

**CURRENT COMMENT.**

Along with the proceedings of the annual convention of the Society of Friends comes the announcement that there are 90 firms in America engaged in the manufacture of fighting goods.

One of the large dry goods stores in Montgomery, Ala., is owned by a colored man who began life as a porter and made it a rule never to save less than half his wages. Anybody can imitate that resolution, but—the comment is obvious.

A new breed of chickens just received in New York from China has tails 12 feet long. They are kept in cages, and when they are taken out for exercise an attendant goes along to hold up the feathers. The hens lay 30 eggs a year, which are hatched by other hens.

Senator Daniel, of Virginia, lives in very modest style in Washington, and has for 30 years spent nearly all of his money in paying off debts incurred by a relative in the panic of 1873. The senator was not at all bound by law to assume the financial burden, but did so of his own free will, and also pays the interest on the debts.

The 40,000 Hungarians in New York city celebrated last week the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of Kossuth in this country, to enlist sympathy for the cause of Hungarian independence. Kossuth's mastery of the English language was phenomenal, and it is said that his countrymen learn English more quickly and thoroughly than persons of any other nationality.

What is known as the Maritime Canal company, organized under the laws of New Jersey, is threatening to further complicate the Nicaragua canal project. This company claims to have purchased the route surveyed and recommended by the canal commission and alleges that all franchises and concessions have been conveyed to it by the government of Nicaragua in consideration of a large sum of money.

Wyoming, the smallest state in population except Nevada, is growing in voting strength. In the presidential election of 1900 the vote for Bryan on the democratic ticket was only 71 less than in 1896 and the gain in the republican vote was 1,445. There are 13 counties in Wyoming and the republicans carried them all in the presidential election of 1900, an unusual showing for a party which polled less than 60 per cent. of the total vote of the state.

With a demonstration of wireless telegraphy across the Atlantic one day and a start from Paris on a land trip to New York on the next, the progress of simplifying and shortening the circumnavigation of the globe goes on speedily. Of course, it remains to be seen whether Marconi can handle messages as successfully as he has transmitted one letter of the alphabet, and it is by no means certain that De Windt will come out of his arctic adventures with glory.

The United Brethren, with headquarters at Dayton, O., has just secured on Marine street, Ponce, Porto Rico, a fine building site for a church, and children in United Brethren Sunday schools have provided, in a Christmas fund this year, the money to erect a church upon the same. The plant is known as the Bethlehem Missions institute. Six missionaries are at work on the island at present. The school in Ponce has an excellent patronage, and new members constantly come into the church.

Nickel concerts, to draw young men and women from the streets, have been established in New York city by the Musical league of Carnegie hall, formerly the Women's philharmonic society. The board of education has consented to the use of the public school buildings for the purpose. It is promised that the programmes will be of a high standard. In order to provide a fund for the project the patronesses of the Knickerbocker subscription dances will give a private ball at the Waldorf-Astoria, January 17.

Presbyterians north are not greatly exercised over the falling off in number of students in their theological seminaries. They say the condition is due to the fact that a few years ago the late Rev. Dr. W. C. Gray, of the influential Presbyterian organ of Chicago, proclaimed month in and month out that the ministry was overcrowded. The result was that young men sought other vocations. The first result was felt in the colleges which graduated last year and the year before 33 per cent. fewer students than the average

**PLOTTED IN SECRET.**

**Two Priests in Batangas Made Counterfeit Money for Insurgents.**

**Mindanao Island Seething with Disloyalty and Gen. Davis Wants It Placed Under Military Control—Samar Still a Hot One for the Americans.**

Manila, Dec. 23.—Capt. John S. Parke, Jr., with 30 men of the Twenty-first infantry, encountered 60 insurgents last week at Alaminos, in Laguna province. Four of the enemy were killed, several guns were captured and their barracks was destroyed.

Gen. Bell, who is in command of the American forces in Batangas province, Luzon, has praised Lieut. James D. Tilford who, while scouting with troop D of the First cavalry, routed an insurgent force in that province. Lieut. Tilford located a rebel stronghold on top of a hill near the town of Batangas. He surrounded the enemy under cover of night and attacked them at daylight. Their surprise was complete. Nineteen insurgents were killed while attempting to escape. Lieut. Tilford captured 16 rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition.

Lieut. John D. Hartman, of the First cavalry, during an expedition, which lasted several days, encountered the enemy six separate times without losing one of his men. He destroyed several barracks.

Two priests have been arrested in Batangas province. They are charged with aiding the insurgents. They were found to have hidden behind the altar of their church appliances for counterfeiting money. They are charged with manufacturing silver dollars to pay the insurgent soldiers. George W. Davis, commanding at Zamboanga, island of Mindanao, has requested that the province of Misamis, Mindanao, again be placed under military control. Gen. Davis has proof that the recently elected president and vice councillors and the leading men of Cagayan de Misamis are guilty of treason in furnishing ammunition to the insurgents within the past month. The fiscal of the province of Misamis is also implicated. The evidence shows that all these men were members of the secret Katipunan society.

Gen. Chaffee, speaking with the correspondent here of the Associated Press on the situation in the islands, said he considered conditions in the Philippines to be hopeful, and that by the end of February all the turbulent provinces will have been pacified. Gen. Chaffee expects the island of Samar, however, which will probably require some months longer. There, the situation demands a policy of rigid starvation and the giving of food only to those who surrender or who stay in the towns.

**POSTED LIBELOUS NOTICE.**

**A. A. Ballow, of Mountainview, Ok., Adopted Unique Method to Injure the Reputation of a Physician.**

El Reno, Ok., Dec. 23.—Judge Irwin granted an injunction upon the application of Dr. T. W. Hunt, of Mountainview, restraining Mr. A. A. Ballow from posting libelous matter or further abusing the reputation of the plaintiff. This case is a remarkable one. Ballow's wife was sick, the doctor was called and prescribed an injection of opium, from the effects of which, it is claimed, the woman died. Mr. Ballow accused the doctor of killing his wife, and has posted several signs, one on his wife's grave and one in his own house. The one on the wife's grave reads: "This woman was killed by Dr. Hunt."

**FROM OVERHEATED STOVE.**

**Fire Kills Four Persons. One Other Is Fatally Burned and Four Others Are Seriously Injured.**

Dubois, Pa., Dec. 23.—Word reached here yesterday of a terrible holocaust that occurred about three miles from Summerville, Jefferson county, Saturday. The home of John Ashbaugh, a farmer, was destroyed by fire and four persons were burned to death. One other is burned in such a manner that recovery is very doubtful and four others are seriously burned and injured. The affair happened at an early hour in the morning and the fire was undoubtedly caused by an overheated stove.

**Express Companies to Consolidate.**

New York, Dec. 23.—It is reported that the great express companies of the United States are formulating plans for a consolidation. Included in the proposed merger will be the Adams, American and United States. The former controls the Southern Express company and the American National, and is closely allied with the Wells-Fargo.

**Taft Will Return to Manila.**

Manila, Dec. 22.—More than 4,000 members of the federal party called on Gov. Taft to bid him farewell and wish him a safe return from the United States. Gov. Taft said he expected to be back before May.

**WILL SHAW SUCCEED GAGE?**

**A Tender of the Office of Secretary of the Treasury Said to Have Been Made to Gov. Shaw.**

Washington, Dec. 24.—A tender of the office of secretary of the treasury, to succeed Secretary Gage, has been made to Gov. Leslie M. Shaw, of Iowa, but it is understood that up to a late hour last night no response



GOV. LESLIE M. SHAW.

had been received to the inquiries sent him. A Des Moines dispatch said that Gov. Shaw left for the east last night. He would not discuss the question, as he had not received any information on the subject from Washington either from President Roosevelt or from any Iowa friends there.

**A BOLD ROBBERY.**

**Two Masked Men Enter the Abernathy Furniture Factory and Succeed in Getting the Pay Roll of the Employees.**

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 24.—At 5:55 yesterday evening two masked men, with drawn revolvers, entered the office of the Abernathy furniture factory and succeeded in getting away with the entire pay roll, amounting to between \$800 and \$900. The robbery occurred just before the men were called in for their tri-weekly pay. Three shots were fired at Omar Abernathy and the clerks, none of which took effect. The robbers succeeded in effecting their escape without being identified. One of the clerks was knocked down in attempting to defend the money, but not seriously injured.

**RECIPROCITY MEETING.**

**The Meeting Called at Topeka by Gov. Stanley a Decided Success—A General Convention to Be Held.**

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 24.—Gov. Stanley's reciprocity meeting yesterday was a decided success. Probably 40 representative manufacturers and shippers of Kansas and Kansas City were present. The object of the meeting was to organize an association for the purpose of creating close trade relations between Kansas and foreign countries, more especially between Kansas and Mexico.

**TO REDEEM WESTERN LANDS.**

**A Bunch of Railroads Plan Extensive Experiments with the Cultivation of Range Grass Seeds.**

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 24.—A group of western railroads are contemplating a plan for the redemption of western lands, which they regard as much more important than the scheme advocated by the secretary of agriculture and President Roosevelt, involving reclamation of arid lands by irrigation. The railroad plan is to reseed all the western ranges, a work of magnitude and involving extensive experiments with the cultivation of range grass seeds.

**Divorce for Victoria's Grandchildren.**

Darmstadt, Dec. 24.—The superior court has pronounced the separation of grand duke and duchess of Hesse. The grand duchess is regarded as one of the beautiful princesses of Europe. The grand duke is the son of the late Princess Alice, Victoria's daughter. The duchess is the daughter of Victoria's sailor son, Duke Alfred of Coburg.

**Payee Favors Penny Postage.**

Washington, Dec. 24.—Congressman Smith, of Illinois, is much encouraged with the prospect of securing favorable consideration of his bill providing for the reduction of letter postage. H. C. Payne, soon to become postmaster general, is in favor of a speedy adoption of a penny postage system.

**Argentine and Chili Sign a Protocol.**

Valparaiso, Dec. 24.—It is reported that the governments of Argentine and Chili have signed a protocol by which they agree to submit the questions pending between them to the arbitration of Great Britain.

**The Third Largest Bridge.**

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 24.—The Washburn railroad has awarded a contract for a \$1,000,000 bridge to span the Ohio river at Mingo junction. Only two bridges of the kind in the world are greater than this.

**NOW IT IS MILES.**

**Army Commander Reprimanded for "Getting In" the Schley Case.**

**Secretary Long Upholds the Majority Opinion of the Court of Inquiry—President Roosevelt Demands the Resignation of "Historian" Maclay.**

Washington, Dec. 23.—The latest sensation in the Schley case was not in the action of the secretary of the navy in approving the findings of the court of inquiry, because that had been expected. It was the appearance of President Roosevelt on the scene and exercising his prerogative as commander-in-chief of the army and navy. He ordered the reprimand of Lieut. Gen. Miles by Secretary Root and the dismissal of Edgar Stanton Maclay from his berth as special laborer in the Brooklyn naval yard.

Gen. Miles is the general commanding the army, and the censure imposed by the president's direction is called forth by an interview on the Schley court and its findings. Mr. Maclay is the historian of the navy whose accusations of "caitiff" conduct against Rear Admiral Schley caused the rumpus which resulted in the court of inquiry and who also talked in violation of the regulations.

Gen. Miles was reprimanded in accordance with the wishes of the president in a letter sent by Secretary Root Saturday afternoon. As a matter of fact Gen. Miles had two reprimands Saturday. The president sent for the commander of the army and saw him in the crowded audience room. He asked Gen. Miles about the interview and Gen. Miles said he had given it, and he was exercising the prerogatives of an American citizen—a private citizen.

The president, in a voice loud enough to be heard all over the room, told Gen. Miles that he could not act in the capacity of a private citizen, since he was commander of the army, and that he had committed a breach of military discipline. He spoke with great sharpness and Gen. Miles left the room in confusion.

**Long Sides with Majority Opinion.**

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Long has disposed finally of the Schley case so far as the navy department is concerned, by acting upon the findings and conclusions of the court of inquiry. He approves the findings of fact and the opinion of the full court; he approves the majority opinion where there is a difference in the court; he holds that the court could not have entered into consideration of the question of command at the battle at Santiago, and finally he accepts the recommendation that no further proceedings shall be had.

The secretary also has declined the application of Rear Admiral Sampson's counsel to enter upon an inquiry into the question of command and has notified Rear Admiral Schley's counsel of that fact as a reason for declining to hear them on that point.

**TENDERED GOV. CRANE.**

**Massachusetts Executive Can Succeed Gage in the Cabinet if He Will Withdraw from a Certain Corporation.**

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Roosevelt has offered the treasury portfolio to Gov. W. Murry Crane, of Massachusetts and the latter now has the tender under advisement. One of the difficulties in the way of Gov. Crane's acceptance is understood to be his connection with the paper company at Dalton, Mass., which furnishes the paper for government notes. The paper is prepared by a secret process and the government's contract with the Dalton company is a large one. Should Gov. Crane accept the treasury portfolio it is considered probable that he would dispose of his interest in the paper company.

**OUTBREAK IN VENEZUELA.**

**Navy Department Has Dispatched the Warship Buffalo, Now at Port of Spain, to the Scene of Trouble.**

Washington, Dec. 22.—Reports have reached here of a serious outbreak in Venezuela. Details are not obtainable at this distance, but the news so far received it is understood has led the navy department to dispatch a warship to Venezuelan waters. The nearest ship is the Buffalo, at Port of Spain, and it is probable that the choice has fallen upon her.

**Ex-Senator Wolcott Mentioned.**

Washington, Dec. 23.—Rumors as to coming changes in the cabinet were again going the rounds of the hotel corridors yesterday. One interesting bit of gossip was that ex-Senator Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado, is to be asked to succeed Secretary Hitchcock as the head of the interior department.

**To Keep Natives from Drink.**

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary of State Hay says he will send to the senate with his approval the British treaty which declares in favor of laws to prohibit the sale of intoxicants and opium to "aboriginal races" everywhere.

**RAILWAY STATISTICS.**

**Interstate Commerce Commission Makes a Preliminary Report on the Railways for the Last Fiscal Year.**

Washington, Dec. 24.—The preliminary report of the interstate commerce commission on the income accounts of railways in the United States for the year ended June 30, 1901, shows returns of railway companies operating 192,193 miles of line. The passenger earnings of these railways were \$426,909,210 and the freight earnings \$1,114,740,770. The total gross earnings were \$1,578,164,205, or \$8,211 per mile of line, against \$1,487,044,814 in 1900. Operating expenses amounted to \$1,023,156,281, or \$5,323 per mile of line, making net earnings \$555,007,924, or \$35,577,218 in excess of the fiscal year 1900.

**POPE GROWS ANXIOUS.**

**Head of the Roman Catholic Church Wants Official Recognition by the United States Government.**

Rome, Dec. 24.—The vatican is becoming more hopeful that the United States will yield to the pope's great desire and appoint a diplomatic representative to the vatican. So anxious is the pope for his project that he would be satisfied at present with a semi-official representative in the hope that he would be eventually turned into a minister or ambassador. It seems that Washington is not unwilling to discuss the matter and the vatican has intimated in return its desire to meet American wishes in Cuba and the Philippines and possibly create another cardinal in the United States.

**SHERIFF'S BRAVE WIFE.**

**At Walla Walla, Wash., Eight Prisoners Were Driven Back by a Gun in Hands of Determined Woman.**

Portland, Ore., Dec. 24.—A special to the Evening Telegraph from Walla Walla, Wash., says: Eight prisoners in the county jail overpowered Jailer Malone as he was locking the cells Sunday night and were about to make their escape when Mrs. Susan Kees, wife of the sheriff, stepped up with a revolver and drove the prisoners back to their cells. Sheriff Kees and his family live in the jail building and when Mrs. Kees heard the commotion she rushed to the rescue of the jailer and released him from the prisoners, who were beating him into insensibility.

**MACLAY IN BALKY MOOD.**

**Historian of the Navy Department Refuses to Accede to the President's Demand to Resign.**

New York, Dec. 24.—Edgar Stanton Maclay, whose connection with the Schley case led President Roosevelt to request his resignation as special laborer in the navy, made formal demand yesterday for trial by usual naval procedure. He averred that his case came under the civil service law and that he could not be dismissed without formal charges, trial and conviction.

**THOSE WICKED "DOUBTERS."**

**Tacks Were Spread on the Floor and a Spiritual Seance in Texas Was Broken Up.**

Austin, Tex., Dec. 24.—A series of spiritualistic seances, which have resulted in several hundred converts to the faith of the spiritualists, abruptly terminated when one of the ghosts which the mediums have nightly evoked stepped on some tacks placed in their paths by doubters. The disembodied spirit grasped one bare foot in both hands and screamed. The seance was broken up.

**Heavy Liabilities and No Assets.**

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Robert Berger, former partner of Edward S. Dryer, the banker who, after several trials, was convicted of embezzlement of funds of the West Park board of Chicago, filed a petition in bankruptcy yesterday, scheduling \$2,093,644 liabilities. There are no assets. All the debts are connected with the failure of the banking house of E. S. Dryer & Co. in 1896.

**Furniture House Burned.**

Kansas City, Kan., Dec. 24.—The stock of the Holzmark Furniture company, at 624 and 626 Minnesota avenue, was almost entirely destroyed by fire last night. The fire started in a pile of excelsior at the feet of C. E. Hill, an employe, who was working in the basement.

**A Crimean Soldier Dies.**

Osage City, Kan., Dec. 24.—William Fay, who was an English soldier in the Crimean war, died here yesterday. Mr. Fay was 100 years old. Up to a few weeks ago his mind was vigorous. Recently, however, the old veteran wandered off and was frozen.

**Schley Gets a Warrant for Prize Money.**

Washington, Dec. 24.—The treasury department yesterday drew a warrant in favor of Rear Admiral Schley for \$3,334, his share of the prize money due him for the destruction of the Spanish fleet at Santiago July 3, 1898.