

General Victor Vifquain.

General Victor Vifquain, who died in Lincoln, Neb., on January 7, 1904, was born in Brussels, Belgium, on May 20, 1836. He received a military education and graduated as a second lieutenant of cavalry. Early in life he determined to make his home in America, and at the earliest opportunity embarked on his native land. He arrived in Nebraska in May, 1858, and located on a piece of unsurveyed government land in Saline county. At the breaking out of the civil war he hastened east and offered his services to the government. He enlisted as a private in the Fifty-third New York. Eight months later he was mustered out with the regiment with the rank of adjutant. In June, 1862, he went from Washington to Springfield, Ill., with a letter from Secretary Stanton to Governor Yates. On the day he delivered the letter he was appointed adjutant of the Ninety-seventh Illinois. He rose rapidly in rank and was soon colonel of the regiment. For meritorious and gallant service he was brevetted major, lieutenant colonel, colonel and brigadier general by President Lincoln. While the war was in progress he was voted a gold medal of honor by congress. At the close of the war he refused a commission as lieutenant colonel in the regular army. Of General Vifquain's military career volumes might be written. It must be touched upon only briefly here. His frequent and rapid promotions, the thanks of congress, the gold medal of honor and the loving devotion of the men who served with him in the field—all these testify to his splendid qualities as a soldier. When the Spanish-American war broke out he quickly volunteered his services and was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the Third Nebraska. He became colonel upon the resignation of Mr. Bryan.

General Vifquain's record as a citizen was as clean as his military record. At the close of the civil war he returned to Nebraska and became foremost in the work of developing the resources of the young state. He took an active interest in politics and for many years was one of the leaders in the democratic party. He shrunk from being candidate for office, but accepted the nomination for secretary of state in 1867, and in 1892 he was the democratic candidate for congress in the Fourth district. He was a member of the state constitutional convention. In 1879 he established the Daily Democrat in Lincoln and it soon became known throughout the west as one of the staunchest and ablest defenders and exponents of democratic principles in the entire country. In 1886 he was appointed minister to Baranquilla by President Cleveland and promoted to the Panama consulate in 1890.

Laconic Introduction.

Representative James Kennedy of Youngstown, O., has been taking liberties with his boyhood friend, Representative Hogg, of Colorado. Desiring to introduce Mr. Hogg to Representative Hedge, of Iowa, Mr. Kennedy led his friend around to the Iowan's desk. "Hedge—Hogg" was his laconic exclamation as the two met.—New York Tribune.

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ADDITIONAL NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Mayor Harrison of Chicago was on the witness stand on January 13 in the Iroquois theatre inquest. According to his testimony, the building inspector of the city had reported that all theatres in Chicago were violating the law as regards fire protection.

Colonel Charles Denby of Evansville, Ind., United States minister to China during the administrations of Presidents Cleveland and Harrison, died at Jamestown, N. Y., on January 13. Colonel Denby was about 70 years of age.

An agreement between Mayor Johnson and the officials of the street railway company of Cleveland, O., was recently reached, whereby the establishment of 3-cent fares is assured within the city. The ordinance to this effect was recently passed by the city council and approved by the railway officials.

An Associated press cablegram from Manila, under date of January 13, says: A supplemental act was proposed here today at the public discussion of the currency question, by which a tax will be imposed upon all written contracts made payable in Mexican, Spanish or Spanish-Filipino coins, and upon all other metallic moneys not upon a gold basis in circulation in the islands. It will also require the payment of a license tax by all firms conducting a commercial business wholly or in part in said currencies.

Certain European powers are trying to find means to prevent the Russian-Japanese controversy from drifting into war. The cabinets at London and Paris are foremost in the work of mediation, and it is not doubted that if the situation becomes more critical than at the present time, both these powers will tender their good offices to prevent an outbreak of hostilities.

A dispatch dated St. Paul, Minn., January 14, says that arrangements are almost completed for establishing a Boer colony in Montana, and it is expected that a large immigration of Boers to this place will begin early in the spring. It is said that James J. Hill is largely responsible for the selection of Montana for the colony.

The first preliminary session of the constitutional convention for the new republic of Panama was held on January 14 in the isthmus. The Associated press says that it is believed that the constitution for the republic will be promulgated within ten days, and that Dr. Amador will probably be elected the first constitutional president of Panama.

The convention of the boot and shoe workers recently held its annual meeting in Cincinnati, O. Some discussion arose in the convention over the discriminations against eight St. Louis unions, whose charters had been revoked, but finally the convention decided to pay the expenses of a committee from the St. Louis unions which had had their charters revoked, and thus the matter was brought to an amicable conclusion.

It was reported from Denver, Colo., on January 14 that the troops in the disturbed labor districts are being withdrawn as rapidly as prudence seems to justify and it is said that the guard will be maintained only long enough to demonstrate that the present peaceful conditions are permanent.

Asa S. Bushnell, former governor of Ohio, died at Columbus on January 15. Governor Bushnell served through the civil war, being mustered out with the rank of captain.

Governor A. B. Cummins of Iowa was inaugurated governor of that state for the second time on January

14. In his inaugural address Governor Cummins paid much attention to the subject of reciprocity, declaring in favor of the reciprocity demanded in the platform of 1903. The governor also spoke about the trust evil, saying that in his judgment the man who manipulated the combines were no better than the mobs who otherwise desecrated the law.

In the recent scene of disturbance in Turkey, between Turkish troops and the Bulgarians, a powder magazine exploded on January 14 and thirty Turks were killed. It is said that the Bulgarian troops exploded the magazine. A sharp engagement is reported to have taken place near Demirhisar, forty-five miles from Salonica.

At the meeting of the National Live Stock convention held in Portland, Ore., on January 13, it was unanimously decided to incorporate a company of live stock men for the purpose of establishing independent packing houses in the stock centers of the country to compete with the packers' combine and restore prices on live stock.

Further allegations of bribery and boodling were reported from St. Louis recently, when it was reported that a representative of the house of delegates combine had solicited a bribe of \$10,000 from certain St. Louis ticket brokers to kill the ordinance passed prohibiting the scalping of railroad excursion tickets. Circuit Attorney Folk has charge of the investigation of this new scandal.

It was announced on January 14 that William H. Bancroft of Salt Lake City has been selected as general manager of the Union Pacific railroad. Mr. Bancroft is at present serving as president of the Oregon Short Line, and his status as such will not be affected by the new appointment. Omaha, Neb., will be the headquarters of the new general manager.