POPE LEO PASSED A RESTLESS NIGHT

Serious Results of His Present Illness Apprehended.

Cardinals and Diplomats Notified of His Condition.

Excitement Because of the Closing of the Vatican—Unfounded Rumor of the Pontiff's Death.

Rome, March 1.—The Pope, who was suddenly taken ill yesterday passed a restless night, but was sleeping lightly toward morning. His temperature today is 37 degrees centigrade.

His Holiness is suffering from rheumatic fever with a slight lumbago and diarrhoea. It is feared that the Pope's attack will develop into pneumonia and an operation on the fistula has been proposed.

Cardinal Rampolla has notified the other Cardinals and the diplomatic representatives at the Vatican of the Pope's illness.

Dr. Lapponi and Dr. Mazzoni are in constant attendance at the patient's bedside. Great excitement was caused yesterday because the Vatican was closed to strangers. This was increased last night by an unfounded report that the Pope was dead.

Dr. Mazzoni today performed a successful operation on the Pope's fistula. His Holiness is reported improved.

OREGLIA MAY SUCCEED LEO.

Spoken of as the Pope's Most Probable Successor.

Rome, March 1.—Cardinal Luigi Oreglia, Dean of the Sacred College, is regarded as the likeliest successor of Pope Leo, in the event of the latter's death. This belief is strengthened by the fact that Oreglia had a long secret conference with His Holiness today.

An official diagnosis shows that the Pope is suffering from pleurisy.

TO CONTROL CUBAN TOBACCO.

A Syndicate With a Capital of $12,000,000.

New York, March 1.—Arrangements for the incorporation of a syndicate which is to control a large part of the output of Havana tobacco are said to have been completed in this city. The syndicate will be organized under the title of the Consolidated Tobacco Company of Cuba and will be capitalized at $12,000,000, of which $8,000,000 will be preferred and the remainder common stock. The promoters expect that the profits will be such as to insure dividends of 6 per cent on the preferred stock and 10 per cent on the common.

Among the incorporators are G. F. Garcia, Brother & Co., J. C. Tomlinson, and Rafael R. Gorin. The company is said to have options on twenty-three factories and plants, with tobacco lands attached. The factories are said to include a majority of those on the Island of Cuba. Later it is the intention of the Consolidated Company to purchase several factories now controlled by an English syndicate.

The latter move would give the Consolidated Tobacco Company control over the entire Cuban output of tobacco. It is also intended to secure control of factories and lands of companies making a grade of cigars inferior to those of the better-known Havana brands. This part of the business will be operated by a separate company, to be known as the Key West Tobacco Association.

FOUGHT A MANIAC ON A ROOF.

Encounter of Two Policemen With a Crazy Man.

New York, March 1.—Two policemen fought for half an hour yesterday to subdue a maniac on the roof of 38 Canal Street, and finally saved him from jumping to the street.

The man was Joseph Siegel, thirty years old, who on Monday night rented a hall bedroom from Mrs. M. Spies, on the top floor of 40 Canal Street. Mrs. Spies yesterday morning about 7 o'clock saw her lodger dancing frantically on the roof of No. 38. He was crying for help and declaring that he was being murdered.

Mrs. Spies called Policeman Hoefling, who climbed out on the roof and seized Siegel. The maniac fought fiercely against arrest.

Policeman Phillips saw the struggle from the street and came to Hoefling's assistance. Between them they subdued the madman. They found the furniture in his rooms smashed and the mattress cut into ribbons. He had thrown a pitcher, a basin, and a mirror, and several articles of clothing into the street.

To reach the roof of No. 38 Siegel must have climbed from his window and swung 100 feet above the ground to a projecting cornice 6 feet away, from which he dropped 20 feet to the roof.

The maniac was taken to the Essex Market police court. Magistrate Crane committed him to Bellevue Hospital.

OPPOSING CELESTIAL PASSAGE.

Protest Against Chinamen Going Through New York.

New York, March 1.—The National Anti-Chinese League of America issued a formal protest yesterday against the 250 Chinese who passed through this city last week bound for Mexico.

"Every one of them," reads the protest, "will eventually find his way across the Mexican border into the United States. This is the ambition and purpose of their masters and themselves. Railroad work does not agree with the coolies when they see an opportunity to do washing in the United States."

According to the league the Chinese laundrymen in Manhattan alone have nearly doubled since 1892, when the exclusion act was first enforced. The league demands the expulsion of every Chinaman here without a certificate of residence.

The league's secretary also declares that the Chinese immigrants are "the allies and favorites of grasping trusts and corporations."

Rubbing It In.

(From the Chicago News.)

Mr. Whitehide—Oh, you needn't feel so upset. You're not the only girl in town.

Miss Flashlight—No, I'm not the only girl in town who has publicly announced that she wouldn't have you if you were the last man on earth.

TAPE WORMS

"A tape worm eighteen feet long at least came on the scene after my taking two CASCARETS. This I am sure has caused my bad health for the past three years. I am still taking Cascarets, the only cathartic worthy of notice by sensible people."
GEO. W. BOWLES, Baird, Miss.

CANDY CATHARTIC Cascarets TRADE MARK REGISTERED REGULATE THE LIVER

Pleasant. Palatable. Potent. Taste Good. Do Good. Never Sicken, Weaken, or Gripe. 10c. 25c. 50c.

... CURE CONSTIPATION. ...

Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York. 313

NO-TO-BAC Sold and guaranteed by all druggists to CURE Tobacco Habit.

THE RAILWAY TRACKMEN.

Chief John T. Wilson Before the Industrial Commission.

John T. Wilson, Chief of the Brotherhood of Railway Trackmen, of St. Louis, appeared before the Industrial Commission in the Bliss Building shortly after 12 o'clock today, and offered the first testimony with regard to industrial conditions in the West.

The members of the Commission present were Senator James H. Kyle, Representatives John J. Gardner and John C. Bell, Andrew L. Harris, John M. Farquhar, M. D. Ratchford, and John L. Kennedy.

Mr. Wilson represents an organization of about 6,000 members, including foremen, roadmasters, and section laborers. He gave an outline of the duties and responsibilities of each of these classes, and spoke of the salary each class receives.

Mr. Wilson said that in his judgment the system under which the railways in the United States are operation at present has a demoralizing influence on the public. He argued that were it possible to maintain present rates under judicious management the earnings would furnish sufficient revenue with which to pay all employes living wages without requiring any of them to work an unreasonable number of hours each day. As railway companies hold valuable franchises by consent of the public, and as they are semi-public enterprises, the laboring classes would be greatly helped if Congress would enact a law to create and authorize a commission which would harmonize conflicting interests.

Under the present system employes having just grievances are afraid to make complaints or to unite with their fellow-workmen for the purpose of presenting their grievances in a proper manner. If there existed a commission before which all classes of employes could appeal and present their grievances without fear of being discharged, conditions would be greatly improved.

Mr. Wilson said that he understood the Commission was created by Congress to act as a mediator between the industrial workers and Congress and he desired to add in the laudable undertaking in correcting the existing ills of the labor classes. He said that it should be understood that wage-earners are not business men. They are capable of producing wealth, but depend upon others to provide ways and means. He concluded by urging that the national representatives protect the laboring classes against heartless and soulless capitalists. There are about 200,000 carmen and shopmen employed by the railway transportation companies in the United States. Their condition is little better than those employed in the maintenance-of-way department. The trackmen, carmen, and shopmen, and their families are far greater in number than the entire population of the Island of Cuba. Before hostilities began in Cuba the citizens of that island were in no worse condition than are the men who compose the great bulk of population of this Government—the shopmen, carmen, and trackmen.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.

Statistical Report of Mortality and Disease in the City.

The Health Office made public the following weekly bulletin today:

The mortality in the District declined from 157 to 111 during the past week, as compared with that preceding. The deaths among whites were 69, as against 74, and among the colored people, 42, as against 83 by the last report. The death rate for each thousand of the whole population was 20.56, as compared with 29.12; that for the whites falling from 20.09 to 18.73, and that for the colored from 48.82 to 24.60. The decrease in the number of deaths during the week was mainly due to the lesser number of acute lung attacks and diseases of children under one year of age. Of the former the deaths fell from 30 to 16, and of the latter from 34 to 12. There were 6 fatal cases of diphtheria, 1 of typhoid fever, 2 of measles, and 6 of grip.

At the close of last report there were 79 cases of diphtheria under treatment in 72 premises. During the week 15 new cases occurred, and 30 were discharged, leaving 61 cases quarantined in 56 premises at the close of this report. There were 112 cases of scarlet fever at the close of last report, under observation in 94 premises. During the week 19 new cases were reported, and 45 were discharged, leaving 87 cases in isolation in 68 premises.

Of smallpox there were 17 cases in quarantine at the close of last report. During the week 10 new cases were placed under treatment, and 3 were discharged, leaving 24 cases in isolation. No deaths thus far have occurred.

The main weather conditions prevailing during the week were: Temperature of the atmosphere, 42 degrees; barometer, 29.88, and relative humidity, 76. The rainfall was inappreciable; winds averaging 7 miles per hour; the thermometer falling from 61 degrees on the 24, to 22 degrees on the 25th.

Commissioners' Orders.

Orders were issued by the District Commissioners today as follows:

That Anton Karl, draftsman in the Office of the Surveyor, is transferred from that office to the Street Extension Division, at a compensation of $4 per day, and that J. C. Armstrong, draftsman, in the street extension division, is transferred from said division to the office of the Surveyor, at a compensation of $2.50 per day, for duty connected with the preparation of plats of subdivisions of land outside the city of Washington, transfers to take effect March 1, 1899.

That new cement sidewalk be laid and curb reset on the Massachusetts Avenue and Fifth Street sides on the reservation at the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Massachusetts Avenue northwest, at an estimated cost of $450, chargable to the current appropriation for sidewalks and curbs around public reservations.

That new sidewalk be laid on the Fifth, Sixth, and I Street fronts of the public reservation bounded by Fifth, Sixth, and I streets and Massachusetts avenue northwest, at an estimated cost of $600, chargeable to the current appropriation for sidewalks and curbs around public reservations.

That sixteen feet of 9-inch sewer be constructed in Morgan Avenue, from the centre of Lamar Street northward, to provide temporary service for lot 25, block 46, Holmead Manor, at an estimated cost of $25; the whole cost to be paid by applicant for said sewer.

That catch-basins on the north side of B Street northwest, from Ninth to Twelfth Streets, be remodeled and set to grade, at an estimated cost of $150; chargeable to the current appropriation for improvements and repairs, northwest section, 1899.

That the proposal of Pavarini and Greer to put up partitions to enclose stairways in the Industrial Home School, for the sum of $47, is hereby accepted.

OLD DOMINION NEWS NOTES.

The Home Guard of Lynchburg is to be reorganized.

Hugh Crawford Roller, a teacher, died in Staunton on Monday of consumption.

Mrs. Elizabeth Spottswood Turner, wife of Dr. John D. Turner, of New Kent county, is dead. She was a descendant of Colonial Governor Alexander Spottswood.

Mrs. Catherine Grayson, widow of William F. Grayson, died yesterday morning at Springfield, near Luray, in the ninety-fourth year of her age. Until recently she was in good health.

There is a movement on foot to extend the Danville and Western from Stuart, Va., to a point on the Dan River, in Patrick county, Va., which would develop a section of the finest timber lands within the State.

Mrs. E. J. Stuart, widow of Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, has tendered her resignation of the position of principal of the Virginia Female Institute, at Staunton. She will conduct the school for the remainder of the session.

Mallon Hatcher died at his home near Ryland, Culpeper county, last week, after a protracted illness. During the civil war he was a member of Company C, Seventeenth Virginia Regiment, and bravely carried the flag of his regiment until shot down at the battle of Williamsburg.

An insane man, J. A. Crowley, formerly connected with one of the railroads of Alexandria, as telegraph operator, gave some trouble at St. Mary's Catholic rectory, on Duke Street, yesterday morning, but was taken in charge by Lieutenant Smith, of the police, and cared for at the station-house.

SUGAR ADVANCES A POINT.

Recessions in Prices After a Higher Opening in Wall Street.

New York, March 1.—The stock market opened higher on the favorable character of the morning's Philippine news. There were advances of 1 per cent and over in Sugar and Burlington. After the first fifteen minutes the market began to sag, and there were numerous recessions of a point or over. Government bonds unchanged.

New York Stock Market.

Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Exchange, 1419 F Street.

	Open	High	Low	2:15
American Sugar	138⅝	139¾	137⅝	139⅝
American Tobacco	189	191⅝	187	189
Atchison	22⅝	22⅝	22⅝	22⅝
Atchison pfd	62⅝	63⅝	61⅝	62⅝
Atchison Adjustments	83¼	83¼	80¼	81¼
Brooklyn Rapid Transit	64⅝	65⅝	63⅝	64⅝
Canada Southern	58	58	58	58
Chesapeake & Ohio	28	28	27⅝	27⅝
C., C. C. & St. L.	58	58	58	58
C., B. & Q.	142⅝	143⅝	141⅝	142⅝
Chicago & Northwestern	148	148	147⅝	147⅝
Chicago Gas	113¼	113⅝	112⅝	113
C., M. & St. Paul	129⅝	130⅝	128⅝	129⅝
C., R. I. & Pacific	18⅝	18⅝	17⅝	17⅝
Chicago & Great West'n	15⅝	16⅝	15⅝	15⅝
Consolidated Gas	219⅝	218	214⅝	216⅝
Delaware & Hudson	112⅝	112⅝	112	112⅝
Den. & Rio Grande pfd	74	74	73⅝	73⅝
Erie	14⅝	14⅝	14⅝	14⅝
General Electric, new	112⅝	113	112⅝	112⅝
Illinois Central	115⅝	115⅝	115⅝	115⅝
Louisville & Nashville	65⅝	65¾	64⅝	65
Metropolitan Traction	219	224⅝	213	216⅝
Manhattan Elevated	112⅝	112⅝	112	112⅝
Missouri Pacific	46	46⅝	45	46
M., K. & T. pfd	40	40⅝	39⅝	39⅝
National Lead Co.	35⅝	35⅝	33⅝	33⅝
New Jersey Central	109	109⅝	109	109
New York Central	156⅝	157⅝	155⅝	157⅝
Northern Pacific	52⅝	53⅝	52⅝	53
Northern Pacific pfd	73⅝	73⅝	72⅝	73¼
Pacific Mail	50⅝	51	50	50⅝
Phila. & Reading	12⅝	12⅝	12	12
Southern Railway	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Southern Railway pfd	48⅝	49	48⅝	49
Texas Pacific	23⅝	23⅝	23⅝	23⅝
Tenn. Coal & Iron	44⅝	45	44⅝	45
Union Pacific, new	47⅝	48	47⅝	47⅝
Union Pacific, pfd	70⅝	70⅝	70⅝	70⅝
U. S. Leather, pfd	70⅝	71	70⅝	70⅝
U. S. Rubber	52⅝	52⅝	50⅝	51⅝
Wabash pfd	22⅝	22⅝	21⅝	21⅝
Western Union Tel	94⅝	94⅝	94	94⅝
Federal Steel	52	52⅝	50⅝	51⅝
Federal Steel pfd	88⅝	88⅝	87⅝	88⅝
A. & L. Wire	61⅝	62⅝	60⅝	61⅝
A.S. Wire pfd	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝
American Cotton Oil	34⅝	34⅝	34⅝	34⅝
Central Pacific	32⅝	32⅝	30⅝	31⅝
Southern Pacific	36⅝	36⅝	34⅝	35⅝
Penna. R. R.	132⅝	132⅝	131⅝	132⅝
Bay State Gas	5	5⅝	4⅝	4⅝
Reading firsts	63	63	61⅝	62⅝

The market this morning was a most depressing affair to the bulls. It had been supposed that with the absolute denial of the canard of the sinking of a German ship by Admiral Dewey and the insertion in its place of the news that all trouble with Germany is very far away, if it has ever existed, the market might recover rapidly and buoyantly from the chill of yesterday. As a matter of fact, there was a good opening and some covering of shorts on the good news, but immediately after this movement prices began to recede again. Before 11 o'clock they were lower than the lowest yesterday in many instances. It is difficult to see anything encouraging in the condition of things. Apparently the predominant feeling is bearish, and the spirited work is on that side of the market. This was suggested strongly, in fact, by the way the market receded yesterday on such an improbable rumor as that from the Philippines and the way it failed to recover when the story was denied. During the early part of the day it seemed evident that not only the market traders, but some of the leaders, were selling the market short. Mr. Keene was one of the gentlemen suspected of these tactics. It is the opinion of many careful observers that there is likely to be a further recession of 3 to 6 points. The one factor that would turn the tide in the other direction would be heavy buying by Mr. Flower and his friends and other similar powerful interests, but during the first part of the day there was no indication that such a support was to be given.

Burlington, which was one of the weakest stocks on the list yesterday, closing at 141 and a fraction, was taken up at the opening this morning, with some show of spirit by the bulls and advanced 2 points. Selling supposed to be by Mr. Keene's brokers then came into the market and the price was tumbled again to the lowest point. The other grangers followed this lead. Before noon both Rock Island and St. Paul were lower than at any time yesterday, and seemed to be disposed to go lower still.

Atchison, preferred, also was very weak, getting below the bottom price of yesterday in the first two hours. The surprise in the case of this stock was general, and did more to discourage people with still remaining bull hopes than even the weakness of Burlington and St. Paul. It is now realized by the Street that the statement of the Atchison road for January is a most encouraging one, with the finest augury for the total of the years' business and the question of dividends. And yet Atchison preferred, was down 6 points from the high this morning, a greater tumble than the entire recession in the early part of February. It seems likely, however, that Mr. Flower will begin to buy the stock heavily before the level is much further down.

Tobacco was the one strong feature of the list today. In the first hour it was within a few points of the top price reached.

The earnings of Big Four for the third week of February declined $17,757. From July 1st there has been an increase of earnings of $215,411.

It is insisted by the friends of Louisville and Nashville and Southern Railway preferred that both these stocks should be purchased on any further recessions. Neither has participated to any great extent in the boom and both are particularly well circumstanced both as to recent past earnings and as to the prospects for the future.

There was some buying of the Federal Steel and the Steel and Wire securities this morning on the theory that these stocks may fail to act in harmony with the remainder of the market if there is a general break. The conditions of the steel and iron trade, and the particular interest that has been taken in these stocks by the leaders of the market recently give some ground for this hope, but certainly the stocks should be bought with extreme caution and only on breaks.

Washington Stock Exchange.

Regular call—U. S. 3's coupon, $500 at 107; Metropolitan Railroad convertible 6's, $2,000 at 224, $3,000 at 225; West End National Bank, 10 at 99 1-2; Washington Loan and Trust, 3 at 146; Lincoln Fire Insurance, 200 at 10 3-4; Capital Traction, 15 at 86 1-4, 20 at 86 1-8, 70 at 86; Metropolitan Railroad, 15 at 220; City and Suburban Railroad, 50 at 35 1-2; Washington Gas, 25 at 58, 201 at 60; Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone, 110 at 63; Mergenthaler Linotype, 40 at 189; American Graphophone, 5 at 13 1-4, 100 at 12 7-8, 20 at 12 3-4; American Graphophone preferred, 15 at 13.

After call—Lanston Monotype, 25 at 19; Traders' National Bank, 10 at 119 1-8.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.	Bid	Asked
US 4's 1907 Q J	111⅝	111⅞
US 4's C 1907 Q J	112¼	112⅝
US 4's R 1925	128	129
US 4's C 1925	128⅝	129
US 5's C 1904 Q F	111⅝	112⅝
US 5's R 1904 Q F	106⅝	107⅛
US 5's R 1908 Q F	107	107⅝
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BONDS.		
5's, 1889, "20-year funding"	100	.....
6's 1902 "20-year "funding" gold	....	.....
7's, 1901, "Water stock" currency	105	.....
7's, 1903, "Water stock" currency	....	.....
Funding currency, 3-5's	117	119
MISCELLANEOUS BONDS.		
Met R R 5s', 1925	120⅝	.....
Met R R Conv 6's, 1901	....	225
Met R R Cert Indebtedness, A	....	132
Met R R Cert Indebtedness, B	....	120
Columbia R R 6's, 1914	126	129
Columbia R R 2d mort 5's	109⅝	110
City and Suburban R. R	....	.....
Wash Gas Co. ser A, 6's, 1902-'27	120	.....
Wash Gas Co, ser B, 6's, 1901-'27	120	.....
U S Electric Light, Deb Imp, 1907	119¼	124
U S Electric Light Cert Indebt	119½	122
Ches and Pot Tel 5's, 1896-1911	103	.....
Am Sec & Tr 5's, 1905	110	.....
Wash Market Co 1st 6's, 1892-1911, $7,000 retired annually	114	.....
Wash Market Co Imp 6's, 1912-'27	114	.....
Wash Market Co ext'n 6's, 1911-'27	111	.....
Masonic Hall Ass'n 5's, C 1903	108	.....
Amer. Graphophone Deb. 5's R	101	.....
NATIONAL BANK STOCKS.		
Bank of Washington	315	.....
Metropolitan	282	.....
Central	150	.....
Farmers and Mechanics'	180	.....
Second	145	.....
Citizens	155	.....
Columbia	239	.....
Capital	128	.....
West End	99	99¾
Traders	119	125
Lincoln	116	.....
SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANIES.		
Nat Safe Deposit and Trust	120	.....
Wash Loan and Trust	148	152
Amer Security and Trust	168	.....
Wash Safe Deposit	55	.....
INSURANCE STOCKS.		
Firemen's	28	.....
Franklin	38	45
Metropolitan	75	.....
Corcoran	55	.....
Potomac	....	.....
Arlington	125	135
German American	195	.....
National Union	10⅝	12
Columbia	12	14
Riggs	8⅝	8¾
People's	5⅝	.....
Lincoln	10⅝	10⅞
Commercial	4	.....
TITLE INSURANCE STOCKS.		
Real Estate Title	80	85
Columbia Title	5	.....
District Title	2	5
RAILROAD STOCKS.		
Capital Traction	85⅝	86⅝
Metropolitan	215	221
Columbia	111	130
Eckington	35⅝	36
Georgetown & Tennallytown	....	.....
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT STOCKS.		
Washington Gas	60	65
Georgetown Gas	53	.....
U S Electric Light	....	.....
TELEPHONE STOCKS.		
Chesapeake & Potomac	63⅝	64⅝
Pennsylvania	49	50
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS.		
Mergenthaler Linotype	188⅝	188⅞
Lanston Monotype	19	19⅝
American Graphophone	*12⅝	13
American Graphophone, pfd	13	13⅝
Pneumatic Gas Carriage	.32	.35
Washington Market	13	.....
Great Falls Ice	115¾	122
Norfolk and Wash. Steamboat	19⅝	.....
Lincoln Hall	....	.....

*Ex Dividend.

Chicago Grain and Provision Market

Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Exchange, 1419 F Street.

WHEAT.	Open	High	Low	2:15
May	73⅝	73⅝	73⅛	73⅝
July	72	72⅝	71⅝	71⅞
CORN.				
May	37⅝	37⅝	36⅝	37
July	37⅝	37⅝	37⅛	37⅛
OATS				
May	28⅝	28⅝	28⅛	28⅝
July	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛
PORK.				
May	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.45
July	9.50	9.62	9.47	9.61
LARD.				
May	5.32	5.42	5.32	5.40
July	5.42	5.52	5.42	5.52
RIBS				
May	4.75	4.85	4.72	4.82
July	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.95

New York Cotton Market.

	Open	Low	High	2:15
March	6.28	6.31	6.28	6.3
May	6.29	6.31	6.28	6.28
August	6.30	6.39	6.37	6.39
October	6.14	6.15	6.12	6.1

CONTRACTS FOR UNIFORMS.

The Commissioners Without Power in the Matter.

According to an opinion rendered by S. T. Thomas, Attorney for the District, the Commissioners have no authority to enter into contracts for uniforms for policemen and firemen. He suggests that the contracts be made between the clothing dealers and the Chiefs of Police and Fire departments, and states that the successful bidders should give bond to the Chief of each department for the benefit of firemen who might desire to enter suit.

The opinion of Attorney Thomas has been eagerly awaited by the merchants, and particularly the clothing dealers, of the city for several days, and now that it has been given they are even more anxious to know what action will finally be taken. The Commissioners have approved the opinion, and have recommended that Major Sylvester and Chief Paris enter into the contract with the firm to which it was decided to award the contracts last week.

Publicity was today given to the original draft of the Commissioners, recommending the acceptance of the proposal of Rosenfeld Bros., of Baltimore. The draft is as yet unsigned.

In his opinion, Attorney Thomas states that the Revised Statutes of the District requires the Commissioners to make rules for uniform clothing for the police which shall be procured by each of the members respectively, in strict conformity with such rules, at his own expense and risk, and that any member shall be removed from the force who fails to comply with the rules.

"The manual of the Fire Department," continues the attorney, "requires firemen to procure uniforms at their own expence. The Commissioners have no power to enter into contracts for furnishing policemen and firemen with uniforms. As a practical matter, with a view to getting the best results for the men, such contracts should be made with the Chiefs of the Police and Fire departments, respectively. Successful bidders should give bond to the representatives of each department for the benefit of any policeman and fireman who may have occasion to sue upon the same. This, I understand, has been the custom for years. Contracts for furnishing uniforms for policemen and firemen having no relation to the District of Columbia, the Commissioners have nothing to do with awarding them."

Buffalo's Exposition.

The Pan-American Exposition bill will be passed this afternoon under suspension of the rules. The bill carries $500,000 for a Government exhibit.

It will be held on the Niagara frontier, near Buffalo, and will be especially devoted to the interests of the countries of North and South America.

Prefers Vassar to Brown.

Providence, R. I., March 1.—President Taylor, of Vassar College, has declined to accept the presidency of Brown University, which was offered him three weeks ago.

An Old-Time Gambling Device.

(From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.)

Among the battered flotsam and jetsam that has accumulated in a second-hand store not a great distance from Jackson Square is a shabby round table with a curious secret, and no doubt a still more curious history. The top was once covered with green billiard cloth, which now is worn to tatters, and discloses a steel plate set in the centre and perhaps ten inches square. The whole top is loose and can be removed, revealing an interior space containing a horseshoe magnet wound with wire and connected with an armature very much like that of an ordinary telegraphic instrument. A close examination shows an insulated wire running down one of the legs to a small knob or button, protruding on the outside. When the top is in place the steel plate rests directly over the magnet. This strange device is explained clearly enough by its present owner. "It is a dice table," he said, "on which a lot of money has been won. When it was in order there was a good-sized battery inside, connected with the magnet. When the knob on the leg was pressed the current was turned on, and that made the steel plate magnetic. The dice they used with it had small metal disks on one face, and as long as the current was on they naturally fell that side down. When the knob was released they would fall any way they chanced to come, so all that was necessary for the operator to do was to keep his knee on the button and he could absolutely control his play."

I have been afflicted with rheumatism for fourteen years, and nothing seemed to give any relief. I was able to be around all the time, but constantly suffering. I had tried everything I could hear of, and at last was told to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which I did, and was immediately relieved and in a short time cured. I am happy to say that it has not since returned.—Josh. Edgar, Germantown, Cal. For sale by Henry Evans, Wholesale and Retail Druggist, 938 F Street northwest; Connecticut Avenue and S Street northwest, and 1428 Maryland Avenue northeast.

A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE.

Shipwrecked Sailor's Fight With Myriads of Crabs.

(From the Pall Mall Gazette.)

There is a tiny islet on the outskirts of the Solomon Archipelago that to all such casual wanderers as stray so far presents not a single feature of interest. Like scores of others in those latitudes, it has not yet attained to the dignity of a single cocoanut tree, although many derelict nuts have found a lodgment upon it, and begun to grow, only to be wiped out of existence at the next springtide. Viewed from a balloon, it would look like a silly season mushroom, but with a fringe of snowy foam around it marking the protecting barrier to which it owes its existence, to say nothing of its growth. Yet of all places in the world which I have been privileged to visit, this barren little mound of sand clings most tenaciously to my memory, for reasons which will presently appear.

One of those devastating cyclones that at long intervals sweep across the Pacific, leaving a long swath of destruction in their wake, had overtaken the pearling schooner of which I was mate. For twenty-four hours we fled before it, we knew not whither, not daring to heave to. The only compass we possessed had been destroyed by the first sea that broke on board. Whether it was night or day, we had no notion, except by watch, and even then we were doubtful, so appalling was the darkness. Hope was beginning to revive that, as the Papalangi had proved herself so stanch, she might yet "run it out," unless she hit something. But the tiny rag rigged forward to keep her before it suddenly flew into threads, the curl of the sea caught her under the counter and spun her into the wind like a teetotum. The next vast comber took her broadside on, rolled her over, and swallowed her up. We went "down quick into the pit."

Always reckoned a powerful swimmer, even among such amphibia as the Kanakas, I don't remember making a stroke. But after a horrible, choking struggle in the black uproar I got my breath again, finding myself clinging, as a drowning man will, to something big and seaworthy. It was an ordinary ship's hencoop that the skipper had bought cheap from a passenger vessel in Auckland. As good a raft as one could wish, it bore me on over the mad sea, half dead as I was, until I felt it rise high as if climbing a cataract and descended amidst a furious boiling of surf into calm, smooth water. A few minutes later I touched a sandy beach. Utterly done up, I slept where I lay, at the water's edge, though the shrieking hurricane raged overhead as if it would tear the land up by the roots.

When I awoke it was fine weather, though to leeward the infernal reek of the departing meteor still disfigured a huge segment of the sky. I looked around and my jaw dropped. Often I had wondered what a poor devil would do who happened to be cast away on such a spot as this. Apparently I was about to learn. A painful pinch at my bare foot startled me, and I saw an ugly beast of a crab going for me. He was, nearly a foot across, his blue back covered with long spikes, and his wicked little eyes seemed to have an expression of diabolical malignity. I snatched at a handful of his legs and swung him around my head, dashing him against the side of my coop with such vigor that his armor flew to flinders around me. I never have liked crab, even when dressed, but I found the raw flesh of that one tasty enough. It quite smartened me up. Having eaten heartily, I took a saunter up the smooth knoll of sand aimlessly, I suppose, for it was as bare as a plate, without a stone or shell. From its highest point, about ten feet above highwater mark, I looked around, but my horizon was completely bounded by the ring of breakers aforesaid. I felt like the scorpion within the fiery circle, and almost as disposed to sting myself to death had I possessed the proper weapons.

As I stood gazing vacantly at the foaming barrier and solemn enclosing dome of fleckless blue I was again surprised by a vicious nip at my foot. There was another huge crab boldly attacking me—me, a vigorous man, and not a sodden corpse, as yet. I felt a grew of horror run all down my back, but I grabbed at the vile thing and hurled it from me half across the island. Then I became aware of others arriving, converging upon me from all around, and I was panic stricken. For one mad moment I thought of plunging into the sea again, but reason reasserted itself in time, reminding me that, while I had certain advantages on my side where I was, in the water I should fall a helpless victim at once if, as might naturally be expected, these ghouls were swarming there. Not a weapon of any kind could I see, neither stick nor stone. My feelings of disgust deepened into despair. But I got little time for thought. Such a multitude of the eerie things were about me that I was kept most actively employed seizing them and flinging them from me. They got bolder, feinting and dodging around me, but happily without any definite plan of campaign among them. Once I staggered forward, having trodden unaware upon a spiky back as I sprung aside, wounding my foot badly. I fell into a group of at least twenty, crushing some of them, but after a painful struggle among those needlelike spines regained my feet with several clinging to my body. A kind of frenzy seized me, and, regardless of pain, I clutched at them right and left, dashing them to fragments one against the other, until quite a pile of writhing, dismembered enemies lay around me, while my hands and arms were streaming from numberless wounds. Very soon I became exhausted by my violent exertions and the intense heat, but, to my unfathomable thankfulness, the heap of broken crabs afforded me a long respite, the sound ones finding congenial occupation in devouring them. While I watched the busy cannibals swarming over the yet writhing heap I became violently ill. Vertigo seized me, I reeled and fell prone, oblivious to all things for a time.

When sense returned it was night. The broad moon was commencing her triumphal march among the stars, which glowed in the blue-black concave like globules of incandescent steel. My body was drenched with dew, a blessed relief, for my tongue was leathery and my lips were split with drought. I tore off my shirt and sucked it eagerly, the moisture it held, though brackish, mitigating my tortures of thirst. Suddenly I bethought me of my foes and looked fearfully around. There was not one to be seen, nothing near but the heap of clean-picked shells of those devoured. As the moon rose higher I saw a cluster of white objects at a little distance, soon recognizable as boobies. They permitted me to snatch a couple of them easily, and wringing off their heads I got such a draught as put new life into me. Hope returned, even quelling the cruel thought of daylight, bringing again those ravening hordes of crawling crustacea. Yet my position was almost as hopeless as one could imagine. Unless, as I much doubted, this was a known spot for beche de mer or pearlshell fishers, there was but the remotest chance of my rescue, while, without anything floatable but my poor little hencoop, passing that barrier of breakers was impossible. Fortunately, I have always tried to avoid meeting trouble half way, and with a thankful feeling of present wants supplied I actually went to sleep again, though stiff and sore from head to heel.

At daybreak I awoke again to a repetition of the agonies of the previous day, which, although I was better fortified to meet them, were greater than before. The numbers of my hideous assailants were more than doubled, as far as I could judge. The whole patch of sand seemed alive with the voracious vermin. So much so that when I saw the approach of those horrible hosts my heart sank, my flesh shrank on my bones and I clutched at my throat. But I could not strangle myself, though had I possessed a knife I should certainly have chosen a swift exit from the unutterable horror of my position, fiercely as I clung to life. To be devoured piecemeal, retaining every faculty till the last—I could not bear the thought. There was no time for reflection, however; the struggle began at once and continued with a pertinacity on the part of the crabs that promised a speedy end to it for me. How long it lasted I have no idea—to my tortured mind it was an eternity. At last, overborne, exhausted, surrounded by mounds of those I had destroyed, over which fresh legions poured in ever increasing numbers, earth and sky whirled around me and I fell backward. As I went, with many of the vile things already clinging to me, I heard a yell—a human voice that revived my dulling senses like a galvanic shock. With one last flash of vigor I sprang to my feet, seeing as I did so a canoe with four Kanakas in it, not fifty yards away, in the smooth water between the beach and the barrier. Bounding like a buck, heedless of the pain as my wounded feet clashed among the innumerable spiky carapaces of my enemies, I reached the water and hurled myself headlong toward that ark of safety. How I reached it I do not know, nor anything further until I returned to life again on board the Warrigal, of