

**CURRENT ITEMS.**

Sir William Pearce Holand, once postmaster general and finance minister under the upper and lower Canadian union and later lieutenant governor of Ontario, is dead. He was 96 years old.

With a blow of his fist, Charles Smith of East St. Louis killed D. F. Myers on the street. Then realizing what he had done, Smith escaped. Mrs. Smith told her husband that Myers had attempted to flirt with her on the street. This so angered Smith that he accosted Myers and struck him a swinging blow on the jaw. Myers dropped and never moved. His neck had been broken. Smith is 27 years old and Myers was 40.

As an appreciation of faithful service, 1,000 men employed by the Toledo Railway and Light company and the Maumee Valley Railways and Light company, including about 900 motormen and conductors, received a New Year's gift in the shape of a raise of wages. The increase was voluntary on the part of both companies. It affects all classes of employes and averages two cents an hour. It means an additional \$5,000 monthly expenditure. The street car men were not union men and no demand had been made upon the companies.

Congressional inquiry into the Powder trust, of which Senator Dupont of Delaware is considered the head, notwithstanding his resignation as the president of the Dupont powder works, seems to be inevitable. The immediate cause will be the charges just preferred against the trust by Robert S. Waddell of Peoria, Ill., who alleges that the government is mulched in the sum of 3 million dollars each year by the Powder trust. This is the same trust which charges the miners of Crawford and Cherokee counties, Kansas, \$1.35 a keg for the same blasting powder for which it charges eighty-five cents a keg in Liverpool.

In the final report of the prison board of control of Mississippi the warden, J. J. Henry, makes a charge of grafting against Governor Vardaman. He admits that the chief executive had horses for his private use shipped at the expense of the state in the same cars with state horses; that the governor worked convicts for his personal use around the executive mansion after declaring that he considered like action by his predecessors in office a form of dishonesty. The report is strongly denunciatory throughout and forms a sensational climax to disagreements between the governor and the prison management.

New Year's reception to Archbishop Ryan at Philadelphia, was made notable by a scathing arraignment by the Archbishop of the French government's treatment of the Catholic church. Denouncing the officials of the present government as infidels worse than pagans, the archbishop expressed the hope that a religious awakening in France would soon overthrow the oppressors of the Christian religion. "These infidels are worse than pagans. The pagan believes in God and a hereafter where the good are rewarded, but the infidel does not. Pagans have some virtues mixed with their vices, but the modern infidel has all the vices without any of the redeeming virtues of a pagan."

The first paper served on the new attorney general of New York, Mr. Jackson, was an application for a return on the petition of William Randolph Hearst for leave to begin quo warranto proceedings to test the title of George B. McClellan to the office of mayor of New York. Mr. Hearst contends that he was deprived of the office by fraud and violence in the election of 1905. The application filed with the attorney general reiterates substantially the allegations made before his predecessor, Mr. Mayer. Further, it recites the developments of the case before the latter and summarizes his decision denying relief, declaring that Mr. Mayer well knew that the prima facie proof of Mr. Hearst's election could not be forthcoming without opening the boxes.

"What is viler than the smell of liquor?" asked an Indiana lecturer. The gentleman has probably never heard it talk.—Houston Post.

**The Little Things of Dress and Fashion.**

Muff chains are exceedingly popular again and just among the set that were almost the first to discard these useful as well as ornamental things a few short seasons ago. The little loop of cord that the furrier tacks into one side of the muff is supposed to be slipped on the wrist, and so keep the muff chained to its wearer. But, like so many other plans of mice and men, it went astray. Since its introduction more muffs have been lost and mislaid than ever before, and so the muff chain is back again, and, need one say, more elaborate than ever before?

The Craze for Corals has proven a perfect godsend in some families. Those dear, delightful people who cling to the garret storeroom, where all the discarded finery of the family is laid away out of sight, are bringing out the treasures of long ago, only to find them held in higher esteem today than they ever were. What even an antique dealer would not offer a five-cent piece for a year or two ago will fetch almost any price today.

It is not the pale Indian corals that are in the front rank just now, albeit they are considered the finest possible a few years back. It is the deep red Ceylon coral that holds front rank at present, and the deeper the color the higher the price. A charming set seen at Tiffany's the other day was about the color of red sealing wax, and mounted in Etruscan gold, the effect was delightful.

They Say That with all the fashions of our grandmothers, earrings are back again. Of course, one does not refer by this to the ear studs or the flat buttons that have been so popular for sometime in pearl and in turquoise. Rather it is the long pendant kind with which we are threatened, and which are wont to make a dowdy old lady out of even the sauciest debutante that ever was. If 'tis true, 'tis pity, to paraphrase an old quotation for the earrings of the long pendant variety could never, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered either ornamental or becoming. Even in their most artistic aspect—admitting that they have any at all—they are not attractive, and their only excuse is that they are costly, and their making gives employment to artist artisans, who might otherwise suffer for want of work.

Among the Dainty things from France that exclusive shops import are the prettiest of lingerie covers for almost everything in use in the bedroom and boudoir. This column has taken note long ago of the fad for lingerie pillow covers, not intended to supplant the handsome embroidered silks and satins, but of such transparent batiste and linen ones slipped on over the handsome silk ones, displaying all the beauty of the work, while offering a dainty and adequate protection.

One house in New York takes orders for such covers to be slipped on over the exquisite silk and satin covered bed coverlets, that are filled with either lamb's wool or eiderdown. Since twenty dollars is a medium price for those elegant luxuries, it well pays to have a sheer lingerie cover made that may be slipped on when desired.

Although the Trend is toward the plain and severely tailored shirtwaist the kind that the tailor invariably refers to as a shirt—in neckwear, the tendency is exactly the opposite. Elaborate to a degree are the collars, stocks, jabots and whatnot that are to top those same plain shirts. But in accord with present commonsense rules, those are to be fashionable from linens and batiste, and nothing that will not withstand the assaults of the laundress, her washtub and polishing iron, is to be thought of for a moment. The simpler of real laces, valenciennes, breton and such, are whipped on for edges and as much fancy stitching as the maker knows or is capable of may be displayed on both choker, turnover and jabot.

Colored Materials are being used by good shirtwaist and blouse makers more than the plain white that has held sway for so long. Charming striped effects appear in sheer linens, and open checks in china silk find favor, too. Front fastenings are another novelty, and the appearance of a tiny pleated ruffle, lace edged, either side of this fastening is a novelty.

Art should be an appeal to man's higher nature.

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M. Marie Pierre Felix Janet, professor of experimental psychology in the University of Paris, who is now traveling and lecturing in the United States figures in the public mind as a hypnotist. As a matter of fact, this is only incidentally, but he is trying to demonstrate that the victim of hysteria is at the same time two different persons.

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"My dear sir," said the man who felt that his ability had been questioned, "I would have it understood that I am a self made man." "That's all right," replied the other. "Just keep quiet about it and no one will get wise."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

As to just when an egg ceases to be "fresh" opinions differ, but the grocer is a good deal of an optimist in this respect.—Indianapolis News.

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