THEY DO COMPETE, BAER SAYS.

CHARGE THAT RAILROADS KEEP COAL PRICES HIGH IS A LIE.

The Law of Supply and Demand Rules the Coal Market as It Does All Others—But You Can't Increase the Cost of Production and Keep Prices Down—More Testimony by Reading's President—He Won't Show Temple Contracts

George F. Baer, president of the Reading Company and of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, testifying before the Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday, stamped as a falsehood the charge that the coal companies and the coal-carrying railroads ever entered into an agreement to fix the price at which coal should be sold in this or any other city or to regulate the output of coal from the various collieries controlled by them.

Mr. Baer asserted most emphatically that there is keen competition among the coal companies and the coal railroads to-day, and always has been, and that as a result of this competition the price of coal has been kept down to a point where it was impossible for the companies to make any money.

The plain statements on this point and other testimony given by Mr. Baer during the afternoon were an answer to the contentions of the petitioner's counsel that the price of coal is arbitrarily fixed by the coal roads, acting with the coal companies, and that an illegal combination of all of these companies exists for the purpose of robbing the public.

Mr. Baer kept his temper pretty well under great provocation, although once, when Clarence J. Shearn, attorney for the petitioner, asked him if his refusal to answer a question he had been advised by his lawyers not to answer was based on the fear of incriminating himself, he told Shearn that the question was insolent and one which no gentleman would ask. Mr. Shearn tried to have Mr. Baer rebuked for this, but the commission was unanimous in rebuking Mr. Shearn instead for asking such a question.

Ex-Gov. Budd of California was introduced as associate counsel for the petitioner by Mr. Shearn at the opening of the proceedings. Mr. Baer was then called. After correcting several minor points in his testimony of last week he was asked to tell what proportion of the coal mine in the anthracite region was mined by independent operators. He said:

COMPANIES MINE ONE-NINTH OF COAL OUTPUT.

The proportion is about 1,000,000 tons out of 9,000,000. We buy from 900,000 to 1,100,000 tons a year outside of what we mine ourselves. Three-quarters of this is mined by tenants of ours; the other quarter by operators not mining in our lands. There is some other coal mined along our lines which we do not buy, but how much it is I cannot say without looking it up.

Q. You spoke, at the last hearing, of gentlemen interested in the scheme of Simpson & Watkins for a general sales depot for coal in this city. Were they associated with the respondent companies? A. I decline to give their names.

Q. Was J. P. Morgan one of them? A. He was not. I'll answer that much, but no more. There is no use in your trying to get the names from me by a process of elimination.

Q. At first didn't this project for a general sales depot meet with your approval? A. No, sir, it did not.

OPPOSED A CENTRAL SALES DEPOT.

Mr. Shearn went exhaustively into the Simpson & Watkins purchase, trying to show that it was the result of a joint agreement among the coal roads and coal companies, with Mr. Baer at the head. Mr. Baer emphatically denied this. With a smile, he added that the matter of the purchase contract was all arranged here in New York before he was called into the matter at all.

Mr. Shearn—Wasn't one element in this scheme the fact that it allowed you to maintain a uniform price for coal at tidewater? A. Such a thing was never considered at all.

Q. At what stage of the purchase proceedings did this central sales depot scheme come up? A. It was during the proceedings. I held it up and held it up. It was not a good scheme and I said so. It wasn't adopted. For myself I will say right here that it is against my policy and always has been to have commission houses selling coal. As president of the Reading Coal and Iron Company I did away with the selling of coal by commission merchants and I have ever since persistently fought it. I have by this reduced the expenses of the Reading Coal and Iron Company a good many thousand dollars. I think I have saved it $200,000 a year. I concluded long ago that by means of agents at different points all over the country coal could be sold at less than the commissions amounted to.

WHY COAL PRICES INCREASE.

Q. But with all this reduction in the expense you have not reduced the price to the consumer, have you? A. Because you and your friends have succeeded, by constant agitating, in increasing our expenses in other directions. We have been forced to pay higher wages, we have had to meet endless trouble and a consequent cutting of our profits.

Mr. Shearn—I am glad you give us credit for raising wages.

Mr. Baer—I think you are partially entitled to it.

Mr. Baer expressed surprise that any one should wonder at the coal railroads fighting to preserve their traffic. He thought it was a very natural thing for them to do and said they would go on doing it.

BOW OVER TEMPLE PURCHASE CONTRACTS.

Then the old dispute over the production of the contracts between the Temple Iron Company and the purchasing companies arose again. The petitioner has copies of all these contracts, but wants the originals. He says they will show the combination that was entered into by the coal roads. The Guaranty Trust Company, which holds the contracts, was ordered last week by the commission to produce them. It refused. Mr. Baer was asked to produce them yesterday. He said he would not unless ordered to by the commission.

Mr. Shearn—You could produce them if you wanted to, couldn't you? A. I have no answer to make save that I will not produce them unless ordered to.

Mr. Shearn asked the commission to order Mr. Baer to produce the contracts. Mr. Baer was laughing.

"It's no laughing matter," said ex-Gov. Budd. The commission ordered Mr. Baer to produce the contracts, whereupon ex-Judge Campbell, the Reading attorney, arose and advised Mr. Baer to disregard the order of the commission. Attorneys for the Lackawanna and the Erie also arose and gave Mr. Baer the same advice. Mr. Baer said calmly:

"By instruction of counsel I decline to produce these contracts."

BAER CALLS SHEARN INSOLENT.

Mr. Shearn—Do you decline to produce them because they tend to incriminate you? A. I decline to answer that question because it is an insolent one. I want to say to you right now that there is nothing in any contract I ever made or had a hand in making that would incriminate me or justify such a proclamation as your client made over his signature the other day in his attempt to make me out a criminal. Neither in person nor through any one else can he come here and insult me. I repeat that there is nothing in any contract I ever made to incriminate me, and you are no gentleman to ask me such a question.

Mr. Shearn—I ask the commission to rebuke this witness.

Chairman Knapp—The commission declines to rebuke the witness. The question was not a proper one.

Mr. Shearn—I insist that the question is proper and that I had a right to ask it. I insist that the witness be rebuked.

Attorney Adelbert Moot of the Erie—If counsel for the petitioner does not know how to behave like a gentleman I ask that the commission adjourn until he learns how.

Mr. Shearn—I ask that Mr. Moot be rebuked for his language.

Chairman Knapp closed the row, declining to rebuke anybody. Mr. Baer remarked that he was sorry he had lost his temper, whereupon Mr. Shearn again asked him the offensive question. Mr. Baer looked as though he was going to lose his temper again, but an objection to the question by Judge Campbell was sustained by the commission, and that ended the matter.

NO MEETINGS TO FIX COAL PRICES.

In answer to a long line of questions about the stock of the Temple Iron Company, who holds it and who votes it, Mr. Baer said that it was held by the Guaranty Trust Company, and that he generally voted it on a proxy given to him by the trust company. This, he said, was perfectly proper. Who instructed the company how the stock would be voted he didn't know, but not the railroad companies.

Q. Do the directors direct the policy of the subsidiary companies? A. There's not much direction about it. Each company has its manager and his instructions are to mine all the coal he can, as cheaply as he can.

Q. Where do the Temple company directors meet? A. Sometimes in Reading, Philadelphia and in New York, at my office in the Jersey Central building usually.

Q. You had a meeting in March, which was the last before you issued the Reading coal price schedule for 1903? A. We had a meeting on March 24. There were present Mr. Thomas, Mr. Truesdale, Mr. Harris and myself.

Q. What discussion did you four have about the price of coal? A. None whatever.

Q. Wasn't it even referred to? A. Never at a meeting of the Temple Iron Company.

Q. What was said after or before the Temple meeting about it? A. Nothing at all.

DISCUSSED THE STRIKE ONLY.

Q. Well, what business is it that keeps these railroad presidents two and three hours at a time in your office? A. Can you not understand that for a period of time during the coal strikes it was necessary for us to meet and confer on many momentous questions? At my invitation these gentlemen came to my office and lunched with me on Tuesdays. There we discussed the strike. No doubt you may have been led to believe that we were holding protracted meetings of the Temple company, but we were not.

Q. The strike question was the only one discussed? A. That's all.

Q. Didn't you discuss the output and the price of coal? A. Never at these meetings were either of these things discussed.

LUNCHEONS OF THE COAL MEN.

Mr. Baer said he frequently had meetings with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Walter and asked them questions about the trade and what the market would take in the given month, but there had never been a meeting since he had been president of the Reading Company and the New Jersey Central Railroad Company at which the questions of output and price of coal were discussed with any of these gentlemen.

Q. Well, where did these casual meetings you speak of take place? A. At different places, like the Lawyers' Club and the Downtown Club. Would you like to know what we lunched on?

Mr. Shearn—I warrant it was the fat of the land.

Mr. Bear—I have no objection, and I want it understood, to saying that any time I meet Mr. Truesdale or Mr. Thomas I may talk about coal or the amount of business they are doing. But I do say most emphatically that there has been at no time during my administration any pool or combination or agreement between the presidents of the coal companies and the presidents of the coal roads relating to the output of coal or the price to be charged for it.

Q. In other words, you have never got together to put up the price of coal? A. Never. I have always studiously avoided discussing this matter with others, for I knew the popular clamor on the subject of combinations, and was careful not to cross the line of doubt on the subject. I have never allowed any one to dominate me. Why, after my circular price came out, they hammered away at me and said that I had arbitrarily fixed a low price they had to meet. Mr. Thomas complained that I fixed the price in Chicago and Buffalo below what he could get for his coal there and that I was interfering with them.

Q. What did you do about it? A. I maintained the price I had fixed, and they had to come down to it, although it cost them a lot of money.

BRAVED LAWSUITS TO SELL CHEAP COAL.

Q. During the strike, when you sold coal at $5 a ton for the benefit of those who could not pay what the retailers were demanding, didn't you confer with these other coal men? A. When I went below the market price, I conferred with no one. I protected the public by fixing the coal price at $5 a ton and refusing to sell to any dealer who charged more than that. We protected the public, although we were threatened with suits for it. It was arbitrary in me to do this, but I believed the emergency warranted it.

Q. But you and Mr. Thomas and Mr. Truesdale have fixed the tidewater price? A. No, we have not. Coal, like everything else, is subject to the laws of supply and demand. The competition is so keen that no one can fix an arbitrary price. Up to now, the Reading Railroad has been unable to make any money, because of the low returns on its coal business. It has not been able to pay dividends or make any money, and the same is true of the Lehigh.

YOU CAN'T RAISE COST AND REDUCE PRICE.

Q. But you recently put the price of coal up 50 cents? A. Because the cost of mining it advanced. Do you think you can advance the cost of production and reduce the price to the public? The bituminous competition is very keen, too. Lots of bituminous coal is being sold here below the cost of production.

Mr. Baer said that, out of receipts of $62,347,000, the Reading Company, with its 160,000 acres of coal land and its enormous system of railroad, had only been able to pay 4 per cent. on $28,000,000.

"There is no large company," he said, "with so valuable a property, where the earnings, compared to the volume of business, are so small as in the Reading system."

READING'S NEW LABOR TROUBLES.

He also said that if the miners employed by the Reading Company would not work, coal could not be mined. The company's present difficulty was due to the refusal to pay men for ten hours when they only worked seven hours. With things in such an uncertain condition, it wasn't possible for him to say how the Reading Company would come out at the end of the current year. As to the clamor that not enough coal is being mined, he said, his company had 520,000 tons of coal stored up on April 1, for which there was no market.

Q. But haven't you raised the price to $4.50 a ton? A. Yes, and on the first of May we will raise it 10 cents more.

Q. You will? Well, after that, I suppose you will keep raising it until it gets up to $5? A. Yes, if we can. If the market won't take it at that price, why, we will have to come down.

Q. What method do you propose to use in making this increase in price? A. Why, by offering it to customers through our agents. We will offer coal at a certain price next month, and give fair notice that it will be higher the next month. Do you know that at $5 a ton it is not possible for us to pay 4 per cent.?

Q. Have you informed Mr. Thomas and Mr. Truesdale of your intention to raise the price of coal? A. No.

Q. Will they meet it? A. They would be foolish not to.

THE COMPANIES DO COMPETE.

Q. You really say that in this coal business there is competition between you? A. I do say so. We try to take away each other's customers and get into each other's markets. When our sales run behind, I send for my agent and ask him why. We do business like other merchants, and there is plenty of honest competition.

Mr. Baer said that the coal roads didn't build into one another's territory, for the very obvious reason that it wouldn't pay them, but that they did hard against each other for people going into the coal business to get them to locate on their lines. In response to a question about coal prices in Philadelphia, Mr. Baer laughed and said: "What, are you interested in Philadelphia, too? Are you going to release Philadelphia from the bondage of the oppressor, too?"

The examination of Mr. Baer will be concluded this morning.

John Edmunds, the sales agent of the Reading Coal and Iron Company, testified that since April last year he had taken for his company at least one customer from the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company. When he was asked who one customer was, Judge Campbell and other counsel objected, on the ground that the testimony did not relate to the complaints. The commission sustained the objection.

P. B. Hiller, sales agent of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company, testified that the price of coal was regulated by monthly circulars. Asked who regulated the price of coal, he replied: "Mr. Baer."

Clyde Shipbuilding.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

GLASGOW, April 29.—The amount of shipping launched on the Clyde during the present month was 28,000 tons. New work is scarce, amounting only to 21,000 tons.

Word From Missing Cornell Student.

GLEN RIDGE, N. J., April 29.—Hubert G. Webb, the sophomore in the engineering department of Cornell University who was reported missing this morning, is a son of Prof. J. B. Webb of Stevens Institute, who lives in Woodland avenue. His mother said to-day that she had received a telegram from Hubert and that she was in no way worried about him. She said he left Cornell to go to work.

NASON WENT TO PUMP AMORY.

HIDDEN STENOGRAPHER HEARD OFFER TO BUY PATENT STOCK.

Nason Knew Amory of Old as a Man With a Scheme to Harass Metropolitan, and Went Exploring—Page Said Gehenna Would Be Arctic Before He'd Advise Buying Amory Off—Testimony All Stricken Out—Taylor Next Witness.

The Amory-Vreeland libel case was reopened yesterday by Magistrate Barlow, sitting in the library of the Criminal Courts Building, for the special purpose of permitting District Attorney Jerome to find out, if he could, if William H. Page, Jr., had hired Jerome's former law partner, Daniel Nason, to try to buy off Amory and all his litigation, threatened and instituted, against the Metropolitan company. Mr. Jerome failed to connect Mr. Page in any improper way with Nason's visits to Amory and he failed to show any connection whatever between Nason and President Vreeland or any other officer of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company. The result of the District Attorney's butting in was, therefore, only to delay the conclusion of the case which has dragged along for more than a month. The testimony after it had been taken was stricken from the record.

When the case was called, Mr. Jerome was sitting with the Amory contingent. On the opposite side of the table sat Mr. Nason and Mr. Page, who was attended by his personal attorney, Albert B. Boardman. The District Attorney called Mr. Nason, and Mr. Nicoll objected to the case being reopened for the purpose, as he said, of introducing testimony that could not have any possible bearing on the question at issue as to whether or not Vreeland had libelled Amory. The objection was overruled, and Nason took the stand. He said that he is a practising lawyer and that he knew both Mr. Page and Amory. Then Mr. Jerome asked:

NASON'S VISIT TO AMORY.

Q. Were you at Amory's house on March 18, 1903? A. I was.

Q. In the course of your conversation with Amory did you say that Mr. Page had sent you? A. My best recollection is that I did.

Q. Was the statement true? A. It was not.

Q. If you did not go for Page, what did you go for? A. I went entirely on my own account, as I have told you privately. I represent an estate which is largely interested in Metropolitan stock and I wanted to find out what Amory was up to.

Q. [Reading from a typewritten manuscript.] Did you tell Amory, in substance, that you had come from Page and that if Amory would do anything through, you'd get $10,000 and, even if you failed, you'd get $5,000? A. I think very likely I did.

Q. Did Amory say to you: "I don't believe you know how serious this is. Now, Page is trying to put you on to me?" A. I think he probably said that in substance. He seemed to be somewhat excited and I thought he was using more voice than the necessities of parlor conversation required.

SHOUTING TO THE HIDDEN STENOGRAPHER.

Amory was probably talking loud so that a stenographer concealed behind the curtains could hear him. Mr. Jerome was reading from a translation of the stenographer's report of the conversation;

Q. Did Amory say, too, in substance, this: "Dan, what does Page want?" And did you reply: "Page isn't fool enough to make a proposition himself; such a proposition must come from you?" A. I think very likely such a conversation took place.

Q. Did Amory also say: "I want you to understand I can't be bought off, not for $200,000,000"? A. He certainly said he couldn't be bought off. I heard that, and anybody on the roof might have heard it. I don't remember as to the figures.

TELL PAGE TO GO TO ——.

Q. Well, didn't Amory tell you that you were coming to him and offering $75,000 or $100,000 for worthless patent stock, at the behest of Page, and didn't he tell you to go back to Page and tell him he couldn't send to him (Amory) any such message? A. In substance, yes.

Q. And didn't Amory say: "You go back and tell your friend Bill Page to go to hell; he can't do business with me"? A. I think very likely he did.

Q. And didn't you reply: "Now wait a minute. I'll see Page to-morrow and I want to tell him your proposition," and didn't Amory say: "All right, tell him I say he can go to hell"? A. Very likely.

Q. Did you tell Amory you had already received $500 from Page on account of going to see him? A. I do not think I told him about $500 as I now remember the conversation.

WENT TO PUMP AMORY.

Q. Before going to Amory did you see Page? A. To the best of my recollection, I saw Mr. Page on Feb. 27, about 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon. I told him I believed Amory was about to start a blackmailing suit against the Metropolitan company and that I thought the company ought to know about it. Some time in March, 1902, I met Mr. Page at the New York Athletic Club and I then told him that I believed Amory was going to attack the Metropolitan company, first, on the ground that it was running cars on Lexington avenue without a franchise. Then, if that didn't work, that he was going to try to put the company in the hands of a receiver.

RETAINER FROM PAGE WAS ANOTHER MATTER.

Q. What did Page say to what you told him? A. I don't think he made any special reply. Page isn't much of a talker.

Q. Did you ever get a retainer from him for anything? A. I did. Mr. Page telephoned to me, I think, on March 16, this year. It was Sunday, anyway. He said he wanted to employ me in a certain matter and would see me the next day. He did so, told me what he wanted done and gave me a fee of $500.

Q. If Mr. Page permits, will you tell us what you were retained by him to do? A. I have no objection to telling you, if he is willing.

Mr. Page—If the Court pleases, I haven't the slightest objection to the witness telling the general business which I employed him to transact, but, since the details concern solely a client of mine, I don't think he should be permitted to go into details.

The District Attorney—The general subject will be quite enough. I have no desire to pry into private business.

The Witness—I was retained in connection with a matter relating to a newspaper.

Q. Were you ever retained by Mr. Page in any other matter? A. I was not.

Q. And this retainer was given on the day before you went to see Amory? A. I think it was.

Q. You and Amory and Page were interested in the sale of the Jerome Park Railway, were you not? A. I was interested in the sale. Page in the purchase and Amory acted as a broker.

Q. Was any of the Jerome family interested in the sale of that road? A. I think not. My recollection is that the road belonged to the estate of William R. Travers, that Page bought the road and that the money went to William A. Duer, as the representative of the Travers estate.

Q. Did you tell Page what you had told Amory? A. The substance of it.

WHAT PAGE KNEW ABOUT.

Q. Then Page knew all the time that you were representing to Amory that you were acting for him [Page]? A. Well, if he didn't, he ought to have known.

Q. Was the Page retainer for work to be done in the future or for work already performed? A. For work to be done in the future. [Retainers usually are.]

AMORY HAS IT IN FOR METROPOLITAN.

On cross-examination by Mr. Nicoll and in answer to the question if he had known anything of Amory's proposed attacks on the Metropolitan company, Mr. Nason gave the following testimony:

Shortly after Amory left the Third Avenue road I met him one day and said: "Hello, Amory! I'm sorry you lost your job. Aren't you going to stay with them?" He replied: "They're a damned lot of robbers. I'm too honest for 'em." After that I had various conversations with him. In these he told me that the Metropolitan people had no franchise under which they were running cars along Lexington avenue. In this conversation I remember that he once said: "I know they haven't got any franchise and I'm going to get up a company. Then I'm going to circulate rumors, as a result of which the city will offer the franchise at public auction. Then, when the Metropolitan people see that my company is going to bid on the franchise they'll buy us out for a large amount." Later he spoke about the receivership business and I asked him if he was going to be the receiver. He replied: "I don't know about that, but I'll be so valuable to the receiver that he'll be glad to give me a large salary."

NASON WAS EXPLORING.

Q. For what reason did you go to see Amory? A. I represented an estate which owns 2,000 shares of the stock of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company. When this attack on the company was made I remembered all Amory's former talk, in a general way, about putting the company out of business or getting them to give him money, and I wanted to find out just what he was doing and who was back of him. I had a large interest at stake. I employed, in trying to find out, just the same methods that the District Attorney employs every day with his detectives.

Mr. Jerome (Who seemed a bit stirred up over the answer)—Yes, but the District Attorney has that work done by detectives; he doesn't do it himself.

Q. Then whatever you said to Amory and whatever you did, you said and did for the purpose of drawing him on and to find out what he was after? A. That was precisely it. I employed such means as I thought would accomplish the purpose, even to baiting him with the possibility of the sale, to Page, of his patent bicycle seat.

Q. Were you sent there by Mr. Page? A. Emphatically, I was not.

Q. Or by anybody connected with the Metropolitan company? A. I was not.

Q. Or by any of the attorneys for the company? A. No.

On redirect examination, Mr. Nason said that his conversations with Amory, in which Amory told of his plans for wrecking the Metropolitan company, were had at Nason's office some time between June, 1900, and June, 1901.

PAGE TESTIFIES.

Mr. Page was the next and only other witness. He said that Nason had told him of the conversations between him (Nason) and Amory, and then he was asked:

Q. Did you understand that he was using your name in talking with Amory? A. I have no recollection on the subject except that I said to him on one occasion, when he told me that he had represented himself as being my agent: "Well, I hope it is quite clear to you that you don't come from me"; and Mr. Nason laughed and said that, of course, he understood that.

Q. Well, now did Nason happen to speak to Amory about the bicycle seat? A. (smiling) I think all of Mr. Amory's friends or acquaintances knew that he had a patent bicycle seat. I knew it and Mr. Nason knew it, and I suppose Nason thought that would make a good pretext upon which to approach Amory.

Q. Well, didn't you know that the patent was practically worthless? A. I did not. On the contrary, I believe it to be a very good thing. Mr. Amory gave me one of the appliances and I attached it to my bicycle. I thought then, and I still think, that it's one of the best adjuncts to comfortable bicycle riding that I have ever seen.

GEHENNA WOULD COAGULATE BEFORE HE'D BUY OFF AMORY.

Q. (By Mr. Nicoll) Did you ever authorize Nason to offer any money to Amory? A. On the contrary, when it was suggested to me that Amory might be bought off, I said the infernal regions would freeze over before I'd advise such a course. I didn't say infernal regions at the time. I used a good old Anglo-Saxon word that suited my purpose. [Laughter.]

Q. Were you authorized by Mr. Vreeland to get Nason to go to see Amory?

By Mr. Jerome—We concede, your Honor, that we have failed to connect Vreeland with Nason's calls on Amory.

By Mr. Nicoll—Then, your Honor, I move to strike out all the testimony given here to-day by both Nason and Page.

ALL THE TESTIMONY STRICKEN OUT.

Amory's lawyer tried to show that the testimony given by both these witnesses tended to show animus on the part of Mr. Page in giving the tesimony which he did last Friday, which was, in effect, that Amory had asked him to use his (Page's) good offices with President Vreeland to get Amory a job with the Metropolitan company. The Court ruled against Amory's lawyer and ordered that all the Nason and Page testimony given yesterday be stricken from the records.

TALBOT J. TAYLOR NEXT.

Thereupon Mr. Nicoll asked for an adjournment until this morning at 10 o'clock. In the interval he hopes to be able to find and bring back to New York Talbot J. Taylor, who is out somewhere in the suburbs touring in an automobile. An adjournment was taken, and if Mr. Taylor is found he will testify this morning.

TEALE GIVES A BIT OF ADVICE.

Tells the Conferees on Wife Desertion to Try the Cure He Recommends.

Magistrate Charles E. Teale of Brooklyn addressed a conference on family desertion held yesterday in the library of the Associated Charities Building, 105 East Twenty-second street. To an audience, which included many women, he spoke on the causes which lead to wife desertion. As a cure he recommended friendly talks of disagreeing husbands and wives.

"Just go home and try it," he said.

Business was suspended till the audience got through laughing and Judge Teale amended his advice.

The conference lasted through the day and much of the discussion was of ways and means and legal methods of bringing deserting husbands to justice. Frank E. Wade of Buffalo, an attorney and author of a bill on the subject which will be introduced in the next Legislature, said that the man who deserts his wife "ought to go to jail, where he belongs."

Dr. L. H. Frankel of the United Hebrew Charities mentioned seeing the whipping post in Delaware and spoke of it as a fit punishment for the man who deserts his family when in indigent circumstances.

In his address Mr. Wade said:

So far as we can judge the real cause seems to be moral delinquency on the part of the man. He seems to feel that when the family burden falls too heavily, he can leave with impunity and leave charity to care for his wife and children. If desertion is made a felony the deserter can be brought back from other States by extradition and made to suffer.

A committee was appointed to take up the matter with the Buffalo Charity Organization Society. Another committee will recommend at the national conference of Correction and Charities next week at Atlanta, Ga., that the Governors of all States be urged to grant extradition papers in desertion cases.

The Philadelphia's Ocean Newspaper.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SOUTHAMPTON, April 29.—The steamship Philadelphia of the American Line, which arrived from New York, published an edition of an ocean newspaper at sea to-day. It contained a summary of the news of the week, a column of local "Wavelets" and some editorial paragraphs. The title of the paper was the *Philadelphia Marconi Bulletin*. The Philadelphia, which is equipped with wireless apparatus, sailed from New York last Wednesday.

May Extend Viceroy Curzon's Term.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 29.—There is an unconfirmed report that the term of Lord Curzon of Kedleston as Viceroy of India will be extended for two years.

The Weather.

Fair weather still held sway over the Eastern half of the country yesterday. The high-pressure centre over the South Atlantic States caused high and unseasonable temperatures in the middle Atlantic and the New England States. The mercury reached 83 in this city.

The low area which was in the West was drawing to a storm formation over two centres, one over Iowa and the other over Texas. Rain was falling from northern Texas, northeastward to the upper Lakes, and snow in Nebraska, Colorado, the Dakotas and northern Minnesota. The storm was moving northeastward, attended by high winds in the upper Missouri Valley and upper Lake regions. An area of high pressure in the Northwest caused colder weather in that section and southward to Texas.

In this city the day was fair and warmer; wind, fresh, west to southwest; average humidity, 39 per cent.; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 8 A. M., 30.12; 3 P. M., 30.04.

The temperature yesterday as recorded by the official thermometer is shown in the annexed table:

	1903.	1902.		1903.	1902.
9 A. M.	67°	57°	6 P. M.	82°	57°
12 M.	79°	59°	9 P. M.	78°	54°
3 P. M.	83°	59°	12 Mid.	70°	53°

WASHINGTON FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW

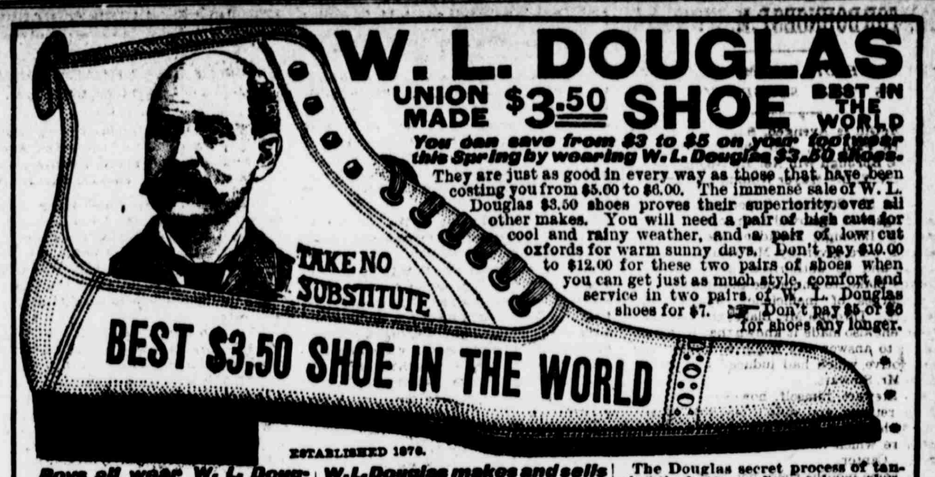
For eastern New York, fair to-day and cooler in east and south portions; rain and much colder to-morrow; variable winds.

For New England, fair to-day and colder except in extreme south and extreme northwest portions; rain and colder to-morrow; fresh winds, mostly north.

For the District of Columbia, Maryland, eastern Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware, fair and continued warm to-day; rain and colder to-morrow; variable winds.

For New Jersey, fair to-day and cooler on the coast; rain and cooler to-morrow; variable winds.

For western New York, showers and colder to-day; rain or snow and much colder to-morrow; brisk to high southwest winds shifting to northwest.



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Boys all wear W. L. Douglas' strong made $2.00 shoes; Youth's, $1.75.

Made of the best Imported and American Leathers, Heyl's Patent Calf, French Enamel, Box Calf, Calf, Vici Kid, Patent Corona Kid, and Patent Corona Colt.

Fast Color Eyelets used exclusively.

W. L. Douglas makes and sells more men's Goodyear welt (hand-sewed process) shoes than any other manufacturer in the world.

$25,000 REWARD will be paid to anyone who can disprove this statement.

The Douglas secret process of tanning the bottom soles produces absolutely pure leather; more flexible and will wear longer than any other tannage in the world. The sales have more than doubled the past four years, which proves its superiority.

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VANDERBILT WEDDING ROW.

PROTEST MADE TO THE BISHOP OF LONDON.

Case of Minister Who Performed the Ceremony Brought Before the Diocesan Conference—Bishop Promises an Investigation—Chancellor Takes Blame.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 29.—The matter of the wedding of W. K. Vanderbilt and Mrs. Anne Harriman Rutherfurd last Saturday was brought before the London Diocesan Conference at its opening meeting at Westminster Abbey this morning. After a communion service in the Henry VIII. Chapel a business meeting was held in the Church House, with the Rt. Rev. A. F. W. Ingram, Bishop of London, presiding.

After about a dozen words of introduction, the Bishop read the following letter, which he received last night:

LONDON, April 28, 1903.

MY LORD BISHOP: We venture respectfully to draw your lordship's attention to the fact of the so-called remarriage of a divorced person by the Rev. R. H. Hadden, at St. Mark's, North Audley street, on Saturday, April 25, and request you to make such reference at the Diocesan Conference to this scandalous and deplorable incident as shall serve to allay, to some extent, the distress of the clergy, who feel keenly this infringement of the marriage law in the diocese, and may also lead others to realize how serious a breach of Church discipline is involved in such a proceeding.

We know how fully your lordship is in sympathy with us on this subject, and we think that the conference, coming as it does immediately after the event, will afford a useful opportunity for an expression of your lordship's opinion. Had there been a longer time in which to act we should, of course, have asked other clergy of the diocese to join us in this letter. As it is, it seems best that the two proctors for the diocese and the proctor for the chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral, together with a few of the clergy of the rural deanery in which St. Mark's Church is situated, should make the suggestion. We beg to remain, your obedient servants in Christ,

ARTHUR J. INGRAHAM,
H. MONTAGUE VILLIERS,
Proctors of the clergy of the Diocese of London.
W. C. E. NEWBOLT,
Canon Proctor of the Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral.
JOHN STORRS,
Rural Dean, by his attorney, Rev. A. Fairbanks.
W. B. FAIRBANKS,
Vicar of St. Matthew's, Westminster.
A. HANBURY-TRACY,
Vicar of St. Barnabas's, Pimlico.
HENRY WASHINGTON,
Vicar of St. Saviour's, Pimlico.

After reading this letter the Bishop of London declared that it was hardly necessary for him to state that even without the above letter the matter would have been investigated at once. [Cheers.] But this morning he had telegraphed the Chancellor of the diocese, who came to see him, and who said, first, that he was the guilty person; second, that he was obliged by law to give his license if the parties could find a clergyman to marry them; third, that this license went out in the name of the Chancellor and not in that of the Bishop, and, fourth, that his (the Chancellor's) jurisdiction was entirely independent of the Bishop's. [Laughter.] He (the Bishop) made no comment on these facts, but said that when he had a chance of interviewing the clergymen of the church, as he would have, he hoped, within the next twenty-four hours, he would then state his opinion of the whole matter.

The question raised by the Rev. Mr. Miller of West London as to the legality of the Vanderbilt wedding may be dismissed as unimportant. According to the testimony of several witnesses who ought to know, the doors were open. One of those in attendance, Henry White, the First Secretary of the American Embassy, whose wife is a sister-in-law of Mrs. Vanderbilt, said to Mrs. Rutherfurd as they drove to the church: "See, the doors are open. I wonder how many people are inside."

Another ecclesiastical legal opinion on the law in such cases is that the doors of a church are not technically shut unless they are locked. As no one tried the doors of St. Mark's during the Vanderbilt wedding who can say whether they were locked or not?

TURKEY MAKES CONCESSIONS.

Minister Leishman Renews Demands at an Opportune Moment.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 29.—Opportune representations by Mr. Leishman, the American Minister to Turkey, at a time when the latter country was in no mood to make enemies, resulted in the settlement of several questions pending between the Sultan's Government and the United States. In future Armenians who have become American citizens will be allowed to travel in Turkey without that country claiming them as citizens. The Porte has agreed to the appointment of several interior consular agents, and the long sought permission to make excavations for archæological research in the basin of the Euphrates has been granted.

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Sauternes—Haut Sauternes, Chat. Rabaud, Chat. Yquem, vint. '91, '93, '96.

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POPE AND KING EDWARD MEET

BRITISH RULER SPENDS HALF AN HOUR AT THE VATICAN.

Met on the Threshold by the Aged Pontiff—Custom Upset by the King's Return to the Quirinal After Visiting the Head of the Church—Idea of the Visit.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, April 29.—After luncheon at the Quirinal palace to-day King Edward drove to the British Embassy. Thence he drove to the Vatican escorted by the Italian cuirassiers. The route was lined with Italian royal troops.

At the entrance to the papal territory the cordon about the King was taken up by the Pope's Swiss Guard. He was met at the courtyard of St. Damaso by Mgr. Stonor the highest British Roman Catholic ecclesiast in Rome, and Prince Ruspoli, who accompanied him up the great staircase to the antechamber.

The King was immediately admitted to the papal room. He was met at the threshold by the Pope and the door was closed at once. The King and the Pope conversed for half an hour. When the King was taking leave the Pope crossed the room with his guest and bade farewell to King Edward while standing at the door of the chamber. The King then returned to the Quirinal.

Commenting on the call of King Edward on the Pope the *Voce Della Verita* says the Pope wished to give a proof of his sympathy with the faithful British Catholics, in honoring their sovereign, and King Edward wished to give all his Catholic subjects, especially the Irish, proof of his sympathy in honoring their pontiff. King Edward's visit, the paper says, is a great historical page for Catholics, for it is a sign of the cessation of the sectarian spirit in Great Britain against the Catholic Church. The article concludes: "Long live Leo! Long live Edward! Long live Great Britain!"

This morning King Edward took a drive with Queen Helena. Later a great military review in his honor was held on the Place d'Armes. Twenty-two thousand men took part in the military manœuvres, which were of a brilliant character. King Edward witnessed the spectacle from his carriage. He was cheered constantly on the way to the parade ground and on his return after the review was over.

*WHEN EDWARD REACHES PARIS.