

HAS HE TO TELL

Dodge Informs on Prominent New Yorkers.

SENSATION IS PROMISED

Confession Is Made in Morse Divorce Case.

JEROME RELEASES PRISONER

Brought Back From Texas on Charge of Perjury—District Attorney Will Not Allow Statement to Be Made.

Charles F. Dodge, who is expected to go before the grand jury next week to give evidence concerning the case in which he is implicated, was the former husband of Mrs. Charles L. Morse, wife of the banker and former head of the Ice Trust. His wife in 1898 secured a divorce from him and soon afterward married Morse. In October, 1900, she applied to have her divorce annulled, claiming that she had discovered that the summons in the case had not been served on Dodge, which fact prevented him making a defense. Supreme Court Justice Clark annulled the decree. The case since has been reopened on Morse's plea to intervene as an interested party, the annulment set aside and the original divorce upheld, evidence being offered that Dodge had been served. He was indicted, went to Texas and was extradited.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Brought to this city last night from Texas through the persistent effort of District Attorney Jerome, to face a charge of perjury in connection with the Morse-Dodge divorce trial, Charles F. Dodge, ex-husband of the present wife of Charles F. Morse, received his liberty today upon the recommendation of the District Attorney, who personally appeared before Judge Cowling in the Court of General Sessions and asked that Dodge be discharged on his own recognizance.

This turn in the case follows an all-night conference at police headquarters, where Dodge was taken immediately upon his arrival, and during which it is said he made a confession that will lead to the making of serious charges in connection with the Morse-Dodge divorce case against seven men of prominence in this city. It is said that Dodge will go before the grand jury, which, at Mr. Jerome's request, was continued in session through next week, and that he will be the chief witness of the state in the prosecution of the men said to be implicated by his confession.

Ex-District Attorney James W. Osborne, the new counsel for Dodge, who was present throughout last night's conference had previously advised Dodge to tell all he knew. Mr. Osborne says he feels that Dodge will never see the inside of a prison.

When Dodge was taken before Judge Cowling, District Attorney Jerome, after relating the incident connected with the prisoner's arrest and extradition from Texas, asked that the transfer of the prisoner from Federal to state authority be made. When this had been done he said:

"For reasons of a public nature which cannot now be stated in public, because they would be detrimental to the cause of justice, the defendant should be discharged upon his own recognizance on the indictment found on June 26, 1904, and I ask that he be discharged."

Dodge was discharged and went to a hotel, accompanied by a detective of Mr. Jerome's staff. After these developments Mr. Osborne said:

"Mr. Dodge will remain at his hotel in my care until he is called as a witness for the county."

At the request of Mr. Jerome, Dodge and his counsel will appear at the Criminal Court as soon as court convenes on Monday. It is said, carefully to review the testimony to be presented to the grand jury. The grand jury will meet Wednesday, and Dodge will appear either on the opening day or the day following.

DODGE IS TURNED LOSE.

Man Accused of Perjury Released on His Own Recognizance.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—There was an unexpected turn to the case of perjury against Charles F. Dodge, who was brought to this city from Texas yesterday, when he was released today on his own recognizance. After arraignment before Judge Cowling in the Court of General Sessions, Dodge was accused of committing perjury in testifying that service was not made upon him in the suit by which divorce was secured from him by his former wife, who subsequently married Charles W. Morse, the banker and promoter.

After Dodge's testimony, now alleged to have been perjured, his former wife secured a divorce from him. Dodge resisted when an attempt was made to bring him from Texas, but on his arrival in this city is said to have made a confession in a midnight talk with the local authorities.

Judge Cowling said after releasing Dodge that he could not make public his reasons for doing so at this time. Dodge was released upon the recommendation of District Attorney Jerome, who said that for reasons not of a public nature the ends of justice would be served by such action. It was reported that Dodge has turned state evidence, and that he will be a witness for the District Attorney in proceedings against others for whom Dodge is supposed to have acted as agent.

Commendation From the Mikado.

TOKIO, Dec. 24 (10:15 A. M.).—An imperial rescript dispatched to Vice-Admiral Togo says:

"We hear with great satisfaction that our torpedo flotilla, engaged in the work required of them at Port Arthur, have gallantly and successfully accomplished the duties required of them, and in so doing had to brave the dangers of storms and shells by day and night.

"Despite all the difficulties confronting them, they have succeeded in performing

their duties without the least confusion, rendering one another mutual assistance. We especially note their brave and loyal performance of the duties required of them and express our appreciation of their gallant behavior."

LOOKS BRIGHT TO MINERS.

Settlement of Strike in Colorado Has a Good Prospect.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 24.—The report of the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners, which was made public today, announced that the prospect for settlement in Colorado is brighter now than it has been for the past six months. The troubles of the organization in this state ended with the action of President Meyer in calling off the strike in the Colorado district.

There are now 11 local unions on strike in this state. California has three unions on strike, and two unions in Montana have been locked out since last summer. The board congratulates itself in having President Meyer back after his long period in the bullpen. He was selected as a member of the executive board of the American Labor Union. The board also pays a high compliment to the women of the organization for their work in the strenuous times of the strike during the last 15 months. The thanks of the labor unions are tendered to all of the labor unions which have been supplying funds. The report concludes:

"We assure the members of the organization that they have labored faithfully to advance the interests of the organization to the best of our ability and feel confident that when the momentous time arrives, when labor shall obtain full record, the Western Federation of Miners will be regarded as one of the pioneers in this world-wide movement."

GLOOMY AT FALL RIVER.

Several Carloads of Toys Sent, but Food Is What Is Needed.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 24.—Meetings of the various textile unions are to be called within a short time, it is learned, to vote upon the question of further continuing the cotton-mill strike. No vote has been taken by the unions since the strike began, 22 weeks ago, upon this question, and it is thought by labor leaders that an expression of sentiment should be obtained from the operatives in order that plans may be formulated for the future. It is a gloomy Christmas season in Fall River, although every effort is being made to make Christmas day as bright as possible under the circumstances. All the unions have given strike-pay to their members, and the labor leaders say it is food that the suffering operatives and children in Fall River need the most.

More Members Than Reported.

WILKESHAIRE, Pa., Dec. 24.—After a long investigation, National officers of the United Mineworkers are reported to have discovered that there are on the rolls 10,000 or 12,000 more paid-up members than have been reported to them. This discovery, it is claimed, has caused the loss of many members which has disturbed the National officers. It is said to have been found that secretaries of some of the small divisions have failed to report all their members.

Moyer Gets Change of Venue.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Dec. 24.—The Teller County case against Charles H. Moyer and other officers of the Western Federation of Miners, growing out of the discovery of the bodies of the slain miners, has been transferred to Douglas County for trial, by order of Judge Cunningham, before whom a motion for a change of venue was argued in chambers here. The reason for the action of the judge is that he believes a fair trial could not be had in Teller County.

Women Join Striking Capmakers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Women to the number of 250, who are members of the Cap Manufacturers' Association, have joined in the strike against the open-shop declaration of the association. In all, about 100 or 150 workers are now on strike, and the factories will remain idle until next week, when capmakers will be offered work on the open-shop plan.

Dealing With Strikers Refused.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Dec. 24.—The executive board of the strikers this afternoon announced that the attempt to effect a settlement with General Manager Jenks, of the American Steel Hoop Company, resulted in a failure. Mr. Jenks absolutely refused to deal with the men, even on the basis of the employees outside of the Amalgamated Association.

Wages Settled by Arbitration.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Arbitration has been employed to settle wage scale differences between office-building managers and 300 stationary firemen employed in 150 downtown office buildings. The arbitration tribunal has been in session for two weeks.

Rubber Shoe Plant Shut Down.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 24.—The Atlantic Rubber Shoe Company, which employs about 500 hands, gave notice today that the plant would be closed for an indefinite period beginning Monday. No reason for the shutdown was assigned.

HOPES NEITHER WILL WIN.

Admiral Schley Says Pacific Coast Will Profit by Compromise in War.

SEATTLE, Dec. 24.—Charles H. Baker, of this city, who has just returned from Washington, gives the following synopsis of an interview he had with Admiral Schley, retired.

"The Admiral," said Mr. Baker, "sees no good to our people if the outcome be decisive for either belligerent. If Russia wins, this country will be in a position to absorb herself and the ultimate absorption of China by herself. The trouble for Chinese products would then be through Europe. Russia, in a situation not helping us up on the Pacific Coast. If Japan wins, it then means a spread of militarism by infection and contagion through her 400,000,000 people, and that might in time mean a struggle which would involve the world against her.

"The Admiral believes that Port Arthur will fall inevitably and that the Baltic fleet will be annihilated. These are accomplished the Japanese will have attained all they sought to accomplish and will quit, after fortifying Manchuria against encroachments of Russia in the future, and so guarantee a state of peace between herself and her neighbors and outside foes."

Roosevelt Congratulates Diaz.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Senator Don Macdonald, of this city, Mexican Ambassador, accompanied by Senator Don Macdonald, the first secretary of the Mexican Embassy, called on President Roosevelt today to pay their respects and present his official letters announcing the re-election of President Diaz of Mexico. The President requested the Ambassador to convey to President Diaz his cordial congratulations and to express to the people of Mexico his felicitations upon the re-election of President Diaz.

Giant in the Almahouse.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—After having been exhibited for more than five years, during which time it was visited by the principal cities of the United States and Europe, William Conner, known as "The Irish Giant," today went to the city of Albany, where he is to exhibit for one month.

Suicide of a Bridegroom.

YORK, Neb., Dec. 24.—At the Corner

CELL DOORS LOOSEN

New Jersey Prisoners Given Liberty for Xmas Present.

REPORTERS NAME LUCKY ONES

Judge Stipulates That Number Shall Include Eleven Men and Four Women—One Is Grieved to Leave Warm Quarters.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—After Christmas mercy was dispensed in an unusual manner by Judge Frank J. Higgins, in the First Criminal Court in Jersey City today, in releasing 15 prisoners from the County Jail. After the regular session of court today the Judge called together the jail attendants and reporters who usually are on duty in the court and informed them that in recognition of the Christmas season he had decided to permit each of them to name one prisoner in the County Jail whose release they desired. The prisoners thus named would be given immediate freedom by order of the Judge. The beneficiaries were to be 11 men and four women, he provided.

It required but a moment for the officers and reporters to make their selections, and 15 cell doors swung open and the prisoners were told that they were at liberty. Only one of the persons liberated appeared ungrateful. He was clearly disappointed at the prospect of losing his comfortable quarters.

Doctor Killed Man With a Gun.

NEVADA, Mo., Dec. 24.—Dr. J. C. Todd, a practicing physician and an ex-member of the State Legislature, who shot and killed R. T. Wall, at Richards, Mo., in May last, was found guilty of murder in the second degree by a jury here today and his punishment fixed at 15 years in the penitentiary. Todd pleaded self-defense. Ill-feeling had existed between the two men for 20 years. Wall was a wealthy farmer.

Robbed His Benefactor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Charged with

systematically robbing a man who had befriended him, a young man who claims to be Count Norman de la Crean, a member of an old French family, was arraigned in the Police Court today. Despite the young man's protest that he was innocent, he was held in \$500 bail for hearing. The complainant was John S. Corland, a retired merchant.

HELD TO RESPONSIBILITY.

Demurrer of Slocum Steamboat Officials Is Overruled.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The demurrer of Charles F. Barmby, president; J. P. Atkinson, secretary, and F. G. Dexter, director of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, to an indictment charging them with a share in the responsibility in the burning of the excursion steamer, General Slocum, was overruled today by Judge Thomas, of the United States Court.

The company's attorneys demurred to the indictment on the ground that they were not the owners of the craft. Demurrers to similar indictments found against Mr. Penne, of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, and against Captain Van Schaek, who was in command of the steamer when she was burned with a loss of 1000 lives, also was overruled by Judge Thomas.

The opinion of Judge Thomas was given in a most exhaustive document which reviewed the various points at issue at great length. He holds that the primary duty as regards the selection, test, maintenance and inspection of life-preservers and life-saving apparatus falls upon the owners, as the law commands the owner properly to equip his vessel at the expense of the duty to the captain carefully to inspect such equipment, and in the event such equipment is found imperfect it is the duty to refuse to navigate the vessel.

DENTISTRY BRINGS A CLEW.

Young Woman Missing From New York May Be Victim of Murder.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Dec. 24.—An entirely new clew, and one that looks good to Chief Reynolds, has developed as a result of the excellent description of the primary duty as regards the selection, test, maintenance and inspection of life-preservers and life-saving apparatus falls upon the owners, as the law commands the owner properly to equip his vessel at the expense of the duty to the captain carefully to inspect such equipment, and in the event such equipment is found imperfect it is the duty to refuse to navigate the vessel.

The last year has witnessed the continuance of the efforts of our Government to secure the authoritative recognition of American institutions and of American citizens in the various countries of the world. There is a definite purpose to secure what is our manifest right, and unreasonable delay on the part of Turkey will only heighten the pressure and call forth measures that may be needed."

Reduction of Panama Commission.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—President Roosevelt has given consideration recently to suggestions looking to a reduction in the membership of the Panama Canal Commission, but thus far it can be said no definite decision has been reached. It has been urged by some members of Congress that the commission be reduced to five members, and that the chief engineer of the canal be designated as "Paymaster-General, U. S. N.," retired. The Attorney-General holds that the title of the Paymaster-General and of the chief of other staffs in the United States Navy Department goes over to the retired list with the officer and stays with them thereafter.

Retired Officer Retains Title.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Attorney-General McKim has given an opinion to Secretary Morton in the case of Paymaster-General A. S. Kenty, U. S. N., retired, who some time ago made a protest against being designated in the Navy register as "Paymaster-General, U. S. N.," retired. The Attorney-General holds that the title of the Paymaster-General and of the chief of other staffs in the United States Navy Department goes over to the retired list with the officer and stays with them thereafter.

Pleased Some One.

Louisville Times. The University of Chicago has substituted college songs at chapel services for "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." It is at present uncertain whether the time of John D. Rockefeller is the more gratified.

First Cook-Brighter has been arrested.

First Cook-Brighter has been arrested. He is a common auto-stealer. Chicago Daily News.

NO MORE PASSPORTS

Russia About to Abolish Police Surveillance.

GREAT BOON TO THE NATIVES

First Notable Result From the Administration of Minister of the Interior Sviatopolk-Mirsky—Foreigners Not Affected.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—The Associated Press can announce that Russia is on the eve of abolishing the passport system. The matter has already been decided in principle by the commission, which is investigating the passport question. A new law will be promulgated within six weeks as one of the solid reforms resulting from the administration of Interior Minister Sviatopolk-Mirsky. For the present the abolition of the passport system will only apply to Russians and not to foreigners, although it is intended at the end of the war to abolish the system governing foreigners also. The state tax on the latter, however, will be removed, leaving only Red Cross and invalid taxes.

Abolition of the passport system in Russia will work a complete revolution, not only in removing every individual in the Empire from constant surveillance by the police, but in many other ways increasing personal freedom. It is impossible under the present system for a peasant to leave a commune without an endorsed passport, or for a divorced wife to leave her husband's house without his permission. The abolition so far as tourists are concerned will be a great convenience, but it will have no such deep and material significance as in the case of Russians.

The present passport system constitutes more annoyance than the actual restriction of legitimate tourists. No hotel or lodging-house in the Empire is permitted to receive a guest overnight without his submitting a passport to the police for both arrival and departure; neither native or foreign can leave the country without permission, and a native must secure a special passport costing \$1.50 before he can go abroad. The penalty for a native violating this law is exceedingly drastic, including corporal punishment if captured.

Foreign commercial travelers at present are also heavily handicapped by the passport system. Their vocations must be stated in a passport and special license which costs \$25 is exacted before they can transact business in the country. Whether this license will be modified after the abolition of the passport it is impossible to present to say.

A strong effort was made in 1904 to abolish passports. The measure was then shelved until 1905, when a special commission investigated the subject and decided it was impossible to abolish the system. Since then the law has been enforced with the greatest severity.

ZEMSTVO PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Forty Members of Chernigov Body Act With Presiding Officer.

CHERNIGOV, Russia, Dec. 24.—Forty members of the Chernigov Zemstvo, including the president, who signed the recent telegram to Emperor Nicholas, have resigned.

The Chernigov Zemstvo, December 20, telegraphed resolutions begging Emperor Nicholas in the most loyal manner to convoke legally elected members of the Zemstvos to present a programme of reforms for his consideration. The Emperor, December 22, wrote the following indorsement on the Chernigov Zemstvo's dispatch: "I consider the action of the president to be a most commendable one. The action of the administration are of no concern to the Zemstvos, whose functions and rights are clearly defined by the law."

Further Reforms Are Planned.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—Current stories of a complete victory of the reactionaries and the debate shelving of all hope for early reforms on a broad scale, according to an authority who has been consulted, are absolutely false. Interior Minister Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky stands higher than ever in the Emperor's confidence and esteem and the programme of reform being worked out by the National, municipal and peasant administrations.

The reforms will include an extension of powers of Zemstvos and Municipal Councils, and in the matter of taxation and assessment and a crystallization into a law of the recommendations of the Witte commission and the whole plans of reforms in the various branches of the administration. Moreover, it is understood that the Zemstvos are to be invited to send representatives to St. Petersburg for consultative purposes, and there seems even to exist that something in the nature of the scheme advocated by Morris-Molokoff may after all not be impossible.

Exciting Scene at Moscow.

MOSCOW, Dec. 24.—Expressions of sympathy with the reform resolutions passed at the recent conference of Zemstvo representatives were shown at the session of the Agricultural Society here yesterday evening. A statement signed by 25 members indorsing the Zemstvo resolutions was introduced by a member. The president, however, who was in the chair, objected, but notwithstanding the opposition the communication was read. A representative of the Kozma branch of the society was heartily cheered when he announced that the Kozma branch had passed a similar resolution and demanded the termination of the war. The president then left, and the assembly proceeded to elect a new president. Excited speeches continued to be made until late at night.

Discredited at Paris.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The officials of the Foreign Office discredited the report from St. Petersburg, circulated in the United States by a news agency, to the effect that the Emperor Nicholas had received a letter from Emperor Sviatopolk-Mirsky favorable to the mediation of France in the war. They say they are not aware of the existence of any such letter, and that the report is believed to be an exaggeration growing out of Bompard's call on President Loubet, December 13, when he presented a letter from Emperor Nicholas to the President, as called by the Associated Press at the time. The Ambassador has since said that the letter was not important or in connection with the war.

Right of Election Restored.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—The Zemstvos of the government of Tver and of the district of Novotorsk have had restored to them the right to elect their presidents from among their own members. A year ago the late Minister of the Interior, Von Plehve, disapproved of the presidents elected by these Zemstvos, and replaced them with his own nominees.

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ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—Ambassador Harding, whose visit to Foreign Minister Lamsdorf Wednesday, taken in connection with Ambassador Benckendorff's audience with King Edward Thursday, gave rise to suggestions of another attempt at mediation, authorized the Associated Press to say that the interview with Count Lamsdorf was without special significance. The Ambassador called on the Foreign Minister in the ordinary way about purely current matters.

Merely a Letter of Good Will.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—The French Embassy absolutely denies that the French Ambassador, M. Bompard, who has started for Paris, is the bearer of any letter from the Emperor to President Loubet accepting the mediation of France in the war, as announced in the United States by a news agency. He did send an autograph letter to M. Loubet, but it is of a felicitous character.

Troops Quietly Mobilized.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—The mobilization which began December 22 is proceeding quietly. No disturbances are reported from any quarter.

LOSS IS OVER TWO MILLIONS

Insurance at Sioux City Will Amount to About Two-Thirds.

SIoux CITY, Ia., Dec. 24.—Sioux City awoke today with two of its best business blocks in ashes, causing a loss that reaches \$2,500,000, throwing hundreds of people out of employment, and leaving the loss of at least one life. The fire had originated in the basement of the Pelletier Dry Goods Company, at Fourth and Jackson streets, one of the main corners of the city.

It was not until after 3 o'clock this morning that the flames were finally checked at Pierce street, after Selzer Bros.' wholesale liquor establishment had been destroyed.

The only building in the fire-swept district which remains standing is the Tribune building. The damage to the building is slight. The big building, which was reduced to ashes were the Massachusett block, the Toy building and annex, the Badger Row building, the Mercantile block, the Bolton block, the Commercial block, the Brown block, the Gillman block, a half-block of well-known business houses on the south side of Fourth street, east of Pierce street; the J. S. Brugh block, West Hotel, Selzer Bros. block, the Western National Bank, and the Northwestern National Bank. The insurance estimated to amount to about two-thirds of the loss.

In addition to the large business firms which were burned, a host of smaller business houses, including the Selzer Bros. block, the Bolton block, the Commercial block, the Brown block, the Gillman block, a half-block of well-known business houses on the south side of Fourth street, east of Pierce street; the J. S. Brugh block, West Hotel, Selzer Bros. block, the Western National Bank, and the Northwestern National Bank. The insurance estimated to amount to about two-thirds of the loss.

One life is known to have been lost. J. Brockway, who jumped from the fourth story of the Massachusett building, struck a telephone wire and missed the life net by six inches. A revived list of the principal losses is as follows: Pelletier Dry Goods Company, \$200,000; Massachusett Block Real Estate Company, \$185,000; Purslow Estate, \$150,000; Dow Clothing Company, \$60,000; Selzer Bros. building, \$55,000; J. S. Brugh & Co., \$50,000; R. E. Purslow, West Hotel, \$25,000; Schulze Estate, \$20,000; George M. Conway, \$15,000; Higman & Skinner Company, boots and shoes, \$10,000; Johnson & Anson Company, \$10,000; Brown Block Company, \$10,000.

FLAMES LEAP FROM MINE.

Efforts to Check Fire in Morea Property Are Without Success.

MAHONNY CITY, Pa., Dec. 24.—A fire of dammed today leaped to a height from the burning Morea mine and all efforts to check the fire have been clear and smooth