has them.

leave China a loan. The consolidated biscuit trust sighs

no longer for floury beds of ease. It

That "vegetable ball" given by leaders of New York's "400" can only be equaled in Boston by a codfish ball.

"Zola has raised an issue in France," comments the Detroit Tribune. He raised something a great deal hotter than that.

For the time he has been at it General Blanco has managed to achieve as picturesque a failure as could have been expected.

It's hard to use the word in such a connection, but much of what Germany has said about the American apple is simply rot.

A writer in Harper's Weekly makes

the fine point that when a Western farmer lays by for a "rainy day" he is saving up for a drought. The \$100 counterfeit bill has ceased

to worry capitalists, but paragraphers

should be on the alert. There is a new counterfeit quarter in circulation. A returned Klondiker says: "It is extremely cold there about eight months of the year; we consider zero as just

nothing at all." We consider it the

same here. A fashion paper suggests that the reason a woman powders is to "take the shine off her nose." Not at all. She does it to take the shine off some other

women. The United States Circuit Court in Cincinnati has rendered a decision against the cast-iron pipe trust. Here is a method of hitting the pipe which should prove popular.

The cabled information from Italy that the earth has two moons will surprise no one who has ever overestimated his tankage capacity. It is very easy to see more than two moons.

Bishop Vincent has started a crusade In Kansas against the deadly sin of Nevertheless, it is doubtful if more lives chewing gum. We have felt certain all | are lost by accidents of travel, in proalong that sooner or later the great besetting sin of Kansas would find her

Life is full of contradictions. The bacillus of the world-stirring whooping cough is found to be particularly small and delicate, but what ravages the little intruder can commit! Science will yet get the better of this disturber of the peace.

Dr. Nansen's criticism of our palace cars is that "there is no privacy" on them. Perhaps it is natural for an arctic explorer, who loves solitude and a low temperature, to feel that way. If Nansen ever comes to this country again, the railroads should provide a refrigerator car for his exclusive use.

There is considerable interest manifested just now in regard to flour, look ing like wheat flour and sold as such but manufactured out of wheat and corn. Corn is a most excellent and wholesome food, but fair play to the consumer should dietate the policy of common honesty in making this blended flour, so that the customer would know just what he was buying.

The election of President Krueger means something more than a mere compliment to the leadership of the old boer. Stripped of its trimmings, it that, if modern discovery and invention means that the South African republic, or at least its Dutch element, is uncompromisingly opposed to British suzerainty over its affairs, and that as soon as the opportunity arises it intends to play for absolute independence of Great Britain.

A member of the editorial staff of the Shreveport (La.) Progress recently shot and killed a negro. The next issue of that journal referred to the dead man and added: "Our editor asks his friends to come to the man who did the killing for an explanation of the unfortunate affair. This is only fair; no one can deny that." It might do no harm for the State's Attorney to drop around there and get an explanation.

The strike and lockout in the English engineering trades, which began July 13 of last year, has ended, and the men have gone back to work. The strike involved the question of an eight-hour day, and also that of the management of the shops, and on both points the men were defeated. It is estimated that the strike caused a loss of ten million dollars in wages, and a distribution of two million dollars in relief, but no accurate estimate can be made of the loss to employers.

In the diary of Samuel Pepys there is the entry for Oct. 3, 1600: "This day I heard the duke speak of a great design that he and my Lord of Pembroke have, and a great many others, of sending a venture to some parts of Africa to dig for gold ore there. They intend to admit as many as will verture their money, and so make themsalves a company. Two hundred and fifty pounds is the lowest share for every man." This record not only shows bow old a pursuit is gold-hunting in Africa, but it likewise reveals the purpose of the promoters, familiar in modern plans of the sort. "As many as will venture their money" have an equally good chance nowadays to join the army of

investors. Skepticism regarding the outcome of such investments is also not modern. Pepys adds, "I do not find that my lord do much like it."

The United States has long enjoyed the distinction of producing more gold than any other country, but in spite of the recent discoveries in Alaska, and the gold that is being brought into the country via the Pacific, it is thought that we are to be robbed of this distinction. There is reason to believe that the Transvaal will soon take the lead in gold-production, if it has not already done so. The Engineering and Mining Journal recently, estimating the output of gold for the year, credited to the United States \$55,498,950 and to the Transvaal \$55,472,300. The significance of these figures is understood by a comparison with the figures for 1896, which show that the increase in the United States was only \$3,000,000, while the Transvaal made a jump of no less than \$13,500,000. If the Transvaal keeps up anything like this pace during the present year, there is little doubt that we shall be left behind in the gold-producing race. It is not impossible, indeed, that the United States may drop to the third place before long. Australia is increasing her production of gold rapidly. Her total last year was more than \$49,000,000, and this without counting New Zealand and other adjacent islands. This shows a gain of nearly \$7,000,000 over the yield of 1896; so it will be seen that if Australia continues to gain at the same rate and the United States makes no more progress than it has in the last twelve months, there will be two countries in the world with a better gold-producing record than ours.

Most of the appliances of modern civilization brings risks as well as advantages. The people who lived a hundred years ago could not travel so rapidly nor communicate with each other across great distances so conveniently as we do; but on the other hand, they were strangers to some perils which are familiar nowadays. Their journeys were slow and serious affairs; but they were in no danger of being blown up on a steamboat, or tumbled over a railway embankment, or even of being run over by a trolley-car or a "scorching" wheelman. Their houses were not lighted by electricity or by water gas; but they were not burned up by reason of badly insulated wires or asphyxiated in their beds. They knew nothing of fifteen-story buildings, but they also knew nothing of elevator accidents. portion to the number of people traveling, than was the case a century ago. Hundreds of people travel by water now where one did so then; but ocean travel has been made relatively more safe as well as more swift and comfortable, by modern appliances. There are still possibilities of collision or of striking a reef in a fog, but it almost never happens that a modern seaworthy vessel founders through stress of weather. One steamship company which has sent its steamers back and forth across the Atlantic for more than fifty years is able to boast that it has never lost the life of a passenger in the service. As to the railways, in 1896 one hundred and eight-one passengers were killed on the railways of the United States, and nearly twenty-nine hundred were injured. When these figures are compared with the amount of passenger traffic, it appears that the railways carried nearly three million passengers for every one who was killed, and about one hundred and eighty thousand passengers for every passenger injured. A famous humorist once compared the number of people killed in railway accidents with the number dying in their beds, and reached the conclusion that it was several thousand times more risky to lie in bed than to travel on a railway. It was a playful exaggeration; but it is true have resulted in new hazards to human life, they have also supplied new safeguards and preventives.

Appendicitis.

The position is taken by Dr. McBurney, in the London Medical News, that there really is no medical cure for appendicitis, even though some cases recover without operation; he considers, too, though appendicitis is a surgical disease, yet operation may not be necessary in every case, the fact being that this ailment is a stoppage of the drainage from the appendix to the coion, and preliminary treatment is often worse than useless. Thus, the opium treatment relieves pain and discomfort. but entirely masks the symptoms at a most important time, for it is in the first twenty-four hours from the beginning of the attack that physicians can decide not only as to the diagnosis, but as to the result and course probably of the case. If, for instance, there is no increase in urgency in five or six hours, the patient is not in immediate danger if kept at perfect rest in bed; on the other hand, if in twelve hours there is still no increase in the severity of the symptoms, the patient should begin to improve. But, if the urgency of the case has steadily increased in twelve hours from the time when the diagnosis was made, an operation will probably be called for. After two attacks a patient is sure to have a third, and each attack renders operation more difficult and dangerous; all the advantages lie with operation between the attacks, and in an operation during an acute attack the prognosis is worse.

Building Associations of the Land. The 4,776 building associations in the United States have 1.610,300 members and assets of \$600,000,000.

A tough beefsteak is a cure sure for its own consumption.

Living up to ideals is like doing every day work with your Sunday clothes on.

CAPTAIN C. D. SIGSBEE, BRAVE AND COOL-HEADED COMMANDER OF THE MAINE.



APT. CHARLES D. SIGSBEE'S home-or rather the home of his of family, for a navy officer has no home but his ship-is in a pleasant little house in Riggs place, Washington, D. C. Sigsbee married a daughter of Gen. Lockwood shortly after the close of the war. and they have three children. The eldest daughter was married a short time ago to Ensign Kittelle of the navy, who is stationed on the dispatch boat Dolphin, The home life of the Sigsbees always has been exceedingly pleasant, the captain himself having had several pleasant assignments in Washington, where he has been a figure of note. Mrs. Sigsbee comes of military stock and is used to the alarms of war. Her house at Washington is the rendezvous for naval officers at the cap-

ital, by whom she is highly esteemed. Of medium height, with broad shoulders, a spare frame, and hair and mustache just beginning to turn gray, Capt. Sigsbee looks like a man capable of coping with almost every difficulty which might arise in the service. In fact, his experience in almost every branch of the navy has fitted him for emergencies. Born in Albany, Oxford County, Me., 52 years ago, he moved to New York and was appointed as a cadet in the naval academy from that State in 1859. After being graduated in 1863 he was appointed ensign and stationed on the Monongahela. where he remained a year. Then he was sent to the old Brooklyn, and took a gallant part in the battle of Mobile Bay under Farragut in 1864.

Washington, D.G.

Mane blomi up in Horana Rarbor at

mue forty to night and destroyed. Many

wounded and doubtless more killed are drowned Nominder and others on broad francish man Lead Light Homse Tenders from Key Wish_ of splant of a proposed for crew and the few preces of a performant about water. More have clothing ather than that upon him Passis Openion Should be surfected until Passis Report - all Offices believed to further report - all Offices believed to be sovered. Jentino and herrate with yet accounted for the sound of primer before the promote of female Many Spound of Jaimer meluding representations general Blanco how. Init are to appreciate fundations

FACSIMILE OF SIGSBEE'S FAMOUS DISPATCH.

Sigsbee's work during the war was noticeable for its efficiency, and he did not have to wait long for promotion. He was made a lieutenant in 1867 and assigned to the steamer Ashuelot in the Asiatic squadron. He was promoted to be a lieutenant commander in 1868, a commander in 1882, and has been a captain for several years. He has passed several years at the naval academy, and has been connected with the hydrographic department in Washington. From 1875 to 1879 he was in charge of the coast survey steamer Blake, which thoroughly explored the Gulf of Mexico. While on the Blake Capt. Sigsbee invented a system of deep sea soundings which has since been adopted by all marine men. He also invented a gravitation trap which would bring up water from any certain depth required. Capt. Sigsbee had two years' experience on the European station in command of the old Kearsarge.

It was only a short time ago the Maine was on her way back to Tompkinsville from a cruise in Long Island Sound, When about opposite pier 42, East River, she came suddenly into a kind of pocket formed by a Mallory Line steamer, a tug with two railroad floats of freight cars, and two excursion boats-the Isabella and the Chancellor-both crowded to the rails with passengers. The Maine, forced out of her course, was bearing down directly on the Isabella, whose pilot had either misunderstood or disregarded the signals. At this crisis Capt. Sigsbee took personal command of his vessel, and instantly ordered the engines reversed and the wheel put hard-a-port. The great warship came about with a celerity that astonished all beholders and headed directly in shore, while the Isabella, with her load of passengers, passed by in safety, scarcely four feet clear of the ironclad's stern. Then the Maine ran bow on into the pier, sunk two railroad floats with twenty cars on board, jammed the plates of her bow, and in less than ten minutes had damaged property worth thousands of dollars, but the thousand lives on the excursion boats were saved. The Navy Department was pleased at this action and the captain was complimented in a personal letter by the Secretary of the Navy.

That Capt. Sigsbee is a fearless man in the discharge of his duty is shown by his conduct during the war and his coolness in averting a collision in the East river. Personally, also, he has the great quality of bravery. During the war he was on duty with the North Atlantic blockading squadron. One day a midshipman fell overboard. The sea was heavy, and the Monongahela was traveling along at a good speed. As the cry of "man overboard" reached his ears Sigsbee seized the end of a piece of rope and plunged into the sea. A few strokes bzrought him to the midshipman, who was hurt by his fall and unable to swim. Sigsbee manfully clung to the rope and held the boy's head above water until the pair were rescued by a boat.

Capt. Sigsbee would be a rich man did he not belong to the navy. Inventions made by naval officers are considered to be the property of the United States. His scheme, devised in the Gulf of Mexico, for deep sea soundings, and his gravitation trap for bringing up water from any required depth have proved of great value to mariners all over the world. Had he been able to take out patents on them in his own name his royalties would have been immense. Take him for all in all, he is not only a good naval officer, but a cool, shrewd man, and is popular among his fellows.

WINTER IN HOLLAND.

Cold Winter Fun in a Country Where Skaters Abound,

In Holland the fun of winter life takes many forms, and winter facilitates locomotion as the highways of summer available for boats become the best thoroughfares for those who skate. In this way, directly the ice bears, visits are made and distances traveled which cannot be done in summer; and, instead of going round and round as we do here on a small confined space, by the light. There are about forty rough, or the appetite of the fish has the Dutch make up a party and pay a visit to some neighboring town or vil- great value by the possessor. He has up-stream. You have the same experilage. A bright winter's morning is al- also some cloth from the coffin, a medal ence every day, for these guides are when cheerful company, free exercise, minor souvenirs from the island of St. flutter of joyful anticipation 'hrough variety of character, and constant Helena. change of scene all tend to make the day as a red letter one. Should the frost be sufficiently severe, a river is most interesting, being on a large scale Gilder once owned. He kept it in his and partaking more of the character of a fair, which is the case, for instance, on the Maas, at Rotterdam.

The Maas runs very strongly, and the difficulty is for the first coating of thing in the case?" es the still water during the night, then "once begun, soon done," and the crews | now-I blew it out." who turn into their berths at night, wake up in the morning to find themselves frozen in. The canals naturally tury. soon freeze over, and the boat traffic is supplanted by baggage sledges, large and small. Near dwelling houses are

seen little box-sledges for the children. These are the same as the seventeenth century contrivances-the child, sits with just room for its feet, and, with stick in each hand, pushes astern and propels itself ahead. The adult sledges are in some cases simply gorgeous, as the opportunity affords great body, the driver perched at the back, as on the tail, the sweeping-irons following the curve of the swan's neck; over these run the reins. One horse generally constitutes the team.

A Lock of Napoleon's Hair.

his old nurse stole to his side and astonish your friends. clipped from his head a lock of hair.

strands in all. The relic is held at a been taken in their desire to get further ways exhilarating; how much more so given by Napoleon and some other wiser than serpents and keep you in a

is a single hair that Richard Watson | side of the lake. to get it he asked: "Did you find any- the gamy beauties in one afternoon.

was a hair in there, but it is all righ

"You blew out a piece of Napoleon

WILES OF THE GUIDE.

Somehow the Best Fishing Grounds Are Always on the Other Side.

trolley lines, and hooks. He is prelunge to minnows.

nurse and attendant, being now in the miles have to be traversed. He will times gain 15 to 20 ounces a day.

possession of Prof. Bagley, of Abilene, take you to the favorite haunts of the Kan. He is a native of the island of | gamy black bass. Incidentally he will St. Helena, and his mother was one of see that you get a few big fish weighthe intimates of the guardians of Na- ing from fifteen to twenty pounds each, poleon. When the Emperor lay dying that you may take them home and

"What you really get is some pickerel Part of the lock she gave to Mr. Bag- and perch, possibly a couple of wallley's mother and she gave it to her son. | eyed pike, a few rock bass, and some It is kept in a bottle and is black and sun fish. There is always an explanagray, with a trace of brown. For forty | tion for this vast discrepancy between years the bottle has been kept in a dark | hope and realization. They day is too room, that the hair may not be injured | bright; it's too windy; the lake's too an entire season. Figure it up and The only other portion of the body of | you'll find that most of your money is Napoloon known to be on this continent | spent in going to and fro from the other

"Last season I dissected some bass watch case. When the watch was re- that I bought, found that they were paired he forgot to tell the jeweler of feeding on crawfish, hunted out the the precious contents. When he went rock bottom in the lake, and took 15 of The guides acted just as though I had ice to form. When a severe frost catch- "Yes," replied the workman, "there jumped a gold claim of theirs, but I authorities a map of Havana harbor, kept quiet and caught bass while the guides kept taking the other fellows across the lake in the morning and back Bonaparte," said the editor of the Cen- at night. Just to make the whole thing plain, prospect till you find out where the fish are and then go after them."-Detroit Free Press.

A Day's Variance in Weight.

Being a scientific fisherman, he is an of weighing yourself in the morning and oracle on all matters pertaining to pis- again in the evening? It is ene of the catorial pastimes. He carries three best ways, so doctors say, of finding tackle-boxes and every tray is full. He | whether your health is good or not. If has the finest rods, reels, flies, spoons, you are thoroughly well there should not be a difference of more than two or pared to take anything from muskel- three ounces either way in the tweive hours. If you lose or gain as much at "One thing I want to tell you," he eight ounces you should immediately said to the comparative novice: "At all | consult a doctor, while the gain or loss these island lakes the fishing is on the of a pound indicates you are on the other side. Stop off at any resort, hire | verge of serious illness. This, of course. a guide, tell him you want the best does not apply to one just recovering A unique souvenir of the great Napo- there is, and it's 99 to 1 he'll pull for from illness, for convalescents who leon is kept in the family of his old the other shore, no matter how many have been much reduced may some



After a debate lasting several days the Senate on Friday passed the bill extending the homestend laws and providing for right of way for railroads in the district of Alaska. Comparatively little discussion of general interest was created by the bill. Section 13, providing for certain bonding concessions to Canada in lieu of privileges to be extended by the Dominion Government to this country, however, induced a pretty lively debate, as it brought into the controversy the old fisheries question on the New England coast, which has been pending between the United States and Great Britain for 100 years. Two more appropriations were sent to the President Friday, the pension bill and the consular and diplomatic, both of which went through their final stage in the House. It was private bill day. The most important action taken was acquiescence in an agreement to make the bill appropriating about \$1,200,000 for war claims approved by the court of claims under the provisions of the Bowman act a special order for the next Friday. The claims carried by the bill, 730 in number, are for stores and supplies seized during the war in the Southern States. Only two bills were passed, one to pay the heirs of Sterling T. Austin about \$59,000 for cotton seized during the war, and the other to pay an aggregate of \$3,360 in small claims growing out of back pay, etc., earned during the war. The House adjourned until Monday.

In the House on Monday the Hawley bill providing for two additional regiments . of artillery was passed under suspension of the rules by almost unanimous vote. Mr. Bailey, the Democratic leader, wanted more time for debate than the forty minutes allowed, and because he did not get it he inaugurated a filibuster against District of Columbia legislation that continued all day. In the Senate the session was devoted to consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. At the hour of adjournment the bill had not been disposed of.

The District of Columbia appropriation bill, containing a provision for the reduction of about one-half of the present rates of telephone charges in the district was passed by the Senate on Tuesday. A bill to authorize the relocation and rebuilding of a pontoon bridge across the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, Wis., was passed. The pill for the relief of the Methodist Episcopal Church South of Tennessee, appropriating \$288,000, was passed. In the House the bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for defense passed unani-

In the House on Wednesday the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill went through its last stages in the adoption of the financial conference report. The remainder of the day was consumed in consideration of the Senateamendments to the Indian appropriation bill. The substitute for the Senate provision regarding the opening of the Uncompangre reservation was knocked out on a point of order, and the amendment goes back to conference. The desire of the conferees to non-concur in the Senate free homestead clause encountered bitter opposition, and an arrangement was made whereby four hours are to be devoted to debate a proposition to concur submitted by Mr. Eddy of Minnesota. Mr. Sherman, chairman of the Indian Committee. declared that the free homestead provision would cost the Government \$56,000,-000. He desires to eliminate it from the bill, and has the support of the Secretary of the Interior. In the Senate the \$50,-000,000 defense bill was passed by a unanimous vote. Hawaiian annexation was considered in executive session.

In the House all day Thursday was spent on the Indian appropriation bill. The Senate amendments were non-concurred in and the bill sent to conference. In the Senate no business of real importance was transacted in open session. The session lasted only an hour, the time being largely consumed in disposing of routine morning business. A few bills of minor importance were passed.

News of Minor Note. According to the latest figures, China owes her creditors \$193,525,000.

Gen. W. B. Taliaferro, who was commander of the Virginia troops during John Brown's raid, is dead.

Four hundred patients have died of starvation in one Havana hospital during the past two months. Mayor Good of Springfield, O., has been

ousted by the Circuit Court for violations of the Garfield corrupt practice law. The body of ex-Commissioner Leonard

R. Wells of Brooklyn has been found in the woods near Plainfield, N. J., with a horrible gash in his throat.

Miss Frances E. Willard bequeathed her estate to the Temple fund, after the life interests of her secretary and her sister-in-law have expired.

Half the party organized by Miss Mary M. Board at New Brunswick, N. J., to found a temperance colony in Alaska

started for their destination. The report that a Spanish naval officer some time ago sold to the Washington

showing submarine mines, is not credited. A 7-foot granite monument in the Upper Hartz, Germany, has an iron tablet inscribed: "Here in the year 1847 the first trials were made with the cultivation of

the potato." A cablegram to London from Shanghai. China, says the United States Asiaticsquadron is concentrated at Hong-Kong. Have you ever tried this experiment with a view to active operations against Manilla, Philippine Islands, in the event

of war with Spain. A Paris newspaper expresses a hopethat "a European statesman will be found to intervene, with a view of the maintenance of peace between the United States

and Spain." The navies of the world are now rated as follows: Great Britain, 1; France, 2: Russia, 3; Italy, 4; United States, 5; Germany, 6; Spain, 7; Japan, 8; Austria, 9, and Netherlands, 10.

The smokestack of the Government assay office in Wall street, New York, has lately been cleaned, and the sweepings smelted and refined, yielding 52 standard ounces of gold and 800 ounces of silver.