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TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1913.

These are good times for the bargain-buyers.

◆

How are the good resolutions holding out?

◆

If only Wilson knew what to do with Bryan.

◆

Grip takes to the low-necked, low-shoed girl.

◆

A duty neglected today wields a scourge tomorrow.

◆

Dame winter this season is as fickle as the spring maid.

◆

Let the investigation of the Bay disaster be rigid and thorough.

◆

Dr. Wilson believes his administration will be the panacea for all ills.

◆

Make Courtship a Science is the motto of the Fathers and Mothers' Club of Boston.

◆

Tax bills may seem burdensome, but think of the conveniences and benefits they represent.

◆

The consumer is waiting for the farmer of enterprise to take quick advantage of the parcel post.

◆

The weather man is crying wolf again with his prediction of a cold wave of impressive proportions.

◆

President Taft's self-styled "wake" was really an awakening of the Republican party for greater effort.

◆

It is an even bet that Adrianople would give something pretty to know where it will be this time next year.

◆

It's time the European powers ended Turkey's bluff and bluster and made her pay the price of the Balkan triumph.

◆

President-elect Wilson should not find the building of his cabinet difficult with so many political carpenters ready to help him.

◆

President-elect Wilson announces that he will make a blanket announcement of his cabinet. This declaration ought to be warmly received.

◆

It is said in a New York college that more city boys are study farming than country boys. This, however, may be only the natural reaction of wanting something different.

◆

The society to abolish useless gift-giving is to be extended to take in a crusade against useless tipping. But the trouble about the latter is the gigantic difficulty of telling in advance when tipping is useless.

◆

It is proposed that American suffragists pray for three years in the hope of being granted the ballot. With their English sisters going to the opposite extreme of raising the deuce generally the cause ought to make rapid advance.

◆

After plainly and emphatically announcing he is no man's wax figure, the new governor of New York is preparing to start a housecleaning of the old-fashioned kind, in consequence of which fact the politicians are suffering from that sinking feeling.

◆

A Hungarian editor declares that Emperor William once asserted in an interview that he never tells a lie. But George Washington's record in that line is too well established to hav[illegible] challenged at this late day. He [illegible]till remains the champion.

◆

Pity Parliament! For English suffragettes threaten to kidnap some one of the members and hold him as a hostage. Now in this country there isn't a single member of Congress who would object to being captured by our own fair suffragists, but the English kind is different, don't you know.

◆

President Emeritus Eliot, of Harvard, says that preventive medicine and measures will be used in the future to remedy the ills of mankind. There is no doubt that the coming years will pay much more attention to prevention than has ever been given it. It is to be one of the important issues of the age.

◆

A Pennsylvania woman who is a grandmother is taking an agricultural course as a freshman in a college where her daughter is a sophomore. If that is the way men and women are going to set about it, farming will be one of the fine arts instead of a mere department of manual labor in the years of plenty to come.

THE CABINET MAKER.

President-elect Wilson is credited with a love for finished products. He has great effectiveness through his ensemblage of language, by which he gets the complete effect of finished ideals. He has great effectiveness through his ability to get the other fellows to commit themselves so that he has the benefit of their attitudes and views.

In the naming of cabinets Mr. Wilson is believed to be bent upon the complete effect. So that instead of naming David Jones for secretry of agriculture and Bill Smith for secretary of the interior, he will make known to the country a complete cabinet at one time, without previously having named a single one of the fortunate individuals so that the public could hear the name.

This complete effect idea is a pretty shrewd one. Why should he toss Mr. Bryan into the arena, for instance, without at the same time casting into the same field of scrutiny the name of some eminently fitting person whose designation for a post in the cabinet would take away the nausea of the appointment of the Nebraskan. On the whole, one has but to reflect a moment to get the values of the complete idea method of naming a cabinet.

THE AEROPLANE PLOT.

Now that the aeroplane has come to be recognized as a most important adjunct of warfare and various countries have built or purchased aeroplane contingents for scouting, bomb casting and other work, attack upon these national resources is being made in sensational ways. This, at least, is one conclusion to be drawn from the investigation by the Royal Aero Club.

Complaint has been made that ships used for military purposes have had their motors tampered with, so that flight in them under the conditions would have meant certain death for the pilots and any passengers aboard. Admitting that the construction placed upon the incident to the effect that the tampering was the work of enemies of Great Britain is far fetched, the fact remains that here is a direct attempt to murder in midair. What the motive who can say, other than it might be enmity toward certain pilots?

The circumstance is being investigated thoroughly, and it will no doubt lead to future precautions heretofore deemed unnecessary. The English mind is habitually bent upon distinguishing German foes, so that while the hand of international machination is seen by the jingoes there is no real ground for any such conclusion.

WATCH ARGENTINA.

John W. Garrett, American minister to Buenos Ayres, who is now returning for a visit to his home in Baltimore, just before boarding the Coronia, at Liverpool, on Saturday told an English press interviewer of the wonderfully prosperous condition of the South American republic of which Buenos Ayres is both the commercial metropolis and the political capital. European immigration, according to Mr. Garrett, is pouring into Argentina in a steady tide. This inflow, he said, is mainly from Italy and Spain, but there are also large English and German colonies in Buenos Ayres and quite a sprinkling of Americans. The foreign trade of Argentina, he declared, is assuming bigger proportions with each succeeding year.

By the census taken in December, 1910, the population of Argentina was 7,123,000 and this population was distributed over an area of 1,131,841 square miles. That is to say, Argentina occupies not quite half the ground space of the United States, but considerably more than one-third the area of this country. Of the foreign-born population 850,000 was Italian, 450,000 Spanish, 100,000 French, 30,000 English and 67,000 Austrian, German and Swiss. For the year 1910 the immigration from Europe to Argentina totaled 289,640.

Argentina is just in the beginning of a material development that is destined to cut a constantly increasing importance in world commerce throughout the present century. There are only 50,000,000 acres of the agricultural lands now being put to use and 200,000,000 of acres that are awaiting development. Next to raising wheat, the rearing of cattle for the European markets is the leading industry of this Far South country. Before the present decade is out Baltimore may be getting a meat supply from the grass lands down below the Equator.

BUTTER MUST COME DOWN.

There is no other food commodity, not even eggs, that figures in the cold-storage, high-price juggle more than butter. It would have aroused our grandmothers who were running households back in the middle of the last century to the point of making a few remarks if some groceryman had proposed to charge them fifty cents for a pound of butter. The summer price for butter in those days was around 15 cents the pound—the midwinter price ranged from 18 to 22 cents per pound.

Butter and eggs as winter food commodities have advanced in retail price out of all proportion to other foods. Why? The answer undoubtedly is that these two foods have got very largely into the managerial control of the cold-storage speculators. Butter is now made to only a minor extent by the farmers. They sell their milk to the creameries, and butter is now a factory product, and like eggs, is bought up through the months of April, May, June and July and stored by hundreds of millions of pounds to be doled out at fixed prices during December, January, February and March. Hig prices are not caused by actual scarcity; there is plenty of butter in storage. The law of supply and demand as a price regulator has been locked up, along with the butter in the cold-storage barns.

The housewife who is bent upon economy will have to find a substitute for butter. Olive oil is better than butter, but it also costs more. Butterine or oleomargarine is not so bad, and ought to cost much less than butter. In Germany, Copra butter, an oil from the cocoanut, is extensively substituted for butter. It is retailed at about 14 cents per pound. A new fruit butter is now being made in Southern California, in a limited way, from a fruit commonly known as the alligator pear, which is said to give great satisfaction.

TAFT'S CANAL TOLLS PLAN.

President Taft has made it clear that his plan for arbitration of the Panama Canal tolls dispute with England does not by any manner of means involve reference to The Hague. On the other hand, he proposes that instead of the question being left in a state that would gravely impair the good relations of the two powers, that it be placed frankly before a commission of arbitration made up of an equal number of citizens of the two countries. Thus the man who has done more for the promotion of arbitration of international disputes than any other has placed himself squarely on record for consistency. While the provisions of the British-American treaty designate The Hague for the settlement of disputes between the two nations, the rules of The Hague Court permit parties to a dispute to select another tribunal to try their case. So that as far as the technical bearings of the matter go the way to arbitration pointed out by Mr. Taft is clear enough.

However, the question will undoubtedly go over to the next administration, and its settlement will be a responsibility laid upon the Democratic President. There is no ground upon which to forecast the attitude of Mr. Wilson upon the question of arbitration other than his general expressions. From these it may be assumed that he will be friendly to this mode of settlement of disputes. As to the particular case between the two branches of the Anglo-Saxon race, it may be assumed that he will follow closely the sentiment of his party. He will take the ground in all probability that when a question is one of such nice balance as that which involves the interpretation of the phrase, "all nations"; whether it includes or excludes the United States, he will be content to follow the sentiment of the country as gleaned through his party. It will be with him not so much a matter of what the Senate is inclined to do as what the Democrats in the Senate favor doing. For he will take the ground that here is a distinct party responsibility, and as the question at issue is one of verbal distinction, he cannot be held to be playing partisan politics by simply adhering to the views of the Democratic party leaders. These views will closely reflect his own. For while Mr. Wilson upon general principles would doubtless incline toward the easy way, he will regard the right way of acting to be that which is favored by the consensus of American opinion and particularly Democratic opinion.

There is little likelihood of the Senate at present taking the position assumed by Mr. Taft, for while the sentiment for harmonious relations with Great Britain is strong, nevertheless the American people look with irritation upon the Clayton-Bulwer treaty with its provision for an interminable condition. They look upon the Hay-Pauncefote treaty as affording this country relief through the abrogation of the former treaty, and if this abrogation only extends to the right of the United States to build the canal alone and to pay for it with Great Britain entering into equal advantages they cannot see that the annulment of the earlier treaty has done much toward insuring that the canal shall be an American enterprise. They may be wrong. Indeed, it is felt that should a commission be appointed, as Mr. Taft advocates, the American members would lean back in their efforts to do the right thing by Great Britain, and the question would likely be decided in favor of the protesting country. The sentiment of many leading Americans for amity with Great Britain at almost any cost is a formidable thing to overcome in the field of arbitration. For the English members of such a commission would be pretty sure to enter upon their work encased in a steel plating of determination not to yield. Such is the feeling toward arbitration. Yet who can say that this is not a fair and square way to settle the matter, and who can say that President Taft is not prompting the machinery of conciliation by his position, and who can say that American generosity may not be advanced thereby.

It must be admitted that the Taft plan of dealing with Great Britain in the settlement of the tolls dispute has placed an entirely new aspect upon the question of arbitration. It is a plan that will be commended to the incoming administration, and while it may not be adopted, it at any rate has the merit of bringing the record of the present administration to a creditable climax.

COTTON CORNER DECISION.

As one of the straws showing the direction in which the Sherman Anti-trust Law wind is blowing, the decision of the Supreme Court reversing the decision of the lower court in dismissing the suit against the alleged cotton cornerers and declaring that the so-called corner is in fact a violation of the famous law is most interesting. James A. Patten & Co., the firm against whom the decision is directed, has thus been made the pivot about which yet another testimonial to the efficacy of the Sherman law revolves. The repetition of court decisions in support of the Sherman law attest the correctness of the attitude of President Taft in standing up for that law as a sufficient instrument for the breaking of illegal combinations and the best support of legitimate business. This decision is unique in the fact that it relates to such an intangible thing as an attempt to corner the market, and in this respect will rank as throwing new light upon the field of unlawful practices in modern business.

Good business, big or little, has had nothing to fear from the Taft administration, and if the Democrats when they come to power will adhere as closely to the Sherman law as the best method for uprooting illegal business practices the country will not be disturbed by raw experiments in trust busting.

GOLDEN RULE POLICE POLICY.

In Cleveland, it is said, the Golden Rule policy in police work has reduced the number of arrests from over thirty thousand to about eight thousand a year. The rule calls attention to the disgrace and inconvenience attending arrests, and urges policemen to avoid them for trivial offenses which can be adjusted without subjecting citizens to unnecessary humiliation and possible business loss in reputation or position. The practical result of this policy carries its own comment. As policemen are necessarily intrusted with unusual authority, they should be made to realize the responsibility which this authority involves, and the courtesy which so far as possible should attend its exercise. Such forbearance, courtesy and good judgment on the part of a police force reflects material credit on any city.

As a rule, Baltimore is fortunate in possessing such a reputation for its police force, whose members are accounted among the most courteous and efficient in the country, complaints of brutality being almost unknown. This fact it is only justice to remember when particular instances arouse indignant comment.

STATE'S SCHOOL RATING.

The average rank which the Russell Sage Foundation accords the popular educational system of Maryland is not calculated to arouse any pride in the bosoms of Marylanders. The state school system of Maryland is accorded thirty-sixth position, as to general efficiency, among the forty-eight state systems now in operation. It is not at the bottom of the list, but way down below the midway average of efficiency. If Bulletin 124 issued by the Sage Foundation is an accurate comparative estimate of the work in popular education that is being accomplished in the various states there is certainly reason for a searching inquiry as to why Maryland is lagging behind other progressive states in educational endeavor.

In estimating the effectiveness of the various state systems the length of the school year seems to be the main factor considered. Rhode Island is credited with having the longest "effective school year," which is stated as being 193 days, while Maryland is credited with providing only 79 days of schooling for every child of school age. Surely there must be some error in stating the length of the potential school year as respects this state. The length of school year does vary in the different counties, but there are few counties in which the schools are open for less than thirty weeks, and five days is the general rule in the Maryland school week. That would mean an effective year of 150 days instead of 79 days.

And in Baltimore city, and fully one-half the counties of the state, the schools are open during forty weeks of the year, or fully 200 days. The average pay of teachers for a school year in Maryland is stated as $515, and in this respect the state is accorded the eighteenth rank. The state in which the popular educational system is accredited with greatest efficiency is Washington, Massachusetts ranking second.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

BY JOSH WINK.

THE PUBLIC ENEMY.

You can't see him, you can't hear,
But he always is about;
Fact, the trouble of his coming
Is that never will he shout,
For then a man could dodge him
Nor within his clutches squirm,
But he's got you ere you know it,
Has this wicked grippy germ.

His lair is atmospheric,
And he's not particu-lar
Whether from the rain above one,
Or the damp bricks, comes his jar;
And he enters in the houses
Where he takes a holding firm,
Passing all around the family,
This determined grippy germ.

You may try your best to 'scape him,
But it's mighty hard to do,
For all kinds of stringent measures
Must you anxiously pursue,
And when you've done all called for
For a long and tiresome term,
He gets you spite of caution,
Does this wicked grippy germ.

THE CROP.

"What are you raising on your place this season?"

"Well, I'm trying to raise the mortgage."

APPROPRIATE CONNECTIONS.

"So Miss Jiggers had an eye to the vaudeville stage."

"Yes, but she got the hook."

THE DIFFERENCE.

"That management thought the new play was a scream."

"Well, was it?"

"They tried it on the dog and it turned out to be a howl."

THE LINE DRAWN.

"Don't you think life ought to be constant variety?"

"Not when it comes to a new cook every week."

NATURAL EFFECT.

"Woman is a delusion."

"Yes, and it comes natural to hug our delusions."

THE WAY IT LOOKED.

He—I would go to the ends of the earth to bring you anything you wanted.

She—That is the sort of devotion I would call far-fetched.

CIRCUMVENTION.

"You can't get a cocktail in this town, sir. It is dry here."

"All right. Bring me something extra dry."

PAST ARGUMENT.

"Brides are the most illogical of people."

"How so?"

"They are always ready to declare that the bridegroom is better than the best man."

ACCOUNTED FOR.

"Why is it so few women look well in a steamer cap?"

"I guess because it is a handy cap."

JOSH WINK.

HE LEARNED A LESSON.

Congressman Ralph W. Moss, of Indiana, did not care much for a hat his wife wore. He finally spoke about it. Mrs. Moss admited that it was plain, and, instead of taking exception to her husband's remark, invited him to accompany her the next time she bought a hat.

"I can certainly pick out a beter one than that," said Mr. Moss.

So they went to the store together. Mrs. Moss said not a word as the comely milliner displayed one beautiful bonnet after another. It was the first time Mr. Moss had ever been in a millinery store, but he appeared to be at ease and finally selected one of the most joyful creations in the entire stock. Mrs. Moss looked well in it. She was pleased.

"I'll take that," said the Hoosier Congressman. "How much is it?"

"Forty dollars," said the pretty girl, without even a blink.

Mr. Moss saw blue stars, but luckily he had just come from the bank and was able to produce that much in cash. Now he lets Mrs. Moss buy her own hats and he does not complain about their being plain. Judge.

BETTING ON A SURE THING.

A Durham farmer was traveling to London to consult a lawyer, when the fear struck him that he had left certain important papers behind. He made a hurried search for his bag.

"If I did leave those papers," he remarked, "I'm a fool!"

The search proceeded, and a moment later he said:

"I believe it'll turn out I'm a fool!"

Just as he was examining the last bundle of papers, he exclaimed:

"Well, I'll bet I'm a fool!"

A man on the other side of the compartment lowered his newspaper for a moment and said, slowly and deliberately:

"Oblige me, sir, by laying a little money that same way for me."—London Telegraph.

LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

The New Minister of the Interior of Spain—Last Hours of a Spanish Prisoner.

Special to The American.

The Duke of Alba, who has just been appointed to the very important office of minister of the interior of Spain in the reconstructed cabinet formed by Premier Count Romanones last week, was the subject of much discussion a few years ago in the press on this side of the Atlantic as a suitor for the hand of Miss Matilda Townsend, daughter of Mrs. Richard Townsend, of Washington, who, however, ultimately married one of her own countrymen, namely, Peter Gerry, of New York. The Duke is a grandnephew—and undoubtedly the favorite kinsman—of Empress Eugenie, whose sister married the fifteenth Duke of Alba. The late Duke, that is to say, the father of the new Minister of the Interior of Spain, died in New York 11 years ago at the Waldorf-Astoria while over here for the purpose of attending the America Cup yacht races off Sanday Hook.

The present Duke, who stood high in the good graces of the late King Edward, and was frequently his guest at Sandringham, has royal English blood in his veins. For he is descended in the male line direct from James II. by the latter's left-handed union with Arabella Churchill, sister of the great Duke of Marlborough. King James conferred upon this best loved of his sons the titles of Duke of Berwick, Earl of Tinmouth and Baron of Bosworth by patent dated March 19, 1687, when he still occupied the throne of Great Britain, and these patents are recorded in the Patent Rolls of England. But having sided with his father at the time of the Revolution, and having accompanied him to France, he was attainted as a Jacobite in 1695 by Parliament, his British honors becoming in consequence forfeited to the crown.

Achieving almost as much fame as a military commander as his uncle, the first Duke of Marlborough, he was, for his services in the Spanish War of Succession, created Duke of Fitzjames by Louis XIV. of France and Duke of Liria and of Zerica by King Philip of Spain. He left two sons, the younger inheriting his French Dukedom of Fitzjames, which is still in existence today, while his two Spanish dukedoms went to his eldest son, who likewise assumed his father's English Dukedom of Berwick, which, though not recognized by the English crown, has been borne by his descendants ever since. In fact, to find the Duke of Alba of today in the Almanach de Gotha one is obliged to look for him under the name of the Duke of Berwick.

The Dukedoms of Berwick, of Liria and of Zerica became merged in the far more ancient one of Alba, through the marriage of the third Duke of Berwick and Liria to the daughter and heiress of the eleventh Duke of Alba—a dukedom first created by Emperor Charles V. at the time when he called the Spanish Grandezza into existence. In some countries the name is spelt Alva, and it is as such that the first Duke lives in history as Emperor Charles V.'s and King Philip II.'s Viceroy of the Netherlands, where he is said to have sent no less than 18,000 Dutch patriots to the scaffold during his seven-year term of office. A remarkable portrait of him is to be found in John Lothrop Motley's Rise of the Dutch Republic.

King Edward consulted with the authorities in England as to the possiblity of removing the parliamentary attainder on the Duke of Alba's English dukedom of Berwyck, but was advised that this could not be done unless the Duke consented to transfer his allegiance from the Spanish to the British crown. This the Duke, whose extensive estates and interests are all situated in Spain, did not see his way to do. The Duke, like his younger brother, Fernando, Duke of Penaranda and Count of Montijo, was brought up in England, at Beaumont College, near Eton, under the supervision of his graundaunt, Empress Eugenie, talks English without any trace of foreign accent, is the champion polo player of Spain and an adept in most American forms of sport.

His residence at Madrid, known as the Liria Palace, is one of the grandest in the Spanish capital, filled from cellar to garret with art treasures and almost priceless archives. Containing, as they do, documents from the eleventh to the twentieth century, they embrace the history of all the most interesting periods of the annals of Spain, and comprise a quantity of letters written by Christopher Columbus, which throw light upon many dark points of his life; confidential communications between Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Elizabeth, the records of the first Duke of Alba's viceroyalty of the Netherlands, and the only true account of the terrible tragedy played by King Philip II. and his son, Don Carlos, which Schiller has immortalized. In order to understand all the wealth of treasures of this kind in the Liria Palace, it must be remembered that the Ducal House of Alba has numbered among its guests and friends Velasquez, Titian, Murillo, Cervantes, Calderon, besides princes, kings, queens and emperors, cardinals and even popes.

The Duke is twenty-fourth hereditary high constable of the kingdom of Navarre, and possesses all sorts of honors, including the historic dignity of Count Duke of Olivarez, none of which, however, he prizes more highly than his membership of the ancient society of Hermandad de la Paz y Caribad, that is to say, the Fraternity of Peace and Charity, which, founded by Don Juan Manara y Mendoza, the beatified original of the hero of Lord Byron's Don Juan, takes charge of the prisoners under sentence of death during the last 24 hours immediately preceding their execution.

As there are about 50 capital sentences imposed by the courts each year in Spain, the duties of the members of this fraternity (which is the most exclusive thing of its kind and restricted entirely to the members of the very oldest families of the Spanish patriciate) are far from being merely honorary. When on duty they wear a black robe reaching almost to the ground surmounted by a peaked hood of the same material, the features being wholly concealed by a cloth in which two holes are cut for the eyes. Twenty-four hours before the execution the condemned prisoner is brought into what is known as the Capilla—that is to say, a room or cell which, draped entirely in black, is arranged as a chapel, with an altar, crucifix and lighted candles. As soon as he crosses the threshold the black-robed, black-masked brothers of this society take charge of him. It is there that the sentence of death is read to him; that the executioner comes, first of all, to measure the length of his spine and the size of his neck, so that there may be no mistake about its fitting the garrotte, and there, later on, to kneel down before him and to crave his pardon for being the instrument of his justly merited death immediately before the man is led out to the scaffold.

The members of the fraternity read to the prisoner; they pray with him; they write letters for him to his family and relatives; they take charge of the conveyance of his last messages and of the fulfilment of his last wishes, while a dozen of them, arrayed in the garb which I have described above and which wholly conceals their identity, make house-to-house visits in various portions of the city, begging alms for the prisoner who is about to die. Their appeals are seldom spurned. They invariably manage to collect quite a large sum of money, which, together with their own contributions, is turned over in full to the unfortunate criminal. The latter usually, in deference to the recommendations of the brothers, assigns a portion of it to the payment of masses for the repose of his soul, while the remainder is turned over sometimes to his own family and sometimes, if he wishes it, to the family of his victim.

After making his confession and receiving the last sacraments the condemned man is furnished with anything that he wants in the way of food and drink, and then the brothers—that is to say, these grandees of Spain, men such as the Dukes of Alba, of Penaranda, of Tamanes and of Medine-Goeli, nobles of the loftiest rank—accompany him to the scaffold, support his faltering steps and remain with him in the role of friend and councilor until the executioner, standing behind his victim, turns that crank of the garrotte, which in one instant crushes the vertebra at the neck, causing instant death. After that the brothers assume charge of the burial of the remains.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

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A Modern Mystery.

In view of the number of lifelong Democrats that have come to the front, one can scarcely help wondering that there ever was a successful Republican party.—Cleveland Leader.

Warning to Madero.

Madero had better look out; a fat man is slow to wrath, but when he is riled up there is so very much of him.—Memphis Commercial.

MEN AND WOMEN

Judge William L. Kelly, of St. Paul, Minn., as a result of his judicial experience, says that "if all the law books in the country were burned in a single night we would have better laws in 10 years than we have at the present time."

Mrs. Elizabeth Chambers Brander is an Englishwoman living quietly in Clapham who is a direct descendant of George Washington, through his sister, Betty Carter. She and her brother have the "Washington nose," of which they are duly proud.

Mrs. Elizabeth Schauss, of Toledo, O., has been appointed by the Toledo Council of Women to find out what has been done in the state to bring about the passage of the widowed mothers' pension bill. This bill will be presented to the Ohio Assembly this winter.

Mrs. Willis Cowan, of Warren, Pa., has a small Bible in her possession that was printed in London, England, by Charles Bill, in the year 1698, and is, therefore, about 214 years old. It was carried to church by her ancestor, Ebenezer Dow, one of the founders of Voluntown, Ct.

Mrs. Thomas Hardy, whose death recently took place at Dorchester—on the very day that the people of that town gave a stage production of The Trumpet Major at their yearly Hardy festival—was almost prouder of the house at Max Gate than of her husband's books. The home was designed and built by Mr. Hardy, who is an architect as well as novelist.

M. Blondeau, of Quimperle, Brittany, was out shooting when he brought down a seagull. Attached to one of its legs was a ring with the inscription in English: "1869. Return to the zoological station at Heligoland." In 1869 Heligoland (now Helgoland) was a British possession. M. Blondeau has preserved the bird in hope of ascertaining whether it was as old as the date on the ring would indicate.

Could Improve on It.

It is all right for Ambassador Bryce to praise the Constitution, but Colonel Roosevelt can see many places in which it might be notably improved. — Boston Globe.

Avoid the Judicial Mind.

Yale is to pay President Taft $5,000 a year as a professor, but will pay $10,000 to a football coach. Higher education!—Milwaukee News.

GOSSIP OF THE STAGE

The Mayor of Boston is trying to have municipal grand opera.

Gertrude Bryan, of Little Boy Blue fame, may go into vaudeville.

The Daughter of Heaven is to open about the middle of next month in Chicago.

Toronto rejoices in a local play censor at a salary of $1,300, probably an unlucky number for some productions.

Alexandra Carlisle will play in London in Bought and Paid For, the role created in this country by Julia Dean.

There seems to be a Shaw revival in London, as Fanny's First Play is to be succeeded by John Bull's Other Island.

George V. Hobart is extending the Dinkelspeil sketch into a three-act play to be produced in England in the spring by Joseph Hart.

Tyrone Power, who left the cast of Julius Caesar lately, is to appear in a revival of Macbeth with Bertha Kalich as Lady Macbeth.

It is asserted that the four companies playing Bunty Pulls the Strings are returning nearly $30,000 a week to its managers, the Shuberts.

Adele Ritchie, who is appearing with Sam Bernard in All For the Ladies, intends after the conclusion of this engagement to appear in farce.

Paul Armstrong has written a new play called Politics, which will not be produced until next season. It is said to have an unusually strong climax.

Philip Bartholomae, author of Over Night, and Little Miss Brown, has formed a theatrical producing firm with Leander Richardson, formerly press representative of W. A. Brady, and will make general productions.

Dr. Edwin W. Gilliam, of 106 East Twenty-fifth street, who, as an acquaintance of both, brought William Faversham's production of Julius Caesar and his conception of the great Roman's character to the attention of Cardinal Gibbous, is at work upon a play to be submitted to Mr. Faversham, who is much pleased with the idea. It is a play of American life with comedy and pathos mingled, of tender sentiment, and has filial affection for its main theme.

THE FIRST SNOW.

[From the Saturday Review.]

Not yet was winter come to earth's soft floor,
The tideless wave, the warm white road, the shore,
The serried town whose small street tortuously
Led darkling to the dazzling sea;

Not yet to breathing man, not to his song,
Not to his comforted heart, not to the long,
Close cultivated lands beneath the hill.
Summer was gently with them still.

But on the Apennine mustered the cloud;
The grappling Storm shut down. Aloft, aloud,
Ruled secret Tempest long day and night,
Until another morning's light.
Oh, tender mountain tops and delicate,
Where summer long the westering sunlight ate
Within the fastness darkened from the sun,
What solitary things were done?

The clouds let go; they rose, they winged away.
Snow white the altered mountains faced the day,
As saints who keep their counsel sealed and fast,
Their anguish overpast.

ALICE MEYNELL.

PUBLIC OPINION

Comment of Leading Newspapers on a Variety of Topics—The Tariff Problem.

[Cleveland Leader.]

Newspapers friendly to the tariff policy of the more radical elements in the Democratic party are much concerned lest President-elect Wilson and the new Congress shall find it impossible to make good the platform pledges of tariff revision, as free-trade Democrats understand that term. These radicals perceive that it is going to be hard work to put anything more than mild tariff reductions through the United States Senate. They talk much of the danger of trades between senators who have local industries which they wish to protect, and are likely to forget the larger obligations of their party in their desire to avoid giving offense to their own constituents.

All such forecasts of difficulties in the way of tariff revision might well give heed to another phase of the situation. This is the patent fact that a very large majority of the voters who went to the polls last November declared themselves against the Democratic kind of tariff revision. On that question the Roosevelt vote and the Taft vote may fairly be added and placed in the balance against the much smaller vote given Governor Wilson. It is a clear deduction from the election returns that a million and a quarter more votes opposed the Baltimore platform tariff program than the number that favored it.

This broad fact may well give pause to the Democrats who insist upon an extreme type of tariff revision. If they are honest with themselves they cannot help recognizing the adverse verdict of the country upon the plan which they favor.

Isabella's Descendants.

[New York World.]

The discovery is attribtued to President David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University, that almost any American of distinction can trace his descent to a common ancestor, one Isabella de Vermandois, Duchess of Warren, who lived in the twelfth century.

So far as that is concerned, none of us has any difficulty in proving by unimpeachable mathematics and irrefutable logic that he is warmed by the transmitted blood of nobility, royalty and genius. A child of today has two parents, four grandparents and so on. Counting for convenience three generations to the hundred years, his theoretical ancestors in Isabella's century are numbered by millions; a few centuries further back by billions. The actual number is far smaller, since lines of descent criss-cross from common ancestors; but it is a fair logical inference that among so many millions and centuries everyone may count on possessing a reasonable number of royal or distinguished forbears.

But what does that prove? How much influence on the life of an American of today could be claimed for one-seven-millionth part of Isabella blood, or for any probable number of multiples of that share? Here is the crucial test of the heredity fallacy, the scientific basis of democracy. Eugenics is a fact; but better far a descent from a reasonable proportion of good stock in the three or four most recent generations than the ability to claim one-two-hundredth part of a single drop of blood as coming from some prized ancestor of the twelfth century.

The Basic Difficulty.

[Pittsburgh Dispatch.]

After the sarcasms by New York papers on the Pujo committee and Mr. Untermeyer's conduct of its investigation, it is instructively anticlimatic to read that sooner than maintain the controversy the governors of the New York Stock Exchange have decided to institute reforms. This is decidedly wise; but it is to be doubted whether reforms will be made that will effectively dispel the real evil.

There are two classes of business in that institution, as in all stock exchanges. One consists of the sale of genuine securities for holders who have legitimate reasons for selling, and the purchase of them by or for bona-fide investors. This is sound, honest and beneficial business. The other consists largely under the same outward forms, of hardly concealed betting on the rise and fall of stocks. The difference between this and betting on faro or roulette is simply a matter of form.

The New York Stock Exchange could, if it would, draw the line between the gambling and the legitimate business. But at that point the real difficulty is encountered. If only actual nonspeculative sales were permitted there the commissions of brokers would hardly be over an eighth of what they now are, and seats worth $65,000 to $85,000 cash would dwindle to $10,000 or $20,000. It is that underlying fact that generates the moral principle that everything is all right if the commissions are paid.

Integrity of the Navy.

[Philadelphia Inquirer.]

Supreme Court Justice Goff, of New York, rendered valuable service to the enlisted men of the Navy when he refused to suspend sentence on a convicted criminal on his promise to join that branch of the service. After scathingly denouncing the culprit, the jurist volunteered the statement that the Navy is composed of self-respecting young men and not thieves.

The mere offer of this man was not only presumptuous, but an insult to every enlisted man. This service is voluntary. A criminal, under such circumstances, even granting that he would be admitted, which is extremely improbable, would go in under compulsion, and his presence on any ship and among any body of other volunteers would prove a degrading influence.

As the justice pointed out, the time has long gone by when our Navy was recruited from whatever class it could get to work in it. It is today as fine a body of men as there is to be found the world over. In its morale it is as high as any other, and there is in it no place for confirmed disreputable characters.

Enforcing the Trust Law.

[Ohio State Journal.]

The most serious problem that comes to President Wilson's administration is that relating to the trust. That bothers him more than the tariff or currency question. It is that which concerns the great corporations which cover the land like the waters cover the great deep. All the interests are on tiptoe to see how he will act toward them.

And it is not so much what he will do with the trusts as with the men who operate them. This is the burning question. It is believed if Taft had remained in power another year, he would have put some of the magnates in jail. Everything was tending in that direction. They would be there now if the slow procedure of the courts had not saved them. It has not been generally suspected, but Taft's administration has been aggressive against the trusts. It has been constantly pushing prosecutions under the anti-trust law.

Will this be continued under the Wilson administration? Will it enforce the anti-trust law to the end of putting the violators of it in prison? That question spreads alarm over the land.

War Versus Revolution.

[Chicago Journal.]

Austria may force a general European war for the purpose of stilling discontent at home. That is an ancient trick of kings. It was never so risky a trick as now, and never so little likely to work, but in an emergency, it may be tried.

The internal condition of Austria would drive a French, British or German government insane over night. Five powerful nationalities, Germans, Magyars, Bohemians, Poles and Croats, are struggling to gain or keep power, and half a dozen smaller peoples are egging on the confusion.

Riots have occurred in Bohemia in protest against the government's hostile attitude toward Servia. The constitution of Croatia is suspended or ignored, the press of that country is muzzled, and its chief newspaper has been suppressed. In Hungary the fight of Magyars for supremacy and of Slavs and Roumanians for equal representation is halting just short of bloodshed.

If this condition continues, the imperial government may consider the dangers of foreign war less than those of domestic revolution.

Might Borrow from Andy.

The Democrats ought to have an easy time revising the tariff downward. Only about $350,000,000 will have to be raised by the next Congress if the Payne-Aldrich tariff law is repealed.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Similarity of Preference.

A prominent English clergyman assures us that the late King Edward liked short sermons best. There is little difference between a king and a commoner, after all.—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

MUCH IN LITTLE

Berlin has 52 power-propelled cars in its mail service.

Gas is being extracted from the cottonwood trees of Kansas.

Wireless telegraphy is now in use in Bolivia, Chili and Argentina.

Russia is showing a marked preference for automobiles of American make.

The Civic Federation in Boston would have rug beating in the back yard stopped.

A wild-bee tree netted two farmers of Gifford, Wash., 100 pounds of pure honey.

Over 200 cases of typhoid fever have appeared in Troy, Pa., and trained nurses for a radius of 50 miles have been drafted to aid physicians in their fight against the epidemic.

A book holder that an Ohio woman has patented has legs which stand upon a chair seat and a cord to suspend it from the shoulders of its user, whose hands are left free.

Canary birds are now part of the equipment of very well-regulated mine. If the atmosphere is questionable the birds are carried into it, and they show signs of its effects at once.

It is estimated that American mills make about 450 to 500 million pounds of cotton waste annually; in other words, of the five and two-fifth million bales of cotton, weighing 500 pounds each, which they spin, 15 to 20 per cent. of it becomes a so-calltd "waste" product.

Vice Consul General Hubert G. Baugh, of Singapore, has forwarded a copy of a bill to provide for the carrying out of public works and reclamations of the foreshore and sea bed of the harbors of the colony which was recently passed by the legislative council of the Straits Settlements.

Of the 38,000,000 tons of coal mined in France annually 23,000,000 tons are produced in the Pas-de-Calais. As this coal is worth $4 a ton at the pit mouth, besides attracting industries these coal mines are an enormous source of wealth, the value of the annual output being nearly $100,000,000.

The University of Tennessee has just instituted extension courses in geology especially designed for men engaged in the mining and quarry industries. The courses consist of a short session (six weeks) and correspondence work. The subjects of instruction will be: Physics, chemistry, mathematics, geology, mining and metallurgy, and mechanical engineering. The courses are described as especially adapted to meet the need of the man "on the firing line."

A True Peace Hero.

If he succeeds in restoring cordial relations between Mr. Bryan and Speaker Clark Mr. Wilson clearly will be entitled to the next Nobel Peace Prize.—Chicago News.

Somebody Ought to Tell Him.

"I am enlisted for the war," says George W. Perkins. Perhaps he doesn't realize as yet that the Battle of Armageddon was ended long ago.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

IN THE BEST OF HUMOR

Miss Catt—She has a fine complexion.

Miss Nipp—Yes—that's an added attraction.—Lippincott's Magazine.

"Any mail fer me, Hi?"

"B'lieve so, Silas; it's either a post-hole digger er a wagin-tongue."—Galveston News.

Willie—Paw, what is domestic science?

Paw—Paying 1912 prices for things out of a 1906 salary, my son.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

She—Do you believe a man knows when he is in love?

He—Yes, and he doesn't know anything else.—Judge.

"Why did she want to set her husband's will aside?

"Merely because it was her husband's, and she had got in the habit of setting his will aside."—Houston Post.

"Mr. Pater, I love your daughter. Do you object to my paying her attention?"

"No, but I warn you wou'll find it a lot easier than paying her bills."—Boston Transcript.

"Why are you removing all the rocking chairs?"

"Pa has sworn off on swearing, and we want to do all we can to help him."—Detroit Free Press.

"Our college won."

"They did? Rah! rah! rah! What did they win?"

"The debate."

"Oh, pshaw!"—Washington Herald.

Critic—By George, old chap, when I look at one of your paintings I stand and wonder——

Artist—How I do it?

Critic—No, why you do it.—Independent.

"Do you think 1913 is an unlucky number?"

"Well," replied Mr. Chuggins, "I don't mind '13' in a date line, but I'd hate to have it on my automobile."—Washington Star.

"I understand you have just bought an automobile?"

"Yes. I saw seven of them chasing one pedestrian the other day, and I decided that I was on the wrong end of the sport."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"Do you really love me?" she wrote.

"Referring to my last letter," he promptly replied, "you will find that I love you devotedly on page one, madly on page three and passionately on pages four and five."—Pittsburgh Post.

"Perhaps you drink too much coffee," suggested the doctor. "I should advise you to try a substitute."

"Sir, your advice is superfluous," replied the patient. "I have lived in boarding houses for 25 years."—Philadelphia Record.

Jack—Why, you're acting as if you'd like to be kissed!

Jessica—Why, that's not acting.

Jack—But you act as if you had been kissed before.

Jessica—Neither is that acting.—Yonkers Statesman.

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