

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Not This Spring.

Secretary Hitchcock will not be obliged to spend any of his \$7,000,000 irrigation fund in the Mississippi valley.

A Study in Figures.

Mr. Cortelyou thinks about \$600,000 will run his office in nice shape. Congress had supposed \$30,000 would do the job.

No More Than Usual.

A Topeka woman was asked if her husband gave up, anything during Lent. "Not a cent more than usual," she said.

Probably a Leak.

Since the date of his coronation King Edward has ordered four barrels of Kentucky whisky. There must be a leak somewhere.

The Distribution.

The circulation, per capita, of the United States is \$29.41, the highest on record. But the distribution is slightly thicker in some spots than others.

No Doubt.

Attorney General Knox is having a compilation made of the laws of the various states relating to trusts and combines. This will add, no doubt, to the general confusion on the subject.

The Hindoo and the Durbar.

Delhi's durbar cost \$10,000,000 which would support 20,000,000 starving Hindoos a month; but possibly a Hindoo would rather see the durbar and starve.

Long Time to Wait.

There will probably be peace in Venezuela some day. They used to fight just that way in England 800 years ago; but 800 years seems a long time to wait.

Enabled to Control Its Grief.

A Pittsburg young woman was suffocated by the crush in a street car Friday night. As the conductor had already collected her fare, the company has managed thus far to control its grief.

"Every Man Equal Before the Law."

It cost the Molineux family nearly \$100,000 to save Roland B. Molineux from conviction. The presumption is that if they hadn't raised the money, Molineux would have been executed long ago, though finally found not guilty. And thus is "every man equal before the law" in this free country.

From Lakes to Tidewater.

The legislature of New York has under consideration a bill for canal improvement calling for an expenditure of \$101,000,000, and its passage is probable. This measure proposes the construction of a waterway connecting the lakes with the seaboard which will accommodate large vessels, or in other words a ship canal.

Cancer Cured by Molasses.

Queensland, Australia, sends news of two cases of cancer having been cured by the use of molasses. A Mr. Braun suffered with a growth at the roof of the tongue which nearly choked him. He took molasses for ten days, and the cancer completely disappeared. A man named Crabbe also cured himself by the same means.

Would Breed Hardier Cattle.

Henry C. Moore, of Sioux City, Ia., believes that it is possible to interbreed the Arctic musk ox with cattle of the temperate zone, and that the stock so produced would be able to withstand the severe winters of the United States. He has been in communication on the subject with Peary, the Arctic explorer, who is favorably impressed with the idea.

Believes It Will Foster Patriotism.

One hundred and fifty busts of Washington were put in the public schools of New York last year by a citizen who believed that the patriotism of the children would be fostered by a daily reminder of the example of the first president. A similar number of busts of Lincoln are to be put in the same schools this year, to show the youth that patriotism did not die with Washington.

Chinook Winds Prevent Floods.

Investigations of the weather bureau indicate that the warm westerly chinook winds, blowing over the eastern faces of the Rocky mountains, have a beneficial effect in the prevention of disastrous flood-producing thaws. It is true that the chinook suddenly melts the snow on the higher parts of the mountains, but the warm wind fails to reach the bottom of the gulches, and so the snow-water is frozen again during its descent, and becomes caked in ice deep down the ravines.

IGNORED BY ROOT.

Rathbone's Charges Against Gen. Leonard Wood Swept Aside.

Secretary of War Admits the Military Governor Received a Gift But Declares It Would Have Been Discourteous for Him to Have Refused.

Washington, March 24.—Secretary Root Monday took official action on the charges made by Estes G. Rathbone against Brig. Gen. Leonard Wood. He made an indorsement on the papers saying that no answer to the charges was required from Gen. Wood and no action will be taken thereon, that it was known to the secretary of war that the charges in every respect were without just foundation. The secretary refers to the part taken by the military governor in the post office cases in which Rathbone was a defendant saying that Gen. Wood at every step had the approval of the secretary of war and exercised only such control as was necessary as military governor. He refers to the game of Jai Alai and declares that the gift accepted by Gen. Wood had no relation whatever to any official action of his, but was part of the expression of gratitude of the Cuban people toward the representative of the United States and to have refused the gift would have been discourteous and unjustifiable. The action of the customs officials in reference to the gift, the secretary says, was strictly in accordance with the law and official propriety. The indorsement closes as follows: "There is no foundation for the charges."

MRS. MAYBRICK TO BE FREE.

In 1889 She Was Convicted at Liverpool of Poisoning Her Husband and Sentenced for Life.

London, March 24.—Mrs. Florence Maybrick, the American woman who was convicted at Liverpool in 1889 on the charge of poisoning her husband, James Maybrick, by arsenic and whose sentence of death was commuted to penal servitude for life, will be released in 1904. The announcement comes from the home office, which authorizes her Washington lawyers to use the fact of her release next year as a reason for securing the postponement of the trial of the lawsuits bearing on the prisoner's interest in land in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

Mrs. Maybrick's alleged crime was the talk of two continents 14 years ago and many attempts have been made to secure her release. She is now 39 years old. Her father was the late William C. Chandler, of Mobile, Ala. He was a nephew of the late John A. Campbell, formerly of the supreme court of the United States, and was a member of Jefferson Davis' cabinet from 1862 to the close of the civil war. The mother of Mrs. Maybrick is the Baroness von Roques. The suit for land in America, which brought out the statement by the home office that Mrs. Maybrick would be released, is for possession of 2,252,300 acres of land and for \$360,000. The baroness alleges that D. W. Armstrong, a lawyer, deceived her as to the value of the lands and tricked her into selling them at very much lower prices than could have been secured.

Unveiling of Sherman Monument.

Cincinnati, March 24.—Owing to a change in the time for the unveiling of the statue of Gen. William T. Sherman from May next to October 15 because of the inability of President Roosevelt and cabinet to be present in May, Gen. Greenville M. Dodge, president of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, has ordered a postponement of the meeting from May till October 15 at Washington. The orator will be Col. D. B. Henderson.

Memorial to Ex-Gov. Mount.

Warsaw, Ind., March 24.—Land was broken Monday at Winona for the \$60,000 Gov. Mount memorial, in the main college building of the Winona agricultural and technical institute, which last week acquired the abandoned property known as the old arsenal grounds.

Gives \$7,000,000 for Industrial School.

Boston, March 24.—By the will of Arloch Wentworth, the Boston real estate millionaire, the estate estimated at \$7,000,000, with the exception of a few annuities, goes to found an industrial school to be called the Arloch Wentworth industrial school.

Must Count \$300,000,000 Cash.

New York, March 24.—Hamilton Fish was Monday installed as assistant United States treasurer. With Mr. Fish came two expert money counters who will count the \$300,000,000 of cash and securities now in the vaults. This, it is expected, will take two months.

South Bend's New Watch Factory.

South Bend, Ind., March 24.—Clement Studebaker, Jr., president of the South Bend Watch company, pressed the button that started the new \$1,000,000 watch factory, which will employ 1,500 watchmakers and manufacture 1,200 watches a day.

ENTIRE TOWN FOUGHT FIRE.

At Shelton, Neb., Men and Women Enlisted to Resist the Flames Which Were Fanned by a Strong Wind.

Shelton, Neb., March 24.—More than 300 men, women and children fought a fire all morning. The fire originated Sunday afternoon in the office of a newspaper. Three buildings and contents were burned. The smoldering ruins were fanned into a blaze again Monday morning and Morris' drug store, Sutherland's drug store, and J. B. Hart's hardware store got on fire. The wind was blowing strong from the north and many buildings on both sides of the street were burned to the ground. A falling wall caught several fire fighters.

LADRONES CAPTURE A TOWN.

At Suriago, Mindanao, the Inspector of Constabulary and Others Were Killed—Hurrying Troops to the Scene.

Manila, March 24.—The town of Suriago, in the northeastern part of the island of Mindanao, was captured Sunday by ladrones, who killed Constabulary Inspector Clarke and several others. A detachment of 30 men, belonging to the Tenth infantry, under the command of Lieuts. Patterson and Brown, is hurrying from Ilogan, on the northwest coast of Mindanao, to Suriago, on the transport Reilly, with orders to recapture the place.

Ovation to Ex-Gov. Francis.

St. Louis, Mo., March 24.—President David R. Francis, of the world's fair, who returned Sunday night from an extended European trip on which he met with great success in securing promises of representation by the leading powers at the coming world's fair, was to-day tendered a reception on "change, where he received a veritable ovation. The vast hall was crowded with several thousand persons, among them representatives of every commercial body in St. Louis.

Biggest Man in Chicago Dead.

Chicago, March 24.—James H. Mahler, the biggest man in Chicago, if not in the United States, is dead. He weighed 480 pounds, although his height was only 5 feet 10 inches. He was so broad that he could not use the elevated railways because of his inability to pass through the turnstiles. Only surface cars having double sliding doors could accommodate him.

Fear the American Tariff.

London, March 24.—The Daily Mail understands that much difficulty is experienced in inducing British firms to consent to exhibit at the St. Louis exposition. The reason apparently is a belief that the American tariff will render impossible the entrance of British goods into the United States.

Police Chief Was Angry.

Aurora, Ill., March 24.—The chief of police, Frank Michels, attacked Henry W. Phillips, publisher of the Aurora Daily Express. The trouble was the result of a crusade Mr. Phillips has been making in Aurora to secure the enforcement of the Sunday closing ordinance against saloons.

Riot at Port of Spain.

Kingstown, St. Vincent, March 24.—A serious riot was in progress yesterday afternoon in Port of Spain, Trinidad. A mob attempted to burn the government buildings there and the police had to fire on the rioters, killing or wounding several of them.

Deliberately Drowned Himself.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 24.—Charles Arnett, the 25-year-old son of Col. Arnett, a well known criminal lawyer, deliberately walked into the river yesterday at the wharf and refusing aid from scores of people was drowned. He was temporarily deranged.

May Get Ware Appointed as Judge.

Topeka, Kan., March 24.—A rumor became current in political circles here to the effect that the Kansas politicians will try to induce the president to appoint Eugene F. Ware to succeed Judge Caldwell on the United States circuit court bench.

Christian College Burned.

Canton, Mo., March 24.—Christian college, belonging to the Disciple church, was destroyed by fire yesterday. The loss is \$50,000. The college was founded 53 years ago and had 200 students.

Afoot from Argentina to St. Louis.

Guayaquil, Ecuador, March 24.—Guillermo Koppel, the pedestrian who left Argentina about a year ago on his way to St. Louis, has arrived here.

Excitement Dethroned Reason.

New York, March 24.—One woman was killed at a small fire caused by a lamp explosion in West Sixty-fifth street and one woman will probably lose her reason from excitement.

Choked on a Prune Seed.

Festus, Mo., March 24.—Jessie Maupin, aged 11, choked to death on a prune seed which lodged in the trachea.

CANAL WORK SOON.

Uncle Sam Ready to Push the Great Commercial Enterprise.

"Yankee Methods" Are to Prevail, Even in Saultation—Two Immense Engineering Feats Must Be Performed—Machinery on the Ground.

Washington, March 23.—All eyes will soon be turned toward Colombia, watching developments in that country in connection with the ratification of the Panama canal treaty. The United States government is ready with the cash, the men, the plans, and all that is needful to commence work on the canal when the diplomatic negotiations are concluded and the title deeds passed.

All the work will be done under the direction of the canal commission and the president of the United States. There will be no delay in commencing actual work. The canal has been commenced, and a portion of the work materially progressed. Machinery to the value of several million dollars already is installed, and it will simply be a question of putting new men in control.

But the very first thing that Uncle Sam will do in the way of actual work will be to "clean up the isthmus," as one official expressed it. That will be an important task—to improve the sanitary condition and make the place fit for northern men to live in and work in.

Government ownership of railroads will be realized on the isthmus. The United States will operate and own the Panama railroad, as well as some steamships connecting therewith. There will be large signs at appropriate intervals along the railway warning the Central American revolutionists to look out for the cars. The habit of the Colombian dictators of holding up trains will be promptly discontinued. There will be no dallying with the switch in the future.

Yankee ingenuity and determination will be brought into full play in the construction of the great work. Two immense engineering feats are to be performed. The most monstrous "cut" known to engineering will be made on the isthmus when the canal will be dug through a hill 320 feet high and half a mile long. Another great work will be the construction of the Bahio dam. They will have to go down 120 feet for a foundation, and the dam will be 220 feet from top to bottom, and half a mile long. All of these immense projects will require men and machinery, and material, world without end. The men will have to be fed and clothed and doctored, and all of that will make business good for somebody.

A DUAL EXISTENCE.

An Indiana Man in the Past Five Years Has Lived Half the Time as Another Man.

Kokomo, Ind., March 23.—David Ramseyer, of Russiaville, near here, is a psychological puzzle, even to himself. In the past five years he has lived half the time as another man and has two separate existences. While he lives as one character he is totally oblivious of the other. Every year he mysteriously disappears from home, leaving his wife and four children. It is then that David Ramseyer is left behind. Yesterday, after six months' absence, he returned and resumed his place as salesman in a Russiaville store.

Women May Employ Detectives.

St. Louis, March 22.—According to Miss Helen Boice Hunsicker, of Philadelphia, a member of the board of lady managers of the world's fair, detectives may be employed during the progress of the fair to spy out indecent performances on the midway and elsewhere, and report them to the fair authorities.

Used a Spade for an Oar.

Topeka, Kan., March 23.—Arthur Buffington, an insane patient, escaped from the state insane asylum west of this city and tried to get away in a row boat. He used a spade for an oar and was rowing vigorously on his way to Kansas City when he ran aground and was captured.

Young Preacher in Disgrace.

Fort Scott, Kan., March 22.—After a session behind closed doors the South Kansas conference of the Methodist Episcopal church suspended Rev. John H. Martin, the young pastor of the church at Virgil, for highly imprudent and un-Christian conduct.

Barrett Home From 40,000-Mile Trip.

New York, March 22.—John Barrett, commissioner-general of the St. Louis exposition, is home from a 40,000-mile trip in the interest of the fair. He was absent a year, during which time he made a circuit of the world, visiting 15 countries.

Increase Makes \$3,000,000 Back Pay.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 22.—Roughly estimated the 10 per cent. increase granted by the strike commission will amount to nearly \$3,000,000. The miners have worked about 120 days since November 1, which is the basis for the above estimate.

NOW THE GRAND JURY.

The Missouri Legislature Has Adjourned and Judge Hazel Will Try to Probe Charges of Boondoggery.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 24.—At ten o'clock last night the forty-second general assembly of the state adjourned sine die. Col. Crisp had passed the county sidewalk bill which reappeared from the senate.

During the proceedings a special message from the governor was read, calling attention of the legislature to the profligate manner in which it was throwing out money and the indifferent manner in which it was providing for an income to meet the proposed appropriations.

The report of the house committee appointed to probe boondoggery charges was submitted yesterday. It finds no direct evidence of bribery in connection with school book legislation. The testimony obtained, the committee says, shows nothing that would sustain the charge of bribery.

Before the legislature adjourned sine die at noon Judge Hazell, of the Cole county circuit court, convened the grand jury in special session to investigate the charges of boondoggery which have been openly made against the legislature.

The legislature was in session Sunday closing up its business preparatory to adjourning sine die. In the course of that part of the charge relating to Sabbath desecration, the judge said: "So take into consideration whether the legislature, doing its work on Sunday, is compelled to perform such labor as a work of necessity or charity and it is very essential as we will emphasize in this charge to the jury that the Sabbath in a Christian land like this should be observed and that bad examples in high quarters are detrimental to good government, and beget ideas and notions that are at variance with our ideas of liberty and good government."

HICKOX AND PAGE FREE.

Missouri Supreme Court Refused to Hold Men Who Handled \$1,000 Bills and Refused to Tell.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 24.—I. L. Page, newspaper correspondent, and Cole Hickox, senate clerk, who were committed to jail last Saturday for contempt of the house of representatives in refusing to answer questions put by that body as to where and for what purpose they came into possession of \$1,000 bills, were released by the supreme court on a writ of habeas corpus. The investigation in the house grew out of charges of bribery in connection with the enactment of certain legislation. Page and Hickox, who refused to answer questions put by the investigating committee, were sent to jail. A writ of habeas corpus was applied for and after brief arguments, Chief Justice Robinson and Justice Gantt ordered the release of the prisoners without retiring for consultation.

Not Enough to Buy Him.

Washington, March 24.—It is reported that a hitch has occurred in the engagement between Miss Thaw and the earl of Yarmouth. It is said that trustees having control of Miss Thaw's property refuse to make her allowance more than \$25,000 a year.

Wedding Saved Him \$6,500.

Abilene, Kan., March 24.—Robert Kenney, the wealthy young farmer against whom Alice Biery obtained judgment for \$6,500 recently, for breach of promise, has married the plaintiff and all the cases are dismissed.

To Hide Her Shame.

Berlin, March 24.—The arrest in Fulda of the 29-year-old Baroness von Seckendorf for the murder of her infant has caused a great sensation here. She evidently committed the crime to hide her shame.

Rebels Take a Fort.

San Diego, Santo Domingo, March 24.—The revolutionists have attacked and captured one of the forts defending this city. Many men were killed on both sides. The fighting continues.

College Closed Because of Measles.

Hamilton, O., March 23.—Oxford college, attended by 125 young women, was closed yesterday because of the outbreak of German measles. All the young women were sent home yesterday.

The Way Tillman Views It.

Washington, March 24.—Senator Tillman has no patience with democratic political talk that does not include Bryan. He says Bryan will dictate the democratic presidential nominee.

Physician Killed by His Own Medicine.

Traer, Ia., March 24.—R. M. Parsons, aged 55, one of the best-known physicians in central Iowa, is dead here as the result of an overdose of chloroform taken to induce sleep.

China Will Have \$275,000 Exhibit.

Pekin, March 24.—The dowager empress has ordered an appropriation of 500,000 taels (about \$275,000) to be made for the Chinese representation at the St. Louis exposition.