

Items of Interest.

There are 732 Salvation Army corps in the United States.

The King of Denmark celebrated his 80th birthday April 8th.

In England 232,821 women and 147,245 men are employed in cotton factories.

Five wire and glass companies have united under a capital stock of \$1,500,000.

Tuberculosis is responsible for 10 per cent of the deaths among Maryland negroes.

General Chafee has announced that the American troops will evacuate China by May 1st.

Sidney, Australia, kitchens are generally on the top floor. Clothes are dried on the roof.

A delver into history has found more than 250 references to Shakespeare by his contemporaries.

At Capetown the bubonic plague has developed and many persons have already perished from the dread disease.

A rebellion is on in Mongolia. General Tung Fuh Siang and Prince Tuan are said to be the leaders in the revolt.

The Massachusetts legislature has refused to pass a law permitting the playing of golf and other sports on Sunday.

Miss Josephine Newcomb, who recently died in New York, bequeathed \$3,000,000 to Tulane University at New Orleans.

It is said that the Mississippi river levee system has resulted in raising the channel of river above the surrounding country.

Mormons declare that the organ now being placed in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City is the finest in the world. It will cost \$120,000.

Peru has adopted a new military law. Every male citizen is liable to compulsory military service between the ages of 19 and 50 years.

E. P. Gaus of Williams county, Ohio, is now a believer in forestry. The other day he sold a black walnut tree standing on his place for \$4,000.

A California judge has decided that smoking cigarettes is good ground for a divorce—that is, if the wife smokes them and the husband objects.

Visitors are so numerous on the Buffalo exposition grounds that the workmen are being hampered. Sometimes as many as 15,000 visitors are on hand.

A number of gas light, traction and water power companies throughout the United States have combined with an estimated capital of \$35,000,000.

New York is setting a new model for skyscrapers. The latest one goes up into the air sixteen stories and down into the earth four stories.

A conference was recently held at Pittsburg for the purpose of forming a combination of all independent furnace men with a capital stock of \$12,000,000.

Famine is reported in various provinces of the Chinese empire. In one place it is estimated that three thousand persons are dying daily from starvation.

In Arkansas it is proposed to license all who want to drink liquor. It will be illegal to sell to a customer who cannot show a "drinker's license," which is to cost \$5.

A large number of mills and factories in New England have been closed because of the floods. At Lawrence, Mass., 20,000 persons are in idleness because of these disasters.

The postoffice department has decided to allow letter carriers to discard their hot coats in summer and wear blouses or shirt waists, provided each city's carriers adopt a uniform style.

Miss Anna Lyle, of Philadelphia, recently celebrated the completion of the 50th consecutive year

of her service as a public school teacher. Miss Lyle is 65 years of age and began teaching at the age of 15 years. Three generations of her pupils were the guests of Miss Lyle on her 50th anniversary.

Kansas and Nebraska are running a unique race. Each claims the lowest percentage of illiteracy of any state in the union, or in any other country on the globe, Belgium alone excepted.

Henry J. Eaton, chief of the Hartford, Conn., fire department, recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his connection with the fire fighters department of Hartford. For 33 years he has been chief.

Members of the next congress will sit at new desks. Most of the old members have bought the desks they used in the last congress, agreeing to pay the average price realized from the sale of the others.

James R. Campbell, former democratic congressman from the 20th Illinois district, who took the stump for the republican ticket in the campaign of 1900, has been made a brigadier general of volunteers.

Miss Elvira Sydnor Miller has been appointed passenger agent of the Louisville, Henderson & St. Louis railway. Miss Miller is a newspaper woman and is the first of her sex to occupy this important railroad position.

Dr. James Sanford of Bennington, Vermont, has practised medicine in this country for sixty years. Within a few days he will celebrate his 85th birthday, and yet he is engaged in the active practice of his profession.

The birth rate of Milwaukee exceeds by 20 per cent any other city of equal size in the United States. In Milwaukee the births average 26.28 per 1,000 population. In Detroit, a city of practically the same size, the birth rate is only 11.97 per 1,000 population.

Judge Dixon of the New Jersey court of appeals recently delivered an opinion in which he held that a stockholder of any industrial combination incorporated in New Jersey may restrain the issue of stock, if it is in excess of the real value of the property.

On April 8th the secretary of state delivered to the Mexican ambassador a draft for \$2,000, paid "Out of humane consideration, and without reference to the question of liability," as indemnity to the heirs of a Mexican citizen who was lynched in La Salle county, Texas, in 1895.

As a result of negotiations between Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and the Canadian minister of agriculture an agreement has been reached between the two administrations by which Canada is to have a veterinarian stationed in England to test for tuberculosis all British cattle shipped to this country via Canada.

Dr. W. H. McEvers, a veterinary surgeon of Chicago, recently delivered a lecture on the horse. Dr. McEvers pleads for better care of the horse. He says the loads should be in accordance with the strength of the animal drawing them. He declared that 3,000 pounds was enough for any horse to haul.

Minister Loomis, the American representative to Venezuela, has arrived in Washington for the purpose of giving the state department information concerning Venezuelan affairs. Recently the United States protested against the arrest of a Danish subject by the Venezuelan government. The protest was ignored. The asphalt controversy is perhaps the most conspicuous of the differences between this country and Venezuela, and it is expected that a serious discussion between the representatives of the two governments will follow.

The Chicago Tribune gives the details of a new invention, the purpose of which is to save life at sea. The Tribune says: "Captain Bolt, a master-mariner of Newcastle, England, has invented a new form of deckhouse, or life saving cabin, which,

in cases of sudden foundering from collisions or wreckage, will, with the turn of a wheel, float off the doomed vessel in its entirety and ride the waters like any other ship. Captain Bolt's new invention has received the approval of the Trinity House. In the cabin are berths and seats and storage places where water and provisions are always kept. The only thing that remains to be done when the ship strikes a rock is to collect all the passengers and crew within the deck house."

A dispatch from El Paso, Tex., to the Chicago Tribune says: "Another lot of Porto Ricans passed through here today, en route for the Sandwich Islands. There were two trainloads, containing nearly 1,000 of the most poverty-stricken that have yet been shipped to Hawaii. Some had died on the journey and many others were in a dying condition when the train left El Paso. Nearly every one of the party had dysentery, and many had succumbed to this disease. They were carefully guarded and not allowed to get off the platforms of the cars."

The London County Council has decided to buy 225 acres of land on which to build workmen's houses to accommodate 42,000 persons. The cost will be £1,500,000. The houses will be erected in Tottenham, a northeastern suburb of London, where considerable building land is available. It is proposed to erect 5,770 cottages, accommodating 42,500 persons. The rents will range from six shillings a week for a cottage of three rooms and a kitchen to half a guinea for five rooms and kitchen. Workmen can obtain railway tickets in this district at one-fourth the ordinary fares. The scheme does not involve a removal of the London slums. It only touches the slum problem indirectly, but the tenants of the slums will succeed to the tenements vacated by those who occupy the new cottages. The plan, once started, will be self-supporting and probably will pay a small dividend.

A student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, has been stricken with a strange disease, which some have diagnosed as the bubonic plague. Dr. Frederick Novy, the expert in bacteriology, when interviewed on the possibilities of the case said: "I am as yet in a quandary as to the exact nature of the disease. Indeed, it is an extremely puzzling one to diagnose accurately. I am experimenting in the bacteriological laboratory since the case came under my notice, but as yet have come to no definite conclusion. I am obliged to treat small animals with the germs which I have cultured from the blood of the patient, and as soon as sufficient evidence has been adduced by these means I will give out a full statement of the facts. Barring one symptom, I would pronounce the case the 'black death.' Under ordinary conditions, however, its victims are subject to a scorching fever or, at least, an extremely high temperature."

The Chicago Tribune presents some interesting figures on the growth of divorce in the United States as follows: In 1870 3½ per cent of all marriages in the United States ended in divorce courts. In 1881 the percentage had risen to 4.8. In 1890 it was 6.2, and in 1900 it was 8 per cent. In other words, the percentage of divorces to marriages in this country has more than doubled since 1870. The total number of divorces in the United States for a given year was 23,427. During the same year 20,111 divorces were granted in all the world outside of the United States. There was an excess of 3,361 divorces in this country as compared with the remainder of the world. Of foreign countries the smallest number of divorces in the given year was in Canada, where only twelve were granted. Next to the United States the largest number was in France, with 6,245 in the year. Germany was a close second with only 100 less. From a religious standpoint there are about 73 divorces to every 100,000 Catholics, while divorces for the same total among Protestants are 283. More than 40 per cent of all divorces granted in the United States is on the ground of desertion, and divorces are five times as frequent in the city as in the country districts.