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—and Sun-Telegram—

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THE WASHINGTON INDICTMENT.

The indictment of the owners of the Indianapolis News and the editors of the New York World, Mr. Pulitzer, Mr. Van Hamm and Mr. Lyman for criminal libel in the U. S. courts at Washington, D. C., begins to look like the real thing.

The laws of libel are among the most simple and comprehensive in the United States. In criminal libel every single issue of a paper is actionable. This makes it possible for the trial to be held any place in the country where the mailing clerks of the paper may have sent a copy of the paper. In other words the action of publishing a newspaper is the placing of a copy of the paper in the hands of a third party. Thus a paper with 125,000 circulation is actionable on every paper issued. This will give the prosecution a chance to carry on the trials in most of the U. S. courts if the present trial is unproductive of results.

The law of criminal libel permits any thing to be printed in direct quotation but the moment that editorial comment is made with the assumption that a certain statement is true that becomes actionable as libel. The only salvation of the editorial writer seems to be the hypothetical statement.

Thus when the News stated in yesterday's issue:

"Perhaps it is needless to say that the course of The News will be in no way influenced or affected by what has happened. We shall continue to discuss public questions on their merits, as in the past, and to criticize public men without either personal or partisan bias."

It did not really touch the main issue involved in the present trial.

The question at issue is whether or not these papers did or did not say in their editorial columns or assume to be true that certain charges made in the New York World were facts.

It is said that the story published by the New York World was the concoction of a soldier of fortune who was down on his luck. The story was then successively offered to Mr. Cromwell for the consideration of \$25,000 which it is said he refused to be blackmailed for. The democratic committee was the next victim and finding that the statement was false it did not dare to publish the story. The New York World then took the matter up and Mr. Cromwell has stated that he went to the World office and informed them of what had happened to him and denounced the thing as false. They, as is well known, did publish and said that the story was true.

The forgoing is the gist of what the government will base its case on and it seems likely that some of the editors of the World at least will be convicted. But that is a matter for the courts to decide.

The most difficult part of any libel suit is to prove intent and it may be that the News can escape under that loophole. The New York World would seem to be in a predicament if it is true as has been stated that they said they would publish it true or false and with the purpose of doing damage at a time when proofs could not be forthcoming in time to save the election of Mr. Taft. That is indeed the crux of the situation.

THE STATEHOOD QUESTION.

The Arizona and New Mexico statehood measures are coming up in congress and there will be a battle before anything is done. There are those who would still like to see the two territories put together in one large state. Many of the men who would so like to have this done are acting on the theory that usually governs the admission of states. What are the policies of the people who are to be in the new states? It can be easily seen that it would mean two more senators for some party if the states went through separately.

This way of looking at statehood bills no doubt, many people think, originated in the trying times before the war when each political party strove with all its might to get more votes to further its cause. Then in

deed new states meant the fate of the union and the slavery question. But long before this—even in the times of the formulation of the constitution and the adoption of it, the same old jealousy was constantly recurring.

In all probability the states of New Mexico and Arizona will be democratic strongholds for years to come. It is quite natural then that the republicans should not wish to have two more senators added to the democratic ranks in congress.

But laying all this aside it would be the greatest folly and injustice to make these two territories into one state. The two territories are as unlike as the United States and the Republic of Mexico. Arizona is a "white man's country," the territory of New Mexico is "greaser country." If these two territories are put together there will be constantly recurring friction between the men of the two sections. There is no bond of common interest between the territories, either in business, character of the people, or physically. To make one state out of the two territories would throw two sections into confusion and disorder.

LOW POSTAGE RATES.

Letters May Be Sent to Germany at the Low Rate

Of Two Cents.

ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE.

The recent issue of the postal service booklet informs the postal clerks that letters may be sent from this country to Germany for two cents by steamer direct. This means that they will not be sent on the fastest route, but will have to wait in New York until a steamer leaves for a German port, while if the old five cent stamps are affixed it will be sent by way of France, Liverpool or direct to a German port, which ever way will take it to its destination first.

As the steamers direct to German ports are usually the fastest way, this will make but little difference and from this time on it will be seldom that a letter will be sent with the old five cent stamps on to insure its speedy passage.

The rates for postals has not been changed, and they can still be sent for two cents. The new rates apply to registered letters as well as the other kind and will have a slight effect on the receipts of the local office as many letters are sent from this city to Germany by residents of the city who have relatives or came from the old world.

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INDIANA ROADS
GIVEN DRUBBING

Agricultural Department Asks Legislature to Provide For Improvements.

MONEY IS BEING WASTED

NO GOOD SYSTEM FOLLOWED AND PRACTICE OF WORKING OUT ROAD TAX HAS BECOME TOO ANTIQUATED.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The department of agriculture hopes that the Indiana legislature, before it adjourns will enact some legislation that will result in better road building in the state of Indiana. It is contended by officials of the department that Indiana is always behind other states in the improvement of its highways.

"As a rule," said Logan Waller Page, director of public roads of the department of agriculture, "the work of road building in Indiana is in the charge of men who do not know any more about building roads than they know about astronomy."

Mr. Page asserts that millions of dollars are thrown away every year in Indiana simply because the state has no adequate system for the economical and uniform construction of roads. He is especially severe in his criticism of the Indiana statute which enables farmers and others to "work out" their road tax.

No Use for "Working-Out-Tax" Idea.

"This statute," said he, "is a relic of antiquity that ought to be repealed in a hurry. The practice of 'working out' road tax dates back to Henry VIII of England, and it never has worked with any degree of satisfaction from that day to this. Nearly every state in the Union that has tried it has concluded it is a dismal failure and one after another the statutes have been repealed. In Indiana, however, the system still continues in its most pernicious form."

Mr. Page says that it is true that Indiana has 20,000 miles of gravel roads, which gives it a high rank "on paper" as a state of improved roadways, but that the rank which it nominally holds is not deserved.

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"BROTHER" TAFT
HAS BEEN TRIED

Made Mason at Sight by Grand Lodge of Ohio Yesterday.

A MOST NOTABLE EVENT

HIGH DIGNITARIES OF GREAT FRATERNITY FROM ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY ATTENDED—OCCURRENCE VERY UNUSUAL.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 19.—Hon. William H. Taft, president-elect of the United States, was made "A Mason at sight" in this city yesterday.

It was the second time in the history of the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, that this honor has been conferred by it, the first man to receive it having been the late Governor Bushnell.

Yesterday's affair was a most notable event in the annals of Freemasonry in America and was attended by high dignitaries from all parts of the country. The chief officers of the various national Masonic bodies as well as the grand master of the grand lodge of almost every state in the Union and the worshipful masters of over 200 subordinate lodges of Ohio were interested spectators of the unusual ceremony and sanctioned it by their presence as being thoroughly Masonic and regular.

The magnificent Scottish Rite Cathedral on Broadway, between Fourth and Fifth streets, was the scene of the important occurrence.

Easy to buy, easy to try, the best, wholesome, appetizing breakfast is Mrs. Austin's famous pancakes.

BOYS WANT MONEY

Abandon Gymnasium Classes Tomorrow to Exert Efforts To Help the Cause.

SEEK STATE SECRETARY

The members of the Boys' department of the Y. M. C. A. will spend tomorrow in soliciting money to raise \$100 to be applied to a fund to engage a state secretary for the boys department. On a visit of Mr. Crosby, international secretary, a few weeks ago, this department pledged it would give \$100 toward the cause. All gymnasium classes in which the boys are members will be suspended tomorrow. In the afternoon arrangements will be made for the banquet to be given soon.

Going South To Florida?

The C. C. & L. R. R. Offers Very Low Round Trip Rates During the Winter Season to

Jacksonville, Fla. \$36.05
De Land, Fla. \$42.15
Melbourne, Fla. \$47.65
Orlando, Fla. \$43.85
Palm Beach, Fla. \$54.55
Pensacola, Fla. \$29.50
New Orleans, La. \$32.50
Havana, Cuba. \$78.50
Winter Tourist Tickets good for return until June 1st, 1909.

Round Trip Home Seekers' Tickets (21 day limit) on sale 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, to the South, East and North East.

For particulars call on C. A. BLAIR,
Pass. & Ticket Agent.
Home Tel 2062. Richmond, Ind.

DON'T PAY RENT

A reliable party can get it on monthly payments of \$12 each. Let your rent money buy your home. See

T. W. Hadley
Phone 1730 or 2292

ANNOUNCEMENT

We wish to announce that on account of the increasing demand for Custom Made Shirts, and also to insure prompt delivery of rush orders, we have placed an order for equipment that will increase our capacity sixty per cent.

PHOENIX SHIRT CO.

Phone 2367 N. E. Cor. 9th and Main (up stairs)

The One Price Store

Boston Store

The One Price Store

10 Notion Specials For Saturday and Monday

FOR 15c—Ladies' 4-strap good lisle hose supporter, black, white, red, pink and blue, only 15c.

FOR 15c; 2 FOR 25c—Ladies' Emb. Collars, choice of 4 beautiful patterns. The proper style and plenty of them, only 15c, 2 for 25c.

FOR 14c—Box of 6 full length ruches, all different patterns, 25c value, only 14c

FOR 19c—Box of 6 yards tourist ruching, think of it, only 19c.

FOR 10c—Lot Ladies' Net Shopping Bags 12x18 inches, 25c goods, only 10c.

FOR 5c; 55c DOZEN—Torchon laces, wide and narrow widths, both in linen and cotton match sets if desired, only 5c yard, 55c dozen.

FOR 10c—Lot hand mirrors 35c and 50c goods, choice only 10c.

FOR 25c—Large size cut out hair barrette, shell or amber, only 25c.

FOR 10c—Lot 3 1/2 inch wide taffeta ribbon, all colors, only 10c.

REMEMBER

Tomorrow, Saturday is the greatest umbrella sale Richmond has ever known. Ladies' and Gents', 98c and \$1.23. All worth double. Hundreds will be sold.

H. C. HASEMEIER CO.

WET BUSINESS MEN

League Formed by Kokomo Merchants to Oppose County Local Option.