were put out, and 10 of the number were hauled out of the water. The other six were drowned.

Those rescued declared they preferred death to serving on plantations or in the army in the "hot country" of Mexico.

It is reported from Sonora that there are now more than fifteen hundred Yaquis under guard in that state awaiting deportation.

## South May Get \$10,000,000

Washington.—About \$10,000,000 may be secured from the government by people from the South if a bill reported unanimously by the house committee on war claims becomes a law. The bill gives to the court of claims jurisdiction of the claims for captured and abandoned property, which was sold during the Civil war and the proceeds turned into the United States treasury.

## Republicans for Taft.

Resolutions endorsing the course of the National Administration and favoring the nomination of Secretary Taft for the Presidency were unanimously adopted by the Republican State Central Committee of Colorado.

Republicans of the Fifteenth Missouri Congressional district instructed delegates to vote for Secretary Taft for President. Attorney General Herbert S. Hadley was endorsed for governor of Missouri.

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## CURRENT NEWS EVENTS.

Governor Johnson of Minnesota, has been invited to address the members of the Alabama Industrial Association at their annual convention here May 20 and 21.

A jury in the circuit court, after 49 minutes' deliberation, acquitted Charles O. Fowler of embezzling \$7,748.39 from the Fowler Fuel Company at Alton, Ill.

Secretary Taft, in a speech at Kansas City, declared the rank and file of the Republican party are with the President in his efforts to reform corporate abuses.

"Abe" Ruef, in an affidavit, declared the San Francisco graft prosecution had promised him immunity for telling "all he knew," and has since broken faith with him.

In interview at Boston Hettie Green said Vanderbilts and others of the very rich were fearfully hit by panic and had to go to her for money. She blamed Roosevelt for panic.