

"KING OF THE ISTHMIUS."

Colonel Shaler and Other Men Active in Panama Affairs.

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Panama, R. P., December 20. "King of the Isthmus." There is, of course, no real king of the Isthmus, but that title is being arrogated to Colonel Shaler...

A native of Kentucky, Colonel Shaler carries his seventy-eight years with all the sprightliness of exuberant youth. Tall and lean, moulded like a genuine thoroughbred, with muscles like steel...

SHALER IS IMPROVING THE ISTHMIUS. But busy as are his hours with the railroad's affairs, this American "King of the Isthmus" finds ample time for non-official matters.

Colonel Shaler has been at his present post for about nine years, and the impress of his personality and capabilities is found all over the Isthmus.

SUBSTANTIAL BETTERMENTS. In a more substantial way the colonel has encouraged the development of the Isthmus. Before his time rates on local freight traffic across the Isthmus were so prohibitive that persons living inland could not avail themselves of the wondrous facilities of the sea.

"The Isthmus is a health resort," is his contention; nor can the fact that last year he lost three sisters by yellow fever, the three dying within fewer than twenty days, change his opinion of the health qualities of the Isthmus.

TRACTION COMPANY SELLS PROPERTY. Many Improvements Planned for Mountain Lake, Near Gloversville.

Gloversville, N. Y., Jan. 1.—The Ponda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad Company has purchased the property of the Albion and Lake Tractor Company, consisting of the trolley line leading from Gloversville to Mountain Lake...

THE FUNERAL OF MOODY MERRILL. Boston, Jan. 1.—The funeral of Moody Merrill, formerly a financier of the Isthmus, was held at 2:30 p. m. at St. James' Church, 100 West 42d street.

would not see him outwitted. It happened that Torres succumbed to the temptation offered by \$50,000 before the special left Panama, but the incident shows that Prescott is not without resources, and that he understands the art of doing things in the right way.

Next to Colonel Shaler, Mr. Prescott is the most formidably prominent man on the Isthmus. His position is one of extreme importance. He has lived long in Central American countries, although still a young man, and speaks Spanish like a native. He understands most intimately the weaknesses of the Panamanian character, is enthusiastic, fertile minded, audacious and most capable.

A short, stocky figure, broad and powerfully shouldered and exuding an atmosphere of aggression, topped by a round head bearing a squarely set crown of light brown hair, to be seen on the streets of Panama daily. This figure approaches with rolling walk, quick and energetic, and behind a rather pallid complexion blue eyes sparkle and twinkle.

JEFFRIES BROUGHT HUERTAS AROUND. In the recent revolution Jeffries—who is said to have declined any remuneration for his services—was picked to effect the capture of the Colombian gunboat Cartagena.

NO DISMISSAL IN INDIAN CASE. State Oneidas to Contest Distribution of \$2,000,000 with Canadian Cousins.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN ANSONIA. Two Buildings Burned, with Loss of \$75,000.—Business Centre Threatened.

SHIP CAST OUT FIRE. Crew Threw Into Sea Blazing Bales of Cotton and Saved El Valle.

FREDERIC THOMPSON SAILS. Frederic Thompson left this city for Boston last night and will sail this morning on the Republic for Gibraltar.

"HAUNTED HOUSE" AT DINNER. Edwin Markham will be the guest at the twenty-third anniversary and ladies' dinner of the Third Club, at the Hotel Savoy, on the evening of January 12.

STRONG CONDITION OF THE EQUITABLE. The condition of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, as set forth in its preliminary statement, published to-day, is one of great security and strength.

Banker's Travelling Companion Will Report to Lawyer. Thomas Lawson, who was with Granville W. Garth on the steamship Denver as a travelling companion when Mr. Garth disappeared in the Gulf of Mexico on Christmas night, arrived in this city with Mr. Garth's effects yesterday.

HERE WITH GARTH SECRETS. Mr. Lawson was interviewed by a reporter up in the Charles-st. station. Then the wedding went on.

Crepe de Paris is being a great favorite all winter, for dresses, for afternoon receptions, carriage and theatre wear. And that, though it is primarily a spring fabric! It is soft, clinging, easy to make up into most effective gowns, and altogether a most charming dress fabric.

JOHN WANAMAKER. Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co., Broadway, 4th ave., 9th and 10th sts. Rotunda.

ONE DEAD, TWO HURT.

Overturned Lamps Cause Two Serious Fires in Brooklyn.

BURNED WOMAN MAY NOT LIVE. Too enthusiastic celebration of the incoming year is held by the police to be responsible for two fires in Brooklyn early yesterday morning, which caused the death of one woman and a serious burning of a man and a woman.

MAY BE IN VAULTS HERE. The principal topic of conversation on Staten Island yesterday was the suicide of Otto Ahlmann and the closing of the Bank of Staten Island, of which he was cashier and owner.

CAR OVER EMBANKMENT. One Dead and Fourteen Hurt in Wreck in Pennsylvania. Carlisle, Penn., Jan. 1.—A passenger train on the Cumberland Valley Railroad this evening ran into an open switch near Newville.

RAILROAD GETS \$632,744 FROM BOSTON. City Must Pay Share of Expense in Abandoning Roadbed. Boston, Jan. 1.—J. D. Colt, who was appointed auditor by the Superior Court in the suit of the Old Colony Railroad Company against the city of Boston, to recover the city's share of the expense involved in the abandonment of the company's roadbed across Dorchester.

THREW OUT THE DOCTORS. Their Chorus Girl Disguise Penetrated at Nurses' Frolic. The nurses in the Bellevue Hospital Training School held their annual New Year's jollification last night. Several of the doctors were unable to make New Year's calls yesterday owing to the fact that their wardrobes had been depleted while they were on duty.

STOPPED WEDDING TO GET THIEF. Best Man Saw His Overcoat Disappearing and All Joined in Chase. While John J. McComish and Elizabeth McCartney, of No. 11 Charles-st., were being married yesterday in the rectory of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, at No. 133 Waverley Place, by Father D. P. O'Flynn, Frank J. Reineke, the best man, suddenly left his place and ran into the hallway, crying out: "There goes my overcoat!"

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ACCOUNTS WERE RIGHT.

Bonds Worth \$180,000 Are Missing from Ahlmann's Bank, However.

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NEW YEAR CELEBRATED.

Many Good Resolutions Are Made and Broken.

Its birth blazed internationally by the threatened outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan; nationally by the appalling Chicago theatre holocaust, and municipally by the return of the Tiger to the City Hall, 1904 came into being yesterday, and, judging by a bulletin of twenty-four hours, the swaddling infant bids fair to be a lusty, vigorous man.

With the air crystal clear and possessing withal the mellowed coolness of good food champagne, the day, even in the city, where the tints of sunrise and of sunset were spectacles to marvel at, left little to be desired.

Special performances were given in many of the New-York theatres, where actor and actress might have been found working overtime, and in many instances at the Christmas reduced scale of pay; snatching a fleet New Year's celebration or a glimpse of their families, maybe, only between the matinee and evening performances.

Special services were also held in many of the New-York churches. To-morrow, so far at least as the business world was concerned, sets a period to the Christmas vacation, and on Monday a myriad noses, chalk white from dyspepsia or of an abnormally delicate cerise hue, significant to the discerning, will bend again to the grindstone.

How Money for a School Fund Was Raised by Some Students Who Spent Only 10 Cents a Day for Food. In tomorrow's Tribune.

WHISKEY KILLS FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY. Drank Nearly a Pint—Clambered on Chair to Get Bottle in Cupboard. Harry Murphy, four years old, was killed yesterday by drinking nearly a pint of whiskey. The child had been left playing about the flat occupied by his parents at No. 43 West Thirty-seventh-st., while the mother went to church, and the father slept. The child clambered on a chair and took from a closet a quart bottle of whiskey, drinking nearly half of it. When the mother returned she was unconscious on the floor. An ambulance was called from Roosevelt Hospital, and Dr. Ziemssen managed to bring the child back to semi-consciousness. The parents allowed the boy to be taken to the hospital. Dr. Ziemssen answered a second call later, and found the child dead.

ARMSTRONG WILL FIGHT.

Many Claimants for Fortune of Descendant of Inventor.

Developments are following each other rapidly in connection with the fight at Mount Vernon for the \$100,000 estate of the late Mrs. Alicia Armstrong, a descendant of Lord Armstrong, of England; nationally by the appalling Chicago theatre holocaust, and municipally by the return of the Tiger to the City Hall, 1904 came into being yesterday, and, judging by a bulletin of twenty-four hours, the swaddling infant bids fair to be a lusty, vigorous man.

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The Wanamaker Store Facing Both Ways. A generous public gives us proof, by many signs, of special and exceptional interest in the progress and prosperity of our business. The kindly old sentiment born of a success in spite of conditions that popular opinion held impossible lingers happily about our store. Doubt was changed to prestige. And prestige prevails. All this warrants the following: Looking Backward, 1903. The last year brought us special trials. But they were of our own making. You crowded the facilities of the Old Stewart Store hard and fast. In less than five years from the start, the store was bulging with goods, the aisles were regularly thronged with buyers, the public streets on every side were filled with wagons and the brains of owners and managers were bursting with nervous anxiety over perplexing questions of administration. How was relief to come? By painful steps and slow we acquired the block of ground to the south of our present store. Pending a completion of plans we made an Annex of the old buildings. It was a great relief both for sales and storage. When actually ready to improve the newly secured property, the Annex was destroyed, this in turn abolished our Under-Price Store; and thus the right and left arms of the business were amputated. The business has been automatically compressed during the Autumn and Holiday periods. Now comes the question and answer recurring at every hour and from every direction, namely: How does your business compare with former years? Each year this business has shown cumulative gains in sales, and 1903 maintained the record. Of this statement we are proud—and with good reason. Tens of thousands of square feet of selling floor space abolished and the sales made to increase in spite thereof. That's the prime factor in the case. Looking Forward, 1904. No matter what the conditions WANAMAKER'S takes no retrograde steps. The New Year opens with still contracted space in our store, and the prospect of further shrinkage. The tighter the squeeze, the greater will be the activity. No diminution of the great stocks that will aggregate an average of more than Five Millions of Dollars. No decrease in supervision of our business system. Whatever inconvenience exists will be ours, not yours. The very straits to which we are temporarily put by the building plans for our greater future business will teach us how to serve you better. It is the old, old story. Patient plodding, inconvenience, extra labor as the price of a future good. Only a crude prophet will make predictions on questions of building construction. Therefore we make none. But we have hopes and a fair expectation that during 1904 a great portion of our new store will be ready for the retailing of the future, upon which we build so many plans and cherished ideals. JOHN WANAMAKER. Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co., Broadway, 4th ave., 9th and 10th sts. Rotunda.