

RICH YEAR ON FARMS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

Crop Yield of 1904 Aggregates Nearly \$5,000,000,000—Equals World's Output of Gold Since Columbus Discovered America—Cotton and Corn Lead.

The annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, for 1904 contains extremely interesting reading and valuable information relating to the agricultural interests of the country.

The following is quoted in part:

As great as the financial successes of agriculture were in 1903, hitherto without equal, those of 1904 advanced somewhat beyond them. While some products have fallen behind in value others have more than filled the deficit, and the general result is that the farmers have produced in value much more value than they ever did before in one year.

Wealth in Corn and Cotton.
One completion item that has contributed to this is the corn crop. With a quantity closely approaching 2,500,000,000 bushels, near the record crop of 1902, the high price of this year gives this crop a farm value much greater than it ever had before, far exceeding \$1,000,000,000. With this crop the farmers could pay the national debt and the in-



SECRETARY WILSON.

terest thereon for one year, and still have enough left to pay the expenses of the national government for a large fraction of a year.

The cotton crop, including seed, became the second one in value in 1903, and remains so in 1904. It is now too early to state even with approximate accuracy what the farm value of this crop is, but indications are that the farm value of lint and seed must reach \$600,000,000.

It now seems probable that potatoes and barley reached their highest production in 1904; that the oat crop was never so large by 40,000,000 bushels except in 1902, and that more rice was produced than in any previous year by 300,000,000 pounds, so that the present crop of rice has a preliminary estimate of 900,000,000 pounds.

The principal crops that are valued annually by the department or by commercial houses have an aggregate farm value this year which at the date of this writing apparently amounts to \$3,583,339,600. The same crops in 1903, as finally estimated, had a farm value of \$3,156,009,392, and had a census value for 1899 of \$2,526,345,478. In these principal crops, therefore, the farmers find an increase in value for 1904 of 14 per cent over 1903, and of 42 per cent over the census year five years ago.

Unthinkable Aggregates.
After a laborious and careful estimate of the value of the products of the farm during 1904, made within the census scope, it is safe to place this amount at \$4,900,000,000, after excluding the value of farm crops fed to live stock to avoid duplication of values. A similar estimate made for 1903 gives \$4,180,000,000, and the census total for 1899 is \$3,742,000,000.

CORN OUR GREATEST CROP.

Last Year Its Direct Value Nearly Doubled \$1,000,000,000.

On corn the prosperity of the United States depends in a broader measure than it does upon any other single article. The State of Illinois—the greatest corn-producing State in the Union—alone produced during 1904 a great deal more than half as much corn as the whole of Europe—namely, 264,987,431 bushels as compared with 422,526,000 bushels. The total production of South America, Africa and Australasia was not much more than half that of Illinois.

The value of the 1903 crop was estimated by the Department of Agriculture at close on a billion dollars, but that was only the direct value of the crop when harvested and sold or awaiting sale in the farmers' hands. It took no account of the many other uses to which corn is put. For example, the live stock industry of the United States, which, with all its countless ramifications, is by far the greatest industry of its kind in the world, is very largely dependent on the corn crop. It has been estimated that over 5,000,000 sheep and 12,000,000 beef steers are fattened in the great corn belt which has Springfield, Ill., for its center. And then there are chickens, hogs and dairy cows innumerable.

Illinois' corn last year was worth more than \$35,000,000—about one-tenth the value of the crop, and about \$20 for every man, woman and child in the State. Iowa came next with a crop worth over \$37,000,000. That is more than the national revenue of either Austria, Hungary, China, Canada, Belgium, or the whole British colonies, excluding Canada, India and Australia.

The State of Illinois gets far more money for its corn crop than the combined revenue of all the Latin-American governments except the four most important ones—Mexico, Chili, Argentina and Brazil. Take the sixteen sovereign republics of Haiti, Santo Domingo, Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Cuba and Panama, and you will find that their national revenues do not exceed \$70,000,000 annually. Illinois gets \$25,000,000 more for her corn crop.

Old papers for sale at this office.

000. Within the limits of ascertainable values the farms of 1904 produced an aggregate wealth with a farm valuation that was 9.65 per cent above the product of 1903, and 31.28 per cent above the figures for the census year 1899.

An occupation that has produced such an unthinkable value as one aggregating nearly \$5,000,000,000 within a year may be better measured by some comparisons. All of the gold mines of the entire world have not produced since Columbus discovered America a greater value of gold than the farmers of this country have produced in wealth in two years; this year's product is over six times the amount of the capital stock of all national banks; it is twice the sum of our exports and imports for a year; it is three times the gross earnings from the operations of the railways; it is four times the value of all minerals produced in this country.

Animal Exports Increase.
Our animal industry is shown only in small part by the figures giving the exports, yet these exports are so large as to be worthy of notice. The animals exported in the fiscal year 1904 were valued at about \$48,000,000, which was an increase over the previous year of \$13,000,000; the exports of meat and meat products, including oleo oil, oleomargarine and lard compounds, amounted to more than \$174,000,000, a decrease of \$4,000,000 from the year before. We also sent abroad nearly \$6,000,000 worth of dairy products, and of other products, such as hides and skins, glue, grease and grease scrap, over \$5,000,000 worth. The exact total of the above items of export, as given in preliminary returns, was \$223,023,000, which was an increase over the previous year of more than \$12,000,000.

The department is not an educational institution in the sense of the word, but it can do and is doing much to bring home to the people in all walks of life the importance and value of the farm and its productions. The Bureau of Plant Industry is making a special effort to encourage the study of plants in the public schools.

Unfortunately our system of elementary education is such as to leave no impression on the child's mind of the importance, value and usefulness of farm life. Very little effort has been made to overcome the general belief that there is always a great amount of drudgery connected with the farm, and that the opportunities in this sort of occupation are narrow and limited. When we see the rapid advances that are being made in agriculture along all lines and note the need for bright young men in this field, the opportunities offered by the cultivation of the soil seems as great as in any other field.

Growth of American Tea.
The department has continued its work in the production of American tea. The more advanced investigations have been conducted, as heretofore, at Summerville, S. C., in co-operation with Dr. Charles U. Shepard. Dr. Shepard's tea gardens are now yielding from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of tea annually. Owing to climatic conditions the crop this year will be light. Dr. Shepard has been devoting special attention to the improvement of factory processes.

The work of establishing a plantation in Texas has been continued. Tea beds were started on two types of soil—a rich sandy loam and a black, waxy soil. The plants on the black, waxy land have failed utterly. There are now on hand at our Texas station, which is located at Pierce, about 100,000 plants, which will be put into the field this winter, planting about forty acres. Sufficient additional seed will be put out to give another fifty acres next year.

Advance in Forage Crop Work.
Alfalfa has attracted more attention on the part of farmers in the eastern half of the United States during the past two years than any other crop. The department has demonstrated that it can be grown in almost every State in the Union. Varieties have been found which withstand the rigorous winters of the Northwestern prairie States. Other varieties have been found which are immune to the alfalfa leaf rust. There is still much to be learned concerning the adaptability of alfalfa to various types of soil in the Eastern States and much time is being devoted to the solution of this problem.



The French government will probably rehabilitate Dreyfus.

The Bishop of Ascoli has asked the Pope to help make J. P. Morgan give up the stolen cope.

San Domingo will pay the \$4,500,000 claims of the San Domingo Improvement Company.

The Chinese outbreak at Shantung involves about 10,000 Chinese, and missionaries are fleeing.

The zemstvos throughout Russia are acclaiming the program announced by Minister Mirsky.

Rats give trouble in the London underground railway, by eating the rubber insulation off the wires.

The government at Tangier has stopped shipments from port to port, and a revolution is reported likely.

At least fifteen men were killed and forty injured by the collapse of a new building at Santiago, Chili.

Italian Catholics think that if the Pope would permit them to vote, it would help the cause of the Vatican.

It is denied that Emperor William is in bad health and that another operation will be performed on his throat.

England has come to see that the talk of danger of starvation among the industrial population has some foundation.

Republicans and Socialists will run separate tickets in the Italian elections, thus helping the liberal and constitutional elements.

The Duchess of Manchester created a sensation in England by declining an invitation to hunt with the King and Queen around Balmoral.

Incendiary pamphlets are being circulated in several Russian provinces by Jewish hands, asserting that the only remedy lies in a revolution.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



One Hundred Years Ago.

The great inundation of the river Nile began by which 30,000 persons perished.

Turkey agreed to acknowledge Napoleon as emperor, and "Pades Chach," a title which was customary for the Porte to bestow on the kings of France.

The blacks of Hayti were destroying all forts on the sea coast and fortifying the interior of the island, as they expected any time to be attacked by the French.

Seventy-five Years Ago.

Bushrod Washington, nephew of General Washington, and a judge of the Supreme Court, died at Philadelphia.

The Georgia Legislature rejected the proposition to have biennial instead of annual sessions.

The government of Brazil derived a large income from the importation of slaves by imposing a specific duty per head.

Fifty Years Ago.

A collision occurred between two Atlantic liners in Boston harbor and one of the vessels was destroyed by fire.

Commander McClure arrived in England, after accomplishing the northwest passage, having entered the polar seas in 1850, and been imprisoned in the ice for three years.

The French and English consuls at St. Domingo were interfering in an unwarrantable manner with the liberty of the press and independent action of the government of Hayti.

Forty Years Ago.

A citizen's draft committee was organized in Chicago for the purpose of securing the enlistment of men for army service.

Hood's Confederate army was defeated at Franklin by the Union division under Schofield.

Court ordered the charges against a Chicago man who had stolen a pig changed from petty to grand larceny, because under war time prices the animal was valued at \$40.

Five persons supposed to be connected with a Confederate plot to burn the city were under arrest in New York. Rewards aggregating \$25,000 were offered by the City Council for conviction of the guilty.

New York capitalists proposed to the Agricultural Department that if properly encouraged they would purchase a tract of land in southern Illinois and produce sugar cheaply from the sugar beet.

Thirty Years Ago.

The Molly Maguires, an outlaw band, were making Schuylkill County, Pa., and vicinity the scene of nightly arson and murder.

An exclusive mail train between Chicago and New York, to make the distance in twenty-four hours, was proposed as a great advance in the service by Superintendent G. S. Bangs of the railway mail.

Final arguments in the famous "safe robbery" case were in progress in Washington, D. C.

The Secretary of the Interior in his annual report recommended that the homestead law be extended to the Indians.

Representatives of the London Chamber of Commerce submitted to the foreign and colonial secretaries objections to the proposed reciprocity treaty between the United States and Canada.

Twenty Years Ago.

Col. David L. Payne, the Oklahoma boomer, died suddenly at Wellington, Kan.

Mme. Patti, in New York, celebrated the silver jubilee of her appearance there as a prima donna.

The Postmaster General reported that under the 2-cent postage law, which had been in effect a year, the revenues of the department had decreased 4.7 per cent.

Reports emanating from the third plenary council in Baltimore were that Archbishop Gibbons would be made a cardinal by the Pope.

Ten Years Ago.

The State Department received from Minister Denby at Peking a message that the legation was in danger and asking for protection.

Lady Henry Somerset in New York announced plans of the W. C. T. U. crusade on "living picture" shows.

China accepted the good offices of the United States to arrange peace with Japan, and preparations to undertake negotiations were commenced.

RUIN IN THE DROUTH

WOEFUL LACK OF RAIN IN MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

Approach of Cold Weather Without Moisture Means Vast Loss—Coal Mines Are Crippled, Railroads Hampered, and Cities in Danger from Fire.

The closing down of coal mines, the ruining of crops, the tying up of railroads and disastrous fires may follow one of the worst drouths in the history of the Mississippi Valley if cold weather sets in without a rain. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Wisconsin and other States in the valley are now feeling the effects of the lack of water.

Already several disastrous prairie fires have occurred, railroads and coal mines are having hard work to get water, stock raisers are complaining and farmers are counting their losses by the hundreds of thousands of dollars. In some of the cities in the Mississippi Valley States the water supply has been completely exhausted and the first fire that occurs will sweep unchecked through the towns. Farmers, railroad men, mine owners and stock raisers all predict serious consequences if the drouth continues. Nothing but a rain before the beginning of real cold weather can save the valley States, they say.

One of the most serious results of the drouth is the inability of many coal mines located in the Mississippi Valley States to get water. The mines need a large amount to run their engines with and have been unable to get it. The closing down of some of the mines, among them those in the district around Terre Haute, Ind., and Danville, Ill., will follow within a few days if there is no rain or the mine owners do not haul water to the mines in oil tank cars.

The railroads also are suffering as the result of the drouth. In Ohio it has been found impossible to keep the water tanks filled. All engineers have received instructions to use water very sparingly. At Bloomington, Ill., the Chicago and Alton Railroad has been forced to ask assistance from the city officials and the city is furnishing the railroad with 200,000 gallons of water a day for its trains, as the Alton's reservoirs have run dry. The conditions in Ohio and Illinois are the same as those elsewhere.

The exhaustion of the water supply in many of the cities in the valley has already resulted in an agitation for the establishment of waterworks in many of them. Jacksonville, Bloomington, Danville and other cities have joined in this agitation and the question of obtaining better protection from fire has been taken up. This question is being agitated as the result of several of the cities finding themselves without the means of stopping a fire as the result of the drouth.

In the country around Mount Vernon, Ill., sparks from passing engines have set fire to grass and to the dry corn which is standing in the fields because it is too dry to be shocked. These fires have done considerable damage to the crops and at times have threatened to destroy farmhouses and to sweep up to the boundaries of the cities and villages.

All through Illinois and the other Mississippi Valley States the greatest difficulty has been experienced in finding water for cattle. Those sections which are on rivers or lakes, of course, have no difficulty at the present time, although some of the streams have run nearly dry, but the cattle raisers who are dependent upon wells and reservoirs for water are badly off.

In the Wabash River Valley the conditions are particularly bad. Water is being hauled for miles and the scarcity is so great that a Clarke County farmer was able to sell the privilege of allowing cattle to drink from a pond upon his farm for \$100. Dairy products have been advanced in price as the result of the drouth and in Terre Haute the price of milk has gone up 50 per cent.

Crops of fall wheat have been almost entirely destroyed by the drouth. The wheat that is still growing is making but little progress and small hopes are entertained for the crop by the farmer. Rye crops also have been spoiled. The only benefit to the farmers from the drouth has been that it has enabled them to get their corn crop with little difficulty and to get into their barns corn which was laid flat by heavy storms early in September. The roads, covered with dust as they are, have been good.

The amount of rain which has fallen in the Mississippi Valley differs somewhat according to localities. It may be said, however, that little or no rain has fallen for seven weeks anywhere in the valley. Columbus, Ohio, reports that there has not been a rain-storm in that vicinity for fifty-three days. In Illinois a little more rain has fallen than in Ohio. The rainfall in Indiana also has been greater. Kentucky vies with Ohio as a dry State. Wisconsin is in the same class as Ohio and Kentucky, while Missouri is as well off as Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska.

The loss occasioned by the drouth cannot well be estimated until it is known whether there will be a rainfall before extreme cold weather sets in. Already, however, losses amounting to millions of dollars have been reported. The Ohio State Board of Agriculture has attempted to keep some estimate of the effects of the drouth, but the figures are only approximately correct. They show a loss of over \$500,000.

Old papers for sale at this office.

CLEVELAND'S WOMAN ENIGMA.

Mystery Over the Chadwick Case and Alleged Bogus Securities.

The sensational revelations in the career of Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick, wife of a prominent Cleveland physician, whose marvelous success in borrowing large sums of money from banks and financial kings, have startled every business community in the country. A labyrinth of mystery, suspicion and charges entangles the leader of Cleveland society in this crisis of her eventful career, and there seems to be no end to the tangle over the case and the alleged bogus securities put up upon which she borrowed hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Stories about the name of Andrew Carnegie being used as indorser of the \$500,000 note are reiterated from many sources, although the report that Mr. Carnegie knew anything of the woman was denied on behalf of the ironmaster. It was said that this same \$500,000 note, bearing the name of Mr. Carnegie, was used in securing numerous other loans from Ohio banks besides the Oberlin institution and finally was the chief means in obtaining the loan of \$190,800 from Mr. Newton of Brookline, Mass., upon which Mrs. Chadwick was sued.

From the various statements of the persons who have loaned the woman such immense sums of money came the assurance that they believe her to be possessed of several millions in securities, some placing it as high as \$5,000,000. All agree, however, that such securities as she has are tightly locked up in the vaults of the Oberlin bank in sealed packages. The Citizens' National Bank of Oberlin was closed and placed in the hands of the national bank examiner for examination and investigation.

A New York dispatch Thursday stated that acceptance had been made of the arrangement entered into between the attorneys for Mrs. Chadwick and H. D. Newton for the settlement of the suit brought by Newton to recover money loaned.

MANY SLAIN IN THE WOODS.

Appalling List of Fatalities During Deer Hunting Season.

One hunter was killed or wounded for every six or five deer killed in the north woods of Wisconsin and northern Michigan in the hunting season which has just closed. Forty-two hunters were either slain outright or died from their wounds, many of them being shot down by overzealous hunters, who fired at anything that moved the brush and undergrowth ahead of them. Twenty others were wounded, many of them seriously, and the death total may be swelled by several additions in the course of the next fortnight.

With all this sacrifice of life the hunting season was not successful from the standpoint of game. It is estimated that not more than 4,000 deer were killed in the twenty open days. This is one-third less than the total of a year ago. The falling off is attributed to the lack of snow in the woods, which made it impossible to track the deer, except with dogs, and this is forbidden by law.

Even this frightful list of hunting casualties, due in almost every instance to some one's carelessness, is exceeded by the list of dead and wounded due to accidents to hunters of ducks, partridges, rabbits, and other small game.

There is again some talk of the enactment of a law in Wisconsin similar to that of Michigan, which makes the killing of a man by mistake for a deer manslaughter, and punishable by a ten-year term in prison.



Evidently the mouth of the ship is beginning to water again.

In making up your schedule of winter reading don't forget to leave a place for the President's message.

The suit for \$250,000 against Tom Lawson may provide him with still another chapter on frenzied finance.

The United States has granted 3,500 patents to women, but as yet there is no device for keeping a hat on straight.

As to the opposition that will confront the majority in the next Congress, it will be a theory rather than a condition.

Gen. Stoessel and Baron Kodama hold different opinions as to which of them will spend the winter in Port Arthur.

Russian reactionaries have yet to learn that those who stand in the way of the car of progress are liable to get run over.

The magnificence of Chicago's great subway will be chiefly in the magnificent relief it will afford to pedestrians on the surface.

It staggers the country to hear the Massachusetts Legislature likened to a string of sausages. String beans would sound more convincing.

Three Russian torpedo-boat destroyers that ventured out of Port Arthur were sunk by the Japanese. This news is calculated to cheer the Baltic fleet on its way.

Unless Gen. Stoessel soon surrenders life in and about Port Arthur will become almost as deadly as American railway travel.

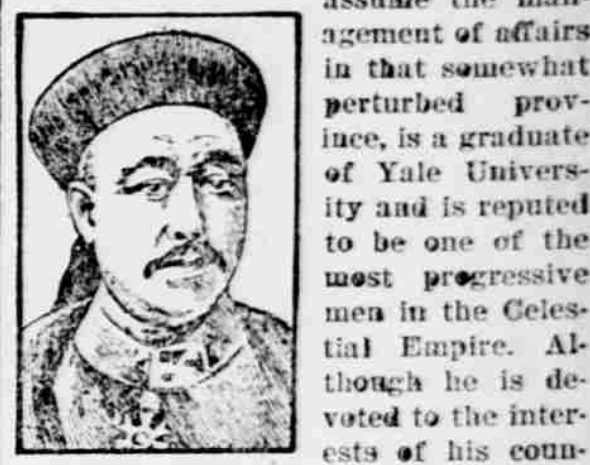
If St. Louis does not appreciate how great the world's fair has been it will do so later when the excitement is over and it settles down to the sober duty of paying the bills.

By the terms of her uncle's will an Indiana girl is to receive \$15,000 if she marries and not a cent if she remains single. There are plenty of heroes who will be willing to help the poor girl get her money.

Old papers for sale at this office.

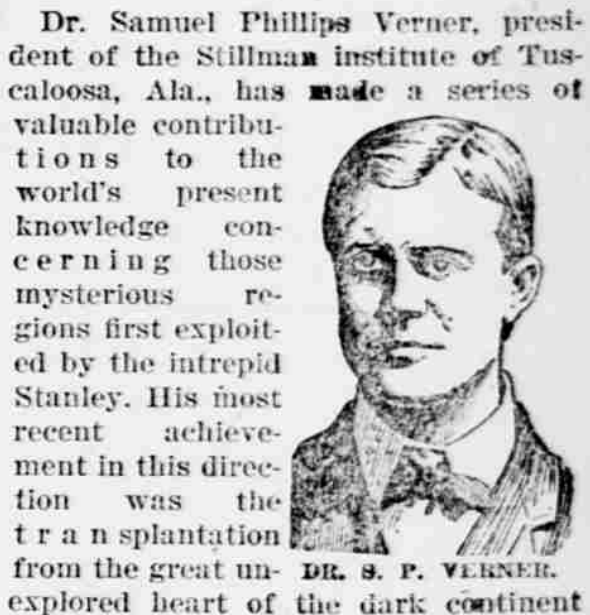
THE PUBLIC EYE

Tang Shao Ki, who has recently been authorized by an imperial decree from Peking to proceed to Tibet and assume the management of affairs in that somewhat perturbed province, is a graduate of Yale University and is reputed to be one of the most progressive men in the Celestial Empire. Although he is devoted to the interests of his country, he is not a zealot and is sufficiently conservative to look with favor on reform movements. His American experience and education will be of infinite service to him in the reformation which he is expected to bring about in the mysterious country to which he has been sent. Tang Shao Ki will begin his administration by letting the light into the dark and forbidden places of Tibet.



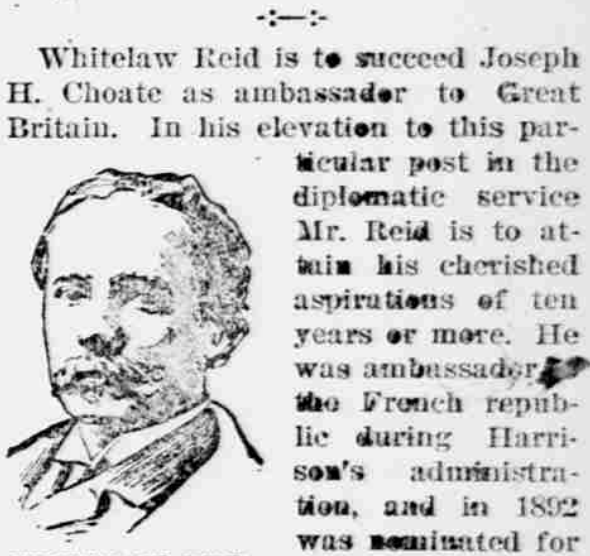
TANG SHAO KI.

Dr. Samuel Phillips Verner, president of the Stillman Institute of Tuscaloosa, Ala., has made a series of valuable contributions to the world's present knowledge concerning those mysterious regions first exploited by the intrepid Stanley. His most recent achievement in this direction was the translation from the great unexplored heart of the dark continent to the St. Louis exposition a tribe of pygmies whose very existence had been questioned. Although Paul du Chailu described these Hottentot dwellers of the African interior, his account was not taken seriously by scientists, and Stanley's assertion that they really existed was received in polite silence. Dr. Verner, however, has put an end to all future skepticism by affording an ocular demonstration of the pygmies' reality.



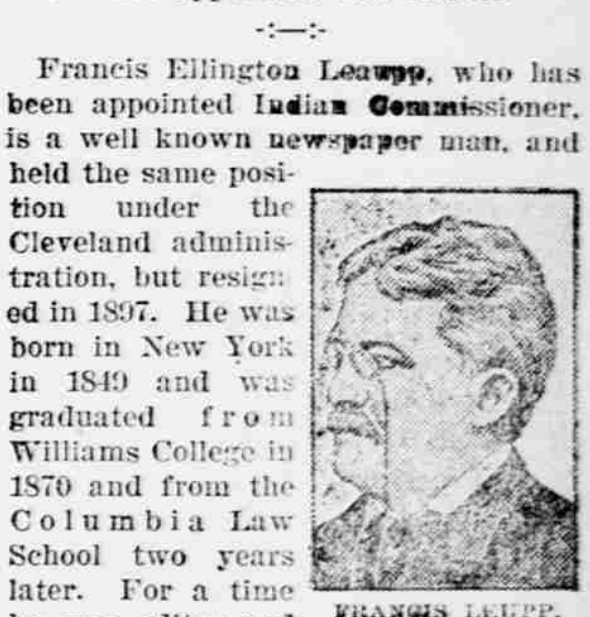
DR. S. P. VERNER.

Whitelaw Reid is to succeed Joseph H. Choate as ambassador to Great Britain. In his elevation to this particular post in the diplomatic service Mr. Reid is to attain his cherished aspirations of ten years or more. He was ambassador of the French republic during Harrison's administration, and in 1892 was nominated Vice President on the ticket headed by General Harrison. Mr. Reid was a candidate for the ambassadorship to Great Britain during the first McKinley administration, but Mr. McKinley eventually after one or two shifts appointed Mr. Choate.



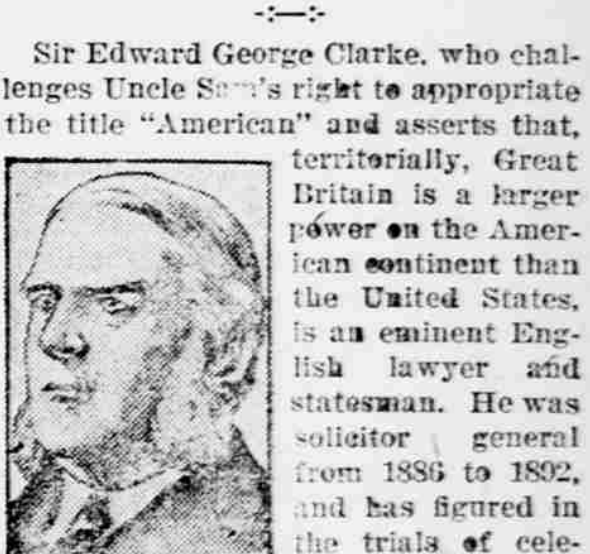
WHITELAW REID.

Francis Ellington Leupp, who has been appointed Indian Commissioner, is a well known newspaper man, and held the same position under the Cleveland administration, but resigned in 1897. He was born in New York in 1849 and was graduated from Williams College in 1870 and from the Columbia Law School two years later. For a time he was editor and part owner of the Syracuse Herald, and since 1889 has been in charge of the Washington bureau of the New York Evening Post. Mr. Leupp is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.



FRANCIS LEUPP.

Sir Edward George Clarke, who challenges Uncle Sam's right to appropriate the title "American" and asserts that territorially, Great Britain is a larger power on the American continent than the United States, is an eminent English lawyer and statesman. He was solicitor general from 1886 to 1892, and has figured in the trials of celebrated cases. Born in 1841, he was educated in London colleges, and in 1864 was admitted to the bar. Knighthood was conferred on him in 1886. Sir Edward is set down as a man who "does not trim his sails to catch the popular wind."



SIR E. G. CLARKE.

Col. John S. Mosby's hat, taken from him at the time he was wounded, in 1864, for nearly forty years in possession of a woman at Orange, N. J., has been restored to its intrepid owner.

E. J. Vawter of California has the most extensive garden for raising carnations of any man in the United States.

Col. James B. Quinn, U. S. A., division chief engineers, will install electrical apparatus of a range finding system at Fort Screven, Ga.