



SUGAR BREAK NEAR CHECKER MAY MAKE CONFESSION.

Government Likely to Recover Five Millions as Result of Exposures.

With confessions concerning the practices on the Williamsburg docks of the American Sugar Refining Company in eight indictments of men said to be high up in the councils of the company an assured fact, and investigations of other companies leading to restitution of millions of dollars to the government on account of discoveries in their books by the federal prosecutors, it was said yesterday that the hearing of the whole scheme to defraud the government of customs duties on sugar was a matter of a short time only.

FIRST SIGN OF A BREAKDOWN.

The scene in court was the first sign of a breakdown on the part of any of the former employees of the American company. The effect of this, it was said, would be portentous of events favorable to the prosecution. With one of the most important indictments found, that of Ernest Gerbracht, former superintendent of the Williamsburg plant, another and one of still greater moment reported as ready to be returned, and still another, the most important of all, under consideration, the government was said to be on the eve of laying bare the whole conspiracy which resulted in such serious loss of duties, a loss made up only in part of it was declared yesterday, by the restitution last spring of \$2,000,000.

The convicted men have until Tuesday to furnish the bail required by the court pending the hearing of the argument for a new trial, that of Spitzer was raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and that of the former checkers was allowed to remain at the old figure, \$2,500.

INJURY TO GEORGIA.

Collier's Propeller Strikes Battleship in Hampton Roads.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 18.—The United States battleship Georgia, recently in collision with the battleship Nebraska, was struck by the propeller of the collier Vestal while coaling in Hampton Roads to-day, causing, according to a telegraphic report from Old Point Comfort, a considerable leak in the battleship. It is reported that water has reached one of the magazines.

BONUS THEORY DISCREDITED.

A report yesterday that the frauds on the Williamsburg docks were due to the efforts of employees to earn a bonus offered by the American company to the refinery making the best showing was said to be contrary to all the evidence in the possession of the government. It was pointed out, the prosecution would stop with Gerbracht in the effort to find indictments. But a lawyer close to the federal authorities said that the grand jury had evidence that led to other persons who could not have benefited by any accelerating scheme the company might offer to its refinery employees.

ILLEGAL TO BAR CHILDREN.

Chicago Judge Upholds Their Right in Apartment Houses. Chicago, Dec. 18.—It was held unlawful and opposed to public policy for a landlord to refuse to rent an apartment to a family with children under fourteen years of age, it was held in the municipal court here to-day. Judge Himes also said that he considered the barring of children from apartment houses as an incentive toward "race suicide."

BLIZZARD IN TEXAS. Entire Southwest in Grasp of Severe Storm.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 18.—With the thermometer hovering around the zero mark throughout Texas, the South and Southwest are to-night in the grasp of the worst blizzard of the winter. A snowfall of from one-half to three inches is reported, varied by cold rains and sleet. Two men have already been frozen to death.

The blizzard extends from Texas north through Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee, and at Memphis the heaviest fall of snow this year is reported. While the cold has caused suffering, it has proved a boon to winter wheat, and is believed to have completely wiped out the boll weevil. Traffic of all kinds and wire service throughout the area of the blizzard is retarded.

MORGAN DROPS CIGAR.

Couldn't Break Pier Rules Even if He Was "J. P., Jr."

It was one of those 90-cent "Financero Regulado Claros" that the watchman's eye lit upon yesterday as the Celtic was about to steam out of her dock for Liverpool. For fifteen years the rules against smoking on piers had been instilled into him, and by instinct he could trace a burning "butt" a pier's length away. He had been in the Civil War, too, this watchman. He knew what orders meant, and he was no respecter of persons yesterday when he found that one end of the burning "90-center" was in the mouth of J. P. Morgan, Jr.

GIRL FELT NO PAIN.

Amputation of Leg with Use of Stovaine Successful.

Auburn, N. Y., Dec. 18.—An operation of interest to the medical profession was conducted at Auburn City Hospital to-day, when Professor Jannone's new spinal anesthetic, stovaine, was used in the amputation of the right leg of Miss Anna Donovan, a girl living at Poplar Ridge. She froze her foot several weeks ago and gangrene set in, making necessary the amputation of the leg at the knee.

SHOT CREW IN CAR.

It Runs Wild Through City After Negro's Crime.

East St. Louis, Ill., Dec. 18.—An uncontrolled street car, bearing a dead morman and a dying conductor, ran wild through four miles of city streets here to-night. The men were shot by a negro highwayman, who escaped with a small sum taken from the conductor.

TEXAS BONDS BARRED.

No Insurance Funds for State Under Present Laws.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 18.—County Judge John L. Young received the first reply to-day to letters to New York financiers offering to sell \$575,000 of Dallas County 4 per cent bonds. The reply is from W. A. Day, vice-president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and follows in part: "Under the extraordinary laws of Texas, enacted and approved by the present administration of your state, this society, together with nearly all other strong and reputable life insurance companies doing business in Texas, was compelled to retire from the state. We cannot invest in Texas securities, nor can we loan money in that state without jeopardy. For this reason we cannot become bidders for the attractive bonds you submitted to us."

ACCUSED OF SLAVERY.

Sale of Ball Player Said to Violate 13th Amendment.

Wilkes-Barre, Penn., Dec. 18.—That the sale of a baseball player from one club to another is a direct violation of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which prohibits slavery, is a point raised in the Luzerne County Court here in a suit involving the transfer of a player from one organization to another. The suit is expected to attract considerable attention among baseball club owners and players.

MRS. BELMONT HELPS IN NIGHT COURT TO GIVE BAIL.

Sends Aid to Girl Shirtwaist Strikers Arrested for Doing Picket Duty.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont was the fairy godmother of poor but belligerent femininity at the night court last night. Striking shirtwaist makers and their deep sympathizers had been gathered in wholesale in the afternoon by busy detectives, charged with disorderly conduct in front of the shirtwaist establishment of E. A. Jackson, No. 105 Fifth avenue. Mrs. Belmont was appealed to by the strike management, and not only went herself to the night court to witness the proceedings but brought along a lawyer to defend her brood of fledgling suffragettes.

With a woman friend she took seats in the third row back from the railing and waited patiently three-quarters of an hour for the cases in which she was interested to come up. Artists were busy meanwhile peering through the interstices of the grating at her and sketching accurately the plumes in her hat. Magistrate Harris discharged prisoners after prisoner, disposing of the less elaborate cases before the clash of counsel should come.

Finally, a little after 10 o'clock, seven of the girls so often seen hurrying home through the side streets in the dusk of a late winter afternoon, were marched up to the bar. Mark Alter was on hand with several witnesses to press the prosecution for the Association of Shirtwaist Manufacturers, and Frederick L. Taylor left his seat near Mrs. Belmont to defend the girls. The proceedings immediately became clogged with patronymics. It seemed hard for the magistrate and court officers to remember that Miss Rothnagle was not Miss Kate Mokovsky and that Pauline Rankus was distinct from Ida Schollinsky. But the proceedings finally narrowed down to Miss Mokovsky, who, according to the testimony of Detective O'Connell, struck one of the strike-breakers pouring out of the door leading to the Jackson establishment. The others he had only seen pushing in upon the strike-breakers as they emerged and yelling "Scab!"

The girls fought stoutly in their defence, but were plainly afraid of Mr. Alter, who spoke harshly and in a loud tone. Most of them said they were not strikers themselves, though in sympathy with the strikers, and that they were on the spot at the time to prevent disorder. Indeed, Miss Rothnagle said she warned the girls not to raise their hands in front of them when engaged in this picket duty, and when asked why such advice was necessary if there was no disorder, said the girls had a habit of gesticulating violently when talking on the subject of strikers.

The decision was something of a compromise. Magistrate Harris discharged all except Kate Mokovsky, whom he fined \$10.

Mrs. Belmont was asked what she thought of the court proceedings. She appeared to be very angry. "I don't think the public would care to hear what I would like to say about this case. I might have something to say to-morrow, but not to-night. If you will just wait till we get women judges and newspapers run by women things will be different."

During the recess, at midnight, Mr. Alter asked Mrs. Belmont to visit some of the factories. When he told her he represented the manufacturers she would not talk with him further. She remained in court until all the cases were disposed of.

MUST SHIFT BONDS. MACVEAGH BULLS 2 PER CENTS.

State, City and Railroad Bonds Eliminated as Security for Deposits.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Dec. 18.—The Treasury Department took measures to-day to steady the prices of the 2 per cent bonds and to prevent their falling below par. Under the law requiring him to give notice of what bonds will be accepted as security for deposits of public money in national banks, Secretary MacVeagh announced that hereafter state, city and railroad bonds will not be accepted as such security.

The following bonds will be available to insure the government against the loss of its national bank deposits: United States, Philippine, Porto Rican and District of Columbia bonds, at par; bonds of the Hawaiian Territory, at 90 per cent of par; bonds of the Philippine Railway Company, at 90 per cent of market value, but not exceeding 90 per cent of par.

Mr. MacVeagh also announced that no additional deposits are now contemplated. All banks holding deposits of public funds secured by bonds other than those enumerated by Mr. MacVeagh will be required to withdraw such bonds before February 1, 1910, and to substitute therefor the bonds described in the foregoing statement.

Under the present regulations state, city and railroad bonds are accepted as security for government deposits at 90 per cent of their market value, not exceeding 90 per cent par. At the close of business yesterday bonds of this character pledged as collateral for government funds amounted to \$9,969,500. Most of the government deposits in national banks are now secured by the 2 per cent consols of 1930. More than \$4,000,000 is secured by Philippine 4 per cent bonds, and \$499,000 by Porto Rican 4 per cent bonds. The Philippine Railway Company's bonds, which draw 4 per cent interest, now secure \$136,000 of government deposits, while the District of Columbia bonds secure \$780,000. The bonds of Hawaii secure \$487,000.

The effect of Mr. MacVeagh's decision will be to create a market for nearly \$10,000,000 more government bonds, and it is hoped this will have a salutary influence on the 2s. In his annual report Mr. MacVeagh said it was high time for the government to realize that it does not have a 2 per cent borrowing power. "No government, however rich, has a 2 per cent borrowing power," he said. "Possibly it would have been better never to have issued 2 per cent bonds or bonds at any rate of interest below the borrowing power of the government in the open investment market." Mr. MacVeagh then suggested as one remedy for the problem suggested by the outstanding 2s a varying tax on the circulation privilege.

State, city and railroad bonds were first accepted as security for government deposits when Leslie M. Shaw was Secretary of the Treasury. Later, under Mr. Cortelyou, when the panic of 1907 made it necessary for national banks to take extraordinary steps to prevent financial disaster, permission was given to use this class of bonds to secure the deposits of government funds, thus relieving government bonds and making them available to secure the additional circulation needed by the banks to tide over the crisis.

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Last July the owners of the Wilkes-Barre club of the New York State League purchased from the Allentown team of the Atlantic League Joseph Pelquin, a pitcher. The price agreed on was \$500. Three hundred dollars was paid in cash and a note given for the remainder. The note was allowed to go to protest, and the manager of the Allentown club, who negotiated the sale of Pelquin, brought suit to recover the \$200. A justice of the peace gave judgment against the club.

To-day the manager of the Wilkes-Barre club filed with the court a defence in the suit. He holds that the sale of a baseball player is in direct violation of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, and therefore the note given is void. The manager also filed other reasons why the note should not be paid, one being that the note was not valid unless countersigned by the directors of the club. The court will not take action in the matter until next month.

VERNON HOWE FOUND.

Crack Yale Athlete Turns Up in British Columbia.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 18.—L. Vernon Howe, of Minneapolis, former captain of the Yale track team, who had been lost in the woods of the interior for three months, has reached One Hundred Mile House, Caribou, with his companion, "Jack" Cunningham, of Kamloops, B. C.

Captain L. Vernon Howe in the thirty-fourth intercollegiate and track field championship in 1908, won both the hurdle events. The high hurdles he took with comparative ease in 12-25 seconds, while he captured the low hurdles in 24-25 seconds. Captain Howe tied with Foster, of Harvard, in being the greatest individual point winner of the meet, and fully lived up to the expectations of his friends.



DR. JOSE MADRIZ, WHO IS ZELAYA'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA.

DANES DOUBT COOK.

COPENHAGEN ALTERS. University, It Is Reported, May Reject Explorer's Claims.

Copenhagen, Dec. 18.—It is learned several members of the consistory of the University of Copenhagen are exceedingly angry over the rector's preliminary report, one of them expressing regret that the university had not waited until Dr. Cook's claim that he reached the pole had been proved before honoring him. The consistory at a secret session to-day received a report covering the first stage of the work of the committee which is examining the north polar records of Dr. Cook.

The report was presented by Rector Torp, but its nature was carefully guarded from other than members of the consistory. The latter are pledged to secrecy. It was admitted, however, that the work thus far accomplished provoked an animated debate among the university officials. To the newspaper men Rector Torp said: "The committee's work is not yet finished. I cannot tell how long it will continue, but I hope that the result can be made public before New Year's. Both the members of the consistory and the examining committee have been forbidden to make public anything whatever regarding what has been accomplished thus far by the investigators."

A high authority says, however, that the committee in its preliminary examinations of his records failed to discover proof that Dr. Cook reached the pole. The result of to-day's discussion was a request on the part of the consistory that the committee continue its work. The university body will leave to the investigators proper the matter of making public later the results of their inquiries.

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TO END THE CONTROVERSY.

National Geographic Society to Take Action When Full Report Is Made.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Intense interest was manifested here to-day by officials of the National Geographic Society in the report that the committee of the University of Copenhagen had failed to find proof substantiating Dr. Cook's claim that he had reached the North Pole on April 21, 1908. No one, however, would permit himself to be quoted.

It is a well known fact, however, that there has been in the membership of the society a large element that was skeptical of Dr. Cook's claims, and for this reason Dr. Cook would not consent to have the society pass upon his records. As soon as official announcement is made of the conclusions of the university's committee the National Geographic Society will take prompt measures to bring to an end the world-wide controversy as to the finding of the North Pole by demanding from Dr. Cook absolute proof of his claim.

THIEVES' RICH HAUL.

Enter Uptown House While Family Is at Dinner.

While the family of August Oppenheimer, of No. 8 West 75th street, was at dinner last evening burglars entered the house through a scuttle and looted the three upper floors, it being reported to the police that the loss was \$10,000. The robbery was discovered by a servant. She found the rooms in great confusion, and when Mr. Oppenheimer made an investigation he discovered that everything of value had been taken. He immediately informed Police Headquarters, and detectives were detailed to the case.

Detectives Gallagher and Skelly searched the building carefully, but were unable to find the slightest clue to the identity of the burglars, nor could they find any trace of entrance having been effected by means of the scuttle. They were confident, however, that this was used, as there has been a series of so-called "dinner jobs" in this section within the last few months. Mr. Oppenheimer refused to discuss the robbery last night except to say that the burglars had made a rich haul and that his loss would be large.

BOY RESCUES THREE.

Saves Lads Who Had Broken Through Ice.

Portland, Me., Dec. 18.—Himself the son of a man who has rescued three persons from drowning, Max Woodbury, sixteen years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Woodbury, of South Portland, this afternoon saved from drowning three boys who had plunged through thin ice on a pond.

Carroll Marshall, twelve years old, proved a hero, for, although he was one of the three pulled from the water by young Woodbury, he risked his life to save the two others, Burt and Arthur Cluff. The two Cluff boys were sleighing on the pond when the ice gave way and let their sleds through. Marshall dived for them and went under. Woodbury picked up a board, and crawling out to the edge of the hole, pulled the boys to safety one by one.

ATTACK ON OFFICER.

Clock Hurlled at His Head by Unknown Midshipman.

Annapolis, Dec. 18.—Standing 60 or 70 feet above his superior, a midshipman hurled an alarm clock last night at one of the officers on duty at Bancroft Hall, which contains the dormitories of the midshipmen. The heavy clock just missed the officer's head, and striking the floor between him and a marine orderly was dashed to pieces.

An effort is being made by the authorities to find out who the daring offender was, but if his name is known by the midshipmen they are keeping silent. Most of the midshipmen were in their rooms for study at the time, and the members of the first class, who are the officers of the brigade, were attending a lecture.

STEWART CHARGES.

Commissioner Serves Copy on Accused Doctor.

Commissioner of Charities Robert W. Heberd announced last night that he had served copies of charges which he had preferred on Dr. George Taylor Stewart, superintendent of the Metropolitan Hospital, on Blackwell's Island. The commissioner told Dr. Stewart to appear on Thursday morning.

Commissioner Heberd, after giving out the charges, said that he was not a candidate for reappointment. Dr. Stewart is charged with having used canvas belonging to the hospital to construct a tent for the use of himself and his family, with charging personal long distance telephone calls to the hospital, with inciting newspaper attack on the commissioner, with causing insubordination among employees, with circulating a petition applying for the office of commissioner and several minor offenses.

DENIAL FROM THE VATICAN.

Rome, Dec. 18.—It was officially stated to-day that the Vatican had nothing to do with the morganatic marriage of the late King Leopold and Baroness Vaughan.

WOMEN APPEAL TO UNITED STATES.

CRY FOR INTERVENTION IN NICARAGUA.

Prisoners Tortured in Cells and Women Subjected to Indignities.

Managua, Nicaragua, via Corinto, Dec. 18.—Some of the most prominent women in Managua have sent a petition to Henry Caldera, the acting Consul of the United States here. Their names are signed to the petition, which sets forth the tortures to which Zelaya's prisoners have been subjected and pitifully requests the intervention of the American government.

"Numberless prisoners," says the petition, "have been tortured in their cells in the penitentiary; their families have been impoverished; liberty has been crushed and patriots have been killed in their efforts to end crime, extortion and tyranny and to prevent the assassination of Groce and Cannon.

"We implore you to bring the malefactor to justice that his many crimes may receive the punishment they deserve, and that he be not permitted to escape.

For weeks the associates and adherents of Zelaya have been conducting a reign of terror. Their chief victims have been the best people in the country. Property has been confiscated, fathers and sons imprisoned, wives and daughters forced to submit to unspeakable outrages, dragged off to jail or cruelly injured.

So appalling were the conditions that a large number of women met together and finally decided to submit their plea to the representative of the government whose wars are close at hand. It is not only their own protection they seek, but the safety of those who in the last few days have had courage enough to rise in the public places and denounce Zelaya and his administration.

SOME PRISONERS RELEASED.

The agitation became so strong against the holding of hundreds, and perhaps thousands, in prison that the officials deemed it advisable to take steps to release at least some of those against whom crimes had only been alleged. Most of the political prisoners, therefore, were released to-day, but there are still many others behind the walls.

It was after the American warships reached Corinto that the demonstrations against Zelaya became pronounced, for those who have been crying for the revolution were fully convinced that bluejackets and marines from the ships would be landed. Now they are terrified lest no men are sent ashore. In such an event they fear reprisals by the Zelayan forces, which are still strong in Managua.

MANY OFFICIALS DISMISSED.

Many revolutionary suspects have been thrown into prison and put to torture, and there are a number also now in chains who refused to do the bidding of the government.

Among these is Anibal Chavez, an officer in the army, who was in command of the firing squad when Groce and Cannon were brought out for execution. He refused to give the firing order, exclaiming: "I am a soldier, not a murderer."

Consul Caldera is in daily receipt of messages of death, but beyond exercising watchful care he has taken no precautions to guard against attack, and goes about attending to the duties of his post.

Word has reached here that Dr. José Madriz, Zelaya's candidate for President, has arrived at San Juan del Sur, on his way to Corinto. He is hastening to Managua to inform himself personally of the situation. At Corinto it is believed Madriz will confer with several of his strongest supporters, who are proceeding there from various departments.

Following close upon the resignation of President Zelaya, an entire change has taken place in the administration of the departments of Granada, Managua, Leon, Jinotega and Matagalpa. The old officials were summarily dismissed and others named to fill their places. The majority of these are from Leon, the stronghold of the Liberals, and are favorable to the candidacy of Madriz.

Panama, Dec. 18.—The United States auxiliary cruiser Buffalo, with seven hundred marines on board, sailed last night for Corinto, Nicaragua, the port nearest the capital, Managua. At Corinto Rear Admiral Kimball will await definite instructions from Washington. It is understood that the marines will not be landed unless such a step appears necessary.

Harrisburg, Penn., Dec. 18.—The parents of Leroy Cannon, who was shot in Nicaragua last month, to-day received a letter from Secretary of State Knox, in which he stated that every effort would be made by American officials to find the body of their son and have it brought home.

VASQUEZ TO CONFER.

Zelayan General Agrees to Meet Estrada.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 18.—Messengers sent by General Estrada, leader of the revolutionists, carrying news of Zelaya's resignation, reached General Vasquez, at the head of the Zelayan troops, last night. General Vasquez at once agreed to a conference.

The public and soldiers are showing little excitement, but are indulging in much speculation as to the outcome of the meeting between the representatives of the two generals.

The United States gunboat Eagle is expected to arrive here to-morrow, and her light draft will allow of her anchoring inside the lagoon to guard the coast.