

SUBMARINES CHASE TWO BRITISH SHIPS; BOTH TORPEDOED AND SENT TO BOTTOM

WEATHER—Cloudy to-night. Wednesday fair.

ROOT HEADS CONVENTION TO FRAME CONSTITUTION; SPEAKS FOR HOME RULE

As President He Also Declares for Rights of Individual Under State Rule.

REVISE ELECTION LAWS.

Wants System of Taxation, Appropriation and Expenditure Changed.

ALBANY, April 6.—The Constitutional Convention assembled to-day in the State Capitol. After the 168 Delegates had been sworn in by Secretary of State Hugo Amid cheering for popular members, Elihu Root was chosen President of the Convention, the seventh held by the State in 129 years.

Mr. Root was elected president 129 to 22 over Morgan J. O'Brien, Democrat. He was loudly cheered as he took the chair.

Jacob Gould Schurman, Republican and Morgan J. O'Brien were elected Vice Presidents of the Convention. W. D. Cunningham of Ulster was chosen Secretary. With a few minor changes the rules of the 1894 Convention were adopted.

Three of the Delegates, beside Mr. Root were members of the last Constitutional Convention which met in 1894. They were Louis Marshall, Charles Mereness and DeLancey Nicolli.

When the convention was called to order the roll was called and the delegates marched to the clerk's desk, where the Secretary of State administered the oath. Applause marked the appearance of each delegate as he walked to the desk and signed his name in a great book provided for the occasion. A century old Bible originally belonging to William Blackstone was used in the oath taking.

Applause and cheers broke forth from the crowded galleries when William Barnes marched down the aisle. As he finished taking the oath the cheering became deafening, and it was not until he had resumed his seat that the demonstration subsided. A similar ovation was accorded Alfred E. Smith of New York City.

President Root gave the keynote of the convention in his opening address and indicated a line

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NINE MEN OVERCOME BY FUMES IN TUNNEL

Nine men were overcome to-day by coal gas from the firebox of a locomotive in the old West End tunnel, Brooklyn, which is to form part of the new subway system. The tunnel runs east and west between Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth Streets and Seventh and Eighth Avenues. At each end of the tunnel is an open cut. About twenty men, carpenters, bricklayers and tile layers, were at work under Sixth Avenue this afternoon when a locomotive hauling cars loaded with material stopped alongside them. The tunnel soon filled with smoke and gas, and nine carpenters who were working on scaffolds fell off, helpless.

The other men started for the Fifth Avenue end and the engineer, who had been supposed, opened

THEATRE TRUST IS PROBED UNDER SHERMAN LAW

Government Investigation Under Way at Request of Independent Producers.

It became known in the Federal Building to-day that a secret inquiry into the operation of the so-called Theatre Trust has been in progress for two weeks under the direction of Assistant United States Attorney Thompson, Williamson and Guiler. It will continue at least a week more and may lead eventually to the Grand Jury room, it is said.

The appearance of Charles Dillingham, armed with a Government subpoena, revealed the existence of the inquiry, though it didn't help a bit to unseal the lips of officials as to what it was all about.

It is understood the investigation was begun under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law at the request of the small independent producers and managers, who have long complained of the freeze-out tactics of the big producing and booking firms.

"Will it be a good guess to say that the present cut-rate ticket war is at the bottom of the inquiry?" Mr. Thompson was asked.

"I can't be quoted," was his only reply.

Though Mr. Thompson declined to tell who had been in his office since the beginning of the inquiry, he said its scope would bring, or had already brought, all the big men in the business to the Federal Building.

Independent managers and producers have long complained they could not get houses in which to display their plays and that the Trust had so tied up the production of new material by barring unknown and unfavored authors that it was almost impossible to do business profitably.

the throttle and ran his machine out into the open air.

Fred Beyer of No. 184 Thirtieth Street and Alfred Metz of Eighty-first Street and Seventeenth Avenue led a rescue party into the tunnel and the nine unconscious men were dragged out into the cut.

A doctor arrived with a pulmotor and revived the victims.

CORONER DRUNK AT "L" INQUIRY, PROSECUTOR HEARD

Train Tells of Reports That Came to Him About Riordan.

WHY HE LEFT CASE.

Nothing Competent Was Being Brought Out by Coroner, Train Asserts.

That Coroner Patrick D. Riordan was reported to him as drunk when he went to investigate the accident on the Ninth Avenue L which resulted in the death of two persons on Dec. 9 last, was a statement made by Assistant District Attorney Arthur C. Train at the hearing to-day conducted by Lloyd P. Stryker in the charges preferred by the Interborough officials.

The Assistant District Attorney had gone to the inquest following the accident with the intention of taking charge of the investigation, but because of the Coroner's attitude toward him he withdrew from the case entirely. Mr. Train declared that the Coroner at the inquest conducted the examination in such a way "that stenographers and others were being paid at high rates with the taxpayers' money for material that was wholly incompetent."

"I was informed," said Mr. Train, in reply to questions by the Interborough lawyers, "that at the time of the accident the Coroner was drunk and went to the scene in that condition. In all, about eight persons told me that."

"It was a matter of common gossip in the Criminal Courts Building that Coroner Riordan was very drunk on the night of the accident. Assistant District Attorney Deacon Murphy told me that Coroner Riordan was drunk as an owl at the time and after the accident. That same phrase I heard later in this connection. I understood he could not get to the scene of the accident for two hours."

"Didn't you hear that others were drunk on that night?" asked Henry A. Wise, counsel for the accused Coroner. "Did Mr. Deacon Murphy tell you that he was drinking that night also?"

"I heard nothing of that," replied the witness.

"Isn't it a fact?" asked Mr. Wise, "that you went to this inquiry with the idea that it was to be a big thing and you would be the star of the proceeding? When you found this to be not so, wasn't our ire aroused?"

"No, sir," responded the witness. "Was it not Mr. Moulton of the company's counsel who told you Mr. Riordan was drunk on the night of the accident?"

"No, I do not think Mr. Moulton said it to me," said Mr. Train.

WINNERS AT BOWIE.

FIRST RACE.—Selling; for two-year-olds; four furlongs.—Little Alta, 108 (Hutwick), 12 to 1, 3 to 1 and 2 1/2 to 1; first; Divan, 111 (Metz), 2 1/2 to 1, 4 to 5 and 3 to 5; second; Increase, 108 (Pickens), 12 to 1, 6 to 1 and 3 to 1; third. Time—1:19 1/2. Hecograph, Thrill, Rebecca Moses, Difficult, Best Hit and Tucker, Nellie C, Bina Mora also ran.

SECOND RACE.—Selling; three-year-olds; five and a half furlongs.—Vidol, 110 (Steward), 3 to 5, 1 to 4, 1 to 5; first; Lady Spirituelle, 109 (Louden), 10 to 1, 3 to 1, 6 to 5; second; Pace White, 102 (Lilly), 15 to 1, 6 to 1, 3 to 1; third. Time—1:19 1/2. Hecograph, Thrill, Rebecca Moses, Difficult, Best Hit and Tucker, Nellie C, Bina Mora also ran.

WILLARD DIDN'T GET A CENT FOR WHIPPING JOHNSON; FIGHT RECEIPTS \$73,500

Expenses of Promoting Heavyweight Championship Battle at Havana About Equalled Money Taken In at the Gate.

By ROBERT EDGREN.

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Special Cable Despatch to The Evening World.

HAVANA, April 6.—Jess Willard fought Johnson for nothing. He knew when he entered the ring that he would not get a dollar except by winning the championship and getting money afterward. The expenses of holding the championship fight, including Johnson's \$32,000, reached \$73,500. The gate receipts were about the same. Willard was to receive one-half of all receipts over expenses.

The only other case on record of a championship winner receiving nothing was Fitzsimmons at Carson. Corbett got \$15,000. Fitzsimmons, who was taken into partnership with Promoter Dan Stuart just before the fight, received nothing. He had to pay part of Corbett's end out of his own pocket.

Willard, of course, will get some money later out of the moving pictures.

JOHNSON HAS REFUSED AN OFFER OF \$200,000 FOR FIGHT PICTURES.

HAVANA, April 6. Jack Johnson came downtown at noon. He was dressed with his customary brilliancy and he tried to smile and be jolly, as was his wont before the fight. It was evident, however, that the loss of the title cut deeply, and he frequently lapsed into moody spells. A big crowd followed him about, conding with him and praising him for the game fight he put up.

The former champion had several conferences to-day with promoters who want to buy his 50 per cent. interest in the moving pictures of the contest. The negro says he has been offered \$200,000, but he insists his interest is worth more, and he says he will not sell. There are indications, however, that he will.

Johnson says he has no definite plans for the future. He will leave here before the end of the week. He talks of taking a long sea voyage, possibly to China. He says he wants to get away from crowds and forget the result of this fight. He offers no excuses for his defeat. He thought himself good, but it was the old story of age, and he was not there. He said Willard was a fine fellow, a powerful hitter and game. He is too big, Johnson declared, for the average sized heavyweight ever to defeat.

WILLARD IS GLAD IT'S OVER AND STARTS NORTH TO-MORROW.

HAVANA, Cuba, April 6.—Jess Willard plans to leave Havana for Key West to-morrow morning. He will probably stop at Jacksonville and a couple of other cities on his way to New York.

Spectators, tourists and fight promoters are leaving the city as fast as facilities offer; the principals also are impatiently waiting to be off. The men most interested in the

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WIFE WHO CHARGES BROKER WAS CRUEL BY KISSING ACTRESS.



SMALL AUDIENCE COOL TO-DAY TO BILLY SUNDAY

Slight Warmth Shown Evangelist as Afternoon Session Opens in Paterson.

PATERSON, N. J., April 6.—The Paterson tabernacle was not more than three-quarters filled to-day when Billy Sunday stepped to the platform shortly before 2 o'clock this afternoon, although the sun had been shining for two hours.

The rows of benches nearest the platform were well filled but the rear of the auditorium was bare. There was nowhere the pragmatic crowds at the tabernacle to greet the evangelist when he arrived. It was a day which, at its outset, was utterly lacking in enthusiasm.

Brief applause greeted Sunday when he took his seat. He had the same smile upon his face as on the opening day but looked tired.

During prayer, Billy Sunday, with a hand half veiling his lips, whispered to himself and made abrupt little gestures as if he were releasing a sermon he was about to deliver.

At the end of the prayer Billy stepped to the reading desk and inclined his head toward his audience in greeting. The applause that welcomed him was surprisingly brief and devoid of anything approaching fervor.

With a few words Billy said "How Dye Do" to the crowd and then started the ushers along the aisles with their tin pannikins for the offering.

Billy Sunday's sermon this afternoon was taken from the parable of the Publican and Pharisee in the eighteenth chapter of St. Luke.

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GERMAN SUBMARINE OUTRUNS BRITISH SHIP IN GALE ON CHANNEL

Raider Overhauls Steamer Northlands as She Tries to Escape and Torpedoes Her—Another British Ship Sunk in North Sea.

SWEDISH SHIP SEIZED, TAKEN TO A GERMAN PORT

LONDON, April 6.—Activities of the German submarines and other war craft are reported to-day from three widely separated points.

The British steamer Northlands was torpedoed and sunk in the Channel off Beachy Head, the British trawler Agatha was sunk in the North Sea and the Swedish steamer England is said to have been seized and taken to a German port.

A report reached here to-night that a Danish steamer has been torpedoed in the North Sea by a German submarine.

The Northlands was sunk by a big submarine that dashed through a heavy sea at incredible speed. While some of the crew, landed at Deal to-day, believed the attacking submarine was the U-12, others believed it was of a newer and far more powerful type.

Word of the sinking of the Northlands was received only a short time before the crew of the Grimby trawler Agatha was landed at Blyth, near Newcastle. The Agatha was overhauled and sunk by a submarine in the North Sea after a short chase.

The Northlands ignored the first signal from the submarine commanding her to halt. Her stokers set at work furiously and, swinging zigzag fashion, she dashed in toward shore. A gale was rolling up high waves in the channel, but in a few minutes the submarine was alongside the Northlands and signalled: "Abandon your ship!"

The boats were lowered and the crew was pulling away when a terrific explosion nearly broke the steamer in two.

"At the same instant," said one of the Northlands' sailors, "her whistle mysteriously broke out in a wailing death shriek that lasted until the waves engulfed her. It was devilish uncanny."

The steamer was a 2,500-ton vessel. She carried a cargo of iron ore, and settled quickly. The submarine hurried off without offering any assistance to the crew, who drifted about in two small boats for nearly seven hours.

The Swedish steamer England, from Buenos Aires for Gothenburg, has been seized by the Germans in the Baltic and taken into a German port, according to despatches appearing in Stockholm newspapers.

The England was loaded with mine and bran. She had discharged part of her cargo at Gothenburg and was proceeding to Stockholm when seized.

German Fleet Cut Off From Base By Own Minefield; Is in Hiding

COPENHAGEN, April 6.—The German fleet was returning from its Russian expedition yesterday when suddenly it found itself caught in its own minefield, which had gone adrift.

The weather has been very bad during the last week and it is supposed that the mines must have got loose and floated into neutral waters. As a result of these drifting mines all maritime traffic has been stopped, and it is reported that six big German steamers have been sunk by them. I crossed to Sweden yesterday and during the journey several mines were seen floating in the sea, making the passage most dangerous.

The German squadron has, it seems, been prevented from returning to its naval base, and in the meantime has taken refuge between the islands of Gotland and Oland until the passage has been cleared.

German Submarine Caught In a French Net, Says Paris

PARIS, April 6.—A German submarine has become securely entangled in a net specially designed for that purpose and placed off Dover, according to the Petit Journal's Dunkirk correspondent. The French naval authorities expect to capture the submarine when it comes to the surface.

Miles of submarine traps have been set by the British navy at harbor entrances and other strategic points around the British Isles to catch German submarines engaged in blockading England. The traps are not unlike gill nets used by fish-

men. Malleable iron frames ten feet square, three frames joined, are sunk to a depth of thirty feet, suspended from immense buoys. If a submarine, which is a blind thing when submerged, enters one of these frames its sides are caught, causing the lower frame to buckle upward, catching the propeller. Thus the craft is in the position of a fish floundering in a net and its occupants are doomed.

It was reported that three submarines had been caught in this way during the first ten days of the blockade, but this report was not confirmed.