

ALLEGED BOGUS CHECKS

Samuel D. Nesmith's Case to Be Heard Tomorrow.

The Police Say That the Defendant's Operations Have Been Extensive. An Investigation of His Record by the Local Detectives—His Relations With the Navy Department.

Samuel D. Nesmith, the local representative of the Crocker-Whitcomb Electric Company, of New York, who was arrested here by Detectives Farham and Gallagher, charged with false pretenses, will be arraigned in the Police Court tomorrow morning to explain the circumstances surrounding the making and cashing of several checks for varying amounts, wherein it is alleged a deposit of only a few cents was posted to the credit of the man at the bank with which he was transacting business. Since the arrest, Nesmith, on the complaint of Charles McDevitt, the detective who has been investigating the conduct of the prisoner, with the result that it now appears that he had been doing an extensive and successful check-cashing business.

The detectives have now located nine checks made and cashed by Nesmith, all of which, it is said, were turned down at the bank, because of insufficient funds to meet them. Of the nine checks located, eight are in the hands of Detectives Farham and Gallagher and one will be turned over to them this evening. Still other checks are expected to be given into the care of the detectives tomorrow.

Among the checks now in the hands of the detectives, and which Nesmith is accused of uttering under false pretenses, are one for \$25, cashed by Thomas Le Cuyer, of the Owen House; one for \$5, cashed by Alexander Seely, of the Stratford, and two for \$20 and \$12.50, respectively, cashed by Mr. Graham, of the National Electrical Supply Company. Another check cashed by Easton & Rupp, and one cashed by Mr. Upperman, of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, are also in the hands of the police.

Nesmith, although he has been a resident of this city but a short time, is well known here, having been a frequent visitor in the past several years. He came here this time from Brighton, Mass., where he is well and favorably known. He first achieved prominence when he appeared at the Navy Department at the outbreak of the war with Spain, and contracted for the building of the celebrated automatic submarine torpedo boats, in which he and a well-known naval officer were jointly interested. It was claimed for the invention, and no proven, that after it was launched from a man-of-war, it would run automatically until it arrived at the object at which it was directed, when it would discharge a torpedo and then reverse its machinery and return to the ship from which it was launched.

Nesmith claimed that the invention was finally purchased by the Government. Subsequently Nesmith became attached to the Crocker-Whitcomb Electric Company, and opened an office in the Kelllogg building. After he became settled he sent for his family and they have since resided here. Friends of Nesmith claim that the cases against him are entirely unfounded, and the fact clearly shown that he was a victim of circumstances, and had no intention of swindling.

MASONS IN CONVENTION.

Biennial Session of the Supreme Council Held in the Temple.

Nineteen members of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Masons for the Southern Jurisdiction were present when the biennial session of the Council began at noon today in the House of the Temple, corner of E and Third Streets northwest.

The three who did not answer the roll-call were Senator Toller, of Colorado; Brother Myers, of Virginia; and Gilmer Meredith, of Baltimore, secretary-treasurer, who died last Thursday.

After the session was formally opened the Sovereign Grand Commander extended a hearty greeting to the visiting representatives from other jurisdictions. Brother Frank Hughes, of Philadelphia, representing the Northern Jurisdiction, was the Canadian representative not arrived.

At this greeting the eloquence of the Sovereign Grand Commander, which is of the nature of a biennial report, was delivered. He spoke of the conditions prevailing in the order and congratulated the Council. Every indication was a favorable one, he said, and could be pointed out with pride. He was particularly pleased with the appearance of the House of the Temple, and the membership of the order and its financial standing.

Following this address came a recess for luncheon, after which the reports of the secretary-general and secretary-treasurer, and other reports were read and referred to the proper committees.

LABOR MEN IN SESSION.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor met at 12 o'clock today in Typographical Union, at G Street northwest. The meeting had been called by President Samuel Gompers, President of the Federation, who desired to submit to the executive committee some appeals and other routine business, that in his judgment should be disposed of. The session will last until Thursday or Friday.

Before calling the meeting to order President Gompers said to a Times reporter that the general political situation would probably be discussed, but that no action would be taken having for its object the support of any candidate by the members of the Federation as a body. What they cared to do as individuals was their own concern.

WHEELMEN DEIFY A SHERIFF.

Start a Race Which Results in a General Tumult.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Oct. 16.—Sheriff Kirby's authority was yesterday defied by fifty bicyclists, who after being ordered not to hold a Sunday bicycle race, started to ride between Reg Harbor City and Hammon, in a 22-mile handicap. Half a mile from the starting point one of the riders fell and in an instant twenty more riders were on his back until they were completely blocked. Many were injured and they limped back to Reg Harbor City.

The winner of the race is unknown. Sheriff Kirby has been flooded with letters from all parts of the country asking him to prohibit Sunday racing. He failed to take an armed guard with him and the race went on.

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The most valuable medicine for all Stomach Ills

Hostettors' Stomach Bitters is a powerful and dangerous invigorant. Be sure you get the genuine if you want to get rid of dyspepsia or any other stomach ill.

STOMACH BITTERS

THE CASE OF CONSUL BEDDOE.

His Connection With the Steamer Abbey Explained.

Edwin B. Hay, counsel for W. F. Sylvester, owner of the steamer Abbey, which was seized as a filibuster carrying arms and ammunition to the Filipino insurgents, has made a statement in defense of Dr. Edward Beddoe, United States Consul at Canton, China, against whom charges were made in connection with the grant of an American registry to the Abbey.

"Sylvester," he said, "sold only one parcel of arms and ammunition to the Philippines, and that parcel was sold at a time when the same was equivalent to assisting the United States forces, the whole transaction being made with the full knowledge and consent of the United States officials."

"On or about June 6, 1898, Sylvester entered into a contract with the Philippines to deliver 5,000 Mauser rifles, 500,000 rounds of ammunition and two Maxim machine guns, the price to include cost of steamer, delivery, etc. The British steamer, the Abbey, was purchased, the merchandise secured and details arranged for the expedition, and the goods were being placed aboard the steamer the British Government revoked the permit."

"The Abbey was changed from a British register to an American register, under the name of the Abbey, in the United States consulate at Canton, then under charge of Dr. Beddoe. It was a purely routine proceeding and any other consular officer in Dr. Beddoe's place must have acted as he did."

"The Abbey sailed from Canton about August 25. Sylvester left Hongkong on September 3 and arrived at Manila on September 5. All happened at Manila for over a month, living at the principal hotel and associating with army and navy officers. The Manila newspapers had full accounts of the landing of the Abbey's cargo at Bahague, so that the fact of the arms and ammunition being furnished to the Philippines was in possession of the army and naval authorities and yet not a word was said."

"Sylvester, after arranging for the final settlement and transfer of the steamer, left Manila near the end of September with all the ship's papers. Upon arriving at Hongkong he learned that the Abbey had been seized. A telegram had been sent to Admiral Dewey, stating that the steamer Abbey had left Manila about September 25. There was no slightest foundation for this report. It was actuated by malice on the part of certain enemies Sylvester had made in the competition for the Filipino business."

"There is absolutely nothing wrong in this matter of the Abbey, so far as Consul Beddoe is concerned. His connection with the case was purely incidental and nothing whatever could have resulted from it in the slightest way detrimental to the United States Government."

COST OF MOTOR OPERATIONS.

Views of an English Authority on Automobile Expenses.

Marshall Halstead, Consul at Birmingham, England, sends to the State Department an interesting and valuable statement by E. H. Bayley, regarding the question of cost of operating heavy motor vehicles, which, he says, are to replace horse-drawn wagons in the near future. Mr. Bayley, the consul says, is entitled to speak with some amount of authority, as he was chairman of the London Road Car Company, and now, in addition to employing 1,000 or so horses in his own business, is chairman of the London Motor Company, and has a keen interest in all that tends to lessen the cost of heavy traffic.

"Of course," he said, "no matter how excellent motor driven vehicles may be, no one would look upon them as a replacement of horses if their use were more expensive than that of horses. That is exactly where the ultimate success of motor vehicles lies, for the tests by the Automobile Club at Richmond and more recently those held by the Liverpool Self-Propelled Traffic Association have shown that not only can motors do general carrying work more quickly and more efficiently than horses, but most telling point of all—do it at less than one seventh of the cost."

"For instance we have a car which has been proved, under the tests already mentioned, to be capable of carrying a load of three tons twelve hundred miles at a cost for fuel which works out a half penny per ton per mile. The total up-keep of such a vehicle when all expenses for working, repairs, insurance, etc., are taken into consideration comes to a sum of \$1,300.75, and this, with a carrying capacity for 20 working days gives an average cost of a fraction under 3 half pence (3 cents), per net ton per mile. When this is compared with the cost of horses—my experience teaches me that it varies from 15 cents to 24 cents per ton per mile—it can be seen what a future these vehicles have."

CAPTAIN LAFFERTY DEAD.

His Long and Active Service in the West.

The War Department received a telegram from San Francisco today announcing the death of Capt. John Lafferty, retired, which occurred yesterday. Captain Lafferty was born in New York and appointed to the army from California.

His record is as follows: He served as first lieutenant, First Battalion, California Cavalry, from July 21, 1864, to March 15, 1866, when he was honorably mustered out of volunteer service; made second lieutenant, Second Battalion, California Cavalry, July 28, 1867; first lieutenant, July 31, 1867; captain, October 2, 1867; retired, June 28, 1878; breveted captain February 27, 1890, "for gallant service in action against Indians in the Sierra Mountains, Nevada, February 15, 1887, and in the Chiricahua Pass, Arizona, October 20, 1893, where he was severely wounded."

With his regiment, principally in the field, he served in Nevada, California, and Arizona, from 1866 to October 20, 1869, when he was severely wounded in action with Indians at Chiricahua Pass, Arizona; from 1870 to January, 1876, absent sick to July 1877; in charge of public property at Yerba Buena Island, California, until retired, June 28, 1878, for wounds received in line of duty.

Insolvent Bank Dividends.

The Comptroller of the Currency today declared dividends in favor of the creditors of insolvent national banks as follows:

A first dividend of 5 per cent in favor of the creditors of the First National Bank of Asheville, N. C., on claims proved amounting to \$142,755.12.

A second dividend of 10 per cent in favor of the creditors of the Columbia National Bank of Tacoma, Wash., making in all 20 per cent, on claims proved amounting to \$157,275.32.

A third dividend, 5 per cent, in favor of the creditors of the German National Bank of Denver, Colo., making in all 20 per cent, on claims proved amounting to \$335,224.67.

A fourth dividend, 25 per cent, in favor of the creditors of the First National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio, making in all 75 per cent, on claims proved amounting to \$59,275.25.

A final dividend, 10 per cent, in favor of the creditors of the Bankers' and Merchants' National Bank of Dallas, Tex., making in all 60 per cent, on claims proved amounting to \$29,267.70.

A final dividend, 25 per cent, in favor of the creditors of the First National Bank of Eddy, N. Mex., making in all 100 per cent, on claims proved amounting to \$51,215.52.

A REPORT FROM SHAFTER

Condition of the Troops in the Presidio Camp.

Operations in the Departments of California and Columbia—Excellent Discipline—The Desire of Recruits to Perfect Themselves as Marksmen—The Shipment of Stores

The annual report of Major Gen. William R. Shafter as Commanding General of the Department of California and Department of Columbia, has been received at the War Department. Regarding the Department of California, General Shafter reports:

"The discipline of the troops is excellent, and officers and men are busily engaged in perfecting themselves in their profession. The small number of troops in the Department of California and Oregon require but very little attention. But the bulk of operations in this department pertains entirely to the transmission of stores and the shipment of men to the Philippines. A very large camp of recruits has been established at the Presidio, at one time numbering over four thousand men."

General Shafter recommends that as long as any large bodies of troops remain in the Philippines the recruiting camp be continued at the Presidio and that as a result troops be concentrated there and drilled for at least three months. He says there is every facility there for properly instructing and caring for them.

Capt. Robert H. Noble, inspector of small arms practice, says in his report sent by General Shafter that the target range at the Presidio is not well adapted to the purpose for which it is intended, except for firing at short ranges and at short distances. No defective cartridges were found among those manufactured by the ordnance department. Captain Noble explains that the great importance of the instruction of all recruits has been fully appreciated and no recruit has been sent away until he had had actual practice on the range. Since May 12, 156,000 rounds of ammunition have been fired. For the lack of time principally, and the fact that the range is not suitable for skirmishing, no practice in skirmishing is given. He reports the results of practice, usually good and says that it is not unusual for twenty-five targets to be made out of twenty-five shots. One man the second day on the range made ninety-seven out of 100.

General Shafter adds to this report by saying: "The men have shown a great desire to perfect themselves in the use of their weapons."

As to the recruiting camp, he remarks: "There can be no doubt of the wisdom of establishing this camp. It has enabled the medical department to weed out men unsuited for service. This course has been found a great saving to the Government, for if they had been permitted to go to Manila they would have broken down there."

In his report on the Department of Columbia, General Shafter calls attention to the fact that there are as yet no guns mounted on Puget Sound. He says: "Three 10-inch and two 12-inch barbette carriages are mounted at Marrowstone Point and the guns are on hand. Sixteen mortar carriages mounted, and four 10-inch disappearing carriages not mounted, are at Admiralty Head. I have recommended that a battery of the Third Artillery be sent from the Department of California to care for the guns at Marrowstone Point and Admiralty Head. The work of the engineers at Admiralty Head and Point Wilson is nearly completed, except the mounting of guns."

TWO ARMY PROMOTIONS.

A Successor to Capt. Bogardus Eldridge Named.

The War Department announced the following promotions today: Maj. Leven C. Allen, promoted from captain, Sixteenth United States Infantry, to the Twelfth United States Infantry, to date from October 10, 1939, vice Seton, retired from active service. He will proceed to join his regiment.

Capt. Robert Alexander, promoted from first lieutenant, Eleventh United States Infantry, to the Fourteenth United States Infantry, Company H, to date from October 2, 1899, vice Eldridge, deceased. He will proceed on duty with the Eleventh United States Infantry until further orders.

Captain Alexander, who was promoted to succeed Capt. Bogardus Eldridge, who was killed by Filipinos about ten days ago, was with the Eleventh Infantry in Porto Rico and will remain there for some time.

GERMANY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

She Has Large Interests, Reports Say, in the Transvaal.

According to information received by the State Department from United States Consul Monaghan, from Chemnitz, the German Empire has large interests in the Transvaal. He writes as follows: "This empire's industrial interests in the Transvaal are great. In the ten years 1889 to 1898, Germany imported 3,000,000 marks (\$714,600 worth) of merchandise from the Transvaal. The chief exports were: gold, 1897 and 1898, were: Cyanallum, glycerin (cleaned), lightning matches, rough ironware, fine ironware, railroad parts, plate, sleepers (iron), etc., iron rails, railroad axles and wheels, cotton manufactures, wrought iron machines, locomotives and iron composites, railroad wagons, cotton cloths, woolen clothes, cement, rough tables, and planes."

TRADE WITH NEW CALEDONIA.

Gratifying Reports From Commercial Agents.

Paul Eugene Wolf, commercial agent at Noumea, writes the State Department as follows regarding the United States trade with New Caledonia:

"I am glad to report that the principal obstacle to United States trade with this district, viz., the lack of direct communication, is about to be removed. In a letter dated June 14, 1899, Messrs. Maconduff & Co., merchants of San Francisco, inform me that they are about to send a sailing vessel of 1,600 tons register every three months direct to Noumea, which they hope to keep employed regularly in the trade. This line of vessels is to supply the colony mainly with food products from California, which are to be consigned to an American commission house at Noumea. The cargo of such vessels, coffee, vanilla, pearl shell, beads, dyes, and other commodities will be furnished."

"As the commerce of New Caledonia, which the past year has been growing very rapidly, is daily assuming much larger proportions, this line, in addition to the regular monthly steamship service referred to in my report of the 24th of June last, between San Francisco and Saigon, via Honolulu, Tahiti, Noumea, and Manila, is certain to aid largely the development of trade between this colony and the Western States."

"United States shipping this year will be larger than ever before. The steam vessel, the Newbury, from Puget Sound, which arrived here with lumber, is about to return to the United States. A cattle raiser, a similar cargo, consigned to Messrs. Jovoy & Co., of Noumea, is on the way, and a fourth, with some 400 wooden cottages from Messrs. Renton Holmes & Co., of San Francisco, for the famous colonies at Thio, east coast of New Caledonia, is expected."

"Hechts' Greater Stores."

Enormous silk values

—the most seasonable and most desirable silks at lower prices than usual, notwithstanding the fact the prices of silks have greatly advanced.

17¢ for gloria lining silk—21 inches wide—worth 35c.

25¢ for all-silk sarahs—all colors and black—double warp—worth 35c.

35¢ for all-silk taffeta silk—good quality—always sells for 50c.

50¢ for figured and plaid taffeta—always mated 80c.

75¢ for corded taffeta silks—rich combinations—generally sell for \$1.

85¢ for colored satin duchesse—instead of \$1.

Colored dress goods. 5 specials.

Prices partly shorn of profits to make irresistible attractions in the dress goods department tomorrow.

112¢ for plaid dress goods—pretty combinations—instead of 15c.

29¢ for all-wool serges, in good shades—yard wide—worth 40c.

54¢ for all-wool ladies' cloths—1-2 yards wide—all colors—worth 75c.

98¢ for all-wool homespuns—1-1-2 yards wide—value \$1.25.

\$1.98 for new golf plaid black—1-1-2 yds. wide—instead of \$2.75.

Sale trimmed hats.

The first lot are hats, taking the quality of the velvet, the amount of work on the hat and the value of the trimming on them, which will cost you \$6.98 elsewhere, \$4.48 for.....

In the second lot are hats which will cost you \$10 and more, of finest silk velvet and trimmed most stylishly; these will be sold as a special value at..... \$7.50

A lot of velvet covered hats in the most desirable shapes—grey, brown, black, castor and navy blue colors instead of \$1.75, today for.....98c

Genuine Austrian Plumes—about 30 dozen to select from—all 15 inches long—of beautiful glossy black color—that cannot be obtained elsewhere for less than \$2.75, today for.....\$1.75

Ladies' and Children's straight brimmed felt hats, all colors, and black; 89c value, for.....49c

Ladies' Felt Rough Riders—French felt—grey color—regularly sold for \$2.37, for.....\$1.37

Lot of wings, quills, and fancy feather—black, castor and black, instead of 49c, for.....17c

Hecht & Company, 513-515 Seventh Street.

A MAN HUNT IN VIRGINIA.

Angry Citizens Searching for William E. Garrison.

ROANOKE, Va., Oct. 15.—An attempt was made to assault two girls, aged eleven and twelve years, respectively, by a white man yesterday. One of the children was the daughter of W. H. Nelson, and the other little Emma Cheatham, daughter of C. A. Cheatham.

A. L. Marshall, a Roanoke contractor, who was riding a wheel, discovered the man. He jumped off his wheel a few feet distant. The man deliberately fired a shot at Marshall, painfully wounding him in the thigh. He then made his escape.

The police were notified and from the descriptions given they at once suspected William Edward Garrison, a resident of the city, who has a wife and three children, and who is employed by the American Bridge and Iron Company.

A search was instituted and it was learned that Garrison had drawn his money from the bridge a few minutes after the assault had been made and the next heard from him was that he was seen going north along the Shenandoah Railroad, six miles distant, before sundown.

Just as the train was about to board a freight train and went in pursuit. Garrison was discovered on the train at Letha, and in order to be sure of their man the train was stopped and the brakeman passed over the cars and flashed his lantern in the man's face, while J. W. Cheatham looked on.

It was ascertained that there was no mistake in his identity. Cheatham fired a shot at him as he sat between the coal cars. Garrison rolled off on the other side of the train and made for the woods. He left a bloody trail behind him, and succeeded in making his escape. Every effort is being made to capture him.

WASPS INVADE A RAILWAY CAR

Passengers Put to Flight by an Insect Raid.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Oct. 15.—The morning accommodation train from New Haven, due at Stamford at 9:45 o'clock, was held up Friday by a swarm of wasps.

Soon after the train left Bridgeport the passengers in one of the coaches, that had begun to get rather warm, noticed that there were many big black wasps flying about. As the train proceeded and the car became warmer the wasps increased in number. The passengers began an investigation, and found that the wasps came out of some ironwork at a chandelier.

Farther and farther the wasps appeared, and soon began to attack the passengers. The passengers began to get up and avoid the insects. Finally the wasps seemed to become angry and began to sting. Women rushed into the smoker to get rid of them, and the men threw the doors and windows wide open.

By the time the train reached Stamford the car was deserted. There it was full of wasps and the wasps were left in full control. It is supposed that the insects got into the car while it was on a siding and built a nest in the ironwork about the ventilators. When the steam heat was turned on they were roused up and came out.

Zulia Suffering for Rain.

Consul Plummer writes the State Department from Maracibo, August 22, that no rain has fallen for months and the situation is becoming serious. The state of Zulia, he adds, is not a manufacturing state but relies entirely upon agriculture and cattle raising. The price of every article of food has risen 20 per cent during the last three weeks. Most people have to eat cheap, and even those who have to kill their cattle, everything is suffering for want of water except the cocoanut trees, which are flourishing. This industry, says the consul, is undoubtedly profitable, as these trees cease to grow best without rain.

A FEW FACTS.

Put Your Faith in These Magic Figures.

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Corner 11th and F.

Do you know that our merchant tailoring establishment is one of the largest in the United States? That we occupy two large buildings and devote every foot of space to custom work? That we handle more wools than any three tailors in Washington? It takes more goods to fill our display windows than the average merchant carries in stock. This gives you an idea of our enormous stock. Being the largest buyers, we get the lowest prices. We discount every bill and will give you the benefit of every cent we save thereby during this special sale.

A \$6 Fancy Vest For \$4.

\$15 and \$18 Suitings

\$11

Made to Your Measure.