

CLAIM BOOKS WERE BURNED

SENSATIONAL CHARGES AGAINST STANDARD OIL COMPANY.

Trust Had Been Ordered by Ohio Supreme Court to Present Records Before Investigating Commission—Drunk Employees Gave Away Information in a Saloon.

Cleveland, Dec. 21.—Developments of a sensational nature in the Standard Oil investigation came to light to-day, when Attorney General Monett began taking depositions for the purpose of proving that the Standard Oil company, just previous to the issuance of a recent order by the supreme court that the books of the company be produced in evidence, had destroyed a large number of its books. Upon the strength of the information received by the attorney general from reliable business men and attorneys that it could be proved that the Standard Oil company had burned a lot of its books, journals, ledgers and other valuable books, the state served notice upon the Standard Oil company that depositions would be taken before a notary in the office of Attorney Harry C. Mason in this city to-day.

During the investigation of the Standard Oil trust before Commissioner Brinsmade a few weeks ago the Standard company refused to produce its books in evidence. The matter was taken to the supreme court and on December 1 that court ordered the Standard Oil company to produce its books covering the period from 1832 to 1897 to show whether the company had paid dividends during that time to the holders of the trust certificates. Previous to the decision of the supreme court Virgil F. Kline, attorney for the company, spent several days at Columbus, and it is alleged that he received information beforehand in regard to the court's decision and at once notified the officials of the company. Attorney General Monett expects to be able to prove that the officials of the Standard Oil company destroyed their books three or four nights before the supreme court ordered F. S. Squire, secretary of the company, to produce the company's books in evidence.

The most important witness produced was John Darmstetter, rabbi of a Bohemian church. Rabbi Darmstetter testified that one evening three or four weeks ago he went into the saloon of E. H. Pollock to see Pollock, who is an official of his church. Pollock was waiting upon several Bohemian laborers who were employed by the Standard Oil company, and he sat down until the saloonkeeper got through with his customers. Darmstetter said that one of the men in the saloon was quite hilarious and was asked: "Why are you fellows doing so much drinking?" "Two of the men then flashed a roll of bills and said that they had got some good stuff working overtime. One of them, a teamster, said that he and another teamster had loaded up a lot of books at the Euclid avenue office of the Standard Oil company and had taken them to the company's furnaces, where they were burned.

Attorney General Monett secured the residence and name of one of the drivers and when a constable went to subpoena him the man exclaimed: "My job is gone if I have to testify." Another teamster of the Standard Oil company when informed that he would probably be called upon to testify, is reported to have said: "They can't catch me; what we took were boxes, and I can't tell what they contained." Rabbi Darmstetter when placed upon the witness stand was unwilling to testify, saying that if he did so it would injure the members of his congregation, many of whom were employed by the Standard Oil company. The depositions of five other witnesses were taken, but nothing important was brought out. An effort was made to subpoena E. A. Pollock, the saloonkeeper, but he could not be found.

Frank Rockefeller, L. M. Severance and F. E. Squire have been subpoenaed as witnesses. Edward O'Ahern, a teamster in the employ of the Standard Oil company, was placed on the witness stand. He testified that on the Saturday before Thanksgiving day he was ordered to go to the office of the company on Euclid avenue and carry some boxes from there to the company's warehouse on Independence street. He said he got the boxes, sixteen in number, and delivered them as ordered. He said he did not know the names of the employees who turned the boxes over to him nor of those who received them at the warehouse. In dimensions they were about two feet long and eighteen inches broad. He declared that he did not know what was in them and denied having made the declaration in a saloon that they contained account books.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL

Committee to Investigate Efforts to Obstruct Its Construction.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Senator Morgan secured the passage by the senate to-day of a resolution authorizing the Nicaragua canal commission to investigate the alleged efforts to obstruct the construction of the Nicaraguan canal. The resolution follows: That the committee on the construction of the Nicaragua canal is authorized to sit during the recess of the senate or when the senate is in session and send for persons and papers, administer oaths to witnesses and examine them touching any agreements or combinations or corporations in reference to the proposed canal through the republic of Nicaragua entered into for the purpose of defeating or controlling the construction of such canal for the personal emolument or advantage of such persons or for the benefit of such corporations.

RATIFICATION OF TREATY.

An Opinion That It is Certain—The Philippine Question.

New York, Dec. 21.—Hon. Clark Howell, member of the democratic national committee from Georgia and editor of the Atlanta Constitution, after consulting with the leaders of both the political parties at Washington, telegraphed as follows to his paper to-night: "With the adjournment of congress for the holidays the final decision on the peace treaty is as clear as it will be after a vote has been taken in the senate. Two weeks ago the matter was in doubt—to-day it is as certain the treaty will be ratified as it will be that it has after the vote has been taken. Mr. Bryan has been in Washington for several days and he is outspoken in the opinion that aside from the question of national obligation it is a matter of party policy for the democrats to throw no obstacle in the way of ratification.

Mr. Howell then says, after the treaty has been finally disposed of, a resolution will be introduced making declaration of the proposed policy of this government in dealing with the Philippines and that this resolution will be framed very much on the basis of the Cuban resolution, adopted co-incidentally with the declaration of war, in which it was declared that the policy of this government would be to give the people of Cuba a free and independent government of their own.

He says: The republicans as a body will favor the ratification of the peace treaty and will oppose any further action. They will hold that it will be time to cross the Philippine bridge when they get to it, and in the meantime the islands should be held under strict military government and that, if in God's own time it is demonstrated that the Filipinos are able to take care of themselves and desire to maintain a government of their own, it will be time enough for the United States to take up the question and act accordingly.

Mr. Howell's summary concludes as follows: As the result of the final encounter over the resolution it may be that the country will witness the spectacle of badly severed party lines and that out of it may be furnished the battle cries around which will be formed the lines of the next presidential fight.

A SCHOOL TEACHER'S DEFIANCE.

Miss Mabel Sullivan Resists Efforts to Depose Her in Tolland.

Rockville, Dec. 21.—The unusual spectacle of a school teacher who will not be deposed is now creating some little excitement throughout the entire town of Tolland, but particularly in school district five, which is the scene of the defiance. The school has been in charge of Miss Mabel Sullivan, whose home is in Wapping and who is a teacher of a few years' experience. There are ten scholars who attend the school. The district committee, George Draper, claims that Miss Sullivan is incompetent, and wished to depose her, but she would not be ousted. The board of school visitors were then communicated with, Miss Sullivan's resignation asked for and Miss Annie Chapman appointed to succeed her. But the resignation was not forthcoming. Miss Chapman attends the school every day and so does the board of visitors to prevent trouble. There is one pupil loyal to the old teacher, and Miss Sullivan goes through the recitations with this one. It is claimed by some of the residents that the teacher had a new lock put on the door and she carries the key. A district meeting will be held next Tuesday evening and the matter will be definitely settled.

FOUND DEAD IN NEW YORK.

Thomas S. Marlow of Brooklyn, Conn., Said to be a Millionaire.

New York, Dec. 21.—Thomas S. Marlow, said to be a millionaire of Brooklyn, Conn., died here to-day at the Park avenue hotel from heart failure. He came to the city a few days ago. He retired last night, apparently feeling well. This morning he had a fainting spell and died within an hour. Mr. Marlow was fifty-nine years old. In the early sixties he made a fortune in a few days on the stock exchange and retired at the age of twenty-nine to live in his income. He went to Brooklyn, Conn., where he built a handsome country seat. He still kept his seat on the stock exchange, but took no active part in business. He was a presidential elector from New York in 1888. His brother Henry, another millionaire, a retired broker, lives at Brooklyn, Conn., and another brother Thomas, who is the treasury department at Washington.

BALTIMORE BREWERS COMBINE.

Seventeen Companies Organize the Maryland Brewing Company.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 21.—Seventeen of the large brewing companies of this city have consolidated under the name of the Maryland Brewing company, and negotiations are pending for the absorption of the remaining four. The new company will issue \$3,250,000 of common stock; \$2,250,000 of 6 per cent. preferred stock; and \$7,500,000 of 6 per cent. first mortgage gold bonds. The former owners of the plants that have been merged will retain \$4,000,000 of the bonds, leaving \$3,500,000 to be sold. The consolidation will go into effect next month. The indications are that there will be a war between the brewers.

Maxim-Hamilton.

Hagerstown, Md., Dec. 21.—Hiram Percy Maxim, of Hartford, Conn., and Miss Josephine Hamilton, daughter of the late Governor William T. Hamilton, were married here to-day at St. John's Protestant Episcopal church. The Rev. Henry Evans officiated. There was a full choral service. The maid of honor was Miss Leonor Hamilton, sister of the bride, and the best man was Thomas W. Goodridge of Hartford, Conn.

CUBANS IN HAVANA REJOICE

EFFIGIES OF WEYLER HANGED BY JEERING CROWDS.

Processions March and Counter-march Streets—Business Virtually Suspended—Spanish Shopkeepers Compelled to Shout "Viva Cuba Libre" and to Wave Cuban Flags.

Havana, Dec. 21.—Effigies of General Weyler hang this afternoon at Cerro, a suburb of Havana surrounded by jeering crowds, while small processions march and counter-march along the streets, shouting constantly. Business is virtually suspended in consequence of the rejoicings over the approaching evacuation. In some instances bands of Cubans have visited Spanish shopkeepers and compelled them to shout "Viva Cuba Libre" and to wave Cuban flags. Senora Fortes, the lady who entertained the Cuban generals, Sanguly and Loceret, and other Cuban officers at a dance at her residence in Cerro last evening sent a message to the United States military commissioners, suggesting that the Spanish soldiers might invade Cerro and raid her house. Major Harrison, though taking no account of her fears, stationed two guards in front of the residence. Printed papers insulting to the Spaniards and threatening to kill them after January 1, continue to be circulated in various parts of the islands. The alcalde of Santiago de las Vegas has seized large quantities of such clandestine prints and burned them. The Cuban patriotic commissions are planning for a five days' feast after January 1, during which all business is to be suspended.

The United States and Spanish military commissioners will meet on Friday to arrange the details of the final taking over of the city on January 1. The Spanish troops withdrew to-night from the strip of Havana that lies west of Chaves Creek. The American guards being immediately moved up. The sentries of both forces are now on the bridge, but amicable relations are maintained. Major General Harrison gave orders late this afternoon that an effigy of General Weyler that had caused a good deal of disturbance in that locality, should be taken down, and thousands gathered this evening to witness the carrying out of the order.

A Spanish paper manufacturer complained to General Lee this evening that the Cuban general, Julio Sanguly, had called upon him and ordered him to display Cuban and American flags from his factory on penalty of death for refusal. General Lee immediately had guards stationed at the factory. Last night several shots were fired from a cigar factory in Cerro at houses of Cubans near by. The proprietor, believing that they were fired by Spaniards, complained to Major Harrison, who announced that if the firing was repeated the factory would be closed.

HEAVY FOG IN NEW YORK.

Shipping and Traffic Seriously Interrupted—Vessels Delayed.

New York, Dec. 21.—A heavy fog hung over this city and vicinity to-day and shipping traffic was seriously interrupted. The sound steamers were practically tied up. The Pilgrim of the Fall River line was anchored off Whitestone, L. I., and her passengers came to this city to-night over the Long Island railroad. The Pilgrim is not expected to come to this city until morning. To-night the fog grew thicker than it had been during the afternoon. The pilots of river craft managed to make their trips, but with considerable delay. No mishaps had been reported up to midnight. None of the big liners ventured further down the bay than quarantine.

THE MAYFLOWER SOCIETY.

Annual Meeting Held in New London—Officers Elected.

New London, Conn., Dec. 21.—The annual meeting of the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants took place at the Crocker house, this city, this evening. Following the presentation of the reports of the secretary, treasurer and historian officers were elected. The new officers are: Governor, Hon. Wm. Waldon Hyde, Hartford; deputy governor, Hon. Henry A. Morgan, Aurora, N. Y.; secretary, Henry R. Bond, Jr., New London; historian, Edwin A. Hill, Washington, D. C.; treasurer, Lawrence W. Miner, New London; elder, Rev. J. G. Johnson, Amherst, Mass.; captain, Royal B. Bradford, Washington, D. C.; board of assistants, Wm. Stark, Percy C. Eggleston, Mrs. Charles B. Jennings, Mrs. Frank H. Arms, Mrs. George D. Whittlesey, Mrs. Katharine A. Bramble, all of New London. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe was the guest of honor. The report of the historian showed that Connecticut still held the lead in point of membership and that New London had the largest society in the state and Hartford the second largest.

Fight With Moonshiners.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 21.—A Big Stone Gap special reports a fight this morning near Flat Top, Ky., between revenue officers and moonshiners in which Sam May, one of the revenue officers, and two of his companions, were killed. The fatalities among the moonshiners are not known. The moonshiners are thoroughly organized and have served notice that all informers will be ambushed.

Pope Writes Don Carlos.

London, Dec. 22.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says: In response to another appeal from the queen regent of Spain, the pope has confidentially written to Don Carlos, asking him to stop the Carlist agitation for the advance.

FOUND DEAD IN LOCKUP.

George Otway, Colored, Arrested on Webster Street Last Night.

A colored man was found dead in the lockup at police headquarters shortly before 3 o'clock this morning. At 12:30 last night he was found lying in the gutter in Webster street by Patrolman W. C. Allen of Station 4. The wagon was called and by 1 o'clock the fellow was stretched out in the lockup. He was very drunk and soon was snoring. Signal Officer Bradley made his usual inspections of the prisoners and the time before the last the man was found in a drunken sleep. On the discovery of his death Dr. White was summoned. The Dixwell avenue police are about certain that the man is George Otway alias "Tom Pepper," who has been seen frequently of late on Webster street, where he had done chores about a saloon. It is said that Otway last night fell in with a man who had just received pension money and that it was spent freely. It is also said that whiskey was put into the beer of Otway each time he drank. The man is about forty years old and has no family so far as known.

A DESTITUTE MARCHIONESS.

Removed to a Workhouse Infirmary—A Pitiful Story.

London, Dec. 21.—Ill, miserably clad and apparently in acute destitution, the marchioness of Donegal applied yesterday for admittance to the Great Northern hospital, from which place she was removed to the Islington workhouse infirmary. She explained that she was homeless and not willing to communicate with her wealthy friends, or with her husband, who is suffering from pneumonia. The story of the life of the marchioness is painful. She left her husband in 1873 and in 1889 instituted separation proceedings. Unsavory details of their conjugal life were bandied about. The marchioness failed to obtain alimony and has since received assistance from her friends. In May last she broke her leg in a hotel and was taken to a hospital. The marquess has had a troubled financial career. He was declared a bankrupt in 1889 with liabilities estimated at £218,151. He then said he was justified in raising a half million of money in view of the fact that he had prospects of succeeding to an estate amounting to £500,000, but, owing to the entail, he only succeeded to £180,000. He was mixed up in financial flotation this year, when he lent his name to a company prospectus, which caused the Star to criticize his as a "peer with a record of disgracing the order to which he belonged."

NEW TARIFF CONTROVERSIES.

Believed to be Imminent Between the United States and Germany.

London, Dec. 21.—The Berlin correspondent of the Daily News says: "If symptoms are not deceptive, new tariff controversies are imminent between the United States and Germany. The protectionists here assert that Dr. Von Holleben, German ambassador to the United States, has been instructed to demand a reduction in the duties on sugar, wine and textiles. With regard to wine Germany claims, on the ground of the most favored treaty arrangement, the same reduction as is granted to France."

Building of the Shamrock.

London, Dec. 21.—The Yachting World apparently confirms the report that Sir Thomas Lipton has entrusted the building of the Shamrock, challenger for the America's cup, to the Thorneycrofts. The paper adds that the yacht will be built at Poplar. The Thorneycrofts have never yet constructed a racing yacht.

The Government of Crete.

Canea, Dec. 21.—Prince George has issued a proclamation promising to govern with justice and impartiality, securing liberty to all without distinction. This evening he drove through the brilliantly illuminated streets and was enthusiastically cheered by the inhabitants, many of whom carried torches.

Probing Charges of Cowardice.

New York, Dec. 21.—The court of inquiry appointed to probe the charges of cowardice made against Major Clinton E. Smith and Captain John H. Whittle of the 71st regiment by Captain William H. Meeks and Captain Anthony J. Bleeker, held its first session here to-night. Colonel Alexander Bacon was present as counsel for Major Smith and Major John H. Hayn as counsel for Captain Whittle. Colonel Samuel H. Welch of the 65th regiment, Buffalo, president of the court, announced that after to-night's adjournment the court would again convene on December 29, and that the sessions would be secret. Counsel for the accused officers protested against executive sessions, but Colonel Welch was firm. He stated that anyone could testify. Captain Bleeker submitted a long list of witnesses and the court adjourned. After the meeting Colonel Welch said: "The reason for the secret sessions is to enable witnesses to speak freely. What junior officer would criticize his superior publicly?"

To Advance Price of Brooms.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—The Broom Manufacturers' association of the United States met to-day and unanimously voted to advance the price of brooms twenty-five cents a dozen. The opinion was expressed that an additional advance was certain to be made within the next few weeks. A serious shortage in broom corn was given as the reason for the advance.

INVESTIGATION OF THE WAR

GEN. MERRITT TESTIFIED AFTER GEN. MILES YESTERDAY.

The Operations Against Manila—The Insurgents and the Spaniards to be Contended With—The Spaniards Lacked "Sand"—Never Possible to Obtain Their Loss.

Washington, Dec. 21.—General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the United States army, and General Wesley Merritt, commander of the American forces at the capture of Manila, were the principal figures before the war investigation commission to-day. General Miles responded to the summons of the commission only after several days' consideration. He was accompanied by his own stenographer. His examination was comparatively brief and not sensational. He spoke with some bitterness as to the "embalmed beef" and the canned beef furnished the army in the field. This he characterized as an experiment for which "some one in Washington" was responsible. He said that the landing facilities of the Santiago expedition were inadequate and that the men were short of rations and medicines and might have been better protected from exposure to fever conditions.

General Merritt told the commission that he regarded the Philippine expedition as a decided success and would conduct it on the same lines if he had to do it over. He began his testimony by a description of the operations around Manila prior to its capture. Owing to the smallness of his force he said the army was compelled to operate along the sea front in co-operation with the navy. Had there been a larger American force on hand the city could have been taken from the high ground inland, but this was tactically impracticable without leaving our base at the mercy of both the Spaniards and the insurgents. The city's defenses were good. The Spaniards had excellent arms and plenty of ammunition. All they lacked was "sand." The engagement lasted not over two hours. The army had both Spaniards and insurgents to contend with. "The insurgents were very anxious to take part in the attack," said General Merritt, "but they were not notified when the attack would be made, as I was sure the entrance of the Filipinos into the city would mean unnecessary bloodshed and some looting."

General Merritt said that the American losses were not correctly stated in the press reports. There were about 120 officers and men killed and wounded. No accurate account of the Spanish loss was ever obtainable. The American force, however, captured over 12,000 stands of modern arms and the Spanish loss was known to be severe. There was some discussion by the commission of the relative merits of the Springfield and the modern small caliber rifle. This drew from General Merritt the statement that personally he would prefer the Springfield with smokeless powder to the "Calibre 39" or the "Mauser." The supplies were sufficient at all times except as to ice and milk for fever patients. He explained that there were apparently no milk producing animals in that country. There were some small cattle apparently imported from China, but they gave no milk to speak of.

As to medical supplies and hospital conveniences, General Merritt said he had heard no complaint. On entering the city the army took possession of all the good houses it needed and turned them over to the medical department. The sick and wounded were thus well provided for. The army in the island depended upon local stock for transportation. This proved quite satisfactory and he doubted the advisability of importing American horses or mules. Asked if he had the cordial and effective support of the administration, General Merritt said: "From the president I had the most hearty sympathy and support and this applies also to the various departments."

SCALDED IN A BOILER.

An Ansonia Man Receives Fatal Injuries in a Peculiar Way.

Ansonia, Dec. 21.—George Boyd, an employe of the Farrel Foundry and Machine company, died at his home on North State street to-night from burns received while working in the inside of one of the company's boilers yesterday. Before his death he suffered intensely. Boyd was a plumber and was working in the inside of one of the company's upright boilers, which was being arranged for inspection. The fire had been extinguished several hours before Boyd entered it, but he had not been inside long when he was enveloped in a cloud of steam and was so severely scalded that he dropped to the fire pit, where he was discovered by fellow-workmen, who pulled him out. His condition was pitiable and he was so badly scalded that the flesh peeled off his legs and arms. He also inhaled a great deal of steam, so that his internal injuries were even more serious. He was thirty years of age and leaves a widow.

A SOLDIER LYNCHED.

He Murdered a Prominent Citizen of Town Creek, Ala.

Cincinnati, Dec. 21.—A Times-Star special from Decatur, Ala., says: William Sims, a soldier, who unprovokedly murdered Robert Norton, a prominent citizen of Town Creek, six miles from here, while at a country dance, was dragged from the county jail to-day by a mob of five hundred men and lynched. He was hanged on a tree near the jail and his body riddled with bullets. A brother of the murdered man led the mob.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.

An Increase of 2,867 Miles During 1898—Canadian Roads.

New York, Dec. 21.—Preliminary estimates made by the Railroad Gazette show an increase of 2,867 miles during 1898 in the railroads of the United States. This is the largest increase reported since 1892, when 4,419 miles were added. Of the increase this year, more than one-third was supplied by nine roads, among which were the Great Northern with 165 miles, the St. Louis and San Francisco, 142; the Mobile and Ohio, 126; the Washington county, a new road in Maine, 118; the Pecos Valley and Northeastern, 106, and El Paso and Northeastern, 100 miles. In the distribution of the new mileage by states, Minnesota takes the lead with 253 miles, then follow Texas with 188; Louisiana, 177; Alabama, 167; Oklahoma, 116; Arkansas, 140; Maine, 123; California, 115; Missouri, 111; Michigan and Georgia, each 104. Ten roads in Canada have built 448 miles, which is more, by some 53 miles, than that reported last year. Of this mileage more than one-half, 262 miles, is credited to the Canadian Pacific. Ten roads in Mexico have built 412 miles, which is nearly 100 miles more than the totals of last year.

TO VOTE FOR POSTMASTER.

Norfolk Citizens to Settle a Troublesome Question in This Way.

Norfolk, Dec. 21.—At a meeting of the republican town committee to-night it was decided to hold an election next Tuesday, December 27, from 9:30 a. m. to 3 p. m. to give the republican voters an opportunity to ballot for postmaster. There are three postoffices, Norfolk, South Norfolk and West Norfolk, but only those republicans who receive their mail through the Norfolk office will be allowed to ballot. There are three candidates in the field, L. J. Curtis, J. N. Cowles and A. P. Atwood, each of whom has been actively at work for the position, in fact the rivalry has been so animated that Congressman Hill deemed it the better way to let the citizens express their preference.

"TEMPORARILY."

Ward's Construction, as Applied to Art Works, Modified.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The treasury department has modified its ruling of October 22, 1898, as to the construction of the word "temporarily" as used in the act of July 24, 1887, which provides for the free entry of the works of art, the production of American artists residing temporarily abroad. It is now held that the free entry of such works should be allowed in all cases of American artists residing abroad who have not renounced nor intend to renounce their American citizenship and who avow their intention of returning to the United States at some later period. Under the former ruling the absence abroad was limited to five years.

PRESIDENT SIGNS BILLS.

One Providing for a National Exposition in Philadelphia in 1899.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The president to-day signed the following bills: Providing for a national exposition in Philadelphia in 1899 and appropriation therefor. Amending the laws referring to American seamen, for the protection of such seamen and to promote commerce. Concerning sailing vessels of over 700 tons and for other purposes. To regulate the sitting of the United States courts within the district of South Carolina.

FATAL ELECTRIC CAR COLLISION.

Two Men Killed Near Worcester and Severely Dangerously Injured.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 21.—A bad accident happened on the Worcester and Suburban electric road at the foot of the long hill in Leicester this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Two cars came together head on, both moving at high speed. One passenger, John Kerrigan of Cherry Valley, was killed outright and another, Walter H. Holbrook of Leicester died on removal to the hospital. Five or six others received dangerous injuries. The accident was caused by fog which made it impossible to see an approaching car.

Arrested for Rioting.

Giovanni Frondelli was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detective Daley and locked up on the charge of inciting the Branford riot. Frondelli is a hotel keeper and was assured by Contractor M. P. Rice that he would get his pay from the Italian laborers who lodged with him.

Committee on Building Lines.

The committee on building lines last evening tabled the report of the department of public works relative to the assessment of benefits and damages for the establishment of building lines on Gibbs street, between Dixwell avenue and the Northampton railroad tracks.

Found Lying in the Street.

Julia Vedder of 17 Bradley street was found lying on the sidewalk on Grand avenue in very weak condition about 1:30 o'clock this morning by Patrolman Delougher. She was sent to the hospital.

Twelve Policemen Ill With Grip.

Twelve members of the police force are incapacitated for present duty by reason of grip.

Postal Telegraph System.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Senator Allen to-day introduced a bill for the establishment of a postal telegraph system.

SECRET SERVICE IN THE WAR

THE DANGEROUS WORK OF ENSIGN H. H. WARD.

In Disguise He Entered Cadix After War Was Declared—Arrested in Porto Rico as a Spy—Ensign Buck as a Spy—Dewey's Opinion of the Importance of the Philippines.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The official reports of all commanding officers of the navy during the war have been compiled and published by the navy department. While treating of events that have already figured in published official reports, the documents still contain many minor reports that throw side lights on interesting phases of the war. In the brief record of the proceedings of the naval war board an unknown hero is brought to light in the person of Ensign H. H. Ward, who at the beginning of the war was on duty in the navigation bureau, alternating with First Lieutenant Whittlesey, in the duties of assistant to the chief of the bureau. He volunteered for secret service in July, and exploits about which nothing has been said in the past, may well be placed on record beside those of Lieutenant Rowan in Cuba and Lieutenant Whitney in Porto Rico.

Within a week after the declaration of war Ensign Ward disguised himself and went straight into the heart of the enemy's country, making his headquarters at Cadiz, the principal Spanish station, and informed the navy department here of the actual strength of the Spanish naval vessels and of their movements. Then he went to the West Indies and reported everything that was going on there of importance to the American navy. Next he went in disguise to Porto Rico, where he was arrested as a suspect and a spy. By adroitness he managed to secure his release and, escaping from San Juan, called the navy department a full account of the state of the defenses there and the preparations making for the reception of the Spanish squadron under Cervera. All this time even the officials of the navy department were under the impression that Mr. Ward was engaged in installing a system of coast signals on the New England coast. When Mr. Ward was in Porto Rico, Ensign Buck, another attaché of the navigation bureau, was on the shores of the Mediterranean in disguise, watching every movement of the squadron under Admiral Camara, which started for the Philippines, but turned back. Of the strategy board itself, it is said that it was part of its duty to keep informed of all the movements, resources and plans of the Spanish naval forces through secret agents, and it is now known that the navy was thus informed of all important movements. At times, however, information was conflicting and decisions had to be made as to which report was true.

Under the head of the precautionary orders appear in the volume instructions to all the United States ships abroad to stock their bunkers with the best coal obtainable and to keep them full. Admiral Dewey was told long before the declaration of war, on February 25; in the event of war with Spain your duty will be to see that the Spanish squadron does not leave the Atlantic coast, and to commence offensive operations in the Philippines. Keep Olympia unprepared orders. The admiral's opinion of the importance of the Philippine Islands is set out in the following telegram sent in answer to an inquiry from the government: Manila, Aug. 20, 1898.

Secretary of the Navy, Washington: Referring to the department's telegram of August 18, important islands are: Colon, Luzon, Cebu, Negros, Leyte. Others, owing to the nature of the inhabitants, have a small amount of civilization, want of cultivation. These may be neglected, especially Isles of Southern group. Luzon is in all respects the most desirable, to retain. Contains most important commercial products. Manila is furthest north. Produces all of the good tobacco. Friendly natives. Civilization somewhat advanced. Not yet developed. Possible rich minerals. Population 325,000; Subic Bay best harbor for coaling purposes and military. Water deep; land locked; easily defended. Strategically, command of bay and city of Manila with arsenal at Cavite, most valuable. Panaya, Cebu, Negros thickly populated, most civilized and well cultivated. Iloilo commercial port, center of sugar trade, a good harbor strategically. In view of the situation, good for defence. Cebu third commercial port; a good harbor, very desirable; no coal of good quality can be procured in Philippine Islands. Some has been mined in Cebu, English company. I trust it may not be necessary to order me to Washington. Should regret very much to leave here while matters remain in present critical condition. Dewey.

Victory Bateman Collapses.

New York, Dec. 21.—Victory Bateman, the actress, last night Wednesday was placed in the insane pavilion of Bellevue hospital by her mother, Mrs. John T. Burke. The young woman had been showing signs of a mental breakdown for several days and was gradually approaching the stage of mania. Her symptoms were like those she exhibited in October last in Newark, and November, when she was playing Roxana in "Cyrano de Bergerac" in Chicago.

Polo.

At Meriden—Meriden 5, Springfield 1; rushes, Hipson 5; Warner 2; stops, Murphy 3; P. Farrell, 18; fouts, C. Farrell, Connell; referee, Lush.