THE CANAL BILLS MAY FAIL.

CHAIRMAN HEPBURN NOT VERY SANGUINE OF THE RESULT.

He Calls Attention to the Game of Delay Successfully Played Three Times in the Past Six Years—The Proposition to Sell the Panama Canal He Considers a Part of the Policy of Delay.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The consideration of the Nicaragua Canal bill, which is to be the continuing order in the House of Representatives until disposed of, beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 7, will be marked by an unusual feature, in that the opposition to it will be practically nothing. Mr. Hepburn, chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, whose name the bill bears, said to-day that no arrangement had been made for handling the opposition to the bill.

"Mr. Davey of Louisiana," he said, "the senior Democratic member of the committee, told me that he wanted to control the time in opposition, but I do not see how that can be done, as he favors the bill. Mr. Fletcher of Minnesota cast the only negative vote in committee against reporting the bill, but he has expressed no desire in the matter. He has made no report against the bill. The only person who has asked for time against the bill is Mr. Burton of Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, who said he wanted about fifteen minutes."

Despite this seeming lack of antagonism to a bill proposing to involve the United States in the execution of a contract calling for the largest sum of money ever applied to the construction of a public work, Mr. Hepburn, while hopeful of the accomplishment of the purpose upon which he has set his heart, is not enthusiastically sanguine of the result.

"I would not hazard an opinion," he said in reply to a question regarding the final issue. "I should not be surprised to see something interposed to the progress of the legislation in the House or Senate or in conference, if it should reach that stage, to provoke delay. That game has been played, and successfully, three times in the past six years. Just look at the record. This committee has investigated the subject of an Isthmian Canal for ten years past. At a time when it seemed probable that the committee would recommend action, having become satisfied regarding a course to be pursued, another committee, not charged with any duty respecting the subject, brings in a River and Harbor bill, with a paragraph attached providing for the appointment of a commission to investigate and report. This scheme was successfully carried out and has been twice repeated with variations. Every commission has reported in favor of the Nicaragua route and we have paid out a million and a half dollars for investigations that have not added one important or substantial fact to our knowledge regarding the canal question not known when this system of delay was inaugurated.

"Last time there were some funny proceedings in connection with the matter. The Canal bill, you may remember, was attached to the River and Harbor bill in the Senate and sent back to the House. There was confusion among the opponents of the canal and a hasty conference was held between Speaker Reed and Chairman Burton, in which the Speaker notified Mr. Burton that he must either kill the canal amendment or bring in a new bill. Mr. Burton asked me if I would consent to a disagreement upon all the Senate amendments and let them go to conference. I told him I would consider the proposition and proceeded to consult the Senators. Two of them, who said they would be on the Conference Committee, assured me of their intense interest in the canal and that they should never consent to the canal amendment going off. One of them actually reproached me for my reluctance to accept their assurances, and I finally did so. I agreed to sending the bill to conference and the canal amendment went off in a jiffy, being replaced by the item providing for the appointment of the Isthmian Commission, which has just made its report. Admiral Walker was chairman of the commission as well as of the Nicaragua Commission, its predecessor in the investigating business.

"When the report was presented, I was on my feet demanding recognition in order that I might make a point of order against the substitute, to which it was susceptible. But the Speaker recognized several other gentlemen before he reached me and then, when I made my point of order, blandly informed me that I was too late; that the report, although covering a multitude of subjects, must be treated as an entirety, and that by 'permitting' debate to be had upon other topics I had precluded myself from making the point against the Commission item; and later Reed had the impudence to come around and with his sardonic smile twit me upon waiting until it was too late to intervene with the point of order."

"What do you think of the new proposition to sell the Panama Canal to the United States for $40,000,000?" was asked.

"I don't know that the proposition was authorized at all," responded Mr. Hepburn, "although I have no doubt that some sort of one will be made before the subject is ended. I saw a dispatch saying the Secretary of the company was en route to the United States to make that offer, but I don't know who sent it. If genuine I don't know the extent of the authority of the 250 gentlemen at the recent meeting of the company to represent the 250,000 stockholders, and then, what should we buy?

"The concession of the French company contains an unlimited prohibition against its transfer, providing for its cancellation and the forfeiture of all the property of the company in case an attempt should be made to sell it to any other party, not a sale effected, but an attempt to sell. To be sure, it is said that the Government of Colombia would ratify a transfer to the United States. That is probably true, in the present conditions, but it is only a probability. Who can be sure that the Member authorized to sign a protocol to that effect in Washington will be in position to put his name to a treaty to carry the proposed plan of deal? Who knows who will be in the saddle there when we want to ratify the treaty? I consider the whole discussion a feature of the policy of delay that has been in force all these years.

"The fear has been expressed that failure of action by Congress on the bill may cause because the Senate and House have different measures before them and that it may be difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile their differences. Before Congress met it was understood that identical bills should be introduced in both branches so that action in either would lead easily to opposite results. But this scheme to save time has slipped and two entirely different propositions, so far as methods are concerned, are now pending for consideration.

MAY RECOMMIT CANAL BILL.

Some Senators in Favor of Considering the Offer of the Panama Company.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—It is probable that the Nicaragua Canal bill, reported to the Senate by Senator Morgan, chairman of the Committee on Interoceanic Canals, will be sent back to the committee in view of the evident determination of the Panama company to offer their uncompleted canal to this Government on favorable terms. There are a number of Senators who never have been in hearty sympathy with the project, but who would prefer to see a sea-level canal, such as has been partially constructed across the Isthmus of Panama, rather than one with expensive locks and dams. Three members have been added to the committee, and it is argued that even had a quorum of the old committee been present when the vote was taken, a quorum of the committee as it is now constituted was not present and therefore the reporting of the bill was not done in a strictly proper manner. The Senators who favor consideration of the offer of the Panama company before a decision is made against it realize that they are laying themselves liable to a charge of being opposed to the construction of any canal, but prefer to take such a stand rather than see the United States pass such a bargain by without even looking at it.

THINK THEY DESERVE MEDALS.

Young Detroit Millionaires Who Served on the Yosemite Demand Recognition.

WASHINGTON Dec. 30.—In view of protests against the recommendation of the Naval Board on Awards that no Spanish war medals be conferred on officers and men of the United States auxiliary cruiser Yosemite, Secretary Long has referred back the board's report, with directions to give a hearing to the parties making the protest. Among the communications on the subject received by Secretary Long was a telegram from Representative Corliss of Detroit, asking him to suspend action on the report until interested parties could be heard. It was on this telegram that Mr. Long acted.

An interesting story lies behind the protests. The Yosemite was manned principally by members of the Detroit naval militia composed of some of the wealthiest young men of that city, and it was said that the combined wealth of the members amounted to nearly $20,000,000. No person was admitted to membership whose social status was not the best. Much amusement was caused at the beginning of the war through proposals of members of the organization to pay men to do the work of swabbing down decks and other drudgery for them.

But Capt. W. H. Emory, the Yosemite's commander, insisted that every man should do the work of his rank or rating and the young millionaires had to take their medicine, which they did more or less cheerfully. After the war the Detroit men who served on the Yosemite filed charges against Capt. Emory and the executive officer of the vessel, Lieutenant-Commander Nathan Safgent, now aide to Admiral Dewey, alleging that these officers did not treat their men properly, and that Capt. Emory declined to follow a Spanish armed vessel which passed out of Kingston (Jamaica) harbor as the Yosemite was entering. Capt. Emory's explanation was that, in accordance with international law, he could not leave a neutral harbor until twenty-four hours after an enemy's ship had departed thence.

The Detroit men who served on the ship have formed an association and have determined to fight for what they believe to be their rights without the aid of their late commander. They have a great deal of influence, political and personal, and will seek to have the war work of the Yosemite reviewed by the Secretary of the Navy to show that they are entitled to recognition.

CORONATION OF KING EDWARD.

Army and Navy May Not Be Represented Unless Congress Pays the Expense.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—It is possible that the United States will not be represented at the coronation of King Edward by a special officer of either the army or the navy, unless Congress makes an appropriation for the expenses of such officer. The selection entails additional expense upon the officer, and there are few in the service who really care enough for the honor to pay the expenses of entertaining out of their own pockets. The experience of the military representatives of the United States at the coronation of the Czar and at the Peace Jubilee in London has shown that such honors are costly, owing to the failure of Congress to make adequate provision for the entertaining which is required. There is no probability of trouble in finding a man for Special Ambassador, as there are plenty of men willing to pay from $20,000 to $30,000 to secure this honor, but a more difficult undertaking confronts the President in selecting army and navy officers to be designated as special military representatives.

Whitelaw Reid represented the United States Government as Special Ambassador at the Jubilee and an appropriation of $10,000 was made for expenses. Owing to the difficulty of accounting for much of this sum he was compelled to turn part of it back into the State Department, but his accounts showed actual expenditures outside of the Government funds of about $20,000. It has been figured up that an army or navy officer to meet all the requirements of the occasion, will have to spend not less than $10,000 and few officers are ready to pay that price for the pleasure of representing their country at the coronation. Admiral Dewey and Gen. Miles have been mentioned as likely to be sent as special military representative, but Gen. Miles had one experience when he attended the Jubilee and is not anxious to repeat it at a cost of $10,000. If Congress fails to make the appropriation the only military representatives will be those on the ground, and they will not have the title of "Special Military Representative of the United States." Rear Admiral Crowninshield will probably be on hand to represent the navy, as he will be in command of the European naval station. Even without special designation he will be compelled to go deeply into his own pocket for entertaining money. He will be invited to dinner by the English naval commanders, and in turn will be called upon to give a dinner to each one separately on the battleship Illinois, which will cost considerable

Mrs. Roosevelt and Party Return From Their Trip Down the Potomac.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The naval despatch boat Dolphin returned to Washington this morning with Mrs. Roosevelt, the Roosevelt children, Miss Corew and other guests, after a four days' trip down the Potomac. The party witnessed the launching of the battleship Missouri at Newport News, enjoyed some duck shooting near Quantico and this morning visited Mount Vernon. In spite of the inclement weather the party had a thoroughly enjoyable time, but all were pleased to get home again.

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AN AMERICAN STANDARD FOR THE HIGHEST DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY. FOUNDED 1864.
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A BRIEF ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE PIANO
CELEBRATED CONCERT PIANISTS.

EAT FORCE

HOPES OF POWERS BLASTED.

EXPECTED A SHARE IN OUR PART OF CHINESE INDEMNITY.

They Thought the $2,000,000 Appropriation Urged by the President Was All We Would Take From China, and Said They Would Expect a Share in the Remainder of the $25,000,000.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The State Department has blasted the hopes of certain European Powers to add eighteen million gold dollars to their coffers. The hopes were based on a special message of President Roosevelt to Congress recommending the appropriation immediately of $2,000,000 to be paid as indemnity to Americans, chiefly missionaries, who suffered in the Boxer troubles in China last year. Mr. Roosevelt said that these people were in distress and would suffer if they did not secure relief soon. He promised that the $2,000,000 would be refunded to the Treasury out of the indemnity to be paid by China.

In some way the impression got abroad that the $2,000,000 represented all the indemnity that the United States would take from China on account of outrages against individuals, and that, adding the expenses of the United States military expedition in the Pekin campaign of 1900, the total American indemnity would not exceed $7,000,000. The indemnity promised by China in the peace protocol signed at Pekin was about $25,000,000. In arranging the total amount which China would be obliged to pay to the Powers, the foreign diplomatic representatives at Pekin agreed that China could not raise the money necessary to cover all claims, aggregating more than $400,000,000, and they decided to scale down their individual demands until the total came within the scope of China's resources. Some of the Powers consented reluctantly to this arrangement, holding that they were entitled to larger indemnity.

When certain foreign nations heard that this Government would take only $7,000,000 of the amount to which it was entitled, they instructed their Envoys in Washington to say to the State Department that as China was able to and had promised to pay an additional sum of $18,000,000 to the United States, they would expect to obtain a proportionate share of the indemnity to which the United States had surrendered its claim. In other words, China was to be caught coming and going, and while the American Government would lose $18,000,000, the other Powers would have their indemnities swelled by that amount.

Representations of this character have been made to the State Department within the last day or two. The diplomats who made them have gone away from the Department disappointed. They have been informed that the $2,000,000 was intended only for the immediate relief of the comparatively few Americans whose condition was such that great distress would be caused if they were kept waiting for recompense for their losses until China had paid the indemnity.

This Government, it was explained, had no intention of surrendering the rest of the $25,000,000. As for the amount required to cover the expenses of the American military expedition, the State Department made it plain that $5,000,000 was a ridiculously low estimate for that purpose. If the State Department ever had any intention of reducing its claims it will not carry it into effect now. Should $25,000,000 be more than is sufficient to cover all the damages for which redress was demanded by the American Government, the remainder will probably be returned to China but not until after the claims of the Powers, have been satisfied. From the beginning of the peace negotiations at Pekin, the United States have sought to prevent any mulcting of China and would be willing to reduce the amount of the American indemnity if other Powers would consent to cut down their demands proportionately.

CARNEGIE'S $10,000,000 GIFT.

Satisfactory Arrangement Reached, It Is Said, with President Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—No official statement was made at the White House to-day concerning the Carnegie fund of $10,000,000, which he proposes to give to the United States in trust for educational purposes in Washington, but it was intimated that an arrangement had been made which was perfectly satisfactory to the President and Mr. Carnegie, under which the $10,000,000 fund would be placed in the hands of the President in trust. It is understood that Mr. Carnegie will invest the proceeds of the sale of $10,000,000 of United States Steel Company bonds in Government bonds and the gift will be made in this form.

Appointments in Porto Rico Regiment and Philippine Scouts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The following appointments were announced at the White House this morning:

Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry—To be Captains, John M. Field, Frank L. Graham and Edward J. Griffith; to be First Lieutenants, Stewart Mebecker, Ralph E. Campbell and Miles K. Taubee; to be Second Lieutenants, Frank C. Wood, G. A. Seybolshire, Elbert M. Robertson, A. Moreno, William S. Woodruff, Richard H. Pollion, Jr., William D. Pritchard and William L. Patterson.

Philippine Scouts—To be First Lieutenants, Ambrose C. C. Williams-Foote and John Hoffman; to be Second Lieutenants, Lorenzo Alexis de Clairmont, Jesse Hazeltine, José Maria del Rosario, Howard White and Frank C. Barenut.

Movements of Naval Vessels.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The training ship Alert has arrived at San Pedro, Cal.; the gunboat Wilmington at Woosung, China, and the despatch boat Dolphin at Washington.

The training ship Essex has sailed from San Juan for St. Thomas, the training ship Buffalo from Port of Spain for Samana, Hayti; the battleship Wisconsin (Rear Admiral Casey's flagship) from Acapulco, Mexico, for Callao, Peru; the training ship Topeka from Port Royal for San Juan, the collier Justin from Cavite for Guam, and the training ship Prairie from Hampton Roads for Port of Spain.

Old Playmate Calls on the President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—George Asta Buruaga, of Santiago de Chile who was a playmate of President Roosevelt years ago in New York, called at the White House this morning to renew his acquaintance with the President. Mr. Buruaga's father, F. S. Buruaga, was Minister from Chile to the United States also twenty years ago, and ten years ago Mr. Buruaga was Charge d'Affaires in Washington.

Army and Navy Orders.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Lieut. Col. Amos Stickney, Corps of Engineers, from Wind Point to authorize duty.

First Lieut. Harry Burgess, Corps of Engineers, from Wind Point to authorize duty.

Capt. Charles F. Mason, 3d Quartermaster, from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley, for duty.

Leave for one month granted Capt. Jay H. Parker, Ninth Infantry, and for fourteen days to Lieut. William M. Crosby, Twenty-second Infantry.

Upon the completion of the march of Company A, Signal Corps, from Fort Myer to Atlanta, Ga., Lieut. Col. Edward Moseley, Corps of Engineers, will proceed to Fort Leavenworth.

Leave of absence granted First Lieut. Edgar R. Stone, Twenty-fourth Infantry, extended one month.

Leave of absence granted First Lieut. Ellis B. Spencer, Infantry, extended two months.

Capt. Jesse M. Baker, Twenty-fourth Infantry, and Lieut. Col. Frederick Dent, Twenty-second Infantry, are relieved from duty in Texas and will report to the Adjutant General of the Army.

Leave of absence granted Major William Wolfe, Twenty-first Infantry, extended one month.

Capt. Charles D. Rhodes, Twenty-fourth Infantry, from Fort Sam Houston to Fort San Houston.

Contract Surgeon Robert E. Fox, now Fort Sam Houston, to San Francisco for transportation to the Philippines.

Leave of absence for six months granted Capt. Jacob Ulmer Feltz, Eighteenth Infantry.

Capt. Robert J. Boyce, Fourth Cavalry, now at Omaha, from Omaha to Denver.

Three naval orders have been issued.

Commander E. D. Taussig, from Washington navy yard to Bremerton navy yard.

Ensign W. R. Purdy, to home via the Solace.

Naval Cadet G. W. Steele, to the San Francisco.

TARIFF DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

It Will Be on the Bill to Provide Revenue for the Philippine Islands.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—A lively and perhaps prolonged tariff debate is anticipated, soon after the Senate meets on Jan. 6, over the bill that recently passed the House of Representatives entitled "A Bill Temporarily to Provide Revenue for the Philippine Islands and for Other Purposes." The main objects of this bill are to apply the provisions of the Dingley tariff act to imports into the United States from the Philippines Islands and to continue in force the law enacted by the Philippines Commission last September, providing for the collection of duties on imports into the Philippines from the United States. This bill was framed as an emergency measure to maintain the status quo until a law for the permanent government of the Philippines can be enacted, and was made necessary by the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the last of the insular cases.

Secretary Root and Senator Lodge, the chairman of the Philippines Committee, and Senator Spooner, who, while not a member of that committee, is greatly interested in the Philippines question, have been busily at work during the holidays drafting a bill which will be introduced as soon as Congress meets in the new year. The Senators talked with the President on the subject to-day and they have outlined the new bill already. It will comprise all the recommendations of the Philippines Commission as submitted in their recent report, with a great deal of new matter necessary to complete a scheme of general and municipal government for the islands.

In the House of Representatives it was possible to limit the debate upon the emergency bill to two days and it was at first thought that there would be no debate upon it in the Senate, but that the opposition would defer action until the bill now being prepared should be called up. There are indications, however, that the free trade element in the Senate will not forego the opportunity to propose amendments to the emergency measure in the way of suggesting a reduction of duties on certain importations from the Philippines into this country. These will not be agreed to, however, as there is a determination not to open up the tariff question at this time or at any other time if it can be avoided. Under the terms of the bill the gross amount of duties collected under it are to be held in a separate fund, to be expended only for the benefit of the Philippine Islands. It is impracticable to raise funds by internal revenue taxation on the islands and they will need all the money that can be collected under the terms of the Dingley act.

HOW BONNER WAS SELECTED.

Story of the Way He Was Named for Fire Chief of the Philippines.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—An interesting story is being told here in regard to Hugh Bonner's selection as Chief of the Philippines Fire Department. The Philippine Commission had cabled Col. Edwards, Chief of the Insular Bureau of the War Department, to ask the Civil Service Commission to recommend a suitable fire chief, and the commission took the matter under advisement. It was long on clerks, messengers, laborers and scientists, but when it came to putting out fires, the Civil Service Commission had no eligible list. Commissioner Procter wrestled with the problem for several days, until he met at a dinner at the White House former Fire Commissioner Sheffield of New York. During the dinner the conversation turned on fires and the Commissioner spoke of several large fires that had taken place in New York. The thought occurred to Commissioner Procter that here was a man who could suggest a fire chief for Manila, but he was doubtful of the propriety of asking his advice, so he waited until the next day, when he went to the White House and laid the matter before the President.

President Roosevelt approved the suggestion, and at Mr. Procter's request wrote to Mr. Sheffield. Back came Mr. Sheffield's recommendation that Bonner be appointed, and the President sent the letter to Col. Edwards with the terse comment: "Let this appointment be made." In some perplexity Col. Edwards went to the White House and presented the letter to the President.

"What is the matter with this?" inquired Mr. Roosevelt.

"Well, you know," replied Col. Edwards, "the Philippine Commission asked that the Civil Service Commission select a man for the place, and I don't see where the commission has made the selection. Besides, he added with a quizzical smile, "you know political recommendations don't go."

President Roosevelt laughed heartily at his inadvertent attempt to violate his own rule and suggested that the recommendation be sent to Commissioner Procter, at whose request he had written to Mr. Sheffield, with the remark that he thought Mr. Procter would indorse the recommendation. In this he proved correct, and the place was offered Mr. Bonner, which he has accepted.

OPPOSED TO PENNY POSTAGE.

Chairman Loud Says It Would Create a Greater Deficit and Is Impracticable.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Representative Loud of California, chairman of the House Post Office Committee, talked with the President to-day with regard to the postal service and expressed views on the question of penny postage, which are directly opposite those expressed by the new Postmaster-General.

"Penny postage cannot now be made a success," he said to a SUN reporter afterward. "The present rate does not pay expenses, and to cut it in half would create a still greater deficit. Even if the volume of mail increased to twice its present dimensions, as it must to bring in the present revenue, the expense would be 75 per cent greater. Penny postage is, therefore, impracticable now."

With regard to the efforts being made to revoke the recent action of the Post Office Department excluding so-called "library" from transmission at pound rates, Mr. Loud said the crusade now in progress by certain publishers against that ruling would not be successful. The position taken by the Department would be upheld by President Roosevelt, who was unreservedly in favor of the ruling.

Bubonic Plague in Smyrna.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Consul Lane at Smyrna, Asiatic Turkey, telegraphed the State Department to-day that the bubonic plague had broken out there.

TAMMANY'S LAST TAX REVEL.

ONE TO FIVE MILLIONS, BRONX ASSESSMENTS, TAKEN OFF

And Saddled on the City—Grout Fought Off Millions More—Board of Public Improvements Dies in Character—Tart Retort to Its Valedictory Speeches.

According to Comptroller-elect Grout $1,000,000 of assessments—according to lawyers interested, nearer $5,000,000—were taken off property in The Bronx yesterday in a final scramble before the Board of Public Improvements and saddled on the city. The action is final. The board, which dies to-morrow and was holding its last meeting, was at it three hours.

In many instances the property holders asked that the city should assume the entire cost of the opening of new streets while in other cases reductions of 50 and 75 per cent. were asked for. That the petitioners didn't get all they asked for was due for the most part to the continuous fight put up by Mr. Grout. To almost every motion made by the Tammany members favoring the pleas of the horde of attorneys who were there Mr. Grout interposed an amendment, but the most he was able to do was to cut down reductions to 25 per cent.

Once Mr. Grout said that all the lawyers present seemed to represent nobody outside of The Bronx whereupon President Holahan exclaimed: "Well, if you had some lawyers in Brooklyn I've no doubt they'd do the same thing."

"I would like to assume," said Mr. Grout, "in view of what is being done here that we have at least some lawyers in Brooklyn who know something about injunctions."

On behalf of the property owners interested in the opening of Crotona Park avenue Senator Guy appeared to urge that the city should assume all the cost. He got a reduction of 25 per cent. On the opening of Fordham road between 189th street and Kingsbridge road President Coogan moved that the city take over 50 per cent. of the cost. Mr. Grout got that cut down to 25 per cent. John C. Shaw, who announced that he appeared for the Astor estate, asked that 25 per cent. be taken off the assessment for Morris avenue between Third Avenue Bridge and Crotona Park. An individual owner appealed to have 50 per cent. taken off. President Haffen was anxious to oblige him, but Mr. Grout kept the reduction down to 25 per cent. Lawyer J. Flannery in seeking to have the assessment removed from Belmont place, from Third avenue to Arthur avenue, said almost the entire expense would fall upon the Home for Incurables. Mr. Grout said that it had always been the policy that such institutions should bear a part of the expenses for the improvement of the property owned by them.

"That's all very well," interposed Commissioner Shea, "but if what you say is true there will shortly be a law passed by the Legislature exempting these institutions from assessment."

"That cannot be done," Mr. Grout replied, "a Constitutional amendment forbids it."

Mr. Grout pointed out that for every dollar voted to the Home for Incurables the surrounding property owners would benefit $2. But the Board voted to take 75 per cent. of the Belmont place assessment.

Some of the other reductions passed were: Clay avenue, 25 per cent.; Randall avenue, 25 per cent.; Quarry road, two-thirds off; Whitlock avenue, 25 per cent.; 182d street, between Arthur avenue and Boston road, one-third off; Tiffany street, 25 per cent.; an extension of Tremont avenue to Westchester avenue, 25 per cent.

An effort was made by representatives of the property owners of Elm street to have the assessments levied for the widening of that thoroughfare modified but the Board refused to entertain that proposition.

Mr. Grout sought to cancel the adoption on Dec. 18 of the map wherein certain land in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first wards of Brooklyn was marked out for acquisition by the Water Department. He said it was illegal, but his motion was defeated.

The President, Holahan, rose and made a long and emotional valedictory speech. He said that if he and the Board had made mistakes they were mistakes of judgment not of design. He wished the incoming administration success. Some of the other members talked about the good will they felt toward their political opponents.

They looked at Mr. Grout as they talked. Mr. Grout got up and said that while he hoped to remain on friendly terms with the retiring officials he must admit that it had been due to him that the revised Charter had abolished the Board. He added that he thought the body was an unnecessary one and had therefore advocated its extinction.

ARGENTINA-CHILE DISPUTE.

Chile Promptly Accepts White Argentina Refuses Our Good Offices.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Advices received here indicate that Chile has shown a more temperate disposition than the Argentina Republic in dealing with the questions which may ultimately involve the two countries in war. The most surprising feature of the negotiations, according to these advices, is the refusal of Argentina to accept the friendly offices of the United States to bring an amicable adjustment and the promptness of Chile in welcoming American intercession. Since the Baltimore affair in 1891, which nearly involved Chile and this country in hostilities, the Chileans have supposedly maintained a bitter feeling of hatred toward the United States, but that disposition appears to have changed. Argentina, on the other hand, was regarded as especially friendly toward the United States, and her rejection of the offer of this Government was not only surprising on that account, but also because the minister of Argentina's refusal has indicated that she does not entertain any feeling of warmth for this country.

From trustworthy information received here Argentina appears to have been only half hearted in her agreement to accept the arbitration of King Edward, and the conviction is growing among officials that she is not willing to take a peaceable adjustment with Chile.

In a telegram to the State Department Mr. Barbosa, one of the American delegates to the Pan American Congress in the City of Mexico, says that an agreement for arbitration along the lines of The Hague treaty appears to be favored by a majority of the Latin delegates, and that the congress will probably use that treaty as a model in drafting its conclusions. Some of the countries desire to make a more radical agreement than that arranged at The Hague, and Mr. Barbosa says they will probably sign a separate arrangement.

Treasury Purchases More Bonds.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The Treasury Department to-day purchased $618,500 of Government bonds at the Department's price for the day. Of these bonds $150,000 were 4 per cents, $500,650 were 4s of 1907, $17,000 4s of 1908, and $17,850 were 3 per cents. Since November the disbursements on account of bonds purchased have aggregated $22,856,328.

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Look spruce on New Year's Day. Get one of our suits or beautiful long overcoats. They're stylish, wear for years and give thorough satisfaction.

Values are wonderful. Prices amazingly low. We are positively quitting retail business this season and are selling our immense stock at almost half price.

Our very best $22 and $25 overcoats reduced to **$12 each.**

They include our finest long silk-lined overcoats in imported meltons, kerseys, grey friezes, etc.

Our finest $15, $18 and $20 overcoats reduced to **$8.50 each.**

Some silk-lined. They include English kerseys, oxford grey friezes, etc. Wondrous values.

Our very best $22 and $25 suits reduced to **$12 each.**

They include our finest imported black diagonal and vicuna suits, Scotch mixtures, and worsteds, etc.

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$30 Prince Albert coats and vests are now $15; $45 dress suits are now $25, etc.

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BROADWAY TABERNACLE SITE.

New Church to Be Built at Broadway and Fifty-sixth Street.

The Broadway Tabernacle Society bought a site for a new church yesterday on the northeast corner of Broadway and Fifty-sixth street. The society sold its present church on the northeast corner of Broadway and Thirty-fourth street a fortnight ago for $1,300,000 to the Washington Building Company, headed by Edward F. Searles, which intends to put up a twenty-story hotel on this and adjoining property. For the Fifty-sixth street corner, which measures 80 feet on Broadway and 171 on the street, the society paid $450,000. A church and a parish house will be erected, for which, however, the architect has not yet been selected. The society retains possession of the old tabernacle until May, 1902, and negotiations have been opened to secure a lease of Mendelssohn Hall after that date.

The society was represented in the purchase by Cornelius N. Bliss and William Ives Washburn, acting as a special committee of the board of trustees. The property was acquired from the Central Realty, Bond and Trust Company through the brokerage firm of Frederick Southack & Alwyn Ball, Jr. Mr. Washburn said yesterday that the site had been determined on after consultation with at least five-sixths of the officers and members of the church.

The rest of the Broadway block between Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh streets is owned by the Central Realty, Bond and Trust Company, which bought it in several parcels last year with a view to reselling it as a site for a great apartment hotel. Henry Morgenthau, the President of the company, said yesterday that the rest of the block has not been formally disposed of, but that a sale is in negotiation that hinged on the congregation's purchase of the Fifty-sixth street corner.

STILL MORE TITLED SLEUTHS.

There'll Be a Fine Lot to Use Up When Col. Murphy Has Retired.

Police Commissioner Murphy spent all day yesterday at Police Headquarters, instead of going home at noon as usual and staying there. His outer office looked like a meeting of Tammany district leaders most of the time and everybody said that Col. Murphy was making detective sergeants in batches of ten and twenty. Col. Murphy protested that he hadn't promoted anybody, but at least seven men were made detective sergeants somehow. They were: Roundsmen Thomas Clougher, Long Island City; Joseph O'Donohue, East Fifty-first street, and Meehan, East 126th street; Patrolmen Cornelius Leary, Alexander avenue; Pat Fay, Headquarters Squad, and James McIvor, Church street.

Roundsman O'Donohue was a detective sergeant for years but was reduced to the ranks by Capt. McClusky when he had charge of the Detective Bureau.

YOUNG DRUGGIST MISSING.

Had Just Bought a Store, and Never Had Been a Night From Home Before.

Cornelius A. Van der Sande, a druggist 30 years old, who a week ago bought out a drug store at 132 Bedford avenue, Williamsburg and was to have started in business for himself, has been missing since Thursday. Van der Sande formerly had charge of a drug store in Hoyt street, and through frugality he managed to save enough money to buy the Bedford avenue store. He moved in rooms over the store and on Thursday morning he set out for the Internal Revenue office to get a license. He paid for it and he was told it would be mailed to him. After leaving the revenue office Van der Sande went to a nearby stationery store. Since then all trace of him has been lost. As he had never before absented himself from home his wife became alarmed and notified the police. Mrs. Van der Sande told the police that as far as she knew her husband had little money when he was last seen.

Deckhand Nabbed on Forgery Charge.

George F. Adams of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was arrested at Canal and West streets yesterday on a charge of forgery. Adams was a deckhand on the steamer Fanny Woodal, which runs to Peekskill. The complainant is Capt. George Morton, owner of the steamboat. He says that Adams got hold of his checkbook and afterward presented a forged check for $38.41 at the First National Bank of Peekskill.

Asks Appointment for a Kansas Negro.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Representative Curtis, of Kansas, called on President Roosevelt to-day to submit a request on the part of the Kansas delegation in Congress that one of Kansas' negro citizens receive a Federal appointment either at home or abroad. Kansas has had such an appointment for twenty years.

The President Invited to Gettysburg.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The Rev. E. G. Wolff, of Gettysburg, Pa., called at the White House this morning to invite the President to attend the Memorial Day exercises to be held at Gettysburg battlefield on May 30, 1902.

Mexican Dollar Worth 44 to 46 Cents.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The value of the Mexican dollar was fixed for the next three months at 44 to 46 cents. The price on the last day was 46 cents.

PATRONAGE DISTURBS THE C. U.

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COMMITTEE CONVOKED.

Luck of Executive Committeemen in Getting Office Hurts the Feelings of the Unsuccessful—The Indorsement of MacNulty Is a Grievance.

The City Committee of the Citizens' Union has been called together for a special meeting on Monday evening of next week, and several members of the Union said last evening that the gathering would be one of the liveliest in its history.

The call was signed by a number of members of the committee who are dissatisfied with the action of the members of the Executive Committee about patronage. Dissatisfaction reached its climax last week, when it was learned that several of the leaders of the Union had indorsed for the place of Deputy Commissioner of Correction, A. C. MacNulty. Mr. MacNulty is not a member of the Union, but is the head of the Bryan League.

The dissatisfied members of the organization also have a grievance against R. Fulton Cutting, the President of the City Committee. They declare that Mr. Cutting has been altogether too good natured in "indorsing" people who wanted office, and that his indorsements have been so worded that they have been misleading to the applicants and have not been considered by Mr. Low and the other gentlemen to whom they have been submitted.

Said a member of the union last night: "Mr. Cutting has indorsed practically every decent man who has told him he was a candidate for appointment. The result has been that no one among the applicants has been able to tell exactly where he stood, and this has led to confusion and hard feeling. It is also a fact that Mr. Cutting has in writing letters for men who desired office ended practically all of them, so far as I can learn, with the phrase 'If this man is not appointed, I shall not be displeased.' Mr. Cutting has done this in order to make everybody feel happy, but if that was his plan, he has been unsuccessful in it, for so far as I can make out, nobody feels happy."

"A good many of the members of the committee feel that the Executive Committeemen have fared disproportionately well at the hands of Mr. Low compared with the rank and file. E. R. L. Gould, the Treasurer of the Union, who is to be City Chamberlain, James B. Reynolds, the Mayor's secretary, Arthur F. Cosby and George E. Blackwell, Assistant Corporation Counsel; J. Hampden Dougherty, Commissioner of Water, Gas and Electricity; Homer Folks, Commissioner of Charities; W. E. Cogswell, Tax Commissioner, and Willis L. Ogden, President of the Civil Service Board, are all members of the Executive Committee who got good places, while a lot of good men in the City Committee have been overlooked.

"MacNulty is not a member of the union and does not deserve any assistance from it in his efforts to get office. There were good Citizens' Union men who were applicants for this office, and we think our executive committeemen ought to have taken care of them first. On Friday evening the members of the committee who are dissatisfied started a petition calling for the special meeting.

"We expect that Monday's meeting will be the warmest session that the committee has ever held. Mr. Cutting is too popular on account of the good work he has done for the union in the past to be attacked seriously, but there are other executive committeemen who will come in for some pretty hard usage."

BARNARD COLLEGE'S BUSY DAY.

Must Raise $200,000 by Midnight to Secure Rockefeller's Provisional Gift.

The friends of Barnard College are alert to-day in their efforts to complete a fund of $200,000 which is necessary to secure a similar sum from John D. Rockefeller. Less than three months ago Mr. Rockefeller promised to contribute $200,000 toward the endowment fund of the college provided that a like sum was raised by the trustees of the college by Jan. 1, 1902. It is understood that the fund has not been completed last night.

Silas B. Brownell, a trustee, and E. W. Sheldon, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, declared yesterday that they did not know how the matter stood. The whole affair is in the hands of George A. Plimpton, the college Treasurer, who was in Washington yesterday.

Jury Censures an Elevator Man.

Joseph L. Thompson, of 229 East Thirty-ninth street, who ran the elevator that killed John C. Corcoran on the 9th in the new Hotel Touraine, was censured yesterday by the Coroner's jury. Corcoran was working at the bottom of the elevator shaft. It was testified that Thompson received orders not to run the elevator below the second floor. He did and crushed Corcoran.

Farmers Held Their Potatoes Too Long.

A number of Long Island farmers who have been holding their crops of potatoes for higher prices did not make as wise a move as they at first thought. The importation of potatoes from Europe has cut down the high prices, and the farmers have a large stock on hand which they will have to dispose of at regular prices.

What's the difference?

The GENUIN