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CURRENT TOPICS.

In Liverpool the population is 63,823 to the square mile.

The United States imports a million lobsters a year.

Detached bits of human skin live from two to ten days.

An elevated railroad is to connect St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Hot cakes and cider are the usual fare at Christmas eve in Devonshire.

The average age of the men in the British navy is between 26 and 27 years.

The sale of postage stamps in the United Kingdom amounts to 377,500,000 yearly.

Samuel Smiles, the author, has just celebrated his 90th birthday. He is still in fair health.

An Englishman has invented a brick-laying machine which lays and mortars the bricks.

Brussels has a church clock wound by atmospheric expansion induced by the heat of the sun.

In Finland reindeer are worth only about \$7.50 a head. A reindeer can travel about 130 miles a day.

If the earth were equally divided among its inhabitants each person's share would be about 23 1/2 acres.

For the first time since the Reformation a peal of bells was rung in a Catholic church in Londonderry last Christmas day.

Coffee has been cultivated in Venezuela only since 1879, and yet it is now that much-talked-of country's chief commercial product.

John S. Bilby, of Mitman, Mo., is said to be the largest individual landowner in the United States. He owns 180,000 acres located in seven states.

Rev. Peter H. Goldsmith has just been installed pastor of the old First church of Salem, Mass., the first Congregational church organized in the new world.

There is but one dentist in Madagascar and he is a native. The United States consul at Tamatave says there is a good opening there for an American dentist.

Every native and naturalized citizen in Denmark over 60 years old and unable to support himself or family receives a pension varying from \$2.50 to \$4.50 per month.

Australia could do with 300,000 British wives. Canada with 50,000 and the Cape with 20,000. There are said to be nearly 1,000,000 too many women in the British Isles.

Miss Kate Grindrod, a full-blooded Wyandotte Indian, who was educated at the Carlisle Indian school, is one of the most successful professional nurses in Philadelphia.

Jacob Judy, of Bloomington, Ill., enjoys the distinction of having voted for 20 presidents of the United States. His first vote was cast for John Quincy Adams, in 1824. He is 99 years old.

M. Galacchini discovered a comet a few nights since from the observatory of Nice, France. It is on a straight line between the stars Sirius and Procyon, near the constellation of Orion.

Colorado's building at the World's Fair will undoubtedly be made a permanent structure, and will remain as a monument to the enterprise as well as the resources of the centennial state.

Dr. Gustav A. Andreen, president of Augustana college, at Rock Island, Ill., has sailed for Sweden, where he goes to accept a \$29,000 gift from Swedish educators and business men to Augustana college.

Silk is obtained from the shell fish known as the pinna, which is found in the Mediterranean. This shell fish has the power of spinning a viscid silk which in Sicily is made into a regular and very handsome fabric.

The highest three mountains in the United States, not including Alaska, are Mt. Whitney, California, 14,998 feet; Blanca Peak, Colorado, 14,464 feet; and Cerro Blanco, New Mexico, 14,269 feet. It is claimed that Mt. Ranier, Washington, is 14,500 feet high.

Dr. Louriaux, a Brussels physician, announces the success of his serum for the cure of whooping cough. The serum is injected under the skin, on the abdomen, and a cure is performed in ten days, whereas the disease runs six to eight weeks.

Taxes are paid on 25,000 dogs in Berlin. In addition to this number there are 2,163 watchdogs, 221 dogs belonging to blind and deaf people, 2,652 dogs used for drawing small carts and 118 belonging to the kaiser or to members of foreign embassies.

THE PHILIPPINE SITUATION.

Fears of the Anti-Imperialists Have Proven to Be Altogether Groundless.

A year or two ago one of the foremost arguments of the less irrational "anti-imperialists" against the government's Philippine policy was that the acquisition and retention of those islands was certain to result in an orgy of spoils.

Well, the experiment has been made, and the results are beginning to be recognized, says the New York Times. Even our "anti-imperialist" friends had generally to admit that the members of the governing commission in the Philippines were well chosen and were free from the reproach of "carpetbagging."

"In the Philippines, under the auspices of a friendly administration, the system has been thoroughly established, and is now in a most satisfactory working order. . . . The fact that President Roosevelt, in dealing with the appointments in the Philippines, has been guided by the principles of action laid down in his first annual message."

That, then, is the result of the experiment. The administration has fulfilled its pledges and realized its ideal. Every foreboding of the opposition has come to naught. According to the expert testimony of the civil service reformers themselves the civil service in the Philippines has been established upon the merit system. There is no "scalawag government," no "carpet-bag rule."

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Melvin E. Ingalls suggests a lunacy commission to pass upon the mental condition of the democratic party. Mr. Ingalls has been a democrat long enough to be competent to judge whether there is anything the matter with the party.

There isn't an issue on which there is the least possibility of the democratic party uniting that has not been rejected by the people with indignation and self-respecting emphasis. By all means let the party unload its Jonahs. That will lighten the ship, but the vessel will be just as rudderless as it was before.

Some of the democratic papers are saying that the Ohio gubernatorial situation is getting out of Senator Hanna's hands. They are mistaken. It is the republican state convention, which will not meet for several months yet, which is to nominate the candidate for governor, but Mr. Hanna could at this moment make a pretty good guess as to who that candidate would be.

TARIFF REVISION.

It is Reasonable That the Manufacturer Should Look After His Own Interests.

In the interesting interview with which Representative Richardson of Tennessee favored the Star the other day, appeared this paragraph:

"You will never have tariff reform to suit the people, so long as the manufacturer virtually sits in committee and writes the schedule. The way the protectionists usually reform the tariff is to stick on a few points more of duty. Then, when there is a clamor for a change they say, 'Oh, leave the revision of the tariff in the hands of its friends.'"

Mr. Richardson, as an experienced legislator, understands that whenever congress undertakes a revision of the tariff the manufacturer presents himself in Washington, and is accorded a most respectful hearing, says the Washington Star. Democrats and republicans alike are very glad to see him. He has a message for them, and an important one. They are considering a subject with which he is familiar and in which he is very much interested.

This ought to be clearly understood. And in adopting this course the manufacturer is not only within his rights as a citizen, but is simply obeying the customs of business. He wants all the favor from congress he can get, and he wants it as long as possible. He does not hesitate to apply to either party for it. The sounding declamation of the stump does not materially influence him. The fluent gentleman who in the heat of a campaign challenges him to a struggle to the death is rarely ever set to frame a tariff bill; but when he is a very different spirit possesses him from that which inspired his utterances while he was appealing for votes.

But of course it is one thing to hear a manufacturer upon a matter of concern to himself, and another thing to vote in his interests as against the public interests. Congress is charged with the duty of doing the greatest good to the greatest number; and that duty presses heavily now in the matter of equalizing the terms of the Dingley law to meet the prosperous conditions which have followed its enactment.

VERY LOW CONDITION.

The Pulse of the Democracy is Fluttering in a Hopeless Way.

A good many governors have been and will be inaugurated this month, as is always the case with January in odd-numbered years. The period for which these executives will serve vary from one to four years. The fact that is most impressive in connection with these inaugurations is the remarkable predominance of republicans among the newly-chosen governors, says the Troy Times.

"It will be noticed that this year the number of democratic governors inaugurated in northern states is very small. The list comprises only three, in fact. The governor of Rhode Island, inaugurated this week, is a democrat, and the governors of Nevada and Oregon, to be inaugurated in a few days, are also democrats. But the governors of Oregon and Rhode Island were elected by what are known in politics as 'flukes,' and are only accidental officials. Both of them have republican legislatures to deal with. This reduces the purely democratic states in the north to Nevada. It is the only northern state with both a democratic legislature and a democratic governor."

It is doubtful if this situation can be paralleled in the last 25 years. Four northern states will have democratic governors this year, but one of them was elected in Montana in 1900 for a four years' term. He would have been defeated had he ran last November. The democratic party has also lost two governorships in the south, those of Delaware and West Virginia. Estimated by the number of governors of states it has the democratic party was probably never weaker. It has 18 governors to the republicans' 27."

Perhaps nothing could more convincingly show the popular distrust of the democratic party than this exhibit of state weakness. There have been times during the past 30 or 40 years when the democrats were in power in a large number if not a majority of the states, even when the republicans controlled the administration at Washington. But repudiation of democratic national politics has extended to the states, and the party has lost its grip everywhere except in the south, where it holds on by a resort to means which are as notorious as they are inexcusable.

Great Britain under the most rigid protection developed her industries to the point where she thought she could go it alone and with her powerful navy and vast merchant marine do most of the manufacturing, selling and transportation for the world. But other countries, our own included, using protection effectively, have succeeded in making headway against her which free trade left her powerless to oppose.

One result is the immense export trade of the United States, and a second one is threatened control of the London money market by Americans who made their money under the conditions generated by protection. — Troy Times.

AN AWFUL WRECK.

Twenty Lives Lost by Collision on New Jersey Central.

Royal Blue Express Crashes Into a Local Train Near Westfield, N. J. — Three Shattered Coaches — Take Fire — Passengers Burned to Cinders.

New York, Jan. 28.—One of the most appalling railroad wrecks that has occurred in the vicinity of New York for many years, the estimated loss of life ranging from 12 to 30 persons, took place last night at Graceland, on the Central railway of New Jersey, near Westfield, N. J., when the Royal Blue Line express plowed at top speed into the rear of a local train.

Immediately after the crash three of the shattered cars of the local train took fire, rendering impossible the rescue of many of the wounded, who were pinned fast in the wreck. Many bodies are believed to have been consumed.

On board the flyer the passengers, although badly shaken up, escaped uninjured, except for trifling bruises.

The train left New York at 5:45 and runs express to Bound Brook, making stops at Elizabeth, Westfield and Plainfield. Beyond Bound Brook it runs as a local. The Royal Blue train left 15 minutes later, but travels at a higher speed and makes no stop except Elizabeth and is scheduled to overtake the slower train just beyond Graceland, where the latter switches from track No. 3 onto track No. 4 to permit the Royal Blue to pass.

Last evening a freight train was blocked on track No. 4 and the local received orders to proceed on the express track to Dunellen and there take the outside or No. 4 track. Shortly after receiving orders the train had to stop for a hot box, which delayed her so that when she got under way again she was due at Dunellen. She had just started and was going slowly when the Royal Blue, traveling apparently at full speed, which at that point usually approximates 65 miles an hour, crashed into the rear end.

The heavy engine of the Royal Blue tore its way into the rear car and at the same time drove the forward end of that car into the rear end of the car ahead, which in turn was driven into the third car, and this in turn was driven into the fourth car from the rear. The fourth car was only partly wrecked, but the last three were torn to pieces.

The engine of the Royal Blue left the rails and turned over on her side, the engineer and fireman sticking to their posts and going down in the wreck. They are now in the Muhlenberg hospital at Plainfield.

The engine and the three worst wrecked cars were piled into an awful heap, containing at least 100 dead and injured. From the mass came fearful cries for aid. A minute later the wreck caught fire from the firebox of the locomotive. The screams of the injured in the heap were intensified as they found themselves hemmed in by the flames.

The passengers in the two forward cars of the first train and all the men from the express and every one in the neighborhood started at once to get out the injured before the flames could reach them. At times while tolling in the wreckage the flames reached the rescuers and their clothing took fire, but they worked on though in constant danger of being killed themselves.

The firemen from Westfield were summoned by telephone, but arrived too late to save many lives. Doctors were called for from Elizabeth, Westfield and Plainfield and there were a score on hand.

The firemen after a time mastered the flames. Then the wreckage was attacked again and the work of recovering the bodies was begun. Out of the first car eight bodies were taken. The sight while the wreck was burning was horrifying. Men could be seen in the wreckage pinned fast amid the timbers of the cars and struggling to be free while the flames roared around them. The rescuers were helpless to aid them, as they already had been driven from the wreck by the flames.

New York, Jan. 29.—The total loss of life by Tuesday night's fearful collision on the Central Railroad of New Jersey at Graceland, N. J., is up to last night 20. In addition to this, Engineer Davis and Fireman McCarthy, of the Philadelphia & Reading express who are in the hospital at Plainfield, may die at any moment and it is believed that several of the injured passengers cannot recover. The number of those known to be injured is upward of 50, of whom 13 remain in the hospital.

The blame for the disaster is placed by the officials on engineer Davis, who, according to a policeman who took him from the shattered cab of his engine, admitted that he had seen the red and green danger lights displayed but, expecting to see them suddenly change to white, rushed on until it was too late to check speed before he plunged into the rear of the train ahead. No statement has been obtained from Davis in the hospital, but in intervals of semi-consciousness and delirium he moans "I saw nothing."

A Terrible Explosion.

Seranton, Pa., Jan. 28.—Thirteen men were being taken to their work in the Bellevue mine of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Co. on an electric engine yesterday. They had a keg of powder with them. A spark from the naked lamp of one of the men set off the powder and a terrific explosion followed, blowing the men in all directions. William Hughes was terribly burned about the face, hands and feet and will die; Walter J. Needham, John Mangin and Edward Miller were also badly injured, but will recover.

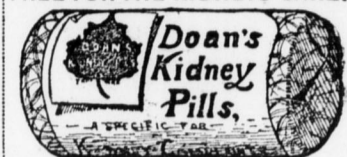
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MICE IN A HAT. Woman's Headgear Infested with the Rodents and She Causes a Panic on a Street Car. Sergeant Brown, of the Fourth police precinct, was the only male passenger in a Clinton avenue trolley car in Newark the other morning when the dozen women in it were frightened by a nest of mice which one of their number had unsuspectingly brought in.

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