New-York Tribune.

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BIG FRAUDS IN MANILA

WHOLESALE ARRESTS OF ARMY OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS.

THE COMMISSARY DEPARTMENT INVOLVED IN SCANDAL—MORE ARRESTS EXPECTED—A CONTRACTOR'S PROFIT.

Manila, March 31.—Interest in the capture and fate of Aguinaldo is wellnigh overshadowed in Manila by sensational developments, present and prospective, of frauds in the Commissary Department. How widely these extend has not yet been ascertained, but enough is already known to justify the belief that they are far-reaching.

Captain Frederick J. Barrows, of the 30th Volunteer Infantry, quartermaster of the Department of Southern Luzon, together with seven commissary sergeants, several civilian clerks, a prominent government contractor, the assistant manager of the Hotel Oriente, the proprietors of three of the largest bakeries in Manila, a number of storekeepers and other persons have been arrested.

The investigation has scarcely begun, but thousands of sacks of flour, a quantity of bacon and wagon loads of other goods, all bearing government marks, have been found in the possession of unauthorized persons.

It is alleged that the contractor in question, who has been doing a business approximating $100,000 a month, has spent huge sums in entertaining officers.

A prominent commissary officer is accused of leading a scandalously immoral life.

It is asserted that large quantities of stores have been lost or stolen in transit, and also that there is a shortage in the commissary depot.

New scandals are developed daily. Illicit transactions have been traced back to June, 1900, and it is possible that there are others of earlier date.

The exorbitant tariff on provisions makes the surreptitious sales of commissary supplies immensely profitable.

It is understood that other United States officers may be arrested.

Lieutenant Philip K. Sweet, of the 46th Volunteer Infantry, is prosecuting the investigation, under the direction of Colonel Wilder, chief of police.

NEWS TO OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

GENERAL CORBIN INCLINED TO THINK THE REPORTS ARE EXAGGERATED.

Washington, March 31.—It was said at both the White House and War Department to-night that absolutely nothing had been received by the government regarding the alleged unearthing of crooked work on the part of army quartermasters and others in Luzon, and the arrest of a number of persons in and out the army for stealing property of the government or receiving stolen government property.

General Corbin said, furthermore, that the government had no intimation of any sort that such developments might be expected. He was inclined for this reason to think the frauds against the government could hardly be so serious as reported, though admitting this opinion was based wholly on the lack of advices from the government. Captain Barrows, he said, was not the regular quartermaster for Southern Luzon, and must have been acting quartermaster there at the time of the arrests.

EMPEROR WILLIAM'S WOUND.

HE BELIEVES IT TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A SHOT FROM AN AIR RIFLE.

Berlin, March 31.—The investigation into the causes of the attack upon Emperor William by Dietrich Weiland in Bremen has not yet been concluded, but is still being vigorously pushed. The Imperial Court at Leipsic, which alone can try cases of high treason, has sent two officials to Bremen to assist in the investigation, which is now directed chiefly with a view to clearing up three points not yet explained, namely, what company Weiland regularly frequented before the attempt, whether he received orders from plotters, particularly anarchists, socialists or Anglophobes, to carry out the attempt, having also in view what has become of the suspicious individuals who were seen near him just before it was made, and what weapon was used by Weiland or by some other person.

Evidence tending to throw light upon these points has been accumulated, but it is too slight to warrant indictment. The question whether Weiland actually threw a piece of iron, as was at first alleged, or some one fired a shot with an air rifle, is still unanswered to the satisfaction of the authorities.

Emperor William inclines to the air rifle theory. His physicians incline to the belief that a piece of iron was thrown. The Emperor is also convinced that Weiland was a tool, and in this conviction he is sustained by his entourage.

Immediately after the preliminary investigation is closed the evidence will be sent to the Imperial Court at Leipsic, whose president will come to Berlin at Eastertide to confer with Herr von Schoenstedt, Prussian Minister of Justice, and with the Imperial Judicial Department, with a view to ascertaining whether sufficient grounds exist to begin a trial for high treason.

THE KAISER TO HIS GUARDS.

TOLD THEM WHAT HE HAD DONE FOR THE ARMY SINCE HE ASSUMED COMMAND.

Berlin, March 31.—The Berlin papers publish a speech said to have been delivered by Emperor William May 29, of last year, at a luncheon following a parade of the Guards. His Majesty referred to the occasion of a parade of the Guards, May 29, 1888, before Emperor Frederick, who was then seriously ill, and continued as follows:

At that time the position I should assume with reference to the army was hidden in the mists of the future. To-day no doubt is possible on this point. I may say that, since the command of the army has devolved upon me, I have exercised it and drilled it so that when I put it to a trial I may feel secure and certain that it will not fail me.

His Majesty then proceeded to say that, for a long time and in deference to the solicitation of Field Marshals Prince Albrecht, Count von Blumenthal and Count von Waldersee, he had considered the question of assuming the grade of Field Marshal. He continued:

According to Prussian tradition only the winning of a battle or the capturing of a first rate fortress entitles one to that honor. This has not been vouchsafed to me; but, in my own vindication, I can say that for twelve years I have worked on the army to the utmost of my power, and I think I have succeeded in keeping it up to the level of its past. In a few years I hope to be strong enough at sea to secure respect for the name of Germany throughout the world. This new offensive flank which I am building on to the army by means of a powerful fleet will place Germany in a position to defy all danger, no matter when a combination may be formed against her.

SUEZ CANAL BLOCKED.

VOYAGE OF ROYAL TOURISTS ON THE OPHIR DELAYED BY A DREDGER.

Port Said, March 31.—The Suez Canal is temporarily blocked by a dredger, and the steamer Ophir, bearing the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, en route for Australia, was compelled to stop about three hours' sail from Suez.

THE LAKE SHORE LIMITED.

an up-to-date train in every respect between New York and Chicago via ... at 5:30 P. M. via New York Central's Lake Shore Limited, leaving Grand Central Station for Chicago, Cleveland and ... sleeping cars to Chicago and to St. Louis via Big ... connection for Kansas St. Louis at 5:30 P. M. every day.—Advt.

DIED A HERO'S DEATH.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER ROPER SUFFOCATED ON THE PETREL.

LOST HIS LIFE IN AN EFFORT TO RESCUE A SAILOR—A TRAGEDY AT CAVITE.

Cavité, P. I., March 31.—At 7 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered in the sail room of the United States gunboat Petrel, Lieutenant-Commander Jesse Mims Roper commanding. The sail room is a small compartment adjoining the magazine. The heat was intense, the smoke suffocating and the flames difficult to extinguish.

Lieutenant-Commander Roper was the first to descend into the hold, but he was forced to return to the deck. Others then went down. Patrick Toner, a seaman, was prostrated and about to perish when Lieutenant-Commander Roper endeavored to rescue him and was suffocated in the attempt.

Lieutenant Josiah Slutts McKean and Cadet Lewis suffered severely in bringing the body of Lieutenant-Commander Roper to the deck.

Twenty-two of the crew were prostrated, Toner, Evans, Flaherty, Larsen, Kessler, Cahey, Burton, Smith, Sullivan and Forsboon seriously, but all will recover.

The contents of the sail room were destroyed, but the damage to the gunboat was slight. The origin of the fire has not been ascertained; possibly it was a case of spontaneous combustion.

The death of Lieutenant-Commander Roper is greatly deplored. His body will be sent to the United States April 5 by the Buffalo.

ADMIRAL REMEY SENDS THE NEWS.

INFORMS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE DISTRESSING DEATH OF LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER ROPER.

Washington, March 31.—The Navy Department early this morning received a cable dispatch from Admiral Remey, Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic Station, giving a brief account of a fire in the sail room of the gunboat Petrel and of the death of the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Commander Jesse Mims Roper, as a result of an heroic effort to rescue the men below. The dispatch also shows that twenty-two other officers and men were prostrated, but all are recovering. Admiral Remey's dispatch is as follows:

Cavité, March 31, 1901.

Fire discovered sail room Petrel 7 this morning, Roper commanding. After going below once, went again against advice. Attempted recover men below. He suffocated, died at 7:45. Twenty-two other officers and men entirely prostrated. All recovering. Fire out. Damage immaterial. Send Roper's remains by Buffalo.

REMEY.

The department at once sent a telegram to H. F. Fay, the brother-in-law of Lieutenant-Commander Roper, at No. 73 Monmouth-st., Longwood, Mass., asking that he inform Mrs. Roper of the news. The following expression of sympathy and appreciation is also made:

With this sad news the department sends to Mrs. Roper deep sympathy in the great loss she has sustained and the highest appreciation of the gallantry and self-sacrifice with which Lieutenant-Commander Roper gave his life for his fellow men. It was a hero's death.

The deceased officer was born in Missouri, and entered the naval service on June 25, 1868. He was commissioned to the rank held by him at the time of his death on March 3, 1899, and ordered to command the Petrel November 15, 1899. The Petrel was one of the vessels under Admiral Dewey at the battle of Manila Bay, when she was in charge of Lieutenant-Commander E. P. Wood. The latter officer came home shortly after, and Lieutenant-Commander Roper succeeded him.

The Buffalo, on which the body will be sent home, is now used for the transportation of troops, and is about to return to the United States by way of the Mediterranean.

AGUINALDO PLEASED.

TREATED LIKE MACARTHUR'S GUEST RATHER THAN A PRISONER.

Manila, March 31.—Aguinaldo continues to express himself as pleased with and impressed by the courteous treatment accorded him by General MacArthur.

"I am a prisoner," said he to-day, "but I am treated like a guest."

CHARGED WITH ARSON.

ITALIAN'S FELLOW WORKMEN SAY HE PLANNED TO BURN THEM IN THEIR HUTS FOR REVENGE.

Detectives last night arrested James Frank, of No. 403 East Forty-eighth-st., on a charge of arson. Until last week he was employed by a contractor, Salvatore Fuscio, at the Street Cleaning Department's dumps at East Forty-sixth-st. and the river.

Fuscio discharged Frank for quarrelling with the other laborers. He says the latter vowed vengeance on all. They feared him, and their vigilance apparently saved them from a horrible fate.

One of the sights of the East River front is the shacks of the Italian laborers on the dumps, hovels constructed under the raised pierwork.

Frank's plan for vengeance, it is declared, was a plot to soak the shacks and pier with kerosene, and, applying a torch, roast his former fellow workers alive.

Fuscio and George Bott, foreman of the abattoir adjoining the pier, say they were talking together at 3 o'clock yesterday morning when they saw a man carrying a large can stealthily creep out on the pier. They watched him. He, they allege, poured oil on the pier, which, dripping through the cracks, fell into the hovels and saturated the clothing of the eighteen men sleeping there. They say the culprit was Frank. They say they tried to catch him, but that he was too quick and escaped, although they and several of the laborers, aroused by their calls, chased him several blocks.

Frank denies every detail of the charge, and says he can prove an alibi. The detectives said they would be able to prove him guilty.

DIES AS A RESULT OF HIS FIDELITY.

CAPTAIN SUCCUMBS TO HEART DISEASE BECAUSE OF OVEREXERTION IN SAVING SCOW.

Captain Anson, in charge of the scow Bedford, was found dead in the cabin of the scow Admiral at Seventy-ninth-st. and the North River yesterday. The Bedford was employed to lighter away earth taken from the rapid transit tunnel. The Bedford sprung a leak late Saturday night, and Captain Anson went to the pumps. He called on longshoremen to help him. Despite their work the scow filled and turned turtle. The men escaped a wetting by leaping aboard the Admiral, lying alongside. They found nobody in the Admiral, and Captain Anson went down into the cabin to write a check for the men. He was seated at a table, with pen in hand, when he suddenly fell over. He was dead when an ambulance arrived. Heart disease killed him. He had overexerted himself in an effort to save his employer's property.

FOUR NEW TRAINS.

Wednesday, April 3rd, the new Pullman cars, said to be the finest ever built, go into service on the New York Central's Lake Shore Limited, leaving Grand Central Station for Chicago, Cleveland and St. Louis at 5:30 P. M. every day.—Advt.

LORD SALISBURY'S HEALTH

PROBABILITY OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM OFFICE SOON.

MR. BALFOUR EXPECTED TO SUCCEED HIM AS PRIME MINISTER—A RECORD REVENUE YEAR—CROWDED STUDIOS.

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[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, April 1, 1 a. m.—There were alarming bulletins at several of the clubs yesterday respecting the health of the Prime Minister with forecasts of his resignation and retirement from public life before the end of April. While these announcements were premature and caused needless anxiety, there had been no concealment of the truth at Westminster for several months that Lord Salisbury was aging rapidly and that he was not likely to remain in office after the new reign had fairly opened. Even before his present indisposition it had been evident that his health was failing and that he was looking jaded and worn. The Queen's death and the press of public business in connection with the opening sessions and ceremonials of the new reign have prevented a journey to the Riviera, which might have invigorated him, and possibly it may now be too late for him to take advantage of a respite from official duties. It has been an open secret that the Prime Minister was weary of public life and anxious to retire after the general elections, but was dissuaded by urgent requests from the court. His inclinations prompted retirement when the King ascended the throne, but he was again forced to make a personal sacrifice and wait for a more convenient season. Those who have heard his recent speeches have been impressed with his listless manner, lack of animation and his increasing feebleness. Members of Parliament have been predicting since January his resignation before the close of the present session. It has been noticeable that the King has spared him needless attendance at court and accepted the service of Mr. Balfour many times when the Prime Minister would naturally have been in consultation with him. Even if current reports of Lord Salisbury's failing health are exaggerated there is little reason to doubt that there will be a new Prime Minister before midsummer, probably Mr. Balfour in preference to the Duke of Devonshire or Mr. Chamberlain. There were no notable callers at Arlington-st. yesterday and official bulletins do not yet admit the case is serious.

Once again the revenue of the United Kingdom has broken the record. For the financial year ended yesterday the sum of £130,384,684 was paid into the Exchequer, the total revenue of the country, including the amount paid by local taxation accounts, being £140,018,624. As compared with the previous year the revenue shows an increase of over £10,000,000. The result is largely due to the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his last budget raised the income tax to a shilling in the pound. The revenue shows a surplus of £2,860,000 over the amount estimated twelve months ago. But the taxpayers have no hope that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will in his annual statement this month lighten their burden, for the increase in the revenue cannot keep pace with the increase in expenditure.

It is agreed by this morning's newspapers that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has a great task before him. His ability, however, to rise to the occasion is open to doubt.

A telegram from the Cape Town correspondent of "The Mail" comes as a fresh warning to the British manufacturer that he is being left in the race by his American rival. The strain of war has made great demands upon the railways in South Africa, and has compelled the Cape Government to order rolling stock in large quantities from abroad. There was naturally every desire to place these orders in England, but in a good many cases prompt delivery could not be guaranteed by British firms, and as a result twenty engines were bought in the United States and two hundred trucks in Germany. Moreover, in several instances American prices were 10 per cent below the British figures. It was, in fact, an affair of the Atbara bridge and Uganda Railway bridges over again.

The Chinese question is as puzzling as ever. From St. Petersburg comes the prediction that the Manchuria agreement will be ratified this month, while Shanghai sends news that an imperial edict will be issued announcing the decision of the Chinese Court to refuse ratification.

Artists' studios were crowded yesterday with visitors eager to catch their first glimpses of the works destined for the Academy and the New Gallery. Sir Edward Poynter will have a classical subject—"Helena and Hermia." E. A. Abbey has finished a spirited painting, "The Crusaders Before Jerusalem." Alma Tadema has a portrait of George Aitchison and a Greek study. Alfred East has a brilliant picture, "The Citadel of Cairo," painted from the market place, and two landscapes. Professor von Herkomer has a series of portraits and a picture, "Art Students' Reception," his own studio painted at night.

I. N. F.

PHYSICIANS ISSUE A BULLETIN.

London, April 1.—The following bulletin regarding the condition of the Premier was issued last evening:

Lord Salisbury was attacked with influenza on March 23. The illness has run the normal course and has been attended by the usual prostration. The temperature, however, has been almost normal for the last two days, and his lordship's strength is improved, with increasing power of taking food. It is hoped that he will be able shortly to get a change to the South, which he had been contemplating at the time of the attack.

DOUGLAS POWELL.
H. R. WALKER.

Inquiries in the afternoon at the residence of Lord Salisbury elicited the information that he was "going on well and much stronger."

None of the private secretaries and no other person in authority was accessible, but the foregoing statement had been prepared for callers.

SQUADRON FOR VENEZUELA.

ORDERS EXPECTED BY ADMIRAL FARQUHAR AT PORTO RICO.

San Juan, P. R., March 31.—The North Atlantic Squadron, Rear-Admiral Farquhar commanding, arrived off San Juan last evening. The United States special service vessel Uncas, Chief Boatswain J. W. McLaughlin, delivered the mails, and the squadron lay to all night, proceeding to-day for Culebra Islands, where orders are expected by Admiral Farquhar directing the squadron to go to Venezuelan waters.

ONE DAY'S JOURNEY.

Pennsylvania Railroad ... between New York and Chicago in ...

F. M. ZABRISKIE A SUICIDE.

WOMAN SAID TO BE THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY.

MEMBER OF WELL KNOWN FAMILY SHOOTS HIMSELF TWICE, ONCE THROUGH THE HEART.

Shot through the heart, the body of Francis M. Zabriskie was found in his bachelor apartments, in the Beverwyck, Nos. 41 and 43 West Twenty-seventh-st., yesterday afternoon. The police say he committed suicide.

Zabriskie was twenty-seven years old. He belonged to the well known Zabriskie family. He had two handsomely furnished rooms. He had plenty of money—in fact, too much, an acquaintance said.

The body was found by Zabriskie's friend, Mr. Madden. He and Zabriskie had been out the night before. With two women they had gone to the theatre and later had had supper. They returned home at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Each went to his own apartment. An hour later, Madden says, he decided to see how Zabriskie was getting along. As he opened the door he saw his friend lying on the bed. He wore his trousers and patent leather gaiters and a checked muslin shirt, garments worn the night before. He appeared to be sleeping. Madden was about to shake him, when he realized the truth.

The body lay in a pool of blood. In the left hand, which was straight out at an acute angle to the body, was a .32-calibre Smith & Wesson revolver. The shirt was open, the flaps thrown back. Two gaping wounds, an inch apart, were visible.

Dr. Armand Buffalo, of No. 59 West Twenty-seventh-st., responded to a hurry call. He said Zabriskie had been dead half an hour. Dr. O'Hanlon, of the Coroners' office, made a superficial examination. One bloodstained and shapeless bullet was found under the body on the bed. It had been aimed at the heart. A rib had deflected it by two inches. The desperate man had at once fired again, the doctors say. The second shot went through his heart and lodged in the muscular tissues of the back.

Madden would not talk. Dr. Buffalo said he had known young Zabriskie. The young man had "dabbled" in the study of medicine. It was at Columbia, he thought; but he had not been graduated. He had had too much money.

"What was his motive in killing himself?" the doctor was asked.

"Cherchez la femme," said the doctor, knowingly. Beyond this he declined to speak.

Mr. Madden sent a dozen telegrams and messages. One, it was learned, went to Zabriskie's aunt, Mrs. John A. C. Gray, at No. 709 Fifth-ave., who was a Zabriskie. Two younger sisters were also informed, it was said by the police, at Vassar College.

At No. 709 Fifth-ave. it was said that Zabriskie was the son of the Rev. Dr. Francis N. Zabriskie, pastor of a Presbyterian church in Princeton, N. J. George Zabriskie, living at No. 45 West Forty-eighth-st., was said to be Zabriskie's uncle. Henry G. Gray, a cousin, said he thought Zabriskie committed suicide because of despondency.

Madden, the police say, told them he was Edward E. Madden, and lived at No. 125 East Fifty-fourth-st. At the same address lives Daniel E. Madden, house detective at the Marlborough and Vendome hotels. Daniel E. Madden's card was found in the pocket of Mrs. Lillie B. Robertson, who died under rather peculiar circumstances on the night of March 22 at No. 321 West One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st. Edward E. Madden and Henry Gray, the broker, whose address the police have as No. 5 East Thirtieth-st., are both down as witnesses on the police blotter. Daniel Madden, the police say, is a friend of Edward E. Madden.

No letters were found in Zabriskie's rooms.

INVASION OF MACEDONIA.

A BULGARIAN BAND ROUTED BY OTTOMAN TROOPS.

Constantinople, March 31.—Advices from Salonica say that a band of sixty from Bulgaria endeavored to invade Macedonia near Djumabala on March 27 and came into conflict with the Ottoman troops.

Ten of the Bulgarians were killed and the others fled.

MORE BOERS SURRENDER.

KITCHENER REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

London, April 1.—The War Office has received advices from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, March 30, reporting the capture of seventy-two Boers in Orange River Colony and officially announcing that General French has taken fifty-one prisoners and received the surrender of ninety-three Boers, as already announced in press dispatches.

Lord Kitchener also reports upon recent wrecking of trains at several points.

THREATENING A BOYCOTT.

London, April 1.—The Amsterdam correspondent of "The Daily Mail" says:

Dr. Leyds and his colleagues have sent a private notification to Mr. Chamberlain warning him that a powerful combination of European and American merchants intends to boycott English goods systematically until independence is granted to the Boers.

THE MANCHURIAN TREATY.

BELIEF IN ST. PETERSBURG THAT IT WILL BE RATIFIED THIS MONTH.

London, April 1.—"There is a reasonable belief," says the St. Petersburg correspondent of "The Daily Mail," "that the Manchurian convention between Russia and China will be ratified in April."

The Yokohama correspondent of "The Daily Mail," who records various indications of preparations for war on the part of Japan, says:

Interviews have appeared with prominent statesmen, all breathing the war spirit and expressing the general opinion that it is impossible to allow Russia a free hand in Manchuria. This is the gravest crisis from the point of view of Japan since her war with China.

"Japan has made direct representations to St. Petersburg against the Manchurian convention," says a dispatch to "The Times" from Tokio, dated Saturday, "but the result is not yet known. Japanese public opinion is very strong on the subject.

"The Cabinet is prudent and pacific, but impressed by the national enthusiasm, which is certain to become uncontrollable if there is any undue yielding.

"The result of the issue of the first instalment of the Seoul-Fusan Railway loan testified to the extent of the patriotic enthusiasm. The amount was covered many times over with subscriptions from remote rural districts, in spite of the extreme tightness of the money market."

A FIGHT ON THE COREAN FRONTIER.

London, April 1.—According to a dispatch from St. Petersburg to "The Daily Mail" the Coreans at Sa-Mau, a frontier town, recently repulsed an attack by two hundred armed Chinese.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Owing to repairs to the West 42d Street ferry station of the WEST SHORE and ONTARIO and WESTERN R. Rs., ferryboats will be run to and from West 23d St. P. R. R. station, on and after 6 a. m., Monday, April 1st, and until 6 a. m. Saturday, April 6.—Advt.

FREIGHT TRAIN LOOTED.

ROBBERS TUMBLE MERCHANDISE OUT OF FAST RUNNING CARS ON THE JERSEY CENTRAL.

Somerville, N. J., March 31 (Special).—The Allentown fast freight train of the Central Railroad of New-Jersey, which left here at 8:30 o'clock last night, was boarded at White House station by a gang of thieves, who broke open a freight car containing valuable merchandise, which was thrown off along the route as the train was travelling at a swift speed. The robbery was discovered when the train stopped at Hampton Junction, fifteen miles west of White House station.

The Hampton Junction switching crew was sent back over the route covered by the fast freight on a special train to search for the stolen goods. Between Hampton Junction and White House the crew found several cases of champagne and valuable merchandise scattered along the tracks. The thieves picked up much of the plunder and got away with it.

There has been a series of freight car robberies on the Central recently, and the railroad's detectives are now working energetically on the clews of last night's robbery.

NEW SUMMER HOTEL BURNS.

THE HENDRICK HUDSON, AT PARK HILL, DESTROYED, WITH A LOSS OF $150,000.

The big Hendrick Hudson Hotel at Park Hill, Yonkers, almost completed, was destroyed by fire at 5 o'clock yesterday morning, entailing a loss of $150,000. The cause of the fire is unknown. The hotel was owned by the American Realty Company, of New-York City, and was to have been ready for occupancy on May 1. It was a seven story structure of wood and brick, and was not entirely fireproof. The building was considered one of the finest hotels north of New-York City, having 150 sleeping rooms, six reception parlors, three banquet halls, billiard parlors and a roof garden, which was to be one of the finest in the country, with hundreds of electric lights, palms and growing plants.

The hotel was on an elevation of 250 feet above the Hudson River, commanding a view of the Statue of Liberty on the south, Long Island Sound on the east, and the Highlands on the north.

A unique feature of the hotel was a tunnel five hundred feet south of Park Hill station, running through solid rock to an elevator, which ran up through the rock for one hundred feet to the centre of the building. The cost of the opening through the rock for the construction of the elevator was $20,000. The elevator was to run a distance of nearly three hundred feet from the entrance of the tunnel to the top of the building. The hotel was arranged in suites for families as well as single rooms, and a large number of apartments and rooms had been already engaged for the summer for prominent New-Yorkers.

The building was modelled after the Frontenac Hotel at Quebec, which is well known to Canadian travellers. E. K. Martin, president of the company, said that the building was insured, and that the only loss would be that of the rentals for the house for the summer. Work will begin immediately to rebuild the hotel, with improvements upon the former structure. The work on the building was begun just a year ago. Its great elevation caused the fire to be seen plainly on Staten Island and at Nyack, miles away. A heavy north gale was blowing, and the flying embers set fire to a number of houses. Patrick Quinn, the watchman, was alone in the building, making his rounds, when the fire started. He is unable to explain as to how the fire originated. It is supposed that it was caused from spontaneous combustion from the painters' materials on the first floor.

SISTERS REUNITED IN DEATH.

DAUGHTERS OF CAPTAIN DISBROW, U. S. N., LIVED TOGETHER FOR HALF A CENTURY AT NEW-ROCHELLE.

Within a week death has claimed Katherine A. Disbrow and Cornelia M. Disbrow, her sister, of New-Rochelle. The women, who were about eighty years old, lived for more than half a century on what was known to wheelmen as "Old Maids' Hill," between New-Rochelle and Larchmont. They were the daughters of Captain Henry Clinton Disbrow, a United States naval officer, who was lost at sea fifty years ago. Captain Disbrow left a comfortable fortune, and at his death the daughters, with their servants, dogs and parrots, took up their abode in the old home, in which they died, and which was then regarded as one of the finest houses along the Sound.

They were always inseparable, and for the last ten years, it is said, they never left their home. The older sister, Katherine, died a week ago, and Cornelia followed her yesterday. Although pneumonia is also given as the cause of her death, it is believed that grief over the loss of her sister, from whom she was never separated since infancy, hastened her death. The Misses Disbrow leave a large estate. Julius Sullivan, a nephew, who lived near them, is their nearest relative. Both women are to be buried in Trinity churchyard in New-Rochelle, which has been the Disbrow family burying ground for many years.

CHINAMEN ARRESTED AT NEWPORT NEWS.

THEY HAD GONE ASHORE FROM THE STEAMER VERONA, IN VIOLATION OF LAW.

Newport News, Va., March 31 (Special).—Four of the five Chinese seamen of the German steamer Verona, Captain Hanssen, have been recaptured and are aboard the ship. The other Chinese seaman is still at large in the woods somewhere, and the police are searching for him. The Chinese left the steamer shortly after her arrival here from New-York by way of Norfolk, and it is believed that they were held for reward by persons who knew they were ashore in violation of the Chinese Exclusion act. One man returned to the ship, but refused to tell where the other four were. The customs officials were satisfied that Captain Hanssen was innocent of any intent to let the Chinese go ashore in violation of the law, but he was arrested by a United States marshal and taken to Norfolk for a hearing.

The fine for permitting Chinese to go ashore from vessels is from $500 to $1,000 for each man. When the fugitives are recovered the fine is sometimes remitted. Last night the four Chinamen were found over a laundry. One was arrested by a policeman and the other three jumped through a window and escaped. Two were afterward arrested in the woods by a posse. A Chinese laundryman last night offered to guide the police to the hiding place for $150.

ISTHMIAN CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

COLOMBIAN COURTS NOT CONSIDERING THE VALIDITY OF THE EXTENSION OF THE PANAMA CONCESSION.

Washington, March 31.—"There is absolutely no truth in the report printed in some of the papers Saturday that the Colombian courts will soon render a decision as to the right of the Government of Colombia to grant the extension of the franchise of the French Panama Canal Company from 1904 to 1910," said a man to-day who is well posted on Isthmian canal negotiations. "No such question is being mooted in Colombia. I have not seen a copy of the note filed by the Colombian Minister with Secretary Hay, but I am positive there is nothing in the proposals made by Colombia which ignore or treat unjustly the existing rights of the French Panama Canal Company."

The right remedy FOR ALL COLDS is JAYNE'S EXPECTORANT.—Advt.

TO REDUCE CITY EXPENSES.

HOW $20,000,000 MAY BE SAVED IN THE SALARY LIST.

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO NUMBER OF EMPLOYES AND THEIR COMPENSATION.

Albany, March 31 (Special).—Assemblyman Weekes, of New-York, will introduce a bill to-morrow night which is intended to bring about a curtailment of more than $20,000,000 in the salary list of New-York City, and to safeguard the treasury of the municipality against the efforts to drain it of money.

To accomplish this great work the bill provides for the establishment of a commission of fifteen men, to be appointed by the Governor, and who will be empowered to thoroughly examine the present voluminous payrolls of the city. In order to carry on the examination with especial vigor the commission is to appoint sub-commissions, one for each department of the municipal government.

The bill, which is given in full at the end of this article, provides that the fifteen commissioners shall be allowed to expend not to exceed $25,000 in all, defines their duties in examining employes and provides that they shall suggest legislation which will fix the number of offices necessary in their judgment in each department and the salary which each of such employes would receive if employed by a business firm. The commission is therefore to be made up of business men, chosen from the commercial and financial world, men much of the stamp of the present Committee of Fifteen, and who will have no political purposes to serve.

It is to be their purpose, Mr. Weekes says, to learn how many men on the city's payrolls are there not for service to the city, but to draw funds with which to guard the power of Tammany Hall and the election of their "bosses" to office. The commission is, furthermore, to determine what is equitable pay for the different officers and employes of the city and to frame legislation which will define exactly the number of offices in the different departments which are actually necessary and the exact salary for each office.

This proposed legislation, if enacted into law by the next legislature, is to be added to the city charter, and will therefore render impossible the increases of salary and of officials which now are of weekly occurrence. These new sections of the charter in which are to be contained the itemized salary list of the city cannot be changed except through legislative enactment. Mr. Weekes believes that this is no violation of "home rule" if the city will save more than $20,000,000 thereby.

GOVERNOR'S PLEA FOR ECONOMY.

No man at the State Capitol has felt the need of retrenchment in the municipal government of New-York more than Governor Odell.

In his message regarding the commission's report he urged the legislature to amend the revised charter to secure the city greater economy. This recommendation was little heeded, if at all. In some instances the Cities committees, which had the work of charter revision in charge, even went counter to the Governor's wish and sought to increase the city's payroll. The most glaring evidence of such action is the amendment to provide for a three platoon system for the Police Department which, it is said, will add fully $4,000,000 to the city's expenditures.

In his message the Governor said:

It is unfortunate perhaps that the commission did not more fully meet the expectations of the taxpayers of the city of New-York in their recommendations for economy instead of confining themselves principally to the administrative duties of the various departments. This omission upon their part should not restrain you, however, from putting into the new charter such changes as will compel greater economy in the administration of the affairs of the city of New-York.

That the Governor favors the ends sought to be reached by the Weekes bill may be inferred from another extract from his message regarding the report of the Charter Revision Commission, which is as follows:

The suggestions of the commission for the fixing of salaries of employes, etc., by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and by the Board of Aldermen are not, in my opinion, sufficient for the protection of the taxpayers. We must understand that the same objection as to control exists as has been outlined in the case of the police recommendations. The limit of salaries should be fixed by the legislature, and it is your duty to rectify and correct existing evils before continuing to this board the power which it now possesses.

Evidence of the way the payrolls of the city have been rolling up is forcibly shown by "The City Record" of January 31, which tabulated an increase of $266,265 in salaries and an addition of twelve hundred names to the payroll for the six months preceding. The records also show an increase of $627,485 for the year of 1900.

DETAILED TABLE OF INCREASES.

These figures do not take into consideration the increase in the payrolls of the Department of Education made mandatory by the Davis law. In the other departments the increases are shown to be as follows:

Department.	Increases since July.	Total increase for 1900.
Street Cleaning	$8,010	$121,412
Highways	8,200	14,350
Sewers	9,210	16,859
Bridges	2,914	24,124
Water Supply	24,533	30,911
Buildings, Lighting and Supplies	3,659	4,859
Health	9,884	16,532
Buildings	1,250	2,500
Docks	2,498	4,698
Public charities	10,666	19,229
Law	500	1,000
Police	73,057	140,763
Finance	4,900	22,982
Correction	1,626	5,010
Parks	2,184	11,188
Fire	77,862	141,104
City College	1,700	1,700
Board of Public Improvements	2,160	5,740
Taxes and Assessment	2,700	7,100
Borough presidents	400	2,660
Aqueduct Commission	5,160	8,180
Estimate and Apportionment	2,000	2,000
Civil Service Commission	1,400	3,740
Rapid Transit Commission	5,160	6,100
East River Bridge Commission	600	3,280
Kings County Supreme Court	10,000	10,000
Totals	$266,265	$627,485

Figures showing in detail the increase of salaries and of the number of employes in the several departments above mentioned still further show the ever growing and the relentless avarice of Tammany Hall, and the necessity of some check such as is proposed in Mr. Weekes's bill. A few such details are accordingly printed below to show the increase in the burden of taxation per capita.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Year.	Total cost.	Men.	Tax per capita.
1895	$7,827,357	5,753	$2 64
1896	8,448,807	6,594	2 78
1897	9,998,217	7,974	3 17
1898	10,623,774	7,288	3 27
1899	11,065,473	7,157	3 31
1900	11,327,503	7,590	3 29

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Year.	Total cost.	Men.	Tax per capita.
1895	$3,261,180	2,262	$1 18
1896	3,707,972	2,499	1 27
1897	4,003,529	2,441	1 33
1898	4,249,450	2,565	1 37
1899	4,581,721	2,685	1 33
1900	4,717,121	2,873	1 44

SCHOOLS.

Year.	Total cost.	Men.	Tax per capita.
1895	$8,011,272	—	$2 70
1896	8,946,897	—	2 92
1897	10,194,738	—	3 23
1898	11,488,801	—	3 53
1899	13,670,510	—	4 08
1900	14,911,228	—	4 33
1901	17,710,078	—	5 01

ONLY PART SHOWN.

This list from "The City Record" is believed to show only a part of the money spent on sal...

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