Only 4 DAYS For Christmas Shopping

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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VOL. XXXVII—NO. 159. OMAHA, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1907—TEN PAGES. SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

FIGHT IN THE HOUSE

Messrs. Williams and De Armond Quarrel Over Issue of Veracity.

SEVERAL BLOWS ARE EXCHANGED

Floor Leader is Bleeding in Nose When They Are Separated.

LIE PASSED BY MISSOURIAN

Mississippi Man is Accused of Juggling with Facts.

ROW IS OVER COMMITTEE WORK

Appointments of Colleague of Mr. De Armond Not Satisfactory and Breach of Faith is Alleged.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, leader of the minority, and Representative David A. De Armond of Missouri engaged in a fist fight over the passing of the lie on the floor of the house this afternoon immediately after adjournment at 2:10 p. m. Mr. Williams struck the first blow and Mr. De Armond retaliated vigorously with clenched fists. When the combatants were separated blood was flowing down Mr. Williams' face from a small gash in the left cheek and his forehead was red and abraised. Mr. De Armond bore no mark of the fray.

The encounter was witnessed by more than a hundred members of the house and by as many more persons in the galleries, among them a number of women.

The house having just broken up, groups of representatives were standing or sitting about discussing the committee appointments that had been announced by the speaker.

Among them were Mr. Williams, seated at Representative Wallace's desk on the center aisle of the democratic side, and Mr. De Armond, who occupied Representative Bartlett's desk adjoining. They were engaged in very earnest talk, but their voices were low and they attracted no especial attention. Suddenly both men sprang to their feet and began striking each other.

So startled and so astounded were the members of the house and the officials that for a moment no one offered to interfere and the leader of the minority and the member from Missouri lunged back and forth between the desks, both swaying wildly and each in apparent danger of going down. Blood was flowing from a gash in Mr. Williams' cheek, when Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Sinnot sprang between them, grasped Mr. De Armond and held him back while representatives and attendants following suit effected a separation.

Statement by Mr. Williams.

When Mr. Williams was released he went immediately into the cloak room at the rear of the chamber and while removing the stains of the combat made the following statement of the trouble:

"The disagreement arose over a committee assignment. Mr. De Armond called me to book for recommending his colleague, Mr. Booher, to no more prominent committee than that on coinage, weights and measures. I replied that I had been given to understand by him that Mr. Booher would be well satisfied with that assignement.

"Mr. De Armond answered to the effect that I have gained such an idea by my imagination or by a deliberate wish to misunderstand. I suggested to him that the floor of the house was no place for a quarrel or a scene and asked him to desist. His answer was that he had never had any such understanding with me about Mr. Booher as I had decleared and he added that my subsequent action was the action either of error or untruthfulness. I again suggested that the house was no place to settle a personal difference of opinion. He retorted that it was not a matter of opinion, but of veracity and said that he did not believe I had merely made a mistake. I then struck him and we exchanged blows. It is most regrettable that the floor should be selected for such an affair."

De Armond's Version of Affair.

According to Mr. De Armond the episode arose over the correctness of a conversation between himself and Mr. Williams about ten days regarding the committee assignments of some Missouri members and particularly Mr. Booher. Mr. De Armond said he had spoken highly of Mr. Booher and the other members as being competent to sit on any committee, but that he had not specified to Mr. Williams any special committee on which he would like to have Mr. Booher or any other member placed. This, Mr. De Armond said, Mr. Williams today denied, saying it was a matter of recollection between them. Upon Mr. De Armond's insisting that he had not specified any committee to which he desired to have his colleagues assigned, Mr. Williams, he said, brusquely repeated that it was simply a matter of recollection between the two.

"He said this," said Mr. De Armond, "in such a way as to leave no other inference than the one I suggested, and I told him I believed him to be a liar. He thereupon struck me and I think I gave him as good as he gave. The next thing we were separated."

CLUE TO BAND OF FORGERS

St. Louis Police Believe Italian Under Arrest is One of Important Gang.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 19.—The police believe that in the arrest last night of Dominic Valenzo, alias "Mimi," an Italian, 23 years old, on the charge of having passed a forged check, they have a clue to the band of forgers which is passing forged checks in all parts of the city. The check on the Hydraulic Pressed Brick company was pronounced a forgery. Valenzo was arrested after a fight, in a music store, where he had tendered the $5 check in payment for a $1.50 guitar.

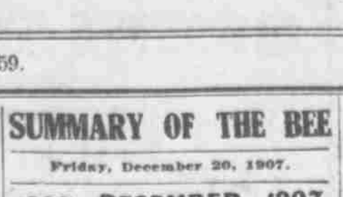
HIS FAMILY IS SMOKED OUT

Thomas McCann Sets Fire to Home—Daughter Saves Mother with Difficulty.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 19.—Thomas McCann yesterday deliberately set fire to the house in which his wife lay bedridden. Their daughter rushed through the smoke and flame and carried her mother to safety. Both women were slightly burned and nearly suffocated. They will recover. McCann later gave himself up to the police, saying that the house was his and he had a right to burn it if he wanted to. His family refused to leave the house, he said, and he was trying to smoke them out.

SUMMARY OF THE BEE

Friday, December 20, 1907.



THE WEATHER.

Forecast till 7 p. m. Friday:

FOR OMAHA, COUNCIL BLUFFS AND VICINITY—Fair Friday; not much change in temperature.

FOR NEBRASKA AND IOWA—Fair Friday; not much cahnge in temperature.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	11
6 a. m.	10
7 a. m.	10
8 a. m.	9
9 a. m.	11
10 a. m.	15
11 a. m.	22
12 m.	19
1 p. m.	34
2 p. m.	36
3 p. m.	36
4 p. m.	35
5 p. m.	33
6 p. m.	31
7 p. m.	29
8 p. m.	28
9 p. m.	27

DOMESTIC.

Mine explosion, followed by fire, in the Darr mines of the Pittsburg Coal company entombs between 200 and 400 men. **Page 1**

Report comes from New York that the Union Pacific road has decided definitely to close the Wyoming mines except for its own consumption of coal. **Page 1**

Congressmen John Sharpe Williams and De Armond engage in fist fight on the floor of the house over a question of veracity, Williams being slightly injured. **Page 1**

Speaker Cannon and Williams, minority leader, play politics in committee assignment. Nebraska men are well placed. Burkett introduces a bill for lease of grazing lands in public domain. **Page 1**

Low price of baser metals has caused suspension of some mints in Colorado. **Page 1**

Illinois Central stockholders will hold their meeting in February. **Page 2**

A lone robber seeks to steal large quantity of gold bullion from a car at Philadelphia. **Page 1**

NEBRASKA.

Attorney general holds treasurers are responsible for principal and interest when money is placed in a onodepositary bank. Better facilities ordered for milk and cream at Omaha Union depot. **Page 3**

Murder trial at Grand Island continues with testimony of the state's witnesses. **Page 3**

Superintendent Brooks of the Missouri Pacific road explains that clerical delay in his office caused delay in filing his car report. **Page 3**

Mrs. Frank Smith of Milford likely to die as result of assault. Indicates by signs two men who committed it are parties she has known a long time. **Page 3**

FOREIGN.

Japanese statesmen and prominent men are not exercised over the visit of the American fleet to Pacific waters. **Page 2**

Pope Pius holds public consistory and bestows red hats upon cardinals. **Page 2**

Herr Harden appears in court in Berlin to answer libel charge. **Page 1**

Burial of late King Oscar of Sweden takes place with much ceremony at Stockholm. **Page 1**

Yaqui Indians shoot down Mexicans in cold blood in recent uprising. **Page 1**

LOCAL.

County commissioners find difficulty in drawing petit jury strictly according to terms of law. **Page 5**

Omaha Board of Education changes its fiscal year to correspond with calendra year. **Page 5**

Judge Crawford fines men who plead guilty to violating the Sunday closing law. **Page 9**

Omaha contractors successful in bidding for government work. **Page 2**

Nonresidents buy Omaha land for investment. **Page 7**

Omaha bank is troubled by robbery of mail pouches on way to depot, but has no cash involved. **Page 2**

SPORT.

President Murphy of the National league is much exercised over the attempt to plant another league in Chicago. **Page 9**

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

Live stock markets. **Page 7**

Grain markets. **Page 7**

Stocks and bonds. **Page 7**

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

Port.	Arrived.	Sailed.
NEW YORK	Ultonia	Ryndam.
NEW YORK		Kherson.
ANTWERP	Marian	
ROTTERDAM	Smolensk	
SOUTHAMPTON		Adriatic.
GENOA	Nord America	
PLYMOUTH	Teutonic	

BONAPARTE ON NEW PLATFORM

Physicians Seek to Start Issue of Extermination of Criminal Classes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The Tribune today says: An underground movement which has as its object the election of Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte to the presidency of the United States, is in progress. It has come up for breath in Chicago, Washington and Boston, and may be looked to appear briefly in New York and Indianapolis.

So far as is known it is the only underground campaign which is being conducted, and at present there is no evidence to indicate that Mr. Bonaparte is aware of the proceedings himself.

The campaign managers are physicians. They have their issue and they have selected Mr. Bonaparte as their candidate because he is known to favor the proposition. The issue is the "extermination of the criminal classes." The physicians propose to confine habitual criminals in "asylum prisons" for life.

MINING INDUSTRY AFFECTED

Low Prices of Baser Metals Have Caused Suspension of Many Properties.

DENVER, Dec. 19.—Mining conditions, insofar as they relate to the low-grade properties from which are taken the baser metals, are in a most unsatisfactory condition, according to an article published in the Denver Republican today. At the present prices of silver, copper, lead and zinc, it is said, the mines that have been operated on a slight margin of profit are losing money and the managements have been compelled to close in Leadville, Creed, Aspen, Silverton and other camps. Nearly 2,000 miners, it is said, have been out of employment in this state

FLEET DOES NOT WORRY JAPS

Leading Men Discuss Pacific Trip in This Light.

TOGO GLAD SHIPS ARE COMING

Viscount Kaneko Says United States and Japan Have Joint Responsibility on the Western Waters.

TOKIO, Dec. 19.—The following interviews have been granted exclusively to the Associated Press:

"Japan will heartily welcome the American fleet of battleships to the Pacific and to the ports of this country if it be decided to extend the trip in this direction.

"The fact that the fleet is sailing toward the Pacific creates no excitement here and as I have said before to the Associated Press, Japan views in the friendliest manner any action within the scope of wisdom any disposition the United States may see fit to make of its fleet, because the Japanese people have absolute confidence in the friendly attitude of the great statesmen and people. We hope the fleet may have a safe voyage, and Americans may rest assured that should the fleet decide to visit the far east, at no place will it receive a heartier welcome than in Japan."

Foreign Minister Viscount Hayashi, in giving the above statement to the Associated Press representative this morning, voiced the sentiment of the whole Japanese people. The news of the actual sailing of the fleet only reached Japan yesterday and this morning it filtered out through the vernacular and foreign press, accompanied by a description of the scenes of the ships.

Naval Officers Are Mum.

A special dispatch carried an interview with the Russian admiral, Rojestvensky, under a New York date, comparing the chances of a Japanese fleet against the American. This interview caused some amusement in naval and diplomatic circles, in view of Rojestvensky's fate when he reached Japan, but it was noticeable that none of the naval officers would be led into a discussion of the admiral's view for publication.

Admiral Count Togo said:

"I am very glad that the fleet has started for the Pacific, for, if I am correctly informed, it is to be on this side in April or May next. If it should ultimately touch our shores we will greet them as friends and give them the warmest reception.

"We entertain nothing but the kindliest feeling toward American soldiers."

Admiral Sato said:

"The American fleet will be heartily welcomed should it visit Japan. I know Admiral Evans well. He is a delightful gentleman and a splendid sailor, and I certainly hope that he will bring his ships on this side and give us a chance to show our appreciation of his good qualifications."

United States Has Right.

Prince Ito, resident general of Corea, said:

"America has always been a helpful friend to Japan and the Japanese are stanch admirers of President Roosevelt. We have never had any other idea than that it was quite within the rights of America to despatch a fleet where it was desired, and it will be especially welcomed should it come to Japan. I have always maintained that talk of war between Japan and America is unspeakable, unthinkable, and the attitude of the Japanese people toward the fleet will ultimately prove the sincerity of our words, which have been consistently friendly."

Privy Councillor Viscount Kaneko said:

"The dispatch of the fleet is regarded only as the natural outcome in the course of things, such as exist in the United States. Early in 1892 I saw ex-President Cleveland at Gray Gables. I ventured to point out to him what is now occurring. I then said that the Atlantic side of the United States had realized such conditions of development that left little for further exploration, while the Pacific was extending an immense field for commercial interest and that eventually American energy must be directed toward that goal.

"Let me call your attention to the fact that the Bulwer-Clayton treaty was drawn simply in consideration of American developments on the Pacific side. Commercial interests once developed, the natural consequences is that warships will folllow the commercial carriers. Americans are already largely interested in the Pacific, why, therefore, should that portion of the dominion not be protected. It is not too much to say that Japan and the United States have a joint responsibility in maintaining peace on the Pacific.

"I know Rear Admiral Evans personally. When he was here I had the pleasure of inviting him and his staff to a hunting expedition. We hope he will extend his cruise to these waters and give us an opportunity to renew the acquaintance."

ITALY LOSER BY NIGHT RAID

Tobacco Property of Government Destroyed in Fires Set by Riders.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—At the request of the Italian ambassador, Secretary of State Root has called upon the governor of Kentucky to intervene to prevent the further destruction by "night riders" of tobacco belonging to the Italian government and stored in Kentucky. The representation is based on the burning by night riders at Hopkinsville, Ky., of a warehouse containing a large quantity of tobacco purchased by the Italian government, which maintains a monopoly of the sale of tobacco in Italy. The governor of Kentucky has reported that he is investigating.

CONSTABLE SHOOTS IN MOB

Two Hungarians Killed at Lebanon While Officer Was Arresting Coal Thieves.

LEBANON, Pa., Dec. 19.—James Dolan, a constable, went into the foreign settlement last night to arrest coal thieves who have been preying on the Reading railway's supply. The foreigners turned out enmasse and set upon the officer, who in self-defense shot into the crowd, killing two Hungarians. Dolan is in custody, but public sentiment favors his release.

AHEARN BACK IN HIS PLACE

Board of Aldermen Elects Him in Face of Removal by Governor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—John F. Ahearn, who was recently removed from the office of the presidency of Manhattan borough by Governor Hughes on charges preferred by officers of the City club, was today elected by the Board of Aldermen as president to succeed himself. Ahearn was elected borough president by popular vote at the last election.

BURIAL OF LATE KING OSCAR

Body Followed to Grave by Large Number of Royal Personages.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 19.—The body of the late King Oscar of Sweden, who died December 8, was interred at noon today in the Riddarholm church, the burial place of Swedish kings and heirs, with a ceremony, the simple impressiveness of which was accentuated by the widespread evidences of popular sorrow. Along the snow-covered route of the funeral procession thousands of persons gathered and stood bare-headed in the biting cold during the passage of the hearse and the mourners. Every bell in the city tolled throughout the progress of the funeral. Black draperies and other emblems of mourning hung from the fronts of the buildings facing the streets down which the funeral cortege passed and both sides of the route were hedged with lines of troops.

Immediately following the hearse walked Gustave, the new king of Sweden, the king of Denmark and the princes of the Swedish royal house. These mourners were followed by the special foreign embassies, representing states in all parts of the world.

The queen of Sweden and the queen of Denmark drove to the church. The Dowager Queen Sophia of Sweden was prevented by illness from attending the funeral. The archbishop of Stockholm officiated at the ceremony. The conclusion of the service was marked by a salute of forty-two guns and volley firing by a detail of infantry.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—There was a memorial service in the chapel Royal of St. James today simultaneously with the funeral services of King Oscar at Stockholm. King Edward, the price and princess of Wales and the duke and duchess of Connaught were present, and all the foreign embassies were represented. Secretary Carter was present on behalf of the American embassy.

HONORS FOR REACTIONARIES

Czar, on Name Day, Grants Coveted Decorations to Kaulbars and Skallon.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 19.—The name day of Emperor Nicholas, which was celebrated with the usual ceremonies at Tsarskoe-Selo today, has been signalized by an order restoring to the Russian army the picturesque uniform worn in the reign of Alexander II. This order will transform thirty-five out of the forty-five soberly clad dragoon regiments into Hussars and Uhlans, whose brilliant and showy garb is expected to popularize the service in the eyes of recruits and the population generally. This change is made, according to the phraseology of the order, because during a long period of peace the uniform must be brilliant and beautiful.

All the Russian grand dukes returned from abroad for the celebration of the emperor's name day. The empress was unable to take part in the festivities on account of illness. Premier Stolypin, the members of the cabinet, M. Khomyakoff, president of the Duma, and other high civil and military dignitaries went to Tsarskoe-Selo to present their felicitations and witness the review of the guard. The American and other diplomatic representatives attended the festival mass in St. Isaac's cathedral. The list of the name day honors fills sixty-five columns in the Official Gazette, but even so, it is barely half as long this year as it was in 1906. General Kaulbars, whose administration of Odessa has been much criticised, is given the Alexander Nevsky order set in diamonds, and General of Cavalry Skallon, governor of Warsaw, is promoted to a full generalship.

HARDEN ILL, BUT IN COURT

Editor of Die Zu Kunft Makes Appearance in Criminal Libel Case.

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—Maximilian Harden was haggard and worn and his face paled and flushed alternately when he appeared before the criminal court today and took his place in the dock to answer the accusation brought in the name of the state that he had offended not only against General Count von Moltke, but against the interests of society in writing in Die Zu Kunft of Von Moltke, Prince Philip Eulenburg, General Wilhelm von Hohenau and others in the manner in which he did.

Harden smiled wearily as he acknowledged the solicitude of the bailiff in helping him remove the fur coat in which he was wrapped. The president of the court inquired courteously if Harden felt strong enough to follow the proceedings. "I hope so," replied Harden. The president then invited him to leave the prisoner's bench and take a more comfortable chair next to the attorneys. The bailiff spread out Harden's fur coat on the chair in order to make him as comfortable as possible. The prisoner was shaken from time to time with coughing, which he tried in vain to suppress. Dr. Marx, Harden's physician, said when Harden got up this morning that he absolutely disapproved of his appearance in court and disavowed all responsibility for the effect on his health.

PERSIANS AVOIDING CONFLICT

Excitement Prevails, but New Ruler is Disposed to Pacify People.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Presiding today at the annual meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia, Sir Lepel Henry Griffin read a telegram dated today, from the manager of the bank at Teheran.

The message said:

"Since last Sunday there have been numerous armed partisans around the assembly building and a large display of troops in Artillery square, but it is evident that neither party is anxious to fight. There were large crowds on the streets, but except for one or two cases of violence there has been absolutely no disorders. This morning the situation is very much quieter as a result of the negotiations for a reconciliation carried on last night. The exile of the late premier, Nasir El Mulk, and the two princes has been canceled. The crowds have been dispersed and today more shops are open. The situation appears to be one of pacific conflict."

Serious Charge Against Officer.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 19.—A special dispatch from Kamloops, B. C., says Captain D. L. Keller, alias D. L. Smith, a United States army officer of Reno, Nev., was arrested there last night charged with having stolen a bank check from the United States quartermaster's office at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and afterwards having filled it in for $2,500. The prisoner intends fighting extradition.

The Abbey for Lord Kelvin.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Royal society, of which Lord Kelvin was formerly president, will petition the dean of Westminster abbey for permission to bury the distinguished scientist in that historic church.

POLITICS IN ASSIGNMENTS

Uncle Joe and John Sharp Williams Playing the Game for Advantage.

NEBRASKANS WELL LOCATED

Senator Burkett Introduces Bill Placing Grazing Lands Under Agricultural Department and Providing for Their Lease.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(Special Telegram.)—Now that the smoke of battle has lifted and the committee assignments made for the sixtieth congress by Speaker Cannon, aided by the minority leader, John Sharp Williams, a clearer appreciation is had of the politics underlying some of the chairmanships, and in particular cases through committee places given to members. The selection of Representative Scott of Kansas as chairman of the committee on agriculture, jumping Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa and R. S. Henry of Connecticut, would look as if the speaker expected material aid and comfort from the state of Kansas in his candidacy for president. Not satisfied with having jumped Henry and Haugen with Scott, Mr. Henry is taken off the committee on agriculture and is given the chairmanship of a small committee and a place on merchant marine and fisheries. Haugen of Iowa, who ranked Scott of Kansas, is placed second on the list. He was not considered for the chairmanship, probably because he is not a particularly good floor manager, and the agricultural bill requires a man of tact and force to get the appropriation bill through without having great holes made in it.

The appointment of Congressman Pollard to the agriculture committee was discounted by The Bee in its issues of Tuesday and Wednesday, but Mr. Pollard is especially honored in being placed seventh on the committee and leading the new members of the committee on the republican side. Mr. Pollard made a direct request upon the speaker that in event he should be appointed to a place on agriculture that he be left off all other committees, in order that he might devote his sole time to this extremely important committee, in which Nebraska has a vital interest with other agricultural states. As the committee is made up Pollard is the only real, simeon pure farmer on it, all the rest of the members being professional men.

Congressman Hinshaw retains his place on merchant marine and fisheries because the speaker could not find an equally good assignment upon some other committee. As the merchant marine and fisheries committee is made up from a hasty examination of geographical conditions there are but two anti-subsidy men among the republicans on this committee, Wilson of Illinois and Hinshaw of Nebraska.

Majority for Subsidy.

"Uncle Joe" gave a great deal of thought to the complexion of the committee on merchant marine and fisheries. He proposed at the outset to have a majority of the committee in favor of a ship subsidy bill, should such a measure be offered in the Sixtieth congress, and he did not propose to have to transfer a man from that committee to another committee and give Lucius Littauer of New York a place in order that a majority measure in favor of a ship subsidy could be voted out of committee, as he did in the fifty-ninth congress. In makeup the new committee on merchant marine looks very good for a subsidy bill, but wise men about the capitol do not expect any subsidy legislation until after the elections of next year, when, if the country goes republican, a subsidy bill can be passed easily in the short session, and should the country go democratic they will jam a bill through without regard to the feelings of the opponents to such a measure. Mr. Hinshaw takes fourth place on Indian affairs and goes next to the top on patents.

Judge Boyd of the Third district secures three committee assignments—election No. 2, invalid pensions and private land claims. His assignment to invalid pensions will give him about all the committee work he can do and being the only Nebraskan on the committee he will undoubtedly have charge of pension bills for Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa.

By his own request Judge Kinkaid was transferred from insular affairs to the committee on irrigation of arid lands, retaining his committee places on Pacific railroads and education.

Judge Norris of the Fifth district retains the same committees he had in the fifty-ninth congress, moving up two places to sixth on the list in the committee of public buildings and grounds, from eighth to seventh place on the committee on labor and from fourth to third place on the committee on election of president and vice president.

The lone democratic member from Omaha, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, secures Indian affairs, irrigation of arid lands and Pacific railroads. In two of these committees—irrigation of arid lands and Pacific railroads—the democrat from Nebraska will meet Judge Kinkaid, republican from the same state, while in Indian affairs Hitchcock will meet Hinshaw, assuring the Omahas, Winnebagos and Santees of Nebraska close consideration.

Places for Iowa Men.

Judge Smith of the Council Bluffs district requested that he be assigned to no other committee than that on appropriations and the speaker respected his wishes.

Judge Conner of the Tenth Iowa retains his old committees, public buildings and grounds, library and labor.

Hubbard of the Sioux City district is retained on insular affairs, but is given two other committees, revision of laws and expenditures in the Department of Justice.

Mr. Birdsall leaves both his old committees, that of judiciary and merchant marine and fisheries, taking places on rivers and harbors and on railways and canals.

Mr. Haugen is appeased because he was not made chairman of agriculture by being given the chairmanship of expenditures in the Interior department.

Congressman Mondell landed the chairmanship of public lands, succeeding Major John F. Lacey of Iowa, who was left at home. A fight was made upon Mondell by Fordney of Michigan and Volstead of Minnesota, but the Wyoming congressman had too big a draft and he easily landed the plum.

The South Dakota representatives are particularly fortunate in their committee assignments. Judge Parker of the Black Hills district goes upon Indian affairs and militia, while Representative Hall secured advantageous places on public lands and mines and mining, committees in which South Dakota is largely interested.

Congressman Hall leaves for his home, Brookings, S. D., Saturday.

President Still for Taft.

Senator Brown had a short interview with the president today, but only the general political situation was gone over,

(Continued on Second Page)

ROBBER'S DARING ATTEMPT

Watchfulness of Track Workman Prevents Looting of Car Containing Bullion.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.—Charged with making a daring attempt to rob a car on the Buffalo express containing gold bullion, while the train was standing in the Reading terminal last night, William A. Hewitt, who gives his address as 325 West Fifteenth street, New York, was today held in heavy bail for a further hearing. The train had been made up and was scheduled to leave at 8:40 p. m., via the Reading railway and the Lehigh Valley. One of the express cars, containing $80,000 in gold bullion, was being shipped by the government to Buffalo.

The alleged attempt at robbery was discovered by accident. A yardman while at work on a track adjoining the one on which the express train stood heard a peculiar noise and on investigation discovered Hewitt under the bullion car at work with a saw on a gas pipe. The yardman gave the alarm and Hewitt was pursued through the station. He was caught before he could escape in the crowd of Christmas shoppers on the street and taken to the Central Police station.

About the same time Hewitt was discovered the lights in the car went out and an examination of the gas pipe showed that it had been punctured. At the hearing today the police exhibited the saw left by Hewitt in his flight and a section of the gas pipe. The police say they are working on the theory that Hewitt probably expected to enter the car after the lights had been extinguished and loot it unobserved.

Hewitt is believed to have been assisted by accomplices and the police are looking for two other men.

Hewitt's bail was fixed at $5,000. He is said to have been employed about the station loading express cars and was familiar with the practice of the United States Express company in shipping bullion.

DAKOTA CORN SHOW A SUCCESS

Prize-Winning Exhibits Are Sold at Auction at a Good Price for Seed Corn.

MITCHELL, S. D., Dec. 19.—(Special Telegram.)—The closing day of the state corn show has been the most successful of any, the attendance being larger and the addresses being received with greater enthusiasm. The corn school was conducted this morning by Prof. Cole of Brookings college, in which he gave detailed information relative to selecting seed corn and testing the germinating power of the seed. In the afternoon Bert Dye of Vermillion, John Branner of Canton, A. J. Wimple of Beresford and G. E. Twamley of Alexandria, all expert corn raisers, gave their personal experiences in the production of corn, which gave more of the detail of the growing of the product than has yet been put forth in the convention.

A committee was appointed to confer with the officers of the Improved Live Stock Breeders' association regarding holding meetings on the same date in the latter part of January.

After the adjournment of the convention this afternoon, the corn which had been used in the corn school for scoring purposes was disposed of at public auction for seed corn and some good prices were realized for the grain. Next year the show will be carried forward on a larger basis, now that a membership fee has been established.

CENTRAL MEETING ADJOURNS

February Has Been Agreed On for Session, Date to Be Agreed On Later.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The Illinois Central meeting has been adjourned until February, the date to be fixed later.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—Judge Ball announced today after a conference with the attorneys for the Harriman and Fish interests that he would at 2 o'clock this afternoon announce his decision whether to adjourn the annual meeting of the Illinois Central or give a decision on the injunction proceedings that have been pending before him during the last few days.

In accordance with the suggestion of the court it was decided that the annual meeting, which was called at noon, should adjourn until 3 p. m. Throughout the deadlock between the attorneys over the question of whether to postpone the annual meeting until after the court's decision on the injunction the Harriman attorneys had insisted on such postponement. The Fish lawyers averred that the meeting should proceed and that the shares of stock which had been temporarily enjoined be counted in accordance with the order of the court. As neither side was willing to make any concessions Judge Ball stated he would this afternoon decide what course to pursue.

J. "HAM" LEWIS UNDER LIGHT

Pauses Long Enough to Say He Will Be Candidate for Governor of Illinois.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—J. Hamilton Lewis of Chicago announced last night that he would accept the nomination for governor of Illinois if it were tendered him. He said:

"I am not seeking the office, but will accept the nomination and make the fight for democratic supremacy if I am given the platform of principles I stand for.

"This country has been running rampant on the mania that men can be legislated into honesty. To be honest in places of trust should be taught as a right to fellowmen and duty to self. The criminal violating the law should be punished, but it is criminal to confiscate the property of the innocent to punish one guilty.

"It is barbaric to wipe out a class or association to gratify resentment of some one offender. We need no new laws, but a sensible execution of the old ones. A greater regard for the rights of people and less zeal to punish some individual will be the platforms of both parties at the coming presidential nominations if they are wise."

MAYOR KNOCKS ON LID LAW

St. Paul Executive Says Eleven O'clock Closing Will Hurt Temperance.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 19.—Mayor Robert A. Smith has declared himself opposed to the enforcement in St. Paul of the state law requiring that saloons close at 11 p. m., though he is powerless to control the action of the police in the matter. Chief of Police O'Connor, in accordance with a request made by the attorney general, has ordered the early closing lid to be applied.

"I am opposed to this 11 o'clock closing," said Mayor Smith: "It is an outrage. All laws are not made to be enforced. The 11 o'clock closing will work against the interests of the people who are fighting against the saloon."

BIG MINE HORROR

Two Hundred Fifty Men Entombed Near Smithton, Pa.

EXPLOSION BLOCKS ENTRANCE

Interior of Workings Wrecked by Force of Explosion.

SOME MAY BE STILL ALIVE

Fans Are Working and Mine is Not on Fire.

RESCUE PARTIES ARE BUSY

It is Hoped to Reach Imprisoned Men Before Morning—Third Mine Explosion Within Few Days.

BULLETIN.

SMITHTON, Pa., Dec. 19.—The most reliable estimates obtainable at this hour place the number of men caught by the explosion at the Darr mine of the Pittsburg Coal company at 250. The mine is located about one and one-half miles from this place. The mine is not burning and the ventilating fans are being operated according to reports received here. No one has come out of the mine since the explosion, but there is hope that some of the men are still living. Rescue work is progressing and it is expected the imprisoned men will be reached by morning.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 19.—Four hundred miners are entombed in the Darr mines of the Pittsburg Coal company at Jacob's Creek, on the Youghiogheny river, eighteen miles west of here. Of these 400 fully 100 are Americans, the rest being principally Hungarians. An explosion shook the vicinity of the mine at 11:30 this morning and announced to all the surrounding community that a great convulsion of some kind had occurred down under the surface.

Shortly after smoke began to issue in heavy columns from the mouth of the mine, which is of the slope variety. The mouth of the mine was wrecked and this circumstance in connection with the fire which was discovered to be raging inside prevented effectually up to 1 p. m. any attempt at rescue of the imprisoned men.

The building of the Federal Supply company, adjacent to the entrance to the mine, was slightly damaged by the force of the shock, causing the building to rock and some of its windows to break.

Among those imprisoned in the mine are Pit Boss O'Connell and two fire bosses.

On account of the violence of the explosion, which rent the interior of the mine, the presence of fire, with the blocked condition of the mouth of the stope, it is not thought there is much chance for the men inside.

Whether they are survived or will survive is one of the uncertainties of the present hour. There is no means yet of doing more than to guess whether it was gas or coal dust that exploded.

The scene of the explosion is on the Pittsburg & Lake Erie railroad side of the Youghiogheny river. Jacobs creek, on the main line of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, is across the river. It is forty miles east of Pittsburg and eighteen miles west of Connellsville.

Mouth of Workings Obstructed.

The Pittsburg Coal company mines are on both sides of the Youghiogheny river. The coal mined in this field is used for coking purposes. It is a part of the original Connellsville coke field. The mines in this section are said to contain considerable gas.

The officials express but little hope of saving the lives of the unfortunate men, as the mouth of the shaft is filled with rocks and earth and the passageways are said to be badly obstructed.

Within a few minutes after the explosion the mouth of the pit was surrounded by the relatives and friends of the entombed men. The scenes were most pitiful. The smoke and flames issuing from the slope made it impossible to enter and the wives and children were frantic.

Every effort is being made to subdue the fire, but it was burning so fiercely that no headway could be made.

It is stated that the superintendent of the mine is one of those imprisoned; that he went into the mine to investigate its condition and was caught in the explosion.

WEST NEWTON, Pa., Dec. 19.—Reports of the disaster at the Darr mine received here are to the effect that there are nearer 500 men in the mine than 400. Physicians left here for the scene shortly after 3 o'clock.

Prompt Means for Rescue.

Vice President Woodford stated that 160 men were likely in the mine at the time of the accident. Immediately upon receipt of the news of the explosion the officials of the company here took prompt measures for relief. Orders were sent to the surrounding mines requesting that expert men be rushed to the scene to assist in the work. Physicians were also dispatched on the trains from Pittsburg and the towns adjacent to Jacob's Creek.

This is the third big mine accident which has occurred in this vicinity during the past three weeks. The first occurred at the Naomi mine of the United Coal company, and thirty-four men sacrificed their lives. Two weeks ago the explosion of dust at Monongah snuffed out the lives of 350 more.

Mine Was Modern One.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 19.—Word of the explosion reached the local office of the Pittsburg Coal company in this city early this afternoon. The dispatch gave no details further than that an explosion had occurred at Darr mine between Smithon and Whitfell. The officials of the company say that the mine was one of the largest and was equipped with the most modern appliances.

At 2:30 this afternoon no details had been received at the company's office in this city and the exact number of men in the mine at the time of the accident was not known. It is said the shifts are not larger than 150 men. The officials regard the mine as one of the safest owned by them and express the belief that the explosion would not reach all the workings, in which event many of the men would still be alive and probably would be rescued.

FARMER BOY KILLS SISTER

Thinking Gun Unloaded, John Meyer Blows Head from Shoulders of Girl.

DES MOINES, Dec. 19.—Thinking it unloaded, John Meyer, a farmer boy living at Holy Cross Ia., pointed a shotgun at his 8-year-old sister today and pulled the trigger. So close was the girl to the muzzle of the weapon that her head was blown from her shoulders