

tion here for the past six days, but the Panther and the Fort San Carlos fired the first shot has not yet been settled.

A reliable person says: The foreign agent who are in close touch with the Panther...

When on January 15th the Panther entered the narrow channel inside the bar...

It is reported that the Panther carried a red flag, as the signal, but as the fortresses commenced no firing...

Venezuela's Reply to Germany. CARACAS, Jan. 25.—With reference to the German claim that the fort at San Carlos fired at Panther first...

Panther on January 17 attacked the fort first, without provocation. The gun boat approached the fort and fired on it.

Another proof that the attack was premeditated is the circumstance that General Bello, who is in command of the fortresses, would not notify anyone...

The letter referred to above has been communicated to certain legations.

Compares Different Allies. Dr. Torres Cardenas, President Castro's secretary, said:

Panther attacked first. We have proof of it. Germany may try to explain its conduct by assuming that the Panther...

The report that we fired first on Panther is stupid. Yesterday the Panther...

LEAVE MISSIONARIES ALONE. National Liberal Party Says Preachers to Heathen Should Not Be Protected.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Jan. 25.—The first annual congress of the national liberal party closed tonight.

Following are the new officers: President, Dr. J. N. Whitcomb...

A dispatch was received stating that Judge Parrah B. Ladd, a noted freethinker, was lying at Alameda, Cal., and a telegram was sent to him.

A platform speaker declares war against government protection to missionaries, condemns the liquor traffic and race prejudice...

PROPOSE QUARANTINE OF GULF. Southern States to Meet and Formulate Protective Measures Against Plague.

DAKESVILLE, Tex., Jan. 25.—A quarantine conference in the Gulf officers of the Gulf states will take place here tomorrow for the purpose of agreeing on a uniform system of quarantine regulations for the Gulf ports.

Woman Takes Rough on Rats. Edith Silverman attempted to leave this evening by the rough on rats route last evening, but is likely to make a failure of it.

Injured by Falling Down Stairs. One Mattias, a Greek, who lives with several brothers at 1812 E. Mary's avenue, started to go down into the basement after a bucket of coal last evening.

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OPPOSE LEASING OF LANDS

Smaller Stockmen and Farmers Beginning to Have Their Say.

LEASING MEASURE FAVORS BIG OWNERS. Proposition to Extend and Enlarge Provisions of Homestead Law Considered the Best Thing for the Country.

RUSHVILLE, Neb., Jan. 25.—(Special.)—There seems a desire to agitate the other side of the lease law proposition and it is growing daily.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF DEBATES

Episode in Reichstag Regarded as One of Most Important in German Politics.

BERLIN, Jan. 25.—The debates in the Reichstag this week are universally regarded as being the most important parliamentary episode since the late Prince Bismarck's chancellorship.

Emperor William's personality and his political role were discussed with a plainness and force of argument...

These papers indulge for their part in some plain speaking, emphasizing the impossibility of keeping Emperor William out of the debates so long as he assumes a political role...

Loyalist circles manifest a feeling of disappointment over the week's debates, through the ineffectual attempt of Count von Ballestrem, as president of the house...

The chancellor, without trying to support Count von Ballestrem's ruling, said a distinction must be made between the emperor's private and political speeches...

Wishes to Safeguard Trade. J. C. Heenan of Linton, Ind., who is a member of the commission appointed by Governor Durbin two years ago to codify the mining law...

I am unalterably opposed to any plan for creating and maintaining a defense fund that would require the raising of money in any form...

Several delegates talked along the same line and it is thought several plans will be recommended.

The objection to the present plan, aside from the fact that it keeps many idle, is that a great many of the local commanders are optional with them whether they pay the assessment or not...

With the powder question promised to be one with which the convention will have to cope before its sessions are ended...

Improves Marconi System. German Scientist Announces Discovery that Will Greatly Simplify Wireless Telegraphy.

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MINERS TO RAISE BIG FUND

Propose to Invest \$5,000,000 to Be Used to Defend Union.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 25.—President Mitchell said tonight he thought there was no doubt the United Mine Workers would be through all their convention work by Thursday and be ready for the conference with the operators on Friday.

Members of the defense fund committee say the committee will report in favor of a large fund. Suggestions to the committee recommend that a fund of from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000 be maintained.

Numerous plans are suggested. The one which finds most favor is to invest the money in treasury bonds and other gilt-edged securities, drawing good rates of interest, which could be realized on at once in case of necessity.

It is the universal demand that a national defense fund be maintained, but the majority of the delegates are opposed to any plan which takes the money out of circulation and ties it up in banks and other depositories which pay no interest.

The greater number of the delegates are in favor of creating a state or district defense fund. Many states now have them.

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TELEPHONE GIRLS MUST GO

Substituting Mechanical Devices for the Sweet Singers at Central.

The automatic telephone—without "hello" girls, without slot machines and without party lines—is about to be installed in Chicago, according to the announcement of the Illinois Telephone and Telegraph company.

Gangs of the company's employees are at work wiring down town buildings for the phones and it is expected that the work will be completed shortly.

President A. G. Wheeler says that 10,000 automatic "secret service" instruments will be in operation by May 1.

While the company has been rapidly extending its trunk lines, reports the Chicago Tribune, it has been transforming the building at 181 Fifth avenue into an exchange. Here after tier of curious contrivances crowded together like book racks in a library.

It is the domain of the central girl has been dismantled. In a few days each of the five floors of the building will be turned into one vast automatic switchboard and then the service will be ready for operation.

For several months the company has been successfully operating a private service of several dozen telephones connecting the main office at 74 La Salle street with the west side factory of the Automatic Telephone company and with the different sections of the subway.

The principle of the device is more mechanical than electrical and is said by its owners to be so simple that no electricians or even skilled mechanics have been employed to install it and keep it in order.

According to the company's schedule of charges for its automatic service the cost of telephoning in Chicago will be reduced one-half. Five minutes' conversation, but the price a call for all will be standard.

The contract will provide that the maximum charge for office telephones will be \$25 a year and \$50 for a residence instrument.

The meter system will control the service and the subscriber will pay only for the calls he makes. The company's subscriber will be charged 5 cents a call on his office instrument till the bill amounts to \$25 and then all additional calls during the year will be free.

The subscriber can have any number of telephones in his house or office, but will not be required to pay a cent for them if he does not use them.

He can go away to the country in the summer or to Europe for a year and the telephone will await his return without running up a bill.

This is the way the device works: You find the number you wish to call—2-572—and you take down the receiver and turn a ratchet to the three numerals successively.

Then you press a button, and presently you will get "phone 572." As the ratchet designates the numbers an automatic arrangement in the central switchboard turns on the number required just as the coin is put in opening a safe.

If "phone 572" is busy a buzzing like the ordinary "busy signal" is heard, and the meter of the calling "phone" does not register.

The automatic telephones will be installed at all drug stores and other public places where slot payment instruments now hold sway.

But there will be no slot machines, and 5 cents a call for all messages in the city will be the charge.

Each person making a call will pay the druggist and he will make a profit of at least 10 cents beyond the \$5 a year he pays for the "phone."

To prove that the automatic telephone is an unqualified success, the officers of the company say that a score of cities of more than 25,000 population in this country are using the device.

At the factory at Van Buren and Morris streets it is stated that work was being rushed night and day on switchboards contracted for by a dozen cities in the Mississippi valley and that only a few days ago an order was received from Germany for additional equipment.

The company claims to have installed the service in the Kaiser's Imperial postal department throughout the empire.

There will be no party lines in the automatic service. Every instrument, though paying but \$50 a year, will be a main line "phone" like that for which the subscriber today pays about twice as much.

THEY COULDN'T FOOL TERRY. Baldy, the Landlord, Unfolds a Tale of a Dog to Admiring Boarders.

"That dog looks as if he might know something," said the new traveling man, who had just paid his bill at the Howland house and was starting to catch his train, relates the New York Sun. He referred to the Scotch-Irish terrier, who had come in with a piece of the Edwards' dog's bone.

"Know something?" said Baldy, the landlord. "I only wish you'd mentioned it last night and I'd have had time between then and now to tell you at least one-half of what that dog knows." Can't wait over a train and hear some of it, can you?

The new traveling man said he couldn't. "Well," said Baldy, the landlord, "you've got plenty of time to hear me tell you that one of the smart things about that dog is the way he goes to the meat market and buys things." Take liver, for instance. Whenever I want a pound of liver I give Terry a quarter and tell him to go over to Bill Osborne's butcher shop and get it.

He'd get a pound of anything else, of course, but just take liver for an instance. Bill knows what he wants, weighs him out the liver, gives him 10 cents a change and back Terry comes with the goods. And he always waits for the change, you bet, and—

"But why don't you give him just the 15 cents, so he won't have to bother with waiting for the change?" interrupted the new traveling man.

"Well," replied Baldy, the landlord, "I tried that once and Terry dropped a nickel of it out of his mouth, and he'd never go after meat again with more than one piece of money, so I have to let him take a quarter. One day Bill Osborne tried to put off on him a 10 cent piece with a hole in it, but Terry wasn't doing errands just for his health, and he wouldn't stir a step out of the shop until he got a good dime.

"They used to try all sorts of ways over there to fool him. At last Osborne thought he'd try to get Terry to buy some of the new one foot gave him a nickel instead of a dime for change. They had been fooling with Terry so much that he had lost all patience, so when he found that they thought he was such a chump as to stand for the firm-firm game, what do you think he did?"

BOERS PRAISE CHAMBERLAIN

General Delany Declares Him Man to Set Things Right in South Africa.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—Mr. Chamberlain started on Saturday on an interesting wagon trek from Potchefstroom to Mafeking, accompanied by Mrs. Chamberlain.

Dr. Arthur Lawley, Major General Baden-Powell and others, before his departure had been arranged to enable the party to travel at about ten miles an hour.

There was a picturesque scene outside Potchefstroom, thirty miles northwest of Mafeking. A commando of Boers met the party and escorted it into the town.

A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mr. Chamberlain. The colonial secretary was conducted to the house of the landrost and the commando of Boers drew up in a half circle outside.

Soon after General Delany arrived and was cordially received by Mr. Chamberlain, who introduced him to Mrs. Chamberlain after the presentation of an address of welcome Mr. Chamberlain made a speech to the Boers in which he congratulated them on being the comrades of the great Delany.

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WOMEN CLAIM ONE MAN

Alliance Salesman Alleged to Have Married Two Different Women on One Trip.

ALLIANCE, Neb., Jan. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—A. B. Chief, for several years a local grocery salesman, is wanted by the authorities on the charge of bigamy.

On January 1 Chief was married at Wapella, Ill., to Miss Berge Hoidal of that place, returning here with his bride on the 15th. It is alleged that on his journey to Illinois he stopped at Grand Island and was married to Miss Kate Goldrick of Lakeside, who arrived here yesterday.

Matters being too warm for him he departed last night for parts unknown. Chief is about 24 years of age, five feet in height, slender, smooth shaven, dark complexion, wears a dark suit and soft felt hat, is a fluent talker and very nervous.

There are some who think a mistake has been made. On the facts of the matter looks very grave. The Illinois Mrs. Chief is pregnant. Her mother will be here tomorrow.

MAN IS TAKEN FOR A WOLF. Hunter Sees Something Move and Cuts Loose with His Rifle.

GIBBON, Neb., Jan. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—H. C. Doggett accidentally shot Brun Basset at 11 o'clock this morning. Both were out hunting a wolf, but neither knew the