

Washington hitherto has ranked with St. Petersburg in the matter of salary (\$39,000), but the great importance attached to the post by the British government was shown first by the appointment of Mr. Bryce, a cabinet minister, and is shown now in the large increase of pay. The government has appropriated \$10,000 additional to pay the expenses of installing Mr. Bryce in the embassy."

A NNOUNCEMENT is made of the fifth annual "work horse parade" in Boston which will take place May 30. Referring to this peculiar plan the New York World says: "No horse with a docked tail will be admitted to this show. A new harness or a new wagon will count for nothing, but every harness must be comfortable, well-fitting and not unnecessarily heavy. There will be a sharp eye against ill-fitting collars and against throat-latches too tight. Age is to count in favor of the horse, where it goes with good condition. Docile and gentle manners will be considered as showing that an animal has been kindly treated. The work horse has done a lion's share of the world's toil, but the lion's glory goes usually to the show horse. It is well that the Boston parade changes the order—that it makes the good horse the thing, regardless of the rig, and, provides a pertinent thought for the humane driver."

A T THE SUGGESTION of President Roosevelt "a celebrated artist" is working on new designs for the gold coins of the United States. Some interesting things with respect to the designs of our gold coinage is told by the New York World in this way: "Wisely, that collectors may not be too much favored and that too many whims of authority may not be exercised, it is provided by law that the designs of coins may not be changed more than once in twenty-five years. The latest modification in our gold pieces came in 1865, when the motto 'In God We Trust' was placed above the eagle. It is generally admitted that there is room for artistic improvement in the coins, though the Goddess of Liberty on the current \$10 piece is an undoubted advance over the stout, snub-nosed lady who figured on the issues of 1795 and 1797. What was considered the handsomest of all American gold coins is no longer issued. It was the \$3 piece which came from the mints in the period of 1854-89. The reverse of the current \$20 gold piece is much admired. There has been a good deal more of fuss and experiment at Washington over changes of coin designs than of actual result. As a consequence collectors' stores have been greatly enriched by the additions of patterns and trial pieces. In 1837, however, the rule went out that all patterns must be retained in government care. The silver dollar bore when discontinued in 1905 the design adopted in 1878, the tenth known to that coin, although eleven new pattern pieces were struck off in 1879. In 1879 and 1880 patterns were struck for \$4 gold coins which never were put into circulation. In 1872 ten patterns were tried for the trade dollar. Our present nickel, or five-cent piece, dates from about 1883 and was the outcome of many trials. The one-cent piece has been as we know it since 1864, although a change was proposed last year. In 1891 an invitation was issued to a number of artists, St. Gaudens, J. Q. A. Ward, Frederick MacMonnies and Kenyon Cox among them, to offer designs for the general coinage of the country, but nothing came of the matter. Besides, why call in professional artists when we have Mr. Roosevelt, who has time to attend to everything?"

D URING the twenty years from 1886 to 1906 there have been 1,000,000 divorces granted in the United States or 50,000 annually, according to a preliminary estimate made by the bureau of statistics. Referring to this estimate the Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "Philadelphia, the alleged slow-going city, shows a greater increase than Chicago, which in the public mind has the reputation of being a divorce city. Even Boston is showing greater increases than Chicago. The estimates of the bureau indicate that the number of applications for divorce filed throughout the United States during the twenty-year period from 1887 to 1906 will reach the enormous total of 1,400,000. It is estimated that three-fourths of the applications have been granted, which brings the number of divorces to the 1,000,000 mark. In the twenty-four year period from 1867 to 1886, for which divorce statistics were secured, the total number of divorces was 328,000. On their face the figures indicate a stupendous increase, but when the ratio they bear to the population is considered, it is not so great, though still large enough to warrant the serious consideration of the American people. Upon the basis of the average annual population of each period, it appears that the number of divorces in the first period was 33 per 100,000 of population for the whole United States, and approximately 70 per 100,000 for the second period.

It is estimated, therefore, that for the whole country divorces have more than doubled. There is a striking difference in the reports of divorce applications and divorces for cities and those for the country. In the case of Chicago, for example, the number of divorces granted from 1867 to 1886 was 8,136. The records thus far transcribed for the second twenty-year period show 43,658 applications, of which 31,785 were granted. It is estimated that the total number of applications will be 50,000, of which 33,000 have been granted. Upon the basis of the average annual population, divorces in Chicago during the first period numbered 73 per 100,000, while they increased to 107 per 100,000 for the second period. Chicago's increase is not nearly so great as that of Philadelphia, where the average number increased from 22 per 100,000 for the first period to 63 per 100,000 for the second period. Boston is passing Chicago in the rate of increase, which has gone up from 40 to 63. The statistics for New York have not yet been compiled."

T HE SALVATION ARMY has organized an anti-suicide bureau at Philadelphia. A Philadelphia dispatch to the New York World says: "Seven persons bent on suicide already have had their burdens of woe lifted through the anti-suicide bureau of the Salvation Army in this city, which only has been in business three days. A chauffeur from France was the first applicant. He could not make prospective employers believe in him. He could not speak English and he was slowly starving to death. In a dime lodging-house he heard a fellow-countryman talking about the suicide bureau, and, believing it was a place where decent burial was assured those who ended it all, he went to register himself for a coffin. The suicide agent in charge of the bureau took him in charge, had his abilities proved at a nearby garage and then sought out agents for French autos who might want a man familiar with French machines. His pawned clothing was redeemed and he was put to work with all thoughts of suicide banished from his mind. A woman of the streets was the next candidate. Two Salvation lassies took her in tow. They took her to a nearby restaurant and fed her, and then talked of the work she was to do. She never once had thought of work. Who would hire her? The lassies knew persons who would give her shelter and food and clothes and some day money for work. She is working now. These two cases are typical. All the others were helped the same way. There is no preaching, no red tape about this suicide war. It is a simple proposition to remove the cause."

T HERE is a home in New York where Lincoln's birthday is always celebrated because the father of the family was born on February 12, while Lincoln was in office, and was named for the president. The New York Tribune says: "At the dinner this year the outside of the menu card was a reproduction of a souvenir of the campaign when Lincoln, Douglas, Bell and Breckenridge were candidates for the presidency. It showed the portraits of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin and this legend: "The Candidates of the Republican Party for President and Vice-President. "They Were Named in Kentucky and in Maine to Be Running Mates. There is Something in Good Names."

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S AMUEL BALDWIN of New Providence, New Jersey, owns a little red hen and thereby hangs a tale which was told by the New York World in this way: "The hen's comb was frozen and she stuck her head in the snow and kept it there until her frost-bitten head decoration thawed out. Mr. Baldwin proudly described the hen's feat yesterday: 'Any doctor will tell you to hold snow to your ear or nose if it is frost-bitten. Instinct told my hen to do this. She went out in the cold and got her comb frozen. It became perfectly white, and the hen acted so sick-like that I was going to kill her. But yesterday I looked out of the back door and I saw what seemed to be part of a chicken in a snowdrift. I called my wife's attention to it and she said: 'Why, that's only a bunch of chicken feathers; I saw them there half an hour ago.' Just then I thought I saw the feathers move, so I ran out the door to see what it was. When I got to it I saw that it was my little red hen lying down, her feet under her and her head stuck in the snow. I went to grab her, but just then she gave a squawk and the snow flew as she pulled herself out and went toward

the chicken-coop, half flying, half running. When I saw her again her comb was as red as ever and she was as lively as before. 'See, there's the hole in the snow,' said Mr. Baldwin, instinctively proving the truth of his remarkable narration. 'And—yes—there's the hen—that little red one. See, her comb is red and she is chipper as can be. Wonderful, eh?'

D R. FRANK BILLINGS, head of the Illinois state board of charities, has given a somewhat startling opinion. Dr. Billings says: "A careful attempt has been made herein to approximate the number of people in Illinois who are rated as mentally and nervously normal, but are predisposed to insanity. Such persons are called unstable. They need medical care. In Illinois, outside of Cook county, one person in every 100 is an unstable person. Thus in Illinois today about 58,000 persons are unstable, and likely, under the stress of life, to become dependents and be added to the wards of the state, 12,000 of whom are in public institutions for the insane today. This figure is a minimum. Probably there are more than 58,000 unstable persons in Illinois who today are productive members of society in some way."

I N AN ADDRESS recently delivered at Charlotte, North Carolina, Governor Glenn said: "We now have in North Carolina 3,000,000 people, where we had only 900,000 thirty-six years ago. Our wealth has increased from \$260,000,000 to a billion dollars; our debt has been reduced from \$40,000,000 to absolutely nothing. Thirty-six years ago we had no spindles to speak of; no roads; we were known as the Rip Van Winkle state. Five years ago North Carolina stood third in cotton manufacturing in the United States; now we stand second and two years from now we shall be first."

S OME curious features of international commerce are shown in a statement recently issued by the United States bureau of statistics. Referring to this statement the Washington correspondent for the New York World said: "The figures show that 394,727 dozen quarts of champagne and other sparkling wines were imported in 1906, valued at \$5,855,425, while in the preceding year the number of dozen quarts was 401,514, valued at \$5,995,651. Another surprising fact is that while the United States is one of the greatest coffee consuming countries in the world it is actually exporting that product. The exports of domestic products include 31,518,494 pounds of green or raw coffee, valued at \$3,870,592. This is explained by the fact that Porto Rico and the Hawaiian islands are customs districts of the United States, and all of this coffee is the product of those island possessions. In addition 13,500,000 pounds of coffee of foreign production brought into this country was re-exported. Still another curious feature is that while this country produces three-fourths of the world's cotton \$11,000,000 worth of that product was imported last year, to say nothing of \$1,000,000 worth of waste cotton. This product, however, is of different quality from that produced in the United States, being of the long and silky fibre, coming principally from Egypt. While this country is the largest manufacturer of cotton goods, the importations of manufacturers of this product aggregated \$69,000,000 more than 50 per cent in excess of the value of these goods exported."

T HE IMPORTS of automobiles amounted to nearly \$5,000,000, but this was practically offset by the exports of automobiles, amounting in value to \$4,499,186. Of the exports of these machines, \$1,000,000 worth went to the United Kingdom and nearly \$1,000,000 worth to other European countries. Tropical countries also were large purchasers of this class of vehicles, Mexico having purchased \$718,523 worth, against \$192,452 in 1905; while the West Indies and Bermuda took \$241,000 worth; South America, \$167,000; Australia nearly \$700,000 and the British East Indies, \$34,111 worth. Although this country produces half the world's copper and is one of the largest exporters of that product, it also is one of the largest importers of that commodity. The value of copper imports in 1906 was over \$37,000,000, while the exports of copper amounted to over \$90,000,000. This anomaly apparently grows out of the fact that the United States has superior smelting and refining facilities, and that the copper from its immediate neighbors at the north and south—Canada and Mexico—flows to its smelting establishments and refineries. The United States, which has steadily reduced its importations of tin-plate from more than one billion pounds in the fiscal year 1891 to 127,000,000 in 1906, has become an exporter of that article and the exportations of tin-plate of domestic manufacture were in 1906 \$1,001,688 in value, exclusive of the foreign tin re-exported.