

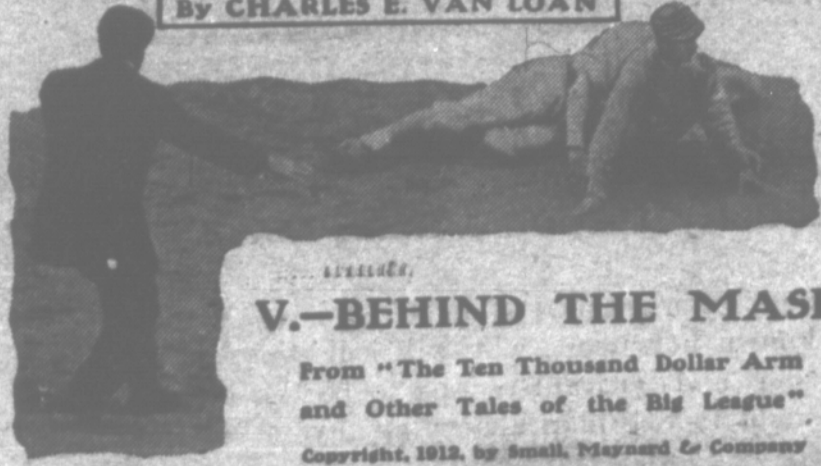
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Five Cents

Big League Stories

By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN



V.-BEHIND THE MASK

From "The Ten Thousand Dollar Arm and Other Tales of the Big League"

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THE umpire is, as a general thing, a human being.

He has the same leanings toward friendly intercourse with his fellows, the same universal desire for approbation, the same hopes, the same ambitions, the same sorrows which stir his more fortunate brethren, but if he is a good umpire he will button all these things carefully underneath his blue serge jacket before he walks out upon the field.

Con O'Higgins was an umpire of the old school—praise be, there are still a few of them left, even though we howl because their eyesight is not what it once was.

Cornelius edged his way into an umpire's mask after making a careful study of the national pastime for several years. Like all great men, he began on the sand lots, climbed into a minor league, and thence to the "big show." There is no royal road to the dizzy eminence occupied by a big league umpire, the candidate must first make good and then keep on making good.

Before O'Higgins became an umpire he was something else—never mind what; it is enough for you to know that Con O'Higgins was always respectable, and, no matter what his business, you may rest assured that he attended strictly to it during business hours.

By studying other umpires very closely Cornelius knew what to avoid when he began his long climb from the sand lot upward to the limelight of the big league.

O'Higgins observed that the umpire who traveled in the same car with the ball players, stopped at the same hotel, joined in the same nightly feasting bees and paved the same bar rail made the great mistake of establishing confidential relations with the men whose play he was paid to judge and consequently had more difficulty in separating himself from them upon the field.

"You can't be one of the boys and an umpire at the same time," remarked Mr. Cornelius O'Higgins.

He was right, for if a ball player in the sudden heat of passion inclines to wallop an umpire on the nose, he is more than likely to wallop the nose of the umpire whom he regards as his close personal friend. Trace his impulse to its source and you will find it lies in the same kink of human nature which makes some married men uglier to their wives than they would dare to be to any other living female.

Con O'Higgins decided that he would never make the error of becoming too friendly with the boys, consequently he did not seem to know the first name of any man in any league. It was "Mister This" and "Mister That" with Con at all times, and a ball player is apt to hesitate before walloping an umpire who always addresses him as "Mister." That sort of emotional sanity is likely to come quite high, and it was Con's idea to make familiarity so expensive that few could afford to indulge in it.

Away back in the old days, when O'Higgins made his first bow to a big league grand stand, there was more rowdy ball than there is at the present day. Some umpires have reputations as fighters and deserved them. Con came in from the bushes with the beginning of a very fine reputation of his own, with which his fists had nothing whatever to do.

O'Higgins owed his big league appointment to one man, the captain and manager of the toughest fighting club in the league. This man knew Con, had seen him work on several occasions and believed that he had the makings of a great umpire, so he mentioned the fact in the proper quarters, and Cornelius O'Higgins came on to the big town for his tryout.

Con did not know it, but the league president had two aunts in the grand stand on the day of his initial appearance. They were on the right to note the attitude of the fighting captain-manager, whom we will designate as Bill Shertiff, toward the bush umpire whom he had recommended.

Bill had a reputation himself, mostly bad, when it came to dealings with umpires. Bill was a fellow when it came to handling the poor, miserable judge of a play, a bulldozer, a bluffer, a loud talker, a button snatcher and a nose puller. And the boss of the league was quite naturally interested in getting a line on the attitude of Bill Shertiff toward the umpire whom he had made, and vice versa. It would be just like Bill to "try to own O'Higgins from the jump."

Con's first big league game took place on Bill Shertiff's home grounds. Now, in those days there was a strict rule forbidding the pitcher to "warm up" or throw the ball about in practice while in the box. Bill Shertiff

was forced to jump a cold pitcher to "warm up" before delivering a ball to the batter.

"Don't do that," said Con warningly. "You know the rules, Shertiff."

The general manager cursed the rules and yelled, "Go ahead and throw that ball!"

"Hold on!" said O'Higgins. "If he throws that ball it will cost him ten, and it will cost you twenty-five, Shertiff!"

"Pay no attention to this new umpire," said Shertiff. "He's just in from Dubuque, and he's got funny notions. Throw the ball!"

"Wait!" said O'Higgins. "Every ball he throws will cost him twenty-five and you a hundred. Throw as many as you like, because this fine is going to stand!"

To make a long story short, O'Higgins only friend in the big league paid into the treasury the sum of \$425 for warming up one pitcher, and it cost the pitcher \$110, which is presumed Shertiff paid. Shertiff was too stubborn to quit, but four pitched balls was about all he was willing to stand after the price went up to a century each.

After the game he crossed over behind O'Higgins and whispered something in his ear.

"You're all right, feller," said Bill Shertiff. "But I had to get that pitcher warm and I'm willing to pay for it. You're some umpire."

Later, Con O'Higgins decided that using ball players was a poor way to enforce discipline. He began sending men to the clubhouse and putting scrappy players out of games. They preferred the fines, but Con had it preferred in his own mind that punishing a ball player's wife by taking her husband's money away was not exactly fair to the wife.

They were not long in finding out that O'Higgins could jerk his thumb toward the clubhouse in nine different languages. You may fine a ball player \$50 and he will forgive you, but if you put him out of a close game he will remember it from one end of the season to the other.

Before the new man had officiated in a dozen games he had established himself as an umpire of big league timber.

It was no use trying to scare him. The old Gamecocks tried it once—put



"Every ball he throws now will cost him twenty-five, and you a hundred." (posed by Umpires Klein and Evans, McGraw of Glens and Stahl of Red Sox.)

on their famous mob scene, with the full strength of the company, O'Higgins pointed toward the clubhouse until their inbred was rattled like a sieve, and the Gamecocks finished that game with five pitchers in the lineup.

"Never again!" said the captain of the Gamecocks. "This guy threw so many men out of the game that we came near having to put a uniform on the hat boy. He ain't got no heart at all, this umpire, but he has got cast-iron bowels!"

The players got on well enough with O'Higgins after they found that they could neither fight him nor make friends with him. So far as a ball player could see Con had no more human emotion than the steel mask which he wore. He attended strictly to his business while on the field, that business being to see that the ball players attended to theirs, and before he had been in the league six weeks he broke the hearts of the rowdies by making them wear a path toward the clubhouse.

The managers screamed, some of the partisan fans roared for O'Higgins' blood, but the great public at large, which is generally fair, no matter what any one may say—respected the new umpire, while appreciating the fact that he gave them fast, clean games, free from wrangling and riots. The league raised his salary and offered him a long term contract, which he accepted after cautiously stipulating for a sliding scale of remuneration. In words of few syllables and for a summing-up of the whole matter one might say that Cornelius O'Higgins, big league umpire, said goodbye to friendship and chose respect rather than fellowship as the hard, cold foundation upon which to build his career. From the first week O'Higgins was a mystery.

The ball players never knew which train he took, never knew which hotels he favored with his modest presence. All they knew of him was that he would be on hand in time for the opening of the game, stiff and severe in his plain blue serge uniform.

When the last man went out, O'Higgins would disappear into the grand stand on his way to the little room where he changed his clothes. All his conversation while on the field was about business. He never wanted a word, never commented upon a play, never allowed anything remotely resembling familiarity. All the little duties which went with the job were scrupulously performed. O'Higgins never slightest anything, and in time the reporters came to call him "Reliability."

It was only natural that the shell which O'Higgins built for himself should harden and thicken with the passage of years. The man began by denying himself friendship with any one inside the organization which paid him a salary. This self denial grew into the fixed habit of his life. His taciturn demeanor became a sort of a tradition of the league.

Had Con O'Higgins smiled upon the ball field, the players would have spread the news from one end of the big circuit to the other. Time made of him a great, sturdy machine, tabulating balls and strikes with a keen eye and rendering his decisions with automaton-like motions of his hands.

During the months of the play O'Higgins was perhaps the most lonely man who witnessed the games, but if he felt his isolation he never showed it.

The president of the league had about two or three talks a year with his star umpire—usually about new rules. Rarely O'Higgins offered a suggestion, and it was always a good one. The league president depended upon his judgment, stood behind him in his dealings with managers and players.

The president gained the idea—he never said how—that O'Higgins was a married man. He was certain that mail would reach him during the winter months if addressed to a small Michigan town.

The whole league changed during O'Higgins' tenure of office. The ball players who were the bright stars of the tenth declined and faded away into the minor leagues. The veteran umpires of his early days dropped out and invested their savings in small business concerns; even the managers changed and the franchises shifted about, but old Con O'Higgins always reported for duty in the springtime as regular as the month of April.

They called him "old" Con, but he was not old as years go—somewhere between forty and fifty, but he seemed older—and on his weather beaten countenance there appeared the hard lines we sometimes see upon the faces of our judges—the stern carvings of consciousness.

After Con's tenth year in the big league the wise young managers and the players began to look for signs of a letdown. Each spring they expected to see "the old man" go to smash on balls and strikes, the crucial test for aged eyes. They expected to see the old hardball begin to "grues," as the others had done before enforced retirement. They were disappointed. O'Higgins remained the best umpire in the league on balls and strikes, and when it came to "getting on top of a play" on the bases none of the youngsters could outfoot him.

This was a disappointment, for O'Higgins did not soften with the years. He grew harder. And one of the crack pitchers expressed it: "You don't dare look cross-eyed at the old goat these days or he'll throw you out of the game. Who does he think he is—the owner of the league or the fellow who invented baseball?"

O'Higgins was not popular. The ball players thought he was too stern and too fond of showing his authority. They would have been glad to see him give way to a younger man, who might on occasions listen to reason or "stand for" an argument on the field. The crowds had never really loved O'Higgins because there was nothing about the public side of his character which attracted anything like affection or noisy enthusiasm.

A clear store Indian is a good sign and faithful to duty in all sorts of weather, but nobody ever gave three cheers for one. Look up the public side of the day—you will find them very human and full of faults, which may be the very reasons that make idols of them. They are so much like the rest of us.

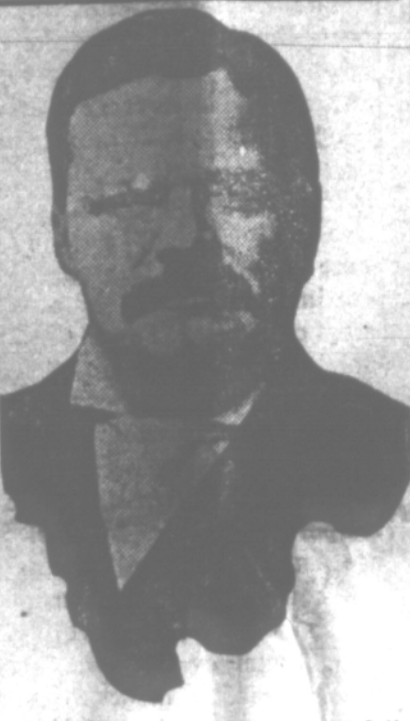
Poor old O'Higgins chose respect and confidence—a cold, but solid, backing—and younger umpires elbowed him aside in the race for public favor. But the league president—the third one since O'Higgins' arrival in the first place—advised the younger men to copy O'Higgins' style as much as possible. None of them ever succeeded.

The thirteenth year brought trouble with the umpiring staff. There were three new men to be tried out and it is a great deal harder to find a good umpire than it is to discover a new left handed pitcher. If you do not believe that ask the next baseball magnate who happens to run across you in his French touring car.

One of the new men was incompetent and tried to bluff his way

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FRED'K W. LEHMANN



Frederick W. Lehmann, one of the American Commissioners to the Mexican Mediation Conference at Niagara Falls.

Brief News of the Week

Slam will send a battalion of infantry and a band to the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco.

A general holiday was observed throughout the south Wednesday in honor of the anniversary of the birth of Jefferson Davis.

One person was killed and a number hurt in a severe wind storm which swept Superior, Wis., causing property damage estimated at \$500,000.

Five freshmen at the Academy at Annapolis have been arrested in connection with the death of William Bowles, victim of hazing.

Firearms can be sold only by licensed dealers in Chicago, and then only to persons who have a permit from the chief of police, according to new ordinance.

The Illinois Bar association adopted resolutions prohibiting its members from giving out interviews for publication in cases in which they are interested. The publicity practice is held to be unethical.

Thursday the magnificent monument erected in the confederate section of the Arlington national soldiers' cemetery was unveiled with impressive ceremonies in which President Wilson and other notables took part.

People in the News

Society is too quick to intercede in behalf of criminals, says former justice of the supreme court of Wisconsin, John B. Winslow.

John D. Rockefeller's wealth has been estimated at \$311,226,367 by the tax returns, in Cleveland. Most of the amount is in Standard Oil holdings.

Victory for prohibition in California would mean a loss to the industries of the state of a sum estimated at \$700,000,000, says William H. Schmidt of San Francisco.

Mrs. Joseph R. Knowland, wife of Representative Knowland of California, who is a candidate for the United States senate, announced that she will stump the state with her husband.

A court martial sentenced Vice-Admiral Matsumoto of the Japanese navy to three years' imprisonment on charges of accepting bribes in connection with naval contracts.

The theory of Dr. Samuel Pierpont Langley, who proclaimed to the world that he had solved the problem of the air several years before heavier-than-air machines had been successfully navigated, was vindicated when Glenn Curtiss, the aviator, went aloft in "Langley's folly."

Land Grant Case Goes Up. San Francisco.—The appeal in the case involving 2,500,000 acres of land, part of which is in Oregon, was passed up by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals to the United States Supreme Court. At the conclusion of the arguments, the judges directed that on account of the importance of the many questions involved, a statement of agreed facts be prepared by interested counsel, and the statement will be certified and forwarded to Washington for decision by the highest court of the land.

Seven Sisters Bills Debate Invited. North Yakima, Wash.—C. G. Kelsey, master of the Washington State Grange, which began its annual session here Tuesday, issued a challenge to any representative of the Stop, Look and Listen League to discuss publicly the Seven Sisters bills at the convention or elsewhere in the state.

8,000 Enginemen Take Strike Vote. Chicago.—A strike vote of 55,000 engineers and firemen, on \$6 railways west of Chicago, will be taken as the result of the breaking off of all negotiations for increased wages.

Whitman Enters Race. New York.—District Attorney Charles S. Whitman, of New York, announced his candidacy for the republican nomination for governor.

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

Important Western Bills Now Depend on Favor of House Democrats.

Washington.—Unless western members of the house can induce the democratic leaders to call another caucus to add to the legislative program for the session, it is doubtful whether any pending land or irrigation bills can become laws before adjournment.

This fact developed when a delegation of western members called on the president to urge his support of the bill allowing settlers on government irrigation projects 20 years in which to pay for their water and providing a system of graduated payments. The president said the bill should become law. He made it plain, however, that he could not do anything to bring about immediate passage for he had promised Representative Underwood he would ask for no legislation other than that approved by the democratic caucus and in no event would he ask the house to pass any other bills while the anti-trust legislation is pending.

President Wilson delivered a message to the house asking for no legislation other than that approved by the democratic caucus and in no event would he ask the house to pass any other bills while the anti-trust legislation is pending.

President Wilson and Speaker Clark delivered addresses at the memorial day services under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic in Arlington National cemetery.

The president had not expected to participate, but, feeling that a false construction had been placed on his declaration, decided to attend and to speak. Before the president's decision had been communicated to those in charge, they had invited Speaker Clark to make the address of the day, and he had come from Atlantic City for this purpose.

Says Business Slump Psychological. Representatives of "big business" heard from President Wilson the administration's view of an attitude toward the business of the country.

While expressing an earnest desire to "serve and not to hinder or injure" the president said it was evident that such a policy as the democratic party was now pursuing "was absolutely necessary to satisfy the conscience of the country and its perception of the prevailing conditions of business." He said uncertainty was the worst thing of all for business.

This was his answer to manufacturers who came to the White House asking that all legislation affecting business except the trade commission bill be temporarily withheld.

The president also said that, while he was aware of the present depression in business, there was abundant evidence that it was purely psychological, and that there was no material condition or substantial reason why the business of the country should not be in the most prosperous and expanding condition.

Labor Wins Fight for Exemption. Trade unions and farmers' unions would be legalized in their existence and declared not to be combinations in restraint of trade by a paragraph which the house incorporated in the Clayton bill to supplement the anti-trust laws.

Although it is designed only to clarify existing law, organized labor leaders assert the final passage of this amendment will mark the culmination of a fight waged by them for 14 years. As adopted the provision sets forth that "nothing in the anti-trust law shall be construed to forbid the existence or operations" of labor unions or farmers' co-operative associations or to forbid or restrain members of such organizations from "carrying out the legitimate objects thereof."

Committee Favors Oregon Apple Box. The house committee on cottage, weights and measures reported Representative Baker's bill adopting the Oregon apple box as the standard apple container for the entire United States. The bill provides that an apple box shall be of the following dimensions: Depth of end, 10 1/4 inches; width, 11 1/4 inches; length, 18 inches. All are inside measurements and represent 217 1/2 cubic inches.

Boxes not measuring up to the standard must be marked "short box." Violators of the law are liable to a fine of \$1 a box.

National Capital Brevities. The river and harbor bill was formally reported to the senate, carrying amendments affecting the northwest. Grays Harbor receives \$110,000 and the \$100,000 for Willapa harbor is omitted.

Secretary of the navy Daniels recommends the sale of the battleships Mississippi and Idaho to Greece for the actual cost of the ships.

United States Senator Lane, democrat of Oregon, opposed in the senate the repeal of the free tolls clause in the Panama canal act. He urged a new treaty concerning the canal.

Congressmen are considering a new treaty covering deep sea craft, with the object of safeguarding lives of passengers, as result of the disaster to the Empress of Ireland.

CHARLES S. MELLEN



Charles S. Mellen, Ex-President of the New Haven road, who lays blame for wrecking the railroad on the fate of J. P. Morgan.

MEDIATORS ARE WARNED

Semi-Official Statement to Press and A. B. C. Board.

El Paso, Tex.—A semi-official statement from General Carranza's headquarters at Durango criticizing the actions of the A. B. C. mediators at Niagara Falls and an announcement from General Villa reiterating his allegiance as a military leader to Carranza were the latest developments of the Mexican situation here. Villa has left Torreon on his way for a visit to Juarez, on the border here. Carranza was reported as having begun preparations to move by way of Torreon to Saltillo, where he will perfect his provisional government.

The statement from Durango, where Carranza's provisional government has been established, was addressed to the American press, with a note to the effect that it had official sanction, and states that the commander-in-chief of the constitutional army will be provisional president of Mexico during the elections, and if let alone constitutionalists will settle the entire Mexican problem.

Rebel Envoys Take Stand.

Washington.—Constitutionalist representatives in Washington issued their first formal statement since the Niagara Falls mediation conference began. Luis Cabrera on behalf of himself and his colleagues, outlined the constitutionalist attitude toward the question of representation at Niagara Falls, maintaining that it is for the United States and not the mediators or the representatives of General Huerta to decide whether representatives of the constitutionalist cause should take part in the deliberations.

LAND WITHDRAWAL BY TAFT HELD VOID

Los Angeles.—The conservation order of ex-President William H. Taft withdrawing from entry nearly 3,000,000 acres of oil lands in California was declared invalid in a decision rendered by Judge M. T. Dooling, of the United States Court. The court held that the president of the United States had no power to withdraw lands from entry.

The question, however, of whether the vast area affected by the order of the former president shall revert to the status of a domain of free exploitation depends upon the decision of the United States supreme court in the Midwest Oil company case, which involves 17,000 acres of oil land in Wyoming. This case has been before the supreme court for some time and a final adjudication is expected this month.

The decision of Judge Dooling was the climax of what had become famous in western court annals as the "billion dollar case." In September, 1909, President Taft issued an executive order withdrawing from entry 3,041,000 acres of oil lands in the west. Of this 2,761,000 acres comprised the Midway field of California. The rest was in Wyoming.

THE MARKETS

Portland. Wheat—Club, 86c; bluestem, 89c; red Russian, 85c. Hay—Timothy, \$16; alfalfa, \$13. Butter—Creamery, 27c. Eggs—Ranch, 21c.

Seattle. Wheat—Bluestem, 89c; club, 86c; red Russian, 85c. Hay—Timothy, \$17 per ton; alfalfa, \$14 per ton. Butter—Creamery, 26c. Eggs—24c.

CAPTAIN IS BLAMED FOR SEA DISASTER

Responsibility for Sinking of Steamer Empress of Ireland Placed on Anderson

Rimouski, Quebec.—Responsibility for the deaths of nearly 1000 persons who perished when the collier Storstad rammed and sank the great Canadian Pacific liner Empress of Ireland, was placed squarely on Captain Thomas Anderson of the collier, by Captain H. G. Kendall of the lost vessel.

Captain Kendall, testifying before a coroner's jury declared failure of the Storstad's captain to observe while the signals caused the collision. Neglect to hold the Storstad's nose in the hole in the Empress killed the last hope of rescue.

Captain Says Proper Signals Given. Captain Kendall in substance testified that he had taken all possible precautions against a collision. His ship had been stopped, he gave the requisite signals when the Danish collier Storstad, which dealt the blow which sent the Empress to the bottom, was still two miles away, but the collier had kept on through the fog which settled down soon after the two vessels sighted each other, and had rammed the Empress of Ireland when the latter vessel was virtually motionless.

Then, despite his plea to the master of the collier that he run his engines full speed ahead to keep the hole in the liner's side plugged with the Storstad's bow, said Captain Kendall, the Danish vessel backed away, the water rushed in and the Empress sank.

Crash Occurs Near Shore. The crash occurred not far from the shore off Father Point, 150 miles from Quebec, and 10 miles from this point on the St. Lawrence. In reality, therefore, although the liner was heading for the sea and the collier coming in from it, the disaster was not one of the ocean, but of the river.

Accounts agree that in the brief space of time—not more than 14 minutes—between the shock of the collision and the sinking of the liner, there was little chance for systematic marshalling of the passengers.

Captain Stood on Bridge. Captain Kendall stood on his bridge as the ship went down. One of the boats from the liner picked him up and he directed its work of saving others until the craft was loaded. The captain was injured in the crash and suffered from exposure, but his speedy recovery is expected.

Few women were among the saved. The lists make it appear not more than a dozen.

"It all happened so quickly that we did not really know what was going on and nobody had time to cry 'Women first,'" one of the passengers told Captain Bellinger, of the rescue boat Eureka.

Of the 1387 persons on board only 418 are known to have been saved, making the probable death list 969.

ANDERSON DENIES CHARGE

Empress Blamed for Vessel's Separation After the Collision.

Montreal.—With her bows crumpled in and twisted and a gap showing on the port side only a foot or so above the waterline, in mute evidence of the tragedy in which she figured, the Norwegian collier, Storstad, docked here and a few minutes later a warrant of arrest, taken out by the Canadian Pacific railway, was nailed to her main mast.

According to the captain and officers, contrary to what had been said by the captain of the Empress, the Storstad did not back away after the collision. On the contrary, she steamed ahead in an effort to keep her bow in the hole she had dug into the side of the Empress.

The Empress, however, according to the Storstad's officers, headed away and bent the Storstad's bow over at an acute angle to port. After that the Empress was hidden from view of the other ship, and despite the fact that the Storstad kept her whistle going, she could not locate the Empress until the cries of the victims in the water were heard.

Colonel Roosevelt Starts for Madrid. New York.—Colonel Roosevelt sailed on the Olympic for Southampton, whence he will go to Madrid to attend the wedding of his son, Kermit, and Miss Belle Willard, United States Ambassador Willard's daughter.

No Washington Special Session. Olympia, Wash.—No special session of the Washington legislature will be called to help third-class cities out of financial difficulties they are facing under a recent supreme court decision, Governor Lister has announced.

Senator Cummins Is Renominated. Des Moines.—Senator Albert B. Cummins, republican, has been renominated for the United States senate by a majority ranging between 40,000 and 50,000 over A. C. Savage.