The Sun.

Cloudy to-day; snow and colder to-night and Sunday.

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CRONJE'S HEROIC FIGHT.

SOME OF THE BOERS BREAK THROUGH THE BRITISH LINES.

They Took Their British Prisoners With Them—Gen. Cronje Reports Small Losses in Spite of British Accounts of a Terrific Bombardment of His Camp—Gen. De Wet Says He Repulsed the British at Petrusberg, Where a Battle Was Expected—No Official British News for Three Days—Nothing Heard From Buller.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—All British accounts agree in stating that Commandant Cronje's army is suffering martyrdom under the most frightful bombardment that the ingenuity of man ever inflicted. The surrender of the Boers at the moment it was demanded by Gen. Kitchener, when the British hosts had completed their fatal chain around them, would probably have meant a deathblow to the Boer cause. The road to Bloemfontein would have been left open, and the whole of the Orange Free State would have been at the mercy of the invaders. Two or three days' delay might enable part of Gen. Joubert's army and other Federal forces to assemble and offer effective resistance to the British advance by establishing a second line of defence, which had long been planned. Commandant Cronje and his brave men simply decided to throw themselves beneath the wheels of the British Juggernaut in order to purchase this brief delay at the expense of their lives.

Not this nor any other age can show a sublimer deed which has awakened the admiration of even the Boers' enemies. The whole world will pay tribute to this exhibition of valor which is one of the grandest that the century has witnessed.

The situation as hitherto described in the despatches to THE SUN was that obtaining to Wednesday morning, since when there has been no news from any source, and what has happened during the past three days cannot even be guessed at. There is, however, a strong probability that large Boer reëntorcements have arrived in the neighborhood of Commandant Cronje's laager and that the operations extend far beyond Koodoosrand. From two sources there is mention of Petrusberg as a battle centre. The first mention of this place was contained in THE SUN'S despatch from Cape Town, dated Feb. 22, and the second is an official Boer bulletin issued at Pretoria on Wednesday. This bulletin says:

"At Petrusberg cannon firing began at 6 o'clock in the morning and a big fight is expected to take place to-day. De Wet telegraphed yesterday from Petrusberg that all was quiet except for several cannon shots and small skirmishes. Yesterday evening the British stormed the federal positions as far as the Schanzes (rifle pits and intrenchments), but were driven back.

"A message has been received from Cronje to the effect that his loss yesterday was fourteen killed and wounded. De Wet's loss was nil during the fighting in which he was engaged.

Commandant Frontemann reports that from Feb. 15 until yesterday he was almost surrounded by the British at Modder River, and that he then, with a small number of men, broke through the lines. "On Sunday there was heavy fighting," he says. "The British prepared to seize the Boer laager, together with the fighting General. We were surrounded by 25,000 British five miles from our chief laager, but at night we cut our way through with a loss of seven killed and sixteen wounded. The loss on the British side was heavy. Yesterday we were compelled to cut our way through in order to reach De Wet, who was in the neighborhood. Fifty-three prisoners taken formerly have been sent on.

"A report has been received that the British continuously attacked at Koodoesrand yesterday with infantry and lancers, but were driven back."

Petrusberg is nearly twenty miles southeast of Koodoes Rand Drift, and Commandant DeWet's report suggests that he collected there reënforcements from the north and south and the small commando which Gen. Roberts dispersed on Tuesday. Gen. Roberts is not improbably fully occupied with these, while Gen. Kitchener is trying to crush Commandant Cronje. The silence of the British commander certainly favors this idea.

It will be seen that the Boer bulletin does not represent the situation as being identical with that described in the British despatches, and while it does not explain the positions of the burghers at all, it clearly suggests that they are not confined to such a narrow area as the English correspondents state. Some part of the Boer force seems to have pierced the British lines, and the whole narrative raises the hope among the Boers' supporters that Commandant Cronje will ultimately be able to extricate himself from his present dilemma.

The latest news from the Natal side is contained in a despatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated Feb. 22, 5:30 P. M., stating that fighting was in progress that morning in the neighborhood of Pieters. Gen. Buller's advance was being opposed by the Boers with big guns and rifles. This force is believed to be the rear guard of the enemy, it being positively asserted that the main Boer army is in full retreat, and that it has either abandoned the investment of Ladysmith or taken a position to the north of the town.

It is reported, under date of Feb. 21, from Chieveley that Gen. White made a sortie from Ladysmith on Tuesday and captured a large number of Boer wagons. Heavy firing was proceeding in the direction of Ladysmith when the despatch was sent, but it was not known whether it was from British or Boer guns. The whole situation is undetermined.

The *Times* prints a despatch from Chieveley which confirms the view taken by THE SUN correspondent in his despatch of Thursday. It says that the British advance is now not rapid. To all appearances the enemy are fighting a rear-guard action, but it is impossible to estimate their strength owing to their having retired to the high, broken country between Colenso and Ladysmith, which is capable of concealing many thousands of men and affording them a series of extremely strong positions. This is probably the cause of the cautious advance of the British. The big guns, which are firing both at Gen. Buller's forces and at Ladysmith, remain as evidence that there has not been a general retirement.

Kimberley is slowly resuming its normal aspect. Gen. Methuen is acting as the administrator of the district. Long stories of incidents of the siege are now arriving. The two worst blows that the garrison suffered were the deaths of Major Scott-Turner and Mr. Labram, the American engineer who was killed four days before relief arrived. The correspondents pay high tribute to Mr. Labram's remarkable genius. It was he, it was recalled, who built the gun known as "Long Cecil," which materially aided in the defence of the town. He was buried at night, the enemy's shells falling thickly around the funeral procession and the grave.

It is reported that M. Leon, the agent at Pretoria of the Schneiders, the makers of the Creuzot guns, who was wounded by a British "snipe" shot while he was directing the fire of the Boer 100-pounder upon Kimberley, died on Feb. 16. M. Leon, according to a letter from Col. Villebois Mareuil which is printed in Paris, was the principal director of the artillery and engineering departments of the Transvaal. Gen. Joubert delegated to him complete authority as regards the artillery, and he had acquired the reputation in the Boer camps of possessing almost supernatural power.

The *Standard* editorially says that Commandant Cronje's resistance is an astonishing example of stubborn endurance. It is urged that the Boer leader deserves blame for wasting the lives of his soldiers since he must now know that the struggle is hopeless. It may be so, but the paper says, "even if we shudder at the cruel sacrifice we cannot refuse to admire its magnificent heroism. It gives us a new view of Boer determination."

The *Chronicle* says: "It is impossible to withhold a tribute of admiration for the iron resolution of a commander who fights a losing battle against such odds." The paper, however, qualifies its tribute by recalling Commandant Cronje's conduct at the siege of Potchefstroom, where, it says, "his dauntless courage and skill were combined with the most shameless trickery."

The *Telegraph* says: "We must experience almost as keenly as we do the feeling of pride and gladness at the masterful vigor of the British arms a passionate admiration of these adversaries. Dogged and dauntless to a wonderful degree were these men who could submit to let their leader pluck, but all condemn the uselessness of sacrificing the lives of his brave followers."

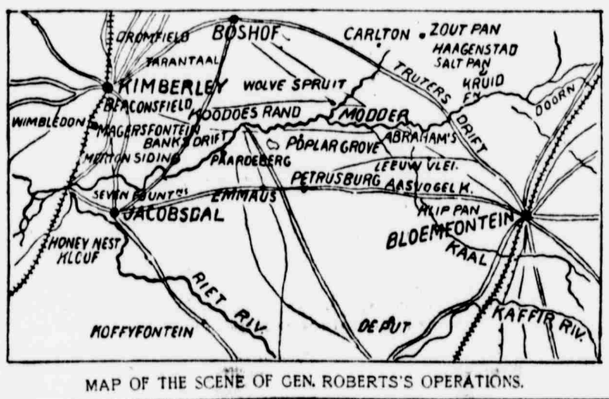
Another despatch to a news agency, which was probably sent from Paardeberg on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, says: "Gen. Cronje's request for an armistice for twenty-four hours was refused. Later on, another message arrived to the effect that if the British were inhuman enough to refuse an armistice for the purpose of allowing the Boers to bury their dead, Gen. Cronje saw no other course but to surrender. Gen. Kitchener thereupon proceeded to the Boer laager to arrange for the capitulation, but was met by a messenger who informed him that the whole thing was a mistake, that Cronje had not the slightest intention of surrendering, and that he would fight till he died. Kitchener thereupon returned to camp, and ordered the bombardment resumed.

"The artillery of Gen. French has been heard firing east of Paardeberg. It is supposed that Gen. French is engaging some Boer reënforcements.

"Gen. Roberts's guns are shelling Gen. Cronje's laager at a distance of from 1,000 to 2,000 yards."

The War Office gives the names of 147 men who were killed at Paardeberg Drift on Sunday, Feb. 18. The losses were distributed among several regiments. The Seaforth Highlanders suffered the heaviest losses, having thirty-five of their men killed. The Canadians had eighteen killed. The following is the War Office list of Canadians killed: Sergt., W. Scott; corporal, R. Goodfellow; privates, W. E. Jackson, A. Maundrill, J. Todd, J. H. Somers, J. Smith, J. A. Donegan, W. White, J. H. Findlay, W. T. Manion, Z. R. E. Lewis, O. T. Burns, C. E. E. Jackson, C. H. Barry, C. Lester, F. McQueen and Roland Dennis Taylor.

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 22, 12:45 P. M.—The correspondent of THE SUN learns that Commandant Cronje is surrounded at Petrusberg, forty miles east of Jacobsdal. The Boers have no water. They are on an open flat and are fighting desperately. They have small chance of escape. The Boer force numbers about nine thousand. The casualties on both sides have been heavy.



MAP OF THE SCENE OF GEN. ROBERTS'S OPERATIONS.

MAFEKING RELIEVED?

Natives Report That Col. Plumer Has Succeeded in Reaching the Town.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The *Standard's* correspondent at Kimberley reports that Gen. French, when he left to coöperate in the pursuit of Commandant Cronje, encountered a body of the enemy at Dronfield. He led them by clever tactics on to an open plain and then loosed the lancers upon them. Forty Boers were killed.

The despatch adds that a farmer at Barkly West quotes natives as reporting that Col. Plumer has relieved Mafeking and is now south of Marsbogo advancing to Vryburg. The farmer, whose name is Kelly, does not profess to vouch for the truth of the reports.

BRITISH ACROSS THE TUGELA.

Uncertainty Whether the Boers Are Retreating From Gen. Buller.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

FROM THE SUN'S Correspondent With Gen. Buller's Forces.

CHIEVELEY CAMP, Feb. 22, 6 P.M.—The British troops crossed the Tugela near Hlangwane Hill on Wednesday afternoon. Corporal Adams of the Royal Engineers swam the river at Colenso with a telegraph wire. The distance was at least two hundred yards. This is the same man who carried the wire over the Little Tugela.

Owing to the evacuation of Colenso by the Boers, THE SUN correspondent was able to ride over the battlefield to-day. The soldiers' graves are in good condition, which disproves the charges of Commandant Botha that the British did not bury the dead properly at Colenso.

The interior of the houses near Colenso station appear to have been ruthlessly damaged. The furniture and windows have been smashed and papers scattered in all directions. Five spans of the railway bridge have been broken down.

The Tugela is slightly swollen, but not in flood.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A despatch to the *Times* from Ladysmith, dated Feb. 22, which was heliographed via Weenen, says: "Our pickets have captured three armed Germans, who are supposed to be Intelligence Department men. One had an ambulance certificate and wore a hospital band. The bombardment on Feb. 21 was very active."

A despatch to the *Times* from Chieveley Camp dated Wednesday says: "The Boer laagers near Ladysmith are plainly visible. It is impossible to say, owing to the broken ground, whether the Boers have fallen back. It is quite possible that they occupy the heights behind the Colenso position, as several guns are shelling us now."

The War Office has issued a list of Gen. Buller's casualties on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21, as follows: Killed—Four officers and nine men. Wounded—Five officers and eighty-six men. Missing—Five men.

THE TRANSVAAL'S FINANCES.

It Has $25,000,000 in Bullion at Pretoria and Is Coining Money Fast.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A despatch to the *Times* from Lorenzo Marques of yesterday's date says that the output of the Rand mines for the month of January exceeded £300,000.

A despatch to the *Daily News* from Lorenzo Marques says that the South African Republic has £5,000,000 in bullion at Pretoria, and is coining 35,000 sovereigns monthly.

DR. LEYDS ANNOYED.

False Statements Attributed to Him by the Press of Europe.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 23.—Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Transvaal in Europe, said to THE SUN correspondent to-day that he was annoyed at the frequency with which false statements were attributed to him by the press of Europe. He declared that he had made no official statement whatever.

BRITISH ADVANCE FROM ARUNDEL.

Boers Driven Out of Mooifontein on the Road to Colesberg.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 22.—Mooifontein, on the road to Colesberg, has been occupied by a British force sent from Arundel. The Boers were driven out of the place.

Thanks from Cecil Rhodes.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The German paper, *Die Finanz-Chronik*, published here, telegraphed Cecil Rhodes, congratulating him upon the relief of Kimberley. Mr. Rhodes replied: "I thank you. I am so pleased that your Emperor showed such good feeling for us."

Cecil Rhodes Resumes Business.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 22.—Cecil Rhodes will preside at the meeting of the De Beers Mining Company to-morrow.

Bride, 70; Bridegroom, 80.

MALDEN, Mass., Feb. 23.—Miss Bridget Davis, formerly of Newburyport, who is 70 years old, and John Collins, a widower of 80, were married here last night. The bridesmaid was Miss Margaret Marren and the best man was Bryan O'Laughlin, both of whom are over 50.

GOLD BILL AGREED UPON.

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ITS WORK.

House Conferees Accept the Bimetallic Clause and, With Some Modifications, the Provision for Funding the Public Debt—A New Division of the Treasury Created by the Bill to Be Known as the Division of Issue and Redemption.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Senator Aldrich, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported to the Senate to-day the conference report on the currency reform measure, known as House Bill No. 1. The bill has been in conference for a week, and the contest between the advocates of the Senate and the House measure was quite stubborn. The most persistent opposition of the House conferees was directed toward the plan for the refunding of the national debt and the provision with regard to international bimetallism, while the Senate conferees objected to certain parts of the provision of the House bill which made interchangeable all forms of money. An agreement was reached, however, on all amendments in dispute, and after the bill had been read it was ordered printed and to lie upon the table. Senator Aldrich, who went to Providence this afternoon, will on Wednesday call up the bill and make a detailed statement of its provisions, and on Thursday the report will be formally considered in the Senate. Both houses will undoubtedly agree to the report as it now stands, and the compromise bill will become a law.

The amended title of the bill is "An act to define and fix the standard of value, to maintain the parity of all forms of money issued or coined by the United States, to refund the public debt, and for other purposes." The declaration of the gold standard is contained in the following paragraph:

"That the dollar consisting of twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of gold nine-tenths fine, as established by Section 3,511 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, shall be the standard unit of value, and all forms of money issued or coined by the United States shall be maintained at a parity of value with this standard, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain such parity."

Section 2 provides that United States notes and Treasury notes issued under the act of July 14, 1890, shall be redeemed in gold coin of the above standard; and the Secretary of the Treasury is directed to set apart a reserve fund of $150,000,000 in gold coin and bullion to be used in such redemption. The Secretary is to use the notes so redeemed to restore and maintain the reserve fund: First, by exchanging the notes so redeemed for any gold coin in the general fund of the Treasury; second, by accepting deposits of gold coin at the Treasury or Sub-treasury in exchange for the United States notes so redeemed; third, by procuring gold coin by use of said notes. If the Secretary is unable to so restore and maintain the gold coin in the reserve fund and it shall fall below $150,000,000, he shall sell coupons or registered 3 per cent. bonds to restore the fund to the maximum of $150,000,000. It is provided also that the United States notes so redeemed shall be held in the reserve fund until exchanged for gold, and that the gold coin and bullion in the fund together with the redeemed notes, shall at no time exceed $150,000,000.

A new division in the Treasury Department, to be known as Division of Issue and Redemption, is created by a section of the bill.

Section 5 provides that as fast as standard silver dollars are coined an equal amount of Treasury notes will be cancelled and silver certificates issued against the silver dollars so coined.

Provision is made in section 6 for issuing gold certificates in amounts not less than twenty dollars, the coin deposited being held for the sole purpose of the payment of those certificates, which shall be a legal tender, and the issuance shall alone be suspended when the gold reserve fund shall fall and remain below $150,000,000. The issuance of such certificates may also be suspended whenever the United States notes and silver certificates in the Treasury shall exceed $60,000,000.

Silver certificates are to be issued in denominations of $10 and under, except that not exceeding 10 per cent. of their total volume may be in denominations of $20, $50 and $100, and silver certificates of higher denominations than $10 may be retired and cancelled and certificates of less than $10 substituted, to be followed by the retirement and cancellation of the same amount of United States notes of less denomination and notes of denominations of $10 and upward issued in their place.

Authority is given the Secretary of the Treasury to use silver bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, for coinage into subsidiary coin, the amount outstanding at no time to exceed $100,000,000. The amount of Treasury notes issued under said act equal to the cost of the bullion shall be cancelled and not reissued.

According to the provision of Section 10 no national banking associations will be organized with a less capital than $100,000, except that banks with capital of not less than $50,000 may be organized in towns of 6,000, and of less than $25,000 in towns of 3,000 population. No banks shall be organized in towns of 50,000 population or over with a less capital than $250,000.

Section 11 deals with the subject of refunding the public debt. It provides that the 5 per cents. of 1908 may be exchanged for 2 per cent. thirty-year bonds in denominations of $50 or any multiples thereof. The principal and interest is to be payable in gold and to be exempt from all taxation. The bonds are to be exchanged at a valuation of not greater than their present worth, to yield an income of 2½ per cent., and the holders are to be paid in cash the difference between the worth of their bonds so computed and their par value.

Under the provisions of Section 12 national banks may issue circulation notes to the par value of bonds deposited, and banks now having bonds on deposit are to receive additional circulation notes to the par value of such bonds. The authority being retained to the Comptroller of the Currency to require additional deposits of bonds or of cash, in case the market value of the bonds deposited shall fall below the par value of the circulating notes outstanding. No bank is to have more than one-third of its circulation notes in denominations of more than five dollars, nor shall it exceed the amount of its capital stock. Banks may substitute 2 per cent. bonds for any now on deposit, and shall pay a tax of one-fourth of one per cent. each half a year upon the average amount of such of its notes in circulation as are based upon the deposit of said 2 per cent. bonds, such taxes to be in lieu of existing taxes on its circulation.

Section 14, the last in the bill, reads as follows:

"That the provisions of the act are not intended to preclude the accomplishment of international bimetallism whenever conditions shall make it expedient and practicable to secure the same by concurrent action of the leading commercial nation of the world and at a ratio which shall insure permanence of relative value between gold and silver."

ENGLAND'S NAVAL PROGRAMME.

Plans to Add Fifteen Vessels, Including Two Battleships, to the Fleet.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The naval estimates for 1900-1901 were issued to-day. The net total is £27,522,600, which is an increase of £928,100 over the estimates for 1899—1900. About one-half of the increase is due to an addition of 4,240 men. The additional expenditure in connection with the war, which affects the present financial year, is more than £1,000,000.

There were 25,712 men in the Naval Reserves on Dec. 31.

It is proposed during the coming financial year to lay down 2 battleships, 6 first class armored cruisers, 2 second class armored cruiser, 2 twin-screw sloops, 2 light draught gunboats and 2 torpedo boats. With this programme in effect the following vessels will be in course of construction during the year: Seventeen battleships, 20 armored cruisers, 1 first class protected cruiser, 2 second class protected cruisers, 1 third class protected cruiser, 8 sloops, 2 light draught gunboats, 4 torpedo boats, 21 torpedo boat destroyers and 1 royal yacht.

For Cape Nome and the Klondike

The quickest time and the best service is via the New York Central. Consult our ticket agents.—Adv.

CHICAGO WOMEN TO GO ARMED.

The Street Lighting Fund Looted and Females Assaulted by Thugs.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Twenty women residents near Wabash avenue and Twenty-eighth street to-day bought revolvers with which to defend themselves from attacks by hold-up men infesting that part of the city. They now purpose to practise daily in a nearby gallery until they master the natural feminine fear of firearms. Owing to the looting of the street lighting fund by the city administration the district has had no street lights for many months. Advantage has been taken of this state of affairs by thugs to assault and rob women on their way home from the elevated railway stations after nightfall. Seven assaults of this kind have been reported this week.

At a mass meeting held last night it was resolved by the fathers, husbands and brothers to arm the women and to teach them the use of the arms until they were able to secure for themselves the protection which the Police Department either cannot or will not give them. This accounts for the heavy purchase of guns to-day.

Most of the women thus armed are residents of the fashionable Woodstock and Devonshire apartment houses. Among those who attended last night's meeting were several women still bearing the marks of brutal treatment received at the hands of thugs. One of them, a Mrs. McGuire, who lives at the Devonshire, was attacked just as she was going into the main entrance of the building and was beaten and choked so brutally before she would give up her purse that she will carry the scars to her grave.

$750,000 FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.

Eight Buildings and Their Contents Destroyed—One Woman Killed.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—A dozen buildings in the business part of the city, Arch street east of Eighth, and their contents were destroyed by fire to-night. One woman, Clara Uvor, was killed by jumping from the fourth floor of the building in which the fire started, two more were caught as they jumped by a colored man, and six firemen were cut by falling bricks and glass. One of the firemen, George Sweney, was seriously hurt by a big piece of plate glass which struck his hip, nearly severing the leg. The loss is estimated at $750,000, mostly covered by insurance.

The fire started in the third floor of the May building, 723 Arch street, occupied by S. May, manufacturer of straw goods. Their building, 721-23 Arch street, which was owned by the May estate, was destroyed. The lower floors were unoccupied. On the top floor was the Carleton Manufacturing Company, makers of silk waists.

The buildings 715, 717 and 719 next ignited. They were occupied by Bowen, Dungan & Co. and Brainerd, Armstrong & Co., sewing silk, and Kaufman, Rubin & Co., manufacturers of underwear. All three of these firms had heavy stock on hand, Kaufman being just ready to ship spring goods. In this building five-hundred people were employed. The building, was owned by J. P. Morris. The buildings 725 and 727, owned by the Jones estate and occupied by John W. Calver & Co., makers of bonnet frames; R. C. Walls, bicycle sundries, and Philip Owellwesser, importer of skins, were gutted and destroyed. Buildings on the lower side of Arch street had windows broken and in the rear were damaged by water.

EASTERN TOURISTS IN TROUBLE.

Sought Bret Harte Heroes in a New Mexican Gaming House and Were Arrested.

SANTA FE, N. M., Feb. 23.—From palace car to police court and almost to jail was the experience of a party of Eastern men and women in Silver City last Tuesday. Second Vice-President Paul Morton and other Santa Fé railroad officials and their wives were sightseeing in the town under the guidance of J. E. Burley, division superintendent. The women of the party were bound to see everything that was going on, and had their eyes open for Bret Harte heroes. They prevailed upon their husbands to take them into a real gambling house. This was done with the consent of the City Marshal.

Roulette, faro and keno were being played at the Palace when the party entered, but before the visitors had time to master the intricacies of the games or to study the characteristics of the players they were seen by Police Magistrate Newcomb. He informed them that they were under arrest for violating the ordinance prohibiting women from going into saloons or gambling rooms. After some difficulty the Magistrate was convinced of the identity of his prisoners and their responsibility, and released them upon a promise to appear in the police court the next morning and pay their fines. The amount fixed for violation of the ordinance is $50.

GRABBED DIAMONDS AND FLED.

Jeweller Koplik Loses Two Pins and a Ring to a Very Active Thief.

A nice-looking young man walked into the jewelry store of R. Koplik at 106 West 125th street about 5:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon and asked Mr. Koplik to show him some diamond pins. He explained that he was about to take a trip abroad and if the pins suited him he might also want to buy a ring. Koplik took out a tray of pins, but they did not appear to meet the man's fancy, so he put back the tray and brought out another one.

The pins in the second tray did not suit the young man either, and after looking at them he asked Mr. Koplik to show him the first tray again. But Mr. Koplik put back the second tray before taking out the first again and the young man tried another trick.

"I feel very warm," he said, throwing open his overcoat. "I have a throat trouble which this hot store doesn't improve and I'll have to have some air."

He stepped to the store door and opened it. Then he went back to the counter and said quickly: "I think there's a pin in the safe there that I'll take." Mr. Koplik turned around to get the pin, leaving the tray on the counter, and before he knew it the man at the counter had grabbed two pins and a ring and was out of the door like lightning. Mr. Koplik, as he turned around, was just in time to see the tail of his overcoat disappearing from view.

There were other customers in the store, but so quick had been the thief's manœuvre that they did not realize what had happened until they saw Koplik climb over the counter and dash out of the door in pursuit of the thief. Then customers and every one else in sight joined in the chase. The jewelry store is only a few doors from Lenox avenue down which the thief turned, but he made such good time that Koplik and the crowd behind him got around the corner only to see their quarry disappear around the corner of 124th street. When the pursuers reached that corner the thief was nowhere in sight.

The police were notified immediately and they came to the conclusion that the man had gone into Koch's dry goods store through the rear entrance in 124th street. A careful search of the store was made, but the quest was unsuccessful. The jewelry taken was valued at about $250.

Philadelphia Editor Held Up by Footpads.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 23.—Charles H. Heustis, editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* and Health Officer of the Port of Philadelphia, was held up by footpads at an early hour this morning and robbed of a gold watch and money. One of footpads was shot and twice wounded slightly by a policeman. He gave his name as Fred. Parker. He was held for trial.

Four Babies at a Birth.

Mrs. Taube Wirt of 258 East Fourth street gave birth to quadruplets yesterday. She and her husband run a butter and egg store. They had four children before the new babies came. The couple are under 30 years of age and have been married ten years. All of the new babies but one boy died soon after birth.

TROUBLE OVER MRS. DEACON.

Two Resignations After Her Exclusion From a California Country Club.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23.—Trouble has been caused in the Burlingame Country Club in San Mateo county by the resignations of Walter Hobart and Charles Baldwin, because the directors of the club yesterday requested that Mrs. Edward Parker Deacon, Mr. Baldwin's sister, should be removed from the grounds. After the Deacon scandal in France Mr. Baldwin brought his sister to his ranch near Menlo Park. She lived a retired life for a long time, but recently she began visiting the club. Mr. Baldwin is Mr. Hobart's brother-in-law.

The wives of many members objected to Mrs. Deacon because of the scandal, and on Washington's Birthday, when she was on the verandah of the clubhouse, one of the directors told Mr. Baldwin flatly that he would have to remove her.

The result was Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Hobart both sent in their resignations. Mr. Hobart's withdrawal is a serious loss, as he had the largest stable at the club. Mr. Baldwin is a son of Rear Admiral Baldwin.

WOMEN CLEAR TRACKS OF SNOW.

Six Members of a Whist Club Try to Shame Street Railroad Officials.

SALEM, Mass., Feb. 23.—There was an unusual scene along the tracks of the Lynn and Boston Railroad, between Salem and Salem Willows, this afternoon, when six women, well-known residents of this city, took it upon themselves to clear the road of snow, which has impeded traffic for a day or two. Armed with big shovels they went to work. It was expected that they would be joined by a large number of other women. Complaint was made last night at a meeting of the Ladies' Whist Club at Salem Willows that the members were obliged to walk some distance through the snow. Resolutions were adopted to the effect that if the Lynn and Boston road did not clear the tracks the club members would do it themselves. They cleared up quite a piece and stopped.

FATAL ALABAMA SCRAP.

Quarrel in Court Leads to a General Row—Two Dead and One Injured.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 23.—Pistols, clubs, knives and stones were used to-day just outside of a little Justice's office near Horse Creek in Walker county, Ala., in a general fight by a crowd of men interested in a lawsuit about the rent of some land. When the smoke cleared away Jack Boyd and Sylvester Hinson were found dead and Walter Stevens badly cut and shot. Stevens was suing Hinson, his nephew, and the quarrel started in the court room and continued on the outside. Boyd was not in the fight, but was killed instantly by a stray bullet. No arrests have been made.

MOBBED A BRITISH CONSULATE.

Fifty Hoodlums Attack the Chicago Office—Incident to Be Ignored.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—About fifty hoodlums attacked the British Consulate in this city last night, pelting the building with sticks and stones and tearing down the flag which had been exposed over the entrance in honor of Washington's Birthday. Consul William Wyndham appealed to the police and twenty men rushed to the scene in patrol wagons and dispersed the mob. No arrests were made.

Consul Wyndham says he will take no official notice of the incident, as he realizes that the mob was made up of thoughtless boys and irresponsible hoodlums ready to shy a brick at anything or anybody. A guard of police was stationed about the Consulate after the mob was driven away and kept there until this morning. Consul Wyndham has been overwhelmed with letters and telegrams from citizens regretting the incident.

GLAD SHE WAS CAUGHT STEALING.

Weeping Shoplifter Admits She's a Thief, and Says Her Husband Made Her One.

A Sixth avenue department store's detective arrested in the store just before closing time last night two women, whom he had seen steal dry goods valued at $14.60. At the Tenderloin police station they described themselves as Mrs. Emily Daly, 69 years old, of 127 West Twenty-eighth street, and Mrs. Emma Peck, 44 years old, of 319 West Twenty-fifth street. When their pedigrees had been taken Mrs. Peck burst into tears.

"I'm glad I was caught," she said. "I wish I could be sent to the chair for this. I'm a thief and I admit it and have been arrested before. I'm glad I'm arrested. I married a bad man and he made me what I am."

Before going to a cell she shook hands with her captor and thanked him again and again for arresting her.

NEBRASKANS TO BOOM BRYAN.

Ten Thousand to Go to Kansas City in Long Ulsters and Tall White Hats.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 23.—As soon as they received the news that the National Democratic Convention would be held at Kansas City, Bryan's friends and the State Democratic Committee began to make plans to have thousands of Democrats go to the convention to boom Bryan. It is estimated that 10,000 Nebraskans will be present to howl for Bryan. They propose to wear a uniform consisting of a long ulster and white high hat with a red ribbon and each will carry a walking stick made of a Nebraska cornstalk. The State Committee to-day wired to Kansas City for quarters for 10,000 Nebraska Democrats. They are preparing for a demonstration that will rival anything of the kind ever attempted at a National Convention.

MAYOR FEARS BRITISH RULE.

Washington Government, He Says, Wants to Deliver Us Over to the Queen.

The Fourteenth Regiment wants a new gallery in its armory, and the application came before the Sinking Fund Commission yesterday. Mayor Van Wyck made a speech, in which he said:

"If the Washington Government doesn't mind its own business this country is likely to get into international complications, and will need armories to accommodate 500,000 men. The Government is now advocating a treaty with England which will make us subordinate to the Queen and the British Empire."

The application was refused.

JEKYL ISLAND QUARANTINE.

Smallpox in Brunswick, Ga., Causing the Northern Club Members Some Alarm.

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Feb. 23.—The millionaires of Jekyl Island are alarmed over the appearance of smallpox at this place among the negroes and they have established a rigid quarantine against all persons from this place. The newsboy who carries the New York and Chicago papers has been forbidden to go over, and the mail is fumigated. The butchers, grocerymen and all others leave goods on the shore, but cannot land.

The Philippines Commission Completed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—President McKinley has appointed Bernard Moses of California as the fifth member of new Philippines Commission, and the appointment has been accepted. Mr. Moses is Professor of Political Economy in the University of California and was selected on account of his supposed special fitness for the place. Prof. B. I. Wheeler, President of the University, was in Washington a few days ago, and in an interview with Mr. McKinley declined an appointment on the commission. At the same time the name of Prof. Moses was favorably considered.

Jefferson Davis's Birthday a Legal Holiday.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 23.—The Virginia Legislature to-day made June 3 a legal holiday and a day of recreation in the public schools of honor of Jefferson Davis's birthday. Men in all parties in the Legislature voted for it.

New Brooms Sweep Clean.

Lackawanna Railroad has just assumed charge of its dining car service. Improvements everywhere. Adv.

POLLY M'GRAIL'S VICTORY.

END OF THE JOHN HAND & SONS' SILK STRIKE IN PATERSON.

Strike Formally Declared Off by the Weavers' Union Last Night—Paterson People Give the Credit of the Mill Owner's Victory to the Courageous Woman.

PATERSON, N. J., Feb. 23.—The United Broad Silk Weavers' Union of America formerly declared to-night the long strike at the silk mill of John Hand & Sons ended and admitted its defeat. None of the weavers will apply for reinstatement in the mill as it would be useless, the firm having all the weavers it can furnish employment for.

When the strike was declared nine months ago the weavers asked the adoption of a schedule which the manufacturers declared it would be impossible to work under. They kept lines of pickets about the mill. Mrs. Sampson, better known by her maiden name of Polly McGrail, thought the wages fair and it was necessary that she should get work to support an invalid husband and their little child. No sooner had she accepted work than she became the target for all the intimidations of the striker. She was hooted on the street, called vile names, serenaded with tin horns and often roughly handled. It became necessary for her to carry a revolver to and from the mill to protect herself. Once she was held up in a cowardly fashion in the fog near the mill and she wounded one of her assailants with a shot from her revolver. Afterward she was twice sandbagged when she ventured out at night once in the grounds about her little home. It became necessary for her to have a police guard when she appeared on the street, and under its protection she continued to go to her work with her revolver at her belt. For a time it was with the greatest difficulty that she was able to secure food, the strikers having pronounced a boycott upon any who sold to her, but finally several tradesmen agreed to sell her all she needed. It was Polly McGrail's unshaken pluck, so it is believed here, in the face of the greatest difficulty and danger that was chiefly instrumental in breaking the strike, men and women workers alike following her example.

TUG SINKS IN LOWER BAY.

The Sammie Sprang a Leak in a Heavy Swell—All Hands and a Dog Saved.

The skipper of a tug in from a cruise seaward reported yesterday afternoon that he had passed in the lower bay the pilot house of the harbor tug Sammie, drifting out to sea. In the evening the tug John Nichol came in with word that the Sammie had foundered in the lower bay and that her skipper, Capt. James Ellis, and his crew of five men were coming up on the tug James A. Lawrence. They were landed at Pier 6, East River, at 11 o'clock last night. Capt. Ellis got to his home at 12:30 o'clock this morning with his dog [illegible]e, the tug's mascot. He said he had [illegible]ected to tow the brig Irene, anchored n[illegible]he Hook, to Carteret, N. J., and was on [illegible]way to her when the Sammie sprang a [illegible] a heavy swell off the Hook at [illegible]M. The water put out the fi[illegible] and all hands went to the pumps [illegible] worked until it was seen that the tug w[illegible]g down. Then they launched their yawl, [illegible] Sammie sank just after they pushed off.

All hands, including the dog, w[illegible] picked up by the schooner Perry, bound for Baltimore, and transferred to the Lawrence. The Sammie was a wooden craft of 70.78 tons gross, was seventy-eight feet long, and was owned chiefly by Henry P. Havens of 85 West street. She was under charter to Peter Cahill of 12 South street.

COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA.

Prospect of Immediate War Over Territory on the Great Canal Route.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23.—Mr. Harrison Hodgson, director and manager of the Costa Rica Railroad from Puerto Limon to the capital, San José, and director and principal stockholder of thirteen Brazilian railroads and of the Argentina and Northeastern Railroad of Argentina arrived here to-day from Costa Rica, after having visited with others the railroad properties in Central America. Mr. Hodgson expressed the opinion that war would shortly begin between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, if it had not already begun, as every preparation for war was under way when he left there.

The trouble is over the Territory of Guanacoste, which has been in dispute among the two countries since 1841. Guanacoste had been been held by Costa Rica, but President Zelaya of Nicaragua ever since he has been in office has endeavored to recover it, as the territory had recently become very valuable. It lies on the prospective Nicaraguan Canal. It was reported in Costa Rica that President Zelaya had sent Gen. Mora and a large force to occupy the disputed locality, whereupon President Iglesias of Costa Rica, had sent 4,000 Costa Rican troops there to oppose them. No meeting had occurred between the two armies when Mr. Hodgson left Puerto Limon.