New-York Tribune.

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WILL NOT STOP SEALING.

GREAT BRITAIN REFUSES THE REQUEST OF THIS COUNTRY.

FORMALLY DECLINES TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES, RUSSIA AND JAPAN IN THE EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE SEAL HERD—CANADIAN OBJECTION THE REASON.

London, Dec. 27.—Lord Salisbury, the Premier, has written to United States Ambassador Hay in response to America's latest proposals in the Behring Sea controversy, her request that Great Britain should enter into an agreement with the United States, Russia and Japan to stop sealing.

Great Britain declines to enter into such an agreement. Lord Salisbury says, in substance, that he has communicated with the Canadian Government, which has the foremost interest in the sealing question, and that Canada is unwilling to become a party to such an arrangement as is proposed by the United States. Therefore, England, continues Lord Salisbury, whose interest is but slight, would not be justified in acceding to the proposals.

GERMANS DEFEATED THE MBOULIES.

DENIAL OF A STORY FROM THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—The Governor of the Cameroons, the German colony on the west coast of Africa, has cabled to the home government, saying that there is no truth in the story received in London by mail on December 7 that a German expedition, consisting of six white officers and two hundred natives, recently met with a severe reverse at the hands of the Mboulies, a tribe which has long harassed the German trade caravans. On the contrary, the Governor reports that the German expedition has completely defeated the tribe and has captured its capital with slight loss.

MUTINY IN A CANADIAN PRISON.

THE CONVICTS SULKY BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T GET A CHRISTMAS TREAT.

Montreal, Dec. 27.—Because they did not get Christmas delicacies, the convicts in St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary have kept up an incessant howl for two nights. There were no religious services yesterday, and no work was done to-day. Warden Foster has threatened to use the lash if quiet is not kept to-night.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S HEALTH.

THE EX-CHANCELLOR CANNOT WALK OR SLEEP OR ANSWER LETTERS.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—The "Hamburger Nachrichten" denies that Prince Bismarck's gout is better, and says he cannot walk or sleep, and is unable to read or answer his friends' letters. The former Chancellor is described as being irate at the statement that his health is satisfactory, and is quoted as saying:

"If the gentleman who wrote that were in my place he would be able to get an idea of what a 'satisfactory condition' is."

DOES NOT WANT ST. THOMAS.

ENGLAND NOT COVETOUS OF MORE ISLANDS IN THE WEST INDIES.

London, Dec. 27.—"The Daily Chronicle" ridicules the notion that England is negotiating for the purchase of the Danish West Indies. It says:

"Quite apart from the breach it would make in our relations with the United States the purchase of more West Indian islands is the very last thing England would think of."

LORD CREWE HURT WHILE HUNTING.

THROWN FROM HIS HORSE WHILE FOLLOWING THE HOUNDS.

London, Dec. 27.—The Earl of Crewe, while hunting with the Cheshire hounds to-day, was thrown from his horse, sustaining a fracture of the collar-bone and serious injuries about the head.

Lord Crewe was born January 12, 1858. He is the son of the late Richard Monckton Milnes, the first Baron Houghton. In 1884 he assumed by royal license the additional arms and surname of Crewe, and in the following year was raised to the peerage of the United Kingdom. In 1886, while Baron Houghton, he was a lord-in-waiting to Her Majesty, and from 1892 to 1895 was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He married in 1880 Sibyl Marcia, daughter of Sir Frederick Ulric Graham. She died in 1887. Lord Crewe has three daughters, but no sons.

BOXING DAY IN LONDON.

GAY HOLIDAY THRONGS FILL THE STREETS AND PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

London, Dec. 27.—There has been a sudden change in the weather. The fog has dispersed, and the day was mild and beautiful. London turned out en masse to enjoy the Boxing Day diversions. All the amusement resorts were jammed, and the streets rang from morning till late in the evening with laughter, jollity and topical songs.

A score of pantomimes were produced in London and in the suburban theatres, each house giving afternoon and evening shows, with probably record takings.

Sixty-eight thousand three hundred and seventy-two people visited the World's Fair at Agricultural Hall, Islington; 24,897 visited Mme. Tussaud's exhibition; 26,217 went to the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, and 22,661 passed the gates of Barnum and Bailey's mammoth show in the gigantic Olympia Building, at Kensington, where many thousands were turned away from the opening performance, which was an immense success.

BOMB IN A GERMAN THEATRE.

Olmutz, Moravia, Dec. 27.—A bomb, made of gas-piping and filled with powder, was exploded in the German Theatre to-day. Little damage was done, but the incident has caused great excitement among the German residents.

A COSTLY BLAZE IN ENGLAND.

London, Dec. 27.—A fire broke out this evening in the drygoods store of Messrs. Jermyn & Perry, High-st., King's Lynn, Norfolk. The local fire engine collapsed and the flames spread rapidly, soon destroying a number of the adjoining business houses.

The total damage is estimated at £100,000.

AN ORANGEMEN'S PARADE FORBIDDEN.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27.—Sir Herbert Murray, Governor of Newfoundland, has issued a proclamation forbidding an Orange procession projected for next Sunday, because in 1883, the last time an Orange parade took place, a riot occurred in which seven man were killed.

GREECE'S WOUNDED FEELINGS SOOTHED.

Constantinople, Dec. 27.—The Turkish Government, replying to the representations of Greece, has explained that the firing upon the Greek gunboat Actium by the Turks at Prevesa on Saturday last as the vessel was leaving the Gulf of Ambracia was due to a misunderstanding.

FELL ON THE PARK THEATRE STAGE.

"DAN" DALY, THE COMEDIAN, BADLY INJURED IN BOSTON.

Boston, Dec. 27.—"Dan" Daly, the well-known comedian, was rendered unconscious by a fall on the stage of the Park Theatre to-night. At the Massachusetts General Hospital it is said that no serious results are anticipated. His skull is not fractured, as was at first feared.

PERSIAN VILLAGERS MASSACRED.

THE NEWS GIVEN IN A LETTER RECEIVED BY JACOB SARGIS IN CINCINNATI.

Cincinnati, Dec. 27.—Jacob Sargis, of Ooramiah, Persia, who is now in this city giving talks on Persia and Armenia, has just received a letter from friends in his Persian home informing him that a band of raiders from Kurdistan had massacred all the inhabitants of a Persian Christian town of eight hundred souls, near Salmas, Persia.

HEAVY DAMAGE BY FIRE.

LOSSES AGGREGATING $100,000 INFLICTED BY A MIDNIGHT BLAZE IN DUANE-ST.

The five-story buildings at Nos. 72, 74 and 76 Duane-st., were wrecked early this morning by a fire which was discovered soon after midnight. The damage done to the buildings and their contents was estimated by Chief Bonner at $100,000. It is partly covered by insurance.

The buildings are occupied by a number of firms. The fire started in the basement of No. 72, where the Atlas Safe Company has its premises, and the flames had made the whole of the floor a roaring furnace before the fire was discovered. By the time the firemen got to work the whole building was ablaze to the top story and the flames had spread to the adjoining structures.

At 1:20 o'clock the fire was still burning fiercely, but the firemen, who had responded to the three alarms sent in, were getting it under control. Among the firms who will be heavy losers are the Atlas Safe Company which occupied the ground floor as well as the basement; the Rex Fire Extinguisher Company, on the second floor; the George McKibbon Book Binding Company, J. W. Ohannon Company, bookbinders; the Acme Printing Company, the National Blank Book Company and R. Neumann & Co., framemakers.

CASES AGAINST ARMOUR STRIKE A SNAG.

THE STATE MAY HAVE TO COMPROMISE THE SUITS FOR $1,700,000 PENALTIES.

Albany, Dec. 27.—The State Department of Agriculture, the Attorney-General and the special counsel engaged in the prosecution of the Armour companies, of Chicago, for damages amounting to $1,700,000, for violations of the dairy laws in the distribution of oleomargarine throughout the State, find themselves in a predicament that seems to indicate failure to convict. When a recent Court order was promulgated giving the State counsel the right to examine the books of the various railroad companies for evidence as to shipment it was believed that the conviction of the Armours would be certain and easy. It is found, however, that the same Court order refuses to state a change of venue and compels the Commissioner of Agriculture to prosecute the suits, of which there are a score, in the counties in which the violations are said to have occurred. This would mean endless litigation, without much prospect of result.

Some time ago the Armour people sought to make an agreement with the State authorities whereby if the suits were dropped they would agree to pay a certain amount and promise not to deliver any more unmarked oleomargarine in the State. The proposition has been submitted to the Governor, and, while he believes that prosecution should go on if there is any chance to convict, as a lawyer he is inclined to the idea that the acceptance of the proposition will be advantageous to the State.

VOYAGE OF THE CITY OF EVERETT.

THE FIRST TRIP OF THE KIND EVER MADE BY AN AMERICAN STEAMSHIP.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The American steamer City of Everett, which made the trip from San Francisco to Calcutta with a cargo of food for the starving Hindoos, is now on her way across the Atlantic from Spain with a cargo of ore for Charleston, S. C., where she will arrive about New Year's. After discharging her cargo at Calcutta she made a trip to Madras with coal, and, returning to Calcutta, she took on a load of jute for Valencia and Bilboa, Spain, by the Suez Canal. Discharging the jute in Spain, she got a cargo of iron ore for the United States. This is the first voyage of the kind ever made by an American steamer.

DASHED TO PIECES IN A MINE SHAFT.

TWO MEN LOSE THEIR LIVES THROUGH CUTTING AWAY ICE CONTRARY TO ORDERS.

Wilkesbarre, Penn., Dec. 27.—John Agnew and Thomas Kennedy were killed to-day in the Alden Shaft. They were sent down the shaft to cut the ice, which prevented the carriage from running. Starting at the top, contrary to custom, they cut away the ice until the car had descended two hundred feet, when it stuck. The men could not signal to the engineer, and the rope continued to coil on top of the car until its weight forced the carriage beyond the ice formation. The car descended swiftly until the rope broke, when it fell four hundred and fifty feet. The men were dashed to pieces. The engineer said he had warned the men to begin cutting the ice at the bottom.

THE CHICAGO COLISEUM FIRE.

WAS IT CAUSED BY A LITTLE DOG?—THE STRUCTURE NOT LIKELY TO BE REBUILT.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The Coliseum, which was burned on Christmas Eve, is said to have been set on fire by a pet dog, an explosion of gasolene having set the dog on fire. Lolita, a dancer in the Cuban village, says that Frank Murphy, an employe of the X-ray booth, confessed to her that he caused the explosion. She says he told this to her and her mother when he called on them about the benefit to be given the exhibitors. Lolita said:

"Murphy told me to-day how the fire started. It was caused by the explosion of gasolene in the X-ray exhibit. A big lamp was used to light the booth, but it was not considered sufficient, and the manager of the show sent for a gasolene torch. Murphy said a man named Bowen gave the gasolene torch to the manager, and about 5:20 o'clock Murphy carried in a five gallon can of gasolene. The lamp was burning close by, and when Murphy went to fill his gasolene torch he was quite near the burning lamp. Morley, the manager of the exhibit, was on a ladder almost over the lamp, arranging the drapery about the booth. Murphy started to pour the gasolene into the tank of the torch, which had been extinguished, but the fluid caught fire and went up in a puff.

"There was a little pet dog in the place, connected with the exhibit, and when the gasolene exploded the dog was covered with the burning oil. The poor beast rushed around in terror and set fire to the drapery of the booth, which hung to the floor. Quicker then a flash the whole trimming of the booth was on fire and the blaze was rising to the balcony, where our show was located. The men about the booths near by ran and got the extinguishers, but they would not work. A hose was turned on, but they could get no water. J. Morales, a Mexican dancer, warned me to get out, and we were just getting to the doors when the gas tank that supplied the lights for the tight-rope walkers exploded and the place was a mass of flames."

This story about the origin of the fire was corroborated by Frank Hatfield, the doorkeeper.

Murphy, when seen, denied that the explosion of a can of gasolene was the cause of the fire. He thought the drapery caught fire from a cigarette or cigar stump.

"The origin of the fire will be thoroughly investigated by the police and by agents of the insurance companies, and our company will do all in its power to assist in the investigation," said Colonel John T. Dickinson, president of the Coliseum Company. "I do not know yet whether the fire was due to the act of an incendiary or not, although I am inclined to think it was caused by some accident in the X-ray or picture exhibit. About all that I have heard that would indicate incendiarism has been gleaned from the newspapers. We will have a meeting of the Executive Committee to-morrow. The subject of rebuilding will doubtless be considered, but from what I know of the temper of the stockholders I am satisfied that no such project will be undertaken by them, for, although the Coliseum bade fair to be a very profitable investment, those who put money into it have, of course, lost heavily by its destruction. We had just got clear of debt and were in a fair way to make money in the future."

CHIQUITA BADLY HURT IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Chiquita, the Cuban midget, who has been on exhibition in the leading cities for some time, was probably fatally injured at the Zoo this evening. She was riding a bicycle in the ring when she collided with a burro, was thrown to the ground and received several kicks in the breast. The doctors have little hopes of her recovery.

RECOUNTING THE VOTES IN BOSTON.

Boston, Dec. 27.—The recount of the votes cast in the recent municipal election was begun by the Election Commission to-day. The work of recounting the vote for members of the Common Council in disputed wards will begin to-morrow.

RUSSIA TIGHTENING HER GRIP.

OCCUPATION OF KIN-CHAU, A CHINESE PORT NORTH OF PORT ARTHUR.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—The Russians have occupied Kin-Chau, north of Port Arthur.

Odessa, Dec. 27.—It is reported that two first-class cruisers, with a large number of extra marines, have been ordered to join the Russian squadron in Chinese waters.

CAN NOW DEFY THE WORLD.

IMPORTANCE OF THE LATEST SEIZURE MADE BY THE CZAR'S GOVERNMENT.

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—Eli T. Sheppard, who has recently returned from China, where he held an official position, commenting upon the reported occupation of Kin-Chau by Russia, said to-day:

"The seizure of the port shows that Russia has practically taken possession of Corea, Manchuria and the Gulf of Liao Tong and possesses a significance which will cause consternation among the diplomats in the world. Its situation is such that its possession practically places Russia in a position to defy the world."

THE BRITISH NORTH PACIFIC SQUADRON.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 27.—The British cruiser Leander and the torpedo destroyer Virigo have arrived on their way to Esquimault. The two warships left Portsmouth, England, last August, sailing at an average speed of twelve knots. They called at the principal ports of South America. On the way up the coast the United States coast-defence vessel Monterey was seen at Magdalena Bay. The Leander is a second-class cruiser of 4,300 tons and has a speed of sixteen knots. The Virigo is one of several torpedo destroyers built last year. She is reputed to have a speed of thirty knots. The two vessels will coal on Wednesday and will sail for Esquimault, calling at San Francisco on the way.

The cruiser Phaeton, with the destroyer Sparrowhawk, is following the Leander and Virigo, and is expected to arrive here within two weeks. The Phaeton and Leander are sister ships, as also are the Sparrowhawk and Virigo.

With these vessels added to the Esquimault squadron, Great Britain will have the strongest fleet by far that has ever assembled in the North Pacific.

PRINCE HENRY AT GIBRALTAR.

Gibraltar, Dec. 27.—The German warships Deutschland and Gefion, under the command of Prince Henry of Prussia, have arrived here on their way to China.

Prince Henry, on landing, was received by a guard of honor of the Grenadiers. He immediately paid a visit to Sir Robert Biddulph, Governor of Gibraltar, with whom he dined.

RUSSIAN RAILWAY TO PORT ARTHUR.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—It is asserted that the newly formed Russo-Corean Bank will organize a company to extend a railway to Port Arthur. The Russian vice-president of the Eastern Chinese Railway will start for Manchuria in February to inspect proposed variations of the route and to make a final decision as to other matters.

ENGINEERS REJECT THE COMPROMISE.

OVERWHELMING REPUDIATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO END THE STRIKE.

London, Dec. 27.—The ballot taken by the striking engineers, as the outcome of the recent conference between the representatives of the employers and the men, has resulted in a rejection of the proposed compromise by a hundred to one, while the trades-unions' proposal of fifty-one hours weekly, instead of forty-eight, has been rejected by a majority almost as large.

The ballot, therefore, is practically tantamount to a vote of no confidence in the leaders of the men. It is understood that the conference will not be resumed.

The lockout will now begin, though it is reported that several firms intend to open their shops to men willing to work on the employers' terms.

DR. NANSEN ON KLONDIKE RELIEF.

HE SAYS ICELAND HORSES WOULD BE BETTER TO USE THAN REINDEER FROM NORWAY.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 27 (Special).—Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Arctic explorer, who lectured in this city to-night, was asked to-day what he thought of the plan of bringing reindeer from Norway to get relief to Klondike miners. He said that if the reindeer were taken overland across the country they would probably reach Alaska in time to accomplish the desired object, and if they could reach Alaska they would undoubtedly be of great assistance in the relief work. The difficulty, however, would be to get the deer transported.

Dr. Nansen said the moss on which the reindeer subsist was about the only food they would eat, and they would starve before they would eat much of anything else. They had sometimes been trained to eat bread, but not very successfully. While there was an abundance of moss in Norway, he thought it would be impossible to gather it in such quantities as would be necessary for the feeding of five hundred deer in transportation from Norway to Alaska. The deer themselves seemed to know how to gather it better than human beings. He believed that if five hundred reindeer were shipped from Norway it would be impossible to keep more than a small percentage of them alive until Alaska should be reached.

According to his opinion, Iceland horses would be better for this work, for they would subsist on the moss of the Arctic regions and also on hay or other provender. They were also hardy and would do the work after they reached Alaska almost as well as the deer. It would be much easier to transport them, he said.

AN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER EVANS.

INTENDED TO EXPEDITE THE DISPOSITION OF PENSION CLAIMS.

Washington, Dec. 27.—A new order, the enforcement of which, it is believed, will expedite the disposition of pension claims now pending, has been issued by Commissioner Evans. It is as follows:

"Hereafter claims for increase of pension will not be considered within twelve months from the last action—allowance or rejection."

"The necessity for the new order," said an official of the Pension Bureau to-day, "grows largely out of the calls made on the office for a statement of the status of pending cases by members of Congress. These calls have to be answered, to the exclusion of other claims pending, which should be taken up in their order. It is only fair to those cases which have not had any consideration that they should be taken up as promptly as possible. The office does not think that any injustice or hardship will result to a claimant from refusing to reconsider his case after it has once been acted on for a period of twelve months. If a pension is allowed a new disability of such a character as to bring about serious results is not likely to develop within that period; while if the claim is rejected because of lack of disability the claimant in all probability will not become so disabled within the twelve months as to make a postponement of the case a hardship. The order is absolutely necessary for the prompt prosecution of the work of the bureau, and its enforcement will aid materially in bringing this about. Commissioner Evans has in preparation an order to be addressed to members of Congress, asking them to desist making special calls concerning the status, etc., of cases, in order that the business of the office may not be delayed unduly by the time required in answering them."

SUICIDE OF L. P. BOWEN.

Helena, Mont., Dec. 27.—L. P. Bowen, a son of ex-United States Senator Thomas Bowen, of Denver, committed suicide yesterday at Sapplington, on the Butte-Logan branch of the Northern Pacific. His body was found near the track, where an express train had thrown it, and near it was an empty bottle labelled "Poison." Bowen was on his way from Sheridan to Miles City, where he expected to take a place on "The Yellowstone Journal." He was suffering from alcoholism, and remarked on Saturday night that he had not been sober since last June. Bowen was for years mining editor of "The Helena Journal," Russell B. Harrison's paper in Helena. He was once editor and proprietor of "The Deer Lodge New Northwest," but left Deer Lodge and went to Sheridan, in Madison County, where he started "The Sheridan." He was not married. Mrs. Bowen, his mother, lives at Deer Lodge, Mont.

VICTORIAN DUTIES REDUCED.

Melbourne, Dec. 27.—The Victorian duties on woollen and silk materials, wearing apparel and woollen piece goods will be reduced 5 per cent after February 1 next.

BIG WHEEL-MAKERS ASSIGN

THE OVERMAN WORKS IN CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS., CLOSED.

CREDITORS TO MEET ON FRIDAY, WHEN ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE TO RESUME BUSINESS — LIABILITIES MUCH LESS THAN ASSETS.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 27.—The Overman Wheel Company, of Chicopee Falls, manufacturer of the Victor bicycle, made an assignment late this afternoon for the benefit of creditors. Henry H. Bowman, president of the Springfield National Bank, was appointed trustee. Albert H. Overman is president of the company, and the principal owner. He gave out a statement to-night showing that on November 10 the assets were $1,318,000, and the liabilities $539,000. The liabilities are largely in notes, held principally in Boston.

Mrs. Overman furnished $10,000 to-day to pay off the help, and the factory was closed. One week's pay is still due the hands. A meeting of the creditors will be held on Friday, and an attempt will be made to reorganize and continue the business. The company has advance orders amounting to $250,000.

The Overman company has been in business in Chicopee Falls for over fourteen years, and is one of the three or four largest manufacturers of bicycles in the country. When running full time nearly fifteen hundred men are employed, and, as skilled labor is required, the wages paid are high. About three years ago the manufacture of general sporting goods was added to the other business. All the goods manufactured are called "Victor." The company is organized under the laws of Connecticut, and the capital stock is $250,000.

MR. OVERMAN'S BUSINESS CAREER.

THE ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ASTONISHING NEWS TO MOST OF THE TRADE.

The cycling world will be astonished to learn that the well-known bicycle firm doing business under the name of the Overman Wheel Company has failed. The local branch of the company is at No. 23 Warren-st., and has been in charge of W. C. Overman for several years. A. H. Overman is the president of the concern, which is a stock company.

A prominent cycle manufacturer, who was seen last night, said that, while the notice of the failure was disagreeable news to him, it would not be a surprise to several of the larger makers. Only recently the Overman company became one of a syndicate of manufacturers which decided to establish agencies in department stores, and Simpson, Crawford & Simpson was the one to have the general distributing agency for this city.

The company which made the Victor wheel was organized in 1883, with a factory at Chicopee Falls, Mass. A. H. Overman was elected the president of the company, and the Victors soon were known wherever bicycles were ridden in this country. Mr. Overman was the first to bring out the safety in America, and the spring fork was another invention of his. He also introduced the cushion tire, which at that time was a sort of arc arrangement. The company was one of the first in this country to manufacture high-class tricycles.

Those in the trade who knew A. H. Overman intimately valued his friendship, and never lost an opportunity to meet and converse with him. His force of character and tenacity of purpose were well known, and he possessed a fund of cycle knowledge which served him to good purpose and made a discussion of the bicycle by him particularly interesting. His company has been in litigation at times with the Pope company, as well as with A. G. Spalding & Bros.

Mr. Overman is a self-made man. He is about forty-five years old. He was not a member of the National Board of Trade of Cycle Manufacturers, but he exhibited his wheels at the last cycle show held in this city. W. C. Overman, the local head of the company, lives at East Orange, N. J., and is popular in business, social and club circles.

It was only a few days ago that Mr. Overman explained to a Tribune reporter the working of the new chain and sprocket with which the Victor wheels were to have been geared next year. The company liked to be called the "anti-chainless wheel people." The new sprocket and chain are said to be almost proof against mud and other foulings when on the road. Last week Mr. Overman gave an example of how the new sprocket and chain worked. Securing a tin bucket, he got some mud, sand, gravel and water, and, mixing up the mess, walked out to one of the new wheels and began to smear it all over the chain and sprocket. Then the wheel was started and it ran, apparently, almost as easily as before the mud and water were put on it.

While the Overman Company has not as yet put a chainless wheel on the market, it was admitted at the local branch that the company at Chicopee Falls was working on a chainless model which would be ready for delivery early in the new year.

DANGEROUS NAVAL ACADEMY BUILDINGS.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROOSEVELT REPORTS THAT NEARLY $1,000,000 MUST BE SPENT IMMEDIATELY.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The dangerous state of the buildings at the Naval Academy led Secretary Long to request Assistant Secretary Roosevelt to make an inquiry into their condition and report on the repairs needed. Mr. Roosevelt's report, which has just been made, shows that the studies buildings have fallen into such ruin that the cadets have been assigned to attics and garrets as the only available spaces, while the storehouse is in so bad a condition that the storekeeper refuses to be responsible for the safety of the goods in his care.

Mr. Roosevelt found that there was need for much new construction, but the least that can be done is to rebuild immediately the armory, boathouse, power-house and basin for boats. This work is deemed to be immediately required in order that the boys shall not suffer in the technical part of their education. It is the design to make the new houses part of a general scheme for the reconstruction of the academic buildings. The work will cost between $800,000 and $1,000,000.

AFTER WILLIAM R. MORRISON'S PLACE.

THE ILLINOIS SENATORS URGE THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT DAVID T. LITTLER.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Senators Cullom and Mason, of Illinois, called upon the President this morning again to urge the appointment of State Senator David T. Littler, of Illinois, as the successor of William R. Morrison on the Interstate Commerce Commission. While it is known that the President has had Judge Paxson, of Pennsylvania, particularly in mind for that place, the Illinois Senators believe that he has not yet definitely decided to appoint Judge Paxson.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 27.—Grand Master Sargent, of the Firemen's Brotherhood, who has just returned from Washington, denied that he is a candidate for Interstate Commerce Commissioner, and fears that such a report may cast a reflection on his motives in opposing Judge Paxson. He says the Brotherhoods are pushing no candidates, but are strongly against Paxson.

KEEPERS OF "LINE STORES" CONVICTED.

THEY TRIED TO SELL LIQUOR IN CANADA AND THIS STATE AND PAY NO TAX TO EITHER.

Albany, Dec. 27.—John E. Overton and S. P. Goodspeed, proprietors of "line stores," have been convicted in Clinton County of trafficking in liquor without a certificate, and were each sentenced to pay a fine of $200 and serve thirty days in the county jail. The owners of these "line stores" attempted to evade the provisions of the Liquor Tax law of this State and the excise laws of Canada, so arranging their places of business that sales might be made in either country. Through the efforts of the Excise Department four of them have been indicted. Three have been convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of $200, and only one remains unconvicted.

A BIG JOB, INDEED!

NEWS ABOUT A SECRET SOCIETY PLEDGED TO KNOCK CIVIL SERVICE REFORM SILLY.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 27 (Special).—A well-known New-Yorker who held an important office under President Harrison in Washington has been to Lexington to organize a State branch of the secret association known as "Americans." He met a leading Lexington Republican, to whom he unfolded his plans, and this man gave out the details to-day.

The object of the association is ultimately to repeal all Civil Service laws, so far as they relate to the distribution of Federal patronage. The organization is to be National in scope, and is to be operated on the plan of a well-organized political party. Counties will be organized, and will have their headquarters and executive committees. The chairmen of these committees will form Congressional district committees; the chairman of each Congressional district committee will be a State committeeman, and the chairmen of the State committees will form the National Committee.

Every detail of the organization has been perfected, and all that is left to do is to secure members. They are not only pledged to absolute secrecy, but are required to take an oath that they will do all in their power toward bringing about a repeal of the Civil Service laws, and that they will not work for the re-election of any Congressman who supports the Civil Service system, nor for any legislator who votes for any United States Senator who favors Civil Service reform.

The man who gave out this information declines to make public the name of the New-Yorker who is organizing the association. He says that the association is rapidly growing, and within the next few years will become a power in National politics.

RUMOR OF A NEW TRUST COMPANY.

CONTROLLER FITCH, IT IS SAID, WILL BE PRESIDENT OF IT.

Rumor has it that when Ashbel P. Fitch vacates the Controller's office this week it will be to take the presidency of a large trust company. The capitalization of the new company is not mentioned, but its incorporators are said to be among the leading financiers and capitalists in this city.

Mr. Fitch declines to talk about the matter, but does not deny the truth of the reports. Rumor also connects Senator Platt's name with the new company.

GROCERS FAIL IN INDIANAPOLIS.

THE KRAG-REYNOLDS COMPANY ASSIGNS, WITH LIABILITIES OF $300,000 OR UPWARD.

Indianapolis, Dec. 27.—The Krag-Reynolds Company, wholesale grocers at Nos. 31 and 33 East Maryland-st., to-day filed a mortgage to Lafayette Perkins, as trustee for the various holders of promissory notes, to the amount of $226,229 38. Late this afternoon the firm assigned to E. L. McKee. The mortgage covers the firm's grocery stock, fixtures, accounts, etc., and several scattered pieces of real estate. There is also a mortgage covering chattels alone to secure certain notes, among them one for $27,367 54 to the Indiana National Bank, and one of $25,008 54 to the Capital National Bank, made December 21, 1897; one to Harriet N. Reynolds, of Dayton, Ohio, for $25,000; one to Nicholas McCarty Harrison for $25,000, made November 1, and other similar notes. Charles M. Reynolds is president and treasurer of the company; William A. Krag, vice-president and general manager, and William Wallace Krag, secretary.

Mr. McKee said that he would take charge of the affairs of the company immediately. He had not made an examination, but understood that the company's liabilities were in excess of $350,000. In a statement made by W. W. Krag, the liabilities were placed in the neighborhood of $300,000, and the assets at $400,000. Mr. Krag said it was the intention to reorganize the company and continue in business.

SAILORS ADRIFT ON AN ICY SEA.

BITTER EXPERIENCE OF THE BALSORA L. SHERMAN'S CREW ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

Salem, Mass., Dec. 27.—The two-masted schooner Ernst T. Lee, Captain Rawding, of South River, N. J., bound for Boston with a load of clay, brought into Salem Harbor this morning the crew of five men of the schooner Balsora L. Sherman, Captain Plummer, from South River, N. J., for Boston, which, the sailors said, foundered without warning on Saturday night off Highland Light. Captain Plummer of the wrecked schooner says that he left South River on December 15, and was in Vineyard Haven for a week on account of bad weather. For the same reason he put into Edgartown on Friday night. On Saturday afternoon another start for Boston was made.

About ten miles off Highland Light on Saturday evening the vessel sprang a leak. She was a mass of ice, and the wind had become a gale. The sails were blown away, and while the crew were endeavoring to work the pumps the bow sank into the water. The men had barely time to jump into the boat at the stern and pull away.

For several hours they drifted around, and were finally picked up by an outward-bound vessel. In a short time, however, they were transferred to the Ernst T. Lee, which was bound for Boston.

MINERS AND OPERATORS TO CONFER.

HOPING TO MAKE AN INTERSTATE WAGE SCALE FOR NEXT YEAR.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 27.—The Executive Committee of the United Mine Workers of America and coal operators from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois met here to-day to adjust wages to stand until an interstate convention of miners and operators can be held. West Virginia was not represented. It was decided to hold a joint conference in Chicago on January 17, following the National Miners' Convention in this city. While neither the operators nor the miners will say positively that an interstate wage agreement will be made at that time, they are all hopeful that the meeting will result in an amicable adjustment of the wage scale for the ensuing year.

In the mean time the present conditions will remain undisturbed. The miners will decide at their National Convention upon the demands to be made at the joint conference. An advance of probably not less than 10 cents a ton in the price of mining will be asked.

NO PART OF GREENLAND WANTED.

STORY OF AN ATTEMPTED PURCHASE BY THE UNITED STATES DENIED.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Nothing is known in official circles here of any overtures made by the Government for the purchase of a portion of Northwestern Greenland for use as a coaling and naval station, and it can be set down as an unfounded statement. Naval authorities say they have absolutely no use for a coaling station in that part of the globe. The present customs laws of Greenland forbid any communication between foreign ships and Greenland ports, except under special permits, which must be secured from the Danish officials, and it is suggested that the present story may have its foundation in the attempt of some Arctic explorer to obtain privileges from the Danish Government in his effort to establish a station for a base of supplies in the course of an attempt to reach the North Pole.

ELECTRIC CONSOLIDATION IN ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—Papers of consolidation were filed this afternoon by the Missouri Electric Light and Power Company and the Edison Electric Company. The Knickerbocker Trust Company, as trustee, under a deed of August 1, 1893, first sold to A. D. Brown for $314,000 all the property of the Edison Illuminating Company covered by the original deed securing the first issue of $4,000,000 gold bonds of the company. Then the Missouri Electric Light and Power Company deeded all its property, stock and belongings to A. D. Brown for $100, subject to two deeds of trust aggregating $1,100,000. In a third instrument A. D. Brown and wife deeded to the Missouri Edison Electric Company for $4,000,000 all the property turned over to Brown by the Missouri Electric Light and Power Company deed. Then the new company gave to the Knickerbocker Company and J. C. Van Blarcom a deed of trust on the whole business to secure the issue of $4,000,000 in bonds to be applied as directed by the meeting of stockholders held December 11, 1897.

CLEVELAND COMPANIES COMBINING.

Cleveland, Dec. 27.—The Shipowners' Drydock Company to-day passed into the hands of the Globe Shipbuilding Company. The Shipowners' Company is capitalized at $300,000, with shares at $100. The Globe has secured $250,000 of the stock, paying $125 per share.

CUBAN PEOPLE STARVING.

MANY THOUSAND RECONCENTRADOS IN TERRIBLE DISTRESS.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGAIN APPEALS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR AID—A GIFT OF $5,000 RECEIVED—THE ARTICLES MOST NEEDED.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The greatest distress prevails among many thousands of people in Cuba. Starvation not only impends, but is an actual fact. The President has been informed of the facts from sources whose credibility cannot be doubted. He has gone to the length of his constitutional power in calling the state of affairs to the attention of the American people. The State Department has used all its authority to mitigate the conditions in the island, and the letter to the public sent out by Secretary Sherman the day before Christmas pointed the way to further alleviation of the miserable condition of the reconcentrados.

To-day $5,000 was received by Assistant Secretary Day from certain charitably disposed persons whose names are not disclosed, and this sum will be remitted by telegraph early to-morrow morning to Consul-General Lee for disbursement among the more pressing cases. It is hoped by the Department of State that the American people will come promptly to the relief, by subscriptions of money, clothing and supplies of various kinds. The newspapers are expected to lend a generous aid in carrying forward this movement.

The machinery for distribution has been provided by the State Department, and Consul-General Lee has undertaken, with the aid of the American consular officers in Cuba, to give personal attention to the distribution of the gifts of the American people. The Ward Line of steamers, plying between New-York and Havana, it is said, has undertaken to forward any contributions of goods to General Lee, and it is believed that the American railroads will do their part by carrying the goods to the seaboard. The Spanish authorities have consented to remit all duties on relief supplies so forwarded. The State Department directs that they be sent direct to Consul-General Lee, either money by draft or check, or goods.

Consul-General Lee to-night cabled to the State Department just what is wanting at this juncture, and his list is as follows: Summer clothing, second hand or otherwise, principally for women and children; medicines for fevers, including a large proportion of quinine; hard bread, cornmeal, bacon, rice, lard, potatoes, beans, peas, salt fish, principally codfish; any canned goods, especially condensed milk for the starving children. Money will also be useful to secure nurses and medicines, and for many other purposes.

THE NEW CUBAN CABINET.

MEN WHO WILL SEEK TO ESTABLISH AUTONOMY IN THE ISLAND.

Havana, Dec. 27.—It is asserted that the following have been accepted by Governor-General Blanco as members of the first Colonial Cabinet under the regime of autonomy:

President of the Cabinet—Señor JOSE MARIA GALVEZ.
Minister of Finance—Señor RAFAEL MONTORO, Marquis of Montoro.
Minister of the Interior—Señor ANTONIO GOVIN.
Minister of Education—Señor FRANCISCO ZAYAS.
Minister of Commerce—Señor ARSENIO AMBLARD.
Minister of Posts and Telegraphs—Señor RAFAEL FERNANDEZ CASTRO.

It is understood that they will take the oath at the Palace on Saturday next after attending the celebration of mass. The Under Secretaries will then be nominated, together with the chief subordinates of the permanent staff.

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SURPRISED.

NOTHING IN MINISTER WOODFORD'S LATEST NOTE FOR THE MADRID PRESS TO GET EXCITED ABOUT.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The officials here are somewhat surprised at the exhibition of feeling at Madrid over the latest note of Minister Woodford, delivered to the Spanish Foreign Office the day before Christmas. While the note itself will not be made public at present, it is said that there is no reason whatever why it should be withheld, except the fact that the preceding steps in the negotiations have not yet seen the light in the newspapers, and it is desirable when the publication is made to preserve the complete chain of affairs in natural order. The correspondence may be called for by Congress soon, and it is not likely to be withheld on grounds of public policy. The last communication presented by Minister Woodford was in answer to the Spanish note called forth by Mr. Woodford's first note after his arrival at Madrid. In that note the Minister pointed out the interest of his country in an early termination of the present struggle in Cuba, and asked when such a conclusion could be expected.

The Spanish Government in its reply acknowledged the interest of this country in the matter, but suggested, after stating what it intended to do to ameliorate conditions in Cuba, that the United States could exercise its good offices by stopping filibustering. To this Mr. Woodford replied with his note of last week. It is said to be a