The Sun.

Fair and colder to-day; northwesterly winds.

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AGONCILLO TO SECY. HAY.

HE CALLS ATTENTION TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION AT MANILA.

As the Common Enemy Has Been Driven from the Islands, He Asks if Our Army and Navy Are Being Reinforced for the Purpose of Making War on the Filipinos.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Sixto Lopez, the Secretary of the Filipino Junta in Washington, called at the State Department this afternoon and left an official communication from Señor Agoncillo, the head of the Junta. He did not see Secretary Hay, but filed his communication with Chief Clerk Michael.

In the document Señor Agoncillo calls the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that on Jan. 11 he addressed a letter to him upon the question of recognition, forwarding with it a memorandum demonstrating that, according to all American precedents, the Philippine republic was entitled to recognition; and in the same letter invited the attention of the Secretary to the present strained conditions at Manila, where overzeal on either side might create a condition resulting in grievous loss of life, and urged the necessity of an early and frank communication between the representatives of the two countries. He calls attention also to the fact that since his letter was written the circumstances he feared have brought the two countries to the edge of war, and says that the language used by him was so prophetic that subsequent facts have amply justified its employment. He desires now to call the attention of the Secretary to certain conditions which, in his opinion, require immediate alleviation. There are, he says, at the present time 20,000 American troops at Manila, controlling a population of about 300,000. A number of war vessels were stationed in the harbor and many other American men-of-war and transports were to be found within the archipelago, although the actual possession of the American troops extended over not to exceed 143 square miles out of more than 200,000.

"Despite this enormous force now in this extremely circumscribed area," the paper says, "we are informed through the public prints that other vessels of war have been ordered from distant parts of the globe to reinforce those now among the islands in question, while a few days ago a transport sailed from New York city carrying about 2,000 soldiers, and having Manila as its destination, and, as we are further informed, regiments of troops are under orders to proceed by way of San Francisco to the Philippines. The public prints inform us also that an attack is contemplated upon the Philippine Islands; the islands to be taken in detail, the smaller ones first, the larger ones blockaded so that they may not assist those first attacked."

He says that it is naturally the impression of his Government and people that these warlike preparations indicate existing or immediate military operations in the Orient, and they readily conceive that it must be contemplated that such operations are to be levelled at the existing Government of the Philippine Islands.

"As the representative of the Philippine Government, "he continues, "I hesitate to give adhesion to this idea, for I cannot believe that there is any present or future difficulty between the American and Philippine Governments justifying warlike activities, and as a believer in the humanity of the American people, refuse to acquiesce in the idea that America designs war upon the Philippine Islands."

He points out the fact that but lately the United States and the Philippine Government have been associated in a conflict against a common enemy, the United States accomplishing its purpose by the expulsion of Spain from the West Indies, while the desire of the Philippine republic has been practically attained, almost complete expulsion of the Spanish Government from the Philippine Islands, the Philippine Government now holding as prisoners of war between 9,000 and 10,000 Spanish soldiers, and the Spanish possessing only few small garrisons in isolated points of minor importance. He is therefore unable to conceive any reason why the armies and navies of the United States, lately employed against a common enemy, should be turned against America's recent associates. The United States, he says, has no active enemy in the Orient, having proclaimed an armistice with Spain. It is true, he continues, that Spain has undertaken to convey to the United States its alleged claim against the Philippines, a claim which Spain was not capable of enforcing and which never found its origin in the consent of the people of those islands.

"Are my Government and people to be left to suppose," he inquires, "that it is because of some desire on the part of the American Government to enforce against its late associates this exploded claim that the United States is massing its forces at the late capital of the Philippine Islands?"

He points out that the Philippine Islands are in a state of order, possessing a government satisfactory to their inhabitants, without an enemy within their borders offering any resistance to its operations and at peace with all the world. He is sure the Secretary of State will appreciate, in view of the circumstances detailed, the quieting and reassuring effects upon the minds of his countrymen to result from a disclaimer on the part of the American Government of any intention to attack their liberties and independence. Notwithstanding the difficulty he labors under in not having been formally received, he finds it his imperative duty to call the attention of the Secretary to the disturbing facts so enumerated, so that he may receive such assurances as will satisfy his Government that it is not the intention of America to make war upon the new republic of Asia, which will explain to it the reason why large armies and navies should be despatched to the Philippine Islands, and which will relieve his countrymen of the fear that now possesses them, that their liberties are in danger at the hands of a republic whose name they have always believed was associated with freedom and to which they first came for recognition.

After expressing his gratitude to America for services rendered and hoping that friendly relations may continue, Agoncillo urges the importance of an immediate answer.

The department will not take official notice of the communication.

SPAIN'S COMING SALE OF ISLANDS.

The United States to Be Barred—Bids Expected for Naval Stations.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MADRID, Jan. 24.—It is understood with reference to the intended sale of the Caroline, Ladrone and Pelew islands that the Government will introduce a bill when the Cortes opens in February asking authorization to sell the islands on very elastic terms.

The only restriction is to be a voluntary undertaking on the part of the Government not to cede any of the territory in question to the United States, Great Britain or Japan. It is expected, in addition to Germany buying the Carolines, that Russia and other European powers will bid for naval stations in the other islands.

AGUINALDO'S TERMS TO SPAIN.

They Place Him Outside the Pale of International Law, Says a German Paper.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Jan. 24.—The *North German Gazette* publishes an official statement with reference to the Philippines. It says:

"Aguinaldo has placed himself outside the pale of civilization and international law, if, as Señor Sagasta, the Spanish Prime Minister, declares, he makes the liberation of prisoners dependent on conditions unknown in international law."

GERMANY AT MANILA.

Her Naval Officers Again Declared to Have Been Friendly with the Americans.

Special Cable Despatch THE SUN.

BERLIN, Jan. 24.—The *North German Gazette* publishes an account, said to have been furnished by eyewitnesses, of acts of courtesy and constant interchanges of visits and invitations by the German and American naval officers in the Philippines. It adds that the crews of the ships also fraternized.

30,000 FILIPINOS AT MALOLOS.

They Have Nearly Fifty Maxim Guns—Complaints of the Hong Kong Junta.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

MANILA, Jan. 20, via Hong Kong, Jan. 24.—Thirty thousand Filipinos, who have with them nearly fifty Maxim guns, are at Malolos, the seat of the insurgent Government. The Filipino commanders are convinced that the Americans will be unable to work effectively outside of Manila.

HONG KONG, Jan. 24.—The Filipino Junta here has issued a statement in which it says that the purchase of steam launches at Hong Kong by the Americans for use on the rivers of the Philippines, and what are considered high-handed and unnecessary domiciliary visits by the Americans at Manila, are exasperating the Filipinos, who do not believe that such acts are compatible with peaceful intentions. They believe that the appointment of a new commission is merely a pretext to gain time. The junta adds that the American secret police are acting offensively toward natives of the Philippines who are British subjects.

CUBAN TROOPS NERVOUS.

Wild Rumors Started in Havana by Conflicting Reports About Their Pay.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, Jan. 24.—The good effect of the news from Washington that the Cuban commissioners now there would receive authority to pay the Cuban army was quickly nullified by a report that from the $3,000,000 to be placed at the disposal of the commissioners certain large expenses were to be paid, and the money that was left, if any, was to be devoted to paying the troops. This report caused great discontent among the Cubans, and to-day many wild rumors are in circulation. Some of the reports are to the effect that if the troops are not paid there will be trouble.

A number of Cuban Generals will hold a conference to-morrow at Marianao to decide upon the course to be taken in regard to paying the Cuban troops. The excitement at Guines over the prospect of the troops not being paid is so great that Señor Figueredo, Mayor of the town, has requested the presence of Gen. Lee.

Much excitement has been caused by a report that Gens. Rabi and Cebreco have left Santiago and taken the field against the Americans. No confirmation of the report has been received here.

Several Cubans employed as policemen called on Gen. Menocal, Chief of Police, to-day and protested against the appointment of Spanish guerrillas on the force.

Governor-General Brooke has ordered that $900,000 collected by the Custom Houses at Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Cienfuegos, Matanzas and Cardenas be paid to Government employees.

Dr. R. Menocal, a member of the Board of Aldermen, resigned to-day, giving as his reason that Major Davis, the American Sanitary Inspector, does not allow the municipality to have any power in military affairs.

CHURCH RECORDS ERASED.

Things Said at Two Meetings That Were Too Bad to Keep.

The Washington Heights Baptist Church, at 145th street and Convent avenue, is $60,000 in debt and the receipts run behind current expenses. This statement of fact is about the only statement touching what has been going on in the church for the past two weeks or so that any member of the congregation will admit is true. All are willing to admit that if there were no financial troubles certain things that happened between Jan. 12 and Jan. 20 would not have happened. When, however, an officer or member of the church is asked just what did happen, he will make a reply somelike this:

"If anything did happen, if anybody in anger said harsh things about his brother, they have been forgotten. They are not even history, because they have been entirely expunged from the records of the church. The meeting held early in January and the one held last Thursday night should never have been called."

In the first or second week of January, it appears, an officer of the church wrote a letter to the Rev. B. B. Bosworth, the pastor, in which it was intimated that the church would be better off if Mr. Bosworth would resign. The letter hurt the pastor's feelings so that he called a meeting of the congregation shortly after receiving the letter and made a statement of the contents.

The statement roused a commotion in the meeting. One of the pastor's friends moved that four of the officers of the church be requested to resign or be otherwise disciplined. The debate on this motion brought forth inquiries as to why the church was in debt any way. Somebody recalled that the church had sold its old property, at Lexington avenue and Twenty-third street, for $110,000 before the new white marble structure on Washington Heights was begun. It was asked what had become of that money if the church was in debt $60,000. Explanations were made, and so was a motion to reconsider the first motion. The latter motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned.

Last Thursday evening another meeting was held, and somebody renewed the motion of the former meeting providing for severe discipline for the four officers. Then and there the meeting grew very warm, and some of the brothers made charges against other brothers. Finally one of these present, a minister, made a speech, in which he told the brothers and sisters that they shouldn't act so toward one another. Mr. Bosworth arose to say that he was sorry for anything he had done that was wrong, and then the motion to discipline the officers was voted down. Then it was moved and carried that the records of all the proceedings of the two meetings be expunged. After that some of the brothers made up $1,000, to be applied on the debt, and then everybody sang the doxology with fervor.

BILL TO BAR OUT NEW YORK WAIFS.

A Proposition to Forbid the Sending of Homeless Children to Kansas.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 24.—Senator Anderson of Topeka introduced a bill to-day to prohibit New York societies from sending to Kansas children rescued from the streets of that city. The bill inflicts a heavy penalty on persons or societies who send homeless children into the State.

In explaining his bill Senator Anderson said it was intended as a protection against a class of hardened criminals who almost invariably found their way into the Kansas reformatory and penitentiary. The presence of these children was not wanted, for they contaminated "the splendid character of children raised upon the farms and in the cultured homes of Kansas."

Along with Senator Anderson's bill is one by Senator Sheldon providing for free treatment of inebriates by a State Keeley institute. Kansas has had a prohibitory law on the statute books for seventeen years, and because of this fact much comment is made concerning the provision of the bill which says: "Habitual drunkards who have no money, and lack will power sufficient to break off the habit of drink, may take the Keeley cure at the expense of the State." Inebriates may spend $100 to cure the drink habit, and they are to be admitted to the institute by order of the Probate Court.

Major Gerrish Dies in Prison.

CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 24.—Major Hiram F. Gerrish, Deputy State Treasurer, who was serving a two-year sentence for the embezzlement of State funds, died in the New Hampshire State prison here this morning of pneumonia, which rapidly developed from an attack of grip. Gerrish was one of the best-known and most popular men in the city and his downfall was a great shock to the community. He had a good war record. He leaves a family.

Through 300 Hands.

A bottle of Pommery Champagne passes through nearly three hundred different hands before it reaches the consumer. This gives some idea of the great care exercised in the manufacture of this celebrated Champagne, which in all discriminating circles is accorded the choice as being the most delicate in flavor and finesse.—*Adv.*

MISS WENDEL GONE MAD?

SENT FROM THE PARK AVENUE HOTEL TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

Her Physician Blames the Hotel People and Declares That His Patient Was Practically Kidnapped—Her Lawyer, John E. Parsons, Says, Too, That She Is Not Insane

Miss Georgiana Wendel of 19 Harman avenue, White Plains, N. Y., a sister of John G. Wendel of this city, was taken to Bellevue Hospital last night from the Park Avenue Hotel. Detective McIlwraith of the hotel and Policeman Forbes of the West Thirtieth street station accompanied her in a cab. Miss Wendel was not a prisoner, but asked to be detained in the insane pavilion to await examination as to her sanity.

Miss Wendel is about 45 years old. She has often stopped at the Park Avenue Hotel, but had not been there lately. Last Saturday she came to the hotel and was assigned to a room. She did not register and did not pass that night in the room. On Monday Miss Wendel returned to the hotel, and without notifying the clerk went to the same room. Some time later a guest was assigned to the room, but found the door locked. The hotel people allowed Miss Wendel to remain there over Monday night. Yesterday, they say, she showed by her actions that her mind was unbalanced. Manager Reed decided that she ought to be taken care of by her friends.

When this was suggested to Miss Wendel she insisted on seeing her lawyer, John E. Parsons, who lives at 30 East Thirty-sixth street. Accordingly she entered a cab with Detective McIlwraith and Policeman Forbes, who had been summoned in the meantime. When the party reached Mr. Parsons's house he was on the point of leaving to attend the dinner to former Justice Daly. He said that Miss Wendel could not be cared for at his house, and asked that she be taken back to the hotel. Instead she was driven to Bellevue Hospital.

Later in the evening Dr. Thomas Dillingham of 8 West Forty-ninth street went to the hospital. He said that he was Miss Wendel's physician and that he had treated her for ten years. In all that time, Dr. Dillingham said, she had never shown the slightest symptom of insanity. He found fault with the hotel people for sending her to Bellevue without first notifying him. Dr. Robertson, who has charge of the insane pavilion, admitted Dr. Dillingham, who had a long talk with his patient. When he came out he said that she had practically been kidnapped, as the hotel people offered her the choice of going voluntarily to the hospital or of being made a prisoner and taken there.

Mr. Parsons was just leaving Sherry's for home when he was told of the detention of Miss Wendel at Bellevue Hospital.

"This is too bad," he said. "Miss Wendel should never have been taken to the hospital. She is a very estimable lady—a woman of fortune—and rather peculiar; yes, a little peculiar, but she isn't insane, not a bit of it. I have perfect faith in her. She came here from the West a few days ago and went to the Park Avenue.

"She had the hotel detective came to my house to-night just before I left for this dinner. I asked that she be allowed to remain at the hotel until morning, when I said I would go to see her there. It's too bad that they have taken her away. She's a friend of mine and an estimable woman. In the morning I shall look into the matter and take steps at once to see that she is fairly treated. She is one of the Wendells who live and own the property at Fifth avenue and Thirty-ninth street."

The members of the latter branch of the family spell their name with two l's.

VERDICT AGAINST NAT GOODWIN.

A Chicago Reporter Gets a $10,000 Award for an Alleged Stolen Play.

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.—John Maxwell, a reporter of the Chicago *Tribune*, obtained a verdict this evening of $10,000 damages against Nat C. Goodwin, the well-known comedian, for alleged infringement of his copyrighted play, "Congress." The jury decided that Mr. Goodwin's comedy called "Ambition," which Maxwell says was deliberately pirated from his play, was an infringement on the plaintiff's rights. The jurors were unanimously in favor of awarding damages but consumed two hours in agreeing as to the amount. Some wanted to give Maxwell as high as $50,000, while others voted for as low as $1,000. By "averaging up" they fixed upon $10,000 as the proper assessment against the actor.

The case, which was begun about two years ago, has been on trial for a week before Judge Seaman in the United States Circuit Court. Much evidence was offered by both sides but the preponderance was that "Ambition," of which Henry Guy Carleton is the reputed author, was in many scenes almost identical with Maxwell's play "Congress," which he took his play to Goodwin in 1895; that Goodwin kept it a week and then returned it saying he could not accept it because of the prominence of the labor feature in it. Several experts testified that "Ambition" must have been written after a reading of the plot of "Congress."

To-day Judge Seaman denied the motion of Goodwin's attorney to take the case from the jury. The attorney's point was that even if the defendant had deliberately stolen the Chicago man's play, the plaintiff was entitled to no recompense because his copyright on "Congress" had not been perfected. The court held that the case must go to the jury and be decided on facts and not on a point of law.

WINTER THUNDER SQUALL.

Sky Full of Real Jersey Lightning at 11 o'Clock at Night.

The sapience of the weather prophets, official and otherwise, did not prompt them to predict the meteorological eccentricities that startled folks in this neighborhood at 11 o'clock last night. The spirit of winter overcame us with a summer shower. It wasn't the occasional winter sheet lightning mingled with faint rumblings of remote thunder. It was the real, jagged, forked, twisted, picturesque, zip-bang variety of lightning that hits at things at 5 o'clock P. M. on hot days in June, and it was followed by nearby rumblings that sounded as if the forts in the harbor or at the navy yard were saluting a warship.

The disturbance came from the West, across the wilderness of Jersey, on the wings of a wind that reached a force of more than forty miles and blew in gusts that made umbrellas useless. The flashes lasted until about ten minutes of midnight when the officials seers had left their downtown tower, so their opinion of the phenomena could not be obtained. They had not predicted local thundershowers, and if they had probably nobody would have believed them. The temperature was high at midnight, being at 47°. The unofficially weatherwise predicted cold and clear weather to follow.

PROTEGE OF MISS GOULD.

Montauk Soldier Patient to Receive an Education Through Her Bounty.

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 24.—Matthew Fontenay Maury Sutton, a protégé of Miss Helen Gould, has left for New York, where he will attend the University of New York. When the war came he enlisted as a member of the Sixteenth United States Infantry, and saw active service at Santiago. Having contracted typhoid fever he was sent to Montauk Point, where he came under the notice of Miss Gould. While at the hospital the soldier was asked by Miss Gould what business or profession he intended making his life work. He told her that he preferred the study of law.

It was some time after the young man had reached home that his mother received a letter from the Chancellor of the University of New York saying that Miss Gould had provided a law scholarship for her son. He expects to take an academic course of two years at the university preparatory to the study of law. In doing this he will only fulfil Miss Gould's wish that he prepare himself thoroughly before taking up the regular course.

The New York and Florida Limited.

Finest train in the world. Leaves New York daily, except Sunday, via Penna. R. R., Southern Ry. and F. C. & P., at 11:50 A. M.; arrives St. Augustine following day 2:20 P. M. Exclusively Composite, Dining, Library, Compartment, Drawing Room, Sleeping and Observation Cars. Two other fast trains, 4:20 P. M. and 12:05 A. M. Perfect sleeping and dining car service. New York offices, 271 and 353 Broadway.—*Adv.*

STOCK TRADING STILL ENORMOUS.

Almost as Many Shares Sold Yesterday as on Monday.

The dealings on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday did not present the wild fluctuations that marked the record-breaking trading on Monday, but the transactions were still of enormous volume. The sales were 1,342,106 shares, against 1,538,400 shares on Monday. In addition, about $8,000,000 par value of railway bonds were dealt in.

At the opening of business there was heavy selling to take profits. A lower range of quotations for American shares in the London stock market helped to incite this selling, and the opening declines were from fractions to more than one point. This brought renewed buying into the market, and rather sharp advances ensued in a number of stocks, including People's Gas, Missouri Pacific, Manhattan Railway, General Electric, Michigan Central, Union Pacific preferred, Tennessee Coal and Iron, New Jersey Central and Federal Steel common.

In the final hour of business, however, a renewal of selling in heavy volume encouraged the professional traders in the Exchange to become bears. For the first time in some days they dared to attack values vigorously, and they managed to uncover stop-loss orders in many stocks. After a downward movement, at first sluggish, there was a rapid decline in the last half hour amounting in some stocks to two and three points. The sales in the final thirty minutes were nearly 200,000 shares. Stories of experiences in the wild trading of Monday continued to be told yesterday. One trader on the Exchange was reported to have bought 1,000 shares of Canada Southern on Saturday at 58. He sold it at the opening on Monday at 70 and had the nerve to sell 1,000 shares "short," which he was able to cover within an hour at 62. Thus he made $20,000 in about an hour.

The great business on Monday was reflected in record-breaking exchanges yesterday morning at the New York Clearing House. The enormous total was $347,216,834, or $52,000,000 more than on Jan. 4 last.

BROKERS, STOCKS AND MARGIN GONE.

Firm of Nash & Hedges Locks the Doors—Customer Merritt Sues for $15,000.

The office of "Nash & Hedges, stock brokers," at 52 Broadway, has been closed for several days. The partners were not members of the New York Stock Exchange or of the Consolidated Exchange, and their sign read "miscellaneous and investment securities."

William Jenks Merritt, who is a member of the Consolidated Exchange, has brought suit against them for over $15,000, which he says is due him on stock transactions. He has been trading with them for some months past under an arrangement that they were to place his orders for the purchase and sale of stocks on the New York Stock Exchange through a firm belonging to that Exchange.

On the morning of Jan. 20 Mr. Merritt believed they held about 5,000 shares of various stocks for him, margined to $11,000. He was surprised on that day to learn that all his stocks had been sold out and that most of the cash balance had been drawn out. On the same day, it is stated, he received a letter from Nash & Hedges saying that they were unable to carry out their contracts and were obliged to suspend business immediately.

He went to their office at once, but found it locked, and it is said that the office has been closed ever since. Efforts to find the partners at their residences are said to have been fruitless. The partners are said to be Charles F. Nash and Allen T. Hedges. The Directory does not mention them or their firm.

STANDARD OIL AHEAD.

The Ohio Supreme Court Refuses to Remove Special Master Brinsmade.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 24.—The Supreme Court to-day overruled the motion of Attorney-General Monnett to remove Allen T. Brinsmade, who was appointed by the court to take testimony in the contempt proceedings against the Standard Oil Company. The grounds of the motion were that the master was favoring the company and had refused and failed to exercise the power vested in him as such officer of the court to compel the officers of the corporation to produce certain books which had been demanded. When the motion was argued two weeks ago the court asked Virgil P. Kline, who represented the Standard Oil Company, whether the officers would not produce the books. To the inquiry he said no, and said further that if they were held to be in contempt on account of their refusal to do so they would seek to secure their liberty through habeas corpus proceedings in the United States Court.

This defiance of the court and its orders in open session caused a sensation, and it was expected that the decision handed down to-day there would be included an order commanding the officers of the corporation to produce the much-wanted books, but this question was ignored.

The decision is a victory for the trust, and yet it does not imply that this defiance of the court will not be taken into consideration in the final summing up of the case. The decision leaves the Attorney-General in an embarrassing position, as his hands are tied in the matter of securing the company's books, which are said to contain evidence essential to the successful prosecution of the case.

CORCORANS WIN AT THE BRIDGE.

Three of Them Too Much for the Widow Shea and Her Newspapers.

The Widow Shea was driven from her stand at the south bridge entrance, New York end, last night by the combined efforts of Mrs Corcoran and her two daughters, Rosie and Mamie. Mrs. Corcoran dreads the rivalry of Mrs. Shea. Just supposing Mrs. Corcoran's tenement should burn up and the bank she has her $20,000 in should fail! Sure, Mrs. Shea is alone and far abler to take care of herself than is Mrs. Corcoran, who has two girls, growing and eating every day.

The trouble last night was started by the Widow Shea. Rosie got on one side of her, Mamie on the other, and Mrs. Corcoran was in front of her as much as possible. The Widow Shea complained. But it was useless. She made her way down Park row step by step, but she was flanked by the Corcoran tribe and was helpless.

Mamie and Rosie, in the old days, were so thin that they could only cover one side of the Widow Shea. Now each one lacks less than a foot of being four feet three inches across, which is the widow's width, and the widow is being driven out of business by the rival corporations.

Policemen O'Brien and Doyle drove the four away last night. Mrs. Corcoran and her two girls came back. The Widow Shea did not return.

With the Widow Shea gone, the opening through which the sunset crowds going toward the bridge have to pass is a foot wider, which is the difference between the Widow Shea and Rosie, who takes her place.

TEXAS AND STATE RIGHTS.

The Anti-Stamp Resolution Debated and Referred to a Committee.

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 24.—The concurrent resolution involving the constitutional question of State rights, that was introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Dudley G. Wooten of Dallas, the recognized leader on the floor of the House, was made the special order of business this morning at 11 o'clock. As originally introduced the resolution was sweeping in its denunciation of Federal authority to impose stamp duties on official bonds of county and State officials. In a lively speech on the resolution to-day Mr. Wooten said that it is a great constitutional right of every State to conduct its affairs without interference of the Federal Government. Representative John D. Pitts of Hill county made an able constitutional argument against the adoption of the resolution. He said that the United States has a perfect legal right to tax the official bonds of the county and State officials.

Reference to the question of State rights as a dead issue brought Mr. Wooten to his feet, and he declared in a dramatic manner that he did not believe that "the reserved rights of State governments are now dead or ever will be dead."

After further discussion the original resolution was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

When your vitality is exhausted Somatose Biscuit will give you strength and vigor. Bread and meat combined in most delicious form. At all druggists.—*Adv.*

RHODE ISLAND AGROUND.

RAN ON THE BOTTOM OFF 133D STREET IN THE FOG.

Rocket Signals Seen at North Brother Island, and the Telephone Brings the Steamboat New Hampshire, Which Takes the Rhode Island's Thirty Passengers Off.

The Norwich line steamboat Rhode Island, which left her Spring street pier at 6 o'clock last night, ran aground in the fog opposite 133d street on her way to the Sound.

She carried thirty passengers, and there was considerable excitement among them as the boat struck.

Rocket signals were sent up and were seen at North Brother Island, whence a telephone message was sent to the Norwich line people here.

The steamboat New Hampshire was sent out, and all the Rhode Island's passengers were transferred to her. She then proceeded toward Norwich.

Capt. McDonald hoped to get the Rhode Island off at high tide early this morning. She lies about 100 feet off shore.

The Rhode Island is a side-wheel boat of 2,888 gross tonnage. She was built at Noank, Conn., in 1882.

TO PROSECUTE CANAL OFFICIALS.

Gov. Roosevelt Selects Austen G. Fox and Wallace MacFarlane and They Accept.

ALBANY, Jan. 24.—Mr. Austen G. Fox and Mr. Wallace MacFarlane were to-day appointed by Gov. Roosevelt to represent him as counsel in the canal prosecutions, if grounds for the same are found. Messrs. Fox and MacFarlane have accepted the appointments and expect to get to work soon with Mr. Benjamin J. Shove of Syracuse, the counsel designated by the Attorney-General to represent him. Mr. Shove is now in New York city pushing his examination of the canal testimony. Mr. Fox was in Albany to-day, and his appointment was announced after a conference with the Governor. Mr. Fox suggested, as had other attorneys approached by the Governor, that it would be well to give him an associate in the work, and the appointment of Mr. MacFarlane was decided upon. Mr. Fox is a member of the law firm of Coudert Bros., and was formerly a member of the State Board of Law Examiners. Mr. MacFarlane was United States District Attorney for the Southern District of New York under the Cleveland Administration. Both men are independents in politics, though members of the Democratic party. Their prominence as members of the New York bar inclines Gov. Roosevelt to feel every confidence that the result of their investigations, whatever it may be, will meet with the approval of the people of the State.

TWO SKATERS DROWNED.

A Boy and Girl Skate Into Open Water, Which They Mistook for Smooth Ice.

CRANSTON, N. Y., Jan. 24.—Walter S. Watts, aged 16, and Mary Sinclair, aged 18, were drowned last night in the Hudson River off New Windsor. A party of seven had left their homes in Newburg to skate down the river to Cornwall in the early evening, and encountered but one narrow crack in the ice, which they crossed safely. At about 9:45 they left Cornwall on their return, but in the meantime the tide had changed, and the narrow crack opened to a very large field of water, the surface of which was so smooth that the skaters took it to be block ice, a mistake that was not discovered until Mr. Watts and Miss Sinclair plunged into the icy waters. They cried for help, and the other young men tried to save them, but the victims were so chilled with the cold that they could not hold on to a line made of overcoats, and they drifted apart and sank. Young Watts was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Watts of 207 Dubois street, Newburg. Miss Sinclair's father is employed as a carpenter at J. Pierpont Morgan's country seat at Highland Falls.

LONG DISTANCE DINNER SPEECHES.

A Novelty at the Dinner of the Pine Tree State Club in Boston.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 24.—At the annual dinner of the Pine Tree State Club, at the Hotel Brunswick, to-night, D. C. Heath presiding and ninety-five members present, a novelty was introduced in that the speaking and music were by telephones. Each guest found beside his plate an ordinary receiver, and the President had also a transmitter.

The first speaker introduced was Senator Frye of Maine, who was in Washington. The Senator congratulated the club on the success of the experiment and sent greetings to those present. Secretary Long, also in Washington, was the next speaker, who extended thanks for the honor conferred upon him, and praised the enterprise of the club and the telephone company. Every word was heard distinctly.

Then connection was made with the Grand Hotel in Milwaukee, and for five minutes the guests listened to a cornet solo with orchestral accompaniment, every note of which was clearly heard. This is the first time anything of the sort has been tried in this city, and it was a complete success.

STEAM LIGHTER RESCUES A HORSE.

The Animal Had Backed Into the East River from Pier 11.

Soak, a horse of a fractious temper, stood on his hind legs at Pier 11, East River, yesterday afternoon, then dropped overboard with a loud splash. There was a scurrying for ropes along the pier then, and by means of these the horse's head was kept above the water. While the longshoremen and John Anderson, the horse's driver, were holding a consultation about the ways and means of rescuing horses a steam lighter and derrick sailed up. It was hailed by Policeman Quinn.

"Would you do me the favor to lift the nag up?" asked Quinn.

"Aye, aye, sor," was the reply. The tackle was rigged around the horse and he was hoisted up. The whistle of the lighter blew a triumphant blast, the horse shook himself and the onlookers scattered. The horse belongs to Patrick Brady & Sons, truckmen, of 558 West Fifty-eighth street. Headquarters was notified of Quinn's latest rescue.

SMALLPOX AT PONCE.

The Disease Is of a Very Bad Type and Has Become Epidemic.

Gen. W. T. Bennett, the Red Cross agent at Ponce, Porto Rico, writes in a letter, received from him yesterday:

"The smallpox scare has developed into a fast-spreading epidemic, and Dr. Monet, the Health Officer of this city, an experienced and practical expert in tropical diseases, has written me a letter asking the loan of some tents in my charge, to be used as an isolated hospital camp for smallpox patients, and stating that neither the Government nor municipality will or can provide them. At present the disease is confined to the native population, and is of the confluent sort. Dr. Monet reports this afternoon 130 developed cases."

Earthquakes in Greece.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—A Central News despatch from Athens says that seismic disturbances continue throughout the southern portion of the kingdom of Greece.

No New Church for the Rev. Dr. Hillis.

There is no foundation, Mr. Thomas G. Shearman says, for a report that Plymouth Church intends to move from its present location to some more eligible site and erect a new edifice. Such a project, he says, has never been considered in connection with the call to Dr. Hillis.

Alabama Thanks Miss Wheeler.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 24.—A resolution thanking Miss Annie Wheeler for her heroic services in Cuba was adopted to-day by a rising vote in both houses of the Legislature.

Hale Desks Are Guaranteed.

Export prices. 16 Stone st., next Produce Exchange.—*Adv.*

PARR'S BANK ROBBERY.

London Police Call It the Most Remarkable on Record if There Was No Collusion.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The absence of any clue to the thief who abstracted £60,610 in notes from Parr's Bank yesterday afternoon increased the suspicion that there was collusion inside the bank, and all the employees were immediately searched. The search, however, was fruitless.

The notes were taken from the chief cashier's drawer while he was at luncheon. The fact that the interior of the bank is open to the view of passers-by makes it seem incredible that a stranger could have vaulted over the counter and reached the cashier's drawer without being seen.

All the numbers of the missing notes have been published. There were £38,000 in £1,000 notes, and these will be very difficult to handle anywhere, as the police of the world have been notified of the robbery and of the numbers of the notes. If the notes are never cashed the Bank of England will be by so much the gainer. Parr's Bank shares fell off a point to-day on the news of the robbery.

The police agree that if the robbery was committed by outsiders without any aid from within it was the most skilful piece of work of the kind on record.

The bank has offered a reward of £1,000 for the discovery of the thief.

RECLINING CHAIR IN HIS TOMB.

R. J. Smith Directs That His Body Be Placed in It in His Seated Burial Place.

AMESBURY, Mass., Jan. 24.—Reuben J. Smith died this morning, aged 71 years. He came here from Buffalo, N. Y., in 1867. He was eccentric and one of his peculiarities was the dread of being buried beneath the ground. Last fall he caused a sarcophagus to be built on the summit of a hill in Prospect Cemetery. It is a house-like tomb of brick and cement, with walls one foot in thickness. The whole structure is incased in marble one foot thick. The door is of steel an inch thick. The inside is eight feet square and six feet high. The body, by Mr. Smith's directions, will be taken to the tomb in a reclining chair, and left there, facing the door. An opportunity will be given for all who wish to view the body, and then the entrance to the tomb will be bricked up and the door locked. Mr. Smith left no relatives here.

LOUISVILLE'S BRIBERY TALK.

Members of the Staff of the Commercial Arrested on a Conspiracy Charge.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 24.—The newspaper scandal involving the efforts of the Louisville *Commercial* to get Councilmen to admit that they would accept bribes from a fictitious Chicago telephone company took another turn to-day. At the instance of Councilman Cimiotti and others, Manager Goldsmith of the *Commercial*; D. Elliott Kelly, managing editor; Artist Green and Reporter Owsley, all of whom were associated with Miss Sibyl Wilbur in her schemes to entrap Cimiotti, were arrested to-day on the charge of conspiracy. They were released on bail.

The City Council is indignant over the whole matter, and at its next meeting, Thursday night, will appoint a committee and employ counsel to make a most searching investigation of the affair. It has been rumored for some time that there was rottenness in the Louisville Council, but nothing tangible has ever gotten before the public.

A FIGHT AT A DEATHBED.

Brothers Quarrel Over Their Mother's Money—One Gashes the Other.

CAMDEN, N. J., Jan. 24.—During a quarrel over the prospective disposition of their dying mother's estate two brothers entered into a combat in her sick chamber, and one of them was taken to Cooper Hospital with a razor wound in his side which will probably cause his death. The brothers are Edward Peirce and Thomas Peirce. Thomas lived with his parents at 1827 South Tenth street, and Edward across the street. Their mother is dying of pneumonia. After the quarrel began Edward rushed out of the room, and returning attacked his brother and cut a gash in his side. The cut penetrated the lungs.

FORGIVES HER GIRL'S MURDERER.

Mrs. Remley Visits Frank Nulty, Who Is Dying in Bellevue Hospital.

Mrs. Remley, the mother of 19-year-old Mamie Remley of 2371 Eighth avenue, who was shot by her sweetheart, Frank Nulty, on Christmas Day, visited Bellevue Hospital yesterday in company with Nulty's mother. They asked to see Nulty, who is in the prison ward, where he will probably die from the wound he inflicted on himself after shooting his sweetheart.

They were admitted, and a reconciliation took place between Mrs. Remley and the dying boy. Both women wept at the bedside for some time. Mrs. Remley promised to call and see Nulty again.

BURNED HIS TOBACCO STOCK.

Man Who Had Conscientious Scruples Against Selling the Weed Had a Bonfire.

DANVILLE, Ky., Jan. 24.—W. E. Holmes, who recently bought out his partner because he wanted to discontinue the sale of tobacco in all forms, burned the entire stock, including pipes, in the street in front of his store last night. His intentions had been announced in an afternoon paper, and when the hour arrived seven or eight hundred persons were in front of the store to witness the sight. Mr. Holmes and his salesmen piled the stuff in the street, poured on a lot of coal oil, and started the blaze. Many fine cigars were burned. Mr. Holmes said that as he would not sell the tobacco to be smoked, he could not consistently give it away for the same purpose.

WHITNEY ANNEXES BLOCK COMPANY.

One More Electric Light and Power Concern Added to His Bag.

The Block Electric Light and Power Company has been absorbed by the Manhattan Electric Light Company, which is controlled by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company. The latter is about to be transferred to the New York Gas and Electric Light, Heat and Power Company, formed by William C. Whitney and his friends to control the lighting, heating, and power business in this city. The Block Company was originally organized by William F. Sheehan, Col. George B. M. Harvey, George W. Young, and Walston H. Brown.

Another Woman in Embezzler Snure's Case.

Louis J. Snure's story that he stole $20,000 from his employers, Mandel, Pursch & Wiener, for love of his consumptive wife and to save her life is disputed by Elizabeth Wencke, who says Snure made love to her while his wife was in Florida and promised to marry her when his wife should die. Mi