NIGHT EDITION—*All the News for All Day*—RACING and SPORTS

WEATHER—FAIR; FRESH WINDS.

12 PAGES

The World.

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WEATHER—FAIR; FRESH WINDS.

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BIDWELL'S BIG SHAKE-UP.

RAMAPO REPEAL BILL PASSED BY SENATE.

By a Unanimous Vote the Water Company Is Placed on an Equality with Other Companies — House Must Act Now.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Feb. 28.—The Senate to-day passed the bill originally introduced providing for the absolute repeal of the law of 1896, granting to the Ramapo Water Company special privileges, by a unanimous vote.

The action of the Senate is a virtual victory for the Democrats, for they forced the Republicans to vote for repeal. Long ago the Democrats announced their intention of making repeal a party issue. The Republicans, therefore, took up the bill in order to take the wind out of the Democratic sails.

Record-breaking time was made in hustling the bill through. When the order of third reading was reached, Senator Slater moved that the double-head bill prepared by the Senate Judiciary Committee be referred back to the committee with instructions to substitute bill No. 17, which unconditionally repeals the Ramapo grant of 1895.

There was no objection to the motion and the substitution was reported by Chairman Brackett without leaving his seat.

When the bill was reported Senator Slater moved it to third reading and then to passage. There was no objection from any part of the chamber except when the name of Senator McKinney, of Suffolk, was called.

He explained he did not favor the unconditional repeal bill because it affected the water interests of his district. He then voted for the bill.

The double-headed bill is thus killed without a protest on the floor of the Senate. The single-headed bill passed by the Senate will be turned over to the Assembly this afternoon and may be passed by that body before it adjourns to-morrow.

S. C. Mead, Assistant Secretary of the Merchants' Association, speaking in regard to the Ramapo Repeal bill, said:

"The Merchants' Association, believing that vested rights of the Ramapo Water Company would, under the O'Brien case arising out of the repeal of the Broadway surface railroad charter, be amply protected by the courts, prepared the bill as introduced and as passed this morning.

"When, however, the Judiciary Committee thought best to incorporate in the bill affirmative legislation to protect such vested rights and to place the Ramapo Water Company on an equality with other water companies organized under the laws of 1890, the Association was perfectly willing that that should be done, provided it should be constitutional in form without any question.

"Much question was raised, however, over the amended form, and it is highly satisfactory to us that the Senate has unanimously turned to and adopted the bill as the Merchants' Association originally drew it."

RAMAPO DAY IN ALBANY.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Feb. 28.—Tammany, although plainly aiming to make political capital of the situation, forced the Republican machine in the Senate to-day to show its hand in the Ramapo legislative game. Senator "Barney" Martin, anticipating the intention of Senator Slater to amend his compromise anti-Ramapo bill, moved that the Senate be discharged from further consideration of his bill, repealing the act of 1895, con-

(Continued on Second Page.)

SEES TRIUMPH FOR MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION

In Albany to-day S. C. Mead, Assistant Secretary of the Merchants' Association, said:

"It is highly satisfactory to us that the Senate has unanimously turned to and adopted the bill as the Merchants' Association originally drew it."

If the grain isn't perfect in growth and weight it has no chance to get into the BALLANTINE BRAND.

COMPTROLLER COLER IS PLEASED WITH SENATE.

When Comptroller Coler was notified by The Evening World of the passage of the Repeal bill by the Senate at Albany he said:

"I feel very much gratified at the action of the Senate. I felt very sure when I was in Albany last week that the advocates of an unconditional repeal bill would win if we stood firm.

"That is why I opposed the substitute measure that was brought up as a compromise while I was there.

"If the bill as passed by the Senate to-day is also passed by the Assembly it means an absolute victory for the opponents of Ramapo."

AFTER THE RAID.

"Well, well, dese do be funny t'ings anyway."

PANIC AMONG THE CHINESE.

Pell Street Blaze Drives Their White Wives to Fire Escapes.

Fire caused a lively panic in the five-story building at No. 12 Pell street this afternoon. The place is in Chinatown and is occupied by Chinamen and their white wives.

When flames were discovered in the basement there was a quick exodus of frightened occupants to the fire-escapes and the roof.

Stifling clouds of smoke added to the excitement, and, although the fire was confined to the basement, it was an hour or more before the occupants could be persuaded to return to their rooms.

An overheated stove in the basement caused the fire. The room was piled with Chinese goods in storage for High Lung & Co., of No. 31 Pell street.

Fun Paw & Co., Chinese grocers, occupy the ground floor, while the four stories above are the homes of twenty Chinese families.

"Special train from Atlantic City to New York via the Pennsylvania Railroad on Sundays during Lent.

For the better accommodation of business men, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will, on Sunday next, March 3rd, and on each Sunday during Lent, run a special train from Atlantic City to New York, leaving Atlantic City at 5 P. M. and running through on quick schedule. The train will be composed of first-class coaches, parlor cars and a dining-car and will stop at Trenton and Newark."

ODD DEATH OF OLD WOMAN

Mrs. Ackerly's Doctor Reports She Died of Poisoning.

Mrs. Josephine Ackerly, seventy-three years old, whose son-in-law, William Desney, is janitor of the apartment-house at No. 534 West One Hundred and Fifty-ninth street, died this afternoon under somewhat mysterious circumstances.

Mr. Desney said she died from an overdose of medicine, but Dr. Desney, of No. 515 West One Hundred and Fiftieth street, who was her physician and was with her when she died, made this laconic report of the death to the police of the West One Hundred and Fifty-second street station:

"The mother of Mrs. Desney, of No. 534 West One Hundred and Fifty-ninth street, died this afternoon of poisoning."

This was all he said, and when a reporter of The Evening World called him by telephone, he declared:

"I don't know anything about it."

"Did she die of poisoning?" he was asked.

"Don't know anything about it."

Then he hung up the instrument.

Mr. Desney, too, was reticent, when a reporter called at his home.

"She died of an overdose of medicine. That's all there is about it," he said.

COST OF BOER WAR NOW $476,545,765.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The third supplementary estimate, of $15,000,000, for the expenses of the war, was issued to-day. Transport and the purchase of remounts swallow up $10,000,000, and provisions and forage cost $3,000,000. This brings the total voted for the financial year up to $476,545,765.

PAINTER KILLED BY FALL.

Jacob Heim, thirty-two years old, a painter, of 176 Suffolk street, while working on the third floor of 981½ Essex street this afternoon fell to the ground and received a compound fracture of the skull. He died before an ambulance arrived.

GOT BREAKFAST, THEN FIRED HOUSE.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 28.—A negro broke into the house of Mrs. Buchanan, of 95 spring street, to-day, and holding a pistol at the woman's head made her cook breakfast for him. He then bound her to a bed and set it on fire. The woman was rescued. A searching party is after the negro.

RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS.

FIFTH RACE—Miss Go Lightly 1, Debrido 2, Curtsey 3.
SIXTH RACE—Miss Soak 1, Bert Davis 2, Maharajah 3.

NURSE'S TRIAL JURY IS OUT.

Judge's Charge Purely Technical in Case of Bellevue Attendant Accused of Murder.

Assistant District-Attorney Pierce summed up for the prosecution to-day in the trial of Jesse R. Davis, accused of the murder of Louis H. Hilliard in the Bellevue Insane Pavilion Dec. 12.

The case went to the jury late this afternoon.

The defense finished its case yesterday. Wellman attacked the weak points of the people's case, dwelling at length on the unreliability of Minnock's testimony and said he was justified in calling him a "moral leper."

Although the defense was not permitted to give any evidence tending to disprove the credibility of the two insane witnesses, Wellman pointed out to the jury the fact that they had set the date of the death struggle of Hilliard one whole day before its alleged happening.

He commented on Minnock's past record and quoted his words in saying he had "dressed up the story to suit the public taste."

"Why," he asked, "did Minnock stand by and witness such a terrible exhibition as he described without a protest? Why did he tell Justice Hogan he had been treated kindly and reiterate that he had seen nothing to write about? And why did he disappear?"

1 DEAD, 5 INJURED IN EXPLOSION.

Powder Drying House at Pompton, N. J., Destroyed in a Flash.

An explosion in dry house No. 24 at the Laflin Powder Works, at Pompton, N. J., this afternoon, killed one man and injured five others.

Three tons of gun cotton are reported to have exploded in the mixing room of Building 24.

Guards were at once placed around the works and no one was allowed near. It is known that Joseph Smith, of Wanaque, is fatally hurt.

Three doctors were hastily taken to the scene of the accident, and attended to the wounded men.

Hundreds of people from miles around gathered at the works.

HOLDING OFF FROM TRUST.

Canadians Independent of the Steel Magnates.

(Special to The Evening World.)

MONTREAL, Feb. 28.—Henry M. Whitney, president of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, had this to say to-day regarding the reported absorption of that concern by the Steel Trust:

"I have heretofore stated that there is no truth in the report that the Dominion Iron and Steel Company has sold out to the Morgan syndicate.

"Considering our natural advantages and low fixed charges we occupy a unique and impregnable position. We shall join no syndicate, but shall go on and develop our enterprise on the lines originally projected."

It is expected that there will be some interesting proceedings at the meeting of the directors to be held here to-morrow.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Friday for New York City and vicinity: Fair to-night and Friday, rising temperature after Friday morning; fresh northwest winds, becoming easterly.

Cutting's Marriage in April.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The marriage of W. Bayard Cutting, jr., and Lady Sybil Marjorie Cuffe, youngest daughter of the present Earl of Desart, will probably occur in the latter part of April. Mr. Cutting contemplates resigning from the United States Embassy.

MRS. BIDDLE WENT "BROKE" IN PARIS

CONSTANCE DREXEL BIDDLE.

Philadelphia Society Actress in Supplementary Proceedings Swears She Spent $25,000 at Exposition and Now Has Only $25.

Mrs. Constance Drexel Biddle has at last reached the pinnacle of histrionic fame—she is being sued in supplementary proceedings.

Mrs. Biddle is the handsome young wife of Surgeon Biddle, U. S. N., who is suing her for divorce. She recently starred four days in Zola's "Madame Sacard;" then she said there were no ladies or gentlemen on the stage, and now additional fame has come to her, owing to her inability to pay $310 for wearing material.

Mrs. Biddle was sued some time ago by a Twenty-third street firm for this amount, and judgment was returned unsatisfied. She appeared in the City Court this afternoon before Judge Dayer. Lawyer Strauman represented her.

She was beautifully gowned and self-possessed.

She lives at the Earlington Hotel, this city, and is now giving a monologue at Koster & Bial's for $500 a week.

She said she had no property except her wearing apparel used for stage and street purposes, but on cross-examination admitted that she had diamonds, including a necklace and rings. But she later declared that these diamonds were merely for stage use, were of paste and valued at $25.

She swore that she sold her house in Philadelphia for $25,000. She spent the money at the Paris Exposition last summer and returned to New York "broke."

In fact Mrs. Biddle declared all her possessions consisted of her personal and stage wardrobe, $25 worth of "fake" jewelry and her reputation, valuable in her stage career.

Decision was reserved.

Thirty-one Men Discharged and Courtesies of the Port to Be Revoked.

Collector Bidwell's reform to-day startled the Custom-House.

Besides dropping thirty-one employees he has planned a general reorganization of the system.

The present practice of issuing permits to go down on the revenue cutters to meet incoming steamers will be discontinued. Granting of courtesies of the port will be stopped.

"Both of these privileges have been misunderstood and misconstrued by the public," says Bidwell, "and have frequently caused complaint from persons who have not secured them. They are detrimental to the interests of the revenue service."

The Collector recommended that the following thirty-one inspectors be dropped: Samuel W. Swayze, Herman Bloch, James H. Cochnower, Herbert C. Davidson, James E. Fitzgerald, Lawrence J. Hanley, Samuel I. Kruckman, Charles F. Whitbeck, Daniel J. Sullivan, Malcolm C. Turner, Thomas P. Howley, Walter O'Mara, James E. Costello, John W. Dost, Patrick Eliff, Michael J. Rush, William Beebe, Charles H. Conklin, Thomas F. Cummiskey, John Heim, William J. Cobb, Frank R. Fawcett, John P. Murray, William Turk, Cornelius E. Murphy, Simon P. Connelly, Francis J. Driscoll, Daniel J. O'Connell, Albenis R. McCoy, William Lamb and Alfred Griffin.

Blank forms of declarations can hereafter be obtained from the purzers of incoming ships, and passengers will secure them during the homeward voyage and fill in the proper spaces with the correct description of what they have purchased and sign and swear to their statements before the customs officers when they board the ship.

A change in the manner of marking baggage which is to leave the dock, and other matters of detail will also be put into effect.

M'KINLEY WANTS KILLING TO STOP.

Peking Commissioner to Protest Against Needless Bloodshed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Special Commissioner Rockhill at Peking has been instructed to make it known to the Foreign Ministers that the President strongly deprecates any action that will tend to delay or check the present negotiations there, and especially is he desirous that there shall be no further unnecessary bloodshed.

It is probable that this instruction is framed to stop, if possible, the era of wholesale slaughter, which is said to be in contemplation in some quarters in Peking, beginning with the execution of prominent Chinese in all of the towns and communities in China, which were the scene of trouble during the Boxer uprising.

This policy laid down for Mr. Rockhill is consistent with the instructions heretofore furnished to Mr. Conger.

It is confidently believed that our Commissioner will be able to secure the support and cooperation of a sufficient number of the other Ministers to ensure a cessation of the punitive demands which, it is believed by officials here, are not only unworthy of civilized nations, but threaten to drive the Chinese to desperation, and thereby cause a renewal of armed resistance on their part.

POISON KILLED DOCTOR OF NERVE

Dying from Acid He Directed Compounding of Antidote.

(Special to The Evening World.)

PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 28.—Dr. Edwin A. Fessenden, of this city, ran into the drug store of Schlotterbeck & Foss to-day and shouted:

"Help me, or I'm a dead man! I've taken a dose of 95 per cent. solution of carbolic acid by mistake."

He ordered an antidote and directed the compounding of another preparation. He took the first, but before the second could be given him he fell back dead.

Dr. Fessenden was fifty-five years old, prominent in the Masonic order, and had a wide practice. He was a graduate of Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and took a post-graduate course at the New York Medical School.

ELECTIONS BILL GOES THROUGH.

New Bi-Partisan Board Measure Ready for the Governor.

ALBANY, Feb. 28.—Both Senate and Assembly have passed the bill of Senator Raines providing for a new bi-partisan board of elections for New York City, separate from the Police Department.

The Board is to consist of four persons appointed by the Mayor, to hold office for two years. The appointments are to be made from the political parties casting the highest number of votes at the preceding elections. The election districts are to be rearranged so that they shall consist of 650 electors.

JOHN C. HEENAN ON EARTH AGAIN.

Old Man, Who Said He Was the Prize Fighter, Attempts Suicide.

Magistrate Crane, in Harlem Court, this morning, didn't believe "John C. Heenan" when he said he wanted his liberty because he had up a forfeit of $2,000 to fight John L. Sullivan to-night. Instead, the man was sent to Bellevue for examination.

The alleged shade of the long-departed prize fighter was picked up on the Third avenue bridge early this morning as he was trying to jump into the Harlem River. Twice he tried to leap over the rail, and both times he was prevented by Policeman Clary.

"Heenan" is a muscular man, sixty-four years old, who lives in Grand street, Brooklyn. Some variegated feathers found in his hat he explained as indicating his rank in secret societies.