

Increasing cloudiness, followed by rain today. Wednesday, rain. Yesterday's temperature—Maximum, 44; minimum, 35.

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ONE CENT.

SELF-REARED PHANTOM IS VALIANTLY ATTACKED BY "HEROES" IN HOUSE

Resolution of Mr. Prouty, Calling Attention to Article in Washington Paper, Afterward Denied, Relating to Agitation Over District Affairs, Starts Exhibition of "Courage" and "Fearless Defiance" that Has to Be Quelled by Leaders.

FOLLOWING LURID ORATORY, MATTER FINALLY IS REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

With a display of courage worthy of a better cause members of the House yesterday proclaimed their fearless defiance of a threat that never existed.

Showing histrionic talent that would have done credit to a favorite of the penny galleries, a few members of the House whose course in Congress has been dictated in large part by their political aspirations at home spent nearly two hours, while public business of importance waited, directing melodramatic thrusts with pastebord swords through the vitals of a phantom they had reared for the purpose. Their hearing dulled by the applause they could hear in advance from the unthinking and uninformed among the "home folks," it was with manifest reluctance that they finally abandoned the farce at the behest of cooler heads in the House.

DEATHS LAID TO MILITANTS

Two Men Missing After Dock Yard Blaze—Sufragettes Are Blamed.

MRS. PANKHURST FLEES

Goes to Switzerland While Her Two Daughters Clash Over Funds.

London, Dec. 22.—For the first time since the suffragette "urson squad" has been terrifying every section of England, the militants are today held responsible for death. Two men are reported missing in the great fire in the Portsmouth dock yard Saturday night, while one man was suffocated in the blaze which destroyed the former home of Mrs. Pankhurst in Knightsbridge. The suffragettes are popularly credited with starting both fires.

It is recalled that when the headquarters of the militants in London were raided, papers were discovered disclosing a design to fire the yard.

One man was killed, several firemen were seriously injured, and many had narrow escapes in a fire which destroyed the two upper floors of Park Mansions in Knightsbridge.

The authorities said the origin of the fire was a mystery, but there were many bystanders who were not slow to see the blazing fingers of militants in this latest destruction of life and property.

Mrs. Pankhurst sails. Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the militant leader, left London very quietly yesterday for Paris on the way to Switzerland to recuperate from her weakness brought on by a "hunger-and-thirst" strike in Holloway jail. Her departure was not accompanied by any of the usual demonstrations.

Rumors were in circulation that relations were strained between Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and her daughter, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, daughter of the militant leader, in consequence of Miss Sylvia's determination to concentrate her campaign in London, and in efforts to co-operate with the members of the Labor party. Miss Christabel disapproves of this scheme and is said to be withholding funds.

DANGER TO SKIDDING AUTO.

Machine and Street Car Nearly Have Serious Smash.

A skidding automobile came near resulting in a serious collision yesterday with a street car in M street, near Thirty-second street northwest. In the automobile were G. W. Huff, owner of the car; Dan Ayers, Fred Ayers, and J. B. Timma, all of Purcellville.

The machine and the car were running along close together. The automobile skidded into the street car. One of the axles of the machine was broken, while the fender of the street car was smashed.

"MONA LISA" ON VIEW.

Italian Government Closely Guards Art Masterpieces.

Rome, Dec. 22.—The recovered art masterpiece, "Mona Lisa," was on private exhibition today in the Palazzo Reale, where it was viewed by many notables. The government has detailed a squad of secret agents and soldiers to guard the painting night and day when it is placed on public exhibition in the Borghese gallery tomorrow.

DOUSED SLEEPING WIFE.

Salesman Now Is "Doing Time" in Penitentiary.

New York, Dec. 22.—Hugh Wall, a salesman, was sent to the penitentiary for thirty days today for pouring cold water over her wife.

Mrs. Wall told Magistrate Voorhees that when her lord and master considered that she needed a reprimand he would wait until she was asleep and then pour a few gallons of cold water over her. Wall admitted this.

AWAY WITH IT!



VOLCANO CLAIMS MORE LIVES.

Eruptions on Ambrim Island, in New Hebrides, Continue.

Paris, Dec. 22.—Volcanic eruptions continued today on the island of Ambrim, in the New Hebrides group. Dip Point, on the western coast, was buried under cinders, and scores of natives were killed. No Europeans or Americans are among the victims.

Sydney, Australia, Dec. 22.—Two ships left here today for Ambrim Island, in the New Hebrides, to search for survivors in the recent volcanic eruption which is believed to have killed 500 natives.

For two days and two nights the eruption was at its height and the gigantic stream of lava rolled across the island plantations, devastating the country.

The eruption was accompanied by a thunderous cannonade, which shook the island like an earthquake. By night a mighty shaft of flame lighted up the sky for many miles and by day a deep pall of smoke hung about the stricken island.

JAPANESE ORCHIDS FOR WILSON.

Consignment of Rare Blooms Forwarded to President.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 22.—A large consignment of Japanese orchids was forwarded to President Wilson from here today.

They arrived yesterday on the Empress of Asia, from Yokohama.

CAPITAL CHURCHMEN AWAIT XMAS BLOOM ON HISTORIC THORN

National Cathedral Clergy Watching Buds on Sprig Said to Come from Pilgrim's Staff.

The clergy at the National Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul are eagerly waiting to see if the Holy Thorn of "Glastonbury," a branch of the famous thorn at Glastonbury, England, will blossom Christmas Day, in accordance with the century-old tradition.

The unusually warm weather has caused several buds to "batter on the thorn, and it is hoped that the historic Christmas blossoming of this wonderful tree will occur here.

The Glastonbury thorn has been sung by Tennyson and earlier legends. It is believed to be a descendant of the thorn staff of the Holy Land. St. Joseph, of Arimathea, carried into Glastonbury, the "cradle of the early British church." The thorn staff took root and blossomed, oddly enough, at Christmas time.

The Glastonbury thorn branch in Washington was given to the late St. Rev. Henry Yates Satterlee, first Bishop of Washington, by Stanley Austen, present owner of Glastonbury Abbey, and planted by Bishop Satterlee in the Washington Cathedral close.

EUGENICS LAW INVALID.

Court Decision Knocks Out Wisconsin's Marriage Legislation.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 22.—Until the meeting of the legislature next winter the Wisconsin eugenics law, which was supposed to become effective January 1, will be invalid. The discovery was announced today in the finding by Attorney George R. Valmsley, of the Supreme Court decision recognizing a common law marriage.

All that is required of a couple under a court ruling is an agreement between themselves that they will accept each other as mates. No record of the match need be made.

The court decision states specially that no medical examination is necessary. The new eugenics law requires a certificate of health both from the bride and bridegroom.

JAPANESE GREET DE LA BARRA.

Mikado to Give Dinner in Mexican Emperor's Honor.

Tokyo, Dec. 22.—An enthusiastic greeting today was given Senor de la Barra, special envoy from Mexico, who came here to thank the Japanese for the part this nation played in the Mexican centennial celebration.

The Emperor will give a dinner for Senor de la Barra on Christmas Day.

MEXICAN MONEY CRISIS AT HAND

Three of Republic's Largest Banks Close Doors During the Day.

REBEL GAINS CONTINUE

Successes at Tampico and Tuxtepec Are Reported—Huerta's Resignation to Be Asked.

Mexico City, Dec. 22.—The general financial crisis is near at hand. Three banks closed their doors today. The Banco Central, the Banco Nacional, and the Banco Londres y Mexico. These are the largest and most important banks in the republic.

The directors of the three suspended institutions held a lengthy conference this afternoon with officers of the banking department. A plan to enable the banks to issue two-peso notes was discussed and the bank officials declared that the suspension was only temporary.

Business Is Upset. The decree has completely upset the business world, as the banks are not under any obligation to honor checks.

The manager of the Banco Londres y Mexico said this afternoon his bank would keep open, but would not pay out more than \$200 daily to any depositor, irrespective of the amount of deposits.

When asked how large concerns were to meet their pay rolls Saturday, he evaded the question, saying:

"It's a long time until Saturday." He said the other banks were in the same fix as his own, because of lack of currency.

The total net withdrawals from the bank since the run began is 5,000,000 pesos.

The bankers decided early last week to adopt the Canadian system of forming a federation for the guarantee of currency.

Rebel Victories Reported. President Huerta today issued a decree proclaiming a national holiday from December 23 to January 2. This is believed to be part of a plan to enable the suspended banks to re-arrange their affairs with a view to re-opening.

The Banco Londres y Mexico has the reputation of being a stable, conservative managed institution, with excellent collateral, and the general impression is that lack of currency was the main reason for its being closed today.

The difficulty over the circulation of state bank notes is known to have embarrassed.

RUSSIA BUYS FLYING BOATS.

Orders Twenty-four Additional Machines from American Company.

Paris, Dec. 22.—An order for twenty-four additional Curtiss flying boats has been sent to the makers by the Russian government. This will make a total of forty machines of this type owned by that country.

Russia is being recognized as the best market for flying machines and the French press is full of criticism for the failure of France's ally to encourage the French aeroplane industry with some of the valuable orders that are going to American firms.

CANNIBALS DEVOUR SCIENTISTS.

Brisbane, Australia, Dec. 22.—Cannibals in Neumeckelburg, an island in the Bismarck archipelago, have killed and devoured two German scientists, together with four natives who accompanied them.

MINISTER TO SWEDEN ILL.

Charles H. Graves, Influenza Victim, Would Quit Post.

New York, Dec. 22.—Charles H. Graves, United States Minister at Stockholm, arrived in the Rotterdam today seriously ill, suffering from influenza. He was accompanied by his wife, and was not taken from the ship until long after docking.

Mr. Graves said that he had received permission from President Wilson to come here to recover his health.

Mrs. Graves said that her husband was in hopes that President Wilson would be able to make an appointment in his place, but if not he would go back to Stockholm as soon as he recovered. They will leave for their estate at Santa Barbara, Cal., after a brief visit to Washington.

SONGBIRD WANTS A DIVORCE.

Mrs. Schumann-Heineke Files Suit Against Husband.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Mrs. Ernestine Schumann-Heineke, the opera singer, today filed suit for divorce against her husband, William Rapp, a former Chicago newspaper man.

Mrs. Schumann-Heineke charges desertion. They were married in 1905. This is the 21st of her third matrimonial venture. She is 38 it will be her last.

VICE PRESIDENT, WIFE, AND BOY GUEST SEE CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

All Three Enjoy Night Walk on F Street and Along Pennsylvania Avenue.

After an early dinner last night, the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall, with little Thomas Marshall Southernland between them, inspected the windows from one end of F street to the other, and then went down on Pennsylvania avenue, where electric-lighted soldiers carry on maneuvers, and the windows are filled with wild animals, "chop-choo" cars and other things. The Vice President enjoyed it all as much as his little guest.

When the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall leave Washington tonight, Thomas Marshall Southernland, who has been their guest for many weeks, will accompany them, and the Rev. Dr. Southernland will meet them in Indianapolis, and take the little boy to spend Christmas with his brothers and sisters.

A 20 tricycle will go along, and will be the envy of every child who sees it. The Vice President owns up to having wanted to buy something on wheels ever since the Senate turned down a bill to buy him a new automobile, and when Thomas Marshall Southernland wrote to Santa Claus, saying he wanted a tricycle, Mr. Marshall bought it.

PREDICTS AN IRISH WAR.

Duke of Manchester Sure of Trouble if Home Rule Bill Passes.

New York, Dec. 22.—A rebellion in Ireland if the home rule bill was passed was predicted today by the Duke of Manchester, who arrived here on the liner George Washington with the Duchess, who formerly was Helena Zimmerman.

The duke has large land holdings in Ireland and is in close touch with the situation there. He said:

"If the home rule bill is passed it will result in a general uprising in Ireland. In Ulster provinces alone 100,000 men are ready to enlist. Of that number 20,000 are well paid. I don't believe the measure will pass. I believe there will be a compromise."

SHOOTS WIFE; KILLS SELF.

Oklahoma Banker's Son Falls to Fatally Hurt Spouse.

Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 22.—Louis T. Rea, banker's son, twenty-one years old, today shot his beautiful wife and then turned the revolver upon himself, inflicting a wound from which he died two hours later. Mrs. Rea may recover.

Good Oyster Weather. Try half peck steamed and Harvey's Oysters are very good now.—Adv.

BANKER TALBERT STRICKEN.

Vice President of New York Institution Paralyzed Victim.

New York, Dec. 22.—Joseph Truitt Talbert, vice president of the National City Bank, and one of the best "knows" of the "younger" bankers in New York, is seriously ill at the Garden City Hotel, Garden City, L. I. He was stricken with paralysis Saturday afternoon while playing golf at the Garden City Golf Club and is under the care of Dr. Louis M. Lanehart, of Hempstead, and several trained nurses.

Dr. Lanehart declined to give out a statement today, saying it would be tomorrow before he would care to commit himself.

GERMAN ART FOR FRISCO.

Exhibit Will Be Made Despite Government's Veto.

Berlin, Dec. 22.—Officials of the German Art Society announced today that plans for an exhibit of German works of art at San Francisco would be pushed vigorously, regardless of the government's recent decision against a general exhibit.

"The financial support for the exhibit is being obtained," said a director of the society, "and it is by no means improbable that the government itself will aid the enthusiasts."

"It is the intention of the society to make the exhibit the finest display of German art ever sent abroad."

GOLDSBOROUGH PARDONS SIX.

Maryland Governor Gives "Christmas Gifts" to Convicts.

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 22.—W. Pembroke Pitt, the Baltimore dealer who was convicted of raising large sums of money on forged bills of lading, was pardoned by Gov. Goldsborough today. Pitt was sentenced in May, 1912, to serve five years and three months in the penitentiary.

Five other pardons were issued as Christmas gifts by the governor today.

HELD WOMAN AS HIDDEN "SLAVE"

Lawyer's Death Reveals Liaison Unknown to Family or Friends.

KEPT HER IN HIS OFFICE

Rear Room, Forbidden to Wife, Was Nook of "Wife of His Heart."

Monticello, N. Y., Dec. 22.—The mysterious woman of the Melvin H. Couch tragedy—she who dwelt hidden for three years in the office of the noted lawyer and who revealed herself to the world for the first time beside his dead body in the presence of his wife—has electrified the lives of this little city with a human drama incomparable.

The shock of the sudden death of the former district attorney and county judge, leading figure of law and politics in Sullivan County, would have been enough to stir the district. But the woman who suddenly thrust open the doors between his room and her secret hermitage, who stood proud before the gathered officers and cried she was the wife of his heart, and overtopped all other interest.

She still is a mystery. That Adelaide M. Branch is her name; that she is a graduate of the Oswego Normal School; that she lived in Middletown some thirty years ago; that she met Couch fifteen years ago, when she was selling books, and that she sacrificed her life in the world, because of her love for the man—these are the only definite facts known tonight.

In Room Over a Year. Since a year ago last September she has not once emerged from the little converted office—it is not more than six feet wide and sixteen feet long—into the outer world.

Doubtless frequently she entered the rooms of Mr. Couch adjoining. But through all his long business hours, she sat in compelled silence beyond the partition and translated French novels and worked at her exquisite embroideries.

During the first two years of her seclusion, she sometimes left the place at night, but very rarely. So rarely that no one in Monticello knew that she lived in the town. A year ago in September she went to Middletown to attend the wedding of a daughter of an old friend. She slipped quietly back to her self-willed cell.

Mrs. Couch died of a rupture of the sort as he lay on a couch in the living room adjoining his office—not the woman's room.

It was in the dark of morning when she was found by the office of Dr. Cutelle, a brother-in-law of Mr. Couch, and begged him to hurry to the Masonic Temple Building. She said Mr. Couch was dying.

Vanishes from Scene. The doctor, who had never seen her before, hastened after her. While he knelt over the man who was breathing his last, she vanished.

The doctor was alone with the dead man. He called Coroner Cauters, District Attorney Cooke and an undertaker. He telephoned for Mrs. Couch and her daughter, Miss Louise, a beautiful girl of twenty-three years.

They were standing near the body, the coroner examining, when Mrs. Couch exclaimed:

"I wonder."

"What is it?" asked Dr. Cutelle.

"I wonder what is behind that door. Melvin would never let me go in there, or always locked."

They tried the door. It was locked. The wooden partition in which it swung did not reach the ceiling by about two feet. Dr. Cutelle climbed on a chair and looked over.

Just then a woman's voice sounded from the other side of the partition.

"Don't try to break in," she said, "I will come."

The door opened. A woman of forty years came forth.

She stepped swiftly towards the dead man on the sofa. She looked at his face and turned her gaze to the face of those around her. She saw Mrs. Couch, who was shocked, amazed, bewildered, was weeping in her daughter's arms. The strange woman strode to the wife.

Continued on page nine.

HOUSE, 298-60, ADOPTS REPORT OF CONFEREES

Senate Agrees to Take Up Matter Today and Vote by 2 o'Clock.

THREE HOURS OF DEBATE

Glass' Statement that There Will Be Law Passed Guaranteeing Bank Deposits Causes Surprise.

The conference report on the administration's currency bill was adopted by the House last night by a vote of 298 to 60. As the final step in legislative routine, it was sent to the Senate at 11:35 o'clock last night. The Upper House, however, did not undertake to act upon the report, but agreed to meet this morning and vote by 2 o'clock in the afternoon. This means that the currency bill will be signed by the President this afternoon.

The House had no sooner taken final action on the measure than it passed a concurrent resolution providing for a recess of Congress from today until January 12.

The vote in the House was preceded by about three hours of debate. Although the conferees had reached an agreement early in the morning, the entire day was consumed in perfecting the bill and they were not ready to report to the House until evening.

An announcement by Glass, the debate was notable chiefly for a statement made by Representative Carter Glass, chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, in reference to the elimination in conference of the Senator's provision for setting aside a fraction of the earnings of the Federal reserve banks for the purpose of creating a depositors' insurance fund.

"There will be a separate measure to meet this demand," announced Mr. Glass, "and with that end in view the insurance provision was stricken out by the conferees."

"There will be enacted a proper law providing for the guarantee of bank deposits," Chairman Glass added a moment later.

This announcement was accepted as the most important development of the day. Many construed it to mean that a serious effort would be made to put through later a depositors' guarantee measure. This is one of Secretary Bryan's old hobbies. His plan provided for a tax on the national banks to insure depositors.

Representative Glass did not indicate what the character of the bank guarantee measure would be. He has consistently opposed the inclusion of bank deposit guarantees in the Federal Reserve bill being passed now in the House. The Wilson administration decided to support the Bryan bank deposit guarantee plan or some similar plan.

Supported by Republicans. All but three Democrats in the House voted for the conference report. The surprising feature of the vote was that thirty-four Republicans and all of the Progressives voted for the Democratic bill. The three Democrats who voted against it were Witherspoon, of Mississippi, and Callaway and Wingo, of Arkansas. All Republicans and all of the Progressives voted for the Democratic bill. The three Democrats who voted against it were Witherspoon, of Mississippi, and Callaway and Wingo, of Arkansas.

Democratic members of the conference committee of the Senate and House did not vote.

CONGRESS IN BRIEF.

SENATE.

Passed Kenyon bill prohibiting removal to Federal courts of interstate commerce suits involving less than \$5,000 begun in State courts.

Senator Myers, of Montana, denied Senator Works' statement that Hetch Hetchy bill had been railroaded through committee.

Senators Bradley, Shields, and Robinson discussed Pendleton direct elections bill.

Conferees on the currency bill completed comparison of the bill at 5 o'clock. To await action by the House on the currency bill the Senate recessed from 5:45 o'clock until 9 o'clock.

HOUSE.

Adjournment to meet at 10 o'clock this morning.

After reaching unanimous agreement to dispose of the conference report on the currency bill within two hours of debate, the House discussed the District appropriation bill. The report of the conference on the currency was not made until 5:56 o'clock.

At 5:56 o'clock the House accepted the conference report on the currency bill, by a vote of 298 to 60.

Resolution by Representative Prouty demanding investigation of alleged organ donation to defraud Congressmen voting to abolish half-and-half system of District finance was referred to Rules Committee.

Representative Moore, of Pennsylvania, spoke before Foreign Affairs Committee for his motion to protest against outrages to Jews in Roumania.

Commissioner of Patents Ewing urged Patent Committee to amend Kahn act relating to patent and copyright privileges of exhibitors at Panama-Pacific Exposition.

Bills dealing with interlocking directorates were introduced by Representative Stanley, of Kentucky, and McMillen, of Maine.

Joint Congressional investigation into subject of old age pensions was proposed by Representative Sabath, of Chicago.

State restriction of manufacture and possession of firearms capable of being concealed upon the persons was authorized in Constitutional amendment proposed by Representative Park, of Georgia.

Representative Lewis, of Maryland, advocated in a lengthy speech the postalization of telephone and telegraph privileges of the country.

Adjourned to meet at 2:30 o'clock today.

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