

THOUSANDS CHEER FLORIDA'S PLUNGE

"Go, Brave Ship," Says Pretty Sponsor as Giant Vessel Makes Stately Start.

LIKE SWAN IN THE WATER

Cheers and Whistles Drown Bands at Brilliant Launching of Nation's Biggest Sea Fighter.

The hull of the United States battleship Florida, representing the highest type of American naval construction, was started on its slippery path to the East River from the navy yard in Brooklyn at exactly 11:25 o'clock yesterday morning.

The rain stayed away, but thirty thousand persons did not. The combination was hard to beat.

It was the heaviest mass of steel ever sent down American ways. The great battleship floated high like a swan. She seemed a contrivance of cork instead of steel.

The thirty thousand thrilled with the beauty of the scene. They cheered and shouted and talked rapturously to total strangers. A scarlet band and a band in deep blue uniforms were busy but not heard.

The red prow of the battleship was dashed with the contents of a bottle thrown against it by Miss Elizabeth Fleming, the pretty and vivacious daughter of a former Governor of Florida. She said: "Go, brave ship, I christen thee Florida. But the bottle did not contain Florida water, nor water of any kind. It was the kind of moisture made compulsory in most eating places on New Year's Eve.

Crash Goes Champagne Bottle. Miss Fleming was cool. She seized the ribbed bottle and awaited the crucial and creaking instant that would start the battleship waterward. Remembering the inclination, the weight of the hull and the foms of grease on the ways, Miss Fleming was aware that if she missed the boat by a second eternity couldn't rectify it.

There was an ominous creaking, the sliding and permanent ways slowly drew apart, and with a mighty heave for so slight a young woman Miss Fleming sent the champagne bottle crashing against the giant sea fighter. Souvenirs of the contents of that bottle do not exist.

The motion of Miss Fleming's arm revealed to the crowd the fact that the bottle had been thrown against the ship's bow and appeared to be the signal for an outburst of almost frantic cheering, but it was speedily drowned by the shrieks and toots of steam whistles, aloft and ashore. Everything in the yard and on the river near by that could make a noise made it.

Altogether there were five bands that tried ineffectually to make themselves heard, but only those within close range of the stands could detect that they were playing "The Star Spangled Banner." The cheering in the yard did not die out until after the hull was taken in charge by a fleet of tugs near the middle of the river.

Those near the ship had been listening for some time to the clicking of jacks under the hull. The great ship was being "hit" below the waterline probably for the last time. Several hundred men attending diligently to such work produced a sound resembling distant cannonading.

When that sound stopped and the final inspection by Naval Constructor William J. Baxter showed that everything was in readiness the order to "Saw off!" was heard.

Then came the sound of a big cross-cut saw grating its way through the five-inch block which held the battleship in place. The last stroke of the saw was marked by the slightest possible tremor as the cradle settled into place on the greased ways.

Great Ship Moves Grandly. The downward plunge of the ship was hardly noticeable at its beginning, and so easy was its movement that Miss Fleming might have broken another bottle against the steel prow before it got beyond her reach.

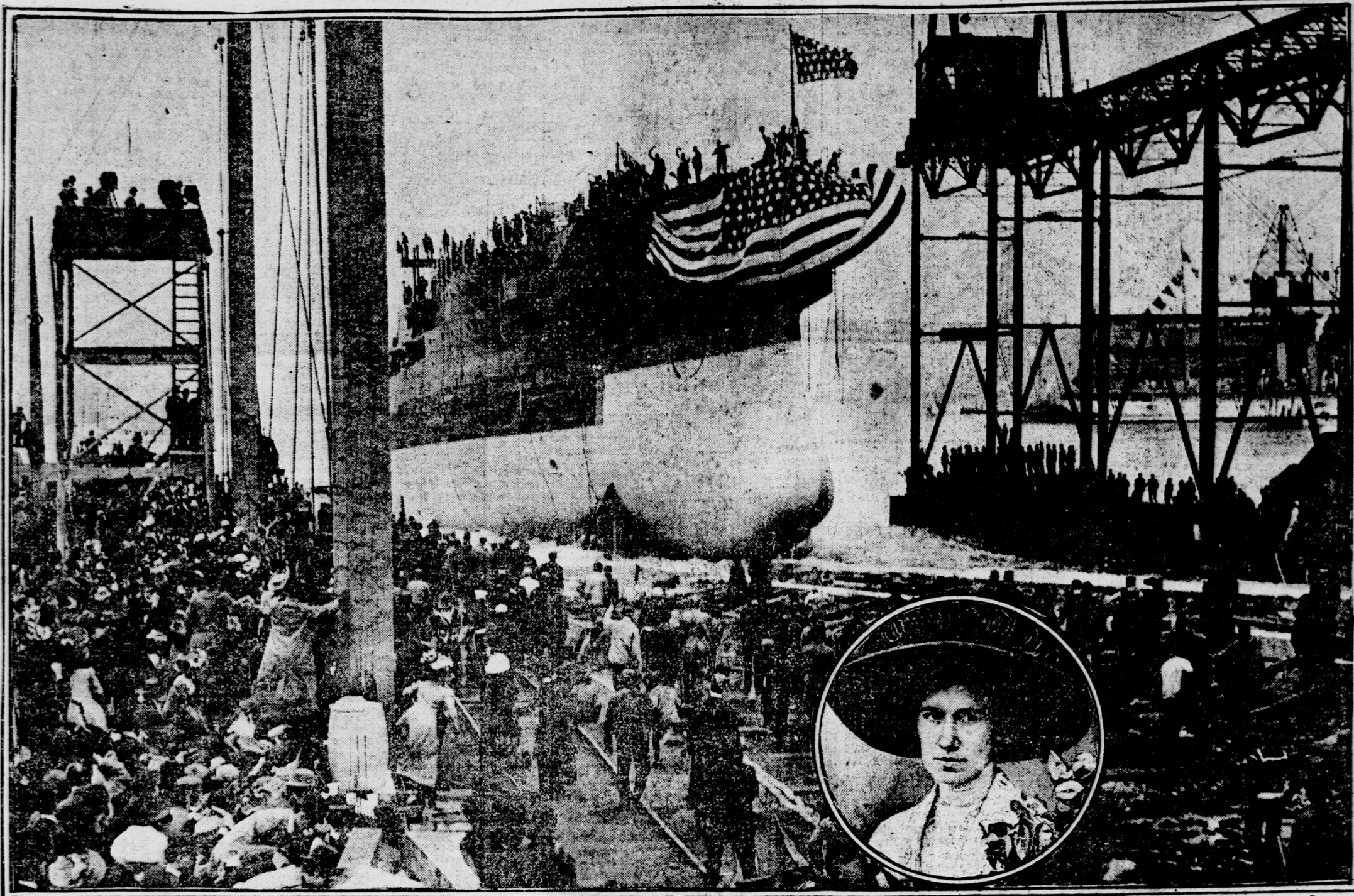
Steadily gaining momentum, the ship glided down her appointed pathway so gently, yet so steadily, that when her great rudder and her four propeller blades struck the water the expected enormous wave turned out to be a comparatively gentle ripple. There were a few dimpling eddies and then a few tugs left for their hysterical shrieking to care for the pilotless newcomer.

The Florida's progress down the ways was watched by the enthusiastic multitude, who almost instinctively started to follow the big steel stem to the water's edge. Those who were near enough to see the bow with its great projecting ram leave the ways were well rewarded for their efforts in reaching such a vantage point. But those who were further back, intently watching the progress of the ship, marked by the great flag swelling out from the bow, saw the final short, sudden dip which told them that the new Dreadnought was at last afloat.

Before it was saved off its high perch a young woman with a flippant intellect asked her escort: "How are they going to get the boat back on this wooden thing to put on its smokestacks and things?" Her escort was in a green felt hat, slightly turned up on one side. He said it would have to be done at high tide. There were crowds at the gates to the navy yard as early as 8 o'clock yesterday morning. Policemen bedecked the streets for several hundred feet outside the various entrances. It was like a holiday in Brooklyn, and flags were everywhere.

Marines Hold Up a Vanderbilt. Within the navy yard the old adage to "tell it to the marines" had no takers. The marines told pass holders everything. Sometimes they told their wives, but it was seldom necessary. The visit-

THE FLORIDA, AMERICA'S GREATEST WARSHIP, LEAVING THE WAYS.



MISS ELIZABETH FLEMING. The ship's sponsor.

AIR PILOTS TO FLY HERE

International Meet Will Be on Long Island in October.

FIVE CITIES WANTED IT

Choice of Locations Is Between Belmont Park and Hempstead — Wrights' Fee Arranged.

The governors of the Aero Club of America met yesterday and decided upon Long Island as the place to hold the international aviation meet next October.

The various aeronautic exhibitions will continue for about a week, it is said, and the contest for the international trophy will be held on October 22. Just what place on Long Island will be selected is not known. The choice lies between Belmont Park and Hempstead Plains.

It was said at the Aero Club yesterday that the money, approximately \$150,000, required to carry on the meet successfully and to provide prizes of sufficient value to lure the foreign flyers to America was all guaranteed.

It is also understood that a definite arrangement exists between the Wright brothers and the Aero Club of America as to the license fee that the Wrights will accept for granting permission for the meet to be held. The amount of this fee could not be ascertained.

The cities that have tried hard for several months to arrange for the holding of the international meet within their confines are Washington, Baltimore, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Los Angeles.

A committee of five representing the insurgent element in the Aero Club addressed a long letter to eighteen aeronautic organizations, objecting to the decision of the governors to hold the international meet on Long Island.

In the international aviation meet held at Rheims last August America won first honors through the wonderful flying of Glenn H. Curtiss, who carried off the international cup, also known as the Gordon-Bennett trophy, and the Prix de la Vitesse, and finished second in the Prix de la Rapidity in the lap speed contest. In his flight for the international cup Curtiss covered 1242 miles in 15 minutes 50-3-5 seconds.

The Prix de l'Altitude, awarded to the aviator attaining the greatest height, was won by Latham, who reached 490 feet. Farman captured the passenger-carrying contest by taking two passengers around the course in 10 minutes 22-4-5 seconds. The Prix de Aeronauts was won by the dirigible balloon Colonel Renard.

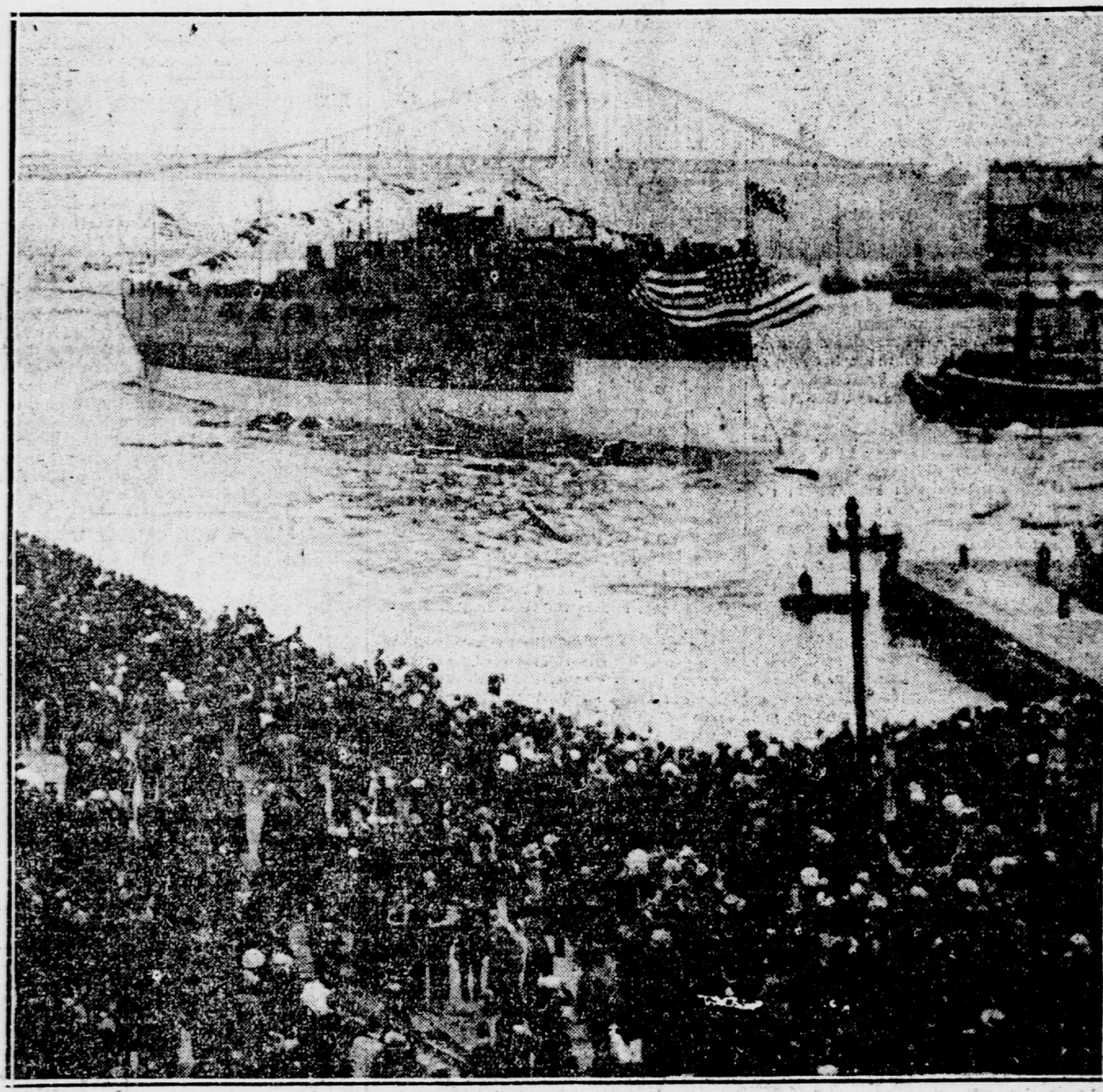
HELEN GAYNOR WINS PRAISE

Mayor's Daughter and Girl Friend Restore Lost Child.

Miss Helen Gaynor, daughter of the Mayor, and Miss Elizabeth B. Page, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Frank Page, rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, and a niece of Thomas Nelson Page, the writer, proved themselves public spirited citizens yesterday afternoon. Miss Gaynor is fifteen and her friend is a year older.

The two girls were walking along Flat-bush avenue near Seventh avenue, at 5 o'clock when they saw a little girl sitting in the gutter. The little one didn't know who she was or where she lived, so the girls took the little toddler to the Bergen street police station. She was later claimed by James Gardina, of No. 157 25th street, who early in the morning had reported his little girl, Rosa, four years old, gone.

GREAT BEAR SPRING WATER. Its purity has made it famous.—ADV.



THE FLORIDA AFLOAT, CHEERED BY THOUSANDS.

BIG JEWELRY SEIZURE

Nicaraguan Declares \$3,000 Worth—Inspector Finds More.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Morales came into port on the steamship Colon yesterday from Nicaragua on their way to Paris. They declared about \$3,000 worth of jewelry, most of which Mrs. Morales wore, and they were about to proceed to an uptown hotel for a two weeks' stay before sailing for Europe when John P. O'Connor, a deputy surveyor, saw Mr. Morales stowing a package away into a valise.

Mr. O'Connor found in the package a brilliant display of jewelry not down in the declaration. There were a large cross of diamonds, bracelets and a necklace containing 140 fine diamonds of graduated sizes. There were other things as valuable. Mr. Morales then wanted to have the jewelry put in bond pending his departure. He explained that he was taking the jewelry to Paris to be remounted for a friend, but it was seized because of failure to declare it.

Mr. Morales will appeal to the Treasury Department. It may give leave to have the valuables put in bond until the Nicaraguans sail for home again, or they may be released on the payment of duty.

FIVE MEN REPORTED KILLED

German Bluejackets, It Is Said, Met Death at Mine Laying Manoeuvres.

Berlin, May 12.—A special dispatch from Wilhelmshaven reports that five bluejackets were killed and several severely wounded by an explosion to-day while the mine laying division was maneuvering off the coast. There is no official confirmation of this report.

EXPLOSION KILLS 137 MEN

Roof of Mine Collapses, Preventing Rescue of Workers.

Manchester, England, May 12.—One hundred and thirty-seven miners lost their lives to-day in an explosion in the Wellington colliery, in Whitehaven. Rescue parties succeeded in saving four men, but fire has broken out in the workings, leaving practically no hope for those who are still entombed. Throughout the day the rescue parties made considerable progress in the mine, but their work was stopped to-night by the collapse of the roof of the mine.

A curious fact is that a colliery warning was published in many of the newspapers in the mining districts of the Kingdom yesterday, to the effect that unusually high barometric conditions rendered fire-damp explosions extremely probable and that all underground workers ought therefore to be on the alert. The barometer reached its highest reading in the Whitehaven district.

The spot where eighty-five hewers and fifty-two shiftmen were working at the time of the explosion is about three miles from the shaft exit. The colliery is owned by the Earl of Lonsdale, and its workings extend four or five miles beneath the sea. King George to-night sent a message of sympathy to the earl.

YALE MEN "ROAST" NEW DEAN.

New Haven, May 12.—Professor Frederick S. Jones, the Yale College dean who recently came from the West, has stirred up the senior class by insisting on more studying and fewer jaunts down to New York. His rule has been stamped as a reign of blue laws in Yale. To-day trees in the Vanderbilt courtyard were placarded with digs at his regime.

CUPID FOUND A WAY

After Half Century Warrior Weds Old Sweetheart.

Cincinnati, May 12.—William Leichte, sixty-seven years old, a veteran of the Civil War and of several Indian campaigns, and Mrs. Mary Mueller, fifty-five, both of Cincinnati, and sweethearts of childhood days, were married here to-day.

Their love story goes back to the days when Mrs. Mueller, then eighteen, married Leichte's brother, Alexander, while William was fighting in the Civil War. He missed a second chance because he was chasing Indians in 1877, when his brother died. The widow married again, and when Leichte came home from the West, he found she was Mrs. Michael Mueller.

Mueller died in 1895, but William Leichte was roaming again, some say with South American insurgents. But he finally heard the news, and came back to court his old love, Mrs. Leichte has two married daughters.

NEAR DEATH IN VAIN RESCUE

Man Too Late to Save Companion on Tracks, Himself Badly Hurt.

One man was killed and another man who sought to save him was injured so seriously he may die at the Greenpoint avenue crossing of the Long Island Railroad, at Hunter's Point last evening. An express train bore down on a gang of track laborers. Warning was given and all stopped aside except Joseph Ealo. He failed to see the train or hear the shouts of his companions.

EIGHT STUDENTS DROWN

Boys Save Themselves as Girls Struggle in Pond.

ONE GOES BACK TO DEATH

Six Girls and Two Boys Die—Were Boating During Their Noon Recess.

Wilkes-Barre, Penn., May 12.—Eight High School students, six girls and two boys, lost their lives to-day while boating on what is known as the Old Paper Mill pond, at Huntington Mills, about twenty miles below this city, in the lower end of Luzerne County.

The dead are: SUTLIFF, Maud, seventeen years old, of Town Line; KOONS, Carolyn, sixteen years old, of Harveyville; BONHAM, Ruth, eighteen years old, of Town Line; DAVENPORT, Iris, sixteen years old, of Water-town; THOMPSON, Rachel, sixteen years old, of Town Hill; GOOD, Madeline, seventeen years old, of Water-town; MINNICH, Robert, eighteen years old, of Koonsville; DODSON, Ray, seventeen years old, of Fairmount.

Twelve students of the Huntington High School obtained two boats at the noon hour and started for a row above the dam. The pond formed by the dam is nearly half a mile wide, and when the two craft had reached the centre it was noticed that one of them had sprung a leak. The boats were then pulled together by the young men in the party and an effort was made to transfer the girls from the leaky boat to the safer craft. The last one of the party had scarcely set foot in the boat when it began to sink, owing to the added weight.

The girls were helpless to save themselves, and the boys, with the exception of Dodson, being expert swimmers, struck out for the shore, which all reached in safety.

Minnich, in the excitement, it is presumed, thought that all the young women had succeeded in reaching land. He had no sooner gained the bank than he noticed the girls hanging to the rapidly sinking boat. He then dashed into the water and swam swiftly to the water-filled craft. Only two of the girls were clinging to the boat when he reached it, the others having gone down for the last time. Seizing Miss Davenport, Minnich again started for the shore, but the exertion was too much for him, and the two sank together within a stone's throw of the bank.

When the boat sprang the leak there was no excitement among the members of the party, but as soon as the sound craft began to fill with water apparently every member of the party became terror-stricken. The shrieks of the drowning could be heard on the bank, but there was no one near.

The accident has cast gloom over the lower end of Luzerne County, where the families of all the victims are prominent. Three of those who were drowned—Minnich and the Misses Bonham and Good—would have been graduated this summer. As soon as it became known that the students had lost their lives hundreds of persons surrounded the body of water and grappling parties began a search for the bodies. Those of Minnich and Miss Davenport were the first recovered. After grappling for less than two hours all the bodies were recovered.

Not one of the parents of the drowned boys and girls knew of the accident until all of the bodies had been brought to shore.

ROYAL BLUE LINE. New Jersey Central, Philadelphia & Reading, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, \$8.50 New York to Washington and return, May 17 to 25, tickets good until May 31. Ticket Office: 424 and 1300 E. Bay, 6 Astor House.—Adv.

JURY QUICKLY ACQUITS HEINZE

Verdict Foreshadowed in Judge's Charge Brings Flood of Congratulations.

COURT ORDERS BROTHER OUT

Summary Treatment Follows Calling Prosecutor's Statement a Lie—History of the Case.

"Not guilty," was the announcement made last night by the foreman of the jury that has been hearing the government case against F. Augustus Heinze since April 25. There was a ringing cheer from the friends of the acquitted man, checked immediately by Marshal Henkel. Then the jurymen fled out to the marshal's office for their pay vouchers, court was adjourned by Judge Hough and Mr. Heinze was put through a course of congratulations that mused up his hair, disarranged his necktie and wilted his collar.

The jury had been out for one hour and forty minutes. It was 9:30 o'clock when word was received that an agreement had been reached, and at 9:44 o'clock the twelve men filed into the Criminal Branch of the United States Circuit Court, looking cheerful. Judge Hough went through the usual formalities, and then in answer to the court clerk's question the acquittal was announced. As the jurymen fled out Mr. Heinze shook hands with them. He had the following statement ready:

I am naturally pleased with the verdict, but not at all surprised. The thing I most regret is the long delay in bringing the case to trial. I have been ready for trial every day since the first indictment was returned two years and a half ago. This delay has cost me between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000. Possibly some persons who were very anxious to see me convicted will be almost as well satisfied with this as though I had been found guilty, for the ruination of my credit seems to have been one of the objects most viciously aimed at.

However, as has been brought out in the evidence, I still have some of the best copper properties in the world and I now intend to devote my whole attention to them, years and a half I appreciate the loyalty of my friends who have stuck to me through it all and regret exceeding the temporary loss which they have suffered in the depreciation in the price of the securities in which I am interested.

Judge's Charge Favorable. The verdict was foreshadowed in the charge to the jury by Judge Hough, although he gave no directions other than interpretations of the law and elucidation of the evidence. The sentence around which the charge revolved applied to the accusations of misapplication and overcertification of the funds of the Mercantile National Bank, of which Heinze was president in 1907, and was: "To complete the crime of wilful misapplication there must not only have been a conversion of moneys, funds or credits to the use of some one other than the bank, but such conversion must have been made with the intent, as charged in this indictment, on the part of the defendant to injure or defraud the bank."

It was on the clause "to injure or defraud the bank" that the prophets, always around courtrooms, based their prediction of an acquittal. There was some modification of the intent to defraud the bank as a basic necessary proof when the court said that the legitimate consequences of his own acts, and if the consequences of the acts alleged in the indictment were to injure or defraud the bank the guilt would have to be assumed.

There was the intensest interest in the case all day yesterday, although the whole time was taken up with the arguments of the United States Attorney, Henry A. Wise, and counsel for Mr. Heinze, John B. Stanchfield, and the judge's charge. There was a dramatic scene when in the course of his address Mr. Wise made a charge that Arthur P. Heinze did not approve of.

Ejected from Courtroom. He leaned over and said, so that the prosecutor could hear him: "That's a lie!" Mr. Wise called the jury's attention to the remark. That was the first that Judge Hough had heard of it. "Marshal," he called, "do you know the man who made that remark?" "I do," said the assistant to Mr. Henkel.

"Eject him!" said Judge Hough. Arthur P. Heinze did not wait on the order of his going, but left immediately with his wife, and Mr. Wise resumed. The United States Attorney made an eloquent appeal for conviction. He said, after declaring that the overcertification of checks was theft, as though a man stole money from a bureau drawer: "Do you think that if this was a technical charge only the government would spend money to prosecute this man? No! It is because the bank was looted of that money that was borrowed that day, October 14, 1907, and \$360,000 is still owing of that \$500,000 deposit the magnificent array of collateral of which you have heard so much. And it was for the theft of that money from that bank, of which he was the chief trustee, that this man, F. A. Heinze, is here to-day."

The prosecutor closed by urging the jurors to remember how Moses went up into a mountain and communed with God, bringing with him the tablets of stone, upon one of which was the mandate: "Thou shalt not steal!"

Attacks Federal Attorney. Mr. Stanchfield, who spoke in the morning for more than two hours, accused Mr. Wise frequently of misstatements in his argument. He said he had suppressed facts also in the trial, facts that would have been favorable to Mr. Heinze. That was not fair play, Mr. Stanchfield said, and continued: "The United States Attorney is a salaried officer of the government. He is in some sense the representative of each one of us, of each one of you in proportion to the amount of taxes that you pay. Now, I want to ask you whether,

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