

house, and will then be carried on to the living apartments. This stairway will be surrounded with balconies. At all receptions in the future the entrance will be on the east side through this colonnade and into the dressing rooms. Heretofore the executive offices had to be used for this purpose. The improvement contemplates separate rooms for the diplomatic corps and the cabinet people and another for specially invited guests or those whose names appear in the list as 'In the Blue Room.' This stairway will open on all the drawing rooms, and the procession of the presidential party down the grand stairway will be visible from the Blue Room. Heretofore only those gathered in the main corridor could see this entrance. The present private stairway will be removed and its space and the corridor on which it opens will be thrown into the adjoining apartment and will form the new state dining room, a hall only 25 feet shorter than the East Room. The family dining room will be, as at present, on the northwest corner of the building. The president will take possession of his new offices in the office building on October 1, but the White house proper will not be ready for occupancy before December 1.

The White house was first occupied by President John Adams in 1800. The corner-stone was laid by Washington in 1792. In 1814 when the British captured Washington, the White house was burned. It was restored in 1818. The New York World's correspondent, referring to the inspection made by President Roosevelt of the work of repairs, says:

"One of the workmen gave the president a fragment of the old stairway which leads to the alcoves. The staircase contained the only wood which remained in the White house after it was burned by the British forces under General Ross. In tearing it away from the walls a portion was discovered plainly showing the work of the flames. A section of this was sent to the National museum, to be preserved as a relic. Every day relic hunters have been busy around the White house. They beg scraps of the paper and tapestry of the walls of the East Room, the Blue Room, or any of the apartments now being remodelled."

That "nothing succeeds like success" is shown by comparing the reception accorded Lord Methuen on his return to England July 10 with the extensive preparations for the demonstrative welcome that is to be accorded Lord Kitchener. It is probable that Methuen was immediately under fire a hundred times where Kitchener was not at all exposed. Methuen was brave to the point of recklessness. Whatever may be said of his judgment, it is conceded that he established the reputation of being one of the most courageous men that ever led an army to battle, and yet when Methuen returned to England, there was no demonstration. It is said, however, that the masses of the English people give evidence of their appreciation of the services of this brave and impetuous soldier. Success, however, came to the British flag while Kitchener was the recognized leader and it may be depended upon that to Kitchener the honor and the glory belonging to the soldier, so far as concerns the British victory in South Africa, will be accorded by the English people.

The year 1901 will go down in history as the year of the "great drouth." The drouth was universal in character, and sections of country that had not before, within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants, suffered from lack of rainfall, became parched and dry. The early spring of 1902 threatened a repetition of the drouth, but fears were dissipated in June, only to give way to the fear of floods. Throughout the entire west, and especially in the semi-arid regions, the rainfall during the present year has broken all records to July 10. A vast amount of damage has been done by high water in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and other sections of the west, but happily the farmers were able to harvest most of their wheat crop, which was exceptionally heavy. Corn in the great corn belt is late, but with plenty of warm weather and a timely rain or two in August it promises a heavy yield.

An example of what public opinion may accomplish has been furnished in the case of the telephone girls at Des Moines, Ia. The girls in "central" demanded shorter hours with a minimum wage of \$1 a day, which was refused by the telephone company. The girls immediately went out on a strike and the efforts of the company to fill their places with girls brought from outside cities were not successful. The labor unions of Des Moines, aided by universal public opinion in favor of the strikers, brought the telephone com-

pany to terms. The public took the part of the strikers and 'phone users began ordering their instruments out. Finding its revenues threatened the company succumbed and the strikers were taken back on their own terms.

The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, only son of the Duke of Norfolk, who is earl marshal of England, died on July 7. The earl was 23 years old and a cripple and imbecile from his birth. He was indefeasibly heir to the dukedom of Norfolk, the earldoms of Arundel, Surrey and Norfolk, and would have enjoyed the baronetcies of Fitz-Alan, Clun, Oswaldte and Maltrave. The father, who had charge of all the coronation preparations, was forced to remain at his post of duty while his only son and heir was slowly dying.

William E. Curtis, the well-known correspondent, declares that a Turkish crisis is near at hand. The abuses of the government have become unbearable, and the people, though long-suffering, show signs of a general unrest. The state of the empire shows the coming of a long night of anguish. Shameless iniquity pervades every branch of the government, and simony, treachery, extortion and bribery are practiced on every hand. The people, after years of submission to these evils, are becoming restless and signs of revolt are manifest on every hand.

Two Chicago women recently bought through tickets from their home to San Francisco, their tickets calling for a continuous passage. They engaged a state room in a sleeper, but on arrival at Denver were notified to take another car, the one they were in being billed to "set out" in the Denver yards. The women refused to leave the car, declaring that they were entitled to a continuous passage to point of destination. The Pullman officials threatened, but the women refused to budge. Finally the car was sent on through with the triumphant Chicago women still on board.

It has been officially proclaimed that peace reigns over all the Philippine islands, but it seems that the Sultan of Bacolod, Mindanao, has not yet heard of it. He has sent a letter to the commander of the American expedition at Lake Lanao in which he threatens to begin offensive operations against the Americans early in August. The sultan rules over a warlike lot of Mohammedans, and reports indicate that he is strengthening his position and accumulating goodly stores of munitions of war.

J. Pierpont Morgan was in Berlin last week, and was invited to a special audience by the emperor. The Berlin papers have contained some sharp comments on the visit of the American financier. The Neue Freie Presse remarked: "Without his check book Mr. Morgan would never have been the emperor's guest." Continuing the same paper says: "Gilded by the imagination, his trusts appear to be excellent, but the first moment that public confidence is disturbed the system will undergo a severe trial," and concludes by saying: "Could a thought reader have penetrated the secret recesses of the minds of Emperor William and his guest, what startling contrasts might he not have discovered. In Emperor William's mind, perhaps, a yearning for fame and splendor; in that of Mr. Morgan the hope of new trusts and rising prices. How fortunate it is that social politeness veils such opposites."

On another page will be found a strong editorial which recently appeared in Hearst's Chicago American contrasting the expenses of the army and navy with the expenses of agriculture. More than one hundred and eighty millions spent on war and on preparation for war, while only a little more than five millions are appropriated for the department of agriculture!

It is a showing that ought to make an impression upon republican farmers. It must be remembered that peace has been proclaimed in the Philippines; republicans boast that the war is over, and yet here we are, under the new policy of imperialism, appropriating \$180,075,273 for the army and the navy and only \$5,208,960 for the department of agriculture—as the Journal puts it, nearly twenty times as much appropriated for killing people as for feeding them!

Could the policy of imperialism be better illustrated?

It would be well for the democratic farmer to show this to his republican neighbor and ask him to think about it before he votes.

Western railroads have suffered immense damage by reason of floods during the past two

weeks. As a result freight shipments have been long delayed and business men greatly discommoded by the irregular mail service.

On July 1 a law went into effect in the state of South Carolina prohibiting the sale, ownership, or use within the state of the pocket pistol. It is provided that no firearm weighing less than three pounds or measuring less than twenty inches in length shall be used. Nothing smaller than this can be carried, either concealed or exposed. The penalty for violating this law is a fine of \$200, the informer to receive one-half of the fine.

The entirely unexpected has happened. It is reported that a great gold strike has been made in Searsburg, Bennington county, Vt. A lode of gold-bearing quartz which carries what is called pyreus, composed of sulphur, arsenic, and iron, with silver and gold, the latter in large quantities, has been uncovered and it is estimated that there are 10,000 tons of gold-bearing ore in sight. The remarkable discovery is attributed to a Colorado miner.

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Tribune says: "The war department has been asked to furnish official evidence that a commission as an army officer has been issued to Lieut. Howe F. Bussche, Twenty-fifth infantry, now on duty with his regiment in the Philippines. Lieutenant Bussche will receive a check for \$1,000 from his family in Germany as soon as information is forthcoming from the Washington authorities. Lieutenant Bussche was an enlisted man in the regular service who gained by his attention to duty and his fitness for the place the recommendation to appointment as second lieutenant. He passed his examination creditably, and has been duly appointed. His father is Baron Bussche, who lives in Berlin, and who has now written to the secretary of war and asked the war department to furnish him with properly attested evidence of his son's appointment to the army that the courts may authorize the Bussche estate to pay the young officer \$1,000. The father explained that by virtue of a legacy established 200 years ago by a generous and military inclined ancestor, each member of the family who obtained a commission in any army was to receive \$1,000 to be used for the purposes of equipment."

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Tribune conveys this information: "Marion Erwin, special assistant to the United States attorney general engaged in the extradition cases against Benjamin D. Greene and John F. Gaynor, now fugitives in Canada, has filed a report taking exceptions to the conduct of the Canadian authorities. The entire report of Attorney Erwin, which is quite a detailed one, will be called to the attention of the British authorities by Secretary of State Hay. Gaynor and Greene are wanted in the United States to answer charges connected with the embezzlements of Captain Carter at Savannah, Ga. Mr. Erwin says the fugitives have employed counsel closely connected through family and professional ties with the Canadian officials whose duty it is to pass upon the extradition cases."

The coal strike has reached the stage where we may expect the federal judge to take a hand. During the last coal strike a federal judge enjoined a minister from praying for the strikers, and another federal judge enjoined the strikers from walking on the public highway.

The Commoner sends greetings to the Owyhee Avalanche of Silver City, Idaho, formerly a republican paper, but now a supporter of the principles of democracy. May the Avalanche convert its former readers to Jeffersonian principles and prove a power in the securing of good government.

Four thousand coffins made up the cargo of a vessel recently cleared from San Francisco for the port of Manila. They were for smallpox, bubonic plague and cholera victims in the islands that afford such wonderful opportunities for American enterprise.

The president has commended the official conduct of the members of his cabinet and they have given him credit for what they have done, but the public will still be permitted to form its opinion regardless of the exchange of compliments.

An aged woman at Evansville, Ind., died on July 4 while reading the Declaration of Independence. The indications are that quite a number of g. o. p. leaders would drop dead, politically, if compelled to read the instrument.