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all our customers to know that we will place on sale commencing Monday, Feb. 19th a special brew of

BOCK BEER

YOU will miss a rare treat if you fail to order a case of this delicious beverage. Telephone your order NOW. Same price.

STEGEMAN BREWING CO., SAYRE, PA.

HANG "BLUEBEARD."

Johann Hoch Executed With Christ's Words on His Lips.

UNIQUE BIGAMIST AND MURDERER.

Counsel Fought For Life Until Executed. Married Fifty Women, Many of Whom He Poisoned After Seizing Their Estates.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Johann Hoch, bigamist and wife murderer, was hanged in the county jail here and proved to be the subject of the most dramatic execution ever performed in this city.

For nearly four hours before Hoch stepped on the gallows his lawyers fought with might and main in the state and federal courts to delay the execution.

Hoch walked upon the scaffold quietly and stood directly under the noose with heels together and head erect, like a soldier on parade. He was pale, but composed and full of courage.

Rev. Mr. Burkland was steadily reciting the prayers for the dying when Deputy Sheriff Peters asked Hoch to step back upon the trap. He took two



JOHANN HOCH.

steps quickly, glanced down to see if he was in the proper place and then turned his face to the deputy sheriff. "Do you want to say something?" asked Deputy Sheriff Peters, and Hoch replied, "Yes."

Mr. Burkland was still reciting the prayer, and Jailer Whitman held out his hand to silence him. Hoch then said in a strong voice:

"Father, forgive them. They know not what they do. I must die an innocent man. Goodbye."

He chopped off the words in a short, incisive manner, and before his voice was silenced the drop fell.

Dr. McNamara, the county physician, declared Hoch died instantaneously, the neck being broken.

Rev. J. H. Burkland, one of Hoch's spiritual advisers, said later that Hoch had confessed, "Did he confess to the murder?" he was asked.

The clergyman hesitated and then answered, "Well, he said that he had been a bigamist and a very wicked man."

Hoch's fight for life as the minutes slipped by and the hands of the clock crept to the hour when he was doomed unless the courts should interfere was the most dramatic ever known. Business was practically suspended in the downtown section of the city while the lawyers for the condemned man raced back and forth between the federal building and the county jail.

Hoch bade an affectionate farewell to his wife, Mrs. Emilie Fischer-Hoch, his last wife, who has stuck to him through the trial and condemnation, at an early hour.

There have been criminals who made murder a fine art and burglars who have safe cracking and house breaking down to science. Johann Hoch was a cleverer kind of criminal. He made a business of preying upon gullible and foolish women, particularly widows, whom he induced to marry him. He then got hold of their property and afterward deserted them. He was the record bigamist of modern times, and the annals of criminology in America do not contain the record of such another. It has been estimated that fully fifty women fell victims to his wiles. Only Johann Hoch himself knew the exact number.

With his cunning the man mixed murder, choosing with cunning calculation arsenic as the best means of getting his burdensome mates out of the way and preventing discovery.

Hoch was born in Germany and has always been reticent regarding his career in this country, and his first wife married in the United States is believed to have been Mrs. Martha Steinbrecher, to whom he was married in 1895. After living with Hoch for four months she died, the cause of death being given as nephritis. In November, 1895, he married Mary Rankin in this city and left her the day after the wedding because she refused to give him money. In April, 1896, Hoch married Martha Hertzfeld and left her in four months after obtaining from her \$600. His next wife is said to have been Mary Hoch of Wheeling, W. Va. She died of nephritis after three months.

In the fall of 1894 Hoch married Clara Bartell of Cincinnati, and she died within three months of the marriage. In January, 1897, he was married to Julia Dose in Hamilton, O., and abandoned her after obtaining \$700.

In November, 1901, he married Mrs. Anna Goebke of Chicago, but abandoned her after failing to obtain any money from her. April 8, 1902, he married in St. Louis Mrs. Mary Becker, who died early in 1903. Her relatives have claimed that she was poisoned.

Dec. 15, 1904, Hoch was married to

Mrs. Marie Weicker, a widow of this city, the woman for whose murder he was condemned. Dec. 23 the woman became ill and Jan. 21 she died. The cause of death being stated in the physician's certificate as nephritis. Five days later Hoch married Mrs. Emilie Fischer, a sister of Mrs. Weicker-Hoch. He obtained \$750 from her and disappeared. Jan. 19 the last Mrs. Hoch reported to the police the disappearance of her husband. Suspicion was aroused by her story, and the body of Mrs. Weicker-Hoch was exhumed and 7.6 grains of arsenic were found in the stomach. Search was made for Hoch, and he was finally discovered and arrested in New York.

A unique feature of the Hoch case is that his attorneys declare that the appeal will be continued and made final to the supreme court of the United States. If it is there decided that Hoch at the time of his execution still possessed the right of appeal, proceedings of a criminal nature, the lawyers declare, will be instituted against all the public officers who had anything to do with his execution.

MILITIA GUARD PRISONER.

A Short Shift For Coleman, Alleged Murderer, If Convicted.

SHREVEPORT, La., Feb. 24.—The situation here in the trial of Coleman, the alleged negro murderer, is quite a contrast to what it was when a mob formed in the west end of the city, making an unsuccessful attempt to stop a special train bearing soldiers ordered here from Leesville.

The trial of the negro began this morning, and there will be no delay. Four military companies guarded the negro when he was taken to and from the courthouse, and all persons were searched for weapons before being allowed to enter the courtroom.

Governor Blanchard is here, and strong pressure is being brought to bear to have the governor sign the death warrant for the immediate execution of Coleman on conviction of killing a white girl here.

How Middy Welsh Was Made Tailor.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 24.—The congressional committee which is investigating the subject of leasing at the Naval Academy had before it as witnesses Lieutenant Commanders E. C. Decker and H. A. Wiley, officers of the department of discipline at the academy; Medical Director James C. Byrnes and a number of midshipmen, including Archibald H. Douglas, president of the third class, and Luther Welsh, the latter being the young man who submitted to a stretching process in order to attain the height necessary to admission to the academy.

Four Torn to Pieces by Giant Powder.

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., Feb. 24.—Joe Drado, foreman of the gang, and three other Italians were killed near Rock, W. Va., by the explosion of a can of giant powder. The men were literally torn to pieces by the force of the explosion. Drado, who was closest to the prematurely discharged blast, had his head blown entirely off. The victims were preparing a blast when from some unknown cause the can from which they were using powder became ignited. That more men were not killed is miraculous.

For "God, Freedom and Immortality."

BOSTON, Feb. 24.—At the annual convention here of the New Thought association, Charles Brodie Patterson of New York presiding, a committee reported that the name of the organization be changed to the New Thought Metaphysical Alliance and that in employing the Kant's famous dictum, "God, freedom and immortality," be used in conjunction to describe more adequately what the body stands for.

Steator's Five Millions Left to Family.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—John B. Steator, the millionaire hat manufacturer, who died on Sunday last at his winter home in Deland, Fla., made no provisions in his will for the University at Deland, which he founded and which bears his name, or any of the charities in which he had been interested. The will divides his entire estate, estimated at \$5,000,000, among the members of his family.

Miscellaneous Want an Appropriation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Missouri delegation in congress accepted Senator Warner, who is in Kansas City, were the guests at dinner last night of the delegation of the St. Louis Business Men's league who came to initiate a movement for larger appropriations for river development in the Mississippi valley. The delegation is headed by Mayor Wells of St. Louis.

Funeral of Judge Parkhurst at Bath.

BATH, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Simple funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Charles Noble Frost at the Presbyterian church here for the late Supreme Court Justice John F. Parkhurst. All business places in Bath were closed during the funeral, and the flag at the Soldiers' home was displayed at half mast. The interment was in Grove cemetery.

Mine Explosion at Dillonvale, O.

STUEBENVILLE, O., Feb. 24.—A fierce fire resulting from a black damp explosion is burning in the No. 2 mine of the Western and Lake Erie Coal Mining company at Dillonvale. It is feared that several men may have become victims of the explosion.

Dewey at Las Palmas For Republic.

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands, Feb. 24.—The giant dry dock Dewey, in harbor here, encountered heavy weather in the vicinity of the island of Bermuda, resulting in strains. It is in the intention that the dry dock shall remain here a fortnight for overhauling and repairing.

CONGRESS AROUSED

Interstate Commissioners to Probe Railroad Rates.

WORSE THAN OLD DAY BRIGANDAGE

Hillman-Gillespie Resolution For Prompt Action Agreed to in the House-Senate Reports Republican Rate Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Preceded by a debate which indicated no hesitancy, but rather a relish in taking action against alleged railroad combinations, the house agreed without opposition to the Tillman-Gillespie resolution directing the interstate commerce commission to make an immediate inquiry and report regarding alleged restraints of trade on the part of certain railroads in the handling of coal and oil.

Mr. Grosvenor (O.) characterized it as a rebuke to the recent "puerile" report which had been made by a certain railroad official. Mr. Gillespie (Tex.) said if half he had heard was true the commercial brigandage of today put entirely in the shade the holdup man of the frontier days. Mr. Townsend (Mich.), who presented the resolution from the committee, discussed the conditions which, in his opinion, made it a necessity.

The only note of apprehension was from Mr. Mann (Ill.), who called attention to the law which exempts from prosecution persons who may testify in the inquiry. In this manner, he said, the guilty officials, if any such were found, might be able to escape punishment. It was explained that the resolution in no way changed the existing law on this point, and the belief was expressed that in making the inquiry the commission would exercise discretion in getting its information from sources which would not exempt possibly guilty parties.

The house devoted the remainder of the day to minor matters and passed several bills, among which was the famous Mussel Shoals dam bill, which was before the house from the president, who returned it with suggestions from the secretary of war as to amendments. The bill permits the creation of an immense water power on the Tennessee river in Alabama and has been pending before congress for several years.

By a vote of 5 to 5 the senate committee on interstate commerce agreed to report the Hepburn railroad rate bill without amendment, but the resolution adopted reserved to the members of the committee freedom of action concerning amendments offered in the senate. By a vote of 5 to 3, Republicans prevailing, Senator Tillman, a Democrat, was given the honor of reporting the bill.

Strike Coming, Says Robbins.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 24.—Francis L. Robbins, chairman of the Pittsburgh Coal company and leader of the bituminous coal operators, declared upon his arrival from New York that he could see no probability of averting a coal strike in the bituminous coal regions. Mr. Robbins said he had met President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers of America in New York, but not for the purpose of considering a settlement of the differences between the bituminous operators and miners.

Woman's Body Taken From Thames.

NEW LONDON, Conn., Feb. 24.—The body of a middle aged woman who registered at a hotel here Tuesday morning as I. Smith of New York city was picked up in the waters of the Thames river near the Groton shore, near here. She complained of being ill at the hotel and later asked for work. The woman had little money and no baggage. It is thought that she committed suicide, but the police are investigating.

New York to Have Eighty Cent Gas.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The state commission of gas and electricity filed an order fixing the maximum rate at which the Consolidated Gas company of New York shall sell its gas to its consumers for three years from May 1, 1906, at 80 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, "such gas to be of twenty-two candle power and of a purity and pressure now established by law."

Russia Suspends Gold Payments.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 24.—Paper rubles are being issued, the banks having suspended payment in gold. The Russian says that the Orenburg and Taubkend railway, which was opened to traffic last year, has been sold by the Russian government to an American syndicate. The price paid for the line is said to be 400,000,000 rubles (\$200,000,000).

Mrs. Tucker Not Poisoned.

MOULTRIE, Ga., Feb. 24.—Dr. Harris and Daniel, who conducted the post mortem examination in the case of Mrs. E. W. Tucker, have reported that they found no poison in the stomach. It was alleged that she had been poisoned by her husband to secure life insurance, and under this charge Tucker has been in jail here ten days.

Vanderbilt Auto Caught Italian Boy.

FLORENCE, Italy, Feb. 24.—W. K. Vanderbilt is detained at Pontedera, a town of 13,000 inhabitants, on the road to Pisa, having had an automobile accident in the street, by which a boy was injured. The boy is not seriously hurt.

Walker to Succeed Chester.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Rear Admiral Ass Walker will succeed Rear Admiral C. M. Chester as superintendent of the naval observatory at Washington when the latter retires from the active list of the navy on the 28th inst.

NEW ENGLAND BENCH SHOW.

New York Bred Best Native Bull-dog in the Union.

BOSTON, Feb. 24.—The judging of the Irish terriers held the chief interest at the bench show of the New England Kennel club. The feature of the judging was the double defeat of Rev. Father O'Gorman's Celtic Badger by G. S. Thomas' Endicuffe Ignite in the classes for Irish terriers. Until his appearance at the New York dog show recently Celtic Badger had never met defeat, and his appearance here resulted in more than ordinary interest in the Irish terrier classes.

In the class for whippets the Bay View kennels took six out of seven prizes, the only other winner in this class being Miss Anna B. Lewis' Land-downe Holyat Rosalie. The Red Brook kennels took all the prizes offered for poodles. There was a big field of French bulls, and the Nellcote kennels carried away four prizes with Nellcote Gamin and Nellcote Lovette.

In the special classes for collies all of the eight prizes offered went to Samuel Utemyner's Greystone kennels of Youkers, N. Y.

Baron, owned by E. D. Walsh of New York, carried off the medal offered for the best bulldog born and bred in the United States, and Thomas W. Lawson's Dreamworld Miss Monarch captured the medal for the best bitch born and bred in the United States.

Mangeth Jumped Ninety-four Feet.

MARQUETTE, Mich., Feb. 24.—By a score of 313 points and on a soft and sticky course Ole Feiring of Duluth won first prize from a field of eighty contestants at the national ski jumping tournament at Japensund, Second prize went to Ole Mangeth, Red Wing, Minn., 312 points, and third prize went to Carl Jacobson, St. Paul, 290 points. The highest jump was made by John Mangeth of Duluth, ninety-four feet, which is twelve feet over the American record. Of the fifteen prizes and trophies Minnesota took eleven.

Lawn Tennis at New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Edwin P. Fisher of the West Side Lawn Tennis club of this city and Wylie C. Grant of the New York Lawn Tennis club remain in the final match for the indoor tennis championship, Grant defeating T. B. Peil and Fisher disposing of H. L. Westfall. In the doubles Grant and Irving C. Wright of Boston, the pair which won the international tournament at Hamburg, Germany, two years ago, defeated Fisher and Hugh Tallant in straight sets.

Radke Smashed World's Record.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 24.—Jockey Herman Radtke by winning four races here smashed the world's record for winning mounts during a week. The record first belonged to Tod Sloane, who rode eighteen winners in one week, then to Eugene Hildebrand, who rode twenty. Radtke's record for the week is twenty-one winning mounts. The officials have now secured full evidence that the horse registered as The Rake is a ringer.

Columbia Outplayed Princeton.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Columbia easily outplayed Princeton at basket ball last night in the Columbia university gymnasium, winning by the score of 32 to 13. Princeton showed little team work and made only four points to Columbia's twenty in the first half. Vanderbilt's individual playing accounted largely for Princeton's increased score in the second half.

Three Hot Favorites Won.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Three hot favorites captured the honors in the first half of the card at Oakland. A surprise came in the fourth, when Canajo after several unsuccessful attempts finally won a purse of \$18 to \$1. Nine Spot came from away back in the fifth race, caught Jack Full tiring and won.

A Mixup at Ascot.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 24.—Several horses got in a jam at the stretch line in the last race at Ascot, and two jockeys were thrown and severely hurt. Hurdling on Pinta and Landon on Rubiana were the victims of the accident. Short priced horses took four of the six races.

Best Gown Led the Field.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 24.—At City park The Glean and Morn, both of which scored easily, were the winning favorites. The Only Way was heavily favored in the fifth race but Bert Oram made a show of the field.

Racing at Fair Grounds Track.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 24.—Winifred A. Laucrastran and Southern Cross were the successful favorites at the Fair grounds. Sir Francis II. pulled up lame after his race.

Two Cents a Mile Soon.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 24.—It is announced that on the 1st of April the maximum rate of 2 cents a mile on the Berkshire division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company will go into effect upon the Naugatuck, the Northampton and the Highland divisions also. The reduction from the old rate of about 2 1/2 cents a mile will apply to all the branch lines of those divisions.

War on Gambling at Benning Track.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Two bills designed to prevent bookmaking at the Benning race track were introduced, one by Representative Acheson (Pa.) and the other by Representative Dallsell (Pa.), by request.

Fire Disaster in Japan.

TOKYO, Feb. 24.—A fire in the town of Taira, sixty miles southeast of Fukuoka, has destroyed 600 houses and caused the death of thirty-seven persons.

CHINESE BOYCOTT

Former Minister of Flowery Kingdom Favors It.

"SENSIBLE MEN ARE FEW; I AM ONE"

China Has Been Deprived of Many Rights by Foreign Governments Because It Is Weak-Eye of Great Changes.

PEKING, Feb. 24.—Wu Ting Fang, former Chinese minister to the United States, when interviewed for the first time on the existing situation in China, spoke in support of the anti-American boycott. He said:

"China is at a crisis and is passing through a transition stage. Her statesmen and people feel that China needs



WU TING FANG.

reform, but there are great differences of opinion regarding the means. There are several classes of reformers. There are those who speak foreign languages and who have been abroad and who have had experience on both sides of the question.

"They favor sensible and useful reforms, but not too radical, so as to make China first able to stand upon her own feet. The number of these sensible reformers is few. I am one of them.

"The ruling classes also know that something should be done, but they are at their wits' end to know what to do. "The third class is composed of young students who are too rash. They need training and experience.

"Financial reforms should be carried out in the first place, but without foreign advice and capital it would be impossible to do so under present conditions.

"I was working out a scheme which had to be abandoned because it was necessary to call on foreign advice. The new coinage is a stop gap.

"One thing upon which the majority of Chinese are agreed is that China has been deprived of many rights by concessions and territorial grants and by the way her people have been treated by foreigners in China and foreign countries.

"Many Chinese who have gone abroad to America, Australia and the Philippines write home complaining of arbitrary discriminations made against the Chinese which dare not be attempted against other foreigners. Therefore every one is angry, and hence the boycott of American goods, illustrating the feeling against the unjust exclusion laws.

"It has spread over all China and is solely in retaliation against unjust discrimination and is not anti-foreign. The Chinese people and officials are on good terms with all foreigners and have no hostile feeling toward them."

Japan Has Cautioned China.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The secretary of state has received a telegram from Mr. Rockhill, minister to China, stating that he and his colleagues see no cause for undue apprehension concerning the situation in China. Mr. Rockhill says the Chinese government appreciates the importance of preventing hostility toward foreigners and that it has recently been cautioned by Japan in this respect.

Electoral Board Has Resigned.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 24.—Ferdinand Ebel, president of the electoral board of the city of Richmond, submitted the resignation of that body as a whole to the clerk of the Hustling court in the absence of Judge Witt. It is rumored that the board became offended at the allegations made against it just after the last election, when an investigation was called for by William L. Royall.

Richard Mansfield to Retire in 1906.

BOSTON, Feb. 24.—Richard Mansfield, through his manager, has authorized the statement that he had formulated plans for retiring from the stage. It is Mr. Mansfield's intention to play three more seasons, ending his theatrical career in the spring of 1906. Mr. Mansfield is a comparatively young man, being less than fifty years old.

Received Gratitudes From Banks.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 24.—County Treasurer E. J. Hyndman has received about \$20,000 in gratuities for deposit of public funds from various banks, according to his testimony before the commission appointed by the state senate to investigate the public offices of Cincinnati and Hamilton county.

Wilhelm Gerstke Resigns.

BOSTON, Feb. 24.—Wilhelm Gerstke has resigned his post as conductor of the Boston Symphony orchestra. His resignation will take effect at the end of this season, the twenty-fifth of the organization.

President Van Duser Dead.

WAVERLY, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Richard D. Van Duser, Sr., president of the American Basket and Manufacturing company, is dead here.

Weather Probabilities.

Rain and colder; south winds.

SATURDAY SPECIALS

Dress Goods

New 65c Sicilians, 46 in., extra heavy and rich, lustrous colors, black, brown, red, green and navy. Regular price 65c, Saturday and Monday 49c.

White Waistings

New spring styles, yarn mercerized and warranted to retain their lustre, worth 25c, Saturday and Monday 18c.

Our Linen Sale

Occurs but once a year. Buy your supplies now. General reductions throughout exactly as advertised.

Regular \$1 Bleached Damask

72 in. pure flax, sale price... \$.88
Regular 75c..... .68
" 55c..... .48
" 75c silver bleached 72 in. .68
" 65c..... .72 in. .58
" 55c..... .64 in. .48
Napkins, Towels and Sets reduced in proportion.

Towelings

14c bleached 18 in. all linen... .12
12 1/2c..... .11
10c..... .09
12 1/2c unbleached, 21 in. .11
11c..... .20 in. .10
10c..... .19 in. .09
9c..... .19 in. .08
8c..... .17 in. .07
7c..... .18 in. 20% linen..... .06

White Quilts

\$1.35 quality, full size, free from starch and hemmed ready for use..... 1.18
\$1.25..... .98
\$1.00..... .88

Corset Covers

20c kind, lace trimmed and made of good, firm muslin, very special while they last... .12
25c and 37c kinds, better than last season, beautifully trimmed with lace, beading and ribbon..... .23