

TO SHUT OUT OPIUM

Bills Pending in Both Houses of Congress Intended to Suppress the Evil.

LOBBY IS ON HAND TO FIGHT MEASURES

Traffic is Better Than a Gold Mine to the Few Men Who Control It.

HABIT GETTING A HOLD ON WHITES

Representative Grover Pushing His Anti-Injunction Bill.

NEW STATE BUILDING IS TO BE COSTLY

President Shows His Independence of Congressional Influence in Appointment of Eugene F. Ware.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, April 20.—(Special.)—A few days ago Senator Foster of Washington, acting for Senator Mason of Illinois, who was temporarily absent, reform a petition from the United States opium association urging the enactment of a law to absolutely prohibit the importation of opium for smoking purposes into the United States.

It would appear that the time has come when congress should act, if a time of the reports concerning the opium traffic in this country are true. A brief history of the negotiations between China and America for the suppression of the trade is interesting. In the year 1859 a treaty was formulated between the governments of the United States and China and in accordance with an stipulation that a convention marked "Article 1" was agreed that no citizen of the United States nor any subject of the emperor of China should enjoy the commercial privilege of trafficking in opium between any of the open ports of China, and it was further provided that no citizen of the United States should engage in buying opium in any of the above mentioned open ports.

This treaty was proclaimed by the president of the United States in 1861. Congress in 1887 passed an act to provide for the execution of the provisions of this treaty. Thereupon the clause relating to the subject became the supreme law of the land immediately upon the consummation of this act of congress by the president's signature. No person of well balanced mind will doubt for a moment the good faith and purpose intended by both nations in framing this highly moral bill of international law. It was evident that the intention was to prevent further trade between the two countries in an article which was rapidly destroying the physical and moral standard of China, and had already gained a dangerous foothold in America. But on account of the limited control the United States may have over foreigners residing in this country the treaty and the statute became but blank cartridges so far as the opium trade was concerned, for they only served to transfer the traffic from the Chinese and American traders into the hands of foreigners.

Under the present conditions the wonderful profits that are known to accrue from the sale of this pernicious drug in the United States are divided, strange as it may seem, between three prominent residents of San Francisco. When it became evident to the Chinese merchants that it would be unsafe for them to do business in this country the treaty and the statute became but blank cartridges so far as the opium trade was concerned, for they only served to transfer the traffic from the Chinese and American traders into the hands of foreigners.

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Of course this was a mere subterfuge calculated to dodge the law, but it worked most satisfactorily for all concerned. There is one agency that has been successful in Mexico, China, in San Francisco. That substantially imports all the opium that is sold in this country. This, of course, must be done through the connivance of their English go-between. The foreign agent receives a commission of \$5 on each case of opium imported. This accounts for two of the three. Now for the third. Of course there must be some one to act as customs broker. This has been entrusted to one of the most prominent brokerage firms of that city.

Retailers Make Little Profit. Such Chinese as are engaged in the retail opium trade of the coast declare that they receive no profit worth mentioning from the sale of the drug. Besides, all well-thinking Chinese are more than anxious that opium be placed upon the list of contraband articles. It may seem astonishing, and serve as a kindergarten lesson to the Chinese, that the United States when they are told that the native inhabitants of Hawaii many years ago forbade the importation of opium to the islands, realizing that the use of the drug meant the certain destruction of the Hawaiian race, and it seems almost incredible that with all our boasted civilization, the lawmakers of America have never shown that same regard for the morality of our citizens as was evidenced by this semi-civilized monarchy in the Pacific isles.

It must be palpable to all right-thinking Americans that there is a crying need of national legislation to check the spread of this Asiatic plague of opium smoking among our own citizens; it must be palpable for the reason that nearly every municipality of importance in the United States has passed most stringent laws to exterminate the evil, and it would certainly occur to an observer that these laws would hardly be necessary did the evil not exist. In the city of San Francisco, it has been stated that there are at the lowest estimate, at least 10,000 white persons who are confirmed opium smokers. This form of dissipation, if the cure may be dignified by such a name, is about as well known in Chicago, Denver and New York as it is there, and there is scarcely a village on the Pacific coast without its resort for white opium smokers. Even some of the small towns in New England have found it necessary to drive these degenerates across their municipal lines as a protection against the spread of the opium plague among the young men and women there. Realizing the demoralizing influence and effect of this decidedly un-American vice, Senator Mason of Illinois has introduced a bill in the senate, and a similar bill has been introduced to the house by Representative Blakeney of Maryland, which will put an end to the importation of opium to this country as soon as either of the bills become a law.

(Continued on Second Page.)

SAFETY ON THE INQUIRY

in Samar Talks in the

MANILA, April 20.—The United States army transport Buford left here today for San Francisco after having been detained in quarantine for five days.

General Jacob H. Smith, who was in command of the forces in Samar at the time Commander Major Waller of the marine corps is said to have executed natives of that island without trial, was to have gone home on Buford, but has disembarked here.

Orders have been received here from Washington to hold a court of inquiry into the general conduct of affairs in Samar.

General Smith asserts that to the best of his belief the officers and men of his command in Samar had to face insurmountable difficulties, that the difficulties they encountered were almost unbearable and that the treachery of the natives of the island is unequalled in the history of warfare.

He says the American soldiers acted in the circumstances with the greatest forbearance shown in the war in the Philippines.

Campaigning in Samar is not a pleasure trip, but a stern reality, says General Smith. He also expressed his doubt if the troops of any nation in the world would or could have acted in the circumstances in Samar as did the Americans.

CHAFFEE COMPLIMENTS BELL

Sends a Letter Along with the Congratulations of President Roosevelt.

MANILA, April 20.—General Chaffee has forwarded to General J. Franklin Bell the congratulations sent the latter by President Roosevelt upon the recent campaign in Batangas and Laguna provinces, conducted by General Bell. General Chaffee forwarded the president's communication through General Lloyd Wheaton and in an accompanying letter he expresses his great pleasure at the receipt by General Bell of the president's congratulations. No American troops, says General Chaffee, have ever before been charged with a task more difficult of accomplishment. So unique has been the situation in Batangas and Laguna, continues General Chaffee in his letter, that only a person thoroughly familiar with it by actual contact can appreciate the conditions which have been met and overcome, or fairly determine what were the best methods to accomplish the objects, namely the recognition of the sovereignty of the United States and the establishment of peace and order in the disturbed sections.

NEVER WISHED ANYONE HARM

Assassinated Russian Minister Has Nothing but Kind Words on Death Bed.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 20.—The Novoe Vremya has published the first authentic account of the last moments of M. Sipiaguine, the minister of the interior, who was assassinated by a student here Tuesday in the ministerial office. According to this paper M. Sipiaguine recovered consciousness after his wounds had been dressed. He immediately realized he was dying and exhibited the greatest fortitude. He could only utter broken sentences. He expressed a wish to see the emperor and to see that his wife and a priest be sent for. He muttered, "Death is hard for an unbeliever. It is impossible to live without faith. I never wished to see any thing but good."

HE WISHED TO PERSUADE HIM THAT sleep would restore his strength, but M. Sipiaguine shook his head, and declared that his last interview and asked for a final kiss. He had an affecting leave-taking with M. Vannovsky, the minister of public instruction, and the other ministers. He finally lost consciousness before he was taken to the infirmary.

BLOW UP MILITARY BARRACKS

Conservatives in Nicaragua Cause Explosion Which Kills One Hundred and Fifty.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, April 20.—Some members of the conservative party caused an explosion in the military barracks here on Wednesday night. Nearly 150 lives were lost in the explosion, and the barracks were destroyed. There has been considerable bitterness shown by the conservatives against the liberal party, which is in power, and of which President Selaya is the leader.

EPIDEMIC OF SURRENDER

Small Parties of Philippine Insurgents Give Up Arms to Americans Daily.

MANILA, April 20.—Surrenders to the American authorities of small parties of insurgents are reported daily and these have increased since the recent surrender of the insurgent general Malvar. General Rifon, who surrenders 25 officers and 275 soldiers, has surrendered to the native constabulary in the province of Misamis, in Mindanao, where the constabulary is co-operating with the military.

MONUMENT TO CAVALRY COMMANDER

HANOVER, Prussia, April 20.—Emperor William, Crown Prince Frederick and representatives of all the cavalry regiments of the empire were present today at the unveiling here of a monument erected in honor of General von Rosenberg, the commander of the Thirteenth Uhlan regiment during the year of 1870. Emperor William and Count Waldersee, who was commander of the allied forces in China, made speeches at the banquet which followed the unveiling ceremonies.

SEVEN LIVES LOST IN FIRE

LONDON, April 20.—A fire broke out at midnight last night in Hackney, a suburb of London, in a printer's warehouse, three stories high, the top floor of which was used for living rooms. A dozen fire engines and escapes arrived promptly at the scene, but the flames were of overwhelming power and it was impossible to enter the building. When the flames were finally under control the charred bodies of a man, two women and four children were found.

BISHOP O'GORMAN IN ROME

ROME, April 20.—Bishop Thomas O'Gorman, D. D., of St. Louis, Mo., who is a member of the American mission appointed to confer with the pope with reference to church questions in the Philippines, arrived here yesterday. Governor Taft, who is to stop here enroute to the Philippines, and Judge Smith, are expected shortly.

UNABLE TO CHECK CHOLERA

MANILA, April 20.—The cholera situation shows no improvement. There has been a total of 235 cases and 300 deaths in Manila and 104 cases and 602 deaths in the provinces.

PURPOSES OF THE MERGER

Clement Grisco Talks Freely of New Deal in Transatlantic Service.

PRESERVE IDENTITY OF ALL THE LINES

Capital to Be Two Hundred Million—Expect to Give Better Service on All Lines at Reduced Rates.

PHILADELPHIA, April 20.—Clement A. Grisco, president of the International Navigation company, one of the five transatlantic steamship companies which have been merged under the direction of J. P. Morgan, today talked freely concerning the merger, its purposes and probable effects.

Mr. Grisco said he was unable to speak definitely regarding the financial plan, as that was a matter for the consideration of Mr. Morgan and his partners, which will perhaps be decided on within the next two weeks. In any event, President Grisco said, the consolidated companies would probably be in operation under the new conditions within a few months.

So far as the negotiations regarding the merger are concerned, they have been completed. Agreements for a controlling interest in each of the various lines have been secured and all that now remains to be accomplished is the organization of the holding or parent company. This matter is now in the hands of J. P. Morgan & Co. and the lawyers.

It is possible, though by no means certain, that the International Navigation company, whose chartered powers are very broad, will be made the parent company.

The question now under consideration is the desirability of an entirely new company to control the operations of the combined steamship lines. The published statements as to the financial basis of the combine, Mr. Grisco said, were entirely speculative, as that detail had not as yet been completed.

Capitalization of Company.

"The capitalization of the consolidated companies," said Mr. Grisco, "will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000,000, which sum about represents the property absorbed. Working capital of course, will be provided and the profits and reserve fund should enable us to build the necessary additions to our fleets. While control of the company will be held in this country, it will be a strictly international organization, fostering the various companies included in the consolidation, preserving their autonomy and respecting their national and local surroundings."

"The object of the combination," continued Mr. Grisco, "is to give better transatlantic service at a reduced cost, as heretofore the trade has been extravagantly conducted and we propose to operate more intelligently in the future. We expect in time to inaugurate a system of daily departures from New York, an innovation that is a real necessity."

"There is no political significance in this deal. The negotiations have covered a period of many years and was interested in the subject as far back as 1884. The passage of the ship subsidy bill would be one effect, so far as the new enterprise is concerned. It would enable us to sail ships now building and hereafter built under the American flag on an equal with the ships of other countries. The published statements that the ship subsidy bill would enable us to sail our foreign vessels under the stars and stripes are incorrect as the bill specifically states that only American built ships can benefit by its provision, and furthermore such a course is contrary to the whole scheme."

Only Four Benefited by Subsidy.

"We have existing only four small vessels that might benefit by the passage of this bill and they are on the Pacific. While in the coastwise trade, in which they are now engaged, the provisions of the bill would not apply to them. After our present mail contract expires the four American transatlantic liners of the International Navigation company are eligible for a new contract either under the present postal law or under any new act that might be passed by congress."

Mr. Grisco denied the published statement that Liverpool would be abandoned as a passenger port. He said that question had not been discussed. "Every port," he said, "will be developed, along the lines in which each port is best adapted. We will establish an economic and sensible management."

Mr. Grisco said it was possible the company would carry its own insurance. "The consolidation," declared Mr. Grisco, "will result in better transatlantic service, steadier and more uniform rates, a just distribution of trade over all American and Canadian seaports, increased lines on the Pacific and services to South America as traffic may be found to justify them. Having lines between Great Britain and Australia and New Zealand and intimate connections with the far east American manufacturers will be able to distribute their products through bills of lading and avoid the expense of transshipments which they now incur."

"The products of the farm will be shipped from the seaport most convenient to that of production. In a word, it is intended to reduce transportation charges as far as possible to every one; to improve facilities and the company expects to make its increased profits over the condition of the past from economical management. To what extent these new services will be conducted by steamships built in this country and sailed under the American flag depends upon congress."

PRESIDENT RETURNS HOME

Arrives in Washington on Sunday After Ceremonies at Columbia University.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—President Roosevelt returned to the city at 7:30 this morning from New York.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The president's daughter Ethel returned with him to Washington. She is accompanied by the party being Dr. Urie, the president's physician, and Mr. and Mrs. Cortelyou.

Mrs. Roosevelt will remain in New York for a day or two. The return trip was without special incident.

Governor Crane of Massachusetts was on the same train on his way to Washington with reference to some private business matters and spent some time with the president. Their meeting was accidental and nothing of public interest developed therefrom.

Bandits Attack Russians.

DALLAS GETS A SCORCHING

Flames Burst Out Almost Simultaneously in Several Sections of the City.

DALLAS, Tex., April 20.—Two persons were fatally injured. Fire Chief Magee was prostrated and a property loss of fully \$750,000 was caused by several fires which occurred here shortly after 3 o'clock this morning.

At that hour an alarm was turned in from the Dorsey printing establishment and in a short time one of the fiercest conflagrations which has visited Dallas in years was in progress. To add to the trouble of the firemen several other alarms from different parts of the city were turned in in quick succession.

At that hour the fire for two hours Chief Magee was prostrated and the command was turned over to an assistant. The chief was rescued from the flames by the police and was unconscious for several hours, but was later reported out of danger.

Fireman Will Spurr was struck in the face with a brick and fatally injured. The young son of Fire Chief Magee was found on the floor of the engine room at the fire station with a fractured skull. It is supposed that he had attempted to slide from the back of the engine and fell on one of the iron poles used by the firemen and fell to the floor below. He probably will die.

The Dorsey Printing company's plant was totally destroyed, the loss being about \$200,000, half covered by insurance.

Twenty Buildings Consumed.

While the Dorsey fire was in progress a fire broke out on Lamar street, near Collins, and twenty buildings were destroyed. Half of them were ordinary business houses and the remainder were boarding houses and dwellings. The Griffith Lumber company is one of the principal losers in that section of the city, where it is estimated the losses will aggregate \$150,000, of which Griffith & Co. sustain \$50,000, with insurance of \$25,000.

The loss of the Keating implement company is heavy, but not accurately known. About a dozen smaller mercantile and manufacturing establishments were destroyed, the losses ranging from \$5,000 down.

While the two big fires were raging a third one broke out in the residential district of Fisher lane, in South Dallas, two miles distant, which destroyed four cottages, worth \$20,000, the insurance on which could not be obtained tonight.

Insurance men are positive that the fire in Fisher lane was incendiary and the police and fire departments are endeavoring to believe that all were due to incendiaries.

USE CUBANS AS DRUMMERS

American Houses Employ Islanders and Mexicans with Excellent Results.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Mr. Frederick Emory, chief of the bureau of foreign commerce, today made public an interesting extract from that portion of commercial reports dealing with the Cuban trade, which deals with our trade with Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. Our goods are favorably known in Mexico, it is stated, but in certain lines, such as dry goods, hats, shoes, notions and men's and women's furnishings, our exporters seem to have made little or no attempt to gain the Mexican trade.

Americans are more fully realizing that they must accommodate themselves to the wants and peculiarities of the Mexicans, and as a result trade is growing.

Many United States houses have adopted the plan of sending out young Mexicans or Cubans as traveling salesmen. These men are acquainted with the wants of the Latin-American trade and excellent results have been achieved.

Business failures are rare in Mexico. For example, in Mazatlan there has been only one failure in the last fifteen years, and that was due to the failure of the main house, Paris. Commercial travelers who come to Mexico, it is stated, will find a conservative class of merchants, who take pride in paying their debts promptly.

Floating Sample Stores.

Attention is called to an interesting experiment which American firms are trying in the shape of floating sample stores. A vessel is to leave the United States for the western coast of Mexico, Central America and South America, having for sale samples of merchandise of all kinds suitable for tropical trade, each line of goods being in charge of an expert salesman.

American enterprises have figured conspicuously in the development of the port of Monterey, its water works, sewerage gas plants, railways and foundries being for the most part American.

In the Danish West Indies the imports from the United States are advancing rapidly, in spite of depression. The uncertainty of communication and the open drawback to our trade, it is stated, at one period of last year fifty-two days passed without a single direct steamer to the United States.

Machinery Seizes a Hit.

In Guatemala our machinery is highly appreciated, although its delicacy will not admit of the ignorant handling of the Indian laboring classes. It is far superior to other machinery in the matter of fuel economy and as the fuel supply of the country grows less each year, this fact is expected greatly to increase the sale of American machinery.

Three-fourths of the imports of Honduras from the United States, but trade that has been ours has diverted to the Germans on account of close quarantine of the Louisiana Board of Health during the last year.

In Jamaica the United States has supplanted England in the sale of hats, shoes, cotton goods and coal are almost exclusively supplied by us.

An increasing quantity of goods is being consumed in the Dutch West Indies, more than half the imports now being American. Our machinery is in many lines superior to Guadeloupe and our trade in the West Indies, though it would be improved, it is stated, if United States merchants were willing to extend the credits granted by European sellers.

Three years ago it was hardly possible to find a shoe or hat of American make in other lines is increasing largely. Besides 85 per cent of the provision trade, we supply all of the lumber that is imported and a good portion of other building materials.

Hot in Streets of Stockholm.

ATTEMPT AT DOUBLE MURDER

Mrs. Katie Simet Shoots Nine Times at George Baker.

BAKER THEN BRUTALLY ATTACKS WIFE

Trouble Starts by Man Attempting to Beat His Wife While She is Visiting at the Simet Home.

Mrs. Katie Simet took nine shots at George Baker Sunday afternoon with a 32-caliber revolver, two of which took effect, one in the left arm between the shoulder and the elbow, and the other in the right foot behind the large toe. A third ball passed through his left shoe grazing the large toe. After the shooting Baker returned to his home, where he had been preceded from the shooting by his wife, and beat her severely. He was taken to the Clarkson hospital, and Mrs. Simet, Charles Sitzman and Mrs. Baker were lodged in jail, the two women being detained in the matron's department.

The shooting occurred at the home of Mrs. Simet, 118 Broadway street, at 2:30 o'clock, and was caused by Baker attempting to whip his wife, who was visiting at the Simet home. Baker and his wife had trouble Sunday morning and the latter went to Mrs. Simet's, and was followed in a short time by her husband, who was under the influence of liquor. When he arrived at the house Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Simet and Sitzman, who is related to Mrs. Simet, were in the sitting room. Baker went into the room and demanded that his wife return home. She refused to go and he struck her and attempted to drag her from the house. Mrs. Simet interfered and Baker knocked her down.

Rapid Firing Begins.

Baker then turned his attention to his wife, and the two struggled in the kitchen, where Mrs. Simet soon appeared with a revolver. She immediately opened fire and shot five times at short range, none of the shots taking effect.

Baker then stepped out of the door, as though to leave the house, and Mrs. Simet reloaded her revolver. Baker soon returned, re-armed with an axe. As he started in the door Mrs. Simet took four more shots. Baker dropped his axe, threw up his hands, and with the exclamation: "My God! you hit me!" walked away.

Some one sent in an alarm for the police and Officers Vanous and Wilson and Detective Johnson rushed for the scene. Upon their arrival, both Baker and Mrs. Baker had left the house. Mrs. Simet and Sitzman were arrested, and Johnson and Cassano made a run for Baker's house, at 1811 South Second street.

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Drinks Beer as Blood Flows.

Baker was seated at a table calmly drinking from a can filled with beer. His hands and arm were covered with blood, which had trickled down from the bullet wound in the upper part of his arm. When questioned as to the cause of his wife's condition, he would make no statement, except to repeat over and over: "ain't afraid of no woman, no gun, nor no man."

Baker and his wife, Mrs. Simet and Sitzman were taken to the police station, and after his wounds were hastily dressed by Surgeon Howard, Baker was removed to the Clarkson hospital. He refused to make a statement as to the cause of the shooting, but said he was greatly worried because he was afraid the wound in his foot would make it necessary for him "laying off from work for a few days."

After being shot at the Simet house, Baker walked four blocks to a saloon, got a can of beer and went home, where Mrs. Baker had preceded him. He immediately knocked her down, she said, and kicked her in the head and beat her almost senseless, after which he left her on the floor and proceeded to drink his beer. She then managed to get up, but where she was when the officers arrived. Four weeks ago, she said, Baker had broken four of her ribs and she was still weak from the effects of that beating.

Mrs. Simet said: "Mrs. Baker came to me and while we were in the room talking Baker came to the house and demanded that his wife return home with him. When she refused he began to swear and struck her. I interfered and he knocked me down. I then went into another room and when I came back Baker and his wife were in a room and as he started for me I fired at his feet, trying to scare him. He then left the house and I thought had gone away. I then reloaded my revolver and by the time I had finished he was starting in the door with an axe in his hand. Then I shot four more times. After he was struck he dropped his axe and walked away and Mrs. Baker soon left for home."

Mrs. Simet has several bruises on her face where Baker struck her. She is the wife of a section foreman in the employ of the Burlington railroad, who is ill at St. Joseph's hospital and is in a critical condition. She is the mother of a little boy and girl, who live with her in the matron's department at the police station. She weighs about 110 pounds, is below the medium in height and about 28 years of age. She broke down at the police station and cried piteously while telling of the shooting, her face being so badly shocked she will have had a bad effect upon her sick husband.

Baker is employed at the distillery and is about 34 years of age. He took the shooting as a light matter and remarked that it took more than a woman with a gun to kill him. Sitzman has been in the city about two weeks and is corroborating Mrs. Simet's statement of the trouble. From his statement he evidently did nothing during the trouble except to get out of the way.

TO OFFSET ROCK ISLAND DEAL

Santa Fe Makes Extensions in Oklahoma and Indian Territory to Square Choctaw Purchase.

GUTHRIE, Okla., April 20.—The Santa Fe Railway company is commencing a great number of extensions, covering 50 miles. Active construction has commenced at Shawnee, Paul Valley, Ralston, Newkirk, Cushing, Tecumseh and Owasso.

It is rumored here that the Santa Fe will attempt to gain control of Indian Territory lines running east and west to offset the advantage gained by the Rock Island in the purchase of the Choctaw.

OFFICER KILLS A GAMBLER

Lawton Official Shoots Man Who Fires on Partner and Remains Arrested.

GUTHRIE, Okla., April 20.—Charles E. Growles was shot and instantly killed by a deputy marshal at Lawton last night as the result of a fight in a gambling house wherein Growles and a partner, Lewis, had fired a number of shots at each other without serious injury.

Lewis had accused Growles of cheating at cards and the shooting followed. The officer attempted to arrest Growles and the latter fired in resisting, forcing the officer to fire in self-defense.

SUNDAY SHOOTING AFFRAY

Quarrel Over Base Ball Results in Death of St. Louis Saloon Keeper.

ST. LOUIS, April 20.—In a quarrel over a base ball, that was said to have been thrown into his yard by neighbors children, "Abie" Blupsky, a prominent local politician, today shot and fatally wounded Charles Plinkard, a saloon keeper, with the latter's revolver.

Blupsky, who is under arrest, says he shot in self-defense, after securing possession of Plinkard's revolver.

Police Suppress Riots.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 20.—A riotous outbreak occurred today at Annotto bay on the north coast. It was confined chiefly to a conflict between the police and coolies employed on an estate. Police reinforcements, which were immediately sent from Port Antonio, immediately put an end to the fighting. Many persons were injured and numerous arrests were made. Hundreds of persons are being prosecuted in the island for non-payment of taxes.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Showers Monday; Much Lower Temperature.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

FIRE MAKES MANY HOMELESS

Fierce Blaze in Kansas City Destroys Fifty Dwellings and Leaves Poor Destitute.

KANSAS CITY, April 20.—A destructive fire visited the southwestern part of this city today, laying waste a section of dwelling houses almost a quarter of a mile long and a block wide and doing damage to the amount of \$1,000,000.

Because of a mistake in the alarm sent in the arrival of the firemen was delayed and the fire had gained much headway before they commenced operations.

The fire started in a grocery store, and after destroying nearby buildings was carried by the strong wind up a steep hill, making the work of the firemen extremely difficult.

Burning embers were blown more than half a mile and for a time all of that portion of the city was threatened.

After three hours of hard fighting the fire was under control. Many persons lost all of their belongings. Much furniture and other property was destroyed, after having been piled in supposed places of safety.

Most of the residents who suffered loss of their property are being cared for temporarily by neighbors and charitable institutions.

FIND VERDICT HARD TO REACH

Jury in Case of Negro Held for Millionaire Cooper's Murder Unable to Agree.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 20.—The jury in the case against William Strother, the negro charged with the murder of A. Deane Cooper, the millionaire, who was killed in a bathroom several months ago, was unable to agree on a verdict after he had all last night and at an early hour this morning was discharged by Judge Ryan.

The jury stood seven for acquittal and five for conviction. Seven ballots were taken.

According to the statement of one of the jurors, the first ballot was for conviction and six for acquittal. On the second ballot one of the jurors changed his vote from conviction to acquittal. The other ballots showed no change.

J. J. Kavanaugh, the foreman of the jury, in answer to the questions of Judge Ryan, stated that it was his opinion that no verdict could be reached. Other jurors were of the same opinion. The jury was then discharged from further service.

The standing of the jury caused great surprise among the Four Courts and to those who had followed the trial. After the jury retired it was thought verdict would be reached in a short time, because of the strong case made by the prosecution.

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