

The METRIC SYSTEM of

WEIGHTS & MEASURES

The bill introduced by Congressman Shafroth providing that on and after January 1, 1903, the weights and measures in the metric system shall be the legal standard weights and measures in the United States is simply another in a long line of attempts to supplant the present awkward system by the easy and simple metric or decimal system. Though the bill has been reported favorably by the committee on weights and measures it is still a hard fight before it. The chances for its adoption are not the brightest.

In one sense the United States may be said to have been even before France in the adoption of at least a portion of the metric system. In 1795 congress adopted the decimal system of money, with the dollar as the unit, whereas the metric system proper was not adopted by France until 1795. The basis of the metric system, the meter, was determined by two French astronomers and mathematicians and is exactly one-fourty-millionth part of the circumference of the earth on the meridian of Paris. The meter is 3.37 inches longer than the American yard. It is the standard of the measures of length and all other measures are based upon it. Thus the metric unit of surface measure is the centare, which is one square meter. The unit of capacity is one liter, which is the cube



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.
(First Defender of the Metric System.)
of one-tenth of a meter. The unit of weight is the gram which is the weight of a cubic centimeter of water.

A standard meter was constructed in 1799 by an international commission representing France, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, Savoy, and the Roman, Cisalpine, and Ligurian republics. It was made of platinum and was deposited in the palace of archives in Paris and was declared to be the definitive basis of the metric system forever.

General Chaffee in Pekin.
The Pekin correspondents of the London newspapers do not approve of General Chaffee and his American methods. They complain of the guard that he posted to prevent looting. They report that the ministers are offended by General Chaffee's individual assumption of authority in issuing orders to prevent looting, and that Field Marshal Count von Waldersee is not pleased with the independence of General Chaffee's communications to headquarters. They report also that General Chaffee has created dissatisfaction by his refusal to join the other governments in giving increased salaries to officers assigned to duty in the provisional government at Tientsin.

This is a British view. The correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean at Pekin takes a different view. He reports that the provisional government at Tientsin is cumbersome, expensive, and unsatisfactory; that its chief object seems to be to supply sinecures for military officers; that the high salaries paid condemn western government in the eyes of the Chinese, and that the provisional government has made a demand for unlimited power regarding public works, the levying of taxes, contributions, import duties, etc.

To all this General Chaffee, commanding the American troops, objected. He opposed the proposition to give the Tientsin provisional government unlimited control of the territory. He declined to approve the proposition to inaugurate new public works except such as were temporarily necessary, and he instructed Captain Foote, the American representative in the government, not to accept any remuneration beyond his army pay.

Americans in England.
The Britisher is in a plight about the introduction into London of the whistling, whistling American trolley. The work of the trolley car in the development of the congestion of the big cities is one of the marvels of the time. It goes tearing through the country, making towns and cities and spilling the denseness of the crowded and smoky cities over woodland and prairie. As an example of progress it is a ripper. But it does not follow from all this that

The use of the metric system was declared obligatory in France on November 2, 1801, but the French people were not prepared for so sudden a change, and in 1812 a compromise was adopted which lasted until 1837. In that year a law was passed making the use of the metric system obligatory and ordering its enforcement after January, 1840. At present it is universally used by France, as well as by all European nations, except Great Britain, where it is allowed, but not compulsory. Russia was the last of great powers to make the change, having put the metric system into force only a few weeks ago. On the continent the metric system has been adopted by Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and other of the South and Central American republics.

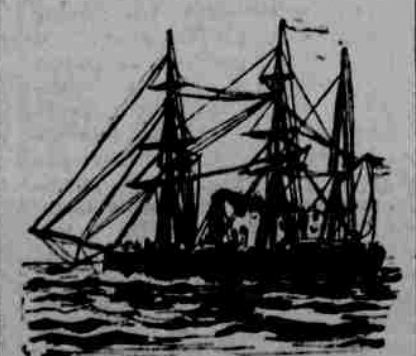
As early as 1817 the subject of adopting the metric system in the United States was agitated. John Quincy Adams was appointed to investigate the weights and measures of the United States and he found that the standards of weight, measure, and capacity differed considerably in the different states and even in the same state. He reported fully on the result of his investigation and did not favor the adoption of the French or metric system because of the popular repugnance to a change and the inconvenience which would follow the adoption of a new system. At the same time he declared his belief that the metric system was almost ideal and reflected the greatest credit on the men and on the age which had devised it.

In 1830 another investigation was made and it again was found that a pound or a yard in one state or city was often more or less than in another. As a result the treasury department was authorized and instructed to have made copies of the standards of weight and measure then in its possession, a set of which copies were to be delivered to the governor of each state in the union.

In 1866 it was made by an act of congress lawful to employ the weights and measures of the metric system throughout the United States and the secretary of the treasury was instructed to furnish the governor of each state a set of standard weights and measures of the metric system for the use of the respective states.

Under the regulations of the international postal convention the metric system was adopted as the standard in all transactions between the nations which are members of the postal union, and accordingly the mail matter transported between the United States and fifty other countries, including even the mail sent between the United States and England, is weighed and paid for entirely in terms of the metric system.

Sent to Demand Indemnity.
The British sloop-of-war Icarus is on her way to Panama to inquire into the seizure of a British steamer by the Columbian government. The rebels were gaining ground and a city threatened by them had to be relieved. A transport was wanted and the government took the first vessel at hand. This proved to be a Britisher, and John Bull now wants to know the reason



THE ICARUS.
why. The Icarus is not a modern vessel, but still she should be equal to bringing the Columbians to time.

The late Marcus Daly invested several hundred thousand dollars in valuable copper property in Mexico during the past year. It is reported that these mines will now be disposed of and that they may be acquired by W. A. Clark of Montana, who already has mining interests in Mexico. Representatives of Mr. Clark are now in Mexico investigating certain copper properties.

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In 1875 a convention was held by representatives of practically all the civilized nations, except England, at which "a scientific and permanent bureau of weights and measures" was established at Paris, the expenses of which are paid by all the powers party to the convention. Great Britain has since become a party to this conference and now pays its share of the expenses of the bureau.

One duty of the international bureau of weights and measures is to furnish exact and correct copies or duplicates of the standards of weight and measure to the several countries which contribute to its support. These new standards were supplied to the United States and were received by the president and his cabinet with considerable ceremony on January 2, 1890, and are now deposited in a fireproof room in the coast survey building at Washington.

In 1893 the secretary of the treasury ordered that thereafter the standard meter and kilogram, deposited in the coast survey building, should be recognized as the fundamental standards from which the customary units of the yard and the pound should be de-



HON. JOHN F. SHAFROTH.
(Colorado Congressman, Who is Author of the Present Bill.)

rived. It is therefore true that at present the United States is using a system of weights and measures which is based on the units of the metric system.

The metric system proper is now exclusively used by the United States marine hospital service, by the foreign department of the postoffice, by the United States coast and geodetic survey, to some extent in the mint, United States signal service, and United States census department.

Degree of "Doctor of Arts."
The proposal of President Thwing of Western Reserve University that a new degree of doctor of arts be established does not meet with the approval of the majority of the heads of the more important colleges. The degree for men distinguished in technical and industrial pursuits for whom the degree of doctor of laws seems inappropriate. The plan is opposed by Presidents Angell of Michigan, Elliot of Harvard, Butler of Colby, Carter of Williams, Hadley of Yale, Harris of Amherst, Jordan of Stanford, Low of Columbia, Northrop of Minnesota, Raymond of Union and Schurman of Cornell. It is approved by Presidents Stryker of Hamilton, Wheeler of California, and Faunce of Brown in a modified way.

Hard Work for St. Louis Fair.
The appropriation made by congress to aid the St. Louis fair of 1903 provided that the money should not become available unless the city of St. Louis should raise \$10,000,000 for the same purpose. The congressional appropriation was \$5,000,000. The city of St. Louis will issue bonds for \$5,000,000 and is making a vigorous effort to raise \$5,000,000 by private subscription. The subscription list drags. The St. Louis papers are full of energetic appeals for help. From their earnestness it must be that the difficulties are great. It would be unfortunate if the appropriation of congress should fail through the inability of the people of St. Louis to raise the amount of \$10,000,000, which is a condition on which the national appropriation rests.

Sullivan's Jewish Blood.
The late Sir Arthur Sullivan was said to have Jewish blood in his veins, but this is wrong. His mother was an Italian named Righi, and his father, of course, was pure Irish. His grandparents were an impoverished Kerry squire, who served under Wellington and was a member of the garrison at St. Helena.

Dr. Charles F. H. Wilgohs of Akron, O., has just celebrated his ninety-seventh birthday. He still attends to his practice as a physician, and even visits his patients at night when called upon to do so.

NEW BRAND LAW HIS PLAN.

Senator-Elect Van Boskirk Intends to Discourage Cattle Stealing.

LINCOLN, Dec. 17.—The extremely rapid growth of the cattle industry in Nebraska has prompted the proposal of several very important measures for the consideration of the next legislature. From the great cattle plains come appeals for more effective legislation and with a view to remedying the inefficiency of existing laws a bill has been prepared, under the direction of the officers of the Northwestern Cattle-men's association, which is designed to increase and extend the protection provided for cattle owners and ranchmen. The measure contemplates an amendment to the Brand Marks Commission act reducing the membership of that commission to one man, and revision for the inspection of cattle at the markets, inspection of hides and the publication of an official brand book.

Senator-elect J. R. Van Boskirk of Alliance will probably introduce the proposed bill in the legislature. He has been secretary of the Northwestern Cattle-men's association for several years, and it is said that his bill will reflect the wishes of the other officers and members of the organization. The principal object of the bill will be to give cattle owners absolute protection against thieves.

"If we succeed in enacting the proposed law a man who steals a cow cannot escape detection unless he destroys the hide and eats the animal," said Mr. Van Boskirk. "Provision will be made for registering all brands and for the publication of an official brand book, and a man will have to prove ownership before he can lawfully dispose of any cattle. If he takes a quarter of a cow to market, he will have to exhibit the hide as an evidence that it is his property. The official brand book will enable the purchaser to compare the registered brand with the brand on the hide and determine whether they are the same in design."

Fancy Price for Live Stock.

OMAHA, Dec. 17.—The prize cattle that were on exhibition at the South Omaha stock yards were sold at the highest price paid in recent years on that market. The 3-year-olds which carried off first prize were owned and fed by John Shannon of Hoskins, and the Omaha Packing company brought them at \$750 per 100. It will be remembered that the same company also bought the highest priced cattle last year and paid \$725 for them.

Mr. A. W. Clark's load of yearlings, which were awarded first premium in that class, were also sold at a good figure. There were heifers in the bunch and the fifteen head sold at \$6 to the Omaha Packing company, which is the highest price ever paid for a mixed bunch of yearlings on the South Omaha market.

New Railroad for Nebraska.

OMAHA, Dec. 17.—Mr. A. O. Perry of Atkinson, well known as a railroad promoter, is in town in the interest of his new enterprise—a railroad running from Callaway, in Custer county, to Gandy, in Logan county, a distance of thirty-five miles. About three years ago Mr. Perry conceived the idea of running a railroad from his home in Atkinson to the new town site of Perry on the northern bank of the Niobrara river, in Boyd county. He promoted the enterprise to the point where it was ready for the ties and rails and then his Chicago contractor fell down on him and brought everything to a standstill.

Gentleman Pleads Not Guilty.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Dec. 17.—Nicholas Gentleman, who did the shooting at Platte Center a week ago, was arraigned in justice court, and upon the reading of the complaint he entered a plea of not guilty, waived the preliminary examination and was bound over to the district court without bail. The witnesses for the state were each required to enter into a recognizance in the sum of \$200 for their appearance.

Is Young in Crime.

FALLS CITY, Neb., Dec. 17.—James Mahan pleaded guilty in the district court to the charge of grand larceny. The prisoner, who is a mere boy, was employed on the government riprap work at Rulo and stole a sum of money from a fellow employee. He broke down when arraigned and Judge Stull was inclined to be lenient and gave him the minimum sentence, one year in the penitentiary.

Farmer's Fall Proves Fatal.

SPENCER, Neb., Dec. 17.—At a lonely spot, four miles northeast of here, on the road to his home, the body of Anton Holeczek has been found, and it is thought that he was killed by a fall from his wagon. He has occasionally taken liquor to excess while in town, and two years ago a friend of his, one Turachek by name, was killed in a similar manner as the two were driving home in an intoxicated condition.

Trice to Beat the Fast Mail.

FREMONT, Neb., Dec. 17.—Patrick Tulley, a farmer residing eight miles from North Bend, was seriously injured by train No. 101 while he was attempting to cross the Union Pacific track two miles west of North Bend. Tulley was driving a wagon. He saw the train coming and attempted to cross ahead of it.

Jail Delivery at Beaver City.

BEAVER CITY, Neb., Dec. 17.—Charles Griffin and Arch Blase, two prisoners of the county jail, sawed their way to liberty last night. A hole (7x13 inches) was cut in the steel cell through which they squeezed themselves. Four other prisoners refused to take advantage of the opportunity and remained in their cells, although they later refused to divulge any of the details. The escape of the two was thus hidden from the officials.

BRAND LAW DOES NOT SUIT.

Stockmen Want It Amended so as to Be More Efficient.

LINCOLN, Dec. 15.—One of the innumerable bills that will be introduced in the next legislature for the benefit of cattlemen of western Nebraska will provide for reconstructing the state marks and brands commission and changing in many places the law which governs and regulates the exercise of its authority. It is proposed to reduce the membership of the commission to one man, who shall maintain a permanent office at the state house, and to raise the fee charged for registering a brand from \$1.50 to \$2.50. The existing commission is composed of four members, including the secretary of state, each of whom shares equally the proceeds from the registration of brands.

S. P. Delatour of Llewellyn, president of the Northwestern Cattle-men's association and member of the Nebraska commission, is one of the men who are urging the proposed changes. He has devoted more time to the work of the commission than any other man and is interested in seeing its authority and jurisdiction extended so far as possible. During the few months of its existence the board has registered over 3,000 brands, and applications for nearly 5,000 have been passed upon, many of which were returned because of duplication. Cattlemen in all parts of Nebraska are manifesting considerable interest in the work, believing that the time is not far distant when the official registration of brands will greatly benefit their class.

One of the arguments used in support of the plea for the amendments is that the work of the commission could be much more successfully prosecuted by one man giving his entire time than by four men who meet only periodically. It is also argued that an increase in the fee would enable the commissioner to enforce the law and bring it into more general operation. However, the matter of fees is considered of secondary importance and the increase would probably not be urged should it meet with any strong opposition.

Kearney Wants Extension Completed.

KEARNEY, Neb., Dec. 15.—F. J. Kearney, as a representative of the Commercial club of this city, visited St. Louis for the purpose of conferring with the officials of the Missouri Pacific road regarding the extension of the line from Prosser to this place. When the line was originally constructed it was the intention to build to Kearney, but work was stopped when it was completed to Prosser, twenty-four miles distant. General Manager Harding gave him encouragement that the line would ultimately be built, and probably in the near future, but was not prepared at present to make a direct proposition. Mr. Harding denied there was any truth in the rumor that the Missouri Pacific had secured control of the Kearney & Black Hills line, running from Kearney to Callaway.

Must Show the Books.

LINCOLN, Dec. 15.—The supreme court has issued a formal order to the Standard Oil company to permit the attorney general to inspect the books of the company, giving the list of stockholders at present and from the time the company was organized, the minute books of the company and other books and papers. The order was the decision of the court a week ago, wherein it declared it was competent to try the case of the attorney general against the Standard Oil company, in which it is sought to debar it from the state on the ground that it is a trust.

Organize a New Church.

MCCOOK, Dec. 15.—The Congregationalists of this vicinity held an important meeting at the Noble schoolhouse, near Box Elder, fifteen miles from this city. A church of thirty-eight members was duly recognized by a church council and Rev. W. J. Turner of this city preached the sermon. Rev. J. S. Calhoun of Indianapolis, Rev. A. G. Axtell of Stockville, Rev. J. D. Stewart of Auburn and Rev. H. Bross of Lincoln took part in the service.

Rulo Murderer Sentenced for Life.

FALLS CITY, Dec. 15.—William Miller was arraigned in the district court on a charge of murder in the first degree, having shot and killed A. J. Wake, city marshal of Rulo, on the night of November 29. At first Miller entered a plea of not guilty, but after consultation with his attorneys withdrew the plea, interposing a plea of guilty. Judge Stull immediately sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Booth Physical Director.

LINCOLN, Dec. 15.—Walter C. Booth has been retained as coach of the university of Nebraska football eleven for the next year. The regents of the university elected Mr. Booth to the chair of assistant physical director of the university, the position of director temporarily remaining vacant.

Boys Nine Quarter Sections.

OSMOND, Dec. 15.—W. H. Butterfield of Norfolk, closed a deal whereby he came into possession of nine quarter sections of land lying just three miles east of town. He paid \$40,000 for the tract and will open another big ranch.

A Cincinnati wife attempted suicide because she didn't like her new hat. This should be a warning to other wives not to order new hats this fall.

How a Farmer Fooled a Town.

ST. PAUL, Neb., Dec. 15.—The oil boom at St. Paul has collapsed. Some time ago the excitement started over the report that oil was oozing out of a spring situated not far from town and people had visions of fortune, with Coal Oil Johnnies on every block. Investigation has broken the spell. It appears that a farmer, with a view to having some fun, "salted" the spring daily with coal oil. One day a party visited it and found no oil. The farmer was away from home and the salting process had been neglected, thus hidden from the officials.

HAS REACHED CONCORD

Powers Come to Satisfactory Decision on Joint China Note.

BUELOW'S CONDITIONS ACCEPTED

Characterization of Demands as Irrevocable the Only Elimination—The Chinese Government Required to Put Up a Heavy Indemnity.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The negotiations of the powers in regard to the joint China note were concluded satisfactorily yesterday, all agreeing to the conditions identically as outlined by Count von Buelow, the imperial chancellor of Germany, November 19, with the exception of the introductory clause saying the demands are irrevocable, which is eliminated.

Count von Buelow, on the occasion of his first appearance in the Reichstag as imperial chancellor, on November 19, after making a statement defining Germany's policy toward China and outlining the Anglo-German agreement, proceeded to give the complete text of the demands which the representatives of the powers in Pekin had at that time agreed to recommend to their representatives to embody in a collective note for presentation to China, as follows:

Article I.—An extraordinary mission, headed by an imperial prince, shall be sent to Berlin in order to express the regret of the emperor of China and of the Chinese government for the murder of Baron von Ketteler. On the scene of the murder a monument worthy of the assassinated minister shall be erected, with an inscription in Latin, German and Chinese expressing the regret of the emperor of China.

Article II.—(a) The death penalty is to be inflicted upon Prince Tuan and Chang, upon Duke Lan, and further, upon Ying Nien, Kang Yi, Chao Shu Chiao, Tung Fuh Shiao, Yu Hsien and other ringleaders whose names will be given by the representatives of the powers. (b) In all cases where foreigners have been killed or maltreated official examinations shall be suspended for five years.

Article III.—The Chinese government shall erect a monument in every foreign or international cemetery which has been desecrated or where the graves have been destroyed.

Article IV.—The prohibition of the import of arms into China shall be maintained until further notice.

Article V.—China has to pay a just indemnity to governments, corporations and individuals as well as to those Chinese who suffered during the recent events in person or in property owing to having been in the service of foreigners.

Count von Buelow has interpellated the remark that it was intended to effect a further understanding with the powers on the principles on which claims should be presented. This particularly applied to the case of missionaries.

Article VI.—Every single foreign power is granted the right of maintaining a permanent legation guard and of placing the quarter of Pekin where the legations are situated in a state of defense. Chinese are not to be allowed to live in that quarter of Pekin.

Article VII.—The Taku forts and those forts which might prevent free communication with Pekin and the sea shall be razed.

Article VIII.—The powers acquire the right of occupying certain ports upon which they agree among themselves for the object of maintaining free communication from the capital and the sea.

AFRAID OF BEING FROZEN IN.

Uncle Sam Removes All but Two War Vessels from Certain Waters.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—With a view to avoiding the danger of having any of our war vessels caught fast in the ice in the Gulf of Pe Chi Li at the mouth of the Pei Ho river during the present winter, the Navy department has reduced its representation in that quarter to two ships. One is the Monocacy, which has been ordered into a mud dock in the Pei Ho river, where she will reserve as a station ship. The other vessel is the New Orleans, which has been turned into a dispatch boat for the time being, plying between Shanghai, Che Foo and Taku at regular intervals. The army transport service has landed all of the supplies that are deemed to be necessary to carry General Chaffee's troops comfortably through the winter, so that it will be unnecessary for any of those ships to enter the Pei Ho. General Humphrey, the quartermaster in charge, has established a new base at Shanghai Kwan, which, while located on the Gulf of Pe Chi Li, is said to be approachable by shipping all through the winter, and which is connected with Pekin by a fairly good road.

Troops Called Out in Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Dec. 13.—A special to the Tribune from White Rock, Utah, says that at the request of Agent Myton, Troop K, from Fort Duchesne, was ordered out this evening to prevent trouble at the Utah agency. Over thirty children in the school are down with measles and other diseases and their parents have been much dissatisfied because the children were not allowed to go home.

Lonely Life's Bad Ending.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The body of Confederate Brigadier General Horman Bins has been found in Black swamp, four miles from Norristown, N. J. He was known as the hermit of Wanong mountain. For thirty-five years Bins had lived a solitary life on the side of Succawanna mountain. He had little to do with any one and his retreat was far removed from the nearest house. His cabin was found in ashes by those who went to it after the body had been discovered. No one knows how the big man came to his death.