New-York Tribune.

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VOL. LXV....No. 21,665. To-day, fair and colder. To-morrow, cloudy, followed by snow. NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1906.—5 PARTS. SIXTY PAGES. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

TAKING OF MOUNT DAJO.

ONSLAUGHT IN CRATER.

Women and Children Reported Killed—Nine Hundred Casualties.

Manila, March 10.—An unofficial report from Jolo says that the families of the Moros remained in the village in the crater of Mount Dajo, and that the women and children mingled with the warriors during the battle, so that it was impossible to spare them, all being killed in the fierce onslaught. It is impossible at present to obtain confirmation or denial of this report from Major General Wood, who is supposed to be returning to Manila with General Bliss.

Constabulary detachments are now engaged in the mountains of Northern Luzon, rounding up the bands of savages and head hunters who are on the warpath.

Telegrams from Zamboanga say that the attack on Mount Dajo began on Monday. There were four days of hard fighting, in which it is estimated that nine hundred persons were killed or wounded.

Americans are now arriving at Zamboanga from Jolo. The consensus of their opinion is that the whole trouble was due to the fact that Governor Major Hugh Scott permitted the outlaws to fortify themselves in sight of the city of Jolo. The military authorities at Zamboanga have refused since then to give any information to the press.

Brigadier General Bliss made a reconnoissance toward Mount Dajo in the week previous to the attack of the American forces upon the Moro stronghold, but it had no effect on the hostile attitude of the outlaws.

The wounds received by First Lieutenant Gordon Johnston in the action are severe, a slug having passed through his right shoulder. He performed a gallant deed when he scaled the wall of the Rio crater and was blown off the parapet by the force of exploding artillery.

The Moro constabulary, commanded by Colonel Scott, is receiving praise from the entire expedition.

The federal troops and constabulary formed three columns and assaulted the Moro stronghold, advancing by three trails to the mountain top. The constabulary were placed at the head of one column.

Manila, March 11.—All of the men who were wounded in the recent fight with the Moros at Mount Dajo are reported to be in a favorable condition.

Six of the organizations of the troops which came from Mindanao are either on the way home or have been ordered to return to their headquarters. Jolo is quiet and the Sultan and headmen are reported as saying that general satisfaction is expressed over the extermination of the outlaws.

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES WOOD.

Sends Cable Dispatch Praising Officers and Men for Jolo Fight.

Washington, March 10.—President Roosevelt to-day sent the following cable dispatch of congratulation to Major General Wood at Manila, regarding the recent encounters with the Moros near Jolo:

Washington, March 10.

Wood, Manila. I congratulate you and the officers and men of your command upon the brilliant feat of arms wherein you and they so well upheld the honor of the American flag.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

COAL DEMANDS REFUSED.

So Rumor Says, but Adds There Is Chance of Agreement.

A report, which could not be verified, reached this city yesterday that the answer to the demands of the anthracite mine workers' committee of seven had been sent to President Mitchell of the United Mine Workers. According to the report some and probably all of the demands were refused, but there was nothing to make it impossible for the anthracite operators' and the miners' committees of seven to get together again.

While Mr. Mitchell would not say whether or not the answer had been received, there was some excitement at the Ashland House. A hasty meeting of the members of the miners' committee of seven who were still in New-York was called. These were President Mitchell, William H. Dettrey, president of District No. 7, and John Fahy and George Hartlein, president and secretary, respectively, of District No. 9. Hartlein was out and a messenger who was sent out to find him returned in two hours without him.

The meeting was postponed until 9:55 a. m. to-day. It will be short, as Mitchell and the other officers, he announced, will leave town by the train from Jersey City an hour later for Indianapolis, Ind., to attend the convention of the United Mine Workers, which begins on Thursday and at which Mitchell will preside.

YALE APPETITES ALL RIGHT.

Students Get Away with Goodly Quantities of Food Each Day.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

New-Haven, March 10.—Captain S. A. Smoke, director of the Yale dining hall, announces the daily consumption of food of his 1,050 Yale boarders as follows:

The 1,050 men require daily for their sustenance 1,000 pounds of meat, 2,400 eggs, 115 loaves of bread, 1,600 rolls, 1,000 quarts of milk, 120 quarts of cream, 30 bushels of potatoes, 2,000 bananas and 200 pounds of butter. Sixty gallons of soup are prepared daily in the huge caldrons in the basement. The management employs 200 men, and 28 students work to support themselves during their college course.

FINDS ROCKEFELLER ON MARS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Cleveland, March 10.—Dr. H. F. Biggar, who is John D. Rockefeller's physician, to-day found the oil king. The doctor said to-night that his patient was on the planet Mars, he having identified him by one of the flying golf balls that shot away from the planet.

"He was in Mars," said Dr. Biggar, over the telephone. "That's a planet, you know, near Jupiter. He was up there playing golf. One might have heard the whacks quite plainly."

"But you didn't see him?"

"Well, one of the golf balls came clear over to Jupiter. It's quite a way over, but it came. It belonged to the Rockefeller outfit. He was there all right."

ROOSEVELT PARDONS MURDERER.

Marinette, Wis., March 10.—Alexander La Duke, a member of Company I, 2d Regiment, Wisconsin State Troops, during the Spanish-American War, who was sentenced to life imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth for killing a private, was pardoned to-day by President Roosevelt through the efforts of Senator La Follette. His friends pleaded self-defence.

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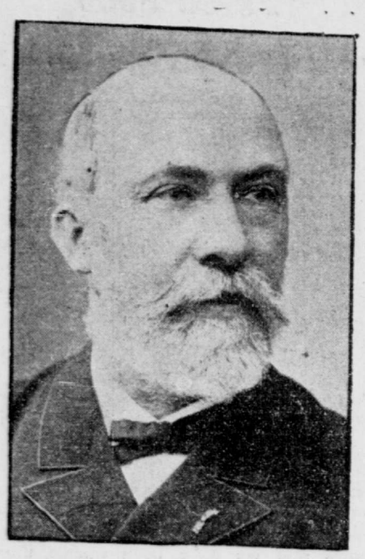
is furnished by the electric-lighted and in every way luxuriously appointed Southern's Palm Limited. The favorite train to Aiken, Augusta and all the Florida resorts. Full information New York Offices, 271 and 1,185 Broadway.—Advt.

JEAN MARIE FERDINAND SARRIEN.
The new Premier of France.



M. SARRIEN PREMIER

MM. Bourgeois and Poincare Will Have Portfolios.

Paris, March 10.—Jean Marie Ferdinand Sarrien decided to-day to form a ministry and informed President Fallières of his acceptance of the task. Previously M. Sarrien conferred with MM. Bourgeois and Poincaré, the former agreeing to take the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and the latter that of Finance or of Justice. M. Sarrien preferred to take the post of Minister of Justice, but owing to the importance of the approaching elections he decided to take that of the Ministry of the Interior, which he will administer until the elections.

Later M. Sarrien obtained the co-operation of M. Leyguès, former Minister of Public Instruction; Aristide Briand, the Socialist Deputy from Saint Etienne, who was chairman of the committee reporting on the law for the separation of Church and State, and MM. Ruau and Thomson, respectively Ministers of Agriculture and of Marine in the Cabinet of M. Rouvier. He also consulted Senator Clémenceau, who may take a portfolio.

Although no definite apportionment of portfolios has yet been made, the following is an approximate arrangement:

Premier and Minister of the Interior—M. SARRIEN.
Minister of Foreign Affairs—M. BOURGEOIS.
Minister of Finance—M. POINCARE or M. CAILLAUX.
Minister of War—ADOLPHE MAUJAN or possibly M. POINCARE.
Minister of Marine—M. THOMSON.
Minister of Justice—JEAN CRUPPI or M. POINCARE.
Minister of Instruction—M. BRIAND.
Minister of Commerce—JEAN LOUIS BARTHOU or M. TROUILLOT.
Minister of Works—PIERRE PAUL GUIEYSSE or M. DESSAIGNE.
Minister of Colonies—M. DUMERGUE.
Minister of Agriculture—M. RUAU.

The foregoing list is subject to changes to-morrow, when the make-up of the Ministry will be announced.

Jean Marie Ferdinand Sarrien was born in 1840 at Bourbon-Lancy, Department of the Saone-and-Loire, of which town he became Mayor. In the war of 1870-'71 M. Sarrien served as a captain of militia. He was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1876, became Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in 1885, Minister of the Interior in 1887, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies in 1896, Minister of the Interior from March to April, 1898; Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies in 1896, 1897 and 1898, and was Minister of Justice in the Brisson Cabinet of 1898. He was a candidate for the Presidency of the Chamber of Deputies in the present year, but was defeated by Paul Doumer. On January 17 M. Sarrien was defeated by M. Fallières for the Presidency of France.

WOMAN VICTIM OF DRINK.

Once Wife of "Count"—She Is Taken to Bellevue.

Mrs. Virginia K. Patterson, wife of Joseph N. Patterson, and the divorced wife of "Count" de Montercole, of Italy, was removed to Bellevue yesterday, suffering from alcoholism. The Pattersons live at No. 11 East 9th street. Mrs. Patterson, her husband said, is a niece of Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania.

She was taken to the hospital by Sergeant Farrell on a warrant issued for the determination of her sanity. Mr. Patterson said his wife has been a victim of drink for three years, and that recently she has been drinking heavily. Several days ago he called in Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton and Dr. Harlow McDonald to examine her, as she had been acting strangely, he said. The physicians diagnosed her case as dipsomania, he said.

Mrs. Patterson, whose maiden name was Virginia Knox, was married to "Count" de Montercole, of Italy, on October 8, 1888. He was only a count by courtesy, for he had previously married the Countess of Montercole, who was not of age when he married her, and died before she received the title. He did not inherit either the title or her estate.

Several years after their marriage the second wife of the so-called count obtained a divorce on the grounds of cruelty. "Count" de Montercole was arrested in this city several years ago on the charge of disorderly conduct, and committed to an institution. He died in an insane asylum.

Mr. Patterson married the woman several years ago. He said that her principal delusion was in regard to wireless telegraphy, and that she believed she received messages from heaven. Mr. Patterson attributes this to the frequent visits to their home of Nicola Tesla.

LOSES RACE FOR DYING BROTHER.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Pittsburg, March 10.—Edwin Bindley, president of the Duquesne National Bank and of the Neeley Nut and Bolt Company, died suddenly this morning from pneumonia, after an illness of less than a week. He was sixty-four years old and was prominent in financial and manufacturing circles. His brother, John Bindley, president of the Bindley Hardware Company, who has been in California, started home on a special train, arriving here a few hours after his brother had died. Edwin Bindley was a member of many prominent clubs. He leaves a wife.

"CORPSE" POINTS GUN AT UNDERTAKER.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Richmond, Va., March 10.—M. A. Rexrode, a gravedigger at Staunton, last night had a unique experience with a supposed corpse. As he lifted the lid of the coffin the supposed dead man sprang to a sitting posture and pointed a gun in the gravedigger's face. Rexrode slammed down the lid and took to his heels. When he returned with assistance the supposed corpse was seen disappearing over a distant hill.

SAVANNAH LINE South. New ships. Polite and attentive officers. Low rates. Perfect cuisine. Office, 317 Broadway.—Advt.

OVER ONE THOUSAND PERISH.

Twelve Hundred Men Die in Burning Pits of French Colliery.

FLAMES FOLLOW GREAT EXPLOSION.

Efforts to Rescue Entombed Miners Fruitless—Collieries Cave In—Pitiable Scenes at Mouths of Shafts.

Paris, March 10.—A mining catastrophe involving the loss of over a thousand lives has stricken the great coal centre of Northern France. An explosion of firedamp at 7 o'clock this morning carried death and destruction throughout the network of coal mines centred at Courrières, and fire followed the explosion, making rescues almost impossible.

The intense excitement and confusion in the vicinity prevented early estimates of the exact loss of life, but a dispatch received here at 4:35 p. m. gave 1,404 miners entombed and probably lost. At 8:45 o'clock this evening a brief dispatch from Lille announced the total of 1,193 dead.

All France has been profoundly shocked by the magnitude of the disaster, which is said to be the greatest in the history of Continental mining.

President Fallières sent his secretary, accompanied by M. Gauthier, the Minister of Public Works, and M. Dubief, the Minister of the Interior, on a special train to the scene of the disaster.

The ministerial crisis was temporarily forgotten, Senators and Deputies joining in the general public manifestations of sorrow.

The scene of the catastrophe is the mountainous mining region near Lens, in the Department of Pas de Calais. Here are huddled small hamlets of the mine workers, who operate the most productive coal mines in France. The subterranean chambers form a series of tunnels. Six of the outlets are near Lens, and others are at Courrières, Verdun and many other points.

The output of these mines is particularly combustible, and is largely used in the manufacture of gas and in smelting. About two thousand miners work the group of mines, and with their families make a population of from 6,000 to 8,000 souls.

The catastrophe occurred shortly after 1,795 men had descended into the mines this morning. There was a deafening explosion, which was followed by the cages and mining apparatus being hurled from the mouth of the Courrières mine. Men and horses near by outside the mine were either stunned or killed. The roof of the mine office was torn off.

Immediately following the explosion, flames burst from the mouth of the pit, driving back those without who sought to enter and dooming those within.

A dispatch from Courrières, timed 8 p. m., said that the attempts to rescue the imprisoned miners had been given up, the galleries in the mine having fallen in.

The work of attempting to rescue the imprisoned miners was hastily begun by officials, engineers and miners from the surrounding mines, who formed parties and made heroic efforts to penetrate the smoke and foul gases and bring out the imprisoned men.

The families of the entombed miners crowded about the shaft, seeking husbands or fathers, and threatening, in their efforts to obtain details, to force back the gendarmes who kept them from the mouth of the pit. The populace of the district is appalled by the disaster, which affects every household.

Those persons who were rescued were terribly burned. The latest estimates place those taken out at 591.

Throughout the afternoon the heroic efforts at rescue were continued, but nightfall brought the conviction that the entombed men had been suffocated, and the dispatch from Lille at 8:45 p. m., announcing the number of dead at 1,193, appears to remove the last hope that others may be brought to the surface alive.

The explosion occurred in Pits 11 and 4, and the flames spread to all the communicating pits, embracing Méricourt, Coron and Lens.

A dispatch from Lille says that a smouldering fire broke out last night in the Cecil pit of the Courrière mines, near Méricourt, at a depth of 270 metres, where masonry work was going on. This is all that is known of the origin of the catastrophe.

The cages in which the miners descended into Pits Nos. 2, 3 and 4 about 7 o'clock this morning were hurled thirty feet from the mouth of the shaft. A miner working near the mouth was instantly killed, and a horse was thrown into the air. Some of the imprisoned miners sought to escape to the pits which remained intact, and several rescues were made. The first cages came up at 10 o'clock with about a dozen half suffocated men, who were promptly taken to the hospital. Among them was M. Voisin, an engineer, who had attempted to organize a rescue party.

Toward noon wounded workmen began to be brought up in the baskets, and the bodies of two men were taken from Pit No. 10. It was feared that the remainder had been asphyxiated.

Assistance reached Courrières from all sections of the department, and a large force of volunteers took part in the efforts made to rescue the entombed miners, recover the bodies of the killed and help in the work of salvage.

One of the rescued miners, Pierre Dasson, said:

I was 280 metres from the shaft when I heard a deafening explosion. The air immediately became filled with poisonous vapors. Instinctively I groped my way toward the bottom of the shaft of Pit No. 2, near which I found a number of suffocating comrades who had fallen helpless in the galleries. I assisted them to mount the trolley, and thus they were enabled to reach the shaft.

Gas poured into Pit 2, preventing an entrance, and it was impossible to succor the men imprisoned there. In Pit 3 the cages would not work, having been damaged by the explosion.

The roof of the office near the entrance to the mine was blown off by the explosion.

Ten miners from Pit 11 were removed alive, but none of the 858 miners who entered Pit 4 were saved.

Of the five hundred miners who descended into one pit this morning, according to a dispatch from Lens, 388 were brought out, but the rescue of the others was impossible. In Pit 3 only thirteen men out of 443 were rescued, and as the ladders are broken and the cages jammed, the rescuers despair of reaching the others.

The crowd surrounding the mouth of the mine is showing signs of impatience at what it considers the slow progress being made by the rescuers. Agonizing scenes are witnessed and the gendarmes have great difficulty in restraining the crowds of people.

The chief engineer of the Department Pas de Calais, M. Léon, says that the fire broke out in the pit at 3 o'clock last Monday afternoon and that the engineers coped with it as best they were able, but that on Friday, being unable to master it, they closed all the outlets. Fissures, he thinks, must have formed, which permitted the gases to escape, and these became ignited and exploded.

One of the engineers of the mine told the "Journal's" correspondent that the cage was unable to descend more than 150 metres, while the gallery where the miners were entombed was 50 metres further down. Rescuers who descended in this cage report having heard distinctly the imprisoned men tapping on the water pipes, but the hope that was rekindled by this statement was extinguished by M. Léon, who estimated that it would take eight days to dislodge the wreckage in the shafts, and that meanwhile the miners would die, either from starvation or asphyxiation.

The latest news received in Paris is that the rescuers are still at work, but are making slight progress, their work being most difficult and dangerous. Up to the present time 150 bodies have been taken from Pits Nos. 10 and 11, all the men having been asphyxiated.

Paris, March 11.—A dispatch from Lens, timed 1:20 o'clock this morning, says that the number of entombed men is now given as 1,219, and that the crowd around the pits totals 25,000.

THE PERILS OF MINING.

Some of the Disasters Which Have Occurred in America.

Explosions of gas in mines have killed hundreds of miners and laborers in America in the last few years. In Pennsylvania the history of mining is marked by many stories of disaster. Carelessness in exposing a naked lamp to pockets of gas has been responsible for many of them. The ignorant foreign element employed in the mines is particularly careless in this respect. At Cheswick, Penn., near Pittsburg, on January 26, 1904, an explosion entombed two hundred men, of whom seventy-five were taken out alive. Selwyn H. Taylor, a prominent mining engineer, the superintendent and man who planned the mine, was suffocated while trying to rescue the men.

At Eastmont, near Johnstown, Penn., on January 10, 1902, gas leaking into a heading exploded, killing a hundred and twenty-five men. Three hundred men were killed in a mine at Schofield, Utah, in May, 1900, by a blast igniting gas.

TOOK TRANSFER; IN JAIL.

Young Man Arrested for Helping Himself After Refusal.

Because he demanded a transfer some time after he paid his fare, contrary to the rule of the New-York City Railway Company, J. Mason Lawrence, twenty years of age, of Pelham Manor, was arrested last night on the complaint of a conductor of a 23d street crosstown car, on the charge of disorderly conduct. The young man's father is a stock broker.

Lawrence boarded a car at Third avenue and paid his fare. When the car reached Sixth avenue he demanded a transfer. The conductor refused, and Lawrence pulled out a bunch of transfers from the conductor's pocket and tore one off for himself. The conductor, William Hamilton, of No. 455 Ninth avenue, then called Patrolman Tyndle, of the traffic squad, and had Lawrence arrested.

FLORIDA AND CAROLINA RESORTS.

Superior service via Seaboard Air Line Ry. Inquire 1183 Broadway.—Advt.

MME. NORDICA IN DANGER.

Narrowly Escapes Being Seriously Hurt by Falling Scenery.

Mme. Nordica and Signor Campanari had a narrow escape from serious injury yesterday afternoon at the performance of "Il Trovatore" at the Metropolitan Opera House by the falling of a heavy piece of scenery from the flies. The scenery just grazed Mme. Nordica, and Campanari slipped into a nook to prevent being caught. The scenery was a heavy "leg piece," placed in position for the evening performance. Nordica was just returning from a prolonged curtain call when the scenery fell with a heavy crash to the stage floor. A scene shifter was struck, but not seriously injured.

This is the second time during the present season that Nordica has been in danger from falling scenery.

DEWEY'S "BRUT CUVEE" CHAMPAGNE.

Equal to the best French Brands.
H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 188 Fulton St., New York.—Advt.

F. J. H. KRACKE.
Who is to be naval officer of the Port of New-York.

NAMES F. J. H. KRACKE.

President Appoints Him to Succeed Sharkey—Stranahan to Stay.

Washington, March 10.—It was announced at the White House to-day that Frederick J. H. Kracke had been appointed by the President as naval officer at the port of New-York, to succeed Robert A. Sharkey. The appointment of Mr. Kracke ends a spirited contest, which has been in progress for several months.

Mr. Sharkey has been the incumbent of the office for eight years and was strongly backed for reappointment. An investigation of his office was made by the Civil Service Commission, and on the strength of the facts developed by that investigation it was announced that the President had decided not to reappoint him. Mr. Kracke was indorsed by the Congressmen from Brooklyn and Senator Platt.

President Roosevelt also announced to-day that he would reappoint Nevada N. Stranahan as collector of the port of New-York; J. S. Clarkson as surveyor of the port of New-York, and General Michael Kerwin as pension agent at New-York.

The appointments announced to-day practically finish the nominations to federal offices to be made for New-York.

The Kings County Republican organization made a strong fight for the reappointment of Naval Officer Sharkey for a third term. He is leader of the 16th Assembly District, and has always been prominent in shaping the policy of the organization. Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff, the Kings County leader, after making a personal appeal to President Roosevelt, announced that there was no hope of Sharkey's reappointment. Then it was that Dady, who had just been snubbed by Woodruff, caused word to be circulated that Woodruff had deserted Sharkey, and himself went to see the President. His idea was to get the sympathy of Sharkey in any fight with Woodruff.

Two sets of charges against Sharkey's conduct of his office have been filed with the federal Civil Service Commission within the last six months, but nothing came of either of them.

When it was seen that there was no chance for Sharkey's reappointment a scramble ensued for the indorsement of the County Committee. F. J. H. Kracke, who is the leader of the 18th Assembly District, one of the Republican strongholds and a Woodruff supporter, won out.

Mr. Kracke was born in this city in 1868. When he was twenty-seven years old he was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, which position he has since held. The new office pays $8,000 a year.

The nominations of Edward B. Jordan as Collector of Internal Revenue and J. H. Haubert as United States marshal for the Eastern District of New-York, which will be sent to the Senate to-morrow, will be to succeed themselves.

OFFERS $500 REWARD.

Automobile Club Seeks Chauffeur Who Upset the Craigs.

The automobile accident which resulted in the death of the wife of Police Sergeant Robert Craig on Friday has caused the Automobile Club of America to offer a reward of $500 for the arrest and conviction of the driver of the automobile which upset the machine from the Schultz garage. Immediately after the fatal collision, in which not only Mrs. Craig was killed, but her husband and children were injured, the automobile and its chauffeur, whose identity is unknown, disappeared.

The offer of a reward by the Automobile Club of America was embraced in a formal statement, in which it was asserted that the club deplored, with all good citizens, the reckless use of the highways by automobiles. It offers a reward of $500 for the arrest and conviction of the driver "of the automobile which caused the accident," and stands only for the "decent use of the highways by automobiles." It is also asserted that "the club believes in prosecuting to the utmost limit the careless use of automobiles, and, above all, the heartless desertion of a chauffeur, as in this accident, in running away after causing the accident."

The reward is offered by order of the board of governors of the Automobile Club of America, and is announced over the signature of S. M. Butler, secretary of the club.

DRIVE OUT ANARCHISTS.

Police Break Up Meeting Where Most Is Speaking.

Philadelphia, March 10.—A squad of policemen to-night raided a meeting of two hundred anarchists while Johann Most, of New-York, was on the platform delivering an address. The meeting was held in honor of the anniversary of Most's birth, and he was reciting the story of his life when the police entered. He desisted at the command of Lieutenant Atkinson, and George Brown, of this city, mounted the platform, calling upon Voltarine de Cleyre to lead the assemblage in prayer. The police lieutenant made his way with difficulty through the excited crowd and grasping the woman by the wrist forced her to leave the stage. Others attempted to explain to the audience that they had been ordered to leave the hall, but as they spoke in foreign tongues the police mistook their attitude for one of defiance and endeavored to clear the hall. This incensed the crowd, who resisted the police, and in the confusion blows were exchanged. The hall was finally cleared and no arrests were made.

For people who are in a hurry and yet want perfect comfort in travelling, the New York Central offers unequalled facilities.—Advt.

EXPECT SLIGHT CHANGES

INVESTIGATORS PLEASED.

Insurance Committee Looked for More Opposition—Rogers Talks.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, March 10.—Unless much more serious opposition is manifested to the insurance reform bills than was brought out at the hearing yesterday, the changes made in the present form of the bills will be unimportant, members of the Armstrong committee say to-day. The committee was greatly surprised that so little objection was made to the radical reforms introduced by the measures. Technical objections were expected and were desired, since the members wished to be fair to the insurance companies, and some of the features relating solely to the internal conduct of insurance affairs doubtless will be modified.

As a whole, however, the bills were deemed acceptable by the insurance men, and members of the committee to-day expressed their gratification that so little criticism had been made as to their work. Nothing will be done with the bills, according to the present understanding, until the hearings next week have been completed, although Assemblyman Rogers at first wanted to push ahead those bills to which no objection had been offered. Senator Armstrong thought, however, that it would be better to wait, as some one might come forward at the last minute with protests, and consequently prompt action might be construed as a desire to rush the bills through.

The section of the general bill relating to the expenses of new business, which bears so heavily on the agents, doubtless will be altered to leave the expenses incurred more at the discretion of the company's officers. While the bills were being drafted there was a disagreement in the committee over this feature, practically the only thing over which there was serious difference of opinion. That the bills might be presented speedily, however, those who wanted greater freedom submitted to the others, against their own ideas. Now that the companies have advanced such weighty arguments against the strictness of this provision most of the members see the justice of the protests originally made.

Another provision of the present measure which will be changed when the bills are considered in committee is that compelling companies chartered in other states to conform literally to the new methods in this state. Almost every foreign company protested against the injustice of this, and the committee is inclined to agree with them. This probably will be changed so that a company conforming to the insurance laws of its own state and which meets the requirements of the insurance department of this state, may do business here without carrying out the technical provisions of the bills. Over this question, too, there was a disagreement in the company.

The advisability of changing the provisions fixing the contingency reserve, or surplus, is the gravest question before the committee. It was debated while the bills were being drafted, and because of the arguments presented against it by the insurance presidents and their actuaries will be taken up very carefully before the bills are advanced. The committee expects to hear more arguments on the question next week, when mutualization will be taken up.

On the matter of limiting business, no doubt exists. The provision will be allowed to stand just as it is. The testimony of Mr. McClintock that years ago he favored the limiting of business in the Mutual only confirmed the committee's judgment that the provision was a good thing. Deferred dividends still continue a mooted point, but the general sentiment among the committeemen seems to be that excellent cause will have to be shown why the bill should be changed before any alteration is made. Some slight disposition to modify the measure to a five year term, with annual accounting thereafter, has been manifest.

Assemblyman Rogers, chairman of the Assembly Insurance Committee, said to-day that all the investigators were much pleased that no more serious points had been raised against the bills. Some changes undoubtedly would be made, he went on, but none which would affect the reform tendency of the bills.

"All these technical points about which the actuaries kicked were debated long in the committee," said he. "About many an honest difference of opinion existed, and we realized that we, being laymen, might be going a trifle too far in the direction of paternalism—forcible regulating of the companies' affairs. In all such cases, however, we decided with the view that the policyholders' welfare and the safety of the general public should be the first consideration, and that it would be better to err a trifle on the side of strictness. We knew that on the hearings we should receive ample enlightenment from the insurance officials on all such points. Some of the provisions as they stand now may be modified slightly, but none of the basic principles of the bills as the committee drew them are likely to be changed."

Senator Armstrong did not care to comment on the arguments presented at the hearing or the effect they might have on the bills. Assemblyman Prentice thought probably the limitation of expenses would be altered and possibly the contingency reserve.

The hearings next week will be the last public ones on the bills. The enforced mutualization of the companies and the retirement of the stock of stock corporations will be the important subject. Samuel Untermyer will be one of the speakers. The hearing will begin at 2 p. m. on Thursday, and will be continued at night and all Friday.

INSURANCE MEN CONFER.

Think Some Good Results Will Come of Argument.

There were several anxious conferences yesterday between the representatives of the insurance companies who appeared at Albany Friday at the hearing and the trustees and officers who remained in New-York. "What did you do to them?" was the principal question, the "them" referring to the members of the Armstrong committee. "Are they going to let up on us?" was the question that followed, the "us," of course referring to the companies.

Viewed in the light of the cold gray dawn that came to many of the company representatives as the night train from Albany approached the Grand Central Station this morning, the answer to the first question was that they had not done much. The answer to the second follows as a matter, of course, that there is to be little let up on the companies.

There was no little expression of surprise that

SPEER, OLDEST WINE GROWER IN AMERICA.

Alfred Speer, the veteran wine grower, on account of High License, High Rents and Old Age, was compelled to move store to the vineyards, Passaic, N. J., where in 7 cellars highest class oldest wines in America. Write for price list. Delivery free in city. Wines over 30 years old in Speer Chateau.—Advt.