LEFT THE DECOY OVERCOAT.

THIEF TOOK A SETTER UNDER THE DETECTIVES' NOSES.

Nobody in Bennett's Knows Just How It Happened, for Everybody Was Watching, but the Baxter Street Boys Guessed and the Thief's Old Coat Are Still There. He's Gone.

He walked into Bennett's Swiss restaurant at noon yesterday and took a seat at a rear table. Then he looked up at the sign, "The beautiful menu on the 'Napoleon' of the menagerie," and afterward studied the one beneath it, "Keep your eye on your overcoat." His overcoat, an ancient gray garment, with a bunch of cotton petunias from the lining hung on a peg beside a new one which wasn't his. He took his seat in both. He was a little, consumptive-looking chap, with a big nose. Manager Swain the instant he saw him moved over to the two prominent detectives who had been assigned to watch for a man suspected of getting a new overcoat in the restaurant lately.

"He's sitting over there at that table," whispered Swain, and the two practical detectives and Central Office man with whom they were talking immediately took seats at the nearest table. One of them took off a decoy overcoat, specially acquired for that, and hung it on the peg on the other side of that from which the old gray coat hung. Then the four detectives, the little man with the big nose and the manager all kept their eyes on the three overcoats. The little man ordered coffee and cakes and ate slowly, like a man who feared the consequences of dyspepsia.

"Draw one! Brown a hash! Two bangs!" yelled a waitress presently, and the detectives stared to see more food going toward the man. While he ate they watched the hash, and so did Manager Swain. Two waiter girls and the doorwaiter watched it, too.

"Three off! beef and Boston! one in the dark," shouted the girl at the man's table.

"He'll need a stomach pump, if he keeps on," whispered one of the detectives.

By this time the story of the decoy overcoat had been whispered among the waitresses and instead of one eye on the overcoat, there were a score. Just how it happened nobody is quite clear, but about the time the detectives were getting ready, watching the decoy overcoat, a man in front of the restaurant exclaimed:

"My overcoat's stolen! Who's the boss of this place?"

The detectives jumped up and looked for the man with the big nose. He was gone. They searched for him everywhere, but the only trace he had left was the old gray coat.

The man whose overcoat had been stolen said that his coat was worth $50. The coats that went around the restaurant was that the stolen coat was the property of one of the detectives who had both eyes on the hash. Manager Swain, however, asserted emphatically that this wasn't true.

The manager was in his office on the top floor thinking it over, when THE SUN reporter found him.

"It was a decoy coat purchased in Baxter street that was carried away," he said. "He must have been a slick thief, for we were all watching. I suppose that while I and the detectives were watching the decoy coat the thief took another. If this keeps on the overcoat thieves will get all of our profits. Each man who loses a coat in one of our places claims damages and in almost every case the owner says that the stolen coat was worth $100.

"We have been victimized so often by overcoat thieves that I gave out small tickets, good for use in any of our establishments to the detectives. I thought that would bring the detectives around, and a lot of arrests would follow. But the thefts have continued. Now I'm going to make the detectives pay for whatever they eat.

"The waiter girls have invented a new motto to be hung up in the restaurant. It is: 'An overcoat in the hand is worth two on the hook.'"

COURT YARDS LAW UPHELD.

Justice Maegan's Decision Against Clinton Avenue Improvements Reversed.

Supreme Court Justice Maegan in Brooklyn some time ago decided that the law of 1899 by which twenty feet on each side of Clinton avenue was to be set aside for court yard purposes was unconstitutional, and he vacated the order appointing commissioners to condemn the property. The suit was brought by Messrs. Kilater & Ryan who had put up large apartment houses at Greene and Clifton avenues. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn yesterday handed down a decision reversing Justice Maegan's decision, and Justice Woodward who writes the opinion holds that the law is constitutional. He says in part: "It is not necessary that every part of all highways should be used for the passage of vehicles and pedestrians. It cannot that some road should be laid out to meet the tastes, the comfort, health and convenience of the public."

The condemnation commission will now go ahead. The property affected is on Clinton avenue, between Willoughby and Myrtle avenues. Nearly all the property owners are in sympathy with the new law. They believe that the value of their property will be increased by the courtyards, which will become flower gardens in the summer.

NAVY YARD NOTES.

Arrival of the Prairie With United States Exhibits at the Paris Exposition.

The cruiser Prairie, in command of Capt. William Swift, reached the navy yard in Brooklyn yesterday. She arrived in this port on Thursday night from Havre after a voyage of fifteen days. She has on board United States exhibits in the Paris Exposition. Some of these are paintings, the property of residents of Manhattan. Twenty-five models, the property of the New York Yacht Club, are included in her cargo.

Lieut. E. R. Goodrich of the Department of Yards and Docks at the yard sorted for Washington yesterday. A few days ago he forwarded his resignation, as he had received a flattering offer from a local engineering corporation to connect himself with its interests.

CHARGES PUGILIST WITH ABUSE.

Miss Willis Says Zeigler After Beating Her Put Her Out Into the Snow.

Owen Zeigler, the pugilist, of Bath Beach, was arraigned in the Coney Island police court before Magistrate Voorhees yesterday on complaint of Miss Josie Willis of 258 Bergen street, who charged him with striking her in the face, blackening her eye, and finally stealing her sealskin sack, worth $75. After this abuse, Miss Willis said, Zeigler turned her out into a snowstorm. Zeigler pleaded not guilty to the charges, and was anxious to have the examination proceed, but Miss Willis was not in court and the Magistrate refused to go on with the case. Lawyer McCloskey, for the plaintiff, obtained an adjournment until Tuesday.

NEW $1,000,000 TUBE PLANT.

It Will Be Erected in Zanesville, Ohio, and Will Be in Operation on June 1.

ZANESVILLE, Ohio, Jan. 25.—Turner A. Beall of New York, representing the Lacinna Tube Company, to-day signed a contract with the Citizens' League to erect a $1,000,000 plant here with a capacity of 300 tons of finished product a day, 50 per cent. of the bonds to be taken and the city to be freed from taxes. The money is already subscribed and the contract for the erection of the building and machinery of the tube manufacturers are among the largest of the Eastern investors. The plant will be in operation by June 1, and will employ 1,500 men.

J. James Acton Put in the Insane Ward.

J. James Acton, the youth who escaped from a sanitarium at White Plains on Friday night and was captured in the Catskills the day after, was arraigned in the Tombs police court in Manhattan yesterday morning. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital yesterday afternoon. Lawyer Market, who represented the young man in the police court, said he was sane. Miss Mary [illegible] of 1 West 67th street, who had charge of the young man when he was [illegible] said that she believed he was insane. The Bellevue House, made the complaint against him.

Clergymen Favor Present State Board of Charities.

A number of clergymen of all denominations, including Bishops Potter, Tuttle and McDonnell and Rabbi Silverman, have forwarded a protest to Gov. Odell against the bill to abolish the State Board of Charities as unnecessary. They say that such a course would be "spasmodic, uncalled for, short-sighted, and, in the true sense of the word, impolitic."

NEEDNT REFUSE THE CHILDREN.

Appellate Division Reverses Supreme Court Opinion on Rights of Parents.

[illegible]

LOST IN A MINE FOR SIX DAYS.

Scranton Miner Found Half Crazy in an Unworked Heading.

SCRANTON, Pa., Jan. 25.—John Zylankus, the young miner who disappeared last Saturday after working for a week in the Green Ridge slope, this city, was found this morning crouched among a lot of "gob" piled in one of the headings, chattering and acting like a madman. Zylankus was missed at his boarding house on Saturday night, but little was thought of this until Monday, when he did not return to work. In the evening the foreign element working in the mine refused to work until Zylankus was found. The mine was searched in every direction on Tuesday and Wednesday, even trained bloodhounds being employed to scent the missing man. Numerous attempts were made to reach the place where he had been working, but the gas was so much exhausted it could never be ventilated sufficiently to allow a search. Zylankus's account of how he became lost in the mine.

MINISTER BUCK LEAVES JAPAN.

Comes to This Country on a Vacation—Steamer Brings $862,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 25.—The Pacific Mail steamer China arrived today from the Orient via Honolulu, bringing $862,000 in specie. Among the passengers are A. L. Buck, United States Minister to Japan, his wife and daughter. Mr. Buck is here on a vacation, having left the American legation in Japan in charge of the Secretary. Other passengers are Mr. Deacon and Mrs. Wolff. [illegible] Mr. Wolff is returning to England for a visit, and Jeremiah Curtin and his wife. Mr. Curtin is the well-known translator of works of Sienkiewicz.

Mr. Curtin spent April and May in Warsaw, where he saw much of Sienkiewicz, and learned of his literary plans. It is a part of these plans to write a sequel to "Quo Vadis." It will cover the reign of Emperor Otho, who was in Spain during the period in which "Quo Vadis" is laid. Another book is to be a historical novel dealing with Napoleon's invasion of Russia, in which there were 80,000 Polish soldiers. Another one is to be a novel treating of the downfall of Poland. Besides these he has one or more novels of psychological character in mind.

ARDNAMURCHAN WRECKED.

Fears for Pacific Coast Steamer With a Valuable Cargo of Salmon.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 25.—It is now almost certain that disaster has overtaken the 2,000-ton ship Ardnamurchan. Press dispatches stating that cases of salmon had been washed ashore at Sand Island, Astoria, Ore., with the description of the cases and labels corresponding with those on the Pacific Packing Company's salmon, that shipped by Everett to the orient, reached this city last night. The Ardnamurchan left Tacoma for Hongkong on Dec. 27 with a cargo of salmon, lumber and general merchandise. The salmon was shipped by the Pacific Packing Company, of Everett, Wash., and Vancouver, B. C., and was valued at $100,000. The ship was to have called at Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo, B. C., for coal, and was expected to reach Hongkong about the middle of December. Fears have been entertained for her safety for some time past, and her disappearance has been regarded as almost certain. The Ardnamurchan was a vessel of 2,000 tons, and was owned by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, of London. She was built in 1892 and was 300 feet long, 40 feet wide and 24 feet deep. She was commanded by Capt. Thomas Jones, who is a native of Anglesey, North Wales, and has been in the employ of the company for many years. The ship was insured in London for the voyage.

Miss Bevier's Decision.

[illegible]

Jerger Ruled to be Extradited.

[illegible]

HOW TAXES ARE SWORN OFF

NO EASY TASK TO INVEIGLE OVER PERSONAL ASSESSMENT.

U. B. G. Shows $1,000 the Bennett Pets Into Supplementary Proceedings—Tales of Harrowing Poverty That Are Told Every Day.

[illegible]

BROOKLYN'S 400 DANCE.

The Polytechnic Institute the Scene of a Brilliant Midwinter Gathering.

A dancing ball was held last night in the Polytechnic Institute in Livingston street, Brooklyn, and proved one of the most brilliant events of the season in the sister borough, ranking in many respects the historic Hippodrome. The spacious gymnasium of the Institute furnished a fine dancing area. The walls were covered with draperies of pink and green, and the columns were wrapped in pink and green with festoons and twinings of green. The floors were covered with cloths in pink and green added greatly to the effect. The music was furnished by Liepleson under the direction of Major Leopold Ely Jacobs. Supper was served in daylight at small tables in the gymnasium. Among those in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Hasbrouck, Thomas A. Gardiner, Harold T. White and Arthur Corliss. Among the subscribers and their guests were most of Brooklyn's 400.

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[illegible]

Jerger Ruled to be Extradited.

[illegible]

SUES HER DENTIST FOR $50,000.

Miss Harrison Says He Broke Her Jaw Pulling Out a Tooth.

Miss Elizabeth Harrison, an actor living at 16 West 126th street, has begun an action in the Supreme Court against Dr. Charles L. Starbuck, a dentist of Flushing, for the sum of $50,000 on the ground of having her jaw broken by the dentist in his efforts to pull a tooth. Miss Harrison charges that the injury for which she seeks damages occurred on Dec. 4 last. She had an appointment with Dr. Starbuck at his office in Flushing, which appointment grew out of a previous visit to the dentist. It was agreed that the dentist should pull a tooth, and the lady came to Flushing for the purpose. Although the injury is certainly painful, Miss Harrison says it has already cost her a good deal of money and has caused her considerable suffering. She claims that she will be prevented for four months from attending to her occupation, which is that of a teacher of elocution.

Miss Harrison's attorneys in Dr. C. Le Roy Blackburn of 48 West 125th street, and it is said that Dr. Starbuck is trying to have his side of the story, as he was present when the tooth was extracted, published in Brooklyn yesterday morning.

Miss Harrison is a patient of mine and for years I have performed all the operations upon her teeth. Miss Harrison had a cavity in one tooth and I suggested to her that she go to my dentist office as the latter is better equipped for the work of pulling teeth. Miss Harrison asked the dentist if he thought it safe for her to attempt to pull the tooth, and he said it was safe. I was not present when the tooth was extracted. Dr. Starbuck's statement.

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BIG RISE IN JANUARY COTTON.

Bulls Rushed Up the Price 23 Points Yesterday—Shorts Badly Squeezed.

Bulls—The bulls on their own point yesterday and have pushed up the price of January on the equity 23 points, making it sellers in ten days or 61 in a bale. Jerome Wilson & Co. and E. Ermeran & Co. are the principal bull firms representing big capitals in this city, and cotton people in Boston and Hamburg who have carried for a very successful campaign for higher prices both in December and January. When the bull movement began the warehouse stock here was only 10,000 bales; now it is 45,000 bales. The question is whether all of the bulls on the way are well housed in time.

Yesterday it was stated that a large house that was long on December and short of January, had settled some sales, presumably of something like 20,000 bales, though the exact question is said to be still half "equal to" or "equal to." Yesterday's advance was at a premium of 70 points over March against 5 points a few days ago. Other months advanced 61 to 7 points, March touching 8.42, May 8.38, July 8.34, and August 8.30.

The crop movement in sight was 10,000 bales smaller than expected. Wall street, Southern and Western operators were caught short of January to see nothing of what are termed New England interests, which caught it the worst of all. Philadelphia people are also reported among the leading losers. January "futures" were issued but were promptly stopped. The bulls say the end is not yet.

PRESSED STEEL CAR COMPANY.

[illegible]

PRESSED STEEL CAR COMPANY.

[illegible]

Office of the American Ice Company.

[illegible]

JERSEY CENTRAL CONDUCTORS' PAY.

Under the New Agreement They Will Receive $3.25 a Day.

An amicable agreement has been reached between the officers of the Central Railroad of New Jersey and the conductors in the employ of that company with regard to wages. A short time ago the conductors united in a request for a more favorable pay schedule. The management of the road agreed to certain changes and announced that if the new agreement was signed by the conductors before Feb. 1 it should become effective on Jan. 1, 1901. At first the conductors declined to sign, but through the mediation of Grand Master Clark of their order all differences were adjusted. Under the new agreement the passenger conductors will receive $3.25 a day, twelve hours to constitute a day's work. Each minute over twelve hours will be paid for as over-time. The freight and coal-train conductors will have a ten-hour day and 25 cents an hour for each hour's service in excess of ten hours a day.

B. R. T. COMPANY'S AFFAIRS.

All Old Directors Re-elected—B. W. Folger Jr., Superintendent of Elevated Lines.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company was held yesterday at the Montague street office. All of the old directors were unanimously reelected for another year. They are A. N. Brady, August Belmont, H. L. Du Val, A. B. Flower, E. H. Harriman, R. Somers Hayes, J. G. Jenkins, Walter G. Oakman, H. H. Porter, C. Vanderbilt, Henry Seibert, D. H. Valentine and T. S. Williams. The directors will reorganize next week. It is understood that there will be no change in the officers.

B. W. Folger, Jr., a brother of Harry Folger, who served as private secretary to the late Mr. Flower, has been appointed general superintendent of the elevated lines in place of George E. Edwards, who resigned a month ago. He will take hold on Feb. 1. He has held responsible positions on the Kingston, Ont., street railroad, and in the St. Lawrence and Thousand Islands Steamboat Company.

ALLEGED RAILWAY POOL.

Rumored That One Exists Among Chicago Eastbound Roads.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced an intention of investigating the current rumors that a money pool has existed among the Chicago eastbound railroads for the past year. The fact that there has been no rate cutting or freight shipments from Chicago to New York since January, 1900, has been frequently cited as proof that a close traffic pool existed for a systematic division of profits. Officials of the railroads concerned deny that any such pool exists, but other railroad men say that their denials are more technical than convincing.

HEAT WAVE IN AUSTRALIA.

Extensive Fires That Have Destroyed Homes, Stock and Crops.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 25.—A heat wave is passing over Australia, blighting and withering everything, causing many deaths and being indirectly the cause of bush fires of widespread dimensions. The thermometer in some places has risen to 120 degrees in the shade. Hundreds of families have lost their homes, stock, implements and grain.

More Talk of Steel Combination.

There was a renewal of talk yesterday in Wall Street regarding the possible consolidation of the Federal Steel and the American Steel and Wire companies. Some stockholders of the American Steel and Wire Company expressed themselves very positively to the effect that the time was ripe for such a consolidation, and that they believed it would be of very great advantage to both companies. Regarding the expected declaration by the Steel and Wire Company's directors on Monday of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. on the common stock, a director of the company made the positive declaration yesterday to a prominent banking house that the dividend would be declared.

Rio Coffee Litigation Finally Adjudicated.

The old action of George W. Crossman & Bros. against Theodore G. Lurman & Co. of Baltimore, to recover about $1,300 damages because of a refusal of the defendants to accept an importation under contract of cargoes of Rio coffee, has probably been put at rest by a decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday sustaining a verdict for the defendants. It was shown that the coffee was artificially colored, but the plaintiffs contended that the coloring was not detrimental to the coffee and that the coffee was refused because the price fell after the contract for delivery was made. The case was tried three times and has thrice been up on appeal.

Panama Railroad-Pacific Mail Competition.

Although conferences have been held with a view of reestablishing friendly relations between the Panama Railroad and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company an aggressive competition between the two lines is still kept up. Heavy cuts in Pacific Coast freight rates are said to have been made by the Pacific Mail Company. An officer of the Panama Railroad Company said yesterday that a new rate schedule had been put into effect between Central American points and New York, not for the purpose of provoking a rate war, but because the railroad management believed that the Pacific Mail Company's rates on this line had been too high.

Financial.

GUARANTEED INVESTMENTS.

THE HARBOR AND SUBURBAN BUILDING AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, 34 and 36 Wall Street, New York.

NOTHING IS SAFER. NOTHING IS BETTER.

Bankers and Brokers.

Redmond, Kerr & Co.

BANKERS, 41 WALL ST., N. Y.

Members N. Y. Stock Exchange.

High grade investment securities. Direct wires throughout United States and Canada. PHILADELPHIA OFFICE: GRAHAM, KERR & CO.

I. F. MEAD & CO., 44 & 46 BROADWAY, N. Y.

STOCKS AND BONDS Bought and Sold for Cash or on Margin.

COMPOSITE TYPE BAR STOCK DEALT IN. DAVID PFEIFFER, 18 Wall St.

Dividends and Interest.

THE COLORADO FUEL & IRON CO. PREFERRED DIVIDEND NO. 17.

[illegible]

PRESSED STEEL CAR COMPANY.

[illegible]

Office of the American Ice Company.

[illegible]

Elections and Meetings.

THE PEOPLE'S GAS LIGHT AND COKE CO.

[illegible]

PENNSYLVANIA STEEL COMPANY.

That's to Be Name of New Company Resulting From Union of Two Old Ones.

President Felton of the Pennsylvania Steel company states that a majority of the shareholders have assented to the plan for the transfer of the properties owned by the Pennsylvania Steel and the Maryland Steel companies to the proposed new company and that the plan of reorganization is practically assented. Shareholders have until March 1 to file their assent, and along with that transfer the directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have authorized the deposit of its holdings of stock of the Pennsylvania Steel company under the proposed reorganization of the latter. The holders of the railroad company are to receive 1 share of common and preferred stock in exchange for each share held.

It is proposed to incorporate a new company to be known as the Pennsylvania Steel Company with $50,000,000 of 4 per cent. bonds, $10,000,000 preferred and $50,000,000 common. The old bonded debt will be assumed.

Passenger Rate Questions Deferred.

The general passenger agents of the trunk lines have deferred action indefinitely on the propositions to equalize differential rates between New York and Chicago and on the abolition of the present second-class fare, the proposition to establish a single differential passenger rate of $2 from New York to Chicago is dropped, but the railroad from Pennsylvania, the New York Central, the Erie and the Lackawanna roads.

No St. Louis Southwestern Deals.

One of the principal officers of the St. Louis Southwestern Railroad said yesterday: "In spite of the persistent rumors about a consolidation of the railroads in the Southwest the St. Louis Southwestern is not and will not be a party to any deal."

St. Louis Southwestern stocks were unusually active in the Stock Exchange yesterday, and they advanced in price.

Henry Budge Resigns From Chicago Terminal.

Henry Budge of the banking house of Hallgarten & Co. has resigned from the directorate and from the executive committee of the Chicago Terminal Transfer Company. Mr. Budge has been interested in Chicago investment and terminal railroad properties. His resignation from the Chicago Terminal, it is said, was due to his inability to be in the metropolitan district much of the time.

Samuel Sloan Elected Vice-President.

The directors of the Consolidated Gas Company yesterday elected Samuel Sloan Vice-President vice Mr. Brown, succeeding the late Thomas Kanaga, who died on Thursday. Louis B. Stewart, son of President Harrison of Congress, who has been assistant secretary, was elected secretary, succeeding Oscar F. Zoller, who declined reelection. The other officers of the company were reelected.

Goulds Will Hold Control of Wabash.

George J. Gould and his brothers, it was stated in one of the authorities in Wall Street yesterday, propose to need to sell their holdings of Wabash financial securities to the middle-of-the-road people who have been seeking to obtain control of the property within the past year.

Central London Underground's Dividend.

(Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.)

LONDON, Jan. 25.—The Central London Underground Railway has declared a dividend for the first five months of its existence at the rate of 3 per cent. a year.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

FRIDAY, Jan. 25.

[illegible]

New York Stock Exchange Sales Jan. 25.

UNITED STATES AND STATE BONDS (IN $1000s)

[illegible]

CLOSING PRICES OF UNITED STATES BONDS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
U S 2s c			U S 4s c		
1930	105¾	105¾	1925	136½	137¼
U S 2s c			U S 4s c		
1930	105¾	105¾	1925	137¼	138¼
U S 3s c 1908			U S 5s c		
1918	110¾	110¾	1904	110⅝	111¼
U S 5s c 1908			U S 5s c		
1918	111¾	111¾	1904	111¾	112¼
U S 4s c			U S 3.65s c		
1907	113¼	114¼	1921 DC 125	—	
U S 4s c					
1907	113¼	114¼			

RAILROAD AND OTHER BONDS.

[illegible]

RAILROAD AND OTHER SHARES

[illegible]

Total sale of bonds (par value) $5,875,000

OUTSIDE SECURITIES—CLOSING QUOTATIONS

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Am Ref'g c	42	42½	Flem C & C	20	23
Am R pf	91	91½	Gen Car	4¾	4¾
Am A Co	28½	30	HavCom s	12½	15
Am A Co pf	80	81	HavComp	49¾	—