

PLAN FIGHT IN THE \$1,000 CHECK CASE

Pair Accused of Trying to Defraud Banks Will Make Vigorous Defense To-morrow

MERCER SAID TO HAVE A RECORD

New York Detective Asserts He Is Man Who Got Thousands by "Ambulance Chasing"—Known to District Attorney Jerome

No case scheduled for trial in the Dauphin county court this week has attracted more outside attention than that of H. R. Mercer and Fred Le Brun, accused of false pretense, who will be called to-morrow to face charges brought by the Harrisburg police department.

The prosecution has gone to exceptional lengths in an endeavor to establish an unbroken chain of evidence around the men who, the police say, are as clever as any defendants who have ever been taken into custody here.

A witness from Jacksonville, Fla., will be placed on the stand, City Detective Ibach, having gone to Jacksonville to subpoena him last Friday.

This witness is an official of one of the two Jacksonville banks on which the police say, a check for \$1,000 was drawn and later deposited in a Harrisburg bank. This and another similar check were deposited in Harrisburg banks on Saturday morning, November 11. After banking hours on Saturday checks were drawn on those deposits by the two men, according to the police. Advice received from Jacksonville by the local banks on that day were to the effect that the \$1,000 checks were worthless. This information was given to the police and later the men were arrested in the Metropolitan Hotel, where they were stopping.

The defense will seek to prove, it was learned to-day, that the checks were deposited in good faith, the men not knowing that they were worthless. Two checks had been passed on Harrisburg merchants before the men were arrested, according to the police. Both men were subsequently held under \$3,000 bail by Mayor Royal. They were unable to obtain that amount of bail and have since been in the Dauphin county jail awaiting trial.

Look Into Mercer's History

Mercer, who gave his home as Wilmington, Del., has been active in his own behalf since he has been in jail, while his companion, Le Brun, a native Frenchman, on the contrary, has been morose and uncommunicative. A detainer and a bench warrant charging grand larceny have been forwarded.

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1915 AUTO TAGS NET \$583,103

Left to the Police Whether to Arrest Persons Who Delay Getting Them

It rests with the city police authorities whether those persons who have not yet been supplied with State automobile licenses and tags shall be halted and placed under arrest, according to statements made at the Capitol to-day. The Auto License Bureau of the State Highway Department has been working night and day to meet all applications and has cleaned its work up to date.

Inquiry was made as to whether, in the event of the license not being received an auto owner could use the old tag pending the arrival of a new one, and all such inquiries have been referred to the police authorities. It is thought that an extension of ten days will be granted in most cities.

Up to date there have been granted 45,313 permits for pneumatic tired autos; 4,566 for solid tires; 21 tractors; 60 trailers; 1,455 motorcycles; 14,967 drivers; 2,219 dealers; 3,872 operators and 69 transfers. There has been collected and paid into the State Treasury \$583,103, all of which will be applied to the good road fund.

"FORCE BAG" MAN ACCUSED

Seiferd, Who Figured in Will Fight Charged With Fortune Telling

On a criminal charge of practicing fortune telling and clairvoyance Harrison Seiferd, 1301 South Cameron street, alleged to be a spiritualist, to-day was heard by Alderman Murray.

The suit is being prosecuted by James G. Hatz, an attorney, who, in a civil action, is representing certain of the heirs of the late Martin Adams who charged the defendant with having induced Mrs. Adams to give him the bulk of her estate. During a recent argument regarding Mrs. Adams' will, before Register Danner, witnesses said that Seiferd sold "force bags," for which he claimed mysterious powers.

Boll Stockholders Elect

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Boll Manufacturing Company held this morning, officers were elected as follows: President, Charles S. Boll; vice presidents, Samuel Gardner and J. P. Melich; secretary, C. D. Rudy, and treasurer, W. A. Boll. These officers, including J. M. Peters, make up the board of directors.

CHIEF REPORTS SEVERAL DISORDERLY HOUSES HERE

Hutchison Says He Is Investigating Them—Liquor Sold in Clubs on Sundays, He Declares—Licensed Saloons Observe the Sunday Laws

Declaring he has information showing the existence of several disorderly houses in the city and that he now is conducting an inquiry regarding them, Joseph B. Hutchison, Chief of Police, in his quarterly report to the court, filed this morning, announced that he will expose the owners and lessees of these houses at the March term of criminal sessions.

The Chief refers to the houses as "places where couples can get rooms without question." He further reported that a number of hotels have "side rooms" where women are permitted to gather and obtain liquor and, he added, "this practice will tend to draw disreputable females and sooner or later will put such hotels in the class of disorderly houses."

Continuing, the Chief said that clubs furnish liquor to their members on Sunday, that liquor is furnished to voters on election days, but that those receiving it will not testify. He added: "I believe the licensed saloonkeepers all observe the Sunday laws."

George W. Charters, constable of the Second ward, complained in a report to the court that the contractors constructing the subway at Second and Mulberry streets have not provided a foot path at the point of the improvement, compelling pedestrians to walk in a roundabout way.

The Chief constable reported that a road one mile west of Gratz is not passable and its width is not sufficient to permit one team to pass another.

The road between Oberlin and Aticks avenue, in Swatara township, is in "bad shape," so the township constable reported.

SENATOR'S TEMPERATURE 104

Beidleman's Condition Causes Alarm—Precautions to Prevent Relapse

The condition of Senator E. E. Beidleman, of this city, who is suffering from a severe attack of grip, was reported this morning to be slightly improved. Hard work he did at the opening sessions of the Legislature resulted in his developing a severe cold and the grip attack followed, but nothing serious was anticipated until yesterday when a high fever set in and his temperature went up to 104, alarming those in attendance. His physicians have ordered him to remain in bed until there is absolutely no danger of a relapse.

Senator Beidleman is chairman of the Legislature committee arranging for the inauguration of Dr. Brumbaugh as Governor on January 19, but he had matters so well in hand before being taken ill that the arrangements are being worked out satisfactorily.

Federal Probe of High Wheat Prices

Chicago, Jan. 11.—Federal investigation into the present high price of wheat was to begin here to-day to determine whether speculation or attempted "food cornering" has had anything to do with the recent sensational rise in the market.

'OPTIUM QUEEN' IS SEIZED BY POLICE

Woman Taken From Her State Room as the Vessel Docks in New York To-day

Four new cases of diphtheria, making seven in all, including one fatality, have developed at the Dauphin county almshouse and the institution has been placed under strict quarantine. Only Steward Barber, who is following the health parole rules, is allowed to leave the institution. Women will not be admitted to the home and the fact that the patients have not come in contact with the male department is responsible for a ban not being placed on the admittance of men to the home.

The Authorities do Not Fear an Epidemic of the Disease among the 234 Inmates, although they are taking every precaution to prevent such a condition and to-day issued an order prohibiting the Grand Jury, now sitting at the January quarter sessions court, from making the regular quarterly inspection next Saturday.

Miss Beulah Weaver, one of the almshouse nurses, has fallen a victim to the disease. The other three new patients are inmates. Children of Charles Seibert, of Royaltown, were found to be suffering from the disease a day or so after constables found them half clothed and sent them to the almshouse.

FIRE AT MECHANICSBURG

Blaze Does \$400 Damage in Home of Dr. Dougherty

(Special to the Star-Independent.) Mechanicburg, Pa., Jan. 11.—Fire starting near the furnace in the cellar in the home of Dr. M. M. Dougherty, Keller and Frederick streets, at 1 o'clock this afternoon did considerable damage to the lower part of the house before the firemen subdued it. Smoke going through the upper floors of the dwelling added to the damage, which may reach \$400.

The blaze was confined to the cellar. Dr. Dougherty was nominated last week by President Wilson as postmaster for Mechanicburg.

Major Hart Again a Director

The Great Southern Lumber Company, a concern which has offices in this city and in which Harrisburg capital is invested but which operates in Louisiana and Mississippi, this morning re-elected all the old directors, one of whom is Major Lane S. Hart, of Harrisburg. G. M. Whitney, of this city, is secretary of the company. The late Congressman Martin E. Olmsted, it is understood, was largely interested in the corporation.

BRUMBAUGH'S OLD NEIGHBORS COMING

Huntingdon, His 'Home Town,' Will Send Big Marching Delegation to Inaugural Parade

THE INVITATIONS BEING MAILED

\$5,000 of Them Are Going Out From Here to All Parts of the State—Six Big Political Clubs Have Announced They Will Be in Line

High silk hats and black dress uniforms, gorgeous club badges, yellow canes and buff gloves will be very much in evidence when the political clubs that have signified their intention of participating in the parade get into line here on inauguration day, January 19. The committee on arrangements has thus far heard from six large political organizations that desire places in the line, and there will be more to report between now and next Saturday, or possibly Monday, when the official program, including the formation of the procession and the line of march, will be given out.

Philadelphia will send two, or possibly three clubs; Harrisburg will have two, West Chester one and Huntingdon one, but Pittsburg, Reading, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Lancaster are yet to be heard from and will very likely be represented by political marching organizations.

The South Philadelphia Brumbaugh Club will number 500 members and will be marshaled by Congressman William S. Vare. In its ranks, which will be headed by two bands of music, will be a number of political leaders of South Philadelphia, as well as State and city officials who are of their political existence to the Vares.

The North Philadelphia Brumbaugh Club will be marshaled by David H. Lane, Republican city chairman and one of the political veterans of the State. With him will march Senator McNichol and a number of State and city officials, as well as numerous prominent ward leaders. This club will also have two bands of music.

Plans of Harrisburg Clubs

The Harrisburg Republican Club will be headed by President Edward M. Householder, the marshal yet to be selected. The West End Republican Club will be headed by President Harrie A. Douglas, and will select a marshal at this week's meeting.

The West Chester Republican Club will be accompanied by a band of forty pieces and a pioneer corps of fifty men. It will be marshaled by T. Larry Evers, former Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings.

The Huntingdon club will be com-

Continued on Sixth Page.

MORE ALMSHOUSE DIPHTHERIA

One of the Nurses Now Stricken—Grand Jury's Visit Banned

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I SHOULD WORRY.

CHIEF IS THE 'B'WANO TUMBO

Hutchison Dispatches 'Pomsum With One Shot After Coppers Fail to Bag Animal

Chief of Police Hutchison is the champion 'pomsum hunter on the Harrisburg police force. His men having tried repeatedly to land one which was feasting on the chickens in the coop of Augustus Beck, Bens and Myrtle streets, the chief decided to try his hand.

For seventeen years the chief has qualified as a marksman in the National Guard and now that he is a colonel he has not fallen away in his marksmanship, so what chance had the poor little 'pomsum when the Colonel decided to go hunting?

The 'pomsum did not know what mighty hunter was on its trail yesterday morning and continued to munch a stolen fowl, all unmindful of the head the 'B'wano Tumbo of Harrisburg was talking on him. The end was quick and painless, one shot from a shiny thirty-eight directed by the steady hand of the Colonel of Eighth, dispatched the marauder to 'pomsum heaven.

VILLA ATTACKS MONTEREY?

Believed to Have Begun at Noon To-day After Operators Desert Telegraph Office in That City

Laredo, Tex., Jan. 11.—An attack by Villa troops upon Monterey is believed to have begun about noon to-day. At 11 o'clock the operators at Monterey deserted the telegraph office there.

Since the defeat of the constitutionalists numbering 15,000 under General Villareal before Saltillo early yesterday, Villa troops have been reported to be making a rapid advance toward Monterey.

MRS. ROGERS TO BE INDICTED

Case of Woman Who Killed Children to Go Before Grand Jury

New York, Jan. 11.—District Attorney Francis Martin, of Bronx county, announced last night that he will go before the Grand Jury to-day with a demand for indictment of murder against Mrs. Ida Sniffen Walters, who called herself Mrs. Rogers, after leaving her husband for Loryls Elton Rogers, the Park Row lawyer, and who gave poison to their 8-month-old daughter, Lorida, and their two-and-a-half-year-old son, John.

Mrs. Walters is confined in a private room in LeBaron hospital, where she is held pending complete recovery from the poison she swallowed after giving doses of it to her babies.

Wheat Comes Down With a Crash

Chicago, Jan. 11.—Wheat came down to-day with a crash. Prices broke 5 1/2 cents a bushel under general selling due to rumors that one of the forts guarding the Dardanelles had been demolished by the warships of the allies. May wheat here sold as low as \$1.33 1/2 after having been up to \$1.39 1/2 earlier in the session.

STEELTON EXHIBIT OFF FOR 'FRISCO

176 Large Packing Cases, Filling 2 Cars, Contain Products of Penna. Steel Co.

One hundred and seventy-six large packing cases, which fill two large freight cars, contain the material to be used by the Pennsylvania Steel Company, of Steelton, in making an exhibit of its products at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, and are now speeding across the continent to San Francisco.

This exhibit, in connection with that to be made by the Maryland Steel and the Cambria Steel Companies, will be housed in block 19 of the Transportation Building, which consists of two long wings, and forms part of the square facing the Court of Honor. The local company and the Maryland Steel Company will utilize a floor space of 1,772 square feet, while the Cambria's allotment of room consists of 672 square feet.

William Hendersoh, assistant superintendent of the frog shop of the Steelton plant of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, had charge of planning the exhibit, which will consist of practically everything manufactured at the big plant, either in samples or photographs exquisitely mounted in handsome red Russian leather albums. Hundreds of photographs have been taken and mounted. After being numbered they will be shipped to San Francisco.

Of the finished products of the local company to be used in the show are the following: Design 177, Mannard

Continued on Ninth Page.

SEARCH FOR HARRISBURGER

Say Man Who Dynamited York House Resided in This City

Policemen of three counties were engaged to-day in a search for King Brown, said to be a resident of Harrisburg, who is wanted in York charged with dynamiting a two and a half story house in the east end of that city about 1 o'clock this morning. Eleven negroes of the family of G. W. Wood were in the house which was literally ripped to pieces, but all miraculously escaped with but slight hurts.

Brown's latest address furnished to the chief of police of York is 142 South street, Harrisburg. His wife, who made her home with Wood, said that her husband threatened to blow her to pieces because she would not live with him. The local police have been furnished with his description and are making a search throughout the city.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

Official accounts of the fighting in the west from Berlin and Paris to-day show that comparative calm prevails except at a few points. Even in upper Alsace and in the Argonne, where there have been violent encounters, recently, activity has slackened. Near Soissons and in the vicinity of Perthes, however, spirited engagements are in progress.

The German War Office admits that the French have captured trenches north of Soissons, toward the western end of the battle line, but states that further onslaughts were repulsed. The French announcement says two more lines of trenches covering 500 yards of the front, have been occupied. There is a similar disparity of statements concerning the progress of the fighting near Perthes, which has assumed importance because the prize at stake is control of railroads of high strategic value.

The French communication states that 200 yards of German trenches were seized while the German authorities say that positions won by their opponents were retaken.

Although further progress is being made in the advance toward Warsaw to the west, according to the German announcement, the movement is slow on account of bad weather. London suggests that the inactivity of the al-

HATCHETS THAT CUT INTO IRON

Racks, Such as Are Used in Panama Canal, Are Among Features to Appear in Local Plant's Booth at Big Exposition

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Continued on Ninth Page.

GERMANS GET TRENCHES IN FRANCE AND INFLECT HEAVY LOSSES ON ALLIES

Berlin, By Wireless to London, Jan. 11, 3:15 P. M.—Recounting the progress of the war the daily official statement issued by the German army headquarters announces that to-day in an engagement near Perthes, on the center of the battle line in France, the Germans have recaptured the parts of some trenches which had been stormed by the French and that the Germans inflicted heavy losses on their opponents.

German successes are claimed in the Argonne region and the statement also reports that French attacks at LaBoisselle and at a point north of Soissons were repulsed. Unfavorable weather continues to hinder the military operations in Russian Poland, though the Germans claim to be making progress slowly in the direction of Warsaw. The text of the communication follows:

"In the western theatre: At Neuport and at Ypres and south the only artillery combats have taken place. A French attack at LaBoisselle, in the northeast of Albert, failed completely. "North of Soissons the French, who had established themselves in a small section of our outer trenches, attacked afresh but so far they have gained no successes. The battle continues. In the neighborhood of Soupir (east of Vailly) no fighting has taken place during the last few days.

"To the east of Perthes our troops have recaptured the portion of our trenches which the enemy had taken. In this engagement, heavy losses were inflicted on the French. In the Argonne forest our attacks have made further progress. In Upper Alsace the situation is tranquil.

"In the eastern war arena: In East Prussia and in North Poland, the situation remains the same. On account of unfavorable weather our attacks in Poland, to the west of the Vistula river, are making slow progress."

RUMANIA IS READY WITH 600,000 MEN

Increasing Indications of Her Early Participation in the Great European War

DIFFICULTIES ARE OVERCOME

Requisite Supplies for the Equipment and Provisioning of the Rumanian Army Have Been Forwarded to That Country by the Allies

By Associated Press.

London, Jan. 11, 1:27 P. M.—There are increasing indications of the early participation of Rumania in the war, thus bringing into play another party to the combination against the Teutonic powers contemplated by Great Britain, France and Russia.

Difficulties confronted the allies in the earlier stages of the war in furnishing munitions, equipment and other necessities of war beyond those required for their own immediate needs. These difficulties now have been surmounted, and the obstacle which hitherto has blocked full Rumanian mobilization has been removed with the arrival in that country of the requisite supplies for the equipment and provisioning of the 600,000 men which she is able to put into the field. Arrangements have been completed also for the financing of these operations.

Lack of stirring battles The lack of stirring battles at the present stage is attributed by British commentators largely to the determination of the allied commanders to content themselves with holding their present positions until the projected ring of armies is considered sufficiently strong to strike a blow which they hope will prove decisive.

The British idea that operations up to the present are only preparatory to big events fits in with a bit of gossip now heard here. It is to the effect that Lord Kitchener, when asked concerning the probable duration of the war said: "I don't know when it will end, but I do know when it will begin, and that is in the month of May."

Real Crisis Next Summer

The opinion is expressed in some quarters, however, that the inauguration of more general movements will be on an earlier date than is generally expected, although persons in close touch with the army believe that the real crisis will not be reached until summer.

Russia is still sending enormous

Continued on Fifth Page.

HEAVY LOSSES REPORTED IN EAST AFRICAN BATTLE

Berlin, Jan. 11.—The official press bureau publishes the following:

"The 'Morgen Post' prints details of a recent British attack on Tanga, German East Africa, which apparently emanated from the German Colonial office. The first landing of 8,000 British and Hindus was repulsed by the Germans, who numbered about 200, the British losing 6,000 killed or wounded. The British attacked the next day with reinforcements, but again were defeated with a loss of 3,000. They then re-embarked and sailed for Mombasa."

GERMAN FLEET HELD READY FOR DASH TO SEA, REPORT

Paris, Jan. 11.—According to the Copenhagen correspondent of the 'Temps,' the entire German high sea fleet is massed at Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven ready to sail forth and meet the British dreadnoughts.

Kiel port is absolutely denuded of first class vessels, and only a few obsolete vessels remain in the harbor, says the correspondent.

DOZEN GERMAN AEROPLANES DROP BOMBS ON DUNKIRK

Paris, Jan. 11.—A dispatch to the Havas agency from Dunkirk says that a dozen German aeroplanes bombarded Dunkirk and its vicinity yesterday.

Thirty bombs were thrown by the airmen, but owing to the precautions that had been taken there were few victims. The material damage was unimportant.

WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, Jan. 11.—Speculation showed increasing breadth in the final hour and the inquiry for standard stocks became more general. Maxwell Motors first pfd. and International Harvester gained five points each. The closing was strong. With little interruption to-day's stock market moved steadily forward. Gains ranged from 1 to 2 points in the leaders, to considerably more in the specialties.