

FINAL WORD, READY, FLASHED BY FLEET

Sixteen Powerful Armored clads Prepared for the Cruise.

WELL GROOMED FOR LONG VOYAGE

Only Change of Color of Paint Would Be Necessary, Even if About to Enter Battle.

Well Stocked in Every Way—Officers Are Anxious to Leave.

OLD POINT COMFORT, VA., December 12.—Final word of "ready" was flashed from every vessel in the battleship fleet to-day. In its last analysis this signal meant that the sixteen most powerful armored clads of the American navy were ready not only to start next Monday morning on their projected cruise to the Western seas, but are just as ready to go anywhere in the twin hemispheres of the world and do any work.

It meant that hulls are sweet and clean; that giant compound engines are resolute to be at their task; that officers and men are trained to the point where they are overflowing with the knowledge of the lines of the country can produce; that ladders are chocked with ship's provisions, and that magazine doors are closed upon the greatest stores of ammunition ever placed on board American vessels of war.

Have Been Well Groomed. The care with which the sixteen ships have been groomed for their forthcoming voyage and the completeness with which they have been stored with all the necessities of a battleship's usefulness in peace or war leave no doubt of the mobility and self-reliance of the fleet. The officers themselves are just a little bit surprised at the amount of work that has been accomplished and the quiet confidence that has marked every step of preparation.

The ships are destined for immediate conflict little more could be done to make them ready for the fray. The distinctive white and buff paint which has brought so much admiration to the American ships when pitted on parade against the grimy-hulled navies of other nations, would, of course, have to give way in favor of the safer tone of leaden gray, but that is a matter of only a few hours' work. Gray paint is always carried by the American ships, and many of the officers believe it would not be a bad idea to use this color on such a long and hard practice cruise as that upon which they are about to set out.

Anxious to Get Away. Now that all is ready, officers and men alike are anxious to get away. The four-day voyage to the Straits of Magellan, and many of the officers believe it means long hours and hard work for everybody in the fleet. There is an entire absence of enthusiasm, but a manifest atmosphere of serious devotion to duty surrounding the departure of the fleet. The officers and the published itinerary offer little prospect of entertainment or amusement on route.

Sea duty, drills and target practice are the outstanding features of the trip through the Magellan Straits to the sand dunes and Indian huts of Magdalena Bay.

One of the points of complete readiness marking the present status of the fleet is to be found in the chart houses of the navigating officers. The officers' desks were first ordered to prepare for the Pacific voyage the navigators of each ship were supplied with specially prepared charts leading down the South Atlantic coast, through the treacherous waters of Magellan and along the Pacific coast to San Francisco. Several weeks ago these charts were supplemented by others, showing the way to Manila. Then more recently have come lately revised charts capable of guiding the fleet to Gibraltar. The furnishing of these charts has given rise to gossip that the fleet is destined eventually to circle the globe, and that there may be something more beyond Magdalena Bay than San Francisco.

Have the Very Best. The ordnance officers attached to the sixteen ships have probably accomplished the most difficult duties in preparing for the cruise.

They have had to see to the storage of more than 2,000,000 pounds of ammunition in the carefully protected magazines, and to the installation of the new and secret fire control system. The magazines recently were emptied of all old powder and shell to make room for a supply fresh from the naval arsenal.

Armor-piercing projectiles filled with explosive "D," said to be the most powerful and effective of all the secret formulas in the possession of the navy's experts, have been placed aboard the ships, and the vast supplies of smokeless powder charges have been stowed away under the double protection of silken bags and copper-lined cylindrical tanks. Extra gears for the big guns have also been taken aboard, and it is believed that the system of distribution adopted is such that should one portion of the gun-cotton accidentally explode it would not set off the general supply.

Fire Control System. The fire control which has been installed on the ships is a visual and audible system of directing the fire.

HIS CHECK WAS CASHED

Bank Replied to Inquiry Says Drawer Is Not Known There.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12.—A middle-aged man, giving his name as Frank P. Barnett, claiming to represent a newly organized hotel company and owner of an immense tract of land in Florida, stopped over here yesterday to buy wardrobe for the new hotel mentioned in the exhibited bills and receipts for a large lot of furniture bought of one of the factories in the city. He had had with him a catalogue of the Wakefield Manufacturing Company, which has given him, he stated, in High Point, N. C., a check for six hundred dollars from the factory here, and gave as payment for them a check for about \$200 on a bank in Florida, with instructions for the shipment to be made at once.

Before leaving the factory office, he made inquiries concerning the schedule of the Wakefield Manufacturing Company, and that his traveling money was low, and asked if he could get a check cashed for him. The cashier, not suspecting, carried him into an establishment, introduced him to the cashier, and requested that his check be cashed, and that the money be given to a stranger. A few minutes after he came in possession of the cash he left on the Cannonball for Norfolk. Simultaneously the cashier of the factory was suspicious and wired the bank in Florida on which the check was drawn that it was good, receiving the reply that they knew him.

WILL DAM BLACK WARRIOR

Movement Fought With Great Interest to the Iron Industry.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12.—Of far reaching importance to industrial workers in the South, and in the Peninsular and Birmingham fields, was the action of the War Department to-day in awarding a contract for the construction of two dams in Alabama, to the Pittsburg Corporation, known as the Davis Contracting Company, at Birmingham.

This corporation already has done much river and harbor work for the Government, and has the knowledge of the War Department, about to engage in an experiment of great interest and importance to the iron industry, in the construction of a large project by the use of white labor exclusively. The basis for this decision is the fact that the contractors believe they can at the present time easily secure the necessary amount of high-grade white labor in Pennsylvania, as a result of the existing industrial depression. The object of the dam is to control the water in navigation, the Black Warrior River, Alabama, to the Pittsburg Corporation, known as the Davis Contracting Company, at Birmingham.

EXPLOSION IN QUARRY

Two Negroes Perhaps Fatally and an Italian Slightly Injured.

ARVONIA, VA., December 12.—A heavy explosion of dynamite occurred in the quarry of the Virginia Slate Company at a place known as the "Point of View," at the point of view, attended by all the physicians in the town, and an Italian is badly shocked. A number of workmen were hawking dynamite in the quarry pit, when one of the sticks caught fire. The men ran away from the place, but at length two or three of them started back to the place, and were about twenty or thirty feet away when the explosion of fifty sticks of dynamite occurred. Morton Eldridge and Junius Gregory, young colored men, were hurled backwards into the air, twenty feet or more. An Italian, called "Mike" in the quarries, had his coat torn off and his head somewhat injured.

MAINTAIN PRESENT RATE

Southern Reaches an Agreement With Governor Comer.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 12.—At a meeting held in the office of Governor Comer to-day, an agreement was reached on the part of the Southern Railway to keep in force the 1-2-3 cent passenger rate, and the question of the rate in other States in which the road operates. It was agreed some time ago that this road would keep in Alabama as low a rate as it maintained in any other State, but it was thought, on in any other State lower than 2-3-4 cents, which Alabama now allows, cases are pending, and it was thought best to leave the rate at 1-2-3 cents for a time.

FOR TRAINING STATION

State Commissioners Went to Exposition Grounds.

NORFOLK, VA., December 12.—A committee of State commissioners, composed of Colonel John P. Gilvins, of Chesapeake, and Messrs. E. M. Eddy and Mr. Curtis, of Connecticut; Mr. Pogue, of North Carolina, will tomorrow call on the directors of the Exposition Company, relative to the sale of the Exposition Grounds and the location of a training station for the Government. They want to purchase the site of the Fairfax Hotel, it was decided to call a meeting of the State commissioners in Washington the second week in January.

MRS. LONGWORTH DOING WELL

President's Daughter Undergoes Successful Operation for Appendicitis.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12.—Mrs. Longworth, wife of Representative Nicholas Longworth, and daughter of President Roosevelt, was operated on for appendicitis shortly after 10 o'clock to-day. The operation was performed at the Washington Hospital, Baltimore, by Dr. Joseph Northrup, assisted by Dr. Joseph Northrup, Jr., and Surgeon-General Risley, of the Army. The operation was successful, and Mrs. Longworth is doing well. The operation was successful in every respect, according to the physicians.

VICTIMS NUMBER 320

A Few More Bodies in Monongahela Mine Will Slightly Increase It.

MONTGOMERY, VA., December 12.—Search in mines 6 and 8 of the Fairmont Coal Company for victims of last Friday's explosion was suspended early to-day, but it was reported that broken bodies were again in Mine No. 8, and partly because practically every section of the two mines has been searched, and it was reported that 71 were Americans, 11 negroes, 44 Italians, 31 Slavs, 31 Poles, 5 Greeks and 2 Hungarians.

PUBLIC MUST TAKE ITS OWN MEDICINE

No Redress When Com- plaining of Telephone Service, Says Peters.

GAVE FRANCHISE, NOW STAND IT

Council Votes to Assume Jurisdiction Against Taliaferro—Ordinance to Publish Milk

Scores Sent Back—After Tardy Com- mittees.

In opposing a resolution to appropriate the sum of \$30 to investigate the service provided by the Southern Telephone and Telegraph Company, Councilman Lynch, at the meeting of the Common Council last night, left the chair to condemn a former Council member for granting to a corporation an exclusive franchise, under which it has "run roughshod" over the people of Richmond.

"I am opposed," he declared, "to spending one dollar to find out if we are getting the proper service, when every subscriber knows that he is not getting it. I do not believe that any such franchise, our hands are tied, and we must take what we can get. The people have the company exclusive rights here, and the people must take their medicine."

Time to Call In.

Continuing, President Peters reminded his colleagues that he had fought the franchise and that he had been consistent, and incidentally remarked that it was time to call a halt in the expenditure of public funds. Councilman Lynch, who had the Committee on Electricity, which is to conduct the investigation, to have a stenographer. "If we can give relief to the public for that amount we should do it," he said. "The Bell Company is complaining that the franchise should never have been granted, and the service here would not be tolerated in a fourth-rate city."

Some Vaudeville Features.

The meeting last night, the third held this month, was long and tedious, with long drawn out debate over questions which were settled later by almost a solid vote. At times the speakers should never have been granted, and the service here would not be tolerated in a fourth-rate city.

Shows Need of a Board.

On two occasions during the evening the advocates of the Board of Municipal Control proposition found argument in support of that government plan. The request from the Board of Health to place a health officer in charge of the city, to advertise the tuberculosis exhibit had to be presented in the shape of a resolution, to be passed by both branches of Council. The petition from a pawnbroker to place three fringed balls on an old lamp-post in twenty-two minutes by the watch, and then referred to the Committee on Light, the lamp-post custodian. The matter came from the Committee on Streets, and if the committee report on the petition of the pawnbroker, it is the broker will secure his advertising sign by special ordinance.

Fight Over a Judgment.

The recommendation from the Finance Committee that the city return to Assistant City Engineer Taliaferro \$310, that being the amount of a judgment against him in the Law and Equity Court, was approved by a vote of 24 to 1, but only after a thirty-five minute discussion. The city, Councilman Cutshaw and Mr. Taliaferro were sued for making a blunder in a street garage. The jury put it up to Mr. Taliaferro, and the Council was asked to make good. Mr. David Meade White was the single member who opposed this. Mr. White and Mr. Cary argued the case at great length, and was supported by Mr. Cary and Reform with a favorable report. Mr. Umlauf's request that it be sent back started a red-hot fight. Mr. Lynch contending that this meant its death or indefinite delay, and the possible death of people. A resolution was brought a smile from the milk delegation on the Council Chamber benches. Mr. Umlauf read resolutions adopted by the Dairyman's Association asking that they be heard by the committee.

Two Health Propositions.

Two matters in which the Board of Health was active added greatly to the length of the session. The recommendation of the Board of Health that T. M. Wortham be permitted to make a single sewer connection on South Laurel Street was opposed by Chief Health Officer Levy. The effect, he said, would nullify the present ordinance. Finally the question was recommended.

The ordinance originating in the Board of Health providing that all milk scores be published, came from the Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform with a favorable report. Mr. Umlauf's request that it be sent back started a red-hot fight. Mr. Lynch contending that this meant its death or indefinite delay, and the possible death of people. A resolution was brought a smile from the milk delegation on the Council Chamber benches. Mr. Umlauf read resolutions adopted by the Dairyman's Association asking that they be heard by the committee.

APRENS' ROYAL WEDDING

Great Granddaughter of Napoleon Bride. APRENS, December 12.—With the splendid and elaborate rite of the Greek Church, the religious ceremony of Prince and Princess of Greece and Princess Marie Bonaparte was performed at the cathedral here to-day in the presence of the King of Greece, a gathering of high state dignitaries and the members of the diplomatic corps. The will was read by the Archbishop of Athens, assisted by five bishops, officiated at to-day's ceremony at 11 o'clock. The ceremony took place in the palace of the King, and the bride was given a joyful ovation and a state coach behind eight horses, and was escorted by a detachment of cavalry.

GERVAS STORRS DEAD

Widely Known Veteran Passes Away After Brief Illness.

After a brief illness, Mr. Gervas Storrs, widely known in Confederate and charitable circles, died at 3 o'clock this morning at his residence, No. 1625 West Grace Street, in the seventy-first year of his age.

Mr. Storrs was the son of the late Algernon S. and Rebecca Storrs, of Richmond. He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Virginia K. Davis, of Georgetown, D. C., and by three children—Miss Rebecca Storrs, Mr. Williams R. Storrs, connected with the firm of John L. Williams & Sons, of this city, and Mr. Gervas Storrs, Jr., of Baltimore.

Serving throughout the war in the Fourth Virginia Cavalry, in which he rendered conspicuous service. Mr. Storrs had a most honorable Confederate record. He had been for many years closely connected with R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, of which he was a past commander.

In recent years he had given much time and attention to the organization of Lee Camp, Sons of Veterans, personally securing many of the present members of the organization. He was attending their meetings as well as the meeting of Lee Camp, Mr. Storrs was one of the organizers of the Old Market Mission, under the supervision of the Rev. Moses D. Coke, D. D., some years ago, and lived in the home of the Presbyterian Church, in which he was an elder and a most active and valuable member.

In former years, Mr. Storrs was a prominent merchant of Richmond. Later, he engaged in the trade of hauling contracts on a large scale. For some years past he had been the Richmond agent for a number of well-known brands of cigars. The funeral arrangements have not been announced.

PRISON FOR REVENUE MEN

Two Former Government Officers and a Distiller Sentenced at Danville.

DANVILLE, VA., December 12.—At the session of the United States Court, which opened to-day, Judge Henry C. McDowell passed sentence on two former government officers convicted for collusion to defraud the government out of revenue tax on spirits made at bonded distilleries, and on one bonded distiller, W. E. Hamsy, former storekeeper and gauger at the distillery of S. D. Sheldon, this county, who was sentenced to a year and one day in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta and fined \$1,000. Ramsey took an appeal, and Hamsy was sentenced to a year and one day in prison and fined \$500.

J. H. Lawrence, owner of a large distillery in Henry county, was sentenced to a year and one day in prison and fined \$300.

Ed. Miller, a negro witness in the Sullivan county drug case, charged with the charge of perjury and was sentenced to three months in prison.

Tom Moonshine, a negro, was sentenced to a year and one day in prison for removing and concealing un-stamped spirits.

The jury in the case of W. B. Samuels, a Danville saloonkeeper, charged with perjury, dragging out of alleged Danville, Va., was returned to-day. The Dry Dock distilling cases will be tried here during the latter part of March at a special term.

CHILD IS ALSO MISSING

Possible There May Be Six Victims From Wrecked Dwelling.

BRISTOL, TENN., December 12.—News from the scene of the dynamite explosion, which wrecked the home of Benjamin Shipley, in the west end of Sullivan county, Tenn., to-day, revealed that a child of Mrs. Nathan Barnes, who was killed, is also missing, while the injured son of Mrs. Eliza Moody is hovering between life and death, and apparently no hope for his recovery.

The bones and charred flesh were scattered about promiscuously in the ashes of the burned house until it was difficult, it is said, to identify any of the bodies of those who perished. The bones were gathered up for burial to-day, and separate graves will be made for the several victims in so far as it may be possible to identify the bodies. Relatives of those who met death journeyed to the scene to-day, and all over the county the casualty being discussed as probably the worst in the county's history.

There is still no explanation for the dynamite being in the house, and the bones were wrapped in bags and a wife was passed around the body under the arm. It was covered with an old wagon cover, and this had over it rocks, sticks and dirt. He said he was a little over nine feet high and weighed possibly 175 pounds.

HANOVER TO FREDERICKSBURG

Company to Be Chartered to Build an Electric Line.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., December 12.—A charter has been prepared for the Fredericksburg and Southern Railway to be presented to the State Corporation Commission. The charter authorizes the company to construct and operate an electric road from some point in Hanover county to Fredericksburg and northwardly, and also authorizes the running of an electric railway in the city of Fredericksburg, subject to the consent of the City Council. The officers of the company are: W. C. Whitner, president; E. W. Smith, vice-president; Alvin T. Embrey, secretary and treasurer, with the following directors: Wm. C. Whitner, E. J. Smith, C. W. Jones, A. P. Rowe, James T. Lowery, A. W. Embrey, Alvin T. Embrey.

ATHENS' ROYAL WEDDING

Great Granddaughter of Napoleon Bride. APRENS, December 12.—With the splendid and elaborate rite of the Greek Church, the religious ceremony of Prince and Princess of Greece and Princess Marie Bonaparte was performed at the cathedral here to-day in the presence of the King of Greece, a gathering of high state dignitaries and the members of the diplomatic corps. The will was read by the Archbishop of Athens, assisted by five bishops, officiated at to-day's ceremony at 11 o'clock. The ceremony took place in the palace of the King, and the bride was given a joyful ovation and a state coach behind eight horses, and was escorted by a detachment of cavalry.

LITTLE GIRL TELLS OF MOTHER'S CRIME

Mary Sue Peebles Recites Horrible Details of Kill- ing of Her Father.

SHOT HIM DOWN; THEN USED ROCKS

Would Not Let Her Go for a Neighbor, but Made Her Cover Up Blood Spots—Coroner Tells About Wounds and What He Saw.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BEDFORD CITY, VA., December 12.—The remarkable spectacle of a young girl being used as the chief witness to convict her mother of the murder of her father was witnessed here to-day, when Mary Sue Peebles, eleven years old, pretty, intelligent and well poised, was called to the stand in the trial of Mrs. Edmond M. Peebles, charged with killing her husband.

The girl not only gave a recital of the horrible details of the slaying of her father by her angry mother, but had to draw a diagram on a blackboard in court, showing the location of the house and kitchen and where she was herself during the tragedy. Her answers were clear and direct, indicating unusual intelligence. Her testimony constituted the sensational feature of the long day's session, which was held in the courtroom of the county courthouse.

The face of Mrs. Peebles was very serious when she was brought into court early this morning, and her eyes showed signs of weeping. She had with her a small phial of camphor, which she used from time to time.

What the Coroner Found. Dr. T. P. West, of this place, was the first witness called. He was coroner at the inquest over the body of Dr. C. Peebles. He testified that he was called to act September 24 at 1 o'clock in the yard of Mr. Peebles. The dead man's lower jaw was shattered, part of his tongue was gone, and ordinary articulate speech was impossible. This wound alone could have caused death.

There are several other wounds on the head, one of which would have caused certain death. The skull was fractured, and a portion driven into the brain. The wound on the head was wide and three inches long. It was made by some blunt instrument, presumably a heavy rock. There were several other wounds on the head, and his face was crushed, his nose being mashed in. In his opinion, Peebles died from a combination of these wounds, but either was sufficient to have caused death.

Blood on Gate Posts.

Dr. West described the public road near the house, and to Peebles' private road that entered it. At their junction were two gate-posts, and blood was spattered on the base of each of them. There were stains along the way leading to the house, and an effort had been made to cover up these. The bloody stones had been thrown aside, but when recovered were covered with blood and bloody hair. The Peebles' gates were visible to one looking from the public road. There was evidence of something being dragged to the house.

On cross-examination by Mr. Sale, Dr. West stated that the private road entered the public road obliquely, crossing a small bridge. The bridge was supported by two posts, which were elevated between the two roads, both of which were depressed a few feet. He said some of the blood stains were approximately as large as one's hand, and some may have been covered by dragging something, but some were covered as by putting fresh dirt over them; some were unmoistened. He stated that the first gunshot wound could have been received by a puff of air from the gun, but he turned his head to one side as it was being fired, and that it might have been possible for Peebles to live after this wound if he had been treated promptly. Describing the body of the house, he said it was wrapped in a bag, and a wife was passed around the body under the arm. It was covered with an old wagon cover, and this had over it rocks, sticks and dirt. He said he was a little over nine feet high and weighed possibly 175 pounds.

Girl Put On Stand.

Mary Sue Peebles, the eleven-year daughter, was called. Her qualifications as a witness was carefully gone into. She testified that the family had moved from Amherst county three years ago. She and her father turned from Lynchburg on August 12. She had been staying with Mrs. Irving and Mrs. Fleet. They came in a two-horse wagon, and reached home late in the evening, and she and her father unhitched and fed the horses. When she went to the kitchen, she found her father trying shoes on the baby. Her father was in good humor. She cut off some bacon to cook, and she went after the cows. Returning, she heard her father and mother "holering" and fussing. Putting on a dress, she went to the house and saw her father at the kitchen porch washing blood off his head. Her mother came out of the kitchen and went into the house and returned with a gun, which was kept at the head of her bed in a rack. Her father started to the house, and her mother kept asking, "Are you going to let me alone?" He said, "Go away from here and let me alone." She saw nothing in her father's hand. Her father started off to the house, and her mother kept asking, "When are you going to let me alone?" He said, "I am not afraid of any of your bluff." At that she shot him in the face as he was going to the house. He fell, and she went to the door for a revolver. She saw a pistol she had in her pocket. This weapon was brought into court and identified. She snuffed it in his face, but it did not go off. Her father ran, and she followed him into the house, and she shot him again. He kept running. She picked up a rock and threw it at him. Clinton, her brother, was at home. Both asked their mother to let their father alone. Witness was cross-examined.

COAST LINE'S DIVIDEND

Semi-Annual Return of 3 Per Cent. on Common Stock Is Declared.

BALTIMORE, MD., December 12.—At a meeting of the board of directors of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, held here to-day, a semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent. upon the common stock was declared out of the surplus net earnings of the company, payable on January 15th, but owing to the continued existence of extraordinary financial conditions, and in order to provide for making final payments for extraordinary betterments and improvements nearing completion, it was provided that this dividend shall be paid with the 4 per cent. certificates of indebtedness of the company, which were some time ago purchased by the company from the holders thereof, and which have since been held as investments in the treasury of the company. Full information will be duly given by circular letter to stockholders as to the adjustment of fractional certificates for sums less than \$100. The transfer books will close December 23rd, and the dividend will be paid on December 24th.

The report of the Atlantic Coast Line, which has just been issued, shows that the gross earnings from operations for the year ended June 30th last, were \$2,713,000, an increase of \$1,000,000 over the previous year; the operating expenses and taxes \$2,412,025, an increase of \$254,927; and the net earnings from operations \$300,975, a decrease of \$1,616,717.

MR. DUNN DIES SUDDENLY

Well-Known Horseman Who Was Soon to Marry Mrs. Henderson.

WINCHESTER, VA., December 12.—A telegram received here to-day announces the sudden death in New York City yesterday of Mr. Nicholas Dunn, of the horse county. Mr. Dunn was forty-three years of age and a native of Rye, N. Y.

Mr. Dunn's death, coming in less than a week after the announcement of his approaching marriage to Mrs. Dorothy Henderson, of this city, which was to take place December 20th, caused a great shock to his friends. Mr. Dunn was a prominent horseman and Mrs. Henderson one of the leading horsewomen in Virginia.

Died from Slight Injuries.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) NEW YORK, December 12.—From what he considered a trifling injury, received at the recent horse show, Nicholas Dunn, of Rye, N. Y., died Wednesday at the home of Ernest E. Lang, in Bedford Avenue, Tarrytown, while the woman he was to have married a week from to-day was on a train, speeding to his bedside.

Mr. Dunn's death, coming in less than a week after the announcement of his approaching marriage to Mrs. Dorothy Henderson, of this city, which was to take place December 20th, caused a great shock to his friends. Mr. Dunn was a prominent horseman and Mrs. Henderson one of the leading horsewomen in Virginia.

HANGS HIMSELF IN STABLE

William C. Abbott, Prominent Danville Tobaccoist, Ends Life.

DANVILLE, VA., December 12.—William C. Abbott, aged twenty-eight years, a prominent tobaccoist, and one of the leading members of the Danville Tobacco Company here, committed suicide late this afternoon by hanging himself in the loft of the stables at his home on the suburbs of the city. He had been suffering for several years with financial troubles, caused by the failure of the Danville Tobacco Company. Mr. Abbott had been confined to his bed for the past two weeks, and had grown very despondent. He discussed taking his life with friends, and his wife told his pistol from him. This afternoon he got up and dressed, telling his wife that he was going out for a walk. She became alarmed when he did not return after two hours, and summoned his brother, James Abbott, to hunt for him. He found him suspended from a rope in the loft of the stables. The coroner decided that no inquest was necessary.

GAME PACKED IN FURS

Shipper Arrested at Wytheville and Fined \$50 and Costs.

WYTHEVILLE, VA., December 12.—Game Warden Ed. A. Crigger captured a box of game containing thirty pheasants and twenty-one quail. In the department of Justice, at Wytheville, Va., F. M. Albert, the shipper, was arrested and tried before Justice Gibboney, who imposed a fine of \$50 and costs, which was paid. The game was secreted in a box of furs. The warden being suspicious, opened the box at the depot.

LITTLETON SILENCED THAW

"I Can Always Find You In," He Explained When He Was Late.

NEW YORK, December 12.—Harry K. Thaw, awaiting trial for the second time for the killing of Stanford White, was silent for a moment. A few days ago he asked his lawyer, Martin W. Littleton, to come and see him at 11 A. M. The next day it was 11:30 A. M. Littleton arrived.

GOES INTO LIQUIDATION

Interstate Finance and Trust Company Closes Its Doors.

ROANOKE, VA., December 12.—The Interstate Finance and Trust Company Bank, at Big Stone Gap, did not open its doors for business to-day, but gave a notice to depositors that it had gone into voluntary liquidation. A. L. Witt, cashier of the bank, was made assignee.

The statement of the bank on December 12th shows that \$100,000 was due depositors and loans and discounts amounted to about the same. The bank then had about \$300,000 in assets, but it was unable to secure cash, and the stock of money on hand was depleted to about \$50,000, which was being used to pay the depositors who were paid in full.

CONVENTION GOES TO DENVER, JULY 7TH

The National Democratic Committee Votes to Ac- cept \$100,000 Fund.

IS REGARDED AS BOOST FOR BRYAN

Feature of Committee Session Was Debate on Proposition of Mr. Clayton to Decline Money Not Actually Needed for Conven- tion Expenses.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12.—"Denver, July 7th." The date and place of the next Democratic National Convention was this morning by the national committee at the Arlington Hotel late this afternoon. It was thought the committee might not get down to this business of the meeting until to-morrow.

Taggart when it was suggested that the most important business of the meeting might not be transacted to-day. "To-morrow is Friday, and the day we don't want to start this campaign under a cloudy sky," he said. He kept the committeemen at work until everything was cleared up to-day.

The fight would have been won by Louisville had that city brought money or certified checks to Washington, instead of pledges. Doubt of the ability of the city to supply hotel accommodations also had its effect.

Big Boost for Bryan.

"It is certain now that Nebraska will cast eight electoral votes for William J. Bryan," said Mayor "Jim" Dahlgren, of Omaha, after the convention had heard the news. "The selection of Denver also means that Bryan will carry Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Montana, and probably California also. A clear and certain gain of thirty-two electoral votes by taking the convention to Denver is worth while. I do not believe the Democrats of this country will have cause to regret that they voted to have their convention west of the Mississippi." After deciding to hold the Democratic National Convention at Denver, Colo., and fixing the date of the meeting for July 7, 1908, the Democratic National Committee late to-day entered upon a spirited debate on the resolution of accepting more of the \$100,000 offered by Denver for the convention than actually needed to pay