

BOTKIN GETS NEW TRIAL

Her Former Trial a Great Sensation

From Delaware.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 28:-The District Attorney's office contemplated putting Mrs. Cordelia Botkin on trial for the second time next week for the alleged murder of Dover, Del. women, but a further delay in the famous case appears inevitable, Preparations to bring the famous case to trial again have been in progress for many months, but the death of Chief of Police Lees, who was active in the first trial, and several other things have combined to necessitate the long delay. Meanwhile the Delaware parties interested in the case have been complaining of the numeroas postponements and the legislature of that state last week took official action upon the apparent inactivity of the California authorities in the matter.

Mrs. Botkin, who is spending her fourth year in jail, has lost none of her beauty in prison. She has comfortable quarters in jall and is said to be happy in the hope that her second trial will result in her acquittal.

The arrest and trial of Mrs. Botkin four years ago attracted national attention owing to the many novel and interesting features of the care. John P Dunning was a news paper correspondent in Sau Francisco in 1898. His wife left the city early in the year for Dover Del. to visit her father, ex-Congressm

Pennington. Mrs. Botkin was infatuated with Dunning, and, when he left San Francisco for the East, she is said to have become very jealous and made threats against himself and his wife,

Pennington, a grandson of ex-Congress man Pennington, brought from the post office at Dover a dainty box of chocolate bonbone, addressed to Mrs. J. P. Dunning. She invited friends to help cat her sweetmeats, but owing to a peculiar taste and the fact that it caused a burning sensation in the mouth they did not eat much of it. Mrs. Danning and her eister, Mrs. Deane, become very eick after eating the candy and died soon in great agony. An analysis of the candy showed considerable quantity of arsenic in its composition. The governor offered a reward of \$2000 for the conviction of the sender of the candy. Inclosed in the box was a friendly note, signed "Mrs. C.", and the wrapper was stamped with the San Francisco postmark. An investigation of the life of John P. Dunning showed his acquaintance with Mrs. Botkin, who then resided in Oakland, Cal., which he freely admitted. He also accused the woman of the crime. Much incriminat-

ing evidence as to the purchase of the candy, the handwriting of Mrs. Botkin on the box and in the note and other facts were accumulated. Upon the evi dence Mrs. Botkin was arrested, tried and sentenced to prison for life. Through a law subsequently passed by the state legislature of California she was granted a new trial. Mrs. Dunning's father, one of the important witnesses for the prosecution at the first trial, is dead, and according to the California law, his evidence cannot be placed before the jury at the second trial. Other Delaware witnesses will come to California doubt as to wheth er a second conviction can be secured.



