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GOSSIP ABOUT HAYTIANS.

A TALK WITH JAMES ZOHRAB, THE BRITISH HAYTIAN MINISTER.

Another Revolution Is at Hand—The Wild Products of the Land Make the People Rich—Human Sacrifices Still Made in the Voodoo Worship—West India Game.

Mr. James Zohrab, British Minister to Hayti, was in the city yesterday, being on his way to England. During the afternoon he talked with a SUN reporter about Haytian affairs.

"It has been said that I was recalled from Hayti," he said, "but this is not true. I was withdrawn merely. I am still the representative of her Majesty to the Haytian people, and may be sent back there at any time. I do not know why I was withdrawn. It does not mean that there is now, or is likely to be, any rupture in the peaceful relations between the two countries."

"What was the condition of affairs there when you left?"

"Everything was very quiet."

"Confidence in the permanence of the new Government was then fairly complete?"

"I cannot say that. I do not think so. Matters are quiet, but it seems to me to be the calm before a storm. I look for another revolution there very soon. It seems to me that the people are in a condition that must precipitate another fight. It is too bad that it should be so. Hayti is naturally one of the very richest countries in the world for its area. I believe that, under a firmly organized Government—a Government where property was secure—the island would support in comfort a population of twenty million souls. One can form no idea of the wealth of the island without a visit there. There are the coffee forests, for instance. The coffee bush is not cultivated at all, but the trees grow wild in such luxuriance that it is utterly impossible for a man to penetrate them. Paths are cut through them from one village to another, and that is all. When the coffee harvest comes around the people gather the berries from the edges of the groves, and the rest goes to waste. It is a very conservative estimate when I say that for every 1,000 tons gathered 500 tons go to waste.

"It is much the same with the sugar cane. The people do not cultivate the sugar cane. It grows wild. You can tell that by looking at it when it is brought to town. It is crooked. You could not for love or money get a straight piece two feet long. Everything grows in such profusion that the people live in spite of revolutions. In no other country could the drain of such constant warfare be sustained.

"The ordinary Government is terribly expensive. Every year when the coffee season comes around the Government collects from $500,000 to $700,000. But under this system there the officials in power know that their turn to go into exile will soon come. I have been there two years, but the third set of officials is in power. Each set, knowing that its time would soon end, had to prepare to go, so they pocketed all the money in sight.

"Hayti has a bad debt now. The last revolution added to it materially, so that it is over $30,000,000. With a reasonably good Government this debt could be paid off. As it is, there is no great hope.

"The trouble with the island lies in the villages. The peasantry are a good enough people. They would soon learn the arts of peace by the towns people. They do not want to fight, and they have no peace and the habits of industry, if permitted part in any of the revolutions. It is easy for a foreigner to cultivate their friendship. I is only necessary to treat them frankly and with kindness. I assure you that a great many of them came to me after I was ordered away, to express their sorrow at my withdrawal, and it was all bee. so I treated them as I would like to be treated under like circumstances. When a peasant came to my house to sell any of the products of the country, he was treated with consideration. If he was hungry we fed him. If he was sick and we knew of any medicine that would help him he got it. Thus we gained their confidence. The towns people are speculators and politicians, and are naturally restless."

"What is the real feeling there in the matter of the talked-of acquisition of a coaling station by the American Government?"

"To understand that you must remember that ever since the revolution, when those people obtained their liberty, they have been taught that whenever a foreigner obtained a foothold in that country—was able to buy a foot of land—the end of Haytian freedom was at hand; that the sale of a foot of Hayti's soil to a foreigner meant that they would all soon be put back into slavery. However ill-founded their prejudice, it is there.

"Then you remember that Dr. Nemours Auguste came to the United States as a representative of the revolutionary party. His letters to your State Department were all published in the white book. He wrote that while his party, if successful, could not sell a coaling station to the American Government, the matter could be arranged in some other way. They read those letters down there. A Secretary Department has never disavowed an intent to acquire land for a coaling station there. They ask why it has not done so if it did not intend to acquire the land. There is just now undoubtedly a prejudice against the United States among the people."

"You were there when Mr. Douglass arrived. How was he received?"

"There was no demonstration over his arrival. He was received as any Minister might have been.

"But was there nothing said, one way or the other, about his color?"

"Oh, yes. They are like people in the East in that respect. We have to send white natives of England to all but the most fanatical Mohammedans among the people of the East. If we send one of their own countrymen to them they ask why they are not treated as white other nations are; why an Englishman is not sent to represent the English Government. It would even be better to send an Englishman to the most fanatical of Mohammedans, but for the reason that a Mohammedan must be sent to them, and no Englishman of that religion can be found.

"To return to the subject of the prosperity of the island, it is a peculiarity of the people that they seem to think that the proper way to promote peace in a revolution is to fire the towns. In my two years there I have seen three revolutions and three fires. The last fire was a little—only thirty of the forty houses were destroyed. Something like 1,500 were burned in the others. Each faction accused the other of setting the fire. The fact is the town of Port-au-Prince was burned by both factions. I was there trying to fight the fire, but while I would be at work at one end of a house, the other would strangely burst into a blaze. The fire would mysteriously travel against the wind. A house 200 yards up wind from the fire would burst into flames. But the smoke was always pitch black and smelled of kerosene. Something like twenty-five years ago a British man-of-war was sent to Hayti to enforce some claim our Government had against the country. The commander sent ashore to the President to say that unless the demand was complied with by a certain hour the ship would open fire on the town. The President sent back word that there would be no objection to the shelling of the town; on the contrary, would not the captain be kind enough to say which end of the town was to be shelled first, so that the inhabitants could set fire to the other end, and so help on the blaze."

"Nearly all Englishmen are interested in shooting. Did you find any there?"

"No. There are a few doves in the island and a few ducks. I made inquiry at every opportunity, but could not learn of a single animal there. They all said there was none. This seems very singular, for in the other islands, even on the smaller ones, the spotted deer are very plentiful. In St. Thomas, for instance, the deer are so numerous that the choice cuts of venison sell at 10 cents a pound in the market."

Mr. Zohrab had with him his family, consisting of his wife, three daughters, and a son, all old enough to take in society, but they found no society in Hayti, he says. The only people there whom the family could visit were the French Minister and the Spanish Consul. It was a pretty stupid place socially, though exciting enough during the revolutions. One of the most exciting incidents of Mr. Zohrab's career was when he conducted ex-President Salomon to the British man-of-war Canada. He and the other foreign diplomats gathered about the carriage that carried the defeated President to the water's edge in order to protect him literally with their bodies from the bullets of the enemy. The enemy was shooting all around them, but was afraid to aim directly at the carriage lest a stray bullet should kill a diplomat and so bring down the vengeance of the diplomatic country.

Mr. Zohrab talked freely of the Voodoo worship. He said that the tales to the air to near St. John's book about the sacrifice of human beings were true. He had seen the Voodoo practices—their worst forms, and he spoke of it as a thing of the past. The fact is, John supposes the practice almost extinct.

Cheap Rates West via St. Louis.

The Missouri Pacific Ry. have reduced their rates from St. Louis as follows: To Kansas City, $4.00; Atchison, $6.00; St. Joseph, $7.00; Omaha, $8.25; Pueblo, $15.00, and other points West in proportion. New York office, 261 Broadway.—Adv.

AUDACIOUS CHECK FORGERY.

John C. Arthur Arrested When He Presented Check No. 4 in Person.

Edward J. Barger, the paying teller of the Seaboard National Bank, 18 Broadway, was surprised on Friday when a diminutive telegraph messenger boy presented a check for $296, made payable to "Myself," signed "Vandenberg & Co.," and numbered 133. On the back was the endorsement of Vandenberg & Co. in ink, and in lead pencil the words, "Please pay messenger 852," which was the number on the boy's cap.

The teller thought it a little irregular, and despatched the messenger to the office of Mr. Peter C. Vandenberg, commission merchant and dealer in jewelry, in the Kemble building, to ask if it was all right. The boy came back and reported that Mr. Vandenberg was not in. Then the teller gave the lad the money.

On Saturday Mr. Barger, to satisfy his own uneasiness, sent to Mr. Vandenberg, inquiring about the check. That gentleman at once came to the bank and declared the check a forgery, but a very clever one. He said he had drawn no checks since the first of the month, and he pronounced two other checks, both dated and paid on March 5, to be forgeries.

The first was properly numbered 129, was torn from such a check book as Mr. Vandenberg used, called for $178, payable to Edward Crane, was properly signed, and was endorsed by both Crane and Vandenberg & Co. The second, numbered 130, was for $208, payable to Charles L. Dutton. Mr. Vandenberg instructed the teller to hold the next man bearing a check with his signature until some one from the office could be summoned.

This was about 1:45 A. M. on Saturday, and within an hour Mr. Barger was surprised to see a check for $247, payable to Ralph Mayers, numbered 134, and signed by the well-known name, come in through the little window. Looking out he saw a well-dressed, well-built young man of 23, with smooth face, brown hair, and clear, gray eyes regarding him. The teller summoned the bank's special policeman and telephoned to Mr. Vandenberg. The young man, seeing himself a prisoner, was perfectly cool and made no attempt to escape. Two representatives of the firm, who came in answer to the summons, did not recognize him, but said that the check was a forgery, and the prisoner was locked up at the Old slip station.

He gave his name as John C. Arthur and his address the Occidental Hotel. He wore a new suit of dark cheviot, a black beaver overcoat, and black soft felt hat. In his pockets were found two large brass keys, a card with the name John C. Arthur, and a batch of love letters written in red ink and signed:

"With kisses by the score, your loving Minnie Arthur."

The prisoner was unknown to the police. To Capt. McLaughlin he said he had come from Boston. The people at the Occidental Hotel knew nothing about him. Minnie Arthur was found in a house on Thirty-second street. She was unable to tell much about him, either.

The Captain sent to the American District Messenger office in the Produce Exchange building and Superintendent Thomas McGovern, with boy No. 852, whose name is Patrick Conaty, came to the station and identified Arthur as the man who had employed them to have the check cashed on Friday. Conaty said the man waited for the money in the corridor of the Exchange building. Paying Teller Barger also identified him as the man to whom he had paid both the checks dated March 5. The prisoner was arraigned in the Tombs Police Court yesterday morning. Justice McMahon remanded him for examination to-day. None of Mr. Vandenberg's people remember having seen Arthur before. The prisoner is 5 feet 9 inches in height, of resolute, aggressive appearance, and weighs 180 pounds. He says he is a bookbinder by trade.

LUMBER IN FLAMES.

All South Brooklyn Illuminated, but the Loss Only $30,000.

Fire last evening made big havoc in the extension lumber yard of Watson & Pettinger, at the foot of Carroll street, on the Gowanus Canal, and brilliantly illuminated the greater part of South Brooklyn. The yard covers nearly an acre along the canal, and the lumber, through which the fire swept fiercely for an hour, was placed in piles closely built together and towering to the height of a good-sized house. About 6 o'clock the watchman in the yard discovered fire in one of the piles under a shed near the centre of the yard, and, finding it impossible to stop its rapid progress, sent out an alarm. When the fire engines in the district arrived the flames had already extended to two additional lumber piles, and a second and third alarm were quickly sent out. Before half the engines, however, had got to work fire had jumped from one lumber pile to another, and the flames swept all over the yard and rose into the air to the height of a couple of hundred feet, throwing a bright glare all over the southern part of the city and lighting up the green slopes of Greenwood Cemetery and the shores of Gowanus Bay.

People kept pouring to the fire from all directions, and fully 10,000 men, women, and children were blocked outside the police lines viewing the brilliant Sunday night blaze. Chief Engineer Thomas F. Sevins directed the work of the firemen, and his regular fighting force received valuable assistance from the fire boat Seth Low, which steamed up the canal and deluged the burning lumber with water. Several boats on the canal were with difficulty removed out of the reach of the flames. One loaded with coal was badly scorched. H. A. Phillips's paper manufactory adjoined the lumber yard, and it was only by the persistent efforts of the firemen that it was saved. The engine house attached to the factory was on fire several times, and the stable was scorched. There was no damage, however, to the factory itself. Another small stable on the canal, belonging to Thomas Redding, was damaged to the extent of $200.

How the fire originate could not be ascertained, but it may have started. It is suspected from the careless use of matches alongside the shed where the fire was first discovered. Much of the burned lumber was very valuable, and the loss is placed at $30,000. It was fully covered by insurance. J. D. Foley, aged 32, of 143 Third avenue, while watching the fire, fell off a pile of lumber and had his right leg broken.

MORE TROUBLE WITH PORTUGAL.

Her Refusal to Do Justice in the Delagoa Bay Railroad Matter.

LONDON, March 10.—The *Standard's* Lisbon correspondent says: Mr. Magmac, director of the Delago Bay Railway, who has been here ten days trying to effect a settlement of the railway trouble, has satisfied himself that the Portuguese Government is determined, at whatever cost or hazard, to keep the railway and its lands and exclude England entirely from Mozambique.

"The company claims £1,750,000. America's claim on behalf of the McMurdo estate is $700,000. In view of Portugal's deliberate attempt at forcible confiscation England and America will insist upon ample compensation for their outraged citizens."

Buffalo Bill Refused to Pay the Money.

ROME, March 9.—Col. Cody recently offered a large sum of money to any one who should succeed in riding one of his wild horses. Some peasants accomplished the task yesterday, but Col. Cody refused to pay the promised reward on the ground that they were too long in mounting. The spectators hissed. The show will go to Florence to-morrow.

The German Elections.

BERLIN, March 9.—Herr Traeger, who was elected to the Reichstag from Varel and from the First district of Berlin, has decided to sit for Varel, thus necessitating a bye election in Berlin. Herren Hinzpeter and Meyer will be the candidates.

The King of Holland Again Ill.

LONDON, March 10.—It is reported that the King of Holland is again dangerously ill.

Suicide of an Alleged Murderess.

NORRISTOWN, Pa., March 9.—Annie Chomo, who was indicted with John Kenderosch for the murder of her husband, John Chomo, in Pottstown last November, committed suicide in her cell to-day by hanging herself with a silk handkerchief, which she tied to a bar of the cell door. The keeper's attention was attracted by the cries of her three-months old child. Kenderosch's trial was begun on Thursday, and he was acquitted yesterday. After his acquittal he swore he was innocent, but declared that the evidence taken from the court room proved conclusive against him. Shortly before she committed the deed she had her babe in her arms singing to it.

Cheap Railroad Fares.

To Colorado via St. Louis. The fare via Missouri Pacific Railway from St. Louis to Pueblo, Col., is only $15, including free palace reclining chair cars from St. Louis to Pueblo and Denver without change. New York office, 261 Broadway.—Adv.

EVENTS BEYOND THE OCEAN.

EMPEROR WILLIAM'S LETTER TO HIS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

He Says he Will Pursue his Social Reform Movement—The Meeting in London to Denounce Russia—A Murder in Moscow.

BERLIN, March 9.—To mark the anniversary of the death of his grandfather, Emperor William I., the Emperor to-day sent an aide-de-camp to Herr von Boetticher, the Minister of the Interior, with the decoration of the Order of the Black Eagle. Accompanying the decoration was a letter in the Emperor's own handwriting, in which he associates the honor with the memory of the late Emperor, to whom he refers as the pioneer of the social reform movement, which he says he has resolved to pursue with all persistence.

In his efforts to carry out the desired reform the Emperor says he has found Herr von Boetticher his main supporter, and he further expresses his warm acknowledgments of the Minister's services to the State, assures him of his full confidence and appreciation, and says he hopes the bestowal of the decoration will spur him on to further work in the same cause.

The incident is much remarked in connection with the rumors that Herr von Boetticher will succeed Prince Bismarck in the office of Chancellor.

KILLED A SISTER OF CHARITY.

The Murderer Commits Suicide After He Had Been Arrested.

MOSCOW, March 9.—Tremendous excitement prevails here over the murder of a Sister of Charity named Piatnizky, 40 years old, well known for her many charitable deeds. Her body was found cut into small pieces in a sack which was sewn up and thrown into a semi-retired spot, where detection was only a question of a few hours. The head was rudely cut from the trunk, and found wrapped in a cloth in another quarter of the city.

As near as could be determined the woman was strangled, and, from some evidence which the police will not disclose, the crime was fastened upon a young medical student named Belsowsoff, who was arrested, and immediately committed suicide. No reason is known for the deed.

THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM I.

Dedicating the Imperial Mausoleum at Charlottenburg.

BERLIN, March 9.—The imperial mausoleum at Charlottenburg was dedicated to-day. The route to the tomb was lined with sightseers, who respectfully uncovered their heads as the imperial party passed on its way to attend the ceremony.

The services were of an impressive character. They were conducted by Court Chaplain Koegel. The Knights of the Black Eagle were present, headed by Count von Moltke.

Prince Bismarck was absent. Before returning to the palace the Emperor and members of his family placed wreaths upon the coffins of William and Augusta, which were completely hidden from sight by the quantities of fresh flowers that were heaped upon them.

GAMBLING IN MOROCCO.

The Sultan Frowns Upon Hotel Keepers Who Have Rooms for Gaming.

By Dunlap's Cable News Company.

TANGIERS, March 9.—It is probable that the Sultan will withdraw his license from the French and American hotel keepers here who are trying to make an imitation of Monte Carlo, on the ground that the Koran forbids all kinds of gambling.

The hotels are all ready for opening in the coming spring, and each has added elegant baccarat and roulette rooms to the gambling halls. The Sultan's Government has entered an earnest protest at the supposed defilement of Mussulman territory.

A Protest Against Siberian Outrages.

LONDON, March 9.—Two thousand Radicals and Socialists met in Hyde Park to-day to protest against the Siberian outrages. Mr. Burns, the labor agitator, was the chief speaker. He denounced the outrages and called upon the English Government to use its influence with Russia to prevent the recurrence of such acts of cruelty. Michael Davitt, Mrs. Besant, and other promised speakers failed to attend the meeting.

John Burns made a long and impassioned speech, in which he said that the present Czar was just as bad as the last one, so he was justly executed for humanity's sake, and that he himself would be ready and willing to carry the red flag from Moscow to the Caucasus.

Mr. Burns also asserted that public opinion would force the British Government to interfere with Russia. Burns criticised severely the absence of the Irish members from a meeting that concerned all humanity.

Elections in France.

PARIS, March 9.—Elections were held in a number of districts to-day for members of the Chamber of Deputies. In the First district of Toulouse M. Leygue, Radical and Socialist, received 5,292 votes, and M. Susine 3,255. In the Second district M. Calvinhac, Radical and Socialist, who was unseated by the Chamber of Deputies some time ago, received 4,396; M. Labat, Conservative, 5,121, and M. Sirwon, Opportunist, 4,058. Second ballots are necessary. M. Loreau, who was unseated for Gien, is M. elected, receiving 7,633, against 7,224 for re-Portalis.

Paris, March 9.—M. Delahaye, Conservative, has been re-elected for Chinon, M. Muller, Conservative, for Redon, and M. Guillemaut, Republican, for Fontenay le Comte.

France's War with Dahomey.

PARIS, March 9.—Advices from M. Bayol, the French agent on the west coast of Africa, dated yesterday, are to the effect that the position in Dahomey is unchanged. The Republican papers approve M. Etienne's proposal of vigorous measures against the King and people of Dahomey, but are opposed to carrying war into the interior.

An Actress Embraces Judaism.

HAMBURG, March 9.—Fräulein Marie Formes, an actress, member of the Protestant Church, was married to Baron Koenigswaurter, the celebrated Jewish Hamburg capitalist. In accordance with the rites of the Jewish Church, she having embraced Judaism for that purpose.

Francis Joseph Praises Tisza.

PESTH, March 9.—At a Court dinner to-day the Emperor, in a speech, emphasized the necessity of cohesion among the Liberals. He profoundly regretted the proposed retirement of Herr von Tisza, who, he said, would continue to enjoy his highest favor.

The Duke of Connaught Coming.

LONDON, March 9.—The Duke of Connaught will start from Bombay for England on Thursday next. He will travel via China, Japan, Vancouver, and Quebec. In a speech at a ball yesterday the Duke deplored the utter inadequacy of the defences of Bombay.

The Kaiser's Labor Conference.

LONDON, March 10.—The *Chronicle* learns that Germany is treating with the Vatican with a view to the representation of the Pope at the Berlin labor conference. The fact that Italy will send delegates to the conference proves an obstacle in the path of the German Government.

Insulted by British Miners.

LONDON, March 9.—A despatch from South Africa says that the Governor of Natal has expressed disapproval of and regret for the recent demonstration at Johannesburg against the Government of the South African republic.

Prof. Owen has a Relapse.

LONDON, March 9.—Prof. Owen, the scientific man, who was reported convalescent a few days ago, after a serious illness, has had a relapse. All the members of his family are assembled at his bedside.

Parnell After Another Newspaper.

LONDON, March 9.—Mr. Parnell will prosecute the Exeter *Gazette* for printing the first forged letter printed by the *Times* in its articles on "Parnellism and Crime" and copying the *Times's* article day by day.

CIGARMAKERS HOLD COUNCIL.

Resolving that the Time Has Come to Make a Stand Against Employers.

Cigarmakers held a convention in Maennerchor Hall in East Fifty-sixth street which lasted all day yesterday, and is to be continued next Sunday, to devise plans to get more pay from their employers. It was announced that there were present representatives from sixty-three cigar factories, in only nine of which union men are employed. They want a return to the prices of 1886.

The Convention had three Chairmen: Daniel Harris, the English speaking; Anton Frank, German, and Edward Scheider, Bohemian. Two interpreters translated every speech aloud. The speakers complained that manufacturers had established a spy system, and were undermining the unions, whose membership had greatly fallen off. A Bohemian delegate said that the trouble was that the International Union asked for an initiation fee of $3 a member. This was too high. It was too much to expect a cigarmaker to pay $3 when he only earned $7 a week. Several speakers pitched into Adolph Strasser, President of the International Union, for "autocracy." Others defended him. It came out in the speeches of some of the Bohemians that the basis of their hatred of President Strasser was his hostility to tenement house cigar manufacture.

Resolutions were adopted declaring that the cigarmakers have all the poverty of the negro slave of the South before the war and none of his peace of mind. The wages at present received, it was asserted, are not sufficient to maintain a workman's family, and the wife and children are compelled to make cigars, too, to get bread. The manufacturers are continually reducing wages, and now that they are at the starvation point it is time to rebel. It was decided to make a stand against the employers, and through the International Cigarmakers' Union seek to have wages restored to the rates of 1886. A committee of twenty-five was appointed to carry out this plan.

CAPTURING RENEGADE APACHES.

A Fight with the Outlaws who Had Murdered a Freighter.

DENVER, March 9.—The pursuing party of United States troops and Indian scouts who followed the trail of the renegade Indians who murdered George Herbert, a Mormon freighter, on Sunday last, for over 300 miles of the roughest and most rugged country of Arizona, overtook them yesterday on Salt River, about thirty miles north of Globe, in an almost impenetrable locality. A fight immediately commenced. After the first shots were exchanged the Indians took to the rocks and continued the firing, evidently determined to sell their lives dearly. The fight was kept up until two of the renegades were killed and a third wounded, when the remaining two, seeing their efforts were useless, surrendered.

The troops and scouts, although exposed, miraculously escaped any casualties. The dead were buried where they fell, and the three prisoners were taken to Globe, where they arrived this afternoon. The two horses stolen from their victim were the only ones the Indians had, and were almost fagged to death on account of being so hard pushed by the troops. To-morrow the prisoners will be escorted to San Carlos and placed in close confinement, and the soldiers will proceed to their respective stations.

It is safe to predict that the days of the revolting crimes of this particular lot of Apaches have passed away. There is no doubt that the prisoners will be hanged.

THE GREEN GOODS MAN.

He Hails From Hester Street, and Is Fishing For Ohio Greenhorns.

ZANESVILLE, Ohio, March 9.—The green goods swindlers have been operating extensively in this neighborhood. The following letter has been received by several persons:

"DEAR SIR: Thinking you are in a position to safely handle my goods, I have concluded to write to you. I am dealing in an article, the denominations of which are 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s, and 20s. They are of the American and Dominion of Canada issues, and are perfect in every respect. You may consider my business a questionable one, but the loss falls only on the Government, and it can well afford to stand it. If I have made a mistake in writing to you on this subject, I hope you will pardon me and let the matter drop.

"Should you decide to answer this I will send you full particulars and terms, and convince you that I have an article that is perfectly safe to handle, and that will enable you to make money safely and rapidly.

"Be sure to return this letter if you wish to hear from me again. Yours truly, Yours promptly, and will expect you to do the same with mine. Sign all your letters 'S. 15.' instead of your name. Yours most sincerely,

"H. FRANK,

"178 Hester street, New York city."

A DISGRACE TO KANSAS CITY.

The Terrible Condition of Prisoners Who Are Confined in the Workhouse.

KANSAS CITY, March 9.—The charges made by Alderman Ford concerning the frightful condition of the prisoners confined in the workhouse are found to be true. About seventy-five male prisoners are crowded into narrow and filthy cells, reeking with vermin and unprovided with sanitary requirements. The men are constantly manacled with shackles weighing from five to thirteen pounds, and are, therefore, prevented from bathing. Two of the prisoners said that they had not taken a bath for two months.

Many of the cells are only five feet long, and in some of them are confined men six feet tall. For these seventy-five prisoners are two guards. The guards say that on account of the desperate character of the men it is necessary to shackle them to prevent their escape so long as they alone have to guard them and they remain in their present quarters. The building is of wood and the partitions are thin.

The committee appointed to investigate the matter will report at to-morrow's Council meeting. It is thought that a new brick prison will be erected, provided with proper sanitary appliances and a sufficient number of guards to watch the prisoners.

ADRIFT IN AN OPEN BOAT.

Terrible Sufferings of Two Fishermen Who Were Lost in a Fog.

GLOUCESTER, March 9.—The schooner Blanche, which has arrived from Grand Bank, had on board Edward Fogarty and William Wilson, members of the crew of the schooner Nellie G. Thurston, who were picked up in a dory. They went adrift on Feb. 27, while attending trawls in a thick fog. The weather continued thick for five days, during which time they sighted a schooner and a brig, who did not see them. Their feet, hands, and tongues became swollen, and they lay in the dory and prayed for death to relieve their sufferings. They had three raw fish in the dory, which they tried to eat but were made sick. They became delirious, and about made up their minds to jump overboard and end their sufferings. When the Blanche rescued them they could not have survived much longer. During the time they were astray the weather was very cold, and a staunch trader said the men must have had iron constitutions to endure the exposure so long. They have somewhat recovered, but their hands and feet are badly swollen. They were rescued 150 miles from where they went astray.

Sued for $1,210,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 9.—The suit of Charles Hansen against Henry B. Slavin, the Panama canal contractor, to recover $1,210,000, was begun in the Superior Court yesterday. He alleges that in 1882 he agreed with Henry B. Slavin and M. A. Slavin, since deceased, to subscribe for 2,000 shares of the stock of the American Contracting and Dredging Company, which the Slavins controlled. The stock, however, was never delivered, though he stood ready to pay for the same. The value of the shares and of the dividends declared would now amount to the sum sued for.

H. B. Slavin says that Hansen never paid a dollar for any of the stock, and had never even asked for any.

Two Aged Voters.

SARATOGA, March 9.—Otis Bentley, 96 years old, and who has lived on the same farm in the town of Milton, in this county, all his life, went to the polls on Tuesday last and voted at the seventy-fourth town meeting in his native town. Ira Millard, aged 91, voted at the same polls.

Fast Trains to Washington.

A complete schedule of fast trains to Baltimore and Washington is operated by the Jersey Central, Reading, and B. and O. All trains run through, and are equipped with Pullman parlor and sleeping cars. Punctual service. Station foot of Liberty st.—Adv.

DAY FOR THE FLACK TRIAL.

MRS. FLACK LOOKS LIKE AN UNWILLING WITNESS.

The Detectives Said to Have Had Some Difficulty in Keeping Her Within Reach for the Trial To-day—Will She Testify?

The trial of Sheriff James A. Flack, his son Will Flack, and Joseph Meeks, the referee in the suit for divorce brought in the name of Mrs. Flack against the Sheriff, is to begin this morning in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, unless something occurs to postpone it once more. It is believed that Mrs. Flack, who came to town on Saturday, will be present and testify that she never authorized the divorce suit or knowingly signed and verified the complaint. Her depositions to that effect have already been taken.

The three defendants are jointly indicted for conspiracy to obtain the fraudulent divorce. Ambrose Monell, since dead, was indicted with them. His illness caused a series of postponements of the trial. Meeks had an illness which required a trip to Bermuda, and on Monday last Mrs. Flack was indisposed and there was another postponement.

It was learned yesterday that Mrs. Flack had not gone to the house of her niece, Mrs. S. D. Bingham, at 322 East Eighty-fifth street, with whom it was expected that she would abide in New York. Mr. Bingham said to a SUN reporter that he did not expect her, and knew nothing of her whereabouts. Last night a story was current that the detectives had been visiting the houses of Sheriff Flack's friends in search of Mrs. Flack, and had finally found her and taken her into their own guardianship, with a view to making it certain that she will appear to-day.

It appears that Mrs. Flack went on Saturday night to 215 East Fifty-first street, the home of City Marshal Joseph M. Hill, but that Assistant District Attorney Goff, on learning of this, deemed it best to remove her thence yesterday morning. He called at the house with Detective Von Gerichten at 10, and they took Mrs. Flack to the Vanderbilt Hotel, where she was detained as a witness in custody, a detective remaining at the hotel. Marshal Hill, it is said, is a friend of Sheriff Flack, but not an acquaintance of Mrs. Flack.

Mrs. Hill is said to be a friend of Mrs. Flack's. The latter is described as being very tearful and greatly distressed at her treatment as a semi-prisoner.

Mrs. Flack, it is understood, has been vacillating of late in her purpose of appearing against her husband, who, on his part, has carefully avoided any countenancing of the reports that were put afloat about her habits and occasional irresponsibility when the scandal first came to light.

It may be that she is unwilling to face cross-examination, for the defence must necessarily maintain that she signed the complaint in the divorce suit, well knowing what she did, and she has sworn to the contrary. Besides, the prospect of sending her husband and son to State prison has very likely been pictured to her in a manner to work upon her feelings. She can be compelled to appear, of course, willing or unwilling, and it is proposed that she shall appear.

DUNRAVEN HAS FIRST CALL.

He will Race for the America's Cup Before Considering New Challenges.

Lord Dunraven's declaration, a SUN reporter in London cabled to THE SUN of Sunday, that he will not send his boat Valkyrie across the Atlantic to race for anything but the America's Cup, means that Dunraven is going to renew his challenge, or at least dispute the right of any other English yachtowner to sail for the cup before his challenge is disposed of.

"As the matter stands now," said a member of the New York Yacht Club yesterday, "Dunraven has undoubtedly the first claim to the consideration of the club, and I should not be surprised to hear of a new challenge from him at any hour. His last one came about the middle of March, and the club being willing to consider it then, will probably do so now. The holding of the cup by the winner under the new deed of gift was the stumbling block last year, but if Dunraven is willing to conform to that condition, and the return race is not there is nothing that I know of to prevent him from challenging in the name of any other club to which he belongs. I believe he has just been elected commodore of a North of England club, so he might challenge in their name."

Meanwhile Skipper Hank Haff is getting the Volunteer into shape for the coming season, and there's very little doubt about what yacht will defend the cup when the time comes.

LARGEST COFFIN THEY EVER MADE.

It Held the Body of a Young Woman Who Weighed 428 Pounds.

PITTSBURGH, March 9.—The funeral of Miss Lizzie Kramer of Franklin street took place this afternoon from the residence of her brother, Frank H. Kramer, 33 Pasture street. The woman was the heaviest person living in the Seventh ward, and probably the heaviest woman in Pittsburgh. Her weight was 428 pounds. The Kramer family is one of the best known on the hill, where they have lived for many years. There are five sons and one daughter. All but the eldest children were all large, but Lizzie was larger than any two of her stalwart brothers. She was 28 years old.

From youth she was disposed to excessive corpulence. As a school girl, when on the streets, she attracted general attention. During her later years she was seen out very seldom. Her weight became so great that she did not care to walk far, and she did not like to be stared at by people on the streets. She, therefore, did not go out more than two or three times a month, and that by carriage. The cause of her death was a cold, which developed into pneumonia. Her funeral was large by attended.

The undertakers who supplied the coffin said it was the largest they ever made. It was 5 feet 10 inches long and 2½ inches across on the inside. It was so that six strong pall bearers could do to lift it into the hearse.

FIFTEEN WOMEN ARRESTED.

Raid on a Stale Beer Dive Frequented by Hamilton Street Amazons.

Seventeen persons were arrested for participation in a fight at 36 Hamilton street last evening. Fifteen of them were women, and they made an odd procession as they were marched up to the Madison street police station.

The principals in the fight were Julia Sullivan and Mary Mckibbin. Julia is only 55 years old and Mary 50. Julia objected to a remark made about her daughter by Mary, and she cut Mary's head with a broken sugar bowl. Mary had friends present and so had Julia. After a little while an ambulance was necessary, and Dr. Curran of Gouverneur Hospital took Mary to the hospital and sewed up her wound.

The police went to the place and arrested the whole lot. It is a stale beer dive, and the resort of women who are fond of beer. Those arrested included Honora Woods, 42 years old; Ellen Sullivan, 30; Margaret Brennan, 44; Bessie Madden, 50; Bridget O'Brien, Margaret Wilson, 51; Eliza Miller, 41; Augusta Armstrong, 33; Bridget Donovan, 63; Margaret Keegan, 34; Mary Neville, 35; Richard Keegan, 50, and Alfred Armstrong, 45.

A Dishonest Postal Clerk Caught.

CHATTANOOGA, March 9.—For some months frequent complaints have been made of missing letters on the main line of the East Tennessee Railroad system. Post Office Inspector Sharp undertook to find the thief. As the result of the inquiry, Mail Agent Tom M. Montgomery was arrested in this city shortly after his train came in to-day, and on his person was found a marked $2 bill and a decoy letter, and several other letters which he had taken from the mail. Montgomery was brought before United States Commissioner Hope, and committed to jail in default of bail. He waived preliminary examination, and was remanded until Thursday.

It is said the proportion of this sort of crime in this section is about three to one as against the North, and that this is due to the large mail for the Louisiana lottery. The supposition is that a letter addressed to the New Orleans manager contains money, and as he has no redress it is almost perfectly safe to steal it.

A VIOLENT BRIDGE GATEMAN.

He Drags a Passenger from a Moving Train for Dropping His Ticket.

As Moses Sampson of 2,006 Third avenue boarded a bridge car in Brooklyn at 6½ last night he was seized by the coat collar by a ticket taker on the platform and dragged roughly backward from the moving train. His wife and little girl were carried away on the train, the child crying uncontrollably, frightened at the sight of a big man in uniform and brass buttons dragging her father across the platform of the station. Mr. Sampson's offence was in dropping his tickets on the floor instead of in the chopping box in his haste to board the train with his wife and daughter. He was fairly on the train, which had then started, when the ticket chopper seized him. The tickets were picked up, and Mr. Sampson followed his wife on the next train.

The little girl's cries attracted the attention of the passengers to the uncalled-for violence of the ticket taker's methods, and one or two of them offered their cards to Mrs. Sampson, in case her husband should want witnesses of what appeared to them to be brutality toward an inoffending passenger.

A reporter of THE SUN chanced to witness the episode. Later he called on the gateman for his name and number.

"There was a man pulled off a train here at about 6 o'clock," he admitted surlily, and then, correcting himself while departing from the fact, he added: "I stopped a man getting on a train. When a man tries to beat me out of tickets twice, and a Jew at that, I think it's time I pulled him off a train."

"Your number, I see," said the reporter, "is 11; what is your name?"

"You can't get no name from me. I tell you," he burst out. "I try to serve the public as well as I can, or I wouldn't have been here for seven years; but when you buck up against a Jew you have got a pretty tough class of customers to deal with."

Then the man walked away. His name is Barrett.

HAMMOND WILL SQUEAL.

He Threatens to Tell All He Knows About the London Scandals.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 9.—Charles R. Hammond, the man who knows more than anybody else about the famous London scandals, is being cut short in his supply of money and he protests. He said to-day that unless certain people prominent in London kept faith with him and cabled money to him by Tuesday of this week, he would say something then that would place them in a very bad light. The words of Hammond were:

"The time for denials from one side and the other is past, and if Lord Euston and Mr. Hugh Weglen know what was to their interest they would communicate immediately by cable to a person known to them by initial C., and whose present residence is 2,232½ Front street, Seattle. Hugh Weglen is the son of a man who occupies an exceptional position in the financial world of the British capital."

It is observed from these remarks that Hammond wants money, and also that whatever he may have said heretofore about his not being the man who kept a notorious house in Cleveland street was untrue. He has torn off all semblance of a mask, and now promises to reveal many other names of men high in station who were customers at his house of crime. Seattle is undoubtedly the most interesting place in the United States just now to certain men on Downing street, London, and the end is not yet.

THE LIZZIE D. SMALL BURNED AT SEA.

Her Cabin Stove Burst, Setting Fire to the Vessel—The Crew Rescued.

GLOUCESTER, Mass., March 9.—The fishing schooner Grace Choate, from Portsmouth, arrived this evening, having on board Capt. Horatio H. Lawson and six men of the schooner Lizzie D. Small of New York, who were rescued from a boat to-day fifteen miles southeast of Thatcher's Island. The Small sailed on Tuesday from St. John, N. B., with a cargo of piling, shipped by Driscoll Bros., and consigned to A. J. Murray. During a strong breeze from the north this morning, while the crew were on deck piling the mainsail, the cabin stove burst, setting fire to the vessel. The