

Lord Kitchener's Christmas gift to the taxpayers of England was a casualty list of 120—49 killed and 71 wounded. Not a

Britain is pleasing gift, to be sure, but one
Reaping the that might have been expected.
Whirlwind. Indeed, the people of England have become accustomed to such

gifts, and the mourning emblems worn by mothers, fathers and widows are mute evidences of the frequency with which casualty lists have come in from the Transvaal since the beginning of the attempt to murder two little republics in South Africa. Great Britain has sown the wind of land lust and greed and boastfulness and is now reaping the whirlwind of tears and humiliation.

The dispatches of December 26 announce that Secretary Long had intimated that there would be no more censures in the Schley affair. The secretary's explanation is that this course is the best to adopt with the view to bring the controversy to a conclusion. Would it not have been better had this course been adopted before the rebuke was administered to General Miles? Rear Admirals Beardslee, Erben, Miller, Brown and Belknap have all expressed opinions, in public interviews, directly in line with the opinion given by General Miles. If it was the duty of the president to administer to General Miles a severe rebuke, why need he hesitate in the discharge of his duty with relation to the rear admirals named?

It would be interesting to see what a first-class circus advertising agent or press representative like Tody Hamilton of Barnum's or Mr. Coxy of Ringling's would do with the glittering pageant that is to accompany the coronation of Edward VII. If a circus with three rings, a great Roman hippodrome and a menagerie exhausts the adjectives in the Century dictionary, the coronation of Edward VII. should put the circus advertising manager on his mettle and result in the coinage of a lot of adjectives that would be a valuable addition to the language. For glittering pomp and gorgeous pageantry the coronation of Edward VII. will make the first circus as you see it in memory sink into utter insignificance. But Edward is to be crowned but once, and a coronation comes to but few men in a generation, so it is not surprising that such an event should call for a barbaric display that would have made the ancient Romans turn green with envy.

A reader of The Commoner asks to what extent passes are used by persons directly connected with the national government in an official capacity. He explains his inquiry by saying that he wants to know whether those who pay for their own transportation also pay for the transportation furnished to officials. The Commoner has no way of knowing to what extent federal officials use transportation. When President McKinley made his trip across the continent last spring it was stated that he desired to pay for the trip out of his own pocket, but that the railroads insisted upon furnishing the special train and the transportation for the entire party. It is certain that many public officials use free transportation and a great many people seem to regard it as perfectly proper. The Commoner has already called attention to the pass question and while it does not insist that a pass is in every case a bribe or that it is always so intended by the company, it does insist that as a rule the railroad companies furnish transportation because they feel that they will secure a return of equal or greater pecuniary value. It is also certain that many public officials use free transportation to such an extent that they find it diffi-

cult to decide impartially between the rights of the people and the demands of the corporations. As a public official usually receives sufficient compensation to make his office desirable, and as his expenses are always provided for when he is compelled to travel upon official business, he can afford to pay his own way. When he pays his fare he is free to act upon his judgment in all matters without being annoyed by the importunities of corporations or embarrassed by obligations to them.

A reader of The Commoner asks what kind of reading should be supplied to boys, complaining that his boy is addicted to the "penny dreadful" class of reading. The answer depends largely upon the boy. If he is just beginning to take an interest in books there is nothing better for him to read than the delightful stories written by Oliver Optic, Horatio Alger, Harry Castleman and Charles Carleton Coffin. One of the most charming boy stories ever written is Thomas Bailey Aldrich's "Story of a Bad Boy." From the books of these writers to books of a more solid character is an easy step. Books that deal with natural history, American history and political history in the guise of clean and interesting fiction are helpful and educate the youthful mind to enjoy the best literature. But parents should study the bent of the boy's mind and seek to encourage him along lines in which he takes the most interest, provided always the bent is away from literary trash.

The Chicago Tribune is responsible for the statement that Mr. Roosevelt "has given it out that he will veto any resolution or act of congress proposing to revive the grade of vice admiral for Schley or to give him the thanks of congress, or in any other way to recognize Schley by statute. In taking this position the president is not influenced in any way by his own personal feelings in the matter, but merely by his desire to put an end to a disturbance which has scandalized both the army and the navy." As the president is "not influenced in any way by his own personal feelings" in this matter, how did it happen that everything he has done so far, with the single exception of Maclay's discharge, and everything which it is predicted the president may do, is clearly antagonistic to Admiral Schley? Does Mr. Roosevelt really imagine that it is possible even for him to settle a controversy without the slightest regard to its merits? Does Mr. Roosevelt imagine that with the memory of the "figure on the bridge of the Brooklyn" clearly distinguishable to the public he can put an end to the Schley case simply by setting himself resolutely against every act of justice sought to be done for the hero of Santiago bay?

"Historian" Maclay, after having been removed by the president, appealed to the civil service commissioner to ask whether his removal was not in violation of the civil service law. Commissioner Proctor replied to the effect that the removal did not violate the law. Mr. Proctor says: "The object of the rule requiring notice and a hearing was to prevent political removals or removals upon secret charges. No issue of this kind is involved in your case." It would be interesting for Mr. Proctor to inform us upon what charge Mr. Maclay was removed. As a matter of fact, he was removed on a "secret charge" because the reason for his removal was never made public. To be sure, the people have what they think is a pretty good idea of the reason for Maclay's discharge, but it is all guess-work so far as they are concerned. In the letter of the president to the sec-

retary of the navy directing Maclay's discharge, and in the secretary's letter to Maclay's immediate superior, as well as in the formal notification by that superior to Maclay, not one word was permitted to creep in showing why Maclay was discharged. It is not difficult to believe the statement that the real reason was withheld in order to avoid saying anything that could be taken as any sort of recognition of Admiral Schley's distinguished services. Therefore, whatever notion the public may have conceived as to the reason for Maclay's discharge, and however gratifying the dismissal may have been to the people, the fact remains that Maclay was removed upon a "secret charge."

The Omaha World-Herald quotes one democrat as being for David B. Hill because the said David B. Hill "is a true blue democrat and gave cordial support to the democratic ticket in 1896." According to the same authority another democrat is for David B. Hill, because the said Hill "did not support the democratic ticket in 1896," and the said democrat adds "more honor to him for such." The World-Herald makes a valuable suggestion to the managers of the Hill boom. It says that if all who supported the ticket in 1896 can be persuaded to support Mr. Hill on the ground that he was faithful to the ticket that year, and if all those who bolted the ticket in 1896 can be induced to support Mr. Hill because he was unfaithful, he ought to have a strong following in the convention. Mr. Dooley complains that every candidate mentioned is found, upon investigation, "to be either a traitor or a man whom the traitors won't vote for." If, however, it can be shown to the satisfaction of both sides that Mr. Hill both supported the ticket and bolted it, he ought to be endorsed as an ideal harmony candidate by such papers as the New York World, Courier-Journal and Chicago Chronicle.

When it is stated that the following poetry came from the pen of Secretary of State John Hay, it is scarcely necessary to add that it was written some time ago:

'But That was written some time ago:
Was Very "What man is there so bold that he
Long Ago." should say,
"Thus and thus only would I have the sea?"

For whether lying calm and beautiful,
Clasping the earth in love, and throwing back
The smiles of heaven from waves of amethyst;
Or whether, freshened by the busy winds,
It bears the trade and navies of the world
To ends of use or stern captivity;
Or whether, lashed by tempests, it gives way
To elemental fury, howls and roars
At all its rocky barriers, in wild lust
Or ruin drinks the blood of living things,
And strews its wrecks o'er leagues of desolate
shore—
Always it is the sea, and all bow down
Before its vast and varied majesty.
And so in vain will timorous men essay
To set the metes and bounds of Liberty,
For Freedom is its own eternal law.
It makes its own conditions, and a storm
Or calm alike fulfills the unerring Will.
Let us not, then, despise it when it lies
Still as a sleeping lion, while a swarm
Of gnat-like evils hover round its head;
Nor doubt it when in mad, disjointed times
It shakes the torch of terror, and its cry
Shrills o'er the quaking earth, and in the flame
Of riot and war we see its awful form
Rise by the scaffold, where the crimson ax
Rings down its grooves the knell of shuddering
kings,
For always in thine eyes, O, Liberty!
Shines that high light whereby the world is saved;
And though thou slay us, we still trust in thee!"

The
Pass
Question.

The President
and the
Schley Case.

'But That
Was Very
Long Ago."

A
Secret
Charge.

'But That
Was Very
Long Ago."