

TAFT URGES KNOX

Senator Displeased at the House Opposition.

INCLINED TO DECLINE OFFICE.

Mr. Taft Says He Greatly Desires to Have the Pennsylvania as Secretary of State.

Washington, Feb. 16.—President Elect Taft and United States Senator, Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania held a conference here today, and the main topic discussed by them was the question whether Senator Knox should accept the post of secretary of state in the Taft cabinet.

Mr. Knox was disposed to decline the offer of a place in the cabinet in view of the opposition that developed in the house of representatives to the passage of the senate bill removing his disability.

The fact that the house by a vote of 179 to 123, which lacked the necessary two-thirds, refused to suspend the rules and that after the committee on rules had substituted a majority vote the bill was passed only by the vote of 173 to 117 made Mr. Knox feel that the assurances given to him that there would be but little opposition were not fulfilled.

Regardless of the fact Mr. Knox did not stop the efforts to pass the bill. Many of his friends said he would refuse to accept the office of secretary of state—not on the ground that he cannot accept constitutionally if the salary is reduced to the figure it was before, but for the reason that, on the grounds of ethics, he may injure his standing with the bar of the country if he consents to the appointment.

While no official statement was made as to the result of the conference today, it was said that President Elect Taft urged Mr. Knox to accept, saying that he greatly desired to have the Pennsylvania as secretary of state.

The first vote was taken on the bill under general order for the suspension of the rules, and under that order, according to the standing rules of the house, a bill must receive a two-thirds majority to insure its passage. The first vote stood 179 to 123, the majority thus falling considerably below the two-thirds requirement.

Immediately after this result was announced the house committee on rules held a meeting, which resulted in Mr. Dazell's bringing in a rule making it in order for the house to again take up the bill and act upon it under conditions which would require only a majority vote to pass it.

The opponents of the measure did not cease their antagonism, which on the previous consideration had brought out a number of sharp criticisms, but immediately demanded a roll call on the previous question on the adoption of the rule.

Mr. Olmsted of Pennsylvania contended that the bill did not accomplish an evasion of the constitution. Among other precedents Mr. Olmsted cited the case of Senator Morrill of Vermont, who was appointed secretary of the treasury.

Mr. Williams of Mississippi, who opposed the bill, declared that Senator Morrill had been confirmed through senatorial courtesy, which, he said, "overrides all bars, constitutional and otherwise." The bill, he declared, was "a clear, plain, palpable, obvious and manifest case of a direct and expressed constitutional inhibition."

Mr. Clark of Missouri took the floor in opposition to the bill and said that congress was making itself "the laughing stock of every intelligent man on the face of God's green earth." He quoted a famous expression by the late Tim Campbell of New York, "What's the constitution between friends?"

In adding his vote against the bill Mr. Caulfield of Missouri declared that it was a case of constitutional jugglery or legislative favoritism.

UNITED STATES ACCEPTS GIFT

Constitution Island to Be Part of the West Point Reservation.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Congress adopted the conference report on the bill authorizing the government to accept the donation of Constitution Island, in the Hudson river, from Anna Bartlett Warner and Mrs. Russell Sage.

The island will become a part of West Point Military reservation, but the condition is imposed that it shall never be used as "a pleasure park for private gain."

Weather Probabilities.

Snow; colder; north winds.

305 BODIES FOUND

At Least 320 Perished in Theater Fire.

15 AMERICANS AMONG VICTIMS

Two Narrow Exits Insufficient to Allow Escape of Panic Stricken Audience at Acapulco Playhouse.

City of Mexico, Feb. 16.—After sixteen hours spent by a large body of searchers in the ruins of the Flower theater, at Acapulco, 305 bodies have been brought out.

The work of search is still going on, and according to the best information the number of dead will exceed 320.

Dispatches state that fifteen Americans, some of them residents and others visitors in Acapulco, are among the dead.

The fire is said to have started in the scenery in the front of the stage during the performance.

The audience, numbering about 800 persons, many of whom were women, made a mad rush for the doors, but owing to the fact that there were only two small exits a blockage occurred, and hundreds of men and women were fearfully crushed.

The flames made rapid headway, and such a long time elapsed before any water was available that the ground floor and balcony were swept by fierce flames. The balcony and gallery fell in, and great timbers fell upon the panic stricken mass of people underneath.

Of those who managed to make their escape the great majority were either burned or severely crushed.

The telegraph office adjoining the theater was burned, and for that reason the news of the disaster was delayed in reaching here.

"MATTY" DEMANDS \$8,000.

Star Twirler to Quit Baseball if He Doesn't Get It.

New York, Feb. 16.—Pitcher Christy Mathewson, the greatest twirler the Glants ever had, has decided to quit baseball forever unless given \$8,000 for the coming season.

Hearing that the demand of Mike Donlin for \$7,000 for the season is likely to be acceded to by the Glants, Mathewson declared in a letter to President Brush that he considers himself the best player on the team and that he will not take a salary less than any other player. To make this point clear Matty insists that he be given \$8,000 for the season.

The great player has definitely made up his mind on this matter and declares that he will not compromise. So it is possible that the diamond may lose one of its brightest stars.

CHOCTAW INDIANS PROTEST.

Delegates Object to Sale of Coal and Timber Land.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Delegates from the Choctaw Nation made vigorous protests to the senate Indian affairs committee against the adoption of the bill of Senator Owens of Oklahoma permitting the sale of Choctaw and Chickasaw lands, which amount to 3,400,000 acres and which are said to include 450,000 acres of coal and much valuable timber.

The spokesmen for the Choctaws were Dr. E. N. Wright and Peter J. Hudson. Both are full blooded Choctaw Indians with the manner and speech of white men of affairs. They said the bill would permit the sale of their lands at an inadequate price. Their coal lands alone, they said, were worth \$60,000,000.

SET AFIRE BY VOLCANIC SAND

Mexican Villages Around Colima Are Threatened With Destruction.

Mexico City, Feb. 16.—The increasing violence of the Colima volcano and the showers of burning sand and ashes the last few days, covering a wide area, terrified the people of that section.

The lava streams flowing from the two old lateral craters and a new one just formed by a terrific blowout are running down the slopes in deep gullies. The superheated sand belched forth with flames has fired the prairies and forests, and destruction threatens the towns.

BOB EVANS DISAPPOINTED.

Plan to Make Him a Vice Admiral Killed in Senate.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The item in the naval appropriation bill authorizing the president to appoint Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans a vice admiral, retired, in the navy was knocked out in the senate on a point of order raised by Senator Rayner of Maryland.

ECHO OF KIERAN FAILURE.

Default Judgment For \$31,225 Taken Against Priest.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 16.—Default judgment was taken by the Cleveland Trust company against the Rev. William McMahon, pastor of St. Bridget's church, for \$31,225.

This is an echo of the failure of the Fidelity Funding company, of which P. J. Kieran was the head and the Rev. Father McMahon and County Treasurer J. P. Madigan among the directors. The Fidelity Funding company was connected with the failure of the Euclid Avenue Trust company, of which the Cleveland Trust company is the assignee.

The judgment was taken on two notes for \$15,000 each, given to the Euclid Avenue Trust company and signed jointly by McMahon, Kieran and Madigan. Kieran and Madigan answered to the suit, and they were let out. Father McMahon failed to make answer, and the judgment was entered against him by default.

TORNADO WIPES OUT TOWN.

Thirty-five Houses Blown Down and a Girl Killed.

Greenville, Miss., Feb. 16.—Reports from Cedar Bluff state that town was practically destroyed by the tornado that swept part of this state.

Thirty-five houses were blown away, and the tornado mowed a path 200 yards wide. Wires are down and tracks blocked with debris.

Miss Mary Ellis was killed outright, and Alfred and Frank Ellis, Miss Jane Stevens and Will Aaron were seriously injured.

TROOPS HUNT INDIANS.

Mexico Seeks to Avenge the Killing of Ten Soldiers.

City of Mexico, Feb. 16.—Troops have been sent to Quilana Roo to find and punish the Maya Indians that have been attacking settlements.

The Indians attacked a small detachment of soldiers between San Isidro and Noxa, killed ten soldiers and captured a convoy of army provisions.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Closing Stock Quotations.

Table with columns for various stock categories and their closing prices.

Market Reports.

WHEAT—Firm and in demand; contract grade, February, \$1.15a1.16a; brown and mixed, February, \$1.14a1.15a.

CORN—Firm and in demand; February, 68a69c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 white, natural, 57a58c.

BUTTER—Fancy grades steady; everything else dull and weak; receipts, 5,625 packages; creamery, specials, 22a23a (official 22c); extras, 21a22a; thirds to firsts, 20a21a; held, common to special, 22a23a; process, common to special, 18a20a; western factory, 18a22c; western imitation creamery, 22a24c.

CHEESE—Firm; receipts, 585 boxes; state, full cream, specials, 15a16a; colored or white, fancy, 14a; good to fine, 14a; winter made, best, 12a; common to prime, 11a13a; skims, full to specials, 2a4a13c.

EGGS—Firm; receipts, 5,295 cases; state, Pennsylvania and nearby, fancy, selected, white, 30c; fair to choice, 28a30c; brown and mixed, fancy, 28c; fair to choice, 26a28c; western, firsts, 25a27a; seconds, 23a25c.

POTATOES—Barely steady; domestic, in bulk, per 100 lbs., \$2.25a2.75; per 50 lb. bag, \$2.40; European, per bag, \$1.75a; Bermuda, new, per 100 lbs., \$1.25a1.50; sweet, No. 1, per basket, \$1a1.25.

DRESSED POULTRY—Firm; fowls higher; turkeys, young, selected, per lb., 25c; young, poor to good, 22a25c; capons, nearby, 25a28c; western, 22a25c; spring chickens, roasted, nearby, 18a24c; western, 14a16c; fowls, boxes, 15a16c; barrels, 14a16c; old roosters, 11c; ducks, western, 15a16c; geese, western, 10a12c; squabs, white, per doz., \$1.50a1.75.

HAY AND STRAW—Steady; timothy, per hundred, 6a65c; shipping, 6a62a64c; clover, mixed, 6a70c; clover, 6a62a64c; rye straw, \$1.10a1.15a; small bales, 2a5a5c.

LIKELY TO STOP AT NAPLES.

President's Party May Have to Await Steamer There.

Washington, Feb. 16.—While no official confirmation is to be had of the report that President Roosevelt will spend eleven days at Naples on his way to Africa, it is considered quite likely that Mr. Roosevelt and party will sail from New York on the North German Lloyd steamer Koenig Albert on March 13, which vessel is due to arrive at Naples on March 28. Should he go on that vessel he will have eleven days to spend in Italy before the German East Africa line steamer Admiral, on which he is to travel from Naples to Mombasa, sails on April 5.

It is definitely stated that Mrs. Roosevelt will not accompany the president to Naples.

TO STUDY TARIFF.

National Convention Opens at Indianapolis Today.

SESSIONS TO LAST THREE DAYS

Nearly 2,000 Delegates Gather For the Purpose of Promoting the Movement For Scientific Tariff Revision.

Indianapolis, Feb. 16.—The selection and appointment of a tariff commission, not to fix rates, but to ascertain facts as a basis for the fixing of rates by congress, is the purpose of the national tariff convention which began in this city today. The convention will be in session three days, during which all phases of the tariff question will receive thorough discussion.

There are more than 2,000 delegates to the convention, which was called by the National Association of Manufacturers and other large commercial bodies. According to James W. Van Cleave, the president of the association, it is "the first national gathering ever held for the express purpose of promoting the movement for comprehensive, scientific tariff revision."

The convention is nonpartisan, and among the delegates are men of all shades of political belief. The committee in charge has declared that its purpose is not the discussion of protection, free trade or tariff revision. Its object is declared to be "the urging of reform in the methods pursued in determining schedules, and the discussion of schedules themselves is foreign to its purpose. The committee stands for the tariff commission plan and believes it is one of the greatest reforms in which the country can at this time interest itself."

Among the speakers who will address the convention are Representative Charles N. Fowler of New Jersey, Senator Norris Brown of Nebraska, Senator Owen of Oklahoma, Senator Beveridge of Indiana, Director John Barrett of the bureau of American republics, Charles P. Nell, federal labor commissioner; Aaron Jones, master of the national grange; former Governor Guild of Massachusetts, and Representative Ransdell of Louisiana. Mr. Fowler will take a leading part in the discussions of the convention. His principal address will be on "Tariff Changes by Evolution Instead of Revolution."

In declining an invitation to attend the convention President Roosevelt declared that he did not intend to interfere in a question which would be settled by his successor. The president added that he had expressed himself in favor of the proposed commission several times.

COAL ROADS MAKE DEFENSE

Their Side of Government Case Begun in New York Today.

New York, Feb. 16.—The railroads of the anthracite region began in court today their defense against the charge of the government that they form a conspiracy in restraint of the trade in hard coal.

The action of the government was begun in June, 1907, and the prosecution was concluded in Philadelphia last month. Among the evidence offered by the government is a table of statistics showing that of the 76,000,000 tons of coal produced only 16,000,000, or about 21 per cent, are produced by independent operators. Of these 16,000,000 tons it is alleged that all except 6,007,511 tons are in the control of the roads by contract or otherwise at the time the coal leaves the mines.

BLIZZARD IN OKLAHOMA.

Zero Temperature All Over the State and Traffic Paralyzed.

Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 16.—Oklahoma is suffering from a severe snowstorm and blizzard. Telephone and telegraph wires are down in every direction. Cattle on the range are suffering.

Zero temperature is reported all over the state. Scores of trains are stalled in snowdrifts, and many lines have discontinued service.

Dorando Wins Relay Race.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 16.—Dorando Pietri, the Italian runner, defeated a relay team of four runners in a fifteen mile race here. His time was 1 hour 27 minutes 42 seconds.

Lost His Bet, May Lose His Wife.

St. Louis, Feb. 16.—John B. Richards wagered a hat with a friend that his wife would not make an engagement with the friend. She kept the appointment, and he lost the hat. Now he's afraid he will lose the wife.

OBITUARY.

Thomas Earl Doolittle died at his home on Grove street, Sunday morning, after a week's illness, of pneumonia. Deceased was eighteen years of age, and was born in Honesdale. Besides his mother, he is survived by two sisters, Misses Nellie and Edna, of this place. The funeral will be held this Wednesday afternoon, at half-past two o'clock. Interment in Riverdale cemetery.

Mrs. Elias H. McIntyre died at her home in New York city, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1909, at the age of 54 years. She is survived by her husband and two sons, Charles, of Schenectady, N. Y., and George, of New York city. The remains were brought to Honesdale on Saturday afternoon, and interment was made in Glen Dyberry cemetery. Mrs. McIntyre was related to the Dunning and Kimble families of this place.

John Haggerty, aged forty-eight years, died in Pittsburgh, on Monday, Feb. 7, 1909, after a protracted illness of lung trouble. The remains were brought to Honesdale Saturday evening, and removed to the home of his father, Lewis Haggerty, in Cherry Ridge. Besides his father, he is survived by three brothers, William, Charles and Frederick, of Cherry Ridge, and two sisters, Mrs. Henry Rieffer, of Cherry Ridge, and Mrs. Conrad Hiller, of Girdland. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon, with interment in St. John's German Lutheran Cemetery.

Nora J. Sluman, wife of Henry Glahn, died at her home in Philadelphia, Feb. 11, 1909, of heart disease, aged 66 years and 4 months. She was the oldest daughter of Thomas B. Sluman, of Oregon township, Pa. She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. E. G. Best, of Irwin, Pa.; Mrs. J. P. Budd and Mrs. Henry Bradbury, of Beach Lake; also three brothers, Arnold T., of Torrey; Wm. A., of Honesdale, and Frederick, of Carbondale. One son and one daughter mourn the loss of a loving mother; during all her sickness she would embrace them as only a loving parent could. She was cared for during her illness by her devoted children and two sisters, Mrs. Budd and Mrs. Bradbury. The funeral will be held at the home, Monday, Feb. 15th. The same pastor will officiate who buried her husband eleven years ago this month. Her oldest brother, John, died Jan. 21, 1905. The deceased was well-known in Wayne county, where she always lived until her marriage.

Mrs. Estelle B. Strong died at her home in Starucca, early on Tuesday morning of last week, February 9, 1909. She had not been feeling well during the previous day and evening, but about midnight fell asleep. About six o'clock in the morning she evidently endeavored to rise, but fell to the floor, striking on her face. Help was immediately at hand, and she was placed on the bed, but after breathing a few times she passed quietly away. Mrs. Strong was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Brown, of Jackson, Susquehanna county, Pa., and was born in that township April 10, 1849. On November 26, 1877, she was married to Major Elisha P. Strong, of Starucca, and that borough was her home thenceforth until her death. Major Strong had from 1852 been one of the leaders in the tanning industry of the county. In 1884 he was appointed by Gov. Pattison to fill a vacancy in the office of Associate Judge, and later he was elected for the full term. He died on March 13, 1895. Mrs. Strong is survived by an only daughter, Louise, wife of Dr. E. W. Downton, who practices largely in Scranton, and is rapidly winning professional distinction; four brothers, Arthur W. Brown, of Starucca, and Fletcher, Dorr and Harvey, of Jackson; and Amanda, wife of Ralph W. Howard, of Thompson Center, Susquehanna county. The funeral was held on Saturday, the services being conducted by Revs. E. C. Sanford, R. M. Pascoe, and A. C. Olver, of the M. E. church. The choir for the occasion consisted of Allen Miller, Arthur Foster, Mrs. Hannah Burns and Mrs. Frank Lewis, with Mrs. A. H. Crozier at the piano. The funeral directors were L. C. Mumford, of Starucca, and W. W. Pope, of Jackson. Mrs. Strong was a woman of superior intelligence and refinement, and her personality presented a rare combination of dignity, strength and gentleness. She possessed excellent practical judgment, quick perception of character, and much decision of purpose. Her manner of life was unobtrusive, and she preferred the cheerful quiet of a happy home circle to the more brilliant aspects of social activity. She was hospitable and generous, and every good cause received ready aid at her hands. She commanded the appreciation and esteem of all who knew her, and in her death the community in which she dwelt sustained a painful shock, and a loss that is felt by many as a personal bereavement. She will be long and widely missed and sincerely mourned.

Dr. John T. Fritta, one of the oldest physicians in Plainfield, N. J., died at his home in that place on Monday, Feb. 8, of pulmonary trouble. He was the father of Dr. A. S. Fritta, formerly a practicing physician in Hawley, now of Binghamton, N. Y. He is also survived by two daughters.

George W. Frost, one of the oldest and best known citizens of Dunmore, died last Saturday morning at his home on East Drinker street. Mr. Frost was 86 years old and in failing health for several years. About a year ago his wife died. He was the son of one of the contractors who helped build the gravity road of the Delaware and Hudson Co. from Carbondale to Honesdale in 1827.

Mrs. S. Perry Jones died at the family residence in Buckingham township on Monday, Feb. 8th, 1909, in her 61st year. Her maiden name was Carrie A. Starbird, and she was born at Preston Park, Oct. 25, 1848. She was united in marriage with S. Perry Jones, June 23, 1869. Surviving beside her husband, is one son Everest, one brother, John Starbird, living at Little Falls, Pa., and one sister, Mrs. Emeline Whitney, who makes her home with Mr. Jones.

James Decker died Wednesday, Feb. 10th, 1909, at the home of his brother, in Scott township, at a ripe old age. He was a veteran of the civil war, and a member of the local post No. 187. He enlisted in Company B, 2d N. Y. Cavalry, Aug. 5, 1861, veteranized by reinstatement in the same regiment and was discharged June 22, 1865, as sergeant, serving forty-seven months. He was mustered into William H. Davies Post May 12, 1881. The funeral took place at the brother's home in Scott, after which the remains were taken to Carbondale, his former home, for interment.

Thomas Medland died at his home in this borough, last Saturday afternoon, Feb. 13, 1909, after a sickness of about a fortnight.

He was born in the parish of Marham Church, Cornwall, England, on August 16, 1825. He came to this country in 1849, and made his home in Wayne county. He was largely engaged in the lumber business, and part of the time was associated with Hon. George W. Kipp, the present member of Congress from this district, and then a resident of South Canaan. In 1885, soon after President Cleveland's inauguration, he was appointed postmaster of Waymart.

In 1886 he was elected Sheriff, and during his term he removed to Honesdale, where he continued to reside until his death. During the civil war he enlisted in Company A, 149th Pa. Vols., serving from Sept. 28, 1863, until the close of the war. The regiment took part in the "campaign of maneuvers," from the Rapidan to Bull Run, and from Culpeper to Centerville, during the fall of 1863, closing with the Mine Run campaign. In the following May, it entered on the "overland campaign" under Grant, fighting its way through the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, along the North Anna, and thence to the front of Petersburg. In the first charge of the Union troops on the rebel works in front of Petersburg, Mr. Medland received a wound in the ankle, which healed so slowly that he was still in the hospital when the war closed and his regiment was mustered out, and he was not discharged until August 23, 1865. Afterward, from time to time, his wound caused him much trouble and suffering, and for many years he was obliged to use a cane in walking. On Aug. 16, 1851, Mr. Medland married Margaret Greiner, who was born in Bethany, July 1, 1826. She died on Aug. 16, 1897. Their surviving children are T. Lincoln, of Carbondale; Mrs. David Cipperry, of South Canaan; and Mrs. C. M. Betz, of Honesdale. Mr. Medland was a member of Waymart Lodge, F. A. M., and of Capt. James Ham Post, G. A. R., of Honesdale. The funeral took place yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon; the masonic services being conducted by Honesdale Lodge, and the religious exercises by Rev. W. H. Hiller, of the Honesdale M. E. Church.

There will be a sale of Fancy Articles in the Reading Room of the Presbyterian chapel, Friday afternoon and evening, Feb. 19.

A Card.

Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Downton take this method of expressing their sincere appreciation of the kindly offices and attentions of their many friends, during the period of their painful bereavement in the death of their mother, Mrs. Estelle B. Strong.

Starucca, Pa., Feb. 15, 1909.

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