The Sun.

Rain to-day, fair and colder to-morrow.

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BOERS CAPTURED 672 MEN.

GEN. GATACRE CRITICISED FOR THE REVERSE AT STORMBERG.

Few Details of the Disaster Received—Its Effect on the Wavering Dutch Colonists Feared—Boers Are Active Around Gen. Methuen and Have Inflicted Some Losses—Methuen's Guns Doing Good Work.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LORENZO MARQUEZ, Dec. 11.—An official despatch from Pretoria states that 672 British prisoners were taken by the Boers at Stormberg. The number of British dead and wounded is unknown.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The West Coast cable to South Africa is interrupted, and the only communication is by way of the East Coast cable. This fact must be assumed to explain the absence of further news of Gen. Gatacre's misfortune and his present position.

All the accounts of the reverse end abruptly at a point where interest is strong, and nobody knows how the British troops were apparently so easily captured. The War Office seems to be as much lacking in information as the public. The most plausible suggestion, based on what is known, is that the men were too utterly worn out to resist.

The affair has doubtless caused great irritation against Gen. Gatacre, but there is a general disposition to await an explanation before criticising him too severely, especially in view of the known difficulties of the Stormberg country.

Lord Dunham's hasty tirade is condemned as being in the worst taste, but the fact seems undeniable that Gen. Gatacre, who personally is most energetic, is an exacting commander.

The *Morning Post's* military critic says that the one anxiety to those aware of his iron energy was that with an independent command he might work his men too hard. Further details must be awaited, however, before deciding that he has done so.

Fear is expressed that the depletion of his forces will compel him to fall back on Queenstown, a step which would doubtless have a deplorable political effect.

The unofficial reports from Modder River indicating that Gen. Methuen's artillery is of longer range than that of the Boers are received here with welcome relief after the constant experience of the Boers' superiority in this respect elsewhere. The fact, if fact it be, will obviously be of immense importance in the event of a direct attack on the tremendously strong Boer positions at Spytfontein and Magers-fontein.

A report from Pretoria that Commandant Cronje had captured fifty of Gen. Methuen's men is not confirmed from the English side. The only fighting that was recorded Sunday between the western column and the Boers was a lyddite and shrapnel long range bombardment by the British naval brigade and howitzers.

The positions at Kimberley on Dec. 7 and at Mafeking on Nov. 30, when they last reported, were unaltered, and Ladysmith is still held, though apparently the situation in the latter place is growing worse.

A correspondent sent on Dec. 9 despatches which show that both men and horses in Ladysmith are on half rations. Beer is all gone. Whiskey sells for twenty shillings a bottle and milk for half a crown a tin. From Nov. 1 to Dec. 5 3,264 Boer shells dropped in the town, killing thirty-one civilians and wounding 145. The Town Hall is a complete wreck. The messages, some of which were for the press, also say that the Transvaal artillery is almost exclusively in the hands of German and French mercenaries, but for whom there would have been no siege, and probably no advance beyond the borders of the republics.

It is added that the Boers are weary of war and that many of them are surrendering to the British pickets.

MOLTENO, Cape Colony, Dec. 10., 6 P. M.—When the Second Royal Irish Rifles and the Northumberland Fusiliers climbed the hill at Stormberg they found they were in the centre of a rifle fire which was pouring in from three directions. They were ordered to retire and the artillery covered the retreat. The troops arrived here at 11 o'clock this morning after thirty hours work, including an engagement of three hours. It is estimated that the Boers at Stormberg numbered 6,000.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—The *Times* correspondent at Molteno, telegraphing at noon on Sunday, says Gen. Gatacre had 2,500 men. He reports that there was disorder during the retreat owing to the fatigue of the men and the constant shelling of the Boers.

BOER HEADQUARTERS, outside Ladysmith, Dec. 9, via Lorenzo Marquez, Dec. 11.—During the night the British tried to approach the big gun on Bulwana Hill, but retired to Ladysmith.

BOERS ACTIVE AROUND METHUEN.

Pretoria Reports Fifty British Captured—Shelling by the British.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The *Daily News's* Modder River correspondent, in a despatch dated Dec. 10, says: "A Boer force is acting against Enslin, Gras Pan crossing our right flank. They inflicted some loss on our patrols. Boers captured at Enslin say that the burghers are greatly in need of stores for both men and horses. The captured horses have a very starved appearance and are much galled. Everything here points to an early forward movement."

The Cape Town correspondent of the *Daily News*, in a despatch dated Dec. 9, says: "It is rumored that the Boers attacked Kimberley yesterday, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

"It is feared here that Gen. Gatacre's repulse will have a bad effect on the wavering Dutch colonists. It is felt that it was a great mistake to abandon Stormberg, which, owing to its position, is almost impregnable."

LORENZO MARQUEZ, Dec. 11.—An official despatch from Pretoria, dated to-day, says: "There was fighting last night at Modder River. Commandant Cronje maintained his position and took fifty British prisoners."

MODDER RIVER, Dec. 10. (Delayed in transmission.)—Gen. Pole-Carew's howitzer battery and a naval gun drew the fire of twelve Boer guns, completely unmasking the enemy's positions. Then they swept the trenches and silenced the Boer guns.

ORANGE RIVER, Dec. 9 (Delayed in transmission.)—Half the Canadian contingent has gone to the front. They have had some stiff work, but are in fine shape and are anxious to get into the fighting.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—The *Times* has the following from Modder River, dated Dec. 10:

"We have been shelling from a distance of 7,000 yards the Magersfontein Kopjes on the eastern end of the Spytfontein range which terminates in an abrupt saddlerock 150 feet high. The Boer entrenchments run round the whole front of the position for two miles due east and west. There is a plain on the north side of the kopjes which affords an opportunity for cavalry work.

"The lyddite projectiles threw up clouds of stone and dust to a height of 250 yards. These clouds could be seen for a distance of ten miles."

THE BOERS' ARTILLERY.

Berlin Paper Says They Have From Eighty to Ninety Guns.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Dec. 11.—The *National Zeitung* says it has received from a trustworthy source the following list of the Boer artillery: Eight 7.5-centimetre Krupps; sixteen 7.5-centimetre Creusots; eight or nine Maxims and Nordenfeldts; twenty-four 3.7 automatic Maxims; four 12.0 Krupp howitzers; four 12.0 Creusot howitzers; four modern 3.7 Krupp mountain guns, and four 15.5 Creusots, making a total, with odd pieces, of eighty or ninety. The Boers have purchased in recent years, 25,000,000 cartridges, 40,000 Mauser rifles and a large number of Martini rifles.

JUST IN FROM LADYSMITH.

Jim Fisher, a Reliable Zulu, Tells What He Saw—The Horses Fat.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

FERRE CAMP, Natal, Dec. 11.—The correspondent of THE SUN went to Estcourt to-day and saw a Zulu named Jim Fisher, who had just arrived from Ladysmith. He started Saturday and travelled by way of Weenan. He says he saw Boer tents extended along the Tugela River west of the bridge. He brought a letter to a man of the name of Green, who was formerly a footman of the Queen at Windsor Castle, but who now keeps refreshment rooms in Estcourt.

The Zulu declared that the Boers have a great many captured horses; in fact, they have more horses than cattle. There are many Boer prisoners in Ladysmith, and every sortie that is made adds to the number. Fisher was present in Ladysmith when the British brought in four big guns they had captured. They broke up another gun. The Boers are not leaving, but are building fortifications and keeping far away from sorties and night attacks. No Boer women have been seen near Ladysmith.

The British horses, according to Fisher, are fat and there is plenty of fodder for them. Very few of the horses are dying. The searchlight signalling by the British column can be distinctly seen in Ladysmith.

Lady Sykes is at Estcourt with the Red Cross people.

FOREIGN COMMENT ON GATACRE.

German Press Points Out His Omission to Reconnoitre.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

PARIS, Dec. 11.—The *Temps*, commenting on Gen. Gatacre's defeat in South Africa, evokes the memory of the colonists who misled Cornwallis and Burgoyne, and says that if things go on in this way civil war may ensue, the simple idea of which horrifies humanity.

The *Courrier du Soir* says that the English army is encountering in the mountains of South Africa the same difficulties that broke Napoleon's power in Spain.

BERLIN, Dec. 11.—Such papers as comment on Gen. Gatacre's defeat are impressed by his apparent omission to reconnoitre.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 11.—The news of the defeat of the British forces under Gen. Gatacre at Stormberg, northern Cape Colony, Sunday morning, has caused great delight here. The newspapers and the public are jubilant, and everybody at the Transvaal agency is rejoicing over the latest thrashing the Boers have administered to the enemy.

CRITICISM OF GEN. GATACRE.

Lord Durham Says He Should Not Have Been Sent to South Africa.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—Lord Durham, in a speech to-day, said he did not think that Gen. Gatacre should have had a command in South Africa. He was a distinguished soldier and brave to the point of rashness, but in the Soudan he had seriously overworked his men by forced marches, &c., when they were hundreds of miles away from a possible enemy. If the campaign had lasted longer the men would have been unfit for service. The War Office, in appointing Gen. Gatacre, Lord Durham said, was to blame for the latest disaster.

Consul Hollis Ordered to Pretoria.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The State Department has decided not to accept the service of the Mr. Atterbury named by Consul Macrum at Pretoria to act as Consul for the United States until the arrival of Adelbert S. Hay, who has been appointed to succeed Consul Macrum. No reason is assigned at the Department of State for the change, but it was officially announced to-day that the Secretary of State has directed W. Stanley Hollis, now Consul at Lorenzo Marquez, to proceed at once to Pretoria to take temporary charge of the consulate there after the departure of Mr. Macrum and until the arrival of Consul Hay. Mr. Hollis has been in the service for the last nine years.

The State Department will continue to press its representations that the decision of the Boer authorities not to permit money for delicacies to be given to the British prisoners at Pretoria be revoked. Mr. Hollis will, under instructions from the Department, insist that the action of the Boers is contrary to practice in civilized warfare. More strenuous objection to the course of the Boers will follow the diplomatic representations now being made if these are not effective.

Dr. Leyds In France.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MARSEILLES, Dec. 11.—Dr. Leyds, the European agent of the Transvaal Government, has arrived here.

Value of the Venezuelan Arbitration.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—Baron Russell of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England, and a member of the Venezuelan Tribunal of Arbitration, in a speech at the Royal Societies Club to-night said that the Venezuelan arbitration had importance far beyond the great interests directly involved. It demonstrated to the world that a question which had stirred two countries for generations might be peacefully, satisfactorily and economically determined without bloodshed.

CORONER RELEASES MRS. KOCH.

Like the Police, He Doesn't Believe Her Husband's Ante-Mortem Murder Yarn.

Mrs. Emily Koch, who was arrested on Sunday on the strength of a statement made to the police by her husband that she had given him poison, was taken to the Coroner's office yesterday and questioned by Coroner Fitzpatrick.

Koch died in the Presbyterian Hospital on Saturday night and an autopsy made by Dr. Donlin showed that his death was due to an irritant poison. Dr. Donlin was inclined to believe that Koch committed suicide, as it would be impossible for him, after taking such a dose, to live from Friday, when he said his wife gave him the poison, till Saturday night.

Mrs. Koch told the Coroner yesterday that she had to leave her husband because he beat her continually. He had spent $7,000 of her money, she said, and she was in constant terror of him. She indignantly denied that she had given him anything to drink. She left him on Wednesday, she said, and on Friday went with her children to Pleasantville, where she was arrested.

Coroner Fitzpatrick paroled the woman on her own recognizance pending the inquest. The Coroner said he was perfectly convinced that Mrs. Koch knew nothing about her husband's death.

Consolidated Ice Surrenders Business.

The American Ice Company, which was incorporated last October under the laws of New Jersey with $60,000,000 capital stock, has taken over a portion of the retail service of the Consolidated Ice Company of this city. This led to the report that the Consolidated, which is controlled through stock ownership by the American Company, had been actually absorbed by the last-named company. The report was denied, however, at the office of the Consolidated Company yesterday afternoon, the secretary saying that merely part of the retail service had been turned over to the new company, as that company could handle it more economically at this season of the year.

Pennsylvania Railroad to Chicago.

"Pennsylvania Limited." Every convenience; every luxury; many surprises in elegance. Leaves New York 9.55 A.M.; arrives Chicago 9.00 A. M.—Adv.

BUNCOED OUT OF $5,000.

JOHN FRENCH OF BROOKLYN GETS INTO A LITERARY LOTTERY

With the Son of His Old Friend Charles Pratt, So He Thinks—Boy Loses $10,000—"Oh, My Mother! What a Disgrace! Please Lend Me $5,000," He Cries, and Mr. French Says "Certainly."

John French a former Brooklyn Alderman and one of the oldest and best-known residents of that borough, was buncoed out of $5,000 last Friday morning, by two young men, who worked on him one of the oldest confidence games known to the police. There were certain variations to the familiar methods, made to fit the case, and Mr. French succumbed to them. The most inexplicable part of it all is that a person like Mr. French, a newspaper reader and a man who has been in public life for over two-score years, should be so easily gulled. He is 85 years old, but his mind has always been clear, and he has never needed any assistance in the management of his affairs. Yet the two young men who got his money actually induced him to go a mile to his bank to get $5,000, after they had informed him that he owed them that amount, and for fifteen minutes of that time he was alone with ample opportunity to think the matter over. But the idea that he had been buncoed did not occur to him until twenty minutes after he got home. He then put the case in the hands of the police, but it was too late. The swindlers had decamped and the Brooklyn police are still looking for them.

Dr. George F. Little, Mr. French's grandson, told the story of the swindle last night after an inaccurate account of it had appeared in a Brooklyn evening paper. As long as the fact that Mr. French had been made the victim of bunco steerers was out, the family decided to tell the true story.

Mr. French left his house, at Clinton and Gates avenues, at 11 o'clock Friday morning, to go to the Mechanics' Bank at Court and Montague streets. He walked slowly over to Fulton street, which is only one short block away, and was standing there waiting for a trolley car when a well-dressed young man walked up to him and, grasping his hand, exclaimed:

"Well, Mr. French, I'm glad to see you again."

Mr. French looked the young man over, but couldn't recollect ever having seen him before. He is a good-natured man, however, so he merely said:

"I'm sure I don't remember you, sir."

"Of course you don't, of course you don't," said the youth, vigorously pumping away at Mr. French's arm. "I didn't expect you would. Why, Alderman, the last time you saw me I was a little codger. Can't you guess who I am?"

"I give it up," said Mr. French, and then the young man said:

"Why, I'm Harry Pratt, the son of your old friend."

Mr. French and Charles Pratt, the late millionaire oil man of Brooklyn, were close friends, and the thought that he was shaking hands with the son of Mr. Pratt pleased the old man mightily.

"Well, well, my boy, I'm very glad to see you," he said. "My, how you're grown. I'd never have known you."

Young Mr. Pratt said he was going to walk down Fulton street a few blocks. He wanted to know if Mr. French wouldn't accompany him. It was a pleasant day, he said, and the walk would do Mr. French good. Mr. French thought so, too, and the two men started down Fulton street. Mr. French asked many questions about the Pratt family and his companion answered them readily. He had such an intimate knowledge of the family affairs and talked so affectingly of his widowed mother that the suspicion of his being an imposter never came to Mr. French. When they got near Cumberland street, young Mr. Pratt said:

"Oh, by the way, Mr. French, my meeting you solves a little problem for me. A short time ago I ordered a new universal history from a man down here and it is to be ready for me to-day. It's something unusually fine and I induced a friend of mine to order one, too. My friend told me the other night that he didn't want the book, as he couldn't afford to pay $10 for it. I ordered the two so I've got to take them. Will you accept one of them from me? I don't know any one I'd rather give it to."

Mr. French is a man of literary tastes, and his companion's account of the new history interested him. He thanked Mr. Pratt for his kind offer and accepted it, but said he'd rather pay for it himself. But Mr. Pratt wouldn't hear of such a thing. Nothing would please him so much as to make this little gift to his father's old friend.

The two had passed Cumberland street by this time. Suddenly Mr. Pratt stepped up to a door between two stores and, beckoning to Mr. French, said:

"Why, here's the place now. Come up and see the book. I'll have it sent to you, but I'd like you to see it."

Mr. French thinks he went up one flight of stairs, but he isn't sure. He knows, however, that his young friend opened the door of a room and that inside, seated at a desk, was another young man, up to his neck in business. Newspapers and time tables were scattered everywhere, a dozen bill files were on top of the desk, and the man behind it was scribbling away at some letters as if his life depended on getting them done at once. He glanced up as the two callers walked in, then banged away at a ball on his desk and called out:

"Boy, boy, hurry with this cable. Excuse me a moment, Mr. Pratt," he continued glancing at that young man, "but that boy'll drive me mad."

He banged at the bell again, but as no boy appeared, he threw down his papers and with a sigh of resignation turned to his visitors.

"Mr. Pratt," he said, "I'm sorry to disappoint you about those histories, but I've got to. They came last night, but I found so many defects in the bindings that I sent them back, and others can't get to me until to-morrow. I'm awfully sorry about this, but I couldn't give you an inferior article.

"Oh, it's all right," said Mr. Pratt, "but I did want Mr. French to see the book. Well, I'll be in to-morrow. Good day," and he started for the door, Mr. French following. They were out in the hall and Mr. French was closing the door, when suddenly the man at the desk called out:

"Mr. Pratt, come here a moment."

Mr. Pratt and Mr. French returned. The man at the desk told the former to be sure and bring his coupons when he came after the books.

"Why, I've got them now," said Mr. Pratt, "I thought they were only receipts. Must I present them in order to get the books?"

"Why, didn't the company write you about the premium offer?" asked the man at the desk. "Didn't you notice the numbers on the coupons?"

Mr. Pratt hauled two strips of cardboard, on each one of which was a number, out of his pocket. He remarked that these were the coupons sent to him, but said he hadn't heard of any premium offer. Thereupon the man at the desk opened a drawer and took out a box in which a number of similar cards were tightly packed.

"The company arranged its premium offer on the style of a lottery, although, of course, it isn't a lottery," he said. "If you're each going to take a book you've each got a draw," he continued. "You may as well draw now," and he held out the box.

Mr. French said he didn't care to draw, as he was not buying a book, so Mr. Pratt drew two cards and with a laugh tossed them over to the man at the desk.

"I suppose they're blanks," he said.

"Blanks, nothing," said that individual. "You've won $1,000 each," and he opened another drawer in the desk and got out two rolls of bills—that is, they looked like bills, for they were green and there was a good bill on the outside of each. Mr. French didn't investigate them, but declined to accept the money. Mr. Pratt did likewise and the man at the desk looked puzzled. Finally he smiled and said:

"Well, to settle it, each draw another card."

Mr. French declined to take a card, so his companion drew two. The man at the desk looked at them.

"Blanks!" he exclaimed, "you each owe the company $5,000. It wouldn't happen once in a thousand times, but it's the rule. You win a thousand and on a second trial draw a blank, and you forfeit the thousand you won and $5,000 besides," and the man swept the two rolls back into the drawer.

"Do you mean to say I owe you $5,000?" said Mr. French.

"Of course you don't," said Mr. Pratt, drawing him aside. "You didn't fool with the thing, so you don't win or lose anything. I lose it all, and it's the disgrace of it that is worrying me. If I don't give this fellow $10,000, he'll publish me as a beat. This is a reputable house, this publishing company, and these are not times when a man of my social position can afford to repudiate a debt of honor. Heavens, suppose he drags me into a court. My poor mother! My poor mother!"

Mr. French was touched by the predicament of his young friend, and when the latter said that he had $5,000 in a downtown bank and asked Mr. French to loan him $5,000 more to settle the matter Mr. French consented. The man at the desk said that he would wait of course until Mr. Pratt went to the bank, and so Mr. Pratt and Mr. French went out, boarded a Fulton street car and rode to the City Hall. Mr. French went to the Mechanics' Bank and Mr. Pratt left him to go to a bank further down Montague street.

Mr. French drew out $5,000 in cash and later met Mr. Pratt and the two rode to the office of the book company. There Mr. Pratt handed the man at the desk a fat green roll, which the latter pretended to count. He said it was all right. Then Mr. French stepped forward and handed over the $5,000 he had just drawn out of the bank. This was carefully counted, too, and then Mr. Pratt got a receipt for $10,000, and taking Mr. French's arm led him down into Fulton street.

"I am going down town to see my lawyer about this matter now," he said, "and try and get an advance of $5,000 to settle with you, Mr. French. I can't tell you how sorry I am to have put you in such a position. Whether I get the money to-day or not, there are heavy remittances due me on Jan. 5, and I shall pay you then with interest. Some day in the future I shall tell my mother of the disgrace you saved the family from to-day."

Then he said good-by and Mr. French saw no more of him. It was a little before 1 o'clock when Mr. French got home and a few minutes after that hour he startled his family by jumping up at the dinner table and exclaiming:

"I've been swindled!"

He told the whole story to his family and Deputy Chief of Police McLaughlin of Brooklyn, who is an old friend of Mr. French, was sent for. He took Mr. French to Deputy Chief Mackellar, who, with Capt. Reynolds, has tried in vain to get some trace of the swindlers. Mr. French has not been able to be of much assistance to the police, for he cannot recollect just where the room he visited was, excepting that it was on the north side of Fulton street, a few doors downtown from Cumberland street. He has visited the neighborhood several times with detectives, but has been unable to point out the place. He gave the police a fairly good description of the young man who posed as Mr. Pratt, but was unable to tell much about the man who sat at the desk.

Mr. French amassed a fortune as a builder years ago. He built the Academy of Music, the Municipal building in Brooklyn and a number of other well-known public and private buildings in that borough. A marble tablet in the corridor of the Municipal building has Mr. French's name carved on it, and records the fact that the cost of the structure came within a few cents of his original estimate. Mr. French was prominent in politics at the time he was an Alderman, and because of his integrity was dubbed "Honest John" French, a title that has stuck to him ever since. He is prominent in the Methodist denomination. He has been identified with almost every charitable movement in Brooklyn in recent years. Mr. French has never drunk liquor, smoked tobacco or gambled in his life, and Dr. Little said last night that he wanted it made plain that Mr. French took no part in the lottery game of which he became the victim, but gave up his money so readily because he believed he was saving the son of an old friend from disgrace.

OUR DUTY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Former Consul Williams Applauds the Policy of the Administration.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 11.—Oscar F. Williams, who was Consul at Manila for two years and has just returned from that city, delivered an address at Central Church to-night, the subject of which was "On the Bridge with Dewey." Consul Williams was actually on the bridge of the Olympia throughout that memorable fight, and he saw all that happened from the beginning to the end of the engagement. He gave Dewey unstinted praise for his conduct throughout the battle, and said that the result showed that Dewey will, in the future, occupy a place with the great naval heroes of history. As to the future of the Philippines and the policy of the Administration he said:

"Throughout what has proved to be a hard and arduous struggle, our President has never wavered. He has ever had an eye single to the great purpose that is to be achieved, and never for one instant has he swerved from that noble purpose. In this purpose he has received the thorough cooperation of the officials under him. By their united efforts the splendid achievements of our Army and Navy have become possible.

"Otis is a General of rare accomplishments, and is doing all in his power to reduce the state of affairs in the Philippines to a condition of peace and harmony and conformity with the ideas of liberty and justice that we have been accustomed to learn from our childhood. So let us, the people, do our duty, as the President, Admiral and General have done theirs, and criticism will be drowned in praises.

"I care less for expansion of acres than I do for expansion of ideas. There is more written in the Treaty of Paris than is expressed in the formal words it contains. The millions hampered by Spain will mount higher in the humanitarian scale if the impetus but comes from us. The blessings of freedom can only be conferred down by a free people. The opportunity is ours and we cannot shirk the burden that is imposed on us. It is our place to give an exhibition of our idea of right and justice by placing the inhabitants of the Philippines on a plane of civilization. Let us persevere in our trust and be brave, and the Filipinos will praise us and a lesson in government will be given to the civilized world that will be of lasting benefit."

KOHLSAAT'S BOOKS CALLED FOR.

The Demand Followed by Another Indictment in His Libel Case.

CHICAGO, Dec. 11.—In the libel suit of Herman H. Kohlsaat, editor of the *Times-Herald*, against George W. Hinman, editor-in-chief of the *Inter-Ocean*, Martin B. Madden and others, a surprise was sprung in the criminal court this morning. It came in the form of a demand upon Mr. Kohlsaat to bring his books of account into court, and upon his refusal to accede to it application was made to the court for an order to compel him to do so. The reason set forth for this demand was that an examination of Mr. Kohlsaat's books would prove the truth of that part of the alleged libellous publication in which Mr. Kohlsaat was referred to as "a liar," "a dishonest business man," "a scoundrel," "a deceitful man," "a reckless liar," "a man in dishonest business habits," "an impostor," "a vulgar cheat," and in which it was alleged "he pursued a career in Chicago journalism disastrous, dishonorable and dishonest."

In the affidavit on which his appeal to the court for the order upon Mr. Kohlsaat is based, Mr. Hinman says that Mr. Kohlsaat caused his solicitors of advertisements to represent to merchants that the *Times-Herald* had a week day circulation of from 70,000 to 75,000 copies, and a Sunday circulation of from 100,000 to 125,000 copies, whereas, he (Hinman), believes that the week-day circulation of the *Times-Herald* is and was not greater than 35,000 copies, and that of the Sunday *Times-Herald* never exceeded 55,000 copies.

In consequence of this application, the prosecution seems to have resolved upon a new move. The first step was taken late this afternoon when a new indictment was voted against Mr. Hinman alone based upon the embezzlement charge alone. The next step will probably be a motion to quash the original indictment and thus prevent the bringing of the *Times-Herald's* real circulations to light.

Lawton Occupies San Miguel.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MANILA, Dec. 12, 10:05 A. M.—Gen. Lawton has occupied the town of San Miguel without opposition. The citizens have requested that a permanent garrison be stationed there.

Col. Hayes has skirmished through Sibul and Bulos and has captured some of Gen. Pio del Pilar's correspondence, which indicates that his force has been broken up.

Unequalled Service.

The New York Central has eight trains every day to Chicago; six to Cleveland; three to St. Louis; two to Cincinnati; two to Toronto; four to Montreal; five to Detroit; twelve to Buffalo and Niagara Falls, including the famous Empire State Express; sixteen between New York and Albany and Troy.—Adv.

Level, Straight and Comfortable.

The roads of the New York Central Lines over which run hourly trains between the East and West. See time table in this paper.—Adv.

HENDRICKS FOR PAYN'S JOB

GOV. ROOSEVELT TO NAME A NEW INSURANCE SUPERINTENDENT.

Platt and Odell Are Both Friendly to Payn—Confirmation by the Senate Required—Mr. Hendricks as an Ex-Senator May Fare Better Than an Outsider Might.

Gov. Roosevelt, his friends announced yesterday, has decided to send to the Senate early in February the name of a candidate for Superintendent of Insurance to succeed the Hon. Louis F. Payn of Chatham. The Governor, it was added, believes it to be his duty to take this step. Mr. Payn was appointed by Gov. Black on Feb. 2, 1897. The Superintendent of Insurance receives his appointment from the Governor, the Senate confirming, and he holds office for three years and until his successor is appointed and has qualified. Gov. Roosevelt, it was announced yesterday, has decided to send in the name of the Hon. Francis Hendricks of Syracuse for successor to Mr. Payn.

When Gov. Roosevelt was inaugurated great pressure was made upon him to appoint Mr. Hendricks to be Superintendent of Public Works in place of the Hon. George W. Aldridge of Rochester. Mr. Hendricks was not a candidate for the place, and the Hon. John N. Partridge of Brooklyn was appointed. It was said last night that the proposed nomination of Mr. Hendricks to succeed Mr. Payn might turn out to be a dangerous one for Mr. Payn, on the ground that Mr. Hendricks as a former member of the Senate can readily command what is known as Senatorial courtesy. Mr. Hendricks was a member of the Senate from 1886 to 1891. His reputation as a man of executive ability and probity is beyond reproach. He was Collector of the Port of New York in Harrison's time. It is not known if Mr. Hendricks is aware that Gov. Roosevelt has decided to send in his name to the Senate to succeed Mr. Payn.

When Mr. Payn was named by Gov. Black serious objections were raised by Republicans of the anti-organization stripe. The Democrats and Mugwumps also joined in the criticism of Mr. Payn. Mr. Payn had been the friend of Gov. Black from the first days that Mr. Black went to Congress, and he more than other man in the Republican party was responsible for the nomination of Mr. Black for Governor at the State convention in Saratoga in 1896. Mr. Payn was confirmed by the Republicans of the Senate. He has many friends now in that body.

Senator Platt and Chairman Odell are friendly to Mr. Payn for the reason that they believe that he has conducted his office on the highest business plane. As a matter of fact Supt. Payn has become within the last month or two an International character. President McKinley in his message to Congress last week had this to say:

"Efforts to obtain for American life insurance companies a full hearing as to their business operations in Prussia have, after several years of patient representation, happily succeeded, and one of the most important American companies has been granted a concession to continue business in that kingdom. I am also glad to announce that the German insurance companies have been re-admitted by the Superintendent of Insurance to do business in the State of New York."

Whether Mr. Hendricks will be confirmed by the Senate is a question, and yet, as already said, the nomination of Mr. Hendricks is considered to be rather dangerous to Mr. Payn for the reason that Mr. Hendricks, as an old member of the Senate, will get more consideration than an outsider.

The Hon. William Barnes, Jr., of Albany, chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, would like to have Assemblyman William L. Coughtry of the First district of Albany made chairman of the Assembly Insurance Committee, and he would also like to have Assemblyman James B. McEwan of the Second district of Albany appointed to the Assembly Committee on Rules. These matters have been taken under consideration, but it is quite positive, it was said, that Mr. Barnes cannot get away with both these important places. He must either forego one or the other, it is stated, and, meantime, there is an effort being made to land Assemblyman James G. Graham of the First district of Orange as chairman of the Assembly Insurance Committee.

SOLDIERS THREATEN SALEM, N. J.

Sixty of Them Lined Up to Fight the Town When Their Commander Appeared.

SALEM, N. J., Dec. 11.—A riot took place in this city about midnight on Saturday in which about fifty soldiers of Battery H, Fourth Artillery, stationed at Fort Mott, near this city, attempted to clean out the town. The riot lasted about an hour and resulted in the defeat of the soldiers by the citizens. About 8 o'clock to-night the report spread through the city that sixty soldiers were on their way to Salem, bent on getting revenge for the whipping they had received on Saturday night. In a few minutes several hundred men assembled in the centre of the city. Mayor Gwynne ordered the drinking places not to sell liquor to the soldiers and swore in about fifty citizens as special officers, arming them with white oak walking sticks.

By this time the soldiers had arrived. They lined up in front of the Salem National Bank and were on the point of making an attack on the citizens when Lieut. Hunter, commanding Fort Mott, who had missed them from the fort, appeared before them and ordered them to leave the city and report for roll call at the fort. His order was obeyed and quiet was soon restored. The Lieutenant promised Mayor Gwynne that the soldiers who had taken part in the disturbance should be properly punished.

CINCINNATI TEACHERS ANXIOUS.

Apprehension Lest Rainy-Day Skirts Should Be Forbidden as in Louisville.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 11.—An order issued by the Board of Education of Louisville, Ky., has created a great deal of comment in Cincinnati. The order prohibits all teachers from wearing short skirts while on duty. Of course, rainy-day skirts are included in the order. These skirts reach to the shoe tops and in no other way have they become so much the fashion as in Cincinnati. Numbers of teachers wear them and if Cincinnati should follow in the wake of Louisville it would create quite a sensation. Superintendent of Schools Boone was asked to-day if he intended to take any action in the matter. He said:

"No. I shall not attempt to tell my teachers what sort of skirts to wear. I do not consider it any of my business. They can use their own discretion. I am sure they will exercise it properly."

MRS. JACK GARDNER'S PALACE.

An Old Italian Edifice to Be Brought Over and Re-erected Near Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 11.—Mrs. Jack Gardner is about to erect near this city an old Italian palace which she purchased during a recent trip abroad. The building is to be taken down, brought to this country and redressed, stone for stone. When completed the first floor will become the repository for the works of art which Mrs. Gardner has collected, and it is understood that she intends to open it to the public. The upper story will contain her personal appartments. The building is a perfect example of the architecture of the old Florentine Republic. As in the case of Libby prison, which was transported from Richmond to Chicago, every brick and stone will be numbered and replaced on its arrival here in its original position.

Latest Marine Intelligence.

Arrived: Ss. Amsterdam, Roggeveen, Rotterdam, Nov. 30.

Deerfoot Sausages.

With increasing [illegible] of the danger to health through carelessly [illegible] food, consumers grow more and more fastidious in their selection. "Deerfoot" means purity, daintiness and cleanliness.—Adv.

CUBAN COMMENT ALL FAVORABLE.

Full Text of President McKinley's Message Printed in Spanish.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, Dec. 11.—At a meeting to-day of lawyers to elect a managing committee of the College of Lawyers for the year 1900 all the candidates backed by Secretary Capote were elected. Many lawyers are disgusted with the result, saying that the present state of affairs is the same as under the Spanish régime, when the Government controlled the elections and did not allow fair voting.

The full text of President McKinley's message to Congress has been received here and translated into Spanish. All criticisms throughout Cuba have been favorable.

The Civil Governor of Puerto Principe has asked Governor General Brooke that money be appropriated to start the construction of public roads in that province at once in order to give work to the unemployed.

The teachers of Matanzas have petitioned Gen. Brooke asking that the salaries of teachers in Havana be $125 monthly and in the provinces $100; that all teachers be Cubans, and that a knowledge of English shall not be a qualification for a teacher.

Dr. Escobar, Mayor of Calbarien, has petitioned Gen. Brooke, urging that the export duties on sponges be removed, as those engaged in the trade cannot sell at a profit under the new conditions. The petitioner declares that the business is declining rapidly.

WAGES UP IN NEW ENGLAND.

75,000 Cotton Mill Operatives Now Receive the 10 Per Cent. Advance.

BOSTON, Dec. 11.—The 10 per cent. advance in wages recently granted went into effect in New England cotton mills employing about 75,000 operatives to-day. The mills affected are in Rhode Island, eastern Connecticut, central and western Massachusetts and at Saco, Me. The remaining cotton mills, with few exceptions, will begin on the new schedule next Monday. Most of the mills in New Hampshire will advance wages on that day.

$20,000,000 INVOLVED.

Mrs. Grace of Syracuse Establishes Her Claim to a Silver Mine in Mexico.

SYRACUSE, Dec. 11.—By a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the State of Durango, Mexico, Mrs. Mary D. Grace, principal of Tompkins School, this city, has practically established her claim to the Vecas, San Marcos and Bismarck Silver Lead Mine in that State. The property is said to be worth in the neighborhood of $20,000,000. In 1881, Mrs. Grace, then a resident of San Francisco, in conjunction with a few others, she holding the main interest, purchased the mine at a low figure, the property being supposed to be practically exhausted. Her son was sent to manage the property, and succeeded in uncovering vast deposits of ore. The unexpected richness of the mine led to the formation of a conspiracy, as alleged in the courts, and a local Mexican Judge granted an order of dispossession and a syndicate of Mexican capitalists seized the property. Action was begun by the Grace interests, and has progressed until the present time. Although the lease will probably be taken to the Mexican Supreme Court, the Grace interests believe there is no question of the decision being in their favor. When the final decision is made, they will press a claim for damages arising out of the confiscation of ore for a period of four years, at a rate of more than $1,000 a day.

SHOT BY A NEBRASKA EDITOR.

Prominent Stockman Killed During a Quarrel Over an Article About Him.

SIOUX CITY, Ia. Dec. 11.—J. H. Blenkiron of Atkinson, Neb., a prominent stockman of northeastern Nebraska, went to the office of the *Belden* (Neb.) *News* last night to demand the retraction of an offensive article regarding him, and was shot by Charles H. Harris, the editor. Blenkiron died soon afterward. There were no witnesses of the shooting.

Harris went immediately to Hartington, Neb., and surrendered to the Sheriff. He said that the shooting was done in self-defence. He is in jail at Hartington. Blenkiron leaves a wife and family. Harris is unmarried, and has borne an excellent reputation.

In the article printed in the *News* on Saturday it was stated that Blenkiron had made an effort to cause a run on the Belden Bank, from which he unexpectedly withdrew a large deposit.

Blenkiron entered the office of the *News* to demand a retraction. The two discussed the matter hotly for a time, and then there was a shot. Blenkiron staggered out of the door and managed to cross the street, where he fell dead. The bullet entered his breast just above the heart.

SEEKS HER FATHER'S PARDON.

Nine-Year-Old Girl Working for the Release of Wife-Murderer McLaren.

Jennie McLaren, the nine-year-old girl who is exerting herself to get a pardon for her father, Thomas McLaren, started for Trenton yesterday morning to submit her petition to the Court of Pardons. She was alone when she boarded the 7:30 Pennsylvania Railroad train in Jersey City.

"I have seen Gov. Voorhees already," she said, "and he has assured me that I will get every consideration. If I only get my father released I don't care what happens. Nearly every prominent man in the county has signed my petition."