

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy Storer will take up permanent residence in Versailles, France. Their Cincinnati houses have been rented.

The Pennsylvania railroad will ask stockholders on March 12 to authorize the issue of 100 million stock and 100 million bonds. The money is for the improvements heretofore announced.

The federal prohibition measure, which sought to make liquor carried in interstate commerce subject to the laws of the state it enters, was defeated in the House judiciary committee by a vote of 9 to 7.

W. H. Stead attorney general of Illinois, has sued the Illinois Central Railroad for an accounting of its earnings on the chartered lines in that state since 1859 preparatory to collecting back taxes variously estimated at from 5 to 20 millions of dollars.

Representative De Armond of Missouri, has introduced a bill in the House providing for printing the tariff rate by manufacturers on every article offered for sale—provided the rate is 30 per cent. or higher. The object is to educate the people on tariff schedules.

By a vote of 11 Democrats and 18 Republicans, the Colorado Senate tabled a resolution to investigate the charge that Simon Guggenheim, who will be elected United States Senator, has bought up the Legislature with money. Mr. Guggenheim admits spending large sums in political campaigns.

On account of expense Japan favors submitting the question of the general disarmament to the Hague Tribunal. It was not the original intention to include disarmament among the subjects of The Hague conference, but now that Japan declares in favor of it, it is probable that the question will be taken up at the conference.

A Chicago dispatch announcing the completion of the Harriman railway combination says it is expected that the Department of Justice will be asked to commence action to dissolve it. It developed that the arrangement between the Union and Southern Pacific roads has tended to stifle competition in the west.

Suits have been started at Trenton, N. J., to prevent the merger of the United States Leather Co. and the General Leather Co. The complainants in the suits are holders of preferred stock in the United States Leather company, who did not assent to the plan whereby the Central Leather company acquired control of 119 million out of 127 million dollars capital stock of the United States Leather company.

"The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world," said a close friend of President Roosevelt who had just gone over a remarkable report, which is soon to be made public. He added: "In a brief span of young life this infant nation has broken all records relating to the accumulation of riches. We are beginning to think in billions instead of millions. Take it any way you like, our affluence outstrips anything ever known before. Our country has more actual money, more gold, a larger volume of exports, greater banking facilities, richer farms, more productive mines, more railroads, more internal commerce, more millions, more well-to-do tradesmen, more independent farmers, more highly paid laborers, and a greater distribution of luxuries than any other has enjoyed since time began." To say the total valuation of the United States is 107 billion is not understandable, as a hundred billion dollars is such a pile of money that the mind simply cannot grasp its meaning or the instant. Probably the best way of illustrating the actual extent of Uncle Sam's riches is to state if he could convert all the assets into money he would have nearly four times as much as is required to pay off the national debt of all the governments in the world, including his own. Last year there was more than 25 million dollars in excess of expenditures.

You cannot begin at the bottom when drinking a glass of water.



Cuba—See, here, Mr. Interventio n, I'se liable to jump out of these clothes some day!

Uncle Sam—Don't think of it! If you did you'd startle my friend over there half to death!

Fred Fairbanks, son of the Vice President, has been indicted for perjury at Springfield, Ohio, in connection with his marriage to Miss Scott of Pittsburg. The charge is that Mr. Fairbanks went to Steubenville, disguised himself as a workman, and said that he was a resident of Adams county, and that Miss Scott was a resident of the county. On this statement, he secured a marriage license, and was married. The couple immediately left town. He denies that he misrepresented.

William T. Stead, in the course of his international peace propaganda, proposes an international pilgrimage of peace, in which notabilities from all over the world would take part, to start from the United States for The Hague by way of London, Paris and Rome and to arrive at the Netherlands capital at the time the second peace conference assembles there. Mr. Stead says he believes that such a pilgrimage would exercise the greatest moral influence ever known. He expects President Roosevelt will support the suggestion.

C. T. Nelhart of Osage county, Kansas, when the second group of representatives was called to take the oath as a legislator, refused to be sworn and called for the affirmation which was administered by Judge Johnston. Mr. Nelhart said in explanation: "I took a course in moral philosophy and ethics and I have religious scruples against the oath. I am not a Quaker. In taking an oath a man asks God to condemn him and it seems to me that a man's word ought to be good enough to stand by itself. I have taken a few oaths in my life, but not very often."

James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railroad company, says in a letter to Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota that better management of railroads is not needed as much as increased mileage. He said that 1,100 million a year for five years would be necessary to give the country the mileage necessary to transact the business actually in sight without computing the natural increase. The western country has grown so fast that the railroads have been unable to keep pace with it, Mr. Hill said. He believes that the building of additional trackage is the best solution of the problem.

The President sent to the Senate a message urging some action by Congress toward remedying the situation caused by the break in the Colorado river four miles below the international boundary line in Mexico which threatens the property interests in the Imperial valley of California. The President's message contains a long review of the situation and says that prompt action must be taken, otherwise conditions will become so extreme as to be impracticable of remedy. Probably with an expenditure of 2 million dollars, he says, the river can be restored to its former channel and held there indefinitely.

Senator La Follette's bill, which passed the U. S. Senate by a vote of 70 to 1, provides that railway employees engaged in handling trains shall not work more than sixteen consecutive hours, which period is to be followed

by ten hours off duty. It also provides that under certain contingencies and in case of accident the time fixed may be exceeded. The enforcement of the law is placed in the hands of the interstate commerce commission and the federal courts. The penalty provided is a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000. The act is to apply to trains doing an interstate or foreign commerce business. Senators Elkins and Scott of West Virginia, voted for the bill.

Wm. Alden Smith of Grand Rapids, will succeed Senator Russell A. Alger in the U. S. Senate from Michigan. William Alden Smith used to be a newsboy in Grand Rapids, Mich. He learned how to run a popcorn stand and directed his energies to that work for a time. Then he managed to get a place as page in the Michigan legislature. While working as a page he also was correspondent for a Chicago newspaper. It was while in Lansing that Smith decided to read law. It is said that in returning to Grand Rapids in a box car, on the road for which he later was the attorney, he was pitched from the train by a brakeman. At 30 Mr. Smith was offered the nomination for Congress, but declined. Four years later he accepted the nomination and was elected. This was in 1895. He has served in Congress ever since and has also retained his position as general attorney for two Michigan railroads. In the House he is a member of the ways and means committee. He recently acquired a controlling interest in the Grand Rapids Herald, which he sold on the streets as a newsboy thirty-five years ago.

The isthmian canal commission at Washington opened bids from private contractors for the completion of the Panama canal. The basis on which the contract will be awarded is a percentage of the cost of completing the work. Bidders were required to accompany their proposals with a certified check of \$200,000 and the successful bidder will be required to give bond in the sum of 2 million dollars. The government expressly reserved to itself the control of sanitation, of engineering and of quarters and food of employees. The work to be done by the contractor, therefore, has been confined to the actual work of construction. The proposals provide a system of rewards for the completion of the work in a shorter time than the contract calls for. W. J. Oliver of Nashville, Tenn., and Anson M. Bangs of New York, associated together were the lowest bidders for the construction of the canal. They propose to do the work for 6.75 per cent upon the estimated cost. The bids were opened by Chairman Shonts. Four proposals were received. The basis of the other three bids was as follows: 7.19 per cent., 28 per cent. and 12.5 of the estimated cost of the work.

Dr. Von Lecoq of the Berlin ethnological museum, who some time ago made discoveries of Buddhist antiquities in Northeast Tarkestan, has arrived in Berlin. His most precious discovery, he says, consists of fifteen chests filled with manuscripts in no fewer than ten languages. These, with other articles dug out of sand, are relics of a highly cultured and artistic people that once inhabited those regions.

The lower House of Congress passed 628 private pension bills in one day, out of 700 on the calendar.

To the horrors of famine have been added an outbreak of smallpox among the refugees at Sing-Kiang necessitating the demolition of the flat sheds erected to shelter the thousands who have arrived there in search of food. Captain Kirton reports that 300,000 destitute persons have been driven back toward their homes and that terrible scenes are being enacted along the line of retreat. He estimates that 1-4 million persons will die at Sing-Kiang alone and 400,000 at Antung, where small relief works have been started. One million persons in all seemed doomed, the officials say. The distress is largely due to lack of means of communication and the fear that the Chinese officials might appropriate any work they undertake. As the dikes are dilapidated, renewed rains are certain to cause fresh floods. Every house in the neighborhood of Antung visited by Captain Kirton contained bodies or dying persons. The relief committee, which had \$75,000 at its disposal, has instituted relief works under foreign supervision.

The special message of President Roosevelt on the Brownsville affray was accompanied by various exhibits, including maps of Brownsville and Fort Brown, a bandoleer, thirty-three empty shells, seven ball cartridges picked up in the streets a few hours after the shooting; three steel jacketed bullets and some scraps of the casings of other bullets picked out of the houses into which they had been fired. The President declares that the evidence is positive that the outrages of August 13 were committed by some of the negro troops that have been dismissed, and that some or all of the members of the three companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry had knowledge of the deed and have shielded the guilty ones. The negro troops are referred to by the President in his message as "midnight assassins," and he declares that very few, if any, of the soldiers dismissed without honor could have been ignorant of what occurred. That part of the order which bars the soldiers from all civil employment under the government is revoked by the President. This clause, the President says, was lacking in validity. The discharged troops, however, will be forever barred from re-enlisting in the army or navy. As to this the President says "there is no doubt of my constitutional and legal power." Senator Foraker moved that the message be printed. He said the testimony on which the President based his conclusions was taken behind closed doors, and that the discharged men had a right to a hearing where they could make a defense.

Herbert D. Peirce, United States minister to Norway, is the subject of sensational charges at Washington, made by Prof. H. W. Elliott of Cleveland, O., in connection with a hearing on a resolution for the further protection of fur seals on the high seas. Professor Elliott stated that while Mr. Peirce was representing the United States government before The Hague tribunal in the settlement of claims growing out of the seizure of the sealing vessel J. Hamilton Lewis by the Russian government, on the charge of piracy, he also represented the owners of the vessel and even instituted action in the United States district court for the District of Columbia to insure the payment of his fee out of the money awarded to the vessel owners. Representatives Champ Clark and John Sharp Williams questioned Mr. Elliott about the charge, and said that it reflected so seriously upon the administration that it must be looked into carefully. The chief purpose of Prof. Elliott in appearing before the committee, he explained, was to have the United States annul the lease of the sealing privileges which it has granted to the North American Commercial company. He stated that the officers of the company perjured themselves when they obtained the lease, as they swore they were not engaged in pelagic sealing. In spite of this oath, he says, they equipped the J. Hamilton Lewis, in command of Captain Alexander McChain, which Prof. Elliott alleges was rightfully seized by the Russian government. This seizure was in 1901, and Mr. Elliott made the statement that Mr. Peirce's activity in collecting a fee from the vessel's owners was in 1905. Mr. Peirce was the government's "master of ceremonies" for several years. He was in personal charge of the members of the Russo-Japanese peace conference and escorted Prince Henry of Prussia through the United States.

The Czar's Necklace Sold Under the Hammer.

A magnificent pearl necklace, once the gift of a Russian czar, and as illuminated as it is beautiful, was sold at auction for \$85,000 on Fifth avenue to prevent a possible panic in Wall street.

The great circlet of precious stones for which the czar paid \$135,000, became the property of J. Dreicer & Son, diamond dealers, of No. 202 Fifth avenue and any American who will give the handsome commission its owners ask and is willing to face the "hoodoo" that has brought disaster on every man or woman to whom it has descended, may become its possessor.

A year before he died, in 1894, Alexander III, father of the present emperor of Russia, ordered the royal jeweler to search out the fifty-four finest pearls in Europe of uniform size and of the first water and to fashion a necklace for the wife of his ambassador to Austria, who had won his majesty's undying gratitude by a great diplomatic stroke which had much to do with rehabilitating Russian supremacy at a time when it was in sad decay.

When the present emperor succeeded to his father's throne he removed the Austrian ambassador in disgrace, it is said, and the diplomat went to Paris, where the necklace was the envy of all the grande dames of the Third Republic.

But close on the heels of their triumphs in France the former envoy and his wife began to feel the pinch of poverty, and they sold the circlet to a Paris diamond merchant for \$60,000.

An American broker, suddenly made rich by a great "strike" in Wall street amazed Paris by his lavish expenditures, which he capped with the purchase of the necklace at a price exceeding \$100,000.

He brought the pearls to America and gave them to his wife.

There is a story that, while the woman wore them at the greatest functions of the "400" her husband lost his fortune in the street and had to take back his gift and sell it for the necessities of life. But of this there is no certainty, and when next heard of the necklace had passed into the jewel collection of the Francis P. Church estate. That was less than five years ago.

The necklace became the property of another Wall street broker, then and until two years ago a power on 'change, and a man still generally believed to be worth millions. His fortune began to dwindle immediately; speculations went wrong, the market wrought steadily against him, until it is said that today only his collection of jewels stands between the former prince of finance and utter ruin.

In his last desperate effort to gain funds the Wall street man took the royal necklace to the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries, and commissioned the auctioneer to sell it, with his other jewels, to the highest bidder. He stipulated only that his name should not be divulged.

"If it is," he declared, "not only I will be ruined, but there will follow such a crash in Wall street as it has not known in many days, and many millions that may be saved would be jeopardized."

The auctioneer kept his part of the agreement, but a few learned of the tragic story, and about one hundred rich men and women gathered in the galleries at 366 Fifth avenue when the man with the hammer finally reached catalogue number 1928.

Perhaps so that he could tell the story afterward, one man offered \$5,000 with a laugh.

The auctioneer frowned angrily, and the crowd groaned. But by leaps and bounds the bids went by \$1,000 at a time until \$50,000 had been offered. Both men and women had joined in the game, swaying in fascination.

Some one bid \$65,000, and Maurice Brower of 12 John street lifted the figure quickly to \$70,000. A richly dressed woman said, "I make it \$78,000."

Her name was lost in the shout that followed the bid by C. S. Davison.

"I'll give \$85,000," he said quietly. The auctioneer tried vainly to get more for the precious necklace, and the crowd gasped and gasped again when the hammer fell. Davison immediately announced that he had purchased the necklace for J. Dreicer & Son. He understood he said, that they would offer the string at private sale.

The day's total receipts were \$195,984.65. More than half, it is said, were gained from the broker's jewels. Whether it is enough to avert the crash will be known in the next few days.—New York American.