

PHENIX CO. INQUIRY GRAND JURY HEARS WITNESSES.

One Indictment on Charges, Making Extradition Possible, Expected.

While George Preston Sheldon, the deposed president of the Phenix Insurance Company, was battling for his life yesterday at his home, The Maples, Greenwich, Conn., with a scant chance of recovery, the grand jury of this county was investigating his management of the company.

According to the State Superintendent of Insurance, the Phenix was managed by Mr. Sheldon much as he saw fit without any interference from his fellow officials, to say nothing of the non-activity of state officials whose duty it was to examine into its affairs.

A long conference which District Attorney Jerome held on Monday with William H. Hotchkiss, the State Superintendent of Insurance, following the latter's statement of the remarkable disclosures made in the investigation of the company's affairs which was started in October, resulted in Mr. Jerome starting to work immediately to probe for evidences of criminality in the management of the company.

Assistant District Attorney Nott was placed in charge of the case, and during the day four men were supposed to have rather intimate knowledge of the use to which Sheldon put the resources of the company while the executive committee and former insurance officials remained quiescent were examined by him before the grand jury.

INDICTMENT PROBABLE. Sufficient information is said to have been divulged to make it probable that at least one indictment, if not more, for improper use of the resources of the company will be returned. The charges that may be formulated are of such a character, it is believed, as to make extradition proceedings possible, if considered advisable.

The pointed statement of Mr. Hotchkiss served as a main topic of gossip in financial circles yesterday. Especially was this true in the insurance field, where Mr. Sheldon had long been popular because of his especially genial and obliging personality.

The revelations came to many as a distinct shock. Some of the men, however, who have had reason to be cognizant of the standing of the Phenix Company have for some time felt uncertainty about the condition of affairs existing in the company. Not that there has been the slightest doubt as to its solvency or as to the character of its business, but men "in the know" have had from time to time, with the appearance of the regular statements of the company, a rather peculiar feeling.

As one man expressed it yesterday, the kind of business being done by the company was of the highest character, and nothing affecting the integrity of Mr. Sheldon or any of his associates had ever been suspected. But from time to time, as the reports appeared, doubts arose which to those familiar with conditions in the insurance field, appeared as incongruities, for lack of a better term. These incongruities could not be explained at the time, but they left a feeling of curiosity, to say the least.

STOCKHOLDERS REASSURED. Reassurance was given to the stockholders of the company and to the insurance world in general by the election of Henry Evans, president of the Continental Fire Insurance Company, to serve as chairman of the executive committee. Mr. Evans has long been known as one of the most efficient men in his field, and his appointment to the new place was taken to mean that the Phenix would be put on a firmer basis than it ever had been.

Although Edward W. T. Gray, who has been auditor of the Continental, has been selected as president of the Phenix, it is understood that Mr. Evans will be the supreme power, and it is known that his selection as chairman of the executive committee met with the full approval of the State Insurance Department.

Mr. Evans's first act as a Phenix agent was to send a letter to the officials of the company, whose business has been generally regarded as of the highest class, tending to restore the confidence that may have been disturbed by the astonishing condition of affairs suddenly uncovered by the report of the Superintendent of Insurance.

Mr. Evans, while not concealing the seriousness of the situation, declares his belief that the capital of the company—\$1,500,000—is still intact, and that there is a net surplus of \$500,000.

MR. JEROME'S WITNESSES. The men called before the grand jury yesterday were Edwin H. Carter, of the brokerage firm of Carter, Wilder & Co., of No. 40 Wall street; Frederick Cutler, bookkeeper for that concern; Charles F. Koster, whose resignation as secretary of the Phenix company was accepted after the report of the State Superintendent of Insurance, and R. T. Doramus, receiving teller of the Chatham National Bank.

When the grand jury adjourned it was said that the District Attorney had other testimony to be given before the body. Mr. Sheldon, it is believed, has done business with the brokerage firm, and many of the financial transactions made by him as far as the company are understood to have passed through the Chatham Bank.

In Greenwich, Conn., where Mr. Sheldon has long been one of the most popular residents, the revelations made by the insurance department brought a great shock. The keenest sympathy was felt for the family, now with the deposed president at The Maples. It was said there last night that Mr. Sheldon's condition had not changed, and that he was still in a semi-delirious state. Dr. Klein, of Greenwich, and Dr. Samuel W. Lambert are in attendance. While the fam-

EATONS PART AGAIN. Wife of Rear Admiral and a Daughter Leave Him.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Boston, Dec. 7.—Rear Admiral Joseph Giles Eaton, U. S. N. (retired), and his young wife, who last summer attracted attention by insisting that the sudden death of their adopted infant son was due to poisoning, have parted again. Mrs. Eaton and her daughter June left Assinippi a few days ago for North Weymouth, where they have leased a house and where they are now living. Admiral Eaton and Mrs. Eaton's younger daughter Dorothy are at the Assinippi home.

HOLDS NOURMAHAL. Norwegian Seaman Sues Colonel Astor for \$10,000.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 7.—Alleging that he was seriously injured while discharging his duties as coxswain of a launch belonging to Colonel John Jacob Astor's yacht Nourmahal, now in port, and that for want of proper medical attention he will be compelled to undergo a trying operation, Adolph Lotze, a subject of the King of Norway, entered suit here to-day against Colonel Astor's yacht for \$10,000 damages. Bond was placed at \$2,500.

LEOPOLD FAILING. Condition of King of the Belgians Causes Alarm.

Brussels, Dec. 7.—It is reported that the paralysis in the right arm of King Leopold is extending, and that he can write only with difficulty. He spends much of his time in an easy chair. It was added to-night that the King's affliction is general, and that he is unable to walk. Within the last few days he has lost appetite and flesh, and his condition is regarded as serious, in view of his age.

CHIEFS MAY TALK. Dickinson Loosens Gag on Bureau Heads.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary Dickinson to-day loosened the gag President Taft put in the mouths of chiefs of bureaus last week by issuing an interpretation of the order which allows the chiefs to talk a little to Congressmen, should they call at their offices. For instance, Secretary Dickinson informed the bureau chiefs that they could respond directly to any request from Representatives or Senators for any information on all ordinary and routine matters pertaining exclusively to their respective offices. Information, however, bearing on questions of policy or important or unusual matters, or of a character which would indicate as coming properly within the discretion of the head of the department should not be given until after consultation with the Secretary.

DR. M'BURNEY FREED. Noted Surgeon Acquitted of Charge of Trespass.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Great Barrington, Mass., Dec. 7.—After travelling eight hundred miles to contest the charge of trespass, Dr. Charles M'Burney, the well known surgeon, was to-day a defendant in the District Court here. It was alleged that Dr. M'Burney trespassed upon posted property comprising a part of F. S. Pearson's vast estate. He pleaded not guilty and gave to the court a lengthy account of his trip. Dr. M'Burney said he went out to hunt on Bear Mountain on October 23 and wandered alone in the wooded section. He saw neither a human being nor as much game as a crow to shoot at. He said his dog had nothing to do, so followed him. He also said that the fences were all down, and he did not know anybody owned the wild country. Dr. M'Burney said he had journeyed all the way from South Carolina to appear in court, and that he was confident that he had trespassed on nobody's land. He was discharged.

SAVED FROM RIVER. Laborer Owes Life to Watchman Who Leaps In.

Thomas Shea, a watchman for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company on the company's coal pier, at 129th street and the Harlem River, bravely rescued a man last night who had fallen into the river. William Holden, a laborer, forty years old, of No. 204 East 128th street, who owes his life to Shea, is now in the Harlem Hospital in a critical condition. Holden fell into the Harlem River from the stringpiece of the coal pier while trying to cross to a barge. Shea heard his cries, and found him in the freezing water clinging to one of the spiles of the pier, but before he could get a rope with which to pull the laborer out Holden lost his hold and drifted out into the river. Shea threw off his coat and leaped in. He reached Holden and supported him, but was unable to get back. George Wilson, of No. 78 Barrow street, a starter for the Interborough, heard the cries and threw the watchman a rope. He was able to keep the two men up, but was unable to draw them ashore until Patrolman James Shevlin arrived. Holden was unconscious.

NEAR RECORD PRICE FOR HOGS. Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 7.—When hogs sold at \$9 a hundred at the Kansas City stock yards to-day a record for twenty-seven years was established. In July, 1882, several carloads of hogs sold for \$9 during a cholera epidemic. The limited supply of fat hogs is the cause for the present high price. A year ago hogs sold for \$5 in Kansas City.

READ "LE PROGRES." The French daily. Ask your newsdealer.

Continued on third page.

BLOW TO P. S. BOARD COURT OF APPEALS CURBS ITS POWER.

Commissions Not Intended to Replace Private Financial Managers.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Albany, Dec. 7.—The decision of the Court of Appeals to-day in the Delaware and Hudson Company, \$7,000,000 appeal came as a surprise. It limits to a large extent the powers of the Public Service Commissions in regulating capitalization. However, the friends of the Public Service Commissions law point significantly to this paragraph in Judge Haight's decision. For a generation or more the public has been frequently imposed upon, by the issue of stocks and bonds of public service corporations for improper purposes, without actual consideration therefor by company officers, seeking to enrich themselves at the expense of innocent and confiding investors. One of the legislative purposes in the enactment of this statute was to correct this evil by enabling the commission to prevent the issue of such stocks and bonds, if upon an investigation of the facts it is found that they were not for the purpose of the corporation enumerated by the statute and reasonably required therefor.

The court holds that the paramount purpose of the Public Service Law creating the commission was the protection and enforcement of the rights of the public; that the commission must stamp its seal of approval upon all securities which it issues, and that the railroad corporations maintain their equipment, tracks and roadbed in good order and operate their railroad with safety to the public and give proper service; that they should also prevent fraud on the public by the manipulation of the stock market through the overissue of stocks and bonds. The court holds that the Legislature did not intend to make the commission the financial manager of corporations or empower it to substitute its judgment and discretion for that of the directors and stockholders of a corporation as to the wisdom of a transaction; that a statute that should make such substitution would probably be unconstitutional, for the ownership of property carries with it the right of occupancy and management, and a statute that would deprive an owner of that right would undermine his right to protect and make his property remunerative.

The upstate Public Service Commission last December refused to authorize an issue of bonds by the Delaware & Hudson Company to pay off the indebtedness incurred by the purchase of the securities of the Hudson Valley Company and the coal lands. The properties in question were not included in the mortgage upon the Delaware & Hudson property, under which it was proposed to issue these bonds. The property was acquired before the commission came into existence. The Delaware & Hudson Company appealed and the Appellate Division set aside on certiorari the order of the commission which refused assent to the bond issue. The Court of Appeals affirms the Appellate Division. Chairman Stevens of the upstate commission, who argued the appeal in person, said in his brief filed with the Court of Appeals that if the commission's ruling in this case was set aside it would mean that the powers of the commission "will be so limited in their nature and so insignificant in character as practically to nullify the obvious intent of the law and make the pretended regulation of capitalization a farce." It was suggested to-night that possibly Governor Hughes in his message to the Legislature would recommend legislation to increase the powers of the commission in regulating capitalization, as it was pointed out that this was one of the main principles involved in the Public Service Commission's law.

WILCOX NOT DISTURBED. Public Service Chairman in This District Does Not Think Decision Drastic.

William R. Wilcox, chairman of the Public Service Commission for the 1st District, did not appear to be at all surprised by the decision of the Court of Appeals. He said, however, that he was only slightly familiar with the case. He said that in the decision relating to the Public Service Commission and its relation to corporations was well within the general interpretation, which was commonly put on the law which created the commission. It was not a drastic decision, he said, and would have no effect on any action taken by the commission of the 1st District.

RAINES OPERATION. Senator Taken to Hospital for Removal of Ulcer.

Canandaigua, N. Y., Dec. 7.—State Senator John Raines was brought to the Thompson Memorial Hospital from his country home near here to-day in an automobile, and will probably be operated on to-morrow for the removal of an abdominal ulcer. He bore the trip in the automobile well.

GALES DELAY HER TWO WEEKS. Blows Send Schooner Off Sandy Hook Far Out to Sea.

The schooner A. K. McLean, forty-two days out from San Andreas with a cargo of coconuts, made port yesterday after a voyage of much stress. She encountered a succession of terrific gales from the north and northeast, and although within six miles of Sandy Hook on November 22, was blown far out to sea again, taking two weeks more to complete her voyage.

All on board, from the skipper to the boy, were more than glad to see the skyscrapers looming up yesterday.

FAVOR HUGHES IDEA DEMOCRATS DISCUSS PRIMARY PLAN.

Some at League Dinner Also Approve of the Republican P. S. Commission.

So much of the Democratic League as John K. Sague, Mayor of Poughkeepsie, can account for stands squarely in favor of direct primaries and the Public Service Commission, even if they are projects of a Republican Governor. That was the way Mr. Sague put it last night at the dinner given by two hundred members of the Manhattan Club for the executive committee of the league that was born at the Saratoga conference of Democrats last summer. "I think it is a mistake to oppose the Public Service Commission," said Mr. Sague, and again, "there is no use in opposing direct nominations simply because a Republican Governor wants them."

Governor Hughes, Mr. Sague said, though he didn't use his name, has made people think they've got to have direct primaries, and he told of a talk he had recently with Assemblyman-elect Lewis S. Chanler. "I told him to vote for the direct primaries, and to get as many as he could to vote for them," said Mr. Sague, "and if the Republicans throw them down, so much the better; we can go before the people then as the champions of that reform."

EX-JUSTICE O'BRIEN, TOO. Ex-Justice Morgan J. O'Brien, as toastmaster, referred to the same topic in his opening remarks.

"In some states," he said, "direct nominations, the referendum and the initiative have made headway, and we are face to face with them in our own state. That ballot reform is necessary all must concede." Thomas M. Osborne, chairman of the league executive committee, in the same strain declared that he wanted no dicker with machine politicians. "Most of the speakers took liberal raps at 'Fingey' Conners, though the name of the Democratic State chairman was not mentioned during the evening. Toastmaster O'Brien tried to set the pace with a remark that the league's aims could not be attained by casting blame or reproach on others for past defeats or poor leadership. "Nor should we seek to make invidious distinctions between those whom we think bore the banner of the party aloft in honor, or suffered it to trail dishonorably in defeat," he said.

"LEST WE FORGET." But Mr. Osborne was not minded to follow such paths. He didn't want to rake up things of the past, he said, but when there were still "elements of power" in the saddle now, as a result of some of those things of the past, he had a protest.

"Update we haven't forgotten the scandal in Buffalo three years ago," he said, "and we cannot forget it so long as some of those results are in power. And we cannot forget the outrages in Carnegie Hall a year ago."

A "devout" and "efficient" Democratic organization throughout the state would, Mr. Osborne thought, turn the tide of victory to the Democrats in 1910, and that would be only the forerunner of a Democratic victory in the nation in 1912. The influence of the Saratoga conference had been great, said Mr. Osborne, and as a shining example he cited the case of Buffalo, where he said a Democratic Mayor was elected entirely on the endorsement of the men just returned from Saratoga.

"Everybody in Buffalo admits that," he said with a laugh, "except possibly one man," whereat a brother in the rear of the hall groaned mockingly, "Poor old Fingey!"

WANTS AFFIRMATIVE PARTY. "We want an affirmative party," said Mr. Osborne, "we want an organization headed by men I can support, and not men of whom I am heartily ashamed."

He thought it would be a mistake, however, for the league to have candidates, its function, he said, should be more to influence and supervise, and though he asserted he knew what was what in the Democratic party up the state, he said it would be a wise man who could tell much about the Democratic party in the city of New York.

William Jennings Bryan was also treated to some healthy blows, which almost rivaled those given so freely to Conners. Mr. Sague was the medium, and he said that men such as he found in the new Democratic League and in the Manhattan Club should do more talking and exert their party influence more.

This executive committee purposes to submit to the league some measures which will offer the sought for issues," he continued. "We want a reform of the primary election laws, to be direct primaries without limitation, and to be an enrollment in every district of the state. We also want a reform of the ballot so that each name will appear on it once only, and each voter will be required to indicate each individual candidate of his choice."

FEATURES OF MR. TAFT'S MESSAGE The President recommends: Deferring further tariff revision till the new board collects adequate data.

No investigation of sugar import scandals while prosecutions are under way.

A law against issuing injunctions in labor controversies without notice. Postal savings banks. Civil pensions and a reclassification of the Civil Service. A postal subvention. A \$50,000 fund to aid in suppressing "white slavery." A federal commission to devise a plan for lessening the evils of tardy justice. A national health bureau. Statehood for New Mexico and Arizona and a more liberal government for Alaska. Higher postage on magazines and other periodicals. That Congressmen be compelled to publish amounts of political contributions. General economy of administration, particularly in the Army and Navy departments, and the meeting of the executive departments' deficit for the current year by a Panama bond issue. An artificial island and fortress in the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, two battleships and one repair ship, a naval base at Pearl Island, Hawaii; civil control of the lighthouse board and separation of the national astronomical observatory from naval control. A law by which merit shall have more effect on military promotions. Mr. Taft believes a substantial business expansion is near. Foreign relations he finds most satisfactory, excepting those with Nicaragua, which he reserves for fuller treatment in a later special message. Needed amendments in the anti-trust and interstate commerce acts, conservation of national resources and the contemplated revision of the laws governing the organization of the army in war time are also dismissed briefly with a view to separate treatment later. Full text of the message on pages 10 and 11. Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on page 5.

CONGRESS LIKES TAFT'S MESSAGE CONSERVATIVE TONE PRAISED.

Both Houses Hear It Read and Adjourn Until Friday.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Dec. 7.—The President's message, which was read to-day in both houses of Congress, makes a large number of important recommendations, despite the fact that the three most interesting topics he had been expected to discuss are deferred for consideration in special messages. The President promises further light on his views regarding anti-trust and interstate commerce, conservation and military legislation. He outlines the developments in the Nicaraguan situation to date and intimates the possibility of a special message on that subject later. The most specific recommendations which the President makes are for postal savings banks, postal subvention, separate statehood for Arizona and New Mexico, a civil pension list, fortification of Chesapeake Bay with an artificial island, creation of a commission to revise legal procedure, prohibition of injunctions without hearing, except where irreparable injury will result from delay; increase of postal rates on magazines; interstate restraint of "white slave" traffic; creation of a bureau of health, publicity for campaign contributions and expenses; transfer of direction of the naval observatory from the navy to a civil astronomer; generous appropriations and authority for reorganization of the State Department and strict economy in public expenditures. The President briefly defends the Payne tariff law, outlines the broad scope of the Tariff Board along the lines indicated editorially in The Tribune and deprecates agitation for tariff revision until that board shall have obtained information which will lift the proper adjustment of rates above the realm of academic discussion, when he promises to make such recommendations as the facts warrant. The President also emphatically deprecates a territorial form of government for Alaska. REPRESENTATIVES' VIEWS. Each element in the House had its decided opinion on the President's message. The organization sentiments were expressed by the leaders, who pronounced the message an able document, and one that displayed to great advantage the deliberate character and judicial temperament of its author. The Democrats for the most part declared it "innocuous." The insurgents preferred not to be quoted, but were insistent in their comparisons with the days when a President's message meant a series of thrills. Speaker Cannon said it was "a good message, one that bespeaks the calmness and care with which President Taft intends to approach great public questions. The President has called attention to the fact," added the Speaker, "that two of the most important subjects for legislation will be treated in forthcoming messages. Those subjects which he did treat are fully covered and will undoubtedly command the serious attention of Congress."

ROOT RELEASED IT. Blunder Caused Premature Publication of Treasury Report

Washington, Dec. 7.—Senator Root, of New York, presiding in the Senate to-day in the temporary absence of Vice-President Sherman, created, all unknown to him at the time, a sensation among the newspaper men the effects of which were even international. Copies of the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury were in the hands of newspapers throughout this country and in Europe, to be held in confidence for publication to-morrow afternoon. The report itself was still unissued. The desk of Secretary MacVeagh, in the Treasury Building.

By some means as yet unknown two printed copies of the report found their way to the desk of the President of the Senate. Mr. Root is a past master in the art of dispatching routine business in the Senate, and he deftly handed the Treasury report over the desk with the routine announcement customary in such cases. Instantly the keen eared reporters on the Senate floor flashed to the wires the news that the report had become a public document, and the "release" clicked off to Chicago, to San Francisco, to New York and to Europe.

It was nearly two hours before the fact that a blunder had been made was realized. Upon the Secretary's insistence an effort was made to recall the release, but he soon came to appreciate that the mischief was in fact irreparable, and consented to waive the technicality, and the release was confirmed.

An amusing feature of the mix-up lies in the fact that the report should not have been handed down in the Senate at all, since, in accordance with law, it is addressed only to the Speaker of the House.

COLER CASE ARREST. Dismissed Clerk in Brooklyn Bureau of Sewers.

Henry W. Seabold, thirty-eight years old, of No. 1248 Washington avenue, the Bronx, who was assistant to the first clerk in the Bureau of Sewers in Brooklyn until dismissed for falsifying the payroll, was arrested last night. Charges of forger had been made by John Purroy Mitchell, Commissioner of Accounts. The complaint was based on evidence in the recent investigation of the office of Borough President Coler of Brooklyn, which has jurisdiction over the Bureau of Sewers. Mr. Mitchell will charge when Seabold is arraigned to-day that he obtained \$352 by placing fictitious names on the payrolls submitted to the Controller and appropriating the checks. Seabold was discharged by Borough President Coler in August, 1908, when it is alleged, these acts were committed. Another clerk who was delegated to pay the employes one day when the prisoner remained at home, found, it is charged, that two checks for small amounts were missing. They were found in Seabold's possession. It is said, and his explanation that he had meant to correct the error on the next week's payroll was not accepted.

TWENTY-SEVEN DEAD. Great Fire Follows Gas Tank Explosion at Hamburg.

Hamburg, Dec. 7.—The explosion of two gas tanks on the so-called "Kleine's Grabsbrook," on the Elbe front, this afternoon was followed by an extensive fire and the loss of many lives. The explosion was due to a leak in a new gasometer. Escaping gas entered the retort house, where it came in contact with the fires, causing a heavy explosion. A large number of workmen were engaged in rebuilding and enlarging the plant. Twenty-five of the men were employed near the gasometer. They disappeared in a mass of flames which shot up to a great height. Firemen appeared quickly on the scene, but they were unable to approach in large force. Up to a late hour to-night ten men are reported dead and seventeen missing. It is almost certain that all of these are dead. Forty men were dangerously injured, of whom several cannot recover. The new gasometer which exploded was the largest in the world, having a capacity of two hundred thousand cubic metres. The city appropriated 14,000,000 marks (\$3,500,000) for its construction.

LOS ANGELES CONTINUES REFORM

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 7.—Early returns from to-day's municipal election indicate that George Alexander, the present Mayor, and the entire "good government" ticket were elected.

STRANGELY HURT. Man Dying in S. I. Hospital from Fractured Skull.

Charles M. Clarke, jr., thirty-two years old, a bank clerk, employed at No. 54 William street, Manhattan, and living on Grove Road, New Brunswick, N. J., is dying in the S. R. Smith Infirmary, at New Brighton, Richmond, from a fractured skull. Coroner Cahill of Richmond waited for hours yesterday to obtain the young man's ante-mortem statement, but last night it was believed Clarke would never regain consciousness. Clarke was brought to the hospital on the afternoon of December 2. He had collapsed in a saloon. At the hospital he revived partly, told who he was, but could not tell how he came to be on Staten Island. He said he had been there once before in the summer time, but could recall nothing about his trip that day. His condition indicated that he was suffering from concussion of the brain.

The examination at that time did not reveal the fracture, which was afterwards found at the base of the skull. He said that before he became unconscious he had a pawn ticket for a ring worth \$150, and also some money and some jewelry. He did not have them when he reached the hospital.

HURT IN STREET. Structure Collapses in 34th Street, Injuring Passerby.

By the collapse of a structure built over the sidewalk while the old First Presbyterian Church, in 34th street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, was being demolished, Herman A. Winter, twenty years old, of No. 13 Columbia street, Brooklyn, was seriously injured last night.

As he passed under the structure Winter heard a loud crash, and the next moment he was lying beneath a pile of timber and bricks. At the New York Hospital it was said he was hurt internally.

The police say that owing to the heavy rain last night the shoring was loosened, causing part of the masonry of the church to give way. This in turn fell on the structure, which being too weak to withstand the weight, collapsed. No arrests were made.

WASHINGTON SWORD. No Record at Berlin of Gift from Frederick the Great.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Philadelphia, Dec. 7.—After six months' investigation into thirty-four archives at Berlin, at which more than a million papers were scanned, Dr. Marion D. Learned, professor of Germanic languages and literatures at the University of Pennsylvania, found no trace of documents to substantiate the traditional belief that Frederick the Great presented a sword to General Washington. "I was examining the collection of house archives now deposited in the Privy Prussian Archives at Berlin," said Dr. Learned to-day, "and I ran across no documents that tell of such a ceremony. During the six months I was in Germany I examined the material in thirty-four archives, working diligently between six and eight hours a day."

SCHURZ MEMORIAL. First American Home To Be Given to Wisconsin.

The members of the Wisconsin Society of New York decided at a dinner last night in the Hotel Astor to purchase the property in Watertown, Wis., that was the first American home of Carl Schurz, convert it into a public park and museum and present it to the state of Wisconsin as a Schurz memorial. The proposition was brought forward by Henry C. Davis, the president of the society. In announcing the plan of the society, Mr. Davis praised General Schurz and dwelt on the appropriateness of the action which the society has decided to take. There would, he said, be considerable expense incurred in fitting up the former Schurz home and converting the property into a fitting public memorial. The Park Commissioners of Watertown had undertaken to share the work, and the total sum involved would be \$3,500.

Cardinal Gibbons urges all Catholics to use the Manual of Frasers, John Murphy Co., Pubs., Baito. For sale book and dept. stores.

Look for the name Kremenets on the back of the Colar Button. If you want the best.