

DISAGREE WITH STURGIS.

PANIC FEARED, HOWEVER.

Managers and Building Department Call Local Theatres Safe.

In the opinion of Fire Commissioner Sturgis, who spoke carefully, declaring that he was not by any means an alarmist, three-quarters of the theatres of this city are unsafe. In the opinion of theatre managers, unanimous on this question; ex-Fire Chief Croker, Chief Kruger and Mr. Thompson, Superintendent of Buildings, nothing like the Chicago fire could possibly occur here. Some of the managers did make slight allowances for panic, but from one end of Broadway to the other, and over in the Bowery theatres, usually regarded as firetraps, there was one strain—"It could not happen here, the official regulations are so strict; the theatres here are safer than anywhere in the country."

Panic aside, abundant provision is made for the speedy and comfortable emptying of almost every theatre. Some go far ahead of the legal requirements. That these precautions would be effective in a panic, however, is a questioned point. The element of panic is the unknown quantity which did not enter into the calculations for the plans and specifications filed in the Department of Buildings; the inspectors do not foretell what a thousand or fifteen hundred people will do, mad with fear.

That the public, in spite of this, is apprehensive was notably shown last night by the activity of the speculators. In front of almost every theatre they stood, their hands filled with tickets which had been sacrificed by the timorous. All the managers reported good business last night; their houses were all sold out and most of them were full. The advance sales were light, however, which shows the effect of the Chicago horror, as the houses were sold out for last night almost a week ago. Good seats for to-night and to-morrow night could be easily obtained at almost any theatre last night.

FEW HOUSES SELL STANDING ROOM.

In the face of the great Iroquois Theatre disaster, however, there was more scurrying around of managers yesterday and examination into the merits of fire appliances than would ordinarily occur in a year. Of all the theatres there were only four selling standing room—the Bayou, the New Amsterdam, the Herald Square and the Metropolitan Opera House. In Weber & Field's there were seven persons standing. The Metropolitan, however, was filled with a vast throng, worse than at last week's performance.

The theatres of this city are under the supervision of the Buildings Department, the Fire Department and the Police Department. If there is any violation of the fire ordinances or the Buildings Code, the Police Department withholds the theatre's license. Plans for a theatre, according to managers and officials of the Buildings Department alike, are scrutinized more carefully than any other plans; every point is taken into consideration. Sooner than take any chances of disaster, the officials would reject the whole plans. This is on the authority of Oscar Hammerstein, builder of nine theatres, who testified emphatically to the strictness of every Buildings Superintendent with whom he had ever dealt, save one.

The code as it stands to-day requires an asbestos curtain, running in a six-inch iron groove to prevent any bellying or sticking. This is held by thin cords, in which are fusible metal links, so that heat would cause the curtain to drop or the slightest effort would break the cords. The proscenium material must be "proof—in fact, all of every theatre over thirty-five feet high must be fireproof. There must be four emergency exits, not less than five feet wide on each tier of the theatre. These emergency exits must be open into open courts not less than eight feet wide, which connect with the street by corridors not less than three feet in width. Each theatre seating three hundred persons must have two exits not less than three feet wide, besides the emergency exits. Theatres seating five hundred must have three exits, not less than five feet wide, besides the emergency exits, will for every one hundred persons additional seating capacity there must be an aggregate of twenty inches added to the width of the exits. There must be separate exits from each gallery or balcony.

SEPARATE FIRE ALARMS.

Stairways to accommodate fifty people must be at least four feet wide, while for each additional fifty people to be accommodated six inches must be added. There must be always along the sides of the theatres, with proper fire escapes from the auditorium and dressing rooms. There must be standpipes, with hose attached, behind the scene. There is a special alarm box in each theatre, entirely separate from the city's fire alarm system. There must be an arrangement for flooding the stage in each theatre, besides the regular fire extinguishers and axes and hooks. Then a fireman is stationed in each theatre for each performance, from before the curtain goes up until the last light is out. Special inspectors from the Fire Department, the Buildings Department and the Police Department make rounds at irregular intervals.

Such is the routine thoroughly lived up to. Yet Commissioner Sturgis says that three-quarters of the theatres are unsafe, because they were built when it was permitted to disregard violations of the Buildings Code or because they are old theatres or converted buildings, but chiefly because the managers allow standing in the space behind the orchestra.

"Theatres are built nowadays on the maximum limit of seating capacity," he said yesterday. "The exit space is calculated on that maximum limit as a minimum. Anything which permits the loading of such a house with 50 per cent more people is a crime. It is like forcing pickles into a bottle with a narrow neck—you know how easy it is to get them out. This department can only bring suit, and the Corporation Counsel has obtained numerous convictions. Still, the penalty is only a fine of \$50, so the managers are well satisfied to pay that and make several hundred. We enforce the keeping open of aisles and exits, from the roof to the floor, if we have to batter open the doors with axes."

Oscar Hammerstein formed a fire brigade at the Victoria Theatre yesterday which will doubtless prove as great an attraction for awhile as the rest of the show. He hired eight retired firemen, five of whom will be in the audience, the rest on the stage. They will wear white uniforms, with caps bearing the inscription, "Victoria Fire Brigade." Mr. Hammerstein drilled them yesterday afternoon, and when he had recovered sufficiently to eat he declared that he thought they'd be equal to any emergency.

NEWER THEATRES CALLED SAFE.

Among the newest theatres the Hudson and the Lyceum are built in accordance with the most modern ideas, and an inspection of their systems of protection shows that great care has been taken for safety. Henry B. Harris, manager of the Hudson, last night pointed out the extraordinarily wide lobby, which leads directly into the rear of the house, without a curve or narrowing. There are no doors between it and the theatre proper, and the space between the entrance and the rear seats is wide. On each side of the house are three exits of wide proportions into a court which surrounds the theatre. Mr. Harris personally, and every night see that they are in order and unbolted. He has also two sets of wide stairs to the balcony, and each set has, in addition, four doors leading to broad fire escapes on the side with numerous doors, a wide space for exit into the street, and wide balcony stairs into the lobby, protected by a steel and mortar wall from

HAYES TO FIGHT.

All Theatres in City Worth Less than One Life, He Says.

Nicholas J. Hayes, who will succeed Fire Commissioner Sturgis to-day, yesterday had a conference with two Supreme Court justices, personal friends, with reference to the legality of the action of the Fire Department if it should attempt to prevent the theatrical managers from allowing the aisles and vacant spaces back of the seats in playhouses to be occupied by spectators. It is altogether probable that one of the first steps of Commissioner Hayes's administration will be to reopen the fight begun by Commissioner Sturgis to compel the managers to stop admitting persons after the houses are reasonably full.

"The Chicago theatre fire is an awful shock to me," said Commissioner Hayes yesterday to a Tribune reporter. "It brings the responsibilities of my new office before me in a way that tries my nerves to the utmost. I would not have one

human life needlessly lost for all the theatres in New-York. It is not an easy thing to say just what ought to be done to prevent fires and panics in theatres. The charter describes the duties of the Fire Commissioner. We can allow no more than two firemen in each theatre. Probably there is as much danger from panic as from fire. The disaster in Chicago seems to have been due as much from panic as from any other cause. If the asbestos curtains had worked properly the loss of life doubtless would have been much less. Commissioner Sturgis attempted to abolish the practice of crowding the rear portions of playhouses. The General Term gave a decision against him. Since then nothing has been done to prevent people from standing up in the rear of the theatres. The calamity in Chicago is likely to make a good deal of sentiment in favor of greater precautions being taken than ever before. Until I have had a chance to give the subject a close study I cannot say what I intend to do."

Mr. Hayes has a talk yesterday with ex-Fire Chief Edward F. Croker at the City Hall. When Mr. Croker went away he said that he had merely called to pay his respects to the new Commissioner.

SAY HOUSES ARE SAFE.

Fire Chief John Conroy, of Jersey City, said yesterday that he did not believe that a repetition of the Iroquois Theatre horror would be possible in that city. The city ordinances require that a fireman and policeman shall be on duty in every theatre whenever a performance is in progress. This law, the chief said, is strictly enforced. Each building is provided with two portable fire extinguishers, always ready for use. Enough hose is also on hand to reach the nearest fire hydrant. The placing of seats in the aisles is strictly forbidden.

Harry Hogan, manager of the Bijou Theatre, said the house was provided with nine exits, and could be emptied in five minutes. There are hose lines all over the house, and the attaches are thoroughly instructed in their use. Thomas Dink, manager of the Bon Ton Theatre, said his house was provided with fire appliances and an asbestos curtain. They also had two fire exits, one for the gallery and the other for the lower part of the house. This latter embraces the whole front of the building.

Frank Henderson, manager of the Academy of Music, said there were fire appliances in the house, and that he had a hose line in the main entrance. Besides the main exit, which embraces the entire front of the house, there were two exits, one for the gallery and special exits in one side of the theatre opening into the courtyard attached to the Arlington Theatre.

MAXWELL WARNS SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

To Hold Conference to Make Fire Drills More Effective.

City Superintendent Maxwell, as a result of the Chicago disaster, issued special fire instructions yesterday afternoon to the district superintendents and principals of schools. Superintendent Maxwell's letter follows:

The terrible theatre fire in Chicago has its lessons for us, and it is our responsibility for the protection of life. It especially comes home to us who are responsible several hours a day for the lives of the children of our city. I have invited you to ask you, therefore, to take every possible precaution to make the fire drills or rapid dismissals in your schools, required by and enforced by the laws of the Board of Education, as perfect as possible. Every teacher should know his or her duties in case of alarm, the signals should be clearly understood, and practice should be given with sufficient frequency to insure swiftness and accuracy in exit. I have invited the following principals to meet with me on Tuesday, January 5, 1904, at 3:30 p. m., to discuss measures to make the fire drills in the public schools even more effective: Burtis C. Magle, Almon G. Merwin, Edward A. Page, Clarence Stebbins, Henry E. Jenkins and Misses Emma Johnston and Helen Stiefel.

The greatest danger from panic exists in those buildings in which the exits are not distinct and unobstructed. In such cases the two principals should have a perfect understanding as to arrangements. District superintendents will see that this order is enforced.

I am happy to say that in every case of alarm of fire that has occurred in the schools during the last year the existing fire drills have proved effective, the teachers have behaved with coolness and courage, and in not a single instance, when when the children were crowded together, was there a panic. It is my earnest desire to make our fire drills more perfect than they are, if that is possible.

NEW-ROCHELLE THEATRE SAFE.

The largest theatre in Westchester County is the one built recently in New-Rochelle by the Knights of Columbus. It cost \$25,000, and has a seating capacity of about eighteen hundred. The assistant manager, Dennis O'Connor, said to-night that he considered the building absolutely safe, adding:

We have five exits all in and out stairways leading from the balcony and galleries to the ground on the outside of the building. The theatre is also equipped with an asbestos curtain, which works so smoothly that it can be lowered very quickly by one man using one hand.

There will be a thorough inspection of fire hose and the curtain before the doors are opened next week.

SISTERS CALMLY PUT OUT FIRE.

Twenty Sisters of Charity, occupying the four-story brick house at No. 154 Waverly Place, were awakened from sleep early yesterday morning by a fire which started in the cellar. All remained calm and a bucket brigade was formed, and when the firemen arrived the flames had been extinguished by the Sisters. Sister Polka was awakened by the smell of smoke. She quietly summoned a collection of children, and the entire household, nevertheless, made out the fire drills more perfect than they are, if that is possible.

SYMPATHY OF GOVERNOR YATES.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 31.—Governor Yates to-day sent the following telegram to Mayor Harrison:

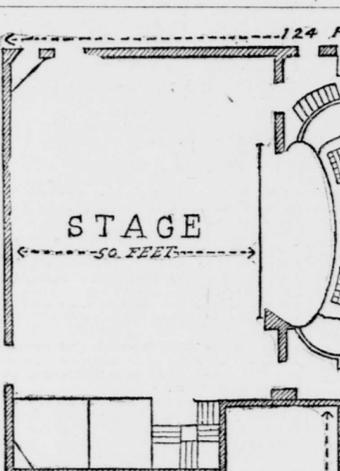
The great calamity which has come upon your city has excited the profound grief of the entire State, and therefore I hasten to tender to your community and to the hundreds of families desolated by the catastrophe the heartfelt sympathy of the whole people.

EXTORTION FOR EVERY HUNDRED

Paul Starrett Tells of Theatre's High Class Construction.

Paul Starrett, vice-president and general manager of the George A. Fuller Company, a subsidiary concern of the United States Realty and Construction Company, was much affected yesterday over the reports of the Chicago theatre fire. It was the Fuller company which erected the theatre from plans drawn by B. H. Marshall. Mr. Starrett and many other high officials of the construction company were firmly of the opinion that it was one of the best theatre buildings which their company or any other building company ever erected in this country. W. A. Merriman supervised its erection for the Fuller company.

From the time the foundations were laid until the walls were up and the building practically completed a photograph of the building as it was being erected was taken about once in two weeks, and these photographs were sent to the Fuller company's office in this city. With these photographs



GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF THE IROQUOIS THEATRE.

and reports from Mr. Merriman the officials of the company had an accurate idea of how the work was being done. Yesterday Mr. Starrett said he could not understand how such a catastrophe had happened in the building, the roof and the stage, which burned a large quantity of inflammable material at a time when the exits were barred.

WORRY OVER FOYS SAFETY.

Message Tells of Escape—His Son, Usually with Him at Theatre, Cause of Anxiety.

"We are all safe, thank God," Eddie Foy, the comedian, said yesterday. "Eddie" Foy, the comedian, to his sisters-in-law in Harrison, Westchester County, who are looking after his cottage while his wife and five children are in Chicago.

When the news of the fire reached Harrison yesterday the friends and neighbors of the family crowded to inquire into the details of the fire. The visitors brought the first news of the disaster to Mrs. Foy's sisters, and for a while they were so excited that they could not get to them that Mr. Foy had escaped.

One of the children, "Charley," was in the habit of going to the theatre with his father and sitting in the front row of the orchestra to watch the performance, and even after they were assured that Mr. Foy had escaped he was so worried about the boy. It was not until the telegram arrived from Chicago, signed by the comedian himself, that all were at ease.

ELIZABETH THEATRE THOUGHT SAFE.

Elizabeth N. J., Dec. 31.—George W. Jacobs's Theatre, which is the only one here, is considered by the local authorities to be in good and safe condition. There are fourteen exits, and the stage and balcony are so arranged that they can be reached in a few minutes. The dressing rooms are some distance from the stage.

CHICAGO ENGINEERS STRIKE.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—A strike of engineers was declared to-day against 125 office buildings in Chicago. Engineers have been called out at the Masonic Temple, the Scullier and the Fort Dearborn buildings. Agents of the union said men would be called out of twenty more buildings at once. At the Masonic Temple an engineer refused to leave his post. The union men, however, refused to leave their posts. The strike was ordered upon the refusal of the Business Managers' Association to pay the union men's dues for the past year. It was announced that the union was backed by the Steam Engineers' Council, and expects to shut off the coal supply of the buildings under the union banner.

ON GUARD FOR THEATRE FIRES.

Mayor Has Conference with Officials and Orders Extra Precautions.

Mayor Doremus of Newark yesterday ordered an investigation of the condition of the theatres of the city in view of the great theatre disaster in Chicago. When the Mayor reached his office in the morning he sent for President Theodore C. E. Blanchard of the Fire Department Board and held a conference with him. The Mayor was assured that all precautions were taken by the department in view of fires and panics in theatres.

The system is for a fireman to be stationed in each theatre to keep the aisles clear and to call on the police if the management obstructs them. When the performance begins the fireman goes behind the scenes and stands ready with an extinguisher, wet sand, wet blankets, etc., in case of fire. There are extinguishers in other parts of the building, and the employees are instructed in their use. Mayor Doremus was not satisfied with the fact that there was systematic precaution taken. He wanted to know how the system was practiced in the theatres as to electric lights and wires and inflammable scenery and accessories, and whether any changes were necessary.

Superintendent Leslie B. Miller of the Building Inspection Department was called up and instructed at once. He will report to the Mayor to-day. With the Fire Department regulations all carried Newark theatres by reason of the several of the means of exit and the crowding of the aisles near present. It is asserted, too, that the fireman stationed in the theatres become careless in the performance of their duty and do not act with sufficient authority when the theatre is crowded, and there is laxity observed in their precautions behind the scenes. The law in Newark is in regard to theatres is ample to afford all protective to audiences. The managers at the Newark theatre declared yesterday that their theatres were perfectly safe in construction and operation, with ample means of exit and fire extinguishing appliances.

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To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Cannot audiences be occasionally drilled to learn how to empty a theatre in case of fire? A "fire alarm" now and then, with warning, of course, would do much to inspire self-possession when the reality comes.

H. FERREIRA MENDES. No. 85 Central Park West, New-York, Dec. 31, 1903.

BROOKLYN HAD LESSON.

Theatre and City Officials All Work to Make Houses Safe.

Officials of the Building Department, the Fire Department and of the theatres in Brooklyn expressed the opinion yesterday that the Building law and the enforcement of it and all the municipal regulations were so much more strict here than in Chicago that the possibility of such a tragedy as occurred there is much more remote. There are a number of theatres in Brooklyn. There are a number of present law went into effect, but in the last few years they have been changed so that some of the old dangers have been eliminated so far as possible.

Superintendent of Buildings William M. Calder said that if the New-York code had been in force in Chicago the fire in the Iroquois would not have spread so rapidly. He added:

EQUIPMENT OF THEATRES GOOD.

At present every Brooklyn theatre is equipped with asbestos curtains, which means of exit are carefully inspected twice each week by a man from this department. They are the same as the ones which were used against fire. When I took office two years ago only three theatres had asbestos curtains. Now all are properly equipped in this respect.

Section 108 of the Building Code provides that except by cutting additional means of exit and the institution of proper fire apparatus no other alterations can be required in theatres that existed prior to 1885. We are in the opinion of the Building Department that is used for theatrical purposes because it is not fireproof. In my opinion, the existing law would not have prevented the disaster in Chicago. Buildings is empowered to forbid the use of inflammable scenery. In our older theatres the law would have made for the safety of the patrons in case of fire.

Only three theatres have been built in Brooklyn since the enactment of the most recent law, on the subject. Some of the old theatres, however, conform to the law in many particulars.

SUPERVISION BY INSPECTORS.

Deputy Fire Chief Murray said: We have a man detailed to attend each performance at every theatre. He is required to see that the aisles are kept clear, that the doors of the exits are unlocked, that the fire apparatus is in good working order, and that the exits are kept open. So far as I have been able to learn these regulations have been faithfully complied with. We have suggested extra exits and other things that would increase the safety of the public, and have found the managers obliging for the most part. They are well acquainted with the law from the Brooklyn theatre fire. I don't want to say that a catastrophe here is an utter impossibility, but I can at least say that I don't think it probable.

The Fire Marshal makes the rounds of the theatres every two weeks, and the deputy chiefs in the various districts act as special inspectors.

THEATRES HAVE MANY EXITS.

Many Brooklyn theatres are fortunate in being situated on a corner or at least in running through to a back street. The Montauk Theatre, the largest and best known playhouse in the borough, has an abundance of exits which lead into open passages and out to De Kalb-ave. in the rear. The largest theatre in the city is the Grand Opera House, which is on the corner at Washington and Tillary sts., and runs through to Adams-st. There are exits leading to all of these thoroughfares. Over in the Eastern District the Amphion is the leading playhouse. It would be hard to find a corner theatre with as many exits as the Amphion.

The Orpheum Theatre is situated on a corner and runs through to still another street. It was built under the latest building code and is absolutely fireproof in every respect. The Park Theatre, on the corner of Broadway and 14th-st., was built about a year ago, so it now has a broad, straight passage and many other exits. It would be hard to find a smaller theatre as safe as the Orpheum. It is naturally so safe as the newer and larger ones, but wherever inquiry was made yesterday it was declared that no previous fire had ever occurred possible under the circumstances was neglected.

COOL-HEADEDNESS SADLY NEEDED.

P. K. Stephenson Says Not a Life Should Have Been Lost in the Theatre Fire.

Pittsburg, Dec. 31.—P. K. Stephenson, business agent of the Master Builders' League, of Pittsburg, with a dozen delegates to the Builders' and Contractors' meeting in Chicago, December 10, attended the "Blue Beard" performance at the Iroquois Theatre. He at that time made a personal inspection of the theatre, and to-day he said:

If there had been the least bit of cool-headedness in the theatre, the entire audience could have been on the street inside of fifteen minutes.

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H. FERREIRA MENDES. No. 85 Central Park West, New-York, Dec. 31, 1903.

NEW POSTOFFICE HERE.

Mr. Payne Will Bring the Subject to the Attention of Congress.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Postmaster General Payne in his annual report will call the attention of Congress to the necessity of additional postoffice buildings in New-York City, and for an additional building in this city to quarter branches of the Postoffice Department. Mr. Payne will call attention to the recommendations made by the commission, consisting of himself, the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, last fall, when the acceptance of the Pennsylvania Railroad's offer of a site on its new terminal station and the erection of a postoffice building on a site directly over the underground system of tracks of the New-York Central to take the place of the present Postoffice Station H, near the Grand Central Station, were urged. Congress failed to act on the bills introduced for this purpose. The Postmaster General will point to the great congestion in the mail service in New-York, and urge legislation carrying into effect the commission's recommendations. The department in Washington is very anxious that the Postmaster General will urge Congress to authorize the purchase of the block immediately south of the present department building to accommodate those portions of the department which now occupy private buildings at high rentals.

SURPLUS IN DECEMBER.

Treasury Receipts Exceeded Expenditures by Nearly \$10,500,000.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The forthcoming monthly statement of the government receipts and expenditures will show the total surplus for December, 1903, to be about \$42,747,532 and the expenditures \$32,248,000, leaving a surplus for the month of \$10,499,532. The surplus for the six months of the present fiscal year will be about \$83,433,697.

TO SETTLE ASPHALT CONTROVERSY.

Decision Soon To Be Reached by Venezuela's Highest Court.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Advices received here from Caracas indicate that the long standing issue in Venezuela arising from the conflicting claims to the great asphalt lakes there of the New-York and Bermudez Company and the Warner-Quinn syndicate is about to be settled at last by judicial decision. It is announced that the Venezuelan Federal Court, the tribunal of last resort, will take up this case immediately and reach a decision by January 20.

GERMANY SEEKING COALING STATION.

Report About Danish West Indies Discredited by the State Department.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Information has reached Washington to the effect that Germany is making a quiet but determined effort to secure possession of a coaling station at St. Thomas, one of the Danish West India Islands. The news comes in a manner that requires further confirmation before official notice can be taken of it, and as such rumors have not been infrequent in recent years, and generally proved to be groundless, the State Department is disposed to move with the greatest circumspection. As the United States government has offered a fair price for the Danish West India Islands—a price which the executive branch of the Danish government consented to accept by the signature of a treaty, even though the latter was rejected by the Danish Riksdag—it is the feeling here that the matter has gone too far to allow any third party to come between the United States, and Denmark in this transaction. In other words, Denmark is expected to give the islands to the United States or to retain them.

BIDS ASKED FOR FRIARS' LAND BONDS.

Terms of the Issue Announced by the Insular Bureau.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Colonel Clarence R. Edwards, chief of the Insular Bureau of the War Department, to-day made public circulars calling for subscriptions for \$2,000,000 Philippine land purchase bonds, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the purchase of the friars' lands. The bonds will be registered in denominations of from \$1,000 to \$100,000, dated February 1, 1904, bearing 4 per cent interest, payable at the United States Treasury in United States gold coin. The bonds will run from ten to thirty years and be free from all forms of taxation either in the Philippines or in the United States. The bonds will be payable at the New-York Sub-Treasury, where they will be delivered. The circular recites that these bonds will be accepted by the Secretary of the Treasury as part as security for the deposit of public money, should further deposits be made, and may be substituted for the same in the event of a default in security for additional circulation whenever in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury it is desirable to make an increase in national bank circulation.

Bids will be received until 3 p. m. January 1. They must be accompanied by certified checks for 2 per cent of the bid. They will be delivered February 1. The bids will be received at the Insular Bureau.

HOLDS POSTMASTER WARFIELD LIABLE.

He Is Asked to Refund Salary of a Clerk Who Performed No Service.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The auditor for the Postoffice Department, under a decision announced to-day, will call immediately on Postmaster Warfield, of Baltimore, to reimburse the government for \$131 paid as salary to John W. Pettit, who was on the rolls as clerk and bookkeeper in the Baltimore postoffice. The case was discussed in Mr. Bristow's report on the Postoffice Department. Mr. Bristow saying that Pettit performed no service whatever for the amount paid on the order of George W. Beavers at Washington, with the acquiescence of the postmaster. Postmaster Warfield, however, says he protested against placing Pettit on the rolls. The postmaster to-day received from the Attorney General a decision holding as follows:

I have no hesitation in advising you that the circumstances appearing may be regarded as showing a prima facie case of liability, and as calling for a refund of the salary paid to Pettit, in order to protect the government interests, to put the bona in suit and to submit to a jury the question of Mr. Warfield's liability thereon.

The government will institute suit if the postmaster fails to make restitution.

ARKANSAS FOR ROOSEVELT.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 31.—The Republican State Central Committee to-day called a State convention at Little Rock on May 18. A resolution, introduced by General Powell Clayton, ambassador to Mexico, endorsing President Roosevelt, was unanimously adopted.

GEORGIA PLEDGES SUPPORT.

Atlanta, Dec. 31.—The Republican State Committee to-day selected this city as the next place of holding the State convention, and named March 22, 1904, as the date for meeting. The committee endorsed the administration of President Roosevelt, and pledged him its support in the Presidential nomination.

FRENCH PLAY BY HARVARD STUDENTS.

The annual play given at Christmas time by the French Franchise of Harvard University was produced soon. The play is in French, and was given in Cambridge, Boston and New-York. The selection this year is "Le Barbier de Séville" with the following persons in the cast: W. J. Shook, '96; J. W. Blanchard, '95; P. G. Henderson, '94; O. L. Miller, '93; G. W. Miller, '92; W. E. Benson, '91; W. L. E. Hubbard, '90; L. B. Benson, '89; M. C. H. L. N. Burnard, '88; L. B. Benson, '87; W. F. Field, '86.

The French Franchise was established some 50 years ago by James H. Hyde, its object being to propagate the love of French in Harvard University, and the annual play is only one of the means taken to effect this purpose. The lectures, studies, etc., throughout the entire term, but the play is the one time in which students act their French before society.

PENSIONS ISSUED IN 1903.