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CURRENT TOPICS.

The United States light-house service costs \$4,500,000 a year. Seven million persons in India are to be vaccinated with plague serum.

Spain exports 22,800 tons of cork annually, valued at \$6,000,000.

There are no poorhouses in Serbia. Even the poorest people own property.

Albinos are found among all races of mankind and among animals and plants.

Readings from the Bible are now being given in Berlin by professional reciters.

The ministry is the only one of the learned professions that is not now overcrowded.

Wages paid street car men in the United States annually amount to more than \$58,000,000.

For more than 160 years the males of the royal family of Great Britain have been Freemasons.

Mrs. E. P. Tilton and Miss Emeline Perrin, of Aldora, Ia., twins, recently celebrated their 92d birthday.

J. W. Ryder, of Davenport, England, 94 years of age, asserts that he saw Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815 at Plymouth.

The new British Blue Book gives the average weekly wages of 15 skilled trades at \$10.50 in London and \$18.75 in New York.

Mme. Patti has bequeathed her larynx (when she shall have done with it), to the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

A. B. Seizer, of San Francisco, has brought suit for divorce against his wife, because the spirits told him she no longer loved him.

Gen. A. W. Greely, United States army, chief signal officer, is endeavoring to have a cable established from Sitka, Alaska, to Valdez.

Prince Khilkoff, the czar's minister of railroads, looks more like an American than a Russian. He has the true Yankee energy and push.

An economic census of the town of York, Eng., showed that 23,000 out of the 70,000 inhabitants live habitually below the starvation line.

The \$2,142,207 worth of platinum extracted in the Gortalogat ski district of Russia last year is practically the world's supply of that metal.

Mrs. W. C. Endicott, widow of ex-Secretary of War Endicott and mother-in-law of Joseph Chamberlain, is home from a long stay in England.

The London county council now makes \$69,000 a year from tramways. Leeds corporation secures from a similar source an income of \$21,000.

Sir Edward Frey, the famous English geologist, declared that 450,000,000 years must have elapsed since the existence of life on the globe.

Prof. Charles M. Bristol, of the College of New York university, has returned from the Bermudas with a fine collection of beautiful tropical fishes.

An organized effort is being made in British Guiana to re-establish the cotton industry which flourished in the colony during the days of slave labor.

The new Austro-Russian program of reforms in Macedonia has been unfavorably received by some of the other powers, and is generally considered unworkable.

A committee has now been formed in Paris to erect a public monument to the memory of the carrier pigeons that rendered such signal services during the siege of Paris.

Hiram S. Cronk, only surviving pensioner of the war of 1812, was born at Frankfort, Herkimer county, N. Y., April 19, 1800, and is, therefore, 103 years and 6 months old.

The oldest ship in the world, the mail schooner Vigilant, running into St. Croix, F. W. I., although now under the French flag, was built of Essex oak, at Essex, Mass., in 1802.

A VOLUNTARY HANDICAP.



ST. JAMES GAZETTE. UNCLE SAM—Queer Idea That of Our Friend Mr. Bull's—Entering a Foot Race in a Sack, Eh? GERMANY—Yes, His Friends Persuaded Him He'd Stand a Better Chance!

STABILITY INSURED.

The Gold Standard Lends Impetus to Business in All Countries.

The report of the commission on international exchange, which has just been submitted to the state department at Washington, is an important document as showing the steady drift of the world to the gold standard and the proved necessity of adherence to that standard as an essential to commercial stability.

The report of the commission alludes at some length to the embarrassments suffered by the business men in silver standard countries, and says: "The fact that the importing merchants of such silver-using countries cannot reckon upon the cost in their own local currencies of the remittances in gold which they must use in making settlements for purchases made in gold standard countries has been slowly but surely producing domestic commercial paralysis, checking foreign investments for the development of public and private enterprises and hampering the importation of the products of the labor of the gold standard countries."

The commission consists of H. H. Hanna, of Indianapolis, who has long been identified with sound currency movements in this country; Charles A. Conant, formerly a prominent newspaper correspondent at Washington and now member of a leading trust company in New York, and Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks, of Cornell university, a high authority in economic and financial matters. This commission was accompanied by one representing Mexico, and the two visited all the leading capitals of the old world, and found general approval of the idea of a definite ratio as between gold and silver for the silver-using countries. The result is thus fairly summed up:

"The representatives of all the powers consulted accepted in a general way as desirable and practicable the suggestion made by the commission of the United States. The plan proposed is similar to the one recently adopted for the Philippines and which has been in use in the Dutch East Indies for 28 years.

"Upon the subject of the introduction of a uniform gold standard system into China there was unanimous agreement that such a system would be desirable. Upon the question, however, whether the gold standard should be established at the beginning or should come after the introduction of a uniform national currency upon the silver basis there was some difference of opinion.

"Upon the subject of adopting the relatively uniform ratio of about 22 to 1 in the currency systems to be established in the orient by those countries and dependencies which are considering a change in their existing systems there was agreement in all countries except Russia.

Russia did not object to the ratio. But it questioned the expediency of a uniform arrangement, and deemed it best that each country should determine its own ratio according to its monetary needs and economic conditions.

The report shows the advantages that would follow the adoption of a common ratio of exchange for silver-using countries, among which would be increased importations of American and other goods into China, the influx of foreign capital into the silver countries in the form of investment in productive enterprises, and closer trade relations, to the profit of all concerned, between countries in which the fluctuation of silver now creates serious barriers to commercial intercourse. The facts are of the greatest interest as showing the necessity of a stable medium of exchange, and prove anew the truth that the progressive nations of the earth recognize the gold standard as the only safe one.

DEFEAT OF TOM JOHNSON.

Crushing Rebuke Administered by Tens of Thousands of His Own Party.

While the republicans gained a great victory in Ohio and are justly entitled to boast thereof, it is to be remarked that they owe the greater part of their vast pluralities to democrats, says the Chicago Chronicle (Dem.). The results in Ohio as well as in some other places show that democrats are doing a good deal of independent and intelligent voting.

Democrats might have been defeated in any case in Ohio this year, but the crushing rebuke administered to Tom Johnson could not have been brought about except with the assistance of tens of thousands of democratic votes. Felicitations therefore should be extended to the formidable body of good citizens who laid aside partisanship while they performed a genuine public service.

Tom Johnson's election in Ohio would have been the signal for a radical movement upon the next democratic convention in comparison with which the one which led to Mr. Bryan's elevation would have appeared insignificant. He is more different kinds of a radical and a demagogue than any other man of equal prominence in the United States. Nothing was required to set all the revolutionists, socialists and cranks in America agog with a fanatical purpose to see the sadly demoralized democratic organization in his interest put a triumph of some sort that could be urged upon expediency men in the democratic party as proof that he would be elected to the presidency if made the regular nominee.

From this uproar of demagogy, folly, disgrace and disaster the thousands of stanch Ohio democrats who assisted in the defeat of Mr. Johnson have delivered the party. His political career is probably ended. It has been marked with an extraordinary amount of conceit, an unflinching hostility to many democrats and democratic principles and a demagoguery which has no parallel in the political history of the republic.

One of the richest men in the world, Tom Johnson has made his little mark upon politics as an implacable foe of rich men. A democrat of principle and character who chanced to be a man of position or wealth was more obnoxious to him than any ordinary republican, and all the socialists, visionaries, malcontents and revolutionists of whatever origin were readily taken to his arms.

In defeating him in such a manner as to make sure that he will stay defeated the conservative democrats of Ohio have saved their party and country from a more pestiferous infliction than Mr. Bryan ever was and have done much to compel reason and circumspection on the part of democratic leaders next year.

In the face of such an impressive reassertion of democratic antipathy to mere demagogues and radicals it is hardly possible that further adventures in that direction will be undertaken very soon.

PRESS COMMENTS.

Some of Tom Johnson's newspaper organs are declaring that the plutocrats beat him. Tom is a plute himself when he is at home.—Chicago Chronicle (Dem.).

As a candidate for the democratic nomination for president, Senator Gorman is willing to concede that Mr. Roosevelt has made some serious mistakes.—Detroit Free Press (Dem.).

Mr. Bryan will probably not have to take many more long journeys to reach the enemy's country, as it shows a decided inclination to settle in his neighborhood.—Indianapolis News (Ind.).

Hon. Albert B. Cummins, governor of Iowa, deserves mention here because while his reelection is "conceded," at least by telegraph, the "Iowa idea," which he has been so proud of, has been frequently kicked in the head by republican speakers in Iowa. Mr. Cummins is active, but old hands like Mr. Allison have not lost their grip.—N. Y. Sun.

The democrats of Pennsylvania are still seeing lessons in the recent election. They see lessons every year, but never anything else. As long as the republicans get the victories the opposition is welcome to the lessons; it needs 'em.—Philadelphia Press.

The farce is over; the curtain has been rung down; Ohio has laughed Tom Johnson off the stage of political life, leaving only those who took him seriously to feel aggrieved. Circus, fakir and similar methods dear to the Johnson heart have no place in the future in Ohio politics.—Cincinnati Times-Star (Rep.).

NEW CANAL TREATY

Was Signed in Washington by Minister from Panama.

Secretary Hay Also Signed the Document—It Provides for a Perpetual Lease of the Right of Way of the Canal Strip to the United States.

Panama, Nov. 18.—Tuesday morning the United States flagship Marblehead hoisted the flag of the republic of Panama and saluted it with 21 guns. The Tres Noviembre, a gunboat of Panama, displaying the American flag, answered the salute. The shore batteries also fired a salute of 21 guns, which the Marblehead answered.

Washington, Nov. 19.—The Hay-Bunau-Varilla isthmian canal treaty was signed last evening at the residence of Secretary Hay by the secretary and Philippe Bunau-Varilla, the minister from Panama.

The treaty in its text cannot be made public at this moment for two reasons. First, because of the unwritten law which obliges the state department to await the pleasure of the senate in the matter of publicity, and second because the president has not yet determined when the convention shall be admitted to the senate for ratification. His present purpose is to withhold it until there is reasonable assurance that its consideration will not obstruct any of the legislation for which the present special session of congress has been called.

Instead of the lease for a fixed period of the canal strip, this new treaty provides for a perpetual lease of the right of way to the United States. And instead of a complicated provision for courts of mixed composition—half American and half Colombian—to administer justice over the canal strip, the new treaty permits the United States government to exercise the most complete jurisdiction thereupon. The United States may fortify the line and the terminals and it may police it with troops.

Then the two terminal cities of Panama and Colon pass completely under United States jurisdiction, which incidentally involves the establishment of a new capital for the republic of Panama outside of the canal strip. The money consideration is understood to be the same, only Panama instead of Colombia is to receive the \$10,000,000. The canal is to be neutral and open to all nations on even terms. These are understood to be the terms of the new treaty, which is much simpler in form than the failed Hay-Herran treaty and has been specially drawn to meet objections urged against the latter.

It is stated that the Panama commission, which arrived here last night, has been empowered to ratify the treaty and this action may occur within the next 48 hours.

The state department late yesterday afternoon received advices that the departments of Cauca and Antioquia, of Colombia, are seeking to separate from that government and are soliciting admission into the Panama republic.

No surprise is expressed here over the report that these departments are making an effort to align themselves with the republic of Panama. The two departments named and also that of Bolivar are the most prosperous in the whole Colombian territory. They contribute the greater portion of the revenues for the federal treasury, that of Antioquia alone paying about one-third of the entire amount. The Antioquians are known as the Yankees of Colombia and are progressive and business-like people. For a long time there has been discontent among the people of these departments over the management of affairs by the politicians at Bogota, by whom they say their rights have been disregarded.

The following cablegram was received at the state department from Consul General Gudger, at Panama, dated yesterday: "There is a good deal of excitement in Buena Ventura and commencing against foreigners. The Colombian government is said to be considering a land invasion of the isthmus."

Admiral Glass is expected to send a ship to Buena Ventura if in his judgment the situation warrants it, and he will be communicated with to that effect.

The situation at Bogota has assumed a critical phase as far as relations between the United States and Colombia are concerned. Minister Beupre on the 16th inst. was pressed very strongly by the Colombian government to know whether the United States intended to recognize the new republic of Panama. It is understood that the request was in such shape as to constitute a menace in the event that the recognition had been extended.

Mr. Beupre was instructed by this government to inform the Colombian government that such recognition had been extended to the new republic of Panama by the United States. He also was instructed to tender to the Colombian government the good offices of the United States to effect a settlement of the difficulties between Colombia and Panama. The issue is awaited with some anxiety here.

Under the Priest's Ban. Tarrytown, N. Y., Nov. 19.—Rev. T. J. Early, rector of the Catholic church of Irving, has forbidden the children of Catholic parents in his parish to attend the sewing school which for years has been maintained by Miss Helen M. Gould. About 300 children attend the school.

Clark Will Challenge. Glasgow, Nov. 18.—While it is impossible to secure a direct statement as to the identity of the Clyde yachtman who proposes to challenge for the America's cup in 1904, it may be accepted as practically certain that Kenneth M. Clark will challenge, and that George L. Watson will design the yacht on condition that Mr. Clark be allowed to challenge under the British racing rule or the present New York Yacht club rule. Mr. Clark has large business interests on both sides of the Atlantic. The family has led Scottish yachting for a quarter of a century.

THE CHICAGO STRIKE.

Efforts to Secure Arbitration Unsuccessful—Unions Threaten to Tie Up All Street Railroads in the City.

Chicago, Nov. 19.—It was decided last night by the Chicago City Railway Co. to start cars today on the Halsted street line. This will make the fourth line in operation, the cars having been successfully run on the Wentworth avenue, Cottage Grove avenue and Indiana avenue lines. The Halsted street cars run through a district where the chances for trouble are many and if this line can be successfully operated, the company will feel confident of being able to resume business in a very short time, even though the attempts by the mayor to secure arbitration prove to be protracted.

Yesterday was the most quiet of the strike. Cars came and went on Wentworth avenue, Cottage Grove avenue and Indiana avenue with very little trouble. All of them were under the protection of the police and they carried very few passengers, but they were not interfered with in any serious manner. The weather probably had some influence in bringing about these conditions, for the temperature was low and a sharp biting wind blew all day long.

While it was quiet outdoors, around the mayor's office it was exceedingly busy. The council committee appointed Monday night with the object of securing arbitration if possible, was in session the greater part of the day and evening. It met the officials of the company and the representatives of the union and induced both sides to agree to outline their opinion of the scope arbitration should have. A committee representing all the unions existing among the city transportation companies called upon the mayor and while making no direct threats, allowed it to be understood by inference that if arbitration was not promptly secured for the employees of the City Railway Co., a general strike would follow on all lines in the city.

At 8:30 o'clock last night Col. Bliss, representing the street car company, called on the mayor and the council committee with a statement of what the company would and would not submit to arbitration. This meeting lasted until late at night.

"The prospects for a speedy settlement of the strike of the employees of the Chicago City Railway Co. are not as hopeful as they were yesterday." This statement was made by Mayor Harrison last night after a day of conference between the city council peace commission, delegates from the strikers' union, and representatives of the Chicago City Railway Co.

"Whether the difficulty will finally be adjusted by arbitration I am unable to say," continued the mayor. "Every effort possible was made today to have both sides to the controversy adopt this means of settlement, but without satisfactory result."

The Teamsters' union took action last night that may result in one of the most serious labor situations ever seen in this city. At a meeting of the organization it was decided to order all members of the Teamsters' union to refuse to deliver any articles to the Chicago City Railway Co. during the present strike. It was also decided that if any of the teamsters were discharged by the employers for refusing to deliver goods to the railway company, a general strike would at once be ordered against the Chicago Employers' association.

The gravity of a general strike of the teamsters can be appreciated when it is stated that it would for a time tie up entirely the delivery of freight to all the roads in the city and would almost paralyze the business of the city.

DEFENSE OPENS.

The Prosecution Rests in the Trial of ex-State Senator Holbrook.

Lansing, Mich., Nov. 18.—Eli R. Sutton, the former member of the state military board and regent of the University of Michigan, who has been on the witness stand for several days in the trial of ex-State Senator John Holbrook on the charge of attempting to bribe a juror in Sutton's interest while Sutton was on trial for complicity in the state military clothing frauds, finished his testimony yesterday.

The prosecution rested and the defense opened. Attorney Gardner, in opening, denied that Sutton ever was told by Sheriff Porter that any six men he might name would be drawn as talesmen and that Holbrook furnished Sutton with six names which were handed by Sutton to the sheriff. It is denied that Holbrook ever had any conversation with Juror Phillips about remaining on the jury and voting for acquittal. The defense will undertake to prove that Phillips had threatened to get even with Holbrook for not supporting him for a county office. Holbrook will take the stand in his own defense and all the jurors in the Sutton case will be sworn to disprove the charge that bribery was attempted.

Lansing, Mich., Nov. 19.—At yesterday's session of the trial of ex-State Senator Holbrook, on the charge of attempting to bribe a juror in the latter's trial for participation in the uniform frauds, the defense put on the witness stand the jury that acquitted Sutton of the charges on which he later pleaded guilty and the prosecution brought forth sensational developments. Juror Samuel E. Clay admitted that his honest judgment was not expressed in the Sutton verdict. Clay said that before any evidence in the case was given, Juror Everett said Sutton was innocent.

Confessed His Misdeeds. Chicago, Nov. 19.—The recently made threat to blow up the Plaza Hotel unless \$500 was handed to the maker of the threat at a place designated, was the work of Charles Wright, according to a confession which Wright made to the police yesterday. Wright, who is 19 years old, declared that he wrote the threatening letter at the instance of a man whose name he did not know, but whom he described. Wright's arrest was brought about through a second threat which he made. A decoy package was sent to him and he was arrested when he called for it.

ALUM, FLINT AND SULPHURIC ACID.

It is reported that in many localities houses are infested by peddlers trying to sell or introduce so-called "cheap" or low-priced baking powders, either directly or by an order upon a grocer. In most instances deception is used, and it is claimed that the article is a genuine baking powder and has all the merits of a pure article.

Housekeepers should be on their guard against this danger to their food. Alum powders are almost always low priced. But they are well known to be detrimental to health. In England and in some sections of this country their sale is prohibited by law. Congress has forbidden the sale of food containing alum in the District of Columbia. The highest authorities condemn their use. Dr. S. W. Johnson, for instance, Professor of Chemistry at Yale College, says: "Bread made with a baking powder containing alum must yield a soluble alumina salt with the gastric juice, and must, therefore, act as a poison."

It is well known that these so-called "cheap" goods are made from alum or the very cheapest materials. One of them was recently analyzed at Yale College and found to be one-quarter sharp pointed grains of ground flint. Others are filled with sulphuric acid, and salts of lead are also found in them.

In baking powders be sure to get a reputable well-known cream of tartar brand, and never buy from peddlers.

FACES ON THE WALL.

Strange Phenomena Reported in a Pennsylvania Homestead.

Many strange phenomena are reported at the time of death of certain people, but the strangest of all and one that has been witnessed by hundreds of the curiously inclined happened recently at the home of Simon Fisher, at Shamokin, Pa.

Upon the walls of Farmer Simon Fisher's home are the exact facial features of his deceased daughter and son, and each appeared upon the wall as life fled.

Six years ago the 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Fisher, who reside on a farm near Rebeck, was stricken ill with a peculiar malady. For months she suffered terribly, but despite this she was cheerful and battled bravely with death.

As her end drew near the grief of the parents became uncontrollable, and they refused to be comforted. One day while the family were gathered around the dying girl's bedside praying for her recovery a strange light filled the room. There was a pause in the prayers, but the light faded away as quickly as it appeared.

As they gazed upon the ceiling there appeared an exact likeness of the dying one. They were terrified, and turned to the bedside, expecting to find her dead. But she still lived.

The next day she died, but the face still remained on the wall. A short time ago her brother was taken down with a fatal malady and just before he died his profile appeared upon the wall, while upon the ceiling appeared the apparition of the daughter's death six years before. The young man failed to see the image of himself and said that that of his sister had disappeared.

The stricken youth said he was going to die, and was resigned to his fate. Late in the afternoon he passed away peacefully.

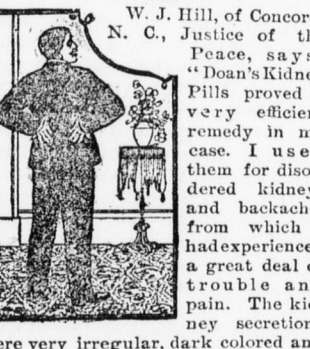
The images of both daughter and son remain upon the ceiling and wall respectively. Many persons have traveled miles to the Fisher homestead to view the strange phenomena, but no one has been able to explain the mystery. The family have become accustomed to the images, and say they do not want them to disappear.

Bob-Tailed Coat Held an Evil.

Green Briar presbytery, of the Presbyterian church of West Virginia, adopted resolutions protesting against clergymen wearing bob-tailed coats. The resolution began thus: "That it is the solemn and painful conviction of this presbytery that some of the brethren are departing from the time-honored custom of their fathers and are wearing bob-tailed coats. The presbytery would hereby warn the brethren against conformity with the customs of dudes."

Some sins show a soft head rather than a hard heart.—Ram's Horn.

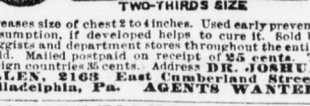
QUICK RESULTS.



W. J. Hill, of Concord, N. C., Justice of the Peace, says: "Doan's Kidney Pills proved a very efficient remedy in my case. I used them for disordered kidneys and backache, from which I had experienced a great deal of trouble and pain. The kidney secretions were very irregular, dark colored and full of sediment. The Pills cleared it all up and I have not had an ache in my back since taking the last dose. My health generally is improved a great deal."

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