

SNOW, RAIN AND SLUSH

Even Streetcars Are Stopped by Flood in the Streets.

New York changed its dress in double quick time yesterday. Its citizens went to their work in the morning while the streets were covered with a soft carpet of snow and returned in the evening by wading through a network of canals.

Every grain of snow that was turned into a big lake, where the water varied from one to five feet in depth, and cellars were flooded by the hundreds. This condition was brought about when at noon a snowstorm turned to rain.

With the rain came a rise in temperature of 10 degrees that sent rain pouring into the sewers faster than it had fallen upon the streets.

Five thousand passengers on the Bath Beach line of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit had to walk home in Utrecht street, from 70th to 75th street, the water rose to a height of five feet, making it impossible for the trains to pass without setting their motors full of water, thus rendering them useless.

The railroad station at Garden City was turned into an island, and trains passing through the flood threw up a volume of water ten feet high.

Parent Gundersen, a laborer, was walking along the passageway of the new Blackwell's Island Bridge yesterday morning, when his foot slipped in the snow, causing him to fall. While he was upon the ground a giant crane bore down upon him, out of his right leg and sent him tumbling to the ground thirty feet below, from where he was picked up dead.

There may be some relief to-day, for while the weather bureau promises a continuation of the snows, the weather will probably be colder.

Commissioner Crowell of the Street-Cleaning Department said last night that the city and rain had probably saved the city about \$200,000. He did not call out the contractors, and said that if the snow continued a few hours longer he did not think that it would be necessary to do so.

From outside points reports show trains stalled and general traffic demoralization. A Joliet & Southern Interurban car reported on its way in Detroit to Chicago, with about twenty hungry passengers on board, and a relief party was sent from Joliet.

The storm continued practically unrelieved in Milwaukee and vicinity, with about a foot of snow delaying all traffic and tying up interurban lines. In Michigan the snowfall varied from three to six inches, and in the southwest part of the State the Lake Shore road practically abandoned traffic on the Kalamazoo branch and other roads made no pretense of observing a schedule.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 19.—A westbound Continental Limited express train on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad is stalled to-night in a snow-drift near Francis, Neb., about 200 miles from Chicago. The train was stalled all night with only a few passengers, and the engine and cars were kept warm by the fire in the engine.

A local passenger train which left Beatrice last night ran into a snow-drift about 20 miles from town, and remained there all night. The train carried no dining car, but the passengers satisfied their hunger from the simple cases of a grocery salesman. All other trains in Central Nebraska were delayed by snow and wind.

Indianapolis, Feb. 19.—The flood situation in Southern Indiana was more serious to-day, swollen rivers rose and thousands of additional acres of lowlands were submerged. Rain and snow fell during the night, followed to-day by a cold wind, causing much suffering among those camped in temporary quarters in the hills.

Justice Fitzgerald, of the Supreme Court, has granted to Borough President Ahearn a ten days' extension of time in which to either file a demurrer or an answer to the civil action of quo warranto to oust him from office brought by Attorney General Jackson.

Martin W. Littleton, Ahearn's attorney, asked the court to grant twenty days' extension. Deputy Attorney General De Ford, who objected, declared that it was the general policy of the defendant to defeat the action by delay.

BLACK HAND IN CHURCH

Letter Threatening Pastor Placed on Communion Table.

The collection plate and the communion table of the Congregational Church, of Orient, Long Island, were used on Sunday evening as the means of delivering a Black Hand letter to the pastor of the church, the Rev. Dr. John Alexander Gray. The letter was placed upon the communion table beneath the collection plate.

Under the impression that it was a belated church notice Dr. Gray walked down the pulpit steps and picked up the letter, which read:

1-2-3-4-5-6 Beware! We are not through with you yet! Whiskey. Beer. Rache! (Revenge).

A year ago Dr. Gray and six young men, impatient at the failure of the officials to stop the illegal sale of liquor in the town, undertook to stop it themselves. They caused the conviction of a wagon vendor, and soon after a letter signed "Black Hand" was received by the clergyman informing him that his house would be robbed.

A couple of nights later the house was broken into and the clergyman's college diploma was stolen. Another letter bearing the same crude signature warned Dr. Gray that his house would be burned to the ground and his child taken away. His house was burned shortly afterward.

"I do not know, of course, what they mean to do this time," said Dr. Gray last evening. "But I think it is right to hunt at this defiance; that if they believe they can persecute me into abandoning my work they are greatly mistaken. Doubtless the figures from one to six refer to the men who helped me get evidence of illegal selling. I only hope the Black Hand does not mean to persecute them, too."

DRIVEN FROM HOME.

Black Hand Letters Responsible for Disappearance of Sparkill Couple.

Residents of Sparkill, near Nyack, N. Y., are excited over the mysterious disappearance of Wesley A. Kip, a business man, and his wife. Mr. Kip received letters from the Black Hand recently demanding money. He paid no attention to them, but the last, demanding that \$8000 be deposited in a certain bank by midnight of Tuesday, upon penalty of death, alarmed him and early in the evening he and his wife left the village.

George W. Schuster, a Piermont baker, received similar letters demanding \$500, and he is in a state of alarm, fearing that he will be harmed.

HEAVY SNOW UPSTATE.

A Blizzard at Saratoga—Traffic Badly Hampered.

Plattsburgh, N. Y., Feb. 19.—A northeast storm of great severity is tearing across Northern New York to-night and rapidly adding to the layer of snow which covers the whole Adirondack region. The snowfall to-day reached several inches, and to-night there was no sign of a let-up. The temperature continued low. Reports from Clinton County as far west as Malone and south into Essex County tell of heavy snowfalls and strong winds which have made country roads in many places impassable and delayed railroad traffic.

Saratoga, N. Y., Feb. 19.—The worst blizzard of the winter is raging to-night. For fifty miles north and south the snow has fallen steadily throughout the day, and late to-night the storm gave no indication of ceasing. High drifts were being piled up by a strong wind. All railroad trains into the town were delayed, and interurban trolley traffic was practically at a standstill by evening.

Hessick Falls, N. Y., Feb. 19.—The most severe snowstorm of the season struck this section early to-day and continued late to-night. Toward evening the storm assumed blizzard proportions. The steam and trolley railroad service is badly hampered, and general traffic impeded. In the northwest the snow has drifted over the tops of the trees.

VIRGINIA HEARING BEGUN

Charges of Rebating Against Roads Centring in Richmond.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 19.—In the investigation of the rebating of the Hepburn act by giving and receiving rebates brought against the railways centring here, and which began before United States Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane to-day, the case of the Chesapeake & Ohio was first taken up. A number of witnesses were examined whose testimony tended to show the splitting of the rates between the Chesapeake & Ohio and the waybill, the shipper thus getting advantage of the through rate and saving \$1 a car on grain.

GILLETTE TOLD OF ADVERSE DECISION.

Auburn, Feb. 19.—Chester Gillette, the murderer of Grace Brown, has been informed of the decision of the Court of Appeals affirming the verdict of the lower court. Warden Benham has not been officially informed of the court's action, but when he received a long telegram this morning for Chester from his mother, he decided to inform the condemned man at once. The warden talked with Gillette in his cell.

WOMEN TALK AT ALBANY

Legislature and Governor Hear Arguments For and Against Suffrage.

Albany, Feb. 19.—Women of all ages, sizes, complexions and degrees of millinery and dress-making display, mingled with racketeers, followers, ministers, politicians and the generally law-abiding crowd at the legislative corridors this afternoon, to attend the hearing on the proposed constitutional amendment, which would strike the limiting word "male" from the constitutional provision regarding the right to vote.

The hearing was held in the Senate chamber, and the executive chamber was being thrashed out in the assembly chamber.

The suffragists by no means had it all their own way, for a strong delegation of women from all parts of the state was present in opposition to the woman suffrage proposition. Late in the afternoon the women of both sides came to the executive chamber to present their arguments pro and con to Governor Hughes.

The speakers for the proposed amendment included Mrs. Mary E. Craigie, Brooklyn; Mrs. R. J. Van Valkenburgh, Albany; Dr. Lavina B. Davis, Oneida; Mrs. B. B. Ford, Chateaufort; Mrs. J. M. Stanton, Blatch, New York; Mrs. Belle De Rivera, New York; Miss Anna F. Miller, Geneva; Mrs. George Howard Lewis, Buffalo; Mrs. Henry Villard, New York; Miss Julie R. Jenney, Syracuse; Mrs. Frank D. Bliss, Buffalo; Mrs. Harry Hutchings, New York; Miss Caroline Lebow, New York; Mrs. Robert Mills, Syracuse; and Mrs. Annie Garlin Spencer, New York.

Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, of New York, conducted the hearing for the opposition, and introduced Mrs. Francis M. Scott, of New York, Mrs. Richard K. Noye, Jr., of New York, and Mrs. W. W. Cranford, of Albany, read short papers and were followed by Miss Adeline Knapp, who spoke as follows:

The claim is made that working women in this state are handicapped as wage earners because they have not the franchise. If this claim can be substantiated it has a very direct bearing upon the whole question of enfranchising women, but those who make it are not very direct in explaining how this alleged handicap operates.

Certainly it does not operate to close the door of opportunity to women. The industrial field is today wide open to them, in this country, and the American woman has not been slow to enter it. These women are not only earning their own share, and quite independently of women's political status.

But the claim is that this handicap operates against women as wage earners. We are told that they must have the ballot to help them to obtain the same pay as men, for equal service. We are not told, however, how the ballot will do this. We are told that when women can vote they will be able to give women a district advantage over men in many ways.

If these laws were afforded equal protection with men in their property and in their lives and liberties. In cases where the law does discriminate it is in the favor of women. A married woman, for instance, has far freer control over her own property, however acquired, than a single woman. The industrial field is today wide open to them, in this country, and the American woman has not been slow to enter it.

A woman in business is exempt from arrest in an action for debt fraudulently contracted, though a man is not. A woman acquires a judgment for debt that is not subject to certain exemptions from execution that a man does not enjoy. A woman who is the plaintiff in a divorce suit, to help out her husband, to make arrests, to help quell riots and to bear arms when their husbands are in the military service.

As a question of expediency the extension of suffrage to women is a matter of great importance. There are about five million working women in this country. Of these, it is estimated that about 1,000,000 are under the voting age, and these to be wage earners at about the time they reach that age. The position of women as industrial workers is essentially temporary. To an employment which is but a transient makeshift, and which relation to the business world would in no wise benefit them, to the extension of the franchise to the ballot would increase their responsibilities without putting any real power into their hands.

Governor Hughes devoted an hour to their hands, and argued in favor of the extension of the franchise to women. He was practically the same as those made to the legislative committee and practically by the same persons.

At the conclusion the Governor addressed the women briefly. He said that the question is not one in which he was charged with any official responsibility, being a proposed amendment to the constitution, which does not require the Governor's signature. He said in part:

I believe most heartily in the importance of having every question of this sort fully debated—debated as you have debated it—in a calm and unprejudiced manner. I believe that the conflicting views that are presented the truth may emerge and be heard to such an extent, whether we agree with it at this time or not, that it will be a great benefit to this country. I believe that the extension of the franchise to women is a matter of great importance, and that it is a matter which should be decided by the people of this State.

PHILADELPHIA BROKERS ASSIGN.

Philadelphia, Feb. 19.—The firm of A. N. Chandler & Co., bankers and bond brokers, of this city, with offices in New York, made an assignment to-day to J. Hector McNeal for the benefit of creditors.

ANTI-DYER MEN ABSENT.

Substitute Officers Take Their Place at 12th Regiment Review.

The 12th Regiment, National Guard, held its annual review in the army, at Columbus avenue and 12th street, last evening. The regiment was reviewed by General George Moore Smith and staff of the First Brigade. Among the visitors who occupied seats on the reviewing stand was brevet Major General Robert Avery, U. S. A., retired. General Avery is an old 12th Regiment man.

The regiment formed on the floor of the drill hall under command of Colonel George R. Dyer, but leaves of absence had been granted to the anti-Dyer officers and substitutes had charge of battalions and companies. Several of the absent officers have presented their resignations since the vindication of Colonel Dyer, and they will be in the next week or so. Their places will be filled by the re-election of several ex-officers of companies, and Cornelius Vanderbilt, captain of Company F, is mentioned as a probable substitute to one of the majors who has resigned.

Following the review the Riker Rifle trophy for company marksmanship was presented to Company A, by General Smith, and the Vanderbilt trophy was presented to Company H by General Avery. Several long service medals were also presented to individual members of the regiment. At the conclusion of the presentations Colonel Dyer thanked the men for the manner in which they had in the last six months been loyal to the organization. He said: "The eyes of the whole state have been upon you and will be upon you for a long time to come. Your officers have been more than pleased by the loyalty you have shown."

STEEL BILLET POOL BROKEN.

Report in Pittsburgh That Cut by Independents May Bring on War.

Pittsburgh, Feb. 19.—The steel billet pool has been disrupted by the action of independents selling below the agreed price of \$28. Some sales, it is reported, have been made at \$27, and one order for five hundred tons sold at \$26 1/2. The break has caused consternation in the United States Steel Corporation. The independents say they have only agreed to pay freight for their customers, but this is declared to be an evasion, as the price for years has not included this item.

DIAMONDS IN ARKANSAS.

All Fine Stones, but They Are Not Found in Large Quantities.

The presence of diamonds in Arkansas was one of the things discussed yesterday at the meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, when George F. Kunz and Henry S. Washington presented a joint paper, in which they told of investigation they had recently made in Murfreesboro, Pike County. Mr. Kunz said that up to the present time 140 diamonds had been discovered within the igneous area, all except two having been on the surface of the ground.

DOUBT DRUCE WITNESS'S INANITY.

United States Commissioner and British Lawyer Not Satisfied with Proceedings.

It was evident that United States Commissioner Alexander and Mr. Fox, counsel for the British government in the case against Robert Caldwell, the Druce witness who is wanted in England on a charge of perjury, looked with suspicion on the alleged insanity of Caldwell yesterday, when the case came up before the commissioner. When the hearing was over Mr. Alexander announced that he would never again admit to call a man arraigned before him for extradition.

When the case was called by C. Cobbell, Caldwell's attorney, announced that his client was in an asylum and could not appear. Mr. Fox objected that he had not been informed that Caldwell had been committed nor had a chance to appear before Justice Clark, who signed the papers. Mr. Cobbell said that he had explained all the facts to Judge Hough in a United States court.

"Did you not come over before this man landed in this country and ask me about the federal procedure of committing insane persons?" asked the commissioner of Mr. Cobbell. The lawyer admitted that he had asked such questions of the commissioner, but was still within the jurisdiction of the commissioner. The case was adjourned for two weeks.

STEEL BUSINESS IMPROVING.

United States Corporation Now Operating Nearly Half of Its Mills and Furnaces.

The United States Steel Corporation, according to well informed interests, is now operating about 40 per cent of its mills and furnaces, as compared with 46 per cent two weeks ago, and only 25 per cent on January 15. A manufacturer said yesterday that many inquiries were being received from consumers who had not been in the market for several months, and that railroad and other corporations were evidently preparing for a fair amount of construction work incident to the approach of the spring season.

AMUSEMENTS.

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