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PRICE ONE CENT. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1893. PRICE ONE CENT.

Words and Music of the **Latest Popular Song,** by the Author of "COMRADES"---**Next Sunday's World.**

EXTRA. 2 O'CLOCK.

ST. NICHOLAS BANK CLOSED.

One of the Oldest and Best Known State Institutions in This City.

ITS CAPITAL IS IMPAIRED.

Bank Superintendent Preston Takes Immediate Charge of Affairs.

DEPOSITORS MAY NOT SUFFER.

Denials that Madison Square Troubles Had Anything to Do with It.

Wall street was startled shortly after 10 o'clock this morning, by the announcement that the St. Nicholas Bank, which is in the Mills Building, at the corner of Broad street and Exchange Place, had closed its doors.

There was a general rush for the bank, and within a few moments a noisy and excited crowd had gathered about the entrance.

The doors had been locked and no one was allowed to go in. Upon the outer glass door the following notice was posted:

This bank is closed pending examination
CHARLES M. PRESTON,
Dec. 21, 1893. Superintendent.

This was all the explanation that was afforded the public of the sudden collapse of the institution, which is one of the oldest State banks in the city.

It was said at first that the action of Bank Supt. Preston had been taken upon some secret information which he had obtained in regard to the bank's affairs, for at the Clearing-House Manager Scherer said that no intimation that he bank would close had been received there until a few minutes before 10 o'clock.

President Graves did not arrive at the bank until some time after the notice had been posted on the door. When he saw it he appeared to be dumbfounded, and exclaimed in an excited tone:

"What can this mean? This a very high-handed proceeding on the part of the Superintendent. I don't understand it. I supposed this bank was solvent."

The crowd made way for him, and he went in. He was met by Supt. Preston and Mr. Judson, his assistant.

He repeated to Mr. Preston what he had said outside, and declared that the closing of the bank was a high-handed proceeding, and demanded to know what it meant.

Mr. Preston and President Graves then went behind the railing in the office and engaged in a heated discussion. The bank was then cleared of all outsiders and the doors locked.

It was learned afterwards that Supt. Preston had not acted without the concurrance or the Clearing-House Committee, and it was reported that he had had a conference yesterday with President Tappan, of the Gallatin Bank, and President Nash, of the Corn Exchange Bank, members of the Committee in regard to the affairs of the bank.

The following statement was sent out by a Wall street news agency shortly after the closing of the bank:

"There has been some suspicion of the condition of the St. Nicholas for some time, and it has been closely watched.

"Bank Superintendent Preston summoned yesterday Messrs. Tappan, of the Gallatin Bank, and Nash, of the Corn Exchange Bank, as members of the Clearing-House Committee, to a conference with him.

"An examination by these three gentlemen of the bank's books revealed that the capital was largely impaired, and it was deemed advisable to close the doors of the bank, pending an examination.

"While the condition of affairs warranted the closing of the bank, it is belived that the assets will permit a payment of depositors in full.

"Mr. Tappan says the Madison Square Bank complications have nothing to do with the suspension of the St. Nicholas Bank.

"The statement made last Saturday by the St. Nicholas Bank to the New York Clearing-House makes the following exhibit:

"Capital, $500,000; net profits, $120,200; loans, $1,755,304; specie, $48,900; legal tender, $471,400; deposits, $2,011,200.

"The bank held a reserve, consequently, of 25 4-10 per cent."

According to the last report of the St. Nicholas Bank to the State Department, made June 1, 1893, it had a surplus of $105,000 and individual profits of $67,212.

The officers of the bank are Arthur B. Graves, President; William J. Gardner, Cashier; William Thorp, Notary; Directors, Arthur B. Graves, Henry F. Hitch, Joseph H. Parsons, John Stalton, William H. Akin, William J. Gardner, George P. Sheldon, L. C. Lathrop, John D. Barrett.

The St. Nicholas Bank formerly acted as the Clearing-House agent of the now defunct Madison Square Bank, and it was very generally believed this morning in Wall street that the troubles of the former grew out of this connection.

Upon the failure of the Madison Square Bank the St. Nicholas withdrew from that institution some $300,000 worth of securities, in order to protect itself against the checks of State Treasurer Danforth and others, which were put through the Clearing-House the night before the failure was announced.

President Tappan's statement, however, that the Madison Square Bank complication had nothing to do with the closing of the St. Nicholas, corrected this impression, and it was said that the difficulties are of long standing.

"This is the result of some old sore, the existence of which many people have suspected for a long time," is the way one banker put it.

A member of the Clearing-House said: "The closing of the St. Nicholas Bank does not surprise any of us. Some time ago the bank had to reduce its capital, and since the failure of the Madison Square Bank it has been known to be in a weak condition. I believe, nevertheless, the bank will make a fair showing of condition, and that depositors will be paid in full."

The St. Nicholas Bank sent its checks to the Celaring-House this morning at the usual hour, and was all ready to go through the regular routine, when word was received by Manager Sherer from Supt. Preston that the bank would not open to-day.

He immediately notified the clerks not to complete the exchanges, and the checks sent in by other banks on the St. Nicholas were returned to them to hold for future developments.

CASHIER VAIL ARRESTED.

Charged with Perjury in Commercial Bank Affairs.

John J. Vail, Cashier of the wrecked Commercial Bank, of Brooklyn, was arrested at his home, 245 Jefferson avenue, to-day, by Detective Bagnorello, of District-Attorney Ridgway's office.

He was arrested on a charge of perjury, contained in an indictment presented to Judge Moore, of the Court of Sessions, by the Kings County Grand Jury last Friday.

The specific charge is that, while he was cashier of the Commercial Bank, for several months previous to the failure of that institution, he swore to false and fraudulent reports sent to the State Banking Department, in order to conceal the true condition of the bank's financial affairs.

Immediately after his arrest he was brought before Judge Moore and asked what he had to say.

"I refuse to plead," he said, "until I have seen my counsel."

Judge Moore told him he had that right.

He was then taken to the prisoners' pen. As he sat down, he asked the detective to send for his lawyer, Adolph Simis, jr.

At the time this indictment was handed up by the Grand Jury, there was also another one handed to Judge Moore, which has not been out of his possession since.

It was said that it was an indictment against another high official of the bank who would be arrested to-day.

STOCKS AT LOW PRICES.

But St. Nicholas Bank Trouble Has Little Effect.

The announcement that the St. Nicholas Bank had closed its doors, although a great surprise to Wall street, had comparatively little effect on the Stock Exchange.

The firmness of the market was all the more noticeable in view of the rumors regarding the affairs of the Atchison Company.

Naturally, prices were lower all around, but there was little pressure to sell, and at intervals speculation was positively dull.

American Sugar fell 1 1-4 to 80 7-8; Chicago Gas, 1 3-8 to 62 3-4; Western Union, 1 3-8 to 83 3-4; General Electric, 7-8 to 35 7-8; Delaware & Hudson, 1 to 130 1-4; Distillers, 1 1-2 to 23 3-4; Lake Shore, 3-4 to 122 1-4, and Omaha, 1-2 to 36 1-2.

Atchison fell 5-8 to 17 1-8, do. 48 5-8 to 68 1-2; do. generals 1-2 to 35.

Around 10.30 A. M. prices rallied 1-8 to 7-8 per cent., the latter in Chicago Gas, but later still lower prices were touched. Sugar ran off to 80 1-8, St. Paul to 59, and Rock Island to 66 1-4.

THREE KILLED IN A MINE.

Crushed by the Collapse of a Wilkesbarre Colliery Roof.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 21.—A fall of rock at the Lancecliffe colliery yesterday instantly killed Peter Clark, John Dombroski and Michael Sonoski. Clark and Dombroski were miners, and Sinoski was alaborer. They had fired a blast which knocked from its place a prop which sustained the roof.

The men went back to replace the prop and just as they reached it the roof, weighing hundreds of tons, fee upon them, crushing all three beyond recognition. They were married, and leave large families.

ANOTHER CASE OF SMALL-POX.

Mary Dooley, aged thirty-nine years, was removed from her home, 119 East Ninety-second street, to the Reception Hospital this morning, suffering from small-pox.

END OF MEYER TRIAL.

The Jury Discharged on the Report of the Physicians.

Juror Low Is Suffering from Acute Mania.

Justice Barrett Says the Court Was Deliberately Deceived.

The jury in the trial of Dr. Henry C. F. Meyer was discharged by Justice Barrett, in the Court of Oyer and Termina, this morning. Drs. Carlos F. MacDonald and Charles L. Dana having submitted a report to the Court that Alexander B. Low, the seventh juror, who went mad during the closing address of Charles W. Brooke, was hopelessly insane, and that his recovery of mental balance was exceedingly improbable.

The report of the famous alienists selected to examine Low was a voluminous document. It related the history of the family of Low, the history of his former insanity, and the record of his present attack, concluding with a statement that the juror was suffering with acute mania.

Justice Barrett read only the conclusions of the specialists in insanity. He said:

"I regret to have to inform you that the report is of such a character as to make it impossible to go any further with this trial. The findings of the physicians on the data at their command is as follows:

"'From a careful consideration of all the facts observed by us, together with the information obtained from others, we are clearly of the opinion that Alexander B. Low is insane and a proper subject for care and treatment as an insane person; that the form of his insanity is that known and recognized as acute mania, and that by reason of such insanity he is mentally incompetent to act in the capacity of a juror, nor is he likely, in our opinion, to become competent to act in such capacity in the near future.

"'CARLOS F. MAC DONALD.
"'CHARLES L. DANA.'"

Justice Barrett said he felt some explanation should be made regarding Juror Low. It had been reported that Mr. Low had expressed himself as unwilling to sit upon the jury. On the contrary, he said that he was not only able but willing to act as a juror.

He deceived the Court in his answers, in short, telling absolute untruths about his mental health. It was a gratuitous insult to the Court and the people.

Justice Barrett expressed sympathy with the eleven business men who had been put to so much inconvenience and distress, and who had attended to their duties as jurors so faithfully, and concluded by saying:

"There is nothing more to be done say, to discharge the jury. It is so ordered."

Mr. Brooke asked that the full report of Drs. MacDonald and Dana be made a part of the minutes, and then excepted to the order discharging the jury.

"Do you mean that seriously," asked Justice Barrett, his expressive brows arching in surprise.

"Simply to avail myself of all formalities on the record," replied the lawyer.

"I am sorry," returned the Court deprecatingly. "I had hoped that the counsel on both sides would agree in an application for the discharge of the jury, under the distressing circumstances."

In discharging the eleven men in the box, Justice Barrett called attention to the difficulties which must be encountered in selecting a new jury, and told them that that difficulty would be very much increased, should the present jurors express their opinions in the public press, on the testimony they had heard. He instructed them to refrain from expressing their individual opinions, reminding them that they had heard only a part of the final plea of the defense, nothing of what the District-Attorney might have said in argument, nor of the charge of the Court, so that their opinions must necessarily be founded on only a part of the case.

TRIED TO REPEAT THE TRICK.

One of Four Thieves Who Robbed Mrs. Rooke Captured.

Four men planned to rob the apartments of Mary Rooke, at 81 West Twelfth street, corner of Sixth avenue, last night. Mrs. Rorke keeps a liquor store on the first floor and lives above it. There are two stairways.

Last night Matthew Halpin, of 873 Third avenue, and three unknown men visited the saloon, and after buying several drinks two of them slipped out of a rear door, went upstairs and unlocked a door. Then another went up the front stairs and stole a silk dress valued at $20, while the fourth engaged Mrs. Rorke in conversation.

All four left the place, but returned before the theft had been discovered and tried the same dodge again. This time, however, the game was spoiled by Mrs. Rorke, who went upstairs and found Halpin just coming out of her apartments.

She screamed and men downstairs caught Halpin and turned him over to Policeman Schick, of the Mercer street station. The other thieves ran away.

At Jefferson Market Court to-day Halpin was remanded until to-morrow.

MR. HARRISON'S RECEPTION.

Congressmen Assured of Its Non-Political Character.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A large delegation of Senators and Congressmen leave here this afternoon to attend the reception to be given to-night by the Union League Club of Philadelphia to ex-President Harrison.

In making up the list of Washington guests a committee of the Club have assured Senators and other public men that no political significance and no preference of Presidential candidates ataches to the reception.

ACTOR WARDE A POOR DEBTOR.

Tells a Boston Court He Has 70 Cents and a Railroad Ticket.

(By Associated Press.)

BOSTON, Dec. 21.—Frederick Warde, the actor, after a day in the courts, has succeeded in taking the poor debtor's oath. The case is that of D. R. Bissell and F. R. Bissell, of St. Louis, executors, vs. Warde.

From the examination it appeared that Warde has not been able to lay up anything from his salary of $90 a week during thirty-three weeks of the year, and at the time of the hearing he had but 70 cents and a railroad ticket to his name.

EIGHT PUT IN CHAINS.

Smuggled Rum Plays Mischief with Nichteroy's Sailors.

Sixty New York Volunteers Set Ashore at Pernambuco.

Government Commander Wounded at Governador Island.

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PERNAMBUCO, Dec. 21.—The report in outline which has been widely circulated to the effect that a mutiny occurred on board the Brazilian cruiser Nictheroy, but by some means or other, which would indicate considerable laxity of discipline on board the Brazilian vessel, the crew of the Nictheroy managed to secure a quantity of liquor from the bumboats, which have been crowding around the dynamiter ever since she arrived here, and the result was a drunken row.

The officers of the Nictheroy, somewhat too late, detected the smuggling of liquor on board, and proceeded to put a stop to it. Eight men of the Nictheroy's crew were clapped in irons and were stowed away until they recovered from their sprees.

The liquor is said to have been smuggled on board, hidden in loaves of bread, in cocoanut shells or stowed in bladders, which were easly hidden away when once in the possession of the sailors.

About one hundred of the seamen who shipped in New York have, of their own accord, and on their own terms, signed articles as regular sailors of the Brazilian navy. Sixty of the New Yorkers who refused to sign, or who were found to be undesirable members of the crew, were sent ashore last night and a number of others will be sent ashore to-day. The places of the men landed will be filled by Brazilians, or others who have been secured at this and other ports.

We hear that the Government forces recently tried to capture the Island of Governador, in the Bay of Rio, and that President Peixoto's troops, headed by Gen. Telles, were led into a prettily-baited trap, and that after losing a number of men they were surrounded and are reported to have surrendered.

Admiral de Gama is said to have commanded the insurgent forces in person during the engagement, and the Government leader, Gen Telles, is said to have been severely wounded.

"The World's" special advices to-day are that the Nictheroy has sailed southward from Pernambuco. Presumably she will rendezvous with the America at Bahia, and both ships will then proceed to Rio.

CONDEMNED BY PEIXOTO.

Shipbuilders to Be Shot, It Is Said, for Carrying Rebels.

(By Associated Press.)

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 21.—The Portuguese Consul at this port has received information to the effect that two ship owners, named Bouchimal, who were formerly in business at Liverpool and at Manchester, and who are now making their business headquarters at Rio de Janeiro, have been sentenced to be shot by President Peixoto, for carrying in surgents upon one of their steamships.

NEW YORK ORDERED TO RIO.

She Will Probably Put to Sea Sunday Morning.

The statement can be positively made to-day that the United States cruiser is going to Rio Janeiro. Orders for her to proceed as soon as possible have been received by Admiral Gherardi, Commandant of the Navy Yard. It is expected that she will be ready to proceed to sea Sunday morning.

Notwithstanding dire predictions, the big cruiser was floated into the floating drydock at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard this morning as gracefully as a swan boat glides over the Central Park pond.

She left her anchorage at the coal dock at 6 o'clock, and was guided to the entrance of the dry-dock by a navy-yard tug. Then the windlass, capstan and steam wenches were brought into use, and with the New York's own power she was safely in dock at 7.40. A half-hour later a hundred seamen were scraping her sides and bottom, preparatory to repainting her. To-morrow she will be taken off Stapleton to be coaled, and on Sunday morning, it is stated, she will start for Rio Janeiro.

Capt. Phillip is having the ship provisioned for a long voyage, and all shore time men have been transferred. The crew now numbers 467, of which 69 are marines. There are forty officers.

Forty of the crew, who are short-time men, have been taken to the Vermont, and fifty long-time men were received.

On board to-day friends of the officers called on board the ship and final preparations for the departure were being made.

ABE SAYS ZELLA WENT ABROAD.

Admits It After "The World" Has an Interview with Her.

Mr. Abe Hummel, counsel for Mrs. Zella Nicolaus, in her suit against George Gould for $40,000, admitted to an "Evening World" reporter this morning that it was true that his client had gone abroad, and that she is now in London, as stated in "The World" to-day.

Whether or not the suit has been settled Mr. Hummel refused to say, but his partner, Mr. Howe, declared that there had been no compromise, and that the suit would come to trial in about a month.

Mr. Gould refused to see and reporters this morning. His answer to all queries referring to the suit of Mrs. Nicolaus was that there had been no compromise, and that the case must eventually come to the courts.

RICH GOLD STRIKE IN IOWA.

BURLINGTON, Ia., Dec. 21.—A rich vein of gold, assaying 8½ ounces of gold and 40 per cent. of copper to the ton, has been discovered at Starr's Cave, near this city. A company to develop the find will be organized. Traces of tin and zinc ore were also found about the same place.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH.

Tammany's Latest Addition to its Unparalleled Aggregation of Attractions.

DUG UP A PETRIFIED CAT.

Believed to Be Armorer Godfrey's Long Lost Pet.

Disappeared Ten Years Ago from a Brooklyn Armory.

A petrified cat is on exhibition in the Forty-seventh Regiment Armory, on Marcy avenue, Williamsburg, and thereby hangs a tale.

Ten years ago, when William Godfrey was armourer of the regiment, he had a pet cat. The animal disappeared and Godfrey offered a reward for its return, but without success.

This morning, while laborers were digging in the cellar of the armory, they came upon a hard substance which, on a close examination, was found to be a petrified cat.

The petrifaction was perfect, the head and legs being as natural as a living cat. Several people who saw it recognized it as Godfrey's long lost pet.

The armory site was, many years ago, the great Union skating pond in Winter, and the baseball ground in Summer. When excavations were being made for the armory building, the workmen came upon numerous small springs and the earth was impregnated with lime.

The cat was found under the flooring of the cellar, and it is supposed the animal ran after a rat and could not get out again.

DETECTIVE BECKER ACCUSED.

Charged With Searching a House Without a Warrant.

James Thompson, of 284 Linwood street, Brooklyn, has retained counsel to prosecute DetectiveSergeant John F. Becker, one of Commissioner Hayden's latest appointees, who is stationed in the Seventeenth Precinct. He accuses the detective of forcibly entering and searching his house without a warrant.

According to Thompson's story, Wolf Gall, a second-hand clothing dealer, at 2772 Atlantic avenue, lost four geese, and told Detective Becker that he suspected Thompson of stealing them.

Last night, Thompson says, Detective Becker, accompanied by Gall and the officer on post, came to his house and accused him of the theft. Then Detective Becker said he intended to search the house.

Thompson says he prosteded against the detective entering without a warrant, but he was caught and held bareheaded in the cold night air, by the officer, while Becker made a search, frightening Mrs. Thompson, and ripping clothing to pieces. The geese were not found.

Thompson says he complained to Police Captain German, and was told not to "make a fuss about a little thing like that."

STEAMER MARSALA SIGHTED.

A Week Overdue, She Is Seen Off Atlantic Highlands.

Steamer Marsala, which sailed from Hamburg Nov. 29, and was a week or more overdue, has been sighted.

She was seen from the Atlantic Highlands at 10.40 o'clock this morning.

SCHOONER'S YAWL DRIFTS ASHORE.

GALVESTON, Tex., Dec. 21.—Capt. Hutchins, of the Life-Saving Service, found on the beach at Pass Cavallo, on Matagorda Islands, a ship's yawl having the name Angie L. Green. There is a Philadelphia schooner of that name.

IDENTITY OF THE PARTNERS.

Croker Will Name the Thirty Business Men This Afternoon.

Is the Organization Getting Away from Him?

A meeting of the Tammany Hall Executive Committee will be held late this afternoon for the purpose of preparing the call for the primaries on Dec. 19. The Committee on Organization has been called together for this evening, and the General Committee for to-morrow evening, to go throug the formality of approving the call.

At the meeting this afternoon Richard Croker will give final orders to his lieutenants in regard to the make-up of the tickets to be voted for at the primaries. He also will announce the names of the thirty business men who are to be added to the Executive Committee and act as co-leaders of the organization.

There has been much speculation in regard to the identity of the business men whom the Wigwam Chief has selected. The leaders are as curious to know who they are as the rank and file. They say they have not been consulted as to their preferences and profess to know nothing about the identity of their future partners.

By putting two leaders in charge responsibility will be divided, and practical politicians say this division of authority and power is bound to work injury to the discipline of the organization. They do not find fault with Croker for making mistakes, but they charge that of reform and good government. They desire to point out his recent change of policy, which reveals, in their opinion, a structural weakness in the organization. Said one of them:

"About two months ago Croker declared he had no use for business men who could not devote all their time to public affairs. Now he suddenly discovers that he needs them to bolster up his organization. In his manifesto issued last week he speaks with particular emphasis in favor of a central power, or one-man rule. Two days later he declares himself heartily in accord with dividing responsibility in leadership. In reorganization Croker fails.

"The conclusion I draw is that Croker is losing his grip. The organization is getting away from him. His latest scheme is merely a makeshift to keep the organization from getting away from him. Or, are the business men to be merely dummies in the central power in Fourteenth street?"

"Ex-Mayor Grace's General Committee of the New York State Democracy will meet to-night in Cooper Union Hall to perfect organization in the city and State.

Jacob M. Patterson and his fellow-leaders, who are to be reorganized out of the Republican party, will accept the Root plan of reorganization if a compromise is made to continue the Assembly District organization, whereby the leaders would continue in power.

The Assembly District organizations as at present constituted is the evil the reorganizers want to abolish. The reformers are opposed to any compromise and the general belief is that Patterson will have to cut crow.

The County Committee meets to-night to receive the report on reorganization, but it will not be acted upon at that meeting.

CHARGED WITH BURGLARY.

Justice Goetting, in the Lee Avenue Court, Williamsburg, to-day held Joseph Gorman and Henry Hopkins to answer on a charge of burglary.

On Sunday night George Willebergerr's saloon, Bedford avenue and North Eleventh street, was broken into and considerable property taken.

Detective Sergeants Corcoran and Hayes, of the Fifth Precinct, have been working on the case ever since, and to-day they arrested Gorman and Hopkins, against whom, it is said, they have plenty of evidence.

KILBRETH DENIES FRAUDS.

He Says the Story of Tobacco Rebate Steal Is Visionary.

Only $7,178.46 Has Been Refunded by the Custom-House.

"It is entirely visionary," is the manner in which Collector Kilbreth characterizes the announcement from Washington of the unearthing of a million-dollar fraud in the Custom-House here. The announcement was to the effect that a special agent from the Treasury Department had been working here for some time, and in his detailed report showed that the Government had been defrauded out of $1,000,000 in the refunding of tobacco rebates. It also charged the New York Custom officials with gross negligence. The period covered extended from 1883 to the present.

The news was a shock at the Custom House. This finally gave way to indignation.

Charles Crawford, the refund clerk, who has been at the head of the bureau for the past twenty-five years, went over his books. He showed that the amount refunded on tobacco rebates during the last twenty years, was exactly $7,178.46. This had all been paid since June 12, 1893.

Under the old law all baled tobacco was regarded as a unit. If the contents of a bale averaged 85 per cent. of pure tobacco, a duty of 75 per cent. was paid. If the average was less, the duty was set at 35 per cent.

In 1888 the Secretary of the Treasury decided that pro rata duty should be collected. The importers protested and carried the matter to the courts. In deciding the Blumlein case the Court of Appeals ruled against the Government. Instructions on this decision were sent out by the Department June 12, 1893. What rebates have been allowed were based upon this decision.

Rebates on hat trimmings were suspended by Secretary Foster.

The story that alleged frauds evidently arose from the fact that a clerk named Koehler, from the Customs Bureau, Washington, was sent here ten days ago to gather information concerning the system adopted at the Custom-House in refunding rebates. No rebates have ever been allowed, on the principle laid down in the decision in the Schlesinger case, as yet. What this decision amounts to is not even known by the officials in this city.

Deputy Collector Phelps, head of the Ninth Division, better known as the law division, wrote the Secretary of the Treasury a week ago concerning the Schlesinger decision, but has received no reply.

"The statement that I have been in correspondence with the Department at Washington concerning any fraud in the rebates of tobacco, is absolutely false," said Collector Kilbreth to an "Evening World" reporter. "We are in correspondence with the Department daily on all kinds of subjects, but this has never been one of them."

The system adopted in refunding rebates in all cases compel the filing of a detailed statement. This goes from the Custom-House to the Naval Office, then to Washington. The figures are gone over carefully at each office, and a check for the gross amount is sent to the Collector.

If any fraud existed the chances are in favor of it being detected before the payment by the Collector.

COMPTROLLER-ELECT FITCH ILL.

Comptroller-elect Ashbel P. Fitch is seriously ill with the grip at his home. He was to have been present at the meeting of the board of Estimate to-day to sit with Comptroller Myers during the consideration of the final estimates. He sent word that he was too ill to leave his room.

EXTRA. 2 O'CLOCK.

TOOK HER OWN LIFE.

Pretty Annie Geoghan Shoots Herself in the Breast.

Her Husband Aroused from Sleep by the Shot.

He Is Said to Have Squandered a Fortune—She Was Despondent.

Mrs. Annie Geoghan, twenty-four years old, the pretty wife of Richard Geoghan, committed suicide at her home, 70 West One Hundred and Thirty-second street, about 2 o'clock this morning by shooting herself in the breast with a 32-calibre revolver.

The Geoghans had lived in the house for about six months. They had been married only one year.

They were ever a quiet couple. The husband was out all day and often all night. The wife seemed to worry a great deal. Whatever her trouble was she kept it to herself; no word of complaint escaped her.

According to the neighbors the husband was the son of a rich plumber of Trenton, N. J., who died two years ago, leaving him $50,000. This money the young man, who is now twenty-eight years old, is said to have squandered on the race tracks. He had still a comfortable sum left when he married Annie Curren last Winter, but it is said that it went as the other had in a very short time.

For the last few months he has been employed off and on. He says he has been tending bar, but refused to say where, and nobody seems to know. There are those who do not believe he has been employed at all, but has spent his hours in gambling houses. De that as it is, he was out of the house every day during this week, going early and staying late.

Last night at 10 o'clock he had not returned, and Mrs. Geoghan left the house. From this point the story comes from Fitz.

He says he had been persuaded by some friends to attend the opening of the Pontiac Club, at 442 Amsterdam avenue. He was having a right royal time when, at 11 o'clock, an attendant touched him on the arm and said a lady at the door wanted to see him. He went downstairs and found his wife.

The two stood outside the club-house for five minutes and talked. Then they went home together. It was nearly midnight when they reached the One Hundred and Thirty-second street house. There was no quarrel, the husband says. He wanted to know how she knew where to find him, and she wouldn't say.

Half an hour later the young woman said, "Dick, I'm going to get up for a drink of water."

The husband answered, "I'll get it for you, Annie." But Annie got up and Dick dozed.

He was thoroughly awakened a minute later by the sound of a pistol shot. Jumping out of bed he ran into the little washroom adjoining the bedroom. As he reached the door he heard his wife cry "My God, I'm gone!" Then as he opened the door he saw by the dim light of a lamp his wife stagger and fall to the floor.

Hastily pulling on a few garments Geoghan ran to the house of Dr. F. Von Reitz, a few doors away, and ten minutes later the physician reached the Geoghan apartments, only to find the young wife dead.

The bullet had entered the right breast. No blood had flowed from the wound. The hemorrhage was internal.

Policeman Levy took the husband to the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth street station. There the sergeant questioned the mild-looking, low-speaking husband closely. Then he let him go back to the house where his wife lay dead.

Geoghan says he knows no reason for his wife's act. She had long been despondent, but, he added, "She was a good woman, a sweet wife. I did not think it could come to this."

That Mrs. Geoghan had long premeditated the act was evident from the presence of the revolver, which the husband says he did not know she possessed. It did not belong to him, he said, and she must have purchased the weapon herself.

HOLES IN THE ICE.

Little Hope for Skating on Central Park Lakes.

Skaters living beyond easy access to Van Cortlandt Park Lake, which has been thrown open to the skating public, will be disappointed to learn that the ice in Central Park is not yet thick enough to make it safe for crowds to disport upon it.

There are still several open spots in the ice along the westerly shore of the lake, and until these are covered to a thickness of six inches the Park authorities will not run the risk of declaring the ice ready for use.

The worst feature of it all is that Weather Forecaster Dunn gives very little encouragement that the cold snap will endure long enough to close up the dangerous air holes in the ice.

"The weather is growing somewhat warmer in this section," Mr. Dunn said this morning, "and there is not another cold wave in sight anywhere this side of the Pacific Ocean.

"This morning, for the first time in several weeks, there was no place in the United States where the thermometer got down to zero.

"At 8 o'clock it was 27 degrees above zero in this city. The coldest place in the State was Albany, where it was 24 degrees above.

"The weather is fair all over the country, except on the Pacific Coast, from California to the State of Washington."

BURGLAR SHOT IN CHICAGO.

Dick Henshaw Fatally Wounded While Housebreaking.

(By Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—A burglar entered the residence of Alfred Luley, at 156 Maxwell street, shortly before 12 o'clock last night and was discovered and shot by Luley.

The police took the burglar to the County Hospital where he died. It is said the burglar was Nick Henshaw, a well-known crook.