# THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN

1154—Henry II. crowned King of England.

1500—Columbus arrived a prisoner in Spain.

1562—Huguenots defeated at Dreux.

1686—Sir Edmund Andros, first royal governor of New England, arrived in Boston.

1773—Destruction of cargo of taxed tea in Boston harbor by citizens disguised as Indians, known as the "Boston Tea Party."

1775—British Parliament passed an act for confiscating all American vessels and impressing their crews into the British navy.

1780—United States Congress appointed Francis Dana minister to Russia.

1789—Bank of the United States began to discount.

1793—City of Toulon retaken by Napoleon from the British.

1803—The United States took possession of Louisiana.

1812—Bonaparte arrived at Paris from his Russian campaign.

1845—Battle of Moodkee.

1848—Park theater, New York City, destroyed by fire....Louis Napoleon took the oath of allegiance and was proclaimed President of the French Republic....Asiatic cholera appeared among United States troops in Texas.

1851—J. M. W. Turner, eminent English landscape painter, died in obscure lodgings in London, under an assumed name.

1852—Pegu annexed to the Indian empire.

1859—First train crossed the Victoria bridge at Montreal.

1860—The passport system abolished in France by Napoleon III.....South African Republic established, Paul Kruger president.

1861—Federals attempted to blockade the channel of Charleston harbor.

1863—Gen. Grant established his headquarters at Nashville.

1864—Gen. Hardee escaped from Savannah with 15,000 troops....President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers.

1865—Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution proclaimed.

1871—Italian parliament voted an annuity to Garibaldi....Emigrant ship Cospatrick burned at sea, with loss of 465 lives.

1876—All awards made in payment of the Alabama claims, leaving surplus of about $8,000,000.

1883—Cantilever bridge at Niagara Falls opened for traffic.

1884—World's industrial cotton exposition opened in New Orleans.

1885—House of Representatives passed the presidential succession bill.

1891—Violent earthquake in Sicily.

1894—War between China and Japan declared ended.

1897—William Terriss, eminent English actor, assassinated.

1899—House of Representatives passed the currency bill.

1900—Martial law proclaimed in Cape Colony....Gen. Leonard Wood assumed office as governor general of Cuba.

1903—United States Senate passed Cuban reciprocity bill.

### Home Consumption Nurses.

Commissioner of Health Dixon of Pennsylvania has inaugurated a campaign against tuberculosis involving a house-to-house inspection and instruction by visiting nurses, who will go to the home of every person applying to the State Dispensary for treatment. It will be the duty of the visiting nurses to instruct the patient and the patient's family how to obtain the requisite amount of fresh air, the most desirable foods, and how to conduct themselves so as to avoid infection. Every member of a household in which a consumptive lives will be inspected, and where there is a sign of ill health the suspected person will be persuaded to adopt precautionary measures. In this way it is hoped the State will be able to check the spread of "the great white plague" by discovering hundreds of cases in the early stages when a cure is probable. The difficulty which has been experienced in sanitarium work heretofore is that cases are not reached until they are too far advanced to be susceptible of cure.

### Big Profits in Cigars.

President George J. Whelan of the United Cigar Stores Company, when on the stand in the government's suit against the American Tobacco Company, testified that the company had paid a 12 per cent dividend in 1905, 20 per cent in 1906 and 40 per cent in 1907.

### Big Order for Wheat.

A Greek giving the name of Lizeras has created a sensation in Baltimore grain circles by giving the exporting firm of Gill & Fisher an order to buy 1,500,000 bushels of wheat for shipment to Athens. While giving no credentials or evidence of his ability to pay, he referred to a prominent New York house. It is said that if the order is filled it will take five steamers to carry the grain.

A rough estimate of the census of Cuba, now being tabulated, places the population of the island at 2,028,282.

# EDITORIALS

## OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

### AMAZING FIGURES ON DIVORCE.

APPROXIMATELY one million divorces were granted in the United States between 1887 and 1906, and half a million more couples have got as far as the divorce courts with their marital unhappiness. This information is supplied by the Census Bureau. These figures should cause good citizens to think. The marriage institution is rapidly losing its sacredness. The stigma that used to attach to persons breaking their marriage bonds no longer exists. Many people marry now with a feeling that the relation is only provisional. If it does not prove satisfactory, they will break it. Wedlock, which used to be regarded as a solemn thing, is now entered lightly and treated with indifference. If the husband is a "good provider" and the wife meets no man she likes better, if the wife continues agreeable and pretty, marriage is persisted in. If not, then the chain is broken and husband and wife seek new affinities.

The rapid growth of this manner of looking upon marriage is a serious matter for the country. Whatever the cause, whether it be decay of religious belief, God being no longer considered a party to the contract, or something else, marriage by many people is no longer regarded as possessing a sanctity. But if this view should become general, what will become of our civilization, based, as it is, upon the family? Here is matter of sufficient importance to engage the best thought of every man who wants to see his country preserved from danger. Our whole structure of life rests upon the home, and if the home is destroyed the structure falls. What can be done to discourage divorce and make marriage once more a serious fact of existence?—Indianapolis Sun.

### PANICS.

PANICS in the financial world differ one from another in incident and in their immediate cause; but the fundamental, underlying cause is always the same—overinvestment. The fact can best be made clear by sketching the circumstances which invariably precede a panic. After a period of hard times there is a gradual recovery. Business improves, labor is well employed, and commerce becomes more active. Deposits accumulate in the banks, and money for mercantile purposes can be borrowed at low rates of interest. For a time business is conducted cautiously and conservatively. Not many large new enterprises are launched. As prosperity is established, and as the wealth of the community increases, there is an extension of business, and the success which attends the movement justifies it. But gradually confidence in the future leads to rashness. Those who have been conservative risk more than they have been accustomed to venture. This is the time when large fortunes—sometimes only fortunes "on paper"—are made quickly. New men appear in the markets with small capital, but with great boldness. They speculate on a large scale, promote magnificent schemes, and carry them through by means of extensive loans, and by the attraction of apparent success draw a multitude of small investors into their enterprises.

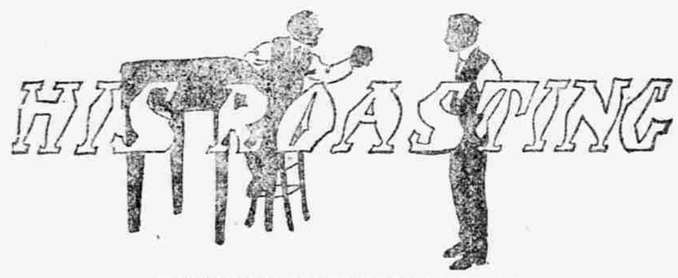
It is only when this process of extension has gone to the point of exhausting the borrowing power that the crisis comes; and the borrowing power is exhausted—as a matter of course—when the available capital in the banks has all been lent. Then some enterprises—one or more—which must have more money in order to continue in operation find themselves unable to borrow; or it is discovered that the market for some important commodity is demoralized; or in some other way a weakness is developed, the weakness extends from one point to another, and shortly there is a panic.

Those who study the course of events which led to the serious financial trouble in New York last month will disagree as to the immediate cause. Some will hold that it came from political agitation, some will attribute it to overcapitalization of certain large enterprises, others to a lack of loanable funds in the banks, and still others to other causes. But in the last analysis it all comes to the same thing—overconfidence in the future and investment beyond the actual means of the investors.—Youth's Companion.

### FATHER OF STEAMBOATING.

THE Scientific American has always held that, if some individual must be chosen from among the many who are associated in the development of any great invention, whose name it is to bear in the years to come, the choice should fall upon the man who gathers together the unrelated and more or less fragmentary work of his predecessors, stamps it with his own inventive originality and gives it to the world in practical working form. It is upon these principles of selection that Bessemer is known as the father of the modern steel industry; Edison, of the electric light; Westinghouse, of the air brake; Marconi, of wireless telegraphy; Sprague, of the trolley car, and Parsons, of the steam turbine.

With equal impartiality, prosperity has agreed to name Fulton as the father of modern steamboat navigation. In doing so, there has been no intentional slighting of the work of earlier inventors; of William Henry, who in 1763 was at work on the problem, and actually built a steamboat propelled with paddle wheels; of Fitch and Rumsey, who did excellent work in the last years of the eighteenth century, and last, and by no means least, of Stevens. Indeed, if there is any one inventor in America who, on the strength of his practical achievements, presses Fulton rather closely for the claim to be considered the father of steam navigation, it is Stevens, who in 1804 ran a steam yawl from the Battery to Hoboken, and three years later ran the Phoenix to New Brunswick, and in less than a year after the trip of the Clermont to Albany and back, sent the same Phoenix to Philadelphia by sea, thus securing the credit for inaugurating deep-sea navigation. However, the consensus of opinion on the part of those who have made careful investigation of the historical facts accords to Robert Fulton the distinction of placing on a regular route, running on schedule, the first practical passenger steamship. The Clermont was no mere inventor's model. It was a staunchly-built craft, designed for a special purpose, and at its first venture it achieved what, considering all the conditions, must be forever regarded as a brilliant success.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.




The bill clerk came out of the inner office with a very red face, and, climbing upon his stool, proceeded to figure on a scratch block, consulting from time to time some papers which he had brought with him.

The cashier waited until he had finished and placed the papers in a file, and then he asked: "Was he right in a sort of way, Johnny?"

The bill clerk scowled at his interrogator with an intensity which should have forbidden further speech, but the cashier was unabashed.

"I wouldn't take it so to heart, Johnny," he said. "Anybody might happen to be right once in a while. You are, yourself, though I grant that you would not be so brutal about it. I don't believe you would call a man into your room and give him such an everlasting roasting over a trifling error that involved only a few paltry hundreds of dollars at the most. I agree with you that it would have been sufficient to point out the error without making coarse remarks about the mental capacity of the man who made it."

"Who told you that I got a roasting?"

"Nobody," replied the cashier. "It was simply a case of deduction. I was called in this morning myself in reference to the matter, and the boss wanted to know what kind of an idiot asylum he had endowed, anyway, and who was the particular inmate responsible for this piece of criminal carelessness. I told him that you had perpetrated it, but that you were not really responsible. I might have argued that the term 'criminal carelessness' was misapplied, but his manner did not extend a cordial invitation to indulge in argument. So I inferred that his language to you might have been intemperate."

"If you think I'll take that kind of talk from him, or anybody else, you're mistaken," said the bill clerk, gruffly.

"Ah, then you reproved him?" said the cashier, approvingly. "I'm glad of it. If anyone called me a blundering chump and an unmitigated jackass and told me that I would be kicked from the top of the stairway clear down to the main floor upon any repetition of my offense, I think I should reprove him. But I hope you weren't too severe with him, Johnny. He is really a sensitive man when you get underneath a certain brusqueness of manner, and it would be easy to hurt his feelings without actually intending to do so. Did you tell him to go to the dickens?"

"No, I didn't," replied the bill clerk, sullenly.

"I'm glad you didn't," said the cashier. "If you had, I think he would have been seriously wounded. You didn't call him a 'fat slob' and threaten to 'knock his block off if he gave you any of his lip?' I trust not. You know when a man is inclined to corpulence he doesn't take any allustions to his affliction in good part. He may not tell you in so many words that you have grieved him. He may even smile and try to turn it aside as a joke, but he won't take it, just the same. I'm glad you restrained yourself, for I am sure you would have regretted it if you had not. He is really a most estimable man."

"I'm glad you think so," said the bill clerk.

"A little hasty, I don't deny," said the cashier, "but estimable, nevertheless. That is why I shall be sorry to hear that you told him you intended to quit working for him. He may have said a few things in the heat of the moment, but nothing that would justify you in making a threat like that, I think. You know—I'm sure you know—he would worry himself sick over the awful possibility of a separation. On that account I feel sure you didn't do more than hint obscurely at such a punishment. I know when the office boy was getting his the other day you expressed your determination to call down the boss in the terms I have mentioned, but you are not one of these obstinate, set, mulish persons who never change their minds. Do you know, Johnny, that I have a hunch that you took your medicine like a little man and said that you would be more careful in future. Am I right?"

"You go to thunder!" said the bill clerk.—Chicago Daily News.

After a widow has read the lovely inscription she has had engaged on her husband's tombstone, all doubts as to whether he was a good husband vanish.

Nearly every man has a grievance against his wife because she doesn't oftener say he is overworked.

### PASSED LIFE AS A HERMIT.

**Took to the Woods When He Was Disappointed in Love.**

One of the strangest characters ever known in South Dakota has just died in the squalid little hut near Rattlesnake Butte, west of the Missouri river, in which he lived alone and friendless for nearly forty years, says the New York Herald. In the early '70s James Jimson came to the wild Dakota territory as a trader among the Sioux tribes of Indians. He was always friendly to the red men and made friends as well as money. It is said that he fell in love with one of the beautiful young Sioux girls, but as the laws of the tribe forbid any intermarriage with the whites, his love was in vain. So, choosing a locality away from his old scenes of activity, Jimson lived alone, depending on a small flock of sheep and several cows for a living.

This was forty years ago. The old man's hair was as white as snow when he was found dead in the little hut by a cowboy, and his clothes were in tatters. It is said that he possessed a considerable amount of money, which, it is believed, he has buried or secreted somewhere on the rough butte.

Among some papers found in a little cabinet in the rock were letters dated 1876, which led the discoverer of the man's body to believe he had friends somewhere in Franklin County, Ohio.

The land he has lived on for so long is valuable, as it is near the present survey of the Milwaukee Railroad's coast extension.

He was probably the oldest continuous inhabitant of the western part of South Dakota.

### Switzerland's Public Schools.

The public schools of Switzerland are among the best in the world, and those of Basel are the finest in the republic. Every schoolhouse built in that city in the past ten years has been equipped with baths, and school bathing is general, as it now is in Germany. The shower-baths of the Basel schools are so arranged as to give absolute privacy for every girl. Other features of Swiss schools are free dental, eye and ear treatment for all pupils. Reproductions of art masterpieces are used not only as decorations, but to furnish themes for compositions and for nature study. The only school punishment in Basel is exclusion from the picture room for a given period.

### Same Thing.

"The odor of burning trash piles reminds one that winter approaches."

"That ain't trash piles; that's this cigar that Old Titewad gave me."—Houston Post.

**If you are miserable, you are exactly what your enemies want you to be.**

# BILL IN CONGRESS TO CURB GAMBLING

### Measures Introduced by Texas Members Would Prevent Options in Cotton and Grain.

### MAY COVER DEALS IN STOCK.

### Idea Threatens to Place an Embargo on Market Speculation of All Kinds.

Washington correspondence:

THERE has been a sudden awakening throughout the country to the fact that something is going on in Washington which threatens gambling in cotton and grain, and possibly, too, which aims to place an embargo on speculation in stocks. Indications of this awakening appear in a regular flood of letters from the interests threatened to the members of Congress, who are identified with the proposed restrictive legislation.

The reason which calls forth these letters lies in two bills introduced by Senator Culberson, of Texas, and Representative Burleson, of the same State, designed to wipe out speculation in cotton futures. The bills are identical and while they apply only to cotton, as originally drawn, there is likelihood that if either of them is reported out of the committee to which they have been referred the provisions will be extended to apply to wheat and other grains.

The central idea in the Burleson bill is the application of the power to regulate interstate commerce so as to restrain telegraph and telephone companies from transmitting messages relating to a contract for the future delivery of cotton. The use of the mails also is prohibited to publications containing notices or records of the transactions of any produce exchange wherein the contracts aimed at in the measure are made. Heavy penalties provide the means of restraining the telegraph and telephone companies. It is the contention of Representative Burleson that if information of the kind prescribed can be kept away from the people living outside New York and New Orleans it will put the New York Cotton Exchange out of business. Frankly, it is admitted, that such is the object of the bill.

C. A. CULBERSON.

The Boards of Trade in several cities are aroused. Probably what they chiefly fear is that public sentiment against speculation in both stocks and bonds, which has been accentuated by the recent financial condition, may hasten a demand for the passage of the bill.

W. P. HEPBURN.

In addition to the Burleson measure, Representative Hepburn, of Iowa, has in hand a plan to regulate dealing in stocks.

Both France and Germany have adopted radical restrictive measures relating to dealings in stocks, grain, cotton and other things on margins, and their example is being pointed to by American legislators who are earnest in their intention of doing something along the same line. The laws of France prohibit gambling in several securities and provide heavy fines and imprisonment for infractions thereof. The French penal code also prohibits "corners" or attempts to control the supply or affect the prices of grain, flour, bread and other food products.

### Steel Exports Increase.

Reports from New York and other eastern seaboard ports indicate November shipments of steel products of 76,199 tons, being an increase of nearly 55 per cent over the previous month's record, and the heaviest shipments for any similar period during the last two years. The leading cargoes of rails went to the far East, as did the shipments of nails and pipe, while South America was the largest purchaser of wire.

### INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS.

New York brewers have announced that after Jan. 1 they will increase the price of beer $1 a barrel.

The Swedish steamer Uppland, from Philadelphia for Vera Cruz, which grounded on Chester island, in the Delaware river, has been floated.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Lewis, who inherited a fortune of $1,500,000, has been released from a New York insane asylum after twenty-five years' incarceration and will now be allowed to look after her estate.

# COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

### CHICAGO.

An improving tone appears in business circles, although a marked recovery in activity is not looked for before a return to normal banking conditions is effected. Seasonable weather brought a heavier movement in the staple retail lines and the absorption of necessaries and Christmas goods moved to satisfactory proportions, dealers generally receiving a better disposition among buyers.

Wholesale operations lagged, owing upon the usual quiet attending the close of the year, but there was a fair volume of demands for immediate delivery and satisfactory sales of goods were reported for spring merchandise. Mercantile collections show some improvement at western points, although exceptions are not infrequently noted, particularly where the shortage of current funds remains severe.

Defaults in the channels again include none of special significance, and the number this month thus far is less than a year ago. Requests for accommodation in January increase and current settlements at the banks involve some renewals, but the financial exhibit required of borrowers discloses little disturbing weakness among manufacturers and distributers, and this creates a more confident feeling as a basis for future financing.

Money remains quoted at 7 per cent minimum on local loans required for forwarding of foodstuffs, but higher rates are made for commercial paper bought by outside banks. Augmentation of gold reserves and note circulation strengthens the situation and permits an expanding shipment of currency to the interior.

There is no decline in outputs of rails, wire and footwear, and there is better inquiry for pig iron, although some consumers hold for lower cost.

Failures reported in the Chicago district number 23, against 18 last week and 25 a year ago. Those with liabilities over $5,000 number 5, against 7 last week and 3 in 1906.—Dun's Review of Trade.

### NEW YORK.

Holiday buying has had the center of the stage, and retail business has felt very perceptibly the influence of the spirit of the season. While much more marked than some time ago, however, the volume of retail buying as a whole is not up to expectations, and is certainly well below a year ago at this date. Sentiment as to the outlook for trade next year is very mixed.

Conditions in financial circles are still slowly but quite surely approaching normal. From the country at large there is reported a continued easing up of the situation as regards cash payments, and several cities are practically on a cash basis.

A very favorable feature in the present period of repression is the tendency toward enlargement of our export trade. This is most notable in the grain trade. Business failures for the week ending Dec. 19 number 208, against 284 last week, 227 in the like week of 1906, 235 in 1905, 249 in 1904 and 243 in 1903. Canadian failures for the week number 40, as against 50 last week and 26 in this week a year ago.—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

# THE MARKETS

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, $4.00 to $6.10; hogs, prime heavy, $4.00 to $4.55; sheep, fair to choice, $3.00 to $4.25; wheat, No. 2, 98c to $1.00; corn, No. 2, 58c to 59c; oats, standard, 49c to 50c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 82c; hay, timothy, $11.00 to $18.00; prairie, $9.00 to $12.50; butter, choice creamery, 24c to 29c; eggs, fresh, 22c to 27c; potatoes, per bushel, 48c to 56c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, $3.00 to $6.25; hogs, good to choice heavy, $4.00 to $4.90; sheep, common to prime, $2.00 to $4.50; wheat, No. 2, 95c to 97c; corn, No. 2 white, 53c to 55c; oats, No. 2 white, 49c to 52c.

St. Louis—Cattle, $4.50 to $6.00; hogs, $4.00 to $4.60; sheep, $3.00 to $5.00; wheat, No. 2, $1.01 to $1.02; corn, No. 2, 53c to 55c; oats, No. 2, 48c to 50c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 79c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, $4.00 to $5.10; hogs, $4.00 to $4.50; sheep, $3.00 to $4.50; wheat, No. 2, 99c to $1.01; corn, No. 2 mixed, 55c to 57c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 47c to 48c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 81c.

Detroit—Cattle, $4.00 to $5.50; hogs, $4.00 to $4.40; sheep, $2.50 to $4.75; wheat, No. 2, $1.00 to $1.02; corn, No. 3 yellow, 60c to 61c; oats, No. 3 white, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 80c to 82c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, $1.08 to $1.10; corn, No. 3, 59c to 60c; oats, standard, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 1, 80c to 81c; barley, No. 2, 96c to 97c; pork, mess, $12.52.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, $4.00 to $5.90; hogs, fair to choice, $3.50 to $4.60; sheep, common to good mixed, $4.00 to $5.50; lambs, fair to choice, $5.00 to $7.25.

New York—Cattle, $4.00 to $5.50; hogs, $3.50 to $5.00; sheep, $3.00 to $5.00; wheat, No. 2 red, $1.05 to $1.06; corn, No. 2, 66c to 67c; oats, natural white, 57c to 59c; butter, creamery, 25c to 29c; eggs, western, 27c to 31c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, 99c to $1.01; corn, No. 2 mixed, 59c to 61c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 81c; clover seed, prime, $9.70.

### TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES

Thomas W. Lawson has been elected president of the Bay State Gas Company of Delaware.

The chief of staff of the army has recommended the construction of officers' quarters at the army war college in Washington at an expense of $100,000.

It is reported that Heinrich Conried of the Metropolitan opera house in New York has had trouble with the directors of the company and will retire at the end of the present season.