

Partly Cloudy and Warmer
Tonight.

NUMBER 6572.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31, 1909.

LAST EDITION

PRICE ONE CENT.

CITY PREPARING TO SAY FAREWELL TO THE OLD YEAR

Evening of Festivities Will
Precede Day of Social
Observances.

SERVICES ARRANGED IN MANY CHURCHES

Special Musical Programs and
Brief Addresses Included In
Watch Night Meetings.

New Year Eve!
The last holiday of 1909 will be celebrated by some with feasting and observed by others with vigils of prayer, but all will say good-bye to the old year and welcome to the new. It is a farewell and a greeting in which every man, woman, and child take part annually, which for some is a time of solemnity, and for all of us a moment of purpose and resolve.

The social clubs and the cafes of the city will be in full holiday dress. The holly, mistletoe, and crimson lights, which are the tokens of the holiday season, will add their color and warmth to the tables spread for New Year Eve, and around these will gather happy-hearted men and women.

In the homes of Washington the same happy gatherings, more personal and intimate, will be held. By these, the New Year will be observed tomorrow with all the amenities of social life, each house being open to New Year callers. In the same way, but on a much larger scale, the President will receive the members of official and diplomatic circles from 11 to 1 o'clock, when the citizens' reception will be held.

Season of Prayer.
To many of the devout, New Year Eve has become a season of fasting and prayer, and in a large number of churches and by many religious organizations, the new year will be ushered in with hymns of praise.

Among the churches which will observe the evening are: The Fifth Baptist, southwest, where from 8:30 until 12 the annual watch service will be held. A special musical program will be given, interspersed with brief talks. In the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church a New Year vigil will be held from 11 until 12, the musical service including Dudley Buck's cantata, "The Song of the Night."

At Mt. Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church, South, beginning at 10:45 o'clock, there will be a service of song and prayer, with a brief talk by the pastor, Rev. James Howard Wells.

At Cavalry Methodist Episcopal Church, there will be elaborate watch services, over which the pastor, Dr. J. E. Dawson, will preside.

The service at Hamilton Methodist Church will begin at 10 o'clock, and at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, the services will begin at 9 o'clock.

Men's Club Hosts.
At the Vermont Avenue Christian Church, Rev. E. Murray will at 8 o'clock conduct a Bible study. At 9 o'clock, a devotional service, with special music, will be held, and from 10 to 11 the Men's Club of the church will be hosts during a social hour. At 11 o'clock the watch night service will be conducted by P. M. Bradley, an enjoyable feature being several songs to be given by the blind singer, Mrs. Seelye.

At the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Dr. John Reid Shannon will begin the service at 9:30 o'clock. On New Year Day an elaborate program, beginning at 1 o'clock, will be presented at the Y. M. C. A. At the Gospel Mission, 1230 Pennsylvania avenue, northwest, gospel services will be held from 12 noon to 10 o'clock in the evening, and a reception from 2 to 6 o'clock.

The First Presbyterian Church, Dr. Donald McLeod, pastor, will observe New Year by keeping "open house" (Continued on Ninth Page.)

WEATHER REPORT.

There has been a general and decided fall in pressure, accompanied by much higher temperatures, except along the Atlantic coast. Over the western half of the country temperatures are now unseasonably high, but over the eastern half they are still quite low, and freezing temperatures were again experienced in Florida and far south as Jupiter. The weather will be more or less cloudy tonight and Saturday over the East and South, but without precipitation of consequence. Temperatures will rise generally. The winds along the New England coast will be light to moderate and variable; on the middle Atlantic coast light to moderate southwest to south; on the south Atlantic coast light to moderate, except variable on the Florida coast; on the east Gulf coast light to moderate southerly.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.
Partly cloudy and warmer tonight and Saturday; light to moderate variable winds, becoming southerly.

HIDE TABLE.
Low tides—5:41 a. m. and 6:01 p. m.
High tides—11:33 a. m. and 11:51 p. m.

SUN TABLE.
Sun rises—7:18
Sun sets—4:46

CONDITION OF WATER.
HARPERS FERRY, W. Va., Dec. 31.—Both rivers clear this morning and frozen over.

Association's President



JOHN BARRETT.

ESPERANTO LEAGUE CHOOSSES BARRETT

Director of Bureau of American Republics to Head Language Association.

John Barrett, director of the Bureau of American Republics, has been elected president of the Esperanto Association of North America. Mr. Barrett succeeds Col. George Harvey, editor of *Esperanto Weekly*. The election of Mr. Barrett and his acceptance were announced at the headquarters of the District branch of the association in the Chamber of Commerce this morning. It is understood that he recently has taken up the study of Esperanto and expects to be speaking it by the time the sixth international convention of Esperantists convenes in Washington the third week of next August. His election was made by mail ballot, the twelve members of the general council of the association representing the country at large unanimously selecting him to preside over the coming international convention which will be attended by delegates from every country in the world.

PRESIDENT BACK FROM NEW YORK

Returns This Morning From Trip to Attend Niece's Wedding.

President Taft this morning returned from New York, where he went yesterday to attend the wedding of his niece, Miss Louise Taft, to G. H. Snowden. The Presidential train was to have reached Washington at 7 o'clock, but the delay of the recent storm caused a delay of more than an hour. The President reached the White House shortly before 8:30 o'clock, and after a hearty breakfast reached the executive offices on time for the second time during his Administration. In the party were Robert and Miss Helen Taft and Capt. Archie Butt.

THOMAS AND BLAIR ARE NOW FAVORED

Corporation Counsel and Lawyer Being Considered As Commissioners.

President Taft has under consideration for the last vacancy on the Board of District Commissioners, E. H. Thomas, the Corporation Counsel for the District, and Woodbury Blair, a prominent Washington lawyer. Persons who have discussed the situation with the President today say that it is extremely probable that one of these two men will be selected to serve with Cuno H. Rudolph and Major Judson. Major Judson was at the White House today and had a conference with the President, but he refused to say that decision in the matter had been reached. Either of the two men under consideration will fulfill the President's desire to have an able lawyer on the board.

James Bronson Reynolds, the man who made the special report to President Roosevelt on the one-man form of government for the District, was also at the White House today, but he did not see the President. He favors the idea of obtaining for Washington as governor some outside man who has made a record as a successful mayor in another city. President Taft, however, is described, as was explained in *The Times* yesterday, as favoring the home rule idea in case the one-man form of government is adopted.

COLD SNAP BEATS RETREAT FROM CITY

Rising Temperature Promised for Washington for At Least a Week.

CONSTANT CLIMB IN MERCURY TUBE			
1 a. m.	34	8 a. m.	37
2 a. m.	35	9 a. m.	37
3 a. m.	35	10 a. m.	39
4 a. m.	35	11 a. m.	41
5 a. m.	35	12 noon	42
6 a. m.	36	1 p. m.	43
7 a. m.	36	2 p. m.	44

The mercury climbed and climbed all this morning, just like the little peppers grow. Furthermore, says the weather man, it is going to keep climbing, not precipitously or riotously, but gently and surely, until it passes the freezing mark by a good margin. No more chill breezes or cold clammy winds for at least a week. Maybe by tomorrow it will be just like the gentle springtime, but the weather man is not just sure about that. But he is very certain that for three days at the very least there is to be a reprieve from the freezing temperature.

It was some cold this morning, though it did not seem so after the chilliness of yesterday. Just before dawn the little stream that tells the state of the temperature hid itself to a snug corner under the 14 mark, and stayed there until the sun rose. Then began the upward climb. Cold Wave Broken. In the North and the West the cold wave has broken. It was warmer in the West than in Washington today. In the North the mercury jumped anywhere from 10 to 20 degrees higher than it ranged yesterday morning. The Weather Man rolled all the cold he gathered in the North and West, and the little package that hung around Washington, in a large bundle and let it loose on the Southland, which is alleged to be sunny. Tourists hunting respite from chills who went to Florida for the midwinter encounter there yesterday and today freezing weather. The weather is not only hard on the tourists, it threatens to harden the orange crop seriously. Less severe cold than that experienced today, officials of the Weather Bureau say, has ruined the crop, and then again it has survived more freezing weather. It all depends upon the state of the trees and just what amount of damage has been done will not be known.

Trains On Time. Every train came into the Union Station this morning on scheduled time save the Federal Express, from Boston, which was about one hour and forty-five minutes late. The slight congestion of freight that followed the Christmas storm has been entirely cleared away.

The delivery division of the city post-office reported to the postmaster that all Christmas mails and packages were delivered. The delay in incoming mails on Christmas and the day after, helped, rather than hindered the delivery, as it avoided a congestion in the Washington office. The only delays reported were in the delivery of postal cards. Some of the Western Union lines on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia. Messages to southern Delaware were subject to delay. The suburban street car lines weathered the cold spell without any delays. Extreme cold generally snaps the trolleys, but that did not happen this morning.

SEVERE WEATHER KILLS QUAIL

CLARKSBURG, W. Va., Dec. 31.—Reports from the country districts are to the effect that quail are dying by thousands on account of the severe weather.

BRAZILIAN ENVOY TO SEEK AIDANCE IN UNITED STATES

Minister Coming to Washington to Oppose Mexican Influence.

KNOX WILL LISTEN TO HIS PROPOSALS

Mission May Mean Displacement of Diaz as Prime Power in Central American Affairs.

By JAMES HAY, Jr.
In order to put an end to Mexico's influence over the affairs of Central and South America, de Rio Branco, the minister of foreign affairs for Brazil, is coming to Washington to arrange an agreement between his country and the United States, which will make Brazil this country's ally in dealing with the international problems which may arise in South or Central America.

This information comes today from a man close to the Brazilian embassy in this city, and with it is the additional statement that Brazil, realizing the strained relations which now exist between Mexico and the United States, sees the present as the time for making a coalition which will result in great advantage to her and also in the decisive ending of Mexico's claim to being this country's chief ally in Central America.

While no opinion was given at the State Department today as to the probable outcome of Minister Branco's proposed visit to Washington, it was admitted that the relations between the Government and that of Brazil are extremely cordial, and that the United States will be glad to hear any propositions Branco may care to make.

Saved the Situation. It is remembered that gossip in diplomatic circles described Branco as the man who saved the situation when this Government sent its ultimatum to Chile demanding an immediate settlement of the Alsop claim. Upon Chile's refusal of the ultimatum, and the ensuing embarrassment to the United States, Branco made the suggestion that the two countries should agree on the King of England as the arbitrator of the claim. Chile agreed to this, and the arrangement was made.

The feeling between Brazil and Mexico has been for some years of the bitterest kind, and Brazil has been looking for an opportunity to injure Mexico's position. The Brazilian press has been busy for some time in the United States, and the President is highly incensed against the Mexican government because of the latter's refusal to accept the arbitration of the King of England as the arbitrator of the claim. It would be the last country the United States would regard as its agent or ally in dealing with problems in South or Central America.

Pleasure to Brazil. Brazil has learned at this with the keenest pleasure that the Brazilian press has already begun to point out that now is the time for that country to come into its own as the ally of the United States in international affairs on the Central American situation since Mr. McKim's statement in Washington as far back as a year ago that Brazil was Mexico's ally, and was only waiting for the chance to her as the "friend" of this country.

Brazil has been for some years the most ardent supporter of the Monroe Doctrine, and it has been Brazil which always notified this country if there appeared to be danger of a violation of that document. In the Diplomatic Corps in Washington the news that de Rio Branco expected to come to Washington is regarded as the most important development in the Central American situation since Mr. McKim's statement in Washington. It is his famous note to Rodriguez. If Branco's mission is successful, it will mean that Brazil will immediately spring into the prominence Mexico has enjoyed as the great friend of the United States in the affairs of Central America. Brazil will be the assistant in the work.

Well Known Here. Branco is well known in Washington, and he is regarded as one of the ablest diplomats in South America. He has done a lion's share in the upbuilding of Brazil, and is said to be keenly alive to the great advantages that will come to his country if he can make the agreement he desires with the United States.

That the prospects of his success are good, is evident. This government, displeased with Mexico, naturally desires a strong and reliable ally in South America. Brazil presents herself as the power which meets the United States. Moreover, she has to her credit a record of many years of staunch friendship for this country. Mr. Knox has been emphatic in his declarations that he means to handle the Nicaraguan crisis, and he has said that he wants no help from Mexico. Mexico saved Zelaya, but it will be a long time before it will be able to save anybody else. In spite of Mr. Knox's coldness toward Mexico, however, it is known that such an alliance with Brazil is not to be proposed. The delay in incoming mails on Christmas and the day after, helped, rather than hindered the delivery, as it avoided a congestion in the Washington office. The only delays reported were in the delivery of postal cards. Some of the Western Union lines on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia. Messages to southern Delaware were subject to delay. The suburban street car lines weathered the cold spell without any delays. Extreme cold generally snaps the trolleys, but that did not happen this morning.

Aids Switchmen's Cause



H. B. PERHAM, Of the A. F. of L., Who Conferred Today With Federal Officials on Behalf of Striking Railroad Employees in Northwest.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS CONSIDER STRIKE FLYER IS DITCHED; THREE ARE KILLED

H. B. Perham In Washington on Behalf of Switchmen in Northwest.

For the purpose of bringing about, if possible, an adjustment of the dispute between the switchmen and the northern western railroads, H. B. Perham, head of the railway department of the American Federation of Labor, had a conference today with Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and Commissioner of Labor Neil. The conference adjourned at 1 o'clock, when it was planned to resume sessions later. No agreement had been reached. Perham, who arrived last night from the West, had arranged for the conference by telegraph. "We are hopeful of effecting a peaceful settlement of the trouble," he said before going into the conference, "but along just what lines I am not now able to indicate."

The telegram sent by Mayor Haynes, of Minneapolis, urging President Taft to lend his official influence toward a settlement of the strike, was referred by the President today to Chairman Knapp and Commissioner Neil. According to Law. Perham's conference with the two Government officials is in accordance with the terms of the mediation and arbitration law, of which former Congressman C. J. Erdman, of Allentown, Pa., was the author.

The so-called Erdman act was signed by President McKinley on June 1, 1888. In general, it provides a comprehensive scheme which may be adopted for the amicable settlement of strikes and lockouts wherein are involved a common carrier, doing an interstate business, and its employees, and specifically limits its jurisdiction to disputes arising over wages, hours of labor, or conditions of employment, and where both parties voluntarily agree to its provisions. Two methods of arbitration are specified in the measure, the second to be adopted only after the first shall have failed. The law grants either strikers and employers the privilege of submitting their differences, in the first place, to the Commissioner of Labor and the chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission for mediation. The consent of both parties to a strike or lockout in this country is required. If the attempts of these two Government officials to arrive at an amicable adjustment of the controversy are unavailing, a second plan is provided, this, however, requiring action by both parties. The law states that there may be three arbitrators in the second plan; by the labor organization of which the striking men are members, or, if they are not members of such a union, a man named by a majority of them, and a third chosen by the two already selected.

Power of Examination. To this board of arbitration the law provides that both sides may submit their grievances, in writing. The three arbitrators have the power of calling and swearing and examining witnesses. They must meet within ten days from the date of selection of the third member, and must reach a final decision within thirty days. Meanwhile, the law declares that the status of the controversy shall not be changed. Whatever decision the arbitrators may reach is filed in the United States Circuit Court of the district wherein the dispute occurs, and is final unless legal error is discovered, and may be enforced by court decree. Ten days are given either side dissatisfied with the decision in which to file with the court exceptions and the matter may then be carried through the regular judicial procedure. After a ward by the arbitrators the employers are forbidden to discharge employees, or the employees to resign, without justifiable cause, for three months, without thirty days' notice in writing; and the award shall be considered in force for one year, without appeal, unless by legal procedure. The three arbitrators are granted \$10 per day salary, and necessary traveling expenses.

BANKER IS KILLED WHEN FREIGHT HITS MONTREAL EXPRESS

Spencer Trask, New York
Millionaire, Meets Death
In Collision.

BIG ENGINE PLOWS INTO REAR SLEEPER

Block Signals Overlooked, Is Belief of Officials—Investigation Started.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Spencer Trask, millionaire New York banker, head of the great private banking house of Spencer Trask & Co., was instantly killed at 8 o'clock this morning, when the Montreal express of the New York Central, standing on the main line at Croton, thirty-four miles from New York, was run down by a south-bound freight train.

Two negro porters, James E. Bell and Scipio Jackson, were injured, and taken to a hospital in Ossining. Their injuries are not serious.

No cause for the wreck has yet been assigned, but the officials of the road intimate that it was caused by the negligence of the crew of the freight train, all of whom escaped injury.

CAUSE OF WRECK. The second section of the Montreal express had been stopped at Croton station by the automatic signaling device, which warned the engineer that there was a train in the block ahead.

A similar signal had been set to warn the engineer of the following freight that the express had stopped. The warning was evidently ignored, for the massive freight crashed into the rear end of the express.

The Trask family has had many misfortunes in the past few years. His four children died within a single week, and Mrs. Trask has been an invalid ever since last August. In an automobile accident in Boston, the glass windshield was smashed, and Trask's eye so seriously injured that the surgeons had to remove it to save the sight of the other eye.

Trask lived most of his time at his Saratoga estate, coming once or twice a week to his business in New York. At Saratoga he had 200 acres, including a lake and many beautiful drives. It was one of the show places of Saratoga and visitors were welcomed in the grounds.

A second summer home of the dead multi-millionaire was his Twin Island Retreat at Lake George.

Trask occupied the drawing room on the rear sleeper of the Montreal express, into which the heavy freight engine plowed. He was instantly killed.

The Montreal express consisted of one baggage car, two day coaches, and five sleepers. It runs over the Delaware and Hudson line to Troy, and from that city to New York runs over the tracks of the New York Central.

The southbound freight in charge of Engineer Flanagan and Conductor Shufelt, was following the express.

Signals Overlooked. For some unknown reason the freight failed to see the block signals, and struck the last car in the express with terrific force. The heavy engine plowed its way over and through the last of the Pullmans.

Trask, who was returning to New York from his country place at Saratoga, was in the baggage room at the very end of the train. The heavy engine made a mangled wood of the drawing room, and Mr. Trask, horribly mangled, was instantly killed.

A porter on the sleeping car, name as yet unknown, was killed, and the officials of the New York Central declare one other person was killed, though it has been impossible yet to learn who it was.

Only two cars in the express train were damaged.

Wreckers Sent Out. Wrecking trains were sent out from New York and Ossining and from the latter place, several doctors being sent to take care of the injured.

An official of the New York Central declares that the road has installed in that part of the line the finest automatic block signals obtainable, and added that while the cause of the wreck had not been fixed, the officials could not see how the freight crew had entered the block with the express, intimating that the signals had been ignored.

Traffic was not long delayed, the wrecking crew getting the two damaged

(Continued on Second Page.)