

heavy. The smallest is of fine workmanship, the socket being shaped like the ace of clubs, and is supposed to have belonged to the treasure rooms. This and another key measure six inches in length, while the other two are about ten inches and much heavier."

IN THE REPORT OF THE CORK CONFERENCE carried by the *Easton Transcript* the means to be adopted by the new anti-emigration society to check the outward flow from Ireland are suggested. The *Transcript* said: "Many speakers at the conference declared that the idea of emigration had become a species of mania among the youth of Ireland, who from childhood had their minds constantly inflamed with glowing accounts of American life contained in letters written home by relatives or friends who lived in America, and that it was necessary to show the people of Ireland, by authoritative and matter-of-fact statement, that America was by no means the Eldorado many of them imagined."

THE GENERAL STAFF FOR THE REORGANIZATION of the army band system is considering legislation that is needed to prevent a music famine in the military establishment. The *Washington correspondent* for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* says: "In the fifty or more bands of the regular army, there are now 400 vacancies that it seems impossible to fill. Thirteen to seventeen dollars a month, even with army rations and clothing furnished, fails to attract to the service musicians who have plenty of occupation at good wages in civil life. The limit to which the army musician can rise is the position of the chief musician at \$70 a month. The marine band, which graduated Sousa and other leaders, gave them commissioned officers' rank and pay to attract such men to its service. To their ranks, filled at the small pay allowed, army bands have depended on outside work, which has brought their musicians into competition with those of the Musicians' union, furnishing a source of trouble, which has been aired on the floor of congress and frequently in public. The proposition now under consideration by the general staff contemplates an increase in the pay of the ordinary musician of the army to \$40 a month and in that of chief musician, who is to be given the official title of band master, to \$100 a month."

IT IS REPORTED FROM BERLIN THAT THE German army is suffering from a dearth of officers. This scarcity is ascribed to the cost of living and the poor pensions granted to retired officers. Another reason is to be found in the decline of agriculture, through which the sons of land owners who formerly became officers have to seek a more remunerative profession. The pension law is undergoing severe criticism by army officers and it is believed that a reform in that direction will soon have to be accomplished by the reichstag. Under the present system, after serving twenty years and having become a colonel, an army officer is retired because in the higher positions fewer officers are needed. The minimum sum of the pensions as at present arranged is so low that much complaint is being made as to the difficulty of maintaining a proper station under it. It is believed that if the proposed reform in this direction is carried out and a revival of agriculture takes place the scarcity of officers in the army service may be reduced.

MALMAISON, THE HOME OF EMPRESS Josephine, has finally been accepted by the French government. A special cable dispatch to the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* from Paris, under date of October 3, says: "When the donor, Mr. Osives, purchased Malmaison, some time ago he embellished the beautiful estate in many ways, and his offer of it to the state was a startling surprise. A republican government naturally did not covet a Napoleonic relic. What could be done with it? A museum of the souvenirs of the first empire, its obvious use, would be singularly inappropriate under the circumstances. Mr. Osives' gift long hung in the balance, and its final acceptance has caused much speculation as to its probable destiny. There has been regret that Mr. Osives did not present Malmaison to the society known as *La Sabrel Acht*, composed of artists, men of letters, soldiers, and others, who collect and preserve all historical souvenirs that testify to the glory of France."

THE SEASON'S DEATH ROLL IN THE SWISS Alps now reaches 170 persons, being augmented by nine more fatal accidents that occurred the past week in the Alps and seven in the Tyrolese. In the French Alps there have been

nearly 300 deaths this year. These lists are likely to be increased because of the many adventurous people who are still on the mountains.

THE OHIO CAMPAIGN IS BECOMING MORE interesting every day. The *Buffalo (N. Y.) Times* attributes to Senator Hanna the admission that the republican nominee for governor is to have "no cinch" in his contest against Tom L. Johnson. The *Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat* describes the situation in an interesting way when it says: "The republican and the reorganizer papers are full of Ohio political stuff antagonistic to Tom L. Johnson, the *Chicago Chronicle* leading with lurid tales of democratic revolt and of republican jubilation. Perhaps the wish is father to the thought. But then it is remembered that when he was running for congress the first time it was confidently claimed that the workmen wouldn't touch him with a 40-foot pole and that therefore he would never come in sight of the wire. The same representations were made when he came out for mayor. All the republican papers and all the pluto-democratic organs declared him to be impossible. But somehow he won out all right and he won out again and again, each time by a more sweeping majority. May he not fool his enemies again? May he not prove as potent in the state as he has shown himself to be in Cleveland and in Cuyahoga? Of course Bernard is against him in Hamilton county. But he was against him before. He has always been against anybody who was a real democrat and if he can combine with Boss Cox so as to throw Hamilton county over to Herrick there isn't the slightest doubt that he will do it."

THE "EQUALITY" BUTTON IS JUST NOW disturbing republican leaders. A dispatch to the *New York World*, under date of Chicago, September 21, says: "Charles H. Thomas, a white republican of this city, has evolved a campaign button for which his party will not stand sponsor. It represents President Roosevelt at dinner with Booker T. Washington. Across the face of the picture is the word 'Equality.' The zealous Mr. Thomas wished to impress upon the colored brother the idea that the only way to the higher life was to vote the republican ticket. His brilliant idea is depicted in the campaign button. Thousands of the buttons are being worn by colored men in Chicago and the demand throughout the country is growing."

MR. ROOSEVELT HAS DOUBTLESS learned by this time that there are many people in the United States who have not forgotten General McClellan. Some of the speeches delivered at the Antietam celebration by New York veterans, held at Brooklyn, may be interpreted as a somewhat bitter rebuke to Mr. Roosevelt. Gen. Horatio C. King, speaking on that occasion, said: "The Union armies had met with defeat. After the battle of Bull Run they were thoroughly disorganized, and came to Washington hatless, shoeless and with their guns thrown aside. The people had lost confidence in the generals. After repeated disasters there was only one man to whom the people looked for the preservation of the Union, and he was in Washington when the whipped armies came there. The great president, Abraham Lincoln, realized this, and went from the White house to the residence of General McClellan to ask him to take command of the armies. He was never really relieved of command. (Cheers.) In twenty-four hours the disorder in the armies was over, and McClellan (cheers) took that previously demoralized army, equipping them on the way, and in six weeks fought one of the greatest battles in the great struggle, sending back across the Maryland line General Robert E. Lee and his confederate army. Such a battle between other nations would have ended a war, but the contestants were of the same blood, equally heroic and convinced of the cause for which they were fighting."

GENERAL KING, FORMER COMMANDER OF the Grand Army for the state of New York, speaking on the same occasion, said: "General George B. McClellan was the commander at Antietam and this must never be forgotten. (Cheers, repeated again and again.) I remember the soldiers, weary and resting along the roadside when 'Little Mac' passed, and how they stood, saluted and cheered when he passed, and we who were there will never forget him, no matter what others may do. (Renewed cheering and applause.) We were not hirelings, and we expected no fortunes because of our soldiering, but we do believe that gratitude should be given to us, and that we should not be forgotten."

AN INTERESTING DISPATCH, UNDER DATE of New York, September 16, was sent to the *Chicago Chronicle*. In that dispatch it was said: "When President Roosevelt jumped to the wharf at Ellis Island from the immigration cutter *H. B. Chamberlain* this afternoon and ran forward to shake hands with Commissioner General Frank P. Sargent, a powerful gust caught the skirts of his frock coat and whirled them against the back of his head. Those standing behind the president saw sticking out of his right hip pocket the handle of a big revolver. One of the secret service men quickly restored the skirts of the president's coat to their proper place, but the momentary glimpse the spectators had convinced those familiar with such matters that the handle indicated a weapon of heavy caliber."

WHEN SOME SURPRISE WAS MANIFESTED because of the revelation that the president was armed when on a mission so peaceful as an inspection of Ellis Island, the *Caronicle* correspondent says it was explained by one of the secret service men that "the president invariably carried a revolver when he went to a public place. The president has carried a pistol ever since he took the oath of office after the assassination of McKinley. He has the greatest faith in the ability of the dozen or more secret service agents who guard him, but prefers to be armed himself in case of emergency. His most intimate friends have known of his practice of carrying a six-shooter, but some of the secret service men looked surprised when they saw the handle protruding from the president's pocket today."

THERE SEEMS TO BE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC interest in the presidential pistol, and newspaper correspondents are going to great pains to provide minute descriptions of the Roosevelt armory. The *New York correspondent* for the *Chicago Chronicle* says: "The pistol is the black-handled, blue steel, 38-caliber revolver which he carried when with his rough riders in Cuba. It is the same with which he shot a Spaniard, as he tells in his history of the rough riders. When in Cuba he practiced faithfully with his revolver until he became an excellent marksman. Since that time, both in Washington and at Oyster Bay, the revolver shooting has been continued, until the president can score the bull's-eye at nearly every shot. When riding about the country roads of Washington and Oyster Bay the president frequently dismounts and practices shooting in company with a secret service man or Sergeant McDonald, one of the best revolver shots in the army, who is the president's orderly on all such rides. The president's ammunition is furnished him by the ordnance bureau of the army. It is especially inspected and loaded, and the president knows he can depend upon it in an emergency. The president is not entirely dependent upon his revolver and the secret service men for protection. He has taken a course in 'jitsu,' the Japanese method of self-defense, and can grab a man by the coat collar and throw him on his head."

CARROLL D. WRIGHT, COMMISSIONER OF labor in the United States, recently issued a special report in which the earnings of the laboring men of the country is contrasted with the cost of living. The *Washington correspondent* for the *St. Louis Republic* says that Mr. Wright will issue the report on October 25 and that "in preparing the report averages were taken from 25,000 families, so that it is believed the figures will represent nearly the per capita cost for the entire country. Retail prices on all staple articles of food and clothing will be given from 1890 until the present year, covering the costs in the east and west, north and south."

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT, AND ONE that will be watched with interest in the newspaper world, was recently made by the editor of the *Britt Tribune*, an Iowa newspaper. The editor, Mr. E. L. Bailey, recently hit upon the idea of auctioning off the accounts of subscribers in arrears. Accordingly a notice was published in his paper giving the names and amounts of the accounts to be offered for sale to the highest bidder September 1. These claims varied in amounts from \$3 to \$22.50 and the subscribers were residents of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, and Oklahoma. It is said that on the day when the sale was to come off, the bidding on the accounts was brisk and the sale attracted a large number of bargain seekers. The lowest bid that captured any of the accounts was two boxes of matches, while some of the claims were bid in at their face value.