

FORAKER GOES HOME TO FIGHT

WILL REMAIN UNTIL AFTER THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES.

Factional Situation in Ohio Greatly Muddled—Some Congressmen Fear the State Will Go Democratic if the Taft and Foraker Men Do Not Get Together.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Senator Foraker will leave Washington for Ohio to-morrow to begin in earnest his fight for re-election by the Republican party of his State. He will remain there until after the date set for the Republican primaries. Whether the primaries will take place in accordance with the directions given by the Republican state central committee, which is controlled by the Taft faction, is problematical, in view of the opinion of a majority of the Republican national committee's subcommittee on call that the Congress district primaries ordered will be contrary to the state primary law.

The Ohio Republican factional situation is greatly muddled. Friends of Secretary Taft are expressing much concern over the prevailing conditions. Some of them believe that a great tactical error was made by Mr. Taft in rebuffing the conciliatory efforts of Senator W. Murray Crane last April. These efforts were designed to bring about a compromise between Mr. Taft and the Foraker faction. Political leaders who claim to know the whole story of Senator Crane's attempt are asserting that President Roosevelt was responsible for Mr. Taft's refusal to be a party to any plan to bring about harmony among the Ohio Republicans.

But present conditions do not worry Ohio Republicans who have the interest of their party at heart half as much as the prospect for the Ohio has stood in the Republican column in national elections, but grave doubts are entertained among Ohioans here that this consistent attitude will be maintained on next election day. Some of the Ohio Congressmen, firm friends of Secretary Taft, are of the opinion that the State will go Democratic in November if Taft and Foraker managers do not get together. These Congressmen say that Mr. Foraker's many friends resent the manner in which he has been treated by the Roosevelt Administration and the leaders of the Taft boom, and this will result in a great falling off in the Republican vote if Mr. Taft is nominated for the Presidency and the bitter fight to eliminate Mr. Foraker from politics is continued by Mr. Taft's workers.

The negro vote, it is pointed out, will play an important part also in the election. In Ohio, as in other central Western States where there is a large negro population, much resentment is felt by the negro voters against President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft on account of their part in the wholesale dismissal of negro soldiers of the regular army as a result of the Brownsville affair. Among those negroes there is a corresponding admiration for Senator Foraker because of his fight to establish in a legal way whether any of the negro soldiers was guilty of shooting up the Texas town and to restore to the army all the innocent men who were discharged without honor. It is claimed by Ohio politicians in Washington that if he is re-elected by the Republicans, the camp in that State Senator Foraker will be able to hold the negro vote to its usual allegiance.

It is asserted in well informed quarters here that an important feature of the Taft anti-convention campaign will be an effort to bring about a change of sentiment in the Republican national committee. The Taft people concede that the committee is controlled by those who do not favor Mr. Taft's candidacy. It was the sudden appreciation of this fact by President Roosevelt that had considerable influence in his determination to make his second renunciation of a third term in the hope that it would strengthen Mr. Taft's chances. The national committee has a powerful influence over the party machinery, and the candidate who has the friendship of a majority of its members has a distinct advantage.

The story told here is that the Taft management wishes to get the upper hand in the national committee in order that the committee can be depended upon to sustain the Taft delegates elected in the Ohio district primaries, whose election will be contested on the ground that it was clearly illegal, and also to permit the seating of six delegates from each of the Territories. The national committee reduced the Territorial representation to two in each case where six delegates had been accepted heretofore.

The Taft managers contend that they will have all the Territorial delegates except those from the District of Columbia, and it is said to be their plan to have each Territorial convention elect six Taft delegates to the national convention with the object of having them seated. This would give Mr. Taft twenty-four additional votes, provided, of course, that the claims of his friends as to the Territories are borne out. Control of the national committee would be a decided advantage toward making this plan successful, but if the committee should continue to be unfriendly an appeal from its adverse decision could be taken to the convention.

This reputed course of the Taft people is full of danger. Should the convention refuse to seat Ohio delegates elected by Congress district primaries and refuse also to seat six delegates from each Territory contesting delegations, presumably anti-Taft, might be seated. There is much gossip among friends of other Republican candidates about the alleged scheme of the Taft managers.

\$1,000 REWARD FOR MURDERER.

Body Found on George W. Vanderbilt's Estate—Tracked by Bloodhounds.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Jan. 13.—A reward was today offered by Gov. Glenn for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of William H. Candler of Union, S. C., whose body was found hidden in a mass of leaves on George W. Vanderbilt's Blount estate only a short distance from the Vanderbilt residence. Tracks have been traced with the aid of bloodhounds to the front door of the Vanderbilt mansion and thence to the Swannanoah River.

Leaflet Farm Saboteurs Made of the tender most of little pigs and choice pork. You have never tasted perfect sausage unless you have tried them. Beware of imitations.—Ad.

TAFT RESIGNATION AGAIN.

Rumor Renewed With the Addition That Gov. Magoon Will Succeed Him.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—There has been a revival of the rumor that Secretary Taft will retire from the Cabinet in order to be free to devote all his time to the management of his campaign for the Presidential nomination, but in well informed circles the disposition is to discredit gossip of this character. Some of Mr. Taft's well wishers contend that he would be in a far less vulnerable position if he surrendered his portfolio, but the greater number of his friends are of the opinion apparently that his greatest asset is his official association with President Roosevelt.

According to the understanding in Washington the President is extremely anxious to keep the personnel of his Cabinet intact until the end of his term, and with this purpose in view would use all his persuasion to induce Mr. Taft to remain with the Administration. There is a feeling in political circles, however, that Mr. Taft's position in the Cabinet will soon become untenable. Many of those who have his interest at heart believe that he is storing up troubles for the future by remaining with the Administration. They maintain that through the continuance of that association he is burying his own personality and placing himself in danger of being regarded as a mere tail to the Roosevelt kite. That Mr. Taft should be willing to have himself so regarded is surprising to some who think they understand his character.

The Taft resignation rumor has now taken such definite shape that the name of Charles E. Magoon, Governor of Cuba, is mentioned as his successor, but nothing has been disclosed to give ground for putting any faith in the report.

DROWNED BY WAVES AT HAVANA.

Mexican Gunboat Disabled in Gulf Storm—Many Ships Missing.

HAVANA, Jan. 13.—The bodies of two more fishermen who lost their lives while attempting to rescue persons in peril from the inundation caused by the heavy sea in the Gulf were found this morning. One fisherman is still missing. Two children were drowned yesterday. A milkman, with his horse and wagon, was washed out to sea at Vedado yesterday afternoon and lost.

The sea is now going down. The dead fishermen were buried this afternoon. There was a large funeral procession and the streets were lined by crowds. The Provincial Governor, the Alcalde and Gov. Magoon's aide attended.

The departure of the steamer Monterey from Progresso for this port was delayed two days by the storm. The steamer Esperanza, from New York, is expected to arrive tonight, twelve hours overdue.

VERA CRUZ, Mexico, Jan. 13.—The Mexican gunboat Bravo has just been towed into this port after being badly disabled by the terrific storm which has prevailed over the Gulf of Mexico for several days. The vessel was returning from ports on the Yucatan coast when the raging sea battered her, doing much damage in her upper parts and flooding the hold.

All the machinery was put out of commission and the vessel seemed on the verge of sinking for a time. The crew and officers escaped to a training ship in lifboats.

A number of merchant vessels are overdue at this port and it is feared that they were lost in the storm.

TO TAX FOREIGN MARRIAGES.

Mr. Sabath Proposes a Charge of 25 Per Cent. on All Dowries and Settlements.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Representative Sabath of Chicago does not believe that the American-made dollars should be expended in the purchase of empty foreign titles for American heiresses. His measure provides that all gifts, dowries, settlements or advances of money or property made in consideration of or contemplation of marriage by any citizen of the United States to any person other than a citizen of the United States shall be subject to a tax of 25 per cent. and paid into the Treasury.

Under the terms of the bill the Treasury Department is empowered to formulate rules and regulations.

TO FIGHT RACETRACK BETTING.

Various Organizations Unite for the Campaign at Albany.

Representatives of various organizations who view with the keenest interest the betting on horse races, met yesterday in the office of the Federation of Churches and Christian Organizations of New York and combined to push the legislation recommended by the Governor.

Senator Agnew, who has introduced an anti-bookmaking law, was present. He said that his bill and the one introduced by Assemblyman Hart would be unified. The conference then decided to support these bills and organize committees to conduct an effective campaign.

The organizations represented were the City Club, Brooklyn League, West Side Civic Association, Flatbush Taxpayers Association, Reform Bureau, State Federation of Churches and the Federation of Churches and Christian Organizations of New York.

TO TEST NEW RAILWAY LAW.

State of Wisconsin Sues St. Paul Co. Under New Eight Hour Measure.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 13.—A suit under the eight hour railway employee law is to be brought today by District Attorney McGovern against the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company, the company having knowingly violated the statute which went into effect January 1, 1908.

The suit is for the recovery of \$5,000, which if the law is valid will have to be paid by the defendant company into the treasury of this county. This is a test action and the case will be taken through the courts as rapidly as possible.

Judge Willey in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Judge Leibus R. Willey of the United States Extraterritorial Court at Shanghai, China, arrived in Washington to-night from St. Louis, where he stopped a few days on his way East to visit his brother. Judge Willey came to Washington to secure from Congress an extension of the power of the present court in Shanghai. He will probably visit the State Department to-morrow to pay his respects to Secretary of State Root. Judge Willey would not discuss the charges which are alleged to have been brought against him further than to say: "I have no knowledge of any charges filed against me."

LAST TO LEAVE FIRST TO ARRIVE. In Florida, Atlantic Coast Line R. R., N. Y. Special, 2:10 P. M. Office, 117 Ave. C, 30th St.—Ad.

FEASTING OFFICERS AND MEN

BRAZIL'S SPLENDID HOSPITALITY TO U. S. FLEET.

Admiral Evans Hinderred by Rheumatism From Attending President Penna's Official Reception—Cordial Toasts at Dinner Given by Ambassador Dudley.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 13.—The entertainment in honor of the visiting American fleet began to-day and the official programme promises to test the endurance of the officers, as a function of some sort is provided for every day the fleet remains here. In addition to these official entertainments there will be others given by private residents who are acquainted with some of the American officers.

This morning Capt. Hugo Osterhaus, commanding the Connecticut, Rear Admiral Evans's flagship, went ashore and as the representative of Admiral Evans paid his respects to Rear Admiral Alexandrino de Alencar, Minister of Marine. Admiral Evans was not in condition to make the call personally as he is suffering from a slight attack of rheumatism in his ankle. Prior to this the usual formal calls were paid to the commander of the Brazilian fleet in the harbor.

Dr. Alfonso A. Moreira Penna, the President of Brazil, gave a largely attended reception in honor of the Americans at his residence this afternoon. Irving B. Dudley, the American Ambassador, presented the officers to the President. Those present included a large number of Government officials, naval and military officers and the élite of the city. A fine band furnished music, which included the American and Brazilian national hymns. The scene was a very brilliant one.

Ambassador Dudley gave a dinner at Petropolis this evening. His guests included Rear Admirals Emory, Thomas and Sperry and the captains of the various warships. They went across the bay on board President Penna's yacht, and then took a special train which was awaiting them. This took them to their destination, which is some twenty miles northeast of the capital.

Mr. Dudley proposed a toast to President Roosevelt and President Penna. Rear Admiral de Alencar responded. President Penna said that Brazil and the United States are "brothers of the heart." As a matter of courtesy the Brazilian naval authorities have detailed launches for the warships to act as guards for the American vessels. Last night the Brazilian fleet was brilliantly illuminated in honor of the Americans, and there was a fine display of fireworks ashore. Until a late hour the shore front was thronged by residents, who displayed their cordiality toward the visitors whenever occasion offered.

To-day the enthusiasm continues, and the bluejackets to whom shore leave was granted have had a strenuous day. The Brazilians are noted for their hospitality, and in accordance with this disposition special committees have been appointed to see that the sailors have a good time when they come ashore.

Dr. Leopold H. Scherwin, surgeon of the torpedo boat flotilla, will be tried by court-martial on the charge of neglect of duty when the flotilla arrives here from Pernambuco. He was ordered to attend a man who was sick on one of the torpedo boats, but instead of going himself he sent an apothecary. The sick man died.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The torpedo boat destroyer flotilla left Pernambuco to-day for Rio de Janeiro, according to a despatch received at the Navy department. The flotilla is three days behind its original schedule and it is said to be the intention of Lieutenant-Commander Hutch I. Cone, in command of it, to endeavor to make up this lost time on the trip to Rio.

The flotilla is due to arrive there on January 15 or soon after. The flotilla is composed of the Whipple, Flagship, Truxtun, Lawrence, Hopkins, Hull and Stewart and is accompanied by the supply ship Arethusa.

POLITICIANS MISS PLUMS.

Gov. Stuart of Pennsylvania Gives \$5,000 Jobs to Men Little Known.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13.—Gov. Stuart today shocked the politicians by appointing as members of the recently authorized State Railroad Commission three men who are little known save in their own localities. Each commissioner gets \$8,000 a year and expenses and the jobs are esteemed the richest plums within the gift of the State administration. The terms run for three, four and five years.

The appointees are Judge Nathaniel B. Ewing of Uniontown, chairman; Charles B. Mann of Philadelphia, and John Y. Boyd of Harrisburg. They are all Republicans. Judge Ewing is of the United States District Court of the western district of Pennsylvania. Mr. Mann is a son of an old friend of Gov. Stuart and Mr. Boyd is a retired business man. He was formerly a member of Boyce Slickney & Co. for many years, sales agents for all the Pennsylvania Railroad anthracite coal companies.

DIES LEAVING FINE PICTURES.

Camille Groult's Collection Worth \$4,000,000—Louvre May Get It.

PARIS, Jan. 13.—The death is announced of M. Camille Groult, a wealthy manufacturer of preserved foods. M. Groult formed a collection of paintings which is valued at \$4,000,000. It is notably strong in works of Watteau, Fragonard, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Lawrence, Turner and Constable. The collection during M. Groult's life was guarded, as he himself said, as jealously as a Turk guards his harem. It is reported that the Louvre Museum will inherit it.

MIDWINTER PUSHCART CROP.

Eighty Pedlers Fined I Cent Each, Rouse the Lawyer Paying.

A bunch of eighty pushcart men, the first to be arrested in some time, were arraigned in Essex Market court yesterday. Most of the men were mechanics, who failed to get work at their trade had taken to peddling. Magistrate Walsh said that in consideration of the hard times on the East Side this winter he would fine them only one cent each. Rouse the lawyer paid the fines of all.

DEWEY'S CLARETS AND OLD BURGUNDY.

Mr. Dewey's Claret and Old Burgundy. Mr. D. Dewey & Co. 305 Fulton St., New York.—Ad.

SIX YEARS OF SILENCE.

Dreadful Penalty of Solitude for American Murderers in Mexico.

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 13.—William Mitchell, Dr. Charles S. Harle and Leslie E. Huribert, the three Americans whose death sentences for the murder of two other Americans for their life insurance were recently commuted to twenty years imprisonment by the Governor of the State of Chihuahua, arrived here to-day under strong guard. They are being taken to Vera Cruz, where they will be confined in the fortress of San Juan de Ulloa.

The dismal cells of this grim old castle are far down in the ground and it is said that few men live to serve out their sentences when once placed within its walls. The three convicts are prohibited from uttering a word to any one during their first six years of imprisonment. This provision of the law applies to all long term convicts. They will be kept in solitary confinement during this time.

BITTER STRUGGLE IN PRUSSIA.

Government and Socialists Threaten—General Strike for Berlin.

BERLIN, Jan. 13.—At to-day's session of the Diet, Herr von Bethmann-Holweg, Minister of the Interior, referring to yesterday's Socialist demonstration, said the Socialists must take the consequences of any further disturbances, which would be met with extreme measures.

The prevalent opinion is that the demonstration by the Socialists yesterday, which was intended as a protest against the Diet's rejection of universal suffrage, was merely a Berlin and its neighborhood for the Government's demonstration to adopt blood and iron methods, must if it is carried on result in serious consequences.

The executive committee of the Socialists has not announced any plans, but according to unofficial statements by prominent members of the party arrangements are being made to inaugurate a general strike in Berlin and its neighborhood for five consecutive days next week. Such a strike would bring to a standstill the commercial and industrial life of the capital and the surrounding towns.

Among the inconveniences that would be caused would be the cutting off of the gas and electric light services. According to the spokesmen of the Socialists the strike is designed to impress on the Government and the Diet the enormous force controlled by the Social Democrats and the advisability of conceding their demands.

EXPRESS COMPANIES ATTACKED.

A Case Involving Their Right to Transact a Banking Business.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—An important case, involving the right of express companies to engage in the banking business, will be heard by the Interstate Commerce Commission at New York on January 20. The case is the one brought before the commission by the American Bankers Association against the Adams Express Company and other similar concerns. It is alleged that the express companies, declared to be common carriers by the Hepburn railroad act, issue money orders and transact other business of a banking nature in violation of law. The American Bankers Association seeks to compel the express companies to limit their operations to transportation.

DEPUTY VANDIVER TO RETIRE.

And He Has S. Whitman's Partner and Counsel to County Medical Society.

Deputy Assistant District Attorney Almut C. Vandiver, who was in charge of the gambling raids made by the District Attorney's office last summer, has been appointed counsel for the County Medical Society to succeed Champs S. Andrews. Mr. Vandiver will go out of the District Attorney's office in partnership with Judge Charles S. Whitman, whose term of office expired the first of January. A third lawyer may be added to the firm.

FOR A NEW LIABILITY LAW.

The President Will Ask Congress to Pass Such a Measure.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The President will soon send a message to Congress urging that legislation be enacted to take the place of the employers liability act which was declared by the United States Supreme Court last week to be invalid. It is expected that the President will not endorse the pending Knox bill or any other particular measure and will leave the questions of detail to Congress. He will satisfy himself with making a strong plea for a law which will meet the objections raised by the Supreme Court, leaving it to the lawyers of the House and Senate to determine what the exact provisions should be.

PRESIDENT MAY REPLY TO COOK.

The Colorado Congressman Severely Criticized the Administration.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The President had a talk to-day with Secretary of the Interior Garfield and Commissioner Ballinger of the General Land Office. Mr. Garfield and Mr. Ballinger went to the White House by appointment, and although neither would say what was the subject of the conference between them and the President it was surmised that Mr. Roosevelt wished to talk about the open letter sent to various Government officers yesterday by Congressman Cook of Colorado.

Mr. Cook's letter declared that the people of Colorado were tired of the "persecution" inflicted upon them by special agents of the Department of Justice and the Interior Department in connection with land investigations. It is probable that President Roosevelt will make a statement in reply to Mr. Cook's letter, but no official announcement of this has been made.

FEDERAL COURTS HERE NEVER SO BUSY.

For the first time in the history of the Federal Building all except one of the United States Judges of this circuit who are entitled to hold court in the Southern District of New York are sitting in various cases here. The exception is Judge Martin of Vermont. The reason for his absence is the lack of a room, otherwise a calendar of equity causes would have been arranged for him. The number sitting is eleven. United States Commissioner Shields says that never before has such a volume of business been done here.

TO PHILADELPHIA EVERY HOUR.

Low fares for outside and service. Music.—Ad.

100 DEAD IN THEATRE FIRE

MOVING PICTURE MACHINE EXPLODES, FIRING SCENERY.

House a Mass of Flame in a Few Minutes—Narrow Stairway Checked and Many Trampled—Most of the Victims Burned to Death—Women and Children Lost.

READING, Pa., Jan. 13.—While an entertainment called "The Reformation" was in progress at Rhodes's Opera House at Boyertown, a town of 2,500 people, in this county, to-night a moving picture machine exploded.

This set fire to the scenery and a panic in the audience followed. About 350 persons were present and these rushed to the stairways, which were soon jammed.

Many were suffocated by the smoke and fire killed many more, the building being consumed.

It is estimated that at least 100 are dead and seventy-five injured. The others escaped by jumping from windows.

Two carloads of doctors and nurses left here at 11 o'clock, but the injured will hardly be brought to Reading before morning. Boyertown is twenty-one miles from Reading.

In several instances entire families were wiped out. Most of the dead were women and children.

The opera house was a two story building and many were crushed to death in the narrow stairway. This was soon filled with corpses and those behind were driven back to be met by a fierce blaze.

The fire burned rapidly, and in ten minutes the entire building was a mass of flames.

The fire was beyond control from the moment it started and an appeal was sent to Reading and Pottstown. The latter sent a fire engine and doctors and nurses on a special train, but the service of the machine were mainly directed to saving neighboring property.

Of those who perished in the building many of the bodies are entirely consumed.

One of the survivors who escaped with a scorched face said: "It was as sudden as it was unexpected. The explosion, the stampe, the panicking people wedged in the stairway, the cries of those in the rear, the smoke, the women and children overcome, the roaring flames, and then scores engulfed by the flames—it seems to me that it occurred all in a minute."

Rhodes Opera House, where the fire occurred, was a two story brick building. The first floor was occupied by a hardware store and on the second was the entertainment hall.

Boyertown is in Berks county near the Montgomery county line, and is a thriving agricultural community. It has a number of flourishing industries.

Another account says that at least forty participants, local talent, were on the stage, and these jumped over the footlights into the audience. A few coolheaded men tried to preserve order, but it was useless. Rhodes Opera House was owned by Dr. Thomas J. B. Rhodes.

So panic-stricken was the entire population of Boyertown that little effort was made to stop the fire, and it spread from the Opera House to adjoining buildings. A block of houses is now on fire.

READING, Jan. 14.—At 10 o'clock this morning the fire was still blazing and the number of dead is estimated at from 100 to 150.

It is known that two daughters of Milton Koehl of Homestead are among the dead. The other bodies recovered were as follows: Mrs. John Becker, wife of Pennsylvania Railroad ticket taker at Boyertown, and two daughters; Dr. Mayer and daughter, Robert Mahall, daughter of John Weber, Ruth Fegley, Miss Emma Engel, Mrs. Ira Shaeber, Mrs. Richard Turner, Mrs. Daniel Crouse, all of Boyertown; Mrs. Johnson of New Berlinville.

BOSS RUEF WILL GO FREE

In Return for His Testimony Against Alleged San Francisco Hoodlums.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—To-day's conference between the Ruef and District Attorney Langdon and other lawyers of the graft prosecution resulted in the complete surrender of Langdon to Ruef's demands. The boss, who has confessed to receiving thousands of dollars from corporations and private persons in return for his help in getting franchises and other favors, is to get an immunity bond, which will preserve him from all danger of prosecution on any of the eleven indictments that now stand against his name.

After the graft cases are over he is to go free precisely as if he were guiltless. Ruef gained this victory because he had testimony which was vital to prosecution in pressing suits against big men who Langdon and Heney say debauched Supervisors and others by offering big bribes. Ruef refused to go on the stand in the trial of T. J. Ford, general counsel for the United Railroads, and after two trials Ford was acquitted.

Heney was unable to connect Ford with the payment of \$30,000 to Supervisors. He had the testimony of Heney and Langdon declare that they are assured of proving bribery giving by all the men who have been indicted.

BOY AFLOAT ON AN ICE CAKE.

Was About to Go Over a Dam When Men in Boat Rescued Him.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., Jan. 13.—Harold Pruden, the fourteen-year-old son of Oscar C. Pruden of Grant street, narrowly escaped drowning this afternoon. With other boys he was playing on the ice which had formed about the edge of Pochontash Pond when without warning a piece on which the boy was standing broke off from the mass and floated away.

It was barely large enough to support the lad's weight and threatened to disintegrate any moment. The boy cried for help and his companions ran for aid. Patrolmen Callahan and Vonnard saw the boy and after chopping a boat out of the ice rowed out to the lad just as the cake of ice was about to go over the dam.

The boy was afloat more than an hour, and the news of his plight spreading through the town several hundred people lined the banks of the lake by the time he was rescued.

Sailed From Cape Town in 33 Days.

The British ship Glendon, Capt. Robinson, arrived last night from Cape Town. The Glendon left this port on September 13, went to Cape Town, discharged her cargo and returned, all in 122 days. She made the passage from Cape Town in thirty-six days.

MAN CORE OF HUGE SNOWBALL.

Alpine Hunter Started Avalanche by Shooting at a Chamois.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

VIENNA, Jan. 13.—The Deutsches Volkshaus records that a sportsman who was hunting chamois near Utendorf loosened the snow on which he was standing by discharging his rifle. Once started the movement became an avalanche.

The hunter was thrown down the side of the mountain, rolling rapidly toward the valley. As he went over and over snow collected around him until he became the center of an immense snowball, which ever increased in size until it stopped in the valley.

The man was then so tightly packed in it that it was impossible to extricate him alive. His body was with difficulty hewn out of the hardened mass.

PLAYS AT J. J. ASTORS.

Arnold Daly and His Company Perform for 300 Guests.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor gave last night at their home, 840 Fifth avenue, a theatrical entertainment to about 300 guests. The theatricals were preceded by a dinner at which fifty persons were present.

It was the first time in three seasons that the Astor ballroom, which covers the rear of the residences of Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor and Mrs. Astor's mother, has been opened. Mrs. John Jacob Astor has been in mourning for two seasons, and since the death of her father, Edward S. Willing, has done little entertaining.

THAW A MADMAN IS HIS DEFENCE

Littleton Says the Family History Will Be Laid Bare.

PROSECUTION'S CASE SHORT

Strong Testimony Given by I. Clinch Smith, White's Brother-in-Law.

His Talks With Thaw on Night of Killing Bear Out Contentions That It Was a Deliberate Act—Littleton Surprised When Jerome Rested—Burdens of His Speech Was That Thaw Had Insane Relatives, Was Born Weak Minded, Was Insane Several Times and Once Attempted Suicide—Wouldn't Say How He Expects to Keep Thaw Out of Madhouse—Thaw Appears Nervous and His Family Downcast Over Recital.

The prediction that nothing in the life of Harry K. Thaw or his family would be spared to save him from conviction of murder for killing Stanford White was confirmed yesterday when Martin W. Littleton outlined the defence. Thaw was a madman, bereft of all reason when he killed White, is in substance what Mr. Littleton says he will prove.

To back up this defence Mr. Littleton will produce evidence to show that on the paternal and maternal side Thaw had relatives who were insane, at least one of them dying in an asylum; that Thaw was born weak-minded; that on several occasions he was insane at least temporarily, and that once, while suffering from melancholia, he tried to kill himself.

Briefly that was the reply of Mr. Littleton to the case of the prosecution, which was presented in four hours. Only four witnesses were called to show, as Assistant District Attorney Garvan announced in the opening of the people's case, that Thaw committed a deliberate, premeditated and cowardly murder.

The chief witness presented by the prosecution was James Clinch Smith, White's brother-in-law, who did not appear on the direct case at the last trial. His story in the main did not deviate in any vital point from the story he told before, except that Mr. Littleton put him through a much longer cross-examination than Mr. Delmas did. But it did not shake his story. To some it seemed that the more Mr. Littleton questioned him the more strongly his story bore out the contention of the prosecution that every act of Thaw's on the roof garden the night he killed White was that of a man rational and premeditating murder.

Mr. Smith described how Thaw came up and spoke to him, how they chatted about Wall Street, ocean liners, girls, one a "boxer bruiser" mentioned by Thaw, for about half an hour. He gave a picture of Thaw wandering around the roof garden, with his eye fixed on one spot. Every movement Thaw made Mr. Smith watched until finally Thaw fired the three shots that killed the architect. And from what he observed that night and the conclusions he made from Mr. Smith's story, he knew that Thaw was watching his brother-in-law, although he didn't know who had been killed until an hour or more after he left the garden.

It was a surprise to Mr. Littleton to have to make his opening address to the jury yesterday afternoon. He had expected that District Attorney Jerome would take up all the day with his case, but after one witness had been examined after Mr. Smith Mr. Jerome said: