

away nearly all human resemblance in the majority of instances. Drowned parents soon began to gather and the work of identifying the blackened and mangled bodies began.

The gruesome task of taking out the blackened torsos and bits of human remains was one of horror. A line of rescuers was formed, backed by half a dozen ambulances. As the bodies were untangled from the debris they were passed along to the stretchers and thence loaded in the ambulances. Mercifully covered with blankets, the pitiful sights were veiled from the crowd that stretched about the entrance to the structure. As fast as a load was obtained it was driven away to the improvised morgue, to be succeeded by another within a short time.

The sights of the human charnel house caused the men delving into the mass of burned flesh to hesitate, but the work had to be done and done quickly, so their feelings had to be smoothed for the time being as they tenderly handled all that was left of the children.

At the temporary morgue in the Lake Shore shop the scenes became fourfold in the intensity of human suffering as fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters passed up and down the lines formed of one hundred and sixty bodies. To make identification easier the bodies were numbered as they were received at the morgue. The first identification was made by the mother of Neis and Tommy Thompson, aged six and nine years, respectively. The heads and arms had been burned from both bodies, but the mother recognized the shoes on her children's feet. And so the disheartening work went on, accentuated now and then by a piercing shriek or plaintive moan as a loved one was recognized by clothing or token, such as ring or necklace.

MOTHER'S EFFORTS FUTILE. About the burned schoolhouse there are few residences. In one of these Mrs. Clark Sprung lived. Her little boy, Alvon, aged seven, was a pupil in the second grade. When the fire started the mother ran over to the school, arriving when the first floor was a mass of flames. At a window on that floor she saw the face of her boy. He recognized her and pleaded for help.

Rushing across the street, Mrs. Sprung obtained a stepladder and placed it against the window. Climbing up she reached for her boy. She caught him by the hair. It burned off in her hands and the lad fell back into the flames.

Desolation unpeopled hangs over the neighborhood of the school, and the whole village of Collinwood. The school board met in special session at the temporary morgue late this afternoon to discuss the calamity, while the corner prepared to hold an inquest to determine the cause and place the blame for the fire.

The statement that the back door of the building was locked was made by Walter C. Kelley, the editor of the sporting department of "The Cleveland Leader," two of whose children were killed.

As soon as the alarm was given Mrs. Kelley ran from her home, which is not far from the schoolhouse, to the burning building. The front part of the structure was a mass of flames, and, frenzied by the screams of the fighting and dying children which reached her from the deathtrap at the foot of the first flight of stairs and behind the closed door, Mrs. Kelley ran to the rear, hoping to effect an entrance there and save her children. She was joined by a man whose name is not known, and the two of them tugged and pulled frantically at the door. They were unable to move it in the slightest, and there was nothing at hand by which they could hope to break it down. In utter despair of saving any of the children they turned their attention to the windows, and by smashing some of these they managed to save a few of the pupils.

THE LOCKED DOOR. "They could have saved many more," said Mr. Kelley to-night, "if the door had not been locked. Nobody knows how many of the children might have made their way out before my wife reached there if the door had not been locked. If half a dozen men had been there when my wife and her companion arrived at the school perhaps they might have broken down the door, but the two could do nothing, and the flames spread so rapidly that it was all over in a few minutes."

The suburb of Collinwood contains about eight thousand people, and within half an hour after the outbreak of the fire nearly every one of them was gathered around the blazing ruins of the schoolhouse, hundreds of parents fighting frantically with the policemen and firemen who were busily engaged in saving the lives of the children caught in the burning building and doing their best to extinguish the fire.

The police were utterly unable, through lack of numbers, to keep away the crowd that pressed upon them, and the situation soon became so serious that a number of the more cool-headed men in the throng took it upon themselves to aid in fighting back the crowd, while others worked to help the firemen and the police.

charges out of the building in safety. Two of the smaller ones she carried in her arms.

THE PRINCIPAL ESCAPED. Miss Anna Moran, the principal of the school, and two of the teachers, Miss Gollmar and Miss Rowley, escaped by one of the windows in the rear. They remained with the panic-stricken children until they could do no more for them and then sought their own safety.

Miss Laura Boder, the only teacher on the third floor, formed her pupils in a line and marched them down to the second floor, where, finding the flames rushing up the stairway, she turned them around and hurried them back again to the third floor. She here broke a window with a chair and getting on to the platform of the fire escape lifted out her pupils one by one and sent them down.

Four or five children who broke from the line she had formed and ran down the stairway were killed. One of the heroines of the catastrophe was little Marie Witman, of No. 5217 Lake street. She ran through the smoke filled halls and grasped her little brother, whom she managed to drag from the room and take out through a window, both of them being nearly strangled with smoke.

Miss Pearl Lynn, teacher, narrowly escaped death. She was carried toward the rear entrance by the rush of the panic stricken pupils, and fell at the bottom of the stairs, with numbers of the children on top of her. She lay there unable to rise because of the weight of the bodies upon her. She was dragged from the mass of dead children just in time to save her own life.

One of the worst scenes of horror that attended the fire occurred at the rear doorway of the building where the firemen arrived. This door, like the one in front, opened inward, and it was locked. The children were piled up high against it, and when it finally was broken down by their weight and by the fire that had partly burned and weakened it the women who had gathered outside saw before them a mass of white faces and struggling bodies. The flames swept over the aisle, while the women stood helpless, unable to lend a hand to aid the children. Many of the women were unable to withstand the sight, and dropped fainting to the ground. The fire department was late in reaching the building, and when it came the apparatus was inadequate and the men were volunteers, there being no paid fire department in the suburb. The water pressure was not sufficiently strong to send a stream to the second story windows. Moreover, the firemen had no ladder that would reach to the third floor. The volunteers did what they could, but within a few moments after their arrival the task was one for ambulances alone.

At the office of the firm of architects which designed the building the plan exhibited to-night showed that the doors were originally designed to open outward.

N. Y. SCHOOLS ARE SAFE. So Says Superintendent Maxwell—Due to Fire Drills. "Since a large number of children were trampled to death while fighting to get out of the old Greenwich avenue school building when it burned to the ground in 1885, there has not been one death by fire among the thousands of children that during the ensuing years have attended the public schools of this city," said William A. Maxwell, city superintendent of schools, yesterday, when asked concerning the possibilities here of a catastrophe similar to the one that occurred yesterday at Collinwood near Cleveland.

Superintendent Maxwell said that the fire drill, in which the children of all the city schools are made to participate at frequent intervals, is the chief factor for the prevention of such a calamity. It is required of all principals of city schools that they be able to dismiss their pupils in not more than three minutes. Every classroom is connected by an electric bell with the principal's desk so he may communicate immediately with each room. The children receive notice of the time when the fire drill will be held, and in the several cases of fires that have occurred in the schools during the last few years the instruction in the drill has proved so effective that in less than three minutes 2,500 pupils have marched out of three-story burning buildings to learn of the fire only when they reached the street.

Superintendent Maxwell said the school buildings here were all fireproof, except a few in the outlying districts. These buildings are low and stone stairways and floors have been installed, he said, to add to their safety.

MANY FIRES IN BRONX. Keep Department on the Run—Boy Arrested. Following six fires, all believed to be incendiary, which occurred in rapid succession in The Bronx yesterday morning, Anthony Barber, a fourteen-year-old boy, living at No. 539 Brook avenue, was arrested, charged with arson. The blazes ended the lives of three hundred persons and killed the firemen of the section so busy that by noon they were tired out and able to respond to another alarm only with difficulty. The quick action of the police in several cases prevented the loss of life.

The first fire was a two-alarm affair at No. 43 Wilcox avenue, which created a panic among the twenty-four families living there. Sergeant Wasserman and Patrolmen Robinson and Baffy, of the Alexander avenue station, arrived in time to carry out the wife and two children of Frank De Paul, a barber, with a shop on the second floor. Three other half-conscious women were carried out, while a third jumped from a fire escape on the top floor. She landed on the fire escape beneath and had fainted before being dragged to safety.

TWO STATES FOR TAFT.

Continued from first page. dorse Secretary Taft as the choice of Kansas for the Republican Presidential nomination and instruct the delegates to stand by him on every preliminary test and on every ballot.

The administration of President Roosevelt is enthusiastically approved. The work and the records of Senators Long and Curtis and the Congress delegation are also indorsed. There is no indorsement of state candidates or any attempt to outline a platform. This is left to the August primaries. The four delegates are also instructed for D. W. Mulvane for national committeeman.

The following are the delegates to the Chicago convention: United States Senators C. I. Long and Charles Curtis, Robert McConkie, of Colby, and Grant Hornaday, of Fort Scott. Willis J. Bailey, formerly Governor, before he entered the convention to-day announced his withdrawal from the race for Governor. Today's convention probably will be the last state convention to be held in Kansas. Hereafter candidates are to be chosen by primaries.

TAFT INDORSED IN LOUISIANA. State Central Committee Acts—Opposing Faction for Uninstructed Delegates. New Orleans, March 4.—The two factions of the Republican party in Louisiana held meetings here to-day. Resolutions indorsing Taft were adopted by the Republican State Central Committee, which is recognized by the Secretary of State as entitled to official use of the party emblem. The committee fixed May 11 for the state convention to elect delegates at-large and alternates to the Republican National Convention.

JOHNSON SAYS COULD NOT ACCEPT. Blames Supporters Who Have Made His Candidacy an Anti-Bryan Movement. St. Paul, March 4.—Governor Johnson is reported as saying that he would not accept the nomination for the Presidency if it were offered to him. Under the circumstances he feels that he could not afford to accept the nomination now. Amateur political managers who permitted the opposition to couple his name with Wall Street influences are held responsible for the collapse of Johnson's boom. If it had been sprung in time as a Johnson boom pure and simple, believed that it might have assumed proportion. But his managers permitted the thing to drag along, and when the boom got started it was not a Johnson boom, but an anti-Bryan boom, which placed the Governor in a position where if he should get the nomination it would mean sure defeat for him.

HUGHES LEAGUE IN KENTUCKY. Organized by Some of the Young Officials of That Commonwealth. Frankfort, Ky., March 4.—For the purpose of assisting Governor Hughes of New York in securing the Republican Presidential nomination, the Hughes League of Kentucky was organized here to-day. The officers elected are Thomas B. McGregor, of Bardwell, Assistant Attorney General, president; T. W. Vinson, of Lexington, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, vice-president; Roy Wilcox, of Ashland, secretary of the Railroad Commission, secretary; Representative John H. Haswell, of Breckinridge County; W. E. Bidwell, of Louisville, Assistant Secretary of State, and R. A. Cook, of the Auditor's Department, executive committeeman. The officers represent every part of the state, and are the most popular young officials of the commonwealth.

HUGHES AND TAFT CLUBS AT HARVARD. Cambridge, Mass., March 4.—About two hundred Harvard students met this afternoon and organized a Hughes club. A Taft club was organized this week, and a strenuous campaign is promised between the two clubs. The Hughes club holds a meeting next week, when members of the faculty favoring Hughes will speak.

TAFT DELEGATES AND INDORSEMENTS. Topeka, Kan., March 4.—The Republicans of the 1st Congress District here to-day elected Arthur Capper, of Topeka, and Cyrus Leland, of Troy, delegates to the Chicago convention and instructed them to support the administration of President Roosevelt when indorsed.

BRYAN INDORSED IN RHODE ISLAND. Providence, March 4.—The Rhode Island Democratic State Central Committee decided to-day on March 21 as the date for the state convention to choose delegates to the National Democratic Convention at Denver. The convention will be held in this city. Resolutions were adopted indorsing the candidacy of William J. Bryan for the Presidential nomination.

DEMOCRATS WIN IN PEESKILL. Peekskill, the old home of Senator Chauncey M. Depew, and known as one of the Republican strongholds of the state, was carried by the Democrats in the spring elections yesterday. The Democrats elected the entire ticket, consisting of three aldermen, city treasurer, assessor and three water commissioners, by majorities as high as 24. The Republicans, led by County Clerk Crumb, strove to make the typhoid fever epidemic an issue against the present water board.

TO IMPROVE PROVIDENCE WATERFRONT. Providence, March 4.—Nearly \$2,000,000 is to be spent by the New Haven Railroad in improving local dock facilities and the Providence Harbor front. Of this about \$1,000,000 will be spent on docks or slips from Fox Point to India Point and the present wharf line.

An intimate personal study of F. Marion Crawford, whose new serial, "The Diva's Ruby," begins in The Sunday Tribune of March 15, will be found in next Sunday's Tribune.

EQUALIZING CHARGES.

BRONX BUREAU SYSTEM. Bookkeeping in Assessment Proceedings Under Haffen. There was brought out yesterday by J. P. Mitchell, Commissioner of Accounts, in a continuation of the investigation of the office of Borough President Haffen of The Bronx, the system by which work was charged against assessment proceedings in the bureau of highways in that borough for many years. After Henry L. Bridges, who kept the assessment proceedings books in the Department of Highways had been on the stand almost continuously from 2 o'clock in the afternoon until after 8 o'clock last night, and it had been shown, from computations he was directed to make by Commissioner Mitchell from the figures in his own books, that \$197 more had been charged to the grading and regulating of Creston avenue than should have been charged according to the time actually put in by engineers and inspectors, Samuel C. Thompson, principal engineer of the department, was put on the stand.

Mr. Bridges had said he had charged time to proceedings, which had actually been spent on other proceedings, according to the directions of Mr. Thompson. After Mr. Mitchell had reviewed the testimony of Mr. Bridges he pointed to certain items and asked: "Are they truthful, or are they false, as representing the actual time put in by men on that particular proceeding in that month?"

"Well, they are false, if you put it in that way," replied the engineer, after some hesitation. He argued, however, that the system was one that had been in use in the department for many years. It seems that in the ledgers, opposite the times actually spent by engineers and inspectors on the work, were placed red or blue figures showing the amount of time that was actually charged up to them, according to a system in vogue not to allow the fees for engineering and inspection work to run above 15 per cent on any particular proceeding. This 15 per cent rule was one established by President Haffen, it was said by Mr. Thompson.

According to the charter only such work as has been actually done on an assessment proceeding was to be charged against it. Commissioner Mitchell, who has examined assessment proceedings in the bureau of highways from 1902 to the present time, says that all so examined have been figured in this manner. Whether citizens, who have paid such assessments, would have any suit against the city for recovery of such assessments would be a question for the Corporation Counsel to determine, he said.

Mr. Thompson said that certain blue pencilled equalizations, as they were called, in an old ledger had been made by him personally. He contradicted Mr. Bridges in some particulars, saying he had never instructed Mr. Bridges to charge work done on one proceeding to another, but that the practice had been to transfer the cost of preliminary surveys done before the letting of a contract to the cost of the assessment proceeding when it got under way. It had to be distributed over the entire time of the work, as the figures for one month could not go beyond the estimated percentage set at the beginning.

President Haffen was not on the stand yesterday, but will be recalled on Monday. The first witness was Josiah A. Briggs, the chief engineer of the office. Mr. Van Doren, counsel for the Borough President, objected several times to the way in which Mr. Briggs was being examined, causing Commissioner Mitchell to ask in some heat: "Is it the purpose of counsel to provoke the commissioners to exclude him from the room, and thus create the specious appearance that we did not allow President Haffen to be represented by counsel?"

"Isn't it a fact," Mr. Briggs was asked, "that for ten years there has been a regular system of equalizing charges for engineering work, done by the transferring of men nominally from one job to another, when their services were not needed?"

"I don't know of it," replied Mr. Briggs. He said, however, that in one case where charges were preferred men had been transferred from the topographical bureau to the Washington avenue assessment proceeding. Ernest H. Rondell, who kept the assessment books for some time but is now employed in the Health Department, when asked if it was not the practice to charge up engineering and inspection expenses in excess of 15 per cent to other proceedings, replied that he believed it was. He had heard Mr. Thompson directing distribution of expenses, he said.

TROUBLE IN KINGS. Hughes Men Make Offer, Kracke Says, but It Is Denied. Naval Officer P. J. H. Kracke, the regular leader of the 18th Assembly District, Brooklyn, said last night that the leaders of the Hughes League of Brooklyn offered to come over to his side if he attended the Republican National Convention as a delegate. According to the story, Mr. Kracke had been called to Mr. Wald's house to attend a harmony conference by Darwin R. James, Jr., president of the league and also of the Young Republican Club—an anti-Woodruff organization. The story goes that in the course of the conversation Mr. James turned to Mr. Kracke and in the hearing of disaffected "buds," he proposed that Kracke "take it over" and reorganize it and run it for the good of the party. In return for the transfer of the league to the regular organization wing, he asked that Mr. Wald be allowed to go as a delegate to the convention. Mr. Kracke replied that the choice of the delegates was in the hands of the people. What he said about accepting the proposal of the league he refused to tell last night. Mr. Wald began his campaign against the regular organization of Brooklyn before the primaries last fall. At that time State Senator Eugene M. Travis was making a successful attempt to unseat Postmaster George H. Roberts as the leader of the 18th Assembly District, and ex-Naval Officer Robert A. Sharkey was making a successful fight against the regular organization and the opposition to his leadership in the 18th Assembly District—both on Hughes platforms.

A couple of nights ago the chief Republicans of the 18th District met, and after passing the evening discussing the fight that Mr. Wald was making against Mr. Kracke decided that the Congressman had "no cause for action" and advised him to "drop it" for the good of the party in the coming election. When asked last night regarding Mr. Kracke's statement, Mr. James said: "I deny Mr. Kracke's statement positively and absolutely. I never offered to make a deal with him. We held the meeting to which Mr. Kracke refers to discuss the conditions in the 18th Assembly District and to try to harmonize the factions. I said to Mr. Kracke, 'if this fight can be checked all can join together in the Hughes League, inasmuch as you say you are a Hughes man.' Mr. Kracke jumped to his feet and said: 'Even if you offer me a deal I will not enter into it with you.' I replied: 'I have not offered to make any deal with you.' I consider that Mr. Kracke's story is made out of whole cloth."

NATHAN VIDAVER HELD.

Continued from first page. mons. The detective then arrested Vidaver and demanded the money. "MONEY FOR A RETAINER'S FEE." "That was for a retainer's fee," hotly asserted Vidaver. "Do you want me to search you for it?" asked the detective. Vidaver then said: "Take the money. But it was given, I say, as a regular lawyer's fee."

District Attorney Jerome said last night that he "had been informed that William R. Montgomery had been approached by Vidaver in such a way that the crime of attempted extortion was committed, and that certain testimony was available to show that the crime had been committed. I was also informed as to certain phases of the matter in connection with a certain firm of lawyers, some of whom knew all about it, but whose connection did not amount to wrongdoing."

"Immediately after that conversation this morning Beery telephoned me," continued Mr. Jerome, "and said that in his judgment a crime had been committed. Up to that time all this office was seeking to obtain was evidence that Vidaver had tried to extort money from Montgomery. Beery said he thought it was a clear case, and I took him to go ahead and arrest Vidaver when the money was given him at the Astor."

When brought down from the District Attorney's office to the Tombs court for formal arraignment Mr. Vidaver was greatly excited. He declared it was all a put up job on the part of the District Attorney's office, and said he had been treated outrageously. The District Attorney and a large part of his staff were in court. Assistant District Attorney Kresel had charge of the case. Mr. Vidaver pleaded "Not guilty" to the charge of extortion in obtaining the \$500 from Montgomery "by means of threats of unlawful injury to person and property."

JACKSON HAS CONFIDENCE IN HIM. Attorney General Jackson, when seen after Vidaver's arrest, said that he had known him for a year before appointing him to investigate the Kissena Park scandal in Queens, and had the utmost faith in his integrity. "No, he was not recommended to me by either Mr. Hearst or Clarence J. Shearn," said Mr. Jackson. "He has not been in any way connected with banking investigations, and I don't know what connection he could have had with the Hamilton Bank. My office couldn't have given out any facts or stopped any facts in regard to the investigation of that institution, because we didn't have charge of it. I didn't know anything about it until I learned afterward that there was an indictment against Mr. Montgomery. As simply a special Deputy Attorney General in the Kissena Park matter, Vidaver would have a perfect right to accept a retainer for some other case, and I do not want the grand jury to confuse the actions of a special deputy with the same circumstances as applied to a regular Deputy Attorney General."

Moses H. Grossman gave out a statement in which he said: "Within a short time after Judge Betts appointed temporary receivers for the Hamilton Bank Mr. Montgomery, its then president, called at my office and retained me to assist him in the rehabilitation of the Hamilton Bank. Shortly thereafter, with Mr. Montgomery's approval, Mr. Vidaver, who at that time had no connection or affiliation with the Attorney General's office, was retained free to accept such engagement, was employed by Mr. Montgomery as one of his counsel to assist him in bringing about the re-opening of the bank. Mr. Vidaver was paid a retainer of \$500 by my firm, and thereafter did consult with Mr. Montgomery and myself from time to time. "I am sure that a terrible mistake has been made and that Mr. Jerome, who is a fair-minded man, and who has a high regard for the law, and who has been employed to and who he did actually render perfectly honorable and legitimate and such an attorney he could legally and ethically perform."

Nathan Vidaver was born in Boston forty-two years ago and was graduated from the law school of the University of California in 1887. He came here and began the practice of law two years ago. He was a Democrat until Mr. Hearst ran for Mayor, when he joined the Independence League. Mr. Vidaver is now attorney general for several theatrical managers, but is not a member of the Bar Association. He has appeared as a representative of the Independence League in the proceedings looking to the removal from office of William Leary, Superintendent of Elections.

RECEIVER'S DEMANDS UP. Arguments Heard on Claims of C. M. Preston and His Counsel. Arguments on the amounts the receiver and his counsel should receive for their services in settling the affairs of the now defunct New York Building Loan Banking Company were heard yesterday before Referee Thomas F. Conway. Charles M. Preston, the receiver, wanted \$12,000 for his services during the last fiscal year, and Charles W. Dayton, Jr., asked \$30,000 for his services as counsel from January 1, 1907, to September 13, 1907. An accountant testified that he was familiar with the amounts paid the receiver, and that at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent Mr. Preston should receive \$19,824.66. Deputy Attorney General Mott then took up the examination, and it was shown that, reckoned on the 2 1/2 per cent basis, the receiver would have got \$19,954.94 for his last year's service. The court, however, reduced the amount to \$12,000. It was then shown that in succeeding years the receiver would have got less than \$12,000 a year if his compensation had been reckoned on the 2 1/2 per cent basis, but that each year he obtained enough to bring his compensation up to that figure. Mr. Dayton explained the reasons why he should receive \$30,000 for his services, describing the time he had spent on the company's affairs, the assistance that he had got and so forth. Mr. Mott wanted a detailed statement showing exactly what he had done, and the referee directed Mr. Dayton to make one. The referee took the question under advisement.

WILL HELP JEROME. Bar Association President Indorses Work of His Office. District Attorney Jerome yesterday made public a letter received by him from Benjamin F. Tracy. It follows: "For thirteen years of my professional life I have been a district attorney, six years a district attorney for my native county, Bucks, and for six years United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. If you think that I can be of any service to you at the present time, I am free to command me, without money and without price. "Then he got the following letter from John L. Caldwell, president of the Bar Association: "The unadulterated democracy in which we live no one is content to mind his own business, and there appears to be no escape from self-constituted bodies—generally without experience—who propose to conduct public affairs on the basis of the constituted authorities. I see that one of those bodies is proposing to run your office, and because there is not room for two district attorneys at the same time propose to put you off. "I hope you will not seriously mind. The public will not readily believe that your office will be improperly shield any one, and I am sure that the bar will continue to sympathize with you and assist you in prosecuting the case of all kinds and colors, without distinction, and equally in refusing to surrender the conduct of your office to any self-appointed prosecutors—however well meaning they may be, and whether the press supports them or not."

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WORK SAVED FOR MAYOR. He and Controller Will Not Have to Sign New Bond Issue.

Corporation Counsel Pendleton has advised the Mayor and Controller that it is not necessary actually to sign city bonds, and for the first time in the history of the city the new \$40,000,000 issue will have the names of the Mayor and Controller engraved instead of signed. The only exception to the rule will be the registered bonds, which will have to be signed as usual. All the coupon bonds will carry the engraved signatures. The change was forced on account of the fact that the Controller or his deputies, the chief clerk in the Mayor's office, James A. Herdon, bond and warrant clerk, and City Clerk P. J. Scully or his deputy would each, in turn, have to sign three names fifty thousand times. Following the last bond sale, in September last, Deputy Controller Phillips signed his name until his paralysis had had partial palsy. City Clerk Scully or his deputy, Joseph F. Prendergast, will be the "goat" under the new arrangement, for the names of one or the other will actually have to be signed to each bond. The issue is divided into series, and for each of the series there will be filed with the City Clerk a certificate setting forth that the engraved signature of the Mayor and Controller have been duly authorized. This is a precaution advised by the Corporation Counsel. "The new way will relieve us of a lot of dead work," said the Controller. "It is not so much a job to sign five hundred bonds, but when the number stretches into the thousands the task is very tiresome and takes time that ought to be given to something else. With the precautions we have taken it is much more sensible to have the names of the Controller and Mayor printed on the bonds. There is no necessity for the actual signature either of the Mayor or the Controller, provided the necessary safeguards are employed, and we have attended to them. The registered bonds will have to be signed as usual."

PEACE PACT LASTING. City Chamberlain Says It Will Be Good Thing for Democrats.

City Chamberlain James J. Martin says that the peace pact between the Mayor and Charles F. Murphy, entered into at luncheon in the Hardware Club on Tuesday, undoubtedly will be permanent, and he thinks that the Tammany organization will greatly benefit by it. "It was the right thing for the Mayor and Mr. Murphy to do," said Mr. Martin. "I think that there will be no internal strife of consequence for years to come. It is about time for Democrats to quit fighting among themselves and give battle to their Republican opponents." Little else than the meeting between the Mayor and Mr. Murphy was talked of around the City Hall yesterday. All that the Mayor would say about it was that it was not prearranged, as seemed to be probable, judging from surface appearances. In reply to other inquiries about the why and wherefore, the Mayor said that his statement of February 9, Mr. Murphy had come out in favor of sending an unopposed delegation from this county to the Democratic National Convention at Denver. The Mayor came out for the same thing, and said so in the statement he referred to. Controller Metz said he had heard the rumors about nominating the Mayor for the Presidency. He was asked if he would vote for the Mayor as President. "I'll vote for him for anything," he replied. "He's all right."

LOOK FOR PARIS FINERY. Customs Inspectors Draw Lines Close When the Oceanic Docks.

More than one hundred customs inspectors were assigned to duty on the White Star pier when the Oceanic docked last night so that milliners who might be inclined could not get ashore with hat and trimmings without paying the duty. There were no seizures made, but fifty pieces of baggage were sent to the Appraisers' Stores. The customs officials had been informed that a number of milliners with a goodly stock of Paris hats and trimmings had boarded the Oceanic. Surveyors of Customs, who were on duty, examined carefully every piece of baggage that was taken ashore. The only alleged attempt to get away with an article without the payment of duty was discovered by an inspector, who saw a woman pass by her coat to a friend who met her on the pier. "Take this heavy thing and hold it for me," said the woman, and the friend, taking the coat, put it on a trunk and sat on it. When the trunk was examined the inspector inquired about the coat and the woman, admitting that it had been purchased abroad, was compelled to pay duty on it. One milliner remarked to her husband as he crated off finery was broken open on the pier: "Well, dear, the goods are coming out. Are you getting cold feet?" "Not necessarily," replied the husband. "I declared everything we had."

The force of night inspectors was augmented, and Matthew M. Coney, the deputy surveyor in charge, will see that no "sleepers" are brought ashore. "Sleepers" are trunks taken for the pier by expressmen, and deliver them to their owners. Colonel Bishop said last night that he and his men will draw the customs lines unusually tight until Easter on all incoming steamships that bring passengers from London or Paris. Among the passengers on the Oceanic were William Barclay Parsons, who had been at Berlin two weeks on private business, and Charles H. Allen, former Governor of Porto Rico.

NAVAL COLLIERIES RETURN—A REPORT. Norfolk, Va., March 4.—The naval colliers British Abennda passed into the Capes to-day and dropped anchors in Hampton Roads, after following the fleet as far as Rio de Janeiro with coal supplies. An unconfirmed rumor is that they will stop two submarine boats at Annapolis, to be carried to the Philippines.

A BROKER'S ADVICE. An investment pamphlet published by a prominent West Side real estate firm contains this sentence: "Marketability of title, of course, is nowadays not a serious consideration, as no sane purchaser fails to have his title searched and insured by reputable companies making a specialty of that service." The firm in question always uses our company. We were the first in the field—we have examined the most titles and are the most experienced. We have the largest guarantee fund.

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