The Sun.

Clearing in the afternoon, with northwesterly winds.

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BANK SAFE BROKEN OPEN.

BROOKLYN DIME SAVINGS BANK'S ACCOUNTANT WAS MISSING.

The $99,000,000 Worth of Securities Found Intact in the Vault—After an Absence of Eight Days, Head Accountant Long Returns, Suffering from Mental Aberration.

For seven days, ending last Sunday, two expert safe breakers employed by a vault manufacturer, hacked and chiselled away at the thick combination steel door to the little vault in which the Brooklyn Dime Savings Bank's bonds and stocks are kept locked up in the bank building at Court and Remsen streets. This was necessary because Thomas C. Long, the head accountant of the bank, to whom alone part of the combination was known, had disappeared.

The safe-breakers finished their work on Sunday afternoon, just a few hours before Mr. Long returned to his home at 788 Carroll street, Brooklyn, from which he had been absent for eight days. When the vault door was finally swung open the securities it had guarded were found intact.

None of the bank officers had believed that Mr. Long had tampered with the securities, and they were congratulating themselves on the vindication of their confidence in him when the news that he had returned to his home reached them.

Mr. Long left the bank building after the books had been balanced on the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 11. None of his friends saw him after that, except for a moment on Saturday evening, until Sunday evening, when he went to his home. His absence was due to mental aberration, from which he is still suffering.

Mr. Long entered the service of the bank over thirty years ago, when he was a young man, as a clerk. His ability was recognized and rewarded by promotion until he was made the head accountant a number of years ago. His salary was one of the highest paid by the bank, and from long association with its affairs he became familiar with all the details of the business. His promotion carried with it increased duties and responsibilities, and his arduous labors in the last few years told heavily on his strength. He was able to do his work without breaking down, however, and his family and physician, while realizing the intense strain he was under, had no idea that it would affect his mind. Since 1890 he has had several slight attacks of illness, which were considered of little consequence. At no time did he show signs of mental trouble until Dec. 11.

The securities owned by the bank, which is one of the richest in Brooklyn, are kept in a vault in the bank safe. The door to the vault was of combination construction, consisting of seven plates. Each of these plates was made up of five layers of different steels. Three of these layers were of Bessemer steel, and between them were layers of chrome steel. In manufacturing the vault door the thirty-five strips of metal were welded into one solid piece. Vault doors so constructed cannot be drilled. The sockets for the bolts are punched while the mass is hot, and the doors are as nearly proof against violence as anything made of metal can be.

This door and the vault, which was constructed in the same manner, were built for the Dime Savings Bank, and a lock of special construction was put in. To shoot the bolts required four separate operations. The President of the bank, B. H. Huntington, had a key that fitted one of two slits in the vault door. J. L. Marcellus, the Secretary of the bank, had a key that fitted another hole.

There were two combinations to the door. Mr. Long had one of these. The paying teller of the bank, another employee who had been with the institution for over thirty years, had the other. If any one of the four operations was left undone, or was not done properly, the lock would not work, and the door could not be opened. So when the bonds and stocks of the institution were locked up they couldn't be got at without the coöperation of the four men.

On Monday, Dec. 6, the regular semi-annual examination of the bank by a committee of the trustees was made. The committee met in a trustee's room and sat around a big table. The President, Secretary, paying teller, and head accountant went into the big vault, each did his part toward unbarring the chamber in which the valuable papers of the bank were packed away, and when the vault was opened a bank employee took the bonds and stocks into the trustees' room and spread them out on the table.

The trustees went to work on the stack of papers and counted, checked and counter-checked them, and, when they had finished, added up the totals. They had seen $22,000,000 worth of securities. The accounts were correct, and the committee meeting ended. Then Mr. Marcellus called the bank's janitor, a man who has grown up with the institution.

"I want you to carry those papers back to the vault," said Mr. Marcellus. "Mr. Long will be there, and when you have taken them all to him you sit down and watch him put them in the vault where they belong. Don't leave him until they are all put away."

This was the regular ceremony of putting away the securities, and it was faithfully carried out. The vault was built when the bank was not as rich as it is now, and some ingenuity was necessary to get all the papers into it. Mr. Long had done the work for years. When he finished it Mr. Huntington and Mr. Marcellus were notified, and they watched the vault door shut and saw it locked. Then they went home.

Mr. Long appeared for business every day during the week punctually and performed his duties as usual. There was no occasion for the opening of the security vault. On Saturday afternoon the books were balanced up as usual. Mr. Marcellus and Mr. Long were kept busy until every one else had left the counting room.

Late in the afternoon they went out together, and the janitor locked the doors. Mr. Long and Mr. Marcellus parted at the entrance. During the day Mr. Long had acted in his usual way, and when Mr. Marcellus left him he was to all appearances in a normal state of mind. Mr. Marcellus went home.

What Mr. Long did no one knows. It was his habit to go to his home and spend his evenings with his wife and daughter. He did not do so on Dec. 11. Neither he nor any one else, apparently, knows what he did immediately after leaving Mr. Marcellus. It is known that he came to New York, for in the evening J. C. Hendrix, President of the National Union Bank of this city, met him at the Garrick Theatre. Mr. Hendrix spoke to Mr. Long, and they chatted for a few moments. They spoke of returning to Brooklyn together, but later Mr. Hendrix lost sight of Mr. Long.

Mr. Long's family became much alarmed when he did not return home on Saturday night, but nothing was said about it by any of his relations, because they supposed that he would return with a satisfactory explanation of his absence, although he had never absented himself before without sending word to his wife. When he did not return on Sunday his family's concern increased, but still no action was taken in the matter. The bank authorities were not told of his absence because it was thought incredible by his family that he would not appear in time to go to work on Monday morning. On his failure to go to his home on Sunday night his wife and daughter comforted themselves with the belief that he would surely be at work at the bank on Monday, and would tell them in the evening his reasons for staying away from home.

When the bank opened for business on Monday, Dec. 13, and Mr. Long did not appear at his desk, the bank officers decided that he was ill and that he had been unable to notify them. After some hours had passed and no word was received from Mr. Long, a bank employee was sent to his home to inquire for him.

When the messenger returned with word that he had not been seen at his home since Saturday morning, and that no word had been received from him, the bank authorities were thunderstruck. The thought flashed upon all of them at the same time that he had met with an accident.

A search of the hospitals was begun and the aid of the police was called in. All of this was done secretly. No word of it was allowed to become public out of regard for Mr. Long's feelings and also out of regard for the bank. The search for him was carefully made, and the bank officers soon learned of his meeting with Mr. Hendrix. That was the last trace of him they could find, nor have they been able since his reappearance to learn where he spent his time. The detectives who were at work on the case could not find a trace of him.

When the bank directors were fully convinced that Mr. Long had disappeared they made up their minds that they had a duty to perform. None of them believed that the missing clerk had tampered with the bank's papers, but they felt it their duty to examine all of his accounts and all of the papers with which he had to do.

Mr. Long's accounts were found to be correct, as all the directors expected. Then the safe-makers were sent for. They were asked to open the security vault. They said they could open it in only one way. That way, they said, was to hack the door to bits.

The vault is the innermost of all in the bank building and two men were set to work at it. They had to work in narrow quarters and at an unhandy angle, and they chipped away at the hardened mass of steel patiently, gradually working their way into it until, on Sunday afternoon, they were able to get the door open. Then the bank officers drew out the neatly stacked papers and went over them. Not one was missing, and all were properly arranged.

Between 6 and 7 o'clock last Sunday evening Mr. Long went to his house. He was mentally unbalanced and did not recognize his family. He was induced to enter the house and to take off some of his clothing. While he was doing this a telephone message was sent to his physician, Dr. Robert Ormiston, of 117 South Elliott place, Brooklyn. When Dr. Ormiston got to Mr. Long's his patient did not recognize him but seemed to realize that he was a physician.

Dr. Ormiston induced Mr. Long to go to his room. Mr. Long thought he was in a hotel. He complained that he had been badly treated. He said that "they," meaning his wife and daughter, had taken his shoes away and would not let him go out. When he got to his room he said that he wanted a single room, not a double room. Dr. Ormiston told him that the double room was the best in the house, and with some difficulty got him into bed.

"Mr. Long appeared to be dazed," said Dr. Ormiston last night. "He could not recall any of the details of his week's experience. He remembered seeing Mr. Hendrix. At the time he realized that something was wrong with him. He said that he determined to go home, and in order to be sure that he should get there he decided to watch Mr. Hendrix. He could see his friend's head in the theatre, and throughout the performance, he said, he watched Mr. Hendrix's head. But in some way that he cannot understand he lost sight of him, and was not able to find him again. He said that he waited in the theatre until every one else had gone out. Then he started. He does not remember much else. He stopped at two New York hotels. Then he went to New Jersey. I think, for he mentioned Bayonne several times. During a part of the time he realized that he was not in possession of all of his faculties.

"Mr. Long complains that persons misdirected him. I think his sense of direction may have been perverted, and that, instead of going as he was directed, he would go in another direction. His mind seems to be much clouded, but physically he is in about his normal condition. It is evident from his appearance that he had sufficient nourishment. His clothing showed the marks of continued wear. He told me that he remembered buying a collar. The rest of his clothing was not changed.

"On Sunday afternoon he got into New York. I think he had been travelling around in New Jersey, and riding on the ferries between Jersey City and New York. When he got to New York on Sunday he saw the entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge, and, recognizing it, started for his home. At the Brooklyn end of the bridge he got on a Seventh avenue car and rode to Carroll street, where he got off. I think that Mr. Long's mind was slightly overbalanced by the hard work that he has been doing for many years past. I do not think there is anything serious in his condition, but it is impossible for me to make any positive statement in regard to that now."

Mr. Marcellus said last night that at no time during Mr. Long's absence from the bank did any one suspect him of having committed any dishonest act.

"Mr. Long has always enjoyed the confidence of all the officers of the bank," he said, "and we opened the vault because we felt that our official duties demanded that we should. Even had we been inclined to doubt Mr. Long's honesty, the fact that the co-operation of four of us is necessary to the opening of the safe would have made us rest easy as to the safety of the securities. Of the $22,000,000 in the vault, less than $1,000,000, I think, could be used by any person except the bank's officers. We had to get the vault open anyway, in order to clip off the coupons that fall due on Jan. 1."

It was said at Mr. Long's home last evening that his condition was much improved.

THE ARTILLERY TO BE INCREASED.

An Agreement Reached Which Insures the Passage of the Hawley Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—An agreement has been reached between the leaders of the Senate and the House which practically insures the passage of the Hawley bill to increase the army by two regiments of artillery. At the beginning of the session it was doubtful whether the measure would meet with favor on account of the expenditure required to carry the scheme into effect. This objection also applied to the bill to establish the three-battalion system in the military service.

Senator Hawley, the father of the bill to increase the artillery, gave notice of his intention to push the measure to a vote, and expressed the belief that it would pass. Mr. Hull, the Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, met this with the statement that the increase would not go through unless it was coupled with his own pet scheme of establishing the three-battalion system.

This stand of Mr. Hull and the attitude of the leaders, including Speaker Reed, have undergone a change, and the ardent supporters of the increase confidently announce that there will be no opposition of consequence. Mr. Hull will not press the three battalion plan and will support the increase.

Petitions of numerous commercial bodies in favor of the increase have been largely instrumental in causing the change in the opposition of the leaders. The two regiments are absolutely necessary to insure proper garrisons for the many new fortifications on the coasts of the United States, and the spirit of patriotism among the economists has triumphed over their qualms concerning the expenditures required.

STANDARD OIL JUMPS 12 POINTS.

Supposed Cause of the Demand—Sumatra and Java as Oil Producers.

Standard Oil Trust liquidating certificates sold on the curb yesterday at 348½, an advance of 12½ points compared with the closing price on Saturday. The advance was accompanied by various rumors, including a revival of the report that the certificates are to be replaced by an issue of new stock in a new company. None of these rumors was officially confirmed. Representatives of Standard Oil interests ascribed the advance to a demand for the certificates coming on a closely held market. Of the old trust certificates, originally $97,250,000, issued against a deposit in trust of the stocks of the twenty refining, producing, and transportation companies controlled by the trust, between $60,000,000 and $70,000,000 have been cancelled, the trustees having assigned to the owners the legal title to the stocks which were formerly held in trust. The assignment represents a share in the legal ownership of the combined properties, whereas the old trust certificates represent a beneficial interest in the same. Both receive the same dividends and both are quoted alike.

It was learned yesterday from Standard Oil sources that Sumatra and Java petroleum is seriously cutting into the business in the far East of the American oil refiners. American petroleum has already been practically driven out of the Dutch East Indies by the native product, and the use of the latter is spreading into other Eastern countries.

The Tender Meat of Dairy-Fed

fat young porkers, daintily seasoned with selected spices, is used in Deerfoot Farm Sausages. Try a two-pound package, and beware imitations.—*Adv.*

A NEW CONSULAR POLICY.

RESULT OF THE INSPECTION TRIP OF THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU.

Changes to Be Made with a View to the Extension of American Trade—New Consulates to Be Established—The Policy of Grading Pay by Fees Received to Be Abandoned.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—A new policy in regard to consular representation abroad is to be inaugurated as a result of an inspection trip made last summer by Robert S. Chilton, Jr., Chief of the Consular Bureau of the State Department. Many important changes recommended by Mr. Chilton have been indorsed by Secretary Sherman, and consideration will be given them by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in its preparation of the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill. Up to the present time the policy of the United States has been to pay salaries to consular officers according to the importance of their posts as determined by the amount of fees received. This system was all well enough in its way, for the more fees received the greater the interests of the United States. But Mr. Chilton's visits to consulates all over the world convinced him that many representatives of this country abroad were entitled to greater compensation than they received under the policy of grading pay by fees. He found that American interests were frequently of greater importance at places where the fees amounted practically to nothing. At most of these consular posts the incumbents were not citizens of the United States. The fees received were entirely too small to tempt an American so far away from home.

The earnest desire of the present Administration to extend American trade is one of the main reasons for the intention to establish the new system. Too close attention has been paid in the past to the big manufacturing places in Europe and not enough to the opportunities offered for selling goods made in this country to outlying ports of the world, or where other countries have held the bulk of business which might as well be in the hands of American merchants and manufacturers. This is particularly true of South America, and the changes proposed by Mr. Chilton and Secretary Sherman contemplate increase of salary to Consuls in that country to enable the Government to secure good men. The establishment of a number of new offices is also recommended.

As Secretary Sherman says in calling the attention of Congress to the policy of extensions: "In the search for foreign markets it seems best to look to newly developed or newly opened countries, such as Africa, South and Central America, Mexico, China, Japan, India, Australia, &c. It is felt that we have heretofore failed to appreciate the full importance of these outlying offices, and the result has been that we have paid the best salaries and sent the best men to countries where trade is already developed, rather than to fields where the opportunity was greatest for good work.

"This condition has been partly the outgrowth of the mistaken idea that the importance of a consulate depends upon the amount of fees collected, whereas these fees, being principally derived from the certification of invoices, simply indicated the volume of goods shipped from the consular district to the United States."

One of the recommendations is the establishment of a consulate at Pretoria, South African Republic. This is the outcome of the Jameson raid into the Transvaal and the arrest of John Hays Hammond and others on Colonel George William Curtis and other American citizens. There was no representative of the United States nearer the Transvaal than Cape Town, and Secretary Olney was obliged to fall back on the services of a British Consul for the protection of the interests of these men. A large number of Americans are at Johannesburg, and as Pretoria is not far away and is the capital of the republic, it is believed to be the proper place for the consulate. It is also proposed to establish a consulate at Dawson City, on account of the rush of Americans to the Klondike country. A salary of $3,000 is suggested. This is deemed moderate, on account of the cost of living.

Mr. Chilton found that the consular service in Mexico was not what it should be, and on his advice Mr. Sherman will endeavor to secure increases of salary for the Consuls at Chihuahua and Durango, where there are many Americans whose business interests are assuming importance. Mazatlan is a fee office, and Mr. Sherman wants it changed to a salaried place.

It will be good news to Jacob Lamb Doty, the United States Consul at Tahiti, Society Islands, that the Secretary of State thinks his salary should be increased from $1,000 to $1,500.

Mr. Doty was a page in the United States Senate years ago. When he grew too old for that occupation he applied to Mr. Bayard, then Secretary of State, for a consular place. Mr. Doty was barely 21 and looked younger, but Mr. Bayard sent him to a port in the West Indies, whence he secured a transfer to Tahiti. His marriage to a beautiful Tahitian princess created much comment a few years ago. The growing importance of American trade with Tahiti is given as the reason for the proposed increase.

The story of the trouble over the consulate at Elberfeld, Germany, is recalled by a recommendation of Mr. Sherman's that the Consul shall have his office in Barmen. The two towns are a few miles apart. When the new Consul appointed by Mr. McKinley arrived at Barmen last spring he was asked by the incumbent, appointed by Mr. Cleveland, not to take charge of the office until July 1. The new Consul consented, and on July 1, when he went to assume possession of the consulate, he found that the goods and chattels of the United States had been moved to Elberfeld. A clause in the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill had provided for the transfer of the Barmen office to the latter place. The old Consul knew it, but the new one did not. The Democratic Consul declined to surrender possession because his successor's commission certified him as Consul at Barmen. A cable message to the State Department caused a postponement of the change and the new Consul got his place after all. Now Secretary Sherman recommends that the office be retained at Barmen.

A change of the Antwerp Consulate to a Consulate-General is recommended. Budapest will become a salaried instead of a fee office. The Consuls at Bahia, Para, and Pernambuco, Brazil, and Barranquilla, Colombia, are to receive substantial increases on account of the desire to develop American trade in South America. Increases in salary or changes to salaried from fee offices are proposed for the Consuls at Cartagena, Colombia; Copenhagen, Denmark; Santo Domingo; Marseilles, Nantes, and Nice, France; Tamatave, Madagascar; Frankfort, Kehl, Mannheim, Munich, and Stettin, Germany; Aden, Arabia; Belize, British Honduras; Bombay, India; Hull, England; Ottawa, Ont.; St. John's, Newfoundland; Suva, Fiji Islands; Guatemala City; Genoa, Messina, Milan, Naples, and Palermo, Italy; Yokohama, Japan; Tangier, Morocco; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Lorenzo Marquez, Africa; Moscow, Russia; Barcelona, Spain; Manila, Philippine Islands; Sagua la Grande, Cuba; Stockholm, Sweden; Alexandretta, Turkey; Sivas, Turkey, and La Guayra, Venezuela.

A number of these places are unhealthy, and an adequate increase is necessary to induce American consular officers to remain there. In the case of Suva, Fiji Islands, a salary of $2,000, instead of fees, is recommended to secure the services of an American citizen to represent the United States. Many claims of American citizens and growing commercial interests make the presence of a capable Consul desirable.

The Minister to Greece and the Minister to Hayti are respectively the Consuls-General at Athens and Port au Prince. It is recommended that the Consulate-General at Athens be discontinued, as there is a United States Consul there, and that a Consul be sent to Port au Prince to relieve the Minister of his consular duties. Transfers of consulates from Cognac to La Rochelle, France; from Fürth to Solingen, Germany; from Sonneberg to Coburg, Germany, and from Horgen to Aarau, Switzerland, are recommended. New posts at Tamsui, Formosa, and Vladivostok, Russia, are urged. Formosa has developed rapidly since its transfer to Japan, and the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, with Vladivostok probably the Pacific terminus, makes that place of considerable importance.

The danger from uprisings is cited as a reason for increasing the salary of the Consul at Sivas, Turkey. Mr. Sherman wants the Hong Kong Consulate raised to the rank of Consulate-General.

Doersch, the Hiccoughing Fireman, Improving.

The condition of Henry Doersch, the Flatbush fireman, who has been afflicted with hiccoughs for a week, was slightly improved last night. He ate small quantities of food yesterday and sat up for several hours.

"'Tis excellent," is the verdict of connoisseurs regarding Ballantine's Pale Ale. Served at Manhattan, Hoffman, Waldorf-Astoria, Holland, G. Fac'nl, 710 7th av.; Delmonico's, and Murray Hill Hotels.—*Adv.*

FOR GEO. C. BARRETT FOR GOVERNOR

Many Democrats at Work Already for the Supreme Court Justice's Nomination.

The despatches from up country say that Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Titus of Buffalo would like to be named as the Democratic candidate for Governor next year. It is a little early in the game, but it is said that Justice Titus and his friends are already working day and night to bring about his nomination. The activity of the Democrats, it was argued, has for a basis the belief that the Democrats are to win in the State next year.

Now comes a little inside history of what is going on in the Democratic party. It has been jealously guarded for more than a month. Many of the leading Democrats are now at work, not only in Greater New York, but throughout the country districts, to put up the lines in an effort to bring about the nomination for Governor next year by the Democratic convention of Supreme Court Justice George C. Barrett of New York city. The term of Justice Barrett on the Supreme Court bench ends on Dec. 31, 1899. It was not said last night by the Democratic leaders that Justice Barrett is aware of the movement in his favor, but it may be set down as a fact that Democrats of influence in the State organization and elsewhere are now working silently and persistently to bring about the nomination of Justice Barrett as the next Democratic candidate for Governor.

GOLD IN THE YAQUI REGION.

Mr. Slater Gives a More Favorable Report Than Many Miners Who Are Coming Out.

A gentleman of this city sends to THE SUN the following extract from a letter written by Mr. H. D. Slater from the Yaqui country, Mexico:

"CHIUCHUPA, Mexico, Dec. 2.

"We have just returned from a short trip into the gold district. One day's travel from this place put us well over the edge of the region that is supposed by miners to be the best of the country—the ledges from which proceeds the placer gold in the Yaqui and its tributaries. I obtained some views in here that will be highly interesting. One peak we climbed was nearly 9,000 feet high, and within three hours we had dropped nearly 4,000 feet.

"We went clear to the bed of the Rio Arras, which is only 3,600 feet above the sea. There we found great palm trees, and flowers in bloom. There is sure to be considerable excitement in this country as soon as the truth is known. The region is incredibly rich in minerals, and there is room for thousands of mines within a comparatively small circle. Of course, just now most of the prospecting is for placer gold, but men are hunting for the quartz ledges in the mountains not twenty-five miles from Chuichupa, and silver, lead, and copper may literally be picked up anywhere."

HAD METRES TESTED.

Fire Department's Gas Bill's New Much Larger Than Ever Before.

Last summer a gas-metre testing company made an offer to the Fire Commissioners to test the metres used in the department to see if they were running correctly. The Commissioners had an average monthly gas bill of about $1,500 to pay, so they accepted the offer to test the metres.

After a time the testing company reported that they found many of the machines running too fast. The Commissioners communicated the discovery to the gas companies interested, and the latter proceeded to do some testing on their own account. They reported that they found many of the machines running too slow.

The matter rested until yesterday, when the department bookkeeper reported to the Commissioners that the gas bills sent in by two of the companies for the month of November were 24 and 25 per cent. respectively in excess of the bills for the corresponding month last year.

"Whose fault is it?" indulged President Sheffield. "That comes of having the metres tested. I suppose if we had them tested again our bills would be doubled."

"You know what advice is offered about a buzz saw," said Commissioner Sturgis. "The same amount of deference should apparently be paid to a gas metre."

OVER HARRISON'S VETO.

Chicago Aldermen Vote to Give Themselves Secretaries at $1,500 a Year.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—Mayor Harrison has been downed by the City Council "gang." He vetoed the Aldermanic "secretary" salary ordinance, which he regarded as a steal pure and simple. His veto was sent to the Council at to-night's meeting, and the "gang," headed by "Bath House" John Coughlin, "Johnny" Powers and "Billy" O'Brien, promptly put the measure through over the veto, the yeas being 48 to 16 nays, more than the necessary two-thirds. In his veto the Mayor said that he had prepared the measure as opposed to public policy. The "gang" learned of his intention early in the day and there was some lively hustling to get doubtful Aldermen in line. The ordinance provides that each of the sixty-four Aldermen shall have a secretary at a salary of $1,500. As the majority of the Aldermen have about as much use for a secretary as the late Mr. Crowley of Central Park, the measure was looked upon as a good joke. It was known to be a mere blind for the city fathers to pocket $1,500 a year each, as the "secretaries" would be mere stool pigeons. Yet Corporation Counsel Thornton gave an opinion that the Council had the right to vote the appropriation.

CALLS MRS. DUNBAR PLAGIARIST.

Mrs. Earle Says She, Her Husband, and a Reporter Wrote Mrs. Dunbar's Book.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 20.—Mrs. Virginia Lyndall Dunbar, wife of the proprietor of the Gibson House, has been accused of plagiarism in a letter published here to-day by Mrs. Lucy Scott Earle of 617 Charles street, New Orleans.

About the time of the "escape" of Miss Cisneros from Cuba Mrs. Dunbar published a novel, "The Cuban Amazon," supposed to be founded somewhat on Miss Cisneros's experiences, which, it is said, had some sale. Mrs. Earle declares that she, her husband and a reporter of this city were the real authors of the book, with the exception of a few sentimental embellishments, and that they sold it to Mrs. Dunbar. It is also declared that a number of short stories published as Mrs. Dunbar's are reproductions, almost word for word, of stories printed many years ago in *Peterson's Magazine*.

Mrs. Dunbar says these short stories she believes were read to her when a child by her mother, and that it is possible she unconsciously transcribed the substance of them in her recent stories.

NO BICYCLING IN FORT M'PHERSON.

Col. Cook Prohibits It in Order, It Is Said, to Stop Lieut. O'Brien's Wife.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 20.—Col. H. C. Cook has forbidden bicycling riding within the limits of Fort McPherson. The order is general, and it is said that it was intended specially for the wife of Lieut. Michael J. O'Brien. At any rate that lady, while attempting to enter the grounds upon her bicycle was brought to a halt by the sentinel, who commanded her to walk if she wanted to proceed further. After a little expostulation the officer of the day was called. He explained to his brother officer's wife that the Colonel had positively forbidden her in particular from thus parading within the grounds.

"The august commander has an aversion to wheels," said Mrs. O'Brien when she returned to the city. "The only passport to his favor is some connection with the plumbing business, a trade which he followed before he became a Colonel."

Justice Bartlett Redesignated to the Appellate Bench for Five Years.

ALBANY, Dec. 20.—Gov. Black has redesignated Justice Willard Bartlett of Brooklyn as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the First Judicial Department for a further term of five years from Jan. 1 next, and has also designated Justice John Woodward of Jamestown as an Associate Justice in the same department for a similar term.

Christmas week will be enjoyable if you have a case of Ballantine's India Pale Ale. Order from Acker, Merrall & Condit; Park & Tilford; or Robert Gray, 453 9th av., and Macy & Jenkins, 67 Liberty st.—*Adv.*

ARANGUREN WASN'T SHOT.

FALSE REPORT THAT THE CUBAN LEADER WAS EXECUTED.

But He Shot Col. Ruiz, Who Insisted on Coming to Him to Offer Autonomy, Though Warned by Aranguren Not to Broach the Subject—Details of the Tragic Affair Near Havana.

HAVANA, Dec. 20, via Key West.—THE SUN'S correspondent has just returned from Campo Florido, Havana province, having spent Saturday and Sunday four miles from there, in the camp of Col. Nestor Aranguren. Col. Nestor Aranguren was not shot by Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez, as reported in New York. He ordered his men to shoot Col. Joaquin Ruiz on Tuesday last, and declares that he did so only to comply with the proclamation issued on Nov. 20 and signed by all the leaders of the Cuban army in the province of Havana, including Aranguren himself.

When Col. Ruiz approached him two miles from Campo Florido on Tuesday afternoon, Aranguren said to him: "It is a sad duty for me to shoot you, but you are a military man and you must know what military duty is."

Aranguren regretted the necessity of shooting Ruiz, and was much impressed by the recollection of the tragic scene. Ruiz was shot, but the two men who accompanied him as guides were hanged.

It is certain that Ruiz had told Captain-General Blanco that he could convince Aranguren of the advantage of surrendering and accepting autonomy. "I know his good heart," said Ruiz to Blanco, "and I can induce him to abandon his folly and come back to Havana with me. I will bring him to your palace." In several letters written by Ruiz to Aranguren, Ruiz had tried to induce the insurgent leader to surrender. Aranguren answered in amiable terms, but energetically refused the proposal that he betray the Cuban cause. One of Aranguren's letters said:

"We are suffering all the hardships of the life we are leading only to make our country free. We do not hate the Spaniards personally, but we do not like their Government in any form. As a gentleman I appreciate you and admire your talents, but in our intercourse let us drop political questions."

This letter encouraged Ruiz to answer that he was sure that "personally" Aranguren would not refuse to see him. He asked Aranguren to meet him on Dec. 9 two miles from Campo Florido. Aranguren sent this letter to Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez, commander of the insurgent army in the province of Havana, and awaited orders. On Dec. 9 Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez had not replied, and Aranguren did not go to the appointed place to meet Ruiz. The latter returned to Campo Florido in the evening, wrote another letter to Aranguren, and awaited an answer until Sunday, Dec. 12.

On Saturday Aranguren received the following message from Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez:

"Do as you please, but if he offers autonomy do your duty."

Aranguren sent a copy of this order to Ruiz with these words: "If you desire to talk about the independence of Cuba or as a friend I will see you to-morrow. If not, for God's sake do not come."

As soon as he received this letter on Monday, Dec. 13, Ruiz breakfasted at the station restaurant in Campo Florido and started to meet Aranguren. His guides lost their way and only found the appointed place next day at dawn. Aranguren was there with fourteen men. The two men shook hands in a friendly manner. Ruiz said:

"Nestor, I come here for you. Return with me to Havana and let us embrace one another as a treaty of peace."

Aranguren grew pale and Ruiz continued: "What more do you want than autonomy?"

At these words a Cuban advanced from Aranguren's lines and said firmly: "Colonel, I remind you of your orders." It was Capt. Acosta, Aranguren's second. Then Aranguren repeated the words quoted above to Ruiz, and Ruiz was executed.

Acosta himself said that Ruiz died bravely. He refused to be tied and faced the rifles of the four insurgents who killed him without flinching.

To-day the press censor gives out the following statement in Havana: "Officially the death of Col. Ruiz is not confirmed. It is known, however, that the secretary of the American Consulate has brought back from Campo Florido clothing which, the Secretary says, belonged to Ruiz. He furthermore says that on the outskirts of Campo Florido the persons he met assured him that Ruiz had been shot by the insurgents."

Juan Manuel Chacon, who went to Campo Florido with Gen. Lee's secretary, also brought some documents found on Ruiz's body.

The situation of the Cuban army in Havana province, as seen by THE SUN'S correspondent, is very difficult in respect of the food supply. The troops are compelled to make long marches to find anything to eat. The country has been laid waste by Gen. Weyler to an incredible extent. Many patriots have died from hunger, and of the expedition landed in this province about two months ago under Gen. Rafael de Cardenas, only five men survive, including the leader.

In the southern part of the province and close to the Zapata swamp of Matanzas, the patriots have stored provisions enough, but they have to go there for them and then return to their operations in the north. Notwithstanding this fact, not a single man is willing to surrender. They endure their hardships with great stoicism and say: "In Pinar del Rio the patriots suffered the same six months ago and they are all right now." The greater part of the Cuban army is now in the southern part of the province near Zapata.

Delegate Estrada Palma of the Junta discredited yesterday the report that Col. Aranguren has been shot for accepting autonomy. Gabriel de Cardenas, Marquis of Campo Florido, who arrived in this city two weeks ago from Col. Aranguren's army, said:

"The last words I heard from Aranguren were these: 'If my own father should come to me to invite me to betray our cause I would carry out the law upon him.'"

LOVING CUP FOR THE MAYOR.

His Heads of Departments Bound to Celebrate When He Joins the X Family.

Although Mayor Strong was obliged to abandon, for lack of popular support, his idea of holding a wake over the passing of old New York, some of his friends in office are determined that he shall not retire from office without a celebration. More than two weeks ago the scheme of giving the Mayor a dinner and a loving cup was agitated by several of the heads of departments, and the details were arranged at a meeting held at the Hotel Marie Antoinette. The dinner will be given at the Waldorf-Astoria on the night of Dec. 30, and it is expected that all the high officeholders of the present administration will be present. Assistant Corporation Counsel John Proctor Clarke has charge of the arrangements.

GLEASON TEARS UP TRACKS.

He Says the Trolley Company Had No Right to Use the Street.

By direction of Mayor Gleason of Long Island City an unused street railroad track on Third street, between West and Jackson avenues, has been torn up. The track was built two years ago, and belonged to the New York and Queens County Railroad Company, which owns all the trolley lines in Long Island City.

Mayor Gleason contends that the company had no franchise for the road, and that he will now sell the franchise at public auction for a term of twenty-five years, as provided in the new charter. The company made no effort to prevent the tracks from being torn up.

RODE ON AN AVALANCHE.

A Thrilling Descent of Pike's Peak—One Miner Lives to Tell of It.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., Dec. 20.—Joe Bradley, a miner and prospector of Cripple Creek, was brought into this city yesterday in a critical condition, the result of riding on an avalanche on Pike's Peak on last Friday. Bradley says that a man whose name he did not know was with him coming over the mountain from Cripple Creek to Colorado Springs. When near the summit of the peak the way became obscure, and they climbed to the top of an eminence endeavoring to find the trail. From this point, Bradley describes the affair as follows:

"The whole mountain side suddenly seemed to give a lurch, and, at a terrific speed, move downward. After what seemed to me an age had elapsed I was thrown against a stump and rendered unconscious. When I regained my senses I discovered, a short distance away, a prospector's cabin. I could not walk, being so badly bruised and frozen, but, after a prayer that I might die, I dragged myself to the cabin, where I was attended by the prospector. My companion I did not see after the starting of the avalanche, and he is surely lost."

Seaching parties have endeavored to find Bradley's companion, but as yet the body has not been recovered.

CLOSE CALL FOR DR. PULLMAN.

The Carbuilder's Brother Dragged from Inside the Wheels of a Moving Train.

LYNN, Mass., Dec. 20.—The Rev. Dr. James M. Pullman, brother of the late George M. Pullman of Chicago, had a very narrow escape from death in the Boston and Maine station this afternoon, and he owes his life to the presence of mind of a bystander.

The doctor came into the station just as the Rockport Express for Boston was pulling out. He jumped for it, but lost his balance and fell beneath the step, rolling onto the track. A young man saw him fall, and grabbing him by the leg, pulled him off the track, the wheels just grazing his shoulder. The doctor was very much shaken up and somewhat bruised, but not so much that he was prevented from going to Troy, N. Y., later in the afternoon. His only comment on his escape was:

"I am old enough to have known better. I thank God that I learned better before it was too late."

He tried to reward his rescuer, but the young man would take nothing nor would he give his name.

EX-JUSTICE DANIELS DEAD.

Stricken with Apoplexy While at Work in His Office in Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Dec. 20.—The Hon. Charles Daniels, former Justice of the Supreme Court and member of Congress, fell in a fit of apoplexy while working in his office in the Lyman building, at Main and South Division streets, at 2 o'clock P. M. to-day.

He was so ill that it was found inadvisable to take him to his home, and he died in his office at 6 o'clock this evening. He was unconscious for three hours before death.

HORSEWHIPPED THE MINISTER.

Two Young Women Resent His Remarks About Girls Who Want to Dance.

WEBSTER CITY, Ia., Dec. 20.—A dance held on Saturday night in Wright county, just over the line, evoked the censure of the Rev. N. A. Forrest in his sermon at the Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning. The dance wound up in a row, and he said no woman who thought anything of herself would attend such a gathering. Misses Lillie Barstow and Mary Cunningham, who had attended the dance, were in the congregation. They went to their homes, and, getting whips, returned to the church, meeting the minister as he was leaving. Miss Cunningham asked: "Did you mean what you said in church this morning?"

"Yes, I did."

The words were no sooner out of his mouth than she gave him a severe cut over the face. His wife, who was in the buggy, screamed and ran, and Miss Barstow then took a hand. The minister tried to protect his face with his arms and hands from the downpour of blows, but could not do it effectively. After a few minutes of applying the whip the young women went to their homes.

FOR A NEW NATIONAL PARK.

Land on Lookout Mountain to Mark the "Battle Above the Clouds."

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 20.—A deal has just been consummated by which the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park Commission purchase for the Government sixteen acres of land on top and at the point of Lookout Mountain to be used for park purposes.

Gen. Boynton, the President of the commission, said that a bill has been prepared for introduction in Congress carrying an appropriation of $40,000 for its purchase.

This property, in connection with property about Craven's House, the site of the Hooker battlefield, recently acquired by the Government, will be converted into a national park.

Tablets will be placed to mark the position of the troops on either side during the famous "battle above the clouds." The old Confederate batteries that stood on the summit will be restored, and a number of Confederate monuments will be located in the park.

A LAYER OF HUMAN BONES.

Surprising Discovery Made by Mr. Niven While Excavating in Mexico.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 20.—A letter just received here from William Niven, the New York archæologist, who is making excavations in a prehistoric city in the State of Guerrero, says that he has just made a surprising discovery of a layer of human bones from ten inches to seven feet from the surface, plainly visible on the side of a barranca for fully 300 feet, and which seems to continue for several thousand feet more.