

# The Independent

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## Survey of the World

### Attorney-General Knox Becomes a Senator

The vacancy in the Senate caused by the death of Mr. Quay was filled on the 10th inst. by the appointment of Attorney-General Philander C. Knox. Governor Pennypacker explained at length why he had not called a special session of the Legislature. The movement in favor of Mr. Knox was a surprise to the politicians and did not come to the knowledge of the public until the 8th. It had been conceded that the appointment should be given to a resident of the western end of the State. Several persons there, among them Henry C. Frick, a prominent Director of the Steel Corporation, were regarded as candidates. It appears that on the 7th Mr. Frick was in New York in consultation there with ex-Senator Cameron and other persons concerning the vacancy; that Mr. Cameron then went to Philadelphia for a conference with President Cassatt, of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company (a Democrat); Senator Penrose, and Insurance Commissioner Durham in the interest of the appointment of Mr. Knox; that Mr. Frick arrived in Philadelphia on the 8th and at once permitted the press to know that he was working in behalf of Mr. Knox, and that Mr. Frick and Mr. Cameron passed the night with President Cassatt. It was on the 8th that the place was offered to Mr. Knox, and he at once communicated with President Roosevelt by telephone, obtaining his consent that the appointment might be accepted. The Philadelphia newspapers agree in saying that several meetings were held in Mr. Cassatt's office and that the final and decisive conference took place there on the 9th. Later on

the same day the Republican leaders of Pittsburg accepted the action thus taken, and in the evening the projected appointment was made known, and formally accepted by Mr. Knox, at a dinner in Mr. Cassatt's country-house, among those present being Governor Pennypacker, Mr. Knox, President Baer, of the Reading Railroad; Mr. Frick, ex-Senator Cameron and Clement A. Griscom. "It is no secret," says the *Philadelphia Press*, ex-Postmaster-General Smith's paper, "that Mr. Knox is not the first choice of the party leaders in Allegheny County. He was presented by the business interests, which in that county are apt to be listened to when their wishes are expressed." The appointment is warmly commended by the *Press* and generally by the Republican newspapers. On the other hand, the Democratic newspapers assert that Mr. Knox has been taken out of the Department of Justice by the Trust and railroad interests, to which he was hostile there. They remark that Mr. Frick, a prominent officer of the Steel Corporation, is regarded as representing there in part the interests of Mr. Rockefeller; that Mr. Cassatt's company is interested in the Steel Rail Association and the combination alleged to exist in the coal trade. Published statements from many Democratic legislators and politicians show that they substantially agree in expressing the opinion that Mr. Roosevelt was "willing to placate the Trusts," or had "surrendered" to them. It is said by some that Mr. Knox in the Senate will represent the President's policy concerning corporations and will suggest legislation there in accord with it. Mr. Knox says that the President told him he thought it was his duty to take

# The Mower

BY BENJAMIN B. WARFIELD

A MOWER went forth to mow,  
And crooned his workman's song:—  
"Swing, swing, O mower, thy goodly scythe,  
Make the swath both wide and long."

Gayly the grasses grow,  
And fling their heads in pride:—  
"Swing, swing, O mower, thy goodly scythe,  
Make the swath both long and wide."

Quiet they lie behind,  
Each by its neighbor's side:—  
"Swing, swing, O mower, thy goodly scythe,  
Make the swath both long and wide."

Though every spear of them all  
Be a man in right or in wrong:—  
"Swing, swing, O mower, thy goodly scythe,  
Make the swath both wide and long."

PRINCETON, N. J.

# Fires in Roman Theaters

BY PROFESSOR RODOLFO LANCIANI

[Professor Lanciani is known as the foremost living authority on the antiquities and topography of ancient Rome.—EDITOR.]

AT the time of its greater prosperity—viz., in the second half of the second century of our era—Rome boasted of three theaters, two amphitheaters, two circuses, one odeum, and one stadium, besides other spectacular places of less importance, which were to be found in the villas and parks of Domitian, Gallienus, Maxentius, and even in those of private citizens.

According to the "Official Bulletin of the Empire," of which we possess two editions, the first dating from A. D. 334, the second from A. D. 357, these buildings were capable of accommodating the following number of spectators:

The Flavian Amphitheater.....	87,000
The Theater of Balbus.....	11,510
The Theater of Pompey.....	17,580
The Theater of Marcellus.....	20,500
The Odeum of Domitian.....	11,600
The Stadium of Severus Alexander.....	30,088
The Circus Maximus.....	385,000
Total.....	562,000

Perhaps there is a slight exaggeration in these figures; in fact, Professor Huelson has shown, by careful computation of all available space, that scarcely 250,000 persons could find room in the Circus Maximus. Whether he is right or not the fact remains that in comparison with

such enormous capacities the largest of our modern theaters, auditorium, aquariums and concert palaces sink into insignificance. A question, to which a recent appalling catastrophe gives actuality and interest, is, were the Roman spectacular buildings absolutely fire proof? And in case they were not, what precautions were taken by the Roman police to keep under control, to protect, and to save those great crowds from destruction, in case of a sudden outburst of fire?

As to the first question, I do not hesitate to say that ancient theaters and amphitheaters were not fire proof. When we find ourselves in the presence of their mighty ruins, when we behold those great masses of marble and stone, that seem to defy eternity itself, we feel ready to scorn the idea that fire could destroy or damage or even simply scorch them, and yet fire has done all these things, however difficult we find it to explain the occurrence.

On August 23d, A. D. 217, Macrinus being Emperor, the Flavian Amphitheater (the Coliseum) was struck by lightning and set ablaze. The forty-nine companies of Roman firemen, helped by the detachments of marines from the naval