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John C. Bell, Philadelphia's district attorney has refused to proceed against persons charged with conspiracy to defraud the city upon evidence offered by Mayor Weaver. Mayor Weaver is at work in the effort to devise plans to act without the district attorney's assistance.

Secretary of War Taft and party were given a cordial reception by the Japanese.

London cablegrams say that Great Britain would welcome a defensive alliance with France, because it would insure long continued European peace by acting as a check to German ambition.

In the investigation at St. Paul of the paper trust representatives of the trust refused to answer questions.

One thousand head of sheep, the property of Lux and Miller of San Francisco were shot in Oregon, July 24. It is charged that this was done by miners who were bent upon the protection of the water supply and forage which they wanted for their horses.

The German emperor and the czar of Russia had a conference July 24.

The St. Louis police acting under instructions from Governor Folk of Missouri have repeatedly raided the race track in that city, arresting the track officers and employes.

Speaker Nixon of the New York assembly has appointed a committee to investigate jointly with a like committee of the senate, the life insurance business in that state.

Twelve persons lost their lives fighting fire in the Texas oil fields, July 24.

An Associated press dispatch under date of New York, July 26 follows: "The customs house authorities intend to take active measures to stop the extensive smuggling of tobacco at Bayonne, N. J., where on Saturday, twenty-seven bales of Sumatra tobacco, valued at about \$2,000 were seized in the house of a woman who is said to be the agent of a gang of smugglers. The vessel from which the tobacco came is the steamer Diamond of the Standard Oil company. Under the revised statutes, the collector may institute proceedings for a fine equal to the appraiser's value against the master of any vessel, together with a penalty of \$400, for having landed smuggled goods in port, and if the master be not responsible the collector may proceed against the managers of the vessel. "The collector intends to put the case in the hands of the United States district attorney at Bayonne to prosecute it. There have been twenty cases of smuggling lately at Bayonne and in every instance the vessels belonged to the Standard Oil company."

State Senator Butt, of Arkansas, was arrested July 24 on the charge of bribery in connection with a bill appropriating \$800,000 for the completion of the new capital.

The legislatures to be chosen in Virginia and Kentucky next year will elect successors to Senators Martin and Blackburn. Other senators whose terms expire in March, 1907, and

whose successors will be chosen by legislatures elected next year are as follows:

- Alger, Michigan; Allee, Delaware; Bacon, Georgia; Bailey, Texas; Berry, Arkansas; Burnham, New Hampshire; Burton, Kansas; Carmack, Tennessee; Clark, Montana; Crane Massachusetts; Cullom, Illinois; Dolliver, Iowa; Dryden, New Jersey; Dubois, Idaho; Elkins, West Virginia; Foster, Louisiana; Frye, Maine; Gamble, South Dakota; McLaurin, Mississippi; Millard, Nebraska; Mitchell, Oregon; Morgan, Alabama; Nelson, Minnesota; Patterson, Colorado; Simmons, North Carolina; Tillman, South Carolina; Warren, Wyoming; Wetmore, Rhode Island.

It is reported that former Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow will be given the office of public printer.

Seven persons have been killed and fifty-four injured as the result of automobile accidents in Chicago since January 1.

At Honolulu Secretary Taft expressed himself as in favor of having free trade with the Philippines as soon as the treaty with Spain, by which Spain has equal privileges with the United States expires, which will be in two years.

The attorneys for Swift, who in a bill filed in the federal court had charged fraud and bribery against the International Harvester company, have dismissed the case. It is said that the case may be commenced in another form.

Brigadier General Thomas H. Barry has been appointed president of the Washington war college at the national capitol. General Barry is now in Manchuria with the Russian army.

Pennsylvania state authorities say they will prosecute the beef trust on the charge of doctoring the meats with preservatives.

E. H. Harriman in a public statement says that there has been nothing in the relations of himself and the interests he represents to the Equitable Life Assurance society that will not bear the closest scrutiny.

Fifty weekly and semi-weekly newspapers in various Iowa towns are to be transformed into daily papers through an organization of capitalists.

Congressman Martin of South Dakota has announced that he will be a candidate for United States senator to succeed Senator Gamble, whose term will expire in March, 1907.

Washington dispatches say it is reported that the Japanese will demand of Russia one billion dollars as war indemnity.

Bishop Isaac W. Joyce of the Methodist church died at Minneapolis.

Paul Morton was on July 26 elected president of the Equitable Life Assurance society. The resignations of James W. Hyde and N. B. Stranahan as directors were accepted.

An Associated press dispatch under date of Put-in-Bay, Ohio, July 26, says: "At the final session of the International Federation of Commercial Travelers' organizations today the

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