

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Just Wet Your Finger.

If on a calm day you want to know in what direction the slightest current of air is moving, wet your finger and hold it up. It feels cool on the side where the breeze strikes it, owing to the evaporation.

Costing 50,000 Men a Year.

In March the British loss in South Africa was 456 men killed and wounded, 428 died from diseases and 3,069 sent home as invalids. The cost of the warfare is still at the rate of nearly 50,000 men a year.

Thought They were Forgeries.

A Michigan postmaster sought to prosecute a man for using Pan-American stamps on letters, claiming the stamps to be crude forgeries. He is now out in the woods, striving to get out of range of the jeering throng.

New Place for the Pretender.

The extraordinary proposition is made to the duke of Orleans, the pretender to the throne of France, that as Sicily is discontented he take the throne of Sicily. The duke has replied that he will sit on the throne of France or on none.

It is a Small Matter.

The operation of removing a man's stomach is not so difficult as supposed. All that you have to do is to separate the organ at the bottom of the esophagus, and also at the top of the jejunum; next draw up the jejunum and attach it to the base of the esophagus; then sew up the incision and go home.

The World's Model Charter.

The president was characteristically pointed in his recent speech at San Jose, Cal. "We live," he said, "under a constitution that was made by 4,000,000 of people, and yet it has proved adequate for 75,000,000 of people." "That instrument," he added, "seems almost to be inspired to carry forward the holy mission of liberty. It seems not to have been made alone for those who framed it and their successors, but for all ages and for all mankind."

Where the Shoe Pinches.

While the corner in corn is a good thing for the farmers who happen to have some of that grain to sell at 50 cents a bushel, it is not so desirable for industries that use corn as their raw material. The 15 factories of the National Starch company have been ordered to get ready to close down until the corn market becomes settled. This will throw several thousand employes out of work until the speculators cease manipulating corn and allow prices to reach a normal level.

The Joke of the Exposition.

The joke of the Pan-American exposition is on the capitalists who built the mammoth Slatler hotel, with nine acres of sleeping rooms, three three miles of halls, and a dining room to feed 5,000 persons. On Friday 286 employes were on duty at the hotel. There was one guest, Mr. Wilton, of New York, who humorously complained to the officers of inattention on the part of the servants. Mr. Wilson went away Saturday and the management is looking for some one to take his place.

A Ratio of Six to Four.

Although it is less than three years since the war with Spain began, there have been already almost 41,000 applications for pensions filed on account of it, and this exclusive of the service in the Philippines. It is estimated that the total number of men in the war on the American side was 274,717, though of this number only about 60,000 were actually engaged. It will be seen, therefore, on this basis, that for every six men who actually saw service there have been four applications for pensions.

A Dispensary in Florida.

Florida has followed the example of South Carolina and is about to adopt a dispensary system, which does away with saloons and makes the state the only liquor seller. Tourist hotels are allowed certain exemptions, and "wines made from Florida grapes and fruits may be sold under liberal provisions." It is anticipated that the new law will yield the state \$1,000,000 a year net income, which will be used in building good roads. The more the people of Florida drink the better roads they will have.

Railroads Are to Blame.

Josiah Flynt, the author of "Tramping with Tramps," has recorded the fact that the railroads are the mainstay of the tramping business in the United States. If the hobos could no longer steal rides on freight trains or in front of mail or baggage cars many of them would soon weary of their profession and go to work. If these men had to walk from city to city their travels would bear such a lifelike resemblance to real work that tramping would lose its charm.

THE CRISIS PASSED.

Mrs. McKinley's Condition So Improved That She Can Sit Up.

An Injection of Saline Directly Into the Blood Brought About the Rally—Party Will Soon Leave Direct for the East.

San Francisco, May 20.—Mrs. McKinley's condition was so far improved yesterday evening that she was able to sit up for awhile. This welcome news was given out shortly after five o'clock. Gen. Shafter called on President McKinley and while they were talking word came downstairs that Mrs. McKinley was sitting up. The president at once asked to be excused and hurried to the sick room. The anxiety caused by Saturday night's bulletin stating that Mrs. McKinley's temperature was higher was dispelled at ten o'clock yesterday morning when Secretary Cortelyou announced that she had passed a comfortable night and that the slight fever noted Saturday night had subsided. The president did not attend church, but remained at home nearly all day, only going out for a short walk just before noon. There was a general feeling that the crisis had been passed and that Mrs. McKinley would continue to gain strength. No definite date has yet been decided upon as to when the president will start for the national capital, but it is hoped that Mrs. McKinley will be able to travel within a few days.

Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock stated that he now considers Mrs. McKinley out of danger.

It is learned that the rally which marked the turning point in her illness came immediately after a treatment on Thursday which included a saline injection directly into the blood. Her pulse showed quick improvement and she continued to improve all day yesterday. Leading physicians who have been informed of the course of treatment which has been pursued not only entertain the hope, but have confidence in the prediction, that the patient will have better health in the future than she has had for many years.

The newspapers have established temporary headquarters for their reporters in the neighborhood of the Scott residence and a vigil is maintained night and day. Very few facts concerning the sick room are given out, however, except the statements contained in the official bulletins, which are invariably brief.

SEES GOOD IN TRUSTS.

An Iron Company Official Says Big Combinations Only Tend to Steady Prices.

Washington, May 20.—W. L. King, of the firm of Jones & Laughlin, iron and steel manufacturers of Pittsburg, testifying before the industrial commission, said he had no apprehensions of evil effects from the steel combination. Possibly some independent operators might be injured, but it was his opinion, he said, that in the main the effect of the combination would be to steady prices. One difficulty which independent operators would have to encounter would be to secure ores, but Mr. King expressed confidence that there would be new ore discoveries to meet future demands. He thought, however, that iron and steel manufacturers would need a capital of \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

SHUTS OUT TYPEWRITERS.

Turkey Will Not Have These Modern Machines Because the Writers of Seditious Documents Couldn't Be Traced.

Constantinople, May 19.—The customs authorities have prohibited the entry of typewriters into Turkey, and 200 machines now in the custom house have been ordered returned to the consignor. The authorities have taken the characteristic attitude that there is no distinct feature about typewriting by which authorship could be recognized or a person using a machine be traced. Consequently the government holds that anyone is able to put in type seditious writings without fear of compromising himself. Hectographic paste and fluid are also prohibited for similar reasons. The embassies are making representations upon the subject with the view of inducing the Turkish government to take a more reasonable attitude.

GREAT STRIKE SETTLED.

Concessions by Both Sides Brought to a Happy Termination the Strained Relations at Albany.

Albany, N. Y., May 20.—The street railway employees' strike which was inaugurated 12 days ago on the lines of the United Traction company in Albany, Troy, Cohoes, Rennselaer and Watervleit is at an end. There were concessions on both sides and agreements were reached early Saturday at a conference at which both the corporation and operatives were represented, under which it should be possible to avoid strikes in the future.

TO TAKE HER TO CANTON.

Mrs. McKinley Will Recuperate at the Old Home Among Familiar Friends—Ogden Route on Return Trip.

San Francisco, May 21.—Although Mrs. McKinley's condition has greatly improved, her physicians have named a week or ten days as the shortest possible time in which she can gather strength to make the trip across the continent. The immediate members of the presidential party will therefore remain here for that length of time though it is probable that the others will leave for the east during the present week. They will go direct from San Francisco to Canton. At Mrs. McKinley's old home, surrounded by familiar faces and with every comfort it is expected that her recuperation will be more rapid than if she went to Washington. President McKinley spends much of each summer at Canton, and the arrival there will be not far from the date of his regular annual visit. He will probably proceed immediately to Washington after leaving Mrs. McKinley, returning to Canton as soon as the more pressing public business has been disposed of. Miss Mary Barber, Mrs. McKinley's niece, will go with Mrs. McKinley to Canton.

The Ogden route will be taken. Gov. Gage has been informed by the president that no stops of any length would be made at Sacramento or elsewhere en route. The president will not leave the train, though he may speak briefly from the rear platform at one or two important cities.

PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY.

Resolution Adopted Deprecating Opening the Buffalo Exposition Gates on Sunday—Protest Against Sunday Papers.

Philadelphia, May 21.—Routine matters occupied the attention of the commissioners of the Presbyterian general assembly during the greater portion of yesterday's sessions. The annual reports of the eight church boards were submitted to the assembly and three of them, ministerial relief, education and freedmen, with the reports of their standing committees, were disposed of. The others will be taken up to-day and tomorrow, when it is expected that the desk will be clear for the discussion of the revision committee's report, which is the special order for Thursday.

A resolution was adopted deprecating the action of the directors of the Pan-American exposition in opening the gates on Sunday and earnestly urging the closing of the exposition on that day.

The special committee on Sabbath observances protested against the publication of Sunday newspapers and the use of the Lord's day for business purposes or commercial interests.

FINANCES OF HAVANA.

Capital of Cuba Has an Indebtedness of \$12,235,931—City Revenues Need to Be Increased.

Havana, May 21.—The commission which was appointed to investigate and report on the condition of the finances of Havana says the indebtedness of the city is \$12,235,931. The average cost of the city expenses outside of public instruction and some other items which are defrayed by the state are \$2,250,000. The report says that after making all due allowances the taxable income of Havana property should be \$10,000,000, or \$1,200,000 per year. The water rates also should yield about \$800,000 instead of \$340,000 as at present. This estimate is based on the fact that at present only 11,650 houses take water when there ought to be 20,000.

FOR SCOTCHMEN ONLY.

Andrew Carnegie Gives Nearly Ten Million Dollars to the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and St. Andrews.

London, May 21.—Andrew Carnegie has given £2,000,000 to establish free education in four Scotch universities, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and St. Andrews. He stipulates that the beneficiaries be his "Scottish fellow-countrymen" only, no English, Irish, colonial or foreigners. The fund will apply to medical as well as to commercial education and will be placed in the hands of trustees, who will pay the expenses of Scottish students benefited under the scheme.

Army Prisoner Tried to Escape.

Kansas City, Mo., May 21.—E. H. White, a prisoner in the custody of two United States army lieutenants, attempted to escape from them at three o'clock this morning by lowering himself from a third-story window of the Centropolis hotel. The rope, made of strips torn from the bed clothing, broke and White fell three stories to the pavement. When he was picked up it was found that he was seriously injured.

A Position for Ex-Senator Pettigrew.

Chicago, May 21.—A special to the Record-Herald from St. Paul says: Railroad men who have knowledge of the plans of J. J. Hill are positive in the assertion that Former Senator Pettigrew will be made the executive head of the Great Northern railway system.

GREAT SHIP AFLOAT.

The Ohio Launched in the Presence of 50,000 People.

Miss Deshler Broke the Bottle of Champagne and Miss Barber Pressed the Button—President McKinley Took Part in the Ceremonies.

San Francisco, May 20.—When it became generally known that the president was to attend the launching of the battleship Ohio most of the population of San Francisco and vicinity seemed to be moving towards the Union iron works. Although the time for the launching was set for 12:26 p. m., the people commenced to gather about the iron works many hours before. Only a few were allowed to enter the enclosure surrounding the ways, but thousands of spectators clustered the bluffs overlooking the works. On the bay shore on the farther side from the ship stands had been erected and these were black with people at any early hour. On the bay the scene was most animated. Every pleasure craft and steamer, sail boat and rowboat that could be pressed into service, hovered around the ship, and these were kept back with difficulty by the patrol of tugs. It was estimated that fully 50,000 people saw the big battleship plunge into the water.

The president drove rapidly through the streets and was cheered enthusiastically and in response repeatedly lifted his hat. Arrived at the transport dock, he boarded the government tug Slocum which was to carry the presidential party and congressional delegation and other favored guests to the scene of the launching at the Union iron works. Besides the cabinet members and their ladies, there were on board the little vessel Gov. Nash, of Ohio, and his staff and ladies; Miss Barber, niece of Mrs. McKinley, and Miss Deshler and her sister. President McKinley arrived at the Union iron works shortly after ten o'clock. There he found the 3,000 employes assembled in the big yard. The president was greeted with a cheer and was presented with a gold plate in memory of the occasion. He spoke briefly to the men, thanking them for the gift and complimenting them on their skill as workmen. After an inspection of the works, Mr. McKinley went to a stand where he saw the launching. When that was over he boarded the Slocum once more and returned to the Scott residence.

Miss Barber pressed the button, Miss Deshler smashed a bottle of California champagne and at 12:26 p. m. the big battleship Ohio took her first dip into the sea. Fifty thousand people cheered themselves hoarse; the big guns of the warships boomed out a salute and every steam whistle within a radius of five miles shrieked its loudest as the steel monster glided into the water. The noise lasted for nearly half an hour and when it finally simmered down, there lay the Ohio, peacefully floating in the little cove in front of the Union iron works. Later she was towed to the dock where she will be tied for a year or more or until finally completed. As the vessel slid into the water stern foremost she created a big wave that made even the biggest steamers nearby bob uncomfortably up and down. As for the smaller craft, they nearly stood on end. Mrs. McKinley was to have pressed the button that started the Ohio down the ways, but on account of her illness, her niece, Miss Barber, acted in Mrs. McKinley's place.

ECLIPSE WAS TOTAL.

In the Orient Several Successful Photographs Were Taken of the Sun, Though Clouds Obscured It.

Amsterdam, May 20.—The Dutch expedition observing the total eclipse of the sun at Karangasago, Sumatra, telegraphs: "During the eclipse the sun was partially obscured by clouds. Successful photographs were taken of the corona, with different refractors and of the spectra of the corona and chromosphere with two spectrographs. The photographs with the prismatic camera and measurements for the polarization of light and heat radiation of the corona have not succeeded."

F. W. Dyson, of the royal observatory, Greenwich, experienced unsatisfactory conditions to observe the eclipse of the sun from the island of Auer Gedong. The morning dawned heavy with clouds, but improved later. The sun, however, was obscured the whole time. The duration of the eclipse was 6 minutes and 21 seconds. Mercury and Venus were seen. The form of the corona was that usually associated with the sun spot minimum.

Roosevelt to Lay Cornerstone.

Colorado Springs, Col., May 20.—The cornerstone of the \$500,000 Y. M. C. A. home in Colorado Springs will be laid by Vice President Roosevelt, in June. President McKinley consented to lay the cornerstone during his visit here June 6, but Mrs. McKinley's sickness prevented.

WESTERN CANADA'S DECEMBER WEATHER EQUAL TO THAT OF MAY IN MINNESOTA.

To the Editor: Thomas Regan and C. Collins, of Eden Valley, Minnesota, went out to Western Canada last December as delegates, to look over the grazing and grain lands that are being offered at such low prices and reasonable terms. This is what they say:

"We arrived in Calgary about the 20th December and although we had left winter in Minnesota and Manitoba, we were surprised to find beautiful warm weather at this point, quite equal to what we have in May in Minnesota. There was no snow nor trace of winter to be seen, and the climate was really splendid. Horses, cattle and sheep were running out, in prime condition, with plenty of feed on the prairie, and really better than that of ours stabled in the south. We are impressed with this country as one of the finest mixed farming countries we have ever seen. The immense tracts of fertile lands, well sheltered and abundantly watered, leave nothing to be desired.

Leaving Alberta we returned east and visited the Yorkton district in Assiniboia. We drove out about ten miles at this point and were highly pleased with the splendid samples of grain we were able to see, wheat yielding 25 bushels, oats 60 bushels. Roots were also good specimens. From what we have seen, we have decided to throw in our lot with the Yorktoners—satisfied that this part of the country will furnish good opportunities for anyone anxious to make the best of a really good country. Any agent of the Canadian Government, whose advertisement appears elsewhere in the columns of your paper will give you full particulars of the new districts being opened out this year in Assiniboia and Saskatchewan.

Yours truly, OLD READER.

Somewhat Different.

The Grocer—I understand you said I sold you a jug of cider that had water in it? The Butcher—You have been misinformed. What I said was that you sold me a jug of water that had a little cider in it.—Chicago Daily News.

Willing to Pay.—"What do you think of the proposition to tax bachelors?" asked the sweet young thing. "Oh, luxuries ought to be taxed," replied Mr. Christie.—Smart Set.

Don't talk to a busy man, for the chances are that he won't know a thing you said when you are through.—Atchison Globe.



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