

The National debt of Great Britain amounts to rather more than \$100 for each inhabitant.

Out of the 200,000 people in Santiago, Chile, only 250 speak English, but they manage to support an English newspaper, known as the Chilean Times.

Since the United States Government was organized less than nine hundred people have served as United States Senators, while of these more than two hundred had previously been members of the House of Representatives.

The Melbourne (Australia) Argus says that the total amount of the public and private debts owing to Great Britain by the seven Australian colonies is \$1,575,000,000, and that the amount of interest paid last year was \$63,750,000.

The English Government in India collects about \$35,000,000 a year from the sale of opium. This is an interesting fact in connection with the psychology of recent arguments by English statesmen that the moderate consumption of opium is good for the health and morals.

When the new motor carriages come into use the horse will receive another setback. It looks very much as if science were on the point of inventing our long useful equine servant completely out of sight. "If ever animal would be justified in kicking, it is the horse," exclaims the Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

Professor Wiley says that "one of the grandest discoveries of modern science" is the agency of microbes in enabling plants to absorb from the air the nitrogen which is the chief factor in their growth. The theory was first suggested by Pasteur, and it is thought to be fully confirmed by the researches of independent investigators. If it does not deceive expectation it will completely revolutionize agriculture. To increase the growth of plants it will only be necessary to feed their roots with water containing the proper microbes.

An idea of the extraordinary expansion in telegraph and telephone traffic is suggested in some figures on the single item of poles. During the last five years one Connecticut dealer alone has shipped 150,000 poles to the various lines he has constructed. One leading telephone company has taken from him over 100 carloads for ordinary lines, as well as 7000 "sticks" for long-distance lines. For telegraph lines the demand is also continuous. One telegraph company has made a contract for this year for a minimum supply of 10,000 poles. The poles range in length from thirty to eighty feet, averaging from forty to sixty feet. A gang of fifty men will build one mile of line in a day.

The recent increase in transportation facilities in American cities is really phenomenal. According to reliable statistics there are now in the United States 13,588 miles of street railroad tracks. The classification as to motive power is exceedingly suggestive. Of the above number of miles of street railways in operation, 10,363 have electrical power, or about seventy-six per cent. of the whole, 1914 have horse power, 632 have cable power, and 679 have miscellaneous means of locomotion. There are 44,475 cars regularly run. The capital stock and funded indebtedness amount to \$1,300,000,000, making an average of \$95,000 per mile of track. It is evident that the American public prefers riding to walking, and requires the most rapid means of transportation available. This is an electrical age.

Lady Henry Somerset predicts shining destinies for women in the twentieth century, and the forecast is an uplifting one, the New York Tribune admits, whether it awaits fulfillment or not. She thinks they will win their highest laurels in the sphere of government, and that many of the great statesmen and diplomatists of the future will be women. By their exclusion from these functions hitherto it is her opinion that the world has lost a great deal, and that public affairs would have gone on much better if she had taken a hand in them. "It may be true," asserts the Tribune. "A good many statesmen are sad dolts, no doubt, and have always been so. They need, and always will, a reinforcement of wisdom, and perhaps they are to receive it from women, as Adam received it from Eve, accompanying a well-known and momentous apple. But nothing can certainly be known of the future, even when it is illuminated with the beam of a Sybil's Vision like that which Lady Henry casts upon it."

We export to Scotland more than 2,000,000 feet of birch lumber every year for the making of spoils.

The America's cup has only about \$35 worth of silver in it, but more than \$2,000,000 has been spent in trying to win it.

The new Chicago directory claims 1,635,000 names; the New York directory 1,995,640. Each city charges the other with numbering its goats and stray cats. The New York directory shows 16,530 Smiths.

A horse expert says that bad temper is indicated by an eye "which shows the white, glancing backward." This opinion is entitled to respect, the New York World thinks, if only for its antiquity and a more or less general belief that it applies to men as well as horses.

Superintendent Kirkwood, of the Soldiers' Home, at Quincy, Ill., has given notice that any veteran marrying a new wife will be dishonorably discharged. This, the New York World explains, is on account of the new law, making veterans and families a county charge on the order of any Grand Army post, which was encouraging wholesale matrimony on the part of the inmates of the home.

Experiments to test the comparative economy of electricity as a substitute for steam upon railroads have been making quietly on the Nantasket Beach Railroad, in Massachusetts. The latest information is that a seventeen-year-old boy, Elmer Pierce, who was temporarily in charge of the boiler, was responsible for the explosion. The boiler almost at white heat, he let cold water into the tubular machinery, causing an immediate explosion.

Three years ago, at Brussels, Belgium, a servant girl fell from the second story while engaged in cleaning the windows. She sued her employer for \$2000 damages, claiming that he failed to provide her with means to do the work safely, and that by the accident, or whatever you may call it, she is permanently disabled. The case lingered in court since 1893, but at last a verdict has been rendered in her favor, awarding her \$1600.

More than thirty men and women were murdered in the city of San Francisco in the twelve months ending with June this year. Several of these were decided to be cases of justifiable homicide, but in twenty-seven cases the coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder. For these twenty-seven murders only four persons have so far been punished by law, and the four have escaped with terms of imprisonment. The rest of the murderers are awaiting trial, have been acquitted, have escaped, or are dead.

The King of Korea has revolted at last and means to run his own Government. The Queen has been making a mess of affairs and the King now announces that he intends "to stir himself up" and take matter into his own hands. When a man revolts against his wife's manner of running his affairs, family or official, he usually finds it quite necessary to "stir himself up" considerably. It will be interesting to observe how the King of Korea succeeds in his difficult undertaking, an undertaking in which so many lesser men have failed.

It would seem that the solution of the problem of real rapid transit was looking up. On a recent Saturday a flying machine was launched in Brooklyn and made a successful journey high up in the air over that city of New York, landing safely two miles out of Yonkers. The propelling apparatus worked admirably and the operator was able to tack against the wind and propel his machine in whatever direction he wished. From Philadelphia comes the official announcement that the Baldwin Locomotive Works and the Westinghouse Electric Company have joined forces for the development of the possibilities of the Tesla motor, as applied to railway service. By it we are promised a power sufficient to draw cars at the rate of 150 miles an hour. "Air" lines of railway are to be constructed, on which light cars are to be run for the carrying of passengers, mail and express. There will be no engines, each car being provided with its own motor. The main problem now is to get cars and car wheels that will stand the strain of traveling at this high rate of speed, and this the Baldwin people believe can be done. If locomotion along these two lines develops according to its present promise the annihilation of distance, comparatively, will be an accomplished fact.

FIRE HORROR AT DENVER

The Crowded Gurney Hotel Wrecked by an Explosion.

MANY PERSONS CREMATED.

The Ruins of the Building Borne--Hearthrending Incidents at the Scene of the Holocaust--People Perished Within Sight and Hearing of Would-Be Rescuers.

The Gurney Hotel, on Lawrence street, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, Denver, Col., was demolished by an explosion shortly after midnight. The explosion took place in the rear portion of the building. To add to the horror the ruins caught fire and many of the unfortunate who were not killed outright by the crash were slowly burned to death. Their screams and pleadings that they be killed to save them from torture by fire were pitiable, but the bystanders were powerless to render them any aid.

There were about sixty guests in the house. This, with the help employed on the premises, would make seventy-five persons in the building at the time of the explosion. Probably twenty-five men, women, and children lost their lives by the explosion. Half a dozen others were injured. Eight burned and crushed bodies were taken to the morgue. Then more were known to be buried in the ruins.

The entire rear portion of the building was demolished. The rear and side walls crumbled like a toy house. Soon afterward the mass of timbers, brick, and furniture caught fire, incinerating many of the victims who lay pinned and helpless in the blazing mass. The known killed whose bodies were immediately recovered were: George Burt, Denver, conductor; Fred Hubbard, Lisbon, Iowa; E. J. Macloskey, Longmont, Col.; Will Richards, elevator boy; Robert C. Greiner, Mrs. R. C. Greiner, clerk of the hotel; --, unknown woman; --, unknown child.

The only means of identifying the body of the woman is a gold band ring with the initials "H. B." engraved thereon. The latest information is that a seventeen-year-old boy, Elmer Pierce, who was temporarily in charge of the boiler, was responsible for the explosion. The boiler almost at white heat, he let cold water into the tubular machinery, causing an immediate explosion.

Mr. Letson, who was the first live man taken from the ruins, slept on the third floor, and when found was encased in a mass of mortar and bricks that barely allowed freedom of movement. Chief Roberts of the Fire Department first discovered him and began the rescue of the one of material that seemed to rest directly upon his body. In hearing appeals he begged for something to end his life. The rescuers worked with a will, and in two hours had succeeded in removing enough plaster and bricks from the body to allow his removal. His lower limbs were crushed, but he will survive the terrible ordeal.

Immediately after the explosion a boy was heard walling in the corner of a room which had nearly all fallen away. His parents had gone down with the fire and almost immediately the little boy's cries became weaker and weaker and when the flames shot up into the building his voice was silenced.

Every engine in the city was called to the scene, but the flames could not possibly be gotten under control before the bodies of three had been cremated. As their chances of escape lessened the cries of the imprisoned people increased, heart-rending shrieks rising from every portion of the great mass of wreck.

Two injured women had been almost exterminated when the flames approached so close that the rescuers had to abandon them to insure their own safety. The bodies of three women were also seen in the back part of the building, but could not be removed. The firemen worked with great heroism. The heat was intense and the smoke blinding. Electric light wires dangled here and there, and the men almost dared the peril. At one time the men almost managed to reach the interior, whence proceeded cries for succor, but as they crossed the threshold the walls in the rear fell and exposed to view the inmates making frantic struggles to escape.

Mrs. Greiner, wife of the Assistant Superintendent of the State Capitol, with her husband, were burned in the ruins. The firemen saw the woman appealing to them from the floor of the office where she had tried to escape.

At 8:30 a. m. several of the victims were still alive, but death reached them before aid. At 8:15 o'clock workmen on a pile of debris in the center of the building uncovered the fingers of the human hand. The debris was removed and the body of a man, probably weighing 200 pounds, with short black curly hair and short black mustache was found. He was badly injured in the face and body, which was in a doubled position and clotted only in an undershirt. Suffocation had probably overtaken him while asleep and death had come without suffering.

The ruins were twenty feet deep, and under them were buried at least twelve bodies. It was thought that the entire force of employees in the building were killed, for they were sleeping in the portion which fell, and the remaining walls toppled over upon them, burying them beyond all hope of rescue.

The Gurney Hotel was a five-story brick structure with stone front, and was built about six years ago. It was of the better kind of second-class hotels, catering largely to transient family patronage. Many women and children were among the guests. The building was built as the Eden Musee by the widow of Tom Thumb, and was so occupied, later being remodeled for use as a hotel. Gurney and Greiner have owned the hotel for several years. Mr. Gurney was a prominent contractor, and had done much of the work during the building of the State Capitol. Mr. Greiner acted in the capacity of manager.

EX-JUSTICE STRONG DEAD.

Retired on Account of Age From the Supreme Bench in 1880.

William Strong, ex-Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, died a few days ago at Lake Minniewaska, N. Y. He suffered a stroke of paralysis which affected the left side of his body, and he also had a relapse of catarrhal fever. He had been ill for several weeks, and for the twenty-four hours preceding his death he was unconscious. His body was taken to Reading Penn., for burial.

HOLMES'S CASTLE BURNED.

The Notorious Chicago "Murder Factory" Now a Mass of Ruins.

The big flat building at the corner of Sixty-third and Wallace streets, Englewood, Chicago, in which is located the historic Holmes "Castle," was destroyed by fire. Firemen who were early on the scene unhesitatingly declare the fire was of incendiary origin, and it is generally supposed the intention was to destroy it and any evidence it might have contained relative to the Holmes murders.

VALKYRIE III SAFE IN PORT.

The English Cutter Crosses in 22 Days, 9 Hours, 57 Minutes.

The gallant Valkyrie III, Lord Dunsen's challenger for the America's cup, arrived at the Port of New York after a long and stormy voyage, but with all well on board. Although buffeted about by strong head winds and heavy seas, the ship is in excellent condition. All those who feared that the buffeting of the sea might injure her may set their fears aside. So well was she handled that she has lost little more than a hand's breadth of paint from her beautiful white sides.

Three Hundred Russians Killed.

An explosion occurred at the artillery barracks at Tula, capital of the Government of that name in Russia. Three hundred persons are said to have been killed, including many officers. The barracks are a heap of ruins. An examination into the cause of the explosion led to the discovery that the barracks had been undermined everywhere.

Seventeen Drowned in Germany.

The steamship Concordia ran down the motor boat Beckman, near Falkenthal on the Elbe River, Germany, and seventeen persons were drowned. Of eight members of a family of the name of Laski, who were on board the motor boat, only Frau Laski was saved.

The Thrasher Boiler Exploded.

Near Centerville, Minn., the explosion of a thrasher boiler on Antone Lamotte's farm killed Joseph Carter, owner of the outfit, and his son Julian. Three other men were injured, two fatally.

Signalled 120 Miles by Hellograph.

The Hellograph Corps of the United States Army has succeeded in exchanging signals between Pike's Peak, Colorado, and Denver, 120 miles.

Ex-Treasurer W. W. Taylor Sentenced.

Ex-State Treasurer W. W. Taylor, of South Dakota, was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary for embezzling the State's money.

The National Game.

Louisville needs a good first baseman. The umpire question is more burning than ever. Cincinnati wants legislation to prevent feet-first sliding. The Cincinnati Club has resigned Outfielder Hoy, the dead nut. The Baltimore are doing the most scientific batting in the League. Grand Rapids carries the season's banner with seventeen straight defeats. Sixty-five batsmen in the National League have averages of more than .300. Of the nineteen games in which Lucid pitched the Brooklyn won twelve. At Baltimore, Short Stop Jennings broke all fielding records by accepting all of twenty chances--nine putouts and eleven assists. In two years the New Yorks have won but two championship games in Baltimore. Young Foreman, of Pittsburgh, has taken McGill's old place as the "boy wonder." First Baseman Cassidy, of Grand Rapids Mich., is playing with his wrist in a piaster cast. Not one Pittsburgh player has been fined this season either by the club or the umpires. President Stucky, of Louisville, has declared himself in favor of the double umpire system. McGuire, of Washington, caught in his eighty-fourth consecutive game of the season, August 14. He has not missed a game since the championship race began.

SPOFFORD'S SHORTAGE.

Accounts of the Venerable Librarian of Congress in Confusion.

ALLEGED DEFICIT OF THOUSANDS.

This Defalcation Said to Exist in the Pay Roll Accounts, and in Addition to This is a Discrepancy in the Copyright and Search Fee Accounts--The Accused Official Makes a Statement.

A dispatch from Washington says: The thousands of friends and admirers of Alonzo R. Spofford, the venerable Librarian of Congress, will learn with pain that his financial affairs as Librarian of Congress and Chief of the Copyright Bureau are in an inextricable tangle and that his shortage to the Government is at least \$35,000, and a probable amount above that which can never be definitely ascertained, on account of the destruction of the library's account books and his failure to keep anything approximating a correct record of receipts and disbursements.

The detailed report of Treasury Expert Myers, of the Fifth Auditor's Office, who has been investigating his accounts, has shown so serious a condition of affairs that Secretary Carlisle laid it before the President for action.

The report of Expert Myers states that Treasury funds have been misappropriated; that thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands, of dollars have been lost or wrongfully disposed of, and that false and fraudulent vouchers have been presented at the Treasury Department by Mr. Spofford for payment.

This last statement will come as a stunning blow to those friends of Librarian Spofford who have explained the peculiar condition of his accounts by suggesting that his mind was too much occupied with books and their contents to be able to keep his financial affairs in the strict, methodical fashion of a business man. There are, however, on the part of the Treasury Department pay vouchers drawn by Mr. Spofford in the names of clerks for much larger sums than were actually received by those clerks, and it is shown that he has for years been drawing salaries for positions which have been purposely kept vacant by him.

In addition, Expert Myers has discovered that Mr. Spofford has collected fees for which there was no legal authority, amounting to between \$200 and \$300 a month, and has made no returns to the Treasury Department of them.

Librarian Spofford made the following statement: "As to the statement that fraudulent vouchers have been presented, the facts are that two bills, one for \$25 and one for \$48, both bearing receipts, but neither marked 'duplicates,' were rendered in the accounts from the library, the duplicate not having been detected either by myself or by the clerk having these accounts in charge. The amount overdrawn was at once made good on attention being called to this error."

"Regarding payment of salaries, it is true that the Librarian has for a long time secured larger services for the library under appropriations specifically for a larger sum than that paid, and this under the authority of the law, which provides that whenever the duties of a clerk of a higher grade can as well be performed by one of a lower, it shall be lawful to employ more than one within the limits of the appropriation made. Acting under this, I have in good faith employed, in cases where no opportunity of adequate experience was found for a vacancy, two persons for the salary of one person for a much longer time within the limits of the appropriation made. This has secured for the Government much more service for the amounts, and it never occurred to me as a thing improper, much less illegal."

Mr. Spofford said that, instead of there being only twenty-four persons employed in the library, as had been stated, there were actually thirty-eight, the law requiring thirty.

"To those who know anything of the multifarious duties thrust upon the Librarian," continued Mr. Spofford, "it will not appear strange that I have asked for a separation of the duties of register of copyrights, which should be under the charge of a distinct bonded officer connected with the library of Congress, from those of Librarian, so as to secure the full benefit of the publications recorded under the Copyright law."

OVERLAND FLYER HELD UP.

Robbers Blow Open the Safe and Frighten Passengers With Pistol Shots.

Shortly after midnight about overland flyer No. 8, on the Union Pacific, was held up at Butterfield Hill, Neb.

There were three men visible, according to Conductor Flynn's description. Two of the gang got on the train at Brady Island, going forward over the tender after the train was in motion, and with revolvers drawn, held up the fireman and engineer and compelled the engineer at the point of revolvers to go back to the baggage car, open the door and gain admittance, which he did by informing the baggage man that they were held up and that the robbers had a gun at his head and demanded admittance.

They were admitted and the expressman was compelled to open the smaller safe, but could not open the larger combination safe, and the robbers proceeded to blow the top out of it with dynamite. The bandits wore black slouch hats with black silk handkerchiefs for masks.

When the dynamite exploded the passengers on board were much excited, but were not molested. It is impossible to learn the amount of booty secured. They were expert handlers of dynamite.

THE NEWS EPITOMIZED

Washington Items.

Recent advice indicate that the trial records in Consul Walker's case are defective, and his release and a large indemnity will be demanded by the State Department.

The President issued an order extending the Civil Service rules to include all printers and pressmen in the Executive departments.

The Secretary of the Interior drew upon the Secretary of the Treasury for \$10,950,000 for payment of pensions.

Secretary of State Olney, Minister Deputy da Lome and Mr. Mora have signed a memorandum, and the Mora claim will be paid.

The Pope's Royal dry dock is a success. A telegram conveying this information was received at the Navy Department from Captain Glass, President of the Board appointed to test the dock.

The silver conference at Washington came to an end, after outlining a free-coinage plan of campaign.

Chief Moore, of the Weather Bureau, has called for reports on the conditions and qualification of all subordinate employees, stating that rigid inspections as to morals as well as official character of employees are imperative.

Mr. W. D. Dalney, Solicitor of Claims for the reserve in the United States Treasury below \$100,000,000, was named Professor of Common and Statute Law at the University of Virginia.

Secretary Morton paid all the Agricultural Department employees who favor free silver coinage in silver dollars.

Domestic.

RECORD OF THE LEAGUE CLUBS.

Club.	W.	L.	T.	Clubs.	W.	L.	T.
Cleveland	59	62	1	Chicago	55	46	545
Baltimore	58	63	1	Brooklyn	52	45	586
Pittsburgh	59	49	1	New York	49	49	495
Boston	53	43	1	Washington	51	59	344
Cincinnati	53	43	1	St. Louis	32	68	329
Philadelphia	52	43	1	Louisville	23	71	245

The Rev. George Hubbard, priest-in-charge of St. Luke's Chapel, Trinity Parish, was found lying beside the West Shore Railroad tracks near Little Ferry, N. J., and died before he could be taken to a hospital.

A Mount Echo (Cal.) observer discovered a new comet.

A reward of \$500 was offered for the arrest of a joint thief, Haliday, the missing Tax Collector at South in New York City. The amount of his defalcation has been definitely fixed at \$10,471.85.

A train on the C. and W. M. road was held up near New Richmond, Mich., by five men. The express car was blown up with dynamite and one of the robbers was shot. The robbers secured a watch or two and \$7.

Arthur Zimmerman, aged twelve, committed suicide by taking Paris green at Bloomsburg, Penn. The boy had been hired out on a farm. He did not like the work, and said he would rather die than follow that occupation.

John Darling, of Bound Brook, N. J., murdered his friend, Harry Dunham, in Newark, N. J., and escaped on his bicycle.

One thousand girl clothing-makers, 3500 men and 400 clerks, struck in New York City for a ten-hour day.

A cave-in caused alarm among the people of the mining region in Luzerne Township, Penn.

Potato brooks, marching from Gravesend toward Brooklyn, obstructed railway trains on the Sea Beach route.

The Kentucky political campaign was opened by a joint debate in Louisville between the Republican and Democratic candidates for Governor.

Five children of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wilson, of Elizabeth, N. J., have died since July 30, of a strange malady that baffles the physicians.

The Bank of Tacoma, Wash., made a voluntary assignment under the Insolvency laws the cash on hand to be \$444, the total liabilities \$379,000, of which \$229,000 is city money.

Dr. William Val Stark, of Atlanta, Ga., was charged with causing the death of Professor George Boehm by either starvation or by exposure while under hypnotic influence.

The State Senator Coggeshall left the Onondaga County Convention Hall, at Rome, N. Y., when he saw a renomination was out of the question, after bitterly denouncing his opponents. His friends nominated him as an independent candidate.

Twelve thousand vest-makers, joined the clothing makers' strike in New York City.

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Hoar were indicted at Hannibal, Mo., for the murder of Amos Stillwell, the woman's first husband.

The tax rate of New York City this year will be \$1.92 on every \$100 of assessment. Last year it was \$1.73.

North Dakota is being overrun by an army of tramps, armed and threatening.

Theodore Miller, former Judge of the Court of Appeals in New York State, died at Hudson, N. Y.

Ex-Senator Samuel Bell Maxey, of Texas, is dead. He was born in Monroe County, Kentucky, March 30, 1825.

Recorder Goff in New York City sentenced Dennis Mullins, a saloon keeper, to thirty days' imprisonment in the Tombs and to pay a fine of \$250 for violating the Excise law.

Near Arlington, Tenn., the log house of Mrs. Callie Harrell was destroyed by fire, and she and her two daughters were burned to death and their bodies entirely consumed.

Alport Andrews confessed that he killed State Senator Morrissey, at St. Louis, last May.

A special train containing colored excursionists was held up by a fanatical train at Camden, N. J., and Marshall Johnson, six years old, was killed and many persons were injured.

A mob at Fulton, Mo., lynched Emmitt Dwyer, colored, who was accused of killing a white woman named Mrs. Cain.

The Democratic State Committee of New York met in New York City and decided to hold the State Convention at Syracuse on September 24.

The two hundred members of the Coat Contractors' Association who have been fighting the 16,000 striking tailors in New York City, Brooklyn, Brownsville and Newark, found themselves so badly beaten that they dissolved their association.

The law office at Pittsburgh, Penn., of John D. and William McKenna have been robbed of \$10,000 in stocks and bonds.

At North Brookfield, Mass., the postoffice was robbed of \$1000 worth of stamps. The thieves escaped.

Foreign Notes.

Advices from Central America report serious fighting between Salvadorans and Guatemalans on the frontier.

Hawaii signed a contract for a cable to be laid by American capital if the United States will give \$250,000 to the enterprise.

Withdrawals of gold for export reduced the reserve in the United States Treasury below \$100,000,000, but the syndicate put in \$2,000,000, raising it above the mark again.

The Porte has again rejected the demand of the Powers that the proposed reforms in Armenia shall be under foreign control.

France attempts to arouse prejudice against American beef by calling attention to the precautions adopted in this country to prevent disease in cattle.

Thomas Bond, who murdered George Hackett and attempted to kill Mr. Bakewell and Mr. Bakewell, respectively the mother and stepfather of Hackett, at Orgrave last spring, was hanged at Stafford, England. He confessed his crime.

Queen Victoria in her speech gave the British Parliament a strong hint to vote appropriations and to go home. The House of Commons suspended Dr. Tanner for calling Harrington a liar.