WEATHER FORECAST.
Probably fair to-day; to-morrow, unsettled; probably rain.

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

LARGEST MORNING CIRCULATION

NO. 1613. WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1911.—TWELVE PAGES. ONE CENT.

120 CHILDREN DIE IN THEATER FIRE IN RUSSIAN TOWN

Panic Follows Explosion of Can of Petrol.

SINGLE EXIT BLOCKED

Victims Entangled in the Struggle to Reach the Door.

Clothes Torn Off Their Bodies as the Flames Surround Them—Baron Traube, Noted Engineer, and His Two Children Believed to Be Among the Dead—Doors and Windows Boarded Up to Exclude Light.

St. Petersburg, March 6.—One hundred and twenty lives are reported lost in a fire which to-day swept the interior of a moving picture theater at Bologoe. Most of the victims were children, but it is believed that Baron Traube, a noted railway engineer, is among the dead, with two of his children. Many of those who were killed were from the farming districts, owing to the fact that to-day was the last day of the carnival which precedes the Russian Lent, and many visitors had flocked into town on that account.

WOODEN CLUBHOUSE.

The building was a flimsy, one-story wooden clubhouse with no protection against fire except that provided by the volunteer fire brigade of the town. The windows had been boarded up to insure darkness for the exhibition of the moving pictures. Two of the three doors which might have furnished exits had been boarded up, and the third one was partially barred so as to allow the ticket taker to control tthe admissions to the place.

It is said that a can of petrol became ignited in some way, and exploded with great violence. In less than nine minutes the entire interior of the place was ablaze, and there followed a panic. When the explosion occurred, the entire audience, with one impulse, rushed for the single exit. There were about 130 persons in the house, and the greater portion of them were children. Nearly all of the little ones perished, and it was owing to their ability to fight their way out that some score of men managed to escape.

It is said that all of the victims became entangled in their terrific struggles to reach the doorway, and many of them had their clothing almost torn from their bodies. The struggle was not a protracted one, however, as the swirling flames swept with such appalling rapidity through the auditorium that the victims were soon suffocated. Most of them were unconscious when they were caught by the flames and burned to death.

Roof Crashes Down.

Owing to the flimsy character of the structure, the interior was soon consumed and the roof crashed in, completing the tragedy. The moving picture operators were among the victims. None of them had the slightest chance to escape. It is stated that several men who were not included in the audience were killed while trying to rescue the children.

The fire brigade was so long in arriving after the alarm was given that it could do nothing toward saving the building or its occupants. The members of the brigade were compelled to content themselves with throwing water on the smoldering embers, under which were buried the charred victims.

To-night the parents of the little ones who lost their lives were still groping amid the smoking ruins for any trace of their missing children. Nearly all the bodies were burned beyond recognition.

ASSURED OF LIFE, SLAYER GIVES UP

Hears Legislature Abolish Death Penalty First.

Sacramento, Cal., March 6.—Joseph W. Cooney, wanted in San Francisco for the murder of his cousin, James Cooney, walked into the assembly chamber today, listened to arguments in favor of the abolition of capital punishment, and after assuring himself that the bill had been passed, surrendered to Sheriff Finn, of San Francisco, a member of the State senate.

Cooney entered the chamber during the forenoon and took an obscure seat. No one paid any attention to him in the crowd. No one, not even the author of the bill, was more deeply interested than the stranger during the debate. When the bill was finally passed by the assembly doing away with legal executions Cobney calmly went in search of Sheriff Finn, whom he found in the senate chamber. He revealed his identity and said he desired to surrender.

Cooney's crime was committed early Sunday morning, and was due to jealous rage over the fact that James had supplanted him in the affections of a landlady.

Blackistone's Carnation Sale To-day. Choice Carnations, 50c doz. 14th and F.

TO FOLLOW BRIAND.

New French Ministry Will Maintain His General Policies.

Paris, March 6.—Premier Monis read the new ministry's declaration of policy in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon. The new cabinet, according to the statement, will follow the main lines of the policy of M. Briand.

The laws in regard to the separation of church and state will be applied without weakness or violence. In foreign affairs alliances and ententes will be maintained. The declaration was received coldly, especially by the Socialists, who were disappointed to find that M. Monis intends to continue the consideration of measures which M. Briand introduced after the railway strike with a view to preventing any occurrences of that kind in the future.

EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGE AGAINST A CHIEF CLERK

Arthur M. Travers Arrested in His Office.

POSTAGE STAMP DEAL

Dismissed from Office by the Postmaster General.

Mr. Hitchcock Issues Statement Giving Details of the Charge Against the Accused—Said to Have Taken Stamps of a Dead Issue and Sold Them to Collectors—Detectives on the Case for Fully a Year.

Arthur M. Travers, forty-one years old, chief clerk in the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, was arrested yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in his office by Central Office Detectives Evans and O'Dea charged with embezzlement.

He was released at 7 o'clock last night on $5,000 bond, furnished by Louis A. Yost, representing the Pacific Coast Casualty Company.

ALLEGED STAMP DEAL.

It is alleged that Travers, who acted as the Third Assistant Postmaster General during the absence of the incumbent of that office, James J. Britt, embezzled $64 worth of stamps, some of which had enhanced in value several thousands of dollars. At police headquarters last night little was learned of the specific charges against the prisoner, but it is known the inspectors of the Post-office Department have been working on the case for more than a year.

Travers was taken to police headquarters immediately after his arrest and questioned by Inspector Boardman. He was then removed to the First precinct station and placed in a cell awaiting release on bond. Shortly after his incarceration he requested that Campbell Carrington, attorney, be sent for, and upon the arrival of Mr. Carrington, employed him as his counsel.

When seen at the station house, Travers evaded many of the questions asked by newspaper men, saying he would issue a signed statement later. He seemed in good spirits and volunteered the statement that he would fight the case.

"I have not understood yet why I have been arrested," he said, "and am therefore unable to make any statement. My arrest came as a great surprise, and I am at loss to account for it. I was at my desk when the detective came in, and placing his hand on my arm, said I was wanted at police headquarters."

Tears in His Eyes.

Travers flushed and tears came to his eyes when he referred to his arrest. He declared his arrest was uncalled for, and that he would eventually prove he was innocent. The fact that he had been pushed in a cell instead of being allowed to wait in an ante-room until he could obtain bail seemed to affect him.

On several occasions he sent to the desk sergeant a request that communications be sent to the police officials with a view to allowing him to remain in the hallway during the time necessary for him to obtain his freedom.

"This is an outrage," he declared "and I am keenly humiliated at having to remain in a cell while awaiting a bondsman. My position is awkward in that I am confined just at the time the people I desire to communicate with have left their offices, and are not yet at home."

According to the police, Travers, while acting as Third Assistant Postmaster General, took stamps of several de-

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NOW MAKE A STRIKE.

SITE FAVORED BY ALL SOULS' CONGREGATION

Would Build at Sixteenth and Corcoran Streets.

CABLE SENT TO CAIRO

Owner of Property Desired on Trip Around the World.

Included in the four sites under consideration by the officials of All Souls' Church—the President's church—on which to erect their new house of worship is the southwest corner of Sixteenth and Corcoran streets northwest.

This site, which is opposite the New Church, of which the Rev. Dr. Frank Sewall is the pastor, is the most favored. In fact, it is desired by practically all the members of All Souls' Church in preference to any of the locations heretofore suggested or casually mentioned. As a result of this favoritism, there is at least strong hope, if not probability, that the site in question will be secured, provided, of course, that there be no hitch in the negotiations, which are being pushed and have within the last few days shown every indication of successful termination.

MESSAGE SENT TO CAIRO.

One owner of a portion of the property desired is now on a trip around the world. Last night a cablegram was sent to him at Cairo, Egypt, but up to a late hour no reply had been received. While it was admitted by members of the site committee of the church that such a message had been sent to Cairo, they refused to divulge his name. An answer to the query regarding his property is expected in Washington to-day.

The church body has between $80,000

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BRYAN WILL ATTEND.

Passing of Plutocracy to Be Topic at Jefferson Day Celebration.

Indianapolis, March 6.—W. J. Bryan has written Senator Kern and notified the committee having charge of arrangements for the local Jefferson Day celebration that he will attend. He will probably speak on, "The passing of plutocracy." In his letter to the committee Mr. Bryan says:

"Indianapolis is an excellent place for the banquet and I hope the fact that the special session convenes early in April will not prevent the attendance of a number of our leading Democrats. I am glad that Gov. Wilson is going to be there."

TAFT OFF THURSDAY.

Will Visit Atlanta and Augusta. Seeks Exercise.

President Taft's plans for his trip to the South were completed yesterday. The President will leave Washington Thursday for Atlanta, Ga., where he will speak before the Southern Commercial Congress on the 10th. From Atlanta the President will go to Augusta, Ga., where he will stay until the 24th of the month. Mrs. Taft will join the President at Augusta. The President is longing for some open air exercise and the White House force that guards his golf sticks was busy yesterday burnishing them for action.

President Taft yesterday accepted an invitation to attend the third annual conference of all the peace societies of the United States, which is to be held in Baltimore, May 3.

PLOT TO KILL TAFT LEADS TO ARRESTS

Spokane Anarchists Trapped by Detectives.

Spokane, Wash., March 6.—Assertions by John Steele, accused of assassinating Chief of Police John T. Sullivan, on January 5, that he knew of a plan in Eastern anarchistic circles to assassinate President Taft, were overheard last Friday night through a partition in a rooming house, and Steele and Stuart Moffett, were put under arrest. The conversation that was overheard included plans to assassinate Mayor N. S. Pratt, of Spokane, and partial stories of the killing of Sullivan.

While the plain clothes men occupied the next room in the lodging house, Steele, Moffett, and several others held nightly sessions. Friday night Moffett came in with a report that he had been watching Mayor Pratt's home and found it under guard.

"Until Friday night," said Captain of Detectives Martin Burns, "their plan was to wait until after the election to kill the mayor. That night our men heard Steele make his report to Moffett after a visit to the Pratt home. Then they changed their minds. They dared not wait so long, making reference to 'the other man,' they planned to catch the mayor away from home, kill him, and throw the body in the river. Within twenty minutes we had them under arrest.

"Steele told of how he left Sullivan's house after them, walking through the quiet streets with his revolver in his pocket, passing policemen, and never hurrying once. He told the group around him another night that he was 'high up' enough in anarchistic circles to know that President Taft would be killed as soon as he left Washington after Congress closed."

Telegrams have gone East warning the Secret Service of the plan to kill the President."

MISS BARR NABBED WITH HER "JACK" IN NEW YORK CITY

Couple Found in Flat by the Girl's Brother.

WIFE CAUSES ARRESTS

Considine Will Be Arraigned on Charge of Abduction.

After her mysterious "elopement" last Tuesday and the receipt of a letter by her mother simply saying that she had married "Jack," Miss Blanche Barr, a seventeen-year-old Washington girl, was arrested late yesterday afternoon in New York City.

She was found by her brother, Robert A. Barr, living, it is said, with John Considine, a salesman of the Calendar Advertising Company of this city, in a flat at 203 West 102d street. Considine has a wife living in New York.

GIRL IS LOCKED UP.

Considine was arrested at the same time, charged with harboring Miss Barr. He was locked up. Detectives first took the girl to headquarters, where she was charged with being incorrigible, and she then was turned over to the matron at the Elizabeth street station house and locked up.

Robert Barr would not discuss the case. The girl, however, so the detectives say, told them she had left Washington with Considine, who is married, upon getting a promise from Considine, she says, that he would marry her as soon as he got a divorce.

The girl said she understood Considine to be a nephew of George Considine, the well-known sporting man of New York City, but this he denied.

She was released under $500 bail, provided by her brother, who had been in New York since March 1, searching for her. He will have her in the Harlem court this morning to press the charge of abduction against Considine, and expects to bring the girl back to Washington to-day. The couple were located on information given by Considine's wife.

Her Mother Prostrated.

Mrs. Barr, who lives at 1225 O street northwest, is prostrated by her daughter's escapade, and could not be seen last night.

Miss Barr met Considine on the evening of February 27, at the Arcade skating rink, and the following day, the couple left for Philadelphia. News of their disappearance became known last Thursday and created a stir in F street. Letters and postals were received by her girl friends, giving meager details of their "marriage" and her comfortable surroundings in New York City.

GOES UNDER KNIFE.

Plainfield, N. J., March 6.—United States Senator James E. Martine is suffering from another attack of ear trouble and it has become so aggravated that he was obliged to undergo an operation.

He is confined to his bed and it will be some time before he will be able to go to Washington.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO GIVE ATTENTION TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

Determined to Look Closely Into Matters Affecting Corporations.

PERSONNEL TO BE CAREFULLY CHOSEN

Representative Johnson, Probable Chairman, Says That Corporations Ought to Enjoy Reasonable Profits, but Must Not Be Extortionate.

It can be stated, upon high authority, that the New District Committee of the House will give especial attention to corporations in the District of Columbia.

The exclusive interview with Speaker-to-be Champ Clark in The Washington Herald yesterday, in which he stated that the reason for the indifference of the House toward District legislation was the fact that "many of the bills reported by the District Committee were of doubtful propriety, and several were positively bad," was said at the Capitol yesterday to indicate the attitude of the Democratic majority of the new District Committee toward District legislation. The question of the privileges enjoyed by local public utility corporations has been under consideration, and these corporations will be subjected to close investigation.

SUBJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED.

It was impossible to learn yesterday from members of the Ways and Means Committee, who are now engaged in the task of selecting the personnel of the various committees, whether any progress had been made toward completing the membership of the Democratic majority of the District Committee. It is known, however, that Representative Shackleford, of Missouri, who has been on the committee for some years, will not serve any longer in that capacity, having been transferred to the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Shackleford has always held more or less radical views as to District matters, and his voice on the Ways and Means Committee will go far toward determining the personnel which is to be chosen.

It was stated yesterday that the new committee would be prepared to deal vigorously with the street railways, and with the gas, electric light, and telephone companies. Universal transfers will be among the first subjects to be considered, and then telephone, gas, and electric light rates will be taken up. It is proposed to make all the public utility corporations comply strictly with the laws which control them, and it may be that a public utility commission will be created for the purpose of effecting a thorough regulation of every branch of public service. Some of the members of the Ways and Means Committee were very positive yesterday in stating that they were in favor of a District Committee uncontrolled by the corporations or the representatives of corporations in Washington.

It was also said that the House would do its duty, even though the Senate might nullify the action of the House.

Must Accept Reasonable Profits.

"Reasonable profits, but not extortionate rates, are what the corporations of the District are entitled to and what they may expect as a result of any legislation from the next Congress, in my personal opinion," said Representative Johnson, of Kentucky, the probable chairman of the next District Committee of the House, to a reporter for The Washington Herald last night.

"I believe that further supervision by Congress or the municipal administration of corporations may be expected, although I am not in favor of the confiscation of corporate property under the guise of municipal ownership.

"As for the public utilities bill, which failed of passage this last session, I think some such measure could be written to the satisfaction of Congress. Last session's bill proposed to settle on the Commissioners the duties of a public utilities commission and invest them with the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission. I haven't read the bill lately, but as I remember it the authority to be vested in the Commission was more far-reaching than any ever allowed the Interstate Commerce Commission.

"If a public utilities commission bill is presented to the next Congress and referred to the District Committee of the House, I think it should also receive consideration by the Judiciary Committee, in order that there may be no question as to the extent of authority of the Commission."

Was Speaker of Kentucky House.

Representative Johnson has already served in two Congresses. As third ranking Democratic member of the committee he has achieved distinction as the "objector" of that body. Throughout the last Congress he fought the passage in the House of bills of interest to the District of Columbia, until it came to be a recognized fact that he was invariably on his feet whenever Chairman Smith of the committee obtained the floor. The Judson funding bill went down to defeat mainly through his efforts, and so did the measure to provide for a uniform system of designating parcels of land in the District. Mr. Johnson also joined in objecting to the increase of the Commissioners' salaries and many other appropriation bill items.

Representative Johnson was well known among the Democrats and the inhabitants of the Middle West before he entered Congress, having served in the Kentucky legislature and as collector of internal revenue in the Fifth Kentucky district under President Cleveland. He served a term as speaker of the Kentucky hous of representatives and was a member of the State senate when he was elected to Congress.

Mr. Johnson was born in 1858, near Bardston, Ky. He is a graduate of St. Mary's College and the Louisville Law University.

The Democracy of Mr. Johnson is reputed to be something on the "reform" order. During his office holding days in Kentucky he acquired the reputation of being relentless when it came to attacking "rascals and jobbers." Very likely he has brought the same spirit with him to Washington, for the Congressional Record contains many of his speeches in which he has fearlessly denounced persons and corporations in the District he believed to be evading the law.

It was Representative Johnson who took occasion to denounce E. L. Scharf, of Washington, in the House last week, charging him with having offered to obtain 4,000 Catholic votes in Mr. Johnson's district at election time.

The Kentucky Representatives invariably assumes a belligerent attitude when he addresses theHouse. Sitting near the front of the chamber, he usually advances to the open space in front of the Speaker's rostrum and makes a strenuous bid for attention. The results of District business in the House during the closing days of the session demonstrated that Chairman Smith, of the District Committee, was utterly unable to cope with Representative Johnson on several of the measures.

HUGE LAND FRAUDS SEEN IN ALASKA

Prominent Detroit Men Are Indicted as Conspirators.

Detroit, Mich., March 6.—The Federal grand jury, which has been investigating the Michigan-Alaska Development Company land frauds, to-night handed down an indictment against seven of the promoters of the company, charging them with being the active workers in a conspiracy to defraud the United States of 43,000 acres of coal lands. Assistant District Attorney Townsend stated today that this fraud was the greatest of all the Alaskan land frauds that has been perpetrated.

The men indicted are Wilbur W. McAlpine, McCurdy C. Lebeau, Arthur L. Holmes, Albert H. Roehme, George W. Ross, and Frank D. Andrus, all of Detroit, and John M. Bushnell, of Chicago.

The lands are in the Konsi precinct of Alaska, the claims being filed at Juneau. The indictment estimates the value of the lands at $50,000,000. W. W. McAlpine, the Detroiter who had the power of attorney from the hundred other individuals to file claims for them, estimates the value of the lands at between $150,000,000 and $300,000,000.

DIES IN ALMSHOUSE AT THE AGE OF 110

Mendel Diamond Fails to Have Birthday Party.

New York, March 6.—They were going to have a birthday party for Mendel Diamond a week ago last Sunday, because it was Mendel's 110th birthday, and so Director Albert Kruger, of the Home of the Daughters of Jacob, at 302 East Broadway, where Mendel has lived for the past four or five years, thought that a birthday like that should be celebrated with a function with Mendel as guest of honor.

Everybody from youngsters of seventy and seventy-five years of age up to the oldest man in the place, and the senior of all, Esther Davis, who is 117 years old, made ready for the high jinks. But Mendel was taken so ill that the party had to be called off.

Mendel died just after midnight tonight of old age.

Caruso Not Losing His Voice.

New York, March 6.—Dr. Holbrook Curtis declared to-day that there is no danger that Enrico Caruso will lose his voice, but the physician insists that the great tenor requires a change of climate and rest.

The Baseball Editor of The Washington Herald

is in Atlanta, where he will remain with the Nationals until they return to Washington.

Read THE WASHINGTON HERALD for the best stories of the baseball nine in training, telegraphed daily by THE WASHINGTON HERALD'S special representative.