

BIDDLE BROTHERS ARE CAPTURED

Pittsburg Murderers Riddled with Bullets and Secured After a Desperate Battle.

MRS. SOFFEL IS ALSO WOUNDED

The Themes of Lurid Fiction Surpassed by Incidents That Follow the Escape of the Desperadoes Who Were Liberated by the Jail Wardens...

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Pittsburg, Jan. 31.—A telegram from Butler tonight says: "Edward Biddle is in jail dying, John Biddle, riddled with buckshot and in a precarious condition and Mrs. Peter K. Soffel lying in the hospital with a self-inflicted bullet wound in the breast, is the sequel of the sensational escape of the Biddle brothers from the Allegheny county jail, aided by Mrs. Soffel, the wife of the jail warden, on Thursday morning.

The scene of the shooting was a snow covered road two miles east of Prospect, Butler county, near Mount Chestnut and the exact place was at McClure's barn, where two double team sleighs, filled with eight officers, three of them Pittsburg detectives, John Roach, Albert Swinehart and Charles McGovern met the two Biddles in a one horse sleigh, stolen at Perryville and at once opened fire on the trio. The Biddles returned the fire, after jumping out of the sleigh. Mrs. Soffel was shot through the breast.

Edward Biddle was shot in the left arm, in the breast and in one leg. John Biddle was riddled with buckshot in the breast and head.

The Pittsburg officers were met at Butler this afternoon by Deputy Sheriffs Rainey and Hoon, and Officers Frank Holaday and Aaron Thompson, the latter under command of Chief of Police Robert Kay, of Butler.

The officers were certain that they were on the right trail. It was only a question of time when they would catch up to the escaping condemned murderers and their guilty companion. The Biddles and Mrs. Soffel ate dinner at J. J. Stephens, at Mount Chestnut, five miles east of Butler. They had made a detour of the town of Butler and after going several miles east turned north and then west. The Pittsburg officers, only a few miles in the rear took the wrong road for about eight miles, but when they found their mistake they made up for lost time by telephoning and telegraphing ahead for fresh horses.

The Chase for Life.

They reached Mount Chestnut not less than half an hour after the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel. At this point William Watson, storekeeper, had fresh horses awaiting them, and the chase for life began anew.

The two sleighs, with the eight officers aboard, started westward and met the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel at McClure's barn, two miles from Mount Prospect. The Biddles, having learned that they were almost overtaken and taking what they considered the only chance they had, drove eastward and met their doom.

The officers were armed with Winchester rifles and revolvers of large calibre. They shot to kill and their aim was perfect. The Biddles tried to kill to the last of their strength, but not one of the eight officers has a wound as the result of the battle.

When the detectives got to within about sixty yards of the fugitives they opened fire. The Biddles promptly answered with shotguns and revolvers. When Ed Biddle fell and Mrs. Soffel saw she was about to be captured, she fired a bullet into her breast.

An examination by physicians shows that she will recover, as the bullet was deflected by her corset and the wound is comparatively slight.

Ed Biddle got a bullet in the breast, which penetrated his right lung and will probably end his life before morning. John Biddle may recover, his wounds, though numerous, failing to reach a vital spot. The escape of the officers is miraculous. The Biddles have demonstrated on several occasions

that they are good marksmen, and why they should have failed today to bring down their men is a mystery.

After the Biddles fell to the snow-covered ground, the officers picked up the apparently lifeless bodies of Mrs. Soffel and the Biddles and came back to Butler, bringing the stolen sleigh, patched up harness and worn out horse that the trio had tried so strenuously to get away with toward Canada and liberty.

Story of the Battle.

The story of the fight, as told by one of the detectives, is as follows: "The Biddles were sitting on the right side of the cutter, Mrs. Soffel was on the left side. 'Hold up your hands and surrender!' cried Detective McGovern. Ed Biddle jumped up from his seat and raising a shot gun fired it at McGovern. He aimed badly and the shot scattered on the road alongside of McGovern.

"Detectives McGovern and Roach discharged their Winchester at Ed Biddle. Both shots took effect. Jack Biddle raised from the seat and discharged his revolver at the three officers. Detective Swinehart steadied himself and fired his 45-Cal. revolver at Jack. The ball took effect in Jack's arm. The detectives opened fire on the boys in rapid succession then.

"The shots knocked them out of the sleigh. Ed fell sprawling on the snow and Jack fell on top of him. Their firearms fell alongside of them. The Biddles' horse then became frightened and ran away across a field. It was at this time that Mrs. Soffel was seen to collapse in the sleigh.

"The detectives approached the wounded man and Detective Swinehart was rushing in on them, when Detective McGovern called on him to stay back, that the Biddles were only feigning. Detective Roach saw Ed Biddle reach in his coat pocket as if for a gun and the detective shot him again. Then Detective McGovern ran up within five feet of the boys and emptied his Winchester into them. The Biddles then yielded.

"After the Biddles yielded, Detectives Roach and McGovern handcuffed their hands and feet and they were taken to Butler.

"Mrs. Soffel, who was taken from the sleigh when it ran away, was picked up and placed in the detectives' large sleigh with her companions and taken to the hospital at Butler."

Ed. Biddle's Statement.

At the jail tonight Ed. Biddle called for a priest and made the following statement:

"I have been accused of a great many serious crimes. I admit that I could have committed many, the opportunities for them having presented themselves. I want to say now that I did not kill Detective Fitzgerald nor did I shoot Thomas Kahney nor was my brother implicated in the latter affair. Mrs. Soffel aided us in getting out of the county jail and had it not been for her we would have made our escape today. She gave up everything for us and I was bound to back her up. I did not shoot her.

"She shot herself. Oh, father bless me and tell me that my sins are forgiven.

"Although I have been pictured to you as a desperate man, I still have some heart and gratitude for the woman who helped us to escape. She merely did it out of good sympathy and feeling for me. I persuaded her to do it. I told her I was guiltless of the crime for which I was about to be executed and she was impressed and yielded to my suggestion. I planned it all."

Looking up he saw several reporters and recognized them as the men who had reported all his nefarious crimes for which he was tried.

"You blackguards, you are the cause of the bitter feeling that has been engendered against us. You created the public sentiment against us. Are you sorry? You are not? You are too heartless."

At this point Biddle showed signs of collapse and made a feeble effort to signal the priest. Father Walsh administered the solemn last rites of the dying and Biddle rolled over on his face and sighed. He was asked if he wanted any word taken to his brother, and he shook his head, "No."

Trail of the Fugitives.

The tracking of the fugitives by the detectives was very complete. Early this morning the Pittsburg police were notified that a horse and sleigh had been stolen Thursday morning from the barn of a Ferrysville farmer. Frequently during the day reports were received at headquarters that two men and a woman, the description of which tallied with the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel, had been seen going through different towns along the route.

thorities were at once notified and by telephoning to several small towns it was learned that the party had turned away from the direct road into Butler and were going through the wooded country to the north of Butler.

The Butler officials at once went in the direction of two good sleighs, provided with fast horses. They soon found they were on the trail of the fugitives, and at 2 o'clock wired the Pittsburg police that they had learned they were only thirty minutes behind the sleigh, and that their horse was tired.

From this time on it was only a question of a short time until the capture was made.

The entire party, officers and prisoners, are expected to arrive in this city some time tonight on a special train.

Excitement here has been intense all day, and the general excitement of the Biddles has been the burden of conversation on the streets and homes generally.

MINE WORKERS AND COAL OPERATORS MEET

President Mitchell Submits Formal Demands of Miners—Mr. Robbins Says Scale Is Nonsensical.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Indianapolis, Jan. 31.—The joint conference of miners and operators settled down to business this afternoon and by evening proceedings were well under way. The miners, through President Mitchell, presented their demand for an increase in pay and for correcting abuses, and they were discussed at some length in open convention. Even in this short time, the issues were clearly joined between the miners and operators. The special committee, which will have to take up the discussion of the demands, was also appointed.

After a short recess President Mitchell, on behalf of the miners, asked that the operators offer their scale for the consideration of the convention. Mr. Robbins, who acted as spokesman for the operators, said the operators had no scale to offer. He asked that the miners' demands be presented.

President Mitchell then submitted the formal demands of the miners, which was as follows:

- 1. That there be a general advance of 10 per cent. on prices.
2. That an absolute run of mine system be adopted for all mines in the competitive field.
3. That there shall be a uniform scale for all outside day labor and eight hours shall constitute a day's work.
4. That there be a straight differential of seven cents per ton between pick and machine mining.
5. That all drivers' wages be advanced to \$2.25 per day and 10 per cent. added.
6. That no clause be inserted in any contract or joint agreement requiring the employee to purchase powder from their employers.
7. That the check-off system be adopted and agreed to in all the competitive districts.

Mr. Robbins, in opposing the proposed new scale, denied the increase in prices, declaring that they had decreased. Illinois operators had found that the run of mine system had lowered the quality of their coal and therefore the Pittsburg operators were opposed to this system. The question of cost is the fundamental one, he said, and the competition between the organized and unorganized states is so keen that no increase could be allowed.

In conclusion, Mr. Robbins declared: "You can never hope to accomplish what you ask for. This scale is nonsense, it is nonsense to expect it. You do not, you can not expect it in the face of the facts."

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE

Has Arrived in Washington on a Tour of Inspection—Schools Visited—Impressions Received.

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Eight members of the Scranton board of school control arrived in Washington today. They are on a tour of inspection of the national training schools in some of the large cities with a view of establishing a school at Scranton. The committee has been exceedingly busy since they left home, and have already visited and inspected the schools at Hoboken, N. J., Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Wilmington and Washington. They seemed to be most favorably impressed with the schools in Philadelphia and will likely recommend the establishment of an institute along the lines.

The party is made up of Professor George Howell, E. D. Fellows, J. H. Phillips, Dennis J. Roache, A. L. Francis, Otto B. Schriever, George Shiras and Elms Evans. After inspecting the schools here they visited the capitol, congressional library and other places of interest. They called in a body on Congressman Connell to pay their respects. They will return tomorrow.

President of common council, P. F. Cahill and Mrs. Cahill are in Washington on the homeward.

YALE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

David Boies, of Scranton, Is Made Secretary at Annual Election.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 31.—The annual election of officers by the Yale University Football Association tonight, resulted in the choice of Allan Fox, of Detroit, Mich., 1902, as president and manager, to succeed Charles D. Francis, 1901. Other officers chosen were: Vice president, R. M. Ingham, 1903, of Philadelphia; assistant manager, Henry Chauncey Miller, 1904, of Birmingham, N. Y.; secretary, David Boies, 1904, of Scranton, Pa.

REPLY TO THE DUTCH NOTE

The Summary Published by the Associated Press Believed to Have Been Correct.

CONTENTS KEPT SECRET.

It Is Suggested That Boer Delegates Now in Europe Be Sent to Africa to Persuade the Burgers in the Field to Surrender—The Liberge Prints a Despatch from Dr. Leyds Which Indicates That There Is Still Fight in the Guerrillas of the Transvaal.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

London, Jan. 31.—The British reply to the Dutch note in regard to bringing about peace in South Africa was dispatched yesterday to The Hague. The contents of the note are kept strictly secret, as the first publication of the text is intended to be made in parliament Monday, February 2. The Associated Press has reason to believe, however, that its original summary of the Dutch communication was correct, with this addition, that the Dutch suggested that Vessels, Wolmarans and Fischer, the Boer delegates now in Europe, be permitted to go to South Africa in an endeavor to persuade the burgers in the field to surrender.

The war secretary, Mr. Brodrick, in introducing a supplementary army estimate of £5,000,000 in the house of commons today said this brought the total of the cost of the war for the present year up to £61,000,000. On January 1, Mr. Brodrick said there were still 257,500 British troops in South Africa. The expenses of the war had now been reduced to about £4,500,000 per month.

Dr. Leyds Hopeful.

Paris, Jan. 31.—The Liberte prints a dispatch from Brussels today which says that Dr. Leyds, the European agent of the Boers, recently received a communication from General Botha dated only five weeks ago in which the Boer commander-in-chief not only does not allude to his alleged desire for peace, but declares the Boers are sufficiently provisioned to continue the struggle hopefully and that the situation in Cape Colony is growing worse for the British.

The Temps' correspondent, in an interview with Dr. Leyds and Mr. Fischer at Brussels, regarding the powers of the Boer delegation in Europe, quotes them as saying:

"We are duly accredited by our governments and could begin negotiations at any moment, but we will do nothing decisive before consulting with the commanders and neither Steyn, nor Botha, nor any other leader will make a decision without consulting with the United States. It is not in the nature of a direct negative, though it is not unlikely that it will have that effect. While Lord Lansdowne probably leaves a loophole for further suggestions, he doubts the ability of the British to resist the demands of the countrymen, and there seems little likelihood that the Dutch government can secure guarantees, in regard to the powers of the Boer delegates, sufficient to induce Great Britain to accede to the original request."

RESPIRE FOR AARON HALL.

Desperate Efforts to Save the Life of a Convicted Murderer.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

New York, Jan. 31.—Aaron Hall, now confined in the death house in Sing Sing for the murder of Manie Brannen, a fellow inmate of the prison, who was to be electrocuted Monday morning next, was granted another respite today, through the application of his counsel to the United States circuit court.

Attorneys Gleost and Abraham Levy made an application to Judge Lacombe for a writ of habeas corpus, but it was denied. The court, however, allowed an appeal, which will act as a stay until the appeal can be heard by the United States Supreme court in Washington. It is said that this appeal will be based on the irregularity of the jury trying the case.

HOWARD SLOAN SENTENCED.

The Philadelphia Kidnapper Given Seven Years and Six Months.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Jan. 31.—Howard K. Sloan, who pleaded guilty yesterday to robbing Mabel Kearns, alias Mabel Goodrich, was today sentenced by Judge Sulzberger to an imprisonment of seven years and six months, and to pay a fine of \$500.

Knight Finley pleaded guilty of assisting in the robbery of Mrs. Goodrich and was sentenced to two years in the county prison. Henry Wallace and Oscar Dunlap, who are charged with conspiring with Sloan and Finley will stand trial.

SCHLEYS AT NASHVILLE.

The City in Holiday Attire in Honor of Their Arrival.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 31.—Admiral and Mrs. Schley are in holiday attire in honor of their arrival here. The train bearing them from Louisville was met at Bowling Green, Ky., by a committee of Nashville citizens. Nashville was reached at 8.50 p. m. The decorated union station was packed to suffocation with a mass of cheering humanity and an admiral's salute was fired from Capitol Hill as the train arrived, and bands in the station added to the noise when the distinguished visitors stepped from the car. The Admiral and Mrs. Schley were escorted to a carriage drawn by four white horses, and the start was made for the Danman hotel, where the visitors will stop while in Nashville. The streets were lined with enthusiastic throngs and at the hotel a large crowd was assembled. Acknowledging the shouts of welcome with bows and smiles, the visitors proceeded into the hotel and into their rooms, where they will spend a quiet evening preparatory to a busy day tomorrow. Along the route from Louisville it was the same at every station, crowds and cheers and flags.

RECEIVERSHIP FOR ZION LACE BUSINESS

Chicago Courts Puzzled by Arrangements of John Alexander Dowie and His Brother-in-Law.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—Judge Tuiley today ordered a receivership for the Zion Lace business, a brother-in-law of John Alexander Dowie, declared that Dowie's church, the Christian Catholic church, was a curious mixture of religion and business. He held that Stevenson had by undue influence, exerted by Dowie as head of the church, been led to turn over to Dowie practically everything he had in the world, and held that Stevenson was entitled to at least \$100,000 from Dowie, or the lace industries, which, he said, were practically the same thing.

"Undue influence" was the chief topic discussed by the judge in his decision. Dowie, he said, was unquestionably the superior of Stevenson, both in intellect and business ability. Dowie, he declared, was a religious zealot; Stevenson, a follower. Stevenson, he said, followed Dowie blindly. "They believed him the agent of the Almighty on earth, destined to build up cities of Zion in every country in the world. None was more influenced by the teachings of the sect than the reformed Elijah" than Stevenson.

It was the province of the court, he said, to protect the weak against the strong.

It was not clear just to what extent Stevenson had suffered monetary loss, owing to the peculiar arrangement between stockholders in the lace industries and Dowie. It was clear, however, that Stevenson was entitled to \$100,000 and also clear that the \$50,000 which Stevenson had turned over to his wife (now dead) and the latter had turned over to Dowie, could not be collected.

"The case needs more light," said the court. I have studied over it night and day for a month, yet on many points I am in the dark. There should be a further hearing."

The court directed that Attorney Reeves file an amended bill in order that the stockholders of the lace industries may be made parties to the suit. The decision being against the corporation it is necessary that the stockholders be present in court before a decree can be entered. The position of the stockholders, the court said, was not plain. The evidence showed that they had paid over \$400,000 for stock but that the transaction was of such a character that Dowie alone seemed to hold everything of value.

An amended bill and an amended answer will be filed by the parties to the suit Monday, when the decree appointing a receiver will be entered. Till then, by stipulation, Dowie is prevented from disposing of any more preferred stock. Dowie will pray for an appeal, and Judge Tuiley intimated that it would be granted, owing to the peculiar points of law involved, and the presence in the case of factors on which no law seemed to bear.

In discussing the bond for the receiver, Attorney Packard, acting for Dowie, declared that if the receiver was for all of Dowie property, he should require a bond of \$100,000,000. The court explained that only the lace industries were at present involved, and \$700,000 was agreed on.

"Doctor" Dowie positively refused to say anything about his plans, in view of Judge Tuiley's decision, and instructed his lawyer to say nothing for publication.

Entertained by Count Von Buelow.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Berlin, Jan. 31.—Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, Andrew B. White, United States ambassador here, and Mrs. White, John B. Jackson, secretary of the embassy, and Mrs. Jackson together with a large company were entertained at dinner tonight by Count Von Buelow, the imperial chamberlain.

Fell Down Twin Shaft.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Wilkes-Barre, Jan. 31.—Martin Ward, a stone mason employed at the Twin shaft of the Lehigh Valley Fuel company, fell from a hoisting shaft this morning. He fell down the shaft a distance of 300 feet and every bone in his body was broken.

MORGAN DISCUSSES PHILIPPINES TARIFF

PORTO RICAN THUGS TO BE GARROTED

Extenuating the Gang That Caused a Reign of Terror on the Island in 1895.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan. 31.—The sentencing by the district court of Ponce of five murderers to be garrotted some time next February unless the sentences be commuted to life imprisonment, has been questioned by the supreme court of the island. The papers in this case will reach Governor Hunt this week and a number of citizens are petitioning the governor's clemency in the matter. The supreme court may recommend clemency in which case it probably will be granted.

The men are members of a gang, five of whom were garrotted in Ponce in 1890. They committed crimes in the unsettled times of 1898. The men now under sentence robbed a house near Adjuntas, after having murdered, mutilated and murdered the inmates. Those executed in 1890 committed a similar crime near Yauco. The crimes of this gang have been particularly atrocious.

There is much opposition here to the enforcement of the death penalty but a bill introduced into the legislature abolishing this penalty was laid upon the table.

DISASTROUS BLAZE AT NORFOLK

The Atlantic Hotel a Heap of Ruins. Three Hundred Guests Aroused from Their Slumber.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 31.—A heap of smoking ruins is all that remains of the Atlantic hotel, the massive Columbia office building, which adjoined the hotel, the Albemarle flats and a block of stores in the center of the city. The conflagration, one of the greatest in the history of Norfolk, broke out shortly before 2 o'clock this morning, and when finally subdued minutes later the walls, worth of property had been destroyed. The loss is believed to be fully covered by insurance. The flames started in the Columbia building. The fire was first discovered at 1.55 o'clock this morning, and shortly afterward over 1000 gallons of water were thrown on the building, exploded with terrific force, tearing out the front wall. The firemen were driven back by the explosion, and before they could get a stream of water on the flames the entire building was aflame. About fifteen minutes later the north wall, which was seventy-five feet high, fell in, completely annihilating the home of the Virginia club, which adjoined the building on the north.

From the outset it was evident that the immense Atlantic hotel was doomed to a full destruction, its proprietor, personally made the rounds of the rooms and, aided by his assistants, aroused every guest in the building. To this is due the fact that, so far as is known, no life was lost, although about three hundred people were asleep in the hotel when the alarm was sounded. The little army of half-dressed men and women, refugees from the flames, eluded their way through the crowded streets. In their hands they carried such small belongings as they were able to save in their flight.

WADE AND DALTON HANGED.

Portland Murderers Retained Their Nerves on the Gallows.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 31.—Joseph Wade and B. H. Dalton were hanged in the county jail yard this forenoon, for the murder of James H. Morrow, November 14 last.

Both men retained their nerves. They were hanged for the murder of James H. Morrow, on November 14, whom they intended to rob. They met him on the street when daylight ordered him to throw up his hands. Morrow made a move as if to put his hands in his pockets, when he was shot dead.

Wade was born near Pittsburg, Pa., and Dalton at Atlanta, Ga.

Wade and his victim were both under 25 years of age, while Dalton was only 22.

Mrs. Van Keuren Released.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Vineland, N. J., Jan. 31.—Mrs. L. M. Van Keuren, who was arrested on Wednesday charged with arson in connection with the destruction of her store by fire, has been released by a justice of the peace of this place. She was arrested at the instance of the local commission and after a lengthy hearing which lasted until after midnight last night she was released by the justice on the ground of insufficient evidence.

AN Earnest Plea for the Establishment of a Home Government at Manila.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS RAISED

The Speaker Believes That the Estimate of the Filipinos for the United States Would Be Advanced if They Could Have a Delegate in Congress as in the Case of Hawaii. The House Will Defend Itself Against Invasion by Senate of Its Prerogative in the Matter of Revenue Legislation.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Jan. 31.—An extended speech on the pending Philippine tariff bill was delivered in the house today by Mr. Morgan of Alabama, who devoted particular attention to an amendment which he offered to the bill last week. He maintained that the enactment of the bill as it stands now would not be a constitutional remedy for the situation the measure is designed to relieve, but said that the adoption of his amendment the bill would stand the closest scrutiny of the courts. The Alabama senator did not discuss the political phases of the Philippine question, devoting his entire speech to a consideration of the legal and constitutional questions raised by the presentation of the tariff measure. He said he had not heard, as yet, any objection to the tariff that it is proposed to be laid and took it for granted that the tariff was just and necessary. He argued that congress had no constitutional authority to levy a discriminatory tariff either upon imports or exports between the United States and the Philippines.

"I believe in the doctrine of free trade in all parts of the United States, whether covered by the constitution, the flag, or both," he said, and contended that an export duty is plainly forbidden, even though, in case of the Philippines, the duty was levied here.

Speaking of the claims which have been made that there was no lawful government in the Philippines, Mr. Morgan, with great earnestness, said there is a government there, and he was glad to say, a very good government, suitable to the character of those people and circumstances in which he found them.

It would advance the estimate of the Filipinos for the United States if they could have a delegate in congress, as in the case of Hawaii, said Mr. Morgan. This, he thought, would be no violation of the constitution. Referring to the work of the Philippine commission, their personality and ability, he paid a tribute to the late President McKinley, who he said was the happiest man in the world in making selections of men for responsible positions, who always could be relied upon to do the right thing at the right time and in the right way.

Mr. Morgan pleaded for a government in the Philippines which could be prepared at all times to meet emergencies in accordance with the laws of the United States, because, he said, there may be a time when the Philippines are out from under the protection of this country. He urged the establishment of an executive department for the control of the islands.

In conclusion, Mr. Morgan said that he had purposely refrained from referring to any political phase of this question. He urged the adoption of his amendment, "but," he said, "if the bill stands as it is, and will break the uniformity of taxation in the Philippines, I shall feel that the constitution has been violated."

An hour and a half was devoted to consideration of a bill to increase the salaries of judges of United States courts, but no action was taken.

IN THE HOUSE.

The house today prepared to defend itself against what it considers the threatened invasion by the senate of its prerogative in the matter of revenue legislation by directing the ways and means committee to investigate the subject and report to the house its conclusions. The action of the house was the outgrowth of the agitation in the senate of the claim that retrograde treaties affecting the customs revenues can be negotiated without the concurrence of the house.

Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, sought to have the house adopt a declaration on the subject today without waiting for the senate to commit an overt act, but the majority leaders were opposed to hasty action and his resolution was referred to the ways and means committee.

A resolution offered by Mr. Dalzell (Pennsylvania), to make the oleomargarine bill a special order for Monday next, to continue until disposed of, was adopted.

Steamship Arrivals.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

New York, Jan. 31.—Cleared: Umbria, Liverpool; Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Hamburg—Amirald; Palatia, New York.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Forecast for Saturday and Sunday: Eastern Pennsylvania, snow or rain in south; snow in north; partial Saturday; Sunday cloudy; fresh westerly wind; no early winds.

Gold in the Treasury.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The amount of gold in the treasury today was \$342,676,305, the highest point ever reached in the history of the government.