GREAT EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Conspicuous Features of the Record at Home and Abroad.

MUCH PROGRESS ALONG BENEFICIAL LINES

Civilization, Freedom and the "Square Deal" Score Distinct Victories—Distinguished Dead—Other Events.

Civilization and freedom abroad and the "square deal" in business methods at home scored distinct victories in the year 1905.

Civilization triumphed in the peace of Portsmouth. Out of the havoc of war and internal convulsion, autocratic government is loosening its hold on the Russian empire, and constitutional government and freedom are advancing. The "square deal" in the business life of the United States moved forward by leaps and bounds, guided by the administration of President Roosevelt and supplemented by court proceedings. Its application to the avenues of transportation awaits the action of congress.

In the United States the year sets a new record in material prosperity. It is a topnotcher in railroad earnings, bank clearings, farm products, notably the corn crop, building operations and wages of the employed. It is also memorable for an emphatic expression of widespread discontent with existing conditions in the conduct of business and government. The investigation of life insurance in New York revealed shocking extravagance, speculation and graft, and remedial laws are certain to follow.

Efforts to check the expanding greed of industrial combinations made substantial headway. The federal supreme court decided that the Beef trust was an unlawful combination, and the trial of the indicted packers is under way in Chicago. Proceedings have been instituted in the federal courts at Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Kansas City against railroad companies and railroad officials charged with violating the Elkins law prohibiting giving and receiving rebates, and against individuals, firms and corporations for soliciting and accepting rebates on transportation of goods. One firm of Kansas City packers pleaded guilty to the latter charge and paid a fine of $20,000.

Notable success attended the prosecution of public land grabbers in Oregon and Minnesota and public land fencers in Nebraska and Kansas. In Oregon a United States senator, a congressman and half a score of unofficial land thieves were convicted and sentenced.

The squabble between citizens of the United States and the government of Venezuela over the ownership of asphalt beds developed a diplomatic scandal involving the integrity of United States Minister Bowen and Assistant Secretary of State Loomis. Charges and counter charges were investigated by Secretary Taft, acting secretary of state, resulting in the vindication of Loomis and the dismissal of Bowen.

Three changes occurred in the president's cabinet. Elihu Root of New York, succeeded John Hay, deceased, as secretary of state; Charles J. Bonaparte of Maryland, took the post of secretary of the navy vacated by Paul Morton, and George B. Cortelyou succeeded Robert J. Wynne as postmaster general.

The remains of Admiral Paul Jones, famous naval officer of the revolution, were discovered in an abandoned cemetery in Paris, through the energy and perseverence of Ambassador Porter. Identification was complete and satisfactory. A fleet of American warships brought the remains to Annapolis, where they were given a final resting place in the chapel of the naval academy.

After five years of persistent effort in the courts of Canada the United States succeeded in extraditing and bringing home for trial the fugitives Greene and Gaynor, dry dock contractors, accused of defrauding the government.

Andrew Carnegie donated $10,000,000 to a fund for the benefit of superannuated professors, the income from which is to be used in the form of pensions. A like amount was given by John D. Rockefeller to promote higher education under the direction of the general education board.

It was a hard year for frenzied financiers, speculative bankers and other respectable crooks. Frank G. Bigelow, president of the First National bank of Milwaukee, squandered $1,500,000 of the bank's funds, plead guilty and was sent to the penitentiary. Seven Ohio bankers were convicted, three await trial and one committed suicide. The group were involved in bank wrecking, shady transactions and Cassie Chadwick loans. The conviction of the latter was affirmed by the Ohio supreme court. N. C. Dougherty, superintendent of schools and secretary of the Board of Education of Peoria, Ill., speculated with public funds, lost $800,000 and is now in the Illinois penitentiary. T. Lee Clarke, cashier of the Enterprise National bank, Allegheny, Pa., loaned the bank's money too freely to Pennsylvania politicians, lost $1,500,000, broke the bank and committed suicide. Edward T. Cunliffe, an express messenger of Pittsburg, Pa., could not resist the temptation to hit the road when a bundle of $101,000 came into his hands. He was caught and sent up and $80,000 of the bundle recovered.

Prince Louis of Battenburg, admiral of the British navy, paid an official visit to the United States with his fleet. The tour embraced Annapolis, Washington and New York. At each place the prince and his staff were cordially received and hospitably entertained.

One great shadow of the year in the United States was the outbreak of yellow fever in New Orleans and immediate vicinity, lasting from July until the end of October. A total of about 4,500 cases were reported and 600 deaths resulted.

Russo-Japanese War.

The dominant event of the year of world interest was the war between Japan and Russia and its conclusion through the instrumentality of President Roosevelt. Chronologically the events of the war were:

January 2—Surrender of Port Arthur after a siege lasting 232 days. The fighting was practically continuous, comprising thirty-one distinct attacks and three sorties from the city.

January 25-29—Battle of Hun river. Russians under Grippenberg routed by Oyama. Troops engaged, 150,000.

February 24-March 12—Battle of Mukden. Third great land engagement of the war, over a battle front of 100 miles. Total forces engaged, 800,000 men. Russians defeated with a loss of 70,000 men and 40,000 prisoners. Japanese loss, 41,000.

May 27-28—Naval battle of the Sea of Japan. Combined Baltic fleet, under Admiral Rojestvensky, destroyed by the Japanese fleet, under Admiral Togo. The Russian fleet consisted of thirty-six vessels of all classes, mounting 372 guns, and was opposed by the Japanese fleet of thirty-two vessels carrying 330 guns. The Russians lost six battleships, five cruisers and smaller craft sunk; two battleships, two coast defense vessels and one destroyer captured, and three cruisers escaped to Manila. Besides the loss of the fleet, valued at $75,000,000, the Russians lost 8,550 men killed or drowned, including Admiral Voelkersam, and 3,000 more captured, including Admirals Rojestvensky and Nebogatoff. The Japanese lost 600 men.

Immediately after the battle of the Sea of Japan President Roosevelt tendered the good offices of the United States government to bring about peace. Negotiations culminated in an understanding between the belligerents. Envoys were appointed and met at Portsmouth, N. H., August 9. On August 29 the envoys completed and signed the draft of the treaty of peace which was subsequently ratified by the Russian and Japanese emperors.

Active hostilities lasted from February 8, 1904, to May 28, 1905, when the famous Russian Baltic fleet was annihilated. Practically every battle fought on land and sea was a victory for Japanese arms. The war is estimated to have cost Russia $1,000,000,000; Japan, $600,000,000. Russia lost sixty-eight warships, Japan twenty-four.

Statistics compiled by the general staff of the United States army show that the Russian casualties numbered 207,529 men, as against 156,152 for the Japanese. The greatest number of men was engaged in the battle of Mukden, ranging from 850,000 to 900,000. The percentage of Russian loss in this battle was 25, while the Japanese lost 12 per cent, as against 42.6 per cent of the men engaged in the siege of Port Arthur. Fifteen important engagements were fought, every one a victory for Japan. Russia was driven from Manchuria, its navy swept from the Pacific ocean and the prestige of Russian arms in the orient destroyed.

Other Foreign Events.

Peace for Russia in the far east was the signal for starting afresh the fires of internal revolution. Extensive labor strikes were inaugurated and under this cover the revolutionary forces worked to bring about governmental reforms. Under stress of widespread disorder Emperor Nicholas summoned Count Witte to his aid and under his guidance a proclamation guaranteeing radical changes in the government was issued. These reforms include freedom of worship, freedom of the press, abolition of the rule of the grand dukes and a moderate form of constitutional government. For a few days the czar's pledges were hailed with public rejoicing. It was a calm preceding a storm. Internal disorder, outrage and bloodshed, are now rampant throughout the empire, and the year is closing with scarcely a rift in the clouds lowering on the Romanoff dynasty.

Among the year's historic events in other foreign countries are the following:

Dissolution of the union of Norway and Sweden and the starting of an independent monarchial government in Norway.

Abrogation of the concordat and separation of church and state in France.

Resignation of the tory party cabinet in England and the formation of a liberal party cabinet with Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman as premier.

Boycott of American goods in China and a like movement against British goods in India.

Eminent Dead.

The roll of eminent dead of the year contains the names of men and women who won distinction in world affairs. Among those conspicuous in public life are John Hay of Ohio, secretary of state; George Frisbie Hoar of Massachusetts, United States senator; George E. Boutwell, ex-governor of Massachusetts and ex-secretary of the United States treasury; William B. Bate of Tennessee, United States senator; Orville H. Platt of Connecticut, United States senator; Joseph B. Hawley of Connecticut, veteran of the civil war and United States senator; Judge John H. Reagan of Texas, ex-United States senator and sole survivor of the confederate cabinet; Albion W. Tourgee, author and American consul at Bourdeaux, France; Lloyd Loundes, ex-governor of Maryland; Colonel Daniel S. Lamont of New York, secretary of war under Cleveland; Patrick A. Collins, ex-congressman and mayor of Boston; Silas Garber, ex-governor of Nebraska; Jerry Simpson of Kansas, people's party leader and ex-congressman; Edward Atkinson of Boston, social and political economist; Don Francisco Silvela, Spain's foremost statesman.

The related professions of music and the drama lost Joseph Jefferson, Henry Irving, Theodore Thomas, A. M. Palmer and Paul Maurice, Paris, author and dramatist.

Conspicuous in the roll of deceased churchmen are the names of Rt. Rev. Wm. E. McLaren, Episcopal bishop of Chicago; Archbishop Chapelle of New Orleans, victim of yellow fever; Rt. Rev. Isaac W. Joyce, Methodist Episcopal bishop of Minneapolis; Sir George Williams, founder of the Young Men's Christian association.

The profession of arms lost Major General Fitzhugh Lee, Virginia; Brigadier General Charles Smart, Washington; Hiram Cronk, Ava, N. Y., aged 105, last survivor of the war of 1812; Rear Admiral Andrew E. K. Benham, Washington; Brigadier General George H. Weeks, Washington; General Lawrence Tike Graham, and General Herman Haupt, veteran and railroad engineer, Washington; General Saussier, famous French soldier who fought in twenty-four campaigns.

The literary profession lost General Lew Wallace, Indiana; Henry V. Poor, founder and publisher of Poor's Manual; Mrs. Mary Livermore, Boston, author and reformer; Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, editor of St. Nicholas Magazine, New York; Alexander Melville Bell, writer, educator and scientist, Washington.

Other names of note on the death roll are Albert Mason, chief justice, Massachusetts; William H. Baldwin, jr., president of the Long Island railroad; Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, head of the French banking house; Adolphe W. Bourgereau, famous painter, France; Pierre Paul Francois Camille de Brazza, French African explorer; Louise Michel, firebrand of the Paris Commune; Murray F. Tuley, distinguished jurist and pioneer of Chicago.

Labor Troubles.

During the year labor troubles were few compared with 1904. The principal disturbance was the teamsters' strike in Chicago. Beginning April 6 it lasted 105 days, involved 4,600 workmen, caused the death of twenty-one persons and injury to 415, cost the city and county for extra police and deputies $406,500, cost the unions for strike benefits $350,000, lost the strikers in wages $700,000, and business losses estimated at $8,000,000. The strikers lost the battle.

The strike of the cotton mill operatives at Fall River, Mass., was settled by the intervention of Governor Douglas.

A strike nation-wide in extent is now on between job printers and their employers. The issue is the eight-hour day. Supporting the demand is the International Typographical union; opposed is the Typohetae, an organization of master printers.

Disasters.

First among the disasters of the year was the earthquake in British India in which 15,000 people perished.

Four hundred lives were lost by the collapse of a new water reservoir in Madrid.

Flood caused by a cloudburst at Guanajuato, Mexico, drowned 600 people.

Explosion of the boilers of the gunboat Bennington in San Diego harbor caused the death of sixty-four of the ship's crew.

One hundred lives were lost by a mine cavein at Birmingham, Ala.

A powder factory explosion at Fairchance, Pa., killed nineteen employes.

Lake storms in September and November destroyed fifty-four lives and wrecked thirty-eight ships.

The channel steamer Hilda, bound from Southampton to Calais, was wrecked on the coast of France and 128 lives lost.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS YEAR

Progress and Prosperity in All Departments of Activity.

MULTITUDE OF NEW RECORD MADE

Unprecedented Volume of Business and Few Failures—New Guideposts in Crops, Trade, Industry and Speculation.

Bradstreets' review of the business year presents an epitome of progress and prosperity in agriculture, trade, industry and speculation. Expansion was the rule in every department of activity, with corresponding increase in returns and strikingly small failure damage, an unprecedented record considering the immense business done and the number engaged therein. The review continues:

The multitude of records broken shows that new guide posts have, indeed, been set up. The revival which began in the last half of 1904, far from spending its force, as was often predicted in the early part of 1905, grew as the year advanced. True, there was a period of hesitation—a breathing spell, as it were—in the spring of the year, but this was a pause to get a clearer view of ultimate crop yields and to enable the business world to take new bearings. Thenceforth the commercial, financial and industrial movement surged forward, weather drawbacks and disclosures of financial rottenness in high places failing to stem the upward trend. Disregard of precedents was, perhaps, best illustrated in the persistent advance of securities, despite high money prices, and the tendency to discount prosperity was irresistible.

The year's statistical story will be found in the following tables:

	Yields, 1905.	Change from 1904.	Past records.	Year.
Corn, bu.	2,707,993,540	I 9.7	2,666,440,273	1898
W. wheat, bu	428,462,834	I 28.9	458,834,591	1901
S. wheat, bu.	264,576,655	I 30.5	293,185,222	1899
Total wheat	692,979,489	I 25.3	748,460,218	1901
Oats, bu.	950,210,187	I 6.2	987,842,704	1902
Barley, bu.	136,951,029	D 2.2	139,748,958	1904
Rye, bu.	27,676,045	I 1.4	33,630,592	1902
Buckwh't bu	14,585,082	D 3.3	22,791,839	1896
T'l cereals	4,539,041,282	I 10.6	.....	.....
Flaxseed bu	38,477,753	I 21.3	29,285,000	1902
Potatoes, bu	290,741,394	D 21.6	332,836,000	1904
Hay, tons	60,331,611	D 2	66,829,612	1889
Tobacco, lbs.	633,083,719	D 4.0	818,953,373	1901
Rice, bu.	12,933,436	D 38.6	21,096,638	1904
Cotton, bales	10,560,000	D 22.8	13,600,000	1904
Sugar, tons	565,000	I 4.0	545,000	1904

	Values, 1905.	Change from 1904.	Past records.	Year.
Corn	$1,116,656,738	I 2.6	$1,087,441,440	1904
Wheat	518,072,727	I 1.5	513,472,711	1901
Oats	277,047,537	D .8	303,544,862	1902
Barley	58,047,166	D 6.1	61,898,634	1902
Rye	16,754,657	D 10.7	24,589,217	1891
Buckw't	8,565,499	D 8.2	22,791,839	1896
T'l cereals	1,992,184,324	I 1.4	1,961,579,445	1904
Potatoes	160,821,080	I 6.6	151,638,094	1903
Hay	515,959,784	D 2.4	570,882,872	1893
Tobacco	48,674,118	D 8.8	58,283,108	1901
Rice	12,285,834	D 12.1	13,891,523	1904
Cotton	550,000,000	D 12.4	628,191,359	1904
Dairy	865,000,000	I 8.8	611,000,000	1904
T'l value	3,944,925,140	D .1	3,950,830,303	1904

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY.

	Values, from 1905.	Change 1904.	Past records.	Year.
Bank clear.	$142,000,000	I 27	$118,000,000	1901
Im. mdse. est.	1,175,000	I 13	1,035,909	1904
Ex. mdse. est.	1,600,000	I 10	1,484,753	1903
T'l trade est.	2,775,000	I 11	2,478,284	1904
R's earn. 10 m.	1,417,596	I 7	1,317,195	1904
Cir. Dec. 1	2,662,134	I 3	*2,653,131	1905
Pig iron output	23,000	I 39	18,009	1903
Iron ore ship.	34,100	I 56	27,571	1902
Steel rail prod.	3,000	I 31	2,992	1903
Anth. coal out.	62,000	I 8	59,362	1903
Shoe ship. case	4,975	I 7	5,129	1903
Labor strikes	200	D 50	650	1903
Immi. total	1,000	I 40	959	1903

*November 1.

Note—Above figures under head, "Finance and Industry," should read billions and millions instead of millions and thousands.

Wheat Speculation.

An era of scarcity, high prices and predictions that the United States had ceased to figure as an exporter, came to an end with the next to record wheat crop of this year. The bulls, tempted by the strength of the cash demand, overstayed the market and suffered defeat in the early slump of March and the collapse of the May option in April. Cash wheat at Chicago touched $1.24, the highest point, in February, fell to 86½ cents in May, and receded further to 77⅞ cents in August on good crop reports. Small offerings of new wheat, large milling demand, reports of famine in Russia and later disorders at Russian ports induced a rise to 95 cents in September, but unexpectedly large Russian shipments caused renewed weakness. The year closes with cash wheat at 87@88 cents, against $1.18 at the opening. Corn was lowest in January—42 cents—and highest in May—64½ cents—but has not lost much strength since, despite the large crop. Oats were highest in July—34¼ cents—and lowest in September—25 cents. The coarse grains developed a good export demand, but wheat, which had almost disappeared from export trade last spring, and, to a less extent, flour, lagged behind. Russia, Canada and Argentina competing with America in foreign markets.

Crops and Foreign Trade.

Record corn and sugar and next to record wheat yields were features this year. Hay and oats yielded largely, while potatoes, barley, rice and cotton decreased heavily. Good farm product prices resulted in a money yield equal to the best ever before recorded, and with large exports of manufactures, notably iron and steel, lumber, cotton cloth and provisions, swelled export trade as a whole to $1,800,000,000, a sum 10 per cent over 1904 and 8 per cent above 1903, the record year. Imports, largely of manufacturers' materials, will aggregate about $1,175,000,000, or 13 per cent over the hitherto record year of 1904. A total trade of $2,775,000,000 is indicated, a gain of 12 per cent over 1904.

Financial Records Favorable.

Though expanded by active stock, wheat and cotton speculation, bank clearings reflect in the main immense growth in trade and industry. Monthly totals since October, 1904, have been in the tens of billions, successive high records being struck in March, November and December. Every month but May showed increases over the best previous totals. For ninety-four cities an aggregate of $142,000,000,000 is indicated, or 27 per cent over 1904 and 20 per cent over 1901, the best previous year. New York's total will be about $93,000,000,000, a gain of 17 per cent on 1901, while outside that city a gain of 14 per cent on last year and 28 per cent over 1901 is shown. Failures, fewer by 3 per cent than last year, are only 4 per cent more numerous than in 1892, despite the larger number in business and the immense increase in activity. Liabilities, though swelled by numerous financial failures, due, apparently, to unsound or worse banking methods, and not to weakness in the general situation, are 16 per cent less than in 1894, and smaller than in any year since 1892, which they exceed by 20 per cent. Stock sales aggregate 265,000,000 shares, a gain of 42 per cent on 1904, and about the same as in the record year of 1901, while bond transactions reach $1,020,000,000, par value, a decrease of 2 per cent from 1904, but a gain of 3.6 per cent over 1901. Stock and Cotton exchange memberships sell at record prices.

Labor and Industry.

Industry was unprecedentedly active, while labor, conservatively managed, was busily employed; strikes were few, and the number rendered idle was the smallest for three years. Pig iron production broke all records, with a total of 23,000,000 tons, a 39 per cent gain on 1904. Iron ore shipments aggregate 34,000,000 tons, a gain of 56 per cent on 1904 and 25 per cent over the 1902 record. Cotton and woolen goods manufacturing was active, despite very high prices of raw material. Eastern shoe shipments, even though prices of hides and leather were very high, aggregated 4,975,000 cases, a gain of 7 per cent on 1904, 3 per cent under the 1903 record. Anthracite coal shipments exceeded the 1904 record by 8 per cent, and bituminous coal, though dull midway in the year because of oil and gas competition, probably saw the largest output ever recorded, as did furnace coke. Copper production broke all records, and exports were close to the highest. Railway earnings, the largest on record by 3.5 per cent, increased over 1904 in every month save February, when adverse weather retarded operations. Expenses were heavy, but net earnings gained 10 per cent on the best previous record. Freight congestions testified to the absence of sufficient equipment and lack of terminal facilities, despite enormous buying and construction work. Increased dividends were paid by many roads, but unfortunate management resulted in several receiverships. Railway building has been larger than for some years past.

Looking Forward.

If satisfaction with the past and confidence in the future are at all reliable guides, 1906 is likely to equal, if, indeed, it does not surpass, the year drawing to a close. The volume of orders booked ahead exceeds any previous year in the country's history, and high prices as yet seem to exercise no effect upon consumptive demand. Iron and steel of all kinds are heavily sold ahead, as are also shoes, cotton and woolen goods, lumber, hardware and a myriad of other products. Wheat enters the winter in excellent condition, and with an enlarged area. Predictions as to 1906 building are even more sanguine than a year ago. In any discussion of general business prospects the sentimental effect of possible stock market unsettlements is not to be lost sight of. That barometer of future trade has so far risen triumphantly superior to insurance scandals, impending rate legislation, trust and rebate prosecutions, revelations of some dishonest banking methods, high money and the effect upon foreign markets of the Russian collapse. It is, however, still too early to judge of the effect upon our trade of events in that apparently disintegrating monarchy. It is a question whether our gains in grain exports will not much more than offset our losses in cotton. It is, perhaps, too early also to forecast the effects of the pushing to the front by labor organizations of the demand for union recognition in the coal and other trades. It would seem as if the pre-eminent necessity in 1906 should be conservatism, particularly in labor matters and in financial affairs generally.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

New York Clearing House Establishes New High Record in 1905.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The business of the past year in the New York clearing house established a new high record for bank clearings. The clearings were $93,822,060,201, the balances $3,963,546,049.

The total dealings on the New York Stock exchange, with today's dealings not included, were 211,859,860 listed shares of stocks and 48,860,457 shares of unlisted stocks; government bonds, $1,633,650,000; state and railroad bonds, $833,802,700; unlisted bonds, $180,958,200.

The sales of coffee on the New York Coffee exchange amounted to 21,242,250 bags, against 25,487,500 bags last year.

The year's business at the New York custom house for 1904, compared with 1905, was as follows:

Gold and silver coin and bullion imported in 1904, $14,638,800; in 1905, $23,176,623; exported in 1904, $141,443,556; in 1905, $89,568,112.

Merchandise imported in 1904, $630,461,151; in 1905, $709,129,349; exports (domestic) in 1904, $491,415,423; in 1905, $537,579,788; exports (foreign) in 1904, $13,334,789; in 1905, $13,319,169.

Duties collected on merchandise in 1904, $170,270,776; in 1905, $167,593,990.

Merchandise shipped to Porto Rico in 1904, $5,351,192; in 1905, $12,811,874.

Merchandise shipped to Hawaii in 1904, $163,313; in 1905, $265,840.

TAKAHASHI TALKS OF COREA

Japanese Financial Commissioner Says the Hermit Kingdom Will Not Be Absorbed.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—That Japan intends to develop Corea and dominate its foreign affairs, but does not intend to make that country a vassal or Japanese state, was a statement made today by Korekiyo Takahashi, the Japanese financial commissioner, who arrived here from Europe on his way to Tokio.

When Mr. Takahashi was asked whether Corea will be made to pay any part of Japan's debt, he said:

"No, we will develop Corea, but not tax it. The question of Japanese protectorate in Corea is misunderstood in this country. Corea is a weak nation, and needs protection. Japan has no intention of making it a vassal or a state of the nation. But it intends to dominate Corea's foreign relations to preserve the peace in the far east. So long as it is otherwise Corea is liable to become the prey of other nations. To prevent this Japan has taken on itself the work of looking after Corea, but in no wise is it intended to interfere with its internal affairs."

"Will your country sell Saghalien island to help pay off the debt?" was asked.

"Japan will not sell its possessions," he replied. "It is too valuable in coal, oil and mines, and Japan intends to develop the property."

Mr. Takahashi said he had been instrumental in floating loans for Japan amounting to $535,000,000, and that of that amount the United States has taken $190,000,000 in bonds.

UNITED IRISH MAKE STAND

Unionists Are to Be Given All Discomfort Possible by Home Rulers.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The "discomfiture of the unionists" is the keynote of a manifesto which the United Irish league of Great Britain is issuing today for the guidance of Irish voters in Great Britain as to their attitude at the forthcoming elections. The executive council of the United Irish league held a three hours' session in London this morning, under the presidency of T. P. O'Connor, M. P. John E. Redmond, who was among those present, drew up the manifesto, which declared that the first duty of the Irish voters in Great Britain is to "aid to the utmost in the discomfiture of the great coalition which has inflicted such immense injuries on their country."

Where labor candidates are sound on the home rule question the Irish are recommended to support them. Otherwise they should vote for the liberals. The followers of Lord Rosebery are excluded from the latter category and the manifesto promises special advice to voters in constituencies where there is a choice between a unionist and a Roseberyite.

The efforts to patch up the quarrel between Mr. Redmond and Timothy M. Healy have apparently failed, as it was announced today that the Irish party had decided to oppose Mr. Healy when he seeks re-election for North Louth.

ODD HAPPENINGS OF 1905

Play of Human Lights and Shadows in the Minor Events of the Year.

RIPPLES ON THE CURRENT OF LIFE

The Marvelous, the Laughable and the Pathetic Feature in the Procession of Days—An Interesting Record.

When the dying year was young a farm hand near St. Paul drank a small bottle of nitroglycerin on a wager. On the way home he was overcome by the cold, and when his friends tried to thaw him out he lost his winnings and everything else save two buttons.

Until the first frost there were to be seen on a tree near Kingston-on-Thames, England, several semi-roasted apples. An auto had caught fire beneath the branches and the flames had cooked the fruit while destroying the car.

Last February the herring came down Departure bay, B. C., in such numbers that their rush through the waters sounded like escaping steam. This lasted twenty-one hours, at the end of which time nearly 1,000 tons of fish were in and near the channel, dead—smothered by their own density.

Life's Little Ironies.

General Dokstouroff, running upstairs to thank the minister of war for ordering him to the front (he had begged to be allowed to die a soldier's death), was claimed by heart disease at the top step.

The only essay entered for the annual prize offered by the Parisian Academy of Moral and Political Sciences did not receive the award, as it was too illegible to be read.

Sir Alfred Harmsworth offered $50 reward for information which might lead to the arrest of a certain reckless motorist, who turned out to be Sir Alfred's brother.

Dying in poverty in a San Francisco hospital, Luscomb Soares received word that the British government had just allowed his claim of $5,000 for arriving from losses during the Boer war.

Told of the Gentler Sex.

In October Mrs. Ella Goltz of Portsmouth, O., swore out a warrant for a circus elephant, which had eaten her gold watch and smashed in a brand new Paris hat.

A Cologne dairymaid was arrested for bathing herself daily in the milk she later sold.

A negress, living near Atlanta, Ga., has to have her shoes made to order. Finished, they are twenty-three inches long and weigh eighteen pounds.

A June bride entered a grocery store at Fort Fairfield, Me., to buy "an empty barrel of flour that she might make a hen coop for her dog."

Stranger Than Fiction.

At the exact hour of the assassination of the Russian Grand Duke Sergius his goddaughter, in the Alexis palace, declares he opened the door of her room, covered with bleeding wounds, and exclaimed: "Look, young princess!"

Ember Mason, who lives near Independence City, Mo., has built his own coffin from a tree he planted when he first came to Jackson county seventy-two years ago; while an Irish merchant was buried in the spring, his requiem being sung from a phonograph record he himself had made just before death.

St Louis attorneys found in February a missing heiress to an estate through the continuous cries of a pet parrot of the deceased. "I want to see my Baltimore baby!" was the clue which led to success in the city named.

Our Four-Footed Friends.

During a Manchurian engagement a Japanese officer found a Peking spaniel wandering lost between the opposing lines. It came to whistle and was at once affectionate. Later, when the charge sounded, the dog started forth with his new friends, but, as it could not keep up with the rush, the Jap tucked it under his left arm, and so led his men to victory.

A cat belonging to the duchess of Beaufort, being taken to a country seat other than the one where it had been born, turned back "home" after two unhappy days, covering the 200 intervening miles in safety.

A veteran police horse (October 28) climbed the steps of a house on Forty-fourth street, New York, and thumped with his hoofs on the door, helping arouse the sleeping tenants of the smoke-filled rooms.

Some Weird Wills.

An Australian detective died in April, dividing a $35,000 property into six shares, seeming equable to him. These divisions were specified in writing, placed in sealed envelopes, the six heirs drawing them with no clew to the contents.

Baron Rothschild was named sole beneficiary under the will of a Nice miser, Abraham Fidler, who left him $550,000 on the principle that "money must seek money." The baron hunted up the relatives of the departed and gave each an equal share.

"This, the last will and testament of me, John Thomas," read a certain document in Montreal last July. "I give all my things to my relations to be divided among them the best way possible. N. B.—If anybody kicks up a row he isn't to have anything."

Red Tape and the Law.

In a law suit at Aberdeen, Wash., over a horse whose death the owner attributed to a man who had hired it, the court decided the animal had committed suicide.

Traced by an impression of his teeth in a half eaten apple, left in a house at Basle, Switzerland, a burglar has confessed and been sentenced.

In May the famous Stevens against Smith "cow case" was closed in Colorado, with a total of $2,500 attorneys' fees, plus court charges. The cow, worth only $30 in the first place, has been dead fifteen years.

By Way of Compensation.

Rudolph Maller, a New York civil engineer, was uncivil enough to hug Miss Gladys Chapman, overlooking the fact that he did not know the lady. The magistrate thought the embrace worth six months "on the island."

Because a revolver which he had purchased to kill himself missed fire, Paul Schlardum of San Bernardino brought suit against the hardware company for the price of the weapon.

Mrs. Lawson of Richmond, Va., owns a cow, and the cow owned a calf, but this last was drowned in a swamp. Thereupon the bereaved mother adopted a fawn, first rescuing it from a hound which had chased it into the pasture.

Just Love—That's All.

Three brothers were wedded to three sisters, and a sister of the brothers to a brother of the sisters, at Durren, England, last September. In each of the four cases bride and groom were of the same age, ranging from 19 to 28.

A couple were wedded in Hertzfeld, Switzerland, after a courtship of forty-five years, and the exchange of 3,000 love letters; while down in Texas a jilted swain has sued his once fair lady for $30,000, charging $5,000 to courtship expenses—at $7 a day for his time.

A young and pretty Bellevue nurse dropped her stethoscope out of the hospital window in May. It hit the shoulder of a masculine passerby. The two were married in June.

Freaks of Lightning Bolts.

Near a small town in Minnesota lightning struck an electric auto whose batteries had run out. The stroke recharged the batteries and the occupants of the machine ran it home.

A bolt struck the home of Kellar Creagen at Ringgold, Md., running around his straw hat to above his left ear, then down the side of his neck to his body, tearing the shirt collar, then down his right leg, tearing the shoe in half and splitting the great toe. His skin was scorched, but his hair was not even singed.

The chatelaine of the castle of Benatonnaire, France, was sitting in a chair when struck by a bolt. She was herself uninjured, but on the back of her dress was found a perfect picture of the chair, to its minutest detail.

What's in a Name?

To commemorate the year's yellow fever epidemic a New Orleans couple named their baby Stegomya Faciata Wilson.

"Old Tabby," chief of a tribe of Utah Indians, died in October of a cataleptic fit.

"Damsite" is to be the name of one of Texas' new postoffices. There are irrigation works there.

At a wedding in Poplar, Eng., the bride's name was Wedlock and the bridegroom's Marriage.

Poultry in Odd Roles.

A brown African goose in North Attleboro, Mass., amazed its owner by producing an egg measuring eleven and seven-eighths inches in circumference, while a hen at Cleverton, Eng., was so extravagant as to include three yolks in one shell.

It was fortunate for Mamie Gaulson of Fort Dodge, Ia., that she had chicken for dinner on January 21, for in the gizzard of the fowl she found a necklace she had lost two years before.

Mrs. Lucy Seymour of Great Barrington, Mass., has a hen which lays eggs each bearing the initial M (or W) on the shell. Every time this fowl lays an egg she pecks on the kitchen window till her mistress gathers in the acquisition.

Tragedies in Miniature.

"I might as well be dead as alive. I've nothing to live for." As a tramp on the road near Lehigh, England, said this, he was struck by lightning, dying instantly.

During the singing of a pathetic song, picturing "the old home" scenes, a young man in a Chicago theater shot himself. (February.)

Sent to bed in punishment for a little naughtiness, which, it transpired later, he did not commit, Harry Ambler, a 14-year-old London boy, hanged himself.

At Stoke-on-Trent, England, in September, a Mr. Latham assisted in caring for a boy killed by a dray. The face was bruised beyond recognition, but a more thorough examination of the body showed the rescuer he had been working over his own son.

Kansasesque.

A Topeka girl, Mabel Hudson, saved her father's wheat crop from a threatening rain by giving hugs and kisses as prizes to the laborers who shocked the most grain.

Kansas has prohibited the printing of menu cards in any language save English.

The worst hail storm in the history of the state visited the eastern counties last July. The stones, flat in shape, were many of them twelve inches across. Hogs were killed and horses and cows, blinded by the missiles, stampeded into the wire fencing and were badly cut up.

Some Oddities in Divorce.

Abraham Leakin, a New York tailor, brought action in July for divorce from his wife, Dvosi, alleging that "she" is a man. They had been married eleven years.

A Long Island man, whose wife had decided to establish residence in Sioux Falls, that she might divorce him, traveled west with her, as she was unaccustomed to going about alone—and didn't like to, anyway.

A Manchester, England, mechanic applied for separation from his wife on the ground of her "goodness." "She puts in so much time prayin' for me," said he, "that she has no time for housework, an' I have to do the cookin'."

About the Old Folks.

James Barnes, aged 85, completed in September the walk from New York to Des Moines, Ia., while in that same month E. B. Barrett, 79, of Wichita, Kan., climbed Pike's Peak, making the round trip in twenty-six hours.

The roster of the Mississippi Agricultural college bears the name of William Stanifer, who, at 70, has started his collegiate education.

Logan township, Michigan, has produced the prize bridegroom in George Sinton, who, at 98, and with six grandchildren, has just wedded a Miss Maud Love, aged 34.

Just Happened by Chance.

A house in Saybrook, Conn., was set on fire in April by the rays of sunlight focused on a curtain by a goldfish globe.

A Canadian farmer, hurling a sledge hammer at a fleeing fox in June, unearthed a valuable silver and nickel mine.

Sam White of Riverside, Cal., became the father of a boy on Washington's birthday. Of his nine other sons one was born on February 29, two on April Fool's day, one on Inauguration day, one on "Groundhog's day" (February 2), and one on Thanksgiving.

Babies and Funerals.

Marie von Mater, a 5-year-old New Yorker, lost a doll in Central park, advertised for it, and received seven dolls in answer.

In February, in accordance with her will, Mrs. Constance Miller of New Rochelle, N. Y., was cremated, her ashes placed in a work basket, of which she had been fond, and then buried in her own yard.

Babies arrived last Good Friday in the homes of twin sisters, living within a block of each other on Colgan street, Louisville. There was but fifty-six minutes' difference in the time of the births.

At his last request a Welchman, who died in February, was buried in his Sunday clothes, his sealskin cap on his head, his walking stick by his side, his pipe in his fingers, and plenty of tobacco in his pouch.—Chicago Tribune.

ARRANGEMENT FOR SEPARATION

Agreement by Which Princess Louise and Prince Philip Are to Be Divorced.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—The conditions of the settlement of the long-drawn-out quarrel between the Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, eldest daughter of King Leopold of Belgium, and her husband, Prince Phillippe of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, are as follows: The prince pays her as alimony $221,000 annually and also the sum of $1,000,000 by installments, while King Leopold guarantees his daughter an annuity of $10,000. The princess undertakes to hand over to the prince's lawyer all the documents and photographs intended to be used as evidence, the divulgation of which will annul the arrangement. The two parties agree to accept a decision of the court of Gotha granting them a divorce on the ground of incompatibility of temper, and on that ground alone.

Chicago Publisher Expands.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—The Chicago Evening Post will say today that Alexander A. McCormick, editor and publisher of the Evening Post, has bought an interest in the Star league, which publishes the Indianapolis Star, the Terre Haute Star and the Muncie Star, and he will immediately become the editor and publisher of those papers, succeeding John C. Shaffer as president of the company.

CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Jobbers Are Cleaning House for the New Year.

BUSINESS HAS BEEN LARGEST IN HISTORY

General Estimate Places Year's Increase in Omaha's Jobbing Trade at Twenty-Five Per Cent—Present Market Quiet.

Jobbers unanimously agree that the volume of business for the year which has just closed has been the largest in the history of the trade. Most of them decline to make a definite statement of the percentage of increase in their own business, but it is generally estimated by them that the general increase is at least 25