

1894. The length of the canal is thirty-five and one-half miles, the total rise from water level to Manchester being sixty feet, which is divided between four sets of locks, giving an average to each of fifteen feet. Two canals connect the Baltic and North seas through Germany, the first, known as the Kaiser Wilhelm canal, having been completed in 1895, and constructed largely for military and naval purposes, but proving also of great value to general mercantile traffic. Work upon the Kaiser Wilhelm canal was begun in 1887. The length of the canal is sixty-one miles, the terminus in the Baltic sea being at the harbor of Kiel. The depth is twenty-nine and one-half feet, the width at the bottom seventy-two feet, and the minimum width at the surface 190 feet. The total cost was \$40,000,000. Three ship canals intended to give continuous passage to vessels from the head of Lake Superior to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence river are the Welland canal, originally constructed in 1833 and enlarged in 1871 and 1900; the St. Mary's Falls canal at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., opened in 1855 and enlarged in 1881 and 1896, and the Canadian canal at St. Mary's river, opened in 1895.

ALFRED DREYFUS HAS AT LAST SUCCEEDED in his efforts to secure a judicial examination of his case. A cablegram to the St. Louis Republic under date of Paris, November 28, says: "After examining the dossier in the case submitted to him by General Andre, the minister of war, Minister of Justice Valle has transmitted that document, together with the petition of M. Dreyfus for a revision of his sentence, to M. Durand, the president of a commission instituted by the ministry of justice. This commission will pronounce upon the admissibility of the request for a revision of sentence. M. Dreyfus owes the favorable action taken to the careful consideration given the case by Minister Andre, whose conclusions are regarded as in the highest degree favorable to Dreyfus, since they determined the minister of justice to refer the question of a revision to a commission. Nothing has yet transpired, to indicate that General Andre has discovered documents of doubtful authenticity, or that there was maneuvering on the part of the minister of war during the Dreyfus trial to conceal important facts, though assertions to this effect have been made. It is stated that M. Gribelin, formerly principal keeper of the records of the headquarters staff, has made important revelations."

THE DECLINE OF THE BOOK TRADE IN Germany has been a fruitful topic in the German press of late, and a writer in the New York Tribune describes the discussion in this interesting way: "One writer in an exhaustive argument accused the German people of falling away from the habits of their literary fathers, and, like Americans, taking more interest in business than in literature. The Berliner Tageblatt, in a recent issue, under the head of 'The Germans as Book Buyers,' quotes Herr Gruenow, the Leipzig publisher, who characterizes the criticism of his fellow Germans on the score of neglect of literature as 'empty and nonsensical trash.' 'A public,' he says, 'which will spend a half million marks in a few weeks for a novel, and in the same length of time several millions for Bismarck's "Thoughts and Recollections," is not a bookless public.' The publisher gives the names of a number of books which were sold in great numbers and of the standard works which are constantly in demand. "The old, threadbare complaint," he says, 'comes originally from the authors whom no one likes and from their publishers, who can find no market for their wares. But the fact should not be overlooked that the German is a ready book buyer. Every Christmas table demonstrates that fact, and it is well known that there are few men so poor that they do not have a little money to expend for books.'

IN RUSSIA THE LOT OF THE NEWSPAPER editor is by no means a happy one. The London Tatler says: "The czar's government spends more on the press censorship than it does on education, and quite recently the staff of press censors has been increased by eight. Certainly the censor earns his salary in Russia. Last year eighty-three newspapers were suspended for periods amounting in all to thirty-one years and ten days, twenty-six papers were forbidden to accept advertisements, and 259 editors were officially threatened with Siberia if they did not mend their ways. The censorship even pursues the unfortunate editor after it ejects him. One eminent conductor of a scientific journal who was dismissed

at the instance of the censor is practically condemned to starve or emigrate. All the papers and publishers in Russia are forbidden to accept 'copy' from him."

THE MONTHLY STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC debt shows that at the close of business November 30, 1903, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$925,829,410, which is an increase for the month of \$5,425,909. The debt proper shows a decrease of about \$4,000,000 for the month. It is recapitulated as follows: Interest-bearing debt, \$902,911,240; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, \$1,196,720; Debt bearing no interest, \$390,898,879; total, \$1,295,006,839. This amount, however, does not include \$331,208,869 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, which are offset by an equal amount of cash held for their redemption. The cash in the treasury is classified as follows: Gold reserve, about \$150,000,000; trust funds, \$931,208,869; general fund, \$144,793,557; in national bank depositories, \$168,047,060; in treasury of Philippine Islands, \$4,908,445; total, \$1,398,957,932. Against this there are demand liabilities outstanding amounting to \$1,029,720,503, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$369,237,429.

IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT DIRECTOR ROBERTS of the United States mint shows that the coinage mints in Philadelphia, New Orleans, and San Francisco were in operation during the year and that the output was greater in the number of pieces than in any previous year, aggregating 205,872,482. It is pointed out that the demand for small domestic coins and for Philippine coins reduced the aggregate of gold coinage to \$45,721,733 and the stock of gold bullion in the mints increased from \$124,089,823 to \$157,511,571. This bullion is included in all figures of treasury reserves. The net gain in the gold stock of the country during the year is estimated to have been \$57,157,149. Of the silver bullion purchased for dollar coinage under the act of July 14, 1890, 33,218,712 fine ounces were on hand at the beginning of the year and 17,502,338 at the close of the year. This amount will be entirely exhausted during the current fiscal year. No other provision exists for the coinage of dollars or subsidiary silver coin.

A POLITICAL QUARREL OF MORE THAN thirty years standing between Iceland and Denmark has at last been settled. The Pall Mall Gazette says: "The Icelanders who speak a language different from Danish—in fact, their tongue is very nearly that of the old Norse Edda—have incessantly contended that between that country and Denmark there should only be the 'golden link of the crown.' In making this claim they went by ancient historical traditions of still greater freedom. Their claim was that there should be a special minister for Iceland, who should reside at Reykjavik and be a native of the island. Hitherto the Danish minister of justice was at the same time the minister for Iceland, and he, residing at Copenhagen, was not required to know the Icelandic language. This was held to be sore grievance, especially when the althing, or parliament, was assembled, and the Danish governor at Reykjavik had often to correspond by letter from the often storm bound isle, with the authorities at Copenhagen, there being no telegraphic cable. Now the Danish government has yielded to the demand of the Icelanders and the althing has given its assent to the bill in question. As a curious fact, it may be mentioned that the island, with a population of but 80,000, has an upper and lower house, of twelve and twenty-four members, each easily accommodated in an ordinary room. As a rule, the Icelanders are intellectually much gifted, producing many learned men."

A PRELIMINARY REPORT RECENTLY issued by the census bureau says that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902, there were 3,620 central light and power stations in operation in the United States with a gross income of \$85,700,605 and a total expense of \$68,081,375. The cost of their construction and equipment amounted to \$504,740,352. The power plant equipment consisted of 5,930 steam engines, with 1,379,941 indicated horse power and 1,390 water wheels with a stated horse power of 438,472. The generating plants consisted of 12,484 dynamos of every description, with a stated horse power of 1,624,980. It is further pointed out that 815 plants were operated under the control of municipalities, the cost of their construction and equipment being

\$22,020,473, giving employment to 2,467 wage-earners, and paying in wages \$1,422,341.

DURING THE FOOTBALL SEASON OF 1903, nineteen lives were lost on the football field, according to the statistics presented by the Chicago Tribune. The Tribune says: "One boy was driven insane from injuries. Thirteen players were severely injured, some of them disabled for life. The number of minor but painful accidents goes into the hundreds, and the list of injured also is incomplete. The feature of the year's tabulation is that it shows that serious casualties practically were confined to untrained players. No member any of the first-class elevens was killed or permanently disabled. One Yale player and one Harvard player suffered a broken leg. No player in any of the teams of the 'Big Nine' in the west was the victim of any hurt worse than a wrenched shoulder, a bruised head, a sprained ankle or a turned ankle. In consequence of the injuries sustained by their players several of the minor schools have forbidden the game of football. Two towns—Columbus Junction, Pa., and Greenfield, O., have stopped the sport as the result of petitions circulated by parents."

THE STRIKE IN THE PENRYN QUARRY, London, which strike has lasted more than three years, has been disposed of and a London cablegram to the Chicago Inter-Oceans says that the strikers have not gained a point, having decided to discontinue the strike and resume work on Lord Penryn's terms. The Inter-Ocean's correspondent says: "The strike was originated in a remarkable manner. Several officials and contractors were attacked inside the quarry by those under them, and soon afterward they made certain demands which Lord Penryn refused. A strike was declared, but when the quarries were thrown open two weeks ago 500 men returned. Continued disturbances ensued between the strikers and the secessionists, and the Bangor magistrates have dealt with hundreds of cases arising from the dispute, which it is estimated has cost the district close upon £100,000 in wages alone. It was obvious, when the ranks of the strikers were weakened two years ago, that they were engaged in a hopeless struggle, and ever since the secessionists have been weekly augmented, there being now close upon 2,000 men engaged in the quarry, exclusive of those employed at the shipping outlet at Bangor. Hundreds of these are new hands, so that many of the strikers have been permanently displaced. All those who were identified with the disturbances which marked the commencement of the dispute are barred from obtaining work at the quarry, as are also the strike leaders."

SEVERAL HUNDRED PETITIONS PROTEST- ing against Reed Smoot retaining his seat as junior senator from Utah were filed in the senate on November 11. Most of these protests were offered by Senator Burrows, chairman of the elections committee, through petitions filed by organizations including churches, universities, colleges and other educational institutions. On the same day Mr. Hoar presented in the senate a numerously signed petition asking that body to expedite the consideration of the charges against Mr. Smoot, and in doing so the senator from Massachusetts took occasion to remind the senders of these petitions that the proceeding was out of order and, in fact, practically a contempt of the United States senate. Mr. Hoar declared that the determination of Mr. Smoot's rights will be purely a judicial proceeding to be determined by the laws and the constitution of the United States.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS RECENTLY made that negotiations were in progress for the purchase of a volcano in South America on account of the value of its deposits of sulphur. The Takoma, Wash., correspondent of the New York Herald makes the claim that Alaska is to become famous because of the rich deposits of pure sulphur which it contains. The world has for many years been depending for its supply of sulphur in the industrial arts, on Sicily, as is well known, but it is now claimed that the deposits of sulphur on Mount McCutcheon, on Unalaska island, is far in excess of the deposits in Sicily. These deposits were recently discovered by George Carlou, who has for years been in the Swedish government's employ as a mining engineer, and was long located at the Sicilian mines as an expert, locating new beds and superintending the workings. Mr. Carlou not long ago visited Unalaska island, spending a month there with 25 men, and made a thorough exploration of the land.