

CURRENT COMMENT.

The number of Protestant missionaries at work in Japan is given by the New York Observer at 680.

There are 900 Christian churches in Japan, as over against 70,000 Buddhist temples and 56,000 Shinto shrines.

The question is asked, "Does football make young men bowlegged?" Perhaps not, but it makes them broken-legged.

Less than for per cent. of the Colombians can read, and they've had 400 years in which to establish public schools.

Winnipeg publishes statistics to show that it has more hours of sunshine than any other city in Canada. It needs it.

Carrie Nation has just purchased a ton of hatchets. The hardware trade does not altogether share in the general condemnation of Carrie.

Henry Clay is spilling in Philadelphia for a vacant seat in congress. Mr. Clay's name at present graces the payroll of the Philadelphia city council.

A wireless trolley car and one that requires no "third" rail, has been constructed. Gradually invention will reach a point where it will not make the surface of the earth uglier.

France is to occupy Siam. The division of Asia goes forward apace. Russia has Manchuria, England is taking Tibet, Korea is awarded to Japan, but where does Germany come in?

They are printing everything that those young demoniac Chicago carbarn murderers say and do; so that they can instigate a fresh gang of youthful lunatics to similar deeds, perhaps.

We laugh at the bloviating self-glorification and gush of some Spanish-American nations, but we used to be nearly as bad in the first half of the nineteenth century. We know more now.

Report has it that a company has been formed to build a \$1,000,000 temple in Los Angeles, Cal., for Robert J. Burdette, the humorist and lecturer, now the pastor of the Baptist church in that city.

Last year the British mercantile marine reported 1,483 casualties, of which 348 were complete wrecks. The total loss of life was 5,318, 103 less than the preceding 12 months and 1,649 less than the year before that. In the last 25 years the British marine has lost 6,221 ships, with a total loss of 41,267 persons.

Possibly the only child in the United States who can boast of a great-great-great-grandmother is David Ross Chambers, aged two, who resides with his parents at Bushnell, Ill. This grandmother, thrice removed, is Mrs. Nancy G. Bond, of Warren county, Ill., and who is now in the ninety-seventh year of her age.

The Frisco railroad is now handling business from Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis to the gulf. An arrangement has been completed with the Southern railway for the use of the tracks of the Mobile & Ohio and the New Orleans & Northwestern to reach the joint terminals of the Frisco line and the Southern line at New Orleans.

A feather bed, which once belonged to George Washington, is offered as a world's fair exhibit by Lee Larmer, of Osawatimie, Kan. He says he can give a complete history of how the feather bed came into his possession from that of Gen. Washington. This calls to mind the story that near Paris is a factory that runs night and day turning out chairs that Napoleon sat on while confined at St. Helena.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow intimates that various congressmen have been beneficiaries of the reckless lawlessness of deposed post office officials, but that none of them are to be imputed with motives other than pure and patriotic. When they got allowances for post offices arbitrarily raised for their constituents they were simply proceeding on the theory of asking all they could get and getting everything in sight.

At a club meeting at Olathe, Kan., Mrs. T. L. Hogue read a paper on proper literature for children. She advocated reading to them history and newspapers. She said: "The Jewish mother was required, I have read, to repeat the story of Israel's deliverance to her children and they in turn to theirs. Does anyone doubt the effect of this upon the vitality of that people? So every American parent should feel it their duty to tell the children the story of their country, the names of its heroes."

THE JAIL BESIEGED.

The Door of the Council Bluffs Prison Battered Down.

A Mob Wanted to Lynch Two Colored Men Charged with Assaulting Two Women, But Congressman Smith Gets the Crowd to Disperse.

Council Bluffs, Ia., Dec. 29.—An attempt was made last night to lynch George Williams and Neely Zimmerman, two colored men, charged with having committed an assault upon Mesdames Sanders and Stark last Friday night. The men were in court yesterday, where they were identified by the women, after which they were held to the grand jury that convenes next week. Last night a mob of 500 people, men and boys, gathered about the jail where they were confined and demanded that they be turned over by the officers. The demand was refused. Until midnight the mob increased in numbers until there were at least 1,000 men yelling and battering at the jail doors with clubs. Several times the police charged the mob, but they were unable to break it up. Just after midnight, armed with a bar of railroad iron, a dozen men commenced battering at the jail door. A dozen blows shattered it and a yell went up from the crowd. Congressman Smith, who arrived just at this time, managed to secure the attention of George Sanders, husband of one of the women assaulted, and urged him to go home and let the law take its course. Sanders listened and then started for home. Congressman Smith mounted the courthouse steps and urged the members of the mob to disperse, telling them that Sanders had already gone. This had the desired effect and inside of half an hour the courthouse grounds were deserted. The militia had been called out, but the crowd had disappeared before they appeared on the scene.

EVICIONS CAUSING TROUBLE.

Striking Miners and Their Families Being Compelled to Vacate Company Houses—Fins Attack the Guards.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 29.—A special to the Tribune from Winterquarters, Utah, says that the timely arrival of soldiers prevented serious trouble between striking miners and a number of company guards who were evicting families from company houses. The unmarried strikers submitted quietly to eviction, but when the company guards attempted to force the married men to leave their homes they were attacked and routed by 150 angry Fins who stood watching the evictions. The arrival of the soldiers quelled the disturbance. Twenty of the company guards were badly beaten. The evictions will continue until the end of the year.

"Up to Date" Church Service.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 29.—A play has been produced in the Trinity German Lutheran church here. It took the place of the usual Sunday night sermon and was written, staged and produced by the minister in charge of the church. The tone of the drama, which was in German, was highly religious. Announcement of the unusual event had attracted wide attention in church circles and the admission fees paid by an audience which packed the edifice will be used in aid of the poor.

Final Government Crop Estimates.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The final government report on the grain production of 1903, issued yesterday afternoon, makes the wheat crop 637,700,000 bushels, the corn 2,244,100,000 bushels and the oats 784,000,000 bushels. The preliminary estimate of the yield per acre made the wheat crop 658,000,000 bushels, the corn 2,313,000,000 bushels and the oats 787,000,000 bushels.

Kratz to Be Surrendered by Mexico.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 29.—Charles Kratz, the St. Louis alleged boodler, will be taken to St. Louis for trial. Mexico has granted his extradition to the United States. Gov. Dockery yesterday afternoon received a telegram from the department of state at Washington to that effect. St. Louis issued an order yesterday for the chief of detectives, Mr. Desmond, to return to Mexico and secure Charles Kratz.

Want the Missouri's Banks Protected.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 29.—Representative citizens from towns along the Missouri river between Omaha and 500 miles north met here yesterday and adopted resolutions urging congress to take steps to protect the banks of the stream to prevent further encroachment. Resolutions were adopted and a committee appointed to present it to the senate and house of representatives.

Spoke and Translated Many Languages.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Col. Henry L. Thomas, for 34 years translator in the state department, died Monday aged 68 years, of pneumonia. Mr. Thomas was a man of exceptional ability. He spoke and translated French, Spanish, Italian, German, Norwegian, Danish, Dutch, Portuguese, Hebrew, Arabic and Greek.

DEFIED THE MILITIA.

Ex-Congressman John M. Glover Besieged in His Office at Cripple Creek by a Squad of Troops.

Cripple Creek, Col., Dec. 29.—Considerable excitement was occasioned here yesterday by the action of Attorney John M. Glover, formerly a congressman from Missouri, in defying the military, barricading himself in his office and only surrendering after receiving a bullet wound in the arm. Col. Verdeckberg, commanding the militia forces in the district, yesterday received a letter from Mr. Glover, denying the legality of the recent order for the surrender of arms by the citizens of the district. In his letter Glover referred to Gov. Peabody as "a cheap anarchist." He declared that he had two guns in his office and defied the military to take them from him. Col. Verdeckberg at once dispatched Maj. Naylor with a squad to capture the attorney and his weapons. The lawyer's office was found barricaded and Glover appeared with a revolver, declaring that he would shoot the first man who attempted to break down the door. The place was surrounded by troops and orders were given to shoot the man if he appeared with his gun again. Later Glover appeared and several shots were exchanged, the attorney being wounded in the arm, after which he was captured.

SHEEP SHEDS BURNED.

Seven Thousand Animals Cooked in Their Fleeces by a Fire at the East Buffalo Stock Yards.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Seven thousand sheep were burned to death at the East Buffalo stock yards last night. The long sheds in which they were confined were swept by the flames before any of the animals could be released. The loss is estimated at \$75,000. It was stated by Superintendent Leigh that the fire would in no way interfere with the handling of live stock here. Plenty of space is available in the cattle and hog sheds to house the sheep arrivals. The sheep were confined in two long sheds, 100 feet in width, covering a total area of 600,000 square feet. Running parallel with them were the hog and cattle sheds. The fire, fanned by a brisk wind, destroyed the two buildings in an incredibly short time. The sheep destroyed were "exports" and were in charge of federal officers.

Cotton Prices Boom at New Orleans.

New Orleans, Dec. 29.—An immense volume of business was done in the cotton market yesterday, with prices from 28 to 57 points higher than the close of Thursday. Profit taking was enormous, but had little effect on prices. The demand from all quarters was strong and the market bulled itself. Little or no support was offered by the prominent longs, and, in a measure, they checked the advance. With a little support from the long side prices could easily have been pushed to the 15-cent mark.

Cruiser Dixie Starts for Colon.

Philadelphia, Dec. 29.—The auxiliary cruiser Dixie sailed from the League Island navy yard Monday en route for Colon, carrying 600 marines and five months living and fighting supplies for 1,000 men. Six companies of marines divided into two battalions sailed on the Dixie. Company A is composed of men from Boston, company B, Washington, company C, Annapolis, company D, Philadelphia and companies E and F Brooklyn.

Of Interest to Cigar Tax Guessers.

Washington, Dec. 29.—In view of the fact that many thousands of people in all parts of the country are interested in the result of a guessing contest as to the number of cigar tax paid in November the internal revenue bureau asks that public announcement be made of the number of cigar tax paid at \$3 per 1,000 during November, 1903, the number is officially stated to have been 578,157,470.

Bryan Not a Socialist.

The Hague, Dec. 29.—Wm. J. Bryan arrived here from Berlin and visited the foreign minister. Mr. Bryan is enjoying his tour. He said he found Count Tolstol looking well though very aged. Tolstol's first question was: "Are you a socialist?" When assured to the contrary, the count said: "I am very glad to hear it. I am not a socialist myself."

Rushing Supplies to San Francisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Nearly a trainload of army supplies, hospital tents and blankets have arrived here under rush orders, having been expressed by the government from Omaha to the superintendent of the transport service in this city. The consignment had been carried on the fastest trains through the west.

Will Select Place for State Convention.

Topeka, Dec. 29.—Chairman Albaugh has issued a call for the republican state committee to meet in Topeka Tuesday evening, January 5. At this gathering the time and place for the state convention will be selected. Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson and Fort Scott are after the convention, which will probably be held early in March.

DISASTROUS WRECK.

Two Passenger Trains Come Together on the Pere Marquette Road.

The Dead at Present Number Twenty-Two with Thirty-Eight Other Persons Injured. Several of Whom Will Probably Die.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 28.—The death list resulting from the head-on collision between two Pere Marquette railroad passenger trains near East Paris Saturday evening stands at 22 with 38 persons injured, several of them probably fatally. It was the most disastrous wreck in the history of the Pere Marquette system and, instead of being caused by man's carelessness or mistake, is charged to the high wind which extinguished the red signal light in the "order" board at McCord's station, where the westbound train was expected to stop and receive new orders. Two minutes before the train rushed by McCord's the light was burning, says the operator there, but in that brief interval the blizzard that was raging extinguished it, and train No. 5 flashed by the station to crash into eastbound train No. 6, near East Paris. The trains, which were two of the finest on the system, were reduced to a promiscuous pile of broken and twisted timber and metal, with dead and injured pinned down and crushed by the fragments of the heavy cars.

When train No. 5, bound west, whizzed by McCord's instead of stopping, the frightened operator notified the dispatcher, then found that his red signal light had been extinguished. He reported this fact and then there was but one action to take. The collision was inevitable. The dispatcher's office called for medical aid and gave orders to hold the train over the Saginaw branch at the depot and get the wrecking outfit under steam. They then waited for the word they knew must come. There was no chance of the fast-running trains to see each other through the driving blizzard in time even to slow down and in a few minutes word came from the conductor of No. 5 that they had crashed together and that there was an awful loss of life.

As the trains came together the steam domes of each boiler blew off, releasing their contents, else there would have been added horrors from the blistering steam. No. 6, eastbound, was composed of a mail and baggage car, combination smoker, buffet parlor car, day coach and diner. The baggage car caught between the engine and heavy train, crumpled up like pasteboard, only the roof remaining partially unbroken. The big blind mail coach, heavily bulkheaded, took the brunt of the blow, but withstood the crash and communicated it to the smoker next in the rear. The smoker was swept clean as the mail car telescoped its entire length and turned over at the north side of the track. The smoker in turn crashed several feet into the parlor car and it was at the rear end of the smoker and forward end of the cafe car where the passengers were killed and injured. From a space six feet square the bodies of two women, a boy and a man were taken out. The westbound flyer with its heavy bulkhead cars stayed on the rails, back of the baggage and mail cars, and the passengers in this train escaped serious injury. As one man they rushed out of the train to assist the less fortunate ones on the train from this city.

DIAZ HURRIES THE CASE.

President of Mexico Responds to a United States Request That Ex-Alderman Kratz Be Extradited.

City of Mexico, Dec. 27.—The department of foreign relations has informed Judge Rojas, of the Guadalajara district court, that President Diaz, acting upon the request of the American ambassador and upon hearing the evidence submitted in the case, had conceded to the United States authorities the extradition of Charles Kratz. The department further advised the judge to expect at an early hour a formal order to turn the prisoner over to the United States officers awaiting the decision of the case at Guadalajara. Kratz, who is a former member of the St. Louis city council, is wanted in that city for trial on a charge of bribery in connection with street car franchise legislation.

Another Big Fire at Troy.

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 28.—Troy's fifth big fire within a few weeks' time broke out yesterday in the business portion of the city and did damage to the extent of \$200,000. The flames originated in the bake room of A. W. Hollister's wholesale and retail grocery on River street and spread to Fitzpatrick & Draper's tobacco factory and the Troy Furniture company building. All three buildings were totally destroyed.

Discriminates in Favor of Veterans.

Washington, Dec. 27.—President Roosevelt has quietly permitted the heads of some of the departments in Washington to deviate from the recommendations and wishes of the civil service commission as to the appointment of old soldiers as laborers.

Calendar for 1904

Calendar for 1904 showing days of the week and dates for each month from January to December.

An English Earl's Opinion.

The English, next to the Americans, are the greatest travelers in the world, and while they as a rule insist upon having the best there is to be obtained, they appreciate good service and beautiful scenery.

"Our stay in New York was a delightful one, and the picturesque grandeur along the Hudson and its surroundings was a source of much joy to us all."

Should Have Known Better.

"That was an unlucky thing for Peck, the engine driver," said the guard. "They gave him one of them new engines yesterday, and he named it after his wife."

To responsible men, we will give territory covering two counties, furnish all goods without charge, pay all expenses. You must have a good team and wagon. It is a good and permanent business.

The right way to gather good is to scatter it.—Richter.



Mrs. Fairbanks tells how neglect of warning symptoms will soon prostrate a woman. She thinks woman's safeguard is Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Ignorance and neglect are the cause of untold female suffering, not only with the laws of health but with the chance of a cure. I did not heed the warnings of Leadaches, organic pains, and general weariness, until I was well nigh prostrated. I knew I had to do something. Happily I did the right thing. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound faithfully, according to directions, and was rewarded in a few weeks to find that my aches and pains disappeared, and I again felt the glow of health through my body. Since I have been well I have been more careful. I have also advised a number of my sick friends to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and they have never had reason to be sorry. Yours very truly, Mrs. MARY FAIRBANKS, 216 South 7th St., Minneapolis, Minn." (Mrs. Fairbanks is one of the most successful and highest salaried travelling saleswomen in the West.)—\$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.