P. S. Changes pages

The Sun.

Fair and warmer; southwest winds.

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AMBUSHED AT APIA

Samoans Kill Four Americans and Three British Sailors

ON A GERMAN PLANTATION.

Our Force of 105 Men Fights Bravely Against 800 Mataafans.

Plantation Manager, a German, Under Arrest for Inciting the Attack—Lieut. Lansdale and Ensign Monaghan of the Philadelphia and Lieut. Freeman of the British Cruiser Tauranga Among the Killed—Mataafans Mutilate the Bodies—Jamming of a Machine Gun Hampers Our Men—Many of the Rebels Killed—Belief That Troops Are Needed in Samoa—English and German Comment on the Situation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 12.—A despatch from Auckland, N. Z., states that advices have been received there from Apia, Samoa, saying that a combined British and American landing party was ambushed on a German's plantation by a strongly superior numerical force of the partisans of Mataafa, and after a desperate fight was compelled to retreat to the beach, where they were protected by the guns of the British and American warships.

Lieut. Philip O. Lansdale and Ensign John R. Monaghan of the American cruiser Philadelphia and Lieut. Freeman of the British cruiser Tauranga were killed, as were also four sailors. The dead were mutilated by the natives, their heads being cut off.

The manager of the plantation has been arrested and taken aboard the Tauranga upon affidavits that he was seen urging the Mataafans to fight.

The engagement took place on April 1. The British and Americans, who numbered 105 men, were surrounded on three sides by 800 Mataafans. A number of Malietoa Tanu's men accompanied the whites, but they ran away as soon as the firing began.

The party had an automatic gun, but it was rendered useless at the beginning of the fight by becoming jammed. Had it not been for this the result of the fight would have been different.

Lieut. Lansdale was attempting to clear the gun when he was hit in the leg. Ensign Monaghan was gallantly assisting him when he was killed. He remained by the side of the fallen Lieutenant too long, and was shot just as he was in the act of retiring. Lieut. Lansdale was subsequently murdered by the natives.

Lieut. Freeman, who was in command of the party, was shot through the heart.

It is not known what the native losses were, but it is estimated that at least fifty of them were killed, while many were wounded.

The bodies of the officers were recovered by friendly natives and were buried on Easter Sunday with military honors at Mulinuu, a suburb of Apia, where the King's hut is located. Their heads were recovered later by some French priests, and the graves were reopened and the heads buried with the bodies. The priests reported that they had buried thirty-eight of the Mataafans, and that there was evidence that many more of them had been killed.

It is reported that Mataafa would have surrendered some time ago had he not been encouraged to persist in his rebellion by Herr Rose, the German Consul.

One of the British seamen reports that he was knocked senseless with a war club by a native, who then cut off one of his ears. He was just beginning to cut off the other ear when a shell from one of the warships burst near by and drove the natives away. The seaman then made his way to the beach and rejoined his companions.

The situation when the despatches were sent was still warlike. It was believed that as soon as news of the fighting reached England and the United States reinforcements would be hurried to Apia, and that efforts would be made to arm the many supporters of Malietoa Tanu, who are anxious to fight for their King. Troops are certainly expected at Apia from New South Wales.

ADMIRAL KAUTZ'S DESPATCH.

He Says the Forces of Great Britain and the United States Were Ambuscaded.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The first official news of the fighting in Samoa reached the Navy Department early this morning in a cipher despatch from Rear Admiral Kautz, commanding the United States forces at Apia. Press despatches had reached this city long before the contents of Admiral Kautz's message were made public, and considerable excitement was manifest in official circles. The following is the despatch from Admiral Kautz:

"AUCKLAND, April 12, 1899.

"*To the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.:*

"On April 1, while the combined forces of British and United States under Lieut. Freeman, British Navy, were reconnoitring near Apia they were ambuscaded. Deeply regret to announce the death of Lieut. Philip V. Lansdale, Ensign John R. Monaghan, Coxswain James Butler, Ordinary Seaman Norman E. Edgal and five men wounded belonging to the Philadelphia. The British loss in killed two men and Lieut. Freeman. KAUTZ."

The State Department has requested the British and German embassies in Washington to notify the department as soon as convenient of any information they may receive from their Governments relative to the latest developments in Samoa.

REGRET EXPRESSED IN BERLIN.

Need of a Joint Commission to Samoa More Strongly Urged.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, April 12.—Profound regret is expressed in official circles here at the attack of the Samoans on the Anglo-American force. It is considered deplorable that the English and American commanders erroneously estimated that the forces at their disposal were sufficient to reestablish order among the natives, who had become exasperated at their continuous bombardment. The moral drawn from the occurrence in Berlin is that there is absolute necessity for sending to Samoa without delay a joint commission of the three powers to cause a cessation of hostilities, establish the responsibilities and calm the natives.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* says that Germany has demanded that England state whether she still abides by the Samoa treaty.

Dr. Haman of the Foreign Office states that Germany's plan is that the joint commission assume the reins of provisional Government as soon as it arrives in Samoa. England's hesitation, he says, endangers the whole plan. England's reply is expected momentarily, and if favorable the appointment of Baron Sternburg as the German Commissioner will be immediately announced.

An important pronouncement on the situation in Samoa will shortly be made by Herr von Buelow, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who has consented to answer an interpellation on the subject in the Reichstag.

The official reports from the commander of the German warship Falke have arrived from Samoa. They do not refer to Admiral Kautz's alleged attacks on German honor, which are regarded in official quarters as exaggerations.

Sir Frank Lascelles, the British Ambassador, had a long conference this afternoon with Herr von Buelow, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The situation is regarded as improved, despite the local happenings in Samoa.

Only two evening papers here made any mention of the events in Samoa, printing short despatches from London. The best opinion is that the attitude of the United States and Great Britain regarding the Samoan Commission is precisely similar.

The *Kreuz Zeitung* seems to recognize this, and says: "We took too optimistic a view when we drew the conclusion from Ambassador White's declarations that Great Britain and the United States would not adopt the same attitude on the Samoan question."

A German official despatch has been received, dated Apia, April 5, briefly recording the disaster. It says that the natives captured two light guns, and adds that the adherents of Malietoa Tanu and Mataafa are both looting foreign property.

LONDON, April 13.—The Berlin correspondents of the English papers all concur that the regret expressed in official circles over the killing and wounding of British and Americans in Samoa is genuine. They say that the Government manifests the most friendly disposition toward the United States and Great Britain, and is doing everything possible to suppress attempts to excite public opinion. It is asserted that the reports of the mishap to the Anglo-Americans were not allowed to appear in the semi-official papers last evening. It is recalled that the ambush was apparently at the place where the German landing party were similarly the victims in December, 1888. The officials express the hope that the German planter will be able to establish his innocence of the charge of inciting the Mataafans to fight. They say that in 1888 the Mataafans were headed by an American named Kleir on their attack on the Germans.

BRITISH WARSHIPS FOR APIA.

The Cruiser Wallaroo and the Gunboat Goldfinch Ordered There from Sydney.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., April 12.—The cruiser Wallaroo, mounting eight guns, and the gunboat Goldfinch, six guns, have been ordered to proceed to Apia.

A BRITISH CONFERENCE.

Official Despatches from Samoa Discussed at the Foreign Office.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 12.—The Foreign Office has received despatches from Samoa confirming the press advices regarding the ambuscade of American and British sailors by Mataafans.

There have been several conferences at the Foreign Office between the officials and members of the Cabinet. Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury; Sir Thomas Sanderson, Permanent Under Secretary to the Foreign Office, and others held a discussion of the situation which lasted an hour.

VARIED ENGLISH COMMENT.

Some Papers Outspoken Against Germany, Others Counsel Moderation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 13.—The *Standard*, contending that the Samoan trouble ought to be discussed with calmness, says there is as little occasion for the defiance hurled by Congressman Hull at Germany as there is for the menacing language of some German newspapers toward Great Britain. Nevertheless, the paper attributes responsibility for the bloodshed to Herr Rose's furious partisanship and Dr. Raffel's studiously offensive and provocative proceedings, for there would never have been a rebellion if the Mataafans had not believed they could reckon on German assistance. The *Standard* does not think there will be any trouble in settling the present serious difficulties when the matter is removed from the hands of local officers, or that Germany will assume a pedantically unyielding attitude, for the question is not one that can be allowed to involve her in a serious quarrel with the powers with whom she has the strongest reason for wishing to remain on terms of amity.

While the *Standard*, which is a leading Government organ, counsels moderation, other Conservative utterances are less restrained. Thus the *Morning Post* declares that before Great Britain consents to the German proposition for the future administration of the islands it must be explained how it happened that the trap into which the British and Americans fell was set on German soil. It must also be explained whether it is true that Mataafa would have abandoned the struggle but for the exhortations of the German Consul, and how it was that the British and American endeavors to promote a peaceful settlement were frustrated by the side which counted the Germans as their allies.

The *Graphic* is likewise severe in its comments. It says it would be idle to deny that the tragical news must produce in Great Britain an impression distinctly unfavorable to cordial relations with Germany. The broad fact that Herr Rose encouraged the anarchical forces is sufficient to create a feeling of resentment in England. It is impossible not to remember that in pedantic zeal for the technicalities of the law of nations the Germans for some time past have exhibited partialities which civilized instinct cannot but reprove. The paper instances Germany's support of President Krüger and the Sultan of Turkey.

The *Times*, on the other hand, declines to be influenced by the general estimate of the situation or by local incidents, which, painful though they may be, have no direct bearing on the questions under discussion by the powers, and which may not in any way affect the latter's diplomatic action. It refuses to believe until the report is authenticated that the German plantation manager urged the savages to attack the British and Americans. It is convinced that in any case the German Government would be the last to shelter such an offender.

The *Times* remarks with satisfaction upon the information furnished by its New York correspondent that Great Britain and the United States have acted throughout and are still acting in entire agreement regarding the decisions of the Samoan Commissioners. It says that, although it suits the German press to throw the whole blame for the delay in the settlement of the question on Great Britain, Germany's demand that the commission must be unanimous on all minor points is stipulated in advance for the failure of the commission. If she insists upon this point, the paper concludes, she will infallibly delay the speedy settlement which she professes to hope for.

The Liberal papers take a moderate view of the question. The *Daily News*, while deploring the catastrophe, contends that it ought not to provoke any special acts of reprisal. Ambush, it says, is an ordinary incident of war, and so is mutilation when the war is with savages. Apart from the reported instigation of the Mataafans by a German, which requires investigation, there is nothing to do but to keep cool and hasten the appointment of the commission.

The *Chronicle* holds the German officials responsible for the whole trouble, and says that Germany therefore stands at bar as the confederate of Mataafa in opposing the course of the law. The whole thing is an example of the way Germany uses her diplomatic and naval strength to back up individual merchants. The paper does not doubt, however, that she will act fairly in the negotiations, but adds that the danger is that after what has happened in the Philippines it will take very little to blow a flame in the United States that Germany would give a great deal to extinguish.

JOINT COMMISSION MAY NOT GO.

Great Britain Declines to Assent to All of the Propositions Made by Germany—Danger of International Complications.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—To-day's developments concerning Samoan affairs have made it somewhat uncertain whether a Joint International Commission will go to Apia. The British Government has declined to assent to certain features in connection with the functions of the commission and the hope of the United States and Germany that the representatives of the three powers will leave San Francisco for Samoa a week from to-day is not likely to be fulfilled.

After a day devoted to the consideration of the news of the killing of American and British officers and seamen by followers of Mataafa, claimant to the Samoan throne and candidate of the Germans for Kingly honors, the Administration has decided that the new turn in affairs has not affected the general situation with respect to the islands. It is admitted, however, that the death of these British and Americans, considered as a side issue, has aggravated the friction that exists between Germany on the one hand and Great Britain and the United States on the other, and may, later on, play an important part in determining whether the treaty relations of the three protectorate powers in regard to the Samoan affairs shall continue. For the present the chances of a hostile outcome, involving the parties to the tripartite agreement, are believed to be small, but in the meddlesome disposition of the German Consul-General at Apia, Herr Rose, lies an element of danger to a continuance of friendly relations between his country, the United States and Great Britain that is causing serious concern. Another such affair as that of April 1, traceable directly or indirectly to the influence of Rose, may be followed by a clash that will make its effects felt in three countries, and perhaps affect the peace of the world. Great Britain is already showing an uneasy disposition, which is unquestionably traceable to the attitude of Germany. The massacre and mutilation of more British sailors by the Mataafa rebels may be followed by the despatch of a strong British force to Samoa. What would come then nobody whose views are worthy of citation cares to predict.

This Government believes that the best course to be pursued at this time to prevent international complications is in sending the Samoan Commission to Apia without delay. With the Commissioners of the three powers on Samoan soil, the Administration will breathe easier. In this earnest desire the United States are evidently fully supported by Germany, which recognizes its awkward position in the existing difficulties. But this hope of Germany and the United States is apparently not to be fulfilled, and the situation is further complicated and the danger of international trouble augmented by an announcement, that is tantamount to an admission, that the efforts to have the Joint Commission leave San Francisco on the mail steamer of this day week, April 19, have proved fruitless. The announcement was that Baron Speck von Sternberg, the First Secretary of the German Embassy, who had been selected as the imperial Government's representative on the commission, would sail from New York on Saturday, under instructions to proceed to Berlin. An intimation that some such outcome might be expected was given earlier in the day in the following official statement issued by the German Embassy:

"After Germany and the United States had arrived at such an understanding that the Commissioners could have left San Francisco on the 19th inst., England raises new difficulties of such a complicated nature that they are not at all to be dealt with telegraphically. Germany feels justified, under the circumstances, to hold the name of her Commissioner back.

"The Berlin news that Germany would demand satisfaction for the arbitrary action of Admiral Kautz is not credited in official quarters, and seems to be a malicious invention. The whole question on account of Samoa is pending at present not between three powers, but between Germany and England."

Baron von Sternberg was duly designated as the German representative, but the appointment was not announced officially. This Government was informed of his selection in confidence, Germany expressing the intention of not making it public until Great Britain had given a definite official assurance that she would participate in the conference, which, of course, would come to nothing without her concurrence. It was believed by Germany and the United States that this assurance had been made certain when the British Government announced that it had selected Mr. Eliot of the British Embassy here to represent it on the commission. Great Britain, however, while assenting in principle to the commission proposition, was not satisfied with the proposals of Germany for the regulation of the functions of the Commissioners. The United States held with Germany that the agreements of the commission should not hold unless unanimous. It was maintained by the two Governments that no other course was possible under the provisions of the general act of Berlin, no part of which can be changed without the concurrence of all three protectorate powers. Great Britain would not assent to this view, it is understood, and as a result the chances of sending an international tribunal to Samoa with authority to investigate and report on the present conditions and to exercise considerable governmental power are more remote than ever.

It was believed early to-day that the commission was assured, and the hope was prevalent that the several Commissioners would be able to sail from San Francisco on April 19. Baron von Sternberg had an interview with the Secretary of State this morning in regard to the commission's work, and later in the day Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador, saw Mr. Hay. It was said on reliable authority that Baron von Sternberg and Secretary Hay did not discuss the killing of Lieut. Lansdale and the other Americans and Englishmen. Baron von Sternberg expected to leave Washington to-morrow with Mr. Eliot for San Francisco, being joined there by Mr. Bartlett Tripp, the American Commissioner. He will now, however, proceed to Berlin to consult with his Government in regard to Samoan affairs, unless something should occur before to-morrow evening to change the apparent settled determination of Great Britain. Baron von Sternberg left Washington last week for New York with the intention of proceeding to Berlin, but returned here in response to telegraphic instructions looking to his appointment as the German representative on the commission.

THE SUN reporter, in the course of talks to-day with responsible officials, was given to understand that while the killing of the American and British officers and sailors was regarded as a deplorable occurrence that might lead to serious international results, no action would be taken by this Government until a full official report of all the circumstances of the case had been received. The United States intended, it was explained, to have the Samoan Commission make a complete investigation of the hostile meeting and its causes. What would then be done by this country, it was said, could not be foretold. These statements were made, however, before the fact was established that Great Britain would not consent to enter the commission.

There is a feeling in official circles, based perhaps on something tangible, that Germany should make some expression of regret concerning the killing of the Americans and British. It is not to be supposed and is not expected that the Berlin Government will admit any responsibility, direct or indirect, for the action of Mataafa, but the circumstances surrounding the killing were such as to make a case parallel to the killing of German marines by the followers of the very chieftain whom Germany is now supporting. In the early days of the Samoan troubles when German marines were landed in the islands to protect the lives of subjects of the sovereign, Mataafa's followers killed and mutilated some of the imperial troops. The indignation caused by this action in Germany had not abated when the conference, composed of representatives of three protectorate powers, met in Berlin in 1889. Count Herbert Bismarck (now Prince Bismarck), the principal representative of Germany, insisted that the general act, which was formulated and signed by the commissioners, should not recognize in any way the claims of Mataafa to the throne. Count Bismarck delivered what was practically an ultimatum that Germany would never agree to be a party to the tripartite treaty if Mataafa were given any opportunity of becoming King. Although provision to that effect was not incorporated in the general act the commission recognized the position of the German Government by recognizing Malietoa Leupepe, the father of the present sovereign, as King. The proceedings of the commission were made part of the official record, and in these Germany's opposition to Mataafa was fully set forth. The British delegates supported Count Bismarck's contentions, making it necessary for the United States commissioners to recognize that Mataafa could not accept the Samoan throne without disrespect to the Governments at Berlin and London. Chief Justice Chambers, in his decision in favor of Malietoa Tanu, disposed of the claims of Mataafa on the ground that it would be an insult to Germany to decide that he was the rightful claimant. In these circumstances the attitude of Germany in bringing back Mataafa to Samoa and in giving him active support in his pretensions to sovereignty becomes all the more inconsistent. How Germany can continue to support Mataafa after his followers have repeated the horrors that caused the Berlin Government to repudiate him years ago is a question which this Government thinks Germany should answer.

The conferences held to-day between the President, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Navy resulted in a determination that no good could come from the despatch of reinforcements of warships and men to Apia. It was feared that such a course might aggravate the situation to such a degree that a clash, involving the protectorate powers, would follow. The Government intends to exercise the utmost calmness in dealing with the present conditions, knowing that whatever course it adopts in connection with the killing of its officers and sailors should be strengthened by a complete knowledge of all the circumstances. Recently, however, the Administration has been quietly arranging for maintaining at Pago-Pago, in the Samoan Islands, the coaling station acquired by the United States years ago, a much larger coal supply than was intended before the Mataafa outbreak. Contracts have been awarded for building the necessary coal sheds and wharves, and the collier Abarenda will sail from Norfolk on April 20 for Pago-Pago with a big cargo. This was all arranged before the present situation developed. Since then the Navy Department has despatched the collier Brutus to Pago-Pago and Apia. She left San Francisco a few days ago, and it was given out officially that she was bound for Guam. That was apparently the original intention, but recent events caused a change in her destination to be made. The Department has now issued orders for the collier Scindia to proceed to Apia. She is at San Francisco, and will be ready to start soon. The Abarenda and the Scindia will carry the usual complement of bluejackets, and each will have a marine guard, so that there will be some additions made to the personnel under command of Admiral Kautz. The Brutus also has a fair-sized crew and a marine guard. Each of these colliers is armed with a small battery, which could be used if necessity arose.

The Navy Department to-day ordered four officers to the Philadelphia, two of them to take the places of Lieut. Lansdale and Ensign Monaghan, who were killed. Lieutenant-Commander Schentze, who was ordered to the Philadelphia as executive officer a few days ago, was instructed by telegraph to-day to leave San Francisco on the mail steamer of April 19. Those who will accompany him are Lieut. Hughes, Lieut. Schofield, Lieut. Hetherington and Surgeon Streets. The first-named three are at Mare Island, Cal., where Lieutenant-Commander Schentze is stationed also, and Surgeon Streets is at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Secretary Hay made inquiries to-day of the Navy Department as to the sailing date of the next steamer from Auckland for Samoa. He was informed that the steamer would sail to-morrow. Despatches for Admiral Kautz and Consul-General Osborn were prepared and transmitted to Auckland, to be carried to Apia by the mail steamer.

LIEUT. PHILIP V. LANSDALE.

Popular at San Francisco, Where He Was Married Last Summer.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.—Lieut. Philip V. Lansdale, who was killed in Samoa, was a great favorite here. While the Philadelphia was lying here last summer Lieut. Lansdale married Miss Ethel Shipley Smith, eldest daughter of Sidney M. Smith, who is prominent in business and financial circles. Although the couple had been engaged for some time, the wedding was quite unexpected. Realizing that he was likely to be ordered to sea at any moment, Lieut. Lansdale called upon his fiancée, explained the situation, and three days later they were married. Soon after the Philadelphia was ordered to Honolulu. Mrs. Lansdale last saw her husband about six months ago, while the Philadelphia was at San Diego. The cruiser had returned from Honolulu to go into dry dock at Mare Island, but she was held at San Diego awaiting orders.

The Rev. William C. Shaw, pastor of St. Luke's Church, received the following cable despatch from Admiral Kautz this morning: "It is my sad duty to report the death of Lieut. Lansdale in action April 1. He was buried with military honors next day. Please express the sympathy of his shipmates and myself to his family."

Montgomery May Go to Samoa.

NORFOLK, Va., April 12.—The cruiser Montgomery, her repairs completed, is expected to sail to-morrow for St. Lucia. It was reported here that she will proceed to Samoa with the collier Abarenda, which is taking on in sections a steel pier which the Government will erect at Pago Pago. At the office of the Commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard it was stated tonight that the cruiser would probably not accompany the collier.

CROKER HEARS OF A PLOT

TO BEAT HIS TICKET AT TAMMANY SOCIETY ELECTION.

Rouses Himself to Nip Treason in the Bud, and Maybe It Won't Blossom at the Meeting on Monday Night, but It Is Well Rooted in Aversion to Present Methods.

The friends of Tammany Hall who were at the Hoffman House last night said that the Hon. Richard Croker had been greatly exercised this week over an apparently well-founded report that his opponents within the organization have decided to make a vigorous attempt to defeat his candidates for officers of the Tammany Society or Columbian Order at its annual meeting to be held on Monday evening in the Fourteenth Street Wigwam. The opposition to Mr. Croker's rule, it was said yesterday, has been gathering strength at a rate that had not been realized by the men in control of the party machinery, and it was added that Mr. Croker and his lieutenants had seen no cause for unusual efforts to retain control of the society machinery until the latter part of last week. Then one of Mr. Croker's aides discovered that there had been in circulation among the men whose sympathies are not with those at the head of the organization a tip that all should be on hand at the annual meeting of the society prepared to do their best to overcome the regular ticket.

As soon as the men who now control the Tammany Society heard this much of the plans of their enemies, some of Mr. Croker's most trusted lieutenants were sent out to get the bottom facts. An eminent member of the organization said yesterday that the condition of affairs that was brought to light was sufficiently serious to cause Mr. Croker to set to work all of his forces and to bring an order from headquarters that all loyal Croker adherents should attend the society meeting without fail.

The Tammany sachems now are Thomas L. Feitner, President of the Board of Tax Commissioners, Grand Sachem; John Whalen, Mr. Croker's Corporation Counsel; John F. Carroll, the Vice-Regent of the Tammany political organization; William Astor Chanler, Congressman-elect; John J. Scannell, Mr. Croker's Fire Commissioner; Charles F. Murphy, Mr. Croker's President of the Board of Health; Randolph Guggenheimer, Mr. Croker's President of the Council; Maurice Featherson, State Senator; Major Asa Bird Gardiner, Mr. Croker's District Attorney; John Kelly; G. C. Clausen, Mr. Croker's President of the Park Commission; John Fox, and Thomas J. Dunn, Mr. Croker's high Sheriff of New York county. The other officers of the society are equally loyal to Mr. Croker. The Secretary is Thomas F. Smith, Clerk of the City Court. The Sagamore is J. T. Nagle. The Wiskinkie is John A. Boyle, a clerk in the Registrar's office, whose official duties are not so arduous that they prevent him from collecting the "contributions" and "subscriptions" in which Tammany officeholders indulge.

Three weeks ago it was the intention of the leaders in Tammany Hall to have these men all re-elected to their offices. At that time no word of the effort to defeat the Croker candidates had been received by them. Since it became known that there might be an attempt to knock out the slate, there has been some thought of altering the make-up of the Board of Sachems, but no definite steps in that direction have been taken yet, according to well-informed members of the organization.

The men who are opposed to Mr. Croker and his methods of running the machine number among them such well-known politicians as ex-Mayor Gilroy, ex-Mayor Grant, ex-Corporation Counsel William H. Clark, and scores of others who have been turned down or cut adrift to be replaced by such men as Andy Freedman. The men who have been ignored in the planning of Tammany's campaigns and in the conduct of the affairs of the organization have the reputation of being among the most accomplished political captains in New York. Behind them are many of the old-timers in the organization, who have been surprised at the methods pursued since the successful campaign of 1897 by Mr. Croker and his advisers. One of the things that has impressed them unfavorably and has caused comment on the changed conditions of affairs has been the gradual forcing into the background of the General Committee of Tammany Hall and the transfer of the actual headquarters of the organization to the Democratic Club on Fifth avenue. These old-timers cannot see why the Fourteenth Street wigwam, for years the headquarters of the organization, should be discarded now. The old forms have been done away with very rapidly during the past two years, say the old-timers, and they are sorry to see them go.

Well-informed Tammany men said last evening that the opposition to the regular ticket at the meeting next Monday evening would show itself only in case there was a fair chance of successfully fighting Mr. Croker's ticket. In case it proves impossible to down Mr. Croker's candidates, the opposition will not show its hand, for its leaders have no wish to subject their friends unnecessarily and hopelessly to defeat and its consequences.

CROKER SUBPŒNAED NOW.

Will Be Examined on Friday Morning—Mazet Invites Witnesses.

Richard Croker was standing in the hall of the Democratic Club at 7 o'clock last evening, just about to go to dinner, when a young man walked hurriedly up the steps and into the building. Before the doorman had time to ask the young man what he wanted he had caught sight of the Tammany leader. He walked up to Mr. Croker.

"Mr. Croker?" he said, questioningly.

"Yes," said Mr. Croker. "What do you want?"

"Here's something for you," said the young man, handing a paper to Mr. Croker. Then he turned around and walked out of the club. Mr. Croker found that the paper was a subpœna requiring him to appear before the Mazet investigating committee at the rooms of the Board of Trade and Transportation, 213 Broadway, on Friday, at 10 o'clock in the morning. He put the paper into his pocket.

"I'll be there," was the only comment Mr. Croker would make last night.

Chief of Police Devery is going to make a speech to all the full-fledged Captains on the force this afternoon at 3 o'clock. No acting Captains or Sergeants detailed to command of precincts will be present.

ALBANY, April 12.—Chairman Mazet of the New York Investigating Committee said this morning:

"The committee is gratified at the way in which the investigation has opened, and believes that it will be productive of the best results for the city of New York, and will lead to remedial legislation which will eradicate the many evils alleged to have grown to such great proportions in the several departments of the city government. The evidence already adduced has convinced us of the necessity for this investigation, and we shall make it as searching and thorough as we know how. We already have a large mass of important information in hand which is being carefully sifted. A large portion of this evidence is of the most valuable and positive kind. Some has been furnished by persons and organizations who have devoted themselves to the work of gathering and compiling it. But we realize that there is a great deal more that should be furnished to us which the persons having it in their possession are holding back on account of their timidity. These are the very persons who, in a large measure, are responsible for the present conditions, in that they have weakly submitted to extortion and blackmail in the past, and unless they now have the moral courage to come forward and assist the work of this committee they are the ones who should be held responsible for the failure, in any degree, of the committee to expose the ramified system of blackmail and extortion. We will give complete protection to these persons who volunteer this information, and if so requested will treat their communications as confidential.

"We earnestly invite all persons, organizations and associations of every kind to cooperate with us in the work we have undertaken, assuring them that the investigation will be carried on without fear or favor."

OUR MINISTER TO SPAIN.

Mr. Bellamy Storer's Name Well Received—Duke de Arcos to Be Sent Here.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MADRID, April 12.—After a meeting of the Cabinet to-day Prime Minister Silvela said that the Government approved of the appointment of Mr. Bellamy Storer as United States Minister to Spain. He added that as soon as the United States communicated his name officially to Spain the latter would appoint a representative at Washington, probably Duke de Arcos.

TRADE WAIL FROM SHEFFIELD.

"Work Is Being Done in America That England Ought to Do."

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 12.—The Sheffield *Telegraph*, in a long leader of pessimistic tone says: "Nowadays America and not Germany is the *bête noir* of the home hardware industry. An immense amount of work is being done in America that England ought to do."

AFRAID HE WOULD LIVE FOREVER.

The Reason Given for the Suicide of a French Centenarian.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, April 12.—The suicide is reported of a French centenarian who took his life because he was afraid that he would live forever.

HUNTINGTON OWNS THE ROAD.

Guatemala Line Purchased—New Pacific Mail Terminus to Be Established.

NEW ORLEANS, April 12.—Mr. De Hamm, auditor of the Guatemala Northern Railroad, who reached here to-day, announces that the Huntington deal for the purchase of the railroad has been completed, and Mr. Huntington is now owner of the road. The break in the line will be completed in six months, at which time the Pacific Mail steamers now running to Panama and connecting with the Panama Railroad will run instead to San José, the western terminus of the Guatemala Railroad, and do all their business there.

DON'T WANT WHISKEY MEN IN CHURCH

A Louisville Baptist Congregation Decides That They Must Go.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 12.—The fashionable Walnut Street Baptist Church of this city, of which the Rev. Dr. T. T. Eaton is pastor, has one of the wealthiest congregations in this city. After a revival service to-night Dr. Eaton called a church meeting to order and after a discussion lasting over an hour the church adopted resolutions practically dismissing from the congregation all members who have any connection whatever with the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors. The resolutions were carefully drawn so as not to be too offensive, for some of the wealthiest whiskey distillers and merchants in this city are members of Dr. Eaton's church.

The first part of the resolution was an earnest appeal to such members to give up their business and relieve the church of the burden which has been resting upon it. The second gives them one year to either give up their business or get out of the church.

This question has been under agitation in some of the large Louisville churches for a number of years, but the Walnut Street Church is the first one whose congregation would strike the blow at men representing so much power and wealth as the whiskey men do here.

PAID TO GET ON THE POLICE FORCE.

Cunningham Wasn't Appointed and Didn't Get His $200 Back.

Cornelius F. Cunningham, living at 232 East 127th street, appeared as complainant in the Harlem Police Court yesterday against John F. Hassett, an insurance agent, of 178 East Eighty-eighth street, whom he charged with swindling.

Cunningham says that he met Hassett a year ago, and soon after they became acquainted Hassett promised to have him appointed on the police force if he advanced $200. The money was paid to Hassett, but Cunningham says the man disappeared and could not be found. He learned Hassett's address a few days ago and secured a warrant for his arrest.

When Hassett was arraigned in court yesterday he told Magistrate Meade that he had paid the $200 to William J. Hart, proprietor of a café on the Boulevard. He said that Hart, who has been heard of before, acted as the go-between, and was at the bottom of the whole transaction.

Hassett was held in $2,000 bail for trial on a charge of grand larceny.

SIMON BUTTNER FREE TO TESTIFY.

Trial of Broadway Garden Man Postponed Because Committee Wants Him.

The case of Simon Buttner, formerly proprietor of the Broadway Garden, indicted for keeping a disorderly house, was on the calendar yesterday in Part IV. of the General Sessions for trial. Lawyer George Gordon Battle, counsel for Buttner, asked for an adjournment, saying that his client would be engaged in another place probably for a week or so and consequently could not be in court without inconveniencing a number of persons. It was understood that Mr. Battle referred to the Mazet investigation.

There was a rumor about the Criminal Court building to the effect that the case had been put on the calendar to keep Buttner in attendance so that he could not testify before the Mazet committee. If there was such a plan it did not succeed, for Judge Newburger immediately struck the case from the calendar, saying he would keep it off for the entire term of the court.

Pigeon from La Champagne Picked Up.

While two men were walking in a meadow, about a mile south of Spuyten Duyvil, yesterday, a carrier pigeon fluttered down exhausted almost at their feet. The bird was one of the French line messenger pigeons. In a sealed rubber tube attached to its right leg was a piece of rice paper headed "La Champagne, French line of steamers," on which was written a note in French signed "Poirot, Captain." The bird will be sent to the French line office to-day.

Helen Gould to Get a Fire Badge from Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, O., April 12.—A movement was started at the meeting of the Cincinnati Firemen's Protective Association by Hugh McAvoy this evening to present Miss Helen Gould with a gold badge in appreciation of her services during the Windsor Hotel fire. She will also be made an honorary member of the Cincinnati Fire Department and Firemen's Protective Association. The badge will be similar to those worn by the Captains of the Fire Department.

Greater Chicago Bill Beaten.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 12.—The "Greater Chicago" resolution and the Humphrey substitute were defeated in the House this afternoon. They needed 102 votes to pass and got less than 77, the number needed to pass an ordinary bill. The vote was yeas, 74; nays, 58. Every Republican present and three Democrats supported the measure. All the other Democrats voted no.

Vice-President Hobart Worse.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—A change for the worse occurred in the condition of Vice-President Hobart to-day, and at midnight he had not improved. His physician and two nurses will remain with him through the night.

At 1 o'clock it was stated at the Vice-President's residence that he was somewhat better, and the house was shut up for the night, indicating that nothing serious was anticipated.

Hydrophobia from a Bite Nine Years Old.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 12.—Jake Yeackel was taken to the City Dispensary this morning suffering from hydrophobia. He was bitten by a dog nine years ago. The wounds were cauterized at the time and Yeackel suffered no inconvience until recently. He is very violent now.

MOLINEUX GAINS A POINT.

JUSTICE PARDON C. WILLIAMS DISMISSES THE INDICTMENT.

He Holds That Improper and Illegal Evidence Was Given Before the Grand Jury, and That It Must Have in a Measure Influenced the Jury to Find an Indictment—District Attorney Gardiner's Office Surprised—Failure of the Plot to Extradite the Witness Beckmann.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., April 12.—Justice Pardon C. Williams has granted the motion to dismiss the indictment for murder against Roland B. Molineux. The motion was made on the grounds that other than legal evidence was given before the Grand Jury and that the evidence was not sufficient before the Grand Jury to authorize the finding of the indictment. The following is the opinion in full:

"For the purpose of this motion I shall assume the Court has power to grant the relief asked for, if the grounds of the motion are satisfactorily established.

"I have examined the cases to which my attention has been called bearing upon this question, and other reported and important cases. In view of the conflict of opinion in the cases cited, I think it better that I should add nothing to the literature published and unpublished, but follow what seems to be the pretty unanimous opinion of the Judges in the First Department, including two members of the present Appellate Division, and leave some Appellate Court to settle the question if my conclusion should be unsatisfactory to the people. I come, therefore, directly to the two grounds upon which the motion is based.

"As to the giving of other than legal evidence before the Grand Jury.

"It is provided by section 256 of the Code of Civil Procedure that the Grand Jury can receive none but legal evidence. Grand Jurors, however, are not supposed to be learned in the law or be able to judge correctly whether all evidence offered before them is legal or not. So long as lawyers and Judges differ as to the rules of evidence, Grand Jurors may be mistaken also. The jury should use the best judgment they have and should not receive evidence known to them to be improper and illegal. In almost every case, however, some evidence will be given which would be excluded if the Court were there to pass upon the competency thereof. It would be an unreasonable rule, therefore, which would compel the Court to discharge every indictment where illegal evidence had been given before the Grand Jury. If the legal evidence before the Grand Jury was such that, disregarding the improper evidence, the indictment would still have been found, if the jury were not influenced to find an indictment by the improper evidence, but by the legal evidence before them, then the Court should permit the indictment to stand and the defendant to be tried thereon.

"The minutes of the Grand Jury show that some evidence was given by the witness Cornish which would not have been permitted by the Court. This evidence related to the relations between himself and the defendant and was only important on the question of motive. Inasmuch as the evidence given before the Coroner by the defendant, and which was before the Grand Jury, showed that unfriendly relations did exist between the parties, it would not seem that the evidence of Cornish, which is objected to as improper, could have had any material influence with the Grand Jury in the finding of the indictment.

"More serious questions are raised by the claim made on the part of defendant that all the evidence given before the Grand Jury by the handwriting experts, based upon a comparison of the disputed handwriting with the alleged genuine handwriting of the defendant and the comparisons by the jurors themselves of such disputed with alleged genuine handwritings, was illegal and improper. Prior to 1880 the comparison of disputed with alleged genuine handwritings could only be made when the genuine handwriting was properly in evidence for other purposes, but this rule was changed by Chapter 301 of the Laws of 1880, amended by Chapter 555 of the Laws of 1888. These acts expressly amend the laws of evidence and practice on civil and criminal trials, and authorize the admission in evidence of genuine handwritings for the sole purpose of comparison, though not admissable in the case for any other purpose (People vs. Casey, 148 N. Y., 566, and cases therein referred to). Most if not all the alleged genuine handwritings used for the purpose of comparison by the experts and the Grand Jury in this case were inadmissable for any other purpose than comparison. The purpose was to show that the defendant wrote the address upon the po