The Sun.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1910.
Fair to-day; fair and warmer to-morrow; moderate northwest and west winds.

VOL. LXXVII.—NO. 154. NEW YORK, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1910.—*Copyright, 1910, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.* PRICE TWO CENTS.

GRISCOM IN AS HARMONIZER

A FEW NOES FOLLOW A MOTION TO CONSULT HUGHES.

Bannard Descries a Growing Disrespect for Party Lines and Suggests That the State Committee Might Take a Tip From the County Committee.

Lloyd C. Griscom was unanimously elected chairman of the Republican county committee last night as well as chairman of the executive committee. As Mr. Griscom was not a member of the executive body a place was found for him by the retirement of Robert K. Prentice of the Twenty-ninth district.

While the reception given to Mr. Griscom at last night's meeting was cordial, it was not exuberant. Few of the members of the committee know Mr. Griscom, but they voted for him because he was recommended by the committee of seven which had been named to choose a successor to Herbert Parsons. In the speeches made much stress was laid on the point that Mr. Griscom would be a chairman who would pacify all factions in the organization and Mr. Griscom himself in his speech of acceptance dwelt mainly on the fact that if the Republican party in this State was to succeed next fall in electing a Republican Governor it would be necessary to have harmony in the Republican ranks of this city.

This sentiment was applauded, but when a resoolution was offered directing the new county chairman to appoint a committee of three to confer with Gov. Hughes for the purpose of obtaining from him his views as to the methods by which the county organizations could best assist him to carry out his policies there were several "noes."

Otto T. Bannard, chairman of the committee of seven, said in formally nominating Mr. Griscom that Republican conditions in the country were, to say the least, somewhat peculiar.

"When the great State of Ohio," Mr. Bannard went on, "gives its vote for our admirable President, Mr. Taft, and at the same time elects a Democratic Governor and when Minnesota did the same thing there is something in those conditions which ought to make us thoughtful. The last time I was in Milwaukee I asked a friend what he thought was the difference between a Democrat and a Republican and he said he could not answer the conundrum so far as his State was concerned because the only question in Wisconsin was whether a man was for or against La Follette."

Mr. Bannard went on to say that this preference on the part of voters for individuals rather than for the party was spreading to all the States and he advanced the explanation that there was no real hot live issue just now before the public, such issues as he explained, for instance, as slavery or a tariff issue.

"The seemingly only great question to-day," he said, "is the cost of living, but that is not a party issue. We are as much interested in the price of eggs up here as they are down in Fourteenth street. We have in fact descended to personal politics, which opens the field to personal preferences and personal prejudices. Party lines have been thrown down and it is for us to meet those conditions as best we can.

"Thoughts like these have led your subcommittee to-night to depart from the organization and select a man for chairman who is not a member of the executive committee. It is time for us to bury factional squabbles and get together and stay together until November, and to that end it seemed best to us to take a new man and a man who will be able to meet the conditions I have referred to. And I may add that the selection of Mr. Griscom may be a good object lesson to the party in the State. It is certain that concerted action is needed among the Republicans of the State."

Among the members who seconded the Griscom nomination was Abe Gruber, who had persistently fought Parsons.

"Mr. Griscom," he said, "while he was Ambassador to Italy went through an earthquake lasting four weeks, but if he had been a member of this county committee during the last four years he would have known something about constant convulsion. There is no reason why Mr. Griscom should not be the unanimous choice of this committee. With his election the past will really have become a past."

Referring to President Taft Mr. Gruber said: "He believes in doing a good job and his tools are wisdom, care and courage. He builds to last, his house is designed to have good rooms for everybody. No sinking foundations and no gaudy but unsubstantial fronts to his buildings. His plans come from experience and not from guess. He knows his highest obligation is to the people and when he acts it is for their best interests."

Mr. Gruber added while he was speaking on Taft: "And some man who will back the policies of Taft, whether he be Bannard, Whitman, Wadsworth or Bennet, will be the next candidate of the Republican party for Governor of this State."

After a resolution praising the services of Mr. Parsons had been adopted Mr. Griscom was escorted to the platform by a committee headed by Mr. Bannard. The greater part of his speech was given to impressing on the committee the need of harmony.

"I appreciate," he said, "the unanimity with which I have been elected, and this is of extreme importance because of the power we can wield in the Republican councils of the nation and State, and that power will be measured by the extent of the unity which shall prevail among us."

Mr. Griscom said that the duty of every good Republican was to uphold the administration of Mr. Taft, and then going on to speak of Gov. Hughes he remarked: "For four years past our party has given to the State the greatest Governor in its history. The administration of Gov. Hughes will go down to history as one of the proudest records in that history."

He proceeded to speak of the need of Republican missionary work in this city and assured his hearers that with the cooperation of the leaders of the organization Tammany, badly demoralized as it was now, would be still worse off in the next campaign. "I have not taken up this work," he closed, "for the honor of it or to be a figurehead, but as I have said before to obtain success we must all stand together and that I shall expect."

TO MAP OUT LEGISLATIVE PLAN.

New York Republican Delegation to Meet To-day for That Purpose.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—A meeting of the Republican members of the New York delegation will be held to-morrow for the purpose of mapping out a programme of legislation embracing bills proposed by President Taft in conformity with the platform pledges of the Republican party.

The delegation will incorporate this programme in a resolution which will call on Republicans in the House to hold a caucus and start the ball rolling with a view to getting early action on measures that have been recommended by the President. This is an unusual procedure on the part of a State delegation in the House, but a prominent Republican from New York explained to-night that circumstances were unusual. He said:

"Speaker Cannon is not in a position at this time to take the initative in matters of legislation and it is up to some one to do it. Our delegation therefore decided to take steps to have a party caucus held and a resolution calling for such a caucus will be passed to-morrow. In the Fifty-ninth Congress, it will be recalled, the Speaker laid down the programme, the wheels were set in motion and the Congress enacted many important bills.

"Among them were the railroad rate bill, the Statehood bill, the employers liability act, the pure food act, the immigration law and an immense quantity of legislation of lesser importance. We are now called upon to enact important bills. Things have been drifting. It is time we were up and doing. The question should be considered at a caucus, a programme mapped out and the proper committees given the word to get busy. This is what we are trying to accomplish."

It is the understanding that other delegations will follow the lead of New York, and the general expectation is that the caucus sought will be held the latter part of this or early next week.

SALE OF CHESTERFIELD RELICS.

Historic Home of the Earls in Hereford Being Cleared Out by Auction.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The auctioning off of the entire contents of Holmelacy, the historic seat of the Earls of Chesterfield, near Hereford, was begun to-day. The present Earl is abandoning the mansion.

The contents of the house include furniture of nearly every period of English history from the Tudor to the Victorian. There are also many paintings by famous masters, such as Van Dyck, Lely and Knell.

SACRILEGIOUS ROBBERY.

Thief Desecrates Chapel Where Bishop McDonnell Celebrates Mass.

That robbery and desecration had been committed in St. John's Chapel, Greene and Clermont avenues, Brooklyn, where Bishop McDonnell and Auxiliary Bishop Mundelein celebrate mass, became known yesterday.

A thief forced an entrance into the church about a week ago and stole two gold ciboriums. The tabernacle door was broken open and the contents were scattered over the sanctuary floor. In the floor a hole had been sawed large enough to admit a man's arm for the purpose of getting at the sacred objects which were placed in the altar bed. Although the theft of the ciboriums shows a desire to rob, desecration seems to have been the first thought of the thief. The robbery is believed to be the work of a fanatic.

St. John's Chapel is part of the unfinished Brooklyn Catholic Cathedral, which occupies a block. With the exception of the Bishop's house, which faces Greene avenue, the property is protected by a fence. The side door of the chapel opens on the Bishop's yard and it is there that an entrance was effected. A priest discovered the desecration when he went to say early mass. He found the sacred hosts strewn about the floor, the altar bed torn up and the tabernacle door half open.

OSCAR, GUEST OF THE CITY.

He Was Lost, but He Had the Time of His Life.

As plain Oscar, a very small citizen in a gray fur coat and blue bloomer suit engaged the attention of a portion of this city's police department yesterday and ate one meal on the charity of New York, all because he had the time of his life riding up and down in the elevators of a Broadway department store for an hour before closing time, and then because he was found to be unattached he went to the Mercer street station.

It was the first time that Oscar had ever been under the shadow of the law and he didn't mind it a bit. He asked for candy and got it, and then he asked for dinner and Matron Goodwin saw that he got that too. During all the blissful three hours that he was a charge on the city Oscar persisted in his partial anonymity. "I'm Oscar," was the only record that he would give for himself.

He went to the Children's Society at 9 o'clock and within half an hour his fling with the old town was over. Coleman Nachmowitz of 103 East Fourth street appeared at the Children's Society very much distraught to identify the infant panhandler as Oscar Nachmowitz, son of Coleman Nachmowitz. Oscar went away with his papa.

HOLDUP WOMEN INDICTED.

W. M. Van Norden and Josiah J. White Both Complainants.

A joint indictment was found yesterday against May Williams of 219 West Thirty-seventh street and Bessie Roberts of 204 West Ninety-eighth street, who are charged with holding up and robbing Warner M. Van Norden on the night of January 20 in Thirty-third street. Mr. Van Norden, who lives at 786 Fifth avenue, told the police that $28,000 in bills was taken from his wallet by the two women. Robbery in the first degree is charged.

An additional indictment was found against the Roberts woman, who is also known as Kitty Dowdell. Josiah J. White of 136 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, says that as he was returning from the Arion ball on the night of February 9, 1907, she took from him two diamond studs. Both women will be arraigned this morning before Judge O'Sullivan.

A man who said that he was Thomas F. O'Grady, who says he was a butler employed by Warner Van Norden of 7 West Fifty-seventh street, the loser of the $28,000, was picked up by the police in front of the Metropolitan car barns on Madison avenue yesterday afternoon in a helpless condition. He said he had been discharged.

FIGHT FOR TILLMAN BABIES

SENATOR SCORNS LEGAL VERBIAGE IN HIS ANSWER.

Says Daughter-in-law Is Not Competent to Care for Her Children and That She Taught Them to Hate the Tillman Family—All but Son's Drinking Denied

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 31.—In reply to the petition of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. B. R. Tillman, Jr., asking for the custody of her two infant children Senator B. R. Tillman in the South Carolina Supreme Court today submitted an affidavit resisting the appeal.

No decision was given, but it is probable that an order will be filed to-morrow.

Just before the court adjourned this afternoon attorneys for Mrs. Tillman asked for a temporary order giving possession of the children to her until the final settlement of the case. The Court replied that all matter submitted would be considered between the adjournment and the convening of the court to-morrow morning.

The court room was crowded and the doors had to be locked. Hundreds, including many women, were turned away.

Mrs. B. R. Tillman, Jr., sat on one side of the court room. On the other were Senator Tillman, his wife and son, B. R. Tillman, Jr., the father of the children in dispute.

After the affidavits and petition of Mrs. Tillman had been read the answer of the respondents was presented. This answer denies every charge except that of drinking by B. R. Tillman, Jr. The point was raised that young Mrs. Tillman did not like the Tillman family and had taught her children to dislike them. The return of Senator Tillman did not attack the good name of his son's wife; he did disparage her ability to bring up and care for her children.

The affidavit of Senator Tillman begins thus:

"I am now nearly 63 years old and this is the first time that I have appeared in a court of justice as a defendant or a plaintiff, and I would not be here now if I had not been dragged here."

He goes on to say: "Speaking for myself and my wife, who is the other respondent in this case, I shall dismiss the usual jargon of law which couches such papers in the third person and use either the first person singular or the first person plural."

Senator Tillman denies that he has refused to assist in the reformation of his son, admitting that he had gone from bad to worse after he began drinking. He said that he had begged his daughter-in-law to assist in making a sober and good man out of her husband and concludes:

"Our son, as is natural, is most deeply concerned about the future of his two little daughters. He felt his own inability to care for them properly and naturally turned to his own mother. He said: 'Take them and care for them and give them whatever you would have given me. I am able to take care of myself.' Knowing all of these conditions, we have assumed the trust and will faithfully carry out its obligations."

The affidavit of B. R. Tillman, Jr., is in legal form. He denies the allegations in the petition except the drinking to excess, which he admits.

In addition to these affidavits several depositions from Edgefield county people were filed, all attesting the character of Senator Tillman and his wife.

The petitioner then introduced a number of affidavits in support of her claims that she is fit to rear the children. She also submitted two affidavits made by herself in which she sets out by the presentation of letters the feelings of the Tillman family toward her, which she alleges was hostile in the extreme. This she undertakes to show by producing copies of letters from Senator Tillman, Mrs. Tillman and Miss Sophie Tillman.

She also recited the conditions of the agreement on which she consented to live with her husband. Among the stipulations was one that Mrs. B. R. Tillman, Jr., should not be required to exchange visits with her parents-in-law.

After the affidavits had been submitted the arguments were heard. The petitioner's attorneys set up the plea that a contract between husband and wife providing for the division of custody of the children acted as a bar to young Tillman's transferring the children to his father. The agreement, which was to run until January 1, 1910, set forth in detail with whom the children were to live.

The petitioner holds that this prior contract invalidates the deed of transfer, which was made in December, 1909. The respondents rely on the statutory provision for such transfer of custody as young Tillman made.

TREES BOW TO STAGES.

Stages Are So Tall That the Trees Are to Lose a Limb or Two.

The double decked automobile stages have resumed running on Riverside Drive, but for the present passengers are not allowed to ride on the upper deck above Ninety-fifth street. The restriction was adopted to save the passengers from bumping their heads against the branches of trees.

There are a number of lindens near the curb with low branches that might club the passengers unless the stages kept to the middle of the road.

On Sunday Park Commissioner Stover went along the Drive in an automobile to take observations. Later he rode on the top deck of one of the stages with Traffic Agent Sherwood of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company and had an opportunity of seeing how near the tree branches came to the heads of the passengers. Below Ninety-fifth street there was no interference by the trees but above that street to 135th street, the end of the stage route, there was a good deal. The Commissioner said yesterday that he had decided that it would be for the interest of the travelling public to cut off the tree branches.

He instructed Landscape Architect Samuel Parsons and Supt. John Beattie to go over the Riverside Drive and decide how many and what trees should be trimmed. Such trimming will only be necessary between Ninety-fifth street and 100th street, it was said.

150 MINERS ENTOMBED.

Explosion in Colorado Colliery Catches Men Just as They Were Leaving.

PUEBLO, Col., Jan. 31.—An explosion in the mine of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company at Primero, near Trinidad, has entombed 150 men and all are believed to be dead.

Three dead have been found near the entrance to the mine.

The telephone wires at Primero have been cut and newspaper men must go thirty miles by automobile to the mine to get details and then go fifteen miles to the nearest telegraph station.

The three men found dead were entering the mine when the explosion occurred and were thrown backward and instantly killed.

The explosion occurred just before the change of shift.

Ten minutes later the 150 men entombed would have been out of the mine.

There is only one mine at Primero and it employs about 600 men. Most of the miners are Mexicans and Italians.

Fifteen bodies were taken out of the mine at 10 o'clock to-night. They were mutilated. Seventy-five coffins have been ordered from Denver. The rescuers are being balked by the blackdamp. There is no fire in the mine.

This is the second disaster at Primero, the former costing twenty-six lives. It took place on January 23, 1907.

GUNS IN SENATORIAL FIGHT.

Vardaman and Opponents Get Personal but Threat to Shoot Prevents Encounter.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 31.—Two ballots taken for United States Senator to-night show that the deadlock is just as tight as ever. On the first ballot Vardaman received 68 votes and on the second 72. The other candidates showed their usual strength, with Percy, 35; Alexander, 24; Kyle, 17; Bird, 16, and a few scattering to make out 168 votes, and 85 necessary to a choice.

To-day Leroy Percy, one of the candidates, published a long article taking Vardaman to task and giving reasons why he thinks Vardaman should not be sent to the Senate.

He published articles from Vardaman's newspapers in which Vardaman assailed Col. Roosevelt and his mother, Mr. McKinley, Mr. Taft, Bishop Galloway and other ministers of the Gospel to show that he was not a fit man to represent a great State at Washington. This article was printed in the *News* of this city.

About the same time the *News* was put on the desks of members of the Legislature Brookhaven *Leaders* were distributed. This paper, edited by R. T. Hobbs, makes an attack on Percy and his friends, charging them with using whiskey and debauching members of the Legislature to pull them away from Vardaman. The articles were much discussed, and it was freely predicted that there would be personal difficulties.

To-night in the lobby of the Edwards House Frank Cannon, charged by Editor Hobbs with being barkeeper for Percy, made a dive for Hobbs, but Hobbs was too quick with his gun and Cannon halted when told to stop, remarking that he was not armed.

Friends intervened and the fight was prevented, but the incident stirred much excitement and there was lively scrambling to get out of range of the guns.

2,100 JAPANESE CHERRY TREES,

With No Bugs on Them, to Be Set Out on Riverside Drive Next Fall

Dr. Jokichi Takamine of 334 Riverside Drive, the chemist, visited Park Commissioner Stover in the Arsenal in Central Park yesterday and had a talk with him about the cherry trees the Japanese Government promised to present to this city to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River.

It developed at the conference that a number of Japanese cherry trees were received in Washington some time ago and were set out. Entomologists discovered on the trees a species of parasite that threatened to cause trouble, so the trees were cut down and destroyed.

Dr. Takamine told the Commissioner that he was in the Japanese Embassy at Washington at the time and that he cabled to his Government to use extreme care in selecting the trees that were to be sent to New York so that no parasites would come along with them.

The Commissioner and Dr. Takamine decided that it would be best to send a cable to Tokio holding up the shipment of the trees until a letter containing full instructions could be received.

The trees when they come will be planted along Riverside Drive where they will not interfere with the omnibuses and will present a fine spectacle when they are in blossom. They are to be two years old and quite large when sent here.

There will be just 2,100 of them. The number to be sent was decided upon by the Japanese Government in this way. The number 7 is held sacred in Japan and when the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River is multiplied by Japan's sacred number the result is 2,100 cherry trees.

It is expected that the Oriental trees will get here in time to be planted next fall.

EAT LOTS OF PUDDING,

Taft's Advice to Boy Soprano Who Desires to Be Tall.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Albert Hole, the English boy soprano, called at the White House to-day to see the President of the United States, although he owes allegiance to King Edward. Albert is only about three feet high, and one thing which he greatly desires is to be tall. He told the President that and got this advice:

"Well, Albert, you want to eat lots of pudding. That will make you tall."

Albert said he would.

Stole the Mayor's Turkey.

RIVERHEAD, L. I., Jan. 31.—Frank H. De Mott, whom Mayor Gaynor has permitted the run of his place at St. James, is in jail here for a six months stay because he stole one of the Mayor's turkeys and sold it for thirty cents. The Mayor would not have prosecuted him, but De Mott confessed.

FLORIDA—QUICKEST AND BEST SERVICE via Penna. and Atlantic Coast Line. "N. Y. & Florida Special." Leaves 1:25 P. M. Superior roadway, equipment and service. 1218 B'way. —Adv.

OUTS 75 ENGINEERS IN A LUMP

BABY OF THE BRONX SAYS THEY TROD ON EACH OTHERS' FEET.

Batch of Appointments by the Borough President, With the Intimation That His Democratic Stenographer, Miss Riedling, Is Worth About Two Men.

Cyrus C. Miller, whom 300 merry municipal engineers greeted uproariously at their dinner at the Savoy three weeks ago as "the baby of The Bronx," notified yesterday no less than seventy-five of the civil engineers who have been holding down city jobs in his borough that by the first of March it would be well for them to have made other arrangements.

At the dinner Mr. Miller said: "A great many things have been engineered in The Bronx, and I am just beginning to find them out."

He said yesterday, among other things, that he had found so many engineers on the payroll that they were falling over one another. He gave the seventy-five the choice of getting themselves transferred to other boroughs or getting private work.

"It's going to be a good thing for the taxpayers," said Mr. Miller. "It will save just about $125,000 a year or something like 33 1-3 per cent."

Mr. Miller was careful to say that some of the men were good men and that it would be to their advantage to get out of city work.

"I showed them the same consideration that any good business house would show its employees," said Mr. Miller.

Charles H. Graham, who has been engineer in charge of sewers, has resigned to go into private work. Mr. Miller says he is sorry, because Mr. Graham was a good man.

The office of chief engineer will be abolished so as to conform with the practice in other boroughs. The consulting engineers of the five boroughs are to form a board, but Mr. Miller has appointed no consulting engineer because the necessary steps for the creation of the office under the civil service law have not been completed. Amos L. Schaeffer has been appointed temporary consulting engineer and will aid in the work of reorganizing the engineering department. He is a Democrat.

"I find that the office of Superintendent of Sewers is superfluous and the $4,000 salary will be saved for something else," said Mr. Miller. He has made Henry C. Hirschberg cashier in the bureau of highways and E. Herbert Timson secretary to the Commissioner of Public Works.

In making the announcement of the appointment of Miss Georgine A. Riedling as stenographer to the Borough President Mr. Miller handed out this compliment:

"My stenographer is a Democrat. I have found that skilled women stenographers are prompt, attentive and reliable. They readily grasp the detail of their work and having no outside interests are not talkative. For some positions a woman is worth about twice as much as a man."

Mr. Miller said that about the best appointment he had made was that of Arthur J. Langy to the office of Superintendent of Highways. Other appointments he has made are George P. Morrell, assistant Superintendent of Buildings; Charles L. Holberstadt, secretary to the Superintendent of Buildings, and these to the local school board: Dr. Francis J. Donlon, Louis Castagetta, J. Irving Chaffee, Alfonso Weiner, William A. Cokely and Herbert A. Knox.

Mr. Miller desires to express his gratitude to the gentlemen who have handed in their resignations without protest, especially since several of them were veterans.

"An administration to succeed," said the Borough President in commenting on his day's work, "must be intelligent and progressive. It must not steal or waste the people's money and must avoid the average reformer. His half baked ideas of government will not stand the knocks of everyday use. No individual or organization had any control over any of these appointments and if any man fails to measure up to the requirements of his office the matter lies between him and the Borough President. In the meantime I trust that the public will suspend judgment."

HER BABY SIX WEEKS DEAD

Before Hoffman Island Told the Fact to Mother at Ellis Island.

Mrs. Chrisoula, a Greek widow with five children, the eldest 7 years of age and the youngest 7 months, named in the order of age, Leonidas, Demetrius and Aspasia (twins), Georgio and Eftigia, landed at Ellis Island on November 24 from the Austro-American liner Oceania and all were detained because the youngsters had measles. The mother and children were separated, the former going to Hoffman Island. Naturally the mother was anxious about the baby and had the immigration officials repeatedly call up the hospital on Hoffman Island to find out how it was getting on. Always they received the answer that it was doing well.

At the mother's urging the hospital was called again yesterday and word came that the baby had died on December 18, but that the rest of the children would soon be able to join the mother. Ellis Island thinks that Hoffman Island ought to have known about the death of the child immediately after it occurred and that it should have sent word to the mother. The four living children were all born in America and so will be admitted with their mother, who is an alien. She is going to her brother in Jamestown, N. Y.

Moved $40,000,000 Over Sunday.

At the close of business last Saturday the National Copper Bank moved all its securities and cash over to the Mechanics and Metals National Bank at 33 Wall street, covering assets of about $40,000,000, and they were merged with a similar amount of assets of the old Mechanics National Bank. Between Saturday night and yesterday morning the two institution were assembling the various accounts and the bank opened for business promptly yesterday morning without any confusion.

DEWEY'S HAUT-SAUTERNE.
A delicious table wine; semi-dry.
H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 136 Fulton St., New York. —Adv.

PEARY TO RETURN TO NAVY.

Will Meet Department Officials To-day to Talk About Work.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Commander Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, will confer to-morrow with the officials of the Navy Department in regard to resuming work as a member of the corps of civil engineers of the navy. Commander Peary has been on special duty under the Coast and Geodetic Survey since July 2, 1908, making tidal observations on the coast of Grantland and Greenland. It is probable that he will resume duty as a civil engineer in the navy within the next few months.

MAY BE AT CHECKERS YET.

Played All the Way From Bermuda and Uptown in a Cab.

A middle aged gray bearded man and a younger one who looked as if he might be a Sunday school teacher came down the gangplank of the Royal Mail steamship Orotava yesterday, one carrying a checkerboard and the other two tin boxes. There were checkers in the boxes. They had been playing in their waking hours ever since they sailed from Bermuda and were at it when the ship docked.

The last game interested them so much that they decided to continue it on land and bought the checkerboard and checkers from the purser. They called a taxicab, directing the driver to take them to the Hotel Belmont. As they were whirled away they were seen to place a suit case on their knees and plunge into the game. Each man had two kings, which were placed on the board where they had been when the game was interrupted by the docking of the liner. They refused to give their names to the reporters and as they were not playing checkers when they entered the hotel the clerk could not identify them by description.

BJORNSON VERY ILL.

Norwegian Novelist in Serious Danger in Paris—His Sons Summoned.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Jan. 31.—Bjornstjerne Bjornson, the famous Norwegian poet and novelist, is critically ill in this city.

His two sons have been summoned to his bedside—one from Christiania and the other from Vienna.

WRECKERS AT RECTOR'S.

Last Night of the Old Restaurant—14 Story Building Going Up.

Last night wound up the old Rector's. Next December, or as near that time as the contractor can get it ready, there will be a new fourteen story Rector's in place of the squat little building which stands on Broadway with an entrance on Forty-fourth street. The reason for the closing up is a contract with the Thompson-Starrett Company which was signed yesterday. The plans, which were drawn by D. H. Burnham & Co. of Chicago, call for a building which will take in the old Plaza Café on the corner and one or two houses down the block. The plot is about 100x90 feet.

The contractor undertakes to have the new building in shape by December 15.

This morning the wreckers are to get to work.

VICTORIA MAY WIN HER BET.

Queen of Spain Expects Fourth Visit of the Stork in May.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MADRID, Jan. 31.—The *Gaceta* says the accouchement of Queen Victoria is expected in May. She was married to King Alfonso on May 31, 1906, and is the mother of three children, two boys and a girl. The latter was born on June 2, 1909.

A story has been widely printed that Queen Ena made a bet with her cousin, the Princess of Wales, that she would have a larger family than the latter, who is the mother of six.

ASKS HUSBAND'S ARREST.

Mrs. Hiscock, Who Was a Well to Do Spinster, Charges Assault and Battery.

PATERSON, Jan. 31.—Mrs. Suffern Hiscock, who when she was 64 years old married Hiscock, who is about half her age, has complained to Justice Keys that her husband tossed her into the mud at the roadside because she would not drive their team back to Suffern, N. Y., when he insisted upon remaining in Paterson for a few days. He disappeared after their quarrel. Constables are looking for him to answer a charge of assault and battery.

"I am through with him forever," Mrs. Hiscock told Justice Keys.

Mrs. Hiscock owns property worth about $200,000. Her husband had nothing at the time of their marriage.

COREANS KILL JAPANESE.

Reports of Uprising and Slaughter of Settlers Come to Seoul.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SEOUL, Jan. 31.—An uprising of Coreans against the Japanese is reported from South Phongan.

It is said that twenty Japanese settlers at this place have been murdered by natives.

PEABODY EDUCATION FUND.

The Trustees Allot $1,000,000 to Peabody Normal College, Nashville.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—One million dollars of the Peabody education fund was allotted to Peabody Normal College, Nashville, Tenn., by the trustees to-day. The Peabody fund is devoted to the advancement of education in the South, and was founded by George Peabody in 1877. The original gift was $3,000,000, although about half a million was in State bonds afterward repudiated.

The State of Tennessee, Davidson county and Nashville, have already raised $500,000 for the college. One of the provisions of the endowment is that the college shall in the future be known as the George Peabody School for Teachers, and the institution is to be located adjoining the campus of Vanderbilt University, so that its pupils can attend university courses if they so desire.

Former Mayor Whitney's 91st Birthday.

Former Mayor Daniel D. Whitney of the old city of Brooklyn yesterday celebrated his 91st birthday. He is still in vigorous health. He received the congratulations of many old friends at his wholesale grocery store at 20 Fulton street, where he has been carrying on business continuously since 1839.

MANY FIRE CHIEFS SHIFTED

ALL BUT ONE OF THE DEPUTIES CHANGE DISTRICTS.

Explanation Is That the Chiefs Like to Be in Their Home Districts—No Reflection on Anybody—Guerin Goes Uptown and Binns Comes Downtown.

Rhinelander Waldo, Fire Commissioner, authorized yesterday what approximated a complete shakeup in the assignments of the deputy fire chiefs. Five out of six were shifted. There were a number of transfers also among the battalion chiefs.

The transfer was made at the request of Chief Croker. He sent a letter some days ago to Mr. Waldo asking him to make certain changes in the assignment of chiefs and Mr. Waldo acceded to Chief Croker's request. It was said last night that the transfers were "made for the good of the service," and it was added with a good deal of emphasis that the shifts were in nowise any reflections upon the men involved.

In most cases, it was said, the transfers were made in order to bring the men nearer their homes. Most of the chiefs wanted to get home to meals, so that "the good of the service" may mean that it's a good thing to have the men contented.

The order went out yesterday noon, just before Mr. Waldo, Chief Croker and Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Waldo's secretary, went out for an inspection tour of The Bronx. The orders went to the individual chiefs. Mr. Waldo says that inside of a week he is going to adopt the police system of general orders.

These are the changes as reported last night:

Deputy Chief William Guerin, who lives at 275 West Eleventh street, was transferred from the First division downtown to the Fourth.

Deputy Chief John Binns, who has been living at 216 West 138th street, changed places with Chief Guerin.

Deputy Chief Joseph B. Martin, who lives at 346 East Fifteenth street, was transferred from the Second division to the Third, changing places with Deputy Chief Thomas R. Langford, who lives at 155 East Fourteenth street.

Deputy Chief Richard W. Callaghan was sent from the Sixth to the Fifth division.

George L. Ross, who has been battalion chief in charge of the hospital stables, is made acting deputy chief and goes to the Sixth division.

The First division is the lower end of the island. The Second is an irregular belt across the island nearly between Chambers and Fourteenth streets. The Third runs from Fourteenth up to West Fifty-ninth street and East Forty-second street. The Fourth is the upper West Side, the Fifth the upper East Side and the Sixth is The Bronx.

Battalion Chief Patrick J. Graham, who lives at 166 West Ninety-eighth street, was sent to Brooklyn to fill a vacancy. The transfer was from the First Battalion to the Fortieth. Battalion Chief Owen McKernan, who has been living at 418 West Fifty-seventh street, was transferred from the Second Battalion to the Tenth. Battalion Chief Thomas F. Dougherty, 70 East Eighty-sixth street, leaves the Tenth to go to the Eighteenth, where he displaces Battalion Chief Thomas J. Hayes, who has been living at 2004 Perry avenue. Battalion Chief James C. Brogan, 260 Henry street, is transferred from the Twenty-second to the Second, and Battalion Chief John F. Devanney, 326 West Forty-seventh street, leaves the Ninth to take Brogan's place in the Twenty-second.

Besides these transfers Commissioner Waldo also authorized the shifting of a number of firemen who have had service in the United States Navy to the fireboats. Heretofore they have been doing regular firemen's work on land and now they'll have a chance to turn to account some of their on training the water.

MAYOR OF ROME SNOWBALLED.

Rome and Milan at War Over Statue of Niobe Claimed by Mr. Page.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, Jan. 31.—Milan's jealousy over the much discussed statue of Niobe is likely to lead to a bitter feud between that city and Rome. The statue, it will be recalled, was removed to Milan not long ago by a relative of Thomas Nelson Page, who had been sued by the workman who found the valuable work of art in what is supposed to have been the Garden of Sallust. The ground now belongs to the Commercial Bank, which also figures in the controversy.

Pending a final settlement the statue was ordered by the courts to be delivered into the possession of the Mayor of Rome. Accordingly Mayor Nathan went to Milan to-day to take possession of it, but when he arrived there he met with a most hostile reception.

At the Sferza Palace, where the statue has been kept, a great crowd had gathered and the members not only closed the palace gates but refused to allow Nathan to enter. He attempted to reason with the crowd, but it not only hissed and hooted him but roughly hustled him and threw him into a heap of snow. Before he could rise the mob, as if with a single impulse, snowballed him in spite of the efforts of the police to protect him.

Nathan finally entered the palace, where the formal transfer of the statue was to take place. The Mayor of Milan and prominent citizens as well as the representatives of the Commercial Bank protested against the delivery of the statue. The room where it was kept was locked and Senator Beltrami refused to deliver up the key.

Finally the Sheriff, who accompanied Nathan as the representative of the court, ordered the lock broken, but no mechanic could be found to do the work. As a result the proceedings were adjourned. Nathan was hissed and snowballed again as he left the castle.

Late this evening it was announced that the statue would be permitted to remain in Milan, the court order having been annulled.

New Baby at Ty Cobb's House.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 31.—A fourteen pound boy arrived at the home of Tyrus Raymond Cobb at 1:30 this morning. Ty wears the smile that won't come off and is strutting around town receiving the congratulations of friends.