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The Sun.

THE WEATHER PREDICTION
For New York and Its Vicinity:
Fair; warmer; northerly winds.

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WERE SENATORS BRIBED?

ALLEGED CORRUPTION FUND TO AID THE FIREMEN'S PAY BILL.

Senators Raines, Coggeshall, and Robertson Repel the Published Charges—A Committee of Investigation Appointed—Board of Fire Commissioners Making an Investigation on Their Own Account.

ALBANY, April 18.—Immediately after the Senate was called to order to-day, Senator Raines took the floor on a question of privilege. His sensitiveness is so well understood that no one was astonished to hear him cry out against a charge made in the New York *Press*, a Republican paper, that he and Coggeshall and Robertson were unduly and very anxiously interested in an alleged corruption fund of $45,000 in the interest of the Firemen's Pay bill. Senator Raines said that he deemed it his duty to the Senate, to the electors who had sent him there, and to himself to rise to a question of privilege in the matter. He identified the source of the attack as a gentleman of the name of Quigg, in whose paper it appeared. He remembered that months ago this gentleman had urged him to vote for the Firemen's Pay bill. He had described his interest in the bill as a personal one, due to the fact that he was under obligations to the firemen for support in his race for Congress. The same Mr. Quigg at the same time had urged the Senator to vote for the Judicial Sales bill on the ground that friends of his were interested in it and had contributed $3,500 to his campaign fund. Senator Raines said that, despite the assurance of Mr. Quigg that any one who wanted to be considered his friend must vote for this measure in a fight between two rival business organizations, he had braved the latter's sovereign displeasure. He also reported that no living man's request was the cause of his voting against the bill. He added that he had telegraphed to his brother to have a suit for libel begun on the $45,000 story if it contained anything actionable, and he offered the following resolution for a committee of investigation:

Whereas, It is charged by the New York *Press* of this date that a corruption fund was recently raised in order to influence certain Senators in voting for a bill to increase the salary of the members of the New York city Fire Department recently before this body, and that corrupt negotiations were entered into in favor of said bill,

Resolved, That a special committee of five Senators, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to investigate the aforesaid charges and publication of such corrupt negotiations, and that said committee be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to send for persons and papers and to sit and examine witnesses in the city of Albany and elsewhere in the State in reference to said charges, and for that purpose the said committee shall report to this body, with its recommendations, on or before the first day of May, 1895.

The vote was ordered on the resolution, and in the roll call Senator Coggeshall said that it was not his habit to dignify unjust attacks on himself with any notice. He remembered how Luther, thinking that he saw the devil looking through the window at him, hurled his ink pot through the glass. He broke the window and lost his ink and pot, but he did not hit the devil. He was also reminded of the old man who amiably allowed his wife to beat him. "It does not hurt me any," he said, "and it tickles her."

Senator Coggeshall thought that, with a few unfortunate exceptions, the newspaper men were high-minded and all that. These exceptions, however, had the instincts of the hyena and the practices of the polecat. As if for the purposes of identification he went on to describe a "certain dapper little gentleman with an abnormal development of the head, who misrepresents journalism and represents thuggism, who is a throat cutter and a ship scuttler." The Senator said that he was always in favor of the Firemen's Pay bill and called upon Senator Ahearn to support him in this statement, which the latter promptly did.

Senator Robertson said that his first knowledge of the attack on him was when the resolution was introduced. He was in thorough accord, he said, with the proposition to investigate the charges. He hoped the result would be a lesson to irresponsible persons who make reckless and unfounded accusations against Senators.

No one voted against the resolution, and the Chair subsequently announced as the committee, which has power to send for persons and papers, the counsel and stenographers, Senators O'Connor, Mullin, Pound, Cantor, and Parker. Their report must be made by May 1.

Senator Reynolds secured recognition next. His grievance was that some papers with stories and cartoons had made it appear that he and the Tammany representatives and the agents or representatives of the police had celebrated all night, and in seas of champagne, the amendment of the Police Reorganization bill. He said he had a theatre party on the night in question with some Brooklyn friends. He returned at 1 o'clo. He thought such articles were indecent, and hoped the papers would do him justice.

Senator Coggeshall then asked for a correction of the report sent out by one correspondent to the effect that he had joined Senator Cantor, the Tammany Hall leader, and kept the Judiciary Committee from reporting on the Police Magistrates bill. The fact was that Senator Lexow had moved amendments which required the bill to be reprinted. He voted to report it as soon as it was done, and he never did anything to retard action on the bill. He was always willing to vote for it. He regretted such unfair action on the part of the newspapers. He hoped that in the future the reporters would get the true facts before assailing senators.

This closed the statements, the Lieutenant-Governor saying: "If there are no more explanations to be made, the Senate will take up the regular order of business."

The committee of five will meet at 10 A.M. to-Saturday, in New York city.

FIRE DEPARTMENT "PINKIES."

The Old Board Said to Have Discovered an Oath-bound Secret Organization.

At a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to-day the charge that members of the uniformed force of the department united to raise a fund to influence legislation will be considered. The Commissioners have been for some time quietly investigating rumors of this sort which were set afloat, and even published, when the bill for the increase of the salary of firemen was pending in the Legislature.

The Commissioners had Fireman James D. Clifford of 22 Engine before them yesterday and subjected him to a rigid examination. Clifford is President of the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association. He protested that his association did not raise any money for a legislative corruption fund, and the Commissioners were inclined to believe him. They are now going to try and find out if the officers of the department were instrumental in raising such a fund. The officers have an organization of which Capt. John J. Burns of 1 Truck is the head. Capt. Burns was off duty yesterday. Rumor makes the officers responsible, because the original bill, which was introduced into the lower House of the Legislature by Assemblyman Pavey, provided for raising the salary of firemen only, and not of officers. The officers were anxious for an increase of salary, too, and when the bill got into the Senate, having encountered no difficulties in the Assembly, it was amended on motion of Senator Robertson so as to provide for the increase of salaries of officers as well as of men. This amendment occasioned a surprise, and the bill was finally passed in its original form, the provision for the increase in the salary of foreman, assistant foreman, and battalion chiefs being incorporated in an independent measure. The increase in the salary of firemen provided for by the Pavey bill, now a law, was for second-year men from $1,100 to $1,200, and the maximum salary was raised from $1,200 to $1,400.

Only President La Grange and Commissioner Robbins were present at Fire Headquarters yesterday afternoon, and they were loath to talk about the alleged corruption fund.

"When this Commission has anything to say on this subject it will be as a whole Board," said Gen. La Grange, and then he added: "I believe we will be able to get at the true inwardness of this matter without any outside assistance."

The Commissioners were told that information had reached THE SUN that the Board, some months ago, had discovered the existence of a sort of secret organization within the department which included a majority of the uniformed force; that this association was of an offensive and defensive character; that it published its enemies, where it could, at the polls, as in the case of Assemblymen George P. Webster and Joseph Blumenthal, who were defeated for reelection because they opposed bills increasing the salary of firemen; that the members of the association were bound to stand by each other when in trouble, and that because of this association and its alleged oath-bound character it was almost impossible to secure the conviction of a fireman on trial on charges.

"Such a story is a reflection on the character of every member of the uniformed force," said Gen. La Grange, who was but recently appointed to the department and was not a Commissioner when the supposed discovery of the existence of the organization referred to was made. Commissioner Robbins asked sharply:

"Who furnished that information?"

He was informed that it came on the authority of a gentleman who was at one time a member of the Board and that the common name of the organization was "The Pinkies."

"I don't want to talk about that," said Mr. Robbins. "Publish what you know about the matter and maybe we will have something to say about it later. Say that Commissioner Robbins declined to be interviewed on the subject."

The information regarding the firemen's association, familiarly spoken of as "The Pinkies," is to the effect that it has been in existence for years, and the gentleman who furnished this information said:

"This association was behind the bill for the increase of salary which was intraduced in the Legislature last year. The Fire Commissioners took no action regarding it. Mayor Gilroy opposed it, and it failed of passage. The effort to secure its passage was renewed this year and was successful. Ex-Assemblyman James R. Sheffield, who was recently appointed a Fire Commissioner, introduced the bill last year and was instrumental in securing its passage this year as the attorney of the organization known as 'The Pinkies.' The boys showed their gratitude for Mr. Sheffield's efforts in their behalf by urging the Mayor to appoint him a Fire Commissioner. The fact that such an organization existed in the department was kept a secret so well that the Fire Commissioners did not learn of it until about six months ago. The information was imparted to them by a fireman who had refused to take the oath. There was a suspicion in the minds of the Commissioners that something of the sort existed because when charges were preferred against a member of the force it was almost impossible to get any other member to testify against him. My best information is that the major part of the active firemen are members of the association."

Sheffield, since made Fire Commissioner, introduced the Firemen's Increase of Salary bill in the Assembly of 1894. He fought hard for its passage, but the opposition of the municipal authorities prevented it. Early in the present session of the Legislature he appeared as the paid attorney of the firemen, advocating the passage of the same bill which he got his successor in the House, Mr. Pavey, to introduce for him. Mr. Sheffield made no secret of the fact that he was the paid advocate of the firemen in the matter, but the Legislators soon found out that Mr. Sheffield was the only person who was to be paid, and that the payment to him was in the nature of a lawyer's retaining fee. There have been, time and again, rumors circulated to the effect that money was used to secure the passage of the Firemen's bill. The rumors always spoke of the machinery of the Senate as that which had to be greased. The Assembly pushed the bill through rapidly, and the only danger which it encountered there was through Mayor Strong. The Mayor sent a letter to Chairman O'Grady of the Assembly Committee on Cities objecting to the passage of the Park Police Salary bill because of its mandatory character. Mr. O'Grady suggested that the Firemen's bill had better be recalled from the Senate because it also was a mandatory measure. The Mayor very promptly replied that he made an exception in favor of the Firemen's bill, and that measure was then left to the tender mercies of the Senate Cities Committee, where it was amended, as stated, in favor of the officers of the Fire Department, but was later rehabilitated and is now a law.

The story of the raising of a corruption fund is to the effect that the officers' association communicated with the association of which Fireman Clifford is President and offered to raise $15,000 if the men would raise $30,000, as $45,000 was necessary to secure the vote of certain Republican Senators for the measures. The story goes further and says that the officers raised something like $7,000.

It was said yesterday on behalf of the Fire Commissioners that if any fireman is found on investigation to have participated in raising any legislative corruption fund, he will be summarily dealt with.

Congressman Quigg, the editor of the *Press*, said yesterday:

"Mr. Raines's declaration that I asked him to vote for the Judicial Sales bill on the ground that persons interested in that measure had contributed $3,500 to the expenses of my recent election to Congress is a falsehood."

GOFF MEETS HIS FELLOW JUDGES.

Allison a Peacemaker Between the Recorder and Cowing and Fitzpatrick.

The breach between Judges Cowing and Fitzgerald and Recorder Goff was healed to some extent at a meeting of the Judges of the Court of General Sessions held after court hours yesterday afternoon. The appointment of Thomas Allison as Judge by Gov. Morton to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Randolph B. Martine was the means of partly settling the question of patronage and system on which the Judges and Recorder differed. Judges Cowing and Fitzgerald exchanged greetings with the Recorder for the first time since hostilities began on Jan. 7. It was a matter of much speculation as to how the difficulty could ever be arranged, and it would probably have gone on forever had not the death of Judge Martine intervened, and, before the Judges had fully recovered from the shock, a new associate had been appointed who became a natural peacemaker.

Up to the time the Judges and Recorder met in the same room yesterday, it was problematical as to whether the meeting would take place or not. Neither Judges Cowing or Fitzgerald could say up to the last moment whether there would be a meeting or not, as they did not know whether the Recorder would attend. At 4:20 o'clock, however, Judge Allison entered the building, and proceeded at once to Judge Cowing's chambers. There he met the senior Judge, and, after a few moments' conversation, they walked around through the private passage and crossed the hall to Chief Clerk Carroll's private office. Judge Fitzgerald and Clerk Carroll were awaiting them. Then Mr. Carroll went to the Recorder's chambers and apprised him of the fact that the three Judges were awaiting his arrival. In a few moments he passed through a private door, which has been kept bolted for the last three months, leading to Judge Fitzgerald's chambers. He entered Clerk Carroll's office and the three Judges arose and greeted him. He responded, and the door was closed. The three Judges and Recorder were in consultation for an hour.

After the meeting it was said that the discussion was a general one affecting the general workings of the court. The question of patronage was not mentioned throughout the discussion. Chief Clerk Carroll sat in the public office until the meeting was over. While the meeting was conciliatory in its nature, it is believed that the attendance of Recorder Goff was a complete breakdown on his part. Despite all reports to the contrary, it is asserted that Chief Clerk Carroll will continue to occupy his place. Recorder Goff, who started the difficulty by demanding that Carroll be removed and that he have the privilege of appointing his successor, has had to submit to the will of the other Judges.

It is probable that another meeting will be held shortly at which Judge Allison and the Recorder will make their appointments. The Recorder has nine appointments to make. He has already appointed Kearney, his personal attendant, a court officer, and the warden of the Grand Jury. Judge Allison has ten appointments. When these are made the court officers will be required to wear uniforms.

ROBERT CENTER'S DEATH.

It Draws Attention to a Dangerous Practice of Wheelmen—Driver Winkel Held.

The accident on Wednesday afternoon which resulted in the death of Robert Center, while bicycle riding on the Boulevard, cast a gloom over clubdom yesterday. Mr. Center was a member of the chief clubs of the city and was prominent in most of them.

The nature of the accident has directed attention to a dangerous practice among wheelmen, who are anxious to make great speed, of bending the body forward so that the head protrudes same distance past the handle bar. While in this position, it is impossible for the rider to see far ahead of him, and it is a particularly dangerous habit in crowded streets. Mr. Center was riding in this position when he collided with the coal cart which killed him.

Frederick Winkel, the driver of the coal cart, was arraigned in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday morning and held to await the action of the Coroner.

He was put under $2,500 bail when arraigned before Coroner Hoeber. His employer bailed him. Winkel told the Coroner that the Boulevard was filled with cyclers and that he tried to avoid them.

Mr. Center will probably be buried to-morrow from his house at 126 East Thirty-fourth street.

Crescent Bicycles—Sky High.
Try them and buy them at Bowman's, Broadway and 53d st., and Spalding's, Madison Square Garden.—*Adv.*

VICTORY FOR THE WOMEN.

THE SENATE PASSES THE SUFFRAGE RESOLUTION, 20 TO 5.

It Proposes to Submit to the People of the State a Constitutional Amendment Giving to Women the Right of Suffrage.

ALBANY, April 18.—The equal suffrage constitutional amendment resolution was on the calendar of the Senate to-day, and several interested ladies were on hand in the expectation that its consideration would prove to be something notable. Among them was Mrs. Martha R. Almy of Jamestown, Vice-President of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association. Mrs. Almy has been the sole representative of the association on the ground here this session. She has been persistent but unobtrusive in her work, and has earned the respect and good will of the members of the Legislature on both sides of the Capitol. The proceedings to-day were not of any particular dramatic interest, but the ladies will treasure the recollection of their presence on an occasion of historical importance, as this is likely to prove to be.

Senator Pound made a very effective speech in favor of the resolution. He said that it had received a very large vote in the Assembly and most careful consideration by the committee that had reported it to the Senate. The proposed change was left out of the new Constitution last year on account of the belief that it was so important that it ought to receive separate consideration and be submitted to the people by itself. The resolution simply left the question to the vote of the citizens of the State. Under the provisions of the Constitution concerning amendments, if not so submitted by this Legislature, it could not be settled for four years, as the votes of two Legislatures with different Senates are required to amend the Constitution, and the next Senate will be in office three years. The question had been so long agitated before the people of the State that they were prepared to vote upon it. It was in the line of changes already made. Property qualifications and educational qualifications were not required in the voter. Of them all no disqualification remains except that of sex. Women were taxed equally, all occupations were now practically open to them, and the discrimination at the ballot box should cease. It was the duty of the Senate to pass the resolution.

On the roll call Senator Bradley said that he was opposed to the principle of woman suffrage, but would vote in favor of the referendum, in the hope that the people will kill it forever and keep woman in the sphere of the home, where she belongs.

Senator Coggeshall elaborated the taxation without representation side of the argument, after saying that he would not inflict a speech on the Senate. Senator Childs called his attention to his agreement just as he had got swimmingly started on one of his characteristic efforts, and he gracefully yielded and quit.

Senator Cantor said that he realized the importance of the question, and did not believe in the Senators voting perfunctorily on it, as some of them seemed to be doing, with the idea that it would be settled at the polls. He thought that the responsibility of the Legislature was too serious to be evaded in that way. It sometimes happened that in times of political revolution constitutional amendments were voted for that in soberer and calmer moments the people would not favor. He did not think that such a revolution was probable next fall, but he thought that there would be a revolution. He was not ready to believe that the time was ripe for extending to women all of the powers and privileges of citizenship. He was not prepared to see conferred upon them the only right that exists now as a separation between the sexes. It would tend toward their taking places in public offices, and that might cause the neglect of some of the duties to which they were called in the home, and that God imposed on them.

The vote was ayes 20 noes 5. The negative votes were cast by Senators Cantor, Coffey, Ahearn, Donaldson, and Parker. Senator O'Connor was among the dodgers.

SALT LAKE, Utah, April 18.—Woman suffrage was disposed of for good and all in the Constitutional Convention to-day. A motion to reconsider the clause adopting it was killed by a decisive majority, almost the entire vote in favor of reconsideration coming from the non-Mormon members.

GOAT EXPERT DEFIED THE COURT.

Used Bad Words, Called the Judge a Fool, and Will Have to Go to Jail and Pay $250.

Two of the goat experts who appeared in Judge Goldfogle's civil court last week were before him again yesterday as defendants in a damage case, and with them was Richard Carroll, a middle-aged man. Ex-Judge Loew, who formerly presided over the Fifth District Court, was the plaintiff in a suit brought against Joe Cokely and Julia Driscoll, the goat experts, to recover $45 damages. They had sub-rented from Richard Carroll a vacant lot next to a house at 610 Water street. It was alleged that Cokely and his sister, Mrs. Driscoll, piled rubbish against the wall of Mr. Loew's house adjoining and damaged it.

Carroll waited impatiently in court all the morning for the case to be called. When he got to the witness stand he had no patience left.

"What is your name?" asked Lawyer Jacob Levy.

"That's none of your business," answered Carroll.

"What premises do you own?"

"That's none of your business," said the witness. "And if you don't stop asking me questions I will smash you in the face."

"You must answer my questions," persisted Lawyer Levy.

"You are a fool," answered Carroll. "And you can go to hell."

Judge Goldfogle rapped for order and said:

"Mr. Carroll, what do you mean by using such language in this court?"

"What do I care for you," answered Carroll. "You are as big a fool as the lawyer is."

"Carroll, you are no better than a loafer," answered Judge Goldfogle, "and I will fine you $250 and send you to Ludlow street jail for five days for contempt of court."

"I don't care a damn," answered Carroll.

Judge Goldfogle made out the order of commitment, and then Carroll asked permission to go home and see his family before he was arrested.

"I've got tired of wasting my time in this court," he said. "I can pay the fine easily enough, but I want to see my family before I am arrested." Judge Goldfogle gave the order to Marshal Ullman, and it will not be served on Carroll until this morning. Judge Goldfogle said last night that Carroll was supposed to be a wealthy man, and that for the dignity of the Court he didn't propose to remit the fine. The damage suit was not concluded.

PURSUED BY COAL CREEK MINERS.

An Encounter Between New and Old Workmen Results Fatally.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., April 18.—Serious trouble arose this morning at Coal Creek. The proprietors of the Royal mines recently put in electrical machinery for bringing coal out of the mines at a cost of $50,000. Ten skilled workmen were brought from Ohio and Pennsylvania to operate the machinery. The old employees objected to these men. This morning three of the old employees, with one Hendricks as their leader, met three of the new men at the company's store by chance. Words arose and Hendricks drew a revolver and shot one of the party named Morgan. Morgan returned the fire, shooting Hendricks and fatally wounding him. He lived but a short time.

Morgan and the other two left, and soon after were pursued by a party of thirty-five miners who were clamoring for vengeance. At 6 o'clock this evening nothing had been heard of them, and the supposition is that they escaped. All of the 300 miners quit work.

Furniture and Carpets.
T. Kelly, 263 6th av. and 104 and 106 West 17th st., is offering better inducements in furniture and carpets than any other house in the trade; besides you can get credit at cash prices. Send for price list or call and see the goods.—*Adv.*

QUEER POISONING STORY.

Mrs. Flora A. Darling Has Her Son's Death Looked Into.

Mrs. Flora Adams Darling of 101 West Eighty-ninth street, one of the founders of the Society of Daughters of the Revolution, has asked the District Attorney's office here to inquire into the cause of death of her son, Edward Irving Darling, at Mt. Clemens, Mich., on Feb. 13, 1894. She says that he was poisoned with morphine, antimony, nitro-glycerine, cocaine, and theine, and that his body was cremated. A number of affidavits have been put into the hands of Assistant District Attorney George Gordon Battle, together with several bottles, said to contain medicines, part of which was administered to Darling.

Mrs. Flora Adams Darling is the widow of a Confederate General. They had only one son. He was 30 years old when he died. Early in life he wrote musical criticisms for a newspaper in this city, and he composed a part of the opera "Viking."

He went to Washington in the fall of 1884 with his mother. In that city he met Miss Beatrice Gay Klingle, the daughter of John Klingle of Washington. Klingle was rich in his own name, and held in trust for his daughter money left by her granduncle, Joshua Pierce. Young Darling and Miss Klingle were married in Baltimore in 1885, and came here, going to live at 1,429 Park avenue.

Darling was then 20 years old and his wife 18. They removed presently to Detroit, where Darling had a place as manager for a wholesale piano firm. He was badly hurt by an accidental fall, and the nearest physician, Dr. Francis X. Spranger, was called in.

The rest of this story, as told by Darling's mother, is that Darling became ill in Washington in 1892, and was always sick afterward until Feb. 18, 1894, when he died at Mt. Clemens, Mich. In accordance with his wish, his body was cremated. After the cremation his mother went back to Detroit. She went to see District Attorney Frazier and laid her accusations before him. He said he could see no motive for poisoning. She went to a number of lawyers, none of whom would grant her a second interview, having been informed by some person that she was crazy. A few days ago Mrs. Flora Adams Darling appeared at the District Attorney's office in this city and laid her accusations before Mr. Battle, alleging that poison was administered in this city. Col. Fellows said yesterday that the story had been investigated and that if a crime had been committed it was in Michigan, not here.

The two children of the marriage are said to be in Washington, in charge of a relative of their mother, who is supposed to be in California.

Mrs. Darling says that young Mrs. Darling and Dr. Spranger were married in Baltimore on March 6 last.

DETROIT, April 18.—When Darling died an item appeared in the local papers giving the time of his death and the fact that his body would be cremated. It now appears, however, that previous to this public notice the *Free Press* had received from Mrs. Gen. Darling a long account of the death, making the same accusations she now makes. Accompanying this account was a note from Mrs. Gen. Darling to the effect that her son had not long to live, and that she had sent the story in advance that it might be published on his death. She concluded her note by saying that when he died she would telegraph the fact. The *Free Press* declined to publish her charges.

Dr. Spranger is a member of the leading clubs of the city and an accomplished musician. About six months ago Mrs. Edward Irving Darling reappeared in Detroit, wearing her widow's weeds and having with her two children, a boy of five and a girl of seven years. Some months ago she left the boarding house with her children and her belongings, saying that she was going home. Since then she has not been seen in Detroit. Dr. Spranger continued to reside in Detroit, and until to-night many of his associates did not know that he had left the city. It was said to-night at his house that he had left not to return and had left no address, not even for the forwarding of his mail.

BALTIMORE, April 18.—The following marriage notice was published in the Baltimore *Sun*:

SPRANGER—DARLING.—On March 6, 1895, at Corpus Christi Church, by the Rev. William E. Starr, Dr. Francis X. Spranger of Detroit to Gay Beatrice Darling, daughter of the late J. Peirce Klingle of Washington, D.C.

MRS. ALVA VANDERBILT.

Mysterious Report that She Was to Wed Mr. Belmont Yesterday.

LONDON, April 18.—Nothing can be learned as to the origin of a rumor yesterday that Mrs. Alva Vanderbilt, recently divorced from her husband, William K. Vanderbilt, and Mr. O. H. P. Belmont of New York, were to be married secretly in London to-day, but there is not the slightest evidence of its truth. Mr. Belmont left London for Paris a week ago and Mrs. Vanderbilt went to the Continent about March 25. It cannot be discovered that either of them is now in London.

PARIS, April 18.—It was impossible to communicate with Mrs. Vanderbilt early in the evening, as she and her daughter had gone to the theatre. One of her most intimate friends, who is thoroughly conversant with her ordinary affairs, was asked whether it was true that Mrs. Vanderbilt would be married to Mr. Belmont in a few days.

"I do not think things have gone quite so far," was the reply, "although I hear that Mr. Belmont has played openly the cavalier servente ever since Mrs. Vanderbilt's arrival."

A rumor was prevalent at the opera on Tuesday night that on Wednesday Mrs. Alva Vanderbilt, the divorced wife of William K. Vanderbilt, would become Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont at Paris. The rumor went so far as to imply that a despatch from London to substantiate the report had been received by a gentleman in this city.

Mr. August Belmont said on Wednesday that he had heard nothing of the wedding, and he stamped the rumor as being absurdly untrue. A despatch was received yesterday from London saying that there was not the slightest evidence of truth in the report of the wedding. Mrs. Vanderbilt left London for the Continent on March 25. Mr. Belmont left London for Paris a week ago.

STANDARD'S GAS MAIN BROKEN.

The Central's Attempt to Take Advantage of Its Misfortune Defeated.

The dredge India of the Atlantic Dredging Company began dredging yesterday afternoon for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railway Company near its station at Willis avenue. The 20-inch main of the Standard Gas Company, which supplies about 5,000 customers in the annexed district, crosses the bed of the Harlem River at that point. The dredge caught hold of the main and broke it.

The Standard Company soon learned of the break, and so did the rival gas company, the Central. The latter sent a dozen or more messengers through the annexed district, who apprised the Standard's customers of the break, saying it was a serious thing which could not be repaired for some time, and that it, the Central Company, was ready to put in meters at short notice.

The Standard got word of the doings of its rival, and sent out a corps of messengers to say it would soon be able to furnish gas just as usual. The Standard officials thought no time could be lost, and so Inspector Mooney was hurried out on a bicycle.

Soon after the Standard officials became aware that there is some sort of legislative provision that if one gas company becomes temporarily disabled, it may apply to any other gas company for assistance.

As the Standard asked the Central if it would please sell some gas, the Central couldn't refuse, and so the Standard tapped one of the Central's mains, near 138th street and Third avenue.

The Standard fed its main by means of a four-inch hose pipe joined to the Central's main. So the people of the annexed district were not without gas last night. The break will be repaired as soon as possible.

Higgins Gets Ten Votes.

DOVER, Del., April 18.—The 114th ballot for United States Senator to-day stood: Higgins (Rep.), 10; Addicks (Rep.), 5; Pennewill (Rep.), 4; Ridgely (Dem.), 9; Bayard (Dem.), 1.

Mayor Strong's Summer Vacation.

Mayor Strong has sold his summer cottage at Seabright, N. J., and will spend the month of July this year with his family at Richfield Springs.

Mr. Cleveland's Bugle Call
means danger to the country. That cold means danger to you. Fight it with Piker's Expectorant.—*Adv.*

ASSEMBLY OF DEMOCRATS.

ALL THE EDITORS TO BE INVITED TO A CONFAB IN NEW YORK.

Senator Hill, Ex-Gov. Flower, and Others to Meet Them, and Democrats of All Stripes to Invoke Harmony in the Fall.

For a week or two there have been steps taken to arrange for a general assembly of Democrats here in New York city within a short time. The movement began in Washington immediately after the death of the Congress on March 4. One of the first gentlemen to be interested was Secretary Lamont, and most of the Democrats in Washington who are loyal sons of New York joined hands. The idea is to arrange some concerted action in the next Democratic State Convention. The counsel of Senator Hill was sought for and freely given. It was to the effect that the movement should not be rushed. There were many things to be considered, and the immediate future would develop many interesting features in the Republican camp. Senator Hill's advice was regarded, and not until yesterday were the real steps taken to bring Democrats from all parts of the State together in New York city either late in May or in June.

The gentleman who is doing the hard work for the occasion is John A. Mason, formerly of Newburgh, but now of New York city. Mr. Mason has been friendly with both the Cleveland people and the Hill people. He was a deputy collector under Daniel Magone, and Gov. Flower made him a State assessor. Mr. Mason has been indefatigable in visiting New York city Democrats and asking them to subscribe to a fund whose general purpose is the entertainment of all of the Democratic editors of the State. Mr. Mason has received liberal subscriptions from Roswell P. Flower, Collector Kilbreth, William R. Grace, Shipping Commissioner Maurice J. Power, and many others.

At this gathering of the Democratic editors Senator Hill and ex-Gov. Flower are expected to make speeches. It was said yesterday that Mr. Grace will be present if he is not in Carlsbad. Secretary Lamont and other Democrats from Washington will be on hand, and a general council of all Democratic factions will be held. This will include the Tammany people, the Grace Democrats, the McLaughlin people of Brooklyn, and the Shepardites, the opposing factions of Erie county, and of Albany and Troy, and, in fact, an effort is to be made to gather up the fragments of the shattered Democracy.

Mr. Mason has been to most of the influential Democrats hereabouts, and his suggestions concerning the proposed reunion have been very cordially received. The Democrats, who are acquainted with Mr. Mason's mission and its results thus far, said yesterday that the condition of the Democratic party in the State was precarious, and that some steps should be taken to minimise the influence of the Republicans in the Senate and Assembly districts under the new apportionment. It was declared also that at the conclave financial and tariff questions will be discussed, and that a platform will in some measure be agreed upon on which the candidates of the coming Democratic State Convention can stand. It was the declaration of those interested in the movement yesterday that the State Democrats, or Grace Democracy, or Fairchild Democracy, and the Shepardites of Brooklyn and the anti-Organization Democrats of Erie and Troy and Albany will have a fair representation in the coming Democratic State Covention. Senator Hill, it will be recalled, made a strenuous demand at Saratoga last September that representation be given to the Fairchild people and the Shepard people. He was overruled, and as Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Shepard led their delegates out of the Convention they declared that they would have a State Convention of their own this fall unless the programme was changed. The Democrats interested in the general council shortly to take place do not believe that the Democratic party in the State can stand two conventions this fall.

OWNED THE TROLLEY FOR A WHILE.

Adventures of Escaped Lunatic William Mott in Newark.

William Mott, an insane inmate of the almshouse in Newark, took a table knife and made a break for liberty yesterday. A fellow inmate named Berghaus tried to stop the maniac and was severely cut. Guards and others who attempted to prevent Mott's escape were threatened with the knife. He dashed out of the door, across lots toward Clinton avenue, with several men in pursuit. At the Bergen street car house Mott jumped on a trolley car, brandishing the knife. The passengers and the motorman and conductor fled, leaving the car to the lunatic, who smashed the stove and began kicking the car windows out.

A telephone message was sent to the Fourth precinct station, and Patrolman Bechtold and Driver Bonnett started for the car sheds in a patrol wagon. Mott was tired out when the policemen arrived and was resting when an attempt was made to dislodge him. The policemen entered at both doors. Mott made a lunge at Bechtold with the knife. Then he tried to cut Bonnett, who dodged and fell. Mott sprang over him and took to the road again.

The policemen chased him through the streets and across open lots. Bechtold closed in on the lunatic and knocked the knife from his hand. He was overpowered and handcuffed and his legs were bound with ropes. He was taken to the station and put in a padded cell. He will be sent to the county asylum. He is 48 years old and has been a ward of the city for nine years.

WOODS ABLAZE NEAR POMONA, N. J.

Hunting Grounds Burned Over and Farm Buildings Destroyed.

EGG HARBOR, N. J., April 18.—An extensive fire is burning in the woods southwest of Pomona. To-day it swept over an area three miles square and destroyed the most valuable hunting ground in this section and the richest huckleberry woods.

It also destroyed the barn of James Green. Hundreds of people turned out to fight the flames, but were forced to retreat before them. Then the house and barn of John Myers were swept away. Neighbors saved the live stock. The fire then burned toward McKee City, and caught the heavy timbers there. The crackling of the flames could be heard at Pomona.

Brilliant Meteor Seen in Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, April 18.—At twenty minutes after 9 o'clock this morning a meteor of dazzling brilliancy descended from the northeastern sky, almost perpendicularly, and then burst, and no noise accompanied the explosion here. Its brilliancy was like that of a sharp flash of lightning, blinding the observers and lighting up everything distinctly. Then there was a train of white light, which dissolved with beautiful coloring.

Snow Banks Ten to Twelve Feet High.

PORT JERVIS, April 18.—A Port Jervis man, who passed through a part of Sullivan county yesterday, says there is a large body of snow remaining in the mountains notwithstanding the recent heavy rains and warm weather which has prevailed. In a drive across the country from Eldred to Monticello there were many places along the road where the snow banks are from ten to twelve feet high.

Schieren Opposed to the New Greater New York Bill.

Mayor Schieren of Brooklyn is not friendly to the new bill for the Greater New York. He said: "It is not the kind of bill that the people of Brooklyn want. I think the Legislature should have some consideration for Brooklyn and its interests."

Gov. Werts Signs the Lincoln's Birthday Holiday Bill.

Gov. Werts yesterday signed the bill making Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12, a legal holiday in New Jersey.

The Liberty Bicycles Lead.
4 Warren st., N. Y., and 1,217 Bedford av., Brooklyn.—*Adv.*

DR. JOHN M. WOODBURY ARRESTED.

He Struck a Broadway Cable Car Gripman with His Cane.

Dr. John M. Woodbury of 120 Fifth avenue was arrested yesterday afternoon by Policeman Clark of the Broadway squad, on complaint of John Laufpus, a Broadway cable car gripman, who charged him with assault. The Doctor, accompanied by W. H. Taylor, a wealthy real estate owner, of 10 East Seventy-second street, set out to cross Broadway at Twenty-first street about 4:30 o'clock.

After dodging a cable car bound down town, they got into the path of Laufpus's car, which was bound up town. Laufpus stopped his car and, it is said, called Dr. Woodbury a vile name. The physician struck him in the side with a light walking cane which he carried.

Although the gripman sustained no injury, he called upon the policeman to arrest the Doctor, who was taken to the West Thirtieth street station house. He was bailed out by his friend Mr. Taylor.

OIL GOES UP AGAIN.

The Standard Company Makes an Advance and the Market Responds.

PITTSBURGH, April 18.—The feature in oil circles to-day was the advance of ten cents per barrel or $2.60 posted by the Standard at their different purchasing agencies, notwithstanding yesterday's big slump in Exchange prices. The speculative market opened at $2.55 bid for the May option, or 35 cents lower than the price fixed by the Standard.

After it became known, however, that the Standard thought pretty well of oil, the exchange market was bid up to $2.57½. While this advance was taking place on the Exchange, very few transactions were made, the price being simply bid up by offers for small lots of from one to five thousand barrels.

Toward the close the market again became weak and oil was offered down as low as $2.40 just before 3 o'clock. In this fluctuation in price probably not 10,000 barrels were traded in. The fact that the Standard controls the bulk of certificates leaves very few outstanding for speculative purposes. These few, however, seem to make very wild markets.

ROSE'S SWEETHEART LEFT HER.

Betrayed and Deserted, She Sought Death in the River.

Rose Bolyn, a pretty Bohemian girl, 19 years old, attempted to kill herself by jumping into the East River at the foot of East Seventy-first street last night. She was rescued by some workmen employed in the East River tunnel. She was taken in an ambulance to the Presbyterian Hospital. She will probably recover.

She came to this country from Bohemia four years ago. At the hospital she said that she had been working as a domestic at 103 West Twenty-seventh street. One of her friends is Mrs. Franz of 1,372 First avenue.

Mrs. Franz said last night that Rose formerly worked as a domestic for a family in 125th street. While there she became acquainted with a young man who had paid her much attention and who had promised to marry her. Recently he had avoided her. Rose, she said, is in a delicate condition, and after repeatedly urging her sweetheart to fulfil his promise she had grown despondent.

LA FLANDRE'S SHAFT BROKE.

Her Voyage from Antwerp to This Port Lasted Twenty-seven Days.

The oil-carrying steamship La Flandre finished yesterday her longest voyage, from Antwerp to this port. She sailed, with her tanks partly filled with water as ballast, on March 22. When in midocean, on April 9, her thrust shaft broke slantingly between the collars.

Chief Engineer Yollet and his assistants spent seven days in repairing the break, while La Flandre proceeded slowly under sail only. The stout shaft was sawed clear across in two places, at the beginning and at the end of the crack. The two smooth ends were brought together, and the collars of the shaft between which the break occurred were securely bolted.

Then the steamship went ahead under full steam. The repaired thrust shaft, the engineer says, will last a long time. But it will be replaced by another shaft on the other side.

A STEAMSHIP ASHORE.

The British Vessel Newborough Blown on the Coast—The Crew Saved.

NORFOLK, April 18.—The British steamship Newborough, bound from Tampa, Fla., to