

# THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1065—St. Peter's church, Westminster, dedicated by Edward the Confessor.
- 1170—Thomas a'Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, assassinated in the cathedral.
- 1278—Injunction issued by Primate of England against public prayer by little girls on Christmas day.
- 1377—Wickliff divulged his opinion on the Pope's mandate.
- 1535—Society of Jesuits founded by Ignatius Loyola.
- 1552—Catherine Von Bora, wife of Martin Luther, died.
- 1591—Pope Innocent X. died.
- 1594—Expulsion of the Jesuits from Paris.
- 1601—Kinsale, Ireland, surrendered to the English.
- 1652—First newspaper sanctioned in Russia.
- 1661—Earl of Argyle imprisoned for high treason.
- 1694—Mary, Queen of England, died of smallpox.
- 1709—Empress Elizabeth of Russia born. Died on this date in 1761.
- 1714—George Whitefield born.
- 1737—Singular rising and sinking of land noticed at Scarborough, England.
- 1765—James Francis Edward, the Pretender, son of James II. of England, died.
- 1773—Meeting at Philadelphia declared that the Polly, with a cargo of tea, should not land.
- 1806—Russians entered Bucharest.
- 1809—William E. Gladstone born.
- 1812—American warship Constitution captured British ship Java.
- 1813—Fire in Buffalo, N. Y., destroyed 100 houses.
- 1814—Schooner Carolina blown up in Mississippi by the British.
- 1818—Emperor Alexander of Russia granted right to peasants to engage in manufacturing.
- 1828—Procession of free negroes in Philadelphia escorting an African prince returning to Liberia.
- 1831—Rowland Stephenson, British banker and member of Parliament, embezzled \$1,000,000.
- 1831—Hereditary peerage abolished in France.
- 1834—First reformed British Parliament dissolved.
- 1835—Battle of Tampa Bay.
- 1837—Imperial palace at St. Petersburg burned.
- 1845—Texas admitted to the Union.
- 1846—Constitutional charter of New Zealand granted.
- 1854—Thomas W. Dorr, leader of Dorr's Rebellion, died.
- 1857—Bombardment and capture of Canton, China, by English and French forces.
- 1859—Lord Macaulay died, aged 59.
- 1870—Marshal Prim executed at Madrid.
- 1873—Great mass meeting held in Milwaukee for relief of Nebraska grasshopper sufferers.
- 1874—Alphonso XII., father of the present ruler, proclaimed King of Spain.
- 1876—Great railroad accident at Ashtabula, Ohio.
- 1884—Severe earthquake felt in Austria and Spain.
- 1894—Ex-Senator James G. Fair died.
- 1894—Several killed in the burning of the Delavan house, Albany, N. Y.
- 1899—Extradition treaty between United States and Brazil ratified.
- 1899—E. V. Smallley, celebrated journalist, died.

## MORALE'S TROOPS LOSE BATTLE.

**Gen. Rodriguez Is Killed in a Sharp Fight Near Porto Plata.**

Following the attack made on Porto Plata, on the northern coast of Santo Domingo, by General Demetrio Rodriguez, commanding the troops of General Morales, the fugitive President, which resulted in the repulse of the Morales forces by the Caceres garrison after sharp fighting, the Caceres troops, commanded by General Cespedes, attacked the Morales troops in their position outside Porto Plata.

Stubborn fighting followed, during which many men were killed or wounded on both sides, resulting in the defeat of the Morales forces, who were dispersed by the Caceres troops. Among the killed was General Demetrio Rodriguez, former Governor of Monte Christi, who, as reported in Monte Christi, had announced that if his attack on Porto Plata was successful he would proclaim himself a candidate for the presidency of Santo Domingo.

Benjamin Parkhurst of Washington died in an Easton, Pa., hospital from the effects of a beating received at the hands of friends with whom he had been drinking. Parkhurst was connected with the government postal department for twenty years.

Having refused the offer of Miss Lulu May Nesbit of Oakdale, Pa., of a release from his promise of marriage because her foot had been amputated as the result of an accident, James T. McCorkle, a lawyer of Pueblo, Colo., was married to the young woman.

## ENGLAND IS ACCUSED.

Rojevstevsky Says John Bull Was Ready to Aid Togo.

From Admiral Rojevstevsky's own account of his tactics in the battle of the Sea of Japan, published in the St. Petersburg Novoe Vremya, the reader is almost convinced that the Russian commander out-manuevered Admiral Togo at every point and was himself the real victor. He declares he knew Togo's exact whereabouts



two days before the battle, made his dispositions accordingly and entered the fight with his eyes open. The admiral only casually states in the course of his letter that the minister of marine is investigating the cause of the catastrophe to determine whether the commander shall be court-martialed for the loss of his ships.

The charge that the British admiral concentrated his ships at Wei-hai-wei, expecting to receive an order to destroy the Russians in the event of Admiral Togo's proving unequal to the task, has caused a sensation in diplomatic circles, all the more so as Admiral Rojevstevsky's letter was published with the permission of the minister of marine, and no doubt is entertained that it will be made the subject of diplomatic representations to Great Britain.

Referring to the absolute secrecy of Admiral Togo in regard to the disposition of his forces, Rojevstevsky declares that "this was unknown even to the admiral of the British fleet allied with the Japanese, who concentrated his forces at Wei-hai-wei in expectation of receiving an order to annihilate the Russian fleet if this, the final object of Great Britain, was beyond the power of the Japanese."

## THEIR AIM IS A REPUBLIC.

Polish Patriots in This Country Linked in a Great League.

All over the world Poles are watching the course of events in Russia and asking one another "Is there hope?" They do not say of what. That is not necessary. To Poles the phrase has but one meaning—the independence of their country. But their leaders, the Secret Central Committee of the Polish League, are playing a waiting game.

This Secret Central Committee is really a wonderful organization—a government within a government. It consists of the ablest men in the National League, a vast society that numbers nearly every adult male Pole and many women as well. The league has branches in every place where there are enough Poles to form a club of some sort or other. No matter whether the club be social, literary, dramatic, political or athletic, it is first of all patriotic.

There is a secret committee at the head of the various organizations in every country where the Poles have extensive interests. There is one here in New York; which governs the 45,000 members in America. There is another in London, and still others in Paris, Berlin and even St. Petersburg and Warsaw.

From these sub-committees delegates are chosen for the highest committee of all, the Central Committee, whose word is law. These delegates are usually men of considerable wealth, all of it pledged to the cause, and, without exception, of high personal integrity. This is vital, because they have undisputed control of the funds of the league, and are answerable to no one for their expenditures.

Nearly all Poles are firmly determined that if they ever become an independent nation they will have a republic on the plan of our own and with a constitution based on ours. All parties—Nationalist, Agrarian, the three Socialistic parties and a couple of others—make this the chief plank in their platforms.

The league in this country has 45,000 members, of whom 1,500 are women. At its last conference, held at Buffalo about a month ago, some \$60,000 was appropriated for different expenses, among them being a statue of Kosciusko, to be erected in Washington and presented to the American people, and the establishment of a higher Polish school in Pennsylvania. Among the activities of the New York branch is a fund for the relief of Polish deserters from the Russian army who flee to this country.

## MEN OF AFFAIRS

John Jacob Astor's income is estimated at \$30,000 a day.

Andrew Carnegie plays golf in moderation, but is extremely fond of trout and salmon fishing.

Lieut. Gen. Chaffee contemplates taking up a permanent residence in either Berkeley or Piedmont, Cal.

L. White, secretary to Speaker Cannon, is said to be one of the best dressed men at the national capital, which is the converse of the man from Danville.

Judge Bond of Brownsville, Tenn., candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket, is an old-fashioned citizen, who refuses to wear either necktie or cravat.

Capt. Frank Tutz, who will receive his commission as Governor of Oklahoma in January, is only 32 years of age.

Senator Pettus of Alabama wears shirts made by his wife and socks which she has knitted. They live in Selma, Ala., when not in the capital.

Congressman Graham of Pennsylvania has whiskers of the intermittent sort. He passed two of his colleagues the other day in the capitol building, and one of them remarked: "In my opinion Graham's whiskers are punctuated too liberally."

## LOUBET WILL NOT RUN.

President of France Says He Will Not Serve a Third Term.

There is soon to be a great fight in France over the presidency of the great European republic. Before long the national assembly will meet at Versailles for the purpose of choosing a successor to President Loubet whose second term is drawing to a close. There are several candidates prominently spoken of as likely to get the great honor thrust upon them. In some quarters it is said there is a well defined movement on foot to force President Loubet to accept a third term as President. He, however, strongly declares he will not serve a third term.

In another quarter there is a strong feeling against the Loubet government. It is held by many, and openly pronounced, that the Loubet government is full of "graft." Men have declared in Congress that the President has countenanced much political spoilation; that he has inspired a tremendous amount of persecution which is not in



PRESIDENT LOUBET OF FRANCE.

harmony with the republican tendencies of France; that he has carried his ideas of the expulsion of troublesome politicians to an absurd degree and that he has endangered the peace of the republic in a wanton manner. Therefore, it is thought, a strong element will rise up against the element ready to give Loubet a third term in hopes of continuing the policy of spoilation, persecution and expulsion.

M. Fallieres, president of the Senate, has thus far been considered the leading candidate.

## LA FOLLETTE SWORN IN.

Wisconsin's Ex-Governor Now a United States Senator.

Robert M. La Follette was sworn in Thursday as a United States Senator from Wisconsin. Ten minutes before the session began the door of the Republican cloakroom opened and Senator Spooner and his new colleague entered the chamber. This caused a mild sensation, for it was known that there had been bitter



SENATOR LA FOLLETTE.

political feeling existing between them. It was not known in advance whether Mr. Spooner would escort his colleague to the desk to take the oath, or whether Mr. La Follette would accept the escort, but all this was arranged in the cloakroom.

Mr. Spooner before the session introduced a number of Senators to Mr. La Follette. Several members of the House from Wisconsin joined the Senators and shook hands with them.

Mrs. La Follette, accompanied by several friends, was in the Senators' gallery and many other Wisconsin people were in the public galleries.

## Sod House Heated by Steam.

A steam heating plant in a sod house is one of the latest signs that the star of civilization is gradually wending its way westward. The home of Frank Gillispie, a farmer near the city of Bonesteel, S. D., is now heated with a thoroughly modern plant, just installed by an eastern heating appliance manufacturer. Gillispie is well to do, and says he has not had time to erect a brick home, but does not intend to go without the comforts of steam heat in his seven-room sod house.

## INSURANCE INQUIRY ENDS.

Legislative Committee Adjourns After Uncaring Scandal.

After four months of most arduous work the legislative committee appointed at an extra session of the New York legislature adjourned Saturday night. Since mid-summer through the workings of this committee under the laws of New York State, and many incorporated under the laws of other States, have been subjected to a searching examination as to their business methods. The testimony has been sensational at many sessions, and in these four months, the public has watched closely day by day the developments.

With the termination of the committee's inquiry there comes to an end an investigation which in many ways marks an epoch in the country's business history. It is too early to estimate the ultimate results of the investigation, but they cannot fail to be far-reaching. When, early in the past year, the disagreement between James Hazen Hyde and President Alexander of the Equitable Life Assurance Society brought to light some of the peculiarities in the administration of that concern, the public had not the faintest conception of the true state of affairs as regards any of the leading companies. Even by the end of June the facts were but vaguely suspected.

From the time the investigating committee began work, four months ago, the process of turning up new scandals and instances of graft has been almost continuous. Hardly a week has gone by without its disclosures of fresh instances of extravagance or private greed or new revelations of sinister and unsuspected relations between business and politics. The men directly affected by these disclosures have been some of the most conspicuous in public life, but hardly one of them has escaped suspicion, while many of them have suffered a loss of prestige and reputation from which they never will recover.

Not the least instructive feature of the inquiry has been the lesson it has afforded regarding the practical value of a legislative investigation when properly conducted. The public generally is prone to be pessimistic as to the utility of such investigations. Ordinarily they begin with much ostentation and high promise of results only to terminate in a perfunctory and valueless report. The New York committee, made up of men who were in earnest and equipped with an able, tactful and aggressive lawyer, who saw his duty and did it without hesitation, obtained facts which will lead to real and permanent reforms. New and better laws and better methods of supervising insurance companies will be provided. Public sentiment as regards honest business standards has been improved.

## JUMPED OVER CHRISTMAS.

How Pacific Steamship Passengers Missed the Day Entirely.

One hundred persons who left Seattle on Dec. 16 for the Orient skipped Christmas day, but the oddest thing about it is that they probably knew nothing of it, but went through the observation of the natal day of the Saviour, blissfully unconscious of the fact that the day was dropped from their calendar.

Those who were victimized in this way were passengers on the Great Northern steamship Dakota, en route to Japan and China. The ship's schedule provided that the steamer pass over the day line in the Pacific ocean Sunday night. Vessels going to the Orient from the United States always lose one day at the day line, and the Dakota lost hers Christmas day. She arrived at the 180th meridian just about midnight Sunday. The instant the day was struck it became Tuesday, or the day after Christmas.

Passengers on the steamship were kept in the dark as to this conspiracy to rob Saint Nicholas, and an effort was un-



doubtedly made to keep the secret until the evil deed was accomplished. Elaborate preparations were made for the festivities.

Were the Dakota on the way home from Japan the situation would be reversed, and there would be two Christmas days aboard the ship, or, rather, one Christmas day forty-eight hours long, as the day line is generous enough about paying back its debts to those who do not remain in the Orient. It is a kind of head tax he assesses, redeemable on demand if the face is in the right direction.

This day line seems mystifying to many persons who observe its meanderings over the Pacific ocean on the map. Beginning away back up in the Arctic wastes, it follows the 180th degree south for some distance, and then bends to go through Behring Strait. Thence it moves in an irregular line down almost to the Equator, and bends east to the 150th meridian. Then its crooked pathway may be traced through the Southern Pacific until it finally gets back to the 180th meridian and disappears in the unknown region east of Wilkes Land.

## Short News Notes.

Horatio Ray Miller of New York died in London of pneumonia.

The directors of the Cleveland Electric railway have raised the wages of more than 2,000 motormen and conductors 1 cent an hour.

Justice Kenefick of Buffalo authorized Receiver Wheeler of the German bank of Buffalo to accept the \$650,000 offer of the Assets Realization Company of Chicago or the bank's assets now in his hands. The face value of the assets is \$2,100,000.



Dr. H. W. Wiley of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture is making inquiry into the sanitary conditions of cold storage. It stands to reason, he says, that there must be a limit to the period during which meat and poultry will keep in storage in a state fit to eat. The cold-storage companies are on the side of the investigators, for obviously it is to their interest to know under what conditions food spoils, and to be sure of the state of perishable goods which they are sending out to their customers. The department has the use of a cold-storage plant in Washington for purposes of experiment, and will ultimately publish its conclusions in a pure food bulletin. It is interesting to learn that although at present the standards of this department have no legal force, yet by the natural authority which popular sentiment accords the work of the bureau, they have gained something of the effect which adequate legislation would give them.

There have been seven marriages performed at the White House, where it is, of course, inferred that the Longworth-Roosevelt nuptials are to be celebrated. The first was that of Miss Maria Monroe, the youngest daughter of President Monroe, who was married in March, 1820, to Samuel L. Gouverneur, of New York. The ceremony was held in the famous east room. The most brilliant wedding ceremonies in this room were those of Miss Elizabeth Tyler and William Waller, of Virginia, and Miss Nellie Grant and Algernon Sartoris. The last wedding to be held in the east room was that of a niece of President Hayes. President Cleveland and Miss Frances Folsom were united in the blue room. The only other President married during his term of office was President Tyler, whose second wife was Miss Julia Gardner. The ceremony was performed at her home in New York.

Congressman Frederick Landis, who in his maiden speech in the House, flayed insurance grafters and high financiers, is serving his first term in Congress and is one of the youngest members in that body, being just 34 years of age.



F. LANDIS.

He represents the Eleventh Indiana District, and his older brother, Charles B. Landis, represents the Ninth District of the United States District Court in Chicago, is another brother.

Hitherto the department heads had full power of removal of employees, but were required to give to the person sought to be removed a copy of the charges against him, and to allow him a reasonable time in which to make reply. Under the new order, when misconduct is committed in the presence of the President or the head of a department, the person offending may be summarily removed from the service without a statement of reasons. In other cases the head of a department must file a statement of the grounds of removal but need not give notice to the person who is to be removed.

American farmers have been raising macaroni wheat from seed secured in the first place by the Department of Agriculture. Secretary Wilson says that these farmers will send six million bushels of their crop to France, Italy and other parts of Europe this year. Half of this amount goes to the macaroni-makers of France. Six million bushels is a small amount in comparison with the total wheat exports, but six years ago this country exported no wheat of this kind, and it was only five years ago that the first seed was distributed by the Department of Agriculture. Results of this kind amply justify the existence of the department.

Representative Brownlow of Tennessee holds the record so far for introducing bills at the present session of Congress. In thirteen days he introduced 347 bills. The total number of bills introduced in the House in the thirteen days was 10,061, as against a total of 19,209 for all sessions of the last Congress.

It cost just \$145,491.28 for the fourteen hours celebration attendant upon the installation of Theodore Roosevelt as the twenty-sixth President of the United States. The matter has been computed by General John M. Wilson, chairman of the inaugural committee, that had the ceremonies in charge. This sum is about \$50,000 more than it cost to install any other man as President and about \$140,000 more than it cost to swear in Thomas Jefferson as President.



MR. BROWNLOW.

## DEMANDS NEW LAW.

Governor of New York Urges Passage of Drastic Insurance Law.

Governor Higgins' message to the New York Legislature, which was presented to that body, urged the passage of a drastic insurance law. Some of the reforms suggested by the Governor in his message follow:

That large amounts ought, for the safety of the insured as well as for the good of the community, to be invested in bonds secured by mortgages on real estate at a conservative valuation.

That deposits with or loans to moneyed corporations should be subject to suitable restrictions.

That the control of subsidiary companies should not be permitted.

That insurance directors should have no conflicting business connections.

That investments in corporate bonds should be regulated so as to prevent speculation and loss from an attempt to float doubtful enterprises.

That policies should be of standard forms, so that the abuses arising from ambiguity, complexity and incompleteness of contract may be eradicated and the contract made definite in form and substance.

That a uniform system of audits and accounts should be prescribed by the insurance department.

That full publicity to policy holders should be assured.

That deferred dividend policies should be prohibited or greatly restricted.

That policies should be further safeguarded from forfeiture.

That an equitable distribution of the gains of the company to the policy holders entitled thereto should be required.

That policy holders should have an effective voice in the government of the companies, and that the discretion of the directors should be subject to judicial or administrative review.

## AN IMPENDING CRISIS.

Part New Constabulary Will Play in Pennsylvania Strikes.

There are indications of a long and bitter strike in the anthracite coal regions and financiers with vast interests in the coal roads privately declare that the anthracite mine workers will be doing well if they have any work to do for three months after March 15. It is particularly significant that retail coal dealers supplying the anthracite field have been for months past urging their patrons to lay in a year's supply of coal and that every storage yard in the region is taxed to its utmost capacity with domestic sizes of anthracite.

In such a strike the new State constabulary will take a part. The law creating the State constabulary provides for four troops, each consisting of one captain, one lieutenant, five sergeants and fifty privates. Every private will be a soldier who has seen actual service in the field. The law calling out this mobile force of armed men was enacted by the Pennsylvania Legislature at its last session and while it is possible that one or two companies of the National Guard, recruited right in the heart of the anthracite field, might waver in a finish fight at the mines the picked men of the constabulary will follow the code of the regular army and will perform their work as they face it.

There was no excuse for organizing this force of sharpshooters except the impending strike in the anthracite region which will call out 185,000 men. Under the law the constabulary has authority similar to that of a sheriff who, in all matters coming under his personal observation, this new armed force can go anywhere in the State, just as the judges may, and once there may act with or without the consent of the sheriff.

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The Rev. David Hillhouse Euel, the new president of Georgetown university, is one of the pronounced opponents of the present methods in football.

At the recent annual dinner of the Union college alumni Andrew Carnegie offered to give \$100,000 to equip an engineering department at Schenectady on condition that a like amount be subscribed by the alumni.

That Bible stories should be told to school children as part of their language lessons is a recommendation made in the report of the committee of the Wisconsin Teachers' Association appointed to investigate language study.

Dr. William Osler, regius professor of medicine at Oxford, will return to America about Christmas and in January will take part in the work of the Johns Hopkins Medical school at Baltimore, much as he did when at the head of that institution.

The teachers of the Hazleton (Pa.) high school decided unanimously that they would refuse to accept Christmas presents from their pupils, the reason being that many of the pupils who felt it their duty to give were not able and that others who could not give were envious of those who could.

The Pennsylvania railroad has applied to the school officials of Altoona for permission to equip the high school in that city with complete appliances for teaching young men the railroad business from top to bottom. The equipment will cost \$18,000 and special instructors will also be furnished by the company.

The Board of Education at Boone, Iowa, has passed the following resolution unanimously: "Resolved, That every teacher signing a contract to teach in the schools in this district be notified that the Board will from this day decline to accept his or her resignation and will insist that the contract be carried out as signed, and that all superintendents of schools or any member of the board as to standing or qualification of any teacher under contract be notified of such contract, and that this board will refuse to release such teacher."

Advertise in this paper