

COUNTERFEITERS ROUNDED UP

GANG OF TEN ARRESTED HERE AND IN BROOKLYN.

John Davis, Notorious as Bank of England Counterfeiter, Most Important Capture—Plant Seized in Revere, Mass.—Seven Taken Here, Three in Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 4.—United States Secret Service officers here and in New York nipped a big counterfeiting scheme to-day, arresting not only the men who were doing the actual work of engraving bank notes, but the men who are believed to have been the leaders of the business.

Ten arrests were made in all, seven in New York and three here, among the latter being John Davis, alias Phillips Swartz, who is considered by the Federal officers the most expert engraver in this or any other country, and who counterfeited the Bank of England notes several years ago as well as the notes of the American and American Express Company money orders abroad.

The raid is considered the biggest one since the Lancaster, Pa., case in 1899, when the Secret Service men spent fourteen months in running down a gang of counterfeiters who are now serving long sentences.

The men arrested in New York were Benjamin Farber, who runs a saloon on Essex street, New York; Jacob Farber, Harry Stein, proprietor of a restaurant at 117 Monroe street; his father, Nathan Stein; Morris Holben, who runs a lunch room in Essex street, New York; Morris Isenberg and a man employed by Stein, whose name is not known here.

The officers found a complete counterfeiting plant in the house, but no bank notes. The property seized is valued at about \$2,000, and is being held to-night.

Since last August the Secret Service men have been working on the case, and to-day Chief William J. Flynn, head of the New York district, Agent John E. Murphy, head of the St. Louis district, and Joseph E. Mack, head of the Boston district, together with three assistants, made the arrests here.

According to Agent Flynn, the gang has been getting out counterfeit \$20 gold certificates bearing the Garfield head; \$10 silver certificates bearing the Lincoln head, \$5 silver certificates bearing the Indian head and counterfeit notes on the Cape Cod, Waltham, Lynn and New Bedford national banks and the Fourth National Bank of this city.

The entire State and part of New Hampshire have been flooded with the notes, and about \$400,000 of the money has been taken up by the officers in Massachusetts. To what extent the notes have been circulated in New York the Secret Service men were unable to say, but they thought that some of the gold and silver certificates had been passed there.

It was stated by the officers that the gang began operations in Newark last summer, but, becoming suspicious that they were being watched, decided to come to Revere to do the work. Lovak came here late in August and hired the house at Revere. Davis came along several days later, and the two men bought a lot of furniture. Then Lovak and his family moved into the house, and by degrees the counterfeiting tools, hand press, etc., were gathered together and a workshop established.

Among other things found in the house to-day was enough paper to make a million notes. It was of the finest quality, some with fine fibers, and was for a time the Government officers lost track of the gang, but soon had them located at Revere, and day after day the house was watched.

Many visits were paid to New York and Jersey City, and all the time Davis and his confederates were busy experimenting and counterfeiting. The officers in Washington and New York followed the men when they left the train in New York.

The relations of the men arrested in New York with the gang here were gradually made clear. The officers here said that Davis has been under indictment in New York for counterfeiting \$100,000 of silver certificates since 1902, but that he escaped arrest and went to London, where he proved such a thorn to the Bank of England by his clever engraving of five-pound notes that the institution had to treat with him.

It turned out that the man who was arrested in this country about a year ago, and who was also said to-night that some of the counterfeit notes were found in Nathan Stein's possession when he was arrested to-day.

The counterfeit notes are considered the most serious to detect of any made for many years.

Capt. Flynn, in charge of the Secret Service men here, is in New York. One of his men said last night to a SUN reporter: "I guess you'll find that most of those arrested last night were made in Boston. There's not much to tell here."

Secret Service Agent George A. Burns took a prisoner to the Eldridge street station at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and had him locked up over night without entering any charge against him. The prisoner's name was recorded as Morris Rosenberg. The agent told the police nothing about him.

There was a rumor, promulgated by the police with some effect, that most of the expected New York prisoners had escaped the Secret Service net.

A 117 Monroe street there is a small restaurant with the name "H. Stein" on the window. To the SUN reporter's inquiry as to the person named in the name, a man in an apron said: "He went out at 8 o'clock this morning, and I don't know just when he will get back."

MARTIAL LAW IN CRIPPLE CREEK

Gov. Peabody Suspends Habeas Corpus Because of Miners' Lawlessness.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 4.—Gov. Peabody to-day issued a proclamation declaring martial law in the Cripple Creek district and suspending the writ of habeas corpus. All former military prisoners, liberated because there was not sufficient testimony to hold them, will be rearrested and held indefinitely in the county jail, which will probably be taken in charge by the military.

The action is based on the decision of the Supreme Court of Idaho in the Court d'Alene case. The proclamation will be construed by the military as the ordering of martial law and the complete ignoring of civil courts. The Governor says that a state of "insurrection and rebellion exists in Teller county, the civil officers are not willing or able to control the lawless element which practically rules the district, and acts of mob violence in the past have been such that life and property are unsafe and that similar outrages are likely to occur at any time."

It is the Governor's purpose to keep troops in the district until order is restored, and he expects to-day's proclamation to arrive in the camp of agitators and dynamiters who are not arrested by the military. Should this measure prove ineffective, he will issue another proclamation establishing military courts and suspending the functions of civil courts in the district. The Sheriff and courts there have shown sympathy with the strikers and thus encouraged lawlessness.

At Telluride the conditions are different so far as the Sheriff is concerned, but the County Judge has begun issuing writs of habeas corpus, and if this action leads to a repetition of the Cripple Creek troubles the Governor will adopt necessary repressive measures.

Conditions in the southern coal fields are improving, and unless John Mitchell's inflammatory speech there yesterday incites violence, there is little prospect of troops being needed. The coal companies report that they are making work and a steady supply of coal.

Mr. Mitchell arrived here to-night and will see the Governor before leaving.

BIG OIL STRIKE IN TEXAS.

Land Goes Up From \$10 to \$10,000 an Acre Near Big Hill—Gates and Hogg There.

MATAGORDA, Tex., Dec. 4.—There is wild excitement throughout this section over the great oil well which has been brought in at Big Hill situated on the line of the Cane Belt Railroad, which was recently struck by the Santa Fe.

The gusher was struck several days ago, but the owners tapped the well and endeavored to keep the find a secret until they could buy adjoining land at a low figure.

The well broke loose yesterday and is gushing at the rate of 10,000 barrels of oil daily. The Santa Fe has just closed a deal for several hundred acres of land situated close to the well and will develop its holding at once.

St. Louis people who formerly owned the Cane Belt Railroad own a large tract of land adjacent to the new oil fields. Ex-Gov. J. S. Hogg owns 3,000 acres of land near by.

It is asserted by experts who visited the new oil field to-day that it promises to exceed that of Spindletop and Sour Lake in extent and quality of production within a short time.

Prices of land have advanced from \$10 an acre to \$1,000 an acre since yesterday. Big Hill is 250 miles southwest of Beaumont. John W. Gates arrived at Big Hill yesterday and has invested heavily in oil land.

SECRET IN DR. VAN DYCK'S DEATH

He Gave Detective Evolve "To Be Opened in Case of My Sudden Death."

BOSTON, Dec. 4.—The police have taken a hand in the investigation into the cause of the sudden death of Dr. James M. Van Dyck, at Dorchester last night, because of information furnished by Thomas H. Higham, a private detective.

Medical Examiner Drayer attributed the cause of death to an overdose of morphine, but when Detective Higham read of the doctor's death in the morning papers, he notified the police that he had some important information.

Higham said that Dr. Van Dyck had engaged him to make certain investigations for him, and that these investigations had been concluded when the doctor, two days ago, entered the office of the detective and asked him to keep for him a sealed envelope marked: "To be opened and published in case of my sudden death."

The envelope was turned over to the District Attorney, but neither he nor Medical Examiner Drayer would say to-night what it contained.

TWO SHOOK BY THIRD RAIL.

Electricians on the Elevated Blinded for a Time—One Burned.

William Herman and Emil Batsch, two electricians, were sent for yesterday afternoon to tinker up an electric power shoe on a car of a southbound Third Avenue elevated train which stopped at the Wendover avenue station because the shoe didn't work right. They were tinking some repairs when the current broke out in a flash which scared all the passengers.

WOOD'S NOMINATION MAY FALL

HIS FATE INVOLVED IN DEAD-LOCK OVER ADJOURNING.

If the Extra Session Is Not Adjourned Before Noon on Monday He Will Have to Return to His Old Rank Until Nomination Is Sent in Again and Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The fortunes of Gen. Leonard Wood and 167 other army officers are, to a certain extent, involved in the deadlock between the Senate and House over the question of adjourning the extra session of Congress.

The fact that Gen. Wood must doff his Major-General's uniform and resume that of a Brigadier-General unless Congress adjourns sine die some time before noon on Monday next, may cause the President to change his attitude in supporting Speaker Cannon and the House in their firm resistance of any attempt to adjourn. It is said to be a possibility that the President may advise his friends in the House to adopt a resolution to adjourn to-morrow, or at some hour on Monday morning, in order to permit him to send in his recess appointments again.

Under the Constitution the President, during the recess of Congress, is empowered to fill vacancies in any offices where appointments are permitted to enter upon their duties immediately after receiving their commissions. Upon the convening of Congress the President is required to send to the Senate a list of recess appointments for confirmation. The rules of the Senate provide that, unless nominations are received by the President are acted upon during the session in which they are received such nominations shall fall and shall not be considered at a subsequent session, unless again sent to the Senate by the President.

In the case of nominations being made by the President while Congress is in session, appointments to office do not assume their duties until the Senate has confirmed their nominations.

Gen. Leonard Wood and the 167 army officers whose promotions are dependent upon his advancement are recess appointments. They are holding their commissions and drawing the salaries of the grades to which they have been promoted, pending their confirmation or rejection by the Senate.

Until to-day it had been generally understood that the President would again send in the recess appointments, and that the other officers who have failed of confirmation to be acted upon by the Senate at the forthcoming regular session. But the important distinction between a recess appointee and one nominated during a session of Congress has been brought out by the President's action to-day.

In such an interval the President would be enabled to reappoint Gen. Wood and the other officers as recess appointees, the result that they would continue to hold the higher rank and draw the increased pay while awaiting the action of the Senate.

If Congress should remain in session continuously up to noon on Monday, the recess appointments would be confirmed, and there would be no such recess appointments and Gen. Wood's name, with the others, would go to the Senate merely as recess appointments made during the session of Congress.

None of the officers, therefore, could remain in the rank to which they had been promoted, but would be compelled to return to their former grade until the Senate had acted upon the nomination.

The Senate is willing that there should be a recess between the two sessions. It adjourned to-day until to-morrow for the purpose of giving the House an opportunity to pass and send over a concurrent resolution providing for adjournment. If the House should, in order to save Gen. Wood the humiliation of returning to his former grade, adopt a resolution to adjourn, the Senate would readily concur. But from all that can be learned of the temper of the House, nothing will cause it to waver in its determination to carry the extra session to noon on Monday.

Speaker Cannon is as firm as a rock and has the House with him. He is a friend of Gen. Wood, but in this matter he will not change his attitude to save Gen. Wood. He remarked to a friend yesterday that Gen. Wood could wait, and that the Senate would not doubt do the right thing by him in the long run.

So far as Crum is concerned there will be no recess of Congress at the President's request. The President has found it difficult to get Crum and the other members of the two houses of Congress he is distrustful of office there will be no waiting at the White House.

MARRIAGE SECRET SIX MONTHS.

Young Columbia Graduate Was Wedded to Miss Francis in June.

Friends of Woolsey Adams Shepard, a Columbia graduate of the class of 1900, and Miss Mary Carolyn Francis, daughter of Clarence W. Francis of 210 West 107th street, were surprised yesterday to learn that the couple had been married on June 9 by the Rev. Dr. Soagle in St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church in West Forty-sixth street. Formerly announced that the marriage was made through a newspaper notice.

Mr. Shepard, who was admitted to the bar a few months ago and who has a job in the office of his father, J. Woolsey Shepard, declined to say why the marriage had been kept secret. His father, to whom he referred inquirers, said: "The young folks just got married on the spur of the moment, and the girl's mother was in Europe. Why, I don't know. There was no objection on either side of the house and it was just a bit of foolishness, that's all."

The parents did not learn of their marriage until a few days ago, when the bride's mother returned from Europe. They owned the house in which they were living.

The young people are living with Mr. Shepard's father at 248 West Ninety-ninth street.

The Mail and Express will issue its Christmas number, including the Illustrated Sunday Magazine, to-day. The latter will consist of thirty-two pages of interesting matter, among other things one page will be devoted to illustrations and a description of the new year's resolutions.

The Elevator Company now in the course of construction in Jersey City.—Ad.

POWDER EXPLODES IN OFFICE.

Folks at 43 Cedar Street Scared by a Noise From the Dupont Co.'s Rooms.

An explosion of gunpowder on the eighth floor of the annex of the Mutual Life Building, at 43 Cedar street, late yesterday afternoon caused a lot of excitement among the tenants of the building, which was added to by the noisy arrival of several fire engines and trucks that came in response to an alarm turned in by a man who saw the smoke pouring out of the window.

The gunpowder was a sample package and was in E. J. Dupont, Dupont & Co.'s office, in room 806. The office was being vacated at the time of the explosion. It is supposed that the package was jarred off a desk. The detonation was heard through the whole building and when the occupants of the offices next door saw big puffs of smoke coming through the wall, they made a dash for the elevators and hustled to the street.

The explosion did not start a fire, and as soon as the startled stenographers were assured that there was no danger, they returned to their work.

GAS KILLS WOMAN ARTIST.

Virginia Thornton Found Dead in the Bathroom of Her Apartment.

Virginia L. Thornton, a young artist, was found dead, suffocated by gas, in her apartment, No. 1616 Sixth street, at midnight last night.

She had a finely furnished apartment on the second floor. At midnight people in the house smelled gas and called Janitor Ernest Philblatt, who traced the leak to the artist's rooms and got Policeman Vose to break in.

Miss Thornton was found on the bathroom floor. She had apparently been sitting on the toilet when she died. Dr. Reid of the New York Hospital said that she had been dead only about five minutes.

The police think that the escape of the gas was undoubtedly accidental. A gas stove and a jet were lighted in the room. The gas was escaping from one jet.

Miss Thornton had apparently been about to take a bath, as the tub was filled with water.

Miss Thornton, it was said, had a brother at Lexington, Ky. She had lived in the Sixteenth street house only a few months and little was known about her there.

CAPT. LYDIG IN WALL ST.

Man Who Married Mrs. W. E. D. Stokes Buys Stock Exchange Seat.

Capt. Philip M. Lydig has bought the Stock Exchange membership of the late Jacob Hays. The seat, which was posted for transfer on Thursday, is said to have cost Capt. Lydig \$57,500, the high price for some months.

Capt. Lydig has told his friends that his plans in regard to stock brokerage are indefinite. He has formed no connection with any Stock Exchange house, but it is said that his relations with Strong, Sturgis & Co. are very friendly.

In Wall Street circles Capt. Lydig is little known, but he is a well known figure in Mrs. W. E. D. Stokes' social circle. She and her husband are socially prominent both here and in Newport. Their town house is at 38 East Fifth street. Lydig is a member of the Union, Knickerbocker, Racquet, New York Yacht and Harvard clubs and is a member of the Military Order of Foreign Wars.

COPS GUARDED BRIDEGRROOM.

Held Brothers of the Bride to Prevent Their Using Their Guns.

DUBLIN, Ga., Dec. 4.—While four policemen held Russell and Peter Twitty, sons of the late Rev. P. S. Twitty, who was a prominent Methodist minister, thus preventing them from using pistols which they carried on their persons, Miss Helen Twitty was married to Edward Keene, a local railroad officer.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. G. W. Matthews, the participants standing in a carriage, which immediately after the ceremony bore them to the railroad station.

ROCKEFELLER'S NEW HOUSE.

He Will Build on the Site of the House Recently Burned at North Tarrytown.

John D. Rockefeller has made arrangements to build a country house on the Bedford road, North Tarrytown, in place of the one which was burned down about a year ago. It will occupy a new site on the same grounds. The point selected is said to be the highest in Westchester county and to command a magnificent view of the Hudson.

SHOT HER DIVORCED HUSBAND.

Woman Had Arrested Him for Trying to Enter Her Home.

DEN MOINES, Ia., Dec. 4.—Mrs. Nettie Clendenen shot her divorced husband through the stomach at 3 o'clock this morning after having arrested him for trying to force an entrance to her home and maced him at the point of a revolver more than ten blocks on the way to the police station.

She had hoped to encounter a policeman rather than a husband, and had a child in the chambers of her weapon in an attempt to attract attention, which a child is not permitted to do.

She assisted him to a hotel and called her kindness in handing him food from a window in response to his appeal at 1 o'clock this morning by trying to force past her into the house.

25 CENTS NO ONE CLAIMED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—As the Cabinet meeting was about to adjourn to-day evening the members picked up a twenty-five-cent piece from the floor and handed it to the President. Mr. Roosevelt, holding up the coin, asked who had lost it, but nobody claimed it. One of them suggested that the Postmaster General should claim it, but for personal reasons was loath to claim it. Mr. Payne denied, however, that it belonged either to him or to the Post Office Department.

CARNEGIE VETERANS FEAST.

FORTY-THREE SPEECHES AT THE IRONMASTER'S DINNER.

His Old Pittsburgh Lieutenant's Guests at His Fifth Avenue Home—Reminiscences by the Host, Charles M. Schwab and Others—Some Tunes on the Pipes.

Andrew Carnegie gave a dinner last night to what he sometimes calls the "Carnegie Veterans." Forty-three men, nearly all of whom have become wealthy through their association with Carnegie and his enterprises, were his guests in his great house at Fifth Avenue and Ninety-second street.

They were headed by Charles M. Schwab and W. E. Corey, ex-president and president of the United States Steel Corporation. Some of the others were: Judge J. H. Beed, Joseph E. Schwab, W. B. Dickson, James Taylor, W. N. Brew, F. T. Lovejoy, George E. McCauley, T. L. Abbott, L. T. Brown, H. P. Bove, H. M. Moreland, Alexander Peacock, Thomas Lynch, A. C. Dinkey, Thomas Morrison, C. H. Taylor, George Lander, J. J. Campbell, D. S. Thomas, W. L. Lesure, G. G. Lindsay, A. H. Hunt, C. D. Backer, W. B. Black, W. C. McCallister, John McLeod, W. R. Balsinger, D. G. Kerr, B. M. Clemson, J. C. Cole and W. H. Singer, L. C. Phillips, John C. Fleming, R. A. Franks, Joseph Garney, J. Ogden Hoffman, Joseph Hunter, D. S. Mills, A. Monnell, H. E. Tyner, Louis W. Phipps, George H. Whitcomb and E. F. Wood.

Cablegrams were received from T. T. Bird, St. Louis; Miles E. Hunsicker, in London, and Minister J. J. Leishman, in Constantinople.

The registers of the Holland House, the Waldorf Astoria, the Manhattan and the other hotels which are usually infested with Western accumulators of millions began showing the names of Carnegie's hospitality on Thursday. Rumors of around some of the uptown brokerage houses that there was "something doing in Steel" were about generally observed at the gathering of the Carnegie clans.

Last year, when Mr. Carnegie made twenty-fourth street his headquarters at the opening of the new Fifth Avenue house, Mrs. Carnegie and her sister dined with the steel men. There were no women present last night.

Most of those who went up to Mr. Carnegie's from the Holland House ordered that their carriages be sent for them at 10 o'clock. But they had apparently underestimated Mr. Carnegie's hospitality. Few, if any of them, had left the house at midnight.

The reason for the late hour of parting was that Mr. Carnegie insisted on having speech from every one of his forty-two guests.

Charles M. Schwab made the longest speech and raked up a joke on almost every man present, recalling days when they were boys in Mr. Carnegie's employ and burned their fingers because they didn't fully understand the steel which has been near a furnace is usually hot.

Mr. Carnegie's remarks were all of a reminiscent nature. Every man at the dinner wore a purple ribbon in his coat lapel, bearing the initials "C. V. A." of the Carnegie Veteran Association.

SUICIDE AT A PARTY.

Fleecer Drank Acid Because He Couldn't Find Wife and Child.

Adam Fleecer, a travelling salesman of 617 Glenmore avenue, Brooklyn, attempted suicide at a birthday party last night because he had been unable to find his wife, who left for about four months ago. He will probably die.

When Mrs. Fleecer left him she took with her her 18-month-old baby. Fleecer returned from a trip through Pennsylvania yesterday and made inquiries among his friends for his wife. He was still looking for his wife last night when he met John Pfeiffer, a friend, who invited him to the birthday party.

There were about twenty persons at the party, and some one proposed a toast to Fleecer. He took a bottle from his pocket, and when the rest were ready to drink to his health he filled his glass from the bottle, and after having drunk from it fell to the floor.

He was taken to the Bradford street hospital, where it was found that he had taken muriatic acid.

MAIL BAG LOOTED.

Messenger Into Whose Care It Was Entrusted Is Missing.

James Sweeney, who has the contract for delivering mail pouches to the various depots in Jersey City, on last Wednesday night gave a pouch to James B. Murphy of 164 Sussex street, Jersey City, one of his messengers, to be taken to one of the trolley mail cars.

When Sweeney stopped at his stable later in the evening he found the mail pouch on the floor, ripped open. The floor was littered with letters. They had all been opened.

Murphy has disappeared and the police and Post Office authorities are now looking for him.

CUT LINN BRUCE'S BILL.

Silk Firm's Creditors Thought His Charges Too High for a Receivership.

Fogle & Killin, manufacturers of silks at 99 Grand street, this city, and at Little Falls, N. J., whose offer to compromise with their creditors at 50 cents on the dollar has been accepted by a majority of their creditors, have met with opposition on the part of three large creditors, who will appear in opposition to the confirmation of the composition.

Both the creditors have also protested against the amount of the bill for services rendered by the receiver, M. Linn Bruce. Mr. Bruce's bill was \$1,600 for his own services and \$500 for his attorney, William Allen, the referee in bankruptcy, reduced these charges to \$900 and \$400, respectively.

The liabilities of the firm were \$78,814 and assets \$48,320.

Murphy Committee Votes \$1,500 to the Poor. Charles F. Murphy's district committee of the Eighteenth Assembly district appropriated out of its treasury last night \$1,500 for the aid of the poor during the winter. Dr. Golding of St. Catherine's Hospital, and John J. Murphy, brother of the Tammany chieftain, offered the resolution.

WAR MINISTER PUT TO DEATH?

Rumor That Korean Official Has Been Killed at Seoul.

Berlin, Dec. 4.—A despatch from St. Petersburg says that the Minister of War of Korea has been executed at Seoul. No details are given.

KAISER TRUES WORN AND AGED.

Papers Express Doubt of Doctors' Reports of His Recovery.

Berlin, Dec. 4.—A section of the press continues to be inclined to doubt the official assurances that the Emperor is making satisfactory progress toward recovery. The Prussian Correspondence declares that he is not doing as well as could be wished. The wound in his throat is healing slowly. It adds that his Majesty looks worn and aged.

The Taeghe Rundschau demands that the physicians let the country know the real condition of the Emperor.

Another paper lately started the question of the appointment of a regent during his Majesty's forthcoming journey to the south. It is true that the paper knocked down this self-raised nine-pin, but the mere fact that the question was mooted by a journal which is regarded as being inspired by Chancellor von Buelow caused somewhat of a sensation.

GIBRALTAR! IT IS TO LAUGH!

Statement Credited to French Minister of Marine, but He Denies It.

Paris, Dec. 4.—M. Pelletan, the Minister of Marine, is quoted by the Figaro as making this remark at a dinner of young lawyers last night: "Gibraltar! Nothing would be easier than to take from the British. It is a fortress to laugh at!"

M. Pelletan denies having made the remark. He says that nobody was more surprised than he when he read it.

1,500 TYPHOID CASES IN BUTLER.

A Physician and Nurses Complain of Treatment They Received There.

Pittsburg, Dec. 4.—The number of cases of typhoid fever in Butler is 1,500, as far as can be learned.

Many of those affected by the fever refuse to go to the hospitals, making the work of the physicians extra hard. In one district there are seventy-five cases with a physician to look after them. He is working day and night, but his patients insist that he shall attend them.

There is something wrong with the arrangements in Butler. A Pittsburg physician and twenty-three nurses went to Butler on Tuesday night. There was no one to meet them at the station, and when they arrived at the Butler committee it was suggested they find beds on the street.

The nurses and doctor have returned to their hospitals in Pittsburg.

YOUNG SPRECKELS AT WORK.

Selling Tickets in Oceanic Steamship Office to Learn the Business.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 4.—Back of the counter, selling tickets in the Oceanic Steamship Company's office, is John D. Spreckels, Jr., son of the president of the corporation and grandson of the "Sugar King" Claus Spreckels, whose fortune is over \$50,000,000.

Young Spreckels is learning the business from top to bottom. I want to learn every branch of the service. I am selling tickets because this is a department I did not know anything about. Lots of people come in here with complaints. Now I hear all these complaints and learn what action should be taken in repairing them. I hope some day to follow in my father's footsteps.

Young Spreckels works from 9 to 5 o'clock and is popular with the rest of the clerks.

BIG METEOR EXPLODES.

Ship Trembles and People Ashore Think There Is an Earthquake.

LOUISBURG, C. B., Dec. 4.—Capt. William Hubley of the fishing schooner Alberta, which arrived to-day, reports that about 1 o'clock on Monday morning, when thirty miles off Scaterie Island, during a strong gale, a large meteor was observed to the southeast.

While he was watching the meteor, Capt. Hubley says, it burst with a terrific shock resembling that of a heavy cannon or an explosion of dynamite. The vessel trembled violently.

It was doubtless the effect of this meteoric explosion that was felt by Louisburg people the same morning, and it was thought to be a light earthquake shock.