RANDALL CHAPEL FIRE.

Watchman at First Barred Firemen from Sailor's Snug Harbor.

The Episcopal Randall Memorial Chapel, Sailor's Snug Harbor, named for Captain Robert Richard Randall, founder of the institution, was damaged to the extent of $50,000 early yesterday by a fire supposed to have been caused by a defectively insulated electric light wire in the bronze dome. The flames were noticed by some young men returning from a Christmas party at 2:10 a. m., and they at once turned in an alarm which brought out the entire volunteer department of the North Shore.

Some difficulty was experienced by the firemen in gaining admission to the grounds. The gates of the institution are closed at 9 p. m., and no one is allowed to enter after that hour unless by orders from the governor. The aged watchman was asleep in the gate house and did not know there was a fire in the premises until the rattling of the iron gates awakened him. When told of the fire he at first refused to open the gates until he received orders from the governor, but the firemen threatened to demolish the gates and had already got axes and poles to do so.

The blaze illuminated the whole island. A fire fighting force composed of employes of the institution, which holds semi-weekly drills, did not appear until after the volunteers were at work. When the large bronze doors of the dome opened the smoke which poured out kept the firemen at bay. John Crowley and James Quinn, of Lafayette Hose Company, were overcome and were taken to the Harbor hospital. After being revived, they were taken to their homes. Ladders were raised, and the firemen soon had streams of water playing on the flames.

The hot bronze made it difficult for the firemen to work, but after several hours they succeeded in getting the flames under control. The interior of the building was wrecked, and the large pipe organ in the main church was practically ruined by fire and water. The large gold cross on top of the dome melted and fell to an adjoining roof. The chapel was erected eight years ago at a cost of $500,000 and was said to be one of the finest churches in this country. It had seating capacity of two thousand. Christmas services of an elaborate character were held there on Sunday. The organ was imported from England and erected by the makers, who came with it from abroad for that purpose. The Rev. Arthur Sloane is the resident chaplain of the chapel.

CUT PIECE FROM SKULL.

Operation at Roosevelt Hospital Saves Life of Vice-Consul.

At Roosevelt Hospital it was said yesterday that Marcial Salas, vice-consul of Venezuela in this city, who was taken there about a week ago with a fractured skull, was out of danger and would probably be discharged in two weeks.

Señor Salas was the victim of a careless truck driver. When he arrived at the hospital in an ambulance he was unconscious and it was feared that he could not recover. As a last resort a piece of Señor Salas's skull about the size of a dollar was removed. The operation proved successful and the patient is now on the way to recovery.

Señor Salas and his friends are loud in their praises of the physicians and nurses at Roosevelt Hospital. E. Gonzalez Esteves, ex-consul general of Venezuela, said yesterday: "My countrymen here and myself are truly grateful for the excellent treatment given our friend Señor Salas. I have visited hospitals in Europe, but none can compare with the public institutions in this city. Not only do I refer to the perfect efficiency at the Roosevelt Hospital, but the high consideration which is shown there to all persons, Americans and foreigners alike, by its staff."

BOYS HURT COASTING IN PARK.

Two Run Against Trees and One Rolls from His Sled, Breaking Leg.

While boys were coasting yesterday afternoon on the hill in Central Park near Fifth-ave., at Sixty-seventh-st., Jacob Weinberg, thirteen years old, of No. 418 East Seventy-first-st., shot down the hill with such speed that he could not steer the sled away from a tree. He was flung against the tree with such force that his chest was bruised badly. He was taken to the Presbyterian Hospital. Joseph Haight, of No. 1,096 Third-ave., tried the same thing and ran into a tree, cutting his left eye. His wound was dressed at the hospital.

Over on the west side of the park, James Newell, ten years old, of No. 412 East Fifty-third-st., started down hill on a sled, hit another boy and rolled down part of the way. Newell's leg was broken and the ambulance took him to Roosevelt Hospital.

DEPEW AND WESTCHESTER.

A Prominent Republican Discusses the Senator's Claims.

One of the most prominent Republicans of Westchester County, in commenting upon the statement from Westchester in The Tribune of Sunday, said yesterday:

There have been many statements made about Senator Depew's relations with Westchester, and most of them so inaccurate that, in justice to both the county and the Senator, the facts should be known. There has been nothing in years which is causing more discussion and interest in Westchester. Senator Depew's ties to the county are great. His ancestors bought the homestead farm at Peekskill from the Indians more than two hundred years ago, and what had escaped the encroachments of the village was given by the Senator for a public park. His kin for all these generations worked, lived, died and are buried in the Town of Cortlandt. For over forty years he included the county in his canvass of the State, and closed the campaign the night before election at Peekskill. He was one of Judge Robertson's most active and useful supporters during his long leadership.

In the fight for control after Judge Robertson died he took no part, but in the election was in every campaign an active supporter of the party. In the twenty-three successful contests of General Husted for the Assembly the Senator did quite as much as that remarkable campaigner himself. The report says the party in Westchester owes a debt of gratitude to Governor Black, because, to quote, "The Governor appointed Addison Johnson, Mr. Ward's closest friend in his town of Rye, Warden of Sing Sing prison." But Senator Depew, as delegate-at-large and United States Senator, with cordial relations with both Governor Odell and Senator Platt, was in a position at Chicago where, as between the candidates for the New-York member of the National Republican Committee, he was enabled by his insistent and persistent advocacy of Mr. Ward to secure his selection.

The Westchester gentleman turned next to details in this phase of Senator Depew's activities. When it comes to the matter of appointments, he exclaimed, does not everybody know that Senator Depew has been getting positions for Westchester County men in the service of the nation and State, on steam and surface railroads, and otherwise, for more than twenty-five years? His list includes hundreds of Westchester men thus placed, many of whom, from the start and opportunity thus given, have made gratifying successes in life. The citizens of Westchester County, continued this Westchester Republican, ought by letter or personally to inform Mr. Ward and their Senators and members of Assembly whether or not they prefer a citizen of another and distant county to their Westchester neighbor for United States Senator. Mr. Ward and Senator Carpenter and Assemblymen Apgar, Wainwright and Rigby have frequently expressed an earnest wish to ascertain the sentiment of their constituents.

THE SAMAR UPRISING.

Wright and Corbin Taking Steps to Suppress It.

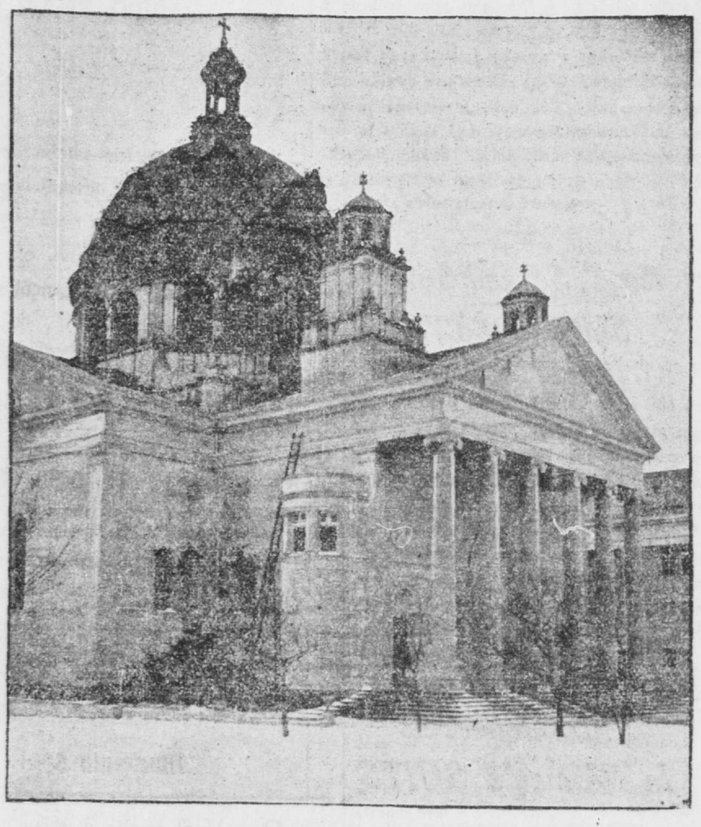
Washington, Dec. 26.—Secretary Taft today received the following cable message from Governor Wright, at Manila, in response to an inquiry in regard to the recent uprising of the Pulajanes at Dolores, Samar:

Manila, Dec. 26, 1904.

Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

With reference to your telegram of 21st inst., I regret to say that General Corbin's report of attack on and loss of detachments of scouts at Oras and Dolores is correct. Pulajanes have of late left west and north sides of Samar and become active on east coast, which is practically without harbor and very difficult of access during prevalence of the existing monsoon. Orders were given some time since to strengthen all detachments on the east coast, but, unfortunately, this was delayed by wreck and loss of coastguard boat carrying a hundred or more of the constabulary. The men were saved, but the delay in sending another coastguard boat to the rescue resulted in leaving these small detachments at Oras and Dolores isolated, and the consequent loss. All east coast stations have been heavily reinforced and we are still sending men in by my direction. General Allen, the chief of constabulary, left Manila two weeks since to take personal charge of affairs in Samar. I am still further reinforcing him with constabulary and am consulting with General Corbin, who, if necessary, will aid us with troops.

WRIGHT.



CHAPEL AT SAILOR'S SNUG HARBOR,
The interior of which was completely destroyed by fire early yesterday morning.

RISKS LIFE FOR BABY.

Brave Fireman, Suffocated and Burning, Rescues Her.

Orange, N. J., Dec. 26 (Special).—With his coat ablaze and half suffocated with smoke, Fireman George Eager, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, of the Orange Fire Department, to-day staggered downstairs from the third story of the home of Samuel Brody, at No. 69 Essex-ave., bearing in his arms Gertrude, the four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brody.

The fire originated just before 1 o'clock this afternoon and was caused by Gertrude herself, who was playing with matches in a closet in the second floor. She set fire to some clothing and, becoming frightened, shut the door and toddled upstairs to the garret and hid. Mrs. Brody missed her, and, going upstairs to find out where she was, was met by a gust of flame from the room. She picked up her youngest boy, "Sammy," and rushed downstairs with him. An alarm was sent in and the firemen were quickly on the scene. They found Mrs. Brody on the second floor, screaming that her child was upstairs, and making frantic efforts to get up.

Firemen Hodgkinson, Eager, Marvel, Boose and others searched through the rooms on that floor, but could not find the child. Then Eager climbed up a ladder which had meanwhile been raised to the third story and smashed in the window with his elbow. He got into the room and fell to the floor almost unconscious from the smoke. He was followed closely by Patrolman McManus, and the two crawled about the floor on their stomachs. The blaze had come up through the floor and it set fire to Eager's coat. He was about to give up the search when he heard some papers rustling in a corner of the room he was in and, investigating, found the little girl lying on the floor. She had pulled some newspapers over her head and was clasping them with her tiny arms. She was unconscious. She was later revived.

WRECK KILLS MANY HOGS.

Engineer Badly Hurt in Collision—Animals Take to Woods.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 26.—The Boston and Albany passenger train known as the "Governor's train," leaving this city eastbound at 9:10 a. m., was wrecked near Smith's Crossing, between Springfield and Westfield, this morning, in a collision with a hog train, which was running ahead of it and which had stopped to repair a breakdown to the engine. The engine of the passenger train went down a steep embankment, overturned and was demolished, carrying Merritt, the engineer, and Wheeler, the fireman, with it, the former crawling from the wrecked cab badly injured. His legs were severely scalded, he received bad scalp wounds and internal injuries are feared. He was taken to Mercy Hospital, in this city, where, it is believed, he will recover. Wheeler was not much hurt, although buried by the coal of the tender, which he was shovelling at the time of the collision. None of the passengers were seriously injured, though some were badly shken up and many received bad bruises.

The caboose and two cars of the hog train were demolished and many hogs were killed, some being roasted in the wreckage, which took fire. Many others were liberated by the crash and took to the woods. Some injured animals dragged themselves about until killed by nearby farmers.

EXTRAVAGANT PARSIMONY

Federal Bureaus Crowded Into Rented Buildings.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 26.—One of the peculiarities of government financiering is to be found in the annual rental paid for buildings used by the various executive departments in Washington. This sum for the last fiscal year amounted to $311,236 94, and, as the departments are growing much faster than public buildings are constructed, there is every prospect that the sum will aggregate considerably more in the near future.

A part of the above sum is now devoted to the rental of residences and other buildings totally unfit for the use to which they are put, for the accommodation of the Department of Agriculture, and members of Congress point with unction to the fact that they have already appropriated $1,500,000 for the erection of a new building for this department. They fail to say, however, that this amount represents about one-half that called for by the estimates of the Secretary of Agriculture, and will only permit of the erection of a building which, by the time it is completed, will prove so inadequate for this growing department as to render necessary the rental of as much private property as is now required to house its various bureaus.

The Department of Justice is quartered entirely in residences rented for the purpose, and the use of which is naturally attended with grave inconvenience and unnecessary expense. The War Department, while occupying its share of the State, War and Navy Building, is also obliged to rent numerous outside buildings for office purposes, as is the Navy Department, which pays $50,000 a year for the use of a single building erected for its use by a private owner. The Census Office is in a building owned by private citizens, and many other instances might be cited.

Of course, the scattering of a single department through many buildings, often several squares away from the main offices, delays the transaction of public business, and adds materially to the expense of conducting the various offices, while contributing to a lack of discipline and order which would be largely avoided were all the offices of each department gathered beneath a single roof. But there is a more potent reason for abandoning the penny wise and pound foolish policy which has thus far dominated Congress in its failure to provide adequate accommodations for the departments over which it exercises almost supreme control.

It is conservatively estimated that the sum paid by the government as rents amounts to not less than 10 per cent of the whole value of the property. Assuming this estimate to be correct, the value of the property rented by the government must be about $3,412,370. As is well known, the government can borrow money to an almost unlimited amount at 2 per cent. If, therefore, this sum were expended properly to house the executive departments, even though it should be necessary to issue bonds to raise the amount, the interest would amount to only $68,247, an annual saving of $273,000 apart from the increased convenience and efficiency to be secured by providing suitable accommodations for the departments. Those members of Congress who take this view of the situation urge that, while the cost of maintenance of such buildings would fall on the government, the steady increase of land values would more than offset the contingent expenses which might be incurred.

In striking contrast with the policy pursued by Congress in its treatment of the executive departments are the appropriations recently authorized for office buildings for members of Congress. For the purchase of sites and the erection of buildings for this purpose Congress has appropriated $6,850,000, of which $3,850,000 will be devoted to the office building for Representatives, and $3,000,000 to that for Senators. The necessity for erecting such buildings must be obvious to every visitor who inspects the subterranean chambers now used as offices and committee rooms by members of Congress, but it is also evident that the new structures are projected on a generous scale, while every provision made for executive offices is designed on an opposite basis.

It is freely predicted that no public building bill will be permitted to become a law at the present session of Congress, because of the determination of the leaders to restrict the expenses of the government to the receipts, but it is doubtful, if the public fully appreciated the facts, that there would be the slightest criticism of a policy which aimed at proper housing of the executive departments, even although a special issue of bonds proved necessary to accomplish the desired end. At least, that is the view taken by some members of Congress, who intend to urge their views on the leaders at the first opportune moment.

It is even argued that a bond issue of $3,000,000 or $4,000,000 would be welcomed by a host of small investors, who would thus have an opportunity to secure "gilt edged" investment for their small savings, while an additional reason urged for such a policy is that in the absence of a public building bill, at this session, the Supervising Architect will be compelled either to curtail his force materially or retain a considerable part of it in idleness.

COLOMBIAN LEGISLATORS ARRESTED.

Charged with Circulating Publications Against the Government.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Mr. Russell, the American Minister at Bogota, Colombia, informed the State Department to-day of the arrest in Bogota of three Opposition members of the lower house of the last Congress for circulating publications against the government. The present government, Mr. Russell adds, is inspiring confidence.

GUATEMALA REFUSES TO PAY DEBTS.

British Legation May Be Withdrawn—People Deplore Government's Action.

Mexico City, Dec. 26.—News from Guatemala shows that there is much feeling on the part of the British residents regarding the non-payment of the debt due to British bondholders, and it is asserted that the British Legation will be removed from Guatemala City to either Nicaragua or Salvador. There seems to be no prospect of the Guatemalan government complying with the obligations to foreign creditors. The people in Guatemala deplore the attitude of the government and the disregard of its obligation.

NEW WIRELESS SYSTEM SUCCEEDS.

Rome, Dec. 26.—Experiments with the Artons system of radio-telegraphy have been made between Rome and Sardinia, resulting in a successful demonstration of the inventor's claim that an electro-magnetic wave message transmitted by this system cannot be diverted from the point for which it is intended. King Victor Emmanuel, who witnessed the test, congratulated the inventor upon his achievement.

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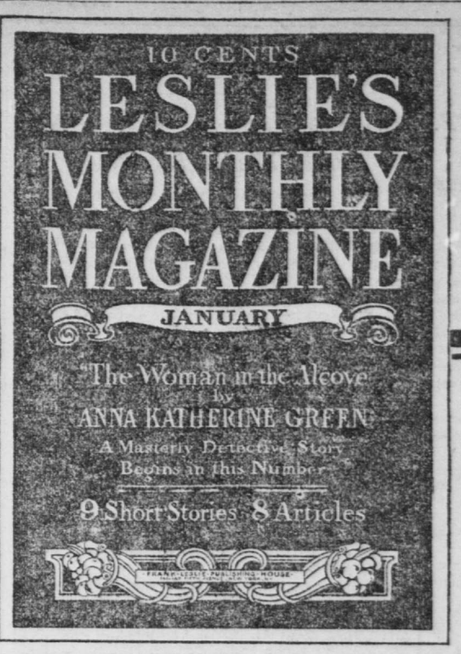

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