HOLIDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Cleveland Family Celebrates Christmas in the Old-Fashioned Way.

ONE TYRANT IN THE EXECUTIVE MANSION

Old Black Mammie Lucy Takes Charge of the President's Babies and Disputes Vigorously with the Republic's Chief.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special.)—It will be a typical Christmas at the white house. Ruth, Esther and Marion will have their little stockings hanging from the big oak mantelpiece in the nursery and as fast as Mrs. Cleveland assorts the presents in their little piles Mr. Cleveland will fill each stocking to overflowing. All that cannot be got in the stockings of the little tots will be hung on a Christmas tree in the red room. Mrs. Cleveland tried to persuade the president that it was not necessary to have the stockings if there was to be a Christmas tree. But that was not his idea of the thing at all. His earliest recollection of Christmas was connected with hanging stockings and he wanted his children to enjoy this old-fashioned custom. Moreover, he fills the stockings himself. He will not let any one else do it.

Estelle, Ruth's French maid, and "Mammie" Lucy, the old colored nurse, who still wears her head handkerchief, will be permitted to tie the presents on the tree under Mrs. Cleveland's direction; but the right to drop bonbons way down in the toes and to fill the heels of the stockings with dried figs and stuff the little legs full of toys belongs solely to the president. It is as much a special privilege for him to do this as it is to recognize a belligerency, and he is as persistent in one as he will be in the other. Last year he hung up a little baby's sock for Marion, but this year there will be a little stocking. President and Mrs. Cleveland are simple in their way of celebrating Christmas. Each recurring Christmastide has been enjoyed in the same way from their first Christmas together, when there were no little children to challenge their attention, until now when there are three little girls' stockings to be hung up and three little daughters to show their happiness.

AS TO ACCEPTING PRESENTS.

Mrs. Cleveland has never permitted either Ruth or Esther to accept presents save from the little children of the various cabinet households. Many gifts to the little ones have been returned, and when they have been sent anonymously they have been laid aside until the children shall grow older. This rule is adopted in order that the president's children might not be surfeited with childish enjoyments. Mrs. Cleveland wants them to have no more than the children in the great mass of American families. From the first it has been her aim to keep them in touch with the simple joys of childhood.

To further carry out his idea of an American Christmas the rooms of the white house are always closed on this day and only a few of the most intimate friends are admitted, and then not until evening, when the little ones, tired of romping, are sleeping under the watchful eye of the old black nurse. "Mammie" Lucy, by the way, is the only tyrant of the white house. She is the only member of the household who ever differs with the president as to what constitutes the law and his wishes have no weight in that big nursery unless they agree with those of old Lucy.

The Cleveland Christmas practically begins on Christmas eve. Mrs. Cleveland always attends service at St. John's church on Christmas eve. With few exceptions, up to the time of Lincoln, all the presidents attended the Episcopal service in this quaint old structure. It is situated directly across Lafayette park from the white house. It is the only church which always kept a pew reserved for the president and his family free of charge.

ALWAYS KEPT READY.

In spite of the fact that Arthur is the only president since the war who has occupied it regularly, it is still kept there, no one being allowed in it unless he be an inhabitant of the white house. Once a year Mrs. Cleveland occupies it, and always on Christmas eve. As soon as the de profundus is sung Mrs. Cleveland returns to the white house, where she finds her husband impatient to get at the Christmas toys.

The children are allowed to find their stockings and hunt for the goodies in them by themselves. In the midst of their delight "Mammie" Lucy summons the president, who appears in pajamas and dressing gown in the doorway of the nursery. The Christmas morning breakfast is most simple and most wholesome, for Mrs. Cleveland is a stickler for simplicity in so far as her children are concerned. A procession is formed, headed by the president and Mrs. Cleveland, and the entire household marches to the red room. Then there is scampering and laughter as each tricycle, hobby horse and train of cars comes into view. For the rest of the day the east room, the red room and the state dining room are all given over to the children and their playmates, who may drop in, but the white house is barricaded to grown up men and women.

In the evening there is an old-fashioned dinner, a turkey and a roast pig, with a red apple in its mouth, being conspicuous dishes on the table. Cleveland has a fondness for roast pig, a taste, he says, which was suddenly developed in him by reading Charles Lamb's essay on the subject. They attend their own church Christmas morning and the afternoon is given over to sending presents to friends in the city.

MRS. CLEVELAND'S GENEROSITY.

Mrs. Cleveland receives a few presents herself, but she gives a great many more. She is especially generous in her gifts to the poor. She has absolutely made it fashionable to be generous at Christmas time. Through her individual efforts the society women have formed a Christmas club and wherever poor and motherless children can be found their little lives are brightened for a brief period at least by the first lady in the land.

This day of all days, Mrs. Cleveland gives over to her children, her own and others as well, but this period of simplicity soon goes and gives place to pageantry and diplomatic functions, for with the beginning of the new year the president and his wife once more assume the leading roles in the social world of Washington, and standing in the great blue room, just where they were married, they will shortly after January 1 receive the ambassadors and diplomatic officers from every country in the world for the last time. For March brings a change of administration and another, although just as simple in character, first lady of the land.

HANDLING THE CHRISTMAS MAIL.

Postoffice is Reinforced Wherever It is Deemed to Be Necessary.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Preparations for the Christmas rush at the postoffices throughout the country were made by the Postoffice department some time ago and at most of the offices for the past few days there have been several additional employes authorized by the Washington authorities. The only office that has telegraphed for further reinforcements is Los Angeles, Cal., from which an inspector wired today that the mail was piled up and the office would have a bad block unless immediate relief was given. General Superintendent Machen of the free delivery service immediately authorized the employment of five more men and five more horses for six days.

Will Treat with Cherokees.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Dawes Indian commission will reopen negotiations with the five civilized tribes early in January. The Cherokees will be the first nation treated with and the commission expects to secure an agreement with all the tribes by the 1st of February. These treaties will probably be ratified by congress at the present session. Ex-Senator Dawes, chairman of the commission, will not return to the field, but will be in direct communication with the other members of the commission. The Cherokees are now ready to accept a settlement as soon as the commission notifies them of its readiness to meet them. The commission, while attending to the matters of the treaties, will continue its work of pursuing the Cherokee rolls. The survey of the territories is being carried forward and will be completed at an early date.

ARGUES AGAINST INTERFERENCE.

General Draper Urges the Importance of Caution Concerning Cuba.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—An argument against interference by the United States in Cuba pending the present season for military operations is made by General William F. Draper of Massachusetts, who is one of the subcommittee of the house charged with the recommending of resolutions relating to Cuba. He said tonight:

"My standpoint with regard to Cuba has not changed since the last session of congress. It is my feeling that it is time to recognize independence when, in the first place, there is a government, and when, in the second place, that government has shown its right to be considered as an independent sovereignty. It seems to me there is nothing in the island of Cuba in opposition to the Spanish forces except certain armed bodies of men, each under its own leadership, and with nothing approaching a civil government. If we are to take the message of President Cleveland as our authority—and that is the only trustworthy authority that I know of—it must be admitted that there is not anywhere in Cuba outside the Spanish lines a civil government which is seriously undertaking to exercise its functions. The claims put forth by the insurgents cannot be accepted as in any degree conclusive in these matters. I think the incoming administration should have the privilege of deciding what course it desires to take in regard to its foreign policy, and that the new president should not be inaugurated with a war upon his hands with an important foreign power, caused by the action of the outgoing congress."

"Do you think that Cuba will benefit by becoming an independent government?" was asked.

"I do not," General Draper replied. "I am not confident that the new government would maintain civil order and the security of person and property under equal laws for all citizens of the island and for foreign visitors and residents any more effectively than the Spanish government. I believe if I were to take my wife and family to the island of Cuba they would be safer under Spanish rule, bad as it is said to be, than under such rule as would be instituted if the insurgents should succeed and our government should take possession of the island."

"The alternative for securing orderly government, then, you think, is between Spanish rule and American?"

"Exactly," was the reply. "The United States ought to deliberate more carefully, moreover, before themselves taking possession of the island. American control would involve a great many obligations under a variety of heads. One of the objections of the insurgents to Spanish rule lies in the fact that the suffrage is limited to some 53,000 voters out of perhaps 350,000 adult males. They apparently desire universal suffrage. Presumably they would not renounce this desire if the island became a part of the United States. They would then bring a new element of corruption into the union, if Cuba became a state, and they would be in a constant state of irritation if the island were kept in a territorial condition. There may be conditions which will force us to take possession of the island, but it ought not to be done without due consideration of the serious problems which such a population and such territory would force upon the attention of a representative republic."

"Do you not fear the disturbance of business confidence if the Cameron resolutions are passed by congress?"

"Oh, yes," said General Draper. "It is evident that this shock to confidence has been felt, even by the passage of the resolution through the committee. It seems to me that our business men have already suffered enough from internal troubles without adding this external one. In case of war we should expose our gold standard to hazard and thereby endanger many of the results of the recent election. We should compel increased issues of bonds for war purposes as well as for the maintenance of the gold reserve, and we should open the door to a big increase of the pension roll and to the disturbance of our entire industrial system, which has been so severely wrenched during the past four years."

REPORT ON HEMP AND JUTE.

Agricultural Department Gives Information in Reply to Inquiries.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A constant demand for the past two years for information regarding the best practices for the successful growth of hemp and jute has led to the issuance by the Agricultural department of a report on their culture in this country. It shows that formerly the hemp growing industry of the United States was of considerable importance. Large areas were devoted to the cultivation of the plant, and as much as 75,000 tons of the fibre were produced in one year, but last year hardly more than 5,000 tons were reported for the whole country.

The extension of the already established culture of hemp, it is stated, might supply a substitute for the jute in many of the coarse jute manufactures now produced in this country, and thus re-establish one of the decreasing products of American farmers. The present large demand for Indian jute encourages the attempt to produce that fibre in this country. For the fiscal year 1894-95 at least 15,000 tons of the fibre and jute were imported into this country for manufacture, yet it is stated to be perfectly adaptable to culture in the southern portion of the United States and the samples produced from American brown jute have been proved at least equal to the Indian product.

Another agricultural report is a bulletin on insects injurious to grain. This recommends early harvesting and threshing, and gives the bisulphide of carbon treatment as the best remedy for the cereal destroyed and of stored grain.

CHRISTMAS TREE FOR LITTLE RUTH

Grover Cleveland and Family Will Have a Big Turkey on Table.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Christmas at the white house will be observed just as it has been in the past. The day will be essentially a children's festival. Tonight a big Christmas tree was placed in the library, Mrs. Cleveland herself superintending the trimming of the tree. The electrician of the white house provided incandescent lights, which took the place of the time honored but dangerous wax lights in the illumination of the tree. Mrs. Cleveland thoughtfully remembered the employes today by bestowing upon each a fine turkey for tomorrow's dinner. For the white house table a monster of a bird is now ready in the ice chest. He came alive from Louisville, Ky., a few days ago and weighed fifty-seven pounds.

Surprise for Chairman Loud.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Chairman Loud of the house committee on postoffices is surprised at the meeting of magazine men held last night to protest against his bill to reduce the scope of second-class mail matter. Some of the magazines which were represented have written to Mr. Loud by their managers, endorsing the bill, and he is at a loss to account for the change of front. Speaking of magazine postage, Mr. Loud said that these publications had little to lose by the passage of the bill, as it was directed toward fake advertising publications principally.

Order Regarding Mail Service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The second assistant postmaster general has issued an order in regard to the covered screen wagon mail service. Hereafter authority from the second assistant's office is a necessary precedent to the requirement by postmasters or railway mail superintendents of increased trips or additional service, except in an emergency or through delayed trains. Unnecessary service is to be reported immediately, and if only a temporary decrease of service, the probable date of resumption given.

Receipts from Internal Revenue.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The monthly statement of the commissioner of internal revenue shows receipts for November were $12,701,369, a decrease as compared with November last year of $227,357. For the five months of the present fiscal year the decrease was $651,957. The only notable increase for the month is $185,211 from whisky, while there was a decrease of $166,302 from tobacco. For the last five months the increase in receipts from whisky was $1,401,592.

FORECLOSE ON UNION PACIFIC

Vigorous Action to Be Taken to Protect the Government's Lien.

FIRST MORTGAGE TO BE OVERLOOKED

Attorney General Construes the Act as Enabling the Government to Act Without Regard to Prior Liens.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—It is authoritatively reported that the Department of Justice contemplates action to be taken at an early date looking to the foreclosure of the government lien on the Union Pacific, with the probability also of similar proceedings against the Central and Kansas Pacific. Such action is considered imperative to protect the government's interest in the holding and in view of the pending action by congress.

A very large portion of the first mortgage bonds, as well as second mortgage bonds, will mature with the beginning of 1897. The holders of the first mortgage bonds would naturally have priority over the government, but it is said that the attorney general has construed the original and amended Pacific railroads acts as conferring ample power upon the government to proceed irrespective of any course which the first mortgage holders may see fit to take.

REVIEW OF SALMON PROPAGATION.

Fish Are on the Increase in Some Pacific Coast Rivers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—An interesting review of salmon fish conditions in this country is made in a report of the United States fish commission on artificial propagation of salmon on the Pacific coast. The conclusion reached is that, although nature evidently has designed that the quinault salmon shall not take up its abode on the American shores of the Atlantic, its breeding serves a legitimate and very valuable purpose in maintaining the supply of its species in its native waters of the Pacific slope. This is made especially apparent by the enormous drafts made upon these fish by the canneries and by the yearly increasing consumption of fresh and salted salmon. The report says the Battle Creek station of the California station, located about seven miles from Anderson, may soon pass to the charge of the United States. This is the most extraordinary and prolific place for collecting quinault salmon eggs yet known, though the eggs are limited to the fall run, none of the summer run being found there. It is asserted that 3,000,000 salmon eggs can be taken on Battle Creek in six weeks of a favorable year. When the government first operated the Clackamas station in Oregon, it yielded 5,000,000 salmon eggs a year; but it is too near civilization to prosper long as a salmon breeding station, and has been given up as a collecting point. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to establish salmon breeding points in the basin of the Columbia river and also to secure quinault salmon eggs from the smaller California streams flowing into the Pacific. Salmon are on the increase in the Sacramento and McCloud rivers. In answering the question of what is the result of all this great labor and expenditure, extended over so many years, the report contends that the salmon outlook is encouraging, but makes this disheartening review of an old scheme to restock depleted salmon rivers on the Atlantic coast:

When the government work in salmon breeding was begun on the Pacific coast, it was supposed that that coast had enough salmon, and to spare, and it was the intention of the commission to increase the salmon on the Atlantic coast by restocking its depleted salmon rivers. The highest hopes were entertained of doing this. After millions of salmon eggs had been procured on this coast and safely transported to the Atlantic rivers, no one doubted that salmon were going to become abundant again in the Atlantic rivers, and many believed that several southern rivers that had never had salmon in them before would now become prolific salmon streams when well stocked with this new California salmon that abounded in warm latitudes on the Pacific coast. The result was a stupendous surprise and disappointment. The eggs hatched out beautifully. The young fry grew rapidly and were observed to go down in vast numbers to the sea. What afterward became of them will probably remain forever an unfathomable mystery. Some have thought that they wandered off to the far north and so became lost to the civilized world. Others thought that they had strayed into the ocean and were devoured by marine animals and larger fish.

The report lays it down as no longer open to question that quinault salmon, at least those that spawn a long distance from the ocean, never return to it again alive. They all die on their spawning grounds.

Put in a Full Day's Work.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—For the first time for many years the executive departments of the government were not closed today, in accordance with the custom of giving employes a half-holiday on the day preceding Christmas. The decision to keep open for business is the result of an act passed by congress on March 3, 1893, and attention was first drawn to its provisions at a cabinet meeting last summer, and considered at a recent meeting. This statute requires all employes to work not less than seven hours each day, except Sundays and actual holidays.

Indians Put In a Claim for Money.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Agent Treson of the Crow Creek agency in North Dakota and a delegation of two Indians from there have reached Washington. The main object is to secure $187,000 stated to be due them under the Sioux treaty of March 2, 1889, and allowed by a subsequent act of congress on account of the curtailment of their reservation in favor of the Indian nations. They think a per capita cash payment should be made to their tribe.

Issues a Fraud Order.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—The postmaster general has issued a fraud order against the Illinois Mercantile agency of Rockford, Ill.

Condition of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Today's statement of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, $225,142,408; gold reserve, $134,725,791.

PLAY OF HOME RULE FOR CUBA.

Spanish Authorities Now Propose to Make the Congress Elective.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Another important step toward the plan of home rule for Cuba has been taken by the Spanish authorities. The former plan proposed, but not executed, some months ago provided for a Cuban congress of thirty members, of whom the queen regent was to name fifteen and the people of Cuba were to elect fifteen. It is now proposed to do away with the part providing for the naming of members by the queen regent, so that the entire Cuban congress will be elected. This and the entire control given to Cuba in making the tariff laws of the island will constitute the essential features of the new plan of home rule. That giving the people the election of the entire congress is felt to carry out in spirit, as well as in letter, the idea of home rule.

Thus far only the general nature of the proposed changes have been made known to officials in Washington and the draft of the revised plan of reforms has not been received, nor is it likely to be completed until after the completion of the Porto Rico reforms, which will be signed by the queen regent tomorrow as a suitable Christmas act. Under the Spanish system it will be necessary to submit the changes to the Cortes, which is not in session and will not meet until February. The Christmas reforms for Porto Rico are closely allied with those for Cuba, being the second section of the same law. They give Porto Rico a congress, the province of San Juan and Ponce alternating two years in choosing members for a term of four years. The congress is given control of the whole island public works, telegraph, postoffice, railways and navigation, agriculture, manufacture, trade, immigration and colonization, public instruction, charities, the health department, etc. The home government will continue to be represented by a captain general, who will exercise supervisory power and be the local delegate of the minister of the colonies.

The foregoing was the plan approved by the Cortes, but as in the case of Cuba, it is believed the plans will be enlarged so as to make the congress wholly representative of the people of the island. The definite action of the queen in signing the Porto Rico reforms tomorrow is to lead off a similar action in regard to Cuba.

PLANS FOR M'KINLEY'S INAUGURAL.

Preliminary Arrangements Made for a Brilliant Spectacle.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Chairman Bell of the inaugural committee has returned from New York, where he had a conference with General Horace Porter, the chief marshal of the inaugural ceremony. General Porter has appointed Mr. A. N. Blackson of New York chief of staff, and Colonel H. C. Corbin, U. S. A., as special aide. Other appointments will be made from time to time.

General Porter already has perfected the outlines of the arrangements for the big parade, and has decided that when once started it will not be allowed to stop until the disbanding point is reached. Both military and civic organizations will be required to march in columns of twenty-four men abreast, instead of sixteen, as heretofore, and in close order, the purpose being to have 12,000 marchers pass a given point each hour. The question of position in the parade will be determined by the order in which the several states represented came into the union. Large representations of cadets from the naval academy and from the West Point Military academy are expected. From information received General Porter does not expect as large a representation of the national guard of Pennsylvania as usual. Circular letters to governors of all the states are in course of preparation asking information as to their personal escort, and the number of state troops who expect to take part in the parade. All organizations will be required to notify the chief marshal of their desire to participate in the parade prior to a certain date, to be hereafter named, in order that there may be no confusion as to positions. A storm circular also will be prepared and ready for distribution in case of a heavy storm on March 4, which would necessitate some changes in the program.

Chairman Bell today had an interview with the secretary of the interior regarding the use of the pension office building for the inauguration ball. The use of it was tendered and accepted. General Nelson A. Miles of the army was appointed chairman of the reception committee by Mr. Bell.

NEBRASKA'S SHARE OF THE SEEDS.

Agricultural Department Distribution Commences January 15, 1897.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Farmers and others interested in raising crops in Nebraska, whether field or vegetable, can commence now with their requests for government seeds, as Nebraska senators and representatives have received from the Agricultural department notification that their quota of 8,650 packages will be available January 15 next.

W. B. Taylor of Omaha is in the city in attendance upon the funeral of Captain Lemon, pension agent and proprietor of the National Tribune.

Senator A. S. Paddock left for his Nebraska home Wednesday.

Mrs. J. W. Paddock is expected to arrive in Washington tomorrow on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Annin.

Invite Cleveland to a Banquet.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Comptroller Eckels today led a delegation of Chicago democrats to the white house, having arranged in advance for their reception by the president. Among them were Adam S. Goodrich, H. S. Robbins, R. C. Sullivan and others, and their object was to invite the president to attend the annual Jackson day dinner of January 8 next at Chicago.

It is improbable that the president can be absent from Washington on that date, but he may write a letter to be read at the dinner. The delegation has also extended invitations to Secretary Olney and Postmaster General Wilson.

The delegation also called on Secretaries Carlisle, Francis and Morton. Secretary Carlisle was compelled to decline the invitation, owing to a prior engagement, while Secretaries Francis and Morton could not give definite answers.

News for the Army.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Captain William H. Baldwin, commissary, has been relieved from duty at Chicago and ordered to duty at San Francisco to relieve Major Wells Willard.

Captain John W. McMurray, First artillery, has been granted twenty days' leave of absence.

BOSTON STRIKE QUICKLY OVER

Street Railways Tied Up for a Half Day at a Busy Time.

MEN ACT ON THEIR OWN AUTHORITY

Ignore an Agreement Between Their Leaders and the Management of the Company—Christmas Shoppers Inconvenienced.

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—In spite of the agreement signed by the representatives of the motormen and conductors and the managers of the Boston Street Railway company to postpone the strike until December 30 the men refused to run the cars yesterday, and from noon until midnight the system was practically tied up. During the forenoon also the service was very much crippled. The strike caused serious inconvenience to Christmas shoppers from the suburban towns.

Soon after midnight the strike was officially declared off. This action came like a bomb shell at 12:39 this morning. But it remains to be seen, when daylight comes, if this second action of the supreme council will be heeded. The following is the statement made by the supreme council to the public explaining its position:

To the Public: The supreme council was given power to negotiate for an agreement with the management of the West End road. The council performed its duty, and in doing so found the president lacking in authority to make any settlement without consulting his board of directors. He asked for further time, which was granted. The men repudiated this act, and we, as honorable men, have had to do one of two things, sanction the repudiation of the men and thus violate our agreement with the president, or refuse to assent to a continuance of the strike. We chose the latter, and would keep our agreement with President Little, as gentlemen, at all hazards.

Yesterday afternoon the West End Railway company issued a notice to its employes stating that those who voluntarily absented themselves from their duties would be considered as having withdrawn from the service of the company. The railroad issued a statement, giving a history of the strike from President Little's point of view. In opening mention is made of conferences between the union and the officers of the road and of a letter setting forth that President Little had no authority to sign the 1897 agreement with the employes, except by vote of the directors. The statement continues:

Representatives of the employes stated that they would recommend in accordance with its terms and would notify Mr. Little by 10 o'clock what action was agreed to.

When 10 o'clock came they telephoned for delay.

A little before 12 o'clock two members of the committee returned and reported that a majority of the full committee had agreed to in no way interfere with the running of the cars and that the matter should remain in abeyance until December 30, pending the decision of the West End directors.

The matter was supposed to be closed for the night. The first intimation that the West End officials received of there being any trouble was a notice from the car stations that the men were refusing to take out the cars this morning. This forenoon a part of the committee that was present last night came to Mr. Little and said that they had attempted to carry out their agreement in good faith.

They stated, however, that some of the men could not be controlled.

CURRENT SPORTING MATTERS.

An association foot ball practice match will take place Christmas morning at Young Men's Christian Association park. Owing to the short notice given, the exact players for the sides could not be decided upon, but places will be given to those wishing to play on the grounds. The game will commence at 10 o'clock.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—Joseph Manning, an ex-base ball player who was shot by David Force, also a professional ball player, died today. The police are looking for Force. Force played in the big leagues of the east and at various times was a star of the Browns, the Cincinnatis and Bostons. He was a high salaried man. His forte was as shortstop, though he acceptably filled almost any position on the diamond. He dropped out of the base ball world some years ago, and it is said he has been leading a wild, reckless life. Of Manning the ball players know little.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Edward Payson Weston, once famous as a pedestrian, will at 10 o'clock tomorrow night begin a twenty-four-hour walk, in which he will endeavor to equal his record of 118 miles. Mr. Weston is 58 years old, but has lived temperately and declares that his regular habits have kept up his powers of endurance.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Peter Maher and Steve O'Donnell are matched to box twenty rounds before the Greater New York Athletic club at Coney Island Christmas afternoon. The arena, which is that of the old Coney Island Athletic club, will seat 10,000 persons. There will be a preliminary bout and time will be called for the heavy weights before 3 o'clock.

MOSCOW, Dec. 24.—Steinitz won the first game of chess played yesterday against Lasker in thirty moves. It was a Ruy Lopez opened by Lasker. The present score: Lasker, 7; Steinitz, 1; drawn, 4.

Christmas Day Shoot.

The Omaha Gun club will shoot for the Laflin & Rand silver trophy tomorrow. The race will be at fifteen live birds per man, handicap distances, A. S. A. rules. The boys have all signified their intention of being present and there will be some good shooting. There will also be target shooting for those who wish it. Shooting will begin at 9 o'clock in the morning and continue all day.

Movements of School Teachers.

The majority of the teachers in the public schools will spend their holiday vacations in Nebraska. A large number will attend the convention of the Nebraska State Teachers' association, which meets at Lincoln next week. Miss Caroline Morgan, supervisor of kindergarters, will go to Leavenworth, Kan. Miss Juliette McCune of the Long school left last night to spend her vacation with friends in Pennsylvania. She was accompanied by her brother, W. S. McCune.

Ran Down a Policeman.

Officer Mike Drummy was injured last night at the corner of Twenty-fourth and Decatur streets while attempting to arrest Ralph Messersmith. In taking his man to the box he started across the street, and was run over by some unknown party in a buggy. He was thrown to the ground and severely bruised and cut about the head. He was taken to the police station and afterward removed to his home, at 3012 South Eighteenth street.

TRAIN ROBBERS SHOWED SKILL.

Classed as One of the Boldest Adventures During the Year.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 24.—The Chicago & Alton express, which was held up in Blue Cut Wednesday night, arrived in St. Louis this afternoon at 1:05 o'clock. A. J. Frier, the messenger in charge of the looted express car, two trainmen and the Pullman car porter and conductor were the only ones of the crew aboard, the others having changed at Slater and Rood house. The story as obtained from these men stamps the robbery as one of the cleverest and boldest pieces of work done by road agents during the year. Messenger Frier is in a bad state of mind. He feels terribly broken up over the robbery. The first thing he said when the train crew asked him how he had fared was that the company had been hard hit. He now says he cannot tell how much was taken. When seen by a representative of the Associated press Frier said: "I was busy, and especially this trip, and thought the train had stopped on account of a breakdown. I heard no voices outside. When the knock came I supposed it was a brakeman and opened the door. Then I was helpless. The robbers threw my shotgun out of the car and broke it all to pieces. They certainly knew their business and were very polite, but it would not have been safe to have resisted them." The politeness of the robbers impressed all who saw them. The trainmen said they were well dressed. The leader was a little under the influence of drink. He was so jovial that when he took $4 from Conductor Nichols he gave $2 of it back. The other $2 he presented to Frier as a Christmas gift. Frier has been a messenger for the Pacific Express company for twelve years and has been connected with express companies for over twenty years. The messenger had a good view of the robbers and will be able to identify them if caught.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—At the offices of the Chicago & Alton railway the following official statement in regard to the robbery was given out: The train was flagged by red and white lanterns just west of the Missouri Pacific bridge, east of Independence. Robbers took charge of the engine and made the engineer get off. The conductor and brakeman came ahead and the robbers took charge of them. They made the brakeman go back and get the train wrench and cut off the express car. They made lots of noise and did much loud talking and pounding on couplings while doing the work in order to give the express man a chance to hide away his stuff. When the train was cut off the robbers made the trainmen get off while they took the engine and express car away. They next stopped in the cut about half way between the top of the hill and Glencoe and wrapped on the express car door. The expressman opened the door and realized for the first time that he was being held up. All of his valuables were exposed. He claims not to have had time to put them in the safe since leaving Kansas City. It was, therefore, not necessary for the robbers to open the safe, although they were amply provided with dynamite for that purpose. The amount secured foots up about $2,500 in cash and may reach $3,000. They ran the engine to the second bridge east of Glendale, where it was left without water, fire or air.

The train crew was as follows: Engineer Wetton, Fireman Post, Conductor Nichols, Brakeman Jones and Expressman Frier.

The following description of the robbers is given by the trainmen: Four men, all masked, three dark and one light mask, one map small and slender, somewhat feminine voice, and had been drinking; two men medium size, one man six feet tall, weight 200 pounds. Trainmen were mixed in describing the clothes worn.

Hold Up a Station Agent.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 24.—The agent at Congress Junction, a station of the Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix railroad, eighty-five miles north of Phoenix, was held up last night by unknown robbers and $70 of Wells-Fargo money stolen at the point of a pistol. The agent, G. C. West, was alone at the time. The sheriff is on the trail of the robbers.

Minneapolis Street Car Held Up.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 24.—Minneapolis has experienced the first holdup of a street car since the operations of the Barrett brothers several years ago, and for which crime and the murder of the driver they were hanged. Last night three masked men entered a Lyn Mawr car at the end of the line, and at the points of revolvers took $12 from Conductor Quady. The motorman by this time had entered the car, and one of the robbers covered him, while another went through his pockets. They found only 1 cent and this they returned to him.

DUNKARDS WILL HAVE A COLONY

Propose to Own an Entire County in the Hoosier State.

LIGONIER, Ind., Dec. 24.—The religious society known as the Dunkards is trying to purchase the entire region comprised within Brown county, this state, to which its members will emigrate to establish a government of their own according to their peculiar notions.

C. E. Everett of Albion is the projector of the scheme. He has already purchased 41,000 acres, to which 100 families will remove in a few days. The projectors say that neither jail nor court house will be needed and that the election of local officers will be held only to comply with the law, as all property will be held in common.

Pleads Not Guilty of Bribery.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 24.—Alderman George A. Durnam of the Third ward was arraigned in the district court this morning and pleaded not guilty to an indictment for bribery. He is charged with demanding a bribe of $10,000 from the Halvorssen & Richards company, a firm of contractors, which bid on the excavation of the new reservoir. Bail will be fixed at 2 o'clock. This is the first arraignment resulting from the grand jury's investigation of the municipal scandals and a number of others are promised to follow.

Christmas Gift for the Home.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 24.—Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hinton today presented the Protestant Home for the Aged with $50,000 to erect a fireproof memorial structure to be called the Francis Hinton Addition to Protestant Home for the Aged in memory of their son, who died in Paris a year ago.

Reform Press Association Meeting.

Paul Vandervoort, president of the National Reform Press association, has issued a call for a meeting of the association to be held at Memphis, Tenn., February 22, 1897.

Burlington Route—Holiday Rates

December 24, 25 and 31 and January 1—between stations not more than 200 miles apart—return limit, January 4.

Call at ticket office, 1502 Farnam street.

GREATER NEW YORK CHARTER

Proposed Methods of City Government Detailed at Length.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IS LEFT ALONE

Two-Chamber Legislative Body and a Wide System of Departments—Mayor to Have Large Appointive and Veto Powers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The draft of the proposed charter of Greater New York, as submitted to the commission, will be published tomorrow. The legislative power is to be vested in a municipal assembly to consist of two houses—a lower house of 104 members, elected from senatorial districts, and an upper house of thirty-seven members, elected from council districts. All the members of both houses are to be elected for the term of two years and all are to retire at once. As to everything concerning the rights, privileges and liberties of the citizen, respecting municipal rule, the legislative department is to submit to no restraint. But in respect to public improvements, the action of the municipal assembly is to be further subjected to the concurrence of the board of Estimate and Apportionment. The mayor is to have power to appoint all the administrative and executive officers of the city, except comptroller, who is rendered elective by the people every four years, so that the treasury and finances will constantly be in the hands of an independent department.

The mayor is to have supervisory control over the various departments, and an enlarged veto power upon the acts of the municipal assembly. His patronage and his power are so great that he will in these particulars be a dignitary second only in importance to the governor of the state. The mayor is to be given absolute power to remove at will every administrative officer, irrespective of the prescribed term of office, during the first months of his administration. After that he can remove only on charges, with the approval of the governor.

Where the powers of the administrative departments are largely discretionary, it is proposed to have the departments presided over by a board of two or more commissioners. Where they are executive merely but one commissioner has been provided for. By far the largest and most important board is to be the board of public improvements, consisting of the heads of six newly created departments—the department of water supply, of highways, of sewers, of street cleaning, of public buildings, lighting and supplies and the department of bridges. This is the St. Louis system. The police department will have four commissioners, as now, and will include the bureau of elections. The charities department and the park department will be presided over by three commissioners each. The law department, the fire department and the department of correction will have single heads. The building department may have four.

Greater New York is to be divided into five boroughs: Manhattan, the Bronx, the Brooklyn, the Queens and Richmond, and a certain degree of home rule is to be granted to the boroughs. There are to be five commissioners of taxes and assessment, instead of three, as at present, and a system for the equalization of the varying conditions in the consolidated territory has been devised.

In the matter of education, a plan was adopted which centralizes in a board of education representing the whole city, the physical conduct of the schools and which devolves upon school boards appointed by the mayor in every borough the educational conduct of the schools.

The committee concluded not to deal with municipal ownership, but says: "From an original and ideal standpoint it is easy to see that the city would become the recipient of vast revenues by the ownership and operation of all franchises for lighting by gas or electricity and for tramways and other purposes necessary to the life and business of a metropolitan community and exercised so largely by a use of the streets and avenues belonging to the people. Nor could any one well deny the right and power of the people to embark in such enterprises. In Greater New York, however, private capital, upon the faith of the state, is embarked largely in such franchises. It would take a sum too vast to be hastily computed to acquire the properties thus vested in private persons by fair compensation."

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

Domestic.

Cincinnati, Newport and Covington street railway system has passed into the hands of a new board of directors.

Three mines belonging to the Madison Coal company at Glen Carbon, Ill., are idle owing to a strike of 500 men against a reduction of wages.

North German Lloyd Steamship company will resume operations to Galveston. On February 18 the Roland will sail from Bremen for that port.

Before the congressional commission Engineer Hawgood stated that deep sea wharves could be constructed more cheaply at San Pedro than at Santa Monica.

Directors of the wrecked Illinois National bank held a meeting and considered plans for bringing about the sale of the Calumet road to realize funds to pay depositors.

Creditors of Miller & Vaughn, insolvent bankers and brokers of Providence, R. I., have accepted an offer of 15 cents on the dollar. The liabilities amount to $181,000.

Further outbreaks between negroes and whites in southern Kentucky are expected. The mills are running full time, but the owners fear their ability to keep down the trouble.

Thomas Bram, former mate of the barkentine Herbert Fuller, testified at Boston that he was not drunk on the night of the killing of the captain whom he is accused of having murdered.

The sheriff of New York has received an attachment for $6,875 against the Bank of Minnesota of St. Paul in favor of Mary H. Semple on an assigned claim of C. E. Oakley & Co., western bankers.

Conrad Eapers of Baltimore is suffering from partial paralysis of the face and has had several spasms of the throat. He was one of eight boys bitten by a mad St. Bernard three weeks ago. Robert Henry died last week.

Chester R. Faulkner, aged 75, private secretary to Senator Voorhees and in charge of the Maltby government building, was knocked down by a street car in Washington. His leg has been amputated and his recovery is doubtful.

Oscar Whalfeld, president of a New York clothing house, who caused a disturbance in the private office of a Kansas City department store, has been sent to the city hospital in that city and will be taken by his friends and relatives to New York. He is believed to be insane.

PEN PICTURES PLEASANTLY AND POINTEDLY PUT

We're not so high priced after all—shirt buttons 10c a dozen—we've got better ones—umbrellas at $1.00 and up—gloves for $1.00—the Perrins gloves at $1.50—we've got a new line of puff ties—all silk garters 20c—a pair of cuff buttons 25c—the Wilson Bros.' shirts 95c—a good handkerchief for 5c—and higher prices—it's so all over the store—we make the prices that will suit everybody—just set your price—we've got the goods.

ALBERT CAHN,

Mail order filled always. 1322 FARNAM

We still have a good many rugs that will be going from now on for a mighty little money—rugs made from remnants during the dull season—in a variety of sizes and qualities—from Wiltons—Axminsters—Moquettes—Velvets—Body Brussels—bring in the size of your room and see how little it takes to get a nice carpet.

OMAHA CARPET CO.,

1515 DODGE.

Do you ever sing for baby's sake—or do you