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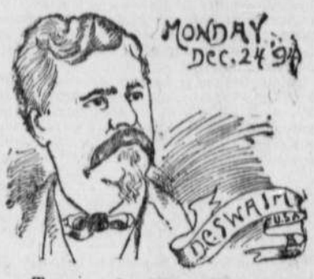

To-day the War Department will officially gazette the retirement, for age, of Brigadier-General David G. Swaim, Judge Advocate General.

In 1884 he was suspended from service for ten years by court-martial on account of transactions with a firm of stock brokers. The remainder of the sentence was recently remitted by the President, so that General Swaim might retire.

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'PHONE PATENT NULL

The Device of the Berliner Patent, Which Was the Main Reliance of the Bell Company.

DECISION BY A FEDERAL JUDGE.

Public Will Not Benefit Till the Case Gets Through the Appeals and the Supreme Courts.

Boston, Dec. 23.—The most important patent held by the American Bell Telephone company, and the one upon which it depends, if it depends on patents at all, for the continuance of its monopoly, was declared void last week by Judge Carpenter, of the United States circuit court.

The patent was that issued to Emile Berliner Nov. 17, 1891, and is known as the Beliner patent. It covers the transmitter now in use on long distance telephones and in a general way it may be said to cover any transmitter in which the vibrations are due to differences of pressure between electrodes in constant contact.

The expiration of the patents on the receivers a few months ago was of some benefit to the public in the establishment of certain kinds of private lines. This decision that the patent covering the transmitters is void will not be of benefit even to that extent, at least not for a year or so, for two reasons.

First, this decision is not final. "The case will now go to the United States circuit court of appeals," said Frederick P. Fisher, of counsel for the Bell Telephone company to-day. "A decision will be rendered by that court possibly next spring, after the case has been argued anew, as though the circuit court had not made a decision. Should the case go against us in the United States court of appeals, it will probably go to the United States supreme court, but we believe the court of appeals will decide in our favor."

The other reason is that the American Bell Telephone company is firmly established all over the country and enjoys franchises which in some cases would-be rivals could not get, and in other cases would not attempt to utilize if they did get, because of the long war with the rich monopoly such a thing would involve.

The Bell company has its franchises, its wires and its exchanges all in operation. Practical men say this fact will do more than any number of patents to protect it in the enjoyment of its monopoly.

Notwithstanding this fact, the adverse decision was immediately felt by the stock. A few days ago Bell Telephone stock climbed to 201, and next morning it opened at 201½. On the announcement of the decision it fell to 191. But it immediately began to pull itself together and closed at 194.

If the higher courts reverse Judge Carpenter's decision in the Berliner patent case the telephone monopoly will be practically proof against assaults until Nov. 17, 1908, as the life of the patent is seventeen years from Nov. 17, 1891, the date of its issue.

The government sought to annul the patent on two grounds: First, that it was beyond the power of the commissioner of patents to issue the patent in view of the issue of a former patent, Nov. 2, 1880, to this same Berliner, and, second, that the issue was unlawfully delayed from June 4, 1877, till Nov. 17, 1891, by the Bell Telephone company in order to extend the period of its protection, it being protected during the period of its delay by other patents, now expired.

Another ground which Judge Carpenter did not consider was that the original application for the Berliner patent did not describe the contrivance finally presented. The plans in the original application were for the transmission of sound by a "make-and-break" current of electricity, caused by the alternate contact and separation of two metal electrodes. In the patent as actually granted the current is continuous, but its intensity is made to vary by a difference in pressure between two electrodes in constant contact.

As to the first ground, which Judge Carpenter sustained, he said:

"One of the functions of the device shown in the patent of Nov. 2, 1880, namely, the function of transmitting articulated speech, is identical with the sole object or function of the device covered by the patent of Nov. 17, 1891, and the device for affecting the transmission is identical in both patents. The patent, therefore, seems to me to be void and beyond the power of the commissioner to issue."

As to the ground of delay, which really was the vital point, Judge Carpenter said:

"The device of Berliner, as both parties in this case agree, covers the only commercially practicable and useful methods at present known for effecting the transmission of articulate speech. There was no effort, so far as I can see in the evidence, on the part of the respondent corporation to prevent this delay. * * * I am persuaded that the delay was intentionally acquiesced in by the respondent corporation for the purpose of delaying the issue of the patent. This seems to me the only conclusion from a consideration of the whole evidence.

"The officers of the company testify that at all times they were urgent in pressing for the issue of the patent. As to their state of mind and their actual intention at the time, I am free to say that I place less reliance on their statements now made than on a single statement made at the time. In February, 1886, while the general understanding of delay was in force, Mr. Swan, one of the solicitors for the application, wrote as follows to the president of the Bell company:

" 'I am working the Edison and Berliner cases along quietly, and think they will be granted by the examiner without interference or appeal, so that we can take them out by paying the final fees. We have six months to do that in.'

"This is but a single paragraph out of many hundreds of pages, but I think it shows clearly what was the purpose of the respondent corporation, consciously formed by its officers and perfectly understood by its agents at the patent office. The application was to be 'worked along quietly,' although apparently pushed with great energy. There would be delay, but no substantial obstacle to the grant of the patent, and even after the patent should be ordered to issue there might be a further delay within the limits of the law and without imperiling the patent. If this letter does not mean this, I am at a loss to know what it does mean.

"My conclusion, therefore, is that the complainant has made out the case and that there should be a decree that the patent in question is void and shall be delivered up to be cancelled."

This delay covered fourteen years. If the plan succeeds this one patent will have been made to protect the monopoly thirty-one years. There were many different patent commissioners in the fourteen years, and subordinates were changed very often. The influences which the Bell telephone monopoly used in the patent office have long been the subject of scandalous speculation.

It is known that for at least a part of the fourteen years the patent office was hostile to the monopoly. It is said that obstacles were then thrown in the way of the granting of the patent by the patent office officials without their knowing that they were thus unwittingly benefitting the monopoly.

The present American Bell Telephone company was organized in May, 1880. The total dividend payments and the capital at the end of each fiscal year since have been:

Years.	Dividends.	Capital.
1880-81	$178,500	$7,350,000
1881-82	416,000	7,350,000
1882-83	595,000	7,350,000
1883-84	1,051,479	9,602,000
1884	1,440,315	9,602,000
1885	1,562,236	9,802,100
1886	1,568,336	9,802,100
1887	1,568,336	9,802,100
1888	1,789,878	9,962,100
1889	1,828,913	11,303,900
1890	2,212,913	12,500,000
1891	2,625,000	15,000,000
1892	2,919,080	17,500,000
1893	3,337,500	20,000,000
Total	$23,106,096	
Average per year.	$1,650,435	$11,209,035

The figures for 1893 are estimated. The company began paying extra dividends in 1884. They are included above and in detail have been: 1884, $288,063; 1885, $392,044; 1886, $392,084; 1887, $392,084; 1888, $597,726; 1889, $600,000; 1890, $750,000; 1891, $900,000; 1892, $991,863; 1893, $1,125,000. The average rate of dividend has been 14.72 per cent.

INCREASED LIBRARY HOURS

There Is Some Thought of Keeping the Library Open Later.

The trustees of the public library have for some time had in mind the matter of keeping the library open until a later hour upon both week days and Sundays. At present the library is open until 9 p. m., and no later, on week days and through the afternoon until 5 o'clock on Sundays. The trustees would like to perfect arrangements whereby the library could be kept open at least an hour later on week days and through Sunday evening. Owing to the limited revenues for the library it has been thought impossible to make the desired changes owing to the increased expense involved. The cost of lights, for extra help and other expenses made necessary by the proposed changes would amount to a considerable sum each month.

However, the trustees hope before long to perfect arrangements so that the usefulness of the library may be extended. One of the plans being considered is to secure volunteer assistants to care for the library and the institution's patrons during the hours kept open in excess of the present time.

There certainly is a great demand for longer library hours. There are scores of people, particularly among the young men, whose evenings are taken up until 8:30 or 9 o'clock by every day duties, who would be glad to spend an hour or even longer at the library each evening in studying or reading. Under present arrangements these young men are barred from the privileges of the library, as they cannot get time to visit it during the hours it is ordinarily kept open. There are many railroad men and others living at a considerable distance from the library whose work keeps them until 6 p. m. or later who would like to spend their evenings at the library. These people cannot get to the library until quite late, and for that reason many of them never go there at all.

There is great need for longer hours on Sunday, as very many people are too busy through the week to visit the library or read books taken from it. Sunday is the only time these people have of their own. Of the great crowd that can be seen at the library every Sunday afternoon pouring over magazines, papers or books, a large per cent is very noticeably workingmen. Many, in fact, most of these would be very glad to resume their reading after supper, but on Sunday the room is cleared at 5 p. m. and the doors closed for the day.

There are many young men, and men who are not young, for that matter, in Helena, who have no real home and consequently no pleasant place to spend the day. They don't care to go to their rooms for they have nothing to do there, and consequently many of them loiter around the streets visiting the various resorts about town. These young men would be much better off at the library. There they could be well entertained, and the time spent would not be time wasted.

The library is doing a splendid work in Helena. If the amount for its support was greater its usefulness could undoubtedly be increased. It is hampered somewhat by a lack of funds, but it is believed that the trustees will eventually be able to effect their wishes in relation to an extension of its usefulness.

California Mineral Products.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—The biennial report of the state mineralogist has just been issued from the office of the state printer. Nearly one-half of the book is devoted to gold mines. Names, locations, owners and other particulars of every mine in the state are given. The gold product is largely from quartz mines, and this branch of mining is in better condition than it ever has been before. The gold product of 1893 was $12,422,811 and silver $537,157, making a total of $12,959,969. It is not in gold and silver alone that the mineral wealth of California consists. Many other substances are mined here which even now bring up the value of our mineral products to about $19,000,000 or $20,000,000 per annum, and they are increasing in value.

On to the Top.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 23.—A message from the Post-Intelligencer party for the exploration of Mount Ranier, brought by a pigeon which was released at the mouth of Carbon glacier at 9:30 a. m. to-day, tells of the arrival of the party at the base of the mountain on the previous evening, and of great avalanches. The last day's tramp was made on snow shoes, over four or five feet of snow, in 26 degrees temperature. Carbon river and other streams were forded many times, and two of the party were ducked in icy water. Carbon glacier rises in a sheer wall of 300 feet and is greatly depressed, torn, ribbed and ragged by avalanches which have left walls of snow 300 feet high. The party this morning started across the glacier and around St. Elmo's pass, to examine the route to the summit.

Snow Blockade Raised.

Dunsmuir, Cal., Dec. 23.—The blockade caused by a heavy fall of snow was raised at noon to-day, and delayed passenger trains are now moving. The great depth of snow on the track broke the rotary plow. While it was being repaired belated passengers had a merry time in the snow.

LAWS FOR ALASKA.

Congress Should Codify Them and Also Make Many Changes That Are Badly Needed.

THE BERING SEA LUMP SUM PAYMENT

Congressman Hitt Has Convinced Himself That It Is Altogether Too Much to Pay.

Washington, Dec. 23.—It is understood that congress will, later in the present session, make an effort to provide a code of laws for the government of Alaska, which is to be submitted as a result of the inspection made of the Alaskan country last summer by Assistant Secretary Hamlin and Joseph W. Murray, inspector of salmon fisheries. These gentlemen gave special attention to the seal fisheries, and will, of course, dwell upon this feature especially in their report, but they will also recommend changes in the entire legal system of the seal islands and the mainland as well, covering all subjects connected with the government of the territory.

The Oregon laws are at present in force in Alaska and have been ever since the organization of the territory. They are in many instances illy adapted to local conditions prevailing in Alska, and even where they are fairly satisfactory the means of administering them are so inefficient as to have caused very serious complaint in the past on the part of the people affected. Hence, besides recommending laws for the government of the seal catch, and others looking to the prevention of the destruction of salmon interests, Messrs. Hamlin and Murray will probably recommend timber laws, new land, mining, liquor, customs and school laws. There will also probably be a recommendation that three or four judicial districts be created to take the place of the present system, which is comprised in one district.

The report embodying their recommendations is now in course of preparation and will be submitted to congress as early in the session after the holidays as possible, with the hope that there may be time left for congressional action. It is believed that the report will take strong ground for fixing the next year's sealing catch at a lower limit than that of last year.

PAID TOO MUCH.

Most of the Lump Sum Was for Prospective Damages, Hitt Says.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Gresham's communication to congress relative to paying $425,000 for Bering sea seizure purposes is occasioning much discussion among those who have been giving attention to the subject. Representative Hitt, of Illinois, who introduced the resolution calling for information, is not yet satisfied that the United States should pay a lump sum of $425,000 for seizures, as he says positive evidence already adduced shows this amount to be excessively large. Hitt points out that the amount foots up $439,000, which is little more than the amount of the proposed promise. Of this $450,000 Hitt says $357,000 is for "probable earnings, estimated catch," etc. That is, the ships claim large damages for what they might have earned had they not been siezed, so that their claim is for prospective or remote damages, and only a portion for damages actually sustained.

Hitt says this theory of prospective damages was expressly repudiated before the famous awards commission. It was then held that the United States could not recover for what a number of American ships might have done since they have been siezed. The congressman says this precedent and others settles the principle of international law, and that remote damages cannot be collected.

It is also shown that of the eighteen ships claiming damages there were ten American ships. Some of these were flying British flags merely for the sake of avoiding detection. Hitt urges that it is not for Great Britain to collect alleged damages to American ships. The claims of three American ships are included in the settlement of the $425,000, although Hitt says the United States should deal with its own ships in its own way, and not through Great Britain as an intermediary. After deducting the $357,000 for "probable earnings," and further deducting the claim of the ten American ships, Hitt holds there is very little left of the original claim, and that $425,000 is far in excess of what it ought to be.

MU ST BIDE THEIR TIME.

Election of Senators to Fill Vacancies Cannot Be Hurried.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Some question has arisen as to whether the senators to be chosen to fill vacancies in the states of Montana, Washington and Wyoming can be selected upon the first day the legislatures meet, or if the election will be postponed until after the prescribed time. The senators are to fill terms soon to begin, while the sitting members' terms are about to expire. Senator Dubois, of Idaho, has been looking up the matter for some friends in the west and has found that senators selected to fill vacancies must be elected in precisely the same manner as those to fill terms to expire in the near future. This will prevent the election of senators to fill the vacancies until the time when the regular senatorial elections would occur. Another matter which he ascertained in looking up the case was that when these senators are elected they will not draw salaries until they qualify, which is not the case in the election of senators elected for full terms. In the latter case, whether they qualify on the 4th of March or not, their pay begins. Idaho was admitted on July 3, and the senators elected began drawing their pay from that date. Since then a provision has been inserted in an appropriation bill prescribing when senators elected to fill the vacancies shall begin drawing pay.

Great on Ducks.

Washington, Dec. 23. — President Cleveland and the party of duck hunters returned to the city this morning in the Atlantic Coast express. The president was looking well, being a little browned by his exposure to the sun and wind. Altogether the party killed about 300 ducks, the president being responsible for rather more than half of them. He spoke very appreciatively of his reception at Georgetown yesterday.

THE 'POSSUM AND THE COON

As Told by George Bundy, in His Own Parts of Speech.

George H. Bundy, the colored man who recently escaped conviction on the charge of sending an obscene letter through the mails, is perhaps the most characteristic story teller of his race in the northwest. His favorite story is the one regarding the differences between the 'possum and the coon. In print it cannot fail to fall short of being as interesting as when told by his own lips; for no type can convey the accent which is Bundy's own, or the merry twinkle of his eye.

"I prefer de coon to de 'possum always as an article of food," says Bundy. "I know dat mos' of de southern people, an' pa'ticularly de colored people, prefer de 'possum, but for me please pass de coon toward my plate ev'ry time. But as far as friendship an' respect for de two an'mals is concerned den I has a strong leanin' toward de 'possum. His manners and morals and his general behavior is far superior to de coon. De 'possum is a gen'elman; de coon is a rounder. De 'possum is hones'; de coon is a natural bo'n thief. You offer anything to a coon, he shake his head an' walk away; an' when you lay it down he come back an' steal it. De only thing a 'possum'l take dat don't belong to him is grapes, and to show you how sensitive de 'possum is, an' what a keen sense o' feelin' he has, you only has to say when you ketch 'im 'mong de vines: 'Isn't you ashamed o' yo'self?' an' he hang his head. Sensitiveness is a peculiar characteristic of de 'possum. When you stub your toe ag'in' a 'possum he roll right up in a bundle, an' all you got to do is to touch his tail wid your finger, an' he twist his tail aroun' you' han', an' you start right off home swingin' him jes' like a lantern.

"Now, I'll tell you de stranges' thing 'bout de 'possum and de coon. Any dog can whip a 'possum, but it take a mighty fine peart dog to get de bes' of a coon; while in a fight 'tween a 'possum an' a coon de coon ain't nowhere. De 'possum am goin' home mindin' his own bus'ness, an' providin' for his family, if he has one, when de coon comes foragin' along. De coon see de 'possum an' he swagger up wid de lef' shoulder a trifle higher dan de right, an' 'biff!' he fetches de 'possum jes' under the belt. De 'possum look s'prised an' backs off an' looks at de coon as much as to say, 'You better let me 'lone. I'se mindin' my own bus'ness and don't aim to have no trouble wid nobody.' De coon pay no 'tention, but give de 'possum 'nother 'biff.' De 'possum jes' grin an' scratch his head wid de coon t'arin' 'round. 'Bout de time coon think 'possum whipped, 'possum getin' second wind. Coon git careless 'bout dis time an' strikin' wild. 'Possum sparrin' fer wind an' watchin' for an openin'. Pretty soon he lay like he dead an' he git it. Coon off his guard an' stan' over 'possum. 'Possum jes' reach up an' ketch coon by the neck wid his teeth an' close his mouth tight. Den de 'possum go to sleep, an' when he wake up de coon am dead."

KEEPING POSTED.

The Turkish Government Denies Armenian Atrocities Repeatedly.

Washington, Dec. 23.—That the Turkish government is keeping posted on the reports circulated concerning the Armenian troubles, and that it desires friendly public opinion, seems evident from the care with which it observes the reports which are in circulation abroad. It has made denials of several printed stories of oppression in Armenia, and to-day the Turkish minister furnished to the press a dispatch from his government contradicting several recently printed stories. The dispatch is as follows:

"It has been published that the Archbishop of Marash was imprisoned at Alep; that the bishop of Hadjin, archbishop of Zeiatoun and Father Jarask, of Marash, were condemned to death; that Sister Elizabeth and twenty-five others were prisoners under arrest, and fifteen leading men of Alep were sent to prison. All these assertions are without the least foundation in fact, nor was the church in Boylan closed, as has been falsely reported."

Constantinople, Dec. 23.—The porte has agreed to instruct the foreign delegates who will accompany the Armenian commission that they are empowered, not only to suggest questions to witnesses, but also to personally examine them. Abdullah Pasha has withdrawn from the presidency of the commission at the last moment, and has been replaced by two officials from the ministry of justice, who will start today for Erzroum, where the members of the commission are already assembled. Abdallah's recall is supposed to be due to the representations that he is inferior in rank to Zedki Pasha, who, it is alleged, committed the atrocities, and will have to be examined.

AFRAID OF THE INDIAN.

He Gave a Yell and Then Jumped Over the Counter.

An amusing story is told of one of the two little colored boys who travel with the Calhoun Opera company, which played in Helena last week. The boys were stopping at the Cosmopolitan hotel, where also were a number of Indians, who were witnesses in the Jones case. One day an Indian, who had been watching the antics of the boys as they played about the office, made a jump toward one of them as if to catch him. The little fellow gave a yell that could have been heard a block away, and with a bound jumped over the office desk into the clerk's enclosure. He told the clerk, who finally induced him to stop yelling, that he thought the Indian intended to scalp him.

The remarkable jump and the fearful yells of the little colored lad startled the stoical red man, who for a few minutes couldn't realize that he was the cause of all the comotion.

May Beat Elkins.

Clarksburg, W. Va., Dec. 23.—Judge Nathan Goff, who has been holding court in South Carolina, arrived at his home yesterday and has been in close conference with political friends, including Hon. George C. S. Davis, who is himself an active candidate for the United States senate against Elkins. It was given out this evening that Judge Goff would, in all probability, announce his candidacy for the senate within the next twenty-four hours. If he does, he will probably prove a formidable opponent. He has eight votes pledged to him, and Senator Whittaker and Hon. T. J. Hutchinson each have as many more. Judge Goff's candidacy would draw heavily from Elkins, and at the same time solidify the followers of the other candidates, all of whom are identified with the Goff wing of the party. The conference has caused some excitemnt in political circles throughout this section.

An Editor Innocent.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Dec. 23.—Word was received here yesterday that the supreme court of this state has reversed the decision of the county court of this county in the case of H. J. Davenport against R. Buchanan. The complaint charged Buchanan with practically obtaining money under false pretenses. Davenport is principal of the Sioux Falls high school and Buchanan is editor of the populist paper here.

BLOODY TIME IN GEORGIA.

Seven Negroes Massacred and More of Them Doomed.

KING TERROR ENTHRONED.

Negroes Said to Have Conspired to Wipe Out a Number of White Citizens.

THEY HAD HELPED ARREST A NEGRO

A Beginning Made by the Killing of Mr. Isom, and Then the War Was On.

Quitman, Ga., Dec. 23.—The lives of seven negroes have been taken in the last twenty-four hours in revenge for that of one white man, and unless all signs fail utterly, many more lives are in jeopardy.

Two bodies of determined men, between 400 and 500 in all, every man being heavily armed, and each body about equal in numerical strength to the other, separated by a mile of country, and liable to clash at any minute—that is the spectacle presented here in Brooks county to-night. One body is made up of stern, determined white men, bent on revenge for the brutal murder of one of the best citizens of this county. The other is made up of negroes, terror-stricken and fearful lest they or their families meet the same fate as has already befallen seven of their number, and ready to defend themselves from such fate as well as they may be able. What the next twenty-four hours will bring forth no one can predict. That there will be an open clash seems more than probable at this writing. The authorities are powerless and practically no efforts have yet been made to bring about peace, save by the relatives of the man whose murder is the cause of it all.

On Thursday Joseph Isom, one of Brooks county's most prosperous farmers and best citizens, was murdered by a party of negroes, and it leaked out that the killing of Isom was part of a plot to kill all whites who were in the posse which a few weeks ago arrested Jesse Jeffreth for the killing of T. Mouldon. Isom was the most popular man in the county. He lived ten miles north of here, in a part of the county where the negroes outnumbered the whites, and the killing created great excitement. When it developed that the same gang of negroes had sworn to kill other white men, the whites gathered together as if of one ccord and the work of death and destruction began. Of the seven who are dead the names of only four could be obtained this afternoon.

A reporter visited the scene late this evening. Every cross road was found picketed with sentinels and every man in the county armed to the teeth. When one of the race excitements occur, King Terror rules in the homes of the whites as well as blacks, and this is such a case. About a mile and a half from the home of Isom were about 200 whites, all well armed and breathing all sorts of vengeance. A mile further was a crowd of negroes, about the same size, armed with Winchester rifles, axes, clubs and every available weapon, waiting for the whites to attack them. They are entrenched in and around a lot of negro cabins in the midst of a thin grove, and the latest information is that the whites are advancing on them from two sides.

Sam Taylor, Eli Fraser, Sam Pike and Henry Sherard are the four negroes known to have been killed. It is understood that Waverly Pike, Jim McCall and a negro named Herring were probably the others. The county is comparatively sparsely settled and facilities for securing information are very meagre. Pike is the negro who killed Isom. He has been in hiding near where the trouble occurred and the authorities here do not consider it probable he has been caught. As the reporter left the scene there seemed every likelihood of a pitched battle to-night.

Capt. E. Timmon, brother-in-law of Isom, was, however, doing everything in his power to restrain the whites. He has sent hurried messengers all over the country, summoning to his aid conservative men in the hope that they would prevent further bloodshed. It will be impossible to know to-night how well the succeed.

Details of the killing of the seven negroes are very meagre. Taylor, Fraser, Pike and Sherrard were together about sunset last night. They were regarded as four of the ringleaders of the conspiracy to kill and burn, and were being especially sought for. Half a dozen whites, one of whom is said to be Isom's brother-in-law, came upon the negroes and ordered them to submit to arrest. One of the negroes answered with a shot that struck one of the whites, and the four blacks were shot down in their tracks. The other three were caught, one at a time. Many of Isom's neighbors, who are in the crowd, will not listen to any peaceful talk. They declare that for the sakes of their wives and children, and for their own safety, they must stamp out the gang that has sworn murder, and to-night that spirit seems the predominant one.

The kiling of Isom occurred in a public road not far from his home, and the circumstances attending it seem to throw doubt upon the conspiracy theory. Isom was here Thursday and while in town had some words with Waverly Pike, a negro living in his vicinity. Apparently everything was smoothed over when he left for home. After arriving there he started with Henry Timmon, his brother-in-law, for Capt. Timmon's home, about half a mile from Isom's. They met four negroes, two on horseback and two in a wagon. Pike nd West McCall were on horseback, and the two Herring boys in a wagon. They came near riding over Isom, who remonstrated: "Look; don't run over me," and he stepped out of the way. Just then Pike drew a pistol and without a word fired, the bullet piercing Isom's heart. Pike and McCall fired three shots each at the prostrate body of Isom. Pike made his escape, but McCall and the Herrings were arrested and are in jail. In this present excitement there is grave danger of these three being lynched.

DEADLY GUN WORK.

A Georgia Negro Kills Three Members of a Posse.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 23.—Hon. William H. Fleming, speaker of the Georgia house, and Judge William F. Nye, of the county court, have finished addresses to a mob of 300 citizens that are gathered around the county jail with the intention of lynching Jake Wiggins. It is believed better counsel has prevailed, and that there will be no assault on the jail. Saturday night Wiggins killed a negro named Anderson Williams, across the river in Carolina. He was tracked to Augusta by a negro spotter and the Augusta police were told of his whereabouts. A posse of police surrounded the house in the upper part of Augusta and broke in the door.

Wiggins opened fire on the officers with pistols, one in each hand. Detective Joe Murray was shot in the head and is dying at the hospital. Policeman Wrenn was shot in the leg. John Davis, a spectator, was shot in the region of the heart and died in less than an hour.

The negro escaped, but a little later was held up by a youth named Jordan and finally arrested. During the melee at the house and the flight of the negro, when the fugitive was under fire from many persons, over 150 shots were fired and a man was slightly wounded in the left side.

At 9 o'clock the crowd at the jail had increased to 1,000. There is no leader, and it is not thought any attempt will be made to enter the jail, which is a strong structure and will protect him. The sheriff and mayor vow there shall be no lynching in Augusta to-night, or any other night.

Robbers Make a Raid.

Claremore, I. T., Dec. 23.—The French band of outlaws, headed by Jim French and Cherokee Bill, made a raid last night on the town of Nowata, twenty-five miles north of here, on the Kansas Valley railroad. Station Agent Bristow, stepping out on the platform of the station, found himself covered with four guns. He was marched through the waiting room and compelled to open the safe. The robbers secured about $190. They did not molest the passengers in the waiting room.

After getting the contents of the safe, they marched the agent outside, mounted and rode away, going east. It was feared they would rob the passenger train, which was due, but it pulled out in safety about thirty minutes later.

Mortified Over His Arrest.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 23.—At Rockford, Coosa county, Ala., Albert Gordon, aged 22 and well connected, was arrested on an indictment from Elmore county, charging gambling on Sunday, and was jailed after a desperate but unsuccessful effort to escape. Last night when Jailor Bedit went to Gordon's cell to carry a blanket he found him hanging to a bar by his suspenders, with his hands tied behind him with his handkerchief, dead. Mortification over his arrest was the cause.

Condemned Outlaw Escapes.

Wichita, Kan., Dec. 23.—Oliver Jewell, one of the worst desperadoes in the Indian country, who was sentenced to be hanged next Friday for the murder of Tom Arnold and his son in the Cherokee strip, has escaped from the Woodward, Okla., jail. Two or three hundred officers and citizens of Woodward and vicinity are out searching for him, but he will probably get away, as it is certain his friends from the Indian country aided in his escape.

Robbed of the Receipts.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Rawlins states that a double murder occurred at Baggs, Carbon county, last night. James Underwood, one of the proprietors of a saloon, shot and killed his partner, a Mr. Walker, and fatally wounded another man named Harboe, whom he charged with being implicated with Walker in robbing him of the receipts of his business.

Under False Pretenses.

Macon, Mo., Dec. 23.—The grand jury has returned an indictment against Judge D. P. Ballard, of Los Angeles, Cal., for obtaining money under false pretenses on a draft on Washington, D. C., bank. Ballard is under arrest and his case will be heard in February.

Both Have Confessed.

Carlsondale, Ill., Dec. 23.—Dug Henderson and Frank Jeffrey were arrested last night at Cartersville charged with the murder of James Towle. They both confessed having committed the crime, and are now lodged in jail at Murphysboro. Robbery was the motive.

STORMS RAGE.

Much Damage and One Hundred Lives Lost in Europe.

London, Dec. 23.—Reports from various parts of Great Britain show that the gale is abating. The storm raged with greatest fury all day yesterday. Telegraphic communication with Scotland is completely interrupted, while wires in the midland counties and Ireland are more or less damaged. There is hardly a town of any size but reports personal casualties and damage to property. Manufacturing towns in the north and west suffered badly. Roofs were torn off and chimneys collapsed, crashing through adjoining buildings and killing and injuring a number of working people. A number of fishing boats are missing. Three boats were swamped off Stormway, and twenty-two occupants drowned. Much damage was done to houses in Dublin and the suburbs of that city. The people in Donegal hills are reported to be suffering terribly, their cottages being wrecked and flooded.

The ships America and Mary E. Marshall went ashore near Greenock. The Arkalow was driven ashore in Scalpsie bay, and has nine feet of water in her hold. It is expected she will be a total loss. All around the coast vessels are reported to be stranded or in great danger. The ship Carmichael was wrecked off Holyhead, and five of her crew were drowned.

The four master County of Nimross, for Hartlepool, was seen off that port lying on her beam ends and apparently sinking. Her crew were seen on her, with life belts on. The actual number of deaths is unknown, but it is expected the list will not be less than 100. The American ship Kennebec, from Port Blakely, which had discharged her cargo at Belfast, broke adrift and sank a tug and damaged another vessel.

Brussels, Dec. 23.—The town of Dendermonda, at the confluence of the Dender and Scheldt rivers, was inundated by the overflowing of the Dender. The inhabitants were aroused by the tocsin and escaped, but the property loss is great. The villages of Audegeme, Denderville, Mespelace, Apels and Baresrode were also inundated.

Studying American Railways.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Among the arrivals on the steamer Peking from the orient were two officials of the Transsiberian railway, who have come to America to study the railway and ferry systems of the country. G. Adadvoran, one of the party, is chief engineer of the big Siberian railway, and