

# THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



## One Hundred Years Ago.

Russia and Sweden were negotiating a subsidiary treaty. The Haytian army under Emperor Dessalines was preparing to march against Santo Domingo. Holland was on the verge of bankruptcy. The Sac and Fox Indians ceded to the United States 80,000 square miles, 600 of which tract was along the Mississippi river. Much discontent prevailed among the Americans at New Orleans, occasioned by the former Spanish Governor retaining his troops in the city to act as a guard.

## Seventy-five Years Ago.

Georgia refused to allow the Indians to set up an independent government in that State. The Senate ratified the treaties with the Indians which gave to the United States 8,000,000 acres of land. Notwithstanding the great rejoicings at St. Petersburg over the peace of Adrianople, there was much dissatisfaction because Constantinople had not been captured. A party of Choctaws attacked a camp of Osage Indians on the Canadian river and killed seven of their number.

## Fifty Years Ago.

Another Kaffir war was expected in South Africa, as the English attempted to interfere with the native polygamy practice. One million and three hundred thousand dollars of the United States debt was redeemed at the Treasury Department, nearly \$800,000 of which was the loan of 1847. Indians of Texas promised to keep the peace and settle on the lands reserved for them in the State. Two United States ships were seized at Havana for conveying arms and seditious proclamations.

## Forty Years Ago.

Reports were sent out from New Orleans of successful raids made on guerrilla camps by Union soldiers. Secretary Stanton announced Sherman's occupation of Savannah, Ga. There was much complaint of the persecution of Jews in Rome. Wilmington, N. C., was being bombarded by the Union fleet. Members of the Fenian brotherhood in Chicago urged war against England because of the St. Albans raid from Canada. They pledged a force of 5,000 men. The Mexican Republicans defeated the Imperialists at San Pedro.

## Thirty Years Ago.

A railroad wreck in Oxfordshire, England, resulted in thirty deaths and a mine explosion in North Staffordshire killed twenty. The Hoosac tunnel was turned over to the State of Massachusetts by the builders. The "mixed school" controversy in New Orleans resulted in a street duel between former Gov. Warmoth and Editor Byrley of the Bulletin, in which the latter was killed. There was much turmoil in Mexico over the government suppression of the religious orders. All the churches of Milwaukee, Wis., abandoned Sunday evening services so that the people might attend a great mass meeting for the relief of Nebraska grasshopper sufferers. The Senate passed a currency bill providing for the resumption of specie payment, free banking, the retirement of greenbacks and fractional currency, etc.

## Twenty Years Ago.

Failures, due to the competition which made no allowance for leakage in casks, and so affected oil shippers that half the wharves of London were closed. A heavy fall of snow followed by extreme cold blocked railway traffic throughout the Northwest. The Mackay-Bennett commercial cables were opened to the public at the offices of the Commercial Cable Company, New York.

## Ten Years Ago.

Mrs. W. W. Astor died at Cliveden on the Thames, England. The Cook county, Ill., grand jury returned indictments against thirty-one persons charging election frauds. Northwestern and Burlington mail trains raced from Chicago to Omaha, the former winning by two minutes. The trains maintained a rate of about forty-four miles an hour throughout the trip.

## GOVERNMENT CROP FIGURES.

Production of Corn at 2,467,480,934 bushels. Wheat, 552,399,517 bushels.

The Agricultural Department has issued a bulletin giving the final figures of the acreage, production and value of the principal farm crops of the United States in 1904, as follows:

Crop	Average, bushels.	Production, bushels.
Corn	92,255,881	2,467,480,934
Winter wheat	26,865,855	332,935,346
Spring wheat	17,269,629	219,464,171
Oats	27,842,669	894,595,552
Barley	5,145,878	139,748,358
Rye	1,792,673	27,234,565
Buckwheat	793,725	15,988,356
Flaxseed	2,293,565	23,490,534
Rice	662,666	21,696,668
Potatoes	3,015,675	332,830,300
Hay	39,308,692	69,636,628
Tobacco	806,400	690,460,739

\*Tons. \*\*Pounds.

That portion of the report devoted to the special investigation of the quality and weight of the crop in the three leading spring wheat States will attract the most attention. Its showing of the weight of the grain raised in the States, as compared with the final official weights a year ago, was:

State	1904, Pounds.	1903, Pounds.
Minnesota	52	55
North Dakota	51	56
South Dakota	59	58

Figured on the highest estimate yet made of the production in the three States the loss in flour producing capacity is below 15,000,000 bushels. On the low estimates claimed for those States the loss would, of course, be less. It must be remembered, however, that the loss is in the weight and not in the number of bushels. There will be the same number of bushels to be handled whether they are light or heavy.

A fair average of the weight of the wheat crop from the time the records were first kept is about 57½ pounds to the bushel in the United States. Since 1858 it has ranged from 56 to 59 pounds. In 1899 it was 56.3 pounds, and last year was 57½ pounds. The average in France ranges between 60 and 62 pounds.

## SOUTH BURNING ITS COTTON.

Planters and Merchants Begin Destruction of Excess Supply. Heroic measures have been decided on by the farmers and merchants of the Southern States to save the cotton market. They will burn 2,000,000 bales of the staple. Each State in the cotton growing belt is expected to destroy its share. Bonfires of the chief agricultural product of Dixie soon will be lighted all over the Southern States.

This remarkable course was decided on after the growers received word of the slump in the New York market. The falling off in New York followed the Washington report that 3,000,000 more bales had been ginned in the United States in 1904 than in 1903. The 1903 total was 8,747,630 bales, and that for this year 11,848,113.

The Southern men felt there was only one way to prevent a further drop in price, which would mean bankruptcy to many. This was to relieve the market of the oversupply caused by the large crop. The cotton must be destroyed.

At Fort Gaines, Ga., over 3,000 bales were burned, and other towns report similar bonfires. There was much ceremony observed in the burning. Farmers came into Fort Gaines from all over the county to join with the merchants. From the plantations and from the local warehouses the bales were rolled into the court house square, and after the merchants and farmers had marched around it in procession the torch was applied. In several other towns similar scenes were enacted. It is estimated that more than \$100,000 worth of cotton was destroyed. It is said that the example set by Georgia will be generally followed throughout the cotton-producing States.



For a little while, anyhow, Mrs. Chadwick also will lead the simple life.

However, the secret of those mysterious Mormon garments must come out in the wash.

Senator Smoot has only one wife, but his fellow apostles are willing to condone this eccentricity.

Now that the Filipinos are to be allowed to borrow money they will begin to feel quite civilized.

Mrs. Chadwick's incarceration in the Tombs seems only the logical result of her underground work in Ohio.

Wall street regrets the disturbance, but it feels that this year's crop of suckers should be properly trimmed.

It is reassuring to reflect that no imaginable slump in stocks can ever make Mr. Rockefeller's hair stand on end.

Doubtless the new medical books will recognize Tom Lawson as one of the leading causes of nervous prostration.

Evidently the marriage institution is not regarded as a failure in Utah, no matter what the rest of the world thinks about it.

Gen. Stossel has sent word to Gen. Nogi that unless the latter is more careful when he shoots he is liable to hit somebody.

It is to be noted that complaints as to unfairness in awards at world's fairs generally come from exhibitors who received no awards.

If the Filipinos will take a lesson from American experience they will settle the rebate problem first and build the railroads afterward.

While the stocks were falling, the sugar trust, with great presence of mind, raised the price of sugar a cent a pound to maintain the equilibrium.

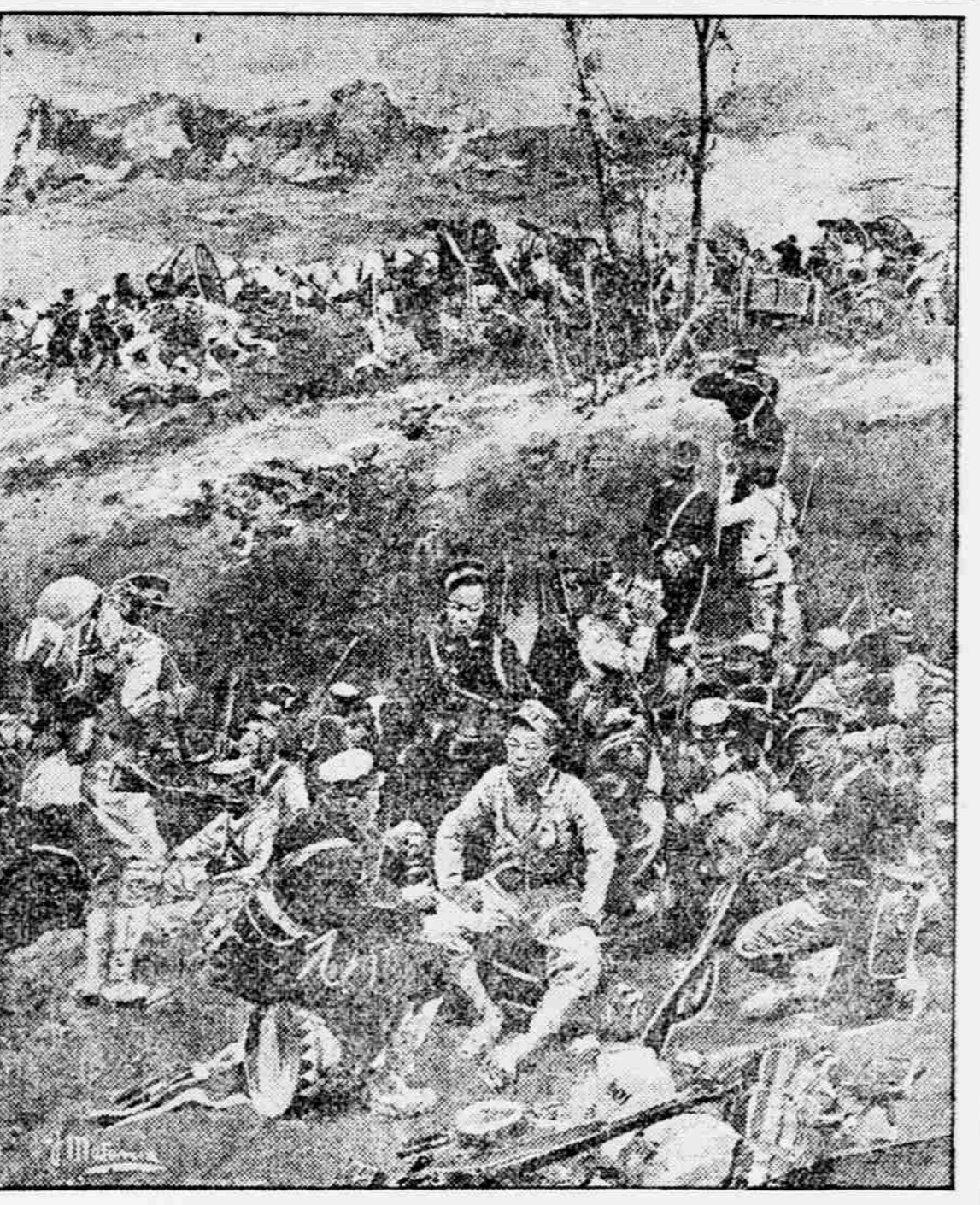
# PROGRESS OF THE WAR

The Japanese made valuable gains at Port Arthur, when they took five of the seven Keekwan forts. The engineers had driven two tunnels under the forts. Two tons of dynamite were inserted into the tips of these tunnels and exploded. The forts were breached and a select body of volunteers under septuagenarian Lieutenant General Samejima rushed in. There was a fierce hand to hand fight for a few moments, when the Muscovites' resistance ceased. The Japs captured five 8.2 inch cannons, four smaller guns, and four machine guns, together with a considerable amount of ammunition. One of the Keekwan forts taken seems to have been a link in the chain of inner forts. The other Russian forts must be taken piecemeal in this way, until enough of them have been taken so that they can be regularly occupied by the Japanese and used for aggressive purposes against the remaining groups of forts. When that time comes the end of Port Arthur's resistance will at last be actually in sight.

The same day—Sunday—the Japs made gains on the other side of the town in the direction of 203 Meter hill, but they were unable on this side to reach the main line of forts. On Thursday the Japs pushed their advantage still further by taking some of the Russian works about Pigeon Bay. The Japanese also occupied themselves in a series of gallant torpedo attacks upon the battleship Sevastopol, the last of the Russian fleet. The Sevastopol equipped itself with the torpedo nets of its destroyed sister ships, and many of the torpedoes discharged at it were stopped by the nets within a few feet of the hull. However, the Japanese mosquito fleet finally succeeded in disabling the great ship so as to make it unseaworthy. There being no dry docks out of reach of the Japanese guns the Sevastopol cannot be repaired.

When Admiral Togo satisfied him-

are reasons to believe that it may have since been repaired. Togo's purpose has been throughout not to inflict the maximum of damage upon the enemy but to cause him the maximum amount of damage compatible with the minimum amount of damage for himself. The English newspaper critics have bitterly criticized such tactics. They say Togo should have sailed right in and sunk the Russian fleet when he had the chance on Aug. 10. But the event shows that Togo was right in all. Had he closed with the Russians on Aug. 10 he probably would have lost some of his own ships in destroying the enemy, and had he fewer ships than he now has the result of the battle with the oncoming Baltic fleet would be most doubtful, indeed, and it must always be remembered that if the Baltic fleet is successful the war ends at once, and in favor of Russia. The two Japanese scout boats which entered Singapore Thursday morning reported that a Japanese fleet of two battleships, two first-class armored cruisers and a dozen other vessels was in the neighborhood. If the implication was intended that this was a fighting force seeking Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron we may take it for granted that the Japanese scouts were amusing themselves by trying to stir up a panic among the Russian horse marines who are now galloping at a slow walk around the coasts of Africa. The Russian and Japanese fleets are still about 5,000 miles apart. By no possibility could the Japanese hope to reach the Russian squadron that came through the Suez Canal before it joins the squadron under Admiral Rojestvensky's direct command, unless indeed the former squadron very rashly ventures eastward all by itself. Moreover, the Japanese are not apt to make such a blunder as that of separating their four remaining battleships. If they go southwest to fight Rojestvensky we shall surely find all four bat-



JAPANESE RESTING BEFORE PORT ARTHUR. Note.—The drum in the foreground is of course a Russian trophy, for that instrument is not used by the Japanese.

self by personal inspection that the Russian battleship Sevastopol had been so severely damaged that it could henceforth be left out of account as a fighting power, he knew that the heavy work of the fleet which he has commanded for ten months before Port Arthur was at last finished. The more powerful vessels of his fleet have now been withdrawn, but the lighter vessels have still before them the less vital, but nevertheless very important, duties of maintaining the blockade of the city so as to keep supplies from entering, and so as to keep the Russian torpedo boats and destroyers which still exist from making raids.

The long and exacting work of Togo in the neighborhood of Port Arthur has been finally ended with complete success. If during the balance of the war he keeps his work up to its present high standard he will go down to history as one of the greatest sea captains that ever lived.

At the outbreak of hostilities he was confronted by a foe superior to himself in tonnage and weight of guns. Of the standard fighting units—battleships—Russia had eight and Japan six. At the end of ten months' arduous work the Russian fleet is wiped out. The Japs, however, have not escaped unscathed. At least one of their battleships, the Hatsuse, has been destroyed by a mine. Another, the Yashima, was also injured, but there

ships sent on together, since their strength is clearly in union. The episode is a trifle naive. The Japanese are not in the habit of volunteering to the world accurate accounts of the number, character, and purpose of their fleets.

The Japanese fleet in front of Port Arthur will go into dock for repairs. The docks and a large section of Port Arthur have been destroyed by Japanese shells.

Thousands of deserters from Russia are crowding London trying to reach the United States.

Many of the Japanese troops will be withdrawn from Port Arthur and sent to fight the Russian army near Mukden.

Gen. Stossel has requested the Japanese to respect Red Cross flags and cease bombarding hospitals at Port Arthur.

Cossacks attempted to capture a Japanese battery near Mukden, but became entangled in barbed wire and were repulsed.

The bluejacket belonging to the Russian cruiser Askold, at Shanghai, who brutally murdered a harmless Chinaman while disputing payment for the hire of a jiriksha, was sent on board the Askold by the Russian consul. He will be tried by court mart.

## THE YEAR IN BUSINESS.

Past Twelve Months Has Seen Lean and Fat Period in Finance. The year 1904 has been a lean and a fat period in finance. The first six months were a continuance of the depression which began in 1903; the last six have been marked by a decided advance in the securities market, by the quickening of many of the larger industries of the country, notably the iron and railway industries, while an enormous crop, whose value is the greatest ever known, has brought substantial prosperity to the farmer.

The year 1904 has been peculiar in several respects. It has upset the popular theory that a presidential year must be an "off year" in business. The year 1904 has also seen the marketing of a bumper crop with scarcely any stiffening of the money rate. Throughout the fall months the interest rate was the lowest it has been for several years. At the same time the exports of gold have been larger than the imports by \$26,000,000. The total foreign trade of the year will be about the same as that of 1903. Exports will show a small decrease and imports a slight increase.

The year 1903 was one of comparatively steady decline in the securities market. This was the result of the natural reaction following a period of intense speculative activity and much inflation of capital. The country was glutted with stocks and bonds. There were strikes in the iron and steel industries, and the iron output fell from 1,673,223 tons in June to 846,605 in December. The railroads found it difficult to float new bond issues; the first Northern Securities decision was disquieting and the disclosures of the high handed methods of the shipbuilding trust produced a feeling that frenzied finance was being carried altogether too far. New enterprises requiring large amounts of money were postponed.

In May of 1904 the stock market reached low ebb in the matter of prices. Steel common sold at 87½; preferred at 51½. There was a slight upward trend in prices in June, but the volume of business on the exchange grew even smaller. In July, however, the prospect of large crops brightened the financial outlook. The strike in the packing industry and in the cotton mills at Fall River had no appreciable effect on the speculative revival.

In August steel prices rose and railroad earnings began to increase over the corresponding period of 1903. Increasing freight traffic required the companies to order thousands of new cars. The blast furnaces began to work harder. The increase in their output between July and November was from 1,106,297 to 1,480,602 tons.

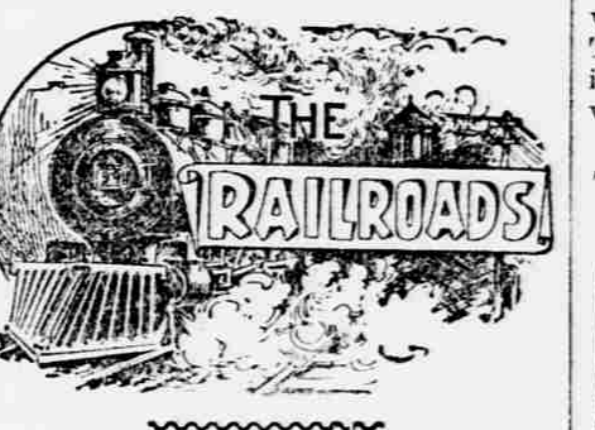
The latter months of the year have seen no labor disturbances of any consequence. Prices have been tending upward. New enterprises are under way. And while speculative activity may have outrun the general prosperity of the country, it is looked upon as evidence of the confidence in financial centers that the period of decline is past and that a genuine revival of industry is actually in progress.

## THIS TEMPLE TO BE PRESERVED.

Fraternity Building at St. Louis to Become Consumptives' Sanitarium. The Temple of Fraternity at the world's fair, erected at a cost of \$63,000, is to be torn down, crated and shipped to New Mexico, where it will be re-erected as the largest sanitarium for consumptives in the world. Its best term of usefulness has just begun after standing seven months at the exposition as the club house of the thousands of fraternal society members who have visited St. Louis during the summer from every State in the Union.

The immense project will be financed by the National Fraternal Sanitarium for Consumptives Association, a Missouri organization, in which some of the principal men in the State are interested. The total cost of transferring the temple is estimated at \$35,000, exclusive of the land on which it will stand.

A request for the building has been made to the fraternal orders of America, which erected the temple jointly, by the board of directors of the National Fraternal Sanitarium, composed of thirteen prominent Missourians, including Mayor Rolla Wells of St. Louis and fifteen fraternal associations have already answered favorably.



In 1903 the gross income of the railroads of the United States was \$1,908,857,826.

The sixteenth annual convention of the National Association of the Railroad Commissioners was held in Birmingham, Ala.

The immense power house of the New York Central now building on the Hudson, near Glenwood, is rapidly approaching completion.

The Lake Shore is reported as having decided to abolish the pay cars as the means of paying employees, and will hereafter pay the men by checks.

The steel rail manufacturers of Europe and the United States have organized a gigantic combination for the control of the markets of the world.

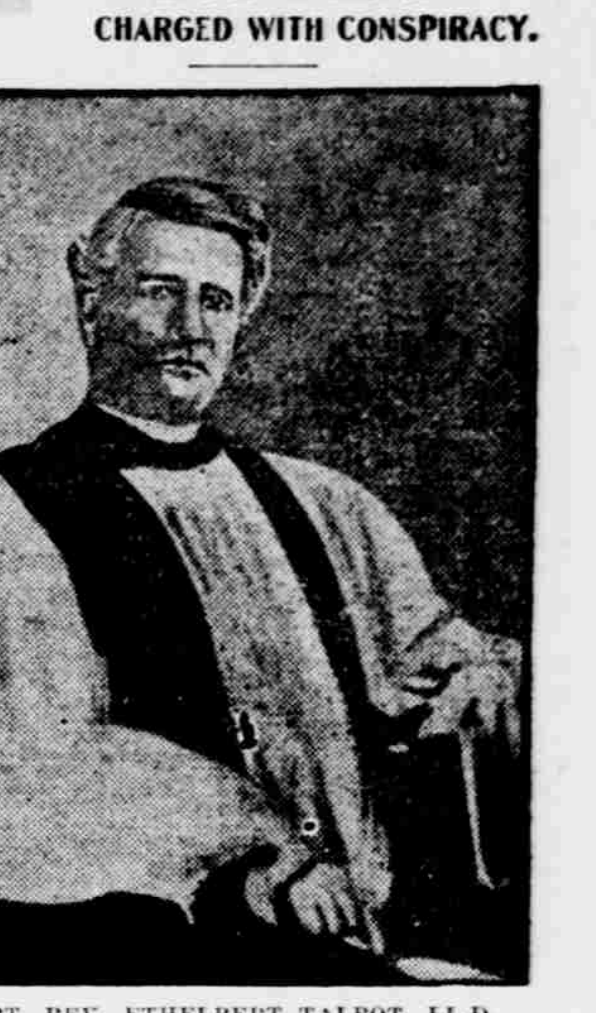
The International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, at its fifth biennial convention at St. Louis, has voted to abolish the strike benefit fund, on the principle that workmen should not be paid while on strike.

The American Shippers' Association has filed an appeal with the Interstate Commerce Commission against the enforcement of the proposed uniform bill of lading.

Every department of the Maine Central's earnings shows gains for the fiscal year, 1904, total income from operation amounting to \$6,143,000 last year, as against \$6,541,000 the year before.

Baltimore alone now handles half as much grain as New York on the average, and Philadelphia about one-third as much, but both combined do not yet equal New York as a grain port.

## PROMINENT EPISCOPAL BISHOP CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY.



RT. REV. ETHELBERT TALBOT, LL.D.

Rt. Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, one of the most prominent bishops of the Episcopal church, is the central figure in a sensational case that engages the authorities of his church. He is charged by Rev. Ingram N. W. Irvine with conspiring with other bishops and laymen to ruin him. Two years ago Rev. Mr. Irvine had a quarrel with a woman in his congregation, the upshot of which was that Bishop Talbot unfrocked the preacher. The preacher brought charges against the bishop, which were dismissed by a committee of inquiry. Now Rev. Mr. Irvine comes forward with new charges against not only Bishop Talbot but several other churchmen of high degree.

The charges upon which Bishop Ethelbert Talbot of the central Pennsylvania Episcopal diocese will be placed on trial have been made public. They are, in brief, criminal libel, based on the statements in the Upjohn letter, immorality, false statements, the circulation of false and defamatory reports, falsifying, breach of ordination vows and conduct unbecoming a bishop. The charge of immorality is defined as lying and all the charges refer to the bishop's statements regarding the life and conduct of the Rev. F. N. W. Irvine, formerly rector of St. Paul's church, Huntington, Pa. Detectives are at work collecting new evidence against Bishop Talbot, and if the facts found warrant such action it is said a new presentment may be made when the trial is begun.

## DOOM TO GRAND JURY.

### Minnesota Abolishes System by Heavy Popular Vote.

Minnesota has followed the lead of Wisconsin and North Dakota and has abolished the grand jury system. By a vote of more than 121,000, the Legislature is directed to adopt a constitutional amendment eliminating it from the legal machinery of the State. The last Legislature, after convincing itself of the success with which the two States named were working under the plan, decided to submit the question to the electors. The vote is the result.

For some years there has been much discontent over the workings of the system. Hearing only one side of the case, the prosecution, the grand jurors often bring in an indictment on little evidence. In many of these cases they are unfair and work an injustice to the victim. Then the annoyance and expense of bringing indicted persons to trial, only to have the case "quashed" by the court, was an argument that carried much weight. Just as frequently, when questionable cases were permitted to go to a jury trial, the defendant was dismissed.

These conditions led the Legislature to take action. Prominent attorneys, who appeared before it, contended that the system had outlived its usefulness in England, where it was created to meet conditions long since gone, and never should have been adopted in America.

No change will mark the trial procedure under the new conditions except that the grand jury will be eliminated. The committing magistrate will hold the preliminary examination, and if the evidence is deemed sufficient the prisoner will be bound over to the Circuit Court. The county attorney then will file an information with that court and the case will be docketed.



The crown prince of Germany is a fine violin player.

Emperor William of Germany has his own codes, and his telegraph bills amount to \$15,000 a year.

Former Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii will spend the winter in Washington, as has been her custom for some years past.

Miss Ruby Cooke, daughter of Lady Cooke of Easthorpe, England, is said to own one of the finest collections of dogs in the world.

The queen of the Netherlands is genuine and not a make-believe dairy owner, for she makes money by selling butter and milk.

Mr. Kato, former Japanese minister at London, has purchased the Nichi Shimbun (newspaper) of Tokio, and will personally conduct it.

Queen Amalie of Portugal is an accomplished nurse, holds a doctor's diploma, and personally takes part in the management of certain hospitals.

Ham Nishi, the ex-emperor of Annam, will shortly marry Mile. Laloe, daughter of a judge of the Algiers appeal court. The former sovereign lives at Algiers.

The Carina of Russia has written a novel entitled "Princess Tella's Model" and said to be a graphic study of Russian life. It is for private circulation only.

The wife of Prince Peter Minsky, successor to the murdered Von Plehve as Russian minister of the interior, is nearly six feet tall, and her muscular development is remarkable. The prince is a comparatively small man.