The Sun.

Fair and colder to-day; northwesterly winds.

VOL. LXVII.—NO. 137. NEW YORK, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1900.—COPYRIGHT, 1900, BY THE SUN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION. PRICE TWO CENTS.

BIG BATTLE PROBABLY ON.

INDICATIONS THAT BULLER'S FORCE IS FIGHTING AT THE TUGELA.

Attacks to the Right and Left of the Boer Position Likely—Details of the Movement Kept Secret—Gen. Roberts Sends His First Report, but Makes No Mention of Ladysmith—Methuen's Activity on the Border of the Orange Free State Pleases London—French in Good Position to Hold the Boers at Colesberg.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Sunday's despatches are more numerous than for some time, but they do not advance the knowledge of the situation much. Considerable satisfaction is expressed over the activity of various portions of Gen. Methuen's command in the Orange Free State, but the anxiety as regards Gen. Buller's operations overshadows all else.

Yesterday there was deep excitement over unconfirmed rumors that Ladysmith had been relieved and that the place had fallen, and that Gen. Buller had won and lost a great battle. Lord Roberts's despatch to-night shows there is no change in the situation. This may be illuminative to the War Office if they have knowledge that is not possessed by the public, but the whole position on the Tugela River remains to the rest of the world a mystery which can only be interpreted as implying operations of the most critical importance.

All that is clear is that the Boers' front extends for twenty miles. Gen. Buller occupies Potgieter's Drift with his extreme left, while a despatch to the Central News from Durban, dated Jan. 12, states that Gen. Warren left Frere on Thursday with a strong flying column to cooperate in Gen. Buller's movement. It is reported that a great battle is proceeding and that there is fighting in three places.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent at Pietermaritzburg, in a despatch dated Jan. 12, says that Gen. Warren, with 11,000 men, moved to the eastward from Frere by way of Weenen. His scouts found no sign of the enemy at Grobiershkloof, while it was ascertained that Colenso was deserted.

This leads to the assumption that Gen. Buller is holding his position on the left while developing a large turning movement on the right.

If the report of triple heavy fighting is true it is probable that Hlangwane Hill has been attacked with the object of gaining a commanding position to enable Gen. Clery or Gen. Warren to make a direct assault, but it is difficult to extract more from the scanty information than that Gen. Buller is apparently attempting to envelop the enemy.

The *Telegraph's* Frere correspondent, in a despatch dated Wednesday night, does not mention an advance or a movement of any kind, but plainly implies that a big operation is possible. He adds: "You may possibly not hear from me for a day or so, but believe me all will go well. I am taking up a wagonload of little luxuries for free distribution to the troops in Ladysmith."

Boer despatches from Colenso, of date Jan. 11, to Lorenzo Marques say that everything points to a great battle during the next few days. For the last two nights Ladysmith has been firing rockets. The object of the British is conjectured, the Boers say, but it is by no means clear.

Despite the more than usually copious Boer despatches they do not mention Gen. Buller's movement at Potgieter's Drift, though it must be known, and the enemy are probably retaining all information, as Gen. Buller is doing.

The hill seized by Gen. French east of the Boers' position may be the scene of the Suffolks' disaster. It certainly commands the Achteitang road. If he is strong enough to hold this and the road leading to Colesberg bridge he will entirely cut off Colesberg.

INVASION OF THE FREE STATE.

British Destroy Two Farms Which the Boers Had Used as Camps.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MODDER RIVER, Jan. 11.—Gen. Babington, with the Ninth and Twelfth Lancers and a battery of the Royal Horse Artillery left camp on Jan. 7, and Honeynestkloof on Jan. 8. They were there joined by the Victorian mounted troops, and early on Jan. 9 they advanced into the Orange Free State. This was the first time during the campaign that a large force entered the enemy's country.

Col. Pilcher simultaneously moved from Belmont south of Gen. Babington's line of march, while portions of the garrisons at Klokfontein and Honeynestkloof under Major Byrne, made a junction with the force a few miles east of the railway and advanced toward Jacobsdal.

Gen. Babington advanced twelve miles into the Orange Free State bivouacing at random. There were no signs of the enemy. The Victorians advanced scouting carefully and rapidly, at least twenty miles inside the border. Several farms were visited, and it was found that their occupants had been warned of the advance. As the troops were returning to camp the Sinegans farm and two others were burned as they had been used by the enemy as camps.

Early on Jan. 10 the force swept south, thoroughly searching the country. They returned to Enslin at 2 P. M. Byrne's column went within four miles of Jacobsdal and reconnoitred a range of hills to the enemy's extreme left, which was occupied immediately by 700 Boers. No great force was observed at Jacobsdal.

The work of the lancers was admirable, the country being suitable for cavalry. The scouts and flankers scoured the ground in the open country and found the Queensland troops toward Bloemfontein, which caused much surprise.

Col. Pilcher's troops surprised a homestead, from which twelve Boers fled, leaving a fully prepared good dinner which the Australians promptly appropriated.

REPORT FROM GEN. ROBERTS.

He Makes No Mention of the Movement by Gen. Buller.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 14.—The following despatch from Gen. Lord Roberts has been received at the War Office:

"CAPE TOWN, Jan. 13, 3:30 P. M.—Methuen's cavalry reconnoissance returned Jan. 11. It went twenty-five miles into the Free State. The country was clear of the enemy except patrols of Boers. All is quiet at Modder River.

"Gen. French made a reconnoissance round the enemy's left flank on Jan. 10. He advanced from Slumiger's farm on Jan. 11, with the cavalry and Royal Horse Artillery to bombard a laager east of Colesberg Junction, but was unable to outflank the enemy. The reconnoissance pushed north of Bastard's Nek. He examined the country north of the ridge.

"There is no change in Gatacre's position.

"All was well at Mafeking on Dec. 28."

Another despatch from Cape Town, dated Jan. 14, 8:30 P. M., says: "There is no change in the situation to-day."

BOERS HOLDING STORMBERG.

False Report That They Were Going to Retire and Concentrate at Colesberg.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 10.—A despatch to the *Times* from Molteno, dated Jan. 8, says: "Last night it was rumored that the Boers had evacuated Stormberg and were going to Colesberg, some distance to the northwest, to oppose Gen. French. A strong reconnoissance of mounted men under Col. Jeffries proceeded to within three miles of Stormberg and discovered that the Boers were still holding the place, but were unable to learn their strength. The enemy fired on the British, who replied and then awaited an attack. The enemy refused to attack, and the British thereupon retired. There were no casualties. Col. Neylan, with the Cape police, is occupying the Molteno police camp.

The *Times* publishes a long letter accusing Lord Loch of the betrayal of the Uitlanders in 1894. The writer says that he and Hofmeyr, the Afrikander leader, caused the present difficulties for the reason that they failed to support Sir Jacobus Dewit, the then British agent.

The papers here publish the Boer official list of the casualties at Magersfontein, which places the loss in killed at 51, including 24 Free State Boers and 16 Scandinavians. The list of the Stormberg casualties includes two Cape rebels killed and eight wounded.

FRENCH CHECKS A BOER MOVE.

Then Surprises a Boer Laager Near Colesberg and Scatters 800 Men.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 11.—A despatch to the *Times* from Rensburg, dated Jan. 10, says: "At midday 300 Boers made a determined effort to occupy a hill overlooking Slingersfontein. The British cavalry and artillery were ordered to their right and left and the movement was frustrated. A company of the Yorkshire Regiment occupied a hill facing the one the Boers attempted to seize.

"Three squadrons of cavalry under Col. Neeld reconnoitred toward Colesberg and discovered a laager containing 800 men six miles south of the village. The Boers were surprised and rushed away in all directions in a most disorderly manner. They were heard shouting in English and Dutch. The British fired on them, killing a number of horses, and then retired."

BOERS PRAISE BRITISH BRAVERY.

Account of the Disaster to the Suffolk Regiment Near Colesberg.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 14.—A Boer account of the disaster to the First Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment on Jan. 6 says that 8 officers and 94 men were captured. The British attack on the Boer position was most gallantly conducted. The British met at the summit of the ridge a withering fire, by which their advance was promptly checked. Lieut.-Col. Watson's body was discovered beside the bodies of his men. Twenty-seven bodies were found in a radius of 21 yards. The Boer losses are reported to have been 8 killed and 17 wounded.

PRETORIA, Jan. 10.—One hundred and sixteen officers and men belonging to the Suffolk Regiment passed through here to-day as prisoners. They are en route to Waterfall. The men are all well.

SUSPICIOUS FIRE ON A TRANSPORT.

Discovered the Night Before She Sailed With the Surrendered Troops.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch to the *Daily Mail* from Sydney, N. S. W., says that the transport Maori King, taking the second contingent of Queensland troops to South Africa, was discovered to be on fire the night before she sailed from Brisbane.

The fire was in a perforated tar drum that had been placed in the coal bunkers. The authorities had been suspicious and a careful watch had been kept. This led to the prompt discovery of the fire, which was extinguished before much damage was done.

Stringent precautions have been taken regarding the other three transports which will leave Sydney on Wednesday.

CAPE TOWN'S WELCOME TO ROBERTS.

The Large Crowd Showed Its Sympathy With Him on the Death of His Son.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 12. (Delayed in transmission.)—Gen. Lord Roberts got an enthusiastic reception when he arrived here yesterday on the transport Dunottar Castle. His welcome, however, was tempered with sympathy for him in the recent death of his son, who was killed in the fighting near Ladysmith. Many men in the crowd silently raised their hats in token of respect and sympathy as he passed by.

He occupies the same residence near the Government House that was occupied by Gen. Buller when he first came out to South Africa.

FORCE MOVING TOWARD MAFEKING.

Column From the North Has Reached the Gaberones River.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MOCHUDI, Jan. 5, via Bulawayo.—A reconnoissance with an armored train to a point four miles south of the Gaberones revealed the fact that the bridge across that river was in ruins. To-day the force reached Gaberones and sighted a Boer patrol, which retired.

Mochudi is 100 miles north of Mafeking, and the British force is probably moving down from Rhodesia.

GREAT BRITAIN BUYS 240 GUNS.

After Krupps's Refusal to Sell She Gets Them From a Southern European State.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch to the *Daily Mail* from Berlin says that following the Krupps's refusal to sell artillery to the British, Great Britain has purchased 40 batteries of 240 guns, not quick-firers, that were supplied by the Krupps to a southern European state two years ago. These guns are destined to replace those sent to South Africa from the British garrisons.

SORTIE FROM KIMBERLEY.

British Return to the Town After a Brisk Artillery Exchange.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LORENZO MARQUES, Jan. 12.—A Boer despatch states that the British garrison at Kimberley made a determined sortie toward Kamfersdam early on Jan. 9. They returned to Kimberley after a brisk artillery exchange. There was apparently no damage on either side.

French and Gatacre Cause Alarm at Pretoria.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch to the *Times* from Lorenzo Marques, dated Jan. 9, says that the tone of the Transvaal papers indicate that Pretoria is alarmed by the position on the western and southern borders of the Free State. Last week 5,000 men were despatched from Natal to help resist Gen. French and Gen. Gatacre.

LONDON, Jan. 14.—A despatch to the Central News from Durban, dated Jan. 11, says that a number of rifles have been discovered aboard the seized German steamer Bundesrath. The search of the vessel has not yet been concluded.

PRETORIA, Jan. 11.—The embargo on imports via Delagoa Bay is the question of the hour with the burghers. If it is not removed it is stated that it will have a prejudicial effect on aliens and the British prisoners.

LONDON, Jan. 14.—The Duke of Westminster, who has just succeeded to the title, is returning from South Africa on leave of absence. He will go back with the Imperial Yeomanry.

Boat Found Marked "City of Paris, No. 73."

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch to the *Chronicle* from Cape Town says that a telegram from Saldanha Bay states that fishermen found a capsized boat marked "City of Paris, No. 73."

It was thought the boat belonged to the Paris of the American Line, but at the company's office it was pointed out that if the boat belonged to the Paris it would have been marked with that name only.

ATTACK ON STATE TRUST.

COMPANY COULD NOT GET A COPY OF KLING'S PETITION.

Yet All the Newspapers Had It—President Johnston Declares the Charges False and Dishonest and the Work of Conspirators—Loan to Moore & Schley Not for Whitney—Collateral on the $2,000,000 Loan—Breach of Law Technical, Says Kilburn.

Several of the New York newspapers printed in full yesterday the confidential communication of Abram Kling to Gov. Roosevelt touching the management of the State Trust Company. Outside of allegations that large loans had been made in violation of the statute, as specified in yesterday's SUN, the petition to the Governor set forth a number of smaller loans to individuals, stating the collateral and declaring that it was unmarketable or otherwise inadequate, and declared that the Whitney Syndicate was using the Trust Company improperly for its own purposes. This petition was given to the newspapers by Charles P. Bacon, who is attorney for Kling, and who said that he took it to Gov. Roosevelt himself last Wednesday, telling him that if the charges, on examination, were not justified the petition was to be destroyed and not filed; and that he himself would not make it public. Late Saturday afternoon, he said, he learned that the document had been filed at Albany and thereupon he sent it to the newspapers.

This action followed a public declaration by Supt. Kilburn of the State Banking Department on Saturday that the collateral on all the company's loans was ample.

Walter S. Johnston, President of the State Trust Company, said last night that there was quite a significant and extraordinary spectacle presented in the proceedings against his company.

"The first opportunity that I have had," said Mr. Johnston, "though I am the President of the company and the custodian of the interests of hundreds of depositors, to examine the Kling charges carefully and in detail came when I picked up the newspapers this morning. When I asked Mr. Kilburn on Saturday to permit me to copy the Kling petition he said the department invariably regarded such communications as confidential and this one having been disposed of by his examination anyhow, it was not necessary for me to have it. And yet every newspaper in the city had such a copy at the moment and some were printing for public information what the assailed company had had no opportunity even carefully to examine. The newspapers did not get their copies from the department. They got them from these conspirators, who doubtless ascertained that the falsity and dishonesty of their charges were being established to the satisfaction of the authorities and as a last resort published their false and libellous material."

"After all," said Mr. Johnston, "of the several matters which have been called to the attention of the Banking Department, there is only one that could be so distorted as to make even an explanation necessary. This he said was the $2,000,000 loan to a syndicate. "As to this loan," Mr. Johnston continued "there is no safer in any trust company or bank in New York. The persons making this attack charged that the collateral behind it, if put upon the market for sale, would not bring $500,000. The truth is the collateral would bring at any moment not less than $3,500,000. It was and is the best secured loan on the company's books. Behind it was $2,000,000 of good bonds and $2,000,000 of preferred stocks paying 8 per cent. dividends. The Superintendent had no difficulty in finding and stating as he has that the loan was 'amply secured.' Out of this syndicate transaction, moreover, average profits came to the Trust Company of over $1,000,000 together with new and highly profitable business.

"When Mr. Kilburn looked into this transaction he at once conceded the entire sufficiency of the collateral, but remarked upon the fact that the amount of the loan was in excess of the statutory limit which in this case would have limited the loan to a maximum of $1,100,000, and that three of our directors were interested. That interest was exactly $300,000 in each case, and the directors referred to at once offered to draw their checks and pay their several proportions and thereby bring the loan within the limit, but the Superintendent preferred to have the transaction stand as it was for the present. My counsel points out, moreover, that a loan by a bank to an association of persons in which one of the bank's directors is interested under the circumstances of this transaction does not fall within the statutory prohibition any more than would a loan to a corporation in which a director of this company should be a stockholder.

"There is just one possible criticism in this transaction—that the loan, having been really made to six persons I should have divided the loan. But that is not one which affects its soundness. It was, I repeat, as good and safe a loan as any bank or trust company can show and the utter irresponsibility of the petitioner in this case and of the persons behind him is revealed in the false statement about this loan.

"There are two loans to which Supt. Kilburn did not think it necessary to refer in his statement, but upon which the Kling petition seeks to place a totally false interpretation. One was the loan of $412,800 to W. F. Sheehan. Mr. Sheehan is counsel for, and represents the partnership which purchased the securities that are collateral for the loan. They are first mortgage bonds and dividend paying stocks of the most valuable gas properties in Connecticut, and are worth twice the sum of the loan at market prices. The loan is under a written contract to be paid on Jan. 17 instant, by the strongest gas company in the United States outside of New York city.

"The other loan, to Louis F. Payn, is amply secured by good collateral that earns in dividends enough to pay 6 per cent. interest on the loan.

"This raid, however, has furnished the occasion for us to exhibit to the superintendent of Banks personally the exact condition of the company and to receive from him personally his congratulations on the improvement of our financial strength and stability.

Mr. Grant B. Schley, of the firm of Moore & Schley, said: "Our time loans at the State Trust Company, to a total of $1,000,000, were made in the regular course of our business at different periods on highly approved mixed collaterals, all quoted at the New York Stock Exchange, and these loans have been protected at all times with 25 per cent. margin, but more often with 35 to 40 per cent. margin as they have been recently, and are now protected, while no one of these loans has been made by us at the suggestion or nor for account of, nor with the knowledge of Mr. William C. Whitney." [The Kling petition alleged that this was really a loan to Whitney.]

The Kling petition asked that the case be referred to the Attorney-General if its allegations were found to be correct. Supt. Kilburn said last night:

"I am not going to lay the matter of the State Trust Company before the Attorney-General. There is no reason why I should do so. The importance of the whole business has been very, very much exaggerated. As a matter of fact, nothing has been done that calls in any way for any action by the Attorney-General. The banking law has been violated by the trust company. These violations having been brought to my attention, it becomes my duty to issue an order to that company to conform to the law and to see that it does so. If they should persist in committing these technical violations of the law, then something would have to be done. But they will not persist in doing any such thing. They are anxious to rectify these errors and have voluntarily offered to do so. They say they did not know they were violating the law.

"If there were any question of the institution being unsafe, it would be my duty to take steps to make it safe, no matter how severe those steps would have to be. But no question of the solvency of the company has been raised, and it is absolutely and perfectly sound. I can't see why any one should think this was a matter for the Attorney-General. The Penal Code has not been violated. These technical violations of the banking law do not constitute misdemeanors, in my opinion, and I am a lawyer. If I were to proceed to the Attorney-General with a complaint against every banking institution that ever technically violated the banking law, I would close up every one in the State."

With regard to the check of the Metropolitan Traction Company for $100,000 which was set against a loan of $455,000 made by the trust company to Louis F. Payn, Superintendent of Insurance, Mr. Kilburn said that the president of the trust company had gone on record with a sworn statement in which he said that the check was given to the trust company as part payment of that loan, but that the company did not so understand it at the time it was received, and it was held as collateral. The mistake has been rectified and the amount of that loan is $345,000, and is fully protected by collateral which is perfectly good.

FIGHTING WAS DESPERATE.

Boers Admit Their Repulse at Ladysmith, but Report Only a Slight Loss.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LORENZO MARQUES, Jan. 12.—A Boer version of the attack on Ladysmith on Jan. 6, dated Boer Headquarters, Ladysmith, Jan. 7, speaks of the stubborn resistance and conspicuous bravery on either side, but the burghers were finally compelled to retire from most of the ground they had occupied.

The Boer losses are placed at fifty-four killed, including one Transvaal and three Free State field cornets. Ninety-six men were wounded.

The British were most strongly entrenched. The walls and redoubts were skilfully loopholed. The combat was at such close quarters that rifles were frequently fired when the combatants were only an arm's length away. In fact, it was a hand-to-hand encounter. In the gray dawn the men on both sides fought like demons.

The horror and bewilderment of the scene presented a picture without parallel in the experience of those taking part in it.

FERE CAMP, Jan. 11.—A heliogram from Ladysmith says there have been no further Boer movements. The outposts had a slight brush early on Thursday morning. The rations of the garrison have been increased.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch to the *Standard* from Ladysmith, dated Jan. 7, says that the Boer losses on Jan. 6 are believed to have been greater than those of the British. They have been engaged in removing their dead and wounded for a whole day and night.

TRIAL OF CAPE COLONY REBELS.

Attorney Verdooten of Dordrecht Committed on a Charge of High Treason.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 12.—The trials of the rebels are proceeding at Sterkstroom. Attorney Verdooten of Dordrecht has been committed for trial by the Queenstown Circuit Court on the charge of high treason. The court was crowded. Local Dutchmen were keenly interested in the proceedings.

The *Times* publishes a letter from John Scoble, editor of the *Transvaal Advertiser*, correcting the *Daily Mail's* account of the burial of the union jack in 1881. He states that the flag that was buried was the flag that waved over Pretoria camp, and not the flag that was saved at Brokerspruit, which was handed to the Twenty-first Regiment. The latter flag was the regimental colors of the Ninety-fourth Regiment, not the union jack.

The *Times* advocates a patient bearing with the disadvantages of Delagoa Bay rather than to incur further complications. It says that the port is simply an open sore for statesmen and they could not be blamed if they put up with the mischief caused by it rather than to rush into courses which would certainly not accelerate the termination of hostilities.

LORD STRATHCONA'S PATRIOTISM.

Government Accepts His Offer to Equip Four Hundred Fighting Men.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 14.—The Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, on Saturday formally accepted Lord Strathcona's offer to supply, distinct from the Canadian Government's contingents, at least 400 mounted men, plus officers. He will arm, equip and transport the force to England, where the Imperial Government will take them over.

The men will be raised in Manitoba, the Northwest Territory and British Columbia. Only single men who are expert shots and riders will be accepted.

SLIGHT CLUE TO THE WRECK.

Ship Lost in St. Mary's Bay Probably a German Oil Tank—Cap Marked "Falke."

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Jan. 14.—A fisherman near the scene of the wreck in St. Mary's Bay picked up to-day a sailor's photograph. On the cap of the man in the picture can be read "S. M. S. Falke."

There is no ship Falke answering the conditions surrounding the wreck near Peter's River. There is but one of that name in Lloyd's registry. She is plying in the Mediterranean trade and is owned by the North German Lloyd Line, and the funnels of this line's ships are yellow throughout. The wreck's funnel is red, white and black with a white diamond, and she is much larger, according to reports, than the Falke. The wreck is also said to be low, whereas the Falke is several years old. The only other Falke is a German warship, and the picture may be of a seaman from her who was serving on the wreck or of a friend of one of the crew.

No more is known now of the ship's identity than when she first struck the rocks, while the chance of learning it grows hourly less. The cargo is now sunk and the wreckage on the rocks is being reduced to matchwood by the heavy seas, which continue without abatement. All the ship is now under water except the top of one mast and this will probably go to-night. The breaking up of the ship is steadily continuing.

The only hope now of learning the ship's name lies in the bottle which was thrown up in Seulpin Cove, with two bodies shortly after the ship struck and which has so far escaped destruction by the waves. A contrivance has already been rigged to let a man down from the face of the cliff there to-morrow. If the weather improves he will remove the bodies and probably learn the ship's name from the small boat's stern board.

Ten or eleven bodies have been counted on the rocks within a couple of miles, and it is believed that others will be found off the shore when the boats go searching.

The local marine authorities think the wreck is one of the ships from the southern United States ports proceeding to England with a grain cargo and no passengers. They think she was hugging the coast to Cape Race to avoid the mid-ocean storms. A blinding snowstorm was raging to-day.

The funnel marks of the wrecked steamship indicate that she was a German tank or oil carrier. The inscription on the cap of the sailor whose photograph came ashore showed that he had been a member of the German navy aboard the third-class cruiser Falke, now in the Pacific.

Three German tank steamships, bound eastward and laden, might have been in the neighborhood of St. John's last Sunday morning. They are the Helios, of 2,211 tons, Capt. Jansen, which left this port on Jan. 5 for Flushing; the Mannheim, of 2,288 tons, Capt. Ockelman, which sailed hence for London on Jan. 6, and the Helgoland, of 1,610 tons, Capt. Von Bittern, which left Philadelphia for Bergen on Jan. 5. The Helgoland and Mannheim are three-masted. The Helios is a new vessel, and there is no description of her in the *American Record of Shipping*. She is probably, like the other tanks, capable of making about ten knots in pleasant weather and a knot or so less in rough seas. This would bring her near St. John's in about six days.

SECRETARY OF SENATE, J. S. SHERMAN.

The Office Offered to the New York Congressman, and He Will Accept.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—When the caucus of Republican Senators reassembles next Friday, the Caucus Committee appointed to select candidates for the elective offices in the Senate and to distribute the patronage, will present the name of James S. Sherman of Utica, a member of Congress from the Twenty-fifth New York district, for Secretary of the Senate. There was an understanding that the office should go to the State of New York, and Senators Platt and Depew had agreed upon James S. Clarkson, formerly of Iowa, but now of New York city, for the honor. As objection to Mr. Clarkson developed, however, the secretaryship was tendered by the Caucus Committee to Chairman B. B. Odell, Jr., of the New York Republican State Committee, but was declined by him. The New York Senators then turned to Representative Sherman, and he has signified his willingness to take the office. While he has the tentative support of the two Senators from New York, they are still backing their original candidate and will stick to Mr. Clarkson as long as there is a chance of his success. The defeat of Mr. Clarkson, however, is conceded, and when this is apparent to Mr. Platt and Mr. Depew they will put forward Mr. Sherman, and he will be nominated.

TOWN TO BE A BIT SAFER.

THAT, THE KNOWING ONES SAY, IS ALL POLICE CHANGES MEAN.

The Vicious Were Getting Out of Hand and too Many Complaints Were Coming In—Chilly Feeling in the Tenderloin—Capt. Price Takes Hold in Brooklyn.

Police Captain James K. Price moved his sphere of activity from the Tenderloin to Police Headquarters, Brooklyn, at 8 o'clock, yesterday morning. He met Deputy Chief John Mackellar at Brooklyn Headquarters and the two were in conference for more than an hour. Then Mr. Mackellar escorted the Captain to the Detective Bureau on the third floor where he was introduced to Sergt. Harry Metcalf and the members of the detective squad. Capt. Price remained in his office only a short time. He returned last evening and stayed long enough to sign a few papers. Several reporters called on him and asked how he liked the change.

"I'm here," said the Captain grimly, "that's enough."

Chief Devery's shakeup of the force shifts a comparatively unknown commander, Capt. Andrew Thomas, into control of that great harvest field, the Tenderloin, and has struck a large number of persons in this city with a chilly feeling. On the supposition that it is now "up to" Devery to prove that the blame for the "wide-open" town is not his, they are wondering what is going to happen to them. From the Bowery to Harlem, in each centre where the characteristics of the Tenderloin have been allowed full sway ever since Tammany came back into power, there was consternation yesterday among certain classes of the caterers to vice, and there were evidences from various sources that for a time, at least, even the men with big pulls will have to trim their sails close to a wind of reform and put on an air of complying with the law. In the Tenderloin itself the change of control is looked upon by divekeepers of all kinds as a misfortune, even if Capt. Thomas is not regarded as a reformer. Capt. Price's long experience in that precinct as "fly cop" for Alexander S. Williams, when Williams commanded the precinct, made him particularly able to spot every one who might need a friend at court and Capt. Thomas is said to have this ability also particularly well developed. Those who thought they were safe for the time under Price are now expecting to have to hustle around and try and convince the new commander that they ought to be allowed to do business in the precinct.

That there is going to be a spasm of activity against the more flagrant violations of the law, no one who is actively interested seems to doubt, unless it be some of those bodies of good citizens who have been complaining to the Police Board. The dive keepers do not seem to question it. All they ask is, "How long is the storm going to last?"

Men who have been watching the drift of affairs in the centres of vice have been expecting the present move for several months and they discovered the first evidences that it was coming several weeks ago when the doors of several dives were closed because the proprietors, who were not among the favored at Headquarters, no longer dared openly to violate the liquor law and the concert hall law and found their chance for profit gone with the eyes of the police on them. Immediately after that came the demand of the Police Board upon Chief Devery for reports as to how the law was being complied with in theatres and concert halls, and it was evident that a "tip" had been sent out, for from that time on the concert hall keepers have been in evident fear of trouble and have promptly begun to close their doors as soon as 1 o'clock arrived on week day mornings and at midnight on Saturdays. Even dives which were supposed to have powerful pulls and had been running in open defiance of the law disgusted their patrons by refusing to sell anything but soft stuff after closing hours, or prepared to defend themselves against raids made in the interest of reformers by displaying on each table a plate with anything on it which might be construed as a "meal" under the Raines law.

Neither President York of the Police Board nor any of the other Police Commissioners who could be found yesterday would discuss the present situation, nor would Chief Devery, but there were officials in the department who were not so reticent, although of course none would be quoted by name.

"Anybody who thinks that the Police Commissioners can put Chief Devery in a hole by throwing the responsibility for the 'wide-open town' upon him and washing their hands of the matter is mistaken," said one of them.

"The police of this city are officered by men of ability and experience, and have been proved time and time again that they can enforce any law that they really undertake to. I don't know anything about what orders the board has given to the Chief, but you may be sure of one thing—if they have told Devery, without any string to the order, to clean up the city, it will be done. The police force is made up of men who are not stuffed in their jobs and they don't want to run up against any stone walls. It didn't need a brick house to fall on them after the election that put Tammany Hall back into power for them to understand that thereafter there were to be a good many things going on which they had better not see. They took the hint and any one who went about the city could see that quite many local dives were kept free from all evidences of vice, in others the town was wide open. If the powers that be want it closed up again it will be closed, but I don't believe that is what the people want. All they want is to have things toned down a bit. They were getting too wild."

Those who have been observing matters believe that this is just the fact, and that the police move would be even more "just" as certainly if no bodies of citizens had gone to Headquarters to protest, though this, of course has added a new incentive to the police to make a show of activity. When the word went out that New York was "wide open" it led to an influx of persons who were willing to entertain in devious ways her citizens and the strangers who might come within her gates, besides bringing out from other walks of life such people who were already here. The rapid growth of publicly displayed vice was obvious to any one who looked about. Within a few months the market was overstocked with vice and the caterers to it, and it was impossible for so many persons and places to make a profit in the ordinary way. The result was that these people took to robbery. The police were constantly getting complaints and these often from persons who were able to make trouble for them. Panel houses, which for years the police have suppressed with a stern hand, sprang up again, badger games were revived and more open robbery was done by women who lured men off the streets, while the gamblers, unable to get victims enough to support "straight" games, ran in "skin" games of various sorts.

The avowed purpose of those who advocate an "open" town is to make New York an attractive resort for persons not over particular who want to have a good time here, and it was obvious that this condition of affairs would kill the goose that laid the golden eggs, besides getting the police themselves into trouble. It has always been the understanding between the police and persons who were allowed to ply questionable callings that they were to make no trouble for the police. It was when complaints of robbery by women and gamblers began to grow troublesome that Capt. Price and others who had Tenderloin and similar districts to look after, began rounding up the women of the street in larger numbers than usual, and putting the screws on the outer fringe of the vicious residents of their districts. Now, that in time a knowledge of the situation has reached headquarters, a general movement has been begun to make the city safer and more presentable. It is pretty confidently asserted that this is all that the present movement is meant to be, however strongly the Police Board and Chief Devery may protest.

NO REPORT ON A HADLEY DINNER.

St. Louis Newspapers Suppress Mention of the Yale Banquet There.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 14.—President Hadley of the Yale University was the guest last evening at the Noon Day Club of the Yale Alumni Association, but citizens of St. Louis were not aware of the fact generally to-day. The four English Sunday papers decided to give considerable space to the event, as it was looked upon as a deserved compliment to a well-known educator and advanced thinker. When reporters appeared at the clubhouse to take notes they were treated in such a discourteous manner by those in charge of the arrangements that they returned to their respective offices indignant and made such a report to the editors as led to the suppression of any reference to the dinner.

Cercle Francais de l'Harmonie Ball, Madison Square Garden, to-night.—*Adv.*

CUBA'S POPULATION 1,200,000.

400,000 Less Than the Spanish Census of 1887 Showed.

C. H. Olmstead, the assistant director of the Cuban census, landed here yesterday from the transport McPherson with four statisticians and supervisors who had been working for the last several months in Cuba. They brought with them twenty-four boxes of records, all of which will be sent to Washington to-day. Manuel Rasco, who was the Supervisor of Havana Province, did not accompany his colleagues to Washington. He said that 1,550 enumerators had been appointed, all of whom were Cubans. Many women were allowed to act as enumerators, and Señor Rasco said that they were much better than the men.

The result of the work indicates that the Spanish census taken in 1887 will probably have to be reduced by about 400,000. Thus, the present population of Cuba will be about 1,200,000. The cost to the Government of taking the census will be between $300,000 and $400,000.

FOR BLISS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

National Committeeman Durbin of Indiana Favors Him as McKinley's Running Mate.

ANDERSON, Ind., Jan. 14.—Col. W. T. Durbin, the National Republican committeeman for Indiana, said yesterday:

"I am for Cornelius Bliss first, last and all the time for the nomination for Vice-President. He is the strongest man in my estimation the Republican party can name. He will be particularly strong in the great West among the business men and in the trade centres. This will be a business campaign. I am very kindly disposed toward Gov. Roosevelt, but I do not deem him so available a man for President McKinley's running mate as Secretary Bliss would be. I think it is generally conceded that the nominee will come from New York and it ought to be Bliss by acclamation."

RAMAPO BONDS RUINED THEM.

The Portland Bankers, Woodbury & Moulton, Were Wrecked by the Agitation.

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 14.—The schedules of assets and liabilities filed in the bankruptcy case of Woodbury & Moulton, bankers, show a better state of affairs than was expected. The total liabilities are given as $489,658.31 and the face value of the assets at $646,229.30. The firm made the mistake of holding securities in the face of a falling market, but the immediate cause of the assignment was, it is said, the Ramapo water agitation in New York. Woodbury & Moulton had financed the New York Water Company and held a very large amount of its bonds and also considerable stock. Last spring the firm received through New York brokers a flattering offer of a lump sum, spot cash, for their stock and Mr. Woodbury telegraphed that he would accept the proposition if the stock was to go to responsible men who would go into the deal to develop the property. Assurances were made on that point and the stock was sold.

The Ramapo water agitation followed and instead of increasing in value as was expected the bonds held by Woodbury & Moulton became almost worthless and ultimately brought them down.

ROBERTS OF UTAH HAS A CHAMPION.

Prof. Kenney Says He Should Be Cheered Instead of Persecuted.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Jan. 14.—Prof. E. G. Kenney, who was connected with Cornell University and later with Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, has championed the cause of Congressman Roberts of Utah. He says:

"It seems remarkable that in a land where old maids are forever complaining because men will not marry them, when one is elected to Congress who has been large-hearted enough to take three or four wives he should have such trouble in taking his seat."

Prof. Kenney argues that the supply of unmarried women in this country will soon exceed the male population and that Roberts is only following the lead of Scriptural characters in the course he has taken. He says that a man who is willing to even up the present unnatural state of affairs and take more than one wife deserves to be cheered, and asks why under these circumstances a man should be persecuted.

BIG COPPER MINING DEAL.

White Horse Claims Reported Sold to the Rothschilds for $2,000,000.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 14.—It is reported that one of the biggest mining deals on record in British Columbia has been made in the transfer of the White Horse copper claims to the Rothschilds syndicate for $2,000,000. The deal was put through by Manager Bowker of the British-American syndicate which owns the Lelioi mine at Rossland.

Several experts were sent out from England to examine these claims. All agreed that they make the most wonderful copper showing found anywhere. One of them reported that on a single claim $1,000,000 worth of ore had been exposed by a creek washing away the formation. The properties are situated 190 miles down the Yukon from Skagway and will be reached next summer by an extension of White Pass Railroad, now being built.

PROSECUTION OF MOLINEUX

May Close This Week, Only a Few More Witnesses Remaining.

The trial of Roland B. Molineux for the murder of Mrs. Katherine J. Adams will be continued this morning in the Court of General Sessions. To-day will be the seventy-sixth since the beginning of the trial. When the case was adjourned on Friday William J. Kinsley, the handwriting expert was on the stand and he identified three new "Barnet" letters and swore that they were in the hand-writing of Molineux. The court adjourned for the week before he had been cross-examined and it is probable that he will go on the stand again this morning. The prosecution has only a few more witnesses and it promises to finish the presentation of its case this week. It made the same promise last week, however, and it seemed then to be as far advanced as it is now.

EXCISE ARRESTS IN THE TIVOLI.

Two by Devery's Men and One by a Tenderloin Sleuth.

Among the excise arrests that were made yesterday were three in the Tivoli, a resort on West Thirty-fifth street, said to be backed by Bob Nelson, the Tenderloin bailbond man. One arrest was made early in the evening by Policeman Barry, a plain clothes man of the precinct. His prisoner was Joseph Donagan, whom he accused of selling him a drink of whiskey about 7:30 o'clock P. M. The other two were John Clot and Alexander Clark, both waiters, who were accused of selling whiskey about 11:30 o'clock to Detectives Darcy and Schoenpick of Chief Devery's staff. Devery's men br