LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH

Domestic

Samuel P. Shane, freight traffic manager of the Erie Railroad, with headquarters in New York, has been appointed general manager of the Gilchrist Transportation Company, of Cleveland.

Hary Gilmore, 70 years old, who has spent 36 years in prison, according to the police records, received a sentence of eight years in the Hudson County Court of Sessions in Jersey City.

The City Council at Port Arthur, Tex., gave to John W. Gates, on his request, two plots of grounds, on one of which is to be erected a coeducational college to cost $100,000.

The Empire Theater, now under lease to Charles Frohman, was sold under the hammer, together with three other buildings on Broadway, New York, for $850,000 to Al Hayman.

The Fort View Hotel, of Winchester, Ky., was destroyed by fire, and a body, supposed to be that of H. L. Eals, an employe of the Burley Tobacco Society, was found in the ruins.

Hussein Kiazim Bey, the first ambassador appointed by the Turkish government to the United States, was a passenger on the steamer Oceanic, which arrived at New York.

Miss Nellie O'Donnell, a former cashier for the Schwarzchild & Sulzberger Beef and Provision Company, Kansas City, Mo., was arrested on a charge of embezzling $4,000.

The American Locomotive Company has purchased a plot of 130 acres of land at Gary, Ind., from the Gary Land Company, a subsidiary company of the United States Steel Corporation, and plans are being drawn for a new plant, which officers of the locomotive company say will be the most complete and best equipped locomotive works in the world.

Charles O. Wagner, reported to have become engaged to marry Mrs. Florence Maybrick, who was convicted in England on the charge of poisoning her husband and sentenced to life imprisonment, and who since her release has been lecturing in the United States, denies that he is to marry Mrs. Maybrick.

Miss Bridget King, of Newark, N. J., surrendered herself to the police of that city on a charge of aiding in the abduction of Juliet Testa, the 17-year-old daughter of Pasquale Testa, it is alleged, by Rev. Father Nicholas Siani, a curate of St. Rocco's Catholic Church, of Newark.

Anselm R. Manning, hero of the Younger and James brothers' raid of Northfield, Minn., 31 years ago, dropped dead of heart disease. When the raiders began shooting Manning took a gun from his hardware store and wounded Cole Younger and shot Bill Stiles through the heart.

The special grand jury sworn in on Monday by Justice Dowling returned an indictment against the S'ar Company, publisher of William R. Hearst's New York American, charging criminal libel.

George J. L. Wolff, Baltimore manager for the Crowe-Levick Company, detailed the rivalry for the oil trade of Baltimore in the suit to dissolve the Standard Oil Company.

W. C. Brown, who was a section hand on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, was chosen president of the New York Central.

Edward D. Shurtleff, who bolted the Republican caucus, was elected speaker of the Illinois House with the aid of Democratic votes.

President-elect Taft heard a report on general conditions of child labor in the South by A. J. McKelway.

The arguments of counsel for the defendant and of the judge advocate were completed in the court-martial of Commander Charles C. Marsh, United States Navy, who was in command of the cruiser Yankee when she ran ashore at the entrance of Buzzards Bay.

Thornton J. Hains admitted on the stand that he believed William J. Annis and Mrs. Hains had been intimate years before he spoke to Captain Hains on the subject, and that he did not reveal the story until Annis snubbed him.

Foreign

The mysterious disappearance of Miss Violet Gordon Charlesworth, who claimed to be the heiress to $744,000, and who was reported to have been killed on an auto trip, has caused a sensation in London.

The American relief party, headed by Ambassador Griscom, sailed for Messina from Civita Vecchia with supplies for the earthquake sufferers.

Rear Admiral William P. Potter, commander of the fourth division, U. S. A. fleet, and other officers paid a visit to the Khedive at Cairo.

The Archbishop of Messina conducted a funeral service at the burial of 1,300 bodies in a grave 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

The losses in Messina and Reggio provinces, Italy, by the earthquake are estimated at $1,200,000,000.

It is reported that the Shah of Persia has again issued a manifesto revoking the constitution.

Continuous earthquake shocks and fire have completed the destruction of Messina.

The Italian authorities will isolate Messina to prevent an outbreak of serious illness.

A Portuguese army lieutenant warned King Manuel of a plot to dethrone him.

David Jayne Hill, the American ambassador, paid into the Seehandlung Bank, Berlin, Andrew Carnegie's gift of $125,000 to the Koch Institute for Tuberculosis Research.

Communication has been established between the wireless station on the Eiffel tower and the French battleships Justice and Verite, which are now at Messina.

Government troops have finally repulsed the insurgents and mutinous soldiers in the Mukden district of Manchuria, according to messages received at Amoy.

The Foreign Office at Tokio does not consider that the resignation of Yuan Shi Kai is likely to prove a disturbing factor in the Chinese situation.

Former President Castro of Venezuela was slightly improved, and is now believed he will recover from the operation he underwent Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. David Baum, of New York, were reported to have been involved in the Italian earthquake, have arrived at Paris.

Premier Clemenceau believes France will become involved in a war within the next few months, according to the Intransigeant.

THE NIGHT RIDERS ARE SENTENCED

Six to Be Hanged and Two Get 20 Years Each.

THE EVIDENCE WAS COMPETENT.

Silence in Court as the Judge Pronounces the Death Sentence Six Times in Sucession—Declares the Case Has Bristled With Prejury—Appeal to Higher Court.

Union City, Tenn. (Special).—Without a tremor six men of Reel Foot Lake heard judgment passed condemning them to pay with their lives the penalty for the part they were convicted of having in putting to death Capt. Quentin Ranken at Walnut Log, the deed of a band of so-called Night Riders of which six men were declared to have been the leaders. Whatever may have been their emotion, they faced the court to receive sentence with the same stoic expression as has been their marked characteristic during the trial.

When court convened, shortly after noon, the room was crowded with people from the lake. With small ceremony, as anticipated, the motion of the defense asking a new trial was overruled by Judge Jones. Then, amid a death-like quiet, the six men—Garrett Johnson, Sam Applewhite, Tid Burton, Bob Ransom, Arthur Cloar and Fred Pinion—convicted of murder in the first degree, each in his turn faced Judge Jones to hear the mandate of the court and Friday, February 19, set as the day of their execution.

As they turned to return to their places in the prisoners' dock a faint, half-hearted smile played on the faces of Pinion and Johnson, but beyond this they could not have shown less emotion were they men of stone. The proceedings ended, the court room was quickly emptied, and, through the crowds of their kinsmen and friends, the men were led back to jail to await the carrying out of the court's decree, should a higher court not intervene.

An appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court, where the legal strife will be just as vigorous as in the trial just ended. The others of the men—Bud Morris and Bob Huffman—found guilty of murder in the second degree, received the sentence named by the jury—20 years in the penitentiary.

In passing sentence Judge Jones declared that he could see no mitigating circumstances as mentioned by the jury in the return of the verdict and considered it but a compromise to some members of the jury who hesitated to pass the sentence of death. Thus he felt that the responsibility had been placed on him, a duty which he would not shirk, and to each he declared the sentence of the court would be that "You hang by the neck until you are dead, and may God Almighty have mercy on your souls."

Union City, Tenn. (Special).—With a verdict of guilty in varying degrees, the jury in the Night Rider trials reported at 8.45 P. M. The 12 men found Garrett Johnson, Tid Burton, Boy Ransom, Fred Pinion, Arthur Cloar and Sam Applewhite guilty of murder in the first degree with mitigating circumstances, and Bud Morris and Bob Huffman, the other defendants, guilty of murder in the second degree, and fixed their punishment at 20 years in the penitentiary. The punishment of the six first-named defendants was left to the court and may be death or life imprisonment.

The jury had been out since 2 P. M.; but, because of the illness of Juror Rosson, had not been able to consult until 6 P. M. There was a difference of opinion among the jurors as to the degree of guilt of the defendants, but an agreement was reached quickly.

Court was convened at 8 P. M., and the jury sent word that it would be able to report shortly. The room was crowded, as it was during the argument. The minutes passed, and at 8.45 P. M. the bailiff called for the county physician. Juror Rosson was in a state of collapse and needed attention.

It was half an hour before Rosson was revived, the jury filed in and six deputies were summoned to carry in the bed upon which the sick juror reclined. The foreman announced the verdict, the defense called for a poll, which was made and the judge dismissed the jurors.

The defendants took the verdict with calmness, as they had been expecting it since the closing of the arguments. Attorney Pierce turned to them when it was announced and said: "We will tear this case to pieces in the Supreme Court."

The State expected a verdict of first degree murder in all eight cases, and was visibly disappointed. Bob Huffman, one of the men to escape with 20 years, is the man who, according to the confession of Frank Fehringer, fired the shot which killed Captain Ranken as he was being drawn up with the rope.

King Manuel Warned.

Lisbon (Special).— During a banquet given by officers of the army in this city, at which King Manuel was present, a lieutenant publicly warned the King that a plot to dethrone him was in course of preparation. The officer declared that the King was surrounded by spies and traitors. Extra guards are on duty around the royal palace.

Red River Endangers Town.

Fulton, Ark. (Special).—Owing to a change in Red River and the cutting away of the point of land opposite Fulton, the full force of the current now strikes the bank close to and is endangering the town and the Iron Mountain Railroad bridge.

Several blocks with residences, warehouses and other property have already gone into the river. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad Company has lost over half a mile of sidings.

Four Years For Minister.

Mexico, Mo. (Special). — Rev. Clyde Gow was found guilty of manslaughter in the second degree and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He was indicted jointly with Dr. W. A. Hemphill for the death of Miss Elizabeth Gleason, a schoolteacher.

Search For Aboriginal Race.

Monroe, La. (Special).—To seek relics of an aboriginal race a party of scientists from Philadelphia has arrived here and will spend a month or two in research about Monroe and along the Ouachita River.

HARVESTER TRUST LOSES

Highest Kansas Court Upholds Fine of $12,6000.

Case Certain to Be Appealed to the Highest Tribunal.

Topeka, Kan. (Special.) — The Kansas Supreme Court, in a decision just handed down, affirmed the verdict and fine of the District Court of Shawnee County against the International Harvester Company.

The company must pay a fine of $12,600 on 42 counts, each count charging violation of the Kansas Antitrust laws. The decision is far-reaching. It is certain the case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

In the fall of 1906, C. O. Coleman, then Attorney-General of Kansas, began the criminal action against this company. He brought 75 separate counts. The sales were actually made by Topeka implement dealers, acting as agent of the International Harvester Company. When the case was tried, 33 of these counts were quashed on account of technicalities. Judge A. W. Dana, of the District Court, sustained each of the other counts, and when the jury brought in a verdict of guilty against the company he fined it $300 on each count, making a total of $12,600. The company might have been fined $42,000 if the maximum penalty had been assessed.

The chief evidence against the International at the trial were the words of Cyrus McCormick, of the company, to the effect that his company controlled 95 per cent. of the harvesting machine plants of the country, and that he hoped to get all of them. The company's attorney objected strenuously to this evidence and based its appeal on these objections, but the Supreme Court upheld Judge Dana.

Further evidence as to existence of a trust was based on contracts of the company's agents in Kansas.

Big Locomotive Plant.

New York (Special).—Upwards of $10,000,000 will be expended by the American Locomotive Company in the construction of its projected plant at Gary, Ind., plans for which are now in preparation, according to statements made here by the officials of the corporation. The plant, say the officers, will be one of the largest locomotive factories in the United States, with a probable output of 1,000 locomotives a year. It will also be the first locomotive plant to be erected west of Pittsburg.

Progress With Gomez.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Dispatches were received at the State Department from Commissioner Buchanan announcing that satisfactory progress was being made toward an agreement between the United States and Venezuela for a settlement of the American claims. Commissioner Buchanan had a long conference with the minister of foreign affairs. It is believed here that the claims will be settled on a basis of arbitration, either by reference to The Hague or by the appointment of a special commission.

Castro Grows Worse.

Berlin (Special).—The condition of Cipriano Castro, former President of Venezuela, who was operated on at Dr. Israel's sanitarium, took a sudden change for the worse, and his condition is said to be critical. The operation was for kidney disease.

Wreck At Morgantown.

Morgantown, W. Va. (Special).—An open switch on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad caused a freight wreck within the corporate limits. Henry Westfall, who was riding on the train, was killed, and the engine and many freight cars were demolished.

$500 Joke On Magoon.

Santa Clara, Cuba (Special).—Santa Clara voted an appropriation of $500 for the entertainment of Governor Magoon from its "public calamities" fund. This fund is the only one available.

IN THE WORLD OF FINANCE

Tonopah's gross output for the fourth week in December is given at $55,990.

Charles Sweeney has resigned as president of the Federal Mining and Smelting Company.

Silver metal advanced to 50¾ cents an ounce. It is said that India has made a few small purchases lately.

First Vice-President W. C. Brown was elected president of the New York Central Railroad, to succeed W. H. Newman, who recently retired.

John W. Gates advises Congress to cut off entirely the tariff on coal, lumber and iron ore and to reduce by at least 50 per cent. the duty on steel.

Treasurer Richard G. Oellers has received from the Amparo Mining Company a check for $10,000, being a part of the surplus earned in December.

Cripple Creek's output of gold last years was $16,000,000 or about $3,000,000 more than in 1907. Since Cripple Creek was first "discovered" the camp has yielded $160,000,000.

Reading's December anthracite tonnage was 118,000 tons in excess of that in December, 1907.

Pittsburg tonnage of iron ore, coal, etc., fell off in 1908 39,000,000 tons.

United Verde is now paying monthly dividends of 75 cents. Last year the dividends amounted to $6.75 a share, but in 1907 the amount was $9.

Director of the Mint Leach estimates the world's gold production in 1908 at $427,000,000, an increase of $16,445,000 as compared with 1907. The output of the United States in 1908 is estimated at $96,313,356, as compared with $89,616,017 in 1907.

Philadelphia bank clearings in December were $572,000,000 compared with $492,000,000 in that month 1907. This gain amounted to 16 per cent. In Pittsburg the clearings decreased 10 per cent.

Vice-President J. Tatnall Lea, of the Lake Superior Company, says no changes in the management have yet been discussed. Arrangements have been completed whereby Robert Fleming, who represents a British syndicate, has acquired all the holdings of the Canadian Improvement Company of the Lake Superior Corporation bonds and stocks.

ANOTHER MOVE IS MADE BY THE HOUSE

Will Investigate Secret Service Expenditures.

A FAR-REACHING RESOLUTION.

It Was Adopted By a Unanimous Vote and Provides For a Complete Inquiry Into the Money Spent For Detective Work In All Branches of the Government.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Without a dissenting vote the House of Representatives adopted a resolution of the most sweeping character introduced by Chairman James A. Tawney, of the House Appropriations Committee, directing an investigation of the Secret Service.

Under this resolution a select committee appointed by Speaker Cannon will make the investigation. There will be an inquiry into every phase of the Secret Service of the Treasury Department. This action is the re[illegible] it of the sensational disclosures [illegible]de by Representative Smith, [illegible]wa, in his speech, in which [illegible]ged that vouchers had been fa[illegible] that accounts had been padded [illegible]xpenditures made without aut[illegible]y of Congressional enactment.

It is alleged that Secret Service men employed for the protection of the Presidnet of the United States were, prior to the granting of legal authority for that purpose, detailed without authority of law. Representative Smith submitted letters to the House to support the allegation that Chief Wilkie himself had testified before the House Appropriations Committee in 1906 that unless legislation were enacted to authorize the detail of these Secret Service men for the guarding of the President Mr. Wilkie would have to continue to "perjure" himself every month in the preparation of his accounts.

PENSACOLA UNDER BLUE LAWS.

Lid To Be On Tight In Florida Town.

Pensacola, Fla. (Special).—Sheriff Van Pelt announced that under the "Blue laws" there will be no cigars, cigarettes or tobacco sold, no cabs or transfer wagons in operation and even the meat markets will be closed in Pensacola Sundays.

Following this announcement County Solicitor Loftin informed the Sheriff that he must not molest the operating of street cars, public hacks, sale of milk or any of the necessities of life Sunday, and where it becomes necessary merchants shall be allowed to dispose of goods, provided they do not keep open doors.

Overcome By Ammonia.

Springfield, Mass. (Special). — Eleven firemen were overcome by fumes of ammonia released from the refrigerating plant by a fire in a store on Bridge Street. They were rushed in three ambulances and a "flying squad" automobile to the hospital, where they are in a serious condition.

Holland And Venezuela.

The Hague (Special).—Official notification has been received here from Caracas of the formal revocation by the Venezuelan government of the trans-shipment decree of May 14, which led to the recent Dutch naval demonstration in Venezuelan waters. The official dispatch bringing this intelligence adds that the Dutch consuls in Venezuela have had their exequaturs returned.

Saved Man To Be Robbed.

Chicago (Special).—Mrs. Foster Moore saved a man's life at a fire and now believes that in return he robbed her of $5,000 worth of jewelry. She found him in a hallway, apparently overcome by smoke, and succeeded in gettnig him to the street. Later she saw him running away from the building in a suspicious hurry and soon afterward missed her valuables.

12,470,226 Bales Ginned.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—The Census Bureau reported 12,470,226 running bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1908 to January 1 last, against 9,951,505 a year ago, and 27,386 ginneries operated, against 27,276 a year ago. The percentage of the whole crop ginned to January 1 is 90 per cent. for 1909 and 90.4 for 1908.

Burn $900,000 In Bonds.

Dallas, Tex. (Special).—E. H. R. Green, son of Mrs. Hetty Green, at Austin registered $2,000,000 worth of 4 per cent. bonds of the Texas Midland Railroad, of which he is practically the exclusive owner. A bonfire was at once made of 900,000 old 5 per cent. bonds, which the new bond issue replaces.

To Retry Oil Trust Case.

Chicago (Special).—After receiving unofficial information that Judge A. B. Anderson, of Indianapolis, had consented to hear the retrial of the Standard Oil case, District Attorney Sims has begun active preparations in the proceedings which is expected to commence within a week.

Alabama Fight Begun.

Mobile, Ala. (Special).—The wholesale and retail liquor dealers of Mobile took their first step in their fight against the Carmichael Prohibition Bill when application for a retail liquor license was made to Probate Judge Price Williams, Jr. After arguments Judge Williams took the matter under advisement. The validity of the bill was attacked by the applicant's lawyers on the ground that the constitutional provisions had not been observed in the matter of the amendments.

Quake At Palmi.

Palmi (Special).—A short but intense earth shock was felt here causing the collapse of standing walls, including those of the Cathedral, which crashed down with a great noise. No one was injured, but the people rushed from their shelters almost crazed with fright.

Arbitration Treaties Signed.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Secretary Root signed arbitration treaties with Ecuador, Bolivia and Hayti.

UNCLE SAM AFTER HARRIMAN

Investigate His Control of Traffic to the Pacific.

Achison Said to Be Part of Harriman Combination.

New York (Special).—That E. H. Harriman and his associates had forced the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe to sell to the Southern Pacific, two years ago, a road the Santa Fe was then building in Southern Arizona as the connecting link in what would have made practically a new low-grade transcontinental route for the Santa Fe and, as such, a dangerous competitor of the Harriman road, was brought out by the goverment attorneys in the hearing before Special Examiner Williams, at the custom house, in the suit brought against the Harriman roads to dissolve the combination.

Minutes of the proceedings of the board of directors and stockholders of the Atchison were put in evidence, showing that the sale of this road and the virtual abandonment of this new line took place just about a year after the Harriman interests had, unbeknown to the Atchison people, bought $30,000,000 worth of Atchison stock and had demanded and secured representation on the Atchison board. H. H. Rogers and Henry C. Frick were the two members who took their seats on the Atchison board at that time and the minutes showed that both voted to sell the road in question to the Southern Pacific. As a part of the agreement then made the Atchison further agreed to go into partnership with the Southern Pacific in building into Northern California, where they had projected competing lines.

It is contended by the government in its suit that the Atchison since this stock purchase has practically become a part of the Harriman railroad combination, which is alleged to be a monopoly in restraint of trade.

Frank M. Murphy, president of the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix, owned by the Atchison, was the witness put on the stand by the government to testify as to the manner in which the Southern Pacific blocked the Atchison's attempt to construct a new line to the coast. The Atchison already had a line running from its main line in California to Phoenix, Ariz. It was also building a cut-off from Berlin, Kan., south to Alberquerque, New Mexico, and thence to Deming, Ariz. The link which the Southern Pacific secured was the Phoenix and Eastern Arizona, which was to run between Deming and Phoenix.

WASHINGTON
BY TELEGRAPH

Senator Tillman asserts that important papers regarding the Oregon land deal have been taken from his desk.

Tang Shao Yi, the special envoy recalled to China, made his farewell call on the President.

Secretary Cortelyou called in $25,000,000 of Government deposits now in national banks.

Mr. Depew stated that the Senate will preserve a much closer scrutiny of appointments by the President.

Senator Culberson, of Texas, introduced a resolution in the Senate instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to report whether the President was authorized to permit the absorption of the Tennessee company by the Steel Trust.

The Senate Committee on Finance favorably reported the bill to increase the salary of the President and Vice President.

The House committee was not impressed by the arguments made by naval officials for ordering the marines from the warships.

Plans for the new home of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing have been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Secretary Newberry outlined to the House committee a plan for a squadron of monster battleships.

Chairman Frye, of the Senate Committee on Commerce, is opposed to a river and harbor bill at the present session of Congress.

Bronze medals are being made at the mint commemorating the departure of the battleship fleet from Hampton Roads.

Justice Wright, who sentenced the labor leaders for contempt, has consigned many threatening letters to the waste basket.

Senate Committee reported favorably on the proposition to raise the legation at Peking to an embassy.

A bill providing for the parole of United States prisoners provoked a long discussion in the Senate.

John W. Gates declared himself favorable to placing iron ore, coal and lumber on the free list.

Several amendments to the bankruptcy law were favorably reported by the House Committee.

The nomination of Robert E. Watchorn, commissioner of immigration at Ellis Island, to succeed himself, which was sent to the Senate Monday, was withdrawn.

It is authoritatively stated that the United States will proceed with other cases against the Standard Oil Company for accepting rebates.

It is possible that President Roosevelt will appoint an anti-Bryan Democrat to the federal bench in North Carolina.

Three Congressional election contests from South Carolina were decided by the committee in favor of sitting Democrats.

The House committee to which was referred the President's message on the Secret Service held several meetings, but decided on no report.

The Naval Bureau has outlined plans for a 25,000-ton battleship—larger than any thus far authorized for the American Navy.

Rear Admiral Barnett, superintendent of the Naval Observatory, is reported critically ill.

A bill was introduced in the House providing for the building of eight submarine torpedo boats.

The House committee having in charge the various appropriation bills are busily occupied with hearings and meetings.

The President sent to the Senate the nomination of Col. George H. Torney to be surgeon general, Medical Corps.

The nomination of Samuel B. Donnelly to be public printer was held up in the Senate committee.

UNITED STATES SENATE DEFIED BY PRESIDENT

Forbids Mr. Bonaparte to Reply to Their Resolution.

HE APPROVED THE STEEL MERGER.

In a Special Message the President Explains Why He Intimated to the Steel Corporation That Their Absorption of the Tennessee Company Would Not Lead to a Prosecution.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—President Roosevelt informed the Senate in no uncertain terms that he had given his approval to the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company by the United States Steel Corporation and that he had instructed Attorney General Bonaparte not to respond to the Senate inquiry as to the reason for his failure to prosecute the steel company. The President concludes his message with the statement that he does not conceive it "to be within the authority of the Senate to give directions of this character to the head of an executive department."

Commenting upon the Attorney General's letter, the President says:

Assumes All Responsibility.

"As to the transaction in question, I was personally cognizant of and responsible for its every detail. For the information of the Senate I transmit a copy of a letter sent by me to the Attorney General on November 4, 1907, as follows:

"'The White House,

"'Washington, November 4, 1907.

"'My Dear Attorney General: Judge E. H. Gary and Mr. H. C. Frick, on behalf of the Steel Corporation, have just called upon me. They state that there is a certain business firm (the name of which I have not been told, but which is of real importance in New York business circles) which will undoubtedly fail this week if help is not given. Among its assets are a majority of the securities of the Tennessee Coal Company. Application has been urgently made to the Steel Corporation to purchase this stock as the only means of avoiding a failure. Judge Gary and Mr. Frick informed me that as a mere business transaction they do not care to purchase the stock; that under ordinary circumstances they would not consider purchasing the stock, because but little benefit will come to the Steel Corporation from the purchase; that they are aware that the purchase will be used as a handle for attack upon them on the ground that they are striving to secure a monopoly of the business and prevent competition—not that this would represent what could honestly be said, but what might recklessly and untruthfully be said. They inform me that, as a amtter of fact, the policy of the company has been to decline to acquire more than 60 per cent. of the steel properties, and that this purpose has been persevered in for several years past, with the object of preventing these accusations; and, as a matter of fact, their proportion of steel properties has slightly decreased, so that it is below this 60 per cent., and the acquisition of the property in question will not raise it above 60 per cent.

To Avert A Panic.

"'But they feel that it is immensely to their interest, as to the interest of every responsible business man, to try to prevent a panic and general industrial smashup at this time, and that they are willing to go into this transaction, which they would not otherwise go into, because it seems the opinion of those best fitted to express judgment in New York that it will be an independent factor in preventing a break that might be ruinous, and that this has been urged upon them by the combination of the most responsible bankers in New York, who are now thus engaged in endeavoring to save the situation. But they asserted they did not wish to do this if I stated that it ought not to be done. I answered that while of course I could not advise them to take the action proposed, I felt it no public duty of mine to interpose any objection.

"'Sincerely yours,

"'(Signed) Theodore Roosevelt.

"'Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte, Attorney General.'

"After sending this letter I was advised orally by the Attorney General that in his opinion no sufficient grounds existed for legal proceedings against the steel corporation, and that the situation had been in no way changed by its acquisition of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company.

None Of Their Business.

"I have thus given to the Senate all the information in the possession of the executive departments which appears to me to be material or relevant on the subject of the resolution. I feel bound, however, to add that I have instructed the Attorney General not to respond to that portion of the resolution which calls for a statement of his reasons for nonaction. I have done so because I do not conceive it to be within the authority of the Senate to give directions of this character to the head of an executive department, or to demand from him reasons for his action. Heads of executive departments are subject to the Constitution, and to the laws passed by the Congress in pursuance of the Constitution, and to the directions of the President of the United States, but to no other direction whatever.

"(Signed) Theodore Roosevelt.

"The White House, January 6, 1909."

Persimmon Beer And 'Possum.

Atlanta (Special).—The Georgia editors have been polled as to whether champagne or persimmon beer should be served at the 'possum banquet to be given President-elect Taft here on January 15, and the majority of them vote for "'simmon beer." Only one editor favors champagne. Nearly all assert that 'simmon beer is the only proper liquid with which to wash down 'possum, while a few say that corn liquor goes well with the roasted marsupial.

Regulates Advertisements.

Albany, N. Y. (Special).—The right of the city authorities of New York to prevent the Fifth Avenue Coach Company from carrying advertising matter on automobiles was upheld in a decision by the Court of Appeals. The city contended that the advertisements on the exterior of the automobiles violated a city ordinance, which prohibits advertising trucks or wagons running on certain streets.

A concrete barge is in perfect condition eight years after building.

TYPHOID FEVER IN MESSINA

Terrors of Epidemic Add to the Earthquake Horrors.

The Work of Rescue is Being Rushed On Day and Night.

RESCUERS AT WORK.

- The work of rescue in Messina and Reggio is being pushed forward night and day and sufferers are still being taken from the ruins.
- Fourteen thousand bodies have been buried in four cemeteries as Messina and 9,000 people are still in the city.
- Recurring shocks constantly place the rescuers' lives in danger and complete the demolition of the ruins.
- Stuart K. Lupton, the American vice consul, had a miraculous escape when the Hotel Vittoria was destroyed.
- An English-speaking family is known to have perished when the Hotel Central, at Reggio, fell.
- Queen Helena has requested that no celebration take place on the anniversary of her birth next Friday.

Messina (Special).—The first cases of typhoid fever have broken out here. This will cause drastic action to be taken in the disposal of the dead. The hope of rescuing any of the living beneath the ruins has been abandoned. Until the present time all attention has been concentrated upon the removal of human bodies form the streets, while the carcasses of animals killed by the earthquake and those of dogs and cats shot by the patrols have been left lying where they fell. The decay of these carcasses has greatly augmented the danger of the spread of disease.

The outbreak of disease has filled the authorities with alarm and apprehension. It is realized here that unless proper sanitary precautions are taken at once the disease may spread far outside the ruined districts.

According to well-known medical authorities, it is typhoid that has been responsible for the decimation of almost whole armies in time of war, and the exciting cause is unwholesome drinking water, and the ingestion of articles unfit for food.

Some physicians are inclined to think that dysentery is more to be feared than any other disease in the devastated regions. It was very fatal in the Crimea in 1854, in the armies of the United States during the Civil War and again in the Franco-German War in 1870. Almost perfect conditions for its propagation prevail at Messina.

Earthquakes occurred at Reggio Tuesday, the shocks being about 20 minutes apart. One of the heavy shocks caused the collapse of a number of broken walls and added to the terror of the few survivors who remain there.

The work of rescue is being pushed on by night as well as by day, and even now persons alive are occasionally dug out of the ruins. An old woman was relased from the wreckage of the Church of San Francisco. She did not seem to realize that she had been buried so many days. She explained that she thought she was entombed in the church after having died a natural death and that she was living in the hereafter.

The official figures compiled thus far show that 14,000 bodies have been buried in four cemeteries, that 2,000 refugees have left the city and that 9,000 persons still remain there.

Instead of excavating in an endeavor to find the bodies buried beneath the ruins, it has been proposed that every house in which it is believed persons are buried shall be covered with quicklime.

Oral Bequest Valid.

White Plains, N. Y. (Special).—A jury has decided that an oral bequest of securities by a person who expects he may soon die is valid. George W. Cartwright just before an operation said to Daniel B. Tompkins: "I give to you all the securities in my desk in case I do not recover from the operation." Cartwright died and Tompkins claimed the securities, valued at $16,079. The executor contested, but a jury upheld the bequest.

Merry Widow Is Fatal.

New York (Special).—Harlem is mourning her prize waltzer, James Dineen. Dineen collapsed while dancing to the strains of "The Merry Widow" in Majestic Hall and died in an ante-room before physicians arrived. "Heart failure," they said. Dineen never lacked a partner. He never missed a number. Young Dineen recently took a civil service examination and won a custom house appointment.

Boy Burned To Death.

Rice Lake, Wis. (Special).—Four boys, aged 8 to 16 years, sons of Christian Lee, near here, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the home of Mr. Lee. Mr. and Mrs. Lee, with three other small children, escaped in their night clothing.

Four Firemen Injured.

Philadelphia (Special).—Four firemen were seriously injured by collapsing walls during a fire which destroyed the hosiery mill of Ballantyne Brothers, at 272 Ashmead Street, Germantown, a suburb. All of the firemen will recover. The loss is estimated at $75,000. Eight children were rescued by firemen from a frame dwelling which adjoined the mill About 100 employes are rendered idle by the fire.

Yuan Shi Kai Safe.

Peking (Special).—Yuan Shi Kai, the deposed grand councilor, has escaped from Peking. He is now in Tientsin, a treaty port, 76 miles to the southeast, and is under the protection of Great Britain. Arrangements have been made for Yuan Shi Kai's departure for Hainan by way of the Hankow Railway.

The government of Austria makes special inducements to farmers who will reclaim waste lands and make use of them.