Athletic Women.

"Anything that hardens boys and tends to make them more manly, more courageous, and more self-reliant must be good in itself," writes Stuart Launcaster in the Boudoir. "But in the case of girls, it may safely be asserted, without staying to prove the assertion, that it is altogether bad for them to become 'hard' and muscular like their brothers, and the question at once arises—Are 'manly' and 'womanly' directly contradictory terms? Or, although we all agree to despise the womanly man, can we admire the manly woman Physically, girls are unfitted by nature to stand the stress and strain of constant hard exercise."

He Doesn't Curse Now.

Washington, Kan., Dec. 25 (Special) —Jesse E. Mitchell is a telephone lineman, and also a well-known resident here. Everybody acquainted with Mr. Mitchell knows that he was a man who held very positive views about Patent Medicine. Hear what he says now:

"I used to curse all kinds of Patent Medicines, for they never did me any good, but Dodd's Kidney Pills have caused me to change my mind. For twelve years I suffered from Kidney Trouble. There was a hurting across my back that made it positive agony to stoop, and as I am in a stooping position nearly all day, you can imagine how I suffered. After a day's work that any man would think nothing of, I would be tired and worn out. In fact, I was always tired. I began using Dodd's Kidney Pills and after taking four boxes I feel like a new man, I am as fresh at night as when I begin work in the morning. I have no pain in my back now, and I am stronger than ever."

Metric Photography.

M. Bertillon, of anthropometry fame among the police of the world, has just conferred a lasting boon upon photography. The taking of a photograph which should reproduce dimensions and distance with any approach to precision has long been almost despaired of by experts. The problem, however, has been solved by M. Bertillon. He has just perfected an apparatus and process which he names metric photography. By this method dimensions, spaces, distances and the relative forms and positions represented on the negative can be determined with the greatest exactitude.

What Was Needed.

"My friend," said the perspiring chauffeur, whose tonneau had broken down on the pike, "can you tell me how far it is from here to Three Oaks?"

"Thirty miles as the crow flies," responded the sun-tanned farmer.

"Thank you. And now will you please hand them over?"

"Hand what over, stranger?"

"Why, a pair of crow's wings."

A Friendly Tip.

Wedderly—You look worried, old man. What's the cause thereof?

Singleton (with a sigh)—Oh, several things.

Wedderly—Well, take my advice and marry one of them and let the others go. I've been there myself.

An Idea.

Student—Professor, won't you give me an idea for an essay?

Professor—Write about a student who wanted to write an essay, and hadn't any ideas.

LABOR NOTES

Work Too Many Hours.

In a recent speech made by P. H. Morrissey, grand master of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, he declared that railway employes were compelled to work too many hours to insure safe traffic on the roads. He said:

"There is no other occupation to-day in which men are forced to be more alert and active and yet are expected to remain in service so many hours at a time. Laws should be enacted to protect the railroad man. We should work unitedly in an effort to procure the enactment of measures providing for the maintenance of the families of railroad men who meet wth misfortune. If railroad companies can be forced by legislation to install safety appliances for the benefit of the patrons of the road, it would be no more than fair that the employes themselves and their families should be taken care of. We hear about the shipping rates and what benefits passengers should receive from the roads they patronize, but all the time the vast army of our dead and the train of mourners who follow the victims of the merciless railroad march pass unheeded. There should be provided by law a compensation act, forcing the railroad to provide an annuity for the family equal to the earning power of the injured man."

The Seamen's Union.

The International convention of the Seamen's Union was held at Cleveland, Ohio, recently. This organization is in a prosperous condition and has done wonders in assisting those who follow a dangerous calling. William H. is the general secretary - treasurer, r e t a ry-treasurer, and has the entire confidence of the members of the organization. One of the largest and most important branches of the international is the Atlantic Coast Seamen's Union, which has its headquarters in Boston.

WM. H. FRAZIER.

Industrial Notes.

In the United States and Canada the International Typographical Union has secured the eight-hour work-day in 289 cities.

Boston United Hatters' Unions 5 and 6 have adjusted the price lists for the year with every local manufacturing firm. The main changes from the existing bills of prices are largely on special styles for next season.

Marble Cutters and Setters' Union 50 reports that progress is being made towards an amicable adjustment of the union's request for an incerase in the minimum scale to $3.50 a day. The present rate is $3.

Slate and Soapstone Workers' Union has begun considering the advsiability of making a fixed minimum rate of wages for all lines of work in that trade. At present the union has a rule by which no one can work for less than $2.50 a day. The wages paid run from $2.50 to $4.50 a day for various lines.

William J. Spencer, secretary-treasurer of the Structural Building Trades' Alliance of America, has sent out a report to affiliated crafts in which he declares the alliance is rapidly gaining in strength. The last charters granted were at Hot Springs, Ark.; Englewood, N. J.; Springfield, Mass., and Chicago, Ill.

The United States Supreme Court recently affirmed the decision of the Supreme Court of the State of Missouri upholding the validity of the State law which fixes eight hours as the length of a day's work in the mines. The superintendent of a mine held workmen for a longer period and was proceeded against in the State court, it being a test case

A press dispatch says: "A British Columbia miner has been fined $250 by a judge for working more than eight hours a day. Because he worked half an hour longer than the law allows, P. Zanani, a miner employed in the collieries of James Dunsmuir at Cumberland, B. C., has been found guilty by Judge Abrams of violating the eight-hour law and fined $250."

It was an eight hour committee who gave the union printers the battle cry, "We propose to sell to the employer eight hours out of the twenty-four, and we will do as we please with the remaining sixteen." An equally inspiring shibboleth is that enunciated by the Label Committee of the union, which says, "Let those employers who are content to employ non-union men be content with the patronage of non-union men."

The Court of Appeals in the State of New York rendered a decision recently that a contract between an employer and a labor union to employ only union men was legal and binding, and the party who violated such a contract could not shirk responsibility on the plea that such a contract was contrary to public policy. In the particular case in point a clothing firm declared for the open shop and broke the closed shop contract it had with the United Garment Workers.

More than 2,000 men are employed at the locomotive shops in Reading, Pa. The monthly payroll amounts to a little more than $110,000. When additions, now in course of construction, are completed, work will be given to at least 500 more men.

As a result of the efforts of organized labor in Holyoke, Mass., the working people won a victory at the polls in the late State election, and Senator-elect Daniel D. Mahoney will represent them in the State House in Boston. Mr. Mahoney has long been identified with the labor movement.

CONGRESS

The Senate Friday adopted a resolution of Mr. Stone requesting the Postmaster General for information as to whether college periodicals are admitted to the mails as second-class matter and whether a preference is shown some such periodicals over other similar publications. Mr. Gallinger reported the merchant marine bill. The Panama Canal bill was laid before the Senate and Mr. Bacon presented an amendment requiring quarterly reports giving lists of officers and employes of the commission above the grades of laborer and the salaries paid them. After debate by Messrs. Tillman, Spooner, Money, Hale, Culberson and Allison an agrement for a vote was reached and the Senate adjourned. The House devoted nearly all of the session to a lively debate on the possibilities of controlling insurance companies. Mr. Sherley (Ky.) stood for the doctrine of States' rights and Mr. Cockran (N. Y.) attacked the officers of the big life insurance companies. A message was sent to the Senate returning its bill regarding canal bonds as a usurpation of the constitutional right of the House to originate revenue legislation. The hazing incidents at Annapolis came up for much criticism.

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The emergency bill appropriating $11,000,000 for the Panama canal was passed by the Senate Saturday, after a debate which practically excluded all other business. A substitute offered by Mr. Hale for Mr. Bacon's amendment, specifically requiring that Congress shall be supplied with regular estimates of all salaries except those paid to laborers, was accepted. Mr. Hale made the authorized announcement that Secretary Bishop's duties as press agent would be abolished. The House indulged itself again to the extent of four hours in an academic discussion of federal control of insurance. The holiday recess was fixed from Dec. 21 to Jan. 4. For the purpose of bringing out information showing the existence of a civil pension list the House asked the President for the number of civil employes of the government who have reached the age of 70.

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Whether the Senate is warranted in ignoring a Senator convicted in the courts on charges of misconduct and in not assigning him to places on standing committees, yet leaving his name on the roll, was discussed for two hours Monday and then dropped without a ruling. The matter came up when the list of standing committees was presented and it was stated that the name of Senator Burton of Kansas had been left out at his request. A resolution providing for adjournment from Dec. 21 to Jan. 4 was adopted. The message from the House disagreeing with the Senate amendments to the canal appropriation bill was laid before the Senate. A motion that the Senate insists on the amendments and agreeing to a conference was adopted. The ship subsidy bill was taken up, which makes it the unfinished business. A resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for the names and locations of national banks and the amount of deposits of United States moneys from June 30, 1901, to 1905 was adopted. Insurance, hazing at West Point and Annapolis, the sufferings of the Russian Jews and immigration were the topics of discussion in the House under a general leave of talk. The only business done was to send the Panama canal appropriation bill to conference.

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The Senate Tuesday accepted the report of the conference committee on the Panama canal emergency appropriation bill, which incorporated the Senate amendment as article 1, making the canal bonds available as a basis of national bank circulation. There was a brief discussion of the restoration of this provision and of the attitude of the House in resenting the Senate's action, in which speeches were made by Messrs. Spooner, Aldrich and Teller. All expressed the opinion that the Senate had not exceeded its prerogatives, but the finance committee was asked for an opinion. A bill was passed establishing a fish culture station in Illinois, $25,000 being appropriated. The House continued debating topics of local or national interest, under the guise of referring the message of the President to committees. Federal control of insurance was the main feature in the remarks. A plea against the destruction of the old frigate Constitution was made by Mr. Sulzer (N. Y.). When the conference committee reported on the canal appropriation bill Mr. Williams, the minority leader, objected to action on it and the report went over a day.

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The only notable feature of the open session of the Senate Wednesday was a brief discussion of railroad legislation by Messrs. Foraker and Culberson. At 12:57 p. m. the Senate went into executive session and adopted a motion calling on the President for the return of the notification of the Senate's confirmation of the nominations of the Panama Canal commissioners, for reconsideration. The House continued the general debate, and it is understood that the discussion of the President's message, which has been in progress for seven days, has been concluded. A feature of the oratory was a defense of the Agricultural Department by Southern members, who indorsed the government cotton statistics. The House agreed to the conference report on the Panama Canal appropriation bill and passed a bill for the relief of the Council City and Solomon River Railway Company of Alaska. Mr. Payne reported from the Ways and Means Committee the Philippine tariff for consideration Jan. 4.

National Capital Notes.

Prince Min, the Korean minister to France, who has been in Washington for several days past, called by appointment upon Secretary Root at the State Department and had a conference with him lasting nearly half an hour.

Representative Sulzer of New York introduced a resolution to save "Old Ironsides" (frigate Constitution), which requests the President to prevent the destruction of the frigate and to recommend measures for preserving what remains of the historic craft.

Improved Mail-Bag Catcher.

A recent patented invention for this purpose is most ingenious and effective. Upon a vertical post set in the roadbed, and provided with brackets, two horizontal arms are pivoted, the lower one of which is spring-controlled. These arms support between them the mail-bag holder, which consists primarily of two swinging members, separately hinged together by the peculiar form of hinge. Attached to the two parts of the holder is a flexible connection such as leather, the purpose of which is to hold the two parts in alignment when not under strong pressure. When the arm of the car comes into contact with the mail sack, the joint formed by the hinged parts is broken. The parts separate and the bag is swept into the car.

Caught at Point.

A child's reasoning may not be profound, but it is generally interesting, at least to parents. Polly, who St. James' Budget says, is the daughter of a peer, was drawing pictures on the slate for three-year-old Ralph.

"Look at this dog, Ralph," she said, with great satisfaction. "Isn't he nice? I drew it out of my own head."

"Oh, no," answered Ralph, solemnly. "It came out of the pencil. I saw it come."

Presently he added, with deep thoughtfulness, "There's lots of dogs in that pencil. One came out last night for Harold. I don't know how they get there."

Superstition in Devonshire.

Devonshire is known to the world for its superstitious usages, which defy all efforts to uproot them. To name only one example, when a person dies all the relatives must touch the body or they will be haunted by the ghost of the dead forever after. A superstition not so local in its observance is that of beginning no task on a Friday. The writer recently encountered a girl who, receiving notice to change from one room to another on Friday, insisted upon doing it on the Thursday instead. But the most curious instance of superstition—and this, too, is met much nearer home than Devon—is surely that which prescribes that when, say, a domestic servant has broken a piece of crockery, she is bound by fate to break two other pieces. So far is this idea carried that the writer knows a case where flower pots are kept for the special purpose of being broken to appease the fates! Charles Dickens, however, who died thirty-five years ago, noted that all good things had come to him on a Friday!—London Chronicle.

Puzzling Signs.

"Two strange signs in France and Italy have always puzzled me," said a globe trotter. "One is the sign to be seen in front of every barber's. This is a brass saucer, with a semi-circular nick in one side. Why should a nicked saucer signify a barber shop? I have asked many people, but none could answer me.

"The other sign waves before the shops of dyers and scourers. It consists of two long, slim curtains of cloth, one on each side of the door. The curtains may be of any color—red or blue or yellow—and they are eight or nine feet long and about four feet wide. What do they mean, I wonder?"

Then and Now.

"Goodness me!" exclaimed the woman at the kitchen door. "This is the second time you have called here this week."

"Well, dat ain't so worse," answered the hungry hobo. "Dere wuz a time when me best girl kicked ef I didn't show up twice aday!"

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