

NAVY SADDY LAGGING

Panama Unable to Enforce Rigid Regulations.

OFFICERS ARE TOO INTIMATE

They Address One Another Familiarly, and Come and Go Largely as They Please—Admiral Jeffries Is Popular With All.

MERRILL A. TEAGUE.
(Staff Correspondent of The Oregonian.)
LETTER NO. 11.
PANAMA, R. P., Dec. 25.—"Say, Jeff, I'm goin' ashore this afternoon."
"All right, Charlie; when are you comin' off again?"
"Sometime tomorrow mornin', I suppose."

"That's do; but don't make it any later, as I may want to go ashore myself tomorrow afternoon."
"All right," Charlie answered, and retired.

That colloquy is a fair index to the discipline in the Panamanian navy, which swings on a lax anchor about two miles off-shore from this city, well out beyond the line of municipal jurisdiction, and within the limits of the 22-foot tide which ebbs and flows along this rugged coast.

I visited the navy the other day, and it was while seated on the quarterdeck of the flagship, just after breakfast, which is regularly served at 11 o'clock, that I heard the conversation quoted above.

"Charlie," otherwise Colonel Charles Ross, chief of staff of the flagship, Tres Noviembre, lounged into the presence of the Admiral of the Navy, General H. O. Jeffries, and without the formality of a salute, announced his intention of going ashore. "Jeff," the Admiral made his response, and the incident closed when "Charlie," in civilian dress and a small straw hat, lounged forward again, ceremony being carefully eschewed.

In a Nest of Liberals.

As Charlie went forward, Jeff remarked: "There's a good fellow. He's been down in this country with me for a long time, and we've been in some pretty tight places together, but he always managed to get out. During the last revolution we were together in a little tugboat, and went up one of the small streams that lead inward from the coast of Cauca. We had no idea there were any Liberals around until we ran right into a nest of them. They ambushed us properly, and for about two minutes we had the hottest kind of a time. They shot the boat full of holes, and it is a wonder they didn't sink us alive. Charlie had washed his undershirt that morning and hung it out to dry. During the firing 4 bullets went through the garment, and when he came back to Panama, Charlie showed the undershirt to General Alban, who asked: 'Did you have it on when that was done?' 'Charlie' didn't see Alban's joke; but he is a good fellow, all the same, and always went ashore with me when there's anything doing, ashore or afloat."

"Jeff's a Funny Fellow."

And a few minutes later, when, with "Charlie," the negro captain of the flagship, and the Englishman who serves as the ship's chief engineer, and who is in a small sailing boat, bound shoreward, "Charlie" said, in a casual way: "Jeff certainly is a funny fellow. He went ashore with me for a long time, and then, when we went to go ashore in the afternoon, tell us to be back before sundown because he doesn't want to stay cooped up on an ship all his life, and means to take a little shore leave himself after sundown."

The spirit of the whole Panamanian navy appears in these incidents, and conversely, the officers are on too intimate terms of friendship to permit them through any of the grades, to enforce rigid regulations, or to exact those official courtesies common to the warships of other nations. The navy itself is quite a wondrous affair, and thoroughly in keeping with the free and easy manner characteristic of the commissioned and enlisted personnel.

This navy consists of three ships—the Tres Noviembre (flagship), Medelin and Chiquito. The last is called a torpedo boat. In any other navy of the world, she would rank as a tug, medium-sized and generously supplied with deckhouses and awnings. She can do something like 22 knots an hour, and has a good record of the Panamanian navy. Of armor she has none, and her torpedo equipment is still a dream of the future; nor has she gun platforms for armament of the other classes.

The Chiquito and the Medelin.

The Chiquito is commanded by Colonel Arosemena—all the titles in this navy are borrowed from the military branch—and when used at all it is for little excursions up and down the coast in the vicinity of Panama. She passed the flagship shortly after I went aboard that vessel the other day, laden to the gunwales with a gay crowd of excursionists bound for Taboga Island. Her passing was without incident except that she accented by at top speed, the presence of the Admiral aboard the flagship being no reason why she should clip her colors, or otherwise note his existence.

The Medelin is a former frigate.

She was bound somewhere up the west coast of Central America and purchased for a small sum from one of the Central American republics at the close of the last war, in whose navy she was classed as the crack ship. She was brought down to Panama in tow, her machinery being disabled by an accident, and the damage has not been repaired, and the Medelin swings the length of anchor chains with each tide. Farther than that she may never go. Her black hull floats high out of the water, disclosing to every blade of her propeller and a goodly part of the rudder, in the technique of this very remarkable navy the Medelin ranks as a troop ship or transport. Just now she is very busily engaged in performing the arduous duties of a quarantine boat in a port where quarantine regulations are not enforced.

The Tres Noviembre.

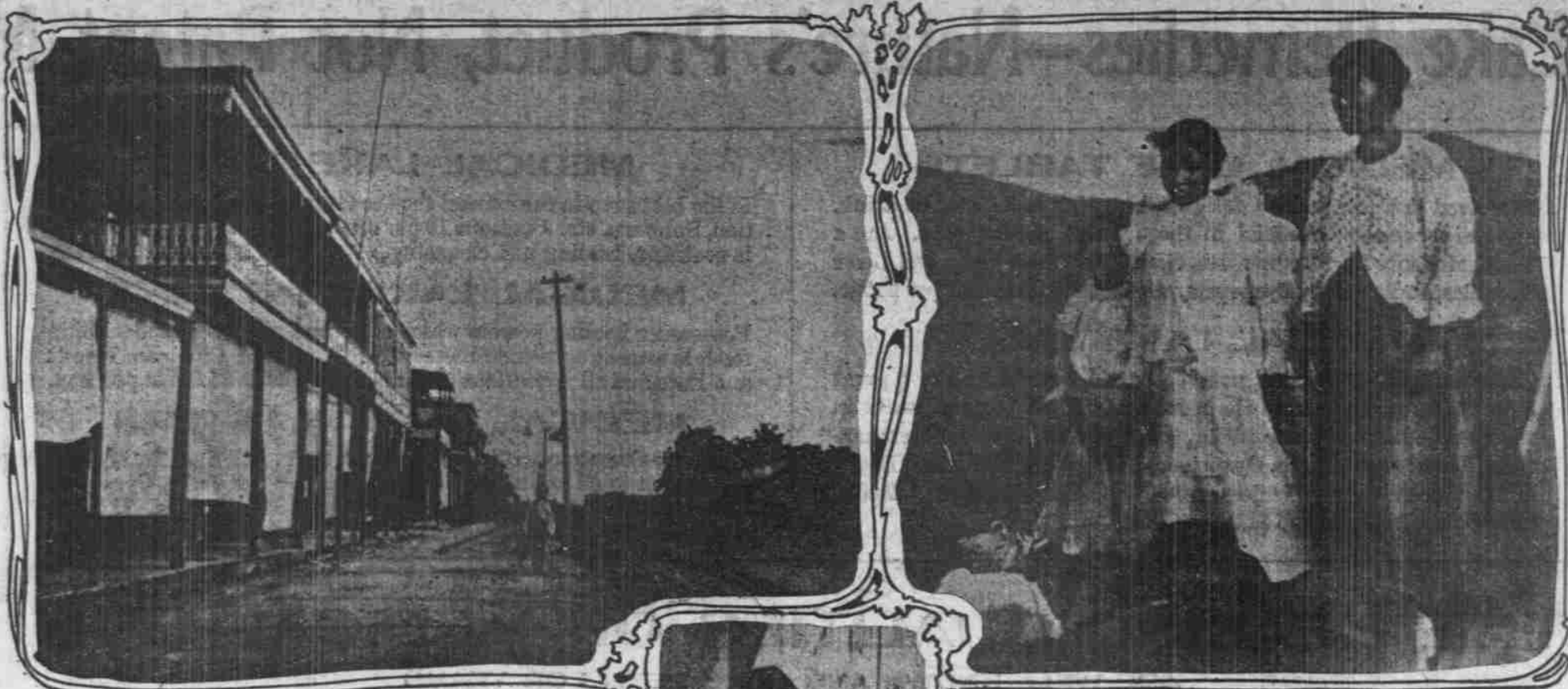
Of the flagship Tres Noviembre, there is something better to be said. Just how this ship came into possession of Colombia nobody now in authority in the navy seems to know. She was purchased several years ago from one of the Central American republics at the close of the last war, in whose navy she was classed as the crack ship. She was brought down to Panama in tow, her machinery being disabled by an accident, and the damage has not been repaired, and the Medelin swings the length of anchor chains with each tide. Farther than that she may never go. Her black hull floats high out of the water, disclosing to every blade of her propeller and a goodly part of the rudder, in the technique of this very remarkable navy the Medelin ranks as a troop ship or transport. Just now she is very busily engaged in performing the arduous duties of a quarantine boat in a port where quarantine regulations are not enforced.

Incidentally, it may be remarked that

General Ruben Varon is no longer in active naval service. He did the work the Sececcionists paid him to do, and did it faithfully—all except that of preventing the escape of the gunboat Bogota—but this honored Commander is not entirely trusted by those now in control. He is, therefore, spending his time ashore, having been promoted (?) to the post of first adjutant to the Minister of War and Marine, a position in which he has an opportunity to wear his best civilian dress, look as handsome as he really is, and which has the additional attractions of paying a good salary and entailing no work.

The ship Varon once commanded was, when Colombia got her, known as the

SCENES ON THE ISTHMUS, FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TEAGUE



Front street, Colon, is the principal business street of Colon. The first building with a flagpole is the headquarters of the local police.

Pedilla. By that name she was known until she steamed into Panama one fine morning nearly two years ago, and with a few shots sunk the Lautera and killed General Carlos Alban, and then ran away without compelling the surrender of the City of Panama. After that engagement her name was changed to the Tres Noviembre. First of November—the Colombian Fourth of July—now, the Panamanian Revolutionists established their independence, her name has again been changed to the Third of November (Tres Noviembre).

A Londonderry Product.

This vessel was built originally for the fruit service on the Western Coast, and has some accommodations for passengers. She is a product of Londonderry, Ireland, the date of her launching being a matter of much uncertainty and no concern. Of about 190 tons displacement, she is seaworthy. Wholly without armor, she is able to present a fairly good appearance, due to the open mounting of some modern, small-calibered, breech-loading guns. There are two pieces aft, one on either quarter; two just forward of the beam and one 15-pounder Driggs-Seabury gun, with telescopic sights—to which slight attention the visitor is particularly called—mounted forward over the forecastle. When I was aboard this ship the other day the officers and crew were much excited over the news that some additional guns, including some rapid-firing one and two pounders, were expected in a day or so to complete her armament.

Under the command of General Jeffries, who does not profess to be a sailor, but who acts as his own navigator, notwithstanding his small knowledge of seamanship, the Tres Noviembre is being fitted out for the war. She has installed "Charlie" Ross as executive officer of the ship, and "Charlie" has drawn about him as chiefs of gun divisions a number of young Americans, all of a dare-devil disposition, and nearly all of whom have been seen in service as enlisted men in the United States Navy. The day I was aboard "Charlie" had received a letter from an American seaman, just out of prison after a sentence for desertion, who was pining for an opportunity to wear shoulder-straps in the Panamanian navy, and who earnestly begged to be given a job.

Admiral in the Smoking-Room.

Aboard the Tres Noviembre, one is constantly running into the unexpected. In the flush of patriotism, which suffuses the new republic, the fact that the flagship of the navy boasts no coat-of-arms is a detail which would be remedied as soon as Panama adopts a coat-of-arms. Over the door of General (Admiral) Jeffries' cabin, located in the after-deck house, is a small enameled sign bearing the legend:

SMOKING ROOM.

Within this cabin, however, there is a general air of comfort. Jeffries has had it remodeled to suit his convenience. In one end is a flat-top table, the nautical equipment of which consists of a pair of marine glasses. In the forward starboard corner is the Admiral's bunk, made formidable by the presence of two or three much-lined cushions. In the case at the head, and along the port side runs a settee.

Jeff is a Good Provider.

It was here that breakfast was served; and a first-class meal it was, for one of the officers of the ship, who has a "inner man." So firmly he is convinced that patriotism flourishes upon a well-filled stomach that he causes the government to supply him with a pair of plates for stores for the Tres Noviembre. He insists that the officers and men on the ship shall have everything in the way of staples and delicacies the market affords, and the result is that the hands are living infinitely better than the majority ever thought of living ashore. You find, therefore, a happy, contented crew, and a little contented that they are new to the boat or that a goodly portion of them are new to the sea. Jeffries has enlisted his own crew since the republic was hatched, and while he has no uniforms for them except soldier's caps, he is winning their affections and promoting their loyalty to the new government by looking closely after their interests and satisfying their animal desires.

Here, as in the army, the utter lack of

discipline is noticeable. When the Admiral went aboard the other morning, after having been some little time ashore, the only mark of respect paid him was by a little coal-black fellow, evidently the officer of the deck for the watch, who came bustling up to the bow of the gangway. Over this fellow's right shoulder was slung a broad strap, supporting a two-edged sword, hanging at the left hip. Jeffries, who had established a press censorship, has notified the newspaper correspondents in Teluride that all articles must be submitted to him before they are sent out, and has taken control of both telegraph and telephone lines.

Pennsylvania Mines Again Working.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Jan. 4.—The anthracite mines resumed work today after an idleness of ten days, and will at once work to full capacity in the effort to fill the demand for domestic steel, which has suddenly risen out because of the cold weather. Dealers are entirely out of these sizes and the unusual condition of a famine prevails in this and several other cities in the heart of the mining region.

enforcement of rigid discipline extending

only to one thing, and that is to keeping all the rifles and small arms aboard the boat tightly locked in the armory, a small iron depository just aft of the pilot-house.

That Jeffries does not believe in being too hard on his men was well illustrated when we clambered up to the bridge. The hour was about noon, the sun was shining with true tropical torridity, and the sailor who had the watch on the bridge lay stretched out at full length on a narrow bench, sound asleep, with his cap pulled well down over his face. Following Jeffries' example, we stepped lightly so as not to awaken the man, and our inspection from the bridge finished, we went softly down the ladder, while the man slept peacefully on.

But it is to be remembered that it is of the navy of Panama we are writing, and such little things as the watch asleep at his post are of no moment. Going aft from the bridge, the chief engineer, a round, full-bearded Englishman, came to the quarterdeck to speak with Jeffries. In his hands he carried the broken part of one of the pumps. The accident was one which had to be remedied. Of machine shops in Panama there are none, so after looking at the broken pieces Jeffries quietly told the man:

"If you are going ashore this afternoon slip down to La Boca and see if you can't find something aboard one of those old French canal dredges or scows that you can use in place of this. If you don't find what you want there, go out to some of the ships anchored off Flamenco Island; maybe they will lend you a piece."

This Navy Is a Joke.

And when the four-oared boat took us ashore, one of those aboard was the chief engineer, who carried in his hands the broken part of the pump and who was setting out on his endeavor to pick up or borrow a piece which could be used in its place.

In the Panamanian navy they do not regard such things of any importance; yet Jeffries is a man of force and capability. Given time, he may succeed in making something out of the material with which he has to work. He has not yet taught either officers or men that on a man-of-war ropes, marlin pins and belaying pins should not be left lying around the decks in a most perfect state of confusion. Neither has he brought them to any realization of the benefits of discipline; but he has only begun. Ashore or afloat, Jeffries is fitted to command, and it is the common statement that in the three years he has had he has succeeded in markedly raising the morale of the service. There remains, however, infinite room for improvement.

Seriously considered, this alleged navy amounts to nothing as an arm of the National defense. The Chiquito and the Medelin are wholly worthless in point of availability for actual naval service. The Tres Noviembre would make as good a show against another boat of her class as she did against the Lautera; but against anything bearing any actual resemblance to a naval vessel she could offer no more resistance than could a paper-shell almost to the fall of a steam-hammer. Nor is there cause to hope for much improvement. Of the Chiquito and Medelin nothing can be made which could possibly rank as a naval vessel. The Tres Noviembre might be converted by the generous expenditure of money, into a serviceable transport or an auxiliary cruiser, but unless Panama procures some ships, officers, men, guns, ammunition and all the other necessities for a naval establishment, her navy is to be looked upon as nothing short of a huge joke.

Called Out to Subdue Rebel.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Jan. 4.—The National Guard has been called out.

(A dispatch to the Associated Press from Montevideo, Uruguay, Jan. 4, announced that a revolution had broken out in the Department of Florida, and that the government was sending troops and war munitions to the disturbed district. It was further stated that a state of siege had been proclaimed throughout the Republic. The revolutionary movement is understood to be due to the white party, or Nationalists, which fomented the revolution which ended March, 1903.)

Earthquake in Ecuador.

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Jan. 3. (Sunday).—A heavy earthquake shock was felt here at 8 o'clock this evening.

Press Censorship Is Established.

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 4.—Under the proclamation issued by Governor Peabody, declaring San Jacinto a state of insurrection, and giving the military full power to use such measures as they deem proper to restore peace, Major S. Hill, commander of the military at Teluride, has established a press censorship. He has notified the newspaper correspondents in Teluride that all articles must be submitted to him before they are sent out, and has taken control of both telegraph and telephone lines.

Pennsylvania Mines Again Working.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Jan. 4.—The anthracite mines resumed work today after an idleness of ten days, and will at once work to full capacity in the effort to fill the demand for domestic steel, which has suddenly risen out because of the cold weather. Dealers are entirely out of these sizes and the unusual condition of a famine prevails in this and several other cities in the heart of the mining region.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

keep open the lines of communication for

supplies from the United States or between the Army posts within the Philippines, without which supplies the military forces of the United States could not hold command of the islands.

"That Manila is not, but that Subig Bay is, suited for a naval base and station, and of all harbors in the archipelago it is the best for the purpose."

"That the fortification of Subig Bay is essential to the security of a naval station located there."

"That a fortified naval base on Subig Bay will contribute materially to the defense of Manila Bay."

The report urges that appropriations be made without delay for the fortification of both Subig Bay and Manila Bay.

AMERICAN SHIP REACHES COREA

Marines Will Be Marched to Capital, If Legislation Desires.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The Navy Department has been advised by cable of the arrival of the transport ship of the transport ship, from Manila, with a company of marines on board. The commander of the ship, Mr. Allen, at Seoul, and if the situation demands it, the marines will be marched to the Korean capital for the protection of the American Legation.

Famous Coal Case Is Advanced.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The United States Supreme Court today advanced the case of the Interstate Commerce Commission vs. David G. Baird, and set the case for March 1. The case was instituted at the instance of W. R. Hearst and involves the right of the commission to compel the Anthracite coal-carriers to produce contracts with the companies, and to enforce compliance with them. It grows out of the coal strike of 1902.

Postal Fraud Indictments Upheld.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The District Criminal Court today overruled the demurrer for Motion picture films, and the demurrer against ex-Assistant Attorney-General James N. Tynes and ex-Law Clerk Harrison J. Barrett, both of the Postoffice Department, growing out of the postal investigation. The court had already sustained the demurrer to the other indictment.

Tanner Will Get the Place.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—It was announced today that the White House tonight that "Colonel" James Tanner will be appointed Register of Wills for the District of Columbia to succeed Louis A. Dent. Mr. Dent will be appointed to a post in the Consular Service. Mr. Tanner was formerly Commissioner of Penitents.

Benson Gives \$10,000 Bail.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—John A. Benson, who was arrested several days ago by United States Secret Service officers, charged with defrauding the Government out of thousands of acres of land, was released today on \$10,000 cash bail. The court upon furnishing \$10,000 cash bail.

Accounts Tally So Far.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The investigation of the accounts of the Interstate Commerce Commission continued today. The accounts of A. Moley, it is stated so far as examined have been found to tally.

STRENUOUS LAWLESSNESS.

As It Is Related to Strenuous Americanism.

Fitchburg Sentinel.

After the great financial catastrophe of 1873, which continued about 1880, the country passed through darker days than it has ever passed through since. The cities and country were filled with tramps. Hordes of men were without work, and were driven to desperation. Doubtless there were more acute and prolonged suffering then than after the collapse of 1893 and a longer period of depression. It was in 1878 that the notorious Pittsburgh railroad riots occurred, an outbreak due to the hard times, and there was no end of minor disturbances. At the same time, the disturbances then were different from what they are now. The following from the Springfield Republican demands attention:

"No matter what the cause may be, no one will dispute the fact that the country is passing through a period of strenuous lawlessness. Not only is Chicago at the wit end of her authorities and people to know how to deal with aggressive criminality, but Boston is being beset with burglaries and assaults upon people, which proceed from the snatching of women's purses to deadly assaults upon all this. Do people realize that these evil conditions have gone to such a pass in Boston that Police Commissioner Duggan has advised women to carry pistols and use them, in case of attack on the streets?"

The truth is that American character is taking on a distinct taint of positive lawlessness. Whether it is due to the failure of parental authority and to lax discipline in the public schools, or to the large proportion of foreigners among us

DEFENSES FOR ISLANDS URGED

Army and Naval Board Reports on the Philippine Situation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—A report submitted by the joint Army and Naval Board, of which Admiral Dewey is the senior member, relative to fortifications for the Philippines, transmitted to the House today by Secretaries Root and Moody, says:

"The policy of Congress may be assumed to be to hold the Philippines in American possession as against any foreign enemy, but although the islands have been in our possession now more than five years, not a gun has been mounted nor an earthwork raised to protect any of our harbors."

The report recites that the board "has the honor to submit to the Government its judgment that the National policy, as expressed in Congress, cannot be maintained in war unless provision is made for the defense of the islands."

The board, it is stated, is of the opinion: "That without a fortified naval base in the Philippines, the Asiatic fleet cannot

POINT FOR DIETRICH

One Point in Indictment Against Senator Quashed.

NO TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY

Government Had Called Many Witnesses to Support Its Contentions—Prominent Nebraska Must Answer Charge Selling Postoffice.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 4.—A legal battle protracted the trial in the Federal Court of United States Senator Charles H. Dietrich, charged with alleged conspiracy with Jacob Fisher, postmaster at Hastings, Neb., to violate the statute against bribery, and also with the direct violation of that law. Counsel for Mr. Dietrich scored the first victory. The point was on a demurrer filed by General Cowin to the indictment, attacking its sufficiency, and alleging it would have the effect of placing the Senator on trial twice on the same charge. Judge Vandevanter announced for the court that the demurrer was sustained. This ruling quashes the indictment against Senator Dietrich, charging conspiracy. It was on this indictment that the Government had prepared itself for trial, and to testify in which a large number of witnesses had been subpoenaed and were present in the city.

Aside from the indictment charging the Senator with profiting by the leasing of a building to the United States Government, while a member of Congress, there still remains an indictment charging him directly with bribery in connection with the appointment of a postmaster at Hastings.

General Cowin, in addition to demurring to the conspiracy indictment, announced to the wish of Senator Dietrich to go to trial on the indictment charging violation of the law, and pleaded guilty counts in the demurrer, which charges:

First—That the first count in the indictment does not sufficiently state, allege or charge crime, misdemeanor, or offense of conspiracy.

Second—That there is a misjoinder of parties defendant to the indictment.

Third—That the first count indictment does not state, charge or set forth a crime, misdemeanor or offense against defendant.

Fourth—That in the first count the pretended conspiracy is merged in the alleged completed act.

Fifth—That Senator Dietrich is ready for and demands immediate trial for the completed offense to which he has been arraigned.

After a brief consultation between Judges Munger and Vandevanter, the latter announced that arguments on the demurrer would be heard on a demurrer hour argument the court took the matter under advisement, and later sustained it.

In doing so, the court stated there was a misjoinder, inasmuch as two separate and distinct charges could not be made in the indictment, the statute providing that but one charge can be made in a single indictment. Later, District Attorney Sumner said:

"If this conspiracy indictment is not good then there can be no indictment drawn under section 544, charging conspiracy to violate section 1361."

The court then set for trial the case wherein Senator Dietrich is charged with benefiting by a contract with the Government for the leasing of a building wherein was located the Postoffice at Hastings. Senator Dietrich's counsel then asked permission to withdraw the plea of not guilty and enter a demurrer to the indictment in this case on the ground that no offense is charged. General Cowin briefly argued the motion, and the court took it under advisement until tomorrow morning.

SMUGGLED SAWS TO PRISONER

Brothers of Chicago Bandit Planned

Well for His Escape.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Otto Roedel, 22 years old, and Emil Roedel, aged 19 years, brothers of Emil Roedel, under indictment for the carburn murders, were arrested here today. Suspicion that they planned to blow up the County Jail to liberate their brother was aroused when it was reported that they had nitro glycerine, candles, steel saws and files when arrested. Later it was denied they had nitro glycerine. It was hinted by the police that the Roedels were wanted in connection with robberies committed since the arrest of their brother.

After being arrested Otto Roedel confessed to smuggling saws to his brother, Emil, in the County Jail. The saws used by Emil Roedel in attempting to escape were found in his cell concealed in a slight crevice in the steel plating in the ceiling. Ross had been smeared over the crowsnest in the County Jail, and had \$200 bonds. Otto told in detail how he and Herman, on the night of the attempted escape, waited outside of the jail with a rope to assist the bandit in his descent from the roof.

Epidemic of Typhoid Feared.

KITTANNING, Pa., Jan. 4.—Grave fears exist that Kittanning may have an epidemic of typhoid fever. There are 100 cases and the disease is increasing rapidly. So far the death rate has been small.

SPECIALISTS FOR MEN

STRICTLY RELIABLE.

DR. TALCOTT & CO.

"WEAKNESS"

Affected men, commonly described as "weak," according to our observations, are not such, but depend upon reflex disturbances and are almost invariably induced or maintained by appreciable damage to the prostate gland. When occurring in robust subjects in every other respect these forms of so-called weakness are very amenable to proper treatment.

CONTRACTED DISORDERS

From statistics compiled from our practice, covering over 7500 cases, we find that 90 per cent have recovered in seven days or less. This successful treatment prevents all complications, such as stricture, inflammation of the bladder and prostate gland, and kidneys, and, together with our extremely low fees, should induce all in need of treatment to consult us.

Consultation Free. 250½ N. 9th St.

An Overworked Explanation.

Tacoma Ledger.

One disadvantage of being knocked in the head and robbed is the difficulty of making everybody believe it.