

BLOWN OFF FEET

New Yorkers Do Battle With Fierce Gale.

DRIVING SNOW WITH IT

So Dark at Midday That Lamps Are Lighted.

MANY BOATS LOSE BEARINGS

Ferry and Steamer Collide, and There Are Many Other Narrow Escapes—Several Are Injured by Flying Glass.

COLD WAVE SPREADING.

MINNESOTA—St. Paul reports 15 below zero weather.

WISCONSIN—Poor at La Crosse are calling for fuel; thermometer stands at 15 below.

OHIO—First real blizzard of the season.

NEW ENGLAND—Gale causes several marine disasters, and snowfall is quite heavy in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

INDIANA—Gale causes loss of \$100,000 in Southern part of state; Wabash River is frozen over.

ILLINOIS—One man is found frozen to a tree, another succumbs to cold.

GEORGIA—Two men are killed by flying debris.

ALABAMA—Tornado wrecks several houses and two children are killed at Dunder.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A driving snow storm, accompanied by furious squalls that at times rose to almost hurricane force, struck the city early today. Lowering black clouds pressed down on a bank of sea fog, and the dense character of the snowfall combined to produce for nearly half an hour so deep a darkness that lights were lit in all the downtown streets and along the river fronts.

During this period many ferries and other craft lost their bearings completely, and the harbor surrounded with the whistles of vessels cautiously groping their way through the gloom.

One Brooklyn boat, headed for the Manhattan side, found herself off the Battery, several blocks away from her slip. Ocean steamers bound in and out were compelled to stop and lie to until the darkness lifted. The ferryboat John G. Carlisle, carrying immigrants from Ellis Island, crashed into the steambot Taurus off the Battery, but both vessels escaped with slight damage.

The darkness lifted almost as quickly as it settled down, and the snow was succeeded by clearing skies, high gales and a rapidly falling temperature, the mercury going down 15 degrees, from 31 to 19, within three hours. So fierce was the gale during the afternoon that many pedestrians were thrown down and in some instances were seriously injured.

Around "Cape Flatiron," at Broadway and Twenty-third streets, the wind raged in gusts of almost cyclonic fury. Here one man was dangerously hurt by being struck with a fragment of a large plate glass window, blown out of an adjacent building. Towards evening the wind, which had at times attained a velocity of 60 miles an hour, died down, the mercury continuing to drop until at 10 o'clock it touched seven degrees above zero with indications of still lower figures during the night. In all about a dozen persons were reported by the police to have been injured by falls or flying pieces of debris during the day. The total snowfall was only about half an inch.

WILD STORM IN NEW ENGLAND

Gale Is Accountable for a Number of Marine Disasters.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—After one of the mildest Christmas days for many years, a wild winter storm broke over New England today and was accountable for a number of marine disasters.

Up to 7 o'clock tonight, three wrecks had been reported while several other vessels had been in distress during the day. One of the wrecks, a dredger, which sank within six miles of the wharves of Boston, resulted in the loss of three men, but in the case of the other two the sinking of the steamer Klown off Boston Light, and the wreck of the barge John W. Mackay, off Watch Hill, R. I., every one was saved.

The storm center passed over Northern New England during the forenoon, and the snowfall through that section was quite heavy, especially in Maine and New Hampshire, while wind velocities reaching more than 30 miles an hour, were reported from some points. Tonight the thermometer is falling fast.

Reports from Maine and New Hampshire show the storm has delayed train service greatly. About eight inches of snow fell in this city.

INDIANA LOSS REACHES \$100,000.

Southern Section of the State Suffered Heavily From Gale.

PRINCETON, Ind., Dec. 26.—The heavy storm of yesterday did at least \$100,000 damage in Southern Indiana, blowing down buildings, trees, fences and telephone and telegraph wires.

Real Blizzard Sweeps Ohio.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 26.—The first real blizzard of the winter is reported from various points in Ohio to have prevailed last night and today. The thermometer went down to zero, and the wind reached a velocity of 32 miles an hour, while a

heavy blinding snow fell to the depth of several inches. Railway traffic is delayed owing to the heavy snow storm.

Minnesota Expects Early Relief.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 26.—Sixteen degrees below zero was the record at the Weather Bureau today. At Winnipeg, Manitoba, the mercury went down to 20 degrees below, but is now rising, and warmer weather is in sight in the Northwest. The cold here was accompanied by a piercing wind, which made it more intense during the night.

Wisconsin Poor Want Fuel.

LA CROSSE, Wis., Dec. 26.—A drop in temperature of 30 degrees in 24 hours occurred here, and today the Government thermometer registered 15 degrees below zero. A penetrating north wind made it the most disagreeable day of the winter, and charitable organizations were besieged by pleas for fuel from the poor.

Strong Wind Prevails in Missouri.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 26.—The temperature in Western Missouri today averaged 5 degrees above zero, with a strong wind blowing. In Kansas and Oklahoma mild weather prevailed, the temperature ranging from 5 degrees above zero in Eastern Kansas to 35 above at the Colorado state line.

Below Zero in Iowa.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 26.—Two degrees below zero was recorded at the Weather Bureau today. At Dubuque the mercury went to 14 below, and at Davenport a mark of 12 below was registered. The cold here was accompanied by a disagreeable raw wind, which made it more intense during the night.

Georgians Killed by Flying Debris.

AMERICUS, Ga., Dec. 26.—A destructive storm has passed over this section, resulting in the death of two persons and considerable loss of property. Two men were killed by flying debris. On the Morris plantation every tenant's house was destroyed. Miles of fence was carried away.

Tornado Strikes Alabama Town.

GOTHAM, Ala., Dec. 26.—A tornado has passed over Dundee, a small place on the Central of Georgia Railway. Several houses were blown down, and two children of John Draughns were killed. Several other persons were badly injured.

Wabash River Frozen Over.

LA FAYETTE, Ind., Dec. 26.—From 35 degrees above yesterday noon, the temperature dropped today to 5 degrees below zero, the coldest in two years. The Wabash River is frozen over, and much damage has resulted from the high wind.

Freeze to Death in Illinois.

PEORIA, Ill., Dec. 26.—John Weir, aged 45, was frozen to death near Elmwood today. George Baumgartner was found frozen to a tree here, and he cannot recover. The thermometer recorded 7 below zero today.

Kansas Cold Spell Abating.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 26.—The cold wave that extended all over Kansas last night has abated, and tonight the temperature is much higher. In Western Kansas stock suffered severely, but the losses were small.

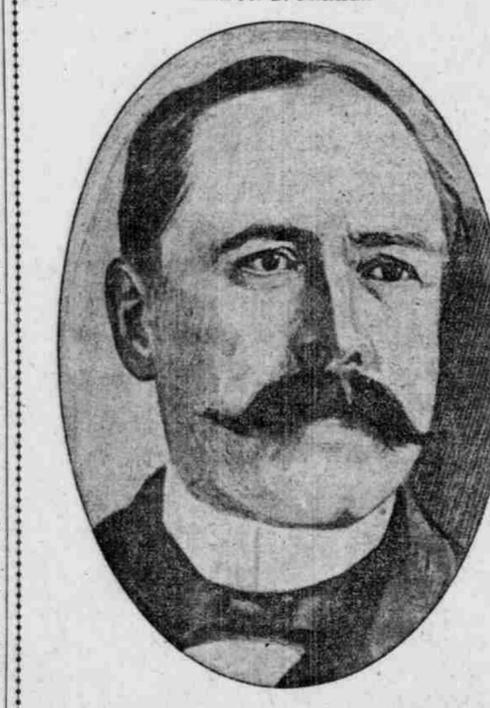
Mercury Rising in Nebraska.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 26.—Zero weather prevails over the greater part of Nebraska and Western Iowa. The mercury has begun to rise, with prospects of warmer weather.

Lumber Concerns in Hands Trustees.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—A chattel deed of trust was filed today transferring the property of the F. L. Smith Lumber Company and the Hardwood Export Company to two trustees for the creditors. The assets of the two companies are said to be about \$700,000, while the liabilities are \$550,000.

TO LAUNCH THE CANDIDACY OF JUDGE ALTON B. PARKER



NEW YORK DEMOCRATS WILL HOLD LOVE FEAST TOMORROW.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Judge Alton B. Parker's evening for the Democratic nomination for President will be launched next Monday evening at a dinner to take place in Sherry's, at which ex-President Grover Cleveland and ex-Senator David B. Hill will speak. The dinner was arranged by Charles F. Murphy, and while it is ostensibly given in honor of Mayor McClellan, it really shows for the first time Murphy's hand in National politics.

Murphy has been in communication with party leaders and has laid his plans to carry this step for the Democratic electors. The fact that he has invited and has received acceptance from the Cleveland wing of the party is an indication that the Bryan element has been thrown overboard.

The features of the platform of the Democratic party may be outlined at this dinner.

Murphy has not only invited Cleveland and Hill to speak, but has been assured that W. Bourke Cockran, August Belmont, John G. Carlisle, John D. Crimmins, A. P. Fitch, Hugh J. Grant and other men of influence in the financial world will sit at the main table. Mr. Cleveland has sent a letter of acceptance.

Mr. Cleveland in his speech is expected to outline what he considers will be the paramount plank in the Democratic platform.

DEATH IN WRECK

Head-On Train Collision Costs 18 Lives.

THIRTY-ONE ARE INJURED

Michigan Gale Blows Out the Signal Light.

CARS REDUCED TO KINDLING

Rescuers, by the Light of Lanterns, Delve into the Debris With Fence Rails as Levers and Extricate the Sufferers.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 26.—Eighteen are dead and 31 injured, several of them fatally, as the result of the collision early this evening of two passenger trains on the Pere Marquette Railroad, one-half mile west of East Paris, about six miles east of this city. The collision, which was head on, was caused, according to a statement issued by the officials of the road at the general offices in Detroit, by the high wind blowing out the red signal lamp at McCord's, where the west-bound train, No. 5, should have stopped and received orders to pass the east-bound train at Fox. The officials deny the report that a misunderstanding of orders on the part of one of the engineers was responsible for the collision.

According to the statement of the officials, the trains were originally to have met and passed at Oakdale Park, but to help the east-bound train the dispatcher issued new orders, fixing Fox as the meeting place. The east-bound train received this order, and the west-bound should have received the same order at McCord's. Instead it rushed by this station, and the operator there, after reporting this fact, found on going out on the platform that his red light, which had been burning two minutes before, was out, presumably extinguished by the high wind that was blowing.

Cars Reduced to Kindling Wood.

The trains met with a terrible crash, the baggage and smoking cars behind each locomotive being instantly reduced to a pile of kindling wood. The engines were completely wrecked, the boiler of the engine which had pulled the east-bound train being torn completely from the running gear and standing perpendicularly in a ditch at the side of the track.

Engineer Frank Waterman, who survived the catastrophe, says he and E. B. Moon, the fireman, were caught before they had time to save themselves. He says he did not see the east-bound train

until the crash came. No person occupying the cars other than the baggage and smoking cars, with very few exceptions, were seriously injured. Within two minutes the uninjured male passengers and those of the train crew who had not been hurt had begun the work of rescue. Traveling Agent Frank Hewitt, of the Pere Marquette, who was on the train bound for Detroit, and who escaped with slight injuries, ran to the nearest telegraph office and telegraphed for a wrecking train and surgeons. Guided by groans and cries from the wrecked cars, the rescuers by the light of lanterns delved into the wreckage and with fence timbers for levers, pried out the sufferers.

Aid to the Injured.

A special train bearing surgeons and officials was made up here immediately after the news was received and arrived at the wreck at 7:15 o'clock. Those of the injured who had been extricated were immediately taken into the train and given emergency surgical aid and the officials joined in the rescue work.

When all the injured had been taken out of the wreck, the hospital train was rushed back to Grand Rapids where ambulances were in waiting to carry them to the hospital where all arrangements had been made for the reception. The uninjured passengers were also brought back here.

When the special train returned to Grand Rapids it brought five bodies in addition to its load of injured. Rescuers say they saw at least three more bodies under the wreckage, where only a derrick could extricate them when the special train left the scene.

NEGRO PORTERS PROVE HEROES

Survivors Tell of the Awful Scenes Common on All Sides.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 26.—William T. Hering, a traveling man for the Norman-Barth Company of Chicago, was a passenger on the train en route to Detroit and described the wreck as follows:

"I was sitting in the smoker when the train met. I was thrown into the aisle, but miraculously escaped injury. Right at my side were several men bleeding

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AS IF GROWN UP

Children Received at the White House.

GUESTS OF MRS. ROOSEVELT

Five Hundred Are Shown Every Special Attention.

PRESIDENT QUIETLY SLIPS IN

Youngsters Get Christmas Souvenirs, Enjoy a Concert and Refreshments, and Then Indulge in Games and Dancing.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Five hundred children, youthful sons and daughters of members of the Cabinet, Senators, Representatives, Army and Navy officers, members of the diplomatic corps, Assistant Secretaries of departments and Washington newspaper correspondents, were the guests, between 4 and 6:30 o'clock, this afternoon, of Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House. The reception began at 4 o'clock. Mrs. Roosevelt being assisted by the ladies of the Cabinet circle and Mrs. Loeb, Mrs. Cowles and Miss Hagner.

Received as if Grown-Up.

The children were formed in line on the terrace. Thence they marched up the main staircase and across the reception hall to the entrance of the Green Room, where they were received by their hostess quite as if they were grown-ups. Each child was introduced to Mrs. Roosevelt by Major Charles McCawley, of the Marine Corps, and by her was given a cordial greeting. Each was then presented with a programme and a souvenir of the party in the form of a badge favor, bearing Mrs. Roosevelt's compliments and good wishes of the season.

The little guests were conducted through the Green Room to the East Room by officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, in full uniform, and there seated. The entertainment began with a musical programme rendered by "Roney's Boys" Concert Company, of Chicago. This part of the programme consumed nearly an hour, the children being enthusiastic in their manifestations of commendation.

President Slips In.

Just before the first number on the

band, which was stationed in the reception hall. The dining-room was handsomely decorated. On a table at the north end was a beautiful Christmas tree, loaded with favors and lighted by scores of parti-colored electric lights. The great dining table was decorated with poinsettia blossoms and holly and lighted by silver candelabra capped with red shades. It was heaped with all such Christmas goodies as appeal particularly to the heart of a child. The ice cream was moulded into the form of Santa Claus and pretty favors were provided for each guest.

Dancing and Games.

After the refreshments had been served the young people returned to the East Room. There the older among them danced to the music of the Marine Band, while the younger ones played games in the parlors. The attention shown the children by Mrs. Roosevelt and her assistants and by the numerous attendants was so delicate and graceful that the joy of not a single one was marred, and all left the White House praising their thoughtful and considerate hostess.

LAWYER HOLDS DOCTOR WRONG

He Argues Before Court That Mrs. Charles Fair Dies First.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—The inquiry in the Fair will case closed here this afternoon when Edmund Kelly, counsel for Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., and Mrs. Herman Oelrichs, delivered an argument before Judge Elmer, the commissioner appointed to take testimony in the case, in which he endeavored to show that Dr. Perriquet, who testified that Mrs. Fair died last, made an inconsistent statement.

As all the witnesses in behalf of the heirs of Mrs. Fair have not testified, Frank I. Kyde and Donald Harper, who are in charge of the interests of Mrs. Fair's relatives, are seeking to obtain an extension of the inquiry.

HELD AS IMPOSTER.

Man Believed to Have Passed as Ogden Goeliet Is Caught.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 26.—A young man, 25 years of age, who gives his name as "F. F. Hall," was arrested at Niagara Falls, Ont., tonight on a charge of fraud. The arrest was made on a description forwarded by the New York police. Hall is supposed to be James Abeel, the man who it is alleged masqueraded under the name of J. Ogden Goeliet, Jr., and became engaged to Miss Anderson, a telegraph operator in a New York hotel.

ISSUE WARNING TO STRIKERS

Chicago Liverymen Will Hold Their Places for Them Until Today.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Today the liverymen made an effort to break the strike of 10 days' drivers which has lasted for 10 days. Their carriages and hearses driven by nonunion men were used at funerals, and but little disorder resulted. The funerals which were compelled to pass through the business section of the city were frequently blocked by teamsters and street-car men, who placed their vehicles in the way. The police in every instance, straightened out the blockades immediately. One teamster, who intentionally scraped a hearse with his heavy truck, was pulled from his seat and arrested.

The livery officers decided today to make a fight for the "open shop" and issued a warning to the strikers that all men who wished to secure their

ALL TO BE TAXED

\$300 Exemption Clause Not Effective.

NO EMERGENCY DECLARED

Next Assessment to Be Made Before Law Operates.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL SOHOLDS

Representative Hale Declares That Exemption Provision Is Unconstitutional, and Will Bring Suit to Test Its Legality.

TAX EXEMPTION NOT EFFECTIVE.

The present law continues in force until the new goes into effect. The Shelley law will not be operative until March 23, 1904.

But next year's assessment will be based on values as they existed on March 1, 1904, 22 days before the Shelley law becomes effective, in accordance with the tax law enacted at the present session.

The special law does not allow the \$300 exemption, therefore all property that has heretofore escaped taxation under that exemption will be assessed next year and taxed in 1905.

Suit may be instituted in the courts to test the constitutionality of the exemption.

Governor Chamberlain approved the Shelley law.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—That there will be no \$300 tax exemption on the assessment of 1904 seems apparent from the laws as they were left by the special session. As the law now stands there is no exemption authorized. The next assessment will be made on March 1, 1904. The act passed by the Legislature reviving the \$300 exemption will not take effect until 90 days from December 23, or on March 22. Therefore, it would seem that no exemption can be allowed on that assessment.

In examining the acts passed by the Legislature at its recent session, an Oregonian representative noticed that the exemption law carried no emergency clause. This was called to the attention of Attorney-General Crawford.

"It looks as though there will be no exemption in 1904," was Judge Crawford's comment. "Perhaps some way can be found to construe the law so that an exemption can be allowed, but it doesn't look very favorable at first glance."

The assessment of 1903 was made so values existed March 1 of that year. The law repealing the Attorney-General Crawford's exemption would not take effect until May 21. As the assessor listed property that was taxable on March 1, they allowed exemptions on the 1903 roll. If the same rule be followed in 1904, no exemption can be allowed. In other words, the exemption must fall either in 1903 or 1904, and apparently it must fall in 1904.

No Emergency Declared.

"This would seem to me to have been a proper case in which to declare an emergency," said Attorney-General Crawford. "While the allowance of \$300 exemption may not seem to be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, you might think such a condition existed when you see how mad the people will be. As I understand it the exemption is allowed as the law provides on the date when the assessment is made, and if the law on that day does not authorize an exemption, none can be allowed. This, of course, is my off-hand opinion."

When the bill was before the Legislature it was taken for granted that there would be no lapse in the allowance of exemption. If the new law could not take effect February 23 the exemption could be allowed. Attorney-General Crawford supposed, as did everyone else, that the exemption law would be effective on the assessment of 1904, and was surprised to learn that any doubt existed on that point.

Differences in the Laws.

The law that has now been enacted, and which will take effect March 23, differs materially from the old law. Under the law as it stood prior to 1903, each household was entitled to an exemption of \$300 on his personal property. Under the new law this exemption can be claimed only upon certain articles of personal property. Subdivision 8, of section 3026, of the code, specifying what property shall be exempt from taxation, has been amended so as to read as follows:

The following property, if owned by a household, and in actual use, or kept for use, by and for his or her family: household goods, furniture, and utensils, two cows, ten sheep, five swine, and the tools, implements, apparatus, team, vehicle, harness or library necessary to enable any person to carry on his trade, occupation or profession by which such person earns his or her living to the amount of \$300, the articles to be selected by such household, provided, however, that when the assessed valuation of the personal property above enumerated shall amount to less than \$300, then only such amount as the total of such property herein enumerated shall be exempt from taxation.

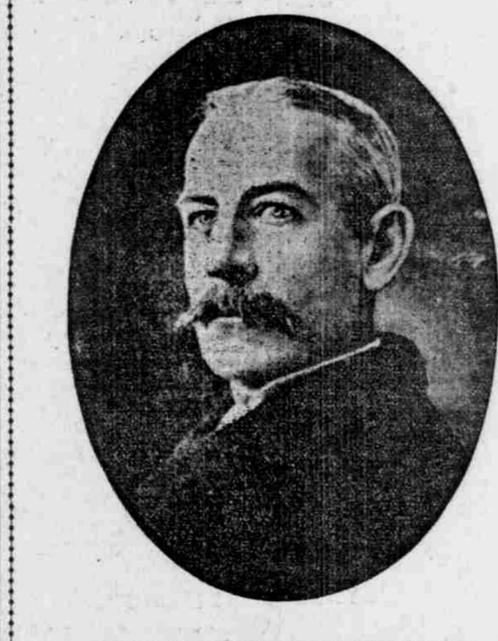
Under the old law a household could claim the exemption upon money or any other personal property. Now he can claim it only upon the property specified. In this state property is assessed at only about one-third of its actual value, hence the exemption really amounts to about \$900 in actual value. In a great majority of instances the change will not be felt, but it will in some. Under the old law a dairyman, for example, who had a herd of cows assessed at \$300 could claim them all as exempt. Under the new law he can claim only two of them as exempt.

Act a Compromise Measure.

The act passed by the Legislature at its special session was a compromise measure. There were some, like Senator Mil-

(Continued on Page 7.)

WILL GIVE NEW YORK A PARK IN HONOR OF HIS FATHER



JAMES GORDON BENNETT, NOTED NEWSPAPER MAN.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Announcement is made today of the purpose of James Gordon Bennett to lay out and adorn a large park to be dedicated to the memory of his father, the founder of the Herald. It will lie between the Boulevard La Fayette and Broadway, north of One Hundred and Eighty-second street, and land now owned by Mr. Bennett will be devoted to this end. Upon the highest elevation within its bound will be reared a monument to James Gordon Bennett, the elder.

musical programme was rendered, President Roosevelt entered the room, taking an inconspicuous seat near the Green Room entrance. He entered thoroughly into the spirit of the occasion, and enjoyed every minute of the entertainment. The idea of the party, however, was wholly that of Mrs. Roosevelt, and she worked out all of the details. Scores of the children were afforded an opportunity to greet the President and to wish him a "Happy New Year."

At the conclusion of the concert the youthful guests were escorted to the state dining-room to the music of the Marine

places must return by Monday morning or their places would be filled by other men. After Monday, all the stables will be "open" and will be conducted on that basis hereafter.

Drink to Friendship of Nations.
ROME, Dec. 26.—News received here from Eritrea is to the effect that an Italian mining expedition, which has been exploring in the Tigre district of Abyssinia, has arrived at Adowa, where seven years ago the Italians sustained the heaviest colonial reverses of the 19th century. The leader of the expedition and the local chiefs drank to the friendship of Italy and Abyssinia.