New-York Tribune.

VOL. LXVII....No. 22,277. To-day, cloudy. To-morrow, partly cloudy; variable winds. NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1907.—FOURTEEN PAGES.— Copyright, 1907, by The Tribune Association. PRICE THREE CENTS.

MAY BE POISON VICTIM.

CAPITALIST FOUND DEAD.

Autopsy on Nathan Westheimer's Body Indicates Hydrocyanic Acid.

Following an autopsy performed by Dr. O'Hanlon, coroner's physician, on the body of Nathan Westheimer, fifty-five years old, vice-president and a director of the Nordlinger-Charlton Fireworks Company, at Nos. 143 and 145 West Broadway, who was found dead in his home, at No. 120 West 77th street, yesterday afternoon, Coroner Harburger announced that death might have been caused by hydrocyanic acid. Dr. O'Hanlon removed the organs for chemical analysis, and the police of the West 68th street station were instructed by the coroner to make an investigation of the death.

"It is a very mysterious case," the coroner said. "The death of Mr. Westheimer was reported to the coroner's office as due to apoplexy by Dr. C. D. Simmons, of No. 762 Madison avenue. Dr. O'Hanlon went to the house late in the afternoon and reported to me that the death was suspicious, and then I ordered an autopsy, which disclosed indications of hydrocyanic acid, a most deadly poison."

According to Coroner Harburger, Mr. Westheimer, who was interested in several mines in Nevada and California, had been out West for two months. He returned, the coroner said, a few weeks ago, and had been in the best of health.

From what the coroner learned Mr. Westheimer did not get up at his usual time yesterday morning, and when the maid, Katie Hippold, knocked on the door he said that he was tired and did not want to be disturbed for an hour or two. Mrs. Gussie Westheimer, wife of Mr. Westheimer, left the house, the coroner said, a few minutes later and went to the home of her mother, where she had luncheon. There was no one in the house then except the servants.

When Mrs. Westheimer returned home, shortly after 1 o'clock, she went, the coroner said, directly to her husband's room. He was lying in bed, and was, she said, apparently sleeping. She tried to arouse him, and, being unsuccessful, felt of his hand and found it cold.

After summoning Dr. Simmons in haste she called up her brother, Louis Nordlinger, who was in his office, in West Broadway. He is a member of the firm of which Mr. Westheimer was a director. Dr. Simmons when he arrived said that Mr. Westheimer had been dead about three hours. He sent word to the coroner's office, and reported the death as one from "apoplexy."

Coroner Harburger ordered Dr. O'Hanlon to go to the house, and after reviewing the body the coroner's physician reported that he did not believe Mr. Westheimer died from apoplexy.

The coroner then went to the house himself and interrogated Mrs. Westheimer, Mr. Nordlinger and the servants. All, according to the coroner, said that Mr. Westheimer was alone in the room at the time of his death.

The members of the family said they did not believe the man had committed suicide, for he had no financial or other trouble. After the autopsy Dr. O'Hanlon told the coroner he had asked them about the deadly poison and that they had told him they had never seen any of it in the house.

When Dr. O'Hanlon was seen at his home early this morning, he said:

"There were traces of hydrocyanic poison found in Mr. Westheimer's stomach. The stomach was congested and had every trace of the poison. Following the removal of the organs, I took them to a noted chemist and he held the same opinion that I did.

"After the autopsy I had a talk with the dead man's family. They told me that there was no reason for Mr. Westheimer committing suicide. They told me also that he was worth $1,000,000 and that he had retired from active business about twenty years ago."

Dr. O'Hanlon also said that the police of the West 68th street station had taken many bottles of medicine and letters and papers found in the room to the police station, and that all will be taken to the coroners' office this morning. He also said that Dr. Eugene Hodenpyle, of Columbia University, would make an analysis of the dead man's organs this morning.

Mr. Westheimer was a director of the New York and Honduras Mining Company, vice-president and director of the Nordlinger-Charlton Fireworks Company and a director of the Standard Consolidated Gold Mining Company.

Accompanied by Detectives Geery and Kenny, Captain Langan, of the West 68th street station, visited the residence in West 77th street. In the room in which Mr. Westheimer was found dead the police found a dresser with its six drawers locked. The police looked through the contents and found a loaded revolver. This was taken to the police station with various bottles and other articles.

At the residence no member of the family would be seen, and a servant who answered the bell said that nothing would be said by any one in the family.

SAYS THOMAS ASKED COMMISSION.

Confederate Historian, However, Never Heard Grant Would Fight for South.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Richmond, Va., Nov. 12.—Considerable interest has been aroused in Richmond over the assertion that General Grant at one time offered his services to President Davis of the Confederacy. The Rev. Dr. J. William Jones, chaplain and historian of the Confederacy, said to-night that he had no knowledge of either Grant or Farragut having made such an application.

"There can be absolutely no doubt, however," continued Dr. Jones, "in the case of Thomas. I have published the matter time and again, and will state most emphatically that I have in my personal possession a letter from General George H. Thomas which admits that at the time of the secession he applied for a commission to enter the Confederate service."

LONG DEAD IN LAW, NOW IN FACT.

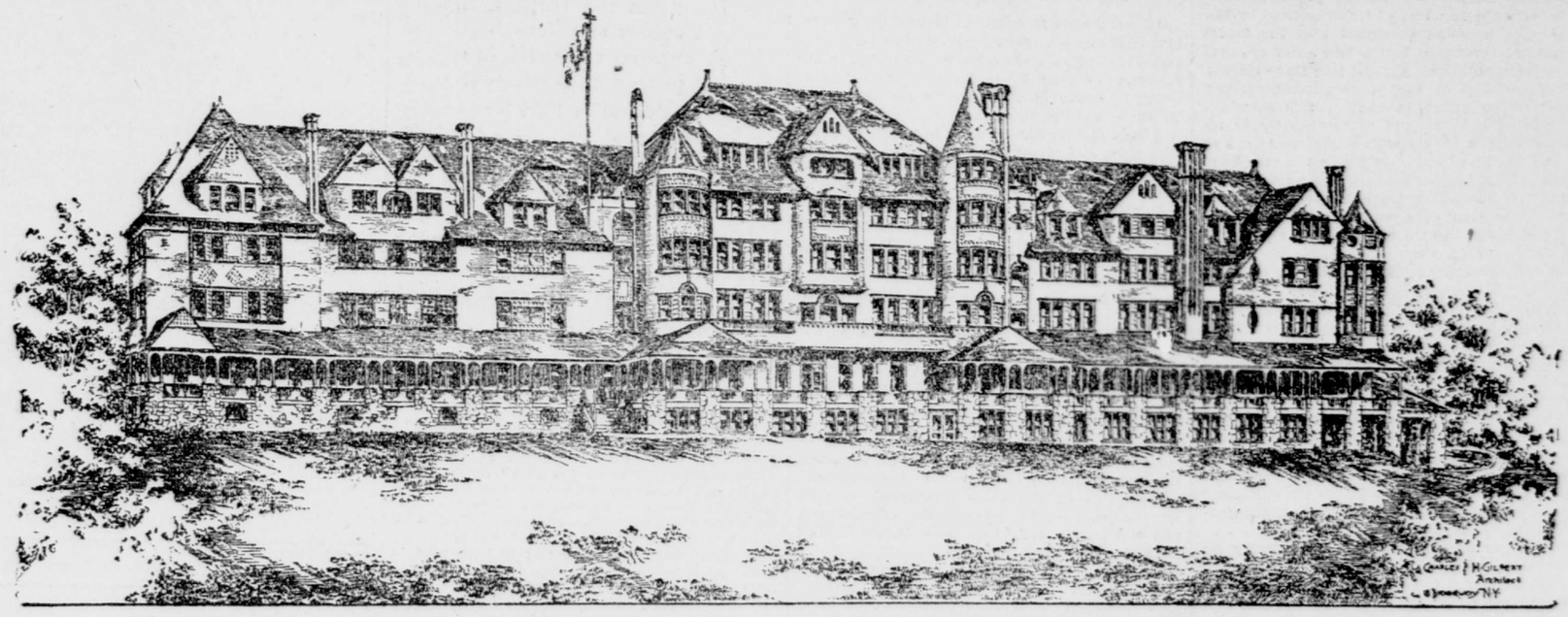
New Yorker Lived Twenty-two Years After His Estate Had Been Divided.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Richmond, Va., Nov. 12.—Robert Foran, who died in this city several days ago as a ward of the Little Sisters of the Poor, lived twenty-two years after letters of administration had been issued to his wife, Mrs. Margaret Foran, by the New York courts, and his estate, estimated at $50,000, had been divided among her and her children. This action was taken by his wife eleven years after her husband had left her, she having heard nothing from him in all that time and believing him to be dead. The facts came to light when he tried to realize something on an insurance policy.

AFTER ALL, USHER'S THE SCOTCH that made the highball famous.—Advt.

HOTEL CASTLETON, AT ST. GEORGE, STATEN ISLAND, WHICH WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE LAST NIGHT.



PARSONS IN WASHINGTON.

Will Visit White House, but Simply as a Congressman.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Nov. 12.—Representative Herbert Parsons, accompanied by Mrs. Parsons, has returned to Washington and opened his home here for the winter. When seen this evening, Mr. Parsons seemed disinclined to discuss at length the recent election in New York. When pressed, however, he said:

The election of the New York County ticket was a purely local matter and the President was not consulted on the subject. I expect to call at the White House, of course, but it will be as a member of Congress and not as president of the New York County committte.

As to the fusion ticket in New York, I am disposed to believe it polled as many votes as a fusion ticket ever does, probably a few more. If the Republicans of New York County had supported the ticket solidly the result would have been very different. They did not do so, however, and therefore defeat was inevitable.

Mr. Parsons declined positively to discuss the Hughes Presidential boom or the third term proposition. He intimated that from now on his attention would be given to the affairs of the House and to promoting the interest of New York in Congress.

BIG DEMAND FOR GOLD.

Foreigners Want P. R. R. Notes Paid in Precious Metal.

The high premium which currency of all kinds and gold coin in particular is commanding at present in the New-York market is attracting attention all over the financial world and also bids fair to cause some unpleasant complications.

It was learned yesterday at one of the big banks which does a large foreign investment business that French holders of the Pennsylvania Railroad 4½ per cent guaranteed gold notes of 1906, which fell due on November 1, are demanding payment in gold coin, and are instructing their New York agents to sell the gold at the prevailing high premium.

Owing to the scarcity of gold these notes are being paid in checks, which incidentally is the usual procedure, as people do not care in normal times to be burdened with gold coin. Now, however, the foreigners are insisting on gold, to which they are entitled according to the terms of the notes. When informed that they would have to be content with checks payable through the Clearing House, they rebelled, and it is understood that several lawsuits are probable.

One of the banks which was asked to demand payment in gold for its foreign customers, and was then instructed to sell the gold at a premium, flatly refused to do so, and informed its foreign clients that it was not in such business. There were $50,000,000 of these gold notes issued, and a large part of them were sold in Paris.

MANIAC ATTACKS WOMAN.

Plumbers Seize Crazed Servant's Arm as Knife Descends.

Plumbers saved the life yesterday of Mrs. Willis A. Reeve, wife of a former Assemblyman, who was visiting her father, Edwin Bailey, sr., in his Patchogue (Long Island) home, when she was attacked by an old negro servant, who had become crazed by brooding over the death of his child. With a carving knife she pursued first the coachman and then started for Mrs. Reeve.

"I'll kill you sure," she said, brandishing the knife and raising it above Mrs. Reeve's breast.

"Now, Kitty, you remember how we have always been friends, and how fond I was of your little one," began Mrs. Reeve. But there was no sign of relenting in the crazy woman's face.

The knife would have been plunged into Mrs. Reeve's breast the next instant had it not been for three plumbers who were in the house mending a pipe in the cellar. They seized the woman's arm as the knife was descending.

The Baileys and Mrs. Reeve would not send Kitty to an asylum, believing that it was only the death of her child that had deranged her mind temporarily. Instead, they sent her South to her relatives as soon as she became calm.

SNATCHED FROM WRECK.

Lifesavers Rescue Power Boat Crew Off Eastport.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Eastport, Long Island, Nov. 12.—Captain Austin and his crew, of the Jones Beach Lifesaving Station, rescued E. C. Johnson and Leonard Gordon, of Patchogue, who were in their power boat opposite the inlet here to-day. Johnson and Gordon were on their way to this port from Randall's Island when the boat's gasolene tank became empty.

The sea, under a heavy wind, was tossing the craft about in a rather dangerous way, and it seemed as if the boat was being carried toward the surf, which looked most ominous.

The lifesavers saw the power boat's predicament and put out just in time to prevent a catastrophe. Johnson and Gordon were taken into the lifesaving craft and were brought safely ashore.

GREAT BEAR SPRING WATER. "Its purity has made it famous."—Advt.

ANGLO-GERMAN AIMS.

SPEECHES OF RULERS.

Cordial Sentiments Expressed at State Dinner at Windsor.

Windsor, Nov. 12.—King Edward and Queen Alexandra gave a state dinner this evening in the historic Hall of St. George, at Windsor Castle, in honor of their German visitors. The hall, which for centuries has been associated with the Order of the Garter, was decorated with the banners of the principal knights of the order, while the tables bore the famous golden plate, one of the great heirlooms of the sovereigns of England.

Contrary to custom, King Edward and Emperor William sat side by side, with the Queen on the right and the Empress on the left. Around the tables, which were set for 130 guests, a most brilliant company was gathered, including many members of the British royal house, the suites of the visiting sovereigns, cabinet ministers, former cabinet ministers and ambassadors and other diplomatic representatives. Among the Ambassadors was Whitelaw Reid.

King Edward proposed the health of Emperor William, who made acknowledgment in a short speech, closing with a toast to the English King.

The speeches were formal in tone. They consisted in reciprocal expressions of the pleasure which the visit afforded and of a mutual desire for the maintenance of peace and friendship between the two nations. Emperor William alluded gracefully to his happy childhood under the roof and within the walls of grand old Windsor Castle, and expressed the earnest wish that the close relationship existing between the two royal families should be reflected in the relations of the two countries and thus confirm the peace of the world. This, he said, was the constant endeavor of King Edward and himself.

Herr von Schoen, the German Foreign Secretary, who is accompanying Emperor William on his visit to England, said to-day:

There is no intention of discussing at Windsor any concrete political question. Germany and England are in the happy position of having no actual political questions outstanding, but we hope and believe that the Emperor's visit will bring about a renewal of the oldtime affectionate relations between the two countries. Their relations have always been correct, but this is not enough. There is an increasing desire that they become something more. Germany does not look for any specially defined political agreement or understanding which might give rise to apprehensions in the case of any other power. My hope simply is that the relations between the two governments may become more closely assimilated to the not only correct but affectionate relations existing between the reigning houses.

Professor Sir Felix Semon, physician extraordinary to King Edward, a noted throat specialist, was a visitor at the castle this morning. Those in the suite of Emperor William say he called solely to see his old friend, Dr. Ilberg, the Emperor's physician, with whom, after a brief stay at the castle, he went out to inspect the King's sanatorium at Frogmore. It is regarded as improbable, however, that a specialist of the prominence of Sir Felix, knowing the surmises to which his visit would give rise, would have visited the castle, except for the purpose of a consultation regarding the Emperor's throat trouble. Emperor William's convalescence appears to be uninterrupted. This morning he showed no signs of fatigue after his journey. He was astir at an early hour, and said that his cold was much better. After breakfast the Emperor accompanied King Edward on a hunt in Windsor Forest.

At the conclusion of the state visit at Windsor Castle, November 18, Emperor William will spend a fortnight at Highcliffe Castle, at Christchurch, near Bournemouth, a beautiful sequestered spot of historic associations. King Edward, the King of Spain and other royal personages have often stayed at Highcliffe Castle.

Sir Felix Semon, who is physician for diseases of the throat to the National Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, London, was born at Dantzic, Prussia, in 1849, and was educated at Berlin, Heidelberg, Vienna, Paris and London. His studies were interrupted by the Franco-Prussian War, in which he took part as a volunteer in the 2d Regiment of Uhlans, and was present at a number of important battles, receiving the German war medal (five clasps), and later the Prussian Order of the Red Eagle.

Dr. Frederick W. K. Ilberg, the German Emperor's attending physician, has also served in the German army, having risen to the rank of general in the Guards division after service in the Emperor Alexander Grenadier Regiment and the 15th Regiment of Dragoons.

SMASH NEAR MACCORMAC WRECK.

Machine He Was Said To Have Been Racing with Meets with Mishap.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Stamford, Conn., Nov. 12.—Within one hundred feet of the spot where Paul MacCormac's big automobile was wrecked on August 15, Mrs. MacCormac killed instantly and Mr. MacCormac hurt so badly that he died, John H. Tyson, of Riverside, son of the late George Tyson, of New York, was seriously injured this afternoon. He lost control of his 60-horsepower car and it dashed up a steep embankment, throwing Tyson and his chauffeur out. The latter was not hurt seriously, but it was feared that Tyson was hurt internally.

When MacCormac was fatally hurt it was said that he was racing with Tyson. Relatives of the latter denied this report. Tyson is said to hold the speed record between New Haven and New York. After the MacCormac accident Tyson was quoted as saying that he would never race a car again.

TO SHIELD LOT BUYERS.

SAVINGS UNPROTECTED.

"Easy Payments" Swallowed by Mortgages—Legislation Wanted.

Steps have been taken to protect buyers of lots on the monthly payment plan. It is estimated that over one hundred thousand persons have bought since January, 1906, suburban lots on what are known as "easy terms," and that the total sum which they have agreed to pay for the property is over $60,000,000. These lot buyers must rely entirely on the honesty of the individuals or syndicates which hold title to the land, as there are no legislative acts which safeguard their interests.

How risky is lot buying on the easy payment plan in this state was shown a few days ago when a syndicate controlling a tract of land on Long Island was unable to pay the interest due, and a mortgage on the land was foreclosed. The land some months ago was cut up into lots and sold to about five hundred working people on terms of about $10 down and $5 a month. Many of these persons had taken all their savings from the banks, and with the money paid a large part of the purchase price. As they had simply agreed to buy, they had only a contract setting forth that all right, title and interest in the property would be held by them on fulfilment of their contract.

These people lost every cent they had paid on their contract, and the only legal redress they have is to get a judgment against the defendants in the foreclosure action. This is only one of a number of similar cases which have recently resulted in severe financial losses to wage earners who have bought lots on the easy payment plan. Holders of contracts to buy lots in a tract which has changed ownership through a mortgage foreclosure have no claim against the new owners of the land, and if they get judgments against the former owners they may be able to have the debtors sent to prison, but have little chance of getting part of their savings back.

The majority of Manhattan and Bronx realty leaders will not stand for peculiar business methods in land operations, and they are incensed at the prospect of thousands of little buyers suffering through foreclosure sales of land which has been marketed in lots. Robert E. Simon, vice-president of the Henry Morgenthau Company, one of the most successful realty leaders of the local market, said yesterday that the attention of Clark Williams, superintendent of the State Banking Department, had been called to these foreclosure sales.

"I have suggested to Mr. Williams," said Mr. Simon, "that the syndicates which sell lots on the easy payment plan should be under the jurisdiction of the State Banking Department. The buyers think that the contract which they sign is practically a deed to a lot or lots, but its face value is only to be measured by the honesty or dishonesty of the people identified with the syndicate. I have received word from the State Banking Department that the subject would be carefully considered later, as its entire staff was now busy on straight banking business.

"The persons who hold such lot contracts can rest assured that in a few months their interests are likely to be protected by a legislative act. A law which would probably cover such operations would be one which would make it compulsory for the owner to set aside a sum sufficient to pay the interest on whatever mortgages are on the land and to pay the sum of the mortgages when they are due."

FERRYBOAT IN COLLISION.

The Queens and Freight Steamer Lenox Come Together Off Battery.

Through a misunderstanding of signals, the Staten Island ferryboat Queens and the freight steamer Lenox ran into each other off the Battery last night. Both vessels were slightly damaged and the ferryboat was laid up after her trip.

When the Queens left her slip at the Battery and headed for Staten Island there were one hundred passengers and ten teams aboard. Captain Emmons saw the Lenox coming down the North River and about to turn up the East River.

He said he gave a signal that he was going to cross the bow of the Lenox and the Lenox answered "All right." The Queens started across the bow of the freight boat, but the Lenox did not change her course. With a crash the two boats came together, and passengers were thrown from their seats and one or two horses knocked down.

The Lenox put in to the Barge Office slip, where a hole was found just above the waterline. She continued on her way up the East River.

Four or five plates on the Queens were sprung, and to repair the damage, it was said, would cost $300.

FIGHT WITH UTES IN COLORADO.

Durango, Col., Nov. 12.—A report reached here to-night that a fight occurred at McElmo Canyon between Ute Indians and United States troops, in which six Indians were killed. No soldiers were killed or wounded. McElmo Canyon is in Montezuma County and close to the Navajo reservation. The Utes have been resisting the attempts of the soldiers to compel them to return to their reservation.

MR. FAIRBANKS IN WRECK.

Vice-President and Party of Judges Badly Shaken Up.

Washington, Nov. 12.—Vice-President Fairbanks and a large party of court officials of this city were in a wreck on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad to-night at Weverton, Md., in which Clarkson, the fireman, was severely injured and the passengers were badly shaken up. The Vice-President escaped injury, as did those who accompanied him in the private car of President Murray of the Baltimore & Ohio.

The noted men were on a special train returning to Washington from Hagerstown, Md., where they had gone to attend the funeral of Judge Louis E. McComas, of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. Upon leaving Weverton Junction the switchman let the special in on a blind switch, resulting in the engine being ditched.

The sudden stop and the roar of escaping steam from broken pipes under the private car threw the occupants into a panic, but quiet was soon restored, and it was found that, beyond a severe shaking up, no passenger was hurt. The car was extricated from the wreck and sent on to Brunswick, where it was picked up by a passenger train from the West, arriving in Washington an hour and a half later.

Among those on the train, besides Mr. Fairbanks, were Chief Justice Shephard of the District Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Clabaugh of the District Supreme Court, Associate Justice Ashley M. Gould, of the District Supreme Court; District Attorney W. Baker, and others.

PLAYED SOLDIER; SHOT.

Little Girl in Hospital Near Death—Found Pistol in Parlor.

Josephine Uselman, four years old, daughter of Gustave Uselman, of No. 1369 DeKalb avenue, Williamsburg, was taken to the German Hospital last night suffering from a self-inflicted bullet wound in the head. Her recovery is doubtful. Uselman is a member of several German shooting societies and has a large revolver. He left it on the mantel last night when he went out. The child, in company with several others of the same age, spent the evening playing in the parlor, and climbing in to a chair cried out with joy when she saw the gun. With the other children she marched up and down the room, leading the parade, with the heavy revolver tightly clutched in her hand.

She "shouldered arms" once too often, for as she raised the revolver a portion of her dress caught the trigger and there was an explosion. Mrs. Uselman, who was in the next room, heard the shot and the cries of the children and rushed frantically to the scene, to find little Josephine lying on the floor, her golden hair bathed in blood. She picked up the child and ran shrieking to the street and to the Hamburg avenue police station, a few doors away. A hurry call was sent for an ambulance, and in the mean time the policemen on reserve did all they could for the little sufferer, who was their pet. The surgeon who arrived with the ambulance after looking at the wound said that there was little hope for her recovery, and took her to the hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Uselman are prostrated with grief.

PRESIDENT FROM SOUTH.

Address to Democracy Issued by Organization in Tennessee.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 12.—A state convention of Democrats here to-day started a movement for the nomination of a Southern man as Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1908. Each delegate was instructed to work in the interest of sending a delegation from Tennessee to the national convention that would vote, first, last and all the time, for a Southern man and an address to the Democracy of the nation was issued.

Only one name, that of former Governor James D. Porter, was mentioned for the nomination. This was greeted with enthusiasm, but Governor Porter, chairman, refused to countenance a discussion along such lines. Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton University, was invited to address the convention, but declined. Governor Patterson was a speaker and expressed hearty sympathy with the movement.

The address authorized by the convention declares that the Democratic party was born in the South, but that the subject is approached in no sectional spirit. It asserts that conditions that made available candidates from the East no longer obtain and that recognition of a Southern man would emphasize the unity of the nation. The fidelity with which the South has adhered to the Democratic cause is pointed to and the assertion made that "the Democracy of the South is entirely free from the domination of corporate interests and predatory wealth."

It makes the claim that "in leadership, in war, statesmanship and literature the South is not behind other sections, and at this particular time we have men equal to any the East has produced."

BOSTON SHOULD PENSION THIS WOMAN

Cook Has Made 394,200 Pies, 2,000,000 Doughnuts and 788,400 Puddings.

Boston, Nov. 12.—"Concentrate your mind on the oven," says Miss Teresa McDonald, in explaining the wonders of her art in pastry cooking. She is just celebrating her golden anniversary as a cook, and owns to the proud record of 394,000 pies baked in forty years at one restaurant, besides scores of other dainties. If all her pies were laid out in a row they would reach seventy miles. She has made 2,000,000 doughnuts in twenty-seven years and 788,400 puddings, which served all on one platter would make a pile the size of Beacon Hill. She is one of seven sisters, all born cooks.

BIG HOTEL IN RUINS.

FIRE LIGHTS UP BAY.

Staten Island Without Water to Save the Castleton.

The Hotel Castleton, which stood on a high hill at St. George, Staten Island, overlooking the Upper Bay, was burned to the ground last evening, causing a loss estimated at $1,000,000, one-half of which represents the hotel and part of the rest the estimated value of five large paintings, the property of Bernard Kearns, president of the Central Brewing Company and the owner of the hotel.

Scores of other houses in the vicinity caught fire from the sparks, which were sent whirling for miles, but all were saved with the exception of a cottage owned by Kearns and occupied by Dr. William Hollick, a member of the faculty of Columbia University.

The Staten Island police believe the fire was the work of an incendiary. They say they have a strong reason to support their theory.

Hundreds of spectators, who were attracted by the glare of the burning building, were burned by the sparks, which were as large as walnuts. In some cases overcoats had to be thrown away so badly were they burned. All of the fire apparatus on Staten Island was called to the scene by Chief Callahan. It was entirely powerless to cope with the big blaze, which lighted up the Upper Bay as far as the Statue of Liberty and furnished a beautiful spectacle. The firemen could not get a stream of water strong enough to reach the building.

A call was sent to New York and several fire boats responded, as did a number of tugs belonging to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Owing to the distance of the hotel from the waterfront these boats were also unable to help, and the firemen had to stand by and watch the hotel burn. Bucket brigades were formed and they helped much in saving the surrounding buildings.

The glare of the flames in the sky was visible for miles in every direction and was particularly bright across New York Bay and in Manhattan. It was the cause of much speculation along "The Great White Way," and many messages were received at the newspaper offices from as far north as The Bronx as to the location of the fire. Hundreds of New Yorkers took the trip across the bay simply to see the big fire. The police had much trouble in handling the crowds, who insisted on getting dangerously near the burning building.

CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 1.

The Hotel Castleton had been closed since November 1, when it was shut up for the season. A winter force of four, consisting of William Campbell and George Graves, watchmen, and Mamie Dody and Bridget McKinney, caretakers, was in charge of the building. The hotel was opened last Friday night for a lecture on Christian Science, but was closed at the end of the lecture. The servants were in the habit of taking their meals in a house near the hotel, and were there last night about 7:50 o'clock, when the fire was discovered.

Mr. Kearns is now on his way back from Europe, and his coachman, George Wills, has been staying at the hotel. According to his story he was standing in the main entrance of the hotel last night waiting for the rest of the employes to return from their meal, when his attention was attracted by a glare in the south end of the building. He started to run to the scene, when he found that there was also a blaze in the north end of the hotel and one in the office. He immediately shouted for assistance and turned in an alarm, which brought Chief Callahan and the fire apparatus at St. George. Wills, in the mean time, had tried to put out the fire at the south end of the building with the fire extinguishers, but was unable to make any headway. Callahan on his arrival saw that unless quick action was taken the hotel was doomed, and he sent in a general alarm, which brought out the whole fire fighting force of Staten Island. Chief Croker went over to Staten Island on the third alarm.

FIREMEN WITHOUT WATER.

When they turned on the water the firemen found that there was no power, the streams hardly reaching to the second story of the building, which was four stories high, covered an acre of ground and contained four hundred rooms. Bucket brigades were formed by the firemen, but their efforts were fruitless, and their attention was turned to the surrounding houses. Alongside of the hotel, in St. Mark's Place, were three houses, and it was feared that they were doomed, as well as a row of wooden houses in Hamilton avenue and the large building of the Staten Island Academy. The roofs of these buildings were covered with water.

In every case the firemen were successful in preventing another outbreak, with the exception of the house occupied by Dr. Hollick. This house, which was next to the burning building, caught fire and quickly burned to the ground, Dr. Hollick managing to save some of his furniture. While the firemen and the volunteers were turning their attention to the surrounding buildings the hotel was burning fiercely. About 8:30 o'clock there was a loud explosion in the hotel, which caused the whole of the front wall to fall out with a loud crash. Luckily the police had forced the crowds back to a safe distance and no one was injured, although several of the policemen and firemen had to run for their lives. After the explosion the fire seemed to die down, and gradually burned itself out, until there was nothing remaining of the hotel except a smoldering heap of ruins.

Several willow trees near by caught fire from the sparks, and it was feared at one time that these would be the means of spreading the flames, but they were taken care of by the volunteers.

HIGH SCHOOL THREATENED.

Across St. Mark's place from the front of the hotel stands the Curtis High School. For a time it seemed as if the windows in it would melt and let the fire into the rooms, but they simply cracked. Firemen patrolled the floors armed with chemical extinguishers and put out several small fires that started from the heat. The school will be all right for use this morning, having sustained practically no damage.

Lieutenant John Smith, in command of the Staten Island Detective Bureau, was early on the scene, and after hearing Willis's story put his whole force at work to discover if possible the origin of the fire. The theory of the fire being the work of a discharged employe was worked on with no success. The Fire Department came in for a lot of criticism because of the failure of the water power, and several of the residents of St. George said they would ask that the matter be taken up with the proper authorities.

The paintings lost in the fire were part of Mr. Kearns's collection, and were all original. Mr. Kearns is expected to arrive in this country to-day. He was immediately informed of his loss by wireless. Up to a late hour last night people from New Jersey and the different parts of New York were flocking to the scene, and the entire police force of Staten Island was having its troubles keeping them in check.