

ROTTEN OF THE DAY

RESULT OF CARELESSNESS, NOV. 8.

Under the influence of trust magnates, railroad "absorbers" and election purchasers, the Senate of the United States some years ago gained for itself the unenviable designation of the "rich man's club." This condition grew up under the fostering care of "closed door" Republicanism, and became so obnoxious that disgust drove the people to a partial revolution, and a slight strain of Democracy and Populism was introduced during the past few sessions; but the people have again become careless or indifferent, and the old leaven is working with renewed energy. The immaculate Peffer has given way to the unspeakable Hanna, and once more extravagance runs riot, as witness the following description of an inkstand lately presented to corporation Vice President Hobart:

"The United States Senate has won a well-deserved reputation for the luxury of its furnishings in recent years. The committee rooms generally have become less like places for legislative work than depositories of costly furniture. In no part of the building, however, is there such a display of expensive furniture and draperies as in the Vice President's chamber, opening off the Senate lobby. This room has been tending in this direction for some years past, but now it presents such a sight of gaudy colorings and 'overdress' as to give a positive strain to the eye. Recent visitors to this chamber of color horrors were not a little amused at the sight of a solid silver inkstand, provided especially for Vice President Hobart at a cost of \$1,000, and paid for out of that very elastic appropriation known as the Senate contingent fund. The inkstand is in the form of a miniature Capitol, is made of solid silver, and contains many details of the building after which it is formed. The small domes of the old Senate chamber and the House of Representatives form the tops of ink wells, while trays for pens are formed on each side of a stamp box in front of the building. It is 24x36 inches in base dimensions, the height of the silver reproduction being in proportion to the dimensions of the Capitol. It seems a little singular that our gold-bug Vice President should be satisfied with an inkstand made of silver. The yellow metal would have been the proper caper."

The Duty on Hides.

The Dingley law puts a tariff of 15 per cent. on hides. The bill as originally framed did not contain this provision. When it reached the Senate the Westerners threatened to sandbag the whole bill if they could not get this tax. What their motive was is a matter of some uncertainty. They claimed that the protection afforded by the tariff was almost wholly for the benefit of Eastern interests, while Western people had to carry most of the burden. They insisted that the least the protectees of the East could do was to give the West the benefit of protection on hides. But it is claimed that they were really actuated by another motive; that they forced the tax into the bill by way of retaliation upon the administration and the Republican majority for their refusal to give protection otherwise than by tariff legislation to the silver mining interest of the far West. In support of this view it is pointed out that the tax on hides does not really protect any interest; that it was abolished as far back as 1872 by a Republican Congress, and that no Republican Congress since until the present one has thought of such a thing as restoring it. What, ever the motive, it is certain that the tax has benefited nobody and has very seriously injured the leather industry and the boot and shoe industry. It is true that a clause in the tariff provides for a rebate of the entire duty paid on hides when the leather made from them is exported, but the rebate is not an equivalent for exemption from duty, since it necessarily involves trouble and expense. And there is no rebate on exported manufactures of leather made from imported hides. The shoe and leather men propose to ask Congress to repeal this tax. The shoe manufacturers claim that they could compete against all comers in the markets of the world if they were not placed at a disadvantage of 15 per cent. by this tax. And no doubt they could. They lead the world in machinery and can produce at lower cost than any other manufacturers in the world, or could if they were free to buy their principal material on the same terms as their rivals. The tax ought to be repealed for the benefit of our tanners and our manufacturers of shoes and other leather goods. And it ought to be repealed even if it served to protect our cattlemen, because they can survive without protection, if for no better reason. But if the tax on hides ought to be removed for the benefit of tanners and manufacturers of leather goods the taxes on leather and leather goods ought to be removed for the benefit of American consumers of those goods. If the tax of 15 per cent. on hides comes out of the pockets of the tanners and manufacturers—if it is added to the price of leather, as they assume—then the tax of 20 per cent. on leather and of 25 per cent. on boots and shoes is added to the price of those articles and comes out of the pockets of consumers. If our manufacturers are able, as they claim to be, to compete successfully without protection with all comers in markets thousands of miles

away, with the cost of transportation against them, they certainly are able to compete without protection in the home market, with the cost of transportation in their favor. By their own showing they do not need protection at all, and there is no excuse for taxing consumers 20 to 25 per cent. for their benefit. Let us have not only free hides, but free boots and shoes.—Chicago Chronicle.

A Typical Republican Scheme.

From Washington comes word that the Republicans see the need of placing the Consular service of the nation "outside of politics," which means that those who hold places now are to be kept in them for the rest of their lives, if their party friends have the say.

This is the Republican idea of "reform." Having filled the offices with their own henchmen, they adopted the civil service rules which they had previously sneered at and maligned. Now, when they have saddled many men on the consular service abroad, they want to pass laws that will prevent their removal when the Democrats get into power again.

Some years ago, under a Democratic administration, candidates for consular positions were required to pass an examination by a thoroughly capable and impartial board, but of late there has been no attempt made worth mentioning to find out whether an applicant had any fitness or not. The consequence is that the government is represented abroad by dozens of men who are a positive disgrace to it, and who, instead of being protected in their places, ought to be promptly dismissed.

A specimen of the sort of consular appointees made under the McKinley administration is the man who has just been convicted in this city of working the "badger" game, and another has made the American name a laughing stock no further away than the capital of Mexico.—New York News.

As a Banker Sees It.

A country banker subscribing to the fund of the Democratic Ways and Means Committee expresses himself as follows: "Inclosed please find my subscription. When the time for action arrives I may do more. The cause of bimetalism must speedily triumph or the mass of our population will be reduced to a condition little better than the peasantry of feudal times. The sturdy manhood of a few decades ago is giving away rapidly to servility. I have been a bimetalist a long time, notwithstanding that for the last seventeen years I have been a director of a national bank. Let me make this prediction that in the fight of 1900 we will have over half of the country bankers with us, for the reason that they are now simply the custodians of money that cannot be safely or profitably invested. Congestion will even kill a country banker."

Investigation of Algerism.

It is announced that the commission appointed by President McKinley to investigate the conduct of the war has nearly completed its labors, that its expenses have been \$150,000, and that its report will be substantially a verdict that "nobody was to blame." It amounts to a whitewashing for Secretary Alger. No other result was to have been anticipated. It was not an investigation to find out things. It was a benevolent investigation, conducted in a friendly spirit to the accused head of the War Department, and its object was to afford him a "vindication," whatever facts might appear in evidence. But there was great care as to the nature of the testimony, and the witnesses, like the commissioners, were discreetly selected. Out of course it is a fizzle.

Feeling Out for Everything.

The trusts are ready to step in and exploit our new possessions. The North American Commercial Company, with a capital of \$14,000,000, has been incorporated "to purchase, acquire and manufacture raw agricultural products of the United States and the West Indies and to sell the same and purchase and operate factories and agencies." Its prospectus sounds a good deal like the Honorable East India Company, which undertook to exercise much the same kind of civilizing influence in that part of the world, and monopolized the whole of the East India trade.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Trusts in Defiance of Supreme Court. New combinations formed since the adverse decision by the highest law in the land:

	Capital.
New steel rail pool.....	\$200,000,000
Shipbuilders' trust.....	150,000,000
Silverware trust.....	20,000,000
Plug tobacco trust.....	30,000,000
Sardine trust.....	3,000,000
Proposed Philippine trust (estimated).....	500,000,000
	\$903,000,000

Watch and See!

The war tax is to be continued indefinitely, but if the proceedings of Congress are carefully watched the chances are that you will soon hear eloquent pleadings for the relief of the bankers, brokers, and brewers, while the poor man's dinner pail will continue to meekly bear the burdens laid upon it.

Antagonistic Policies.

Restricting immigration and annexing the cheapest labor on earth are not consistent with each other. They are as antagonistic as protective tariff and the "open door."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

A SONG CONTEST.

How the Poets of Provence Amused Themselves in Olden Times.

Erlewin Stein writes a story of the days of good King Rene for the St. Nicholas. It is called: "The Page of Count Reynard," and the following is a scene from it:

By and by King Rene came into the hall and took his seat on the throne. He wore a rich robe of purple velvet, embroidered all over in the brightest silks and gold; and after him came a great troupe of troubadours and minstrelsiners, some carrying their own harps or viols, and some followed by little pages who bore their masters' belongings.

As the good King Rene looked at his gay company and the brilliantly hung hall and the long tables, his eyes sparkled with delight, and his heart swelled with pleasure when he thought of the coming contest; for he was never so happy as when thus surrounded by his dear troubadours, whom he loved to make in every way as happy as possible.

Then, when all was ready, a gayly dressed herald came into the hall, and kneeling before the King, and bowing to the assembled company, announced the coming of the two counts, William and Reynard. All the other troubadours and minstrelsiners stood up, and King Rene smiled graciously as the two noblemen entered, followed by their pages, Pierrot and Henri, each of whom carried a viol bedecked with long silken ribbons.

When the counts had saluted the King and taken their places before him, he commanded a senechal to bear in the prize; and so the beautiful collar of jewels was brought in upon a silver tray and placed on a carved bench before the King. Then a herald stepped out, and lifting the collar upon the point of a flower-wreathed lance, displayed it to all the company and announced the terms of the contest of song about to take place.

All of which was certainly a great deal better and prettier than the customs of most of the other royal courts of that time. In all the lands except where King Rene lived, when the people wanted entertainment they used to gather together to see contests called tournaments, where noble lords tried to overthrow each other with real lances on which were no garlands. But King Rene could not endure such barbarous displays, and so in his palace no unfought another except with pretty verses, and the best poet was the champion.

Captain Sigsbee as an Artist.

One day in the spring of 1875, when the Daily Graphic, of New York, was in full swing of its meteoric career, a modest-looking young man called at the art department of the paper, at its Park place offices, with a package of sketches. The drawings were left for inspection, says the Philadelphia Times, and the artist, handing his address in Brooklyn to the assistant of the art editor, took his departure. The availability of the work was manifested as soon as the package was opened, and a comic series from the lot was reproduced at once for the front page.

Their appearance made quite a flutter among the art staff, for talent capable of furnishing good comics in pen and ink in those days was a scarce and costly article. The page was signed "S.," and that was all the staff knew about it until there was a general showing about of work-desks to make room "for Mr. Sigsbee." But Mr. Sigsbee did not materialize, nor did the supply of his wonderfully funny drawings continue.

It became known that the art editor had duly notified Mr. Sigsbee that his sketches were accepted, and that he would be given a place upon the art staff at once. Would Mr. Sigsbee please be on hand upon Monday morning? But the work rolled by, and there was no Mr. Sigsbee. The art editor was understandably astonished. He then wrote still more urgently to the coy but desirable artist, and this time he got an answer: "Lieutenant Commander Charles Sigsbee, U. S. N., sends his compliments, and begs to say that as he is at present in command of a Government ship he cannot accept the position offered."

Where Fish Spend the Winter.

James B. Church, of Tiverton, R. I., a recognized authority on fish and their habits, thus writes: "Fish are, except the birds, the best pilots in the world. Either the birds or fish, know more when asleep about piloting than a man pilot does when awake."

Now as to the habits of fish. They come on the coast in the spring, when the migratory instinct starts them out of their winter's sleep. In winter they are in a dormant state, like the bear, skunk and woodchuck. The old theory that fish migrated south is all wrong. Fish simply leave the coast and go off shore on the northern edge of the Gulf Stream, get into water of the right temperature, and go into winter quarters.

Before the time comes for them to start on their annual pilgrimage for their winter quarters they have taken on a good coat of fat. It is under their skin, and their stomach is lined with it, and it is also all through their bodies when they arrive at the spot that they have selected for their winter home. They then grows over their eyes a white film, and their vent closes, and so they remain until the time comes for them to start for their summer home.—Saturday Evening Post.

What London Funerals Cost. London funerals cost over a million pounds annually.

Nearly every man thinks it a great joke to claim to be poorer than he really is.

An actor makes a hit when he strikes the manager for an increase in salary.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

Demonetization.

When the academic agitation for the single gold standard was yet young, Baron Alphonse de Rothschild declared in his testimony before the French Superior Council of Commerce, in 1862, that the adoption of the system "would destroy a portion of the capital of the world, would work ruin."

Nearly everybody is familiar with the famous prophecy of Ernest Seyd: "It is a great mistake to suppose that the adoption of the gold valuation by other states besides England will be beneficial. It will only lead to the destruction of the money equilibrium hitherto existing, and cause a fall in the value of silver, from which England's trade and the Indian silver valuation will suffer more than all other interests, grievous as the general decline of prosperity all over the world will be."

The strong doctrinism existing in England as regards the gold valuation is so blind that when the time of depression sets in there will be this special feature: The economical authorities of the country will refuse to listen to the cause here foreshadowed; every possible attempt will be made to prove that the decline of commerce is due to all sorts of causes and irreconcilable matters. The workman and his strikes will be the first convenient target; then speculation and overtrading will have their turn. Later on, when foreign nations, unable to pay in silver, have recourse to protection, when a number of other secondary causes develop themselves, then many would-be wise men will have the opportunity of pointing to specific reasons which in their eyes account for the falling off in every branch of trade.

Many other allegations will be made, totally irrelevant to the main issue, but satisfactory to the moralizing tendency of financial writers. The great danger of the time will then be that among all this confusion and strife England's supremacy in commerce and manufactures may go backward to an extent which cannot be redressed when the real cause becomes recognized and the natural remedy applied. Such provision as this cannot be explained save in one of two ways; it is either inspired, or else it is an example of the true scientific method which, proceeding upon a thorough classification and comparison of phenomena and conditions, puts all its generalizations to the supreme test of prediction. No verification of a scientific forecast was ever more complete and accurate.—Charles A. Towne.

Falling Prices.

Except those who have their salaries fixed for life, or for a long term of years, salaried men find the amount and continuance of their salaries dependent on the condition of the business. When business is bad and prices are falling, salaries are reduced or cut off entirely. The traveling man, for instance, cannot expect his salary continued or raised when lack of money has prevented the people from buying his goods. But when prices are steady or rising, employment is more certain and permanent, salaries advance, and the salaried man shares in the general prosperity.

Who profits by falling prices? Every class of people, except the one we have yet to mention, is injured by the falling prices—incident to a gold standard. This one class is comparatively few in numbers, but mighty in power. They are not only exempt from injury, but gain all that the rest of the people lose. These are the drones—the owners and lenders of money—who have incomes fixed in so many dollars, and shift the risks of production onto other shoulders. As prices fall this class finds their dollars becoming worth more and more.

If prices fall one-half they have become, in effect, worth twice as much as before, without having done anything to earn it. They get only the same number of dollars, but each dollar represents a greater value. A dollar is not in itself wealth, but is defined by McLeod, a gold monometallist, as "A right, or title, to demand a product or service from somebody else." Justice demands that the money lender should be satisfied with a dollar of the same purchasing power as that he lent. But he is not.

On the contrary, it is this class that has favored every contraction of the currency because they know well that the result is falling prices and an increase in the value of their dollars.

The "Cr-m-l-e" for Gold. The annual production of gold is approximately \$200,000,000; of this the demand for use in the arts absorbs \$120,000,000; leaving for monetary use about \$80,000,000. For this insignificant sum all the nations are clamoring. The universal scramble for gold is illustrated by the fact that the annual coinage of gold is greater than the total annual production. This simply means that it is taken as a commodity in the form of coins from one nation to another, where it is coined into the coins of that nation. That such a standard could be stable will not be maintained by any one that is at all familiar with economic science.

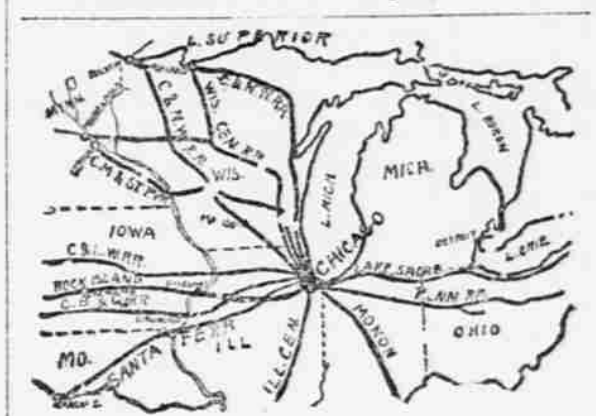
The sidar received the name "Horatio" after his father, to whom it was given because he was born on the day Trafalgar was fought. Ireland can hardly claim Sir H. H. Kitchener as one of her real sons, for, though born in that country, he comes of English parents, whose place of origin was in the neighborhood of Newmarket.

RACE OF MAIL TRAINS.

Spirited Contest Between the Northwestern and the Burlington.

The most important event in the history of railway mail transportation in the last quarter of a century transpired when the Government's fast mail train left New York on its run of 3,342 miles to the Pacific coast in ninety-two and one-half hours, based on Eastern time.

On Sept. 13, 1875, the famous "white mail" was put on rails between New York and Chicago, but the enterprise lasted only one year, because the Government would not pay the Vanderbilts their price for running it. The service was resumed in 1883, at which time the Burlington and St. Paul fast mails were put on. Since

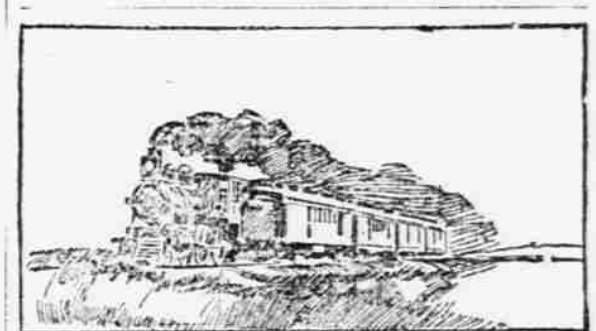


CENTER OF FAST MAIL SERVICE.

then the service out of Chicago has grown to sixteen fast mails.

The race for fame and contracts between Chicago and Omaha was a fight all along the 500-mile route. It was a friendly struggle. The Burlington has been carrying the Government mail from Chicago to Omaha and return for about fourteen years, and it desires to continue in the same role. The Northwestern, with characteristic enterprise, is just as ambitious as the Burlington. Both roads achieved glory. It was a magnificent dash across country. It was a car-splitting, hair-raising, brain-torturing run. It was a long rush, a mad whirl through villages and hamlets, over plains and across high bridges. The Northwestern ran into Council Bluffs just eighteen minutes ahead of schedule time, and the Burlington steamed into the transfer station in the same city eight minutes quicker than its schedule demanded. The average speed was something under a mile a minute. If the general managers of the two roads had said "Let her go, boys," instead of cautioning the engineers, the whole distance could have been negotiated in less than a mile a minute.

The really remarkable speed of the east-bound mail on the Burlington Monday night is an indication of what the modern locomotive can do when there is a call for it. Because of delay at the Union Pacific transfer in Council Bluffs, the east-bound fast mail found that there was a total of one hour and two minutes to make



RACE OF FAST MAIL TRAINS. Snap shot of the Burlington fast mail on its way to Omaha.

up. The run was made under these pressing conditions in 9 hours and 23 minutes, or in 563 minutes. This train came in from Burlington, Iowa, to the Union station in Chicago, a distance of 206 miles, in 233 minutes, including stops aggregating 13 minutes. Therefore the actual running time of the flyer was 206 miles in 206 minutes, an average of better than one mile in one minute.

MORE TROOPS FOR MANILA.

Misguided Natives May Attempt to Resist Americans.

Advices from Gen. Otis do not indicate as grave a situation at Iloilo as is indicated by press dispatches, yet Washington officials are worried. According to the reports received at the War Department Gen. Miller found evidence to confirm the suspicion that the Spaniards had abandoned Iloilo for the manifest purpose of embarrassing this Government. More than that, it is evident that the Spaniards, upon turning over the forts to the Filipinos, had inspired them to defy the United States forces.

Gen. Miller reported he had sent emissaries to confer with the Filipinos and inform them it was not the purpose of the United States to harm them, but, on the contrary, to befriended and protect them.



BRIGADIER GENERAL MILLER. In command of the United States forces sent by Maj. Gen. Otis to occupy Iloilo.

Their minds having been poisoned by the tricky Spaniards, it became necessary that he use diplomacy to secure confidence and peaceful possession if possible. The absence of Aguinaldo from Manila complicates matters and arouses the apprehension that his mission to the interior may be for mischief making purposes. The expedition to Iloilo consists of two regiments of infantry and one battery of artillery, aided by a naval consort. This did not materially weaken the forces at Manila, but to send any more would reduce the force below a safe limit.

While the officials at the War Department say they do not anticipate a general uprising of the Filipinos, they have taken steps to re-enforce Gen. Otis without delay. The situation is to be dealt with firmly. If the Filipinos are not disposed to listen to reason they will be made to understand that they must keep within certain bounds.

Ministers Oppose Roberts.

At a meeting of the ministers of all the churches at Indianapolis it was resolved to petition Congress to refuse a seat to Mr. Roberts of Utah on account of his being a polygamist.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

The weather bureau has got to be a witness in a lawsuit. Claims amounting to \$1,000,000 or more have been filed against the owners of the steamship Portland, which went to wreck in the November blizzard and was lost off the Massachusetts coast. The company has anticipated these claims by appealing to United States courts for a decree limiting the liability of the stockholders to the par value of their stock. Involved in this application is the question whether the managers are not liable for criminal negligence also in sending the steamer to sea in the face of a warning from the weather bureau. It can be clearly shown that the usual forecast of the weather was furnished at the office of the company on the morning of the day on which the steamer sailed, and that it indicated foul weather and a severe gale, and that the captain of the Portland personally received warnings against venturing out in the face of the gale, but did not heed them, and with the consent of his employers carried 165 souls to destruction.

The war inquiry commission has been informed that the Rev. Dr. Emil G. Hirsch of Chicago asserted in a recent sermon that thousands of young men in the army were poisoned by chemically preserved beef. A subpoena will be issued and Dr. Hirsch will be asked to prove his statement if such statement was made by him. A Washington minister declared from his pulpit that thousands of soldiers had died of starvation, and when called before the committee admitted he did not have personal knowledge of a single case. A New York clergyman in a published sermon asserted that the army surgeons at Montauk Point were in the habit of reeling through the hospitals drunk with whisky begged for their patients from the Red Cross stores. When called to account he confessed that he had no personal knowledge, but had read in the newspapers that a contract surgeon had been dismissed for drunkenness.

A general outline of the course on which the United States Government may be expected to proceed in establishing military rule in the Philippines is presented in the President's instructions, forwarded to Gen. Otis through the regular channels of the War Department. The instructions recognize the fact that military government necessarily must be temporary and provisional, and they oppose no bar to the action of Congress in case Congress should wish ultimately to relinquish control of the new possessions. However, provided for an actual definite length, and both in their tone and in the announcement to the Philippines that "the mission of the United States is one of benevolent assimilation" there is the hint that the President anticipates an occupation which in the end must make the tie between the nation and its dependencies too strong to be broken.

Agonized statesmen in Washington are in a panic over the devastation wrought by typhoid. The malady is making awful havoc among old men this winter, and several Senators and Representatives in Congress have been frightened within an inch of their lives by grip attacks. A sneeze is enough to keep an ancient statesman in bed, and a real hard visitation of zines, psith and cold in the head puts him to bed for a fortnight. There is plenty of seasoned material for grip to work on in Congress, especially in the upper branch, where thirty-six out of sixty-nine Senators are 60 years old or over. Twenty Senators are 65 years of age or over, and 70 years of age or over. In the House forty-five Representatives out of 257 are above 63 years and twenty-two above 65. It will be seen from this that the Senate has a vastly greater percentage of old men than the House.

Since the retirement of Senator Bruce Washington has had no royal entertainer among its list of Senators or Representatives. Senator Bruce spent \$150,000 a year in maintaining a princely establishment. There are men in Congress now as rich as Bruce was, but they do not run to lavish display. Senator Perkins of California, Senator Jones of Nevada, Senator Proctor of Vermont, Senator Wetmore of Rhode Island, Senator Hanna of Ohio and Vice-President Hobart, rank high up in the millionaire class, but none of them, with the exception of Mr. Hobart, is a great entertainer. Senator Elkins of West Virginia, Senator Fairbank of Indiana and Senator Foraker of Ohio probably do more in that line this winter than any other members of Congress. The majority of Senators are poor men.

Among the Senators whose terms expire the 4th of next March and who will be re-elected without opposition, is Cockrell of Missouri. Senator Cockrell has a wonderful hold on the people of his State. He is not a man of signal ability, but he is remarkably obliging. He will work all day and get up any time in the night to favor a constituent, regardless of his politics. He has a happy faculty of remembering names and family histories, and can go into any section of Missouri and call off the names of members of the families of the people he may not have seen in twenty years. This endears him to the voters in the back districts and makes every man he meets feel as if he were the Senator's special friend.

Five hundred men employed in the converters of the Anaconda Smelting Company at Anaconda, Mont., have gone on strike and the plant, which is the largest in the world, has been compelled to shut down.

Amount Needed for Warships. Secretary Long estimates the sum needed for the construction of the fifteen new warships, recommended by him in his report to Congress, to be \$14,168,400 for armor and armament and \$36,100,500 for construction and engineering.

Move Johnston's Pody. The remains of Albert Sidney Johnston, the noted Confederate general, have been removed by the Daughters of the Confederacy from the grave in the State cemetery at Austin, Texas, to a handsome vault.