

JUST A POLITICAL DODGE.

Knox Deftly Characterizes Jingo Talk In Favor of Ship Subsidy and Larger Army.

Washington, Feb. 24.—"There is not the slightest likelihood of any trouble with Japan any more than with any other country with which we have excellent relations of friendship."

This was the statement today by Secretary Knox to a representative of the Associated Press when shown copies of the press dispatches from Tokyo indicating some considerable discussion of reported utterances of Mr. Shaw, former secretary of the treasury, and of Gen. Bell, and referring to an alleged anti-Japanese expression in San Francisco. The secretary of state expressed great surprise that notice should be taken of such trifles. Secretary Knox said also:

"Mr. Shaw's speech was obviously nothing but an argument for ship-subsidy and what Gen. Bell said made no reference to trouble in the Far East and was quite evidently an ordinary argument for increased appropriations for the army. As for the San Francisco report, everybody knows that our immigration arrangement with Japan is working entirely satisfactorily. If, in spite of this, agitators will talk, no serious minded persons should be disturbed."

WAGE INCREASE REFUSED.

Southern Railroads Unanimously Reject Demands of Employees.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 24.—The replies of the Southern railroads to the wage demand of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors were opened here today.

The refusal of the roads to meet the men's terms were unanimous. This places the Southern railroad situation in practically the same state as that in the territory north of the Chesapeake and Ohio and east of the Mississippi. It is now certain that any action taken by the men to press their demands will be simultaneously in the East and South.

The result of the strike vote of the Baltimore and Ohio men will be known to President W. G. Lee, of the Trainmen, and Grand Master Garretson, of the Conductors, early next week.

If the decision is to call a strike, as it is expected to be, the executive councils of the two Orders, which will meet here later, are expected to submit to the men on all the railroads the question whether a general strike shall be called.

The strike vote on the Baltimore and Ohio and at large will not be immediately effective. It is understood that at the Brotherhood headquarters here that the votes will be held in reserve as ammunition by the chiefs of the two Orders, to be used only in the event of a final refusal by the roads to concede the wage adjustment asked.

In any event affairs will not reach a crisis, it is now expected, for two months at least.

No Murder There.

Merrill E. Gates, secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, was describing in Washington the splendid work that his board is doing to wipe out the tuberculosis scourge which at one time threatened to make the American Indian extinct.

"But the Indian," said Mr. Gates, "needs to be educated in sanitation. He is shockingly ignorant there. In fact, he is as ignorant as an old farmer I used to know in Warsaw."

"A friend dropped in on this old farmer as he was frying a bit of bacon.

"Grand bacon, that," said the friend, sniffing affably.

"Grand bacon! Well, I guess it is grand bacon," said the old man, turning the slices in the pan. "And it's none o' yer murdered stuff, neither. That pig died a natural death." — Savannah Morning News.

HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation. 2-4-1m.

Greek proverb: A favor becomes old sooner than any other thing.

*Foley's Kidney Remedy is a safe and certain remedy for all kidney and bladder diseases, whether acute or chronic. It is a splendid tonic for middle aged and elderly people and a sure cure for all annoyances and irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. Sibert's Drug Store.

REMEMBERED IN SUMTER.

Whidbee of Seminole Securities Fame In Trouble in North Carolina.

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 24.—A case of very general interest, decided in a batch of opinions delivered this evening by the State Supreme Court, was that of the State vs. Whidbee from sentence of two year's imprisonment for false pretense in effecting the sale of stock in the Seminole Securities Company, fraudulent developments in which stirred North and South Carolina, especially.

The Supreme Court sustains the appeal on ground of defective indictment and orders an arrest of judgment, thereby requiring new trial. In the trial below it was said that Whidbee fraudulently induced W. C. Heath to invest \$750 in the stock of the Seminole Company in representation that Wylie Jones and W. A. Clark, bankers in Columbia, were personally the head of the Seminole corporation; that no securities were paid to the officers of the company; that Whidbee was receiving nothing in excess of 6 per cent. on his sales of stock; that sales of stock were being made solely for organizing an accident insurance company to be known as Sterling Casualty Company; that 50 per cent. premium at which he was selling Seminole stock was solely to create surplus fund for operating Sterling Casualty Company, for safeguarding stockholders, in which \$100,000 was to be deposited with the insurance commission of North Carolina.

Whidbee, the Seminole stock seller referred to above, operated in Sumter and succeeded in unloading several blocks of stock on confiding capitalists. He made identically the same statements here that he is charged with having made in Raleigh, and for which he was prosecuted. If he can be sent to the penitentiary in North Carolina for making these fraudulent statements it seems that his dupes in Sumter could prosecute him here when the North Carolina authorities get through with him.

Must the Gold Standard Go?

Dr. J. P. Norton, professor of political economy at Yale, comes forward with a proposition to discontinue the use of the single gold standard as a monetary basis.

This manifesto of war against the yellow metal sounds like an echo of the famous campaign of 1896, when the silver-tongued orator from Nebraska stepped for the first time into the national lime light.

But the Yale professor is not an apostle of discontent.

He approaches the subject from the scientific angle.

And after bestowing much thought upon the increased cost of living, he is inclined to think that the present era of high prices in the United States is due measurably at least to the fact that gold has become decidedly unstable as a standard of valuation.

Just as one commodity after another has been rejected as a monetary basis because of fluctuation in the market price at which it is quoted, so it will become necessary, claims Dr. Norton, to abandon the use of gold for the same reason.

The large increase in the production of gold in recent years he attributes to the progress in engineering chemistry, by virtue of which a method has been devised for extracting gold from low-grade ores.

It is not the idea of Dr. Norton to substitute any one commodity for gold as a monetary basis, still less to inaugurate a regime of fiat money, but to base the currency upon the combined valuation of all the standard products.

He suggests that the unit of measurement be called the "dill."

And in discussing the value of this proposed unit he recommends that it be made to equal the purchasing power of a gold dollar at the time the new system is put into effect.

If this method be adopted it is the opinion of Dr. Norton that an end will be witnessed to the countless troubles which arise from instability of character in the medium by which values are determined.—Atlanta Georgian.

Mrs. Frederick L. Douglas, of Macon, Ga., recently attracted attention by the unusual features of a matrimonial contract existing between her and her husband. She promised to live within her husband's allowance, and not to want an automobile; she agreed to restrict her light reading to two novels a week; she gave her word to pursue serious duty under her husband's direction; she consented not to gad and shop about every day in the week; not to play bridge more than three times in seven days; not to imitate actresses in attire or manner, and not to threaten to go home to mamma more than once a month. —Greenville News.

*Are you frequently hoarse? Do you have that annoying tickling in your throat? Does your cough annoy you at night, and do you raise mucus in the morning? Do you want relief? If so, take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and you will be pleased. Sold by W. W. Sibert.

TEN FEET VIA 200 MILES.

Postal Curiosity Revealed by Recent Discussion Over Rates.

President Taft's recent recommendation that postage rates be revised in such a way as to impose a higher charge for the transmission of magazines has resulted in bringing to light several curious extravagances of the postal department in connection with the more serious arguments the magazine publishers are advocating, says the Providence Journal.

Perhaps the most remarkable of any of these is the situation revealed on the Vermont-Canadian border, where the department's red tape necessitated the sending of a letter intended for a destination not more than ten feet from the point of mailing by a circuitous route covering approximately 200 miles. This is the situation in the international post-office at Beebe Plain, Vt., and Beebe Plain, Quebec.

The village is on the boundary line, which runs squarely through the building used by the two governments for their postoffices. There is a central corridor, with the American post-office on one side and the Canadian office on the other. From the point where the patron from the American side drops his letter to the box used by the patrons on the Canadian side is a distance of hardly a dozen feet.

A letter mailed by a resident of Beebe Plain, Vt., to a friend in Beebe Plain, Canada, could easily be tossed from one postmaster to another. Indeed, it is declared that when a patron of the office by mistake mails his letter in the wrong box, the postmaster accommodates him by correcting his error.

But when the sending of a properly mailed letter is involved, the regulations of the department, through some unusually fancy red tape which the layman might find it difficult to understand, compel an entirely different form of procedure. Suppose the letter is mailed on the American side for a Canadian, who will within a few hours call for it in person.

It is put in a south-bound pouch and started on its way to White River Junction, 110 miles south. There it is transferred to a north-bound pouch directed to Sherbrooke, Canada, passing through Beebe Plain on the way. At Sherbrooke it is transferred a second time, arriving in the Canadian office at Beebe Plain in the course of a day or so, after covering a round trip of nearly 300 miles.

Beebe Plain is chiefly a Canadian village only about 100 of its 700 residents living on the American side. The latter, when they wish to convey a message to a Canadian neighbor, find it infinitely quicker to carry it in person than to commit it to the vagaries of the postoffice department at that point.

Like One Man.

"I suppose the people in that convention stood up for you like one man," said the cheery friend.

"It looked just about that way," replied Senator Sorghum, "when they came to count the votes in my favor." —Washington Star.

Some New Commandments.

A woman in Cairo, Ill., recently threatened to apply for a divorce. Her husband promised to be good. He signed the following ten commandments of his wife's making, and which were filed with a notary public:

I am thy love, thy wife; thou shall have no other love but me.

Thou shall not take unto your heart any stenographer, or any other love pirate.

Thou shalt not promise to love me in vain.

Remember, thou shalt come home on the Sabbath. Six days mayest thou wander, but not at nights; nor the seventh day, which is the day of thy wife.

Honor thy mother-in-law, that thy days may be long in the land of love.

Thou shalt not carry a latch key. Thou shalt not return to thy happy home 3 o'clock in the morning. The doors will be bolted if thy deest.

Thou shalt not grumble at thy lot.

Thou shalt not object to buttoning my gowns, may even they be 200 button dresses.

Thou shalt not covet the sweet temper of thy neighbor's wife.

How Good News Spreads.

"I am 70 years old and have traveled most of the time," writes B. F. Tolson, of Elizabethtown, Ky. "Everywhere I go I recommend Electric Bitters, because I owe my excellent health and vitality to them. They effect a cure every time." They never fail to tone the stomach, regulate the kidneys and bowels, stimulate the liver, invigorate the nerves and purify the blood. They work wonders for weak, run-down men and women, restoring strength, vigor and health that's a daily joy. Try them. Only 50c. Satisfaction is positively guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store.

Paris guides have real ruins to show the curious visitor now.

Our Public Coal Lands.

An investigation uncovering evidence of extensive frauds led to the withdrawal by President Roosevelt of over 66,000,000 acres of supposed coal lands pending geologic examination and classification. At the same time the coal-land law was brought down from the shelf, dusted off, and examined by the lawyers of the Interior Department. It was found that it provided that public coal land could be sold for not less than \$20 an acre, if within 15 miles of a railroad, and \$10 an acre, if outside such limit. These had been the prices previously charged for all coal lands, regardless of values. Secretary Garfield construed the law to the effect that the figures named were clearly minimum prices, and that the lands were subject to classification and valuation. The Geological Survey, whose enabling act charged it with the classification of the public lands, was to put to work at once measuring and computing the coal beds, estimating their tonnage, and placing a valuation on each 40-acre tract. As fast as this was done the land was restored to entry and sale. The maximum valuation was placed at \$100 an acre, and considerable coal land was thereafter sold at \$75, \$50, \$40, and \$30 an acre, as well as some at the minimum price. At the same time coal land frauds were stopped forthwith.

This was a long step toward securing an equitable price for public coal land, but Secretary Ballinger has made another logical advance and his inaugurated a scheme of valuation based on tonnage as well as one grade of coal. Under the present plan a maximum price is \$300 an acre.

Further than this, however, Secretary Ballinger has ruled that in developed coal-fields where the extent and character of the deposits are well known there is no limit to the value may be fixed on the Government coal lands. That is, in cases where such lands lie adjacent to private coal lands now being mined, so that the purchaser knows exactly what he is getting, the price is fixed on the exact tonnage basis and in some cases this exceeds the \$300 per acre limit by many hundred dollars. The price per acre of the coal lands is thus definitely determined at a coal price, and while high as compared with the give-while minimum price, the amounts seldom exceed a quarter of the royalties paid in the same districts among private interests.

Prices fixed by the survey vary with the quality of the coal from 1-2 cent a ton for low-grade bituminous coals. The tonnage is always calculated in the interest of the purchaser. For instance, in a 10-foot coal bed the actual tonnage under an acre is 17,000 tons. Private engineers estimate that in such a bed from 12,000 to 14,000 tons would be actually mined; the balance would be necessarily wasted. The Government, however, values such a bed on the basis of only 10,000 tons, so that actual recovery should in every case exceed the tonnage on which the valuation actually mined. This would bring to lands and exact a royalty for the coal the Government to lease its coal course, be for Congress to empower is based. The best plan would, of the Government an absolutely equitable return, and would at the same time allow for adequate regulation.

A lasting system is advocated by the Secretary of the Interior in his 1909 annual report. Various bills have also been introduced in this Congress separating the surface rights from title to the coal underneath, a step in the right direction.—Guy Elliott Mitchell, in Review of Reviews.

Is the Ministry Declining?

In the decade from 1898 to 1908 in the Southern Presbyterian Church there was a 12 per cent. increase in the number of clergymen at work. The ordinations in 1898 were seventy, in 1908 but forty-two, a decrease of 40 per cent. In the Baptist Church during the same period there was an increase of 10 per cent. in the number of churches, 20 per cent. in the number of members, and 14 per cent. in the number of ordinations. In the Congregational Church there was a 5 per cent. increase in the number of ministers in that time, as against a 26 per cent. increase in members. In Congregational theological seminaries in 1881 there was one senior to every 1000 church members, or one to every 2000 church families. In 1908 there was one senior to every 8,000 church members, or one to every 6,000 families. The Presbyterian Church reports in ten years an increase of 22 per cent. in membership, 20 per cent. in the number of churches, with a 25 per cent. increase in the number of ministers. In 1898 there were 290 ordinations in 1908 but 182, a decrease of 42 per cent. Cyrus Townsend Brady, in Review of Reviews.

If this meat boycott continues, it will result in the formation of meat "locker" clubs.

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