

Taft's Southern Tour Complete

Left New Orleans This Morning For Cincinnati, Where He Arrives Tomorrow at 9:45.

TO WASHINGTON TUESDAY.

Visit in Crescent City Occupied With Formal Affairs But He Played Golf.

Secured a Creditable Victory Over President of Progressive Union—Weather All the Time Was Ideal.

New Orleans, Feb. 12.—President Taft today concluded his stay in New Orleans and at the same time completed the schedule of his visits to southern cities previous to his inauguration.

After spending nearly two days here he left at 9:20 o'clock this morning for the Queen & Crescent route for Cincinnati, where he will arrive tomorrow morning.

He will remain there until Tuesday morning, when he will go to Washington.

Although he had planned to go direct to Washington, Mrs. Taft decided this morning to accompany the president-elect to Cincinnati and caused somewhat of a surprise when she rode to the terminal station with Judge Taft and boarded the Queen & Crescent train for Cincinnati.

In spite of the fact that it was almost 2 o'clock this morning when Mr. Taft made his exit from the banquet hall of the Greenwood hotel and the comparatively early hour at which it was necessary for him to arise today, incident to his departure, he was not in any way fatigued in his manner as he welcomed the party who escorted him to the station.

His characteristic good humor was in ample evidence as he chatted with those gathered to see him off, and he smilingly waved good-bye as the train pulled out.

While Mr. Taft's time in New Orleans was largely occupied with formal affairs, he found the opportunity to pursue his favorite diversion—golf.

As the brilliant reception in honor of his visit was being held at the country club, he went out on the club's links. He had not become sufficiently out of practice to play a losing game, indeed he secured a creditable victory.

His opponent, Philip Werfield, president of the New Orleans Progressive union, under whose auspices he was entertained while in New Orleans.

There was nothing to mar the program or Mr. Taft's entertainment in New Orleans.

The weather could not have been more ideal. It was typical spring-like, with a sun which has been in its prime decorations of vibrant and patriotic colors and myriads of electric lights by night.

Major Behrman had requested that the carnival decorations be arranged earlier than usual in view of Mr. Taft's visit and his suggestion was carried out.

AMERICAN DIVORCES.

They Are Recognized as Valid by Courts of Mexico.

Mexico City, Feb. 12.—The Mexican courts, notwithstanding the fact that Mexico has no divorce law, have sustained the divorce laws of the United States.

CRUEL JOKE ON A GRAY HAired G. A. R. VETERAN

New York, Feb. 12.—Robert Moran, an aged veteran of the Civil war and member of the G. A. R., was the victim of a cruel joke which resulted in his humiliation in a restaurant and later in his arrest. The old man was accused last evening of being away by a stranger who invited him to dine, but who brazenly announced that he did not know the old man when the waiter presented the bill for the meal.

NURSERY STOCKS.

Bill Providing for Government Inspection at Ports of Entry.

Washington, Feb. 12.—A measure important to the farmers of the country as well as nurserymen has been favorably acted upon by the house committee on agriculture yesterday.

WILLET RECEIVES FREEDOM OF PRESS

Characterizes Grand Jury Investigation Into Panama Libel Case as Most Dangerous.

EXERCISES USURPED POWER

Maintained No Legal Justification for Prosecuting Cases of Alleged Libel Against the Government.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Characterizing as the "most flagrant and the most dangerous exercise of usurped power ever witnessed in this country" the grand jury investigations which have been in progress for several weeks past in connection with the alleged Panama libel case, Representative Willett of New York, who several weeks ago vigorously attacked President Roosevelt on the floor of the house, today came to the defense of the papers whose alleged libelous publications are being investigated, declaring that "the courts of the United States have no jurisdiction in cases of libel against the government of the United States."

"It has not been conferred upon them by any legislative act," he asserted, "and they possess no criminal jurisdiction derived from the common law."

He called the present investigation "the most extraordinary proceeding on the part of the federal government which has shocked the country since the days of the old Federalist party."

This proceeding has for weeks been going on right here in the District of Columbia, the very shadow of the capitol, and seems to have been instigated, if not directly ordered, by the president."

A large part of Mr. Willett's speech was taken up with extracts from various court decisions by which he attempted to prove that there is no legal justification for prosecuting cases of alleged libel against the government.

He declared that the old English doctrine relating to the libel of the government or of great public officers has been rejected in all the states of the Union since the revolution of 1776, and that it had, before that time, been rejected in England by the act abolishing in the reign of Charles II, the star chamber court.

He asserted that the doctrine has ever since been regarded "as unsafe, unreasonable, unjust, and unconstitutional."

He held that the views expressed by John Milton in his famous speech on the freedom of the press, and the views of Lord Baskins in his defense of Thomas Paine, when that philosopher was indicted for libel upon the British government, have fixed the law on this subject in opposition to the ill despotic theory of paternalism, on which, he said, "the present prosecution is founded."

He ridiculed the contention which he said the government's attorneys are reported to hold, that the principle that the government of a country with a constitution like ours cannot be libeled, applies everywhere else in the United States, but does not apply in the District of Columbia.

"Libel may be a crime against the District of Columbia," he declared, "as it is against the state of New York, but it is no crime against the federal government as such, nor has it ever been, nor will it ever be, so long as Congress adheres to those principles on which the constitution and the republic's institution depended. Congress has not defined it in any federal statute; nor has Congress given any district or circuit court of the United States jurisdiction over it."

As stated by Judge Johnson in the Goldwin case, that Congress must first make an act a crime and affix a punishment thereon before it can give to any court jurisdiction."

ELK ARE STARVING.

Chryseum, Wyo., Feb. 12.—Members of the legislature today received word that the elk are starving in the state's Hole, Wyoming. The deer, snow covered with a hard crust, prevents the elk from getting to the grass beneath, and in their search for food they are being killed by the wolves.

A CHICAGO MAN RAISED QUESTION OF ELIGIBILITY

Chicago, Feb. 12.—"It was a Chicagoan," says the Tribune in news item, "who put over a quiet little joke the other day on Philander C. Knox, William H. Taft and several other persons supposed to know a good deal about constitutional law."

At least this is the assertion of De. Eugene Murray-Aaron, president of the American geographic institute. Dr. Murray-Aaron has been smiling quietly over the banter of the house and senate at the lobbyist's question of Senator Knox's eligibility to the office of secretary of state, but said not a word, and went right on with his editorial work.

Then he heard that some one in a Buffalo newspaper office had been given credit for stuffing the thing. This troubled him and he began looking through his correspondence files.

"The result was a carbon copy of a letter written Jan. 25, last, and reading as follows: 'I am sorry to hear that you are calling your attention to the second paragraph of section VI, first article of the United States Constitution. Is not this a bar to the position now offered you by Judge Taft? Is not an enabling act passed by the first?'"

"I have been working lately along lines of that sort, on a volume touching on constitutional matters," Dr. Murray-Aaron explained, "and as soon as I saw the difficulty, my first thought was to write to Mr. Taft. Then I recalled to me that the appointment was cancelled, and inasmuch as I have known Knox for several years I decided to write to him."

TROUT CREEK POSTMASTER.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—Annie Parker, 12 1/2, Trout Creek, Utah, was appointed postmaster at Trout Creek, Utah, today. J. T. Parker, resigned.

RAILROADS ANNOUNCE RATES FOR REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

Rates for the Republican Mass Convention at Salt Lake Theatre, Wednesday, February 24th, 1909, have been arranged as follows: From Ogden and intermediate points to Salt Lake City the Rio Grande does not make any rate.

The Salt Lake & Ogden (Lagoon road) will make straight round trip tickets good on Feb. 24th, return on 25th; one fare and one-fifth for all tickets above 25c.

The Oregon Short Line on 1st date will sell tickets on what is known as the certificate plan as follows: The purchaser takes a receipt for the fare paid one way, and this receipt should be O. K'd at the Convention and can be presented at either the city ticket office or at the depot, and purchase a return ticket, paying one-third the regular fare.

On all points south of Salt Lake City, the Denver and Rio Grande and Salt Lake Route will sell tickets on the certificate plan above described on the 23rd and 24th, good returning to and including the 26th, fare for the return going south one-fifth of the regular fare upon presentation of the certificate or receipt for the full fare paid coming to the convention, after same has been O. K'd at the Convention.

At the Law Offices of Senator Badger and U. S. Dist. Atty. H. E. Booth.

JURY SECURED IN COOPER CASE

It Has Taken Twenty-five Days To Secure Twelve Men Competent to Act as Jurors.

3,019 NAMES WERE DRAWN. IT OCCURRED ON WEDNESDAY

Four of Those Selected Can Neither Read Nor Write—Trial Begins Tuesday Morning.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 12.—Without further changes, the jury was sworn this morning in the case against Col. Dutton B. Cooper, Robin J. Cooper and John D. Sharpe, charged with the slaying of former Senator E. W. Carmack.

The state asked for several days in which to ask its witnesses. The court suggested that the taking of testimony begin Tuesday morning. Counsel on both sides agreed and court adjourned until then.

Every one connected with the case drew a long breath of relief today when the state announced that it was satisfied with the jury selected. For 25 days the court, attorneys, and jurors had been trying to get competent jurors.

It was necessary to draw five venire of 500 each and one of 100, or a total of 3,019 before the jury was secured. As it is four of the jury can neither read nor write, and two others speak English only indifferently. Every man of the 12 swore he had not read a newspaper since he was 16 years of age and some had not read one for 10 years.

Bierman, the only exception, had been out of the state from the week before the killing until the day he was summoned.

E. M. Burke, carpenter, 45; Robert McPherson, farmer, 49; G. A. Lane, farmer, 62; W. A. Odell, farmer, 28; James H. Smith, farmer, 44; J. Vaughn, farmer, 49; S. H. Hyde, farmer, 55; Gus Knipper, farmer, 47; F. O. Bierman, farmer, 42; Jacob W. Taylor, farmer, 49; William H. Hays, farmer, 55.

Mrs. Eastman, who was talking to Senator Carmack when he was killed, probably will be the first witness next Tuesday.

PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Feb. 12.—President Roosevelt and party arrived in Washington at 2 p. m. today on the memorial building on the Lincoln park in Kentucky. The president expressed himself as much pleased with his trip.

RIDGES WILL SET ASIDE

Court Divides Property Among Widow And Four Children—Son Is Named Executor.

The last will and testament of Alfred Joseph Ridges was broken this afternoon in Judge Ritchie's division of the Third district court when an order issued dividing the property of the estate among the widow and four children.

Alfred Joseph Ridges, Jr., is named in the order as administrator of the estate.

The deceased died in this city at the age of 52 years on March 16, 1905, leaving real property valued at \$5,000, consisting of the family home at 328 west Fourth north, and \$100 in cash.

The request for the wife was an unimpaired lease during her life of the family home and it was willed to the two youngest children, Lawrence Whitney Ridges and Hazel Newberry Ridges, possession to pass upon the death of their mother. Alfred Joseph Ridges, Jr., Mary R. Merrill and their mother were not otherwise provided for in the will.

SALOON ADVOCATES AGAIN JUBILANT

In the Senate They Take Hope in Caucus Arranged by Anti-Prohibitionists.

WINE ROOM WRECKS THE HOSKINS HOME

Wife Enticed by Dissolute Revelers While Her Husband Toiled.

Complaint Filed This Morning Charges Habitual Drunkenness—Married Less Than Three Years.

Because his wife, Dorothy Hoskins, is reported to have been enticed to the mines in the county, Frank Hoskins filed suit for a divorce today in the Third district court, charging his wife with being a habitual drunkard.

They were married in Salt Lake City on May 1, 1906, and shortly afterward moved to Bingham, where he made every effort to support her, he says in his complaint.

There according to his allegations, she became the companion of dissolute persons, who tempted her to join them in nights of debauchery while he was at work. A summons was issued by the court, and it will be served as soon as the defendant, who deserted her home several weeks ago, can be found.

THE BUNGLE IS COMING.

Press Club Is Conspiring to Perpetuate Another Dramatic Stunt.

"The Bungle," which is not from the pen of Upton Sinclair, is to be the annual Press club play this year. It will be presented at the Salt Lake Theatre, Wednesday, March 31, matinee and night. Two performances are given this year to allow all who have been interested in the annual plays of the Press club, and others who may be attracted out of curiosity, to witness the performance.

A Press club play has always poked the club and since at the theater has been at a premium, but this year, with two performances, there will be an opportunity for all to see it.

The play is somewhat of a burlesque on "The Man of the Hour," but it takes an altogether different view of the bungle in a manner that is not an acquittal of any political party or boss, but purely an attempt to show the lighter side of the game, with the burlesque effects forgotten.

The company to now being cast, and when the work is completed, it will be seen that some of Salt Lake's best talent is to take part. The presence of these stars, some of whom have taken an interest in the club plays of the past, and others who have appeared in other productions, will be a guarantee of success. The play will be announced shortly and rehearsals will begin at once.

FLOWERS FOR SOLDIERS.

Senator Reed Snoot has written a letter to Executive Director F. M. Stewart of the Grand Army organization, stating that he will have the interior department furnish a large amount of flower seed for the occasion.

The text of the letter is as follows: "I take pleasure in advising you that I have made arrangements with the department of agriculture to have sent you a choice variety of flower seed to be used in preparing for the Salt Lake city organization."

THE WEEK'S VITAL STATISTICS.

Twenty-four females and 19 males were born in Salt Lake City last week ending Friday, Feb. 12. There were 14 deaths, seven males and seven females, during the same period.

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MAMMALS AND INFERIOUS INSECTS

They Cause Annual Loss to the Farmers of Seven Hundred and Eighty-nine Million Dollars.

BIRDS ARE FRIENDS OF MAN.

In Texas Prairie Dogs Eat Enough Grass to Feed Million and a Half Head of Cattle—Field Mice.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—W. E. Curtis in a special article in the Record-Herald today, under a Washington date, confirms what he characterizes as an "astounding statement" by President Roosevelt recently that "the losses to farm products due to injurious mammals is estimated at \$120,000,000 annually, and the loss through insects is reckoned at \$629,000,000 annually."

"These statements," says Mr. Curtis, "are confirmed by the secretary of agriculture and the scientists of that department who have charge of such matters. It is asserted that the prairie dogs in Texas alone eat as much grass every year as would feed a million and a half cattle. There are estimated to be 400,000,000 in that state, an average of 25 to the acre and 250 dogs will eat as much grass as a steer. Besides this, the value of the land is very much injured by the dogs because they dig up the roots of the grass and destroy it."

"West of the Mississippi river, on the states where grain is extensively cultivated, rodents are especially destructive and cause the loss of many millions of dollars annually. In California alone every year they eat up about \$2,000,000 worth of wheat."

"In Nevada, the agricultural fields are being overrun with field mice. It is estimated that they destroy \$100,000 worth of alfalfa every year. An accurate knowledge of the habits of birds is especially important, so that the orchardist may know his friend from his enemy," says Mr. Curtis.

An accurate knowledge of the habits of birds is especially important, so that the orchardist may know his friend from his enemy. The birds are especially important in their relation to the Pacific coast where fruit raising is each year becoming more and more important and the thousands of more than one hundred birds, including many of economic value have been examined and the contents determined.

The court has been pushed as rapidly as possible, and the several reports of the report on the birds of California in relation to fruit raising is now nearly ready for the press."

TO PRESERVE CALIFORNIA AS A WHITE MAN'S COUNTRY

New York, Feb. 12.—Speaking before the Lincoln club in Brooklyn, Congressman Julius Kahn of California, referring to the Japanese question, last night said that the people of his state were anxious to preserve it as a white man's country.

"We, in the west," he said, "appeal to you men in the east to help us in the matter. If ever that narrow strip of land should be given over to the oriental, the white man, as large as life, will have to retire back to the Mississippi, and don't you forget it. Wherever the Chinese or Japanese settle, they are a menace to the white man."

Mr. Kahn said that he admired Japan's progress, but that he wanted them at a safe distance, and that while California stood ready to give the people of that country a fair trial, the people would demand exclusion if conditions were not soon improved. He praised the Japanese government for its efforts to restrict coolie immigration, and said that the people of California did not object to the highest class Japanese.

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ALASKAN INSANE.

Problem of Dealing With Them Again Presented to Congress.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The problem of dealing with the rapidly increasing Alaskan insane has again been presented to Congress.

Sen. Garfield of the department of the interior, has requested an additional appropriation of \$250,000 to be made immediately available because practically all of the money provided for contract obligations has already been expended. The Alaska insane, under contract, are being cared for by a matron at the Portland asylum, and cost to the government of \$245 a year per capita.

Secretary Garfield has reported to Congress that the number of insane from Alaska is increasing constantly and the reason advanced is the extreme cold and the isolation from civilization of many of the inhabitants of that territory. There is no asylum in Alaska where the insane can be cared for.

AERONAUTIC SUPPLY HOUSE.

Washington, Feb. 12.—This city is to have the first aeronautic supply house in the world, which has been organized here under the name of the National Aeronautic Development company.

The object of the company, it is announced, is to promote the public interest in aeronautics by making ready to the public any part of a machine which they may desire.

PROTOCOL SIGNED.

For Settlement of Disputes Between Venezuela and United States.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Special Commissioner Buchanan today telegraphed the state department that he has just signed a protocol with the Venezuelan government for the settlement of the disputes between that country and the United States. He will leave Caracas for home Tuesday.

TRAIN WRECK UP ON RIO GRANDE

Two Masked Robbers Stopped Atlantic Express Almost in Limits of Denver.

TOOK ALL REGISTERED MAIL.

"Slam on the Air and Stop This Train." Was Order to The Engineer.

Denver, Feb. 12.—Almost within the city limits of Denver, at what is known as Military Junction, two masked robbers at 7:50 this morning stopped east bound Denver & Rio Grande passenger train No. 1, known as the Atlantic express. Amid a fusillade of revolver shots from one of the robbers, the other forced the mail clerk to open the door of his car.

The other then coolly searched every piece of registered mail in the car, threw the packages he desired into a sack and jumped off. At the point of revolver, the engineer, fireman, mail and baggage clerks were marched up the track a distance, then told to get back to their train. The robbers then disappeared with their booty. How much they secured is not known, but it is believed to amount to several thousand dollars. That they were thoroughly familiar with the railway postal business seemed evident, as the robber in the mail car threw aside package after package after examining them carefully. Armed forces of deputies, squads of regular soldiers, from Fort Logan and police are searching the country around Fort Logan, and the foothills in search of the two bandits, but no trace of them has been found. A careful search is also being made in Denver, as the robbery was only eight miles distant from the heart of the city, and the robbers may have made their way there.

The train, which was several hours behind time, was running at a speed of nearly 40 miles an hour, when suddenly Engineer Gunn heard a voice behind him. Looking around, he found the muzzle of an automatic revolver poked into his face.

Fireman Lesing also found out within ten inches of his cheek.

"Slam on the air and stop this train," came the order.

"Be quiet about it, or we'll blow out your brains,"

This came from the robber attending to the engineer. He was a heavy-set man with red hair and wearing a red sweater, the collar of which was pulled in over the lower part of his face, and his revolver was jammed against Engineer Gunn's face as the latter hesitated a moment.

The train was brought to a sudden stop, within a short distance of the little station, which was closed for the night.

"Now you fellows get off this engine as quick as you can," commanded the red-haired robber. "Don't run or make trouble. If you do this automatic will do business."

Covered by the holdups, they were marched to the mail car, next to the engine.

"All to the fellows in the mail car and tell them to open the door, and you tell them not to shoot," he commanded the red-haired man. Engineer Gunn did so. The mail car door was opened, an instant later the Atlantic express of the night was broken by a fusillade of shots fired by the holdups in all directions. If any passengers had intended to come out to see about things, they did not do so after the firing began. Mail Clerk Coulter and Layzer were ordered to come out. They obeyed instantly, and were lined up with the engineer and fireman. Taking Taylor with him, the red-haired man then entered the mail car. The engineer, a short stocky man, wearing a black mask, was outside to guard the other trainmen. Occasionally he fired a shot along the side of the train.

Inside the mail car, the red-haired man got busy. Apparently he knew exactly where the registered mail is kept, and this he went for. He carefully examined every package, took those he wanted and threw them into a sack, and then ordering Taylor to walk ahead of him, jumped from the car. All told, the robber took 10 packages of registered mail, three of which are known as "lumber packages."

"Now then, boys," said the red-haired robber to the trainmen, "walk along ahead of us like nice fellows. They did so. After walking a short distance on the track, the robbers commanded the trainmen to return. As Gunn and Lesing climbed on board the engine, the bandits ran in front shot out of the headlights, then disappeared, running in the direction of Fort Logan. They then made a second run to the Union depot, where he reported the robbery, and with a few other officers in attendance were hurrying to the scene. Fort Logan was also notified and police started out from the army post. Attention and Petersburg. Commissioner of the robbery was a result of these, but we do not know the morning or time of the robbery had been secured.

AMOUNT SECURED.

Representative of the amount secured by the robbers was not immediately known, but only considerable mail was taken, but they have the idea of the value of it. Some of the packages taken in said to have been a package of postage stamps from a Salt Lake City bank and the amount is estimated at \$10,000.

It is, however, said that at present they do not know how much there was in this matter. Details of this robbery are given in our issue of today.

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