

Admiral Evans' Squadron Gets Royal Welcome at Brazilian Port.

A THIRD OF VOYAGE COVERED

Rio Janeiro, Jan. 13.—The American fleet of sixteen battleships entered the port of Rio Janeiro, after a passage from Port of Spain, Trinidad, more than 3000 miles, unmarred by serious accidents, replete with interesting incidents and ending with a royal welcome from the thousands that had gathered to greet the visitors.

All of the battleships are here, but the supply ships Culgoa and Glacier are still at sea, not having been able to keep along with the others. The fleet has now covered about 4,600 miles, about a third of the distance of the voyage to San Francisco.

Early in the morning the crowds began to gather in the streets of Rio Janeiro, and long before the signal flags were hoisted announcing the approach of the American ships of war thousands of curious spectators had taken up the points of vantage on public buildings and the elevated quays. When the fleet steamed into harbor, under the splendid mountains that framed the bay, beautiful in the tropical sun, it was a spectacle incomparable to the eye.

Word that the fleet had passed Cape Friso, about forty-five miles out, was received at 8:30 o'clock, and immediately scores of tugs and other small craft, crowded with spectators, set out to meet the visitors, and accompanied them to the anchorage. Outlined against the horizon the great battleships, stretched out in one long line, came slowly through the passage into the bay. The Connecticut, Rear Admiral Evans' flagship, was in the lead, with the Brazilian cruisers, dressed in gala attire, on either side. Passing the fortresses, the Connecticut fired a salute of twenty-one guns, which was responded to by the Brazilian warships, the German cruiser Bremen and the shore guns. The yards and fighting tops were manned and cheers upon cheers were given for the splendid passage of the flagship and her sister ships.

As soon as the anchorage was made, the Brazilian minister of marine, Admiral Alencar, the captain of the port, the American consul, G. E. Anderson, the commandants of naval divisions and the civic authorities went on board the Connecticut and extended a hearty welcome to Rear Admiral Evans, his officers and men. Hundreds of launches, tugs and small boats circled about the battleships until long after the sun had gone down. Not less than 15,000 to 20,000 persons were aboard these boats and more than 50,000 others were gathered on shore to celebrate the coming of the fleet. The city is beautifully illuminated and a gala occasion has been made in honor of the visitors.

All the way down from Port of Spain the voyage was an enjoyable one and all on board the ships were well and seemingly happy.

Aged Couple Died Together.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 13.—After having passed the greater part of their lives quietly and uneventfully in an old farmhouse here, Jonathan King and his wife Abby died together. The wife passed away at 8:40 o'clock Sunday night and a few minutes later the husband died. In both cases death was due to old age. Mr. King was eighty-four years old and his wife eighty-eight years old.

Excited By Play, Tries to Choke Star.

Lynn, Mass., Jan. 11.—Wrought up to a frenzy by the realism of the scene, a spectator at the performance of a melodrama at Lynn theatre sprang on the stage and tried to choke the star, Leander De Cordova. He fought with such viciousness that the combined strength of half a dozen of the actors and several policemen with clubs were necessary to subdue him.

Boy Kills Burglar in Father's Home.

Greensburg, Pa., Jan. 11.—Paul Bowers, fourteen years old, shot and killed a negro burglar who broke into the home of his father at Alverton, near here. The boy was awakened by the noise made by the burglar, and lay in wait with a double-barreled shotgun. As the burglar ascended the stairs the boy fired, striking him in the abdomen.

Gagged With Lemon.

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 14.—As a joke, Mrs. Wesley Gable, of Williams town, N. J., tried to bite her initials in an overgrown lemon handed to her by her sister, Miss Lillian Richardson, of this city. The lemon became wedged in the woman's mouth and seriously dislocated her jaw. It was finally extricated and the dislocation reduced.

Left to Freeze to Death.

Huntingdon, Pa., Jan. 11.—L. D. Livingston, a track foreman on the Pennsylvania railroad, was found frozen to death. He and a companion left this place to attend a dance at Argabehn, and on the way Livingston fell out of the sleigh. His companion drove on, apparently unaware of Livingston's plight.

Headache Powders Fatal.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 14.—Charles Dollman died in the Newark City hospital from an overdose of headache powders. He was found unconscious in bed. In the room were two papers that had contained headache powders.

Defense Promises New Testimony in Famous Trial.

PROSECUTION RESTS ITS CASE

New York, Jan. 14.—The Thaw trial moved with a rush. After the state had presented its direct case and Assistant District Attorney Garvan had characterized the killing of Stanford White as "a premeditated, deliberate and cowardly murder," Martin W. Littleton, for the defense, made the opening plea for the prisoner. His promise of new evidence was sensational and held the supreme attention of all in the courtroom. District Attorney Jerome, seemingly taken by surprise, seated himself in the witness chair the better to hear the outline of the new defense. Mr. Littleton promised to forge a chain of circumstances and to produce a line of testimony which will prove Harry K. Thaw undeniably insane at the time of the homicide. Evidence of hereditary insanity and of strange, unusual acts of Thaw not even hinted at during the first trial was told of by Mr. Littleton, who said that physicians and nurses who had attended Thaw were hurrying here from Europe; that teachers of the defendant in childhood would be on hand to give their impressions of "the wide-eyed, distant boy." In conclusion, Mr. Littleton challenged the district attorney to produce a single reputable physician who would say that Thaw was not insane at the time he killed the noted architect.

Mr. Littleton's speech fairly bristled with surprises. He started the courtroom by declaring that after Evelyn Nesbit had told him her story in Paris in 1903, Thaw "drenched himself with a poison," and would have died but for the heroic work of three physicians who labored over him all of one night. Mr. Jerome had his surprise to offer, too, and when Mr. Littleton started to launch into the relations of Stanford White with the girl whom Thaw married, the district attorney was on his feet with an objection. Justice Downing sustained him, and the name of the architect was not linked again with that of the defendant's wife.

Mr. Littleton told of a trip abroad taken by Thaw in 1899, when he was ill and insane at Rome, Monte Carlo and London, being under the care of physicians and nurses at each place, and declared he would produce these physicians and nurses as far as possible to tell their stories. Teachers who kept diaries about the strange child who sat in their classes also will come, he said, to tell the jury about the early life and tendencies of the defendant. Describing the killing of White, Mr. Littleton said:

"Thaw's madness, born and bred in him, had been set on fire by the stories he had heard. He had gone to the district attorney with them and to Mr. Comstock. They ran in his head until, staggering among the chairs of Madison Square Garden—yet not drunk—his eyes burning like two great coals of fire, unable intelligently to answer questions put to him, maniacal in the last degree, lost—lost as he was in Rome, in Monte Carlo and in London—the blind confusion of insanity overcame him and he fired. The result was not a murder, but the act of a madman, who afterwards, wild-eyed and irrational, cried out in his cell that he heard the voices of little children calling and proclaimed that he had but acted as an agent of providence.

The outline of the defense was generally considered as reflecting a determination on the part of Thaw's attorneys to prove him insane in 1906, regardless of all consequences.

Assistant District Attorney Garvan made the address for the prosecution, and the calling of witnesses followed. First in order came an architect who had drawn a diagram of Madison Square Roof Garden, where the tragedy occurred, and then came James Clinch Smith, White's brother-in-law, who was on the roof garden on the night of the shooting, and who talked with Thaw just before the killing. Nothing new was developed.

The jury is as follows: Charles F. Gremmels, ship broker, foreman.

Arthur R. Naething, employing baker.

George W. Cary, dry goods.

George C. Rupperecht, salesman.

John H. Holbert, mineral waters.

David E. Arrowsmith, manager.

William F. Doolittle, auditor's clerk.

William H. McHugh, clerk.

Frank J. Howell, manufacturer.

William Burk, assistant secretary Y. M. C. A.

Francis Doval, real estate.

James A. Hooper, meats and provisions.

Knocked From Brooklyn Bridge.

New York, Jan. 11.—While endeavoring to prevent a man, who gave his name as Edward Walker, of Chicago, from leaping from the Brooklyn bridge, Patrolman Robert Fitzgerald was knocked from the overhead ironwork by the pole of a passing trolley car into the East river. His body was not recovered. Another policeman arrested the would-be suicide as he was about to jump over the railing.

Boy Meets Horrible Death.

New York, Jan. 14.—Harry DeFreis, a fifteen-year-old boy, suffered a strange and horrible death in an elevator shaft of the Commercial Cable building on Broad street. In some manner the boy fell down the deep elevator shaft from one of the top stories of the skyscraper. Difficulty in starting the elevator led to the discovery of the body of the boy, who had been crushed to death between the top of a big counter-balance weight and the side of the elevator shaft at the sixth floor.

Boyetown, Pa., Opera House Destroyed by Fire.

MANY BODIES CREMATED

Explosion Started the Fire, and Scores of Women and Children Were Trampled in Wild Panic—Many Injured By Jumping From Windows. Entire Families Among the Dead. Seventy-five Injured, Twenty Fatally.

Boyetown, Pa., Jan. 14.—A catastrophe horrifying in its details and sickening in its results swept nearly one hundred souls of this borough into eternity in almost the twinkling of an eye, and injured over three-score, many of them fatally. A majority of the killed were members of the leading families of the town.

While the Scottish Reformation was being produced in the Rhoads Opera House by Mrs. Monroe, of Washington, a tank used in a moving picture scene exploded. Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits of the building. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but their voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children, who composed the greater part of the audience. The scenes cannot be portrayed fitly by the most imaginative. The blood-curdling cries for help of those who were penned within the walls of the blazing structure could be heard above the roaring, seething flames. It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred. In their attempts to quiet the great audience those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal oil lamps used at the footlights. The burning oil scattered in all directions, and the lamps which were used to light the opera house exploded, throwing the blazing oil over the terror-stricken people, who were fighting frantically to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement. As the floor collapsed the shrieks of the helpless persons who were carried down were heard for blocks. It was scarcely five minutes from the time of the explosion of the tank until the entire heart of the structure seemed a roaring furnace. There was a mad scramble for the stairway leading from the balcony, and scores of women and children were knocked down and trampled on, many of them doubtless being crushed to death. At least fifty persons, realizing that exit by the stairway meant almost certain death, risked their lives by jumping from the windows. Limbs were broken and skulls were crushed by this daring method of escape.

Burned to Death in Doorway.

In the meantime a relief corps was at work at the entrance to the theatre endeavoring to release those who were wedged in the doorway and unable to extricate themselves. Many persons who otherwise might have made good their escape from the furnace of flame were held in check by the awful jam at the doors. As the flames eat their way toward the front of the building, women could be seen to clasp their hands and fall back into the flames. Once the doorways were cleared the rescuers dragged many of the women and children from the stairways leading to the balcony. Some of them were so badly injured that they died before reaching a temporary hospital. Skulls were crushed and the faces of some of the victims were so horribly mutilated that they were barely recognizable.

PANTHER DEVOURS WOMAN

Beast Kills and Eats the Wife of a Farmer in Louisiana. Columbia, La., Jan. 13.—While on her way to visit a neighbor in a wild region ten miles west of here Mrs. Annie Valentine, wife of a farmer, was killed and devoured by a panther. Her husband, alarmed at his wife's prolonged absence, instituted a search, and found his wife's head and her skeleton, picked bare of flesh, in a clump of bushes. Bits of the woman's clothing were scattered over a distance of two miles, showing that the panther had dragged its victim to a convenient spot to make a feast. A posse of men, with a pack of hounds, are pursuing the beast.

RAPS THE ADMINISTRATION

Officials Charged With Being Over-Zealous to Punish Land Frauds. Washington, Jan. 13.—In a personal letter which he has addressed to the president and vice president, Speaker Cannon and all members of congress, the justices of the supreme court, members of the president's cabinet and the Washington newspaper correspondents, Hon. George W. Cook, Republican congressman-at-large from Colorado, severely arraigns the administration for its course in prosecuting alleged infractions of the public land laws in Colorado. Congressman Cook insists that great injustice has been done to a number of Colorado's most honorable, upright and law-abiding business men in that they have unnecessarily been branded as criminals through over-zealousness of the government in ordering indictments without furnishing proper evidence. He cites the recent decisions of Federal Judge Robert E. Lewis, at Denver, in which he quashed indictments against some thirty citizens, to show that government prosecutors were over-active in their efforts to punish land frauds.

Grief of Mothers Pitiful.

The night was one of wailing and anguish. The shrieks of mothers who had rushed to the scene as soon as they learned of the fire was pitiful. As the night wore on the crowds surrounding the building grew to such proportions that it was almost impossible for the police force, which had been augmented by a score of men from Pott-

stown and Reading, to keep the people back. One woman who said she had lost her entire family in the theatre was with difficulty restrained from throwing herself into the roaring flames.

A special train from Reading, bearing physicians and nurses, reached here, but there was little for them to do, as the injured who had dashed themselves to the pavement had been cared for by the physicians, assisted by the Pottstown relief corps.

A few minutes after midnight the rear wall of the theatre collapsed. The flames broke out anew and those who had vainly hoped to be able to find the remains of some of their loved one turned in despair from the scene of the awful catastrophe.

It is estimated that at least 75 persons were injured by being trampled upon, either on the stairway or by jumping from the windows of the burning structure. Of this number at least a score were fatally injured, and many succumbed to their injuries after being hurried to one of the temporary hospitals.

Three children ranging in ages from eight to twelve years and one woman, who were dragged from the building by persons who had rushed to the rescue, had been trampled almost to a pulp, the skull of one of the unfortunate children had been crushed as though an egg shell. It is extremely doubtful if the remains of the victims can be distinguished from the debris, as many persons in the audience were covered with burning oil as the lamps exploded.

Boyetown is a borough with a population of about 2500, and is located about midway between Pottstown and Reading.

NAMES RAILROAD COMMISSION

Governor Stuart Appoints Pennsylvania State Board.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 14.—Governor Stuart appointed the following members of the state railroad commission created by an act passed by the last legislature and which became operative one week ago:

Nathaniel Ewing, of Uniontown, judge of the United States district court, Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburg, chairman, to serve for five years.

Charles N. Mann, of Philadelphia, deputy prothonotary of the courts of Philadelphia county, to serve for four years.

John Y. Boyd, of Harrisburg, retired, a member of the firm which formerly acted as general sales agents for the anthracite coal companies controlled by the Pennsylvania railroad, to serve for three years.

The commission has the authority to inquire into the business of common carriers; to examine books and papers; to be heard in matters affecting freight and passenger rates; the distribution of cars; the providing of sidings; the location of stations; the regulation of grade crossings and all other things bearing upon the relation of the companies to the people.

"GRAFT" IS NOT A CRIME

Conviction of Former Mayor Schmitz, of San Francisco, Set Aside.

San Francisco, Jan. 10.—The district court of appeals handed down a decision setting aside the judgement in the case of former Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz, convicted of extortion in the French restaurant case. Abe Ruef also benefits by the ruling of the upper court, for, according to its decision, he pleaded guilty to an act that was no offense against the laws of the state.

According to the appellate judges, the compelling of French restaurants to pay "fees" to Abe Ruef was not a crime, even though Ruef divided the "fees" with the mayor.

District Attorney Langdon said Schmitz and Ruef will be prosecuted on other indictments that are public offenses.

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