

THE WAR AGAINST THE TRUSTS.

Complaint Filed Against the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co.

Columbia, December 28.—South Carolina has joined in the procession of States that has brought suits against alleged industrial combinations. At the recent session of the General Assembly a joint resolution was passed instructing the Attorney General to make "an investigation" to determine by what authority the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company is doing business in this State, and then that "he institute such proceedings, civil or criminal, as may be necessary to prevent and punish the violations of such laws against trusts and combinations."

The General Assembly little knew when it called upon the Attorney General what a tremendous responsibility and task it was throwing upon him. Mr. Bellinger and Mr. Gunter have been working quietly and indefatigably for months and months, and today they had their guns ready to fire at the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company. They have fired a broadside, and when the General Assembly meets it will find that Attorney General Bellinger has gone down to the root of the matter, and has prepared a most elaborate and exhaustive report.

General Bellinger is a fighter with a reputation and in this, as in all other cases he has taken hold of it, it is certain that he will keep up his reputation and at the same time it is to be remembered that in other States similar litigation, so far as known, has amounted to nothing. Mr. Bellinger will do his part, but, of course, whether the Virginia-Carolina is or is not a trust or combination, as alleged, and whether it is or is not detrimental to the public welfare, is entirely another question.

The first gun was fired here today. The formal complaint in the case was served on Mr. Washington A. Clark, who was president of the Columbia Phosphate Company, before that corporation sold out. Similar suits will be brought in the various counties where the sales complained of occurred.

The litigation started today, as shown by the records, involves considerably more than a million dollars worth of property, besides far-reaching principles.

General Bellinger realizes that he has a hard case ahead of him, and that talk and law do not always run together, and he has secured as assistant counsel former Judge J. H. Hudson, of Bennettsville, and Mr. J. N. Nathans, of Charleston. Of course, Assistant Attorney General Gunter will be associated in the case. In employing Judge Hudson and Mr. Nathans, General Bellinger has obtained two of the ablest and best lawyers in the State to assist in the litigation.

In the meanwhile the Virginia-Carolina Company has not yet shown its hand but as this is the first case of the kind that has been brought against it, it is safe to say that they will resist the contention to the utmost and oppose the view that it is a combination or trust against the interests of the public. It will be a most interesting case.

THE NORTHERN RAILROAD TRUST.

Judge Elliott Grants Injunction Against Officers.

Minneapolis, Dec. 30.—Judge Elliott of the district court of Hennepin county today granted a temporary order restraining the officers of the Northern Pacific railroad company from retiring the preferred stock of that company. The order was issued on the application of Peter Power of New York, who holds a hundred shares of the common stock, and who came from New York with his attorneys for the purpose of beginning the action. It was supposed that the failure of the action brought in the New York courts by holders of preferred stock cleared away the last obstacle to the retirement of the preferred on January 1, leaving the Hill interests in control of the road through its majority of the common stock. It is inferred, although it does not so appear, that the present action is brought in behalf of the Harrison interests to prevent control passing out of its hands for another year or until the legal standing of the Northern Securities company is settled. The claim set up by Mr. Power in his suit is that the retirement of the preferred stock is in violation of the agreement that such retirement would lay no additional burdens upon the common stock, and he holds that the certificates of debenture bonds, to be issued to offset the retirement of the preferred, would become a lien upon the common stock and thus work an injury to his property. It is understood that the block of 100 shares held by Power is the only block of common not hitherto controlled and definitely located upon one side or the other, the Harrison people or the Hill-Morgan interests.

The restraining order will not only be served on the officials in Minnesota, but will be telegraphed to New York and served on the officials there. The papers were served on President Chas. S. Mellen of the Northern Pacific today.

OLD LADIES ROBBED.

Augusta, Ga., December 29.—A special to the Chronicle from Washington, Ga., says: The Misses Battle, two elderly maiden ladies living at Barneta Junction, on the Washington branch of the Georgia Railroad, were robbed at an early hour this morning of \$6,000 in gold. When the robbers entered the house the women, hearing a noise, investigated, lighting a lamp. The robbers dashed a bucket of cold water on the one holding the lamp and overawed them. An alarm was raised and when help arrived the robbers had fled, after rifling a trunk containing the above named amount. The women lived alone in the house. Several previous attempts have been made to rob them during the past few months. A few weeks ago an entrance was made in the house and the trunk carried out in the yard and rifled, the would-be thieves getting no money. The ladies believe the robbers were white men, having recognized one of them they say.

Railroads Favor Fertilizer Trust.

Independent Companies Learn by Accident That Trust Gets Lower Rates.

Anderson, December 29.—The announcement that the attorney general had commenced action to secure the annulment of the charter of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company was read here today with a great deal of interest. Today it was learned of another matter in connection with the fertilizer business in the State that will be of great interest. It is understood that there is a stir among the independent fertilizer companies on account of the discovery that the Southern railway, the Seaboard Air Line, and the Atlantic Coast Line have for several weeks had in force a reduced, or three-quarter rate, on acidulated rock from Charleston to points in North and South Carolina where the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company has oil mills. The railroads deny that the rate was made specially to the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company, but it is a significant fact that the rate was never published and that the independent companies learned of it only by accident. When the railroad authorities were asked about it, they admitted that the special rate had been in force but would be withdrawn on Dec. 31. The practical effect of the special rate has been that the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company ships its goods from Charleston to points where it has oil mills at a three-quarter rate while the independent companies have been paying full rates, having had no notice of the reduction. It is understood that the railroads claim that the special rate was given by the consent of the State railroad commissioners, but this is not believed here. The matter has been brought to the attention of the commission and there will be a hearing on it Tuesday. There will naturally be much interest in the hearing, and the action of the commission will be awaited with interest.

Mr. F. G. Brown, president of the Anderson Phosphate and Oil company, the largest independent fertilizer company in the State, stated in reply to an inquiry that he had not been notified by the railroad authorities of any reduction of the rate on acidulated rock, or other fertilizers, at any point in this State, and that his company was still paying the old rates on all shipments. He further said that since the railroads have demonstrated that this class of freight can be hauled for 25 per cent less than the rate heretofore in force, he would appear before the railroad commission on Tuesday and ask that the present rate on acid phosphates and fertilizers, either in bulk or in bags, be reduced 25 per cent from all factories and to all points in the State.

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NEGROES KILLED BY POLICE.

Waterloo, Dec. 29.—At 5 o'clock Saturday evening J. F. Duvall, town marshal of Waterloo, arrested Walter Lowe, colored, Lowe immediately drew his pistol and demanded his release. At the same time George Cunningham joined Lowe and the marshal was powerless. Duvall called to his assistance G. W. Long, a member of the town council. Long called John Pitts to his assistance. In the mean time Long secured a Winchester rifle and they attempted to arrest the parties. When in about 50 yards of the negroes Walter Lowe called on the marshal to halt, at the same time opened fire on the marshal, Long and Pitts. By this time the negroes were joined by Ples Lowe, colored. Long handed Pitts the rifle and told him to shoot. After the smoke had cleared away George Cunningham was found shot through the body and died in a few hours. Pitts with his rifle had lodged a ball in Ples Lowe's left shoulder, shattering the bone, and his condition is serious. Walter Lowe is at large. He is a very bad negro. Sheriff Docket is on the ground and no further trouble is expected. Excitement was high for a time. W.

A Deadly Weapon.

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 29.—At a preliminary trial for murder, held at Yazoo City, before Justice of the Peace Stevens, the magistrate held that a negro's head was a deadly weapon such as would justify the defendant in using a pistol to protect himself from grave bodily injury or possible death from that source.

The ordinarily accepted definition of a deadly weapon confines the term to pistols and weapons of that variety, and the Mississippi magistrate is undoubtedly the first to announce the doctrine that the proverbial hard head of the Ethiopian is a weapon of grave danger and peril to the one against whom it is turned.

The defendant, a negro named Henry Gordon, was charged with the murder of another negro, styled "Buttin' Jim" at Eden in that county a few weeks before. The testimony showed that "Buttin' Jim" was approaching him furiously with lowered head for the attack. The assailant also had a stick in his hand, which was, of course, not a deadly weapon. The evidence was introduced to show the redoubtable nature of the head which the assailant was about to employ as a weapon. It was testified that in the railroad yards at Tchula in Holmes county the dead man had killed a man by the violent impact of his head.

Other instances were cited where he had laid others up for months by the infliction of severe internal wounds with his cranial battering ram. In fact his adroitness with that fatal weapon was well known all over the county among the negroes, and they feared him as they feared grim death. His sobriquet of "Buttin' Jim" bore witness to his reputation in that line. After considering the case the magistrate announced that the circumstances showed that the defendant was being attacked with a deadly weapon; that he had good reason to fear for his life, in view of all the circumstances, and he therefore discharged him from custody, without bond.

Lynchburg, Va., December 29.—A landslide on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, near Reussen's station, five miles west of Lynchburg, on the James River branch today caused a wreck in which the engineer, conductor and baggage man of a passenger train were killed and several other persons injured, but none of them seriously.

MISS NELL CROSEY'S FUNERAL.

Many People Braved Storm to Pay Last Tribute to the Dead.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 29.—A special to The Observer from Elizabeth City, N. C., says: In a storm of intermittent wind and driving rain and in the presence of the largest crowd which ever assembled at a church in this city, the funeral services over the remains of Miss Ella Maud Crosey, the girl supposed to have been murdered five weeks ago, were held this afternoon in the Methodist church. There were 1,500 people packed in the auditorium, balcony and annex, and hundreds could not get admittance. The deceased became a member of this church 38 days before her disappearance. Among those in the funeral cortege were Judge and Mrs. Crosey, three daughters and a son, and Lawyer Andrew G. Crosey of New York. The remains are lying in the Methodist church annex over night and will be started to Brooklyn tomorrow morning.

The jail in which young Wilcox, who was arrested for alleged participation in the girl's death, is confined lies only a stone's throw from the church. Wilcox knew the funeral was in progress, but showed no emotion and merely inquired if a large crowd were present. He is more nervous than yesterday, but retains much of the easy manner that has characterized him at all times. The guards were withdrawn from the jail today and permitted to go home. Public sentiment is strong against Wilcox, but there is less talk of lynching and some of the ministers today took occasion in their sermons to advise against mob violence. Wilcox absolutely refuses, under advice of his attorney, to say anything regarding the case. He is charged with the murder of the girl and as the offense is not bailable in this State, he will waive an examination and permit his case to go direct to the grand jury next March.

"We know Miss Crosey was killed by a blow on the head with a sandbag or blackjack. If the blow was struck while she was on the porch, then her unconscious form was dragged across the lawn to the river, only a short distance away. If the blow was struck on the lawn while walking across she was struck by him. There is another witness who may be called upon to testify. It is R. F. Parker, who told his wife the night after Miss Crosey disappeared that he had seen Wilcox dragging a girl across the road in front of the Wilcox residence. We will investigate that."

CHARLESTON EXPOSITION.

Charleston, Dec. 29.—The exhibitors and concessionaires at the Charleston exposition have organized a club for the double purpose of forwarding the interests of the exposition and that of the firms which they represent. The president of the club is H. C. Bliss, the vice president, Wallace S. Shaw and the secretary and treasurer, L. C. Good. The exhibitors have made splendid progress in the last week in the installation of their exhibits. The attendance on the exposition is steadily increasing. The races are proving to be a splendid attraction: the buildings and grounds present a most charming appearance and the railroads are doing a heavy passenger business. Tomorrow will be "Citadel Academy" day at the exposition and New Year's day will be celebrated by the negroes as "Emancipation day."

Arrangements are being made for the International League of Press clubs and the Pen and Pencil club of Philadelphia, which will spend two days at the exposition in January and an elaborate programme will be made for the reception of the Liberty bell which will arrive here Jan. 10th. The live stock show will open on Jan. 6th and will be the largest ever held in the south.

BIG FLOODS IN FOUR STATES.

Disastrous Results of Heavy Rains in Last Few Days.

Atlanta, Ga., December 30.—The torrential rains of the past two days in Georgia, Alabama and East Tennessee and portions of North Carolina have caused the death of four persons as far as known, and inflicted serious damage on all kinds of property. The rains have been followed by much colder weather, accompanied by high winds. The weather bureau announced today that the Chattahoochee River would continue to rise during the next thirty-six hours and it is feared much damage will result. Three people were drowned at West Point, Ga., while attempting to cross the turbulent Chattahoochee, and Thomas Russell, an engineer on the Atlanta and West Point Railroad, was killed in a freight wreck caused by a washout near Notsulga, Ala. Thousands of dollars are lost at West Point and there is much suffering. Today the water in the streets of West Point was from 1 to 5 feet deep. Many of the people spent the night in Fort Tyler. No trains have been sent through from Atlanta to Montgomery over the Atlanta and West Point Road since Saturday, and last night the Southern Railway's New York and New Orleans limited train was sent around by Birmingham and Meridian. A washout is reported on the Southern between Asheville and Knoxville. At Columbus, Ga., the Chattahoochee registered 38 feet. The property damage is already heavy. Nearly five inches of rain has fallen in the vicinity of Rome, Ga. Two washouts are reported on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, south of Montgomery.

A Fireman's Close Call.

"I stuck to my engine, although every joint ached and every nerve was racked with pain," writes C. W. Felton, a beam-stoker fireman, of Burlington, Iowa. "I was weak and pale with out any appetite and all run down. As I was about to give up, I got a bottle of Electric Bitters and, after taking it, I felt as well as I ever did in my life." Weak, sickly, run down people always gain new life, strength and vigor from their use. Try them. Satisfaction guaranteed by J. F. W. DeLorme. Price 50 cents. 2

WILD BILL'S FIRST BATTLE.

Story of the Most Remarkable Conflict in Border Annals.

Forty years ago, in December, ten men on bay horses galloped across the dry bed of Rock Creek, skirted a little clump of cottonwoods, and drew rein before the bars of the Overland Stage Company's horse corral on the California trail a few miles north of Manhattan. Bill McKandias, jumping from his horse, put his hand on the top bar. A tall, slender young man stepped to the door of the dug-out a few yards away with a gun in his hand, and eyed the McKandias gang with dark disfavor. He called out with some emphasis that he would shoot the first man who took down a bar, and made some comments on their parentage.

A few hours before they had gone by his quarters jerking an old preacher at the end of a lariat. As they passed they announced that they would come back for the stage horses in the corral at three o'clock in the afternoon. The young man with the gun had replied that he would be there when they came back. He was paid to feed, harness, and protect the company's property, and intended to earn his money. The ten visiting gentlemen tied their horses to the corral, and turned to the more cheerful duty of exterminating the imprudent and forward young watchman. He retired into his dug-out domicile, barred the door, and stood waiting with a rifle in his hand. Even then he had the habit of not shooting until the occasion really demanded it. The highwaymen hunted up a log from among the cottonwoods, and with praiseworthy industry proceeded to batter down the door.

Jim McKandias, with a revolver a bowie-knife, a whoop, and a yell leaped across the threshold and into eternity. As the others rushed through the door the man inside fired three shots, with that accuracy of aim for which he was so much admired in the years that were to come. The six somewhat startled horse thieves who remained alive swarmed across the dug-out floor, and piled upon the young station keeper with revolvers and bowie-knives. One dealt him over the head with a gun and Bill McKandias struck with a bowie-knife, only a bullet in his heart, to suddenly terminate a career which had furnished an infinite variety of interest for the sheriffs and vigilants of several counties.

The rusty stove fell from its insecure foundation across the surging combatants, mixed in inextricable and sanguinary confusion. Outside a horse broke his hitching strap and galloped away. The little table broke down beneath the weight of a thousand pounds of shooting stabbing, swearing frontiersmen. The fattest bandit rolled toward the door, and catching a glimpse of the brown prairies outside, which looked good to him, suddenly reached the conclusion that he did not really need any stage company horses in his business and bolted.

By this time the affair had ceased to have for the other four horse fanciers that enticing interest which had drawn them into it. As he afterwards expressed it, the young man in charge of the stage station had "gone wild." Covered with wounds and freckled with bullet holes he had lost every thought and instinct except the lust of death and victory. As they fought he struck the sixth man in the throat with the bowie, and the man fell across the little pile of blankets. The three who were now on their feet retreated through the door and toward their horses, their host staggering after them with the gleam of battle still in his blue eye. That morning his associate in the company's service had gone hunting, to return on the run barely in time to witness the close of the tragedy. Doc Mills, the associate, had lost a golden opportunity. While he was out shooting quail, Fame had knocked at the dug-out door, handed a laurel to James Butler Hickok, and passed on. Hickok wrested the gun from Mills's hand, and killed another of his fleeing foes before they were fifty yards away. One, badly wounded, sped down the little creek, found his way to Manhattan, and died within two days. The ninth, more fortunate, mounted a horse, and followed the fat deserter across the prairie.

When the stage from the East came rumbling in, half an hour later, they found this hero of the most savage and the most remarkable conflict in border annals insensible and at the point of death. The floor of his dug-out looked like the deck of a viking's warship after a glorious triumph. Six months elapsed before he recovered. He had beaten ten men in a fair fight, killing eight of them, but he had won his fight, saved his employer's property, and henceforth he was "Wild Bill" for all time.—E. C. Little in Everybody's Magazine.

THE BORDER CONTROVERSY.

Panacefote Wants to Settle it Before He Retires.

Washington, December 29.—It is expected that efforts will be renewed before long for the settlement of the numerous controversies which have long existed between the United States and Great Britain, growing out of relations along the Canadian border, the Atlantic fisheries, warships on the great lakes, the Alaskan boundary and other questions. Heretofore the negotiations designed to secure a settlement of the matters recited have not proven effective, largely because of the cumbersome machinery of negotiation, and this has led to a belief that much more could be accomplished by direct negotiations between Secretary Hay and Lord Pauncefote on the main points, and the subsequent assembling of a commission representing the United States and Great Britain and Canada to give form to the bases of agreement rendered. The British authorities have expected for some time that when the Isthmian Canal treaty was disposed to adjust the Alaskan boundary and other pending questions, the canal treaty being regarded as one of the main pending issues. Now the British Government has yielded the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and other points in the Isthmian negotiations it desires to take up some of the other questions in which it has

important interests involved. Lord Pauncefote desires to clear up all pending differences and have "a clean slate" before his present term as ambassador comes to a close. When he came to Washington there were four great issues between the two Governments. The first of these was the Behring Sea controversy, which had reached an acute stage. The second issue was over Venezuela, which, like the seal question, at one time threatened war. But the efforts of diplomacy were again successful in averting trouble and bringing about a settlement. The third important issue was on the Isthmian Canal, which has been satisfactorily disposed of by the recent Hay-Pauncefote treaty. This leaves only one issue remaining in order to bring about a "clean slate," namely, the border controversy, both as to Canada and Alaska. At present a modus vivendi exists as to the Alaskan boundary, chiefly for the purpose of avoiding a clash along the border and holding each side in check until a final boundary is determined upon. It seems to be conceded on both sides that the modus cannot be carried on indefinitely and that sooner or later the main question of establishing a permanent boundary must be settled.

The Battleship Missouri.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Members of the president's cabinet with their families and several bureau chiefs of the navy department, guests of the Newport Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company, left here for Newport News, Va., at 10 o'clock this evening by special train, to attend the launching of the battleship Missouri at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning. C. B. Orcutt, president of the shipbuilding company accompanied the party. A large number of senators, members of the house and others, including Senator Cockrell of Missouri, and his daughter, Miss Marion Cockrell, who is to act as sponsor at the launching, sailed for Newport News tonight and will arrive there early in the morning.

The Missouri is a sister ship to the Ohio and the Maine. Her contract price was \$2,885,000. Her keel was laid Feb. 7, 1900, and on the latest construction report she is set down as 51 per cent completed. The Missouri's contract speed is 18 knots an hour, so that she will rank next to the battleships of the Georgia class in regard to speed. Her complement will be 40 officers and 511 men.

The hull is built out of steel and is unsheathed. It is 388 feet long on the load water line; 75 feet 2-1/2 inches extreme and at a mean draught of 23 feet 6 inches, displaces 12,230 tons. The hull is protected abreast of the boilers and engine by a side armor belt of from 7-1/2 to 11 inches thickness and by the casemate armor, 6 inches thick.

Protection is afforded the vitals of the ship below the water line by a protective deck, with armor from 2-3/4 to 4 inches thick. The main battery of the ship consists of four 12-inch rifles placed in two balanced turrets and 16 6-inch guns.

A new feature introduced into the offensive power of the ship are two submerged torpedo tubes. While German ships have been equipped with these tubes for a number of years, the Missouri and her class are the first battleships of our navy to be supplied with them.

Bilge keels to reduce rolling are fitted to the vessel, experiments in recent years in our own and foreign navies having demonstrated the great efficiency of these keels in preventing excessive rolling.

The Missouri and her class are the first battleships of the United States navy in which water tube boilers are provided.

The Panama Canal for Sale.

Paris, December 28.—M. Lampre, secretary-general of the Panama Canal Company, sailed for New York today on the French Line steamer L'Aquitaine, from Havre. He will confer on his arrival in the United States with a number of the Panama Company's American representatives and overtures for the sale of the canal property to the United States will then be renewed.

In view of the doubt existing in the United States regarding the price the Panama Canal Company's representatives intend to ask for the property, the correspondent of the Associated Press made inquiries from the best source of information on that subject and is enabled to say that the price will be approximately \$40,000,000. This figure cannot yet be given as the exact one because the company has not yet come to a definite decision, but it will not be appreciably higher. The Isthmian commission's full report is now in possession of the Panama Company, and its valuations will be studied in detail. The report of the directors of the Panama Company cabled to the Associated Press, on December 21, said:

"We offer to accept as the basis and point of departure of fresh negotiations the figures and declarations contained in the Isthmian commission's definite report."

The estimates come to by such eminent men are not thought to be open to question, though possibly a few items are susceptible to reconsideration and a few matters may remain to be decided, such as a valuation of the company's stocks of supplies, but none of these is calculated to modify the gross figure to any extent. The company does not intend to give the slightest ground for any further misunderstanding, and believes the definite price put forward will now be acceptable. With M. Lampre in America, it will not be necessary for the mandatory who is empowered to submit the definite price to depart from France until later, when the negotiations are under way.

CHILI AND ARGENTINA.

Washington, December 29.—Advices received by Senator Infante, the Chilean charge, today, confirmed the news already published that the Argentine minister at Santiago had informed the Chilean minister of foreign affairs that Argentina could not accept all the terms of the protocol heretofore signed by the settlement of the dispute, and that some changes would be necessary in the instrument. Senator Infante's information is that there is no foundation whatever for the statement that a change was made in the protocol by the Chilean minister of foreign affairs, but that on the contrary it was published as agreed upon between the representatives of the two governments. The understanding here is that no formal demand has yet been made upon the Chilean Government for a change in the terms of the protocol, but that the matter has simply been one of informal talk at Santiago. M. Infante continues to express his firm conviction that there will be no war because of the present understanding.

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SHORT NEWS STORIES.

Compensation For a Bad Ocer—Spoiled the Spider's Scene—A "Progress" Report.

Lord Rosebery, formerly premier of Great Britain, surprised some of his hearers at a recent gathering by referring to himself as an agriculturist, says a London newspaper. It is not generally known, even in England, that Lord Rosebery, statesman, author, sportsman, is also a farmer. His farm is at Mentmore, on the splendid estate which came to him on his marriage. It is conducted on the highest scientific principles and is one of the first model fruit farms in England. Large quantities of fruit come from Mentmore to the London markets. Lord Rosebery has also a dairy farm on the Mentmore estate. At Dalmeny his association with the world of industry is in the form of shale mines lying on a remote corner of his estate. Now and again the wind brings the smoke and smell of the mines up to the mansion, and it was this which provoked a visitor to remark on the nuisance of having such things so close by.

"Ah, my friend," said Lord Rosebery, "however unpleasant it may be to you, to me it is the smell of 25 per cent."

Spoiled the Spider's Scene.

H. Cooper Cliffe tells an amusing story of his first performance of the Spider at the Globe theater, in London. In the last act of "The Silver King" the Spider locks a case of jewels of enormous value in an iron safe. Mr.



"THE JEWELS ARE SAFE." Cliffe did some elaborate business with the key and the safe and turned to the house to give full weight to his lines: "Securely locked. The jewels are safe." There was a roar of laughter. He spun around and perceived that the locked doors were wide open again, giving the audience a full view through the back of the safe of a lime light and the legs of the stage carpenter.

A "Progress" Report.

Congressman Clayton of Alabama was sitting in the cloakroom of the house when one of his colleagues drifted in. "How are they getting along with the river and harbor bill?" asked Clayton. "Well," was the reply, "I can report progress."

Clayton laughed. "That reminds me," said he, "of an old negro down in my district who was known as Henry Burley. He was quite a steady church-goer, used to pray loudly and sing lustily, and so when the congregation decided to build a new church he was placed at the head of the committee to solicit subscriptions. He provided himself with a little book, and as he was well known to all the merchants of the town he soon raised quite a little sum of money. Whenever the congregation called upon him for a report of his endeavors he always answered, 'Brudren, I'ze only able to report progress.' And he reported progress and nothing more for at least a year. At the end of that time the church had nothing, but Burley was living in a new cabin which he had built for himself. He was still reporting progress."—Washington Post.

Goodwin's Costly Joke.

Nat Goodwin has the apparatus of a joke that cost him \$100. He bought it in the Swiss section of the Invalides. Fortunately, that is, for Mr. Goodwin, if not for his friends, it can be used again and again; indeed it is warranted for five years. To whom it may concern, warning. Among the Swiss clocks was one whence every hour a little wooden soldier emerged and fired a gun—for 2 o'clock, for 3 o'clock, and so on.

"I'm going to buy that," said Mr. Goodwin to his wife, Maxine Elliott. "That silly thing. Why?" "Oh, just to kill time." Mr. Goodwin replied lightly.

And if that joke doesn't wear out before the clock does he may get the worth of his money.—Saturday Evening Post.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of J. C. Peck & Co.