

Items of Interest.



The first parliament of the reign of King Edward was prorogued August 17.

In 1890 there were 5,700,000 farms in the United States as compared with 4,564,641 in 1900.

It is said that sailors when unable to procure fresh water keep their clothes soaked in salt water.

Ex-Premier Crispi, the famous Italian statesman, died at Naples August 11 at the advanced age of 81.

St. Andreasburg, a very small village in the Harz mountains, raises 60,000 canary birds each year valued at \$50,000.

In the ocean life is more abundant within 600 feet of the top and near the bottom than it is in the intermediate region.

The German sea coast in the vicinity of Hamburg is gradually sinking, having subsided five feet nine inches within the past fifty years.

Miguel Malvar has been recognized by the Filipino junta at Hong Kong as Aguinaldo's rightful successor to command the Filipino forces.

The average depth of the earth's surface below sea level is 12,000 feet, and the average height of the land of the world is 2,000 feet above sea level.

According to the New York Staats-Zeitung, subsidies varying from \$300 to \$400 are given in Norway for the aid and encouragement of young authors.

If conditions in South America do not become more serious, the second pan-American congress will meet in the City of Mexico during the month of October next.

According to the census of 1899 there were 60,711 Cuban farms. 38,550 contained less than 8 acres, 11,650 between 8 and 16 acres, and only 7,300 had more than 150 acres.

The greatest depth of the sea recorded is in the waters of the Pacific, east of Japan, the depth there being 27,930 feet and nearly equalling the altitude of the highest mountain in the world.

The Woman's Hall of Northwestern University near Chicago has had its name changed to Willard Hall in honor of the late Frances Willard, who was the most famous alumnae of that institution.

The proposition is made in England that parliament be petitioned to offer prizes for annual competition in hymn writing in order that the best hymns may be acquired for use in church worship.

The locomotives first used on American railways weighed from 10 to 15 tons. Today the passenger engines in general use weigh about 70 to 100 tons while the engines in freight service weigh about 100 tons.

According to Dr. Alexander Scott, a noted Glasgow physician, the majority of the railroad wrecks are caused by neurosis produced by the extreme nerve tension of railroad men while in the discharge of their duties.

Although water is only slightly compressible, yet scientists have estimated that if the action of gravity were to suddenly cease the waters of the ocean, where it has a depth of five miles, would rise 500 feet above its present level.

Each year in France 176,000 pounds of hair are used in the making of theatrical wigs and beards. France supplies about half of this amount, and the remainder is secured from China, Japan, Italy, Hungary and Scandinavia.

The title for the new King of England as proposed by Lord Salisbury in the house of lords is as follows: "Edward the Seventh, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of British Dominions Beyond the Sea, King, Defender of the Faith and Emperor of India."

The largest passenger steamer afloat is the new White Star liner, Celtic. She has a cabin capacity of 2,859 passengers, and it is estimated that on a single deck 40,000 persons could stand. The boat is 700 feet long, has a beam of 75 feet and a depth of 49 feet. Her tonnage is 20,000 and her displacement 38,200 tons.

The Japanese statistical report shows that the United States in 1893 exported products to Japan to the value of 6,000,000 yen. In 1900, the value of our exports to that country amounted to 60,000,000 yen. In 1893 the United States ranked as the sixth largest exporter of products to Japan, while in 1900 the United States was second, being preceded only by Great Britain.

The Detroit Medical Journal is authority for the statement that a new fruit promises to play an important part in the American fruit trade. The fruit is called the Mangosteen. It is a native of the Moluccas and is cultivated extensively in the West Indies, Ceylon, Java and Jamaica. It is a little smaller than the orange, has a snow white flesh, and the flavor of its juice is a blending of the pine apple, nectarine and strawberry.

Three new torpedo boat destroyers for the United States navy were launched August 15th. They are the largest in our navy and among the largest in the world. They are 259 feet 6 inches long, have 22 feet 3 inch beams, are 14 feet 8 inches deep, draw 3 feet of water and have a nominal displacement of 433 tons. They are expected to attain a speed of 30 knots an hour. The approximate cost of each vessel will be \$285,000.

New York Tribune: A Berlin newspaper publishes some curious details respecting the letter bags of the principal European sovereigns. The pope holds the first place, as he receives every day from 22,000 to 23,000 letters and newspapers. King Edward VII. comes next, with 3,000 newspapers and 1,000 letters. The czar and the German emperor receive each from 600 to 700 letters, appeals, etc.; the king of Italy 500, and Queen Wilhelmina from 100 to 150.

In northern Nizeria slaves are the medium of exchange in large transactions. For small transactions the cowry shell is the usual medium. It is said that the value of these shells is so little that it would require 300 men to carry \$500 worth of these shells a distance of one hundred yards and that the cost of transporting them 100 miles would consume the entire sum. The following table, showing the value of slaves, is given by Mr. T. J. Tonkin in the Empire Review for July:

	£	s.	d.
Child, seven years old, male or female....	2	10	0
Child, ten years old, male or female....	3	15	0
Boy, seventeen years old.....	5	10	0
Boy (good-looking) twelve to fourteen..	7	0	0
Girl, fourteen to seventeen years old....	9	10	0
Young woman, say twenty or twenty-one.	5	0	0
Man, full grown, with beard.....	3	10	0
Adult woman.....	2	0	0

Kansas City Star: The British Suez canal directors have reported the navigation through the Suez canal for 1900, as compared with that of the two previous years. The following is a summary of the report: The net tonnage for the last year shows a decrease of 157,477 tons, as compared with that of 1899, but an increase of 499,549 tons as compared with that of 1898. The transit receipts, which in 1899, amounted to \$17,624,230 and were higher than in any previous year since the opening of the canal, fell to \$17,490,356 in 1900. The number of vessels which passed through the canal was 3,503 in 1898, 3,607 in 1899 and 3,441 in 1900, of which 2,295 in 1898, 2,310 in 1899 and 1,935

in 1900 carried the British flag. In the ten years, 1889 to 1898, the annual net tonnage ranged from 6,783,187 tons to 9,238,603 tons, and the transit receipts from \$12,770,343 to \$16,461,890. The number of troops carried through the canal in 1900 was 154,249, as against 108,552 in 1899. The number of civilian passengers was 102,415 in 1900, as against 88,616 in the preceding year; while the number of pilgrims, emigrants and convicts was 25,530 in 1900, as compared with 25,179 in 1899. In the year 1870, 26,758 civil and military passengers were carried through the canal; in 1880 the number rose to 98,900; in 1890, to 282,203, as against 21,348 in 1859.

Newspaper Comment.

The circumstances which require the absence of Admiral Sampson from the Schley investigations are even more distressing than those that made his presence impossible at the Santiago affair.—Detroit Free Press.



These be troublesome days for the administration managers. While worrying about how to keep the negro in politics in the southern states they are worrying about how to keep the negro out of office in the northern states.—Omaha World-Herald.



It is now said the charge will be preferred against Admiral Schley that he was intoxicated during the Santiago battle. Aside from the fact that Admiral Schley does not drink, this charge is likely to recall the reply of Abraham Lincoln to the charge that General Grant was drunk upon another important occasion.—Pittsburg Dispatch.



At Lodi, Italy, there will be an exhibition of agricultural machinery next month. No country is in greater need of modern methods and improved appliances for its fertile but ill cultivated fields. The opportunity is a rare one for American manufacturers, who ought to be represented there fully and practically.—Chicago Chronicle.



While Europe may not combine against the United States, the individual nations will retaliate against our tariff wall with prohibitions against our manufactured exports. According to republican principles it is not the market for agricultural products and raw material that we want, but a market for our manufactured products.—St. Paul Globe.



The "embalmed beef" scandal rid the war department of Alger and Eagan. It is to be hoped that the cowardly slanders which the navy department has encouraged against a brave and gallant officer will result in driving out of the public service Long, Crowninshield and all the brood of sycophants that these two men have succeeded in gathering around them in the past three years.—Peoria Herald-Transcript.



It must be acknowledged that Roosevelt is imparting a picturesqueness to his race for the presidency which has not always been a feature of such contests. Presidential aspirants who bust bronchos and kill coyotes and travel vociferously in locomotive cabs are rare. It is certain at least that the next republican campaign for the presidency will not be dull if Teddy has any say about it.—St. Louis Republic.



Where foreign competition can reduce prices a trust is a vain reliance to put them up. As soon as prices reach the point where imports are possible the rise is at once checked by the introduction of foreign goods. The trusts understand this if the people do not. Though some of them are large exporters, they are unwilling to surrender the protection which enables them to get better prices at home than they obtain abroad.—Louisville Courier-Journal.