nearly 1,000 men to the company, was lined up at quarters to listen to the reading of the articles of war. The men seemed deeply impressed, as they were with more personal words which came in orders from Admiral Evans, the commander in chief, and from the rear admirals on board the three divisional flagships.

**CAUTIONED TO BE GOOD**

Every man was told what his duty was to his country, to his flag and to his superior officers. All were cautioned to uphold the dignity of their uniforms when going ashore in South American ports and always conduct themselves in an orderly and sober manner.

After the articles of war had been read the chaplains of the several ships read from the bible at divine worship. A few stragglers who overstayed their leave from vessels of the auxiliary squadron, which has preceded the battleship fleet to Trinidad, have shown up on the flagship Connecticut and Admiral Evans has directed that they be taken along until the fleet falls in with the ships to which they belong.

Some belated stores were placed on several of the ships today, a vast quantity of plum pudding going to the messes of the Georgia and the Vermont. Fresh meat boats have placed the last supply on board the ships.

"We couldn't take another pound of provisions," said one officer today, "unless we followed the very bad example of the Russians, who were caught by the Japanese with eight inch gun turrets stored with hams and powder chambers filled with caviar."

**CHRISTMAS TREES ALSO**

Several scouting parties were ashore today looking for scrubby pines to be used as Christmas trees. Nearly all were successful and the little pines will be carefully stowed away until Trinidad is reached on Christmas eve.

Although bound for an extended tour of duty in the Pacific ocean, the fleet which will sail tomorrow still retains its title of "the United States Atlantic fleet," under which designation the last sailing orders have been issued.

Captain Joseph B. Murdock of the battleship Rhode Island, who has been at the bedside of his wife in New York the last week, returned to his ship tonight and will sail tomorrow. The patient is said to have passed all danger.

## PREPARING TO CURB JAPAN

### Thus Europe Persists in Viewing the Cruise of American Warships

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The daily newspapers are publishing long accounts from their American correspondents of the preparations for the cruise of Rear Admiral Evans' fleet, but refrain from commenting upon its significance except in the naval columns, in which experts discuss the advisability of testing the resisting power of the ships to the wear and tear of a long voyage. Naval officials agree that this, although expensive, is desirable, and that the cruise of the American battleships will afford good training for the officers and men.

The Outlook, a weekly publication, on the other hand, returns to the discussion of the political significance of the movement. In a long article it says:

"The building up of the states on the Pacific slope, the annexation of Hawaii, the growth of American commerce in the far east by the purchase of the Philippines and the rise of Japan have reacted upon the destinies of America with ever increasing intensity. As a possible battle ground in the future, it is no longer the Atlantic, but the Pacific, that claims American thought."

On these grounds and the fact that it would demonstrate the strategic necessity of the Panama canal and serve as a warning to congress that the present forces are not sufficient to protect the two coast lines, the cruise is held to be defensible, but still "it is impossible to separate it from the tension that exists between the United States and Japan."

The Sunday Observer says it is difficult to believe that the Pacific cruise of the American fleet is dictated by purely professional reasons.

"The plain fact is," says the Observer, "that the cruise is a political reconnoissance of force in view of the rise of Japan. The fleet bears the American flag to the Pacific as a symbol of power and an expression of the national will that it will defend and develop American interests. Its dispatch looks singularly like a bluff and an indiscretion. We fear that the Americans have made a profound mistake if they presume too much on Japanese patience. It is undeniable that there is an element of potential peril in the voyage."

The Sunday Times dwells upon the personality of Count Hayashi, the Japanese foreign minister, to whom the full recognition of Japanese immigrants is a matter of life or death. He is not the man to be frightened at the dispatch of the Pacific fleet, says the Times, and it adds:

"If he ignores the move for the time being he will plod on until he succeeds with peaceful remonstrances or can see no issue but to fight."

BERLIN, Dec. 15.—The German admiralty has been observing for some time with the greatest interest the preparations for the departure of the American fleet, which is regarded here as the most unusual naval experiment of modern times. The only event which is considered camparable to this cruise of the American battleships to the Pacific is the passage of the Russian fleet from the Baltic around to the Sea of Japan. Although the Russian fleet started on its voyage under circumstances involving much greater danger, owing to a state of actual war existing, yet the American fleet comprises a greater number of fighting ships and they are of vastly more importance.

Expert opinion among naval men is that it will be splendid practice for the fleet. While most navies have worked out such a problem theoretically, it is thought likely that the practical carrying out of such a lengthy voyage will reveal many things that ought to be known and bring to light weaknesses if they exist.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 15.—The departure of the American fleet evokes intense interest here. It has occasioned a volume of newspaper comment, the strength and preparedness of the Americans being described as showing a strong contrast to that of Rojestvensky's squadron on its ill starred cruise.

The newspapers are unanimous in their conviction of the far reaching effects of shifting the naval strength of the United States from Atlantic to Pacific waters. The Novoe Vremya does homage to what it terms "a bold Roosevelt stroke" to restore the balance of power in the Pacific, which had been disturbed by the recent war.

"The squadron," says the paper, "will actually serve as the best guarantee of peace by checking the elation of oriental nations."

The Novoe Vremya points out that the cruise cannot fail profoundly to impress the Latin-Americans, thereby lending additional weight to the Monroe doctrine.

The Rech fears that the concentration of such immense power on the California shores will vastly increase the responsibility of the federal government, as it is inevitable that it will produce an outburst of warlike sentiment and will feed the flame of race feeling in the Pacific Coast states.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The departure tomorrow of the American armada is occasion for a few fresh comments here on the American-Japanese relations. French opinion from the first has been divided into two camps. The majority in France share the pacific official view that Japan cannot take umbrage at the cruise, and that, while the situation contains elements of danger, the differences between the two countries are sure to be amicably adjusted. The other camp, supported by a section of the press, has insisted throughout that the real issue between the United States and Japan arises not from the troubles in San Francisco, but because of Japan's inordinate ambition to control the Pacific ocean, which, if persisted in will make a clash sooner or later inevitable. The recall of Ambassador Aoki they regard as a confirmation of their suspicion, and they point to the fact that negotiations on the immigration question are now virtually at a standstill. A well known foreign publicist said:

"It is now almost an open secret in diplomatic circles that the American fleet is going to the Pacific to enable the United States to answer Japan on an equal footing. It is an elementary measure of prudence until Japan shows her hand. If she entertains no ulterior motive the immigration question will soon be settled."

The press remarks the coincidence between the departure of the fleet and the rumor that Japan is seeking a new loan in London and Paris.

## PRESIDENT'S YACHT STARTS

### Steaming on Its Way to the Rendezvous of the Battleship Fleet

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—President Roosevelt, accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt and a distinguished company of guests, sailed on the naval yacht Mayflower from the Washington navy yard at 3:07 o'clock today for Hampton roads. The president in his capacity as commander in chief of the United States navy will give the word of command tomorrow which will send the Atlantic battleship fleet on its cruise to the Pacific. As the ships pass out to sea their last farewell will be from the president. On the deck of the Mayflower he will lead the ships through the Virginia capes, then give way to the flagship Connecticut as the double line of 16 ironclads set their course to the southward. Thus will begin what the president has planned as the supreme test of the American navy.

The announced destination of the fleet is San Francisco bay, but when and where the cruise will end ultimately seems as yet a problem.

The departing scene at the Washington navy yard was typical of the punctiliousness of the president. The Mayflower was spick and span and spotless in white; the jackies in their winter garb of blue lined the rail and the cheerless raw day seemed to lend itself to an expression of their feelings at being left out of the big trip. Marines patrolled the clean swept dock and kept far back from the gangplank the hundred or more persons who had come to see the president depart.

Secretary and Mrs. Metcalf were piped over the ship's side half an hour before the arrival of the president, who was two minutes late. A few minutes following the arrival of the secretary the "bosun's" whistle sounded the honors to Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Newberry, also guests of the president on the trip. Then followed Rear Admiral and Mrs. Brownson and Commander and Mrs. Sims.

In a White House carriage preceding the president came Miss Ethel Roosevelt, Miss Corinne Robinson and Miss Hager. Rear Admiral and Mrs. Cowles rode with President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

As the president stepped aboard the flag of the commander in chief was broken out at the mainyard, the hawsers were slipped and the Mayflower was under way in just five minutes.

The president as he drove on the wharf acknowledged the greeting of the crowd and as the yacht began to move he raised his hat from his place aft on the main deck, while three cheers were given from the wharf.

Another and a somewhat livelier party departed from the navy yard early in the day, being members of the naval committees of the senate and house of representatives, who through the courtesy of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Newberry were provided with the United States ship Dolphin for the trip to the scene of the fleet's departure. The Dolphin got under way shortly after 11 o'clock. Among those on board were Chairman Foss of the house naval committee, Senator McEnery of Louisiana, Representatives Cousins of Iowa, Loud of Michigan, Dawson of Iowa, Thomas of Ohio, Roberts of Massachusetts, Bates of Pennsylvania, Butler of Pennsylvania, Padgett of Tennessee, W. W. Kitchen of North Carolina and Gregg of Texas. The Dolphin will reach her anchorage at Hampton roads shortly in advance of the Mayflower.

**WRITER GOES WITH FLEET**

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—James B. Connolly, the noted writer of sea stories, has been given permission by President Roosevelt to accompany the Evans fleet to the Pacific with several other writers. Connolly predicts war with Japan within 10 years.

## THROW INDIANS IN JAIL AND STEAL THEIR LANDS

### Senate Committee Uncovers Daring Grafters in Oklahoma

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Senators Teller, Curtis and La Follette, composing the committee which was authorized to investigate the affairs of the Kickapoo Indians, soon will submit to the senate a report giving the names of several persons who are alleged to have dealt fraudulently with the Kickapoos, who emigrated to Mexico and disposed of their lands at Shawnee, Okla. The report mentions a clique known as the "Chapman-Grimes-Conine people," and says that their conduct in procuring the valuable lands owned by the Mexican Kickapoo Indians was criminal and brutal in the extreme.

It is recommended that a special attorney be appointed, who shall act under the direction of the department of justice in entering suits to set aside all deeds to Kickapoo lands.

The alleged criminal acts of the men mentioned in the report appear to be hard to deal with, in the opinion of the committee, for the reason that most of them were committed in Mexico. Concerning the doings of the Chapman-Grimes-Conine people the report says:

Outrages were shamelessly perpetrated by them, and their conduct has never been equaled in the history of any dealings to obtain lands from the American Indians. The names of the Indians were willfully and deliberately forged to the deeds claimed to have been taken in Mexico.

Two or three instances are sufficient to show to what extent they went. They had all the leading members of the tribe or head men of the tribe arrested and thrown into jail. They then took a large number of Indians by force and under guard of policemen to the Guajardo's house in Muzquiz, where they urged the Indians to sell their lands, which the Indians declined to do, telling them invariably that they did not desire to sell their lands, and under no circumstances would they sign any papers. Yet these people claim to have deeds executed at the Guajardo's house by the Indians. The Indians all say that they did not sign, and the Indian interpreters used upon the different occasions each say that the Indians did not sign their names, touch the pen or authorize any one to sign their names or touch the pen for them.

The committee will request that it be continued in existence until such time as its members shall consider that the grievances of the Kickapoos in question are receiving proper attention.

## JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY TO BE SHAPED BY ITO

### Many Questions Will Be Decided, Now That He Is in Tokyo

### FIRM TOWARD CANADA

### Not Likely to Send Written Note Concerning Immigration

TOKYO, Dec. 15.—The arrival of Marquis Ito from Korea means the beginning of considerable activity in administrative and political circles. Many matters await final approval. Included among them is the decision whether the Canadian minister of labor, Lemieux, shall be given a written note concerning immigration. There is no reason to believe that the government will change its original decision not to give a written note.

It is stated authoritatively that pressure is being brought to induce Count Inouye to return as Japan's representative at Berlin. If he consents the program for diplomatic changes in Europe will be altered.

Baron Takahira is certain of obtaining the Washington post.

## IMMIGRATION INCREASING

### Ten Thousand Japanese Admitted During the Present Year

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Japanese immigration to the United States during the last fiscal year was double that of 1906, this in the face of the Pacific coast troubles and considerable other agitation.

In 1906 5,199 Japanese were admitted to this country, while in 1907 the number reached 10,155. Eight hundred and fifty-one tried to come, but were rejected.

These figures are from the report of the commissioner general of immigration and do not include those who have slipped in from Mexico or across the Canadian border.

The greater number came in January, March and June. High water mark was reached in January, when immigrants from Japan numbered 1,359.

As to occupations, the largest three classes are laborers, farm laborers and students.

Approximately 280,000 more immigrants of all classes were admitted to the United States in 1907 than in the year before. The total for the last fiscal year was 1,285,249.

## HIGH CALL RATES TAKE STRENGTH FROM MARKET

### Developments of the Week Show Limitations of Situation

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Last week's financial markets reflected one of those reversals of movement by which the limitations of the existing situation became defined. The reaction was accepted as a demonstration that the recovery had adequately expressed the improvement in conditions and in fact might be regarded as running beyond that point.

The later stage of the rebound in prices obviously was due to the needs of an uncovered short interest, and with the satisfaction of this need the market for securities lacked the stay of this demand.

Besides this natural force of reaction from the first rebound there was evidence that some of the factors which had been counted upon to sustain the recovery had turned out disappointing. The most conspicuous of these elements was the decided stiffening of the call money market and the tardiness of the expected relaxation in the general money stringency.

Last week saw the growth of a conviction that too much haste was being made in anticipation of the passing of these abnormal conditions. Less confidence was felt that the resumption of cash payments by the banks and the re-establishment of the credit system could be effected by the end of the year. The New York banks acted on the evidence that steps were incumbent upon them to repair their position as a necessary preliminary to the re-establishment of normal conditions in the country. The contraction of loans in pursuance of this end ran up the week's money rate and turned prices of securities downward.

Another active factor toward checking the rebound in the markets was the question of dividend reductions, which was brought forward by the week's events. Railway traffic officials also made public their discovery that beyond the traffic now moving on old orders little new business is in sight. The declaration of scrip instead of cash dividends by the Western Union and the Atlantic Coast line opened the field to conjecture of similar results to flow from the trade reaction.

**BANKS TO REOPEN**

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 15.—The Union Avenue Bank of Commerce, which was obliged to close by the suspension of the National Bank of Commerce, will reopen for business tomorrow morning. All the small banks carried down by the National Bank of Commerce's failure have been rehabilitated. Four government bank examiners are working on the books of the National Bank of Commerce and upon their report will depend whether the bank shall be reopened or liquidated.

## MRS. GEORGE JAY GOULD WILL APPEAR ON STAGE

### Former Edith Kingdon, Bright Actress, Consents to Amuse Society in One Performance

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Society will be much interested in the announcement that Mrs. George Jay Gould, who before her marriage was Edith Kingdon, one of the brightest and most popular personalities of the stage, will again make her appearance as an actress. This, however, is to be in one performance and only in a brief one act play at a matinee.

She consented to act provided Daniel Frohman would allow Kyrle Bellew to take the opposite part of the leading role to that in which Mrs. Gould was to appear, and this has been arranged.

This addition to the social program of the season is in large part due to the ingenious activity of Frederick Townsend Martin, to whom society has been indebted in the past for many novel and interesting events for its entertainment. He is to be host at a reception in the Plaza on the afternoon of January 21, and the feature of the occasion is to be a stage program in which Mrs. Gould is to have a sprightly role in a comedy by Edward Van Zile.

# Skeptical Depositors Will Force Issue Today

## DEPOSITORS WILL SUE TO FORFEIT BANK STOCK

Continued from Page 1, Column 1

his chair tilted back; part of the time he paced back and forth from one grating to the other, like an animal in a zoo, and the rest of the day he passed pitched forward in his seat, his elbows on his knees and his face buried in his hands. Two or three times during the afternoon he was called to the telephone at the booking desk and held short conversations over the wire, but that was the only break to the monotony of the long day.

In the evening Mrs. Brown and her son called at the jail and for more than an hour chatted with the prisoner. They left behind them some magazines and a book or two to help while away the weary hours of waiting that confronted the fallen banker. These remained untouched throughout the evening.

Bartnett, apparently more reconciled to his confinement than his partner, sat quietly the entire day in his cell, reading. Not once did the door open except at meal times, when a tray from a nearby restaurant was passed through to him, containing each time a choice meal. Bartnett ate heartily both at noon and at night, but the morning meal was left almost untouched. Prison regulations were strictly lived up to, and neither knife, fork nor spoon or sharp instrument of any kind was allowed to be sent in on the food tray.

Both men retired early, curling up in their blankets on the floor, like all the other prisoners in the cells around them.

In conversation with a reporter last night Bartnett asked that the newspapers and the public suspend judgment on him until he has had opportunity to present his side of the case. He said he had done a great deal toward the building up of California and the Pacific coast and considered himself entitled at least to the benefit of delayed judgment.

He asked of his friends that they retain him in their respect, and that when the time comes he would clear himself of all charges.

**DIRECTORS MEET TODAY**

### Depositors' Committee Will Demand Resignations of All

At 2 o'clock this afternoon there will be a meeting of the directors of the wrecked California safe deposit and trust company in the offices of the bank, California and Montgomery streets. The executive committee of the stock holders appointed by Chairman O. M. Goldaraccna will meet the directors and demand their resignations, to take effect at once.

The committee then will select a temporary board of directors to fill the vacancies and will negotiate with the executive committee of depositors and offer places on the directorate to depositors.

While the bank is in the hands of the bank commissioners the board of directors have no power, but if a receivership is not declared and the bank is permitted to reorganize the directors will have important functions to perform in putting the institution on its feet again.

**HINDUS DEPOSITORS**

### Money to Pay Temple Builders Is Tied Up

Swami Trigunatita, head of the Hindu temple settlement at 2963 Webster street, has written to J. W. Raphael of the depositors' committee of the California safe deposit and trust company, saying that the temple had $820 on deposit in the defunct bank.

The money was to have been expended in paying the wages of laborers working on the new temple, and its loss leaves the congregation in sore financial distress. The swami closes his note with a pathetic appeal for aid in "getting that money as soon as possible."

## COMES TO WAGE BATTLE AGAINST JUDGE WILFLEY

### Representative of Americans in Shanghai Will Ask Congress to Remove Taft's Friend

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL

TACOMA, Dec. 15.—Determined to carry the fight against Judge Wilfley, supreme authority in the American court of China, to the highest tribunal, George F. Curtis, an American attorney of Shanghai, arrived in Tacoma last night.

Charges have been made against Wilfley, especially by Americans in China. They accuse him of prejudice, partiality and arbitrary rulings and are determined to have him removed. He is accused of having disbarred from practice a majority of the American lawyers in China, of prejudicing American interests and of injuring American trade in the orient. Wilfley hails from St. Louis. He was formerly attorney general of the Philippines under Governor Taft.

"At San Francisco I shall file an application before the United States circuit court of appeals," said Curtis. "Then I shall go on to Washington to wage a fight against Judge Wilfley. I expect that the matter will get into congress after the holidays, for we are determined to obtain relief.

"My cases at San Francisco are to be mandamus proceedings. I am representing Americans at Shanghai whose interests have been jeopardized by Judge Wilfley's arbitrary rulings. All appeals have been overruled by him.

"We consider it unfortunate that Secretary Taft during his recent tour of the orient saw fit to indorse what Judge Wilfley had done."

## BARTNETT FACES A NEW CHARGE ON OVERDRAFT

### Prosecutor Hoff Cook Takes Inquiry Deeper Into Bank Wreckage

"When the grand jury meets Wednesday afternoon it will investigate the charge that W. J. Bartnett overdrew his account with the California safe deposit and trust company within a few days of the suspension. If it can be shown that he knew that the bank was insolvent and withdrew the money with criminal intent he can be prosecuted on a charge of embezzlement. The courts have held that in such cases the crime can be proved if criminal intent is shown. Under the law charges of obtaining money on false pretenses can be prosecuted and convictions obtained if it can be shown that persons were persuaded by false reports of the standing or solvency of the bank to deposit money therein. We will proceed with felony charges against any official or director of the bank who is culpable."—Statement of Assistant District Attorney William Hoff Cook.

An investigation which will include in its ramifications all phases of the wreck of the California safe deposit and trust company will be taken up by the grand jury Wednesday. The district attorney's office through William Hoff Cook first will present the evidence against Bartnett and J. Dalzell Brown of the bank in relation to their alleged embezzlement of the Colton securities. Barclay Henley and Crittenden Thornton, attorneys for certain of the Colton claimants, have aided the district attorney's office in preparing the case to be presented to the panel. Then the investigation of the parts of James Treadwell, David L. Walker and others had in the ruin of the bank will be taken up.

The allegation that Bartnett drew $25,000 from the bank on overdraft shortly before the collapse will be probed. That the money was drawn is shown by the books, but a conviction would depend on the ability of the prosecutors to show that the banker drew out the money to save himself from the impending crash. The specific crime that could be charged in that case would be embezzlement.

Under section 562 of the penal code any bank employe who receives money on deposit after he knew that the bank was insolvent would be guilty of a misdemeanor, but it is not the plan of the district attorney's office to wreak vengeance on subordinates. The bank officials who continued to dangle alluring offers before the prospective depositors and who insisted up to the end that the California safe deposit and trust company was solvent are to be made to suffer. Every official and every one of the directors is in jeopardy if it is found that they have violated the law.

That J. Dalzell Brown, the manager, now in the city prison, tried to give the impression of the solvency of the bank to the last is shown in a letter written by him to H. H. Clark, a stock broker, on October 28, two days before the California safe deposit and trust company shut the doors upon empty vaults and a pile of dubious securities. Clark has sent a copy of the letter to J. W. Raphael, chairman of the original depositors' committee. In Clark's letter he says to Raphael:

"The following is an extract from a letter to me from J. Dalzell Brown, dated October 28, two days before the bank closed its doors, in reply to a letter from me asking for a statement of the bank's affairs:"

We do not issue monthly statements, but inclose herewith our last printed statement of date of June 30. I am pleased to inform you that since that date our deposits have increased. The shores of the Pacific are so far removed from the disturbed condition of Wall street that we are not in any way affected here by the eastern money stringency, and business is entirely normal, not only with us, but with all the banks in town.

J. DALZELL BROWN, Manager.

The report of the defunct bank issued in June may be used against Brown, David F. Walker, W. J. Bartnett and the directors in the proceedings before the grand jury. If it is found that the report was false proceedings may be instituted under section 564 of the penal code, which reads as follows:

Section 564—Officers of corporations publishing false reports, etc. Every director, officer or agent of any corporation or joint stock association, who knowingly concurs in making, publishing, or posting either publicly or privately to the stock holders or other persons, any written report, exhibit or statement of its affairs or pecuniary condition, or book or notice containing any material statement which is false, or any untrue or willfully or fraudulently exaggerated report, prospectus, account, statement of operations, values, business, profits, expenditures or prospects, or any other paper or document intended to produce or having a tendency to produce or give the shares of stock in such a corporation a greater value or a less apparent market value than they really possess, or who refuses to make any book or post any notice required by law, in the manner required by law, is guilty of a felony

**HUNT MARIN TERRORIST**

SAN RAFAEL, Dec. 15.—Sheriff Taylor has received information that a man answering the description of Dan Vulotti, who has been terrorizing Marin county for some time past, reappeared Saturday night at Marshalls, a small town in the interior of the county, and robbed the general store there. Taylor immediately dispatched a posse of six to Marshalls.

**JOHN JACOB ASTOR ILL**

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—John Jacob Astor is confined to his home in Fifth avenue with a severe attack of grip, which threatens pneumonia. His condition is not considered serious.

**FATALLY HURT BY CAR**

Herve Stephen, chief engineer of the French ship Asnieres, lying off Mission street wharf, was fatally injured by a streetcar at East and Mission streets last night.

## RAGLAND FINANCIER OF LOSING HOTEL SCHEME

### Oakland Associate in Deal Tells of Suburban Villa Venture

R. E. Ragland, president of the defunct Citizens' state bank, embarked recently in a real estate deal in Oakland which was an operation calculated to impress his associates with his ability to juggle with intricate affairs of finance. J. T. Kirby, who with W. F. Howlett was invited into the transaction, relates the following story of his experiences:

Ragland, as the Suburban hotel company, bought the old Kinsell homestead at Elmhurst from Henderson & Tapscott for $5,000, paying half cash. He made a proposition to Howlett and myself that we take the place for $12,000. We were to put up $1,500 and Ragland was to put up $1,500 cash. Then $9,000 was to be obtained by Ragland on a mortgage to the Citizens' bank. This deal was to net Ragland a neat profit, as can be easily figured out. But after we had sunk some of our money in the place, intending to open a suburban villa, we discovered that it would be impossible to get a license from the supervisors.

That made no difference with Ragland. He was set on getting that $9,000 and tried his best to get us to sign papers which would enable him to drag the coin out on a mortgage. But we could not see it that way.

After we had gone to considerable initial expense we found that the villa scheme was impossible. I am out and injured, so is Howlett, who blames me for getting him into the deal, and I am trying to figure out of the complication whether Ragland wins or loses.

The Suburban hotel company owns the property, I believe, and the last that I heard of it Ragland was trying to find a customer for it at $15,000. We did not find out how much he had paid for the place until after my connection with it ceased. Howlett and I were to have a half interest in it on our $1,500 cash payment and we should assume part of the mortgage liability and wait for the $15,000 customer to come along and make a large profit for Ragland.

## TUGBOAT DESTROYED AND CAPTAIN BADLY BURNED

### J. H. Edgecumbe Seriously Injured by Explosion on the Fox

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL

NAPA, Dec. 15.—The tugboat Fox, a powerful San Francisco vessel, was destroyed by fire today while at anchor in Napa river opposite the Stanley ranch, four miles below Napa. John H. Edgecumbe, captain of the vessel, sustained terrible burns in the fire and is not expected to survive his injuries. Edgecumbe was engaged in relighting the furnace on the boat, the furnace being an oil burner. The interior of the furnace was warmer than he expected, and the flames burst forth, igniting the large tank of oil standing near by. The tank of oil exploded and spread burning fluid all over the vessel. The burning oil caught on Edgecumbe's clothing and covered him from head to foot.

Enveloped in flames and almost stifled, he jumped into the river and in this way succeeded in extinguishing the fire in his clothing. He managed to crawl back on the burning boat.

William Stewart and J. Mueller, who were passing in the launch Columbia, rescued Edgecumbe from his dangerous position. He was brought to Napa in the launch and taken by Deputy Sheriff Otterson to St. Michael's hospital for treatment. Physicians attending him found he was severely burned on the head, back and from the waist down to his feet.

The tugboat was burned to the water's edge. The vessel was used by a San Francisco company to tow large barges of gravel from Napa river to San Francisco for use in building.

Edgecumbe is a member of the society of marine engineers and was considered one of the most expert and reliable seamen about the bay. He had been at work on the tugboat Fox in Napa river for several weeks, and the vessel had hauled thousands of tons of gravel to San Francisco.

**GRAND CHIEF ON VISIT**

The official visit of Grand Chief Companion Lillie Baston of this city to Hamlet circle, Companions of the Foresters of America, in Alameda last week was a pleasant one. The officers were complimented by the visiting official. The business of the evening was followed by a banquet and a program of interesting numbers, including a vocal solo by Miss Jennie Harrington, concluded the evening's events.

**DEATH OF PUBLISHER**

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 15.—James Tabb, president of the Springfield Union publishing company, and formerly prominently identified with the paper making industry, died today, aged 58 years.

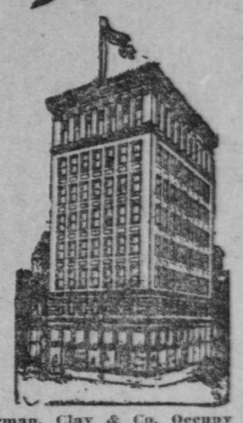
**NEWSPAPERMAN KILLED**

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 15.—George F. Fiske, a New York newspaperman, recently press agent for the Jamestown exposition, was struck and killed by a Pennsylvania railroad train here tonight.


**It Is Presumption to Say You Haven't a Mind of Your Own**

yet that is what is practically said to you when you ask for an advertised article and are offered a substitute by a dealer. He would give you what you made up your mind you wanted but for the fact that a substitute pays him a larger percentage of profit. Such a dealer's interest lies only in making as much money out of you as possible. The first class dealer would have given you what you asked for, by that course admitting that you had a mind of your own and were capable of exercising it. Show the substitutor that you have a mind of your own by getting **what you ask for.**

Open



Sherman, Clay & Co. Occupy This Entire Building.

OPEN EVENINGS

Tomorrow night and from then on until Christmas our establishments at Kearny and Sutter, 1635 Van Ness and in Oakland will be open evenings.

THE VICTOR VICTROLA

The Talking Machine without a horn. The record is shut into a box, practically eliminating all mechanical sounds.

PRICE $200.00

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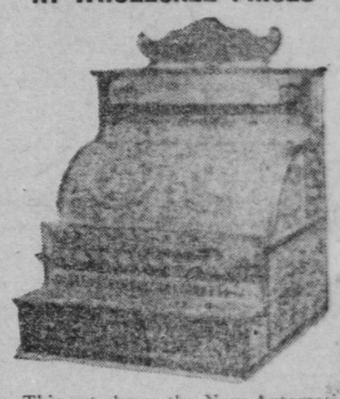

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