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FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1913.

Will the tax bills go by parcels post?

Winter is wearing a smile, but beware!

Busy Baltimore sets an example to other municipalities.

Turkey came to time with a New Year present for the allies.

With an earthquake in South Carolina, Governor Blease has a real rival.

When Uncle Same gets his temper up even a Rockefeller will find it well to be humble.

Turkey may require another ultimatum. The Sublime Porte must be making a collection of them.

It remains to be seen whether the new administration will find the tariff or Mexico the more troublesome.

The "growler" can never more be rushed in Washington. Thus in the national capital ends another epoch-making incident.

Uncle Sam evidently feels that before recognizing the Republic of China it will be just as well to be assured he will see it again.

Perhaps the superstitious will find comfort in the fact that thirteen is Woodrow Wilson's lucky number and consent to spend the year with us.

It may be that an inauguration of Jeffersonian simplicity, as favored by the President-elect, will fail to make a hit with the plain, common people.

President Castro is now convinced the United States is ready and will welcome all desirable citizens visitors, no trouble-makers need

According to reports the New Year was not only shot in but kissed in. It is proposed to abolish the shooting, but, really, isn't the osculatory welcome more dangerous?

The ice accidents are becoming frequent. But the love, apparently, in human nature for skating on thin ice is an instinct hard for mere common sense to overcome.

As Mr. William Rockefeller appears to be a man of iron will, the government sleuths who are trying to draw him from his obscurity to serve a summons ought to try a strong magnet.

Governor Blease is now releasing firebugs. It is entirely possible they will celebrate the occasion with some more expensive bonfires, at which the people will inconsistently complain.

The London suffragettes of a peaceful mind are praying for votes instead of cutting fire alarms and wrecking trains to obtain them. The authorities are hoping that the faith cure will spread.

Girls who seek beauty are advised by an expert to wash and iron clothes. It is safe to say that is the only inducement that would prevail upon them to undertake so important, if unpopular, a household task.

The first step of the Governor of New York was to take the militia out of "ballroom" politics. Henceforth their dress parades will be of a strictly military nature, which really is what militia officers are intended for.

Some college boys have started a boom for Colonel Roosevelt for the next president. It will do the country no harm, the Bull Moose no good and may amuse the boys. Therefore, no such boom-making should stir anyone to wrath.

One of the tasks of the new year is to reform Wall Street. Perhaps the dawn of the next one will find it transformed into an altruistic institution for the higher financial education of lambs, with the bulls all chained and the bears all muzzled.

The spirit of individual liberty is spreading. There is much talk at present of revolt against the dictation to American women of Parisian fashions. It is to be hoped the rumor is true, for a strike against the present styles would be a national boon.

St. Paul has appointed policewomen on its force. The idea was first received as a joke, but practical experience has shown the efficiency of women in their own peculiar work among their own sex and children. After a while there will be no municipal force without them.

The convicted ironworker dynamiters lately sent to the United States penitentiary will be put to work building prison cells, which is poetic justice of the most strenuous kind. It is fitting that after murderously tearing down they should be forced to build up for others of their kind.

The remnant of official serfdom has been abolished in Russia. But real serfdom in that country will end only with the abolition of autocracy. No people can really be free who accept for their government the irresponsible will of one man, no matter how good or wise he may happen to be.

The joyous pistol which always carries the possibilities of one or more funerals at its point should be banished from civilization. One of the crying needs of the new year is the greater safeguarding of human life, and criminal carelessness in endangering it should be punished as a crime against the state.

BRINGING TURKEY TO TIME.

Had the Turkish peace commissioners played fair with the representatives of the Balkan States their country probably would fare better in the end than it can possibly fare under existing circumstances. Their pretense of instructions of one kind and then to bring forth reserve instructions; to seek to throw the entire case into the council of the powers and then to retire from this position, the shifting and crawling tactics that are discreditable to honest diplomacy—all have had the effect of making the Balkan allies solid and unyielding. So that Turkey now has conceded most of the demands, seeking still to retain Adrianople and the Aegean Islands and the former question to be settled direct with Bulgaria. Other minor matters are still held in reserve. But the allies will hardly recede from any important demand they have made. Thus Turkey will gain nothing by delay and will probably secure less of concession than if it had thrown itself upon the mercy of the victors and set up a plea upon honest grounds for a modification of the demands.

The major powers are little disposed to intervene and do not covet being asked to do so. As they are likely not to be brought into the matter, Turkey will have to settle first hand with the claimants.

WHY THE POULTRY SHOW!

About ten thousand people visited the Maryland Poultry Show at the Fifth Regiment Armory on New Year's Day, and according to the statements in the New York newspapers about the same number were attracted to the feathered exhibition at Madison Square Garden on the same day. There is more than one reason why city people are interested in such exhibitions, though very likely the main reason is esthetic and not epicurean or sordid. The birds on view are beautiful. The variation in form and feathering is almost infinite.

But the poultry show has a utilitarian significance which the exhibitors at least fully understand. With the general rise in food prices poultry also has touched fancy figures, and, above all, that by-product of the hen tribes—eggs. And so poultry farming is booming the country over, and millions of people who have some surplus backyard space are wondering whether it is not a good time to get into the poultry-farming game. And so there is a brisk inquiry as to which breed is most industrious in producing eggs and which develops into the best roasters and broilers.

Every poultry show spreads the hen fever—expands the poultry-farming industry. There are few earthly callings so fascinating in theory as running a poultry farm. Sooner or later every normal human being gets touched with the alluring ambition to keep a few hens. There are some who have learned by experience that nature never designed them to be bird farmers. But the lure never grows less, and, by the way, there never was a better time to go into the poultry-keeping game than right now.

WALK TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

If Mr. Wilson decides to walk to the White House and should carry out this decision, the country would hardly find the flavor of its democracy any more piquant than if he should ride there in an equipage, with all the pomp and dignity that could be mustered. Whatever Jefferson did in the way of exemplification of the supreme quality of democracy, whether he rode up the avenue and tethered his horse to a paling while he took the oath of office, or whether he walked the stretch and did the swearing as Mr. Wilson declares, is really of no material value whatever.

It is to be borne in mind that upon the inauguration of President Taft Mr. Roosevelt slipped out of Washington by the back way, so to speak, refusing to ride in attendance upon his successor, and made off to Africa as fast as he could travel. So that this matter of propriety and democracy in regard to presidential induction and outgoing is, after all, a matter of taste. No matter whether he rides in a barouche or in an automobile, with or without heralds to blare trumpets before him, or whether he shall ride horseback in severe simplicity, or hike along the avenue afoot, the incoming president will be a conspicuous figure and the people will be gratified by an opportunity to scrutinize him closely.

President Jackson had the rabble to camp in the White House and disgusted the country with his man-of-the-people pose. Yet he was a hobnailed tyrant when in the presidential chair. On the other hand, no man who has ever been an American president loved display with taste and dignity, no matter how gorgeous the trappings, like the Father of His Country. Yet, no one would think of calling Washington a snob, or of intimating that he had vitiated the quality of the democracy of his times.

The field of precedent is wide open for Mr. Wilson, and as far as the people in general are concerned, they do not really care a toss-up which way he shall travel along Pennsylvania avenue. They expect to have a pageant despite the garnishings of simplicity, and that satisfies them.

NO POLITICS AT PANAMA.

Close observers of the attitude of some of the Democrats toward the Panama Canal have for some time felt suspicious of the manner in which that party will handle the enterprise after it shall come into control of the affairs of the nation.

It is deplorable that a distinct disposition to play politics with the Panama Canal is the dominant note in the Democratic situation at the present time. Under one or another pretext, the rancorous opponents of the plan of President Taft to effect the organization of the Canal Zone at the present time, seek to hide their ulterior motives. The fact, however, cannot be disguised. The Southern Democrats are hungry for places. They look upon the Panama Canal as the most desirable political pie to be cut and served. They do not dare come out in the open and thus rouse the profound indignation of the country. Therefore they pretend to deplore the purpose to have the organization of the canal carried into effect at this time. They make pretenses that this would prevent the coworkers of Goethals upon the project from getting full share of the glory. This is all nonsense, and the argument is put forth speciously.

There are two factors in the situation to be considered. The first is that President Taft was bound to proceed with the work fixed upon, of organizing the government of the zone as though there had been no election and he were to continue in office. For him deliberately to have turned the matter over to the Democrats would have been to impart a partisan flavor to the canal at once. He did, in fact, invite Governor Wilson to have the use of a warship so as to go to the Isthmus and to personally acquaint himself with the facts as to the biggest proposition of its kind the world has known. Doubtless for fear of being charged with getting the color of his views from the Republican president, Mr. Wilson declined. There is no reason to regard this declination as unfortunate, or to give color to it at all. The fact does need to be borne in mind, however, that Mr. Taft has studiously refrained from having the Panama Canal turned into a political chameleon to take the hue of any party or partisan that might control it. The other fact to be considered is that Colonel Goethals does not want to be governor of the canal strip. He says he is an engineer and not a cavalier. But, in order to preserve his control of the canal until the completion of the work and the final demonstration in all details, which would take up the time until January, 1915, he is indifferent as to whether he shall be styled governor of the strip or continue in his present post. Here is the correct attitude reflected by the two men having command of the Panama situation.

President Taft did right in virtually abandoning the project to organize the canal. For if the project is to be smudged by politics, the country must have full view of the operation and see the processes of grab and plunder going on unscreened. The Southern Democrats feel that the incoming administration owes them something, and there is logic in the claim. The Southern Democrats may have certain practical and sentimental claims upon the administration that should be honored by the incoming executive. But this can be done and must be done without sacrifice of the purely nonpartisan nature of the canal undertaking and its civil administration.

Colonel Goethals has been untrammeled by politicians thus far, and he must be kept free from their annoyances. It is not to be believed that Mr. Wilson will countenance to any degree the machinations of the sappers and miners who would burrow out political channels under the great enterprise. It is not to be believed that he would have his administration marked as one that threw the great canal into the partisan arena and made it a subject for spoils. It is not to be believed that he will do otherwise than concede to Colonel Goethals the credit of continuance in the service of the canal, not only up to the time of its completion and testing-out, but—if he can be constrained to continue in effective control—beyond that period as well. Here, then, is a questions that needs to be put bluntly and in plain speech that the country can understand and appreciate. Shall the Democrats turn the tide of politics into the cut along with the waters of the two oceans? Mr. Taft has declared against political manipulation. Mr. Wilson must do likewise. The sequel for any other form of action can well be indicated in advance. The time to nip the political maneuvers is in the bud, and that time is now.

HONORS TO REID.

With the arrival of the body of the late ambassador to the Court of St. James, Hon. Whitelaw Reid, New York will do honor to the memory of the man whose conspicuous services to the nation in a high representative capacity added luster to American culture and gave added character to American diplomacy. With such a man as Mr. Reid in the office of ambassador to so important a sister power there could not possibly be revived the former European sneer against shirt-sleeve diplomacy.

This country has acquired the grace of international negotiations and the man who has passed out of life and whose homecoming in a coffin is an occasion for tributes to his memory has done much toward promoting the best refinements of international intercourse, welding together the two Anglo-Saxon peoples yet more closely than before through the powers of his magnetic and delightful personality.

The tributes to be paid Mr. Reid, both national and state, will be inaugurated by his own city of New York and the range of the program will mark the high esteem in which this premier ambassador was held by those who knew him in all the evolutions of his career from worker in the field of journalism to the post of representative of the United States to England.

THE IRE OF ULSTER.

Ulster is seeking to spread itself over the entire map of Erin. It is howling against home rule and declaring, through its representatives in Parliament, that Ulster would rather be ruled by a foreign government than to be under the sway of the Irish Nationalists. Yet, as Premier Asquith pointed out, seven-sixteenths of the county is strongly Nationalist. So that the county itself is far from being of one complexion.

The threatened secession of the Orangemen upon the passage of the Home Rule Bill is regarded with humor by the majority of Englishmen, but the leaders of the movement assert that the enactment of the legislation will be a signal for a regime of disorders unparalleled in the history of the troublous country. The demand made is for any county that does not want home rule to remain under the present parliamentary administration. Secession is sounding loud and long, and amid the outcries of the parties in Parliament were heard the taunts of the Nationalists that the Ulsterites court alliance with Germany. This is a red flag to flaunt in the faces of the Ulsterites and the pot is boiling merrily. In the meantime Premier Asquith claims the Home Rule Bill is so framed that there could be no serious ills of Ulster from home-rule administration of the country.

HOW CITIES THRIVE.

The voluminous reviews issued at the beginning of a new year give many illuminating glimpses of the activities which center in large cities and explain how a half million or several millions of people are enabled to live compactly on a comparatively small area. Business is simply organized and systematized mutual service, and a big population engaged in a thousand different kinds of service is mutually self-sustaining. Some cities, like Pittsburgh, are mainly dependent upon a few big industries, while other cities, like Baltimore, thrive and expand because of a great number and variety of industires, some of them comparatively small.

A Washington bank official, writing for a New York newspaper concerning the national capital's most important industry, remarks that the Federal Government gives employment to upwards of 35,000 persons, with a monthly payroll of approximately $3,500,000, and nothing whatever—good times nor bad times—disturbs the absolute regularity of the distribution of this immense cash fund. Running the government is Washington's main business, and it is a profitable business as far as it goes, but it is inexorably limited.

Baltimore, with her unexcelled coastal position and her surpassing advantages as a manufacturing center, is relying upon resources susceptible of indefinite expansion. The year-end reports indicate that this city is developing steadily as an industrial center and as a commercial port. When it is asked what are the city's main industries the answer is that they are many. Last year this city exported over $34,000,000 in copper products. The clothing, steel, straw hats, cotton textiles, canned goods, fertilizers, shoes, pottery and ships made here ran high into the millions, measured in dollar values.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

BY JOSH WINK.

THE PARCEL POST.

Housewives, here's your chance;
If you'd save your cash,
Get pure food direct,
Hopes and plannings dash
Of the middlemen,
Clear of them, the coast;
Order milk and eggs
By the parcel post.

Get your chickens thus
From the farm direct,
For much smaller sums
Farmers will expect.
Turkeys, lamb chops, cheese,
Vegetables and roast,
Order from the farm
By the parcel post.

Over all the land
Everyone is pleased
Save the middleman
By forebodings teased.
Heard in every home
Is the gladsome toast
Unto Uncle Sam
And his parcel post.

ITS NATURE.

"Do you think the coal road got off easily?"

"Well, after all, it was a miner matter."

THE RESULT.

"I see they are trying in politics to revive the Jeffersonian simplicity."

"Yes, and the first thing they know they will find it turned into a Thompsonian sweat."

NOT ENCOURAGING.

"Madam, do you think you can use your influence with your husband to induce him to support me in this campaign?"

"I don't know, sir. I've never yet succeeded in inducing him to support me."

THE EXCEPTION.

"Don't you think people have a right to talk when a man pays constant attention to a married woman?"

"Not if she happens to be his wife, unless it is from surprise."

A PARALLEL.

Mr. Merry—Jack Jones, I am told, laughed while he was being married.

Mr. Grouch—Well, haven't men been known to joke on the scaffold?

ITS SORT.

"Is that rose a perennial?"

"No; it's two plants for a quarter."

ITS PROSPECTS.

"What are the prospects for this spirit performance?"

"It hasn't the ghost of a show."

FORESIGHT.

"I recommend for you, sir, a little change."

"Sorry I can't take it, doctor, but my wife's got all I had."

THE USUAL WAY.

"Are you still keeping your good resolutions?"

"Yes; I'm keeping them quiet."

JOSH WINK.

SIZING UP THE JUDGE.

A judge once had a case in which the accused man understood only Irish. An interpreter was occordingly sworn. The prisoner said something to the interpreter.

"What does he say?" demanded his lordship.

"Nothing, My Lord," was the reply.

"How dare you say that when we all heard him? Come on, sir, what was it?"

"My Lord," said the interpreter, beginning to tremble, "it had nothing to do with the case."

"If you don't answer I'll commit you, sir!" roared the judge. "Now, what did he say?"

"Well, My Lord, you'll excuse me, but he said: 'Who's that old woman with the red bed curtain round her sitting up there?'"

At which the court roared.

"And what did you say?" asked the judge, looking a little uncomfortable.

"I said: 'Whist ye spalpeen! That's the ould boy that's going to hang you.'" Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

DISTINCTION OR DIFFERENCE.

A group of New Yorkers were lounging on the piazza of a nearby shore hotel last Sunday when a yung man, wearing exquisite clothes and a vacant stare, passed by on his way to the beach with a young woman on either arm.

"You know who that is, I suppose?" remarked one of the party.

"Oh, you," was the reply. "Got a couple of millions, I understand. Just out of college. He was educated at Harvard University, was he not."

"Oh, no," said the first speaker. "He wasn't educated at Harvard. He went to school there."—New York Globe.

LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

The Most Democratic Monarch in the World—Distinguished Visitors From Europe.

Special to The American.

King Albert of Belgium can fairly lay claim to be the most democratic monarch in the world. For in the throneroom of his palace at Brussels there is no throne, and in that portion of the great state apartment where the throne used to be there is merely a long row of gilt chairs, identical in appearance with each other, and which are reserved for the foreign ambassadors and ministers, for the cabinet officers and for the great dignitaries of state, with their wives. Those of the King and Queen are in no sense different from any of the others. Perhaps the only thing that is not democratic at the Court of Brussels is that a certain apartment, known as the Blue Salon, is restricted to the use of a limited number of personal friends and associates of the King and Queen. These are all of them members of the very old and most blue-blooded Belgian nobility, most of them belonging to the mediatized families of Continental Europe—that is to say, to families which exercised petty sovereign sway prior to the overthrow of the Holy Roman Empire by the First Napoleon, in 1806.

They include the dukes and princes of Ligne, Arenberg and Croy; also, the De Meredes, the Caramans and Chimays, the D'Ursels, the members of which have also for centuries been Barons of Hoboken, and last, but not least, the d'Oultremonts, who are not a mediatized family, but who, nevertheless, have been for a hundred years closely associated with the reigning dynasties of Belgium and Holland, William II., indeed, of the Netherlands, the grandfather of Queen Wilhelmina, having married as his second wife a Countess d'Oultremont.

When I say that the Salon Bleu is restricted to these families I should add that it is not by any official rule, but by a sort of unwritten law and bit of court etiquette. These are often much more strictly observed than actual statutes. The fact of the matter is that no one, not even the officials of the Court of Brussels, make use of this Salon Bleu on state or ceremonial occasions except those to the manner born—that is to say, the families that I have enumerated above—and just in the same way as at Vienna a number of exclusively patrician forbears, both on the father's and on the mother's side—an ancestry free from any bourgeois strain—constitute an indispensable qualification for the honorary offices of chamberlain, and of dame du palais, which indicate membership of the Austrian court circles; so does birth alone give the entree at the Court of Brussels to the Salon Bleu. In fact, the Blue Salon at Brussels is the one undemocratic feature of the most democratic court of Europe.

Sir Francis Scott, who arrives today in New York from England, on board the Oceanic, is only the fifth baronet of his line, but is the chief of the ancient house of the Scotts of Balwearie, which was founded by Sir Michael Scot, surnamed the Wizard, famous as an astrologer and as a mathematician in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. When I say he founded the family, I mean that he was the most famous member of the family in olden times. For the family is descended from his brother, he himself having been ordained a priest by Pope Honorius, who later on consecrated him archbishop of Cashel, in Ireland.

At Toledo, then under the dominion of the Moors, he acquired an extraordinary knowledge of Arabic, and it was through him that the Western World first obtained a knowledge of the Arabic versions of Aristotle. He is the author of a number of books, still in existence, on astrology, alchemy and the occult sciences, and achieved much fame as a soothsayer, foretelling the death of Emperor Frederick II. of the Holy Roman Empire, at whose court he was regarded as the most distinguished of the savants by which it was frequented.

Sir Michael figures in Sir Walter Scott's Lay of the Last Minstrel, according to which poem he lies buried in Melrose Abbey, and also appears in Canto XX. of Dante's Inferno, among the magicians and soothsayers. How he escaped being burned at the stake for witchcraft is extraordinary. For his celebrity as a magician was of European renown, while to this day, in Scotland, any work of great labor and antiquity requiring more than ordinary human agency is attributed to "Auld Michael or the devil."

Sir Francis is about 30 years of age, is unmarried, was formerly in the army and is engaged in tea planting in Ceylon. Having five sisters, all of whom benefitted under his father's will, he is not rich.

Lord Aldenham's son and heir, the Hon. Gerald Gibbs, who has just arrived in New York from Europe, on board the Laurentic, with Mrs. Gibbs, is a member of the ancient city of London firm of Anthony Gibbs & Co., which has been in existence since the time of the American War of Independence and which for the last 120 years has been so largely interested in the South American trade. The connection therewith led Lord Aldenham, prior to his succession to the peerage, to resign his seat in the House of Commons under circumstances which attracted a good deal of attention at the time. It may be remembered that while the war between Russia and Japan was in progress the British government, by way of indirectly helping its oriental ally, purchased two fine Chililan men-of-war, which would otherwise have gone to swell the size of the Muscovite fleet. The purchase was made by the English government through Anthony Gibbs & Co.

Now there is an unwritten law in England to the effect that people interested in government contracts cannot sit in the House of Commons. But it is a rule that in recent years, at any rate, has been more honored in its breach than in its observance, and there have been instances where not merely members of Parliament, but even members of the administration, have been quite as much concerned in government contracts as the Hon. Alban Gibbs, without being called upon to give up their seat in Parliament. Alban Gibbs, now Lord Aldenham, however, felt that with the altogether unblemished traditions of his firm, the name of which is a synonym for everything that is high-principled and straight, not only at home, but also throughout South and Central America and Australia, he could not permit any question to be raised as to his petition in the matter.

He felt this all the more strongly, as he had been at the time for more than 10 years a member for the city of London in Parliament, a dignity which, while it entitled him at each opening of Parliament to a seat among the cabinet ministers on the treasury bench of the House of Commons, rendered it incumbent upon him to avoid anything that could in the slightest degree affect the honor and name of the great commercial constituency of which he has been so long the spokesman in the legislature of the empire. Needless to add that he was reelected by an overwhelming majority, but subsequently again resigned his seat, on this occasion in favor of Arthur Balfour, the ex-premier, who found himself without a seat. Arthur Balfour is now a member for the city of London. Alban Gibbs, shortly after surrendering his seat to Balfour, succeeded, through his father's death, to a peerage, as Lord Aldenham.

Lord Aldenham is related both to Arthur Balfour and to Lord Salisbury. For his wife, now dead, was a daughter of the late Marquis of Salisbury's sister, Lady Mildred Cecil, married to the Right Hon. Alexander James Beresford Hope. Arthur Balfour's mother was another sister of the late Marquis of Salisbury, namely, Lady Blanche Cecil, married to James Balfour. The Gibbses, in addition to being London merchants, have long been regarded as a county family, and are in possession today of lands which belong to them as far back as in the reign of Henry VIII.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

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Saving Time.

It will always be a problem how much time in a year is saved by the man who is the first to get off the train as it runs into the terminal.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Mighty Slim Chance.

If J. P. Morgan himself admits he cannot control money, what hope for the rest of us?—Boston Herald.

MEN AND WOMEN

Dr. Percival Barton, aged 90 years, is still practicing medicine at St. Paul, Minn.

Ernest Bach, of Newark, now in his hundredth year, reads the newspaper without glasses and smokes a cigar every day.

The Gaekwar of Baroda, when attired in his state robes, is said to carry on his person jewelry worth more than $3,500,000.

Miss Mary Ella Hartwell, the nurse who attended Thornton K. Ware, of Cambridge, secretary of the Cambridge Dramatic Club, receives a $10,000 bequest under Mr. Ware's will, filed at Fitchburg.

Charles Weidner, of Sparkill, N. Y., will be 102 next March, and hasn't yet been reduced to the use of spectacles. He's one of Germany's products; he was born in Berlin in 1811, but has been an American since 1840.

Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford is state superintendent of instruction in the State of Colorado. She has quite a reputation as an educator and has not hesitated to take part in politics, either, although as a general thing teachers tacitly ignore any questions that might involve political controversy.

Alderman William A. Dodge, of Springfield, Mass., who retires this year after nine years of consecutive service, comprising five years in the Common Council and four years on the Board of Aldermen, has been absent from only two of the 390 meetings of the city government held since he became a municipal representative in 1903.

A pair of fine leather boots, made 61 years ago and still in a good state of preservation and worn yet, are owned by H. W. Leech, of Buffalo, Washington county, Pa. Joseph Leech, father of H. W. Leech, was one of the old-time shoemakers, and for many years worked in Hickory. During the time he worked there the fine leather boots were the rage, and each shoemaker vied with each other in trying to turn out the best pair of footwear.

Good Old Bruno.

The revenue cutters have fairly earned a truer name. While not the greyhounds of the sea, they are at least the St. Bernards.—Boston Herald.

Meeting Trouble.

A man doesn't have to go far to meet trouble half-way.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

GOSSIP OF THE STAGE

Van Rensselaer Wheeler is to appear in a new operetta by Edgar Allan Woolf and Silvio Hein.

The Shuberts are considering the revival of La Cigale, the comic opera in which Lillian Russell won her laurels.

Oswald Yorke is shortly to join the company of his wife, Annie Russell, to play the part of Captain Absolute in her revival of The Rivals.

Grace Field, who is said to be a cousin of Eugene Field, the poet, has made a big personal hit in The Red Petticoat, in which Helen Lowell is starring.

Lehar's new operetta, The Man With Three Wives, is to be seen in Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Washington and this city before its production in New York.

Ethel Barrymore is to appear in a dramatization by Haddon Chambers of the novel Tante, which is said to give her fine opportunities in the role of a young woman overfond of excitement.

While playing in Chicago the members of the Robin Hood Company will give a birthday dinner to the veteran George B. Frothingham, who plays his original role of Friar Tuck in that organization.

Louis N. Parker, author of Joseph and His Brethren, says that the Bible offers many great dramatic stories, but in England the official censor has banned the putting of Bible stories on the stage.

The Unwritten Law, by Edwin Milton Royle, was produced this week at Auburn, N. Y., with Frank Sheridan, May Buckley, Marion Ballou, Stella Hammerstein, Elsie Herbert, Earle Brown and John Stokes in the cast.

James Young, Jr., who is making a tour of the world in the interests of the Vitagraph Company, of which he is a managing director, writes that he has reached Honolulu, and that the steamer on which they sailed is one strictly up-to-date, as it had on board a moving-picture cabin and a fine machine.

The third annual benefit for the New York American's Christmas fund broke all records, as the receipts for this performance amounted to over $10,000, and hundreds of people were turned away. The Shuberts donated the use of the Hippodrome for this performance and also half of the acts for the long performance.

LUCK.

[From the Chicago Record-Herald.]

Some people say it wasn't luck that made
'em rich and proud;
They claim 'twas wisdom, work and pluck
that raised 'em from the crowd;
I don't deny that there's a pile of truth
in what they say,
And yit it always makes me smile to hear
'em talk that way.

Fer instance, there was Henry Wood—
taught school here years ago;
His teachin' wasn't any good—we had to
tell him so;
He tried to get another school, but
couldn't anywhere;
Directors thought he was a fool and said
so plain and fair;
So, havin' nothin' else to do, he wrote
a silly book or two;
Most mushy stuff I ever read, but I
have lately heard it said
That Henry was a millionaire.

And there was John Tate's oldest son, a
lazy, worthless chap;
When there was hard work to be done he
never helped his pap;
The old man drove him off at last—just
told him plain and flat
That all the monkeyin' was past—what
happened after that?
They say he's saltin' money down and
keeps six servants up in town;
He sells some kind of medicine he guarantees to keep 'em thin
When women think they're gettin' fat.

Take them two fellers—was it pluck with
which they were endowed?
Or was it just a bit of luck that made
'em rich and proud?
Take notice, that I don't deny that work
and wisdom win,
But when you say that ends it, why—excuse me if I grin.

S. E. KISER.

PUBLIC OPINION

Comment of Leading Newspapers on a Variety of Topics—Wilson's First Real Task.

[Omaha Bee.]

The people generally wish success and prosperity to President-elect Wilson and the new administration soon to assume charge of the government, but no rational observer can be insensible to tangible conflict already dividing leaders of the Democratic party. It is not merely a conflict of personal differences, but a clash of principles and policies with which President Wilson will have to deal. If it were only personalities, the task might not loom so large. The president-elect says he expects to consult freely with Chairman Underwood, also with Mr. Bryan, and he has signified his desire to counsel with Champ Clark and such men as Josephus Daniels, of North Carolina.

Whether any one or more of these men occupy places in the cabinet, their harmonizing will test the Chief Executive's diplomacy. Mr. Underwood and Mr. Bryan, for instance, are not only far apart personally, but they represent almost political antitheses. How it will be possible for a president to counsel with both these men, say on the tariff, or on finance or on nearly any other paramount issue, and avoid conflict, it is difficult to tell. Mr. Bryan says men cannot afford to be courteous at the expense of great principles or the country's service. And Mr. Bryan and doubtless Mr. Underwood will be as tenacious as those words signify.

A Big Year in Invention.

[Washington Post.]

The Yankee's turn for invention rises superior to every form of discouragement. Neither the multiplicity of inventions already in the field nor the chilling influence of litigation tends to put a check to that line of achievement. For fertility of resource and other manifestations of creative power we of America easily maintain our hold on first place, as the Patent Office returns show. Popular interest largely centers in mechanical inventions as the class which has contributed most to our fame and advancement. The number of patents issued to applicants who submitted mechanical designs shows a gain of 4,082 over the previous year, or 6.6 per cent., an increase of 2 per cent. over the 10-year average, or an aggregate of 40.72 per cent. for the last decade.

The figures are the more impressive when we consider that the applications for patents of all kinds aggregated 69,236 for the year, and that 35,539 were favorably passed upon. As the expirations were only 6,970, the grand total of live patents was increased by 28,569, less reissues.

Patent Commissioner Moore attributes the increased volume of business before the Patent Office to the country's prosperity, a factor which, it would appear, gives a zest to inquiry from capitalists for inventions which look to be merchantable.

All Can Be Graceful.

[New York Times.]

One Galisch, of Rothenfelde, whoever he and wherever it may be, has achieved the fame of having printed in La Semaine Medicale and translated thence by The Medical Journal his newly invented method or recipe for reducing superfluous flesh. It is wonderfully simple and easy, and Galisch—who ought to know—says that it meets the pragmatic requirement. In other words, it works.

No drugs are used, not even those so often and so amusingly recommended as "perfectly harmless" because they are "purely vegetable." All the follower of the Galisch regime need do to bring down or keep down weight is to be gently abstemious at the beginning and the end of the day. Breakfast should consist of a little bread and butter and a cup of tea. At 10 o'clock an egg and a small tart are permitted. Dinner comes at 1 and consists of meat, vegetables, salad and preserves—in quantities as appetite demands, apparently. At 3 o'clock the would-be sylph must consume coffee and a cracker, or a little bread and butter, and dinner is replaced by one small tart.

This diet, it is admitted, produces slight discomfort for a few days, but it is declared that one soon gets used to it and that great reductions in weight can thus be effected without any cardiac disturbances or nervous troubles.

Our English-Speaking Brothers.

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.]

English has for a long time been the official language in the Philippines outside the courts; today it becomes by law the official language of the courts.

The fact is interesting as indicative of the rapid process of americanization going on in these Asiatic possessions of the western republic. It is interesting, further, as evidence of the fact that English is slowly but surely becoming the universal language of the earth. South America still holds aloof, demanding that the traders of the world shall speak Spanish or Portuguese or go elsewhere with their wares, but South America is wholly exceptional and does not invalidate the rule.

Extension of the use of English in the Philippines has not been due to any supposed inherent superiority of the language, nor to the natural American pride in seeing it generally accepted, but rather to the fact that no other tongue seemed to offer any hope of becoming a common language for the islands. Spanish was, of course, the accepted tongue of commerce and industry before the advent of the Americans and has continued to be official so far as the courts were concerned until now.

Picture in Metaphor.

[Kansas City Star.]

"He shot down the stairs like a flying squirrel," says a recent story.

This is the kind of metaphor that Prof. Barrett Wendell, who has written a very good book on English composition, would condemn. A flying squirrel does not shoot down the stairs. The purpose was to give one a vivid idea of how the man looked when he was falling.

But as no one ever saw a flying squirrel falling down stairs, and as few have seen a flying squirrel in any other enforced or voluntary exercise, the figure did not help.

Now, if one wishes to describe a flying squirrel and should say that it looked like a person falling down stairs, the description might not be accurate, but the literary style would be good. For many persons have seen a child fall down stairs.

Admittedly, the simile "like a flying squirrel" has a bizarre, "up-and-at-'em" manner that is rather taking in modern story-writing. Yet its use affords a good example of "how not to do it."

The Dynamite Convictions.

[Chicago Tribune.]

Public opinion throughout the nation will approve the sentences imposed by Judge Anderson upon the principal defendants in the dynamiting conspiracy. In the degree that this opinion is informed intelligence, this acquiescence in the judgment of the court will be without personal rancor towards the defendants, however sternly their offense must be condemned. A small class may rejoice in the punishment, but the public, though it approves, must deplore its necessity.

The American public cannot afford to dismiss this grave case with the judgment of the judge and the incarceration of a handful of men. It must understand why these offenses were committed; it must diagnose the disease, not content itself with treating a symptom. To dismiss their offenses as merely violent and vicious excesses of wrongheaded individuals is to shut eyes to the source of a continuing evil. Even in crime we realize nowadays that killing or shutting up criminals, while it provides some check and some protection, does not cure crime, and we are seeking its sources as we seek the ultimate sources of a disease.

What Taft Won't Do.

When President Taft takes his trip around the world he will probably refrain from dictating England's policy in Egypt and telling Kaiser Bill how to run his army, and so another of "my policies" will be sent to the scrap heap.—Washington Post.

Tires More Useful.

General Wood says this country pays more for automobile tires than for the upkeep of the Navy. Naturally so. Automobile tires are more useful.—Florida Times-Union.

MUCH IN LITTLE

There are 330 deer parks in England.

The English language is spoken by 150,000,000 people.

More than half of the lake shipments consist of iron ore.

England reports an output of 264 volumes of verse yearly.

Baltimore has resumed strict tests for public school teachers.

Michigan is the deepest of the Great Lakes, with 1,800 feet.

St. Louis banks are adopting the finger print identification test.

St. Louis now has a municipal plant for asphalt resurfacing work.

Roumania expects 1912 petroleum products to reach 2