POLICE PENSION PAY DAY.

RETIRED BLUECOATS TO GET THEIR DECEMBER MONEY TO-DAY.

Capt. Martens Likely to Be Soon Restored to Duty, as the New Board Thinks He Has Been Sufficiently Punished—The Holders of "Soft Snaps" to Be Shaken Up.

The Police Commissioners gave notice yesterday that the 1,837 pensioners of the department will receive their December pensions to-day. There had been some delay, due to the necessary formality of the consolidation. Commissioner Hamilton, who is Treasurer, qualified on Friday, but it was not until yesterday that an account of the funds was received from Brooklyn and Richmond. Queens county was not heard from.

Brooklyn sent in $17,151.71 as the total capital of its pension fund, with 330 persons drawing pensions. Its showing contrasted strangely with that of the borough of Richmond, which with only seven pensioners had a fund amounting to $46,491.93. The old city has 1,500 pensioners on its roll, and a saved-up capital of $453,866.88; of this amount $325,000 was invested in bonds of the municipality. Ex-Commissioner Andrews came to Police Headquarters early yesterday and turned over the bank books to his successor. Together they went to the safe deposit company where the bonds are kept and counted them over. Then Mr. Andrews took a receipt for the whole amount, and the transfer was made.

The Pension Fund has ample sources of revenue under the charter. It receives, as before, $300,000 annually of the excise money, all the unexpended balances of the department, fines of policemen, sick pay, and "lost time," fees for masked balls and entertainments, for pistol permits, and the sale of unclaimed property, and, in addition, a 2 per cent. assessment on policemen's pay. To make sure that nothing shall happen to it in any event, the charter provides that any deficiency shall be ascertained by the board and made up by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment each year.

The board sat long in secret session yesterday, and among other things took up the case of Capt. Martens, who was suspended for a month without pay by the old board before it went out, for allowing policy gambling to prosper in his precinct. Capt. Martens has haunted Police Headquarters since the new board came in. His case was brought up in the board by Commissioner Sexton, who said frankly that a good many persons had been to see him about it, and that it seemed to him that the Captain had been punished enough. Commissioner Philips agreed with Mr. Sexton. Every Captain was needed, and Martens had already been sufficiently humiliated. He asked that he be restored to duty.

Mr. Hamilton said that he was reading the evidence and would like it laid over until to-day, and, upon the advice of President York, that was done.

Chief McCullagh's report on the Waldorf and Greenpoint Athletic clubs was laid over also without action by the board. These clubs applied for license to give boxing exhibitions. The board was apparently not ready to act upon their applications.

A committee was appointed consisting of the Chief, Deputy Chief Mackellar, Inspector Brooks and Capts. Adams and Donald to draft rules for the government of the joint force. The rules differ now in all the boroughs except Manhattan and the Bronx. Two rules, numbered 73 and 302 in the manual of the old New York force, were extended at once by order of the board to cover the whole city. The first charges the roundsmen with the responsibility for their squads; the second is the familiar old rule that has done yeoman's service in all investigations of the past, requiring precinct commanders to report quarterly all questionable resorts to headquarters.

The business of the actual welding together of the five boroughs into one city spun itself out slowly in a series of resolutions requiring the Chief to report the number of officers and men needed to patrol parks and bridges, to keep bridge keepers detailed from the uniformed force at their work until further orders, lest traffic be blocked, and calling for a full list of emigrant boarding houses and their runners. The board ordered that all applications for appointment on the force or in the department be filed with the chief clerk and kept in a book specially prepared by him, the applications to be printed in the *City Record* on the following Saturday. Appointments are also to be printed.

The Chief was directed to transmit to the board the names of all policemen who act as detectives, with the date of their appointment and where they were taken from when detailed; likewise the names of all policemen detailed on special duty or to service in the court squads. These are the "soft snaps" of the department. Every new administration and Chief shakes the "soft snappers" up.

The Police Civil Service Bureau having lapsed, the examiners, Mr. Dobbs and Mr. Bell, whom Mr. Roosevelt brought to Mulberry street, were discharged.

PARK BOARD GOING EXPLORING.

Will Take a Look at the New Parks Before It Pitches In.

The first full meeting of the new Park Board was held in the Arsenal yesterday morning. President Clausen, Commissioner for the boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond, who has been ill since Jan. 1, was on hand for the first time. He announced that there was very little work for the board to do as a board, because the park business of each borough will be done hereafter almost entirely by the Commissioner representing the borough. Commissioner Brower of the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens suggested that the board should formulate rules and regulations for its guidance before proceeding with routine work. He said the rules should be so made that the government of all the boroughs would be in harmony. The other Commissioners received the suggestion favorably, and the board resolved itself into a committee to make the by-laws. The committee will meet some evening this week, and it is expected that a report will be ready for the next regular meeting of the board.

Commissioner Brower spoke next on the necessity of the board's familiarizing itself with the territory under its jurisdiction. He thought that two days should be set aside for an inspection of all the parks in the new city.

"It will take two days to go over the parks in my district alone," said Commissioner Moebus of the borough of the Bronx.

"Well, we'll keep at it until we get through," said President Clausen.

Commissioner Brower then wanted to know whether he could sign contracts for work on the parks in his borough or whether it would be necessary to have the signatures of all the members of the board. The charter, he said, was rather obscure on that point. "I suppose we will all have to sign the contracts as a matter of form," remarked Commissioner Moebus.

"If I sign contracts for work outside my borough I will want to know all about it just the same," said Commissioner Brower. The matter was referred to the Corporation Counsel.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

Three Holahans in the Field—A Removed Foreman Says He Will Go to Law.

Frank K. Bowers, foreman of the shut-off gang of the Department of Water Supply at Fordham, has been removed by Commissioner Dalton, who has appointed in his place Frank Holahan, brother of Maurice Holahan, President of the Board of Public Improvements, and uncle of Hubert Holahan, Secretary of that board. Bowers was a holdover from the old Public Works Department, the service of which he entered during the administration of Mayor Gilroy. He was in the classified service and says he will appeal to the courts for reinstatement. Frank Holahan was also an employee of the old Public Works Department. He was general foreman under Water Purveyor Barney, and when the new government came into existence he was transferred to the force employed by the Commissioner of Highways.

Jerome W. Coombs was appointed an assistant to the Corporation Counsel for Brooklyn yesterday, and Edwin S. Twyford was appointed Deputy Auditor for Richmond.

Deputy Commissioner of Correction Kirwin has appointed John T. Kelly his secretary.

Francis J. Lanigy, Commissioner of Correction, has decided to retain John Kerr as Warden of the district prisons.

AIDS FOR BROOKLYN INSPECTORS.

They Are Each to Have a Clerk and Two Messengers to Help Them.

Each police inspector in Brooklyn is to have a staff. Heretofore the inspectors of Brooklyn have had to make their daily inspections, write out their own reports, and take command once in four nights at Police Headquarters.

Roundsman Fleming will report to Inspector Murphy this morning at the Grant street station in Flatbush. He will act as clerk to the Inspector. Two patrolmen will also be detailed to act as messengers. Inspector Brennan, whose headquarters are in the Gates avenue station, will have Sergeant Harrington of the Vernon avenue station as his clerk and two patrolmen will be detailed as messengers. Inspector Devery, who has made the Sixth avenue station his headquarters, will also have a staff of his own picking.

BOROUGH OF QUEENS.

The Borough Board Looking Into Several Matters—More Trouble About Taxes.

The Borough Board of Queens met in the City Hall at Long Island City yesterday. President Bowley, Councilman Cassidy, and Alderman Geiser were appointed a committee to meet the officials of the Long Island Railroad with a view to preventing its use of soft coal. The Board of Public Improvements was requested to take prompt possession of the effects of the late General Improvement Commission in order to dispense with the services of those formerly employed by it. These include engineers, surveyors, axemen, rodmen, clerks, bookkeepers, inspectors, and watchmen. They contend that they are protected from removal by the civil service regulations. The Comptroller was requested to afford opportunity to the board to get particulars relating to bills, claims, warrants, or judgments dating back before Jan. 1 and to delay payment for a reasonable time. The board expressed its disapproval of the act of the Board of Education of Long Island City in raising the salaries of principals and teachers last month, and requested the Comptroller to withhold payment until the board could be heard.

County Clerk Sutphin has notified the clerks of the towns taken into the borough to file in his office all documents formerly filed in the offices of the town clerks. The records consist mainly of chattel mortgages and agreements regarding the sale of land. A special room has been set aside for the papers, and they will be arranged for ready reference. Other public records, which have always been filed with town clerks, must now be filed with the proper departments of the city Government.

President Bowley announced yesterday that James W. Covert would probably be appointed Assistant Corporation Counsel for the borough. Mr. Covert represented the Long Island district in Congress for several years.

Tax Receiver Alansan Abrams of the town of Hempstead was notified to hand over to the city authorities his books and accounts pertaining to that part of his town within the borough limits. He refused to appear before the deputy Tax Commissioner, and announced that as the present tax levy is for town and county expenses of last year he will receive taxes from any resident of that portion of the town in the borough as well as of any other portion.

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN.

Auditor McKinney Plans to Save $25,000—Ex-Fire Marshal Brymer Contests His Removal.

Auditor McKinney, Comptroller Coler's representative in the Borough of Brooklyn, has decided to have his staff composed as follows: One chief clerk, one assistant chief clerk, five inspectors, two engineers, two receiving clerks, two disbursing clerks, two warrant clerks, two pay-roll clerks, one salary warrant clerk, two assistant warrant clerks, one book and account clerk, and two assistant book and account and warrant clerks. With this force he is confident of effecting a saving of from $25,000 to $30,000 a year over the expenses of the Comptroller's office before consolidation.

Fire Chief Dolan of Far Rockaway, Chief Dashby of Rockaway Beach, Chief Beinkl of Inwood, Chief Keese of Maspeth, and Chief McCormick of Flushing called at Fire Headquarters in Brooklyn yesterday and had a conference with Deputy Commissioner Tully in regard to the management of fire matters in the suburban districts. They submitted written statements on the condition of their bureaus at the present time. Chief Jensen of Long Island City also made a visit to Brooklyn headquarters yesterday.

The Brooklyn Civil Service Commission has given notice that no applications will be received at present for places as policemen, firemen, or laborers. This is regarded as an intimation that the present eligible lists will remain in force and that examinations will go on as usual when required.

Alonzo Brymer, who was removed as Fire Marshal in Brooklyn, secured from Justice Maddox yesterday an order requiring Fire Commissioner Scannell to show cause to-morrow why a peremptory writ should not be issued commanding him to reinstate Brymer, and enjoining Commissioner Scannell and Deputy Commissioner Tully from interfering with Brymer in his discharge of the duties of Fire Marshal. J. M. Gray, who was appointed to succeed Brymer, is also enjoined from acting as Fire Marshal until the question is settled.

BOROUGH OF RICHMOND.

Most of the Borough Offices May Be in New Brighton Instead of Stapleton.

The shopkeepers and business men of Stapleton, S. I., are grumbling over the proposed location of most of the borough offices in New Brighton. Stapleton is the business centre of the island, and it was generally expected and practically decided that Stapleton was to be the headquarters for the borough Government. When the officials began to cast about for offices they found that there was but one available building in the town, and the rent was a good deal higher than they expected. Negotiations for offices in New Brighton were entered into, and it is probable that the greater number of officers will be located in the "Richmond." It has been decided to have the offices of the County Engineer, the Auditor, the Deputy Tax Collector, and the Health Department there, and other branches will probably follow.

JOHN F. CARROLL'S RED BOOK.

He Shows It to Mayor Van Wyck, Who Takes Notes of the Contents.

John F. Carroll was one of Mayor Van Wyck's callers yesterday. While the slate of officeholders was being made at Lakewood in December, Mr. Carroll's red-covered notebook was said to contain the names of the men selected for jobs. Mr. Carroll had his notebook with him yesterday, and he and the Mayor looked at the entries in it with the great deal of interest. Mayor Van Wyck made a few notes on a piece of paper, which he put away, and then he and Mr. Carroll went up town together.

COURT INTERPRETER APPOINTED.

Magistrate Olmstead Takes Job Hedges's Place on a Committee.

The Board of City Magistrates held a special meeting last evening at the West Fifty-fourth Street Court. Magistrate Olmstead was appointed to the Civil Service Committee on Fitness, in place of Job E. Hedges, whom he succeeded in the board. Emil Kuenzel was appointed a probationary interpreter, to serve for thirty days, until the Civil Service Commission certified to a candidate for the place. Thomas Church and E. H. Healey applied for examination for head clerks. They will be examined to-morrow.

RULES FOR THE COUNCIL.

State Senate Rules the Basis—Councilmen's Desks Shifted Into a Horseshoe.

The Committee on Rules of the Council, of which Councilman Oakley is Chairman, met in the City Hall yesterday and adopted a set of rules, modelled on the rules of the State Senate. By direction of the committee the position of the desks in the Council Chamber was changed, so that they now form a horseshoe directly in front of the President's chair.

The Council will meet at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The Board of Aldermen will meet at 11 o'clock this morning.

Sheriff's Office Moves.

The Sheriff's office was moved yesterday from the brownstone building facing on Chambers street to the Stewart building, where Sheriff Dunn has eight rooms on the second floor. The brownstone building has been turned over to the City Court.

Tax Books Open in This County.

The tax books of the boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx were open for correction yesterday. Only a few taxpayers were on hand to ask for a reduction in their assessments. President Feitner said that the rush to swear off taxes would not begin until the last of the week.

POLICEMAN'S SON KILLED.

Shot Down by the Policeman from Whom He Was Trying to Escape.

TOLEDO, O., Jan. 10.—Thomas McGuire, a youth of 19, and a son of the oldest police officer in the city, was killed by Officer George Hornung this evening while attempting to avoid arrest. McGuire was with a gang of boys who have done petty pilfering. About 9 o'clock Mrs. Gampfer called Hornung into her husband's store just as the boys were making away with some canned oysters. Hornung caught McGuire, but the boy broke away and ran. At that the officer fired a couple of shots at random, he says. One passed through McGuire's heart, killing him instantly.

New York Zoological Society.

The annual meeting of the New York Zoölogical Society will be held to-night at 8 o'clock in the banquet hall of the Waldorf. The accepted plan of the Zoölogical Park, the preliminary plans for ten of the most important buildings, and a series of views of European zoölogical gardens will be exhibited.

THIEVISH BROKER CAUGHT

WALL STREET NEWS MACHINES TOO QUICK FOR THIS FORGER.

He Bought 100 Consolidated Gas with a Bad Check, Borrowed $16,000 on the Stock and Was Turning the $16,000 Check Into Gold When the Police Got Him—Office Boy Helped.

William F. Goerdes, 30 years old, of 235 South Tenth street, Newark, a member of the Consolidated Exchange, was arrested by Detective Sergeant Philip Reilly and Detective Taylor of the Wall street branch of the Detective Bureau at 3:40 o'clock yesterday afternoon, charged with forging the certification of the North Side Bank of Brooklyn to a check for $18,112.50. The arrest was made at the office of Zimmermann & Forshay, bullion brokers, 9 Wall street. The check was drawn to the order of William Hawley & Co., stock brokers, of 26 Broad street, by J. L. Rives, supposed to be a mythical person, in payment for 100 shares of the Consolidated Gas Company's stock, the certificate for which was delivered by Hawley to Gberdes, who had indorsed the check.

The arrest was made just in time to prevent Goerdes from getting away with $16,000 in gold and in time to prevent Hawley & Co. from losing the hundred shares of stock which they sold to Goerdes. One of the most audacious attempts that has been made in some time to steal money in Wall street was thus nipped in the bud.

The story of Goerdes's attempt to get something for nothing dates back to last Tuesday. It was then, according to his own story, that he was brought face to face with the fact that he must get some money or starve. He had been a speculator in Wall street on a small capital for several years, and his capital was gradually wiped out. At the close of business a week ago yesterday he found himself without a bank account and with only a few dollars in his pocket. So he hit on a way by which he hoped to steal a good many dollars.

In the development of this scheme he called at the office of Zimmermann & Forshay last Tuesday afternoon. Going up to a clerk named Scully, who stood behind the desk near the Wall street entrance, he said:

"I am Mr. Goerdes, a broker, and a member of the Consolidated Exchange. I want to make arrangements with you to get some Spanish gold. Can I do it?"

Mr. Scully told Goerdes that the firm could undoubtedly furnish him with what gold he wanted, and asked him about how much he would require. Goerdes said that he would want about $16,000. This was a large amount of Spanish gold, even for Zimmermann & Forshay to handle, and Scully told Goerdes that it would require a little time to fill the order. Then Goerdes inquired what the brokerage would be, and said it was too high.

"Why," he is reported as saying, "I don't want this gold for myself. I want it for a customer, and I want to make something for myself out of the transaction. It's like this, but it must be in strict confidence: I have a customer who is not a hundred miles away from New York who is fitting out an expedition to Cuba. He wants to get hold of $16,000 worth of Spanish doubloons. These are to be shipped from here and transferred to a filibuster down the coast."

Scully consulted with Louis J. Rees, the junior member of the firm. Mr. Rees finally made a rate that he said was the lowest possible. Goerdes said he would consult with his principal. Last Friday he called again and said he would take the gold at the rate quoted. Scully told him the order could not be filled earlier than yesterday morning. Goerdes said that would do, if he could depend upon getting the gold at that time.

The next day, Saturday, just after the Consolidated Exchange opened, Goerdes walked up to Augustus N. Lawrence, the Exchange member of the firm of Hawley & Co., and said:

"Mr. Lawrence, I have a customer who wants to get 100 shares of Consolidated Gas. Can you get it for me? It will be a cash transaction, and I want the best quotation, so that I can make something on the deal."

Mr. Lawrence knew Goerdes slightly, and said that he could get the stock, adding that the current quotation was 179 bid and 181½ asked.

"Very well," said Goerdes; "buy at 181½. When can you make the delivery?"

Lawrence said he would deliver the stock on Monday. That was satisfactory. Before the Exchange closed on Saturday, Mr. Lawrence happened to speak of Goerdes to a fellow member. This man said he would not care to have much to do with Mr. Lawrence's customer. That made Lawrence suspicious and he said yesterday that he had in mind to require Goerdes to post $500 with the Chairman as a guarantee. Then he remembered that Goerdes's previous transactions with Hawley & Co. had been all right and he concluded to take a chance, rather than offend his customer. Shortly after the Exchange opened yesterday morning Goerdes sought Mr. Lawrence on the floor and said:

"Mr. Lawrence, my customer has sent me his check, but neglected to have it certified. Of course you will require that the check be certified and I'll attend to the matter at once."

Lawrence told Goerdes that he would certainly require that the check be certified, and Goerdes walked away. About noon he came back and handed to Mr. Lawrence a check for $18,112.50. The check was drawn to the order of Hawley & Co., signed by J. L. Rives, and, at the request of Mr. Lawrence, since Rives was not known to him, indorsed by Goerdes. The check was stamped across the face in red ink as follows: "Certified; North Side Bank." Over the stamped words, in red ink, were what were supposed by Lawrence to be the initials of the bank's paying teller. The initials could not be made out, but they were written in a bold hand, and because they were so written and because they were undecipherable Mr. Lawrence concluded that the certification was all right. He took the check and surrendered the certificate for the stock.

Mr. Lawrence says that, for some unaccountable reason, he felt that the check was not all right and sought to recover the certificate of stock until he could call up the Northside Bank to inquire as to the validity of the check. Goerdes had disappeared, however, and so he called a messenger and sent the check at once to his office. Then he called up J. H. Hawley on the telephone, told him of his suspicions, and asked Hawley to communicate with the bank immediately. This Mr. Hawley did, and he got back the answer that no such person as J. L. Rives was known there nor was there any account in that person's name.

Mr. Hawley went at once to the Wall street branch of the Detective Bureau and reported the case. Reilly and Taylor sent out a notice of the loss of the stock over the ticker. They also notified the New York News Bureau, which caused the following notice to be sent out on its slips:

100 shares of Consolidated Gas stock No. 14,868: All parties are notified not to negotiate the same. If offered please notify William Hawley & Co., 26 Broad street.

A short time after the news of the stock transaction had been sent abroad in these two ways Louis P. Mendham, a broker at 20 Broad street, hurried into the office of Hawley & Co. and told A. N. Hawley that he (Mendham) had Hawley's stock, having taken it as security for a loan of $16,000 which he had made a short time before to William F. Goerdes. Hearing this, Mr. Hawley immediately communicated with the detectives again and the ticker and the News Bureau were again called upon. Mendham told Hawley that he had given a check on the Western National Bank for $16,000 to Goerdes, and that the last he saw of Goerdes Goerdes was on his way to the bank to get the check certified. The ticker sent out these facts and the News Bureau slips contained the following:

A check for $16,000, drawn on the Western National Bank to the order of W. F. Goerdes by L. P. Mendham, has been stolen. The check was certified by the bank. If offered please notify L. P. Mendham, 20 Broad street.

Mr. Mendham, after telling his story, went to the Western National Bank. He found that the check had been certified. Detective Taylor was stationed at the bank to be on hand if anything should develope there.

It was about 1 o'clock when Goerdes presented Mendham's check for certification. After it had been certified he went at once to the office of Zimmermann & Forshay. He said he supposed the gold was ready, and he was ready to pay for it. Scully told him that it would be impossible to get all the gold before 3:30 o'clock. When he heard this Goerdes became very angry, and said that he had promised to deliver the gold to his customer by 2 o'clock. However, he said he would return at 3:30. As he was leaving the office Mr. Rees said to him:

"Mr. Goerdes, this is rather a large transaction and you are a stranger to us. If you propose to pay for the gold with a certified check you would better, in order to save yourself unnecessary delay, leave the check here now, that we may see that it is perfectly regular. Then, too, bring with you when you come back some friend who is known to us and who will be able to satisfy us that you are the person to whose order the check is drawn."

Goerdes readily assented. He left Mendham's check and promised to bring back with him a person to identify him. Shortly after he had gone out Zimmermann & Forshay sent their youngest office boy, a lad about 14 years old and at least three feet high, over to the Western National Bank to see if the check was all right. Taylor was there when the boy walked in with the check. He heard the boy's inquiry, learned where he was from, and then started off to find Reilly. The Western National people told Mr. Mendham that the bank could do nothing in the matter, since, so far as they were concerned, the transaction was regular. The boy was told that the check was all right, but that he might inquire further of the man who drew it.

The boy went back to his office and the report he made was, apparently, satisfactory to his employers. A few minutes later the boy, who was improving his leisure by reading the latest slips of the news bureau, saw the first notice printed above. He remembered his errand and said to Mr. Rees:

"I wonder if this notice has anything to do with your check."

Mr. Rees, on reading the notice, started out to learn something more about the matter. At the door he met Detective Sergeant Reilly, who had seen Taylor in the meantime. The result of the conversation between Reilly and Rees was that both men returned to the bullion brokers' office and Reilly remained in the back office until Goerdes returned, when he was arrested.

Goerdes took the detective to a cab which was waiting for him on the Pine street side of the Schermerhorn building. In the cab was a valise, in which Goerdes said he had expected to take away the gold. In the valise was found a perforating stamp which he had used on the bad check.

The prisoner was driven to Police Headquarters, where he made a clean breast of it. He said he wrote the check which he gave to Lawrence, and forged the certification. He said he had made no plans for the future, having thought that the fact that the check was worthless would not be discovered until Monday.

Goerdes is tall and slender, with light brown hair and mustache and blue eyes. He is married, has one child, and lives with his family and widowed mother. He was admitted to the Consolidated Exchange on March 9, 1896.

IMPORTING SEALSKINS.

Consular Officers Will Advise Owners of Sealskin Garments to Sell Them.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—The instructions issued by the American Government recarding the importation of sealskins into the United States reached the consulate here to-day. Considering the strictness of the regulations regarding proofs of the origin of the skins, Consul-General Osborne has decided to refuse to issue certificates to all applicants.

The Consular officers will advise the owners of sealskin garments to sell them here instead of trying to overcome the stringency of the regulations.

TRIAL OF COUNT ESTERHAZY.

The Report of Commandant Ravary Is Favorable to the Count.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Jan. 10.—The court-martial ordered by the Military Governor of Paris, Gen. Saussier, for the trial of Count Esterhazy, who is accused of having been implicated in the betrayal of French military secrets and of having written the letters recently published in the *Figaro* casting reflections upon France and the French Army, opened at 9 o'clock this forenoon.

Counsel appeared in behalf of Mme. and Mathieu Dreyfus, respectively wife and brother of ex-Capt. Dreyfus, who is now serving a life sentence, but any *locus standi* in the case was refused to him. This ruling of the court was made upon the ground that the case of Capt. Dreyfus had been justly and legally disposed of and could not be reopened by the court.

The court decided that the proceedings would be conducted in secret whenever the interests of the national defence should demand it, but otherwise the trial would be public.

The report of Commandant Ravary, who conducted the preliminary inquiry into the charges against Esterhazy, was submitted to the court and read. The report declares that there is no ground for the prosecution of Esterhazy, and is favorable to him throughout.

Major Ravary, however, severely condemns the conduct of Col. Picquart, formerly of the War Department, who is alleged to have promoted a conspiracy against Esterhazy, and recommends the prosecution of that officer.

The general impression is that the first day's proceedings have been absolutely crushing for Dreyfus and his partisans. The examination of Mathieu Dreyfus and M. Scheurer-Kestner, a Vice-President of the Senate, revealed an incredible lack of foundation on which the accusations against Count Esterhazy are based, and also the flimsiness of the reasons for believing ex-Capt. Dreyfus innocent, while the astonishing doings of Col. Picquart, who first made the charges against Count Esterhazy, gave a got-up air to the whole Dreyfus case. In fact, Major Ravary, who examined into the charges made by Col. Picquart, charges the latter with nothing short of burglary and theft in obtaining possession of the Count's correspondence. Trouble probably awaits Col. Picquart.

On the other hand, a one-sided aspect was given to the trial by the Court decreeing, after the examination of MM. Mathieu Dreyfus and Scheurer-Kestner that the examinations should be concluded and the remainder of the witnesses examined *in camera*, the plea being secrecy in the interest of national defence.

A striking feature of the day's doings was the vehement anti-Dreyfus attitude of the spectators in the courtroom, whose shouts and derisive laughter often drowned the words of MM. Dreyfus and Scheurer-Kestner.

The examination of Count Esterhazy revealed nothing new of importance.

FIGHTING IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

Another Mutiny of the Soudanese Against the British Near Victoria Lake.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—Despatches from Mombasa and Zanzibar report more fighting in the Macdonald expedition, which was bound for the Usoga district, which borders on the northeastern part of Victoria Nyanza. Lieut. Macdonald, a brother of Major Macdonald, the leader of the expedition, and a missionary named Pilkington were killed.

No details are given, but it seems that the trouble arose from another mutiny of the Soudanese attached to the expedition.

The Soudanese mercenaries attached to the Macdonald expedition revolted on Oct. 19 last, and in the fighting that ensued the British lost sixteen killed and thirty wounded. The mutineers were eventually defeated with a loss of 100 killed and wounded.

Indian troops from Mombasa were sent to aid Major Macdonald, whose expedition, it has been said, was intended to head off the French expedition under M. Marchand, which is reported to have hoisted the French flag at Fashoda, on the White Nile.

A Banquet in Honor of Crispi.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, Jan. 10.—Ex-Premier Crispi and the Prince and Princess of Naples arrived at Palermo to-day to attend the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Sicilian revolution. A banquet with 1,000 covers will be given in honor of Signor Crispi on Jan. 15.

The Yacht Yampa Crosses the Ocean.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SOUTHAMPTON, Jan. 10.—The American steel schooner yacht Yampa, which was recently sold to an Admiral in the German Navy, arrived here this afternoon. She had a rough passage, but the vessel behaved splendidly. The Yampa sailed from New York on Dec. 23.

NEW BEDFORD VOTES TO STRIKE.

Mule Spinners Decide to Resist the Proposed Cut—In Other Cities.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Jan. 10.—The Mule Spinners' Union of this city held a secret meeting this evening in City Hall which was attended by about 400 regular spinners employed in nine weaving mills here. A secret ballot was taken and it resulted in 398 for a strike and 4 against. This means that on Monday next, when the 10 per cent. reduction in wages goes into effect, all union spinners—and the union includes 450 regulars and 100 spare spinners—will leave their work. The weavers will also go out, and no doubt the minor unions, loom fixers and slasher tenders will order a strike. This will stop every cotton mill in the city if the manufacturers persist in the reduction.

The Board of Trade Committee on Arbitration has been at work to reconcile the employers and employees, and to-morrow the State Board of Arbitration will visit this city to hold a conference of manufacturers and labor leaders to see if the strike cannot be averted.

The spinners can carry on a strike almost indefinitely, as they will receive $1.240 a week from other unions in the Federation and the National Society. The spinners here have a bank account of about $60,000, which will not be needed for some months. Strike benefits are about $5 a week for the spinners. About 7,000 operatives will be affected by the cut, about half of whom are members of the labor unions.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Jan. 10.—The Fall River mill men and operatives are watching New Bedford anxiously. The operatives' leaders here expect to see their New Bedford brethren make a winning fight. They have made arrangements to offer all the assistance possible.

LOWELL, Mass., Jan. 10.—It is the general expectation that the meeting of the spinners on Wednesday evening will order a strike against the wage cut.

LEWISTON, Me., Jan. 10.—There will be no strike here. The cotton mills here. The operatives think it better policy to keep at work and aid the New Bedford strikers by contributing to the fund.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Jan. 10.—There will be no strike here. The labor organizations are of little account.

RUMFORD, Me., Jan. 10.—There is no prospect of a strike in the mills here on account of lack of organization.

BURLINGTON, Vt., Jan. 10—Sixty weavers and twenty-five carders left the mills of the Burlington Cotton Company this morning, refusing to submit to a cut from 9 cents to 7¾ cents per cut of 51½ yards of standard cotton. The strikers marched in a body to a concert hall, where a meeting was held. The strikers say they will be joined by the spinners. Reuben A. Cook, the treasurer, says the company will make no concession to the strikers, preferring to close the mill.

NEW PLAYS IN CONTRAST.

DRAMA WITH DIGNITY AND FARCE WITH NOTHING BUT FUN.

Julia Marlowe Enacts a Historical Heroine in "The Countess Valeska," a Napoleonic Piece from the German—"A Hired Girl."

Julia Marlowe produced at the Knickerbocker Theatre last night a drama newly translated from the German, and in it enacted a historical heroine. This personage was the woman from whom the play derived its title, "The Countess Valeska," and in her actual life, early in the present century, she figured as an ardent Polish patriot at the same time that Napoleon was pretending to befriend her country in its efforts to secure freedom. The fiction invented by Rudolph Stratz, the author, was that she was in love with a young Prussian officer, one of the enemies of her native land, and that her heart was torn by the struggle between her opposed motives of loyalty to her lover and to her kindred. The play had been used successfully in Berlin a year ago, and Miss Marlowe, perceiving that several of its scenes were theatrically strong, had herself rearranged, in some respects, an English version. Her judgment as to the acting value of the character of the distracted woman proved sound. It was a part in which the emotional abilities of this adept and always graphic actress were displayed advantageously. The part of the Prussian lover offered almost equal advantages, but the actor who essayed it was not capable of profiting by them. That was detrimental to the general effect of the piece.

Napoleon was shown briefly and silently upon his arrival at the woman's castle at night, before the battle of Friedland, and again upon his departure in the morning for the engagement. Between those times a conspiracy to assassinate him was contrived and thwarted. It was this affair that set the Prussian hero and the Polish heroine against each other. He was a disguised inmate of the house, she having saved his life from pursuing soldiers and declared him to be her steward. His identity was suspected, and at length discovered, but by her wits she saved him from the impending catastrophe, until she learned that he was bent upon the destruction of Napoleon. Then the conflict between personal love and patriotic duty raged fiercely within her through the play's strongest scene—one in which the man o'ermastered her will until she heard some Polish troops singing their national hymn, whereupon her roused patriotism triumphed, and, with a breaking heart, she saved Napoleon by denouncing her lover. Miss Marlowe's acting in that passage was a rare combination of subtlety and power, and it rose surely and steadily to a thrilling climax. If her stage companion had been a fitting one a great success for the piece might have been commanded; but Bassett Roe was not the requisite actor, and he no more than indicated the possibilities which he could not nearly reach. In an ensuing act the Polish woman helped the Prussian to bravely escape the death which a court-martial had decreed, but the future of their passion was left to conjecture.

Miss Marlowe was applauded much, and her production of "The Countess Valeska," although it did not disclose a great drama—not even a remarkably good one, if we are to measure it by its general interest—will fill a week or two of her present engagement agreeably. The work is old in style, inactive between its spells of excitement, and essentially foreign to a modern New York audience in its complexity of long-ago Napoleonic international complications. The extravagantly colored and grotesquely shaped uniforms of the military actors were most impressive. The clashing political interests were not engrossing. The use of warfare for an environment was not as adroit as we are accustomed to in our own military plays.

The audience enjoyed and responded readily to Miss Marlowe's acting and paid attention to her text, rest very respectfully, too, except when the hero's hair took fire. He was in an agony of mind at that juncture in his mimic adventures, and in imminent peril of person. He flung himself into a chair, and threw back his head despairingly. A lighted candle stood behind him. His hair went into flames, and the back of his head was ablaze in an instant. Miss Marlowe extinguished the fire with her hand, and the spectators laughed.

Of the many dramatic moments "The Hired Girl" had at the Star last night the most intense one was in the first act. An actor who was in skirts throughout the farce suddenly appeared with his outer skirt and bodice removed bearing some lettuce on a plate, his condition being due to his interpretation of an order to serve a salad undressed. Charles E. Blaney was the author of this, and was also the director of the volleying tinware and firearms that contributed punctuation. He even fell back upon such mechanical devices for fun making as doors of double hinges, a finely balanced folding bed, and a baby carriage attached to a tricycle, and when all such items had been used there were specialties from nearly all of the score of persons concerned. One of these was an "imitation of a Chinaman singing a song for a ham sandwich at a Jew picnic," and was sufficiently pleasing to lead to the imitator being called upon to dance after he had spilled sand upon the floor from every pocket in his tattered garments. Another had a young woman singing an air that the boys in the gallery whistled, and as they were all the gallery could possibly hold they nearly drowned out the vocalist. Dancers of all sorts, from the tarantella stepper of a Highland fling to the befrilled four of an acrobatic quadrille, were plenty, and singers were as many, the songs ranging in sentiment from sorrow in reminiscence to jubilation in the present.

Between exercises for toes and voices the comedians told of riding to the front of battle, getting three bells, two in the hip and one in the conventional saloon, or, axe in hand, promised to part another man's hair so that the parting would give him pain. The servant girl was Irish, her employer was German, another servant was a negro, and so with two women in long skirts and a dozen in short ones, the farce was well outfitted. The conservatory, the campus, and the banquet hall of Vassar College were the scenes of the three acts, and perhaps there has been a time when the reason or need for such placing of this variety show could be understood. That time long ago passed. Out-of-town repetitions have left neither flower nor palm for the conservatory, have made the double-hinged doors the remembered spot in the campus, and the banquet room might as well be in the East Sodus, Me., vestry. These points made little difference last night, however. The only signs of displeasure were from gods who couldn't see the show because their fellows were so many. Boys leaned over the gallery railing at the extreme sides until it seemed as if they must fall over, but they yelled, whistled, and had a good time generally, as did all the patrons the house would hold in its other departments.

A STRIKE ON IN PROVIDENCE.

Wanskuck Mills' Weavers Reject the Compromise and Vote to Quit.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 10.—The weavers employed at the Wanskuck woollen mill voted to-night to refuse the offer of compromise made by the management and the result is that they will not return to work to-morrow. This means that probably 1,500 operatives will be thrown out of work in the middle of winter. Some months ago the management of the Providence National Worsted Mills announced that wages in their factory would be raised on Dec. 1, 1897, to the rate paid in 1893. The action was entirely voluntary and mills turning out goods of similar lines were one after the other forced to follow suit. The Wanskuck mill was the only large establishment to hold out. This factory does not make the same kind of goods as the other Rhode Island mills, but nevertheless the feeling was that wages should be increased there as in the other woollen mills.

This feeling was fostered by members of the labor union of Olneyville, whose wages had been increased. The weavers walked out of the mill in a body on Friday last, but being told that the superintendent was in New York and that no answer could be given to their demand for more pay until his return, they went back to their looms. The superintendent returned to-day and the understanding was that if a favorable answer was not received the weavers were to quit work at 9 o'clock this morning.

The superintendent and the committee of the weavers had a long conference this morning, however, and the weavers decided to work the day out and receive the report of their committee at night. The weavers met at 8 o'clock to-night, and were in session until about midnight. They had demanded that the 1893 schedule be restored and that the use of double looms should be abolished. The management of the mill offered as a compromise to pay a cent a yard extra on all work in which over ten harnesses were used, but refused to abolish the double looms. The weavers listened to the report of the committee and then voted unanimously to reject the compromise and strike. They will not go into the mill to-day. The strikers have no fund and no organization, but it is likely that some sort of a union will be formed and support may be received from the Textile Union.

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