

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The Santa Fe has adopted a system of service pensions.

Fifty thousand Christmas postal cards were mailed to Japan from Honolulu.

The district court at St. Paul has ordered the Great Northern to show cause why a temporary injunction should not be granted restraining the proposed issue of \$60,000,000 of stock.

W. E. Corey, president of the United States Steel corporation, has reached Paris, and it is denied that he intends to marry Mabelle Gilman during his present visit to Europe.

President Penna of Brazil, has authorized a municipal loan for Rio Janeiro of \$50,000,000, and it is rumored that the mayor of the city will try to float the loan in New York.

Efforts are being made by the cotton growers of the South to have the Postoffice department issue a fraud order against the New York Cotton exchange and forbid it the use of the mails.

Announcement is made by the State Department that the United States will co-operate with England in any movement looking to the amelioration of conditions affecting life and liberty in the Congo Free State.

Under an agreement which became operative January 1, all private rebates to shippers are abolished by all the railroads in the United Kingdom, and any company giving rebates to secure traffic is liable to a heavy fine.

Five persons have been frozen to death in the vicinity of Thron, West Prussia, and other deaths from cold are reported from various parts of the country, where the temperature ranges from 5 to 10 degrees below zero.

It is stated that according to the definition of the immigration law, the Japanese of Berkeley, Cal., who issued the revolutionary paper containing a veiled threat against the president are anarchists and, as such, are subject to deportation.

A New Year's gift of nearly 3 million dollars was made by John D. Rockefeller to the University of Chicago. This is the largest gift of Mr. Rockefeller's to the institution and brings his total benefactions to the university up to \$19,416,922.

The Cuban situation darkens and it is predicted in high circles at Washington that war is the only solution. The Cuban people are well aware that another United States intervention will mean a protectorate. Secretary Taft's statement that another outbreak would cause a permanent occupation was clearly understood.

Announcement is made that James J. Hill, official head of the Great Northern Pacific, the Burlington and the Canadian Pacific railroads, will retire from the active management next July. The announcement comes from Mr. Hill himself. His successor will be his eldest son, Louis J. Hill, first vice president of the Great Northern.

Crased by jealousy, Mrs. Lucy Shannon shot and probably mortally wounded her husband, Leonard Shannon, in Maryville, Ill., and then attempted to take her own life by jumping into a well. Paul Shannon, her brother-in-law intercepted her and she turned and attacked him so vigorously that he was compelled to beat her into insensibility.

Nicholas Shishkoff, who was one of the trustees of the American famine fund of February, 1891, has sent to London, accompanied by an appeal for funds, an account of the awful famine conditions in Russia. "Fifteen years ago," says Mr. Shishkoff, "when the famine was less serious we had 4 million dollars, now we have only 1-2 million dollars." M. Shishkoff estimates that about 30 million peasants will need assistance.



We knew it would happen.

Judge Walter Evans in the federal court at Louisville declared the employers' liability act unconstitutional. The decision was given in the case of the administratrix of N. C. Brooks against the Southern Pacific railroad and is believed to be the first handed down in connection with this act. Judge Evans said that careful investigation had convinced him that "the act of June 11, 1906, only creates and imposes a liability upon certain common carriers to their employees and in no way prescribes rules for carrying on traffic or commerce among the states and consequently in no way regulates such commerce. If the operation of the act could in any way affect commerce among the states it would do so in a manner so remote, incidental and contingent as in no proper sense to afford a factor of any value in determining the question of the case in contention." What is known as the employers' liability act was regarded as second in importance only to the railroad legislation of the last session. It attracted little attention because of the greater popular interest in the rate bill. There was practically no discussion in Congress regarding the merits of the bill, which was recommended by the President in his message and urged by labor unions. No sooner had the bill passed the senate than the railroad lawyers throughout the country began to prepare to attack it in the courts. It revolutionized all judicial procedure in railroad damage cases where employees were concerned, giving federal instead of state court jurisdiction and making railroad companies responsible for damages through neglect of any fellow servant.

Sen. Beveridge is particularly vigorous in denouncing child labor. "Nothing," he said, in speaking to a meeting of Nebraska teachers at Lincoln, "shows how greed forgets humanity as child labor. There is something wrong with a prosperity which is so immense that it finally comes to feed upon the lives of little children. Men

who make money by working infants are making too much money. There are, at a low estimate, half a million children under 14 at work in cotton mills, glass factories, sweat shops, mines and like industries. Those whom such toil does not kill are being ruined for citizenship. We are turning out, at a low estimate, 200,000 adult London 'hoiligans' every year; and these become in turn the parents of hundreds of thousands of other degenerates. And so this civic pestilence riots and spreads. It must be stopped—if not for the sake of these children themselves, then for our own sake; if not for the sake of common humanity, then for the republic's safety. For this republic is based on citizenship. We cannot sow the winds today without reaping the whirlwind tomorrow."

In the United States circuit court at St. Louis Judge Finkelberg issued an interlocutory decree in the case of the Missouri and Illinois Coal company of St. Louis, which operates mines in Illinois, ordering the Illinois Central railroad to furnish cars to the coal company. The decree enjoins the road from refusing to supply cars when the same shall be reasonably required, and from all discrimination in favor of the company's competitors, except under circumstances and conditions which, under the law, excuse the defendant company from supplying cars. The case was filed some time ago and was reviewed by a special master in chancery, James A. Seddon, who recommended the decree as issued.

Logan G. McPherson, assistant to the late Samuel Spencer, says a relative of his took dinner with the Rockefeller family recently when Mrs. Rockefeller said: 'We are very fond of oysters, but we cannot afford to have them. We are too poor.' You must understand that a man may be worth 100 million dollars or one billion, but he has to keep his factories and refineries going and may not have ready cash.



Some Things the Departing Old Year Leaves Behind Gladly.

KNOW THYSELF.

Some of the Wonders of the Human Body.

In the human body there are about 263 bones.

The muscles are about 500 in number.

The length of the alimentary canal is about 32 feet.

The amount of blood in an adult averages 30 pounds, or fully one-fifth of the entire weight.

The heart is about four inches in diameter and about six inches in length, beating 70 times a minute, 4,200 times an hour, 100,800 times a day and over 36,000,000 times a year. At each beat of the heart over 2 ounces of blood are thrown out of it, 180 ounces a minute, 600 pounds an hour and about 8 tons per day.

All the blood in the body passes through the heart in three minutes.

This little organ, by its ceaseless industry pumps each day what is equal to lifting 130 tons 1 foot high, or one ton 130 feet high.

The lungs contain about one gallon of air at their usual degree of inflation.

We breathe, on an average, 1,200 times an hour, inhale 600 gallons of air, or 34,000 quarts a day. The aggregate surface of the air cells of the lungs exceeds 20,000 square inches.

The average weight of the brain of an adult male is 3 pounds and 8 ounces; of a female 2 pounds and 4 ounces.

The skin is composed of three layers and varies from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch in thickness. Each square inch of skin contains 3,500 sweating tubes or perspiratory pores, each of which may be likened to a little drain pipe one-quarter of an inch long, making an aggregate length over the entire surface of the body of 201,166 feet, or a ditch for draining the body almost forty miles long.

The nerves probably exceed 10,000,000 in number.

The nerves and the nerve system are all connected by the spinal marrow, and, together with their branches and ramifications, form a body guard probably exceeding 10,000,000?

Effects of Weather.

Everybody probably feels that his or her mental condition depends to some extent upon the character of the weather. In gloomy weather we are, of course, apt to be depressed, and in fair weather exhilarated. When the atmosphere is stimulating the mental and physical atmosphere is stimulating the mental and physical energies are enhanced.

Starting from these generally recognized facts, a well-known scientist at Washington has made a study of the effects of the weather on human conduct, the results of which are rather surprising. He shows, by a system of tabulation, that misdemeanors involving violence, such as assaults, are more common in bright weather, and that the same is true of suicides. On the other hand, mental errors, such as mistakes in bank figures, are more common in damp, rainy weather.

The scientist's inference is that the excess of energy produced by a bracing condition of the air is responsible for more violence than is the "ugly temper" caused by bad weather, because the latter, while lowering the spirits, diminishes the activity of men.

Laughs Man Out of Court.

Testimony of a farmer introduced as a character witness in the federal court at Owensboro, Ky., last week, so aroused the risibility of the court that the defendant, accused of "bootlegging" whisky, was summarily dismissed. To every question the farmer replied, "Ran's all right."

Desperate efforts on the part of perspiring lawyers on both sides to elucidate any other information than that "Ran" was all right. Judge and spectators were convulsed with laughter. Finally, when District Attorney Durelle started to argue the case, Judge Evans said: "We will have no argument. I reckon 'Ran's all right.'" The court then instructed the jury to find for the defendant.

Ascum—You're a literary man, you say. Woodby—Oh, yes, I do considerable writing for the papers. Ascum—I never noticed your name—Woodby—Oh, no, I have several pen-names that I use; usually "Constant Reader" or "Pro Bono Publico" or "Old Subscriber."—Philadelphia Press.

Mr. Roosevelt and the Yams.

In the course of his very interesting description of the President's Panama trip, Mr. William Inglis, special correspondent for Harper's Weekly, who was with Mr. Roosevelt at Panama, recounts some amusing and characteristic incidents of the tour of observation.

The President and his party, in the course of a tour of inspection of the laborers' quarters, visited a cooking shed. The President asked them about the food they get at the commissary. They said it was good.

"Invariably—" began a tall, yellow man from Antigua, but the chattering crowd cut him off.

"Invariably—" he began again, but the conversation swept past him. He made a pet of the word and at intervals repeated it as a bittern in the quags repeats his boom, until at last Mr. Roosevelt halted him with, "Invariably what?"

"Invariably, sare, the commissary are bad," said the Antiguan, exulting in the sound of his own voice uttering big words.

"Ah! let's go look at it," the President cried. Off trooped the crowd of the commissary store, and the wordy yellow man under a fire of questions modified his "invariably" to the extent of declaring that sometimes the yams were bad. The storekeeper protested that if the bad yams were brought back he always gave good ones in their stead.

"Save you ever brought back bad yams to be exchanged?" the President asked.

"No, sare," replied the Antiguan with crushing dignity; "no, sare—I would not stoop so low."

The President smiled grimly at the idiocy of the Antiguan and hurried off to climb a slippery, muddy hill and inspect the quarters of the married laborers.

A Famous and Historic Almanac.

The Almanach de Gotha is more than an Almanac. It is an institution. Bravely arrayed in red and gold, it lies on the table of every diplomatist, is in constant request in the newspaper offices of all countries, and makes a wider and more international appeal than any other annual of reference in the world. It is to Europe what Burke and Debrett and the other Peerages are to the British Isles, and it is also the lineal ancestor and model of such topical encyclopedias as our "Whittaker," our "Hazel," and our "Statesman's Yearbook." A political and social history of the world for the last one hundred and fifty years could be written from its back numbers if these were readily accessible to students. But they are not. The Almanach de Gotha began to appear in 1763, but the purchasers did not file it for reference. The earliest numbers in the British Museum are those for 1774 and 1783; and a complete set can be consulted nowhere except in the editorial office in Frederick's Allee in the little Thuringian capital, whence the 141st issue was lately published. Probably not one in ten thousand of those who currently use the Almanac has any knowledge of its interesting history.

It had, of course, its predecessors. The bibliographies of Almanacs are ponderous tomes, and the middle of the eighteenth century was the golden age of this kind of literature. In Paris alone, as many as seventy-three Almanacs were published in the year 1760, including a Royal Almanac, an Almanac for Merchants, an Almanac for Freemasons, an Almanac of Beasts, an Almanac of Bandlages, etc., etc., etc. The city of Gotha itself had its own Almanac from a still earlier date, in the shape of an "Improved Gotha Genealogical and Writing Calendar," the origin of which is lost in the mist of antiquity, though a copy dated 1740 survives.—Francis Gribbon in Scribner.

Gave Kisses for Good Measure.

At Sandusky, Ohio, recently, Justice Carley of Milan, was relieved of the puzzling question of the relative value of turkeys, chickens and kisses, when James Dalzell, a poultry dealer, pleaded guilty to an assault charge, preferred by Mrs. Esther Norton, and was fined \$10.

Mrs. Norton who is pretty, claimed that Dalzell exchanged some of his turkeys for some of her chickens, and that he also gave her, against her will, several kisses as good measure.

The men of the village don't blame Dalzell.

Those who do not borrow do not have to pay interest.