REGARDED AS DISEASE

View of Alcoholism Expressed by Coroner Nevitt.

POLICEMEN HAVE HEARING

Investigation of Circumstances Attending H. P. Totten's Death.

EVIDENCE BEFORE TRIAL BOARD

Witnesses Describe Condition of Man at the Time He Was Arrested and Previously.

That alcoholism is a disease and should be treated as such, and that doormen should be appointed at the several police stations to have supervision of prisoners in the cells were important facts that were developed today at the trial of Privates Hanley and Potter of the police force, charged with neglect of duty in connection with the death of H. P. Totten, a contractor of Bluefield, W. Va., who was found dead in his cell at the sixth precinct station house last Saturday. It was also shown that the present force on duty at each of the several station houses is insufficient to carry out properly the provisions of general orders No. 104 in relation to officers visiting prisoners every half hour while they are incarcerated.

A police trial board, comprising Mr. F. H. Stephens, assistant corporation counsel for the District; Inspector J. A. Swindells and Capt. Daniel Sullivan, commanding the second police precinct, assembled at 10:45 o'clock today at No. 1 police station, on 12th street, for the trial of Policemen Thomas Hanley and J. F. Potter. Before taking testimony the charges were read to the accused, as follows:

"I hereby charge Private Thomas Hanley with gross neglect of duty." The specifications allege "that said Thomas Hanley, a private of class 3 of the metropolitan police force, on the 11th day of August, 1906, from and after the hours of 8:20 o'clock a.m., did fail and neglect to visit the cells in the sixth police precinct station house at least once every hour, as required by section 40 of the manual governing the metropolitan police department of the District of Columbia and general orders No. 104, dated March 19, 1901, while H. P. Totten, who was in a state of total collapse from drunkenness, was confined therein."

The charges are signed by R. H. Boardman, acting major and superintendent of police.

The same accusation was made against Private Potter, who is charged jointly with Private Hanley.

The Testimony Heard.

The first witness was Policeman Armstrong, who arrested H. P. Totten at the northeast corner of 4½ street and Pennsylvania avenue at 8:20 o'clock the morning of August 11. Armstrong testified that he found Totten clinging to the wire netting about a tree box, and with the assistance of Policeman Canfield he laid the man upon the sidewalk and sent to the station for the patrol wagon. The vehicle arrived soon afterward in charge of Policeman Hanley, with Patrick Fitzgerald as driver.

Witness first saw Totten as he grabbed the tree box in his effort to prevent himself from falling to the sidewalk. Totten started to sink to his knees, he said, but caught the tree box and held himself:

"Did you smell liquor on his breath?" asked Attorney Stephens.

"No, sir," replied Policeman Armstrong. "I did not smell his breath."

The officer said he asked Totten his name, but received no reply. The man could not walk to the patrol wagon when it arrived, but caught hold of the guard rail as Armstrong assisted him into the vehicle. The policeman said Totten was a man of slender build and weighed about 140 pounds.

"Did Totten appear to be in a condition different from the ordinary cases of drunkenness?" asked Attorney Stephens.

"No, sir, he was like many I have sent in from the beat."

The officer stated in this connection that the beat is known as "The Washington Bowery" and drunken men are frequently seen there. The witness said he had no knowledge of medicines.

Thought He Could Detect Difference.

He was asked if he could distinguish between a case of drunkenness and one of sickness. He said he thought he could in ordinary cases.

"Have you ever seen any others in that condition?" asked Capt. Swindells.

"Yes, I have sent in lots in that condition from down there," replied the policeman. "I have found many asleep and others that could or would not talk."

In answer to another question by Capt. Swindells the policeman said he did not see anything about Totten to impress him that it was other than a "common drunk."

Attorney Stephens asked if it were common or uncommon to pick up a drunken man who could not or would not talk, to which the witness replied that it was not a common occurrence to do so.

Coroner a Witness.

The next witness was J. Ramsey Nevitt, the District coroner, who said the death of Contractor Totten had been reported to him by Policemen Potter and Hanley. He first saw Totten at the morgue the following day, after the autopsy had been performed, and he then gave the necessary certificate of death. This certificate gave the cause of death as acute gastritis, alcoholic, which is due to excessive indulgence in alcohol, gastritis being acute inflammation of the stomach.

In answer to a query, Dr. Nevitt stated the time elapsing before death from this ailment depends largely upon the physical condition of the man affected and his previous indulgence in alcohol.

"Some can stand a great deal of alcohol," said the coroner; "others succumb quickly. Death could occur in three hours, dependent upon the condtion of the person who had been imbibing. It is possible in extreme cases for a man to die in a half hour from acute gastritis, but it usually takes longer. There have been cases of men who drank down a quart of whisky and dying immediately from gastritis, or heart failure."

Symptoms Described.

Dr. Nevitt added that the symptoms of alcoholic gastritis as they would appear to a layman would be like those of an intoxicated individual. A man in good condition might be drunk and not have gastritis. There is no way a layman can tell whether a man has acute gastritis or not.

Alcoholic gastritis has often been wrongly diagnosed by physicians. Alcohol affects both the organs of locomotion and speech; therefore there is no reason why a layman should suppose that a man is suffering from anything but alcoholism when he cannot walk or talk. A man's inability to walk or talk is a common symptom of intoxication or alcoholic poisoning.

Dr. Nevitt said that for several years he had lived near No. 6 police station, and had frequently visited the station. He believed the policemen of No. 6 have been careful in their treatment of prisoners, and that the station house is a well-regulated one. He had himself been a police surgeon for six years, and had attended cases at that particular station.

Coroner Nevitt made the statement that "alcoholism is sickness, and should be treated as such."

Other Testimony.

The next witness was Policeman Canfield of No. 6 station. He stated that Totten was apparently intoxicated at the time he assisted Officer Armstrong to place him upon the sidewalk pending the arrival of the patrol wagon. Canfield said he smelled whisky on Totten's breath, but there was nothing about the man to lead him to suspect that he was sick.

Harry J. Leimbach, bartender at the Metropolitan Hotel, was the next witness. He testified to serving Totten with drinks Friday night, the day preceding his death. Totten said he came from Bluefield, and that he had not taken a drink in a long time, when a friend invited him to take one. He informed the friend that if he took one drink he was liable to continue on a spree and be drunk for four or five weeks.

Totten came into the bar in the morning after he began to drink and said he was feeling very badly and wanted the bartender to fix him up something to relieve his condition. Leimbach advised him not to drink any more, but to eat something. He finally gave him a cocktail. After Totten had taken the second drink he "gagged" and became deathly sick. His face turned an ashy pallor. Three-quarters of an hour later Totten came back intoxicated and was refused a drink. Totten remarked, after taking the second drink, that he was afraid he was going to die. Leimbach said he was a frail-looking, raw-boned man of medium height.

Capt. Michael Byrnes, in command of No. 6 precinct, testified that he saw Policeman Hanley take Totten out of the patrol wagon at No. 6 station. Totten walked with Hanley to the iron gate, then Hanley picked him up in his arms and carried him into the station and laid him upon the floor. Witness attended the trial board that day and was notified of Totten's death in the afternoon. He did not suspect that the man was sick. If he had such suspicion he would have sent him to the Casualty Hospital.

Capt. Byrnes testified that general order No. 104 is observed as near as possible with the limited force of men at his command.

"It is impossible to follow it strictly in the downtown station houses," said the witness. "Sometimes there are three wagon calls at one time. The men on duty at the station are the desk man, wagon man and driver, and in the absence of the wagon man the desk sergeant has two 'phones to answer, and also has to answer all the calls that come into the station."

Provisions of Order 104.

Order No. 104 provides that the prisoners in the cells shall be visited by some one about the station houses every half hour. Capt. Byrnes says this duty devolves upon the wagon man and desk sergeant; that the patrol driver is not supposed to perform such duties, but he does occasionally carry water to a prisoner in case of emergency.

"The only way to carry out the provisions of order No. 104," said Capt. Byrnes, "is to have a door man at each station house, as was the case once at No. 1 and 2 stations."

"Under the regulations it would have been Potter's duty to visit the cells during the time of Totten's incarceration, but it was impossible. Mr. Hanley was also supposed to have gone in, but he is in charge of the wagon and goes out to the several beats for the prisoners and conveys them to the station house, where he searches them and puts them in the cells. The patrol wagon had two calls immediately after Totten had been brought in."

Capt. Byrnes said he believed that order No. 104 was issued because of a case of death similar to that of Totten's. He added that he attempted to conform to general order No. 104 as nearly as possible with the force at his command. He also said he always found Policemen Hanley and Potter attending to their duties as nearly as they could, and he believed they were both first-class men.

"The course I am following," said Attorney Stephens, "is to determine whether prisoners can be looked after every half hour while they are incarcerated."

"It cannot always be done, especially when there are many wagon calls," replied Capt. Byrnes.

It was shown that the wagon calls to the sixth precinct averaged from twenty to twenty-two a day, and that sometimes there have been as many as thirty wagon runs in one night.

Sergt. James Conlon of No. 6 testified that between 12 o'clock noon Saturday, or about that hour, up to 2 o'clock p.m., the cells were visited at short regular intervals by Policemen Potter and Hanley.

He could not say as to the other part of the day, as he was away from the station.

Tells of the Investigation.

Detective Harry R. Warren of police headquarters told of the investigation of the case of Contractor Totten. He learned that he came from Bluefield, with others, he said, and soon after registering he went into the bar of the hotel and had some drinks. Totten did not display much money, but it is understood he had at his command as much money as he might need. The detective did not think Totten stopped at the Metropolitan Hotel, where he had a room, the Friday night preceding his death. He could not find any drinking places about town that Totten had visited. The witness said there were at one time doormen at No. 1 and No. 2 stations, but now none.

Policeman Jos. L. Potter, one of the accused men, was called to the stand, and pending his examination the trial board took a recess.

Proceedings Following Recess.

After recess Dr. Edgar Snowden was called to the stand. Dr. Snowden was the physician who had made an examination of the man who had died in the cell. In the absence of the deputy coroner he had been asked to look after his work.

Saturday, the 11th instant, he performed an autopsy on Totten's body. The morgue master did not assist him in the work, but he was present.

"The man died of acute gastritis," the doctor said.

The stomach was in a very much congested condition, and there was a congestion of the kidneys and of one of the lungs. The heart was in a good condition.

"There was no reason to believe that the man was a confirmed drunkard," testified the witness.

In answer to numerous queries no response was brought out indicating that Totten had been a confirmed drunkard. On the contrary, all the evidence tended to show that Totten had been on a "periodical" spree, and was in such a condition that it was impossible for him to talk.

"How would a layman diagnose such a case?"

The doctor did not directly answer this question.

"Is there any way whereby a layman might have told whether or not the man had acute gastritis?"

"The signs of suffering," was the answer.

Physician's Report Read.

The report of the physician was then read. There was no unusual discoloration on the face, but the witness afterward said that it looked as if the patient had been lying on his face.

"You state that the bladder was normal, but very full?"

"Yes."

"That was not in any way connected with the death?"

"No."

"It is your opinion that the man's death was due to acute gastritis—caused by drinking?"

"Yes," said the doctor.

"It is not unusual for a man not to be able to talk under such condition?"

"No."

The doctor left with the board his report, which was the substance of his testimony.

Policeman on Stand.

Policeman J. F. Potter, who was on duty when the man was brought in, was then recalled. The witness testified that he was in the office when Totten was searched.

"Did you see Totten when he was brought in?"

"Yes, sir."

Policeman Handy brought him, said the witness.

Totten had a florid complexion, he said.

Totten was put on the floor "flat," testified the witness, but his breath could be smelled across the desk, and it was plain he was drunk.

"We had three of the same kind the same day," the witness testified. "One of them was a woman, but she could walk."

"Is it part of your duties to visit the cells?" he was asked.

"Yes, sir."

"What are your instructions?"

"They are set forth in order No. 104."

A. Q. Campbell, A. P. Bradshaw and W. C. Matthews were held under bonds of $1,000 each on the charge of peonage at Columbus, Ga., yesterday. The men are superintendent, foreman and commissary, respectively, of the Atlanta and Birmingham Construction Company, railway contractors.

ON A SERIOUS CHARGE

JOHN CISCO COMMITTED TO ALEXANDRIA COUNTY JAIL.

John Cisco, an Italian laborer employed in the quarry of the Plymouth Stone Company on the upper Potomac, is in the Alexandria county jail on a charge of attempted rape, which crime in the Old Dominion is punishable by death..

Cisco, about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, it is declared, went to the home of Mrs. Bessie Welch on the Virginia shore opposite the "Three Sisters," drove the woman's two little boys away by threats of violence, battered down the door and attempted criminal assault. It is added that after a hard struggle, during which Cisco, who was armed with a knife, choked Mrs. Welch, she broke away, escaped through a window and fled down the road.

The Italian pursued her until held up at the muzzle of a shotgun by one of the woman's neighbors. Cisco today was arraigned before Justice of the Peace E. P. Thompson and held to await the action of the grand jury. He will not be tried prior to October 19 next. At the hearing today the county was represented by Commonwealth Attorney Crandal Mackey, while Machen & Moncure appeared for the defendant.

Cisco, who resided at the laborers' camp, about a mile and a half from the scene of the allegod attempted crime, it is said, prowled around the Welch house night before last, prepared to force an entrance, but was deterred by the fact that Mr. Welch was at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Welch came here from Front Royal, Va., the former being employed by the Brennan Construction Company.

TEXAS DEMOCRATS.

First Ballot for Governor at Dallas Convention.

DALLAS, Texas, August 16.—The democratic state convention held its third day's session today. Many delegates are denouncing the Terrell law, which requires a primary election and then a convention. Delegates, whoh were hopelessly confused last night by the fraction of votes, expressed today a hope that never again would they be forced to sit in a convention held under the present law.

A vote for a gubernatorial nominee was begun last night, but because of the confusion in the count, adjournment was taken at midnight. Today the first ballot for governor was as follows:

Campbell, 195,852; Bell, 156,489; Colquitt, 157,124; Brooks, 137,971.

This is simply the official result of the recent primaries. Under the rule Brooks, who received the lowest vote, was dropped and the convention proceeded to a second ballot.

BIG TRACTION TRANSFER.

Trolley Lines in New England Are Sold.

BOSTON, August 16.—The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, it was learned today, has disposed of all its trolley companies in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut to several individuals who have formed an association which is to be known as the New England Security and Investment Company. This action, it is believed, was taken as a result of Gov. Guild's message to the last legislature urging legislation which would prevent the transfer of Massachusetts transportation companies to aliens.

The transaction involves the sale of over 75 per cent of the street railways of Connecticut, together with lines running into New York and Rhode Island and numerous lines in Massachusetts.

PROBING WOMAN'S DEATH.

Chicago Police Believe It a Case of Murder.

CHICAGO, August 16.—An investigation of the death yesterday of Mrs. Mary Tobias, twenty years old, 186 Huron street, is being made by the police, who believe the case may prove to be a murder. David B. Tobias, the husband, was arrested and is being held.

Neighbors early in the day heard loud voices in the Tobias rooms. Some time afterward the husband left and all was quiet in the place. The rooms were entered and Mrs. Tobias was found dead, with the gas turned on at a jet. Search for Tobias was begun, but he was not found until evening, when he returned to the house. A small bottle labeled poison and containing several tablets was in one of Tobias' pockets. This led the police to decide that a postmortem examination of the victim should be made.

Camp Maneuvers by Regiments.

CAMP PATTISON, Strasburg, Ohio, August 16.—For the first time since the camp has been opened ammunition was furnished to the Ohio guardsmen today. The maneuvering was by regiments today, and each colonel was given his problem to solve. The foe was purely imaginary, but if two of the commands get within the same zone they will have to fight it out and extricate themselves and enemies. Preliminary skirmishing between detached regiments of the brown and blue armies will start Friday.

Facts About Canada.

Canada's railway mileage per head of population is greater than that of any other country.

In actual railway mileage Canada ranks eighth in the world.

Canada has nearly as much railway mileage as Great Britain.

Canada had only 3,000 miles of railways in 1867 at confederation.

Canada is building 5,000 miles of railways.

Railway passengers carried, 1904, 23,600,000.

Freight carried, 1904, 48½ million tons.

Railway gross earnings, 1904, 100 millions.

Working expenses, 1904, 74 millions; net earnings, 6 millions.

Forty Poisoned by Ice Cream.

Forty persons were poisoned by impure ice cream at Salisbury Beach, Mass., last evening, and six of the victims are in a serious condition. The names of the six are: Edward O'Connell, Michael Ring, Miss Susie Thayer, John Murphy, all of Haverhill; Miss Yvonne Adams of Manchester, N. H., and Miss Flossie S. Bigle of Lawrence. Nearly all the others affected are residents of Haverhill and vicinity. Yesterday was known as "Haverhill day" at the beach, and about 4,000 persons came from the city and nearby places. All those who became ill ate ice cream purchased from four venders of Newburyport. Emergency calls were sent to Newburyport, South Seabrooke and nearby places, and a dozen physicians hastened to the aid of the sufferers. Practically all of those affected were under twenty years of age. The physicians decided that the poisoning was due to ptomaines, from unclean cans containing ice cream.

Painfully Burned.

Miss Bell Gould, twenty-five years old, of 1224 New York avenue northwest, a waitress in the Wallis cafe, at 617 12th street northwest, was painfully scalded by hot coffee shortly before 2 o'clock this afternoon. She was sent in a cab to the Emergency Hospital. It was stated there that while the burns were serious, they are not regarded as endangering her life.

Miss Gould was hurrying through the pantry in the restaurant with a tray in her hands, when she ran into a person carrying another tray containing some very hot coffee. The collision upset the coffee and the hot fluid ran onto Miss Gould's shoulders. Her cries of pain attracted some other employes of the restaurant, and when it was seen that she had been badly burned she was sent to the hospital.

A mixed south-bound train on the Franklin and Pittsylvania line, leased by the Southern railway, was derailed at Redwood, Va., yesterday and the conductor, mail agent, and three passengers were injured, none of them fatally. Two cars left the track.

DENIED AS BASELESS

TRACHOMA NOT EPIDEMIC AT ELLIS ISLAND.

Of Immigrants Arriving More Have Been Afflicted With the Disease Than Usual.

Some disgust was evinced in the bureau of immigration today over the sensational statement in a New York paper that there was an epidemic of trachoma at the immigration station at Ellis island. Commissioner Sargent said, in speaking of the situation, that it was true there was more trachoma now than for several months past, but this was on account of the greater number of incoming immigrants found to be affected. This, he said, was always the case when there was a falling off in the westward rush of immigrants. The immigration companies—that is to say, the steamship lines who do the importing—are not in business for their health. They transport the live freight just as they would any other cargo, for what they can make out of them. In some seasons when there is a rush of immigration the steamship lines are more careful in the class of immigrants they pick and we get a better grade of imports as a rule. But when the rush falls off there is an effort made to fill up the steamers and the class of immigrants deteriorates correspondingly.

Under the law any immigrant afflicted with a loathsome or infectious disease is deported and in the case of immigrants with trachoma there is a fine, of $100 for every case that a steamship company wittingly brings to this country beside the fact that the immigrant has to be deported at the expense of the steamship line.

Prevalence of the Disease.

During the last month or more there has been a great prevalence of trachoma. This, it may be stated, is a disease of the eyes, like an aggravated form of granulated lids. Sometimes it will respond to treatment, and if an immigrant can afford to be kept under observation and pay for hospital attendance it can be cured. But there have been cases where an immigrant has been kept in the hospital for nine months or a year, and the disease was finally given up as chronic.

There are ways, too, of beating the inspection service. One of the first things that a medical inspector looks for is trachoma. Sometimes the eyes are so bad that it can be recognized at ten feet. Again, a suspeoted case has to be kept under observation for days or weeks. It is said that some of the immigrants who have light cases are furnished with a wash, such as is used in the regular treatment of the disease, and that by persistently using it on the trip across they are able to pass inspection. Of course, in the most of these cases the treatment is discontinued as soon as the immigrant lands, and the disease grows as bad as ever.

There were 127 deportations for trachoma during the first eleven days of this month, but that was an unusually large number.

The Remedy Suggested.

The remedy that has been suggested by the commissioner of immigration for three years past has been to station surgeons of the marine hospital service at the various ports of embarkation, and thus head off tho undesirables of all sorts, the diseased and the imbeciles and a lot of others that we get right along, and then have the trouble of deporting. But this is a move that will require the authority of Congress, and no action has yet been taken toward making the change in the law. There are fifteen or twenty ports that would have to be so watched, but the expense would not be large, while the saving from a humanitarian standpoint would be considerable.

SITUATION THE SAME

NO CHANGE NOTED REGARDING LOCAL BUILDING TIE-UP

While little or no change was noted in the strike situation of the building trades today there is said to exist a feeling of strong unrest in building and real estate circles over the probable outcome of the building tie-up.

The forty-five bricklayers who went on a strike at the union station last Monday resumed work this morning. This was the result of a conference between the arbitration board of bricklayers' union and J. C. McFarland & Co., the contractors, last evening. The cause of the walk-out of the men, it is stated, was the employment of laborers in placing the concrete slabs on the roof purlins, which the bricklayers claim as their work. At the conference last evening it was agreed that laborers could not place the slabs, and that the question whether this work is within classification of brick masonry, as defined in the law of the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union, will be refered to the judiciary board of that body to determine.

The master builders and other employers held a secret meeting last night at their hall, corner of 14th and G streets. The reporters who called were referred to the "press committee," consisting of C. A. Langley and James L. Marshall, presidents of the two organizations. Both declared it their policy to keep secret the affairs of the organization for the present. They were asked if it was true that an effort has been made by the journeymen plumbers to secure a conference between the master plumbers and the striking plumbers.

"Not to our knowledge," the committee replied. "We have nothing to do with the dispute between the journeymen plumbers and the masters."

As a result of the meeting of the stone cutters Tuesday night, all their members engaged on buildings where non-union plumbing is being placed, have gone on strike. They number about 150 men.

A meeting of the master plumbers will be held tomorrow afternoon. The masters declare they have nothing to arbitrate with the journeymen plumbers, who, they allege, violated their contract with the masters.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 16.—Application for a building permit was filed yesterday by the Merchants' Exchange, which wants to reconstruct its building at the corner of California and Leidersdorf streets at a cost of $700,000.

SALISBURY BEACH, Mass., August 16.—The six persons who were taken seriously ill last night as the result of eating ice cream which had been poisoned by unclean cans all passed the night comfortably, and it was believed today that all would recover.

NEW YORK, August 16.—Nine young women employed in a factory at 145 Center street experienced a narrow escape from death or serious injury today when the elevator in which they were ascending dropped four floors before the safety clutch stopped its fall. The sudden stoppage of the car painfully injured four of the women. The operator of the elevator sustained a fracture of the leg.

LONDON, August 16.—A dispatch to a news agency from Odessa says that early this morning fifteen anarchists took possession of the railway freight station there, killed a police inspector and three policemen who resisted them, and carried off $8,000.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 16.—The sultan has ordered the release of all the prisoners in the empire who have completed two-thirds of their sentences as a mark of gratification for the recovery of his health.

TORONTO, Ont., August 16.—Dr. Archibald Links of Michigan was drowned in the rapids of Moon river yesterday. His canoe upset.

New Home for Norfolk Elks.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NORFOLK, Va., August 16.—Norfolk Lodge of Elks today decided to raze their present club house and erect at once a modern building to cost $25,000.

HUGHES FOR GOVERNOR

REPORTED ODELL-QUIGG-PLATT COMBINE IN NEW YORK.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, August 16.—It is reported on very good authority in this city that the Odell-Quigg and Platt combine have decided to agree to support Charles E. Hughes of insurance investigation fame if he will stand for governor. It is said that they have the consent of Hughes.

A man who stands as close to Odell as a man can stand is the authority for the assertions that the Odell forces want Hughes; that the Higgins faction are ready to take up Hughes; that Hughes is in every way acceptable to Oyster Bay, and finally that Odell already has the promise of Hughes that he will accept the nomination if it is made clear to him that if he is the choice of a harmonious and solidified convention.

WAS SEVERELY BURNED

GASOLINE STOVE EXPLODED, THE RESULT BEING SERIOUS.

Mrs. Ellen Ringold, colored, thirty-three years of age, of 315 3d street southeast, was seriously and possibly fatally burned this afternoon about 1 o'clock during a fire in her home, following the explosion of a gasoline stove. The woman received painful burns about the legs, arms and shoulders. She was taken to Providence Hospital, where the injuries were dressed. Her sister received minor burns on the hands.

Mrs. Ringold was working over the gasoline stove in the kitchen shortly before 1 o'clock, when the explosion occurred.

The flames spread to the cotton dress she was wearing. The woman screamed for help and her sister responded. The flames were extinguished only after Mrs. Ringold had been severely burned.

"She will probably recover," a surgeon at the hospital stated, "but she will be confined to the hospital for a long time. Skin grafting may be necessary to save her life."

The explosion of the gasoline also set fire to the furniture and woodwork of the room in which the stove was located. A telephone message was sent to No. 8 engine company, which quickly responded and extinguished the blaze.

OHIO BANKERS' MEETING

ADDRESS BY M. E. INGALLS FEATURE OF THE DAY.

PUT-IN-BAY, Ohio, August 16.—At today's session of the Ohio Bankers' Association here resolutions were adopted by which the association declared itself in favor of immediate legislation by Congress to foster and protect American shipping and our export trade, and to provide a naval reserve for the greater efficiency of our sea power; declaring for national and state legislation; forbidding political contributions by national banks and other corporations, and requesting the revision of present Ohio banking laws. Among the speakers today were: Charles E. Townsend of Jackson, Mich.; William A. Prendergast of New York; William Berryman of the Union Trust Company, Pittsburg, and M. E. Ingalls of Cincinnati.

Mr. Ingalls said in part:

Melville E. Ingalls, president of the Merchants' National Bank of Cincinnati and chairman of the Big Four railway, created something of a stir by declaring that the greatest menace to American business and banking interests today is the various trade laws which have been passed, particularly the Hepburn and the Sherman acts. The United States, he said, had just started in its development, and htis development depends upon wise and generous encouragement. Yet, under the construction placed upon the Sherman act by the courts, a business man who comes to any agreement with competitors is guilty of an act in restraint of trade and is liable to punishment. Mr. Ingalls believed that the common people would suffer more from such a suppression of business as a result of this law than any one else.

Mr. Ingalls, describing the new Hepburn bill, said it was the shippers who tempted the railroads. He thought the laws recently passed by Congress and numerous state legislatures ought to be entitled "Laws in restraint of the commerce of the country." Mr. Ingalls predicted that within two years the halls of Congress would be filled with shippers demanding a change in the recently enacted statutes.

The speaker also touched upon the banking situation and said he was convinced that the United States had the best currency system in the world, but that some changes were needed.

Prosperity in America, he said, was now at a great height. He sounded a note of warning against the growing tendency of extravagance among the American people. As an illustration he pointed to the fact that $400,000,000 had been spent in automobiles in the last three or four years, and this was but one item.

PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

General Discord Prevails Over Drago Doctrine Resolution.

RIO DE JANEIRO, August 16.—General discord prevails among the members of the committee of the International American Conference having the Drago doctrine resolution under consideration. Central America, Uruguay and Colombia desire the elimination of the whole subject from the program, and Brazil, the United States and Mexico desire its recommendation to The Hague tribunal without comment. Argentina is vacillating.

The commerce committee's partial report was adopted today. It recommends that an expert work out a plan for unifying the customs and shipping laws of Pan-America, the bureau of American republics to supply the statistics.

The Pan-American railway committee is combining on a report recommending that the railway be constructed by each of the countries interested, who shall establish a central bureau, which shall transmit information, and advising that a uniform gauge be decided upon. The American delegation has submitted a report urging the adoption of sanitary precautions against yellow ever and tuberculosis and recommending the appointment of a Pan-American sanitary commission.

CHANGE OF NAME.

Claim That "Whitney Avenue" Should Exist Forever.

Whether or not the name "Whitney avenue" was wrongfully taken away from the thoroughfare formerly bearing that title in connection with the changes in street names recently placed in effect by the District Commissioners is a question which is receiving the attention of the Commissioners and of the board of commissioners of the Soldiers' Home. Protest against the name being changed to "Park road" was made a few days ago by Geo. W. Whitney of Chicago, Ill., who, in a letter to the Commissioners, declared that land for the street was dedicated by his uncle, the late Asa Whitney, with the understanding that it should ever bear the name "Whitney avenue."

It seems that the land originally was transferred by Asa Whitney to the United States in trust for the Soldiers' Home, and William P. Richards, surveyor, D. C., in a report on the case, states that there does appear on one of the transfers a stipulation concerning the name. Mr. Richards concludes, however, that there is nothing binding the District Commissioners to retain the name "Whitney avenue," and he recommends that the question be submitted to the Department of Justice for adjudication. In the meantime the papers in the case have gone to the board of commissioners of the Soldiers' Home with a request for their views.

SPECIAL TAX CANCELLATION.

Action by Commissioners on Attorney's Request.

Basing their claim on the decision of the Court of Appeals that the District Commissioners were without power to change the width of a street in the District, once the width had been established, a number of residents of 5th street between East Capitol and C streets, through Attorneys Hallam & Hallam, have protested to the Commissioners against the special assessments made against their various lots on account of the recent laying of a new curb. The attorneys, in a formal letter demanding the cancellation of the special tax, declare that the curb would never have been laid and the consequent following assessment levied unless 5th street had been narrowed, and this narrowing they characterize as "illegal."

Capt. Jay J. Morrow, assistant to the Engineer Commissioner, has recommended "that there is nothing in the letter from Hallam & Hallam to justify the Commissioners in canceling the special assessment, and that the Commissioners, therefore, must decline to take that step."

This stand in the premises has been approved by Commissioners West and Biddle.

PETITION IN BANKRUPTCY.

Laporte (Ind.) Company Embarrassed by Bank Failure.

LAPORTE, Ind., August 16.—A petition asking that the Planett Manufacturing Company of this city, manufacturers of picture frame and room molding, be declared bankrupt, was filed today in the federal court here by the American National Bank of Pensacola, Fla.; the Union Bank and Trust Company, Montgomery, Ala., and the First National Bank, Evergreen, Ala. Emmet Scott was last week appointed receiver for the company by Judge Richter of the Laporte circuit court upon petition of local creditors. Foreign creditors were not satisfied and asked the federal court to appoint another receiver.

It is estimated that the assets of the company are $175,000; liabilities $225,000. Failure of the Bank of America, Chicago and the Creelman Lumber Company are connected with the financial troubles of the Planett Company.

SYNDICATE LOST HEAVILY.

Seven Brewery Plants Burned at San Francisco—Will Rebuild.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 16.—Fourteen years ago a British syndicate bought up at an expense of $10,000,000 seven breweries in San Francisco.

In the late fire the syndicate lost all of its plants. Yesterday the London representatives of the syndicate wired their local agents that after a careful resume of the San Francisco situation they had decided to spend $2,000,000 in erecting a modern eight-story building on 2d street, near Howard.

Christian Workers' Conference.

NORTHFIELD, Mass., August 16.—At the general conference for Christian workers today, the Rev. R. A. Torrey of Philadelphia addressed the camp conference at Camp Northfield, and Rev. G. Campbell Morgon of London, England, continued his series of addresses on "The Book of Deuteronomy." Rev. H. W. Pope of New Haven, Conn., gave the first of a series of three addresses on Christian living, after which Rev. G. A. Johnson—Lord of Cambridge—continued his address on "The Gospel of St. John."

Naval Orders.

Capt. J. N. Hemphill, from the navy yard, New York, N. Y., to duty as president of the board of inspection and survey, this city.

Commander G. R. Clark, from the navy yard, Norfolk, Va., to command the Texas.

Lieut. Commander C. P. Plunkett, from the Texas to the Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me., for duty in connection with fitting out the Georgia and duty on board that vessel as executive officer when commissioned.

Lieut. H. I. Cone, from the naval torpedo station, Newport, R. I., to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Newport News, Va. for duty in connection with fitting out the Minnesota, and duty as senior engineer officer on board that vessel when commissioned.

Lieut. A. W. Hinds, from the naval proving grounds, Indian Head, Md., to command the Potomac.

Lieut. P. Foley, from the Puritan, to his home and await orders.

Ensign L. E. Morgan, to the Puritan as senior engineering officer.

Passed Assistant Paymaster N. W. Grant, to the navy yard, New York, N. Y., for duty as assistant to the officer in charge of the navy pay office, and also duty in charge of allotments and disbursements.

Warrant Machinist L. H. Wentworth, from the works of the Babcock & Wilcox Company, Bayonne, N. J., to the Tennessee.

Warrant Machinist C. A. Rowe, from the navy yard, Norfolk, Va., to the works of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, Quincy, Mass., for duty in connection with fitting out the Vermont, and duty on board that vessel when commissioned.

Pharmacist F. W. Breck, from the navy yard, Norfolk, Va., to the naval medical supply depot, naval station, Cavite, P. I.

Robbed by Footpad.

While walking through D street between 12th and 13th streets northwest, last night, Harry H. Holtry of 490 Louisiana avenue northwest was attacked, knocked down and robbed of $25. He reported the incident to the police today and they are endeavoring to learn the identity of the robber or robbers.

Body of Murdered Woman Identified.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., August 16.—Chief of Police Ross of this city received word last night from a Los Angeles detective department that an anonymous letter has been received stating that the unidentified body of a murdered woman found a week ago in Temescal canyon, near Santa Monica, was that of Mrs. Clara Armstrong of this city. Horace Lawn, a brother of Mrs. Armstrong, says she left here about four weeks ago, and she was engaged to marry "Posey" Horton, who found the body.

Work on New Terminal Station.

The Commissioners today authorized the permit clerk, District of Columbia, to grant an extension of the time limit in the permit of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for the completion of work on the new terminal station until August 19, 1907.

News Briefs.

The Jam of Navanagar is dead. He left no heirs. Prince Ranjitsinhji, the celebrated Indian cricketer, champion batsman of all England in 1896 and 1900, was the adopted son of the jam's father, and formerly in the succession, but he was passed over. Owing to the absence of heirs there is a strong chance of Prince Ranjitsinhji succeeding to the throne.

J. Harry Cowley, a business man of Lansing, Mich., faced Justice Baldorf yesterday with confidence that he can escape conviction on the charge of attempting to use fraudulent Union Pacific railroad stock valued at $10,000 as collateral for a loan with the Central National Bank of Battle Creek.

Advices from Brownsville, Tex., state that the negro garrison near there has quieted down, and an investigation is in progress to determine who were the participants in the disorders of Tuesday night, when one man was shot and killed by the negro troops. Gov. Lanham, it is stated, will not interfere in the matter.

E. W. Sims, solicitor for the Department of Commerce and Labor, sent to the St. Paul seal rookeries to investigate conditions, arriving there two days after the killing of five Japanese poachers, returned to Seattle yesterday on the steamer Jefferson. He confirmed in the main the details of the affair already published.

IN CANNON'S DISTRICT

Failure of Democrats to Name a Candidate.

FIGHT REGARDED AS VAIN

Demands Made by the Labor Leaders.

WHY THE POLITICIANS BALKED

Unwilling to Stand Without Reservation on the Platform That Was Proposed.

The failure of the democrats of the eighteenth Illinois district to nominate a candidate for Congress to oppose Speaker Cannon is now being commented upon as of especial significance, not only in that district, but in a minor way all over the country where the Federation of Labor influences are strongest, and in cases in which it has been given out that the federation would lend its strength to defeating certain candidates, both republican and democratic.

According to the usual method pursued in Illinois, a candidate to oppose Mr. Cannon should have been nominated at the primary election. That was not done. Just why it was not done is not fully understood, but there is a consensus of opinion that it was not an oversight. No one seemed to care to take up the burden of a democratic nomination in that district, although it was announced in good time that the democratic nominee, if he should be a man acceptable to the Federation of Labor, would have the support of that organization in its fight to defeat Mr. Cannon.

Some democrats still claim that it is not too late to name a candidate for the democracy by petition, but that position is opposed by others, who declare that such a proceeding would not be in accordance with the law; in fact, that it could not stand in law. Whatever the case may be eventually it is certain that there is no evidence of organized opposition to Mr. Cannon that is likely to defeat him. At the last election he had 30,000 votes to 15,000 votes cast for his democratic opponent, and it was a pretty good democratic year, too.

The Labor Leaders' Demands.

But the reasons that have combined to throw cold water over the democratic candidacy are declared to be very significant. When it was first given out that the influence of the Federation of Labor as an organization would be behind an opponent to Speaker Cannon there was a jubilant spirit in the democratic camp. It seemed like a good thing to have the help of that powerful organization. The democrats in Mr. Cannon's district felt that things were coming their way; but when the time to nominate a candidate approached and the terms of the federation's support became apparent to the leaders in the district, and to leaders in other parts of the country as well, it didn't seem quite so good.

The democrat would have to stand for the legislation that has been urged before Congress by the federation. He would have to be absolutely satisfactory to the federation leaders in the district. Then they realized that while they were fixing to catch that part of the vote they were alienating other democratic voters who were plain-spoken in declaring that they were not ready to join hands in such a definite proposition. They were perfectly willing to nominate a man who would in a general way be known as a friend of labor and of labor organizations, but they could not go so far as to stand back of the entire labor program.

Importance of Cannon's Defeat.

There was still another phase of the problem that reached beyond the confines of the eighteenth district. It was understood that if Mr. Cannon was to be defeated in that district it would be necessary to make a long pull and a pull all together. Eminent democrats should be brought into the district, it was said, in order to work up as strong a sentiment as possible against Mr. Cannon. Some of the democrats there believed they could get the help of the leaders, if not that of Mr. Bryan himself, in order to accomplish so important a purpose as the defeat of the republican Speaker of the House of Representatives. They thought that would be a victory of sufficient importance to call out the efforts of the congressional committee, and even of the national committee, because of its effects on the next national election.

But with the proposition to make the defeat of Mr. Cannon a national issue then there was another danger. By so doing the democratic party was going hand in hand with the proposition of standing back of a fight, the winning of which involved an attitude of compliance with the legislative demands of the Federation of Labor. The democratic party wants to be known as the friend of labor, but some of the leading democrats stood aghast when they were confronted with the danger of having it understood that they were committed to a definite labor program because of the effect of that report in many other districts where such a reputation might lead to the loss of support that would otherwise be given to democratic candidates. They discovered that it was a two-edged sword.

Fight Watched With Interest.

Speaker Cannon has said that he would take no part in the campaign in his own behalf, but would leave it to his constituents. His statement of the Federation of Labor issue will be read everywhere in his district, as it will be elsewhere. The course that will be taken by his democratic and other opponents will be watched with the greatest interest.

While these peculiar conditions have arisen in Mr. Cannon's district, and may be regarded as typical of conditions to a certain extent elsewhere, both republican and democratic leaders, who have been involved in one way or another in this controversy in respect to legislation urged by the Federation of Labor, are inclined to claim they are favorable to the best interests of labor, but that they cannot commit themselves to definite plans because of the view they may take as to the constitutionality or a desirability of those plans.

THE ORDER OF EAGLES.

Contests for Various Offices Today—The Annual Parade.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., August 16.—Contests for the various offices of the Grand Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles began in earnest today. When nominating speeches were made for grand worthy president the contest for this office had narrowed down to the present head of the order, H. G. Davis, and Edward Krause of Wilmington, Del. W. N. Carr, who had been an active candidate, withdrew from the contest today and nominated Mr. Davis. S. B. Wadsworth of Iowa, who was also a candidate for the high office, also withdrew in favor of Davis. P. J. Barrett of Omaha, another candidate, withdrew in favor of Mr. Krause. The forenoon was taken up with nominating and seconding speeches, leaving the choice for president between Davis and Krause.

For grand worthy vice president Charles B. Coon of Port Townsend, Wash., who is at present worthy chaplain, and Representative Theodore Bell of California were nominated. The convention then took a recess until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The annual parade took place this afternoon. The parade consisted of seven divisions, aeries from nearly every state in the Union being in line.

Twelve "sand hogs" had a desperate fight to escape death Tuesday night in the East river tunnel near the Battery, New York. The men were at work in the heading of the north tube of the tunnel connecting the Battery with Brooklyn when part of the roof blew out.