

The Washington Times

Published Every Evening in the Week at THE MUNSEY BUILDING, Penn. ave., between 12th and 14th Sts.

New York Office... 175 Fifth Ave. Chicago Office... 1710 Commercial Bank Bldg. Boston Office... Journal Building Philadelphia Office... 612 Chestnut St. Baltimore Office... News Building

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: Daily (7 days a week), one year, \$3.50.

FRANK A. MUNSEY

The Times is served in the city of Washington and District of Columbia by newsboys, who deliver and collect for the paper on their own account at the rate of 7 cents a week.

Entered as second class matter, FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 23, 1909.

A CENSUS WEATHER SHED AND ITS USES.

A Census building is to stand in the square bounded by First and Second, B and C streets northwest. It is to be a sort of governmental shack, and with the ground on which it is to stand and the building now occupied by the National Government, is to cost the Treasury \$630,000 as a stop-gap.

This newspaper would never have adopted that course. It does not believe it to be the best means of accommodating the Bureau of the Census, and it thinks that most other students of the situation will agree with it rather than with Congress. But the thing is done; nothing is to be gained by sniffing over it, and the wiser purpose, now that the House has concurred in the Senate's late-work plan, will be to see that it works as much good and as little harm as possible.

By wonderfully happy coincidence, the square in question is a unit in the Park Commission scheme. The purpose was to provide the Capitol with a frame of buildings like it in general character, low as its wings are low, subordinate to it, and yet each one beautiful in itself. The square at the northwest corner of this frame is the square upon which this census weather-shed is to rise.

As the whole cost of the new building is to be only \$150,000, expended on three or four stories, and as the present building of the bureau is a marvel of temporality, there is hope that some day both may be supplanted by a structure worthy of the Government which it is to erect it.

Four blocks will then have been dedicated according to the plans of the Park Commission. Whatever else may happen, it is hardly likely that any Congressman in his senses or without them will rise and protest that the twelve blocks remaining are not peculiarly available as sites for executive and congressional offices. Out of so manifest a circumstance may come very reasonably and soon a building for the United States Supreme Court, and after that buildings for other branches of the Government. That one additional structure will have the effect of framing the Capitol to the east and marking this Washington hill as the most imposing and beautiful cluster of governmental buildings in the world.

STUMBLING ALONG TO PRISON REFORM.

A bill approved by every official concerned in its enforcement was passed last session by the Senate to effect the probation and parole of District prisoners. It reached the House and has hung there ever since.

Now comes another bill, covering probation alone, introduced anew into the Senate and at the request of the District Commissioners. The thought evidently is that this later measure conforms to the report of the Jail Commission, and maybe there is also a glimmer of hope that a House Committee on the Judiciary, which casually disregards probation and parole, may have interest enough to consider probation alone.

The Times hopes so. It and its readers would look favorably on any measure which registered ever so short a step in the direction of sanity and mercy for District offenders. It will do what it can to help the new Commissioners' bill to its passage. But this newspaper wonders if probation is the limit of progress to be set for the District in its present penal and correctional stumbling. Is there to be no effort to reform lawbreakers who deserve commitment for a time to jail or prison? Are we to stop at the edge of a great problem and let the core rot? Are our prisons to be in miserable fact houses of despair?

RECOGNIZING CHILD LOVE OF AMUSEMENT.

People who wonder why a popular series of cartoons for the young should be turned into a theatrical spectacle—and doubtless there are many people who so wonder—should see the show themselves, or, better still, they should take the young ones to see it. We think they would get an indelible object lesson in the charm and power of imaginative play.

For though some people take the theater solemnly, as if it were a reform academy, the knowing ones take it much the same as they would take a stimulant or a chocolate caramel. The efforts to convert the theater into an educational institution pure and simple are bound to fail, for the public at large

won't have anything to do with such projects. The people want amusement. Which is the very thing the young ones generally keep uppermost in mind.

The other day a man in Boston called for grown-up volunteers to show children how to use playgrounds—how to play, in other words. No doubt a great many children never get a chance to play to their heart's content. There is always a voice to chide them or a hand to hold them back. So, probably, there are people who would deny children the pleasure to be got from witnessing a fairy spectacle. They don't understand such things, these people don't; but the children do, instinctively; and if they had more fairy spectacles to enjoy they would be better off, and so would the world in general.

Presumably the talk about an "educational theater" for children comes from those who formerly believed in keeping the young ones busy after school and on holidays with home lessons.

CASTRO'S SORROW OVER LATIN AMERICA.

Cipriano Castro, expatriated former ruler of Venezuela, confesses that he doesn't want to assume the role of a liberator of his people. He is quoted as saying:

My experience of nine years has taught me that liberty is a chimera, and when we believe we are about to attain it, the people's idea of liberty degenerates into license. Unhappily, it seems that new nationalities like Venezuela are doomed to be the slaves of the passions of their own sons or the slaves of another nation. I am convinced more than ever today of the wisdom of the great liberator, Bolivar, when he was about to die: "I have sown in the sea. Those were prophetic words, whose meaning has repeatedly been proved true."

That sounds like a very frank confession of disappointment from a disappointed, worn-out man, even if it does come from Castro. There is no doubt that it represents the feeling of many others who have contemplated a problem of the smaller Latin-American republics. Likewise, there can be no denying that the South Americans are improving in capacity for government, generation by generation.

The trouble of South America is easily understood. Encouraged by the example of the revolted and independent British colonies in North America, they set up for themselves and adopted a representative government, borrowed from that of the United States. But, unlike the Anglo Saxons of the North, who had back of them a national experience of many generations with parliamentary and representative government, the Spanish and Portuguese peoples of South America did not sufficiently understand this sort of thing. Brazil was the last of the South American peoples to overthrow the monarchic type; and Brazil probably has profited by the fact that it waited so long. It had opportunity to study and observe the experience of other parliamentary governments, and to educate and prepare itself for the great change.

On the whole, Latin America has done wonderfully well. We will know better about Mexico two decades after the passing of the great Diaz, whose strong hand has held it up for near a generation. Cuba's experience has not been reassuring; but Cuba is to get a new chance under more encouraging auspices. Argentina and Chile have certainly acquitted themselves splendidly. Brazil is doing likewise. There is no occasion for concern about the ultimate welfare of the smaller republics. They will work out their own salvation in the fear and trembling of more decades of turmoil and dissension; but in the end they will establish safe and good governments. Castro is right, but he does not look far enough ahead in his view of his country.

MR. TAFT'S TIMELY PLEA FOR A TARIFF COMMISSION.

Attention was called several days ago to the belief of the American Protective Tariff League representing the inner circle of standpatners, that there was no need of a permanent tariff commission. The league thinks that Congress is doing well enough and ought to be let alone.

Now Mr. Taft, who is a very fair and frank tariff critic, thinks otherwise. He says in his letter to Mr. Payne:

A tariff commission would be harmful or useful as its functions were described in the bill. My own ideas have been that there ought to be a permanent commission of tariff experts to keep themselves advised, by all the means possible, of the cost of producing commodities in foreign countries and in this country.

I think what we lack is evidence, and some such means might very well be used for the purpose of securing it. It should be the last to advocate a commission with any power to fix rates, if that were constitutional, as it would not be, nor with any function other than that of furnishing the evidence to Congress upon which from time to time it might act.

It was explained at the tariff hearing here in Washington a few weeks ago how certain manufacturers took the liberty of guiding Congressmen so that a grown-up "infant industry" might be properly pampered. Mr. Taft makes no reference to this celebrated disclosure, but his plea in behalf of impartial evidence, such as a well composed commission would furnish, is timely if not particularly significant.

Same old war cloud—same old Balkans—same old deep anxiety in same old chancelleries of same old Europe.

It's necessary always to have a popular hero in connection with such an affair, and if it hadn't been Blinn it would have been somebody else.

United Mine Workers' convention refused to adopt a resolution petitioning attention of the tariff on coal. Out in the midst of the cattle-raising section of western Nebraska, they got up a huge petition the other day in favor

of free hides. These little indications suggest strongly that even as to the tariff there are some people in this country broad enough to be unselfish.

That New York press agent who told about his chorus girls mobbing Jack Blinn and smothering him with kisses, made a fatal mistake when he represented Blinn as trying to escape. That's no way to put the show ladies to the good with audiences.

Washington's recent London fog has gone back home, and nobody here seems as yet to regret the fact.

A bill has been framed on the subject of Brownsville which is said to meet the wishes of both Roosevelt and Foraker. Another miracle is reported by dispatches from Delaware, where a bishop gives his indorsement to the stories that it really occurred.

It's good to know that somebody is satisfied with the Sherman law as it stands.

There's a certain plausibility about this contention of the President that a man's war record can't be changed by an act of Congress changing the phrase in which it is described in the archives.

Charles F. Taft explains that the important trouble with Mr. Rainey's facts is that they weren't.

It is reported that a filibuster may be started in the Senate. Chamber will need enlargement soon to accommodate all of 'em.

Cuba has doubtless been given distinctly to understand that if she does it again, the Teller resolution will not be regarded as a form of perpetual motion.

It does seem a bit odd to have the primary election system attacked on the ground that it has been corrupted by the excessive use of money, which it was originally intended should be stopped by it.

The Hon. Ellihu Root continues to adhere to his well-established policy of not talking unless he has something to say.

The naval critics are shooting the navy pretty full of holes, but it isn't so serious as if some hostile power were to do the same thing.

Cuba is freely forgiven, but warned not to do anything of the sort again.

Now, if Washington cared to get into the San Francisco class, this marriage of a pretty American girl to an elderly Chinese business man might be worked over into an excellent opportunity.

Illinois is developing, day by day, all the aspects of a State that expected to struggle alone for quite a spell with only one Senator.

BANKERS ENJOY FIRST MUSICALS.

The first musicals of the season given by the American Institute of Banking was held last night. An interesting program was rendered at the chapter rooms of the institute.

The Amphion Quartet made the hit of the evening, but other numbers on the program were enthusiastically received, among these the song, "The Windmill" by A. H. Herbert. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the musical program.

WOOD SUBSTITUTES ARE MUCH SOUGHT.

The advancing prices of wood throughout the world are leading to an eager search for substitutes. In Australia farmers have been packing butter for export in pine boxes, but have recently found that a box made from kaolin and straw serves the purpose as well, and enables the producer to keep up with the rapidly growing foreign demand for butter. Over 3,000,000 boxes, costing about \$1,000,000, are now used yearly. The new box is light, strong and damp-proof, and is estimated to save \$2,000,000 a year.

THE TRUMP CARD.

Two neighbors in a Missouri village were arrested for fighting and brought to court. The judge asked the assailant to tell his story.

"Seven," he said, "was my play—the 'even-up, seven prints 't' the game, two bits on the corner. I had bin losin' all day, jedge, an' I had up my last two bits. I stole the kvards. He war two an' I war six. He begged an' I bin him one."

He flung his queens an' I played my 'rey for low. He flung his king an' I 'r-ayed to create a yellow peril, but it was a bluff with hollow grins—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CHINESE FOOT FIXED.

In spite of everything there does seem to be a spirit of reform lurking somewhere in China. It is not strong enough to create a yellow peril, but it has at least created a standard foot measure. Heretofore the Chinese foot measure has been either 15 or 16 inches, or anything in between, as the varying intelligence of the buyer and seller rendered most confusing and profitable for the one who held the slip head. Now every foot measure is to be of the same length by edict of the regent. It is a hopeful sign. "Little drops of water, little grains of sand," accomplish wonders in the end.—New York Press.

December Circulation Figures

Net Daily Average The Times..... 39,289 The Star..... 37,182

The Association of American Advertisers has examined and certified the circulation of this publication. The detail of this examination is on file at the New York office of the Association. No other figures of circulation guaranteed.

POLICE SWEAT POLE AT SCENE OF CRIME.

Farm Hand Accused of Double Murder Tells Conflicting Tales.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 29.—John Grovski, Polish farm hand, suspected of murdering Harry and Abbie James, at their home at Easttown, near Berwyn, last Tuesday, was taken from Chester to the scene of the crime this morning, and will be put through a searching examination by District Attorney W. W. Macdrea, of Chester county; Assistant District Attorney Lawthrop and William M. Graham, justice of peace, at Malvern.

The house in which the man was found is situated in a Polish colony in the western part of the town. He was covering in a rear room in the second floor of the house when arrested by police. He made no resistance, and seemed to be afraid that he would be dealt with summarily.

Confusing Answers. When questioned by the district attorney and the police he gave confusing answers and insisted on several alibis, all of which were contradictory, and none of which, it is believed, proved true.

Finally he persisted that he had been at the house all Tuesday afternoon and Tuesday night. Stasie Dubowski, who keeps the house where the man was found, said that the Pole had left the house about noon last Tuesday, and did not return until long after daylight on Wednesday morning.

When Grovski was told of the statement of the woman and urged to make a clean breast of the affair, he only changed his story and said that he did not stay at the house on Tuesday, the night of the murder, but that he was drunk and slept in a brick yard on the outskirts of the city.

Curious Crowd. The James farm yesterday was the scene of a pilgrimage of a curious crowd which went there to inspect the homestead of the old couple and the place where the brutal crime was committed.

Joseph Seattergood, coroner's physician of West Chester, has made a further examination of the body of Mrs. James and stated that the report was confident that the Pole now in custody is the murderer. "I believe we can prove that we have the right man," he said.

FIVE FIVES SHOW UP AND TROUBLE BEGINS

Man Who Had Lost \$200 Starts Roughhouse—Eleven Injured.

MCKESPORT, Pa., Jan. 29.—The fifth five in a four-handed game of poker played here made work for the doctors. At least eleven persons were injured. A business man, who gave his name as John George, of McKesport, this morning, said he had seen the five fives held against him, and that he had charged the man with holding the five fives in his hand. He had broken up most of the furniture in the room, and had followed friends of the five-fives man to a dance near by, where he had renewed the fight. The police raided the dance after many were hurt.

The man who had held the five fives appears to have been the only one who escaped.

GOVERNOR TO SPEAK.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 29.—Governor Harrison left today for Philadelphia to speak at the annual meeting of the Ohio society on next Saturday night.

FOUGHT LONG FOR DIVORCE.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 29.—After more than four years of litigation, Dr. Swift Chandler, of this city and Wilmington, has obtained his divorce from Elizabeth Sergeant Chandler, his wife, at one time was a singer in Mine Schumann-Heink's "Love's Lottery" company.

What Congress Did

IN THE SENATE. Senator Gallinger denounced conditions in penal and reformatory institutions in the District as a disgrace to civilization.

George W. Perkins and Oakleigh Thorne appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senator Nathan introduced a resolution looking to the creation of a statue of William B. Allison, in Washington.

The Senate District Committee reported the confirmation of Commissioner West. Also the bill establishing a probation system, and other measures.

The Senate considered the omnibus claims bill.

IN THE HOUSE. The House convened at noon.

A bill granting the Philippine legislature the right to convene on another date than the first Monday in February annually, was passed by unanimous consent.

The resolution of Representative Sherry that the bill revising the bankruptcy laws be given preference over everything except the appropriation bill, failed of passage.

Unanimous consent was denied to the consideration of a bill canceling the right of way across public lands to railroad corporations in the event conditions were not complied with within five years from date of grant.

The House District Committee resumed its gas hearing.

A subcommittee was appointed to inspect the Oldroyd House, with a view to buying it for preservation.

The Naval Committee accepted the invitation of the Secretary of the Navy to be his guests at Hampton Roads on February 22, to greet the Atlantic fleet.

ANNUAL DINNER TO SUPREME COURT IS GIVEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Company Includes Chief Justice, Associates, and Families.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt were hosts last evening at the White House, at their annual dinner in honor of the Supreme Court. The company included the chief justice, the associate justices, and some of their families, and a few additional guests who were invited to meet the guests of honor. The table was effectively decorated with Richmond roses.

Those at the table with the President and Mrs. Roosevelt were: The Chief Justice, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Harlan, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Brewer, Mr. Justice Peckham, Mr. Justice and Mrs. McKenna, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Justice Moody, The Attorney General and Mrs. Bonaparte.

Senator and Mrs. Clarence D. Clark, Senator and Mrs. Dewey, Senator Dillingham, Senator James P. Clarke, The Governor of New York and Mrs. Hughes, Representative and Mrs. De Armond, Representative and Mrs. Jenkins, Representative and Mrs. Richard Wayne Parker, The Solicitor General, James J. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Mrs. Hugh C. Wallace, Miss Roosevelt, Capt. Sherwood A. Cheney.

General Black and Mrs. Vrooman were hosts at dinner last evening in honor of the Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. O'Laughlin. The other guests were Representative and Mrs. Henry Sherman Boutwell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Briggs, Mrs. Russell Harrison, Miss Hopkins, and Gen. Walter Newberry, of Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer. The Vice President and Mrs. Fairbanks were the honor guests of the Postmaster General and Mrs. Meyer, at last evening. The additional guests were the Italian Ambassador and Mrs. Baroness Mayor des Planches, the Swedish Minister and Mme. de Lagercrantz, the Minister from Norway and Mrs. Gude, Senator and Mrs. Carter, Gen. and Mrs. J. Franklin Bell, Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. William Slater, Mrs. Munn, Miss Lovering, Mr. Centaro, and Lieutenant Campetero, of the Italian embassy.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Mason were hosts at dinner last evening, entertaining in honor of the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Newberry. The other guests were Rear Admiral and Mrs. Honnabill, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Leutze, Mrs. Fairfield Carpenter, and Rear Admiral Capps.

Captain and Mrs. George T. Summerlin entertained a dinner party last evening in honor of Miss McCawley, who is the house guest of Colonel and Mrs. McCawley.

Representative and Mrs. Weeks were hosts at dinner last evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard entertained a party at dinner last evening in their home on Hillary place.

Kindergarten Benefit. Washington society will be well represented this afternoon at the concert by Mischa Elman, at the New National Theater, given under the auspices of the Vernon Society for the benefit of its free kindergarten and neighborhood house.

Among those who have taken boxes and seats are Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, Mrs. John W. Foster, Mrs. Ackert, Mrs. Hutchinson, and Mrs. Somers. The Vernon Society is composed of pupils, past and present, of Mrs. Somers' Mt. Vernon seminary. The society is for the purpose of charitable work.

This afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at Rauscher's, a concert will be given by the members of St. Paul's choir, composed of men and boys, for the benefit of the work for poor churches. The concert will include a number of beautiful Christmas carols and the program will be sold at the door by a number of the season's debutantes.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Roderick will leave Washington shortly for New York, from where they will sail on February 4 for a cruise to the Mediterranean and a tour of Palestine, Egypt, Turkey and other countries in this vicinity.

Miss Sullivan returned to Washington from Cuba, where she spent several months with her brother-in-law and sister, Lieutenant and Mrs. Dannemiller.

WAR ON CHAMBERLAIN IS RENEWED RUMOR

Gossip Says Senate May Take a Rap at Oregon Primary Scheme.

The story is once more revived that there will be a fight against seating Governor Chamberlain of Oregon as Senator from that State. At the time of his election it was said that a contest might be made with the purpose of getting a decision on the Oregon primary election plan, and the understanding was that the Senate powers were decidedly hostile to that plan, and were disposed to reject Chamberlain on the ground that the method of his election amounted to a contravention of the Federal Constitution, by interjecting a scheme for completion of legislators in voting for Senators.

At that time members of the Senate Committee on Elections expressed utter ignorance of any such intention, and they did not expect to have such a case.

More recently, however, word has come from Oregon that some of the Republican leaders there are determining on making up a contest and taking it before the Senate. The Senate is not an arbitrator in all matters affecting the elections and qualifications of its own members. It could kill the Oregon plan if it chose.

DIAMOND MONOPOLY.

BERLIN, Jan. 29.—Emperor William has decreed a government monopoly of the trade in diamonds found in German Southwest Africa. All stones must be turned over to the government, which will give the owner the proceeds of their sale after deducting expenses and a tax, which together will amount to about one-third of the value.

TREATH SAVES HIM.

SELMSGROVE, Pa., Jan. 29.—Only one man that he would kill himself or have any other person killed, was arrested today from committing suicide by taking carbolic acid.

AT HOMES

Mrs. William S. Stanley, and Mrs. William H. Huntington, of Massachusetts avenue, will receive today.

Mrs. Howard Clark, assisted by a number of the debutantes of the season, will receive today at Florence Court.

Mrs. Richard Butler will receive this afternoon for the last time this season.

Mrs. Waynesville, N. C. will receive informally this afternoon from 5 to 7 o'clock.

Mrs. Charles M. Hammett and her daughter Mrs. William H. Myers, Mrs. T. Nelson Conrad, and Miss Hammett, will receive this afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock in their home on F street.

Mrs. Fremont Smith will receive informally this afternoon.

Mrs. Bradford and Miss Bradford, of F street, will be at home informally this afternoon.

Mrs. Archibald Gracie will receive this afternoon.

Mrs. John Emmett McVey and Miss McVey, with their guest, Mrs. William Robinson Graham of Youngstown, Ohio, will be at home to their friends Thursday, February 4, from 4 to 6 o'clock, at the Cairo.

Mrs. Bryce, wife of the British Ambassador, will receive this afternoon at the embassy at 430 o'clock, assisted by Mrs. Young, wife of the second secretary of the embassy.

NOT RECEIVING

Mrs. Frederick Robert Harris will not receive today, but will be at home informally Fridays, February 12 and 26.

Mrs. Ainsworth, wife of Gen. F. C. Ainsworth, will not receive today, but will be at home Friday, February 5, from 3:30 to 5 o'clock.

Mrs. Gage, of 4 Dupont circle, will not receive today.

Miss Katherine Carter Critcher will not receive today owing to her absence from the city for several days.

Miss Love Weds. Miss Lillian Coraie Love was married to Lieut. Woolman Gibson Emory, U. S. M. C., yesterday afternoon in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Powell Thurston Manning, 190 Belmont Road. Bishop Alfred Harding performing the ceremony, in the presence of a small party of friends.

The bride is well known in Washington, especially in musical circles, and has many friends in St. Mary's Mt. Vernon home. Her father, Mr. R. C. Wilton, Mrs. George Aukam, Miss Bidle, and Miss Helen Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Sturgis will entertain at a musicale this evening at 9 o'clock at Congress Hall.

The Phi Chi Medical Fraternity, of the Georgetown University, will entertain their January dance this evening at the fraternity house, on R street.

Mrs. H. M. Hutchinson and Mrs. John Sidney Webb will entertain at a small informal tea this afternoon from 5 to 7 o'clock in their home, on Massachusetts avenue.

Swaney—Parson.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Miss Lona Lewis Swaney, daughter of Dr. George B. Swaney, to the Rev. Arley B. Parson, of Providence, R. I., formerly of Washington, D. C., Wednesday, January 27, at 4 o'clock, in the State Street Church at Portland, Me.

The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. G. E. Higgins, as matron of honor, and Mrs. F. W. Parsons, of New York, as best man. The ushers were Kenneth Parson, of Providence; the Rev. E. W. Albert, of Washington, D. C.; R. A. Dean, of Fall River, Mass.; Donald Parson, of Youngstown, Ohio; and G. E. Higgins, of New York City. A small reception in the home of the father of the bride followed the ceremony.

Among the out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Parson, of Youngstown, Ohio; Mrs. F. W. Parsons, of Fall River, Mass.; Miss Mary E. O'Brien, and Miss Martha L. O'Brien, of Allston, Mass.; Mrs. W. Lewis O'Brien, of New York; Dr. Edward Swaney, of Worcester, Mass.; Miss J. L. Swaney, of Limerick, Me.; Miss Libby, of Waterbury, Conn.; and Miss Marion Wilson, of Fryburg, Me.

COMMITTEE TO VISIT THE OLDROYD HOUSE

Congress Will Get Report on Proposition to Buy the Property.

The House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds today appointed a committee to visit the Oldroyd house, on Tenth street, where President Lincoln died, and report back to the full committee with a recommendation as to what action should be taken on the bill introduced by Mr. Rodenburg of Illinois, providing for the purchase of the building and the so-called Oldroyd collection and a building on either side of the Oldroyd house, for the purpose of protecting it from fire.

The members of the subcommittee are Rodenburg, chairman, Harding of Ohio, and Caldwell of New York. The report is due next Friday.

KERTH IS NAMED.

Capt. Monroe C. Kerth, Twenty-third Infantry, has been detailed as assistant chief of the Bureau of Militia Affairs of the War Department, to act under Colonel Weaver. Captain Kerth will report to Colonel Weaver, March 1, in the Militia Division. He will come in close touch with the District of Columbia National Guard.

FALLS UPON STOVE.

HURFVILLE, N. J., Jan. 29.—Miss Mary Johnson, employed as a domestic at the residence of Charles Jones, was nearly burned to death by falling on a red hot stove this morning. She fell from a faint on the stove, and was terribly burned before assistance reached her.

COAL BIN FIRE.

An overheated furnace started a fire shortly after 7 o'clock this morning which destroyed a coal bin and had \$25 damage to the home of Charles M. Andrews, Willow avenue, Takoma Park. No. 2 chemical company responded to an alarm from box 84, but the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department arrived first and extinguished the blaze.

Luncheons and Receptions Features of Day in Society.

Miss Dorothy Duncan Gatewood, the debutante daughter of Medical Director and Mrs. J. D. Gatewood, U. S. N., was hostess at luncheon today in connection with the Secretary of War and Atlanta, Ga., and Miss Wyndham Rosser, whose engagement to Charles Nelson Riker, of Kentucky, was recently announced, the wedding to take place Monday.

Invited to meet Miss Dancy are Miss Rosser, were Miss Eva de Lagercrantz, daughter of the Swedish minister; Miss Edith Sutherland, Miss Alice Margaret Knight, Miss Mildred Fear, Miss Katherine Crane, Miss Lillian Baxter, Miss Annie Irwin, Miss Alice Boyd, Miss Portner, Miss Matland Starbush, Miss Polly Mason, Miss Dorothy Langitt, Miss Barbara Smith, and Miss Hillbreth Gatewood.

The table decorations were lavender and pink, with a large centerpiece of pink roses and lilies.

Among the entertainments planned in honor of Miss Ethel Roosevelt is the dinner