

FIREMEN'S DEMANDS DON'T SUIT RAILROADS

If Granted, Says Lee, Running Expenses Would Be Increased by \$9,600,000.

HOPES FOR CONCESSIONS

Chairman of Managers Suggests Question of Firemen's Assistants Be Left to Permanent Committees.

Edith Lee, chairman of the managers' committee of the Eastern railroads, replied yesterday on behalf of the railroads to the demands, as modified for the second time, of the firemen on those roads. The reply was in the form of a letter, which was read at the joint conference of the managers' committee and the firemen's adjustment committee. It was addressed to W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, but Mr. Carter was on his way to Denver and his place at the joint conference was taken by Vice-President Wall.

Mr. Lee in his reply repeats his former statement that the railroads, while recognizing that in no case should an employee be expected or allowed to perform service which will require excessive physical effort, the varying conditions on railroads would not make it practicable to formulate any general rule as to assistance for firemen. He suggests that the matter of assisting the firemen be left in the hands of a permanent committee to be appointed for the purpose for each road.

He believes a settlement should be made on the basis of the award of the arbitrator in the case of the engineers, and offers on behalf of the railroads to consider a settlement on that basis, and also to consider an increase of present rates in some instances. He points out that the demands are twice modified would amount to an increase in the running expense of the railroads of \$9,600,000 annually, or 35 per cent on the present wages of the firemen.

His statement says in part: "The conference committee of managers have not recognized the justice of your request, as formulated and presented, but do recognize that in no case should an employee in any class of service, be expected or permitted to perform service which will require excessive physical effort. While the question of expense of any proposition is a serious matter and must carry great weight, the committee is of the opinion that it is a fact that assistance for firemen is necessary, the question of cost is of minor consideration."

He trusts that you will not take the position that you are not warranted in further modifying your demands, as we do not wish to see the present established by the recent arbitration of the engineers' case. It should be possible to arrive at a settlement which is a fact that assistance for firemen is necessary, the question of cost is of minor consideration. It is possible that you could not have been aware of the fact that assistance for firemen is necessary, the question of cost is of minor consideration. It is possible that you could not have been aware of the fact that assistance for firemen is necessary, the question of cost is of minor consideration.

With regard to your proposal to submit all matters in dispute to arbitration, in order to avoid the necessity of a strike vote, we reiterate that it ought not to be necessary to resort to these extreme measures at this time, nor while we have available the best expression of public opinion which is that where possible the public should be satisfied by a settlement of the case clearly related as is that of the engineers.

The relations of the railroads to their employees and to the public were clearly brought out in the controversy with the engineers, and the position which either party could take in the support of the public on the question of arbitration was quite clearly indicated by the expression of public opinion at a time when the public was much concerned. The railroads still adhere to the position which they took at that time. I am instructed to inform you that the arbitration finally becomes necessary it is the opinion of the managers' committee that the plan of arbitration should not exactly follow the lines of the Erdman act, but that the number of arbitrators and the methods of choosing them should be substantially the same as in the engineers' case.

PHONE INVESTIGATION ENDS

Question of Suing Trust Now Confronts Wicksham.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Samuel Hill, of Seattle, president of the Home Telephone and Telegraph Company, of Portland, Ore., conferred to-day with James A. Fowler, assistant to the Attorney General, regarding the investigation to determine whether the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is a trust within the meaning of the Sherman law. Mr. Hill, representing an independent concern, discussed the general situation.

The government's inquiry has been completed, and Attorney General Wicksham is now considering whether suit should be instituted.

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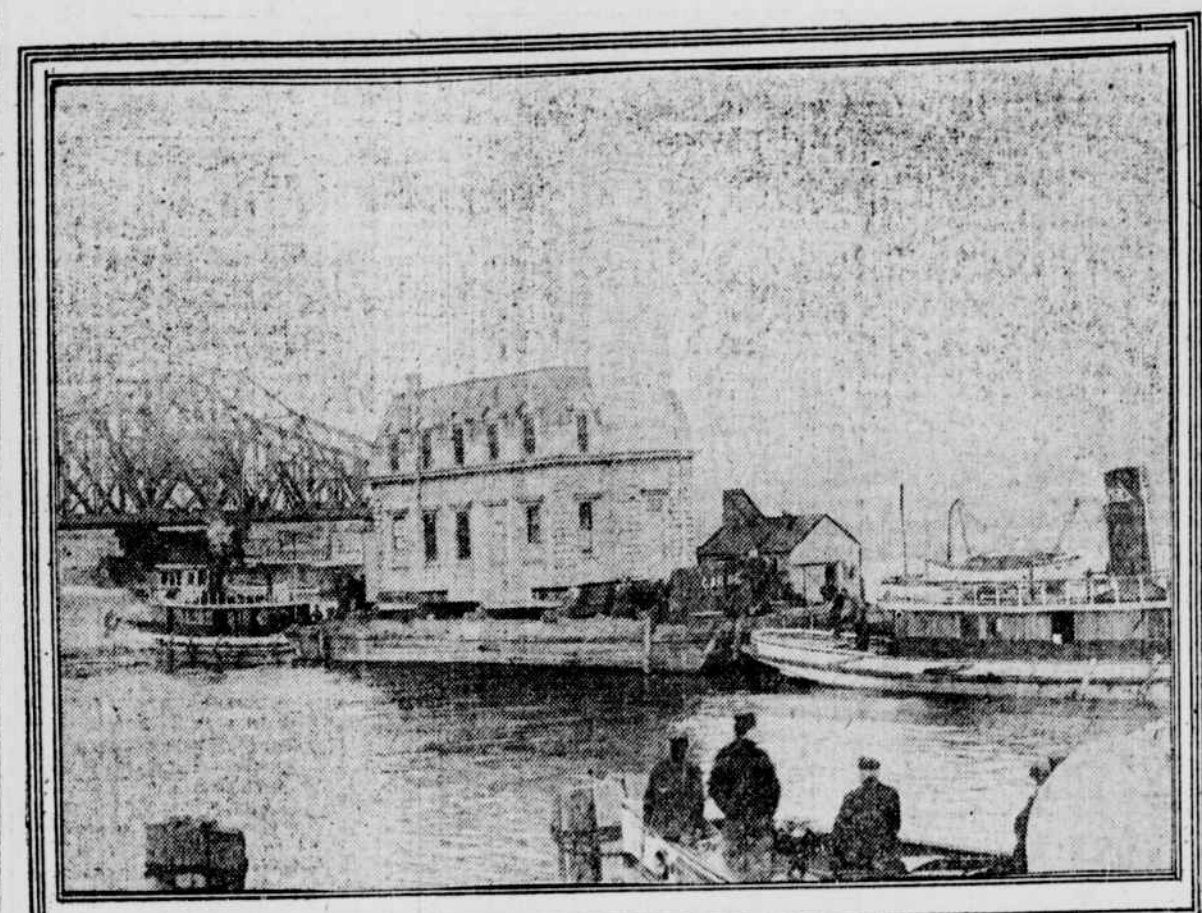
NEW-YORK TRIBUNE

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A FIRE HOUSE AFLOAT.

Interesting photograph showing the removal on a barge of one of the city's fire stations. While the house was in transit an alarm calling out its company was sounded.



FIRE HOUSE A-SAILING GOES

Men of Engine Company No. 87 Respond to Alarm While Their Shore Quarters Are Being Towed to New Site on Harlem River.

With no greater injury to the property than the cracking of a little plaster a two-story firehouse was run on a barge, towed three blocks up the Harlem River, pulled off on to the ground again and placed on new foundations last week. The work was done successfully by the firm of Arthur McMillan and Olaf Hoff, contractors for Section No. 14 of the Lexington Avenue subway. The removal of the house, the quarters of Engine Company 87, which operates the fireboat Cornelius W. Lawrence, was necessary because it would have been endangered by the sinking of the caissons for the subway tunnel under the river at 123rd and Lexington avenue, the old location.

All during the time that the house was being moved the firemen kept their home in the building, and had their connections with the fire alarm system and headquarters by means of flexible cables, except for the twelve minutes that it actually took to tow the barge with the house through the river.

Once, while the house was being run on to the barge, an alarm came in and the men responded with their boat. The firehouse is a steel skeleton structure, two stories in height, with a tower 62 feet high. It weighs 150 tons. In preparation for the removal a barge 30 feet wide and 80 feet long was moored to the dock. The house was jacked up and pulled to the edge of the dock. As the tide came in the work of pulling the house on to the barge was begun. The rising tide made enough pressure to counteract the weight of the house and prevent any sudden loss of equilibrium. The house was moved on to the barge three feet for each three-inch rise in the tide.

In unloading at 134th street and Park avenue, the new location, the operation was reversed, the house being pulled off with the fall of the tide. The new pier and all the cables had already been laid, and after five minutes after the house had been lowered on to the new foundation the house was in perfect operation again.

S. P. C. C. HAS BIG PARTY

Children Enjoy Great Tree and Gifts from Santa.

The Christmas Tree party given by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in the society's playrooms, at No. 267 Fourth avenue, last night, was the best they ever had. Santa Claus was there, as large as life, with a big basket of presents to dispense all of these silly stories about his being out of date.

And the tree was all over lights and flowers and shiny things which hurt the eyes when you look at them too long; and after everyone had been given his presents by Santa Claus, they all joined in singing and dancing, which was great fun, especially for the big girls, who know more about dancing than ordinary people can be expected to know. So everybody went home happy.

Some of those present were Jacob H. Schiff, Dallas B. Pratt, Elbridge T. Gerry, J. Howard Wright, J. Dunbar Wright, Robert M. Galloway, Adrian Iselin, Jr., Augustus D. Juilliard, Ludwig B. Bernstein, Mrs. Irving Lehman, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Hopkins, John O'Toole, Jacob A. Riss, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt and her daughter, Miss Rutherford, Mrs. M. W. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. J. Nelson Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parsons and many others.

ASK SHERIFF TO BE SANTA

Ex-Chief Croker and Friend Give Up Election Fees.

Former Fire Chief Edward F. Croker and his friend Charles Thorley returned to Sheriff Harburger yesterday the vouchers for \$5 each that they received from the city for services as special deputy sheriffs at the last primary elections. The Sheriff made his rounds that day in the automobile of Chief Croker, the latter and Mr. Thorley acting as a special guard for the Sheriff.

Chief Croker said in returning his check, "I wish you would please draw the money and provide a Christmas dinner for some deserving person, of which no doubt you know many."

Mr. Thorley wrote, "I would ask you to kindly draw the amount of the check and give it for me to some unfortunate fellow as a Christmas gift."

ISAAC A. HOPPER DEAD

Was Building Superintendent Under Mayor McClellan.

Isaac A. Hopper, Superintendent of Buildings in Mayor McClellan's administration, died last night at his home, No. 165 West 122 street. Heart disease, with which Mr. Hopper had been affected for the last two years, was the cause of death. He had been confined to his bed for about a week. His wife and two sons were with him when he died.

Mr. Hopper was born in the old Hopper mansion, at 121st street and Macomb's Road, in 1851. He was a member of Tammany Hall for many years and was formerly leader of the 31st Assembly District. He was a brother of John J. Hopper, at one time a candidate for Governor on the Independence League ticket.

AID FOR BIDE-A-WEE HOME

Christmas Charity Matinee To Be Given at Plaza.

To help the Bide-A-Wee Home for Friendless Animals a Christmas charity matinee will be given in the grand ballroom of the Plaza Hotel to-morrow afternoon. Mrs. Harry Ulysses Kibbe, president of the home, has been ill for several months, and in her absence contribution to the welfare of the animals has fallen off considerably.

A large programme has been arranged for the entertainment, and many well known actors and actresses have volunteered their services. A souvenir programme, designed for the occasion by Orson Lowell, will be sold by debutantes. Seats can be obtained from the secretary, Miss Champion, No. 416 East 33rd street.

The patronesses include Mrs. George J. Gould, Mrs. John Hay, Hammond, Mrs. J. Todhunter Thompson, Mrs. Frederick Edey, Mrs. John J. Mason, Mrs. Henry L. Burnett, Mrs. Bourke Cockran, Mrs. Alfred R. Conklin and Miss Ida Bliss.

MAY TRY GIBSON HERE

Lawyer Hints He Will Face a New Charge.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)
Gosport, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Baron W. Gibson dropped to-day to a visitor at the county jail here to remark that would suggest that the New York authorities are arranging to have him removed to New York County and to try him on a charge of misappropriating funds from the estate of Mrs. Rosa Menzies Szabo, whom the lawyer was alleged to have killed at Greenwood Lake on July 18.

Gibson said that he did not expect to remain in Gosport much longer. He has been in daily communication with his attorneys, Robert H. Elder and Charles H. Goldzier, and developments in his case are expected soon.

Mrs. Gibson outlined her Saturday visit to her husband to-day for the first time since the jury failed to agree.

MAINE TO RETURN GARDNER

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)
Augusta, Me., Dec. 21.—Friends of Obadiah Gardner declare it is already settled that he will be returned to Washington as United States Senator, asserting that the Progressives in the Legislature have finally decided to support him.

It is expected that several Progressives from other parts of the country will come here to aid the election of Gardner and make certain the defeat of Edwin C. Burleigh, Republican.

Progressives say Gardner is a better Progressive than Burleigh and that it would be dividing a nail in their own coffin to put Burleigh in the seat now occupied by Gardner, a Democrat.

MERRILL INDICTMENT DISMISSED.

Judge Humphrey, in the Queens County Court, in Long Island City yesterday, dismissed the indictment against former District Attorney John B. Merrill, charging the larceny of an automobile.

SANTA GOES SHOPPING

Department Stores and Street Hucksters Reap Harvest.

SPUGS IN EVIDENCE

Staple Goods, Such as Clothing, Furniture, Etc., More in Demand than Ever Before.

Santa Claus, as exemplified by bundle-carrying fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers, had a glorious time yesterday. The safer had money, for it was payday, and he scattered his cheer-giving shovels about the large department stores, and then, when he had finally braved the jam to the swinging doors leading to the street, he fell an easy prey to the toy hucksters.

Inside the big stores there was scarcely breathing space, let alone space to turn around, and this was doubtless why it seemed to one standing on the sidewalk that everybody was going in and nobody coming out. Just inside the door of one of the big establishments stood a placid individual, patiently directing the throng which surged around him.

"How's business this year?" he was asked. "Third aisle over, to your left," he responded. "Er—oh, business? Fine, fine, couldn't be better. Never anything like it before. See that stream coming in the door? Well, they've been coming like that all day. Looks to me as if they'd keep coming all night. Enamel ware? Bear of the basement—stairs by the elevator."

"What are they buying most? Well, as I stand here, it seems as if every third person who comes in wants either leather goods or burnt wood articles. Why they should be after burnt wood so ravenously is beyond me."

A little further on at another of the big stores the head of the merchandise department was approached.

"Business?" he repeated. "It's the best year on the street. Nothing has ever touched it, except perhaps 1906. Means prosperity."

"That 'Spug' movement seems to have touched 'em, too. They're after the staple articles—furs, clothing, blankets, linoleums and furniture. I guess the lateness of the season has something to do with that."

Mr. Hopper was born in the old Hopper mansion, at 121st street and Macomb's Road, in 1851. He was a member of Tammany Hall for many years and was formerly leader of the 31st Assembly District. He was a brother of John J. Hopper, at one time a candidate for Governor on the Independence League ticket.

"Here y' are!" he called. "A complete two-and-a-half outfit, builds you up, makes you strong; take your exercise before breakfast—all for 58 cents!"

Over in the corner of one of the five-and-ten-cent stores in the district, close by the door that let in a never ending throng, stood a tall, thin figure in the blue-gray of a private officer. His hair was white and his face tanned with many summers, but his eyes betrayed him to be a philosopher. Some one mentioned trouble to him. He chuckled.

"Two or three," he answered vaguely. "One woman I caught going out of the door with several things all in one bag. I spotted her right away, because every article in this store must be wrapped up separately. It was so easy it was a shame. I took her back and made her sign a statement that she was a notorious thief. That scared her enough—let her go after that."

"Most of 'em are too happy spending money to steal. You know, I think a person has to be a little insane to really enjoy himself. Look at 'em there! They're all crazy about spending, and they're just as happy as you make 'em. They tell me they can count the people in New York. I don't believe it. They've been coming like that all day, and this is only one store. Think of all the stores there are in New York. No, sir, you couldn't ever count 'em—not if you took a year at it."

COLLEGE SPLIT BY "FRATS"

Wooster Trustees Deadlocked After Long Wrangle.

Wooster, Ohio, Dec. 21.—After an all-night session the board of trustees of Wooster University adjourned until February without being able to decide the question of ousting fraternities from the institution. Voices of members of opposing factions could be heard across the campus during the session.

The war on fraternities at Wooster was started by the announcement of L. H. Severance, of New York, who has been the university's support unless these organizations were ousted. Severance has been the most liberal supporter of the university.

President Holden requested the fraternities to give up their charters. They refused, declaring they would not barter away an integral part of the institution. Half of the students are "frat" members.

CITY'S CHRISTMAS TREE ALL READY FOR LIGHTS

Monster from Maine Proudly Reigns in Centre of Madison Square.

OPERA STARS MAY SING

Expect Tetrassini's San Francisco Triumph To Be Imitated During Elaborate Festivities.

Persons in the vicinity of Madison Square this morning must have been surprised to see a huge tree in the centre of the park that had arisen like magic during the night. It was a mammoth Christmas tree that was brought from Maine to be made a part of the public open air Christmas celebration in the square on Christmas Eve.

The tree arrived in Madison Square yesterday shortly after noon. It was sixty-two feet high, with branches spreading in corresponding magnitude. A crowd of workmen got busy with timbers and guy wires, and after a six-foot hole had been dug, set up the tree in the centre of the square. Twenty-five men and three or four bosses, under the direction of Colonel William de H. Washington, were required to complete the job, which took until midnight. Monday morning electricians will undertake the wiring of the huge tree and the placing of the thousand electric bulbs with which it is to be illuminated.

Will Plant Permanent Trees.

While making ready the final arrangements for the public Christmas tree which is to shine forth on Christmas Eve in Madison Square Park, those persons who have been behind the undertaking began the consideration yesterday of plans to have a permanent Christmas tree in the future. The only regret expressed was that the present tree will not be planted. The next tree, however, will be removed from its forest environment root and all, and every Christmas for many years to come, it is hoped, will find the city's Christmas tree ready for the scene of the public festivities.

It was said yesterday also that persons in Chicago and Pittsburgh, unable now to do about such a thing in those cities, would undertake to follow New York's example a year hence. Other cities are expected to follow.

The programme for this Christmas Eve, as was outlined yesterday by those who have had the arrangement in their hands, is as follows:

At 4:30 p. m. the Metropolitan Tower chimes will ring.

From 5 to 5:30 the chimes of Trinity and eight other churches will ring.

At 5:30 "Parsifal" fanfare of trumpets. There will be light troupers to the east and west of the tree and eight to the north and south. It will announce the lighting of the tree and will be a signal for the singing of songs.

From 5:30 to 7 there will be singing of Christmas music by various choruses. From 7 to 8:30 well known soloists, singing together as a quartet, will sing Christmas carols from the earliest to the most modern times.

The names of the singers, who were said to be of prominence, and the programme will be announced later. The singers, it was said, had not even formed their families of their intention to participate. It was not said that any of the singers were operatic stars who wanted to duplicate the feats of Tetrassini.

At 8:45 a fanfare of trumpets. From 8:45 to 10 a brass band of forty pieces will play. The programme will include Bach carols, famous marches, national anthems, folk music of all nations and many well known selections appropriate to the occasion.

There will be an intermission of an hour. Then the programme will continue, as follows:

At 11 a fanfare of trumpets. From 11 to 12 the band will play again. At exactly midnight "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" will be sung, and all present will be invited to sing.

The tree will remain lighted until dawn.

Police Ready for Great Crowd.

Adequate police arrangements have been made to handle an enormous crowd. Many well known persons who had intended going out of town to country house parties, it was said yesterday, had notified members of the committee that the tree celebration would keep them in town this year.

Guards will watch the tree day and night for the whole week during which it will remain standing to prevent vandalism.

No arrangements have been made for a musical programme on Christmas night, but it has been suggested that the people who gather around the tree on that night sing appropriate songs.

Large crowds hung around Madison Square Garden all day yesterday watching the carpenter at work on the tree. The pine stem strong enough to withstand any gale a big piece of timber was attached to the bottom of the tree and this in turn was to be supported on all sides by heavy wooden braces.

WORK OF BLIND ON SALE

Useful Articles Suitable for Christmas Presents Offered.

A Christmas sale was opened yesterday at Fifth avenue and 53d street by the New York Association for the Blind. Opera bags, calling bags and work bags, all made in cloth of gold; old-fashioned table scarfs and rugs, brooms and vicker baskets, all made by the blind, were among the articles shown. One blind girl gave an exhibition of shorthand and type-writing, and her fingers played over the keyboard of a train-d typist. Another girl, who, it was said, had only recently lost complete use of her sight, read from a book made for the blind almost as fast as most people read with their eyes. She never hesitated and rarely made a mistake.

The association, whose aim is to train the blind for useful work, is in need of funds to complete its new building, at No. 111 East 35th street, and to pay off the mortgage on the land upon which the building is erected. It is estimated that \$100,000 will be needed to achieve this, and Miss Winifred Holt, whose efforts in the past have done much to put the work of the society on its present basis, hopes that the present sale will go far toward obtaining the required funds.

IRELAND 51 YEARS A PRIEST

Only Three Now Outrank Him in Length of Service.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 21.—Archbishop Ireland observed to-day the fifty-first anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. A few friends called to congratulate him, and he received many telegrams from members of the Catholic hierarchy in various parts of the United States.

HUB'S MAYOR NO "SPUG"

Christmas the Time to Open Purse and Heart, He Says.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)
Boston, Dec. 20.—Mayor Fitzgerald refused to have anything to do with the "Spugs," or Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving, when he received a circular asking him to join.

"Christmas is the time to open the purse and the heart," said the Mayor. "Even if the gift is only a postal card, it shows a spark of kindly feeling and a recognition of friendship, and for that reason should be encouraged. I do not believe in presents that cause discomfort to the giver, because they are far beyond his or her means, but I believe in simple gifts that show a thought of love and friendship."

"Quantity and quality should be the watchword of the Christmas giver. I am opposed to the objects and the ideas of the 'Spugs.' They are not in keeping with the real spirit of Christmas. The exchange of presents should be encouraged rather than discouraged."

CONNECTICUT MOOSE CALL ON ROOSEVELT

New Haven-Grand Trunk Situation Is Discussed at Conference.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt held a conference at Oyster Bay yesterday with his influential lieutenants from Connecticut, Herbert Knox Smith, former Commissioner of Corporations, and recently Progressive candidate for Governor; Joseph W. Alsop, of the State Progressive Committee, and Frank S. Butterworth, of New Haven. They had luncheon with their chief and put in three hours going over Connecticut politics. The colonel wanted to know all about the New Haven-Grand Trunk muddle and Mr. Smith furnished him with the facts as he sees them.

"Not a thing to say," smiled the colonel when asked for results of the conference. He was in fine fettle. He followed his guests out of the house and stood bare-headed, chatting, long before they drove away to catch the 3:35 train for New York.

"We didn't discuss politics from the practical standpoint," explained Mr. Smith. "We hadn't seen Colonel Roosevelt since we were in Chicago two weeks ago. It was more sociability than otherwise." Mr. Smith admitted that the railroad situation came up. He was asked as to the Progressives' attitude toward this burning New England question.

"There wouldn't be any burning question if we had our way," he explained. "We've built up these big corporations, and the way to handle them is to control them, not smash 'em. Divorce them from politics is our doctrine. Cut out the legislative railroad lobby, let the Public Service Commission regulate the issue of securities and bring about a physical valuation. That's all in our state platform."

"Nutmeg Progressives aren't rabid anti-Mellen folk, then?" he was asked. "There is something more to railroading besides financial operations and combinations," he replied.

"Progressives, then, aren't anticipating a proper settlement of the New Haven problem under the present administration?"

"You can never deal with railroad combinations by smashing them."

"Did you tell Colonel Roosevelt that you found criminal liability in the relations of the roads?"

"I didn't discuss criminal liability. I simply outlined the situation as I found it," said Mr. Smith.

The former corporation commissioner was asked whether he would again be a candidate for Governor.

"That's up to the party. We have the primary in 1914, you know," he replied.

BARNES HAS NEW IDEAS

He Therefore Plans to Hold Convention Next Fall.

Chairman Barnes of the Republican State Committee has decided there shall be a Republican state convention next fall. It will be the first time that such a convention was ever held when there was not a Governor and a full state ticket to be elected.

Chief Judge Cullen and Associate Judge John Clinton Gray, of the Court of Appeals, will retire because of the age limit on December 31 of next year. That will make necessary the election of their successors in November.

The state committees of the various parties have the authority to make nominations in such cases, and in other years have always exercised their power rather than call a state convention for one or two nominations.

Chairman Barnes, however, believes that, in line with the spirit of the times, it would be well to have the nominations made next year by representatives of the people elected at the primaries as delegates to a convention for the special purpose of making judicial nominations.

The state chairman is strongly opposed to the ideas of Colonel Roosevelt on the judiciary and believes that a convention of delegates chosen by the people would give more prominence to the nominations than if they should be made by the state committee.

It also is the plan of the state chairman to have the convention discuss the issues of the day, including that of the control of the judiciary, and place the Republican party of this state on record along with what he considers the more enlightened lines of thought.

SLOCUM SURVIVORS ANGRY

Denounce President for Pardoning Captain Van Schaick.

About twenty survivors of the Slocum steamboat disaster met at Schützen Hall, No. 12 St. Mark's Place, last evening to protest against the action of President Taft in restoring to full citizenship Captain William H. Van Schaick, who commanded the General Slocum when it caught fire in the East River on June 15, 1904, and 1,031 lives were lost.

Charles Derach, who presided, said that the President's action in pardoning Captain Van Schaick was "adding insult to injury to the two hundred survivors and the relatives of the victims. How can this be a merry Christmas or a happy New Year for us?" he said. "When that man was on trial there was a man every day in the courthouse with a revolver ready to shoot him. Some of us counselled with the man and remained with him every minute he was around the Federal Building. We saved Van Schaick for the law, and now the law turns him loose."

Fred W. Holt, vice-president of the association, called the pardon "the crowning blunder of an unfortunate administration," and at the close of a bitter address exclaimed: "May God forgive President Taft; we can't. Whatever excuse may be offered for the parole, there is not the least for the pardon."

MARRIAGE DIDN'T TAKE

Fisk, Who Says He's Banker's Son, Plans Second Ceremony.

WEDDED FIRST IN BOSTON

Doubt of Validity Causes Couple to Obtain Another License in New Jersey.

Augustus R. Fisk, who said he was a son of Charles J. Fisk, of the banking firm of Fisk & Sons, and his wife, formerly Mrs. Barbara Knight Cobb, of Boston, obtained a marriage license in the City Hall, Jersey City, yesterday morning. The couple said they had been married in Boston a week ago, but had learned that the validity of the ceremony might be questioned under the Massachusetts law because Mrs. Fisk had been divorced.

The couple had reached the City Hall long before the license bureau was opened yesterday morning. They appeared much disturbed. An hour after their arrival Joseph Collins, the license clerk, appeared.

After Collins took their pedigrees he made out the license, and the couple departed, presumably to get married again. With Mr. and Mrs. Fisk at the time as a witness was Edward Dugan, of Jersey City, an agent of the Hudson and Manhattan Tunnel Company.

After they left the office the record of the license was locked in a safe, and a clerk said he did not have the combination, so there was no way newspaper men could get at it.