THE WASHINGTON TIMES

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EXTRA!

5:30 A. M.

DIED AT THEIR POST

Three Brave Firemen Perish In the Knox Stables Fire.

SEVERAL SERIOUSLY HURT

One of the Fiercest Conflagrations in the City's History.

SCORES OF HORSES ROASTED

Nearly a Half Million Dollars' Worth of Property in Ashes—Almost a Block Demolished—Herculean Work of the Fire Department—Searching for Bodies Under the Ruins—Telegraph and Electric Wires Melted by the Terrible Heat—Origin of the Holocaust Not Known—Scenes and Incidents of the Dreadful Visitation.

Clanging bells, roaring flames, rushing engines, crashing walls, agonizing shrieks of horses that were perishing in the fiery furnace—such was the scene that was presented to eye and ear as Knox's stables at B and Second streets and the other buildings in that block fell a prey to the destructive element early this morning.

Not since the big fire in the Patent Office, many years ago, has the fire department of the District had to cope with so fierce a conflagration. All its appliances were brought into action, and officers and men worked with the intelligence, zeal and effective circumspection which has made Washington's fire brigade rank among the best in the country. But even their heroic efforts were unavailing to save from destruction the property within the immediate grasp of the devouring element, and they had to direct their energies in a large measure to protect the houses in adjacent blocks from becoming ignited by the brands that were flying through the air.

Most horrible of all, came the report that five men were buried under the ruins. No certainty could be had as to this account for a long time because it was almost impossible to make a search for them in that roaring, seething sea of fire, but at last the terrible assurance came that five brave firemen had been crushed under the falling walls. Four men were injured by falling walls and timbers, and these were promptly removed to the Emergency Hospital for treatment.

Following is the list of killed:

SAMUEL MASTEN.
REUBEN FENTON.
DENNIS O'DONOHUE.

All three men were members of No. 1 engine company, and were crushed to death by the falling of the west wall.

Masten's body was recovered about 4:30 o'clock. The firemen are still at work digging in the ruins for the remains of the other two men.

The list of the men wounded by the falling walls as far as known, and the extent of their injuries, is as follows:

JAMES G. WILSON, No. 525 Eleventh street southeast, fracture of the right leg.

JAMES KELHAR, No. 462 Virginia avenue southwest, severe sprain of the back.

LEE BELL, No. 3202 I street northwest, terribly burned about the face and body.

JAMES E. HOOPER, No. 521 F street northeast, lacerated wounds about head and shoulders, caused by falling bricks.

These men were all removed to the Emergency Hospital, where their wounds were dressed.

The police reported that some laboring men were also lost in the building, being overcome by smoke while endeavoring to save some of the property and books from the office, but this report could not be verified.

The fire was under control, by its own aid, rather than that of the fire department at 3:40 a. m.

The walls falling, which in the majority of cases fell inward, did more to subdue the flames than all the water that was poured into the burning mass.

At 4:10 a. m. that portion of the block which had been occupied by Knox's stables and storage warehouse, with the alleys and streets which bounded the buildings, was a dismal picture of smouldering ruins. The telegraph polls were either in part burned down or still burning.

The broken or melted wires had fallen in irregular masses across the streets.

Then for the first time the people who had fled from their houses on the opposite sides of B and Second streets in terror, returned to find that their dwellings were not destroyed.

The paint on the frame buildings was blistered or burned off, and the owners or occupants busied themselves by throwing water on the fronts to prevent their catching fire, which threatened.

The scene of ruin and destruction was indescribable.

The charred flesh of the brave firemen who lost their lives at the post of duty; the burning carcasses of horses; the ashes and smouldering remains of the entire household effects of many residents in this city, the silverware and valuable pictures of others and the sealskins and winter garments of many ladies of fashion and society lay beneath the piles of brick and mortar, which had composed the walls of the buildings.

Considering the nature of the fire, the rapidity with which it burned, and the bravery of the men whose duty it was to fight the flames, the wonder is that there was not a greater loss of human life.

It is impossible to estimate the amount of loss. It was variously estimated at from $300,000 to $700,000, and a man who is identified with insurance business said that $500,000 is a very conservative estimate.

The hope was fervently expressed by many that the poor fellow had been mercifully killed by the falling wall rather than by fire.

The horses in the stable building, which were on the second and third floors, were burned where they stood. At about 2:25 the third floor gave way from its weakened condition and the weight of the horses piled on it, and fell with a crash to the floor below. In less than thirty minutes the second floor gave way and fell with a report like distant thunder to the ground floor. Soon after this the walls of this building began to fall.

Before the walls of the storage warehouse began to fall the police were ordered to drive the crowds back. A fire line was accordingly formed at C street and between B street and Pennsylvania avenue.

The terribly magnificent sight was witnessed by thousands of people. It seemed as if every cab in the District was brought into requisition.

Ladies arose from their peaceful slumbers to go to the scene of destruction. Many declared that they had never seen such an awfully grand spectacle in the District before.

The horses which were rescued wandered about the streets at their own free will, halterless and ownerless.

The telegraph and telephone services in the District were seriously interrupted by the destruction of the property of the companies. It was impossible to put a money value on their loss at a late hour this morning.

No one who represented the owners of the destroyed buildings could be found, nor could any one give an approximate estimate of their personal property. A great deal of that stored in the buildings is covered by insurance, but much is uninsured, and the individual losses of many residents here will be many and in some cases heavy.

One of the most heart-rending and at the same time sickening scenes of the conflagration was that witnessed by a TIMES reporter, where a number of brave firemen were endeavoring to free the blackened and charred body of an unfortunate comrade from the weight of burning timbers and red-hot bricks which bound him to the ground where he had been stricken down.

Mr. Knox places $75,000 as the lowest estimate of his loss. The value of the property stored in his warehouse he knows nothing about, and is unable to say what loss the people to whom it belongs will sustain.

The building and its contents, Mr. Knox told a TIMES man this morning, were only partially insured, and his loss as a consequence will be very heavy.

FIRST STORY OF THE FIRE.

Early Reports that Went Around About the Holocaust.

The mammoth establishment at the corner of Second and B streets northwest, known as Knox's Express, the stables attached, and several adjacent dwellings were totally destroyed by fire this morning involving an aggregate loss of upward of $500,000.

There were probably 500 horses in the building, about one-fourth the number being stabled on the second floor.

All the animals on the ground floor were saved; all the others destroyed.

The fire broke out in the main building, where the offices were located, but those who first discovered the smoke say that within five minutes the flames seemed to break out from every portion of the building, and in less than half an hour the hopelessness of saving the property was apparent.

The flames spread so rapidly and grew so fierce and hot that there was great trouble in getting the horses from even the first floor.

The occupants of the small tenements in the court back of the stables moved their furniture out upon the stones in the alley and as far away as the Third and First streets. The women and children were running about half clad and some in hysterics, screaming for help and anxiously hunting the missing members of their families from whom they had become separated.

The frightened horses were turned loose upon the streets and were running about, adding to the general confusion by their fierce neighs.

The telegraph poles in the space back of the storage-house and elsewhere near by caught fire and burned till they toppled over.

The north and east walls of the stables fell with a crash about 2:30 o'clock. Soon afterwards other walls tumbled, sending the flames skyward and causing the sparks to fly in every direction.

The firemen worked heroically and laboriously, making every effort to stay the progress of the fire, but nothing seemed possible against the intense heat.

It was more than once remarked by the spectators that the flames spread more rapidly and that the building for so large a structure was destroyed more quickly than was ever before known under similar circumstances.

The storage-house contained a large amount of property that had been left there by persons who are now out of town. It is therefore impossible to gather the extent of the loss to the owners, but it is understood to aggregate a very large amount.

In contrast to the terrible suffering of the imprisoned victims, the surrounding scene was most brilliant. The south side of Pennsylvania avenue from Four-and-a-half to Seventh streets was brilliant with the glare.

Clouds of steam from the Washington Central Market building were all aglow with reflected light. Far off to the southwest the white shaft of the great monument stood out clear and pale in a crimson sky.

Even the green hills of Virginia seemed to feel the strange light. Over the doomed building and the charred bodies of the unfortunate victims the sparks danced straight up to the height of a hundred feet. The inflammable character of the building was easy prey for the greedy flames and they made fast work.

It is altogether probable that the loss occassioned by this fire will run close up to $500,000, but at this time nothing like an accurate estimate can be had, nor can anything be ascertained about the insurance, except that it is stated that almost every home insurance company will be affected.

Naval Lodge to Marshall Hall at 6:30 p. m.

HILL QUOTES AVON'S BARD

Shakespeare a Cudgel for Gorman, Vest, Voorhees, and Harris.

MODERN POLITICAL TRAGEDY

Cassius Gorman, Casca Vest, Brutus Jones, Metellus Cimber Harris, and Trebonius Voorhees Conspire Against Cæsar Cleveland—All Honorable Men.

The Senate chamber was the scene of another drama yesterday, scarcely less startling or less expected than the remarkable occurrences of Monday. Senator Hill, the bitter and life-long enemy of the President; the man who had savagely fought him on every occasion, from polling-box to convention; from legislature to Senate, came to his defense in a speech of great vigor and vim. For two hours a breathless Senate and breathless galleries listened in amazement to a turn of front as complete as any American statesman has ever made.

In his defense of the President's position and his letter, Senator Hill had the support of the galleries. On several occasions the outburst was sudden and enthusiastic. It went almost unrestrained at times, and the audience even hissed when Senator Hawley suggested that the galleries be closed on a repetition of the applause. The most dramatic scene was at the close when Senator Hill made a remarkable adaptation from "Julius Caesar," in which he punished the Senators who had opposed him, and defended the Senate bill with his stinging sarcasm.

The New York Senator began his remarks where Senator Gorman stopped yesterday by saying that he hoped he, no less that the Senator from Maryland, appreciated the gravity of the situation. A bill had been framed which had gone to conference, had been rejected there, and the House was refusing to yield. It would serve no object for the Senate to obstinately insist on its amendments. With the support of the press, the public, and the President the House would never yield.

CLEVELAND HAD A RIGHT.

Senator Hill next defended the President's letter. The President had a right to send it, and the question of making it public was one to be decided by sender and receiver. Senators were not concerned in it.

As to the President's position in favor of free raw materials no one could successfully impugn it. It was a Democratic doctrine and the President had supported it since his famous tariff message of 1887. The President saw the mistakes in the Senate bill and his earnest and candid criticism had annoyed the very Senators who had sought him to stand by their bill. Only yesterday the Senator from Maryland had had read the farewell address of Wasnington on the danger from a strengthening of the executive power. Such a quotation came with poor grace from the men who had sought the President's interposition to save their bill. "While I do not often defend the President," said Senator Hill in ringing tones, "I hope, when he is wilfully attacked, I am broad minded and liberal enough to defend him." The applause that followed this utterance did not die away for some minutes.

"His colleagues had done differently," Mr. Hill continued. "Yesterday the remarkable spectacle was presented of a Democratic leader calling up Senator after Senator, with all the formality of a judicial proceeding, to put the President on trial for impeachment. But their testimony showed that at all times the President had urged free raw materials. Somehow they all inferred or supposed he wanted the Senate bill. Surely the President could not have said anything to these Senators which would warrant their supposition that he wished to be bound definitely by the Senate bill. In view of this misunderstanding the President had written his letter to Mr. Wilson.

PRESIDENT HONEST AND SINCERE.

"I have known the President well enough to know that he is slow, deliberate, honest and sincere in considering public measures. He evidently had intended to pass deliberately on the propositions advanced to him, and now there was the ridiculous spectacle of these old Senatorial leaders, these tried politicians coming out and pleading that they had been deceived and buncoed by the President.

"I am opposed to this bill," he added. "The people are opposed to it. The President is opposed to it. I think I am in pretty good company."

The Senator from Maryland had, he declared, accused him of waltzing down the aisle with the Senator from Rhode Island. Did not the Senator from Maryland waltz down the aisle last summer with the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Sherman) in the fight to repeal the Sherman bill. These very Senators who are predicting the impossibility of the passage of the tariff bill are the men who last summer predicted that the Sherman law could not be unconditionally repealed. It was unconditionally repealed. "You," said Senator Hill, turning to Senator Gorman, "said it could not pass, but it did pass, and I tell you now that while this compromise bill may pass, I do not believe it will."

The Senator from Maryland was, he went on to say, an honorable man and kept his pledges. He had told on Monday how he had promised the Louisiana delegates in 1892 that sugar should be taxed in any tariff bill. Why should the Senator from Maryland expect to bind other people by that bargain. "I, for one," added Senator Hill, turning directly to Senator Gorman, "refuse to be delivered in any such way. The Senators from Maryland, from New Jersey, and from Ohio had no authority to construe platforms or to add one word to them. If the Senators had staid away from the White House in the future they would not get into such entanglements.

"DO AS I DO," SAID HILL.

"Do as I do," said Mr. Hill, amid general laughter. "Go to the White House just as little as possible." The idea of such old political foxes being deceived and misled up at the White House was absurd. It was childish to plead that they had been misled by an "ambitious President."

Senator Gorman then jumped up and interrupted Senator Hill. "If," said he, "this bill is changed and the Senate recedes from every amendment will you vote for this bill?"

"I will cross that bridge when I get to it. I will not be bluffed."

"Why don't you call it?" inquired Senator Lindsay.

"The Senator understands the terms of our national game better than I do," was the ready response.

Then came the keenest satire that has been employed in the Senate for many a day, as Senator Hill continued:

"Mr. President, I have thus discharged my duty from my standpoint. The Senator from Maryland yesterday started to describe me as the Iago of Shakespeare, and then he withdrew the comparison. That reminds me of the senatorial conspiracy of years ago in the Roman Senate when a senatorial cabal conspired to assassinate the great Roman Emperor.

"If I were disposed to make comparisons, I might speak of the distinguished Senator from Maryland as the 'lean and hungry Cassius.' You recollect what Cæsar said of him. He said: 'He thinks too much; such men are dangerous.' I might speak of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Jones) as Marcus Brutus—Honest Brutus.

"Right here I want to say a word. During all the tariff debate, during all the preparations of this bill, that Senator has exhibited most wonderful patience and sagacity. He has treated every citizen and every Senator with the greatest respect. No matter how this debate may terminate, no matter whether this bill passes or not, I say the Senator from Arkansas—and in paying this compliment I do not discriminate against any one else—has won the esteem and respect of his countrymen everywhere. I will call him 'Honest Brutus.'

"Cassius I have already referred to. Casca was the distinguished Senator who struck the first blow last Friday (Mr. Vest). Trebonius, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Voorhees) testy, probably a little petulant—good Trebonius. Metellus Cimber, the distinguished Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Harris.)

"Mr. President, when yesterday they stabbed at our President and sought to strike him down, they made the same plea as did the conspirators of old, that they struck for Rome—for their country. They said they did it not that they loved Cæsar less but that they loved Rome more—not that they loved the President less but they loved their party and the Senate bill more. I can say with Marc Antony:

"What private griefs they have, alas, I know not,
"That made them do it; they are wise and honorable."

This remarkable outburst of sarcasm, which had drawn down the laughter of the galleries, and convulsed the Senate, cut the four Senators named to the quick. Gorman looked nervous and tried to read a letter, but his mouth twitched and his eyes were restless. Vest sat back trying to look stoical, but making a pitiful failure of it.

Senator Caffery, who followed Senator Hill, had another surprise to spring which would have made a great sensation at any other time, but which, amid the remarkable developments of this week's debate, caused only moderate interest. It was the inner history of the sugar schedule and the bitter repudiation of Senator Gorman's attempt to put the Louisiana Senators in the disgraceful attitude of bartering away their votes and insisting on the sugar schedule to pass the bill.

He prefaced his remarks by moving that the conferees be instructed to retain the sugar bounty during the year 1894 on all grades of eighty degrees, according to the original provision stricken out in the Senate. Then he began with a brief but spirited defense of the President's letter, in which he declared there was absolutely no truth in the allegation that the President had violated the rights of his office in writing such a letter.

LEAVING HIS PRISON HOUSE.

He would no longer remain in his prison house. The two Louisiana Senators had been made the target for the arrows of all the tariff reformers—now he would tell his story. Early in the course of the tariff debate he was at a conference at which the Senators from Ohio, from Maryland, from New Jersey, and others were present. At this time it was decided that a duty of 40 per cent. on raw and 50 per cent. on refined should be accepted.

"I took the schedule to Senator Jones, thinking it was all right," said Mr. Caffery, "but after some calculation he showed that in it was concealed duty greater than in the McKinley law. I withdrew it and some time after presented another schedule, placing a rising duty on refined sugar on the basis of the polariscope test. That schedule remained for some time, until the Senator from Maryland and the Senator from Ohio called me into the corridor one day and said that this schedule would mean free sugar, and Senator Jones said that the sugar refining interests would favor free sugar if that schedule was insisted on. He wanted me to accept 40 per cent. on raw and the one-eight differential on the refined. That schedule was never acceptable to the sugar growers, but was directed by the refining interests. At last we accepted it, however, with the understanding that the bounty provision for 1894 should remain. The Senators from Missouri and from Arkansas are present and can correct me if I have said anything that is not true."

CAFFERY'S CONFESSION.

Senator Caffery continued by a side criticism on Senator Hill, whose ways, he said, were past finding out. "When that Senator moved to make the schedule go into effect on the passage of the bill, some of the Democratic brethren had jumped the track. Then faith was broken with the Louisiana Senators, and since then there had been some subtle influence at work to link the sugar grower and the sugar refiner in companionship to aid the latter by the process.

"Suddenly," he added, with bitter sarcasm, "I found I had made a great discovery, that sugar planting was a great industry in Ohio, in New Jersey, and in Maryland, for the Senators from those States were taking a most lively interest in the schedule."

"You have told us the attitude of everybody else; will you tell us what the attitude of the Louisiana Senators would have been if sugar had been placed on the free list?" asked Mr. Teller.

"Frankly," replied Mr. Caffery, "I will say that if sugar had been placed on the free list we would have voted against the bill."

The technical discussion of certain features of the McKinley sugar schedule involving Senators Aldrich, Allison, Gray, and Caffery consumed the few minutes that remained before the time for the assembling of the Democratic caucus, and thus ended the second day of the great debate. There is every indication that it will be continued to-day with the same intensity, as Senators Brice, Voorhees and Mills each intend to speak before action is taken.

WELLMAN'S EXPEDITION.

Competent Opinions That It Is Another Victim of the Arctic Seas.

LONDON, July 24.—Carl Siewers writes to the Standard that he is in receipt of advices from Norway that leave little doubt that the Wellman arctic expedition is lost. Experienced skippers just returned from Spitzbergen seas express the same opinion, and Col. Fielding, who accompanied Capt. Nares' expedition in 1875, shares this belief. The Pall Mall Gazette is in receipt of similar advices from Tromso, all confirming the general belief in the fate of the expedition.

The American north pole expedition, in command of Mr. Walter Wellman, left Tromso, Norway, on board the steamer Ragnvold Jari for the island of Spitzbergen on May 24 last. The expedition, among other members, included Astronomer Owen B. French, of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey; Thomas B. Mohun, a well-known medical man of Washington, and Mr. Charles C. Dodge, a photographer and artist of the United States Navy Department. In addition, the expedition included Mr. Westfall, a Swedish member of the party; Franklin, an American athlete and skater; Wenship, an English engineer; Oven, a geologist from Christiana; Alme, a meteorologist; Hyerdahl and Juell, Ski runners and sportsmen from the University of Christiana, and Capt. Henderson, of Aalesduun, the executive officer and ice pilot. The members of the expedition had with them fifty dogs, six aluminum sledges and boats combined.

Nothing definite has been heard of the expedition since it touched at Danes Island, off the northwest coast of Spitzbergen, where Prof. Oyen, the geologist, was left, his only companion being a dog, to await the return of the expedition and guard the provision depot established at that place. The professor's stores consisted only of enough meat and flour for eight men for six months.

LONDON, July 25.—Mr. Feilden, the owner of the yacht Saide, writes to the Standard as follows: "When I met Prof. Oyen at Danes Island he declined to give any information in regard to the plans of the Wellman expedition, declaring that Mr. Wellman had pledged him not to divulge the arrangements or anything concerning the expedition. Mr. Feilden thinks that even if the Ragnvald Jari was crushed there is no reason for anxiety with regard to the fate of the party, because they could, under almost any circumstances, make good their retreat to Danes Island. He advises Mr. Wellman's friends to send a ship from Tromso to the island with supplies in September if nothing more is heard from the expedition in the meantime."

Take 6:30 boat for Marshall Hall.

FIRST WIFE, THEN DAUGHTER

Both Members of "Count" Smolianinoff's Family Disappear.

HE SAYS OLGA WAS KIDNAPED

Another Chapter in the Romantic History of the Russian—He Wants to Leave This Country, But First Must Find His Loved Ones—Opposed By Relations.

"Count" Sergey D. Smolianinoff, of this city, is again courting publicity with the allegation that his wife, Nellie, has been abducted and his child, Olga, has been kidnaped or spirited away from him, and he offers a large reward for information as to their whereabouts. He says that his wife's relations are at the bottom of the abduction and kidnaping scheme in order to prevent him from seeing her or his child, but he declares that he will find them if they are on this continent and he should spend a fortune in doing so.

The following advertisement appeared in yesterday's TIMES, and behind it is another chapter in the remarkable story of romance, love, and crime which has been published from time to time:

A LIBERAL REWARD WILL BE PAID FOR information concerning the whereabouts of my child, Olga, 5 years old, dark chestnut hair, blue eyes, was taken from my house and was last seen at 625 F st. nw. S. D SMOLIANINOFF.

The curtain will soon fall upon the present act of this drama in real life, as Smolianinoff is about to leave this country for Russia to take an important position under the government there; but he avers that he will not sail from these shores until he has seen his wife and daughter. Smolianinoff told the story of his present domestic troubles in detail to a TIMES reporter yesterday.

He has already been twice married to his wife, and a third marriage will be necessary, and, he says, must and shall take place in order to legitimatize his child's claims to his estate in Russia. By way of explanation of this apparently peculiar matrimonial complication, in which divorce or legal separation has never figured, Smolianinoff said: "Six or seven years ago my wife and I were very much in love with each other, (and we are still for that matter.)

"The members of her family were opposed to our marriage, or we feared they would be, which practically amounted to the same thing, so we planned a runaway wedding and went to Baltimore and got married. When we returned here and announced the fact of our marriage to my father-in-law and the other members of her family, they could not any longer object, nor do I think they would have done so in the first place. But they did object to a runaway marriage, so I proposed that we have a public wedding here in Washington before announcing the fact. That was agreed to on all sides, and we were accordingly married a second time."

HIS CHILD ILLEGITIMATE.

With regard to the necessity for a third marriage Smolianinoff explained that he is a member of the Greek Catholic Church of his country, by the laws of which any marriage performed by any other tribunal, civil or religious, is not recognized. According to the laws of my country and my church I am an unmarried man, and my child, although born in honorable wedlock, is illegitimate and could not inherit in Russia my estate or property.

Smolianioff was asked if he could be married to legitimatize his child's and wife's legal claims in Russia without taking the latter to Russia. In reply he said: "Not in Washington or New York."

There is a Greek Catholic church in New Orleans, another in Baltimore, and another in San Francisco. These are the only churches of that faith in this country, and a ceremony performed by the priest in either would be legal according to Russian law."

The reporter asked if he intended being married here if he would take his wife to Russia, and Smolianinoff said he would rather do the latter and had made preparations to that purpose. "And this, by the way, is the cause of the abduction of my wife and child," he added. "Her people are so much afraid that I will take her to Russia that they have spirited her away and will not let me know where she is, but I shall find her. I do not insist upon her going to Russia with me, but I do insist upon her marrying me according to the Greek rites, in order to legalize my child's claims to my estate in Russia. I am willing to settle upon my wife $200 a month for the support of herself and Olga while I am away, provided she will live in a place selected by her father and myself."

HIS WIFE LOVES HIM.

"Does your wife wish to legally separate herself from you?" was asked by the reporter.

"No. Indeed, she does not. On the contrary, she vows she will not, although her people, in their opposition to me, wish her to do so. They say they are afraid I will kill her. I love her too much to harm her. I would kill without compunction any person who would harm a hair of her head. My wife loves me, and when she is with me she is mine, body and soul, but she is so easily influenced by the false stories her people tell her of me, she allows them to keep her away from me."

Being asked when he saw his wife and child last, Mr. Smolianinoff said: "They were here with me within a week. They were then stopping at Takoma Hotel and I sent for them to come into the city, as I could not afford the time to go out. When they were here Judge Pelham, my good friend, took my little girl out to buy candies, in order to give me a chance to be alone with my wife. When we were alone I extended my arms, and said, 'Nellie, come to me,' but she did not need the invitation. She rushed into my arms and was as devoted and loving as ever she was in the days of our early, unalloyed love.

"I showed her a letter from my brother in which he says he has purchased a mansion for Nellie. When she left me it was with the understanding that they were going to Takoma Hotel. Instead she and Olga went to see her sister, I understand, and she has not been seen since, at the hotel or elsewhere. I have not been able to find any trace of them. It seems as if they had been swallowed up by the earth."

WHY HE MUST GO TO RUSSIA.

Regarding the necessity for his going to Russia, Smolianinoff said that his brother is chief civil engineer of a railroad of 2,000 miles which the government is building in Russia to connect the fertile plains with that part of Russia where famine is of frequent occurrence. "My brother wants me to assist him, and besides I have a great deal of private business to look after. I own an estate of 30,000 acres, on which there it a palace fit for a queen, but this is 300 miles distant from where my brother and his family live, so he has bought a mansion for Nellie and I near to his place.

"The Russian government has guaranteed me 10,000 rubles a year from the first of this month, and I have received the first month's remittance and a copy of the government guarantee and contract through the Citizens' National Bank in this city."

Smolianinoff entered into a lengthy history of the opposition of his wife's relatives, in which charges of robbery, vandalism, forgery, and other things almost as bad figured prominently.

He denied most positively that his habits had anything whatever to do with their opposition to having his wife live with him. "Why," he said, "for four years I never drank anything but claret and all the time there was a five-gallon demijohn of fine, old whisky in my room."

James F. Meline, Assistant Treasurer of the United States, said yesterday that he did not know where his daughter, Mrs. Smolianinoff, and her child were, but when told of the proposition of Mr. Smolianinoff to settle $200 a month on them, and that he wished to see them before he would leave the country, he said he would endeavor to find them and bring an answer to him in the morning.

BATTLE WITH A ST. BERNARD.

Hamlin Barnett's Child Seized By a Huge Mad Dog—Heroic Fight of the Father.

George Barnett, six years of age, living in "Porksteak" alley, between F and G and Ninth and Tenth streets southwest, while playing in front of his home about 9 o'clock yesterday morning was attacked and severely bitten by a huge St. Bernard dog, the property of James Cheek.

The boy's father, Hamlin Barnett, was sitting in the back part of the house at the time, and hearing his child's screams for help seized a baseball bat, the only weapon at hand, and hastened to his son's aid. When he reached the front door Mr. Barnett was almost overcome with horror by seeing the boy lying on the ground, his clothes almost torn from his body, and a dog, apparently mad, standing over, biting and snapping the child's shoulder every time he attempted to move.

Without hesitating an instant Mr. Barnett dashed forward and struck the dog with the bat, knocking the animal away. The child's mother, who had also been attracted by the little fellow's cries, stooped down to pick up the almost insensible child. As she did so, though, the infuriated dog, which meantime had run a short distance down the alley, returned and sprang at the boy again.

Then ensued a terrible battle between the dog and the man, during which Mr. Barnett, in attempting to hit the animal, struck his wife, who was leaning over the child, trying to protect him from harm, a terrific blow on the head, which rendered her unconscious. By this time another combatant, Policeman Henry, appeared upon the scene and took a hand in the struggle. He soon had, however, more than he bargained for, the dog turning its entire attention to him.

It was only after the officer had fired seven shots into the dog's body and used his club for some time that the maddened beast was killed. Mrs. Barnett, who by this time had recovered consciousness, managed to rise from the ground, and with the almost dead child in her arms staggered into the house where she fell again in a faint. Several officers who were present at once insisted that Policeman Henry should arrest Mr. Barnett, but the officer refused to do so, and instead dispatched a messenger for medical aid.

When the physician arrived both mother and child had recovered from their fright, and after having their wounds dressed, were both put to bed. Mrs. Barnett's injuries are very slight, but those of her son are much more serious, the skin on his left shoulder having been broken in several places by the dog's teeth.

BATTLES AGAIN BEGUN.

Two Deputy Sheriffs Killed by Striking Miners in Alabama and Others Seriously Wounded.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 24. War has broken out again among the striking miners. Since 3 o'clock this afternoon two deputy sheriffs have been killed, a third fatally wounded, and a fourth badly hurt. Two desperate strikers did it all, and they are tonight surrounded on the mountain near Coalburg, refusing to surrender. The officers are determined to take them dead or alive, and will close in on them as soon as more military reaches the scene.

This afternoon Deputy Sheriffs Charley Cole and James Smith went to the residence of R. H. Hudson near Coalburg, ten miles from here, to arrest his son George on a warrant charging participation in the Pratt mines riot, when half a dozen negroes and deputies were killed by strikers ten days ago. The Hudsons are bad men. Old man Hudson recently refused to vacate the company's house at Coalburg and loaded it up with dynamite, preparatory to blowing it up with himself and whatever officers might attempt to arrest him or in case an attempt was made to evict him.

When the two officers reached the Hudson house to-day they attempted to arrest the younger Hudson, who resisted, drew a gun, and began firing. His father, who was with him, joined in the shooting. The officers also fired, but the Hudsons were too quick for them, and Deputy Cole was shot in the breast and died three hours later. The younger Hudson killed both of the officers. The elder Hudson was wounded in the hand. Smith lived long enough to tell the other officers who came to the rescue the story of the killing.

After the killing, the Hudsons fled to the woods, both heavily armed. As quickly as possible a posse was organized at Coalburg and another sent from Birmingham on a special train, followed by troops. The first posse surrounded the Hudsons on the mountain, a mile from the scene of the first encounter. The Hudsons refused to surrender and fired on the posse from ambush. A lively battle in the bushes followed.

Two of the posse fell, Buck Gay being mortally wounded and James Woolson seriously hurt. The Hudsons again fled. As soon as re-enforcements arrived the entire place was surrounded and orders sent for more troops, who went out to-night. These, with the civil officers, will close in on the Hudsons and capture them dead or alive, if they have not already made their escape. It is expected that a third fight will take place when the officers come up with the desperadoes again. Sheriff Morrow has a large force scouring the woods and half a dozen companies of troops are on the scene.

Telegraphic Brevities.

Smallpox is spreading in Newark, N. J. There are fifteen cases, all among the Italians.

The twenty-sixth annual convention of the Knights of Pythias of New York, began in Watertown yesterday.

The sixteenth biennial convention of the North American Turnbund met in Denver, Col., yesterday. 400 delegates being present.

The annual session of the Imperial Council of the Order of the Mystic Shrine met in Denver, Col., yesterday with a full attendance.

The fourteenth annual convention of the Photographers' Association of America began its four days' session in St. Louis, Mo., yesterday.

A letter from Supreme Justice Stephen J. Field has been received by the judiciary and bar of the California ninth United States court and the judiciary and bar of the California supreme court, in which Justice Field, in response to the previous requests of his correspondents states that he will decline the offer of a transfer to the New York circuit and remain in the Pacific coast circuit.

In the Field of Politics.

The First Wisconsin district Republicans have nominated H. A. Cooper for Congress.

Congressman J. A. T. Hull has been renominated by the Republicans of the Seventh Iowa district.

Hon. Thomas B. Reed has been renominated by the Republicans of the First Congressional district of Maine.

Editor Joe Medill, of the Chicago Tribune, in whose favor William E. Mason wanted to withdraw from the contest for the United States Senatorship, is reported as absolutely refusing to allow his name to be used.

Naval Lodge will be accompanied by the Columbia Musical Club to Marshall Hall on 6:30 boat.

FOR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

Action of the Provisional Committee Recently Appointed.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION HAD

Stirring Speeches Made in Favor of a Restoration of the Franchise to the Citizens of the District—All Progress Should Be Made Systematically

The provisional committee appointed at a mass-meeting of those in favor of a change in the form of District government, met last night in Rechabite Hall, and organized for active work.

The hall was well filled and great interest was manifested in the proceedings. Judging from the work done last night, a change in the form of District government may be reckoned among the possibilities of the future.

Milford Spohn was elected to the chair, and the meeting was called to order a few minutes after 8 o'clock. Frederick L. Siddons opened the business of the meeting by moving that the temporary chairman and secretary appointed at the last meeting be made permanent, and that the committee organize. He prefaced his motion by an excellent speech, in which he outlined the work which the committee had in hand, and which should be set about in an earnest manner. He said:

"We must make up our minds what form of suffrage we want for the District—whether representation on the floors of Congress, a municipal government, consisting of a mayor, a board of aldermen, and other boards, or both.

"It is quite natural that the people should want to know and ask us what we mean to ask Congress to give us. This provisional committee ought first to outline the form of government we purpose to demand, and to that end I have a proposition to offer after the committee is organized."

MR. SPEAKE DECLINES THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

Mr. Siddons then moved that the chairman and secretary be made permanent. The motion was seconded by several members, but before it was put to the meeting Mr. Speake, the temporary chairman, declined the honor pressed upon him, saying the duties would require more time than he could afford to devote to the work.

Mr. Parkman's name was proposed and he accepted the position and undertook the duties of secretary. The motion was then carried unanimously.

Mr. Siddons then proposed that "a committee of five be appointed, selected, or elected by the meeting from the permanent committee for the purpose of drafting a manifesto, embodying the views of the general committee on the particular form of suffrage most desired in the District.

The proposition was seconded by a chorus of voices.

Joseph Steiner, in speaking on the motion, said he hoped the committee would weigh carefully the form of government most desirable for the residents of the District. "As it already exists," added Mr. Steiner, "it is a miserable failure, and almost any change must of necessity be an improvement, but we must demand the change most desirable and beneficial for the residents. We want a suffrage based not on sex, not on manhood, nor financial standing, but on individual responsibility.

"That is the only rational basis for franchise," said Mr. Steiner, with all the impressiveness of eloquence. "Shall we have a municipality or a representation in Congress only? What is right? These are questions which should be carefully considered. We need the right to determine taxation, and to regulate our own domestic affairs.

"Without this, self-government is a huge farce. To give the privilege of taxation of oneself into the hands of others, without having any voice in the matter yourself, is a most miserable form and farce of government. I speak from thirty years of experience. Public sentiment must be aroused."

Mr. Steiner spoke for nearly twenty minutes in a most impassioned and impressive manner.

FAVORING A CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION.

A motion to limit speeches on the debate to five minutes was carried.

Mr. C. B. Hemmingway spoke briefly on the motion.

Mr. Bell addressed the meeting next. In a vigorous speech he said:

"There is a good deal of educating to be done. Citizens must be educated up to what form of government is most desirable to have for this city and District.

"The District, I hold, is as much entitled to representation as many of the pocket-boroughs of States recently admitted to the Union. In the last election Nevada cast a total of only 11,000 votes, while there are in this District 40,000 qualified males who would be entitled to vote. What of Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana? None of them could show a vote equal in numbers with the District of Columbia."

W. H. G. Simmons, district master workman, said: "The committee ought to act on the motion and report at a future meeting of the general committee. I insist that in a body privileged to tax us we shall have representation. Some have tried to terrorize me out of the stand I have taken in this matter of suffrage."

Mr. Richard Beall, who is one of the oldest inhabitants present last night, said that the assertions of fraud made against the old Territorial government were false from beginning to end. "When the District went into the hands of Commissioners it owed only $118,000 and they had to build the city hall, which cost $300,000, and a great many other most expensive buildings and works which the District owned."

He spoke of the waste of $260,000 on the present sewer system, which might as well have been thrown into the sewer, he said, for it would not be worth a dollar when finished.

Milford Spohn, the chairman, made a spirited speech. "When we ask for constitutional rights," he said, "we don't want to control the whole earth, but we do want suffrage in its broadest extent."

T. J. Foley, Mr. O'Day, Secretary Parkman, William Crommeline, S. E. Jones, and William McCabe all made strong and able speeches in favor of suffrage for the District.

The motion of Mr. Siddons was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The chairman appointed F. L. Siddons, William McCabe, M. P. Canby, Paul T. Bowen, and C. B. Hemmingway as the committee to draft a manifesto.

STRUCK AN ICEBERG.

Dr. Cook's Arctic Steamer Miranda Meets with a Mishap.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., July 24.—The steamship Miranda, of the Red Cross Line, having on board Dr. Cook's arctic expedition, which left New York on July 7, has been in collision with an iceberg. No lives, however, were lost and the Miranda has put into Cape Charles Harbor, Labrador, where temporary repairs were effected. The Miranda then returned to this port, reaching here safely this morning.

The steamship will be thoroughly overhauled at this port and will probably proceed to Greenland in a few days. All on board are well. The collision occurred at 8:30 a. m. on July 17 during a dense fog when the Miranda was about five miles northwest of Belle Isle.