

ing with the empire's fiscal policy. All that was lacking in the complete rout of the protectionist cabinet ministers was Mr. Balfour's official pronouncement, as premier and on behalf of the government, that the cabinet as a whole refused to adopt Mr. Chamberlain's views. Both the pronouncement and the premier were absent from the debate because, according to report, Mr. Balfour was endeavoring to persuade the colonial secretary to remain in the cabinet, notwithstanding his differences with his colleagues."

MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN IS AN INTERESTING character and many people will be entertained by reading an article written by Lord Coleridge and printed in the North American Review, in which article an evidently very accurate description of Mr. Chamberlain is presented. Lord Coleridge says: "The gusty winds of imperialism are calming down. The war fever is over, and people are now counting and feeling the cost. The colonies do not seem willing to bear any proportional burden of imperial defense nor to enter into any league for free trade within the empire and protection against the world, a scheme much advocated by Mr. Chamberlain. For this decision the free traders at home are grateful to the colonies, though the reasons of the colonies for their decision—namely, that they do not wish to abandon protective duties against the mother country—may not be that which inspires our gratitude. It is difficult to forecast the aim of the future energies of Mr. Chamberlain. His industry, his tenacity, his power of lucid exposition, his ready and merciless if unconvincing power of debate, will always make him the most discussed man upon the political stage. The British like the fighting animal. But admiration of his powers and not affection for the man is the source of his popularity; and he has never cast the deep spell which draws men to those who can make great sacrifices to high ideals, and to whom success seems to be as nothing compared with that faithfulness without which human effort loses half its charm."

A FAMOUS EXPRESSION IS, "WHERE AM I at?" Its author, former Congressman James Cobb of Tuskegee, Ala., died June 4 at East Las Vegas, N. M. Mr. Cobb represented the Fifth Alabama district in congress for twelve years. The New York World explains the origin of the famous expression in this way: "Congressman Cobb held the center of the stage in 1896, through a controversy with Congressman Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, who charged him with being intoxicated during the debate on the Rockwell-Noyes contested election case, when Mr. Cobb asked the chair, in a bewildered way, 'Where am I at?' Mr. Watson said that Mr. Cobb drank out of a private bottle and was badly mixed. A long congressional investigation, with many humorous aspects, resulted in finding that Mr. Cobb drank only cold tea, was not intoxicated, and did not 'reel in the aisles,' as charged."

A NOVEL PLAN OF INSURANCE IS ANNOUNCED in an Indianapolis, Ind., dispatch to the New York World. In this dispatch it is said: "One of the greatest insurance companies in the world is about to be formed by the National Association of Manufacturers. The company will protect its members from loss arising from strikes and will also insure free labor against physical injuries and financial loss arising from the coercion of strikers. The company will have a backing of \$100,000,000. The executive committee held a secret meeting in New York recently. Plans were formulated and now are almost complete with a company organized and practically unlimited capital. D. M. Parry, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, confirmed the above outline. 'While the plans are somewhat in a formative stage,' he said, 'yet I have little doubt that they will be worked out to a feasible basis and I have confidence in the new company being able to accomplish much good. Able gentlemen are taking the initiative in the matter and I think that whatever they attempt to do will be certain of success.' Mr. Parry explains the objects of the association to be to protect policy-holders against loss arising from strikes and also 'to protect independent workmen who care to exercise the privilege of working for whom they please and for what they please.' He says that in order to accomplish this result, a considerable fund must be accumulated and that this will be done."

IT IS ANNOUNCED FROM WASHINGTON that Monday, November 9, has been chosen by the president as the date for the assembling

of congress in extra session. The extra session will be called particularly for action by the house on the Cuban treaty and discussion of such other matters as may be submitted. The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Republic says: "This will give congress nearly a month to work in before the date for the regular session of that body. The first Monday in December, the time fixed by law for regular sessions to begin, falls on December 7 this year. By beginning on November 9 there is believed to be plenty of time to dispose of the Cuban tariff matter. The program of the republican leaders in congress will be to permit all the opportunity desired during the extra session for debate on the tariff reciprocity and kindred subjects. After the regular session begins little opportunity will be allowed, and the republican leaders and committees will work together to prevent the tariff taking up any time or holding any place of importance in legislative business. The republican policy will be to keep the tariff from attaining a top-notch place from December until the close of congress. The policy and attitude on the tariff in the presidential election will depend on future developments and on the position of the democrats next year."

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT WHICH IS the oldest plan of the ancient city of Rome in existence is yet preserved. A writer in the Scientific American, referring to this document, says: "The Forma Urbis, as it is called, was cut upon 140 pieces of marble of various sizes, and covers a superficial area of 266 square meters. It was made during the reign of Septimus Severus, between 203 and 211 A. D., and was attached to a wall of the Templum Sacrae Urbis, the present church of SS. Cosma e Damiano. The most curious feature of this map is that some sections or divisions of the city are represented upon a much larger scale than the other parts. This is notably the case respecting the Palatine and Roman Forum. The reason for this distinction antiquarians and archaeologists have failed to adduce, and the peculiarity rendered it a difficult matter to piece the fragments of the map together correctly. It is also evident that the relic is the product of several different hands, since some portions are very skillfully and diligently prepared while others are very negligently made. The map was also permitted to fall into disrepair, and fell to pieces in course of time. The first fragments were found in 1562 and roughly placed together by Antonio Cosio, but the work of building up the map has been diligently continued ever since, until now 1,049 pieces have been found and joined together. That the map was originally of a tremendous size is testified by the fact that according to Prof. Lanciani, the present portion of the plan is but a fifteenth of the whole. This Forma Urbis is of immense value to archaeologists, since by its aid several parts of ancient Rome hitherto unknown have been found."

THE MOODY CHURCH IN CHICAGO HAS INAUGURATED a novel idea in posting Bible texts in the street cars in such a conspicuous way as to attract the attention of many whom no clergyman could reach. The Columbus Press says that passengers in the North State street trolley cars are now giving an opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the Bible. In among the various advertisements of food, clothing, and medicines that line the cars have appeared cards whose only printed matter is a Bible text. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life everlasting," is the quotation printed in one of the cars. In another the passengers' attention was caught by the following: "Whoso committeth sin transgresseth the law, for sin is the transgression of the law." A man going to his office yesterday morning noticed this text: "For he that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT, otherwise known as the government printing office, has been moved from its old quarters to a new building. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that the moving of the big office was the most stupendous undertaking of the times ever experienced by the government. The type, presses and every character of machinery were to be moved, but it is almost impossible to estimate the weight. Of type alone there are millions of pounds, there

being more than 500,000 pounds of nonpareil in the last new "dress" bought for the big establishment. Of every letter, figure, punctuation point, and other character there is more than a bushel measure, this large supply being absolutely necessary in order that there may be no delay in rushing work through on schedule time. It sometimes happens that a failure of congress to act promptly on a matter will "tie up" hundreds of pages of matter for weeks at a time, and, again, the departments are not infrequently slow in returning proofs, and there is another wait for type to be released.

BESIDES THE TONS OF TYPE TO BE MOVED there are nearly one hundred large and small presses, folders, stitchers, pasting and other kinds of machines to say nothing of hundreds of machines used in the bindery which are not of a heavy type. The Tribune correspondent says: The new home of the world's greatest printing office is a model of beauty and convenience, with a floor space of more than 400,000 square feet. The building is of steel frame filled in with granite and brick, and spreads itself over nearly ten acres of ground. It is 408x175 feet, seven stories, with basement and attic, with vaults running under the entire length of the sidewalks. In the building there are 375 steel columns, enabling the floors to stand a weight of 85,000,000 pounds. It is estimated that there is enough steel in the building, if wrought into rails, to lay a railway track for forty-three miles, and from the other iron and brass fittings seventy-four large locomotives could be built. The building is fireproof and is equipped with its own heating and lighting plants. There will be more than 7,000 incandescent electric lights and twelve electric elevators; a complete telephone system; ice plant to furnish drinking water; crematory for disposing of refuse and for heating the vast quantities of water that will be needed for the bindery and for other purposes. In fact, every convenience necessary for the rapid turning out of work and for the comfort of more than 4,000 employees are to be supplied. The new plant will cost something over \$2,429,000."

THE TITLE WHICH A WRITER IN THE New York World bestows upon the recent report of the interstate commerce commission is, "A Tale of Marvels." After having digested that official report, the World writer says: "We have 282,741 miles of track, of which about 82,000 miles are doubled track and sidings. All the rest of the world has but three miles to our two. This country has eighteen feet of railway for every inhabitant; in the world outside there are eighteen inches per inhabitant. It has probably cost to build and equip our railways about \$30,000 per mile, represented by six billions in bonds. Promoters' profit and other original and incidental 'water' are represented by six billions in stock. Nearly half this stock pays no dividends, but the remaining portion yields enough so that the average for the whole is 31-2 per cent—a fine profit considering the origin of the securities."

DURING THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN Ohio held during the month of April, one village elected a man as mayor of the town as a joke, but the villagers are now finding out that it was after all a serious matter. The mayor elected is named Alonzo Weed and the village is Amesville in Athens county, Ohio. Immediately after his election the village council, the clerk, and the marshal joined in a petition to Governor Nash for the removal of the mayor, declaring his utter unfitness for the office, and stating that he was a tramp and had drifted into the village from California. The governor appointed a hearing of the case and at this hearing it was shown that the misconduct charged by the prosecutors of the mayor had all occurred before his election. A Columbus (O.) dispatch to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch gives the governor's answer in this interesting case, Governor Nash being quoted as saying: "Then, this case is dismissed. The statute giving me power to remove mayors does not contemplate that I shall inquire into their conduct prior to their election, but during their term of office. I refuse to remove Mayor Weed, and now vacate the order which I made suspending him from office pending the hearing. As nearly as I can learn, the electors knew as much about him when they voted for him as they do now. They have made their own bed and they shall now lie in it. In the meantime they can learn also that the election of a mayor is not a joke, but a very serious matter."