

THE PRESIDENT'S HUNT "TALES OF HOFFMANN." SMITHSONIAN CONTRACT. INSTITUTION TO FURNISH NATURALISTS AND TARDERMISTS.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The agreement between President Roosevelt and the Smithsonian Institution as to the President's hunting trip in Africa was made public today by Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the institution, after he had conferred with the President. At a meeting of the Board of Regents of the institution held yesterday, the letter of the President was read, and the board adopted a resolution thereby entering into a contract with the President for certain work. The President's letter follows:

My Dear Dr. Walcott: About a month ago I intended to send you a letter from Africa, but of course, indefinite, but at present I hope they will be ready to start in the next few days. By May I shall land at Mombasa and spend the next few months hunting and traveling in British East Africa, and then return to the States in the latter part of the year. As you know I am not in the least a game hunter. I like to do a certain amount of hunting, but I am probably more interested in the study of the animals and birds which are to be seen in Africa. As you know I am not in the least a game hunter. I like to do a certain amount of hunting, but I am probably more interested in the study of the animals and birds which are to be seen in Africa. As you know I am not in the least a game hunter. I like to do a certain amount of hunting, but I am probably more interested in the study of the animals and birds which are to be seen in Africa.

Resolved, That the Board of Regents of the institution, in accepting the offer of the President, do hereby agree to enter into a contract with the President for certain work. The President's letter follows:

C. A. GOULD TO BUILD \$80,000 HOME. Country House at Greenlawn, Long Island, Will Be Begun at Once. Contracts were signed yesterday for the erection of a country home to cost more than \$80,000 for Charles A. Gould, on his estate, about a mile and a half from Greenlawn, Long Island. John Russell Pope, an architect, with offices at No. 227 Fifth Avenue, has drawn the plans, and Walters & Woodcock of Flushing, will have charge of the construction.

PRINCE'S CARPETS SOLD AT AUCTION. J. A. Brady Pays Top Price of Day for Royal Palace Kermanshah. A royal palace Kermanshah carpet, with a camel's hair ground and medallion center, brought the highest price yesterday at the opening sale, at the Fifth Avenue No. 546 First Avenue, of the Prince Mahma Mourad Shah-Mir Carpet, an architect, with offices at No. 227 Fifth Avenue, has drawn the plans, and Walters & Woodcock of Flushing, will have charge of the construction.

BUREAU OF ARTS ADVOCATED. Proceedings of American Institute of Architects. Washington, Dec. 16.—Interest in to-day's proceedings of the American Institute of Architects centered in the address of Senator Newlands, of Nevada, who advocated a movement for the organization of a department or a bureau of arts. A committee report strongly urged the creation of a bureau of fine arts under the national government. A paper of a technical character was read by Edwin H. Blaisfield, of New York.

MATTEAWAN TRUSTY ESCAPES. Attendant Seeking for New York Indicted for Assault Before Commitment. Newburg, N. Y., Dec. 16.—William Hedeman, of New York, escaped from the Matteawan State Hospital Farm late this afternoon. He was a trusty and was in a gang clearing brush. He was indicted for assault on the first and second days of his absence. He was arrested in a barn near Newburg, N. Y., about 10 miles from the hospital. A gang of attendants is searching for him to-night.

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS. Mallard's offer assortment of artistic bonbons at the new shop at Fifth Avenue and 5th street, which, they say, will solve the perplexing question of what to give for Christmas. There are silk and satin opera bags, jewel cases, handkerchief boxes, handpainted and embroidered, each hiding a receptacle for bonbons. The children have been forgotten—there are little dolls, tin fact, almost every conceivable toy cunningly constructed to hold candy and to delight children's hearts. The ladies' luncheon restaurant, adjoining continues to be as popular as ever, the management says.

MRS. WILLETT'S ESTATE WORTH \$100,000. Minnola, Long Island, Dec. 16 (Special).—The transfer tax appraiser's report on the estate of Mrs. T. W. Willett, who died in Rocky in April, was filed in the Surrogate's office this morning, and shows that the estate was valued at \$100,000, and that half of that was placed on the homestead at Rocky. The bulk of her property, about \$50,000, was left to her husband, Walter R. Willett. A brother, Thomas T. Willett, receives \$1,500, a sister, Gertrude T. Kirk, \$1,500, and Rose Golden, a servant, \$1,000 outright and the earnings of \$5,000 for life. The transfer tax amounted to \$1,000.

SENATOR HANSBROUGH IMPROVING. Minneapolis, Dec. 16.—The attendants at Ashbury hospital reported Senator Hansbrough, of North Dakota, as better to-day.

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It was the first production this year of Offenbach's opera at Manhattan last night. "Tales" are unusual—even uncanny, with all their suggestion of the supernatural, the predestined and the inevitable—but the production of this fascinating fabric of imagery is the greater triumph of Mr. Hammerstein. Inasmuch as it loses nothing because the male characters are all the way through the four acts predominant. Once before this season Mr. Hammerstein has shown that an opera in which the love between man and woman is not basic can attract not only interest but sympathy. "Tales of Hoffmann" engage woman's fingers, it is true, but in a fanciful way, which leaves their position subordinate, but a part of the picture, even to the uninitiated, despite what has been said previously.

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LIVE INDIGO MOUSE AT LYRIC. Persons entering the Lyric Theatre yesterday afternoon, and there were many of them, stopped at the box office long enough to inspect a number of white mice on exhibition there. They had been taken to the theatre in answer to an advertisement to the effect that a ticket would be given to each woman bringing a white mouse as a gift to Mabel Barrison, one of the leading players in "The Blue Mouse," that is also on exhibition at the Lyric. Some of the women dropped in with a little rodent of an indigo hue, and nobody had the temerity to suggest that a brush might have been used.

"THE DEVIL" TO LEAVE THE BELASCO. Public interest in Mr. Fiske's production of "The Devil" is gradually subsiding, and it has been decided to close the engagement at the Belasco on January 15. After that Mr. Arliss and the company will start on their tour of the States. Miss Frances Starr, in a new play by Eugene Walter, will succeed "The Devil." Mr. Fiske's production has been profitable from the beginning.

ALICE NIELSEN BANKRUPT. Alice Nielsen, the comic opera singer who in private life is Mrs. Benjamin Wentwig, in a voluntary petition in bankruptcy filed yesterday, gives her liabilities as \$7,200, unsecured. She has assets consist of wearing apparel worth \$75, excepted by law.

NO "PRIMA DONNA" HOLIDAY MATINEES. There will be no afternoon performances of "The Prima Donna" at the Knickerbocker Theatre either on Christmas Day or New Year's. A special holiday performance has been arranged for the afternoon of December 23 at which Miss Maude Adams and Miss Ethel Barrymore will be present. Miss Scheff was informed yesterday that these players were anxious to see her as the prima donna, and her manager agreed to a special presentation.

SMITHSONIAN CONTRACT. INSTITUTION TO FURNISH NATURALISTS AND TARDERMISTS.

Who was Hoffmann and why his interpretation as presented by Mr. Dalmores last night? Or where the basis of Mr. Renaud's sinister but compelling personifications of Dr. Coppelius, Dapper-tout and Dr. Miracle? Mr. Hammerstein should add in his preface to his "story of the opera" that would mean much in interest to those who were charmed last night, despite the need of an addition, by a performance of one of the works which has aided so largely in placing his reputation as an impresario on as secure a foundation as that on which it now rests.

It is the belief of the vestry, based on their long study of the matter, that in view of the movement of the population, the work of Trinity parish for this region must be done from a center near the present site of St. Luke's chapel, at Hudson street, near the intersection of the Hudson river. It is believed that the work can be done more effectively and economically from a center near the intersection of Hudson street and the Hudson river. It is believed that the work can be done more effectively and economically from a center near the intersection of Hudson street and the Hudson river.

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