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FIGHT ON HOUSE RULES COMING

MANY MEMBERS FAVOR CHANGES.

Would Lessen Speaker's Authority and Responsibility—Contest at Opening of 61st Congress.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Nov. 27.—There is abundant evidence that the organization of the House in the 61st Congress will be marked by a determined effort to change the present rules, which, in the opinion of many members, confer far too much authority and responsibility on the Speaker, for it is well known that many members have in the past been content to shirk responsibilities which properly attach to their position by conferring all power on the Speaker and then seeking to throw all blame for things done and undone on that official.

A carefully planned and determined effort to change the rules so as to obviate much that has afforded ground for the complaint that individual rather than majority rule prevails in the House is practically assured. On the other hand, the prediction that a determined effort will be made to prevent Mr. Cannon from succeeding himself as Speaker and that President Taft will be a party to such a fight is unfounded. In so far as the rules are concerned, Speaker Cannon has pointed out on more than one occasion that the majority makes the rules, and if real dissatisfaction with the manner in which legislation in the House is conducted existed the majority possessed ample power to alter them.

Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, whose reputation for aggressive fighting was considerably increased by the determined contest he made to obtain Taft delegates in his state last spring, and the success which attended his efforts, is the first of the many members committed to the policy of altering the rules to say so openly and to permit his comments to be quoted.

MR. GARDNER'S VIEWS.

"I shall not decide how to vote on the Speakership," Mr. Gardner said to-day, "until I know the names of the candidates, but personally I am much more interested in a change in the rules than in the Speakership. If we members of the House continue to adopt rules abandoning our power and shifting our responsibilities to the Speaker's shoulders, we must not go back to our constituents and plead the baby act because he accepts that power, when we cheerfully leave him to bear all the responsibility. Heretofore the rules have been prescribed by the majority in the party caucus—in other words, by a majority of the majority—and the motive power has been supplied by a still smaller subdivision of the House. The time has now come when those of us who are dissatisfied must do one of three things—we must carry the party caucus; we must refuse to caucus on the rules at all, or we must shut up. I believe that our best chance of success lies in the second line of procedure."

Captain Gardner takes the apparently logical position that to authorize the Speaker to appoint a Committee on Rules, which is to control the action of himself and the House, is merely to invest the Speaker with an absolute power, which should be vested only in the majority of the House, and be administered only by a committee the members of which are indebted to the House for their appointment and tenure of office. Mr. Gardner does not favor a coalition with the Democrats, but he is convinced that were the fight against the existing rules made in open House, instead of in a party caucus, the support of the minority could be counted on.

President-elect Taft is said to be in sympathy with the suggestion that the rules of the House be so changed as to transfer the responsibility for legislation from the Speaker to the majority of the House, where, in his opinion, it properly belongs, and to be convinced that between those members who are sincerely in favor of the progressive policy of the party and those who would not dare oppose them were they deprived of the privilege of escaping responsibility by hiding behind the Speaker, the will of the majority of Republican voters would prevail in the House, precisely as was intended by the framers of the Constitution. Moreover, the President-elect would, as has already been indicated in these dispatches, welcome a method which would insure the supremacy of progressive Republicanism without involving a fight on Mr. Cannon.

MEMBERS WHO FAVOR CHANGE.

No less able and conservative a man than Colonel Hepburn, of Iowa, has frequently protested against the existing rules. Unfortunately, Mr. Hepburn will not be in the next Congress to lead the fight, but if Mr. Burton is not elected Senator in the mean time, he will cheerfully espouse the cause. Others who, while fearful of gaining the enmity of Mr. Cannon if they express their views for publication, are ready to vote for a revision of the rules, are Messrs. Washburn, McCall and Lawrence, of Massachusetts; Hill and Henry, of Connecticut; Representative-elect Plumley, of Vermont; a majority of the Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin and California delegations; Messrs. Perkins, Driscoll and Waldo, of New York, with the possible addition of Messrs. Parsons, Bennet and other New Yorkers, although Messrs. Payne and Vreeland would oppose a change. The North and South Dakota delegations will vote for a change, as will probably the Washington delegation, and Messrs. Brumm and Lafean, of Pennsylvania; Hubbard, of West Virginia; Fowler, of New Jersey; Howland, of Ohio, and Prince, of Illinois. It is doubtful if even Mr. Tawney, in the face of the sentiment in Minnesota, would vote against a change.

Representative Charles Davis, of Minnesota, who arrived here this evening, announced that he would support a change of the rules, and that, moreover, he would be glad to vote for any candidate for Speaker except Mr. Cannon.

Most of the men who would fight for a change of the rules are friends of the Speaker and will support him for re-election, but they will advocate changed rules on conscientious grounds. While no definite programme for revising the rules has been adopted, the changes discussed are the election of the members of the Rules Committee by the whole House, the election by each committee of its own chairman, the allotment of a fixed time for each committee to report and ask the consideration of measures and the further curtailment of the "recognizing" power of the Speaker.

Incidentally, it may be remarked that no such absolutism prevails in the Senate as exists in the House.

The advocates of changed House rules are convinced that by stating the purposes of the movement sufficiently in advance of the organization of the next House they will obtain a support from the constituents of a majority of the members which will make it hazardous for most of them to vote against the proposed changes.

FOOTBALL "HIGHER UP."

Heads of Navy and Army Settle Trouble Over To-day's Umpire.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Philadelphia, Nov. 27.—The disagreement between the Army and the Navy football authorities over the selection of officials for the game to-morrow reached an acute stage here this afternoon. To every proposition that the Navy made the Army replied in the negative. At last, in desperation, the Navy referred the question to the Navy Department. Captain Charles J. Badger met Assistant Secretary Newberry of the Navy Department this morning and informed him of the state of affairs. The latter held a conference with Secretary Wright of the War Department, and it was decided to allow Dr. Carl Williams, of the University of Pennsylvania, to select the officials of the game, and word to this effect was immediately telegraphed to the coaches of the Navy and Army elevens.

In the mean time these coaches had met here and tentatively agreed to the same scheme. As a result the following officials were named: Evans, Williams, referee; Al Sharp, Yale, umpire; Torrey, University of Pennsylvania, head linesman, and Dr. Williams, Pennsylvania, field judge.

The Navy is highly incensed to-night over a report published by a Philadelphia evening paper in which only the Army side of the dispute is given.

The head coach of the Navy eleven talked briefly to a reporter from The Tribune. He said that on the invitation of West Point the Navy had presented several lists of officials for the game. These lists, which he said embraced many of the best known football men of the country, were universally rejected. In return the Army suggested such men as Yost and Snow. Yost at that time was engaged to coach West Point after the Syracuse-Michigan game and Snow was a pupil of Yost's.

The Navy refused to consider these men, and the question of officials hung fire. Eventually the Navy wired the Army, "If you cannot approve our selections, any of them, we will have to carry the question higher."

To this telegram the Army replied: "We refuse your selections; carry it higher."

It was then that the Navy coaches referred the matter to Captain Badger, superintendent of the Naval Academy, who decided that he had no power in the premises, and made a special trip to Washington to consult with Assistant Secretary Newberry of the Navy Department.

NO CRASH WITH EARTH.

Fear of New Moorhouse Comet Ridiculous, Says Dr. Brashear.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Pittsburg, Nov. 27.—Dr. John A. Brashear, the Pittsburg astronomer, denied emphatically to-night that the inhabitants of the earth need fear any danger from a collision with the comet recently discovered by Moorhouse, at the Yerkes Observatory.

"The spectroscopic study of this comet," said Dr. Brashear, "indicates that not only is it composed of hydrogen gas, but also of cyanogen, a very poisonous gas. A sensational article recently printed in New York tells us that had this comet struck the earth not a living being would have been left upon it. But my own observations, with those of others, indicate that if the comet had struck the earth, so thin is its gas that there would not have been enough for one single atom of it for each block of our city.

"There would have been absolutely no danger to the inhabitants of the earth. The fact of the matter is that when the head, or nucleus, of the comet was 100,000 miles in diameter, I could see a fifth magnitude star through it without any apparent diminution of light."

HOLDS PICTURE ROCKS.

States or Federal Government Can't Get Them from College President.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Pittsburg, Nov. 27.—The states of West Virginia and Pennsylvania, the United States government and President W. H. George, in charge of a little college at Beaver Falls, Penn., are in a dispute. President George holds the goods, and hypothetically, at least, has nine points of the law with them.

Some few centuries ago the Delaware Indians drove the Mingoes out of that part of the Ohio Valley where the present dividing line between West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio is now situated. The Mingoes, when they departed on their enforced migration, chiselled out of the solid rock of what is now a part of the bed of the Ohio River the story of the trip. For the first time these cuttings, which have become known as the "picture rocks," have been visible, through the exceedingly low water this summer and fall. It was not thought that they would ever be seen again, as the erection of a series of dams will maintain the volume of water in the future, despite the most severe drouth.

President George of the little college held different views, however, and took a score of stone masons one night, chiselled the picture rocks out and hauled them to the cellar of the college. There they remain. The Governor of West Virginia asserted that they belonged to his state. The United States Geological Survey then claimed them, and finally Andrew Carnegie wanted them for the Carnegie Institute, as the rightful property of Pennsylvania.

"I've got them," said President George this afternoon, "and you've got to get them away from me. I have as much right to them as any one else and I'm going to keep them."

FOLLOWED FOR YEARS.

Former New York Man Has Woman Claiming To Be His Wife Arrested.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

St. Louis, Nov. 27.—Addison Weeks, of De Soto, Mo., seventy years old, who has extensive realty interests and is a representative of paper houses with a business office in St. Louis, caused the arrest to-day of Mrs. Evelyn M. Trost, aged forty-five, on a bench warrant charging that she committed perjury in a divorce suit recently filed here by her against Weeks, in claiming she had been lawfully married to him.

Weeks told the Circuit Attorney that his acquaintance with Mrs. Trost began in 1886, when he was assistant manager of a large business house in New York City. He said he made frequent trips with her to Coney Island and other resorts. He said that when his wife and daughter returned from Europe Mrs. Trost threatened to tell his wife if he broke off with her and that he fled to Chicago, where Mrs. Trost made threatening demands for money. He fled with his family to St. Louis, he continued, only to be followed here. As a final resort he says he fled to De Soto, where she appeared, registered at a hotel as his wife and sued him for $20,000. He says he compromised the suit.

Mrs. Trost, who was released on $800 bond, said Weeks was worth $100,000 and that he married her fourteen years ago. She said that she learned only recently that he had another wife.

MOTHER AND SON SHOT

MAN'S BROTHER ACCUSED OF DOUBLE MURDER.

Pipemaker Used Pistol, Says Witness, When Relatives Refused to Give Him Money.

Mrs. Victoria Kallenbrun, and her son, Leo, were shot down and killed last night in their apartment at No. 223 West 16th street, according to Albert Trojanowsky, the only witness, by William Kallenbrun, another son. William Kallenbrun lives at No. 103 York street, Jersey City. He is a pipemaker, but has been out of work for some time, and, according to Trojanowsky, visited the home of his mother and brother last night and demanded money.

When the demand was refused, Trojanowsky says, William began shooting. After the shooting William ran to the street, but was captured at Eighth avenue and 16th street by Patrolman John F. Berry, of the 6th Precinct, who took him to the West 20th street police station. He fought desperately with Berry and three other policemen who came to his assistance, and had to be beaten into submission. At the station house he refused to make any statement. Trojanowsky was held as a material witness.

Mrs. Kallenbrun and her son Leo, who is also a pipe maker, have lived in the 16th street flat for some time, according to the story told by Trojanowsky, who boarded with them. Neighbors said last night that William formerly boarded with his mother also, but that he never paid any money toward the expenses, and finally departed when his mother and brother refused to support him any longer.

William then went to live in Jersey City, Trojanowsky says, but was out of work, and frequently called up his mother on the telephone and made many visits to the flat to demand money. Although Leo gave him $10 on Wednesday night, he appeared again the following night and asked for more, saying that he was hungry. This time the demand was refused, and William went away.

Last night he returned at about 8:30 o'clock, and again asked them to give him money or take him in as a boarder. Leo replied that he and his mother had only enough for their own needs and could not take him in, whereupon, Trojanowsky says, William drew a revolver and fired three shots at Leo as he sat in a chair. Two of the shots struck Leo in the body and the third in his neck. He sank down in the chair and died a few minutes later.

While the two sons were talking Mrs. Kallenbrun came into the room from the kitchen, and at the first sound of the shots she ran across the hall to the apartment of her friend, Mrs. Kate Spalding. As she fled through the hall William followed, says Nojanowsky, and fired two more shots, both striking her in the back. Mrs. Spalding had come to the door, and as her friend staggered into the room she slammed it in the pursuer's face. Mrs. Kallenbrun staggered to the kitchen, where she fell to the floor dead, while Mrs. Spalding ran to the window, screaming for help.

At the station house Kallenbrun appeared dazed and spoke only a few incoherent words. Later Coroner Dooley examined the prisoner, who, the police say, replied, when asked if he knew what he had done:

"Yes, I shot my mother and brother because they called me a tramp."

LOST BY MRS. O. C. HEINZE.

Pearl Necklace, Valued at $12,000, Disappeared Thanksgiving Night.

Detectives from Police Headquarters, the West 30th street station and from private agencies are searching for a pearl necklace valued at $12,000, which Mrs. Otto C. Heinze lost between the Astor Theatre and her home, at No. 14 East 72d street, early yesterday morning.

Mrs. Heinze was a member of a theatre party of six on Thanksgiving night, which included her brother-in-law, F. Augustus Heinze. After the performance at the Astor, the party went to the Hotel Knickerbocker for supper, and then in Mrs. Heinze's automobile to her home. Before getting out of the machine she missed her necklace, and one of the men in the party informed the police of the Tenderloin station.

Mrs. Heinze saw James B. Regan, manager of the Knickerbocker, yesterday, and waiters and the maid in charge of the cloak room were interrogated in her presence. The Astor Theatre was also searched without avail. The necklace was composed of sixty-three pearls.

PLEAS FOR POLICEMAN SUCCESSFUL.

Owen Wister, General C. C. Wood and Others Obtain Release of Officer Charged with Killing.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Philadelphia, Nov. 27.—Pleas in his behalf by General Charles C. Wood, U. S. A., retired, under whom he had served in the army; by Owen Wister, the novelist, for whom he had acted as a guide in the Far West, and by a number of other men prominent in business and official circles in the city to-day obtained the discharge in the Coroner's court of Charles D. Skirden, a policeman, who had been held without bail since last Saturday, accused of wilfully killing John Bradley while the latter was trying to escape arrest.

General Wood, who had known Skirden fourteen years, said he was one of the best all around soldiers the army ever had, and Mr. Wister called him a man of cool judgment and gentle disposition.

HASKELL WANTS TO SEE REPORT.

Seeks Woman Official Who, It Is Said, Found Shocking Convict Abuses.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Fort Worth, Tex., Nov. 27.—Governor Haskell of Oklahoma is searching for Miss Kate Bernard, State Charities and Corrections Commissioner, who left the home of Mrs. W. G. Burton here last night, keeping her destination secret. It is said Governor Haskell wants to get a copy of a report made by her concerning alleged shocking conditions she found last August among Oklahoma convicts confined in the Kansas penitentiary at Lansing. This report was suppressed for political reasons during the political campaign, it is said.

It is said that Miss Bernard's report charges that Oklahoma's convicts are fastened in coffins and water turned on them till the coffin is filled; that prisoners are racked in cribs more brutally than in the Middle Ages, swung from the floor by the wrists, hanging from sprockets for hours, confined in dungeons, given poorest rations and beaten with gunstocks when they refuse to eat.

Miss Barnard travelled through Indiana, Illinois and Oklahoma in the recent campaign, speaking for Bryan, but collapsed before the campaign ended, cancelling her Oklahoma dates. It is said she is seeking to prevent the blue-penciling of her report.

Superior quality—finest flavor—absolute purity. Ask your grocer for "Salada" Tea—Black, Mixed or Green.—Advt.

HITCHCOCK IN CABINET

MR. TAFT MAKES FIRST SELECTION.

National Chairman To Be Postmaster General—Woodruff and Parsons at Hot Springs.

Hot Springs, Va., Nov. 27.—The place of Postmaster General in Mr. Taft's Cabinet has been offered to and accepted by Frank H. Hitchcock, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

The official announcement of this decision regarding the first Cabinet selection of President-elect Taft doubtless will not be made until Mr. Taft has completed his Cabinet, at which time the full list will be made public. Because of this view of the situation, no expression regarding the selection of Mr. Hitchcock was obtainable for publication from either Mr. Taft or the Republican chairman. There were many reasons, it was pointed out, why it was expedient that Mr. Hitchcock's status should be fixed, at least so far as the principals are concerned, and a complete understanding is known to exist between them. As chairman of the Republican National Committee Mr. Hitchcock became more familiar than any other person with the political phase of questions likely to arise at the beginning of Mr. Taft's administration, and the knowledge he gained of the personnel of the party will be of great service to Mr. Taft. The chairman also possesses a comprehensive as well as a technical knowledge of postal affairs, gained by experience as First Assistant and Acting Postmaster General.

Mr. Hitchcock, accompanied by Charles H. Boynton, of New York, left here for Washington, where to-morrow night he will be the guest of honor at a dinner to be given by the executive and advisory committees of the national committee. He will then visit headquarters in New York. It is probable that from this time on Mr. Hitchcock will be frequently in conference with Mr. Taft.

Timothy L. Woodruff, chairman of the Republican State Committee of New York, was defeated at tennis here to-day by Representative Herbert Parsons, president of the New York County Committee. Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Parsons expect to have a conference with Mr. Taft to-morrow.

Mr. Woodruff said he expected to discuss the Senatorship situation in his state, as well as a number of other matters of political importance growing out of the recent campaign. As to his own aspirations in connection with the Senatorship, Mr. Woodruff said he had as yet made no public announcement, nor had he anything to say on the subject for publication at this time. He had heard a rumor that he had come down here to withdraw, he said, but he declared there was absolutely no foundation for such a statement, particularly as he had never declared himself a candidate.

Senator Fulton, of Oregon, had an opportunity this afternoon to discuss Oregon affairs with Mr. Taft.

President-elect Taft was the guest of honor to-night at a dinner given by Senator Bourne, of Oregon, who entertained, besides Mr. Taft, a number of newspaper correspondents and personal friends.

Frank H. Hitchcock has had experience in official life in Washington which has made him familiar with the details of departmental work. It was his organizing and executive ability which led to his selection as manager of the preliminary campaign of Secretary Taft for the Republican nomination for President. To take up this work he resigned the office of First Assistant Postmaster General last February. So well did he perform this preliminary work that he was selected for chairman of the Republican National Commitee. For this post his association with George B. Cortelyou when the latter was head of the national committee in 1904 had given him experience.

Mr. Hitchcock is only forty-one years old and is a native of Ohio, the son of a Congregational minister. He was educated at West Somerville, Mass., and at Harvard University, taking his degree in 1891. He had already shown much interest in politics, his first vote for President having been cast in 1888. From college he went to Washington, where he became chief clerk to the superintendent of construction of the postoffice building. After a competitive examination he entered the Department of Agriculture, in which he held various posts. Meanwhile he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was for several years chief of the foreign markets division in the Agricultural Department. From this place he went to the newly created Department of Commerce and Labor, in 1903, as chief clerk and organizer, under Secretary Cortelyou. When Mr. Cortelyou returned to the Cabinet in 1905 as Postmaster General he selected Mr. Hitchcock as First Assistant Postmaster General, and he remained in that department when Mr. Cortelyou became Secretary of the Treasury. When Mr. Hitchcock retired from the Postoffice Department last winter he received a personal letter from President Roosevelt setting forth the efficiency of his work in the reorganization of the postal service.

FOUND DEAD IN HOTEL.

Joseph F. Becker a Suicide in Brooklyn.

Joseph F. Becker, of No. 350 Jefferson avenue, Brooklyn, was found dead from gas asphyxiation in a room in the Palace Hotel, at Atlantic and Vesta avenues, Brooklyn, last night. Mr. Becker had gone to the hotel in the morning and left orders to be called at 5 o'clock. At that hour the door was forced open, when Mr. Becker failed to answer the knocking, and he was found lying dead on the bed with a gas tube tied firmly in his mouth.

Mr. Becker, who was a widower, sixty-eight years old, lived at the Jefferson avenue address with two unmarried daughters. He was the head of the firm of Becker & Co., coffee and tea merchants, of No. 271 Myrtle avenue. No motive is known for the man's suicide, as he was not known to have any troubles. He was a member of the Royal Arcanum, and a card of that organization led to the establishment of his identity.

Mrs. Joseph F. Becker, jr., whose husband is superintendent of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, whose offices are in Pearl street, Brooklyn, said last night at her home, No. 542 Carlton avenue, that her father-in-law had apparently never recovered from the grief over the death of his wife, about ten years ago, and seemed to grow more melancholy over it every year.

Mr. Becker leaves three sons and two daughters.

REPRESENTATIVE'S WIFE SHOPLIFTER.

Boston, Nov. 27.—After pleading guilty to a charge of shoplifting, Mrs. Milo W. Barney, wife of Representative Barney, of Swanton, Vt., paid a fine of $40 imposed by Judge Murray in the municipal court to-day. Mrs. Barney was arrested on Tuesday in one of the large department stores of the city. Her husband came hurriedly to Boston, and by consent of the District Attorney's office the fine was imposed.

FRANK HARRIS HITCHCOCK.
Who has been offered and accepted the post of Postmaster General in Mr. Taft's Cabinet.

PRESIDENT DISPLEASED.

Forbids Naval Officers to Discuss Newport Conference.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Nov. 27.—The President has found it necessary to revoke the permission granted a few weeks ago for discussion by naval officers of the results of the Newport conference. Officials consider that the questions involved are too technical for agitation in the newspapers and may lead to controversies which may injure the navy. The President to-day directed the Secretary of the Navy to issue the following general order:

It is directed that under no circumstances is any officer to discuss before the public or to give any information, directly or indirectly, concerning the Newport conference, or to discuss any question of naval policy without submitting what he wishes to say to the Secretary of the Navy, or through the Secretary of the Navy to the President of the United States; and officers will be held to strict accountability in this respect.

The President is reported as displeased with some of the expressions of officers, notably the comments which were read by the chief constructor of the navy, at a public gathering in Chicago on Monday night, when he quoted from letters written by Rear Admirals Schley and Evans and Admiral Dewey. He means to stop public comments of this sort.

TWO DIE IN SAND SLIDE.

Suffocated to Death in Staten Island Brick Works Clay Pit.

Buried beneath tons of sand, Thomas Galigan, of Rossville, and John Bercha, of Kreischerville, were suffocated to death yesterday afternoon in a clay pit at the Kreischerville Brick Works, on Staten Island. John Wilcow, of Rossville, narrowly escaped a similar death.

The pit was ten feet deep, and at its sides were stored tons of sand. A stream of water running under the sand caused the foundation to give way, and the sand fell into the pit, covering the two men before they could escape. Wilcow, who was working fifteen feet away from the other men, was only covered up to his shoulders.

Coroner Cahill ordered the arrest of John Heightman, who was in charge of the clay pits.

ONE HUNDRED DROWNED.

Steamer Strikes Rock and Sinks Off Luzon Coast.

Manila, Nov. 28.—The coasting steamer Ponting, carrying a large number of laborers from Narvacan to the rice fields in Pangasinan Province, struck a rock and sank last night during a storm off the town of San Fernando, in Union Province. It is estimated that a hundred of the passengers and crew of the Ponting were drowned. The steamer Vizcaya rescued fifty-five.

A patrol of constabulary, which was established immediately after the accident, picked up fifteen bodies, and many were coming ashore. It is not known whether any Americans or Europeans were on board the wrecked steamer.

JUMPS WITH CHILD FROM WINDOW.

Mother Escapes from Burning Building with Daughter in Her Arms.

A dozen panicstricken tenants in the three story frame house at No. 406 and 408 Tremont avenue, The Bronx, were rescued from their apartments by policemen and firemen during a blaze which started shortly before 12 o'clock last night.

Mrs. Rebecca Levy, with her two-year-old daughter in her arms, jumped from the top story of the house and the two are in Fordham Hospital, suffering from severe contusions and possible internal injuries. Herman Keil, an infant, and Brista Fabriana, a servant, were overcome by the smoke.

The flames swept from the basement to the upper floors by way of the dumbwaiter shaft, and were rapidly spreading through the rooms of the sleeping tenants when they were discovered. In the rear yard the firemen found Mrs. Levy and her baby unconscious. On the way to the Fordham Hospital the ambulance struck a portion of a bridge across the New York Central tracks and was wrecked. Dr. Placket, his two patients and his driver escaped injury.

MAN OF 83 SWINDLED OF $3,000.

Looks for His Money in Tin Box, but Finds Note Calling Him "Old Fool."

Indianapolis, Nov. 27.—William B. Cunningham, a retired farmer, eighty-three years old, was swindled out of $3,000 here to-day by confidence men. The loss came through a newly found "friend" who formed his acquaintance in front of the Cunningham home. The man convinced Cunningham that he had drawn a $3,000 prize from Andrew Carnegie.

A confederate conducted the "drawing," but before surrendering the $3,000 said Mr. Carnegie required all persons who received his money to put up a like amount. Cunningham was appealed to by the "friend" to furnish the $3,000. He was to share in the prize. He obtained the money, and the "prize" with its equivalent was placed in a tin box. The "friend" then gave Cunningham the box, saying he would stop at the Cunningham home later to-day and they would divide the "prize" and Cunningham would take back his own $3,000 in addition. The "friend" was still missing to-night and Cunningham opened the box. In the box was a note telling Cunningham he was an old fool.

UNITED STATES AND JAPAN AGREE

COVENANT FOR JOINT ACTION ENTERED INTO.

Maintenance of Status Quo in the Pacific and Integrity of China Guaranteed.

Washington, Nov. 27.—Information of an agreement of farreaching importance between the United States and Japan, covering the policy of the two countries in the Pacific, has been obtained from trustworthy sources.

The agreement is based on the idea of encouraging and defending free and peaceful commercial development in the Pacific. It contains not only a mutual guarantee to respect each other's territorial possessions there, but defines the attitude of the two countries toward China, binding each to defend China's independence and integrity by every peaceful means and to give equal commercial opportunity in the Chinese Empire to all nations.

But, more important still, the agreement, in the event of complications threatening the status quo, binds the United States and Japan to consult each other with a view to acting together.

The agreement is in the form of a declaration, and consists of five articles, of which the following is an accurate and faithful description:

The first article gives expression to the wish of the two governments to encourage the free and peaceful development of their commerce in the Pacific.

The second is a mutual disclaimer of an aggressive design, and also contains a definition of the policy of each government, both as directed to the maintenance of the status quo in the Pacific and the defence of the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China.

The third article contains a statement of the consequent "firm" reciprocal resolution of each government to respect the territorial possessions in the Pacific of the other.

In the fourth article the United States and Japan express their determination, "in the common interest of all the powers," in China to support "by all peaceful means at their disposal" the independence and integrity of China and the principle of equal commercial and industrial opportunity for all nations in the empire.

The fifth article mutually pledges the two governments, in case of "the occurrence of any event threatening the status quo, as above described, or the principle of equal opportunity, as above defined," to communicate with each other for the purpose of arriving at a mutual understanding with regard to the measures they may consider it useful to take.

THUGS FEAST IN HOTEL.

Take Jewelry in Pierrepont and Leave Door Locked Inside.

The police from the Central Office are investigating a mysterious robbery which occurred at the Hotel Pierrepont, No. 43 West 32d street, in which, the police say, the permanent occupant of one of the hotel apartments was robbed of jewelry and clothing valued at between $8,000 and $10,000.

According to the police, the victim of the robbery returned to the hotel last night after several days' absence. On going to her room she found the door bolted on the inside. The manager was summoned and a hallboy sent up by the fire escape and through a window to unbolt the door. On entering the room, No. 81, the occupant found everything in confusion and on the table the remains of an elaborate meal. Further investigation revealed that an extensive robbery had taken place.

The employes of the hotel are much mystified as to how the thieves smuggled the feast into the room and how they escaped with their bulky spoils. The bolted door left them no egress except the fire escape, which is in plain view from the office, where a clerk is always on duty.

EACH VOTE COST $212.

Only 41 Independence League Ballots in Massachusetts Primaries.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Boston, Nov. 27.—Independence League votes are costly in Massachusetts. Forty-one of them cast at the city primaries of the various municipalities of the state last week show that they cost $212 apiece. According to the official returns, the total Independence League vote in all of the cities and towns was forty-one. The election commissioners made a good sized allowance for ballots and had twenty thousand printed.

These ballots, in addition to the league's election officials prescribed by law, brought the total cost up to $8,692, or at the rate of $212 a vote. Under its present showing, unless it makes phenomenal gains at the election, the league will be dropped from the city election ballots next year.

ELECTRIC SIGN OVER CHURCH DOOR.

"Welcome" Blazes Forth in Competition with Theatres and Moving Picture Shows.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Baltimore, Nov. 27.—The Rev. John Roach Straton, pastor of the Seventh Baptist Church, has gone into competition with theatres, moving picture shows, fairs and other places of amusement by having a big electric sign "Welcome" placed over the double doors of his church entrance.

"I had thought," he said to-day, "of displaying my topics in electric light also, but on investigation found that it was not feasible. I have realized that the church, in order to attract men, must compete with the attractiveness of other places."

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