

THE RUSSIAN BLACK SEA FLEET TO INVADE THE MEDITERRANEAN

Negotiations Looking to This End are Now in Progress. Will the Powers Raise Any Objections?

RUSSIA IS HOPEFUL OF RELEASING THIS FLEET

Such Egress From the Black Sea Would Release Several Large Armed Cruisers, War Boats

(By Associated Press) Berlin, Feb. 22.—The local Anzeiger today received a dispatch from Tokio which says: "A fresh engagement took place at Port Arthur Thursday last. The details have not been announced by the government."

New York, Feb. 23.—Negotiations are progressing, says the Herald's correspondent at St. Petersburg, for the passage through the Dardanelles of the Russian Black Sea fleet. Russia is determined to get her ships through, even if it is necessary to alter their appearance, disguising them as merchantmen. The Porte is almost willing and if England makes any objection, it will be a signal for the immediate advance toward India.

Alexieff's retirement to Harbin with his staff is interpreted to mean that he is convinced that the Japanese will besiege Port Arthur. The fleet has received instructions not to engage in a fight at present but remain on the defensive until July when half of the whole Baltic fleet will be dispatched to the Far East. It is also hoped that the Black Sea Fleet will also be on the sea.

Such egress from the Black sea would release the big armored ships Kalasnikoff and Tavrickski, 12,500 tons each; the Ekateina and the Cisma, 10,000 tons each; the Sinope, 10,000 tons; the Trisviattella, 13,318 tons; the Admiral Peltiednos, 12,000 tons; the Prudent Apostoly and the Bostick, about 9,000 tons each; ten torpedo cutters and about twenty-five torpedo boats—a force which would turn the vital question of the command of the sea in the Far East in favor of Russia.

An Authoritative Statement.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—An authority in touch with the Russian war plans whose opinion reflects belief in the highest quarters, said to the Associated Press today:

"This war will end in August or September in the complete defeat of the Japanese. How the Japanese can hope to succeed when our army in the Far East is strengthened to a point equal or superior to theirs, we honestly are unable to comprehend.

"It will not be difficult to place 200,000 to 300,000 additional men in the field if necessary. When our forces are concentrated and ready we will finish by driving the Japanese into the sea. Frankly, it seems that the Japanese have utterly failed to precipitate Russia's resources or else have counted on the aid of Great Britain or the United States, neither of which ever contemplated being involved.

"We think the British statesmen who did so much to push Japan into the war realized it would accomplish two things for Great Britain.

"First: To give Russia a check, for war must impede our progress temporarily.

"Second: To cripple Japan's power, which is beginning to be felt greatly in the Pacific.

"Russia will bide her time. She will act on the defensive until she feels her weight and numbers will leave no doubt as to the result.

"Reinforcements are going forward 2,000 a day and some time will elapse before Russia is fully prepared to assume the offensive."

The speculation is growing here in official circles, despite Japanese denials, that the fleet will be severely crippled in the engagement at Port Arthur February 8th. It is pointed out at the admiralty that two weeks have passed without the whereabouts of the Japanese fleet being definitely reported and the opinion is gaining ground that it has gone to a Japanese port for repairs.

Gen. Kuropatkin will not go to the front for two weeks. His status has been fully settled. Will have command of the Manchurian army subject to Viceroy Alexieff. The official view is that Alexieff will remain in supreme command, but Viceroy being a sailor, Kuropatkin was appointed his lieutenant for the army as was Admiral Makarov for the navy.

Russian Scouts at Anjou.

Seoul, Feb. 23.—A telegram from a foreigner at Ping Yang says the report that Russian scouts are at Anjou is authentic. The natives of Ping Yang are panic-stricken but the foreigners are not threatened.

Plan to Remove Court Abandoned.

Tokio, Feb. 23.—The plan for the Emperor and Imperial Court to move to Kyoto has been abandoned temporarily and it is now thought better not to move until April. The inconvenience of removing the seat of government is given as the cause.

There is small interest in the forthcoming election, the war overshadowing all political questions. The coun-

try is united politically and it is understood the Diet will fully support the government and pass all measures concerning the war.

Are Supplies Contraband?

Washington, Feb. 23.—Officials here are apprehensive that friction may follow the efforts of the belligerents in Asia to define contraband of war in a manner injurious to American trade.

While the matter has not yet been treated in the negotiations with Russia and Japan on the one side and the United States on the other, there is reason to believe that some of the European powers already have been contented with the threatened restrictions upon their trade which they are disposed to resist.

A vast quantity of American food stuffs is now afloat destined both for Russia and Japan, and it is probable that the question will be very speedily raised as to whether or not these supplies are contraband of war. The United States has in recent years insisted that food stuffs were not contraband, and could not be seized by a belligerent unless it were shown the goods were consigned to or clearly intended for a belligerent.

This principle was recognized by the British government during the Transvaal war, and British courts awarded considerable sums of money to American shippers on account of food seized by British warships.

TRAIN ROBBER HANGED.

James Martin, Who Murdered Fireman Williams, Hanged.

(By Associated Press) Butte, Mont., Feb. 23.—James Martin was hanged at 4 o'clock this morning for the murder of J. H. Williams, a railroad fireman in an attempted hold up at Silbarow Junction May 1902.

Sensational Termination Murder Trial

(Special The News)

Winston-Salem, Feb. 23.—The coroner's investigation of the murder of Sidney Disher, continued since Saturday afternoon, was suddenly closed at noon today by the appearance of officers with Crawford Boyd, a negro aged 35 years, living near Kernersville, confessing the crime.

Three white boys aged seventeen to twenty years were testifying having been jailed since Sunday. Their names are Tom Monday, Milton Brewer, Ed. Bryant, Ralph Saunders. The latter while on stand said he was with the victim when he shot and he had a pistol. He left the scene after the killing for home where the pistol was left.

The crowded court room stood aghast and it was whispered "That's the one," despite the testimony that the boys were close friends and a possible denial.

In the midst of the testimony, the news spread that a negro had confessed. The crowd rushed from the room to see the murderer as he entered the court house, where he made the following statement:

"If the boy is dead I did it. I shot him."

The boys were immediately released on a bond of \$50 as witnesses. The negro pleads self defense. All the boys are of good families but were drunk.

COCHRAN'S ELECTION CONCEDED

He Will Succeed New York's Present Mayor in Congress.

(By Associated Press) New York, Feb. 23.—A special election is being held in the twelfth district today to fill the place in Congress made vacant by the resignation of Mayor McClellan. The Democratic nominee will be elected, his election being conceded.

DEATH OF MR. WILCOX.

The End Came Yesterday at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

News was received in the city last night of the death of Mr. Hugh N. Wilcox, the brother of Messrs. Harris R. and Cyria P. Wilcox, of this city. The funeral will be held in Athens, Ga., and Messrs. Wilcox will leave for that point to attend the same.

Trial of Kratz Begins.

St. Louis, Feb. 23.—The trial of Charles Kratz, charged with bribery in connection with the suburban railroad franchise, began today. Kratz's attorneys at once began a fight for a change of venue.

In Jealous Rage He Murders Three

(By Associated Press) Terre Haute, Ind., Feb. 23.—Early this morning Jerry Dugan, a section hand murdered Mrs. Ramsay, her daughter Myrtle four years old and son Albert,

WRECK OF NO. 35.

Southern Train Ditched at Bridgeport, Tenn.

(By Associated Press) Knoxville, Feb. 23.—The Southern's through passenger No. 35, was wrecked this morning at 2 o'clock at Bridgeport, Tenn., 68 miles east of Knoxville. The entire train, excepting one sleeper, is said to have gone into the French Broad river.

Engineer Clark lost both legs and a negro fireman is fatally injured. Four trainmen were hurt and several passengers injured, none of the latter seriously.

The wreck was caused by a huge boulder rolling down on the track at the edge of Pigeon river.

The train was 40 minutes late and was running 30 miles an hour. It was rounding the curve, almost at the edge of the river when the pilot struck the boulder which threw the entire train, excepting the Pullman from the track. The wreck occurred before daylight.

Asheville Account.

(Special The News)

Asheville, Feb. 23.—The fast train, No. 35, leaving here about 2 o'clock this morning is reported wrecked at Bridgeport, Tenn. The wreck derailed the engine and all coaches except the sleeping car turned completely over and into the river. Engineer Clark is probably fatally injured and many others are injured. None were killed. The engine and coaches were badly smashed.

INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION.

Adjourns to Meet Next Time in New York.

(By Associated Press) Indianapolis, Feb. 23.—Industrial Association of America adopted the report of the committee on constitution after several changes had been made, the most important being the one making the executive committee elective and another providing for contributing class membership of individuals and corporations. A resolution was adopted that the next convention to be held in New York. A resolution was adopted condemning the use of the union label on all public printing and the product of union labor and pledging the influence of the association against it. A telegram of congratulation was sent to Governor Peabody of Colorado, commending his course during the miners strike. The convention then adjourned.

HOME OF SEC. CORTELYOU.

Is Submerged by the Heavy Freshet.

(By Associated Press) New York, Feb. 23.—A freshet caused by the heavy rains suddenly melting the snow, deluged Hempstead, L. I., the home town of Secretary Cortelyou. The mansions of many New York millionaires have been isolated through the destruction of the roads and bridges, while the homes of many of smaller means have been invaded by the rush of water and the residents have been compelled to leave in row boats.

The water suddenly rose nearly three feet and the residents of Front, Lower Main and Little Main streets were compelled to move their household goods to the upper stories. The foundations were badly damaged, water filled the basement of the town hall and covering the trolley tracks, stopped all traffic.

SUPREME COURT DECISION.

In Favor of Alabama's New Suffrage Clause.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 23.—The Supreme Court today handed down an opinion in the case of Jackson Giles against the registration board of Montgomery county, Alabama, dismissing the case for want of jurisdiction, no Federal question being involved. The case involved the suffrage clause of the new constitution.

This provision was attacked because of its alleged discrimination against the colored race of which Giles is a member.

The effect of the decision is against Giles.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS.

All Baltimore Banks Resumed Business Today.

(By Associated Press) Baltimore, Feb. 23.—The banks of this city resumed business this morning in all of their branches for the first time since the fire.

Under Governor Warfield's proclamation the legal holidays expired today, and all protectable paper became due.

The Baltimore Stock Exchange will resume tomorrow.

NOTED MATHEMATICIAN

Seeks Death by Inhaling Gas—Poor Health the Cause.

(By Associated Press) New York, Feb. 23.—William Thornbury, chief plan examiner of the Brooklyn Building Department, and one of the most accomplished mathematicians in the country, killed himself by inhaling gas. He had been in poor health for a year. He was a native of Kentucky.

WAREHOUSEMEN WIN IN FIGHT

Corporation Commission Grants Reduction on Hogsheads—Secretary of State Charters Several New Enterprises Today.

(Special The News)

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 23.—The Corporation Commission heard the argument today by the warehousemen and railroad officials on the question of lowering the freight classification on empty hogsheads from a double first-class as was inaugurated a few weeks ago. After the argument an order was issued for a reduction to the second class. It is equivalent to over 60 per cent. It will be effective March 4th.

The delegation of warehousemen were headed by Jas. K. Norfleet, of Winston; J. R. Hutchins, of Wilson. Traffic Managers Geo. G. Thompson, of the Southern, and V. C. Tompkins, of the Seaboard Air Line, argued for the retention of the double first-class rate.

CLOSING SCENES IN SENATE DEBATE ON THE TREATY

Senator Bacon of Georgia Addresses the Senate in Explanation of His Vote in Favor of the Proposed Treaty.

Senator Simmons Again Defines His Position and Makes Another Plea for Ratification of the Treaty. He Defends President.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 23.—The Panama Canal treaty was ratified by a vote of 66 to 14.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The closing days of the debate in the Senate on the Panama canal treaty opened at 11 o'clock this morning.

Senator Bacon, of Georgia, took the floor to explain his vote. He said there had been a serious question as to whether a Senator should be guided by the wishes of his constituents or by his own judgment in voting on all important matters. After giving due deliberation he said he believed a Senator should listen to the wishes of his State, and therefore he would vote for the treaty. At the same time he said that notwithstanding the interests of Georgia demanded the ratification of the treaty, the people of his State did not approve of the recent occurrences on the Isthmus.

Mr. Bacon spoke of his amendment to the treaty looking to the peaceful settlement of all differences between the United States and Colombia by paying a sum of money to Colombia, in full compensation for the surrender and a quit claim for all rights of sovereignty over the territory of Panama.

Senator Berry, of Arkansas, discussing the attitude of the administration, said he believed the navy supported the revolution, and that this government was now responsible for the republic. But it had been proved that the President would not build a canal on the Nicaragua route. The people of the South wanted a canal and he would vote for a treaty.

Senator Teller, of Colorado, spoke of the condition of the finances of this government, which he said, "would not permit the taking money from the treasury to build a canal, and it would be necessary to borrow no one knows how much. France spent \$250,000,000 to build a quarter of the canal. Of the forty million which this government is nominally to pay for the property he said he believed that twenty million was for the canal and twenty million for the

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The Secretary of State charters the Creedmore Supply Company, of Henderson, to do a general mercantile business, capital \$20,000, authorized, \$5,000, subscribed by S. P. Cooper and others.

The Durham Iron Works was chartered with \$50,000 capital, authorized \$25,000, subscribed by A. P. Gilbert, W. R. Kuker and others, to conduct a general engine and boiler repair shop.

The building committee of the State Board of Agriculture is in session, going over the situation and arranging to commence work on the \$50,000 agricultural building at the A. & M. College during the coming spring and summer.

Governor Aycock returned from Southern Pines today, where he was the guest of honor last night at the Piney Woods Inn at a banquet given by the firemen of Southern Pines.

loyalists who have put the deal through.

Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, said he believed the people of Panama were ready for a revolution, and he did not believe the United States officials connived at it. He refuted the charges that a government could be held to account for what has taken place on the Isthmus. "I think the worst thing the United States has done has been to maintain the Colombian tyranny on the Isthmus for fifty years. The question as to whether the President did right or wrong is not now before us. The only question is whether the treaty is meritorious."

The Senate went into executive session at 12:30 o'clock.

Gov. Aycock announces that he will not interfere with the execution of the death sentence of Jabel Register, who is to be hanged Thursday of this week for the murder of Jessie Soles and Jim Staley. Solicitor Lyon of the Fourth District wrote the Governor that he did not desire a respite in order that Register might be used as a witness against Smith whom he had implicated in what he declared was a full confession of the murder. Lyon wrote the Governor that the opinion is that Register only concocted the "Confession" in the hope of getting another respite.

J. D. Johnson, a Virginia Life Insurance Co. agent, was seriously injured yesterday morning early by the falling of the over-head plaster in his bedroom. The plaster came crashing down on the bed before he had gotten up.

DEATH OF MISS EDNEY.

Sudden Summons This Morning—Niece of Gen. Baylis Edney.

Miss A. M. Edney died suddenly this morning shortly after 5 o'clock of heart failure at the home of her sister, Mrs. L. E. Benson, No. 208 North Tryon street. The death of Miss Edney was altogether unexpected and was a severe shock to her relatives and friends who were greatly shocked by the announcement of her demise.

The funeral exercises will take place tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock at the home of 208 North Tryon street, and the following named will act as pall-bearers: Messrs. S. Wittkowski, W. R. Jones, Frank Gilreath, Col. D. G. Maxwell, Heriot Clarkson and B. A. Sutherland.

The deceased was a niece of the late General Baylis Edney and was reared in the city of Asheville. Miss Edney leaves two sisters, Mrs. L. E. Benson of this city, and Mrs. Myra Hut, of Knoxville. Miss Edney had endeared herself to quite a number of friends here and the news of her death will be a source of much sorrow. The interment will take place in Elmwood Cemetery.

MR. HENRY IMMOVABLE.

Mr. Walter R. Henry is Not at All Moved by a Negro Boy and a Bicycle and a Dozen Eggs.

Negro boys on bicycles should be careful whom they try to run over. This morning the Hon. Walter R. Henry was descending from a street car somewhat leisurely, a negro boy gazing across the street and not at all apprehensive of the fate that awaited him approached upon a bicycle carrying a box of eggs. There can be no possible reason why he did not see Mr. Henry but it is certain that he did not for if he had he would not have run full against Mr. Henry's side as he did.

When the bicycle hit Mr. Henry it stopped—to quote a drug clerk (who thinks there is nothing more stable and reliable than his desk) "It stopped as if it had hit this desk." The negro boy in the mean time found himself between two cars that he was endeavoring to couple. It is not known just how the accident happened. The limb was crushed to a pulp above the knee and was amputated by Drs. Blair and Stevens. The wounded man was getting along very nicely this morning and his recovery is hoped for.

TRAIN CRUSHES LIMB.

Mr. J. H. Caldwell, Night Yardmaster at Monroe, Crushed Between Cars.

Mr. J. H. Caldwell, night yardmaster of the Seaboard Railway at Monroe, lost one leg last night by being caught between two cars that he was endeavoring to couple. It is not known just how the accident happened. The limb was crushed to a pulp above the knee and was amputated by Drs. Blair and Stevens. The wounded man was getting along very nicely this morning and his recovery is hoped for.

MR. WOODALL TO BE MARRIED.

Mr. J. Rival Woodall will be married in Richmond, Va., tomorrow.

Mr. Woodall is a brother of Mr. J. P. Woodall, of the firm of Woodall & Sheppard.

This announcement will come as a pleasant surprise to Mr. Woodall's many friends here. Mr. Woodall left this morning for Richmond. He is at present traveling, making Charlotte his headquarters.

The bride elect is Miss Lena Robertson. Miss Robertson formerly lived in Charlotte, and later moved to Richmond with her uncle. She is a young lady of culture and refinement, and is known to quite a large circle here.

Regiment Infantry Ordered to Panama

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 23.—The War Department today issued orders for a regiment of infantry to proceed to the Isthmus of Panama. The regiment will leave at the earliest possible time on the transports Sumner and McClelland from New York. The

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING JUNIOR ORDER AMERICAN MECHANICS

THE Y. M. C. A.

Preparing to Move—Is No Longer an Experiment.

The removal of the headquarters of the Young Woman's Christian Association from Fifth street has become a necessity, and marks the change in the character of the institution itself from an experiment to that of an assured success. There is no other institution of our city that in as limited a sphere has accomplished so much good.

It is not a charity any more than the Y. M. C. A. is a charity. It furnishes all the comforts and the safeguards of a home to the young women of Charlotte who are living away from their own homes and making a living for themselves. This, their board and lodging is paid for by the girls. At the same time, through the efforts of the good women of the community, the Association rooms have been fitted up with all the comforts and conveniences possible, so that the girls really have a home of their own.

It was just what was needed in the present development of our city, with more and more girls entering the life of unprotected wage-earners, and needing something better than the ordinary boarding house. But the rooms are now crowded, thirteen young women lodging there, and three or four more taking their meals at the Association rooms. The institution is almost self-supporting, and in better quarters, would probably come so at once.

It is the purpose of the management to introduce other features in time, such as night classes of stenography and typewriting. But just at present the need is for larger quarters. The institution is one that should commend itself to all who like to see a good work successfully done.

The Cotton Market Again Very Active

(By Associated Press)

New York, Feb. 23.—The cotton market opened steady at a decline of 8 points to an advance of 1 point under moderate liquidation, in the absence of bull support.

It rained almost immediately on aggressive buying by the bulls, firmness of Liverpool and the strength of New Orleans. Trading was only moderate and after an advance of 16 to 25 points over Saturday, the market ruled irregular with the report of a bull leader selling through brokers.

New Orleans, Feb. 23.—The cotton market was active from the opening with the bulls and bears more aggressive than ever. Statistics of sensationally bullish played into the hands of the bulls. A big wave of buying orders struck the market in the middle of the morning and prices rose 85 to 74 points above Saturday's close. The leading bulls were heavy bidders for March, one bidding 13.70 for 400,000 bales.

THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING.

Large Number Attend Dinner at W. Bryce Cochrane's in Mallard Creek.

There is the sound of feasting and merriment at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bryce Cochrane in Mallard Creek township today, the occasion being their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Cochrane have long safely reached the half century milestone together.

The dining today in honor of the occasion was attended by about twenty guests including the children of Mr. and Mrs. Cochrane, some coming as far as from Kentucky to attend the gathering. County Supt. of Education Cochrane, a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Cochrane is at the gathering today, also Sheriff Wallace, Register of Deeds McDonald and others.

Mr. and Mrs. Cochrane have one of the oldest and most beautiful homes in the county and are among Mecklenburg's best known people.

They were the recipients of many congratulations today upon the advent of their golden wedding anniversary.

PERSONALS.

Mr. Walter Phillips, manager of the Goldsboro Argus, is attending the J. O. U. A. M. Convention here.

Miss Inez Flow, of Monroe, is the guest of Rev. T. A. Sikes at his home on South College street.

First Session was Held in the Pythian Castle This Morning at 10 O'Clock. Many Juniors Present

PUBLIC SESSION TO BE HELD TONIGHT

Mr. Frank R. McNinch to Deliver Address of Welcome—The Response by Mr. Hood of Goldsboro

The thirteenth annual meeting of the State Council, Junior Order, United American Mechanics, was called to order at 10 o'clock this morning in Pythian Castle, on South Tryon street, with State Councilor George E. Hood presiding.

After the opening exercises the meeting went at once into business session and the following reports were rendered:

Credentialed Committee, Chas. G. Lee, of Asheville, chm.

Report of State Councilor, Geo. E. Hood, of Goldsboro.

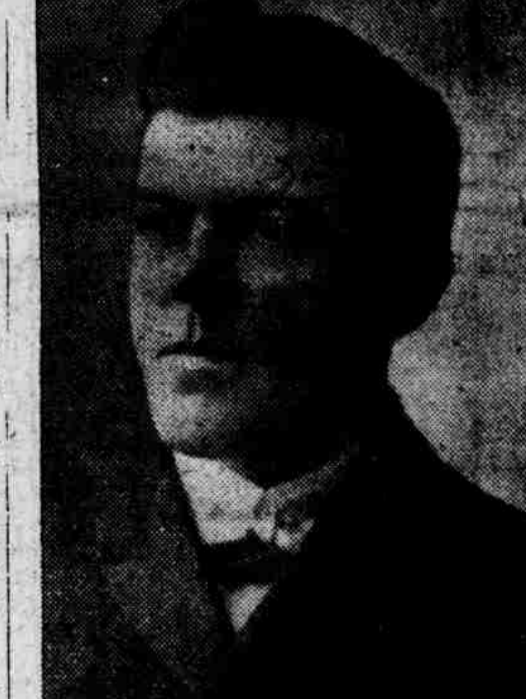
Report of State Secretary, Sam F. Vance.

Report of State Treasurer, Geo. B. Pulp, chm.

Report of Finance Committee, J. F. Reynolds, of Winston, chm.

Report of Law Committee, S. L. Rhyne, of Newton.

Report of Judiciary Committee. In the absence of Chm. Allan Browning, chm. of the Supreme Judiciary, who is ill, the report was read by Geo. O. Hesse. These reports were all referred,



GEO. E. HOOD, State Councilor, Who Will Respond to Address of Welcome.

after reading, to the special committee on reports, composed of C. B. Wells, Statesville; W. D. Gaster, Fayetteville, and T. D. Brown, Salisbury.

The above reports were all of a most interesting character and showed the organization to be in a most flourishing condition. Each report was carefully prepared and showed in detail the work of the various departments.

The State Councilor in his report said in part:

"I greet you brethren in the name of this great fraternal brotherhood. I felicitate you in the great work which we are doing. During its existence in this State, no pen can write; no tongue can say; of the hearts lightened; of the gloom dispelled; of the suffering relieved; of the joy planted around the hearthstone; and the children educated; of the characters that have been made more manly; of the doctrines inculcated in the individual life that has been operative toward preserving our system of American government. The principles for which we stand are knitted in every move of our being; we demand a man; we demand liberty for that man; we demand that this man love his country. I am glad that as an organization teaching patriotism that we can assemble in this beautiful and progressive city, on soil made sacred by our heroic forefathers. It was here, over a century and a quarter ago, that the first declaration of independence was made against the tyranny and oppression of the mother country. We as an organization are endeavoring to teach that the principles declared by this heroic band, shall be preserved unchanged to generations yet unborn. We believe in casting a glance forward and penetrate the dim vista of the future and with all our powers and might, prevent such actions and dangers as may some day rob us of these precious liberties. Gathered here as we are, sturdy, loyal, patriotic, devoted sons of such noble sires, representing the great principles of virtue, liberty and patriotism, I beseech you, therefore, that as we listen to, and examine the reports of your servants for the past year, and plan the work of our great brotherhood for the coming year, that all our actions be done in the spirit of our organization, in fraternal kindness, mutual help, harmoniously and beautifully. In giving account of

(Continued on Second Page.)