

Tells of Horrors of the Russian Prison System

Well may the inhabitants of St. Petersburg shudder as they glance beyond the Neva, at the dark fortresses when each hour the north wind brings across the river the discordant sound of its melancholy bells, says a writer in the St. James' Gazette. Melancholy, indeed, for nothing but memories of suffering and oppression sit upon its granite walls. Here Peter I. tortured and mutilated his enemies. Here he slew his own son, Alexis, and in this dungeon during the disgraceful reign of the empresses, omnipotent favorites consigned aspiring rivals. And since then whole generations of men and women, for no other crime than love of their oppressed country, have entered these gates, often to leave them no more.

The horrors perpetrated within in the fortresses of St. Peter and St. Paul and the Schusselberg are typical of the prison system all over the Russian empire, and in spite of official efforts to suppress the facts it has been possible to obtain the truth, both from former officials and from those who have suffered.

A special refinement of the Russian prison system is the case of political prisoners and suspects, who are not given a short shrift on the glacis or the gallows, is continued solitary confinement until, as in the case of that splendid intellectual reformer, Dmitri Pissareff, they can be reported as "harmless." Some prisoners here were relieved of their senses quite gently and almost politely. They were shut up in comfortable cells well lit with electric light, and for mental pabulum, they were supplied with only religious and technical works. When insanity or suicide supervened, the appointed end had been secured.

Horrors of Dark Cells.

But the doom of others presents even greater features of horror. Imagine a dark, damp cell, measuring about ten by six beneath the level of the surrounding waters, in which the chained man or woman is condemned to lie in absolute idleness, studiously isolated from any intercourse with human beings. There is no bed, no sort of pillow, nothing whatever to

liberately manufactured to afford a pretext for judicial murder. From a Polish nobleman, the husband of an English lady now in London, the writer learned details of his experiences in such a case. "We never knew," he said, "I and those who had been taken at the same time, until after our morning parade in the prison yard, who would return alive to his cell or who would remain in the yard—upon his back on the stones. Every morning we were subjected to the grim sport of a lottery. After being brought from our cells to the yard, we were placed in line, and a certain number being drawn—say five—that number of men took off from the right. The doomed five was then marched with his back to the farther wall and a file of soldiers did the rest. I saw my own brother shot before my eyes one morning. I was eventually exiled to Siberia, and from there I managed to escape."

"The Mercy of the Czar."

Do you know what it is to have your sentence of death commuted by the Czar? A little while ago Europe commented with satisfaction on the commutation by the Czar of three death sentences out of five. These "fortunate ones" were immured in cells in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul. Not only were these dens dark for twenty-two hours out of twenty-four, but the walls were running with damp, and pools of water had gathered on the floor. Neither books nor anything that might distract the mind was allowed, and one prisoner having been found designing geometrical figures with his bread had it removed by the jailor, with the remark that hard labor convicts "were not permitted to amuse themselves."

Another calculated torture in these cells is the eyehole, at which a warder or soldier is posed to watch the prisoner. By this means the quietest prisoner is soon moved to frenzy, and the slightest insubordination is at once punished by merciless flogging, if not worse. Thus it comes about that of the three men whose sentences had been commuted, one after a year of these horrors, became a consump-

der the new charter and the new organization the Red Cross stands above reproach and above suspicion, upon a basis which merits and will doubtless command the confidence of the American people.—New York Tribune.

DOUKHOBORS A STRANGE SECT.

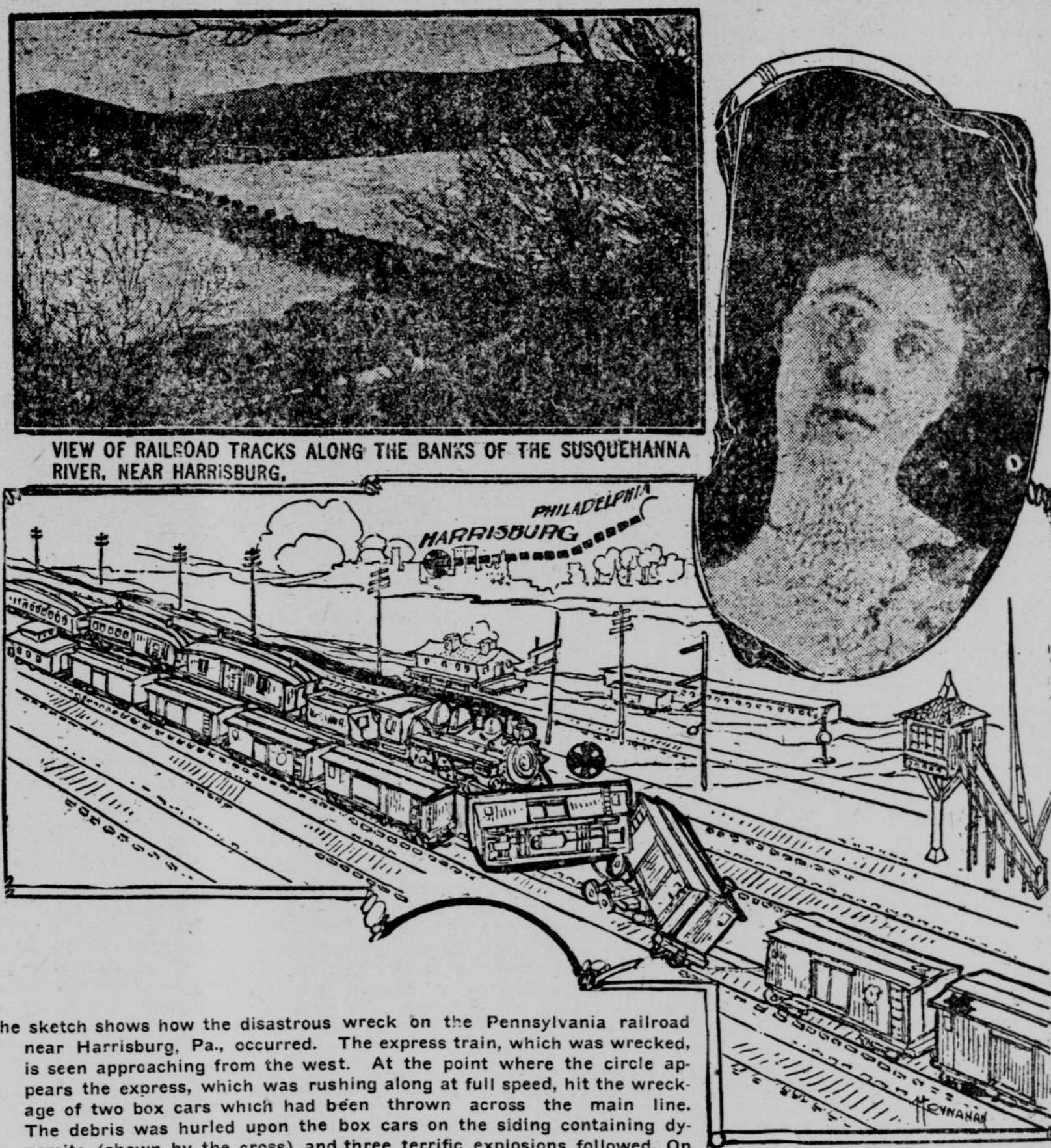
Peaceful and Industrious, but Fanatical in the Extreme.

The Doukhobors go back to about 1750, and had their origin in the Russian province of Ekaterinoslav. The first leader of the sect taught his followers that, as the externalities of religion were unimportant they might conform to any prevailing wherever they happened to be. He was zealous and pious, and, laboring among his small group of disciples all his life, wrought an enduring influence upon them. They were early subject to persecutions; Czar Alexander early in the nineteenth century sought to deliver them from this oppression and settled them in a fertile district north of the sea of Azov, where they got on well for a time, were orderly and prosperous.

Their new leader, named Kapoustin, was a man of talents and authority; he appointed thirty elders and twelve apostles, and through them ruled the sect, which prospered while he was at the head of it. But his descendants, son and grandson, drank too much vodka, and abuses crept in to such an extent that Czar Nicholas, who had succeeded Alexander, transported the whole lot to the Caucasus to mend their manners. Those who would join the Orthodox church might stay; the rest must go, and did go, keeping in general their sectarian characteristics as obstinately as so many Quakers.

Tolstoy fell in with them about ten years ago and took to them with much ardor. It was at this time that they refused conscription, and this drew on them renewed persecution from the government. Under stress of this, with Tolstoy to advise and back them, several thousand of them came to this country, settling in British North America, where, with the exception of a few outbreaks of religious mania, they have gone on tolerably well, raising wheat and cattle and building up their material prosperity. Their present director is named Verigin, and his influence is employed in directions prescribed by common sense, and to restrain fanatical tendencies. Their chief danger in the future is in getting a fool for a

SCENE OF RECENT FATAL WRECK ON PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD NEAR HARRISBURG



The sketch shows how the disastrous wreck on the Pennsylvania railroad near Harrisburg, Pa., occurred. The express train, which was wrecked, is seen approaching from the west. At the point where the circle appears the express, which was rushing along at full speed, hit the wreckage of two box cars which had been thrown across the main line. The debris was hurled upon the box cars on the siding containing dynamite (shown by the crosses) and three terrific explosions followed. On the right is a picture of Mrs. Rebecca Knox Tindell, daughter of Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, who was one of the persons injured in the crash. Twenty persons were killed and more than 100 injured.

PATH OF DESTRUCTIVE OKLAHOMA CYCLONE, AND TYPES OF BUILDINGS IN WRECKED TOWN OF SNYDER.



cover the body but the prisoner's gray cloak. The amount allowed for food is five farthings a day, which provides bread and water, and three times a week a small bowl of warm soup. For ten minutes every second day the miserable wretch is allowed to see the light and breathe the air in the prison yard.

For the rest intolerable loneliness, absolute silence, occupation of not the smallest kind, no books, no writing materials, no instruments or manual labor. Madness comes to such gradually with the passing years, not as it came to an unhappy young lady, a rising painter, who received such treatment at the hands of the British prison police that she lost her reason instantly. In the majority of cases the mind rots gradually in the enfeebling body. Suicide and madness are the two great weapons in which Russian autocracy puts its trust.

Frequently, says one who has been a prisoner in one of these Russian hells, some poor wretches will make a feeble attempt upon a warder in the hope of at last being brought to trial. Shooting or hanging has been their lot.

Terrible Execution Scene.

The scenes of suffering witnessed at the slow hanging, occupying at least half an hour, have been terrible. Within the courtyard of the prison is a hand hoist for lowering ropes depending over a gallows. To these the victims are attached and then slowly elevated into midair to struggle and gasp till death relieves them from their agony. Should the governor or superior present be desirous of getting through the business speedily, a warder is ordered to seize the suspended victim's feet and hang on, swinging backward and forward.

On previous occasions when there has been a large number of political offenders insubordination has been de-

Map shows general course of storm. The cross indicates Snyder. The loss of life and destruction of property were very heavy, the dead alone numbering over two hundred.

Another, a robust and vigorous working man, went mad; the third, also a man of powerful physique, was rotted with scurvy. Such is the "mercy of the Czar."

New Life in the Red Cross.

There will be widespread and profound gratification at the indications of restored vitality in the American National Red Cross which have appeared since the placing of that organization upon a rational and businesslike basis. This organization, both in its broad national scope and in its local details, is voluntary, and is dependent entirely for success upon the favor and benevolence of the people. Beyond question, therefore, the essential cornerstone of it must be public confidence not only in the absolute integrity, but also in the businesslike efficiency, economy and common sense of its administration. The public will not support, and ought not to support, a work the ways and means of which are not above suspicion, and a shadow of carelessness or slovenliness is scarcely less damning than one of outright dishonesty. Un-

leader. Such an one might lead the whole sect into demoralizing extravagance, to which they are always prone.

Miss Helen Gould's Charities.

The charities of Miss Helen Gould amount to about \$500,000 annually, and while this amount seems small in comparison to the great sums given away by Messrs. Rockefeller and Carnegie, it must be borne in mind that Miss Gould's donations are nearly all of a personal nature. It is said by authorities on the subject that Miss Gould contributes to more individual charities than any other person in the world. Through her secretary more than \$2,500,000 has been distributed to thousands of beneficiaries. About 200 personal letters asking for help are sent to her each day, but they are thoroughly digested before Miss Gould sees them, most of the applicants proving unworthy. In one week requests amounting to \$1,500,000 have been made.

Prince Prominent in Y. M. C. A.

Prince Oscar Bernadotte of Sweden and Norway, who made the opening address at the world's conference of the Y. M. C. A. at Paris, and who was elected first vice president, is the second son of King Oscar. He was born Nov. 15, 1859, and in 1888 renounced his succession to the throne and married Ebba Munch of Fulkilla, to whom he was attracted by her intensely religious disposition. Since his marriage Prince Bernadotte, who also bears the title of count of Wisborg, has worked consistently as a religious propagandist among the soldiers and sailors of his country. He has a large estate, known as Fridheim, on the island of Gottland. The prince's mother, Queen Sophia, also is of a very religious disposition.

MAY LEAVE SUPREME BENCH.

Justice John M. Harlan Said to Be Contemplating Retirement.

Justice John M. Harlan is reported to be on the point of retiring from the United States supreme court and to devote his time and energies to establishing a great Presbyterian church in the city of Washington. Justice Harlan has been on the supreme bench for twenty-eight years. When questioned upon his intentions he announced that he was not prepared to say that he would leave the bench for the purpose of devoting himself to the movement, but he admitted that much would depend upon the action of the general assembly. The early work of raising funds would involve a great amount of work in the way of correspondence. If requested to do so he would be willing to share a part of this burden. Leading Presbyterians in Washington think his interest in the cathedral strong enough to draw him from the bench and if the matter is taken up by the assembly there is strong probability that he will be asked to direct the movement.—Chicago Chronicle.

Value of the College.

President Hadley of Yale has been explaining on numerous recent occasions that a course at college is valuable most of all on account of the associations into which it brings the students, and not solely, or primarily, for the scholastic information obtained in college classrooms. What is needed for general use is now taught earlier, and, on the whole, better, in the public high schools. College information, so to speak, has decided value only when it helps the student with a chosen specialty. The mental education which really counts is obtained outside the classroom and by dint of the student's own enterprise.—Washington Times.

Large Estate a Surprise.

The first statement of the executors of the will of the late Henry W. Oliver of Pittsburg proved somewhat of a surprise, as the estate is now estimated at between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000, while fifteen years previously to his death Mr. Oliver was a bankrupt. He built his immense fortune principally through a lucky strike in the Mesaba ore range later. The statement of personal property shows the executors credit themselves with \$18,433,573, and have a balance on hand of \$14,253,819.61. It is likely for "the glory of the Lord."—Gilbert Barker in London Mail.

May Get Body After 40 Years.

There is a probability that the body of Lord Francis Douglas will be delivered up by the Zmut glacier this summer. Douglas lost his life forty years ago during the first ascent of the Matterhorn. Despite a prolonged search no trace of the body has been found. During those forty years the glacier has been descending regularly, and, according to natural laws, the part where the climber fell should reach the valley this year. The body will be in a perfect state of preservation.

To Marry for \$1,000.

A strange agreement has been admitted to record here in the office of the clerk of the County court. By its terms, Miss Gertrude Lowther of Ritchie county agrees to marry S. W. Harden of Catawba, W. Va., and to remain his wife until his death, when she is to receive \$1,000 from his estate. Harden is 59 years old and she is a rich widow. Miss Lowther is 38 years old. The marriage license has been granted.—Fairmont correspondence Baltimore Sun.

ONE OF AFRICA'S SIGHTS.

Marvelous Beauty Seen in Crossing Bridge Over Victoria Falls.

It was a gift of the imagination which made Cecil Rhodes say: "Build the bridge across the Victoria falls where the trains as they pass will catch the spray from the falling Zambesi." It was always so with him. He visualized and spiritualized his work to those who looked upon him as a materialist and as a great adventurer. He was nearer the soul of things than the mere elements of things that are the elemental impulses of the first life stirring round him. It was not given to him to travel up the wide, wild tropical valley from Bulawayo to Victoria falls and see the greatest water wonder of the world; he died before he could accomplish the journey, or fit it in with a too strenuous life. But a railway takes you to the banks of the deep, tortuous stream, and, looking out from the hotel veranda, you can see the rolling curtain of vapor rising, spreading, thickening, fleeing away. You can see the great supports of the bridge jutting out from their bases hewn from the solid rock, and the cage which carries tons of iron and steel for the railway riding along the Blon-din wire from side to side, a journey sufficiently exciting for the eager traveler who trusts himself to this aerial carriage.

But not to take this flight across the chasm is to miss one of the sights of south Africa. Below you speeds with terrible swiftness the Zambesi—480 feet below; on one side the wide tropical land, and the stream apparently closing in a cul-de-sac; on the other, the northern end of the falls, over which the water plunges, breaks, spreads itself in spray, and is lost in a mist over the cauldron below. Here hang long clusters of flowers on the brown and green ledges of the sides of the gorge, bright-hued birds sing in the leafy coverts on the lofty banks, the dull roar is a music which stirs the senses, and even as you hang over the vast abyss you feel the vibration which shakes the earth and adds mystery to majesty.

My first glimpse of the falls was by moonlight, and the lovely white reeking splendor of the thing—the rolling clouds of spray, the sombre rain forest on the bank opposite the falls, the stream of the Zambesi shimmering far above, the trembling earth, the smell of the tropic wood, a lunar rainbow stealing over the clouds of spray, all made a picture for a lifetime of memory; the mind took on a feeling for "the glory of the Lord."—Gilbert Barker in London Mail.

LONG AND BRILLIANT CAREER.

Sir John Tenniel Retires After Sixty Years of Service.

Sir John Tenniel has just passed his eighty-fifth birthday. After drawing Punch for half a century, with hardly a week's intermission, Sir John retired in the unobtrusive manner which is characteristic of the man and the cartoons have no longer the familiar monogram "J. T." which week after week appeared on them with a regularity unparalleled in the world of art. It is sixty years since Tenniel's first work was published and forty-four years since his first drawing appeared in Punch. For the last forty years and more he hardly ever failed to do the weekly cartoon. He once went with a colleague for about a month's rest to Venice and sometimes he had a little hunting in Leicestershire, but regular holiday he had not. It is a strange commentary on his undoubted reputation that the Royal Academy passed him over. He was a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colors, but hardly another distinction, beyond knighthood, commemorated his position in the world of art. It is said that Tenniel originated few of the subjects of his famous cartoons. But he had the rare gift of translating and improving any ideas which his colleagues at the Punch table suggested. He used to draw direct on the wood block.

Prince Henry a Born Leader.

Many stories are told of the hardihood and valor of Prince Henry of Germany. It was not so long ago that he was in command of the Olga, which was lying anchored in northern waters. His highness gave an order that all hands were to bathe. The weather and the water being cold, some demur was made. Without a word Prince Henry, who was on the bridge, sprang into the sea and swam around to the ladder at the stern, climbed on board again and asked the officers if they still thought it was too cold. There was naturally no reply and the order was promptly carried out.

Woman Would Wear Trousers.

Gov. Herrick of Ohio a few days ago received from "Miss L. Neal" of Bedford a request for a permit to don men's wearing apparel. The woman says she works on a farm and that skirts interfere with her usefulness. She wants to know if the governor can not give her permission to get into trousers. At present such a request can not be granted, but the letter was referred to the attorney general with the suggestion that perhaps he would recommend an amendment to the law to suit such a case.

Dowry Through Temperance.

A marriage recently celebrated at Glasgow has a curious story attached to it. The bride's father and mother, who have been abstainers for over twenty years, gave as a marriage dowry to their daughter the sum of £120. Every week since they became total abstainers the amount formerly spent in alcoholic liquor was banked for the little one, who caused her parents to take the pledge. The little girl had seen her father slightly inebriated and reproved him for it the next day.

Daughter of Diaz Is Popular.

Mrs. Amada Diaz de La Torre, the oldest daughter of President Diaz, is one of the most graceful figures in the high society of the capital. She is the wife of Congressman Ignacio De La Torre, a wealthy hacendado. At their town house they often dispense elegant and truly cosmopolitan hospitality. While their home is luxurious and palatial both Mr. and Mrs. De La Torre possess the simplicity and unpretentiousness of the highest breeding.

WORK ON PANAMA CANAL.

Bristow Makes Statement Regarding Progress.

WASHINGTON—It is estimated by the engineers that it will take sixty work trains a day six years to remove the earth and rock that must be taken out of Culebra cut. This statement, made by Joseph L. Bristow, gives some idea of the vast amount of work to be done yet on the Panama canal. Continuing, he said:

"I am most interested now in the Panama canal. The task the government has there is immense. The engineers estimate the work can be done in ten years, and that means fast and hard work. They are putting in an additional steam shovel outfit at the rate of one each month, and using three of the old digging machines that the French had there. The soil is loose, and when there is a heavy rain at night part of the bank comes down and often buries part of the machinery as well as cars.

"There are about 5,000 men working there now and there will be more as the work progresses. There is a general misapprehension in this country as to the extent of yellow fever in that country. There is something sensational about dying with yellow fever that makes many people afraid of the Panama country. We don't think anything about pneumonia. Yet a man going from Panama to New York in winter time is much more likely to contract pneumonia and die of it than a New York man is to catch yellow fever going to Panama. The death rate from yellow fever in Panama is much lower than the death rate from pneumonia in New York.

"One man who came there to live was married on Saturday, contracted yellow fever on Monday and died on Wednesday. The conditions attracted special attention to his case and frightened a great many people about that country. But really the health conditions there are not bad and the most serious trouble is that people get homesick. Most of the laborers there are Jamaica negroes, but the men who direct the work are mostly Americans. The change in conditions of living makes them uneasy."

LETT IS COMMANDER OF G. A. R.

Spirited Contest Ends in Victory for the York Man.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb.—The Grand Army decided a spirited contest for the commandship by the election of John Lett of York. Other officers elected were: J. R. Maxin, senior vice commander, Minden; junior vice commander, H. H. Dunham, Clark, medical director, W. H. Johnson, Minden; chaplain, J. E. Ingham, Plainview.

Resolutions were adopted that commitments in the future be held at Lincoln and a committee was appointed to arrange for the holding of all reunions, district or state, in connection with the encampment.

As delegates to the national encampment at Denver the following were elected: J. S. Hoagland, North Platte, at large; Ferdinand Brother, Beatrice; W. S. Askwith, Grand Island; J. W. Burwell, Juniata; H. C. McCain, Plattsmouth; J. B. Wambaugh, Kearney; J. H. Hobb, Omaha, and R. R. Randall.

WILL CARE FOR VETERANS.

Denver Arranges for 60,000 at G. A. R. Encampment.

DENVER, Colo.—The executive committee of the Grand Army of the Republic met here Thursday night with Commander-in-Chief W. W. Blackmar and reported that arrangements had already been perfected for accommodating 60,000 visitors during the national encampment here next September.

It is estimated that 125,000 persons will visit Denver on the occasion of the national encampment, and a committee will continue working to secure pledges for "quartering" that number. It was announced that rates for hotel and other accommodations would remain at the usual standard during the encampment. The committee is arranging a program of events for the entertainment of the old soldiers and their friends.

REFORMED CHURCH SYNOD.

Form of Government is Finally Settled.

ALLENTOWN, Pa.—The lengthy discussion which has been indulged in by the general synod of the Reformed church on the point whether the church shall have the Presbyterian or Congregational form of government was settled Friday.

Dr. G. W. Richards, for the committee on the new constitution, reported an article that classes shall rearrange charges only after counseling with the consistories of charges affected. Dr. Philip Vollmer, who led the faction which held to the integrity of the congregation as opposed to the classes, submitted an amendment making the action of classes final only by a two-thirds vote. This amendment was accepted by Dr. Richards and carried almost unanimously.

Mr. Bryan Asked to Appear.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A request was made to Judge Cleveland of the probate court by Judge Henry Stoddard, counsel for Mrs. Bennett, that W. J. Bryan be asked to be present in court when the hearing is held on his application for approval of his account as administrator of the estate of the late Philo S. Bennett of this city and New York. There was no objection from Bryan's counsel and it was agreed that the hearing should be held when Mr. Bryan can come.

New Phase of Meat Inquiry.

CHICAGO—An attempt was made at Tuesday's session of the federal grand jury, which is investigating the affairs of the beef packing industry, to show that the cattle buyers for the packing concerns and certain commission firms meet each morning and agree upon the prices to be paid for live stock during the day. Evidence along this line was sought from C. B. Van Norman, head of the Van Norman Commission company, and S. P. Kingerson of Rosenbaum Bros., who were on the stand all afternoon.

Milk Cans Become Lifebuoys.

A farmer's wife, who had been to Llandipoll, Cardiganshire, to sell milk had a singular escape from drowning while returning to Carmarthen.

Taught Him a Lesson.

"Ever meet Bat Masterson?" "Sure. Met him on the warpath once. Belt full of cartridges and revolvers, and a knife in each boot. Had a Winchester rifle in his right hand and a sawed off shotgun in his left."

Ex-Governor Discards Mustache.

Samuel R. Van Sant, ex-governor of Minnesota, has shaved off the heavy black mustache which once adorned his lip. His appearance is so changed that intimate acquaintances pass without recognizing him. The fine mustache gave Mr. Van Sant a close resemblance to Gen. John A. Logan, making the wearer an easy mark for the cartoonist. His friends think he must be out of politics, for if he desired to go before the public as a campaigner he would be handicapped by his smooth face.

Concerning Colors.

Colors, like flowers, have a meaning of their own. White signifies purity, faith, joy and life; red, the ruby, typifies fire, love and royalty; blue, the sapphire, expresses heaven, truth, constancy and fidelity; yellow represents the sun, marriage and faithfulness; green is the hue of hope and victory; violet is the hue of passion and suffering; purple and scarlet are for holy things and black is the attendant of despair, earthliness, mourning and death.

Apples Good Chicken Feed.

Hen fanciers in the region of Waldoboro, Me., think that they have solved the egg laying problem by feeding their hens throughout the winter with a liberal supply of apples.

Apples Good Chicken Feed.

Miss Emma L. Labe wintered nineteen pullets from which she got fifteen to eighteen eggs a day all winter. She fed in that time over nine barrels of apples. E. F. Waterman, who has a large flock, has used some twenty barrels of the fruit with satisfactory results.

The Greatest Smokers.

For some reason—or none—most people have hitherto looked upon the Germans as the most inveterate smokers in the world, although few will be surprised to learn that the Dutch are a little ahead of them as consumers of tobacco, since pictorially a Dutchman is always associated with a pipe. But none will be prepared to hear that the Swiss smoke 50 per cent more than either, still less that the Belgian burns more than double as much as the Dutchman.