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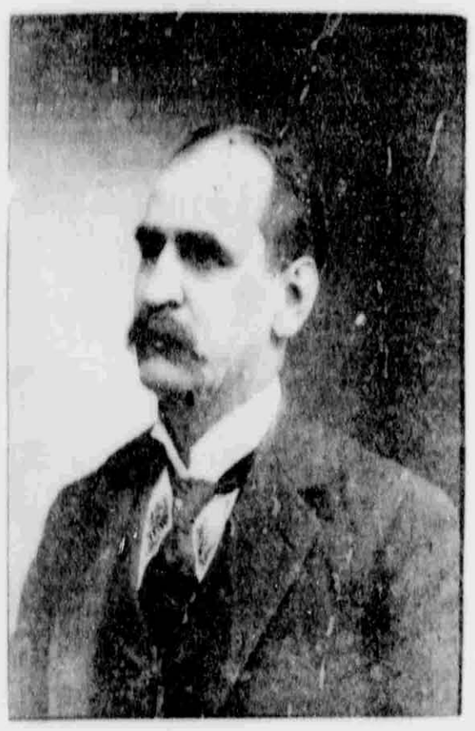
L. L. Downing to Look After Wool

New Office Created on the Harriman Lines Which Has Been Accepted by the Commercial Agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Who Wired His Resignation Yesterday Afternoon—Another Plum for a Salt Laker.



LANDON L. DOWNING.

The reason of the mysterious visits of J. A. Munro, freight traffic manager of the Union Pacific, to Salt Lake at about noon on Sunday the past two weeks was explained yesterday when he succeeded in fixing L. L. Downing, commercial agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, in town. The Harriman lines are about to create a new office and they wanted Mr. Downing for the position. It did not take the Milwaukee man long, according to reports, to make up his mind and the result was that he wired his resignation to his superior officer, F. A. Nash, general western agent of the Milwaukee at Omaha yesterday afternoon.

The resignation goes into effect Oct. 1, on and after which date Mr. Downing will have charge of all the wool business for the Union Pacific and its companies, the Oregon Short Line, the Southern Pacific and the Oregon Railroad & Navigation, exactly just what his title will be is not at this time forthcoming. The main point, however, has been decided and that is that he will receive a salary very nearly twice as large as that he has been getting from the Milwaukee and he was one of the best paid commercial agents that came Salt Lake their headquarters.

The Harriman lines for the past few years have been concentrating efforts in the city upon handling the major portion of the wool that originated in that territory. As the output this season from Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and contiguous states has been the largest on hands it can be readily seen that the wool business is essentially the biggest thing in the west for a railroad to look after.

In the selection of Mr. Downing, Mr. Munroe is to be congratulated, for L. L. Downing has long been known as the best wool man in Utah. His record of 650 carloads, which he secured this year for his road, is one which has never been equalled by any railroad agent in this territory. Mr. Downing has a large clientage among the wool buyers of the east and has thoroughly knowledge of the business in addition to his protracted operations in this territory gives him a decided handicap over all comers.

Undoubtedly he will be swamped with congratulations this evening when the news of his appointment becomes known, as he is very popular here and has a large circle of acquaintances who will be glad to learn that such a good fellow has got his just deserts, and that Salt Lake has again been honored in the selection to fill an important office.

Landon L. Downing has been connected with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul in this city in the capacity of commercial agent since Nov. 1, 1897, prior to which time for two years he was traveling freight agent for the Chicago & Northwestern, with headquarters in Denver. He entered the railroad service in 1869 as telegraph operator for the Cleveland & Toledo, now the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, since which he has been successively to 1886, in various capacities of operator, agent, train dispatcher, chief dispatcher and train master, Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, Wabash, Lake Erie & Western, Ohio & Central, Denver & Rio Grande, Denver, South Park and Pacific, Denver & New Orleans and Union Pacific, 1880 to 85, with the traffic department Wabash at Denver 1882 to 1884, agent Red Line Transfer Co., Salt Lake City, 1884 to 86, contracting agent for the Denver & Rio Grande at San Francisco.

TRIP THROUGH SOUTHERN UTAH

President Smith and Party Will Take One, Leaving Here the Latter Part of Next Week—Their Itinerary.

President Joseph F. Smith and party have arranged their itinerary for a trip in southern Utah on which they will leave the latter part of next week. They will go in [illegible] where they will spend Sunday and Monday, Sept. 21 and 22, and then return by [illegible] in different places on the way, and dates of which have been [illegible]. The party will consist of President Smith and wife, President John R. Winder and wife, President Anthon H. Lund and wife, President John Henry Smith and wife, President Angus M. Cannon, President William D. Pratt and President William B. Preston and wife.

Church Reporter Arthur Winter. The itinerary as arranged today is as follows:

Leave Salt Lake City for Modena Thursday night, Sept. 18, to be conveyed next morning by carriages to St. George to attend conference the 20th and 22nd. Leaving St. George directly after the conference they will proceed to Washington, where a meeting will be held at 7 p. m. Then continue the meetings will be held as follows: Leeds, Tuesday, 10 a. m.; Cedar, Thursday, 7 p. m.; Summit, Friday, 10 a. m.; Fillmore, Friday, 7 p. m., and Beaver, Sunday, 10 a. m. and 1 p. m.

Colorado Has a Fire, Too.

[illegible] 13.—The largest and most [illegible] forest fire ever [illegible] is raging between [illegible]. This is the [illegible] state timber [illegible] against North [illegible] on the ground. M. [illegible] beyond control [illegible] of saving the for[illegible] of Platte Canon from [illegible] is that the wind [illegible] on the east. Dam[illegible] Platte water sheds [illegible]

The Boodle Cases.

St. Louis, Sept. 13.—The grand jury [illegible] its inquiry into the [illegible] for which eight [illegible] the scene of delegates [illegible] on charges of bribery. [illegible] Kelly, the much-wanted [illegible] one of delegates who [illegible] boodling personality sits [illegible] the passage of the lighting [illegible] Kelly is indicted [illegible] surrender to the [illegible] in connection with the [illegible] for bribery and perjury. The name of the [illegible] street railway [illegible] the punishment for [illegible] years in the penitentiary. Mr. Folk has declared [illegible] ample evidence through the confession of the Murrell brothers, ex-Delegate Robertson and others to convict the entire 18 members of the old house comprising those who are indicted for bribe-taking and perjury. The state's witnesses are supposed not to know the source of the money which bribed them, and the circuit attorney plans the "proposed course of evidence" necessary to convict the defendants. Kelly is believed to be able to give this evidence.

Loss by Fire.

Pittsburg, Sept. 13.—Bridgeview camp meeting grounds at Millwood, a few miles east of Butler, Pa., on the Pennsylvania railroad, were visited by a spontaneous and fierce fire last night which destroyed 45 cottages, the hotel and a store. Loss about $15,000. Most of the cottages were occupied, but the hotel was closed.

Street Car Strike.

Cincinnati, Ia., Sept. 13.—The street car strike is assuming a serious aspect. The blacksmiths in the employ of the company struck this morning. The city depends upon the street car plant for electric power, which may be shut off.

Lost in the Fog.

Astoria, Ore., Sept. 13.—The steamship Columbia from San Francisco lost her bearings on account of the dense smoke near Tongue point in the Columbia river yesterday and went ashore in the fog. She was a mile and a half out of the channel. Up to 11 o'clock today she had not been floated but the vessel is in no danger.

WAS BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED.

Council Bluffs Young Lady Answers Matrimonial Ad.

USUAL RESULT FOLLOWS.

Divorce Granted Within 24 Hours From Time of Ceremony Being Performed—Bride Goes Home.

(Special to the "News.")

Ogden, Sept. 13.—Yesterday afternoon County Clerk Hollingsworth issued a marriage license to James Darbey, aged 51, of Malta, Cassia county, Idaho, and Miss Gertrude F. Hendricks, aged 21, of Council Bluffs, Iowa. After secuting the license the couple went to the parsonage of Rev. Womer, of the Methodist church, where that gentleman proceeded to perform the ceremony of making the twain one. Before the ceremony was completed, however, with heart-broken sobs the bride-elect refused to permit the rites to continue, declaring that she had been betrayed and deceived by the false representations of the groom. The good minister kindly took the weeping girl into his confidence and secured from her the following story of her troubles:

Some time ago she noticed an advertisement in a newspaper in which a gentleman representing himself to be a wealthy rancher of Idaho, owning an elegant home within 10 miles of the railroad, stated that he desired to marry a young lady of beauty and refinement. Ada Hendricks answered the ad., and a correspondence was commenced between the two, photographs were exchanged, etc., and the couple agreed to meet in Ogden on the 11th of this month and be married. According, on that date they met in Ogden at the Pacific hotel. But when the young lady met her "young man," great was her mortification and chagrin to find that he was not a handsome young rancher of good education and refinement but a man of over 50 summers, gruff in manner, uncouth in dress and in no way suitable to her tastes and desires. These things with the fact that she had also learned that his representations of his wealth and grand home were also false, engendered in her heart a feeling of great revulsion for the man, and she concluded that she would not marry him. She then consulted with Attys. Henderson & MacMillan, who immediately commenced proceedings to get her out of the "troubled waters."

This morning a complaint was filed in the Second district court, at Ogden, in which Gertrude F. Hendricks, is named as plaintiff, and James M. Darbey and the Utah National Bank of Ogden are defendants. The complaint sets forth that on Sept. 12, 1902, a marriage license was issued by the county clerk of Weber county, to James M. Darbey and Gertrude F. Hendricks; that after procuring the license the parties secured the services of a minister of the gospel to perform the marriage ceremony; that while said ceremony was being performed and before it was concluded plaintiff refused to permit said ceremony to go on, and refused to be married by same. It is further alleged that defendant Darbey represented to plaintiff in order to induce her to marry him, that he was a wealthy rancher, that he owned a large farm and other property in Idaho, had a grand and convenient home, within 10 miles of the railroad, and was of good moral character and education; that before the marriage ceremony was completed plaintiff learned that said representations of defendant were false and fraudulent and were made with intent to deceive her. That Darbey is addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors; that through said false and fraudulent representations plaintiff was induced to leave her home at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and come to Ogden, that she had a good home, and was a woman of good moral character, that since learning of the deception practiced upon her she had become sick and distressed. That defendant has money in the Utah National bank.

Plaintiff prays judgment that the marriage license be annulled, and the marriage ceremony between herself and Darbey be declared null and void, and for costs of suit, and for a restraining order to prevent defendant Darbey from removing his property from the state of Utah.

Darbey filed an answer, admitting all the allegations contained in the plaintiff's complaint; and consenting to judgment as prayed.

The case came on for hearing before Judge Rolapp this morning, and after hearing the testimony of Miss Henderson, the only witness sworn, the court entered a decree granting the plaintiff's prayer in full.

Miss Henderson is a prepossessing young lady of 24, is tall, with dark eyes and clear complexion, and is evidently a person of education and refinement.

The man is a typical Idaho rancher, as stated, 51 years old, and manifestly not a suitable partner for the young lady.

Miss Henderson will return home today, a wiser and sadder woman than when she left to take James Darbey for "better or for worse."

COMBINES AND MERGERS.

They Are After Them in Chicago and Omaha.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 13.—The World-Herald today quotes Gov. Savage as saying that any attempt to include the packing houses of Nebraska in a merger will result in a strong fight in the courts. On account of the large Nebraska packing interests an attempt of the state officials to prevent the combine from doing business in this state would have a serious effect on the proposed merger. Following is the governor's views:

"As soon as it comes to my knowledge that a merger of the packing interests has taken place, I shall instruct the legal department of the state to investigate fully. If I find that any law of the state of Nebraska is being violated I will direct that proceedings be immediately brought to declare the merger void and will impose the full penalty of the law against those responsible for the combination."

Chicago, Sept. 13.—Alleged victims of trade combinations with headquarters in Chicago, have begun a campaign against such organizations and United States Dist. Atty. Bethea has told them that if they will furnish the evidence he will take the cases into the courts. The complaints are made against the electrical supply companies, the Master Plumbers' association and the American Tobacco company. Atty. Bethea promises that he will take up the charges, incorporate them in a bill for injunction under the Sherman law and forward the document to Atty. Gen. Knox for approval. He insists, however, that in such cases the victims so-called shall justify their complaints within something tangible.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

Designed to End Strike Trouble—Nothing Certain Yet.

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 13.—The conference between Gov. Stone and President John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, on matters pertaining to the strike, ended at 4:30 o'clock this morning after a discussion of two hours and a half. The others at the conference were State Senator Wm. Flynn of Pittsburg, a political friend of the governor, and a large employer of laborer in Allegheny county; M. E. McMullin of Pittsburg, a wealthy man of many interests; Col. W. P. Richardson of Harrisburg keeper of the state arsenal, and Assistant-Quartermaster of the national guard, and District Presidents Thomas D. Nicholls of Scranton, Thomas Duffy of McAdoo, and John Fahey of Shamokin. At the conclusion of the meeting Gov. Stone gave to the waiting newspaper correspondents the following written statement:

Messrs. Mitchell, Nicholls, Fahey, Duffy, Senator Flynn, Col. Richardson and Gov. Stone have been in conference. All the differences have been discussed with the best of feeling.

Every effort to get the participants in the conference to divulge what took place proved unavailing. Messrs. Mitchell, Duffy and Fahey took the 4:40 a. m. train for Wilkesbarre, Mr. Nicholls remaining here. President Mitchell before leaving would not even say whether the conference was satisfactory to him and his district presidents.

While no official information can be had on the matter it is believed here that day, Stone and his colleague submitted a proposition to President Mitchell which will tend to end the struggle in the hard coal field.

The conference was the result of the visit of Gov. Stone, Senator Flynn, Attorney-General Elkin, Mr. McMullin and P. A. B. Widener of Philadelphia to New York a few days ago when Mr. Widener called on J. P. Morgan. The meeting was called at the instance of the governor. There was a rumor in circulation that Gov. Stone wanted the miners to return to work and have the operators adjust the differences afterward. It can be authoritatively stated that the men will not return to work on those conditions.

Attorney-General Elkin and Mr. Widener were invited to the conference. It was given out that Mr. Elkin could not get here in time, but no reason was assigned for Widener's absence.

KAIGHN-HAYES MURDER CASE.

George Rhodes Secured as a Juror This Morning.

ADJOURNED TILL MONDAY.

Today's Examination of Jurors—Defendant Still in a Comparatively Cheerful Mood.

One more juror was secured at the session of the Roy Kaighn murder trial today making the total nine who have been selected thus far. The juror selected this morning was George Rhodes, a teamster employed by the Inter-Mountain Milling company, residing at Mill Creek.

Attorney Frank Hoffman conducted the examination of the jurors on behalf of the defense during most of the session today. H. T. Shurtliff, the foreman of the Peter Mortensen jury, was an interested spectator for a short time this morning.

The defendant appeared in his usual mood and was surrounded in court by the same relatives who have been in attendance during the entire trial.

It was the intention of Judge Morse to hold an afternoon session today, but Mr. Hoffman and Judge King both had other matters to attend to, so upon their suggestion the court adjourned at 12:30 until Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

TODAY'S EXAMINATION.

Out of the 30 jurors on the special venire issued yesterday and returnable this morning only 14 passed their voir dire examination and were sworn in. They are Thomas B. Shaw, Samuel F. Ball, Ed A. Atwood, Jacob Mauss, Jr., George Rhodes, Elias E. Evans, Thomas Sutherland, John R. Smith, James Moffat, Albert Shaw, Heber B. Aldous, James T. Slosby, John Rider and W. M. Williams. John B. Fagg, a juror who was summoned yesterday and failed to appear, was in court this morning and was examined on his voir dire and sworn and accepted.

John Rider, Ed A. Atwood, Albert Shaw and Thomas G. Sutherland were the first four jurors called to the box. The latter two had formed opinions on the case and their minds were so biased that they could not try the case fairly and impartially, so they were challenged by the defense and excused. Rider and Atwood were passed for cause by both the defense and state. When the court called for the state's sixth peremptory challenge, Mr. Eichnor excused Mr. Atwood. Mr. Rider was excused by the defense upon their fourth peremptory challenge.

Heber B. Aldous, James T. Clasby, Samuel F. Ball and George Rhodes were then called to the box. Mr. Clasby was prejudiced against capital punishment so was challenged by District Attorney Eichnor and excused. George Rhodes had formed an opinion which went to the guilt or innocence of defendant and which would require evidence to remove. He was excused upon the challenge of the defense. Mr. Ball and Mr. Rhodes were passed for cause by both sides but the state used its seventh peremptory challenge and excused the former gentleman. Mr. Rhodes was satisfactory to both sides and was sworn and accepted as the ninth juror to try the case.

Elias C. Evans, John R. Smith and John B. Fagg were called to the jury box and were examined by Judge King for the defense. They were all passed for cause and their examination by the district attorney had not commenced when court adjourned until Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Deputy Sheriffs Burbidge, O. P. Pratt and Ed Naylor were sworn by the clerk to take charge of the jury during the recess of the court.

Revolutionists Getting Near.

Washington, Sept. 13.—The state department today received a cablegram from Consul Malmrose at Colon, which stated that the revolutionists were approaching the city and expressing fears that the Colombian troops were not sufficiently numerous to safeguard the railroad. The dispatch was immediately sent to the navy department.

NEW BUILDING FOR UTAH STATE FAIR.

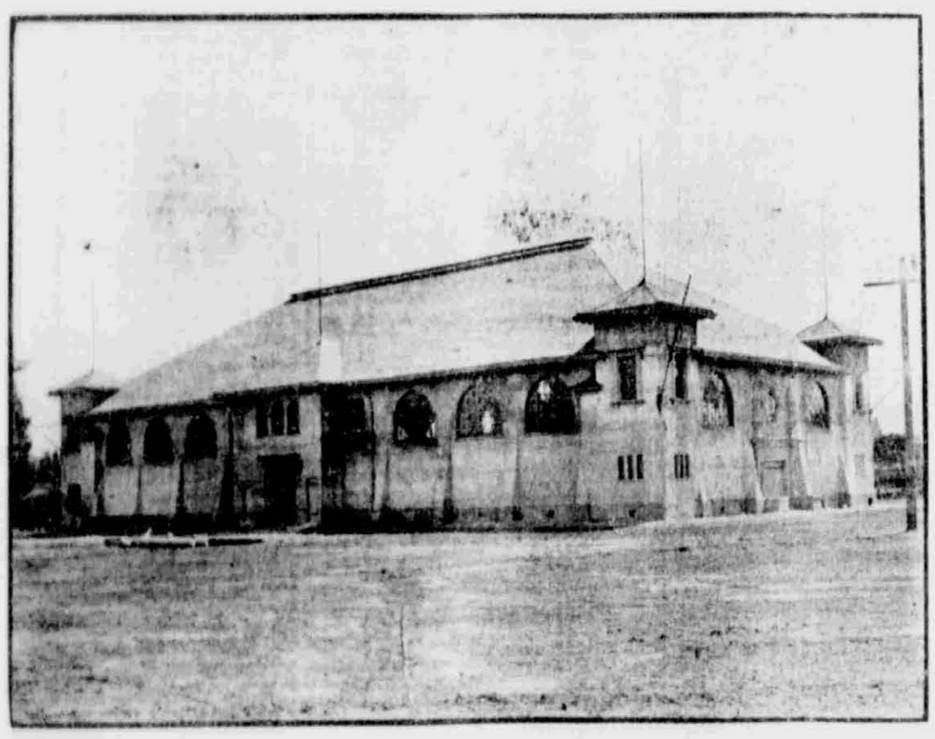


Photo by Pries.

Above is a good perspective of the new exposition building at the state fair grounds. It is 58x163 feet in dimensions and 44 feet high in the clear. The material of construction is of metal lath and cement plaster, and the cost of the completed structure is $20,000. Suitable arrangements have been made inside for exhibition purposes, and a large band stand has been erected opposite the main entrance which is at the southeast corner. The other and minor buildings are being pushed as rapidly as possible by Architect Ware, so that everything will be in readiness when the time comes for the reception of the exhibits. Extensive cattle, sheep and hog and fowl pens have been erected, the race track is in good shape, and an electric system of lighting will obtain. President Empey is visiting the grounds this afternoon to further the arrangements. Both he and Secretary Sears are much encouraged at the outlook. The fair will open Sept. 30, and close the night of October 4.

The Daily R. R. Disaster.

Santa Fe Passenger Train Collides With Freight Train at Struby, Col.—Three Dead and One Seriously Injured—Engines and Eight Cars Ditched With Engineers and Firemen Under Them—List of Dead and Injured.

Denver, Colo., Sept. 13.—Santa Fe passenger train No. 608, known as the newspaper train, which left Denver this morning at 3:50, bound for Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Chicago and St. Louis, collided with a freight train at Struby, a small station several miles south of Littleton, and three members of the passenger train crew were killed and another perhaps fatally injured.

The dead:

Mack Barnhart,
J. A. Pittingill, fireman,
John Rogers, fireman.

Seriously injured:

Archie Stewart, engineer.

Some of the passengers were badly shaken up and bruised but so far as known none was killed or seriously injured.

The freight, when ascending a steep grade on a sidetrack at Struby to let the passenger train pass, parted in the middle and 15 or 18 heavily loaded cars started back toward the approaching passenger train, which was drawn by two engines.

The engineers tried to back out of the way of the runaway cars, but did not succeed. The crash, when the two trains met, was heard for miles. Both passenger engines were thrown into the ditch and eight cars were piled up on them.

The engineers and firemen were buried under the wreckage.

FOR RELIEF OF THE BANKS.

Secretary Shaw Will Release $4,000,000 of Treasury Holdings.

No Prospect of Currency Famine Except in New York, and This Will Be Fully Provided Against.

Washington, Sept. 13.—Secy. Shaw today issued the following statement:

"Secy. Shaw has made arrangements to release about $4,000,000 of the treasury holdings. He has had a list prepared of those national banks throughout the country which held free or pledged bonds at the date of their last report, and has made inquiry for others. After making allowance for changed conditions since last report he expects this will release at least $4,000,000. He has sent notice to all such that if they will send these bonds to the treasurer of the United States in sums of $50,000 or more they will be designated as temporary depositaries and the face value of the bonds will be deposited with them to the credit of the treasurer of the United States. He has pursued this course in preference to designating depositaries in the ordinary way, which compels them to buy bonds in the market at a large premium, thus paying out more for the bonds than they get from the government. The customs receipts are extremely heavy at this particular season of the year, and the cash balance of the treasurer has gradually increased.

"He has also decided to anticipate the October interest, amounting to about $4,200,000, and with this in view, orders have been issued to the various subtreasuries to cash such coupons as may be presented them for payment and the treasurer of the United States has been instructed to mail checks for interest on the registered bonds. All this was decided upon some days ago and letters and telegrams prepared for today.

"The secretary sees in present conditions no occasion for alarm. He calls attention to the fact that there is no evidence of a currency famine present or prospective elsewhere than in New York, and even there the rate is not high for commercial paper, and for commercial paper he has the greater solicitude. He is well satisfied with his efforts to increase circulation which he decided upon in the early summer, when present conditions were plainly visible, and has the presses busy preparing to meet an emergency which he does not expect but which he thinks it is wise to provide against. Thus far he has made requests only of such banks as hold large deposits and have very limited circulation, and he is not asking these to increase to the maximum, nor to increase at all for the present. He does not desire to force the banks into the market to buy bonds at a rate higher than the government is willing to pay. He does desire to make the best possible use of the free bonds now held by the banks. Incidentally he likes to encourage banks to hold free bonds during the dull months, believing it is much better to hold bonds that will yield one half per cent than to make call loans at two per cent. He is therefore giving the banks that hold these an opportunity to use them to most excellent advantage. This method, if pursued by the banks, would give a slight element of elasticity to our otherwise inelastic currency system.

"His position as regards increasing circulation is perhaps best expressed in a letter which he recently wrote a banker that had already been buying bonds, and which he has consented to make public, as follows:

"Treasury Department, Washington, Sept. 10, 1902.—My Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8th is received. I find it well nigh impossible to convey the purport of my request even to the banks of whom I have made the request, much less to the public.

"First—In case of imminent danger or actual disaster I will be compelled to use government deposits to buy in greater circulation.

"Second—I desire to have from five to fifty millions additional circulation issued preparatory, so that it can be used in four days instead of forty.

"Third—I will be glad to have the banks holding deposits arrange if they can to borrow the bonds.

"Fourth—I desire to avoid no bids into the market to buy bonds at the present time.

"Fifth—I do not care to have the money issued unless conditions make it well nigh imperative.

"I am making no demand upon any bank. The amount of their circulation must be determined by their directors, but inasmuch as the public holds the secretary of the treasury somewhat responsible for existing conditions I deem myself justified in using the public funds now held by various banks on deposit as I think best for the public good, and in case of trouble I may think best to use these to buy increased circulation, the banks now holding such funds having preference."

The Dead Astor Child.

London, Sept. 13.—It is now announced that Gwendolin, the nine-year-old daughter of William Waldorf Astor, who died of consumption yesterday morning at Cliveden, will be buried in the graveyard of the church at Hedsor, close to Cliveden.

To Fix Things.

Tien Tsin, Sept. 13.—Maj.-Gen. Creagh, the British commander, has started for Pekin to confer with the foreign ministers regarding the restoration of the Chi-Li section of the Pekin New Chwang railroad to the Chinese.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

Mrs. Wm. M. Stewart Killed in Automobile Accident.

San Francisco, Sept. 13.—Mrs. William M. Stewart, wife of the United States senator from Nevada, was killed today in an automobile accident. Mrs. Stewart was enjoying a ride with Henry Foote, son of W. W. Foote, the attorney, and H. B. Taylor. They were going along Santa Clara avenue, in Alameda county, Taylor guiding the machine and sending it along at high speed. A vehicle approached and Taylor swerved the automobile in order to avoid a collision. At that moment he either lost control of the steering apparatus or made a miscalculation. The automobile ran into a telegraph pole and the occupants were thrown out. Mrs. Stewart struck on her head and was carried in an unconscious condition to a sanitarium in the vicinity, where she soon died.

Foote and Taylor escaped with minor bruises. Taylor was a cousin of Fredl erick Benedict, who was recently crushed to death under his automobile in New York. Mrs. Stewart resided at Washington, D. C. She was visiting her sister, Mrs. Louis Aldrich, who lives in San Francisco.

Mrs. Stewart before her marriage, was a Miss Foote, a daughter of Henry Foote, governor and United States senator from Mississippi before the civil war and who during the fifties spent some years in California. Senator and Mrs. Stewart have several daughters, one of whom lives in New York City.

RIGHTEOUS RULING.

Judge Chytraus of Chicago Knocks Out Grain "Corners."

Chicago, Sept. 13.—Corners in grain are forever rendered impossible hereafter by a decision handed down by Judge Chytraus, in the circuit court today, if sustained by a higher court. The case was for an injunction asked by Waite Thorburn & Co. against prominent commission houses in the recent July oats corner. The most important ruling is that the Chicago board of trade loses the power to pass on property rights where margins are involved, denying its authority to discipline members for refusing to put up called margins.

Temperatures.

Chicago, Sept. 13.—Temperatures at 7 a. m.: New York, 68; Boston and Washington, 64; Philadelphia, 66; St. Louis and Chicago, 44; Minneapolis, 38; Cincinnati, 46.

Crocker Recovering.

London, Sept. 13.—George Crocker, the California capitalist, is slowly recovering here from blood poisoning, which set in a fortnight ago as the result of an ulcerated tooth. It is hoped that all danger is passed.

STILL BURNING FIERCELY.

Spindle Top Heights All Ablaze—Serious Losses.

New Orleans, Sept. 13.—A special to the Picayune from Beaumont, Texas, at 1 a. m. says:

One acre of Spindle Top Heights in the great Beaumont oil field is a seething mass of flames and stifling smoke. The fire is under control so long as the wind continues from the northeast, fanning the flames away from the hill. Thirty-five or 40 derricks have been razed to the ground in the Keith-Ward tract. Across the avenue the mammoth 55 feet barrel tank of the Higgins people is on fire, but the oil is being drawn from the bottom and packed away, which will eventually starve out the fire. The great Texas Flora gusher is always sending flames 50 feet into the air. The Wood well is on fire. Several smaller tanks are burning. Some place the loss at $250,000, while others think it will be greater. The actual destruction of machinery will be enormous. The Higgins oil and Fuel companies are possibly the heaviest losers. Keith-Ward are large sufferers. Two wells of the Becky Sharpe syndicate have been burned.

Among other losers are Maj. Stribling, the Flora Texas Oil company, Bryce & Parker, The Horseshoe Oil company, A. B. Wood, of Galveston, and Mr. Goodell.

The burning oil field is now under the command of B. S. Cullinan, a Standard Oil man, for years in charge of their interests at Corsicana. Judge Martin, of the district court officially placed Cullinan in charge and to all intents and purposes martial law is reigning on Spindle Top.

Mr. Cullinan has mustered 500 men to his aid. They have 100 steam boilers at their service and streams of steam will be applied today.

The fire fighters have been able to advance to within 150 feet of the burning structures.