

Current Topics

A Veteran Railroader.

Forty-two years of continuous service with one railroad is not a common record. When it includes such important posts as have been held by Charles E. Perkins, retiring president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy system, it marks a man of commanding ability and power. It was from the inconspicuous position of a railroad clerk at a far western town that Mr. Perkins rose to the head of one of the greatest railroad systems in the world. It took him but little more than twenty years to climb from the bottom to the loftiest height, but during that period he passed through all the grades. He earned promotion on merit, and when he became the chief of the Burlington he had a broad knowledge of every department of the complicated business of railroading. As cashier, secretary and treasurer he learned the intricacies of office work and the principles of financing. As superintendent and general manager he came to know perfectly everything from a coupling pin to a fast express with a minuteness that made him commander of every situation in a business full of emergencies and of embarrassing problems. The knowledge of both sides of the business fitted



CHARLES E. PERKINS.
him peculiarly well for the position of president, in which comprehensive knowledge makes for effectiveness.

The State Flower Question.

Another state is in the throes of agitation over the question of adopting a floral emblem. The legislature, people, and press of Massachusetts are divided as between the trailing arbutus or mayflower, the adoption of which is provided for in a bill introduced in the house a year ago, and the blue flag, known as flag lily and flower de luce, and to the botanists as Iris versicolor.

The friends of the mayflower urge that it is emblematic of the past history of the state, its resources and future promise, and that it lends itself to artistic use in architecture. The opponents make answer that the mayflower, which is not a May flower but an April flower, has no association whatever with the Pilgrim vessel of that name, as the plant does not grow in England and consequently the vessel could not have been named for it, and that as there are several plants in Massachusetts known as mayflowers the arbutus could not have been named for the vessel. As to the resources and future promise of the commonwealth, they do not see how they can be characterized by a flower which is so poorly adapted to the soil of the old Bay State, that it is now on the verge of extinction. As to the artistic use of the flower in architecture, they are certainly right in saying that its small and commonplace shape forbids it.

The native blue flag, on the other hand, is the most beautiful of the wild lily family. It grows everywhere and blooms profusely. It cannot be exterminated by picking, while florists can produce it at any season of the year, whereas the mayflower cannot be cultivated. Moreover, its leaves are like the drawn sword in the state emblem, its color is that of the flag of Bunker Hill and the old frigate Constitution, and for the purpose of decoration and artistic treatment it cannot be surpassed. There is only one danger which confronts the advocates of the blue flag. The fleur de lis was the monarchical emblem of France. At the proper time the aunties of Boston will muster in force against its adoption upon the ground it will commit the state to monarchism.

"Mayor of Chinatown"

Sam Moy, "Mayor of Chinatown," who was missing for several days, made his appearance in Chicago the other morning. He had been visiting his brother celestials at Kansas City



SAM MOY.
for two weeks. As nothing had been seen of him it was feared that he had met with foul play at the hands of the "Highlanders."

AS THE WORLD REVOLVES

For Mayor of Chicago.

Elbridge G. Haney, republican nominee for mayor of Chicago, is judge of the Circuit Court of Cook county. He was a candidate for the gubernatorial nomination at the



ELBRIDGE G. HANEY.
Peoria convention which nominated Governor Yates. Born on a farm in Dodge county, Wisconsin, fifty years ago, he came to Chicago in 1869 and secured a position as clerk with Field, Leiter & Co., and later was a salesman in the establishment of John V. Farwell & Co. He began reading law and was admitted to the bar in 1874. In 1893 he was elected Circuit Court judge and in June, 1897, was re-elected.

Donations to Libraries.

Should the donations for libraries continue during the present year upon the generous ratio which has marked January and February they may occupy first place in the year's totals. During these two months the gifts to libraries have amounted to \$3,148,000. Of this large amount Andrew Carnegie has contributed \$2,400,000 for twenty-seven libraries at Aurora, Decatur, Jacksonville, Lincoln, Springfield, Centralia, and Galenburg, Ill.; Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.; Syracuse, Mount Vernon, and Port Jervis, N. Y.; Conneaut, O.; the Upper Iowa University and Sioux Falls, Ia.; Goshen and Marion, Ind.; Lewiston, Me.; Mankato and St. Cloud, Minn.; Grand Rapids and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; Easton, Pa.; Green Bay, Wis.; Cumberland, Md.; Jackson, Tenn.; and Norwalk, O. In addition to these amounts T. L. Jenks has given \$45,000 to Conway, N. H.; Jarvis Ford, \$20,000 to St. Joseph, Mo.; Elisha Converse, \$125,000 to Malden, Mass.; Oswald Ottendorfer, by will, \$20,000 to New York; Mrs. Vaughan, \$60,000 to Ashland, Wis.; Charles F. Emerson, \$100,000 to Dixon, Ill.; George F. Perkins, \$50,000 to Akron, O.; and M. A. Ryerson, \$150,000 to Grand Rapids, Mich. In smaller amounts \$48,000 has been contributed to various localities.

Milton E. Ailes.



Who succeeds Mr. Vanderlip as assistant secretary of the treasury.

A Sensible Verdict.

Some time ago the New York World printed a story telling how a woman had induced a young German to give her nearly the last dollar he had in the world, promising in return to give him a lucrative position as a teacher in her school. The woman failed to keep her promise, and the victim, having reached the end of his resources, committed suicide.

The woman brought suit against the World for libel, and the case was tried and submitted to a jury a few days ago, with the result that a verdict for the defendant was returned within five minutes after the jurors had left the court room.

Not only was a verdict rendered for the defendant, but the judge awarded the World an extra allowance of \$500, besides the regular costs of the action. In the trial of the case the World pleaded justification, and brought forward a large number of witnesses who swore that they had been defrauded by the woman in a similar way.

The time was when the average jury was disposed to make a newspaper pay heavy damages in libel cases on almost any sort of pretext, but there has been a marked change in this respect in the last few years.

Juries are now beginning to realize that newspapers are the safeguards of the nation, and to look to them for the exposure of frauds of every kind that threaten the public welfare.

A verdict like this is a healthy sign. Those who go beyond the pale of the law must expect to be exposed, and the sooner they realize the fact the better it will be for them.

Newspapers will continue to expose frauds, and if juries will do their duty under evil-doers, who manage to get through the meshes of the law, turn about and bring suit for damaged reputation, all will be well.

SAYINGS and DOINGS

Consul Wildman's Successor.

The new consul general to Hongkong, W. A. Rublee, is a tall, athletic-looking young man who is apt to impress strangers as one whom it might be unpleasant to trifle with. Mr. Rublee will not be a stranger to his new work. He served four years as consul general at Prague during the administration of President Harrison. His able management of the office won for him high commendation from the state department. His reports were considered models of information, clearness and style.

He has the good fortune to possess a newspaper training. His father was for many years the editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel, and the son has had eight years' experience as an editorial writer. This training has given him an especially good insight into international affairs and will be of much assistance to him in preparing his reports. Mr. Rublee is now 40 years of age. He graduated from Harvard and



W. A. RUBLEE.

has mastered the German and French languages. His family consists of a wife and one child.

Barrie's Graphic Picture.

Of Professor Tait, who has resigned the chair of natural philosophy at Edinburgh university, J. M. Barrie has drawn a graphic picture in his "Edinburgh Eleven." "I have his figures before me," he writes. "The small twinkling eyes had a fascinating gleam in them; he could concentrate them until they held the object looked at; when they flashed around the room he seemed to have drawn a rapier. I have seen a man fall back in alarm under Tait's eyes, though there were a dozen benches between them." Professor Tait once demonstrated mathematically to his own satisfaction that a golf ball could only be driven a certain distance. The calculation held good until his own son drove a ball thirty yards farther.

An Actor's Child.

Miss Louise Drew, whose debut in the part of Betty Taylor in "Richard Carvel" has immensely pleased her father, John Drew, belongs to the third generation of the family which has furnished so many distinguished members to the theatrical profession. Her grandmother, the late Mrs. John Drew, was known as the "mother of the American stage." Miss Drew has just completed her twentieth year. She made her bow in society last fall at her father's home in Philadelphia. At that time there was given in her honor a reception at which nearly 1,000 persons were present. The charming actress was not wholly new to the stage when she made her essay in "Richard Carvel." She had once before appeared in a minor part. This was about a year ago, while her father was playing "The Tyranny of Tears"



LOUISE DREW.

at Philadelphia. It had been, however, her sole experience as an actress until her formal debut the other evening.

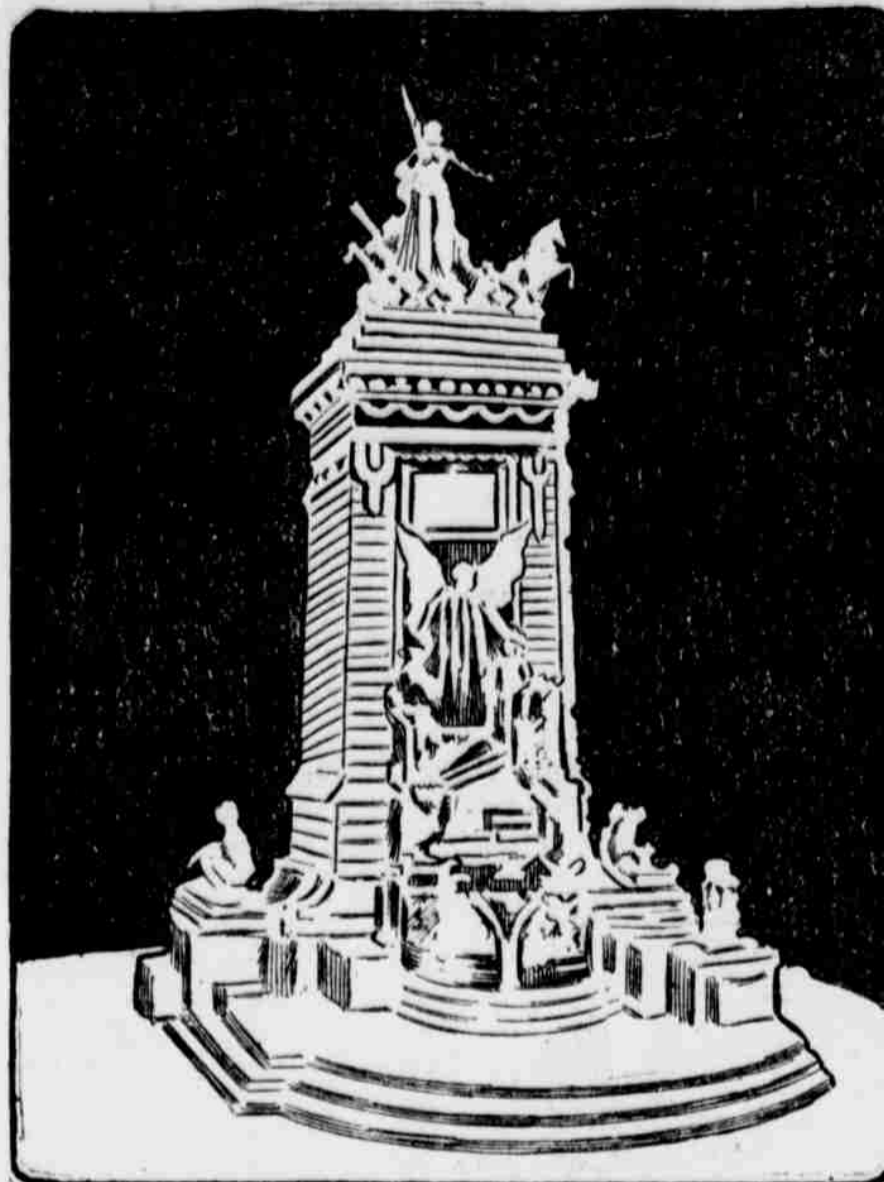
Cottage of Peter the Great.

The cottage where Peter the Great dwelt when he was learning the trade of shipbuilding in Zaardam, Holland, still exists, though somewhat dilapidated. It contains the rude furniture which the great Peter used—a bedstead, table and two chairs. It is enclosed in a building erected for the purpose and over the mantel is a tablet erected by Alexander of Russia in 1814.

A Woman in London.

Miss Kathleen Haydn Green, daughter of London's lord mayor, is a writer of very promising verse. She has just been elected a vice president of the Society of Women Journalists of London.

FOR MAINE HEROES.



PROPOSED MONUMENT FOR HEROES OF THE MAINE.

A monument to the memory of those who lost their lives on the Maine in Havana harbor is to be erected in New York. The enterprise has so far progressed that the contract has already been awarded and the work will be begun at an early day. The sum of \$110,000 has been subscribed and is in the hands of the treasurer, and enough has been pledged to increase the fund

to \$125,000, the estimated cost of the shaft.

The monument will be erected in Long Acre square, the roomy triangle which takes in the combined width of Broadway and Seventh avenue and extends from Forty-fifth street on the south to Forty-eighth street on the north. It will stand in the center of a circle which will be situated about mid-

What Might Have Been.

At the Geneva arbitration in 1871-72—to settle the claims of the United States against Great Britain for the damages to our commerce caused by the cruisers built in English ports—William M. Everts, Caleb Cushing and Morrison R. Waite were counsel for the United States. Charles Francis Adams was the arbitrator on behalf of the United States.

At that time Mr. Everts ranked among the greatest lawyers at the American bar, had filled a conspicuous place in national politics and was prominent in civic affairs. Mr. Cushing was a much older man, with a varied political experience in all parties, a brilliant man, versed in diplomacy and possessing great learning on almost every subject of human study. Mr. Waite was a Toledo lawyer with- out reputation beyond the limits of Ohio—a quiet, conservative man who had rejected high political honors and was devoted singly to the law.

The brilliant results of the arbitration—an award of \$15,000,000 to the United States—was due in a great measure to the powerful argument of Mr. Everts, who was easily the leader in the debates before the arbitrators. When the counsel for the United States returned home they received the highest popular applause for their successful labors. In a monarchy they would have been ennobled and received other marks of royal favor. They were paid well in money, but their only further immediate reward was the approval and congratulations of the people of the country.

In 1873, however, Salmon P. Chase, chief justice of the United States, died, leaving a vacancy in that office which is the object of the highest ambition cherished by American lawyers. It was supposed that President Grant would appoint to the place William M. Everts, recognized as one of the greatest lawyers at the bar and the leader in the contest before the Geneva tribunal. For some reason never explained Morrison R. Waite, instead of Mr. Everts, was appointed, to the surprise of the bar and the general public.

Judge Waite held the office until 1883, when he died suddenly in March of that year. The great prize was drawn by Melville W. Fuller of Chicago, who still holds the office and is in excellent health.

If President Grant had appointed Everts instead of Waite to the chief justiceship he would have held it until another republican president was in office. The tenure of a single life changed the occupancy of this great office for at least a score of years, perhaps for more than a generation.

Diminishing Outdoor Relief.

The current number of Co-operation, the weekly organ of the Bureau of Associated Charities, reviews the decline which has been taking place in recent years in the policy of giving outdoor relief in the principal American cities. What might be styled the abolition movement with respect to such relief began in Brooklyn in 1878, when Mayor Seth Low stopped all public payments to poor families in their homes. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, San Francisco and Kansas City have since followed this example, and St. Louis and New Orleans give but "trifling" amounts in this way. The majority of the more important cities of the country continue giving outdoor relief, Chicago leading the list in point of population, and being followed by St. Louis and

way between the two streets named. By the time the monument is in place the two large hotels which the Astors have planned to erect facing the square, one on the east and the other on the west side, will have been completed. Other improvements soon to be made in that locality include the building of a fine theater.

The monument proper will be fashioned of Tennessee marble and will rise to a height of sixty-five feet, measuring from the base to the tri- archy.

The base will extend a considerable distance to the right and left of the shaft—if the upright portion can properly be called a shaft—and have a width of eighty feet.

At the foot of the shaft there will be some beautiful sculpture in bronze, symbolical of the two great oceans which wash the shores of the United States. The figure of a young man of athletic build will have a place alongside the running water, which will represent the Atlantic; on the opposite side will be the figure of an old man, of apparently sluggish temperament, and a more placid stream, symbolical of the Pacific.

In all, there will be ten bronze statues, including two heroic ones, representing, respectively, power and justice.

A group which promises to be very effective will be an additional embellishment of the lower part of one side of the monument. It will consist of a Roman galley, typifying the battleship Maine, and this will be drawn by a youth intended to represent the strength of the nation and the pride of the latter in the men and ships of its navy.

The crowning beauty of the monument will be a large bronze group surmounting all, and which Mr. Piccirilli calls "Columbia Triumphant." The beautiful goddess will be depicted bearing the wreaths of victory in her arms and her galley drawn by two sea-horses. Upon the base of the monument will be perpetuated the names of the brave fellows who went to their death in the doomed battleship.

Boston. But from a report on the subject covering twenty leading American cities it appears that their disbursements for this purpose have decreased 33.1-3 per cent since 1897. The tendency, which is so marked in the large cities, is also observable in smaller towns and in rural sections.

Public opinion appears thus to be drifting in favor of leaving the care of needy people in their homes to private initiative. It would be interesting to know to what extent this is due to a doctrinaire feeling that the public should not bear the burden of private want, and how much to the conviction that practically this can be and is more wisely ministered to by private than by public agencies.

Mr. Hewitt to the Rich.

A month ago ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt of New York delivered an address urging rich men to devote more of their money to effective charity. A few days ago he spoke on the same subject again, in spite of the fact that the only immediate result of his former effort was to inflict upon himself several thousand begging letters. Mr. Hewitt rightly contends that charity is doing enough for individual cases of poverty, but not enough is being done to improve the environments that foster poverty and criminality. He says there can be no hope for future purity or good government in our great cities until society has abolished the degrad-

ing surroundings in which thousands of children in the slum districts are reared. The proper way to begin this work is to build decent tenements in which the poor can be housed for the same rents they are now paying for hovels.

Conditions prevail in certain slum districts of New York and Chicago that would have been intolerable a century ago and that are doubly discreditable and dangerous now. The enormous increase of wealth in the nation has left these barracks of poverty worse than before. Mr. Hewitt is correct when he says progress is a failure if it can do nothing to help the poor or to abolish conditions that breed vice. The life of a rich man is a failure if he does nothing for the general good of society. Happily Mr. Hewitt is also justified in saying that rich men have never before been so much inclined as at present to regard their wealth as a trust fund which they are under obligations to administer rightly. He will do an excellent service if he can induce some of his millionaire friends to turn their donations into the channel of tenement-house reform.

In Algeria a river of ink is formed by the conjunction of two streams, one of which is impregnated with iron and the other, which drains a peat bog, with gallic acid. The mixing of the iron and the acid results in ink.

General Botha's Wife.

Mrs. Louis Botha, wife of the com- mandant general of the Boer army,

A passport was provided her and the meeting was effected. "If it is to visit



me you come, I am delighted to see you," said General Botha, "but if you come to implore me to cease this struggle, you only shame me." Mrs. Botha said nothing more about her mission, and nothing came of the negotiations at that time.