PALMA TO BE CHOSEN

Will Be First President of Cuban Republic.

ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 30TH

Those Who Will Supervise the Contest.

REPRESENTATIVE MEN

George Eugene Bryson, a Havana newspaperman, who went to Cuba as a correspondent six years ago, at the outbreak of the revolution, and has been a resident of Havana ever since the change of flag, has just arrived in Washington from Cuba.

In an interview with an Evening Star reporter, this afternoon, he predicted the peaceable selection of Estrada Palma for president of the new republic, at the election to be held December 30.

"Palma," he said, "is supported by Maximo Gomez, who is the idol of the Cuban people, and the virtual Warwick of insular politics; and by all the leader of prominence who did anything to prolong the Cuban struggle until intervention came and victory was won."

Mr. Bryan also claims that the best element of the island is in thorough touch with the work of General Wood in the island, and appreciates it and harbors no ill will toward Americans in general.

The election law, as approved by Gen. Wood and proclaimed in the late Cuban constitutional convention, is based upon the Australian system, and nothing could be more fair. And the election supervisors, against whom the representatives of the Maso party protested to Secretary Root recently, Mr. Bryson asserts, were chosen by popular election and were not appointed. And that they are representative men of Cuba, Mr. Bryson says, cannot be denied, when it is recalled that Mendez Capote is first upon the list.

He entered the revolution as military secretary to General-in-Chief Gomez, became a brigadier, was secretary of war in the old "Cubitas" insurgent civic government; served as vice president later under President Cisneros, was the organizer of the Santa Cruz convention, which welcomed the American intervention and declared the mission of the insurgent authorities temporarily at an end; then, he was secretary and chief of General Brooke's first civic cabinet and held over for sometime under General Wood. Afterward he was chosen president of the constituent assembly, which proclaimed Cuba's new constitution.

Iamayo is Wood's present secretary of state.

Zayas is leader of the more radical Cubans, heads the labor organizations and is regarded as Havana's ablest lawyer.

Villuendas is a bright young lawyer, who entered the insurgent army as a private and came out a colonel. He was secretary of the constitutional convention.

Morna Delgado is a colored Cuban of recognized ability, and a newspaper man, who fought through the war under Maceo and Gomez.

The stories of threatened trouble Mr. Bryson believes to be largely exaggerated by interested parties. The Maso party has withdrawn its candidate.

BIG FIRE AT CONNELLSVILLE, PA.

Whole Square in Business Section of the City Burning.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., December 24.—A big fire threatens the dense part of the downtown district. A whole square is burning, inclosed by West Main street, Arch street and Orchard alley. The fire started in a wareroom in the rear of Wallace's furniture store and spread at once to Schmidt's department store. The property in the square is owned by the Wilkey heirs.

Many of the buildings are frame, one is a three-story brick business block. Neighboring towns have sent fire departments. People are moving out throughout the whole vicinity, and terrified occupants are thronging the streets. A brisk wind fans the flames. The fire has reached the new Goldsmith building across Pinato alley, and threatens other valuable buildings on that side. An estimate of the loss cannot be given at this time.

IRONWORKERS' CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Mr. Borden Makes Pleasing Announcement to His Employes.

FALL RIVER, Mass., December 24.—Notices were posted in the iron works mills here today by M. C. D. Borden, owner, announcing that the operatives would receive as a Christmas gift an amount equivalent to an increase of 10 per cent in wages for six weeks.

This restores to them the amount lost in wages since the cut down at the mills six weeks ago, when Mr. Borden took off the 10 per cent advance in wages, which had been in effect for two weeks.

SIX DEAD TAKEN FROM TUNNEL.

Result of the Disaster on Road in Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL, December 24.—Six bodies have been recoved from the Dingle station tunnel. These, apparently, represent the total number of deaths resulting from the burning of the electric train yesterday on the overhead railroad.

An explosion in a fuse box set fire to a train on the electric railway at Dingle station yesterday. Several of the railway employes were terribly burned and seven were killed.

It appears that the burning train entered a tunnel stored with stacks of creosoted railroad sleepers. These were also set on fire and the tunnel became a blazing furnace. The fire brigade had the greatest difficulty in extinguishing the flames.

Fortunately the Dingle station is the terminus of a railway running along the docks, otherwise a terrible disaster would have been recorded.

The accident occurred at 6 o'clock in the evening. The train was packed, but the majority of passengers had alighted at the previous station. Rumors were spread that forty or fifty persons had been killed, and owing to the dense volume of smoke issuing from the tunnel, it was some hours before an entrance to the tunnel could be effected. Many passengers jumped from the burning train and rushed out of the tunnel, while others were dragged out by their fellow-travelers in a half-suffocated condition.

In spite of the brave attempts made by the officials to enter the tunnel, they were soon compelled to abandon this idea. The station buildings were much damaged.

PACIFIC STEEL COMPANY.

Incorporated at Trenton, N. J., With Capitalization of $10,000,000.

TRENTON, N. J., December 24.—The Pacific Hardware and Steel Company, capital $10,000,000, was incorporated here today. The stock is divided into $7,000,000 common and $3,000,000 preferred, bearing 6 per cent cumulative dividend.

The company is authorized to manufacture and deal in every kind of iron, steel and hardware. The incorporators are Augusta K. Gibbs, E. A. Selfridge, Charles E. Miller, H. J. Morton, Louis Floss, jr., A. L. Scott and Jos Floss, all of San Francisco.

SHOT WIFE AND SON.

August Iceburg, an Illinois Farmer, Then Shot Himself.

PEORIA, Ill., December 24.—At Yates City early today August Iceburg, a prosperous farmer, sixty-nine years old, living at Farmington, shot his wife through the abdomen and then shot his fourteen-year-old stepson, who had attempted to interfere. Walking seventeen miles to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Davis, near Farmington, Iceburg shot himself through the head and died in three hours. His wife is dying, but the boy will recover. His wife had left him because of a disagreement over property, and he shot her because she had refused to return to him.

SHIPWRECKED SAILORS ARRIVE.

Survivors of the Schooner E. I. White Reach New York.

NEW YORK, December 24.—Among the passengers on the steamer Antilla, which has arrived here from Nassau, N. B., were Captain Mitchell and the survivors of the crew of the wrecked three-masted schooner E. I. White of Harrington, Me. The White was bound from Philadelphia for Cardenas with a cargo of coal and stranded on Gingerbread Shoal on December 7. Soon after grounding the vessel began to roll and grind on the rocks, and she showed signs of breaking up.

Three of the crew preferred to trust their lives to the ship's boat, which was launched alongside. The rest of the crew remained on board. During the night following the swell capsized the boat and two of the seamen were drowned. They were a Finlander named John Saare and an American named Brown. The man rescued was Charles Johnson. The next day Captain Mitchell and the remainder of the crew proceeded in the boat to Bemini Island, and thence were assisted to Nassau.

SENATOR SEWELL WEAKER.

No Serious Change, However—Gen. Alger Still Improving.

CAMDEN, N. J., December 24.—United States Senator Sewell was reported by his physician this morning to be slightly weaker, but there has been no serious change in his condition during the past few days. He rested well last night.

DETROIT, Mich., December 24.—At 9:30 o'clock today the following bulletin on Gen. R. A. Alger's condition was issued:

Gen. Alger passed a very comfortable night. His temperature this morning is 99.3 pulse, 80 and full and regular. He is cheerful and in very good spirits. This condition at the end of the second day after the operation is very encouraging.

C. G. JENNINGS, M.D.
H. W. LONGYEAR, M.D.

REVEALS FRENCH COURT SECRET.

Discovery of Curious Old Manuscript at Gallipolis, Ohio.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, December 24.—The Inquirer's Gallipolis special says the delivery of a manuscript in a secret drawer of an old clock in the city reveals a secret of the French court and shows the reason of the visit to that city in 1789 of the Duke of Orleans, afterward Louis Phillipe of France. The discovery was made by Claude M. Wall, while taking apart an old French clock that had long been standing in the storage room of his store. He found a secret drawer in the clock, which contained an old parchment manuscript written in French and which was wrapped in a child's flannel skirt, richly embroidered and bearing a monogram. A piece of fine lace was also with the manuscript. Upon translation the manuscript purported to be a "true history of Adele De Alonquon."

It bore the signature of Louis de Alonquon, and was dated October 15, 1789. It was addressed to Adele, apparently to be given her when she grew to maturity. The substance of it was that Adele was the daughter of the Duke of Orleans. The mother died at the child's birth, ignorant of the rank of its father. The writer was then placed in charge of the child and sent with it to Gallipolis, where there was a French colony. The story ran that he became her preceptor and finally, after the visit of the Duke of Orleans to Gallipolis, it was determined to send Adele to a Catholic school in France. The mother of Adele not being of royal blood the marriage was kept secret.

Mr. Wall has sent the manuscript to the French ambassador at Washington. Some portions of the papers giving names and lineage have not been made public.

FATAL EXPLOSION OF GAS.

Youth Killed and Stove Wrecked at Kenton, Ohio.

KENTON, Ohio, December 24.—As the result of an explosion of gas in the store of E. Bartholemew early today, Carl Shields, fifteen years of age, was killed and several other persons injured. The explosion was caused by a plumber looking for a gas leak with a lighted candle. The building was partially wrecked and the front windows of several adjacent stores demolished. The loss will be several thousand dollars.

PUNCH BOWL FOR LIPTON.

Famous Yachtsman Highly Pleased With Gift From Americans.

LONDON, December 24.—Sir Thomas Lipton today received a magnificent silver punch bowl and stand as a Christmas gift from John D. Crimmins, J. H. Flagler, Charles Dana Gibson, Judge Morgan O'Brien and nineteen other Americans who were guests on board the Erin during the races this year for the America's cup.

Sir Thomas said: "I cannot say how delighted I am. It merely shows that if a man does the right thing in America they appreciate it as no other people do. I have never received anything I valued more than this splendid gift from my American friends."

King Edward has presented Sir Thomas Lipton with a cigarette case bearing the royal monogram. It is a replica of the one the king himself uses.

LETTER FROM MACLAY.

Reply to the Demand for His Resignation Received.

Secretary Long today received a letter from Mr. Maclay, the historian-laborer at the New York navy yard. It was marked personal, and was not made public by Secretary Long up to a late hour this afternoon. Although the Secretary declined to make known the contents of the letter at this time, there is every reason to believe that it is Mr. Maclay's response to the President's demand for his resignation.

Secretary Long took the letter to the White House with him, and it undoubtedly formed the topic of an interesting discussion between the President and his advisers.

There was a rumor this afternoon that Mr. Maclay had reconsidered his original determination to contest the right of the President to demand his resignation under the civil service regulation in the absence of formal charges, and had decided to resign rather than subject himself to the onus of being removed.

According to a special dispatch from New York, Mr. Maclay, after further consideration of the question, decided to bow to the inevitable. In an interview last night he said: "After I had sent the letter to Washington I learned for the first time that the President of the United States had power to take exception to anything concerning civil service regulations, and in that case I shall resign right away. I will forward my resignation at once."

It is therefore possible that the letter already received by Secretary Long is a declination to resign, and that the letter of resignation which Maclay afterward wrote will be received tomorrow. The sudden change in the position of Mr. Maclay will simplify matters very much, as it will do away with the necessity for his removal.

TURKEY'S ARBITRARY COURSE.

Notifies Naturalized Americans to Get Out of the Country.

DALLAS, Tex., December 24.—A special to the News from Waco, Tex., says: Several citizens of Waco, formerly of Beyreut, Syria, who went to their childhood homes to visit friends, have cabled here for transportation back to Texas, having learned that the Turkish government objects to their presence in that portion of the sultan's domain unless they are willing to renew their allegiance to Turkey and abandon their rights as naturalized citizens of the United States.

The Syrian colony here is composed of substantial citizens and they promptly met the demand of their countrymen across the ocean by sending transportation as desired. The leading Syrians here say the sultan will rigidly enforce his order and will deal harshly with his former subjects unless the United States interferes in their behalf.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 24.—Assassination and pillaging of villages and outraging of the inhabitants have so increased recently in Macedonia that the consuls have appealed to the embassies to put a stop to such crimes. The foreign ministers have made urgent representations to the porte of the danger of permitting the continuance of such acts.

ENGINEER CORPS CHANGES.

Important Assignments to Several High Officers.

Orders issued today make several important changes in the stations and duties of high officers in the Corps of Engineers.

Colonel Garrett J. Lydecker, who has been stationed at Detroit since his departure from Washington, D. C., eight years ago, is ordered to take station at Cincinnati, Ohio, not later than the 15th proximo. He will relieve Lieutenant Colonel Thomas H. Handbury of his duties as division engineer of the central division and Major William H. Bixby of the works in his charge, reporting to the Secretary of the Treasury for duty as engineer of the fourteenth light house district.

Lieutenant Colonel Handbury will take station at San Francisco, Cal., not later than February 1, relieving Lieutenant Colonel C. E. L. B. Davis of fortification and river and harbor works in his charge, and other duties, including that of engineer of the twelfth lighthouse district.

Lieut. Col. Davis was formerly stationed in Washington in charge of the improvement of the Potomac river, and has been stationed at San Francisco for the past six years. On being relieved he will proceed to Manila, P. I., and report to the commanding general, division of the Philippines, for duty as engineer officer on his staff, and for duty as senior member of the board of officers appointed last September to consider and report upon the subject of the defense of the important harbors of the Philippine Islands, relieving Major Clinton B. Sears of those duties.

Major Sears has been assigned to the command of the 2d Battalion of Engineers, now serving in the Philippines.

Major Bixby, on being relieved of his present duties at Cincinnati, will take station at Detroit, Mich., assuming charge of the works now under the direction of Colonel Lydecker.

Captain William L. Sibert reported at the War Department today that he has relieved Major Charles F. Powell of his duties at Pittsburg. Major Powell has been transferred to duty at New London, Conn.

FRENCH CARICATURE DEPLORED.

Member of the Deputies Says It Hurts Business.

PARIS, December 24.—During the discussion of the budget of the ministry of the interior in the chamber of deputies today M. d'Estournelles de Constant (republican) called attention to the publication of caricatures of foreign sovereigns, which the deputy strongly condemned, pointing out that it wounded the national sentiments of foreigners and kept them away from Paris, thus injuring business.

The deputy's remarks were received with mingled applause and protests.

M. Millevoye (nationalist republican) said foreigners should be more considerate of Frenchmen's feelings, and dwelt on the manner in which the French army had been treated in English newspapers.

The premier, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, replied. He said the government condemned the caricatures of foreign sovereigns, but would observe the law which provided that prosecutions could only be undertaken at the request of interested parties.

NOT OFFERED TO SCALABRINI.

Papal Mission to United States to Succeed Martinelli.

ROME, December 24.—There is no truth in the report, published in the United States by a news agency that Mgr. Scalabrini, the archbishop of Piacenza, who recently visited the United States, had been practically selected to succeed Mgr. Martinelli as papal delegate in the United States, and that he had begged the pope to excuse him from such promotion. The Vatican never intended to appoint Mgr. Scalabrini to the Washington post.

Industrial Convention Potsponed.

ATLANTA, Ga., December 24.—Col. W. A. Hemphill, president of the Southern Industrial Association, announced today that the convention of that society called for Memphis during January had been postponed.

Street Car Men's Salaries Raised.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., December 24.—The Indiana Railway Company of this city posted an order today giving an increase of wages to the motormen, conductors and all power station employes engaged by the hour. The raise is the second within a few years and means an increase in the wages of employes of about $10,000 a year. The increase will take effect on January 1.

Two Vessels Overdue.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 24.—Two vessels have been added to the overdue list at the Merchants' Exchange. They are the British ship Blackbraes, 113 days out from Table bay for Portland, quoted at 10 per cent reinsurance, and the British bark Earl Cadogan, 176 days out from Antwerp for Port Los Angeles, quoted at 10 per cent.

Investigating Gerst's Accounts.

BUFFALO, N. Y., December 24.—The board of aldermen have accepted the resignation of City Treasurer Philip Gerst, whose accounts are now undergoing an investigation. Gerst has publicly admitted that there was recently a shortage in his accounts of over $50,000, but claims it has been made good.

Cox Will Support Price.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, December 24.—Jno. R. Malloy, who represents Senator Hanna's interests in the legislative organization, returned today from Cincinnati, where he went to consult with Geo. B. Cox.

He says Mr. Cox told him plainly that he would support Price, the Foraker candidate for speaker of the house, though he favored Uhl, the Hanna candidate for clerk of the senate.

Carnegie Offers Akron a Library.

AKRON, Ohio, December 24.—Andrew Carnegie has offered the city of Akron $70,000 for a free public library, the city to guarantee $7,000 annually to maintain it. The offer will probably be accepted.

To Train Filipinos to Farm.

BERKELEY, Cal., December 24.—The University of California has been asked to recommend to the Philippine commission several men qualified by experience and scientific training to take charge of agricultural experiment stations in the Philippines.

Statement of De Beers Company.

CAPE TOWN, December 24.—At the annual meeting of the De Beers Mining Company at Kimberley the chairman announced that the gross profits for the year were £2,750,000, the production being £4,500,000. The estimated life of the mines is 144 years.

Donation to Palmer College.

LE GRAND, Iowa, December 24.—Palmer College has received $30,000 from F. A. Palmer of New York, making $50,000 raised in the last six months. This college has the youngest president of any college in the country, Carlyle Summerbell, who is twenty-eight years old.

Boston Bank to Liquidate.

BOSTON, December 24.—The stockholders of the National Bank of the Commonwealth today voted to place the bank in voluntary liquidation. William A. Tower and R. M. Saltonstall were appointed liquidating agents.

The bank has been merged into the National Shawmut Bank.

Sixty Boers Taken Prisoners.

PRETORIA, December 24.—Lieut. Colenbrander's force surprised a Boer laager in the Pietersburg district December 22, and captured sixty prisoners.

British Queen Improving.

LONDON, December 24.—Queen Alexandra is progressing satisfactorily toward recovery.

A colored female infant about two months old was found near the corner of 8th and M streets northwest about 8 o'clock last night. It was sent to the home of Mrs. Randolph, 408 R street northwest, a nurse of the board of children's guardians.

IN THE DIVORCE COURT

PETITIONS FILED AND DECREES ENTERED OF RECORD.

Allegations Made in Support of Applications for Legal Separation—Proceedings Dismissed.

In a petition for divorce filed today by Joseph R. Wilson, through Attorney Leon Tobriner, against Louisa Wilson it is set forth that the parties were married in July, 1895, at Baltimore. According to Mr. Wilson, his wife always acted in a peevish, irritable and angry manner to him, "giving expression to the most insulting remarks in the presence of others, her conduct at all times being unbearable and unwifely." It is added that Mrs. Wilson, the 4th of March, 1899, wilfully deserted the petitioner.

Alleging desertion, Randolph A. Payne, through Attorney Campbell Carrington, today petitioned the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to grant him a divorce from Teresa Payne.

Pinkie M. Dabney today, through Attorney A. G. Bentley, instituted proceedings for divorce against John N. Dabney, alleging desertion.

A decree was signed today by Justice Bradley in Equity Court No. 2 granting George Leslie Cramer a divorce from Mary Edna Cramer, on the ground of desertion.

Husband Makes Charges.

In a petition for divorce filed today George S. Parker avers that notwithstanding that all the loving care and attention due from a devoted husband and father was bestowed upon his wife, Arelia B. Parker, and their four children, he was frequently subjected to abuse, scoldings and ill-treatment in his home by his wife and his mother-in-law. Finally, it is charged, Mrs. Parker, the 18th of December, 1899, notified her husband that she would no longer live with him. She has refused to allow the petitioner to see his children and has used every possible means to estrange them from an affectionate and loving father. In addition to a divorce, Mr. Parker asks that he be granted the custody of such of the children as may be desirous of living with him, and that his wife be restrained from circulating false reports concerning him. Attorney S. W. Green represents the petitioner.

A decree has been signed by Justice Hagner, in Equity Court No. 1, granting Lulu B. Simmes a divorce from Burton B. Simmes on the ground of desertion.

Petitions Dismissed.

Justice Bradley today dismissed without prejudice the petition for divorce filed by DeLancey W. Gill against Mary J. Gill. This action was taken because it appeared to the court "that the testimony is perfectly consistent with a separation of the parties by mutual consent continued by consent, which is emphasized by the voluntary appearance of the defendant by counsel without service of process upon her, and after an order of publication had been passed but not published, and by the failure to cross-examine witnesses for the petitioner or to take any testimony in her own behalf."

On the ground that the charge of willful desertion and abandonment was not established, Justice Bradley has dismissed the proceedings for divorce instituted by Clara C. Eliason against John H. Eliason.

Justice Bradley has also dismissed the petition for divorce filed by Edward B. Blandy against Clara A. Blandy, it appearing that the petitioner never has been a resident of the District of Columbia.

On the ground of desertion Mary E. Griffin has, through Attorney Campbell Carrington, filed suit to secure a divorce from Thomas H. Griffin. Alleging a similar cause, Martha S. Starkes has asked that she be divorced from Thomas H. Starkes. The petitioner is represented by Attorneys R. A. Hughes and J. F. Bundy.

RELIEF FOR THE POOR.

Contributions Received by Various Charities.

Mr. John Joy Edson, treasurer of the Associated Charities, acknowledges receipt of the following contributions: The Law Reporter Company, $10; Dr. Fred. H. Wines, $5; Miss Mary V. Wines, $5; Master David Baer, $1; Mrs. E. E. Johnston, $1; Mrs. Mary Armstrong, $2; Mrs. Mary S. Clymer, $10; Mrs. G. W. Harding, $5; Miss Florence M. Harding, $5; Ralph Marean, $5; A. Gonard, $1; C. Arnold, $3; cash, $10; Mrs. A. C. Barney, $10; cash, through B. T. Janney, $2. Total, $75.

In addition to the contributions received recently by the Associated Charities the following were received earlier in the season and have been expended: Mr. John Hay, $100; Judge J. C. Bancroft Davis, $100; E. Berliner, $25; John Porter Lawrence, $25; John W. Foster, $50; Ellis Spear, $10; Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Pellew, $25; Edward Farquhar, $21.91; Tyler & Rutherford, $10; Church & Church, $10; Gen. Thomas H. Looker, $10; Mrs. H. B. Coolidge, $5; Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page, $500; H. and H., $50; Miss Grace D. Litchfield, $25; Gifford Pinchot, $25; Abla S. Gilman, $15; Mrs. Harriet Blaine, $50; Col. H. F. Blount, $10; C. N. Osgood, $20; Miss Lucy M. Solger, $8; Col. Archibald Hopkins, $10; Dr. George M. Kober, $5; Prof. B. T. Janney, $5; Mrs. J. W. Babson, $5; James B. Lamble, $20; Dr. Anne A. Wilson, $5; Frederick L. Moore, $5; J. B. T. Tupper, $10; Byron S. Adams, $10; D. Ingalls, $10; G. G. C. Simms, $2; Philip K. Riley, $10; Ralph Wells, $5; N. L. Collamer, $5; Mrs. Jane Hitz, $10; Mrs. Florence Cairns, $5; B. Pickman Mann, $5; Mrs. A. F. Bayard, $10; Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, $2; Mrs. Andrew Bryson, $5; E. A. Fay, $2; William H. Pope, $5; Gershom Bradford, $5; William F. Peabody, $5; James M. Hoge, $5; Franklin & Co., $10; E. F. Droop & Sons, $10; Jos. A. Deeble, $5; Mrs. Francis B. Austin, $5; Mrs. Annie Clephane, $5. Total, $1,205.91.

The following contributions have been received by Mr. Beriah Wilkins, treasurer of the Citizens' Relief Association:

No name, through Charles F. Weller, $5; Eugene E. Stevens, $25; James H. Watmough, $25; Joseph Gawler, $10; A. Lisner, Palais Royal, $100; total, $165.

OBJECT TO FENCE.

Owners Want Obstruction on Pierce Mill Road Removed.

J. Quincy Eaton, representing the Sheldon Jackson College, and Richard E. Pairo have written to the District Commissioners protesting against the fence which has been erected across the Pierce Mill road, immediately south of Pairo's subdivision of Rosemount Park. The writers request the removal of the fence and the restoration of the road to its former condition. The protest was referred to Mr. William P. Richards, the assistant engineer in charge of street extensions, and he has submitted the following report to the Commissioners, which has been approved by them:

"In the opening of Columbus avenue, and in the abandonment of the bridge over Piney Branch, on the line of Pierce Mill road, it was found necessary to barricade this road just south of Columbus avenue, until such time as the road might be opened to a new connection made by the chain gang, and it is now possible for Mr. Pairo to reach his lot by the old route. Additional work should be done, however, to put the road in passable condition. Mr. Pairo called at this office since sending this communication, and is acquainted with the above conditions. I recommend that he be informed that the road has been improved as much as present conditions will allow, but that it is expected to so further improve it when Lowell street is regulated just south of the Columbus avenue entrance."

Annual Choice of Officers.

At the annual meeting of Federal Council, No. 476, National Union, held December 23, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz: President, H. M. Gillman; vice president, C. B. Thatcher; ex-president, Abram Frey; speaker, Dr. St. Clair; secretary, W. E. Dennison; financial secretary, J. Eliot Wright; treasurer, Jas. F. Huguley; chaplain, J. B. Coiclazier; usher, Geo. E. Winkelman; sergeant-at-arms, W. W. White; doorkeeper, E. H. Graham; medical examiner, Dr. L. K. Beatty; trustees, Geo. W. Lacy, William Barnum and A. B. Chatfield; delegates to cabinet, J. E. Wright and Wm. Barnum; delegate to Immediate Relief Association, J. F. Huguley.

CHANGE OF STREET NAMES.

Commissioners Considering Bills Lately Introduced in Congress.

The District Commissioners have recently had referred to them for consideration and report House of Representatives bill 3137, introduced by Mr. Dalzell, and providing a change of names for certain streets in the city of Washington. The bill proposed that the streets heretofore designated by letters of the alphabet, such as A, B, C, be changed and hereafter known as and called, respectively, Adams, Bancroft, Clay, Decatur, Emerson, Franklin, Grant, Hamilton, Irving, Kane, Lincoln, Marshall, Newcomb, Oglethorpe, Perry, Quincy, Randolph, Stanton, Taylor, Union, Van Buren and Webster streets.

These names do not coincide with the plan of changing the names of lettered streets on their extensions in the county, recently formulated by the Commissioners, and W. P. Richards, the assistant engineer in charge of street extensions, recommended that the following one-syllable names be substituted for those given in the bill: Ames, Blaine, Clay, Dix, Eads, Foote, Grant, Hayes, Jay, King, Lee, Meade, Nash, Ord, Polk, Quarles, Rusk, Scott, Taft, Uhl, Vail, Wirt.

"I further recommend," says Mr. Richards, "that a provision be added to this bill giving the Commissioners authority to change the name of any street outside of the city of Washington, making the new names conform to the system lately adopted by the Commissioners for the suburban parts of the District of Columbia."

Col. Biddle, the Engineer Commissioner, has recommended to the board, however, that a report be made on the bill to the effect that the Commissioners are working upon a system of street names for the entire District, and recommends that no action be taken until the matter can be treated in a broad and comprehensive manner.

CONTINUES TO IMPROVE.

Physicians Note Mrs. Dennis' Progress Toward Recovery.

There was a further improvement shown today in the condition of Mrs. Ada Gilbert Dennis, the victim of the mysterious assault committed at her home two weeks ago. So far as the police are concerned nothing new has developed in the case.

A letted was received by Major Sylvester today from Deputy Sheriff Gillock of Rusk county, Texas, in response to a telegram asking for information concerning Samuel C. Presley who committed suicide in the house adjoining that of Mrs. Dennis a few days after the woman was assaulted. He says in his letter that Presley was involved in a shooting affray with John Price over a business transaction, but was tried and acquitted. The deputy never heard that Presley was ever suspected of murder.

Justice Hagner of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia today signed an order authorizing Anna S. Merchant to indorse the name of Mrs. Dennis upon any checks for money which may come into her hands, payable to Mrs. Dennis, and to receive the money payable thereon.

Anna S. Merchant was recently appointed receiver to conduct the dressmaking business of Mrs. Dennis, pending the outcome of the injuries the latter received.

CAPT. LORD STILL MISSING.

No Information Concerning Him Since Friday Last.

Captain Boardman of the detective force has received no information as to the whereabouts of Captain T. W. Lord, U. S. A., retired, who disappeared from his home, No. 937 New York avenue northwest, last Friday. Mr. Thomas R. Marshall, proprietor of Losekam's, on F street, is probably the last personal friend of the missing man to see him before he went away. Mr. Marshall has learned that Captain Lord boarded a car at 13th street and got a transfer to the Tenleytown branch of the electric road.

Today Mr. Marshall informed the police that he will pay $100 reward for information which will locate the missing man.

Captain Boardman today prepared a descriptive circular, offering the reward mentioned, and copies of it will be sent to the neighboring states. The police have made a thorough search of the county and along the river front, but have received no word about the missing man since he transferred to the Tenleytown cars to go in the direction of Rockville.

POLICE GRIST LIGHT.

Law Violators Too Busy Buying Christmas Gifts.

The business at the Police Court today was unusually light, there being only twenty-six cases, of minor character, called to the attention of the judges.

The inclement weather of last night either kept the offenders indoors, or possibly they were out buying Christmas presents, and did not have time to violate any of the laws of the District.

IN LIEU OF PENALTIES.

Assessor Wants District to Receive Arrearages of Taxes.

Hopewell H. Darneille, the District assessor, has submitted a statement to the District Commissioners in regard to the bill recently introduced in the House of Representatives, authorizing the Commissioners to receive arrearages of taxes due the District of Columbia, to July 1, 1900, at 6 per cent per annum in lieu of penalties and costs. The bill is now before the Commissioners for report.

Mr. Darneille is strongly in favor of its passage, and says: "Within the past two years arrears of taxes have been brought forward on a card index, which has enabled the office to promptly furnish taxpayers with a full statement of arrears. The enactment of this bill into law would not only be of advantage to many taxpayers, who were formerly kept in ignorance of delinquent taxes on their property, but be equally advantageous to the District in clearing the records and resulting in increased revenues. This bill is submitted with an earnest recommendation for its early passage."

Dinner to Maj. Wilson.

A pleasant and beautifully appointed dinner was given last night at the New Willard, at which Maj. Frederick T. Wilson, chief of the miscellaneous division, adjutant general's office, was the guest of honor. The table was tastefully decorated with roses and chrysanthemums, and presented an altogether charming appearance. The souvenir menus were uniquely handsome, each bearing a water-color sketch from the brush of the young artist, Mr. Glen Mawkins. Among those present were Maj. F. T. Wilson, Col. John G. Maynard, Messrs. Glenwood D. Hawkins, Francis H. Randolph, Homer F. Tenney, Walter A. Saunders, Alvord A. Cederwald and R. Douglas Stephens.

Ruling by Auditor Petty.

Auditor J. T. Petty of the District, has again ruled, this time in the case of W. E. Mooney, contractor for installing a boiler in the Jefferson school building, that in cases where application for the extension of a contract is not made within the life of the contract it cannot be considered, but the contractor must be charged with the cost of inspection and the damages specified in the contract if any damages actually accrue. There is some extra work to be done by Mr. Mooney on his contract, but the cost for inspecting this will not be charged against him as it was outside the original contract, the time limit of which has now expired.

Sewer Construction Suggested.

Middaugh and Shannon have requested the District Commissioners to construct a sewer along the west side of North Capitol street between R and Randolph streets. The writers have been informed that the sewer can be constructed at a cost to them of $180, under the permit system.

Must Ask the War Department.

The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company has applied to the District Commissioners for a permit to lay a siding near the north end of the Long bridge. The company has been informed by the District authorities that the proposed track will be on the Potomac flats, and under the jurisdiction of the War Department.

TAKES OATH OF OFFICE.

Ashley M. Gould Sworn in as United States District Attorney.

Ashley M. Gould today subscribed to the oath of office as United States attorney in and for the District of Columbia. The oath was administered by Chief Justice Bingham of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Although originally named for the office by President McKinley last spring during the recess of Congress Mr. Gould's commission is signed by President Roosevelt, and states that he is appointed for a term of four years from the 17th instant, the date the appointment was confirmed by the Senate.

SCHEDULE CONTINUED.

Old Rules of Procedure to Govern Until Further Notice.

The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia today signed an order continuing in force, until further order, the rules of procedure and schedule of fees for justices of the peace appointed under the provisions of the code of law, substantially in the form as followed by the justices of the peace now holding office.

It was further directed that the office hours of the new justices of the peace be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Sundays and legal holidays.

POISONED BY EATING PORK.

Family of C. C. Lemert, Gov. Nash's Clerk, the Victims.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, December 24.—Charles C. Lemert, executive clerk to Gov. Nash, and his entire family were poisoned by eating pork for dinner last evening. Some time after the meal members of the family were taken ill, and a physician summoned, who pronounced the illness due to the condition of the meat. Mr. Lemert was unable to be in his office today, but it is thought his condition is not serious.

Petition Denied.

Justice Barnard of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia this afternoon dismissed the petition for writ of habeas corpus recently filed by Frances Chisley for the purpose of recovering possession of a child five years of age.

Since the child was an infant and until the 14th instant it has been in the keeping of Frances Chisley. Blanche Johnson, a woman who claims to be the mother of the child, took possession of it the date mentioned. Frances Chisley claimed that the little one had been given to her the 2d of January, 1898, by one Putsie Cook. She, therefore, took legal steps to recover it from the possession of Blanche Johnson. The ruling of Justice Barnard was in favor of the woman claiming to be the child's mother. All the parties to the proceedings are colored.

Not Employed in Linen Room.

The allegation made to the police by Mary Estep, the young woman who claimed that she was assaulted in Franklin Square Park, that she was employed as superintendent of the linen room at the Hamilton, is stated today to be incorrect. It is said that the woman is employed in the store room of the hotel.

National Traits.

From the London Chronicle.

The "Pekin Colloquial Paper," to give a literal translation of the title of that enterprising journal, has lately been summing up the characteristics of the various nations which are represented in China and which for a year and more have been represented there in more than usual abundance. The article is studiously moderate in tone, and makes no mention of the atrocities which foreign soldiers are said to have committed. "The English and Germans are brusque and straightforward and pay no attention to social amenities. Russians, on the other hand, treat Chinese officials especially well, and all who have been to Russia are delighted with the treatment they receive there. The Japanese, whose literature is the same as ours, are very pleased to meet our scholars. The French are exceedingly polite, according to their national custom. The Americans are very go-as-you-please, and more friendly than other nations."

Oxygen Pellets.

From Popular Science News.

A method of procuring oxygen has been patented in Great Britain by M. G. F. Jaubert of Paris. A substance is prepared by mixing chloride of lime with sodium dioxide or other alkaline peroxide. Compressed pellets, which can be used for obtaining a supply of oxygen in the same way that calcium carbide is used for making acetylene—namely, by immersion in water—are prepared in the following manner: Two hundred kilogrammes of chloride of lime, which titrates 35.5 per cent of active chlorine, well dried (for example, by standing over concentrated sulphuric acid), is mixed with seventy-eight kilogrammes of sodium dioxide in powder, and the yellowish white powder thus obtained is made into cakes by strong pressure. The compressed material thus obtained is, it is stated, as hard and shiny as crockery, and when placed in water decomposes with regularity, oxygen gas being evolved.

Dress Reform in Japan.

From Japan and America.

Mrs. Hatoyama, who visited this country recently, with her distinguished husband, thinks that a great reform in dress is beginning throughout Japan. The idea that Mrs. Hatoyama has in mind is not, however, the adoption by the Japanese women of the costumes of their New York or Parisian sisters. She wishes to add to the variety and beauty of the national dress of women by adopting bright and showy colors for evening costumes. She says that in Japan a woman above twenty must wear only dull colors, and one above thirty must wear black, even at evening parties and court balls; and she, together with thousands of other feminine hearts, yearns for the light and beautiful gowns of the west. Mrs. Hatoyama, it should be added, also suggests to the men of Japan that they could imitate to advantage the homage that men pay to women in this country. She does not think that there is any danger in transplanting in Japan the freedom which America has bestowed upon its women both in public and at home.

Washington Stock Exchange.

Sales—regular call, 12 o'clock m.—U. S. Coupon 3s, $40 at 108¼, $1,000 at 108⅝. Real Estate Title Ins. Co., 10 at 94, 10 at 96, 10 at 95½, 10 at 95⅛. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone, 20 at 67. Lanston Monotype, 10 at 10½. Greene Copper, 20 at 30, 4 at 30, 12 at 30, 50 at 30, 100 at 32 (buyer 90), 100 at 32 (buyer 90), 100 at 32 (buyer 90), 14 at 33.

District of Columbia Bonds—3.65s, funding, 125½ bid.

Miscellaneous Bonds—Capital Traction 4s, 106⅝ bid, 107½ asked. Washington Traction and Electric Receipts, 70 asked. Metropolitan Railroad 5s, 115¼ bid, 120 asked. Metropolitan Railroad Cert. Indebt., A, 105 bid, 106½ asked. Metropolitan Railroad Cert. Indebt., B, 105 bid, 106½ asked. Columbia Railroad 6s, 117 bid, 120 asked. Columbia Railroad 2d mort. 5s, 106 bid, 107 asked. Washington Gas Co. 6s, series A, 107 bid. Washington Gas Co. 6s, series B, 107 bid. U. S. Electric Light Deb. Imp. 6s, 104½ bid. U. S. Electric Light Cert. Indebt. 6s, 104½ bid. Chesap