MESSRS. BAKER AND WOLF—FOR THE DEFENDANT.

NEARING THE END

District Attorney Closing the Argument in Funk Trial.

THE ROOM CROWDED WITH SPECTATORS

Close Attention Paid to the Remarks of Counsel.

VERDICT EXPECTED TODAY

United States Attorney Anderson at 3 o'clock this afternoon was nearing the end of the concluding argument to the jury in the case of Frank W. Funk. After he has taken his seat Justice Cole will deliver his charge, and the twelve men will then retire to decide the fate of the defendant.

The court room was densely packed with spectators throughout the day, the closest attention being paid to the remarks of counsel. Funk remained cool and composed, even when under bitter arraignment on the part of the prosecuting attorneys, not showing a change of color or expression.

A verdict may be returned this evening.

For the Defense.

Attorney Baker asserted to the jury that the government has been conducting more of a persecution than a prosecution, in that they failed to follow up any clues in connection with the case other than those that tended to prove Funk guilty. Counsel also declared that the government had not been fair in the trial of the case. Mr. Baker, without mincing words, charged that Assistant United States Attorney Taylor had made to the jury "statements as false as were ever uttered."

The witness Degges, who testified that he saw Funk in company with a woman the 23d of June, 1898, in Washington circle, argued Mr. Baker, had not been contradicted. He then attempted to show that it would have been impossible for Funk to have committed the crime unaided. It had not been proved, according to Mr. Baker, that Funk at any time had more than $1.380 in his possession. Mrs. Brooks testified that the money stolen from her amounted to $2,070. It was significant, said Mr. Baker, that $1,380 is exactly two-thirds of $2,070.

"I do not believe," said Mr. Baker, in the course of his argument, "that there is a juror in the box who does not believe, when Mr. Parker left the stand, that Mr. Parker sold Funk a suit of clothes about 6:30 o'clock the evening of the 23d of June, 1898. Yet it was later shown conclusively by another witness for the government that the clothes were not sold by Mr. Parker. That is the class of testimony as a basis on which the government asks you to convict this defendant."

Mr. Baker closed with an appeal to the jury to carefully consider the case and to make no mistake.

It being 12:10 o'clock, a recess was taken until 1 o'clock, at which time United States Attorney Anderson began the closing address of the case. He seemed to direct his efforts largely toward arousing the sympathies of the jurors.

United States Attorney Anderson made a complete and earnest recital of the case from the standpoint of the prosecution. He did not spare Funk, but faced and pointed in the direction of the latter when he desired to emphasize his utterances.

The Arguments of Counsel.

In his address to the jury late yesterday afternoon Assistant United States Attorney Taylor declared that there could not possibly be stronger testimony than the circumstantial evidence against Funk produced by the government, and, he argued, the defendant was either guilty or innocent. The government considered that his guilt had been proved, and therefore the extreme penalty ought to be imposed. Mr. Taylor defended the character of Sophie Brown, and, in brief, said there was no possible escape for Funk. The assistant United States attorney spoke for two hours. He was followed by Attorney Alexander Wolf, who opened for the defense.

Mr. Wolf referred to the contradictory testimony of certain witnesses for the government. Honest witnesses, he declared, make no mistakes. The alleged unreliability of circumstantial evidence was also discussed at some length. The attorney impressed on the jury that Funk was not on trial for bigamy nor for desertion from the army, but for murder, and for murder only. The government, Mr. Wolf continued, had failed in its attempt to prove the defendant guilty of murder. Counsel for the defense had never attempted to show that Funk was a saint, said Mr. Wolf. He had frankly admitted everything he knew of the case. The failure of the government to produce certain articles referred to during the trial was also made the subject of comment. The theory of the defense regarding the presence of blood on Funk's garments was made plain to the jury. Pointed reference was made to Sophie Brown. Mr. Wolf declaring that had it been his duty he could easily have woven about her a network of circumstantial evidence decidedly stronger than that which the government had placed about Funk. Her attitude from first to last, the attorney contended, had been one of concealment. Attorney Wolf discussed the reasons for Funk's flight and for his using assumed names. No one, he said, had been produced who saw Funk kill William H. Brooks.

Fails to Prove Guilt.

The government had merely pointed out certain circumstances, and those circumstances, in the opinion of the defense, had failed to show that Funk was the guilty party.

Next all the evidence was carefully considered and analyzed, showing the unreliability of circumstantial evidence, after which Attorney Wolf quoted the very circumstances surrounding Funk as showing his guilt of taking the money from Sophie Brown, but of showing clearly that Funk was innocent of the crime of murder. A strong appeal was made to acquit the prisoner and the horror of the possibility of mistake in case of conviction was dwelt upon, and the jury earnestly asked not to convict on the evidence adduced.

"But," said Attorney Wolf, "if you gentlemen should find him guilty, which I pray you will not, then it becomes your duty to fix the penalty, and in the fixing of the penalty the court cannot interfere. It being all within the province of the jury, I ask you not to, under any circumstances, inflict the extreme penalty, but in the event of a verdict of guilty the jury should qualify their verdict."

Mr. Wolf spoke about three and a half hours. He was before the jury at the session of the court held from 7:15 to 9 o'clock last evening, and concluded his argument this morning. He was followed by Attorney Baker, also for the defendant.

ROBBERY PERPETRATED.

Safe Demolished and Large Amount of Postage Stamps Stolen.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., December 22.—A bold robbery occurred at Dunn Loring station in Fairfax county, on the Washington and Ohio branch of the Southern railroad, last night. A large iron safe in a building containing the postal, express and telegraph offices at that point was blown open and postage stamps to the value of $275 were stolen. Other articles were also taken.

When Mr. F. S. Brenizer, who operates the three offices mentioned, reached his place of business this morning he found the apartment reserved as a post office almost completely demolished. The safe containing postal matter was destroyed, evidently as the result of an explosion.

A curious circumstance in connection with the burglary, it is said, is that no one in the village heard the explosion, although there are several residences near by. The county officers will at once proceed to investigate the case.

WILL NOT BE KEPT.

Documents of the Post Office Department of No Value to the Library.

The authorities of the Library of Congress state that the immense collection of old records, account books, etc., belonging to the Post Office Department, placed on deposit with the library at the time of the transfer of the department to its new quarters, is not to be retained. It will be removed by the department as soon as adequate provision can be made for its storage elsewhere.

It was believed that among this mass of old records there would be found papers of value to the library, but investigation has shown that there is so little of the material appropriate to the uses of the Library of Congress that the authorities do not feel justified in assigning the great amount of space required for the collection.

Late Naval Orders.

Commander J. D. Ford has been assigned to additional duty as inspector of ordnance at Sparrow's Point, Md.

Lieut. F. R. Brainard, relieved of all duties except those in connection with the U. S. S. Stringham, building at Wilmington, Del.

Lieut. C. F. Hughes, from the Chesapeake and to duty in charge of the branch hydrographic office at Philadelphia.

Lieut. Commander T. M. Potts, detached from the Chesapeake, home and wait orders.

Lieut. M. M. Taylor, from the Chesapeake and to the Washington navy yard for ordnance instruction.

Lieut. R. C. Smith, to additional duty as inspector of ordnance at Weymouth, Mass., and south Boston.

Personal Mention.

Dr. Bailey Ashford, U. S. A., and Mrs. Ashford are visiting the former's mother at 1763 P street northwest. Dr. Ashford has just come from Puerto Rico, where he is stationed, and will spend the holidays at his old home in this city.

Dr. J. S. Arnold has gone to Pennsylvania to spend the holiday season with friends at Harrisburg, Port Trevorton and Milton.

Secretary Gage has gone to East Orange, N. J., for a few days.

Assistant Secretary Vanderlip left today for Chicago, where he will remain until after the Christmas holidays.

Dr. Richard T. Ely, dean of school of economics and history in the University of Wisconsin, and well known writer on economic subjects, is visiting his brother, Dr. George S. Ely of the patent office, 300 1st street southeast.

Over 5,000 Bills Introduced.

The officials of the House of Representatives have struck a balance on the recent deluge of bills, showing that up to the recess the record stood: Total bills introduced, 5,015; joint resolutions, 95; simple resolutions, 65; grand total, 5,176 measures of all kinds.

Dispensing With Attorneys' Services.

The District Commissioners today notified the assessor that hereafter when it is brought to his notice that a taxpayer has paid his bill in duplicate he shall furnish the name of the person to them, so that the party interested may be immediately notified to ask for a refund, without the intervention of an attorney.

Will Be Given a Half Holiday.

As a result of cabinet discussion today, all the employes of the executive departments in this city whose services can be spared without detriment to the public service will be excused at noon tomorrow in order to permit them to do their Christmas shopping. A similar course will be followed on the Saturday before New Year day.

ABOUT THE PHARMACISTS

Detective Proctor Reports the Result o His Investigations.

Drug Stores Without Registered Proprietors and Clerks Not Registered.

Detective C. W. Proctor, who was recently detailed to enforce the laws regulating the practice of medicine in the District, has submitted to Major Sylvester, the chief of police, a report of the drug firms he found to be without registered proprietors.

The total number of pharmacies in the District, reports Mr. Proctor, is 192, 17 of them being located in the county. There are 206 proprietors, 31 of whom, says the detective, are not registered pharmacists. Of the 192 drug stores, 22 are said by Detective Proctor to be without registered proprietors.

Fifteen out of the twenty-two have registered clerks, and seven have not, leaving seven without a registered person in them. Five of them are allopathic and two of them homeopathic stores. The proprietor of one of the allopathic and of one of the homeopathic establishments have made formal application for registration, as has also the clerk in the other homeopathic store.

Clerks Employed.

In all the drug stores, states Detective Proctor, there are employed 152 regular clerks, thirty-nine of whom are not registered pharmacists. Also employed at times are fifty-seven clerks, all of whom are registered except one, and he has made application for registration. Many of these relief clerks alternately work for several different firms.

In all the stores there are 106 apprentices, learning the business, who, of course, are not registered, although several of them expect to take the required examination next month. Including the proprietors, there are employed in the drug business here 521 persons.

Since he was detailed Mr. Proctor states that seventeen clerks have made application for registration, several of whom were given certificates on their college diplomas. He says that he found four men who were acting as regular clerks who were not registered, and required them to make application at once. He also found two men who were acting as relief clerks who were not registered. He notified them to cease working until after they shall have qualified, informing the proprietors of the stores employing them that it is unlawful to do so.

Mr. Proctor states that he ascertained that 182 of the firms keep the required register of sales of poisons, and that ten do not. Six of the ten who do not claim that they do not sell poisons, two stating that they do not keep them at all, and the other two promising to keep the register. But forty-eight of the firms, declares Mr. Proctor, keep these registers in full, as required by law, the others omitting in one or more particulars to make the entries in full. All have promised, however, to keep them in full hereafter.

Referring to the twenty-two unregistered proprietors, Mr. Proctor says he consulted Mr. Mullowny, the United States prosecuting attorney in the Police Court, as to the applicability of the laws to such proprietors, Mr. Mullowny telling him that after a careful investigation of both the English and American authorities he was of the unquestioned opinion that there would be trouble in securing a conviction in the Police Court of any one charged with conducting a pharmacy without being registered, as required by section 11 of the act of Congress of June 15, 1878.

Mr. Proctor invites attention to section 9 of the act of 1878, which, he asserts, holds only a registered pharmacist liable for the sale of adulterated drugs, while an unregistered pharmacist, he maintains, cannot be held responsible, although he should adulterate or cause to be adulterated drugs, chemicals or medical preparations. Section 10 of the same act, he states, specifies that "it shall not be lawful for any registered pharmacist to sell any poisons included in schedule A without making entry of such sale in a book kept for that purpose."

The same section, he further declares, makes only a licensed or registered druggist or pharmacist responsible for violating the law relative to selling or giving away alcoholic liquors or compounds as a beverage, to be drunk or consumed upon the premises.

In concluding his report Mr. Proctor gives a list of the pharmacies whose proprietors are not registered.

GEN. LAWTON LAID TO REST.

Remains Placed in Paco Cemetery at Manila Today.

MANILA, December 22.—Gen. Lawton's remains were placed in the chapel in the Paco cemetery this morning. Private services were held at the residence, and the body was carried to the cemetery by members of the general's staff and escorted by Troop I of the 4th Cavalry. Public services will be held later.

RUSSELL TO TAKE A REST.

Veteran Actor is Greatly Weakened by Sickness.

CHICAGO, December 22.—The Record says: Sol Smith Russell will retire from the stage for a year or more at the conclusion of his interrupted engagement at the Grand Opera House. He has already recovered sufficiently from the attack that compelled him to discontinue his performance Monday evening, and there is no doubt he will be able to resume next Monday afternoon, as previously announced, but he will not tax his weakened constitution beyond what will be necessary to fulfill his contract at the Grand Opera House for the next two weeks. All his engagements thereafter for the entire season will be cancelled.

Steamship Arrivals.

At New York—Ethiopia, from Glasgow; Columbia, from Hamburg.

At Hamburg—Pretoria, from New York.

Special Cars for Negroes.

ATLANTA, Ga., December 22.—Governor Candler has signed the bill prohibiting sleeping car companies operating in the state from furnishing berths to negro passengers except in coaches used especially for the accommodation of negroes. The measure is now a law.

Collision on the Lackawanna.

BUFFALO, N. Y., December 22.—William Lanigan, an engineer of the Lackawanna road, was killed and his fireman, Herman Shulte, probably fatally injured in a collision this morning between a passenger train on the Buffalo and Southwestern road and an engine of the Lackawanna at the junction of the two roads in the suburbs of the city. The passengers on the Southwestern train were badly shaken up, but so far as could be learned none was seriously injured.

Gold Shipments to Europe.

NEW YORK, December 22.—Muller, Schall & Co. will ship $625,000 gold for Europe tomorrow. This amount may be increased.

The following additional shipments of gold are announced by tomorrow's steamers: Heidelberg, Ickelheimer & Co., $1,250,000.

L. von Hoffmann & Co. will ship $400,000 gold tomorrow. Baring Magoun & Co. increased their engagement from $750,000 to $1,000,000. Total thus far announced for tomorrow, $3,275,000.

Arguments in Sanderson Trial.

MARSHALL, Mich., December 22.—Prosecutor Hatch began his plea to the jury in the Sanderson glass poisoning case today. The four attorneys have agreed to occupy two hours each in arguments. It is unlikely that the court will charge the jury before tomorrow.

Business of Squire & Co. to Go On.

BOSTON, Mass., December 22.—The creditors of the John P. Squire & Co. corporation at a meeting today voted to continue the business of the firm under an assignee, subject to the assistance and approval of a committee of three representing the creditors.

METHUEN STILL SAFE

Indications That His Communications Are as Yet Intact.

DISGUST AT HIS COMPLAINTS

Importance of Delagoa Bay to the Two Contestants.

MR. HAY REACHES LONDON

LONDON, December 22.—The only news from South Africa of the slightest importance up to 3 p.m. today is the report of Ladysmith's ability to hold out for some time to come, and the message from Gen. Methuen, published last evening, though undated, permits the assumption that his communications have not been cut.

Gen. Methuen's complaint about the rudeness of his opponent is the latest surprise of this surprising war, and, judging from the tone of some of the comment, Gen. Methuen's peevishness is more distasteful to many people in Great Britain than his continued silence would have been.

There is no diminution of the enthusiasm among the volunteers. All kinds of offers are reaching Lord Chesham, who is to command the mounted volunteer force. Members of the stock exchange have already promised one hundred horses from their stables, and an offer of an Irish contingent of 115 hunting men was accepted this morning. Prince Francis of Teck, younger brother of the Duchess of York, sailed for Cape Town today with a detachment of the Royal Dragoons.

Lord Salisbury and General Roberts had a conference with the queen at Windsor this afternoon.

Sortie at Ladysmith.

A war office dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, Natal, gives a list of casualties Monday, December 18, of seventeen killed and fourteen wounded, all non-commissioned officers and men. The names of the regiments concerned indicate a hitherto unrecorded sortie from Ladysmith on that date.

Lady Randolph Churchill has received a cable dispatch from her son, Winston Churchill, who was captured by the Boers in Natal and taken to Pretoria, and whose escape from there was announced December 14, saying he had arrived safely at Delagoa Bay.

Mr. Adelbert S. Hay, the new United States consul at Pretoria, formally received at the United States embassy today a number of wives and other relatives of British officers who came to make special requests regarding the prisoners at the Transvaal capital.

GEN. MILES ON THE BOER WAR.

He Thinks More Serious Battles Are to Be Fought.

PHILADELPHIA, December 22.—Major General Nelson A. Miles, Captain Wheeler, Captain Leevis and Judge Outhwaite of the United States ordnance board, who arrived here yesterday to witness a test of a new smokeless powder, today went to Meadeville, Pa., to examine fifty new wire wound guns. Before leaving General Miles, in expressing his opinion regarding the South African war, said to a reporter:

"The struggle between the British and Boers is a very serious war. There have been some severe losses, and I believe there will be more serious encounters before it is ended. As to the probable result I, of course, cannot predict."

"If the British are defeated is it likely to involve Europe in serious complications?" the general was asked.

"It might and it might not," he replied.

"As to the tactics of the contending armies, both seem to be pursuing what is termed 'open-order' methods. It is a mistake to compare the tactics of the Boers to those of our Indians. Their tactics are the white man's tactics.

"The outcome, of course, depends upon the skill of the commanders, as it does in every war. The Boers have been preparing for the war for the last ten years. In view of the circumstances, I do not think their showing so far is in the nature of a surprise.

"They have no difficulty in procuring ammunition. The people in the Transvaal are accustomed to the use of powder in mining operations. They know how to manufacture cartridges. Besides, they had plenty of money to buy necessary war materials beforehand and store them away for use when needed.

"To succeed in war is to get ready before you commence hostilities."

ENGLAND NEEDS DELAGOA BAY.

It is Being Used as Base of Boers' Supplies.

The London correspondent of the New York Herald cables the following regarding the Boers' sources of supply of men and munitions of war:

In default of any important news of Generals Buller and Methuen, public attention is directed to the question of the possibility of the Boers importing food, munitions of war and recruits by way of the Portuguese port of Lourenzo Marquez. Many statements, some of them bearing evidence of accuracy, have appeared in the newspapers apparently confirmatory of these reports. The passage of foreign officers and men into the Transvaal, however, is most difficult to prove, and before it can be assumed that quantities of ammunition and food stuffs are passing into the Transvaal from Lourenzo Marquez the facts must be absolutely sure.

England at present is directing a very keen and critical eye upon Delagoa bay—more so than is generally thought.

Sidelights on the Subject.

I found out today, by meeting a Delagoa Bay merchant, many sidelights which bear directly upon the present war, and explain how well the Boers, having no lack of money, are able to continue their persistent and ever increasing resistance.

He said: "The Portuguese officials of the Delagoa port, and I know them well, are the most corrupt lot in the world. When the war commenced the Portuguese in Delagoa Bay, like everybody else in the world, considered victory a dead certainty for the English, and, therefore, they at first put a certain curb upon the Boer importation of arms, recruits, &c. But since the English reverses all that has been changed.

Boer Base of Supplies.

"They have turned round and are entirely against us.

"Instead of helping the English in Delagoa Bay, they have made that port a base of supplies for the Boers."

"But," I asked, "how can they manage that? Don't the English warships patrol the coast and stop contraband of war?"

"Yes," he said, "but what is a control exercised outside the three-mile limit? That does not make any difference.

"Food, munitions and recruits are brought in almost openly. Arms are concealed in the lowest parts of the ship and covered over with tons of stuff. Examine such ships out at sea? Why, it would take three weeks to examine them properly. The bills of lading, of course, are all cooked.

How Recruits Get There.

"As for the recruits, they come in the same ships, as passengers, waiters or sailors, it does not matter how.

"They are landed and received with ovations and enthusiasm. After this openarmed reception, they are expeditiously forwarded to Pretoria, arms and all. They come as civilians, they leave as soldiers.

"All Europe is a recruiting ground for the Boers — Germany, Belgium, Russia, Sweden, Holland and Ireland all contributing."

"Who recruits them?" I inquired.

All Ascribed to Dr. Leyds.

"Who," was the reply, "but Dr. Leyds? He is just as clever as can be. Give Leyds all the credit he deserves. It is Leyds, with almost unlimited secret money, who is engineering all this. It is he who inspired and bribed the French press. Old Kruger gives the money, and lots of it.

"Of those recruits Leyds is not getting the worst in the land, as has been stated, but the very best, let me tell you.

"Every little dodge which can throw dust in the eyes of the English is resorted to and helped by the Portuguese in Delagoa Bay.

"Bear this very much in mind, for it is a vitally important point. Were Delagoa Bay today a Boer possession it would be infinitely better for the British government, because we would then know what to do, but today we are powerless to search vessels properly or to prevent recruits from arriving.

Must Occupy Lourenzo Marquez.

"In the light of what we know, there is nothing to do but for England to remember that she has a fleet and to use it to occupy Lourenzo Marquez.

"If England acts thus with regard to Delagoa Bay the war will be over in three months. If she leaves things as they are now the war will last for at least a year."

"You have read in the papers," I said, "that Germany would not brook England touching Delagoa Bay, and that the kaiser gave that to be understood in his recent visit."

My informant snapped at the idea, saying: "Look upon that report as one of those originating from Dr. Leyds' news bureau.

"If England takes Delagoa Bay she will have nothing to fear. France will not move without Russia, and if Russia moved she would have Japan on top of her.

"Germany has been paid."

"What do you mean by that?" I asked.

"I don't mean exactly in cash, but in promises of a quid pro quo in Africa. In a short time you will find that a convention between England and Germany will come to light.

"The crux of the present question for England in South Africa is, briefly, that if England wants to finish this war she has got to buy or occupy Delagoa Bay, and, remember, she has got a pre-emption in the matter of purchase."

The Daily Mail, in discussing the matter, says that "European complications might possibly follow intervention on our part with regard to Portuguese breaches of neutrality. It is a subject which must be carefully considered, but it should not be forgotten by the Lisbon people that Great Britain has not been slow to assert her rights at times when she has been much more severely harassed than at present."

RAILROAD MEN ARRESTED.

Charged With Manslaughter for Disobeying Flag Signals.

NEW YORK, December 22.—W. H. Snedeker and Conductor Cappel of the Lackawanna Buffalo express, which was run into on Thanksgiving eve at Paterson, N. J., by the Phillipsburg local, surrendered themselves today. They were accused of manslaughter in not obeying the flagging rules of the company.

Each furnished $3,000 bonds to await the action of the grand jury. Engineer John Riordan of the Phillipsburg train some time ago furnished the same amount of bail on the same charge.

The accident resulted in the killing of six persons and the injuring of one so badly that death followed.

BJORNSTED WILL TRY IT AGAIN.

Volunteer Captain Who Was Once Reported Killed.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 22.—Captain B. W. Bjornsted, formerly of the 13th Minnesota Volunteers, who has been appointed captain in the 42d Infantry, now in the Philippines, has reported at the Presidio to await transportation to his regiment. Captain Bjornsted served with the Minnesota regiment in the Philippines, and was severely wounded. He was reported dead, and funeral services in his honor were held at his home in St. Paul.

EX-JUDGE PIPER ARRESTED.

Charged With Suborning Perjury in Colin Estate Case.

BUFFALO, N. Y., December 22.—A special from Lockport says: Ex-Judge Charles Piper of Niagara Falls has been arrested on a sealed indictment charging subordination of perjury. He gave bail in the sum of $1,000. He is accused of encouraging Eugene Ramstein, executor of the Grand Colin estate, to make a false statement to the surrogate in accounting. Ramstein is in Auburn on his own confession.

WHAT AILS MAYOR FARLEY?

Fears Cutting Christmas Trees Will Denude Earth of Trees.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, December 22.—Mayor Farley, in speaking of the use of Christmas trees today, alluded to it as a silly, foolish and pernicious practice, and added, "It is denuding the earth of the forestry that makes it beautiful. Thousands of trees and shrubs that nature has nurtured for a number of years are cut down annually for a few minutes' entertainment. The forests should be protected against such onslaught. There are societies and laws in this country, and good ones, for the protection of birds, preventing their use for adornment of bonnets, and similar laws and societies to protect forests would be a move in the right direction."

Counterfeiters in Cuba.

According to official advices received by Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn of the War Department, a band of counterfeiters has started operations in Cuba, but to what extent is not disclosed. The officials of the government succeeded in locating their plant and managed to secure a set of plates intended for the printing of United States currency of the denominations of $5, $10 and $20. In order to prevent further operations of this kind as far as possible while the island remains under the military jurisdiction of the United States, Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn is in correspondence with the Treasury Department as to the propriety and feasibility of promulgating in Cuba the laws of the United States against counterfeiting, and enforcing their penalties.

To Administer Oath to Mr. Rayner.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

CUMBERLAND, Md., December 22.—Governor Lowndes left for Annapolis today. He has directed Secretary of State Loweree to visit the home of Mr. Isador Rayner, who has been ill, tomorrow and administer to him the oath of attorney general.

John M. Conklin & Son Fail.

NEW YORK, December 22.—The large dry goods establishment of John M. Conklin & Son of Brooklyn made a general assignment today.

John M. Conklin, who established the house a year ago, died last August, and his son, William H. Conklin, has carried on the business since that time. No statement of the reason for the assignment or the assets and liabilities has yet been made.

Pension for Almshouse Inmate.

WILMINGTON, Del., December 22.—Mrs. Alice McGonigle, who has been an inmate of the New Castle county almshouse since 1884, today received notice that she had been allowed a pension of $12 per month, with back pay amounting to $3,993.60. Mrs. McGonigle had two sons in the Union army during the civil war, and the pension is on account of their deaths.

Gen. Miles Inspects Wire Guns.

READING, Pa., December 22.—Gen. Nelson A. Miles today inspected the big Brown segmental tube wire gun, now approaching completion in this city. He was favorably impressed.

Gen. Miles was accompanied by the board of ordnance and fortifications. The party were here four hours. They then left for Birdsboro, where another Brown gun was inspected. Gen. Miles then proceeded to Washington via Philadelphia.

Pensioners to Receive Checks.

Mr. Chas. C. Rogers, the District disbursing officer, will tomorrow pay the pensioners of the police and fire departments in full for the present month.

Webster Statue Unveiling.

The joint committee of senators, representatives and citizens of the District appointed to make arrangements for the unveiling of the statue of Daniel Webster, presented to the government by Stilson Hutchins, met today and perfected the plans. The exercises will be held at the Lafayette Opera House, January 18.

KNOWS OF NO OBJECTION.

Attorney Duvall's Opinion of a Bill for Relief.

The attorney for the District today advised the Commissioners that he knows of no objection to a favorable recommendation by them of Senate bill for the relief of John A. Narjes, the object of the bill being to relieve the real estate of Mr. Narjes from the operation of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1887, prohibiting aliens from acquiring real estate in the territories or the District of Columbia.

In connection with this matter the attorney stated: "In my opinion, the Commissioners should request the repeal of the above mentioned act, so far as it relates to the District of Columbia. In my judgment the mischief which this act was designed to remedy does not exist in the District, and its operation here frequently interferes with investments in and improvements of real estate, which would otherwise be made. Furthermore, the numerous aplications for individual relief from the operation of the law, which are always granted, unduly and unnecessarily consume the valuable time of Congress."

Told by the Price of Lath.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Lumbermen are commenting upon the remarkable advance in price of lath during the last year. All grades of lumber rose in price during the year, but in none was the proportion so great as the jump in the value of lath, which trebled in value during the year just closed. The demand for the little sticks is explained by the prosperity of the masses. Lath is used chiefly in frame buildings, especially the smaller dwelling houses such as are built by the workingmen and others of moderate means. The price of lath, therefore, indicates that the building of new houses by the masses is upon a large scale.

The Reason for Britain's Success.

From the New York World.

The one redeeming feature of Great Britain's assault on the Boer republics is the patriotism and courage with which the British public meets the humiliation of defeat and disappointment. The cause may be bad, but the spirit is good, and it goes far to explain how England came to be Great Britain and then Greater Britain.

One Fact Settled.

From the Dallas (Texas) News.

There is not one well-informed man in all the country who believes that the flag will ever come down (in the Philippines). No politician believes it. All talk on the subject is talk about things that are in the past and settled. The most amusing thing about it is that those who say it must come down in the next breath say that the disorder in the Philippines must be stopped and the army and flag kept there for that purpose. If we have no interest in the Philippines, why should we be disturbed by the disorder there? The whole matter of the government of the Philippines is up to the people, through their representatives in Congress. But the flag will never come down.

Fighting the Cigarette.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The hardest blow the cigarette has received yet is the order issued by the Southern Railway system in South Carolina against the employment of any one who smokes tobacco in that form. The rule declares that all employes who now smoke cigarettes must give them up or lose their positions, and that in future no one will be engaged by the road who is a cigarette smoker. A similar custom has been introduced on the Atlanta division of the same railroad, and the prospects are that such a restriction will prevail all along the line. Whether other railroads will follow the example of the Southern remains to be seen, but they doubtless will if they become convinced, as Superintendent Vaughan has, that habitual cigarette smokers are untrustworthy. This is the best way to fight the cigarette. Laws against it passed by legislatures have been found practically inoperative and parental authority is not often exerted with success. If business, however, sets its face against the cigarette there will be some prospect of banishing it or at least compelling its moderate use.

A Dreadful Possibility.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

The anxiety of certain newspapers over the coming of the twentieth century is something which makes our heart go out in sympathy. Think of the disaster if as the sun moves round to its proper node and two weeks from today should discover that it was a year ahead of time, and that for 366 days it must imitate Joshua's moon in Ajalon; or, worse, should find itself a year behind and should have to make a flash-light jump of 186,427 miles for each of 31,622,400 seconds. We approach the New Year day with trepidation.

Save Their Railroad Fare.

From the Kansas City Times.

There was a man in town yesterday who told of a new scheme he has just worked to beat a railroad. "A friend and myself wanted to come from Omaha to Kansas City. He said to me, 'You buy a ticket only to the first station and I will show you a good trick.' I bought the ticket as requested while my friend bought a ticket for the full distance at the regular fare. We took a seat together in the train. The conductor came around, took up the tickets and put a punched train check in my friend's hat, indicating that he was ticketed through to Kansas City. When the conductor got out of sight my friend took his knife and split the card. He put half into my hat and the other into his own. Both 'splits' looked like a regular check and I came right on through without paying any more fare. We divided the saving, which was more than $2 each."

A railroad man who heard the story said that it was as cleverly conceived a scheme to rob the railroads as the one which it is said a few traveling men used to practice in the days when 2-cent mileage books were more generally used than at present. That scheme was to go into the car early and run a string along under the seats. One man would sit in the forward end of the car with the mileage book. After the conductor had torn out the mileage he would tie the book to the string and his confederate a few seats back would draw it to himself under the seats. When the conductor got to him he would have the mileage book all right and coupons for his passage would be torn therefrom by the unsuspecting conductor. The conspirators would save a cent a mile by this scheme.

Fire Engines and Street Cars.

From the New York Herald.

Ninety per cent of the collisions fire department engines encounter are with the street cars. Therefore the fire chief's suggestions that cars, on fire alarms, should stop at the corners of streets where the engines are located should receive prompt attention and enforcement.

Li Hung Chang has been appointed acting viceroy of Canton. It is believed this is preparatory to his degradation in compliance with the French demands.

The trial of Emile Zola on the charge of having libeled M. Judet has been adjourned for a month.

Baltimore Markets.

BALTIMORE, December 22.—Flour dull, unchanged; receipts, 9,862 barrels; exports, 203 barrels. Wheat dull; spot and month, 70a70¼; January, 70½a70⅝; May, 74a74¼; steamer No. 2 red, 65⅛a65⅝; receipts, 14,193 bushels; southern by sample, 68a71½; do. on grade, 67a70½. Corn dull; spot, month and December, new or old, 36⅝a36⅞; January, 36⅝a37; February, 37⅛a37⅜; March, 37¼ bid; steamer mixed, 35⅛a35⅜; receipts, 237,563 bushels; exports, 126,217 bushels; southern white and yellow corn, 32⅝a37¼. Oats dull; No. 2 white, 30½a31; No. 2 mixed, 28½a29. Rye nominal; No. 2 nearby, 54; No. 2 western, 59. Hay steady; No. 1 timothy, $15 a$15.50. Grain freights very dull, scarcely any demand; unchanged. Sugar strong; unchanged. Butter and cheese firm; unchanged. Eggs firm; 20c. per dozen.

Grain, Provisions and Cotton Markets.

Furnished by W. B. Hibbs & Co., bankers and brokers, 1419 F st., members New York stock exchange, correspondents Messrs. Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., New York.

CHICAGO, December 22.—Grain:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Wheat—May	69⅝	69⅝	69⅝	69⅝-⅜B
July	69⅞	70⅛	69⅝	70⅛
Corn—May	32⅞	33	32⅝	32
July	33⅝	33⅝	33½	33⅝-⅜B
Oats—May	23⅞	24	23⅝	24

CHICAGO, December 22.—Provisions:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Pork—Jan.	9.90	10.05	9.90	10.05B
May	10.25	10.40	10.20	10.40
Lard—Jan.	5.42	5.52	5.42	5.52
May	5.62	5.75	5.62	5.75
Ribs—Jan.	5.25	5.30	5.25	5.30
May	5.42	5.50	5.40	5.50

NEW YORK, December 22.—Cotton:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
January	7.08	7.11	7.05	7.06
March	7.22	7.23	7.18	7.21
May	7.29	7.31	7.25	7.28
August	7.28	7.28	7.25	7.26

FINANCE AND TRADE

Prices of Stocks Crumbled Again Today Under Liquidation.

INDUSTRIALS SUFFERED WORST

Standard Railway Shares Also Felt the Pressure.

GENERAL MARKET REPORTS

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

NEW YORK, December 22.—The financial difficulties in Boston, emphasized by the closing of the Globe National Bank after holding out for a week in a strained condition, started further liquidation in the local market this morning. The stocks which had a ready market were sold in considerable volume in order to make up for the deficiencies in other properties. Added to the actual monetary needs of the situation was the mistrust of nearly all securities which had hitherto withstood the shock in an extremely creditable manner.

The engagement of gold for London and the hardening of the discount rate on the continent combined in increasing the pessimism of the street. Seeing the evidences of a scare on all sides, the operators for the decline offered stocks freely in all parts of the room.

Burlington was under pressure during a greater part of the day because of Boston's interest in this property.

In the same way Atchison was attacked and offered in round amounts, both long and short accounts figuring in the selling. The decline in these shares was explained very plausibly on the theory previously mentioned, but the entire list was depressed in sympathy. St. Paul and Rock Island showed very indifferent support, the offerings being almost constant throughout the session.

The Pacific stocks sold down to the low levels of the recent period of weakness, and except for some buying by London there was no support in them.

As was to have been expected, the industrial list crumbled easily under this pressure, but the Steel stocks did extremely well, all things considered. This group has had but few friends during the week, but there would seem to be some signs of reviving interest in them.

Of all the rumors which have been circulated during the week the one most generally accepted in explaining the decline is the theory of the gas war adjustment, to which repeated reference has been made. While the market was at its weakest points today, the general idea of relief centered around an amicable settlement of the financial feud, which is commonly known as the gas war.

While the hope prevailed that such relief would come, there was little assurance that those interested were doing anything to that end.

The total engagements of gold by tomorrow's steamers reach a total of something over $5,000,000. With money needed at home, this encroachment on the available funds of the country is most disheartening to holders of stocks upon which money is borrowed.

The holiday season begins under such doleful conditions that the hope of a better ending is the one remaining bright spot in the situation.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

New York Stock Market.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
American Cotton Oil	31⅝	31⅝	31	31⅛
A. S. Wire	40	41	38⅝	39⅞
Am. Steel & Wire pfd	88	88	84	86
American Sugar	119⅝	119⅞	114⅞	118
American Tobacco	87	87	80½	84⅛
Atchison	17	17⅝	17	17⅝
Atchison, pfd	56⅞	56⅞	54	55⅛
Baltimore & Ohio, pfd	69⅝	70	67	68⅞
Baltimore & Ohio, w i	49	49⅝	48	48
Brooklyn Rapid Transit	63⅞	64⅛	61⅝	63⅞
Chesapeake & Ohio	28⅞	28⅞	27⅝	28
C., C., C. & St. Louis	57	57	55½	55
Chicago, B. & Q	116⅞	117⅛	114⅞	116
Chic. & Northwestern	151½	153	151	153
Chicago Gas	92	93⅝	91	93⅝
C., M. and St. Paul	114⅞	114⅞	112⅞	114
Chicago R. I. & Pacific	102	102	100⅝	101⅞
Chic., St. P.,