

The management of pools and was thoroughly acquainted with the fictitiousness of the market value of Columbus and Hocking Coal and Iron, promptly proceeded to sell the stock short, since the danger of a corner had passed with the dissolution of the pool, and it was this selling which caused the collapse of the stock. Another story was that an officer of one of the banking institutions carrying loans on the stock became aware that such loans were to be called, and, arguing that a break would follow, sold the stock short.

TO CLOSE CRISS CONTRACTS.

President Thomas announced from the rostrum of the Stock Exchange yesterday morning that all members having outstanding contracts with Roberts, Hall & Criss were instructed to close them out in the course of the day, under the rule which provides for the purchase or sale of stock at the market as "witnessed transactions." This ruling, which includes contracts in Columbus and Hocking, means that the floor traders who sold that stock to Mr. Criss on Wednesday were instructed to buy it in at the market yesterday, when the price range was between 22 and 27, and pay for their purchases.

Mr. Criss stopped buying the stock when it was around 70, his average price for the 12,000 to 15,000 shares taken by him having been probably about 75 and the loss to his firm on the shares purchased being thus from \$900,000 to \$750,000. Whether or not that loss will be made good to the firm will depend on the action of the other houses alleged to be parties to the pool agreement, following the investigation.

Secretary Ely of the exchange said that the only investigation that had been conducted into the matter as yet was by the committee on insolvency, and that until this committee filed its report with the governing committee no action would be taken by that body. He denied reports that a special meeting of the governing committee had been held to consider the matter, but intimated that an investigation would be held in the near future.

Mr. Criss, according to an interesting computation made yesterday, netted a profit of \$300 by his work in buying the 15,000 shares, on the basis of a \$2 a 100 shares commission, which is a sorry contrast to the loss of more than \$500,000 which he is at present carrying.

In contradiction of Mr. Criss's assertions, a member of one of the firms involved said yesterday that one of his partners, who was on the Stock Exchange floor at the time, personally repudiated the order given by Mr. Criss for the purchase of a block of Columbus and Hocking for account of that firm.

Another of these brokers said that Mr. Criss had had an order to buy six hundred shares for his firm's account, but, learning of the trouble on the exchange, one of the partners rushed over to the floor and, finding that Mr. Criss had bought three hundred shares, ordered him to cancel the order for the other three hundred. Mr. Criss agreed, and a messenger boy, it is understood, has been given an affidavit that he heard him say it. "But," added this broker, "if the governing committee wants me to pay for that three hundred shares I'll do it."

Mr. Criss, according to accounts from several quarters, paid a visit to the office of James R. Keene on Wednesday afternoon and asked Mr. Keene what he was going to do toward straightening out the difficult situation created by the break in the Columbus and Hocking stock.

Mr. Keene, it is said, demanded: "What are you talking about? I am not a member of the pool and don't know anything about it."

Hard words followed, and it is said the two men nearly came to blows, being separated by clerks of Mr. Keene.

Walker P. Hall, one of Mr. Criss's partners, arrived here from Cincinnati yesterday morning and with Mr. Criss went into conference with members of the governing committee and with brokers interested in the transactions which are the subject of dispute.

Later in the day the two men had a conference in the office of Lathrop, Haskins & Co. with Henry S. Haskins and Henry S. Leverich, the members of that firm. The discussion was animated, but assurances were apparently given to the partners of Roberts, Hall & Criss, for one of the other men exclaimed when the talk had become heated:

"See here, Criss, hold your horses and everything will come out all right."

Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Criss on the exchange, and it is reported that a number of his friends are subscribing \$1,000 each to a fund to aid him in his difficulties. The friends of the board member of a firm which failed late in 1906 were said to have raised a large sum to enable him to retain his exchange membership. Mr. Criss has been the specialist since last November.

The firm of Roberts, Hall & Criss is composed of Walker P. Hall, J. Nevin Roberts, Hugh F. Criss, who is the board member, and Thomas B. Criss. Its offices are at No. 52 Broadway, and it has a branch in Cincinnati, which is in charge of Messrs. Hall & Roberts, as resident partners. The firm is represented on the Cotton Exchange by Thomas B. Criss. It has no outstanding contracts on that exchange.

Hugh F. Criss has been a member of the New York Stock Exchange since February 23, 1882. He was for several years associated with Charles Lee Andrews, under the firm name of Andrews & Criss. On February 4, 1902, he formed a partnership with his brother, Thomas B. Criss, as H. F. Criss & Co., and on October 16 of the same year the present house of Roberts, Hall & Criss was formed, of which Mr. Criss and his brother are members.

The usual number of "hard luck" stories current after a market crash like that of Wednesday were heard yesterday. One was of a trader who sold one thousand Columbus and Hocking short and thought he saw a profit of \$48,000, but came out a loser by \$27,000, as the purchaser could not take the stock. Another case was of a house which bought a large block of the stock for a customer, but could not secure delivery of it, and so has a loss of \$23,000 to make good to its customer. The most distressing of the authenticated cases, however, is that of a well known floor trader

who lost \$5,300 in a single transaction involving only one hundred shares.

An agitation is gaining headway, according to report yesterday, for a re-constitution of the governing committee of the Stock Exchange through the retirement of such of its members as do a "32 business." It is argued that the governing committee should be composed only of men who have no "antagonistic alliances," and will therefore be able to deal with all questions without bias, conscious or unconscious. Under the present conditions, it is contended by advocates of the change, the presence on the governing body of a number of men whose firms act as the agents of other houses in trading on the floor of the exchange tends to make the governing committee more lenient toward cases of manipulation, of which extensive trading operations are a necessary feature, than it might be if none of the members of the committee were engaged in a branch of the brokerage business in which they accepted commissions from other houses which might some time or other be called before the governing committee to answer charges of manipulative operations.

COURT NAMES RECEIVERS.

Henry D. Hotchkiss, a lawyer, of No. 165 Broadway, and Irving L. Ernst, also a lawyer, of No. 170 Broadway, were appointed receivers by Judge Holt, of the United States District Court, yesterday for the firms of Lathrop, Haskins & Co. and J. M. Fiske & Co., respectively. Mr. Ernst was required to furnish a bond of \$50,000 and Mr. Hotchkiss a bond of \$25,000.

After several hours spent in examining the firm's books, Mr. Hotchkiss said that so far as he had been able to ascertain the net liabilities of the firm were between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. The firm's outstanding trades were, however, in such a chaotic condition, he added, that it was next to impossible to make any definite statement at present of the amount of assets and liabilities. He hoped, he said, to be able to make an accurate statement of its condition today, when the accountants who had been placed at work on the books were expected to finish their labors.

So far as the examination had proceeded, he said, everything had been found absolutely regular and the firm's business methods appeared to be unquestionable, he declared, whatever its business judgment might have been.

"There is not a banking institution involved in this failure to any great extent. The firm's liabilities to banking institutions do not amount to a flea bite. There are between two hundred and three hundred and fifty creditors of the firm, but the amount owing to each creditor is, of course, impossible to state at present. The average, it would seem, would be about \$3,000."

Irving L. Ernst said that so far as he had proceeded with his examination of the books of the suspended firm of J. M. Fiske & Co., they appeared to be regular.

He placed the liabilities of the firm roughly at \$2,000,000, but was unable to give even an approximate estimate of its assets. He said, however, that \$500,000 was due to the firm from customers, and that the books showed that on Tuesday night it had an equity of about \$900,000 in Hocking Coal & Iron and curb stocks.

The firm's bank loans, Mr. Ernst said, aggregated about \$1,005,000, distributed among the following institutions: Mechanics' National Bank, \$55,000; Plaza Bank, \$50,000; Metropolitan Trust Company, \$100,000; Goldman, Sachs & Co., \$100,000; Lincoln Trust Company, \$100,000; Bank of New York, \$100,000; Central Trust Company, \$200,000; New York Produce Exchange Bank, \$100,000; Chase National Bank, \$100,000, and the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, \$100,000. These loans, he said, were secured by four thousand shares of Columbus and Hocking Coal and Iron stock and other listed securities.

Mr. Ernst's statement of the firm's business did not coincide with the announcement made by the State Banking Department earlier in the day. What a special investigation which had been made of certain banking institutions following the collapse of the Hocking Coal and Iron pool had revealed the fact that in only one case was Hocking Coal and Iron stock included in the collateral held for loans, and then only to such a small extent as not to impair the loan. Another bank was found to hold some of the stock, but not as collateral for a loan. Columbus and Hocking Coal and Iron, which had closed on Wednesday at 33, opened yesterday 8 points down, with a sale of 500 shares at 25. The next three transactions were respectively at 24, 23 and 22, the last being the low point of the day. Later the stock rallied to 27, but it closed at 23, a net decline of 10 points. The general market, after early weakness, displayed a rallying tendency, and at the close there were substantial gains in most of the active issues, running to 2 1/2 points in Steel common, 2 1/2 in New York Central, 3 1/2 in Northern Pacific, 1 1/2 in Great Northern, 1 1/2 in Atchafalpa, 1 1/2 in Pennsylvania, 1 1/2 in Union Pacific, 2 1/2 in Reading, 3 1/2 in Chicago & Northwestern, 3 1/2 in Rock Island and 1 1/2 in Amalgamated Copper. The Hawley stocks were still depressed, Chesapeake & Ohio losing 1/2 and Alton and Clover Leaf advancing only fractionally. Interborough-Metropolitan gained a point and the preferred 3/4.

WED WHEN DRUGGED?

Boston Woman Wants Marriage Annulled.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Boston, Jan. 20.—A summons has been issued in the Superior Court on a petition for nullity brought by Florence D. Howland against Arthur W. Foster, of New York.

The petitioner, who lives in Commonwealth avenue, alleges that she was married to Foster on January 2, but that she never lived with him. She alleges that she was married when incapable of acting normally, by reason of being drugged. She declares that she did not voluntarily, willingly or knowingly enter into the marriage agreement, and that immediately after the marriage she left Foster. Daggett & Jefferson are counsel for the petitioner.

The petitioner is the daughter of J. Frank Howland, a retired business man. Foster is in the real estate business, and makes his headquarters in New York. His father is engineer for a construction company. He will fight the case to the end, it is said.

H. P. WHITNEY TAKES TITLE.

Harry Payne Whitney took title yesterday to the dwelling house at the north corner of 8th street and Fifth avenue, known as the William C. Devoe house, from George Grant Mason for a nominal price of \$100,000. The house was formerly owned by George Grant Mason, who was for some months owned and occupied by the late J. Henry Smith.

BOYCOTT SPREADS BAR MEAT IN SOUTH.

Cleveland Turns to Eggs—Pittsburg Boarders Suffer.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Baltimore, Jan. 20.—Led by the Baltimore Federation of Labor, which took action last night, a campaign of protest against the high price of meat has been started here. President Hirsch placed an order today for fifty thousand buttons inscribed "I don't buy meat; do you?"

These are to be distributed to the various unions in the city, where they will be given to the members who desire to take the meat boycott pledge. Hundreds of persons outside of the labor unions are engaged in the movement. The women are in it, too. Mrs. L. S. Hurlburt, of the fashionable Roland Park Woman's Club, said she considered the boycott a good move.

Mrs. Hurlburt, who is also an officer of the Consumers' League, continued: "It seems to me that the class of people which the league represents should unite with the working people in matters of this kind."

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Richmond, Va., Jan. 20.—A boycott of the so-called meat trust is imminent in Richmond. Meat dealers themselves will take action. A. J. Warren, one of the leading dealers in meat in Richmond, is authority for the statement that conferences have been held having in view the slaughtering locally of all beef used in this city.

"I can't say that there is a boycott now," said Mr. Warren, "but there will be one. We are getting the worst of it. Prices are high, and we've got to take what they give us. We want to cut out the trust."

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Cleveland, Jan. 20.—The meat strike here spread to the railroads today, as the Erie employees, signing the thirty-day meat boycott, signatures by the hundred were added to-night, and reports indicate that twenty-four thousand have joined the anti-meat movement.

As a result of the strike and the formation of a "30-cent eggs club," eggs are being sold at a price of 30 cents a dozen by retailers here despite the efforts of the "egg board" of commission men to hold up the price. The Cleveland Provision Company, operating twenty-seven retail stores, dismissed a third of its force of drivers. Restaurant men said to-night that a cut of three cents in the price of veal had been made to them.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Omaha, Jan. 20.—The ranks of the abstainers from meat eating were augmented today by five hundred Omaha workmen, who pledged themselves to a vegetable diet. The Central Labor Union today, at a banquet to-night, it is said that several thousand workmen will join the boycott of retail meat dealers.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Pittsburg, Jan. 20.—Hills a movement is afoot to boycott the meat packers, the prevailing high prices are having a more immediate effect. The "star boarder" and his more humble colleague of the hall room were informed by their landlady today that hereafter board would cost them 10 per cent more. The "star boarder" is the one who takes down to-night, and is said that several thousand workmen will join the boycott of retail meat dealers.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) St. Louis, Jan. 20.—Three of the seven Attorney Generals invited by Attorney General Major, Missouri, to the conference to discuss a united attack on the so-called Meat Trust accepted today. They are Hal L. Norwood, of Arkansas; Fred S. Jackson, of Kansas, and H. M. Byrd, of Iowa. The meeting will be held as soon as a convenient date is decided on.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Toledo, Jan. 20.—With the declaration in debate that the movement is an "insidious attempt to reduce the wages of workmen by lowering the standard of living," the Toledo Central Labor Union adopted a resolution to-night to boycott Pittsburgh. In saloons, where free lunch is served, the sizes of the beer glasses were cut down today.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Rochester, Jan. 20.—Keen interest was aroused at the annual meeting of the New York State Bar Association this afternoon when the retiring president, Adelbert Moot, of Buffalo, digressing from the manuscript of his annual address, severely criticized what he considered the inadequate assignment of twenty-nine Supreme Court justices to govern New York. Thirty-four were assigned to what he termed the "country districts."

The greater New York justices, said Mr. Moot, were overworked and the courts were from three to five years behind their schedules. Upstate, in some districts, he said, justices were not doing more than the work their brethren in the metropolis were doing, and they should, he said, be required to share the burden in the congested districts. Politics should be entirely eliminated from the election of judges, Mr. Moot said, and at the close of his address the committee on judiciary was invited to prepare a memorial and present it to the present Legislature, asking that a way be devised to remove judicial nominations from the party columns in the ballots now in use.

The meeting convened this morning in the County Court House. The committee on nominations presented the following slate, which will be voted on by the Senate: Elihu Root, president; Frederick K. Wadhams, secretary; Albert Hessberg, treasurer; vice-presidents, first district, William D. Guthrie; second, Edward M. Shepard; third, James Fenimore Cooper; fourth, Thomas Spratt; fifth, Charles A. Miller; sixth, James T. Devoe; seventh, Frank Harris; eighth, Henry Ware Sprague; ninth, Mahew Wainwright. Committees—Executive, James S. Havens; John D. Teller, Milo M. Acker; law reform, James A. Parsons; George P. Decker, A. J. Rodenbeck; admissions, Horace McGuire, George S. Throckmough, Fred W. Sawyer; Charles W. Kimball; grievances, Henry G. Danforth, John Colmer, Charles I. Avery; selection of candidates for judicial office, John D. Teller, Edward Harris, Pliny T. Sexton; legal biography, Burdette A. Rich, John D. Lindsay, of New York, was unable to be present and his paper on "The Necessity for a Court of Criminal Appeal" was read by Judge Danthy.

RECEIVER IN CINCINNATI.

Partner of Roberts, Hall & Criss Moves for Dissolution There.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Cincinnati, Jan. 20.—Nevin Roberts, of the firm of Roberts, Hall & Criss, filed a petition in the Common Pleas Court here late to-night asking for a dissolution of the partnership existing between himself, Walker P. Hall, Hugh Criss and Thomas B. Criss, and asking for a receiver, Edward Charles Hunt was found with considerable difficulty, and John R. Holmes, of this city, was appointed receiver. The petition was drawn by J. V. Campbell and Lawrence Maxwell. It is alleged that the trouble in New York made a dissolution imperative, and doubt as to what the brokerage firm really owed made necessary the appointment of the receiver to take charge of the assets and ascertain the liabilities.

The petition set forth that there was great doubt as to the total liability, and that the receiver was needed to ascertain the condition of the firm, and that it was made to the court as soon as possible as to the amount of assets and liabilities.

CUT LIBERAL LEAD

LILLEY EXPLAINS. Says Missing Church Funds Were Lent to Clergymen.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Pittsburg, Jan. 20.—William C. Lilley, the alleged defaulting treasurer of the Presbyterian Church here, who disappeared last September, leaving a shortage said to approximate \$22,000, walked into the county jail last night and gave himself up. He was not locked up, as no information had been lodged against him.

Lilley spent today in consultation with an attorney. A trustee of the Pittsburg presbytery said that until Lilley had been heard by the trustees there would be no prosecution. It was announced late today that friends of Lilley will make complete restitution. The movement to clear up Lilley's shortage was started with offers of several large subscriptions.

Lilley, who was without a cent, acknowledges that he is short \$19,000. He says every penny of the money went as loans to needy clergymen who had been unable to collect their salaries. One man, he says, owes him \$6,000. Lilley declares he will not be prosecuted and that he will shortly assume his old place in the church.

UNIONISTS GLEEFUL.

Encouraged by Continued Gain in Seats.

(By The Associated Press.) London, Jan. 20.—The defeated English country people, with their rock-ribbed conservatism, their reverence for the nobility and their prejudices against the new-fashioned socialism, were heard from today, and they gave a decided boom to the Conservative cause. To-night the Unionist candidates were cheered, The National Liberal Club, which has been the centre of Liberal activity, has a less jubilant atmosphere than at any time since the elections began.

The results of the pollings for fifty-eight seats yesterday were announced today, and forty-seven more seats were conceded to the Conservatives. The total of seats won by the latter have been reported to-night. London's last borough gave its verdict in favor of a Unionist, Westminster re-electing W. L. A. B. Burdett-Coutts, with his majority nearly doubled. The metropolis has thirty-four Unionists, twenty-six Liberals and two Laborites, whereas in 1906 thirty-eight Liberals and one Laborite were elected, twenty-one Unionists and three Laborites.

The popular vote in 1906 was: Unionist, 238,167; Liberal, 238,810; Labor, 25,472. The popular vote this year in London is: Unionist, 238,773; Liberal, 251,331; Labor, 20,946.

"I am quite confident of the result throughout the country," said Chancellor Lloyd-George at Bangor to-night. "After all, the standard of 1906 was quite abnormal, and we cannot expect to maintain it. If we judge by the standard of other general elections, it will be found that the Liberals have a good working majority."

The Chancellor's remarks are regarded as the most progressive commercial communities voted for free trade. Birmingham voted neither for free trade nor protection, but simply stood by her greatest citizen.

Premier Asquith, at Fifehead, declared that one thing was certain—the great industrial centres would not give to the new Parliament a mandate for authority to interfere with the system of free trade. Except in a few isolated areas, like Birmingham and Liverpool, all had given an emphatic verdict in favor of free trade.

The secretary of the Tariff Reform League issued a proclamation to-night, saying: "To-day's Unionist victories conclusively prove that free trade is losing its hold on the country. We attribute our success to the arduous fight not to free trade, but to the abolition of the protective tariff with the Radicals. In a straight contest between tariff reform and the present system of protection, the latter has been the political fight of the future will be between tariff reform and Socialism."

Exciting scenes followed the declaration of the poll at Buckingham, where the Liberal candidate, P. W. Verney, son of Lord Verney, won by a narrow margin. The enraged Unionists chased several prominent Liberals, who took refuge in the nearby houses. A stone broke the glass in a motor car in which Lady Verney and Miss Verney were driving.

Some rioting at Belfast, where fifty-four persons were arrested on the charge of impersonating voters. According to the English law, all persons whose names appear on the registers may vote. One woman and two fourteen-year-old boys, who were thus registered, voted. Numbers of persons residing in London were notified that their names were on the registers, and they voted unchallenged.

An enormous placard was displayed at Hampton, with the inscription: "If the Radical-Socialist government is retained in fifteen years England will be under the power of Germany. You may be forced into the German army."

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FIND THREE SLAIN

YOUNG WIFE VICTIM. Police Think Murders Work of Disappointed Lover.

An unknown murderer or band of murderers entered the flat of Salvatore Scalpone, on the sixth floor of a tenement at No. 19 Montgomery street, and beat out the brains of the man, his young wife Marie and their old housekeeper, Concetta Martine. Whether the crime was done on Wednesday night or yesterday forenoon the police have not determined. The murderer or murderers escaped unseen and unheard after plundering the flat, overturning the furniture in a search for money and strewing the contents of drawers and shelves about the floor. The police believe that the crime was an act of vengeance, done by a disappointed lover of the young wife.

The girl was only twenty years old, beautiful and of much refinement. She was soon to become a mother. She was last seen alive at 7 o'clock Wednesday night when she called at the flat of a neighbor. Her husband, who was a young man, was rather pretentious and shop at No. 255 West Broadway, a few doors from the house, closed his shop at 10 o'clock Wednesday night, leaving the keys with one of his journeymen, Joseph Gingo, of No. 44 Oak street.

At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon Felice Afronti, another of the journeymen, called at the flat to get luncheon with his employer, as he usually did. He found the door locked. Inside a dog was whining. It was a large brindle bulldog which had been a pet in the house since the young couple started their housekeeping, less than a year ago. Afronti was frightened and ran to tell the janitress, Mrs. Esther Kuhlmann. The woman could not open the door, and together they told the police. Patrolmen Goss and Hogan entered by means of the fire escape.

FIND THREE BODIES. They found the two women dead in the parlor of the flat and the man's body in the dining room, which opened from there. Towels were bound about their mouths. The man had fallen without a struggle, but the girls had been beaten down in a fight. All three were fully dressed. The dog chained in the passage, could just sniff at his master's feet.

The whole flat had been upset in the search for money which followed the murder. Although blood was everywhere, there was not a single finger print, and no weapon which could have done the crime bore a stain. A hatchet, which would have made exactly such wounds, was free from blood and had not been washed.

Captain Schott, of the Madison street station, said he believed that a disappointed lover of the girl had murdered the family in revenge, and afterward had robbed the place. Though even the men that had been made ready for the expected child was strewn on the floor, the diamonds in the girl's ears had not been touched and a sum of more than \$200 which she carried was not disturbed.

That such a crime could be accomplished in the very heart of the lower tenement district without an alarm and without earlier discovery caused surprise even in Police Headquarters, and brought a dozen detectives to the spot hurriedly. Captain Carey, head of the homicide bureau, came in person and took charge of the work.

Michael Fusco and Madeline, his wife, the parents of the dead girl, were brought to the flat. The horror of the place was too much for them, and the police could learn little from them. Their home is at No. 313 East 45th street. From the fact that a bottle of milk which had been left in the hall had not been taken inside, it is supposed that the crime was committed either in the morning or late Wednesday night, before the family had gone to bed. A detective also found what seemed to be the prints of a bloody hand on the stair rail leading to their floor.

Isador Friedman, a violinist, who lives in the next flat, said that the dividing wall

A CHICAGO MYSTERY.

Decapitated and Mutilated Body of Woman Found.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—One of the most mysterious murders in the police history of Chicago was unearthed to-day, when the decapitated and mutilated body of Anna Paine, also known as Jennie Cleburn, twenty-four years old, was found at No. 26 West 15th street. The murdered woman came here from St. Louis seven months ago. She was said to have been married, living apart from her husband.

The decapitated head was carried away by the murderer in an attempt to conceal the identity of the victim. A knife seven inches long, with a wooden handle, was found concealed beneath the mattress of a bed. An open trunk indicated an intention to conceal the body. A stain of bloody water and a newspaper stained with blood were also in the room.

The police have six persons in custody, three of whom are women, one a negro. One of the women admits that she had murdered the woman had a quarrel yesterday, in which blows were struck.

JAPAN ACCUSES CHINA.

Holds Her Responsible for Manchurian Plan.

Peking, Jan. 20.—Japan has notified China informally through the Japanese Legation here that Japan and Russia will commence action which will decline the proposal of the United States for the neutralization of the Manchurian railways.

Japan charges China with having been responsible for the proposal and that of having committed an act unfriendly to the former.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S