SIX PARTS
Including
Star's Sunday Magazine
and
Colored Comic Section.

The Sunday Star.

WEATHER.
Fair today; tomorrow increasing cloudiness, probably rain.

No. 41.—No. 16,534. WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1905.* FIVE CENTS.

DEFEAT FOR THE REDS

Workmen's Council to Declare Strike Off Monday.

NEW PLAN NOW IN MIND

WILL ORGANIZE FOR AN ARMED INSURRECTION.

Failure Attributed Not Only to Force Employed, but to Lack of Public Sympathy.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 30.—The Workmen's Council of St. Petersburg tonight decided to declare the strike off on Monday and proceed with the organization of an armed insurrection.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 31.—The council of workmen met secretly last night, and after an eight-hour session at 2 o'clock this morning adopted a resolution to call off the strike Monday "because the fight of the people against the government can no longer be limited to the disorganization of the economic life of the nation through a universal strike and is already in many parts of the country taking the character of an armed uprising."

"The council of workmen's deputies," the resolution concludes, "decides to proceed immediately with warlike operations and the organization of an armed uprising."

The council recognized that the attempt of an immediate uprising could not succeed in the capital, but that while making preparations it would be necessary to undertake a sort of guerilla warfare, consisting of the disarming of police and soldiers wherever they are found alone in the streets, the use of bombs from ambush and other acts of terror.

The council drew up a proclamation to the Cossacks warning them that if they continued to fight against the people they would be treated like mad dogs, and if they desired to be treated as brothers they should remain in their barracks.

An appeal was also drawn up requesting the proletariat of all countries to support the fight begun at Moscow.

Claims of the Government.

The government claims that the attempt at an armed rebellion has failed signally. In a semi-official communication issued tonight it declares the movement has been broken and within a few weeks it will be definitely crushed. It attributes the defeat of the "reds" not only to the force it employed, but to a lack of public sympathy.

Simultaneously the government announces that the regulations for the elections to the national assembly have been completed and will be published tomorrow, and that everything possible will be done to accelarate the meeting of the douma, when the voice of the nation and not of a single class can be heard.

A member of the cabinet said today:

"The result of the attempt of the revolutionaries to overthrow the government by force was never for a moment in doubt, but what has occurred and what is occurring we believe will have a salutary effect on public opinion. Revolution will go on, but it is our purpose to confine it to peaceful channels."

Revolutionists Blundered.

The Associated Press tonight talked with a prominent revolutionary, who is a leading spirit in the movement to raze the dynasty and its regime and for whom the police are searching. He was unable to conceal his depression, but nevertheless he claimed that the movement had received only a temporary check.

"We blundered badly," he said. "We fell into the trap Witte set for us. Emboldened at the seeming paralysis of the government, we proclaimed broadcast our intentions of preparing an armed revolution for January or February. We virtually threw our cards on the table then.

"Witte challenged, and we rashly accepted before either organization was perfected or plans were matured. It was all too sudden and ill-timed. The workmen were worn out by the recent strikes and the holidays were at hand; and besides, we obtained neither active co-operation from the populace, on which we had counted, nor from the troops, among whom we know we have support. It is a bad reverse. Our most skillful leaders have been arrested, and the supplies of arms which we laboriously collected have been seized.

Situation Has Bright Side.

"But the situation has also its bright side, for it is the first time the proletariat has fought in the open against the bayonets and cannon of the government. That is a great victory. The government must not flatter itself that it has dealt a decisive blow. We have dedicated our lives to the work. We are fighting not only for the emancipation of Russia, but for the social revolution of the world."

The elements are now fighting on the side of the government as they did in the days of Napoleon. The northern winter, with all its rigors, has set in, and the upper half of the empire is locked in snow and ice, and it would be difficult for the proletariat to build and defend barricades in the streets and fight a winter campaign. In St. Petersburg tonight the temperature is 18 degrees below zero, and everywhere fires are burning in the streets to keep the homeless from freezing.

Hundreds Perish at Moscow.

No other details have been received of the horrible affair at Moscow today when Gov. Gen. Doubassoff's artillery brought the walls of the Prokharoff cotton mill tumbling down on the heads of several thousand strikers and revolutionaries, except a statement that hundreds perished.

The attempt of the "black hundreds" to march into the city and wreak vengeance on the revolutionaries and strikers only tends to confirm the fears that the final collapse of the revolt at Moscow will be followed by an awful massacre, and, although Gov. Gen Doubassoff succeeded in preventing their entry into the city today, and will take stern measures in the future, it will be difficult to restrain the lower classes, who regard the revolutionaries as enemies of the emperor and the country. Already rowdies are taking advantage of the situation to plunder on a large scale.

Figures of Losses.

Gov. Gen Doubassoff has not yet given the figures of the losses during the fighting at Moscow, saying that it is impossible at present to more than make a guess. However, he places the outside limit as 3,000. The troops and police did not suffer nearly so heavily, and it is reported that up to Thursday night there were less than fifty casualties among them everywhere.

Throughout Russia, immediately on the appearance of disorders, the authorities are declaring martial law, making wholesale arrests and confiscating arms.

The general strike sems to be going to pieces. It was declared off at Riga today, and at Odessa it is breaking up and many railroads are resuming operation.

The result of the call for an armed uprising in Poland tomorrow is awaited with anxiety.

Confess Strike a Failure.

WARSAW, Russian Poland, December 30.—The socialists have issued a proclamation in which they confess that the general strike is unsuccessful. They impute its failure to the national democratic party.

THOUSANDS UNDER RUINS.

Meeting Place of Revolutionists Razed by Artillery.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 30 (7:30 p. m.)—Governor General Doubassoff has telegraphed to the government from Moscow that a large meeting of revolutionists and strikers at the Prokharoff cotton mill, outside the city, was surrounded by troops of all arms today.

The artillery opened a terrific bombardment and made a large rent in the walls, which suddenly crumbled and the building came down in a heap. Hundreds, if not thousands of persons, were buried in the ruins.

Doubassoff regarded the Prokharoff mills as the stronghold of the revolutionists, and he reports that Moscow will be entirely cleared of them in three days.

The governor general also reports that he prevented several thousand "loyalists," who assembled in the Sakolniki district in the outskirts of Moscow, from marching into the city for the purpose of attacking the strikers, revolutionists and Jews.

The police force of Moscow has been increased by a thousand men, and the night watchmen by two thousand men.

INSURGENTS MOWED DOWN.

Doubassoff Assumes the Offensive With Cannon.

MOSCOW, December 30.—Governor General Doubassoff today assumed the offensive against the revolutionary stronghold in the northwestern or Presna quarter, and all day the inhabitants of the city have been listening to the thunder of cannon and the rattle of small arms. At this writing firing is still audible, but more distant, and the lurid glare on the heavens shows that many structures are in flames.

It was essentially a surprise attack. During the night artillery and machine guns moved to the streets leading to the Presna district, all of which were heavily barricaded, and at 4 o'clock this morning the troops began an advance, clearing the way ruthlessly. By 10 o'clock much of the region had been cleared, and the main body of the insurgents and strikers had been driven into the Prokharoff cotton mills, an immense establishment which was fortified to stand a siege. A smaller force of the revolutionaries held the Kornosoff, another four-story factory, in Kudrinsky place. The latter was bombarded and reduced without much difficulty.

It is impossible to penetrate the quarter, as the pickets have the strictest orders to allow no one to pass.

The artillery fire was resumed at 2 o'clock this afternoon and still continues.

According to officers at Gov. Gen. Doubassoff's headquarters, the Prokharoff mills is momentarily expected to fall, and it is asserted that it is the program to finish the revolt tonight. It is admitted that the slaughter has been immense.

The Seminovsky regiment is understood to have distinguished itself in many places by storming barricades, and is the heaviest loser on the side of the troops.

The insurgents displayed great stubbornness and were mowed down on refusing to surrender.

A terrible affair took place at a workmen's tea house in Novaya Derevnya street, near the Presna district. It was surrounded by the "Black Hundred," who finally applied the torch and were watching the victims inside consumed by the flames when Cossacks arrived on the scene.

Gov. Gen. Doubassoff has posted an imperial ukase guaranteeing pardon to strikers who have not used arms.

RIGA STRIKE ENDED.

Business and Work at the Factories Resumed.

RIGA, Livonia, December 30.—The strike ended here today, the papers having reappeared and business and work at the factories have been resumed. The termination of the strike will rescue the city from famine. The supply of fresh meat gave out three days ago.

Gen. Sollogub, the new governor general of the Baltic provinces, is moving north at the head of 10,000 troops with artillery. Upon his arrival here he is expected to begin an energetic campaign against the revolutionists, who have created a condition of anarchy in the country. Two of the most famous castles in the Baltic provinces—Dondangen, built in the thirteenth century, and Odessee, a stately structure, which was filled with the rarest collection of knightly treasures—have been burned.

During the strike many high-handed atrocities were committed. The revolutionists established an "execution block," where persons condemned by the revolutionary committee were shot.

The police here are now armed with rifles.

Situation at Other Places.

BARANOVITCHI, Government of Minsk, December 30.—Gov. Gen. Orloff has proclaimed martial law here and has compelled the railroad men to resume work.

ODESSA, December 30.—The strike here is going to pieces.

WARSAW, Russian Poland, December 30.—Attempts to erect barricades at three places in this city today failed. There are heavy patrols in the streets and the banks are closed.

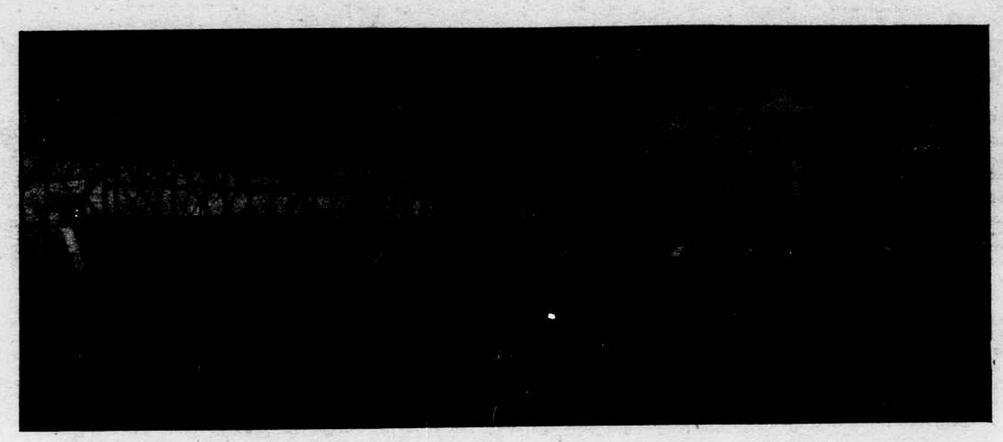
LODZ, December 30.—Several hundred revolutionists have been arrested here.

SCHULAVKA, Russia, December 30.—The perquisitions made here have resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of arms and explosives. Seventy-eight arrests were made.

KREMENTCHUG, Russia, December 30.—The governor general has issued a proclamation announcing that persons guilty of throwing bombs from houses are subjected to trial by court-martial and are to be sentenced to death.

$190,000 for College for Women.

PITTSBURG, Pa., December 30.—A prominent local business man who requested his name withheld today gave his check for $10,000 to the Pennsylvania College for Women, making $150,000 raised through popular subscription for the maintenance of the college in this city. Two other anonymous subscriptions, each for $20,000, which were given conditional upon the whole sum of $150,000 being subscribed, were also paid to the endowment committee, making a total of $190,000.



THE NEW HIGHWAY BRIDGE.

LOOKS LIKE PERJURY

Two Midshipmen Charge Decatur With Hazing.

HE PLEADS NOT GUILTY

McCRARY AND CHURCH GAVE INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE.

Annapolis Court Shown Methods of Hazing—Rigid Cross-Examination Failed to Shake Stories.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., December 30.—Two midshipmen of the fourth class—Isaac N. McCrary of Calvert, Tex., and Gaylord Church of Meadville, Pa.—testified positively this afternoon that Midshipman Stephen Decatur, jr., of Portsmouth, N. H., a member of the first class, had hazed them on different occasions.

Decatur will, according to his counsel, go on the stand on Tuesday, when the court will again meet, and deny under oath the statement which the two under classmen made incriminating him.

As the evidence of each of the prosecuting witnesses was to separate incidents and entirely uncorroborated, there is a possibility that the evidence will be considered insufficient to convict Decatur; but the apparent fact will remain, should the latter make the denial promised, that a perjurer is wearing the uniform of a midshipman of the United States navy.

Decatur Pleaded Not Guilty.

Young Decatur was arraigned at 2:30 this afternoon and pleaded not guilty to every charge and specification.

Midshipman McCrary was then called and testified clearly and positively that he had been hazed by Decatur, who, he said, had sent for him to come to Decatur's room. There he had ordered him to stand on his head in the closet, and he had done so until he was exhausted, about 150 times. Decatur then compelled him to do "No. 16," and then he was ordered by some one, possibly not Decatur, he said, to perform "the leaning rest." All of these were continued until the witness could do them no more.

The witness showed the court the manner of performing two exercises. In "No. 16" the hands were placed on the hips and the body lowered and raised by bending the legs outward and straightening them again. In "the leaning rest" the hands and feet were placed on the floor, with the body rigid and the body raised and lowered by bending and straightening the arms. This was designated as "No. 7" in the specifications, but this was apparently a blunder.

Rigid Cross-Examination.

McCrary was rigidly cross examined, but his story was not shaken. Finally he said in answer to questions that he would not believe Decatur if he swore that he had not told him to stand on his head and perform "No. 16."

Midshipman Church testified that Decatur had ordered him to stand on his head, but he was not so positive as McCrary and admitted that he might be mistaken. These were the only witnesses for the prosecution.

The remainder of the session was taken up by witnesses who testified to the good reputation for truthfulness enjoyed by Decatur. Those who gave this testimony were Commander W. F. Fullam, Lieut. Commander Edward E. Capehart, Professor Harry P. Huse and Midshipmen Lawrence S. Stewart and Charles E. Hovey.

Decatur to Deny Every Charge.

Mr. Theall, Decatur's counsel, stated that the accused midshipman will go on the stand Tuesday and deny specifically every statement made to the effect that he had hazed either McCrary or Church, and that there would also be evidence offered tending to establish an alibi. He would prove, Mr. Theall said, that the case was one of mistaken identity.

Trenmor Coffin, jr., whose trial for the alleged hazing of Midshipman Jerdone P. Kimbrough was concluded yesterday, was before the court for a brief period and heard the record of yesterday read and approved. It is practically conceded that Coffin has been convicted and will be dismissed, though, of course, nothing is known officially.

Charges Against Foster.

Charges have been filed against Midshipman Worth Wright Foster of New Albany, Ind. It is specified in his case that he hazed Midshipman Chester S. Roberts of Joliet, Ill., by compelling him to get under the table while eating his supper. This is another usual form of hazing at the academy, but one which has not yet been specified in any charge.

As an officer is always in the room during meals, the hazing, if it took place, must have been under an officer's eyes, but it is explained that he cannot see all that goes on because of the large number of midshipmen and the distances between the different parts of the room.

Steamers in Collision.

IQUEQUE, Chile, December 30.—The German tank steamer Sais, Capt. Bartels, from Hamburg and London, bound to San Francisco, has been in collision with the British steamer Endsleigh, Capt. Baker. The Sais was not damaged, but the Endsleigh had a number of plates on the port side above the water line stove and leaks.

TAMMANY IS TORN OPEN

LEADERS GRIMLY DECLINE TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, December 30.—Tammany leaders today grimly declined to discuss the mayor's appointments and their bearing on the organization except in one or two instances to utter stereotyped expressions of satisfaction, which were belied by their manner of saying them.

As a matter of fact, the Tammany organization is torn wide open from one end to the other, and it was said on authority that the days of Chas. F. Murphy's leadership are nearing the end.

The merest glance at the list of appointments was enough to convince the leaders that McClellan and Murphy had reached the parting of the ways and, realizing that Murphy's power had passed, groups began to get together and plan for the reorganization of Tammany and the elimination of Murphy.

It will be many days, perhaps weeks, before the combination gets its bearings sufficiently to do anything in the open to this end, but, lacking the backing of the mayor and with knowledge of this condition broadcast, it is only a matter of a short time, so candid district leaders declare, before Murphy will cease to be the head of Tammany.

THE STAR TODAY.

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WIND-UP OF INQUIRY

Legislative Committee Completed Insurance Probing

NEW YORK YESTERDAY

FORMER EQUITABLE AGENT TOLD OF REBATE SYSTEM.

Declared It Impossible to Make Money—Ex-Senator Hill's Hurry to Testify at Close.

NEW YORK, December 30.—Joel G. Van Cise, actuary of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was the first witness before the Armstrong legislative insurance committee today. He has been with the society for thirty-eight years, and, answering Mr. Hughes, said that he was responsible for the actuarial methods of the society. He was asked if any of the management interfered with him, and replied:

"Henry B. Hyde attempted to make me make figures on dividends declared on deferred dividends policies higher than I thought advisable. That was about fifteen years ago. I reported it to Vice President James W. Alexander and explained the dangers of this plan, and he persuaded Mr. Hyde to give way."

Van Cise's examination was given over to the description of the various policies issued by the Equitable, the manner of computing the dividends on the participating business and the method of arriving at the estimates of the loadings on the premiums.

When Mr. Van Cise was excused Mr. Hughes produced a number of statements that had been requested by the committee from several of the companies. They were so numerous that the time was too short to read them all for record, so they were presented and marked for identification.

Some letters to the committee from witnesses who desired to correct their testimony were also read by Mr. Hughes for the record.

Sickles Tells of Rebate System.

George H. Sickles, a real estate agent of Buffalo, formerly of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was called and told of the manner in which Gage E. Tarbell, vice president of the Equitable, prompted his agents.

"Did you and Mr. Tarbell talk about rebating?" asked Mr. Hughes.

"Yes, we did. I understood it wasn't legal, and asked him how it could be done," said Sickles.

"And he told you how?"

"Mr. Tarbell said to collect the whole premium, and, for instance, in one case I remember, he said then buy five letters of introduction from the man at $100 apiece."

"And you were to do as you saw fit—tear them up, for instance?"

"Yes."

"Did you give rebates, Mr. Sickles?"

"Why, I don't think that a fair question, Mr. Hughes."

"Yes, I think it is."

Chairman Armstrong was appealed to, and he said: "This happened in 1898, so any offense is outlawed, and you're not incriminating yourself," whereupon Mr. Sickles replied promptly:

"Yes, I gave rebates."

"Did you buy the letters?"

"No."

Mr. Sickles asserted that he "couldn't make a dollar—the practice of rebating was general," and was then excused.

Mr. Hughes announced that Gage E. Tarbell was out of town, and as he could not be reached his testimony regarding the statements of Mr. Sickles as to rebating could not be taken. Mr. Hughes suggested that Mr. Tarbell be permitted to submit a deposition under oath if he cared to do so after adjournment, and Chairman Armstrong said that this would be allowed.

Hill Anxious to Testify Now.

Mr. Hughes, continuing, said that the counsel for the committee had communicated with David B. Hill with a view to having him appear as a witness and testify in relation to his $5,000,000 retainer for the Equitable Life. Mr. Hill replied that he was too ill to do so. Later, Mr. Hughes said, the committee telegraphed to Mr. Hill and he replied, saying that he was confined to his house and was unable to attend.

Mr. Hill recorded a protest against the adjournment of the committee before he had a chance to testify, or at least without apointing a sub-committee to take his testimony. Mr. Hill declared that he had been ready at any time since the appointment of the committee to testify and was desirous of doing so.

Chairman Armstrong said that it would be impossible to have Mr. Hill's testimony before the committee, as was desired. He said that he understood Mr. Hill was ill at his home and that no improper motive could be attached to his absence. If it was in any way practicable to get Mr. Hill's testimony before the committee it would be done.

Statements From Companies.

Rufus Weeks, actuary of the New York Life, was then called to supply further information on the methods of his company in arriving at dividends.

Almost the entire afternoon was taken up by Mr. McKeen, associate counsel of the committee, in reading from the record the statements of companies incorporated in other states, but doing business in this state, the officers of which had been asked by the committee for a statement of their condition and management.

Among these statements that of the Provident Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia declared that in 1896 at a special meeting of the board of directors a resolution was passed authorizing the expenditure of $25,000 for contributions to the campaign for "sound money" in 1896. Of this money $10,000 was given to the republican national committee.

WILL RETURN THIS EVENING.

The President Enjoyed a Fine Hunt Yesterday.

RICHMOND, Va., December 30.—The President enjoyed a fine hunt this morning at Pine Knob, his Virginia retreat, with only an old negro guide as companion. His bag at the close of the expedition was one wild turkey, half a dozen quail, two rabbits and some snowbirds. Surgeon General Rixey, with the two boys, Kermit and Archie, went in a direction different from that taken by the President, and were not nearly so successful. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt today accepted an invitation from the Rev. Thomas P. Baker, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, in the neighborhood of Pine Knob, to attend service at his place of worship tomorrow morning.

The Roosevelt party will leave for Washington tomorrow afternoon. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt have greatly enjoyed and been much benefited by their stay in the Virginia hill country.

HEREROS PROBABLY BEATEN.

End of Uprising With Practical Annihilation of Tribe.

Special Cablegram to The Star.

BERLIN, December 30.—The surrender of the Witbois upon the death of their leader, Hendrick Witbol, and the prospective negotiations between the new governor of southwest Africa, Herr Vonlindequist, and the Hottentots, mark, in all probability, the ultimate stages of the uprising. The latest parliamentary report on the subject states that the northern regions of the colony have been cleared of insurgents and that the campaign against the Hereros has come to an end with the practical annihilation of the tribe.

Of a community numbering from 60,000 to 80,000, or even 100,000 souls, it is only possible to account for 1,275 under supervision in British territory, in addition to the 2,054 men and 5,018 women and children who are prisoners in German hands. Apart from a few scattered predatory bands, the bulk of the tribe has perished in the Omaheke desert, since the number killed in action has always been relatively small.

In the south of the colony the situation has been materially improved by the surrender of the Witbois, but so long as any of the leaders remain at large the operations must continue to be pressed with vigor. Moreover, the final settlement of the country will necessitate the maintenance of a considerable body of troops in the various districts for some time to come, especially in order to cope with the guerilla bands which infest the frontier regions.

FERRYBOAT BLOWN ASHORE.

New Vessel Was En Route to New York.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

WILMINGTON, Del., December 30.—The new steel ferryboat Cranford, which was built by the Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation for the Central Railroad of New Jersey, was blown ashore in the Christiana river in this city today while en route to New York. She was in tow of a tug and remained in a dangerous position on a mud bank throughout the day and until this evening, when she was floated. She was then towed to the Delaware river and proceeded under her own steam to her destination.

The ferryboat wiss pass out of the Delaware capes early tomorrow morning if the weather is favorable, and will arrive at New York and go into service tomorrow night. A high wind was responsible for the mishap on the initial trip of the craft. She was not damaged.

THE YERKES WILL.

To Be Probated in Chicago Within Thirty Days.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

CHICAGO, December 30.—The will of Charles Tyson Yerkes will be probated in Chicago within the next thirty days, and it is said to bequeath vast amounts to charity. The document, disposing of a fortune estimated to be about $15,000,000, will occupy a position on the records of the probate court in the class that includes the estates of George M. Pullman and Levi Z. Leiter.

Clarence Knight, president of the Chicago and Oak Park Elevated Railway Company, and who was Mr. Yerkes' lawyer, announced today that inasmuch as Mr. Yerkes never changed his legal residence from Chicago after moving his household and himself away five years ago, the will is to be filed in the probate court of Cook county.

Mr. Knight was asked as to the truth of reports that the instrument gave almost the entire fortune of Mr. Yerkes to charity.

"I cannot discuss the contents of the will at this time," said the attorney, "although, of course, I know what the contents are. Mr. Yerkes was a charitable man, but he did not parade the fact publicly."

Hospitals, art museums and colleges will, it is said, receive the bulk of the great fortune.

PRINCESS LOUISE'S TROUBLE.

Conditions of Settlement of Long-drawn-out Quarrel.

PARIS, December 30.—The conditions of the settlement of the long-drawn-out quarrel between the Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, eldest daughter of King Leopold of Belgium, and her husband, Prince Phillippe of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, are as follows:

The prince pays her as alimony $211,000 annually and also the sum of $1,000,000 by installments, while King Leopold guarantees his daughter an annuity of $10,000.

The princess undertakes to hand over to the prince's lawyer all the documents and photographs intended to be used as evidence, the divulgation of which will annul the arrangement. The two parties agree to accept a decision of the court of Gotha granting them a divorce on the ground of incompatibility of temper and on that ground alone.

DEATH OF MRS. STANFORD.

Revelations Promised by President of Leland Stanford University.

DENVER, Colo., December 30.—President David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford, jr., University today announced in an interview that a full report of recent discoveries in connection with the death of Mrs. Jane Stanford would soon be made public. He is said to have accused unnamed Honolulu officers and servants of the decedent of plotting to secure big fees from the Stanford estate. He is also said to have declared that it has been established beyond a doubt that Mrs. Stanford died a natural death, and that the story of murder was originated to invalidate, if possible, a bequest to Miss Berner, her private secretary.

"GO, FIND THE POLE"

Startling Assignment to a Washington Correspondent.

WILL UNDERTAKE TASK

AIRSHIP WILL BE BUILT UNDER SANTOS DUMONT'S DIRECTION.

Important Mission Given to Walter Wellman by Frank B. Noyes, Editor of the Chicago Record-Herald.

CHICAGO, December 30.—"Build an airship, go find the north pole and report by wireless telegraphy and submarine cables the progress of your efforts."

This was the startling assignment given a few days ago to Walter Wellman, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald by Frank B. Noyes, editor-in-chief of the paper, and the commission has been accepted by Mr. Wellman, it was announced tonight. As an assistant in this expedition Mr. Wellman will have the services of Alberto Santos Dumont of Paris, who will have charge of the construction of the airship, and will act as aeronautic director and pilot of the ship on its voyage toward the North Pole.

The airship, the order for which has been given, will be built by Louis Godard of Paris, under the supervision of M. Santos Dumont, and will be completed by the end of next April. No definite date has been set for the start on the journey, but it is expected that everything will be in readiness to get away next July or early in August.

After completion the airship will have several trials at Paris, and in June all the paraphernalia for the journey will be assembled in Norway. Early in July headquarters will be established in Spitzbergen, where the explorers will await a favorable opportunity for the trip toward the pole, which, according to Mr. Wellman, should the expedition meet with a good run of luck, should be reached in less than a week.

Wellman is Hopeful.

In announcing his acceptance tonight of the proposed expedition, Mr. Wellman said:

"If I did not believe the chances of success were greater than those of failure I should not accept the commission. Mr. Noyes acted upon no sudden whim or impulse when he gave me the order to try to find the much-sought north pole, as he had before him a report, which I had submitted to him as the outcome of two visits to the inner polar regions, of years of study of the problem of the pole, of many months of special investigation of airship construction and navigation, the wind and climatic conditions to be encountered, and all the multitudinous mechanical and meteorological factors involved. In this investigation scores of eminent experts and specialists were consulted, voluminous technical reports were received, and finally a complete, symmetrical and at least promising project was evolved by me as representing a seemingly practicable combination of the latest development of many of the arts for accomplishing the result in view.

"The problem of reaching the north pole by means of an airship does not require high speed, and the present state of the art of aerial navigation by gas-buoyed and motor-driven ships is ample for that purpose. From an easily reached base of operations in northern Spitzbergen we have but 550 geographical miles to go to the pole, and a like distance for the return voyage. If we take the whole at 1,200 miles, it means but 100 hours of motoring at 12 miles an hour. Santos Dumont has repeatedly made from 19 to 23 miles an hour with small airships equipped with relatively small motors.

The Proposed Airship.

"The airship in which we purpose to attain the north pole will be the largest practicable airship ever built. It will be 196 feet long and its greatest diameter will be 45 feet. Its surface will measure 23,000 square feet and its volume will be 226,000 cubic feet. Inflated with hydrogen, it will have a total ascensional force of 15,300 pounds. Seven thousand pounds will be the weight of the ship and its equipment complete, leaving 8,000 pounds for cargo. The ship will be provided with three motors, with a combined energy of 70 horsepower. If the winds hinder no more than they help and there are no delays this ship can motor from North Spitzbergen to the pole in 45 hours. The airship will have an endurance capacity in buoyancy sufficient to enable it to remain 25 to 30 days in the air. It will carry 5,500 pounds of gasoline, and its distance capacity during calm weather will be 1,800 miles more than the distance from Spitzbergen straight across the pole and the whole Arctic ocean to Alaska.

"As our airship will be constructed it will be able to make headway against two-thirds of all the winds that blow, even though they may be squarely adverse, but it is part of our project to motor only with favorable winds and to anchor our ship to the ice and 'lie to' in unfavorable winds of velocity exceeding one-half the normal speed of our craft. The ship will be equipped for safe anchorage in the highest winds ever known in the Arctic region. In fat, the ship will be subject to the will and hand of the navigator just like a steamship upon the ocean.

Airship Will Carry Five Men.

"Besides the 5,500 pounds of fuel mentioned, the ship will carry five men, a comfortable car to live in (which is also a boat in case of need), food and supplies for seventy-five days, and a complete sledging outfit ready for use should it be necessary to abandon the airship and take to the ice. If at the worst our ship of the air carries us only to the vicinity of the pole, or two-thirds of the way to it, we have an alternative method of travel by which we may reasonably hope to complete our task and make our return to land in safety.

"At no time will our airship be out of touch with the surface of the earth. Our guide rope, so called, but in our case a smooth, tapering line of steel, is to drag its lower end over the ice, to keep the ship at a fairly stable height (150 to 200 feet), the altitude most favorable to wireless telegraphy, and to maintain under ordinary conditions the vertical stability of the craft.

Will Take Wireless Equipment.

"Wireless telegraph stations will be established at Spitzbergen and Hammerfest, Norway, 600 miles distant. Further than this a wireless equipment will be carried in