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PITTSBURG, SATURDAY, MAR. 30, 1889.

ROBBERY EXTRAORDINARY.

The feat of a bank robber, in walking into the President's office of a Denver bank, and forcing that dignified official by the persuasive means of a revolver to sign a check for $21,000, and order it paid without kicking up a row, is the latest feature in criminal sensations.

The success of such bold robbery is calculated to raise doubts whether the laws are adequate to protect the public. That doubt is strengthened by contemplating the less bold but more wholesale swindles committed by means of bogus mining stocks, as well as other forms of fictitious securities, with which Denver like other cities is not wholly unfamiliar.

It is certain that the laws cannot protect people, unless they will do something to protect themselves. The public who submit to one kind of robbery are as much to blame for it as the banker who has not pluck enough to make a fight against the other kind, is for the success of that remarkable feat yesterday.

PAYNE'S POWERS OF SPEECH.

It will certainly be a great satisfaction to the public to observe that the affection of the vocal organs which has kept Senator Payne silent in the Senate during five years of his term has been sufficiently healed to permit him to make a speech. During all this time, in the presence of the grave charge that his seat was purchased, Senator Payne has not had the strength of voice necessary to enunciate the four words: "I demand an investigation;" but when Mr. Halstead's nomination comes up he is able to make a speech. The matter of the speech is of interest. He would like to send Mr. Halstead to Siberia, if he could; but, as he cannot, he desperately opposes sending him to Berlin. This is an interesting view of the way in which perniciously outspoken newspaper men would be suppressed under the rule of the powers represented by Senator Payne. Unpleasant references to monopolies and bribery would doubtless be made quite infrequent if the Payne idea of statesmanship should triumph.

WILL IT BE ENFORCED?

It is rather surprising to find our brilliant cotemporary, the New York *Sun*, in a vigorous article touching on the enforcement of the inter-State commerce law, making the following declaration:

> The Grand Trunk is still getting the bulk of the east-bound tonnage out of Chicago, but as it lies entirely beyond our borders and control, and is deaf to the inter-State commerce law as well as to the sentiment of fair play, there is no way to reach it, except by an act of Congress, which will shut all Canadian lines entirely out of our inter-State transit trade, just as foreign ships are shut out of our coasting trade.

This is all the more surprising because the *Sun*, a few days earlier, pointed out that this road is subject to the law on the business that it does in this country, and called for its enforcement. In the former position the *Sun* was exactly right. It is impossible for the Canadian roads to transport Chicago freight without agencies and depots in the United States. The agents are undoubtedly subject to the penalties for any violations of the law they may commit; and it will be much better to enforce it against them than to close 30 per cent of the railway outlets from the Northwest.

But the law should not be enforced against the Canadian roads alone. A very good way of turning over a new leaf and showing that it is to be enforced against all violators would be to commence with those eminent railway officials of the Northwest who, under cover of a pretended agreement to observe the law, have been really violating it by "a private" pooling arrangement.

THE COKE WORKERS' WAGES.

The report that the organization of the Miners' Progressive Union in the coke regions has gone to pieces is probably an *ex-parte* statement; but it is certain that the union has failed of the main purpose for which it was organized, namely, that of establishing a union of the rival organizations which had already been working against each other. The union is still confronted by the K. of L. workers, and the consequence is that the united action among the coke workers, which is the first requisite to obtain fair wages, seems likely to be lacking. The question of wages will be brought up next week by the expiration of the Frick scale and the failure of the other works to establish wages equal to it. The coke trade ought to pay the wages fixed by the expiring scale; but it would not be strange if the jealousies of the labor organizations were utilized by the operators to bring about a reduction. Perhaps this is necessary to teach the rival organizations that the interests of the workingmen and not the supremacy of any particular organization should be their primary object.

THAT MEAT QUESTION.

Two points on the much-agitated meat and dressed beef question are new and cogent. The first is presented by the opinion of the Solicitor General of New Mexico, on the bill excluding meat killed outside of the State. He says: "I have no hesitation in saying that such a law is unconstitutional. It is a bad exhibition of States rights." This merely puts in authoritative form what THE DISPATCH has frequently urged, that the idea of a State's accomplishing by indirection what it is directly forbidden to do by the Constitution, is absurd.

The other point is furnished by a Chicago live stock firm, which attempts to explain the remarkably low price of cattle by the fact that in the last 17 years, the production of cattle, as measured by the shipments to market, has increased fivefold while the population of the United States has only increased one-half. This is all very well as regards one side of the problem; but it wholly fails to give an answer to the query why when the price of beef on the hoof has decreased from one-half to two-thirds there has not been a commensurate decline in the price of meat. One part of the public may object to the low price of cattle; but the point that the whole public wish explained is the enlargement of the share of the proceeds, appropriated by those who take the beef product from the consumer to the producer. This is a matter which it devolves equally upon the local butchers and dressed beef interest to explain. So far there has been no explanation except on the theory of a combine to keep up prices in both branches of the meat trade.

THE SENATORS' ERROR.

The action of the Senate on the Halstead nomination and the influences which forced the withdrawal of Mr. Schuyler's name are alike the manifestation of an idea that has long been dominant in the executive sessions of that body.

That idea is practically expressed by the Senators to the effect that their personal grudges and personal interests are the interest of the whole country. That was the basis of the Conkling-Platt fight, and has been the basis of every Senatorial squabble over the spoils ever since.

It is getting to be time for the Senators to understand that they are placed in high position to act for their whole country and not to magnify themselves. Whether they taboo a man for outspoken language in demanding the investigation of notorious corruption, or whether they otherwise serve the interest of the corporations, the need of the lesson is apparent.

The Senators should learn that their own personality is separate from the Senate itself. The lack of this distinction may generate a public contempt for that lofty body.

THE OTHER SIDE.

The approach of the time when the defense is to present its case to the Parnell Commission reveals the possibility that the drag-net which the *Times'* lawyers cast into the entire sea of Irish disorders may be turned to the advantage of the Irish cause as completely as was the Pigott *fiasco*.

The main question at issue was settled in favor of Mr. Parnell when the evidence produced by the *Times* itself exposed the forgery of the letters which were used to back up the charges of "Parnellism and Crime." As if conscious of their weakness at this point, the counsel for the *Times* tried to use the commission for the creation of public sentiment against the Irish by a dreary array of agrarian disorders. After spending some months in that way, they approached their case against Mr. Parnell individually, and it crumbled to pieces at the first touch.

In addition to this disaster by the Tories it now begins to appear that their astute counsel did not recognize the retort which their array of evidence made possible. By dragging in the whole subject of boycotting, the "plan of campaign" and moonlighting, they make it pertinent for Mr. Parnell's counsel to reply with showing the provocations that produced these disorders. This opens up the whole subject of rack-renting, evictions, arrests for using the right of free speech, and convictions on the testimony of paid informers. By the time that these points are brought out fully, a large part of the present year may be consumed, but the *Times'* evidence referring to disorders may be turned into as much of a boomerang as that which produced Mr. Pigott to expose his own forgeries.

Thus the scheme which was intended to ruin the Irish cause, bids fair to prove of the greatest use to it, and ruin, instead, the party in whose interest the attack was concocted.

THE LABORS OF LICENSE.

Judge White's announcement that he proposes to take two or three days' rest before he proceeds with the hearing of applications for license ought to surprise no one. The extent and monotonous similarity of the applications already heard are enough to appall any one. Under any circumstances, the proceedings of the License Court under the provisions of the Brooks' law must necessarily involve a great deal of exacting labor for the Judge upon the bench. Judge White has chosen to add considerably to his judicial task in this instance by making the investigation of the character of applicants very searching and thorough.

There can be no doubt that those who obtain licenses this year will be as nearly ideal liquor dealers as can be found in this county, ideal, that is, according to the standard of Judge White. This result will not have been obtained without a really gigantic expenditure of energy and attention on the part of the Court and the counsel for the anti-license party. Probably there never has been a more distressing exhibition of the lower side of human nature in Pittsburg than the daily inquisition of the License Court has revealed.

GIVE THEM A CAGE.

At last the New York Legislature has found a task to its liking. Naturally the poor, honest, hard-working legislators of the Empire State are tired of investigating their own committees appointed to investigate jobbery, bribery and malfeasance of every sort in which the Speaker and many of the members have been allegedly involved. Stirring up the mud is not a grateful business anyhow, especially when the mud may smother you.

Somebody in the New York Senate found out that the Centennial Committee, which has charge of the approaching celebration in New York City, contemplated giving the members of the Legislature a part of a stand, to which the general public would be also admitted at two dollars a head. The legislators, that is, were to see the procession in company with as many of the common herd as had two dollars to spare. What a frightful insult to the legislative dignity this was deemed may be judged from the fact that a bill was at once passed in the Senate providing for the building of a suitable stand for the Senators, and that the House has under consideration another bill to the same effect and will talk of nothing else.

It is entirely proper to put the New York Legislature in a cage by itself. Should the stand disappear during the celebration it will also be perceived at once that the paper ceiling gang has walked off with it.

THE French plan of prosecuting pernicionsly active political opponents is a policy that does not suit a republic. The proposition to extend it to Boulanger is especially designed to give the sham dictator the prestige of martyrdom.

ANYONE who reads the columns of our esteemed Chicago cotemporaries at present will have no difficulty in perceiving that they are in the throes of a municipal election. The Democratic papers are filling their columns with demonstrations that the Republican candidate for Mayor has served the interests of Yerkes and the corporations; and the Republican papers are proving that the Democratic candidate was a tool of Yerkes and the corporations. Which seems to make it plain that both candidates are unworthy the public suffrages or that the Chicago newspapers are pretty far gone with an epidemic of partisanship.

SOMETHING new always steps in to prevent that bright dream of dollar oil becoming a reality. This time a couple of large-sized bears in the Washington field furnish the adverse influence. Next time, what will it be?

"PRESIDENT HARRISON is the only living ruler who can gather at his table four generations, in the direct line from Great Grandfather Scott to the little Russell Harrison baby," remarks the New York *Herald*. What! Is it possible that the *Herald* can display such ignorance of the royal families of Germany and Great Britain. This departure from its rule of using the Court Guide as an encyclopedia, warrants the proprietor of the *Herald* in making his office boy and editor change places once more.

SENATOR BERTIE ADAMS, as Minister to Brazil, will be taken by the mass of the Pennsylvanians as the earnest of things hoped for, and the substance of things not seen—that is not yet seen by the majority of them.

IMPROVEMENTS don't count on Irish farms when the landlords resort to eviction. Twelve houses that had been occupied by evicted tenants were yesterday set on fire by the evictors. Considering that in all these cases, doubtless, the tenants or their fathers had built these houses at their own expense, and that every stone in them represented not only their labor but tender associations, it is not much wonder that the willful waste of such landlordism arouses a bitterness of feeling which comes to stay.

THE Southern Pacific Railroad is going to add a trifle of $50,000,000 to its capital stock. And Senator Stewart would have the country believe that water is a scarce article on the line of that road!

MARCH is not going out exactly like a lion, but rather more as a real estate bull. The way it tossed around the dust in Pittsburg yesterday was a caution. All the mud contributed from the country roads through the winter was, in pulverized form, flying visibly in the air; and the damage done to goods on display in the stores can count up as another item in the long list of good economic arguments for macadamized highways for the husbandman and market gardener.

THE "ice famine" talk is an interesting subject of speculation to householders. The lordly ice wagon man will rule the roost this year, if he knows himself.

THE fact that there are three millions more women than men in England makes it seem very remarkable to the New York *Sun* that Englishmen keep on coming to this country for wives. But that is easily explained. The Englishmen do not care for the millions of unmarried English women so much as for the millions possessed by American heiresses.

MR. SHEPARD continues to furnish the texts for this administration; but the other editors will do the expounding as foreign ministers.

BOODLER MCGARIGLE, formerly of Chicago, is negotiating to go back to that city and expresses a hope that the authorities will "see things in their proper light" and do what is "just." This is rather indiscreet, to say the least, on Mr. McGarigle's part. If the authorities do what is just, who of his class will escape the penitentiary.

MARCH's closing leonine effort does not go deeper than the skin. The roar is a very mild one.

CONSUL GENERAL NEW's description of his position, as "a place without any frills but with much swag," is graphic; but is hardly wise. So truthful and appropriate an adaptation of the burglars' vocabulary to the spoils of politics should be avoided by the advocates of the system.

PERSONAL FACTS AND FANCIES.

IRVING'S profit out of "Macbeth" is reckoned at £600 a week.

AT Lord Londonderry's sale of pedigree Clydesdales, Shetland ponies, and trained cobs and ponies, from his celebrated stud at Seaham, a pony only 37 inches in height realized 41 guineas.

SENATOR SHERMAN expects to start for Europe about May 1, to remain three or four months. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Sherman. Their first stay will be in Paris, to visit the Exposition.

IT is stated that Pigott, the notorious *Times* witness, purchased with a portion of the money procured by the sale of the forged letters two tricycles for his two boys, who are in Clongowes Wood College, giving £30 each for the machines.

A NOVEL sort of beauty show is about to take place at Vienna. The beauties on view are to be gentlemen, and their claims are to be decided upon by lady judges. There are prizes for the handsomest man and for the finest mustache. There is actually to be a special prize for the most imposing bald head.

GENERAL BOULANGER was presented, the other day, with a "sword of honor" by his admirers at Boulogne-sur-Seine. M. Millevoye, who acted as spokesman in the deputation, told the General that he had never used the sword wrenched from his grasp by the Parliamentarians except in the defence of the Republic and France, and added: "Now it is not only on behalf of the army that you are entitled to speak, but in the name of the whole nation. You are the elect of the people and you remain the hope of all French hearts."

FISHING IN FLORIDA.

Mr. Cleveland and His Friends Enjoying Themselves on Indian River.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

JACKSONVILLE, March 29.—The expected visit of ex-President Cleveland and party here is still very indefinite, as Mr. Cleveland is the guest of Mr. H. B. Plant, feels in honor bound to adhere to the programme of that gentleman, and consequently cannot say what his future movements in Florida will be. They are to-day on Indian river, the ex-President taking in the famous fishing grounds off Jupiter inlet.

Jacksonville has done all that is necessary to have Mr. Cleveland and party stop here, and consequently will do nothing more until more definite information can be had from the distinguished party.

The Only Chinese Lawyer in New York.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Hong Yen Chang, the only Chinese lawyer in the state, pleaded his first case in a Brooklyn court to-day. He appeared in behalf of two New York Chinamen who had loaned $636 61 to a Brooklyn Chinaman, who keeps a Mongolian restaurant at No. 363 DeKalb avenue. The delinquent debtor did not appear in court, and Hong Yen Chang, who was dressed in Caucasian clothing of fashionable cut and spoke English excellently, got judgment for the full amount claimed with costs.

Legitime Wants No Hippolyte Money.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Legitime's Government has instructed foreign Governments, through their representatives at Hayti, that it protests against the issue of money by the Hippolyte faction, and will not in any way recognize the issue.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

The Fate of a Cockroach—Some Noteworthy Pictures—After Rain—A Canine Treasure.

IN the copy of that light and frolicsome magazine, *The Forum*, which reached this office this month, between pages 141—2 was discovered the pallid and flattened corpse of a New York cockroach. There was a look of recognition upon the poor creature's attenuated face, as if it had felt half happy that such a death had overtaken it. Died in the pursuit of learning as it were; on one side the last page of an article on "The Ethics of Art," on the other the first page of Judge Tourgee's question, "Shall White Minorities Rule?" A dreadful place to die, indeed. But it is not given to all readers of *The Forum* to die at the end of the second article out of eleven. So the poor cockroach has something to be thankful for.

M. BLEIMAN has a little collection of somewhat noteworthy pictures at the Gillespie gallery. Some of them are merely valuable because of the artists' names they bear, but a few are really gratifying to the eye. For instance, there is a little bit of landscape in early summer, with a very commonplace cow near at hand, and some other cows suggested merely in the shadow of distant woods, for life. It has the slumberous atmosphere of a pasturage in July, all the same, and in a city house would be as refreshing as a breath from the scented meadows and cool copses of some restful valley. It is by Troyon.

A benchful of shabby German children, immersed in a simple game, by Kleehas, shows four or five charming studies of expression in tots of 5 or 6 years old. Another remarkable picture is from the brush of Heger, also of Munich—an interior dark and rather painfully devoid of life in any form, but revealing in the carved wooden panels of walls and ceiling an immensely clever treatment of difficult details in color and perspective.

The cunningly contrived contrast of greens and grays in J. G. Vibert's picture of two red-coated schoolboys for a lunch basket on the turf in the shadow of the French monastic school, is not its only charm. It has some vigorous drawing in it. Three or four other pictures repay the visitor. But the little piece of dabby mist which is valued at a couple of thousand dollars because Corot forgot to leave his name off it, and the rather less dismal picture undoubtedly painted by Diaz—it was once in Mrs. Gray Griswold's collection—are apt to pain those who ask for some beauty in a picture.

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AFTER RAIN!

There'll be song and sheen enough
At the coming of the rain;
When the touch of winter rough
Falls no more on hill and plain,
And the robins, how they'll sing!
And the trees, how they'll fling
Their leafy thanks to heaven,
After rain!

There'll be lawns of luscious green,
At the coming of the rain;
And the crocus will be seen
Flashing out its torch again.
'Neath the caves the sparrows titter,
Mating swallows soar and twitter,
After rain!

Smiles that follow tears are sweetest,
So's the sunshine after rain.
And thou angry storm that beatest
Now in fury 'gainst the pane,
Weeping out thy windy sorrow,
Tell'st me of a bright to-morrow,
After rain!

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A SMALL dog of the doormat kind, with hair like long petticoats concealing his feet, trotted along behind a stylish-looking woman who was evidently shopping on Penn avenue yesterday. In this amiable little animal's mouth was a long leather purse with clasp of silver—about a yard long, in the fashion that was so popular a while ago. The dog evidently was accustomed to carry the money bag of his fair mistress.

As far as accessibility the purse was much better placed in the dog's mouth than in the lady's pocket. It was strange to see how sedulously the dog followed his mistress' heest, neither looking to the right nor to the left, overlooking all points of canine interest, and avoiding all intercourse with other dogs.

SHE MARRIED A MILLIONAIRE.

Mrs. McComb, Whose Daughters Moved in High Society, Sued for Divorce.

WILMINGTON, DEL., March 29.—James C. McComb, the millionaire, has applied for a divorce from his wife on the grounds of violating her marriage vows and of incompatibility of temper. The plaintiff is the son of the late Henry S. McComb, the railway magnate, who was the partner of the late Commodore Vanderbilt in many railroad transactions. He inherited a million dollars upon the death of his father, since which time he has lived on his farm, just above this city, where he laid out a half-mile track for his fast-trotting horses.

McComb is a handsome man about 38 years of age. He could never be induced to settle down to business, and was an active fireman, responding to every alarm. During the reckless days of his youth he paid court to his present wife, a daughter of an ex-policeman named Wingate. Mrs. McComb had neither education, wit nor beauty, and is now quite fat. Her friends made every effort to break off the match. The couple were married about 20 years ago. Three children were born to them, and until recently their married life, to all appearances, was perfectly happy.

The McCombs move in the highest social circles here. One daughter, Nellie, married young Lawyer Bangs, of New York, and another married into an aristocratic Baltimore family. They are on visiting terms with the Astors and Vanderbilts, and their faces are occasionally seen at the Patriarch and other fashionable balls.

Wrestling With a Difficult Problem.

From the Oil City Derrick.]

The Pennsylvania Legislature is engaged in solving a most intricate and delicate problem. They set about yesterday to define what constitutes a tramp and provide a penalty therefor. Star-eyed Science has usually been ready to investigate, define and classify things, but we observe that she has always steered clear of the tramp. This teaches us that the Pennsylvania Legislature will tackle even that which Science and other folks are afraid of.

Office Seekers' Hopes and Fears.

From the New York Herald.]

Washington laundries are said to furnish the best index of office seekers' hopes and fears. In February of Presidental years they keep open night and day, but by April the force is cut down one-half in deference to shattered hopes and depleted pocketbooks.

There's No Danger.

From the New York Press.]

So a couple of mysterious society men at Washington are to fight a duel with rapiers, "in the use of which both parties are said to be expert." That's all right. When those inexpert fellows try such work they sometimes cut each other.

Pigs in Clover, Indeed.

From the Norristown Herald.]

A traveler who saw two young men occupying four seats in a passenger car said the spectacle strongly reminded him of the new puzzle which is just now all the rage. The new puzzle aforesaid is called "pigs in clover."

Distilled Spirits Production Growing.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The total production of distilled spirits in the United States from July 1, 1888, to January 31, 1889, was 42,739,336 taxable gallons, being the largest production for a similar period in any year since 1883.

IF I HAD THE TIME.

If I had the time to find a place
And sit me down full face to face
With my better self, that stands no show
In my daily life that rushes so;
It might be then I would see my soul
Was stumbling still toward the shining goal
I might be nerved by the thought sublime,
If I had the time!

If I had the time to let my heart
Speak out and take in my life a part,
To look about and to stretch a hand
To a comrade quartered in no-luck land:
Ah, God! If I might but just sit still
And hear the note of the whip-poor-will,
I think that my wish with God's would rhyme—
If I had the time!

If I had the time to learn from you
How much for comfort my word could do;
And I told you then of my sudden will
To kiss your feet when I did you ill—
If the tears aback of the bravado
Could force their way and let you know—
Brothers, the souls of us all would chime,
If we had the time!

—*Richard E. Burton in Once a Week.*

A WILD CAT AS A WEAPON.

A Boston Man Turns One Loose to Fight an Officer.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

BOSTON, March 29.—A wildcat, a revolver, an infuriated man, an attachment for $200 and a frightened keeper are the principal figures in the events leading up to the total wreckage of a South End saloon and the flight of its proprietor. The attachment came first and was placed upon the saloon for an unpaid liquor bill. The keeper foreclosed to preserve the attachment, but the proprietor, J. H. Buckley, decidedly objected. In fact, he became so exceeding wroth as to let loose a wild cat which he kept in a cage in the rear room for the amusement of customers.

When the cat landed on the bar with a blood-curdling howl, the keeper bolted, while the cat leaped to the shelves around the walls and for a while made things exceedingly lively. Then the revolver took its turn in the hands of Mr. Buckley, and after about two dozen rounds brought down the cat with a bullet in its brain. This was Thursday night. Buckley held the fort alone until this morning, barring his doors when the keeper appeared with reinforcements.

Seeing that they were bound to force their way in, Buckley took an ax and in a few moments had smashed the mirrors and remaining bottles left by the cat, chopped the bar almost into kindling wood, and stayed in the heads of the whisky casks. Then he escaped through a rear window and the keepers took possession of what was left.

PAID $300 FOR A BRICK.

A Poor Guide Cleverly Victimized by a New York Sharper.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

SARATOGA, March 29.—Some time ago Warren Morehouse, an Adirondack guide, living at Upper Gay, bought a lottery ticket, and soon after the date of the drawing he received a circular from New York informing him that he had drawn $10,000, but that he must pay $800 to entitle him to receive the prize. With the aid of Mrs. R. M. Neal, a relative, who mortgaged her property for the purpose under an agreement that she would share equally in the $10,000 worth of good luck, the $800 was raised, and Morehouse, according to previous arrangement, met the "agent" of the lottery company in New York.

After having been required to sign several papers and pay over his $800, the tempting prize of $10,000 was counted out to him in crisp new bills, but on being cautioned by the agent that it would be dangerous for him to carry such a large amount of money upon his person, Morehouse was induced to have it sent to his address by express. The money was thereupon placed in a box, plainly marked and strongly tied. The "agent" took a receipt, and went with Morehouse to the express office. The happy man thereupon went as fast as railroad trains could carry him to his home, but when the express package was opened it contained only a brick carefully wrapped in paper.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES.

The Expense of Running This Government for the Past Five Years.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The clerks of the appropriations committees of the two Houses who are required, by law, to prepare statements of appropriations made at each session have completed that duty, and have also compiled a statement showing the appropriations for the fiscal years, from 1875 to 1890 inclusive. This table shows a constantly but not regularly increasing total of appropriations. The appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1890, are as follows:

Agricultural, $1,889,770; army, $24,400,116; diplomatic and consular, $1,980,023; District of Columbia, $5,687,406; fortifications, $1,283,594; Indian, $8,035,723; legislative and judicial, $30,840,536; military, $902,767; navy, $21,692,516; pension, $81,703,200; postoffice, $66,605,344; sundry civil, $25,277,542; deficiencies, $10,423,366; miscellaneous, $10,153,960; permanent appropriations, $198,691,656. Total, $485,282,331.

The total appropriations made by each of the several Congresses since 1876 are as follows: Forty-third, $649,794,991; Forty-fourth, $594,643,272; Forty-fifth, $708,605,963; Forty-sixth, $737,696,603; Forty-seventh, $777,695,948; Forty-eighth, $805,289,402; Forty-ninth, $706,243,514; Fiftieth, $817,878,075.

HEAVY BREAD WAS TOO MUCH.

It Drove Ernest Boethig to Commit Suicide From Fear of Indigestion.

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—Death was preferable to indigestion to Ernest Boethig, who was found dead in bed at his home, No. 528 McIlwain street, yesterday, with a bullet in his head. In one of his pockets was found this letter, written in German:

MY DEAR WIFE—I forgive all; I have nothing to live for. All goes to my boy Karl. The last bread you made was very heavy.

Boethig and his wife did not live very happily together, as the letter shows, and on the 19th instant they quarreled and the husband threw a flatiron at his wife. He then gave her a $20 gold piece and drove her from his house. Special Officers Slater and Keegan broke into the house yesterday afternoon and found Boethig's body in bed propped up with pillows and in his lap lay the revolver. Beside the body was a picture of Boethig and his wife as they appeared on their wedding day. The remnants of a meal were on the kitchen table, and conspicuous among the articles barely touched was some home-made bread, evidently part of the batch referred to in Boethig's last letter. He had eaten of it, though it killed him.

SHE WILL DRIVE THE COLTS.

Mrs. Cleveland to Hold the Reins Over the Famous Grant Team.

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—The two superb colts formerly owned by General Grant, which were presented to George W. Childs by Mrs. Grant soon after her husband's death, will be driven together for the first time by Mrs. Frances Cleveland. Some days ago Mr. Childs, knowing of the ex-President's wife's great fondness for horses, invited her to come to "Wootton" to drive the pair for the first time together, and Mrs. Cleveland immediately accepted.

Mr. Childs said yesterday: "Just exactly when she will come I cannot say, but it will probably be within two weeks. The colts have had excellent care for almost two years at 'Wootton,' and, while they have been broken, they have never been driven together."

This Body of Ours.

Joe Howard in the New York Press.]

A dead sheep is worth so much a pound for food. A dead horse has hoofs for glue and hide for tanning. A dead cat has intestines, which, being dried and put in place, and swept by the bow of experience, give forth sweet songs, melodious and harmonious. But a dead man, what is he? He is simply the remains, the refuse, to be gotten rid of, as soon as decency will permit and custom ordains.

The Price of Ice.

From the Boston Herald.]

The Maine ice harvest is hardly up to the average, but, with the old ice left over from last year, there doesn't appear to be any occasion for apprehension of an ice famine this summer. All the same, we hear that the ice dealers propose to advance their prices considerably beyond those of last year. It is a pretty cold summer when the ice dealers get left.

Following Mexico's Example.

From the New York Herald.]

A wag once remarked that there are 25 more holidays in Mexico than there are days in the year. That bill in the Illinois Legislature to make Ground Hog Day a holiday appears to be in the line of emulating our sister Republic.

CAUGHT ON THE GRIP LINE.

THE love of money, we all must admit,
Is an evil growing large,
And those who don't believe it now
Will all some day be charged
With thinking too much of the dollar,
And they'll find it rather rough
When good St. Peter won't let them in,
Because they loved the stuff.

MISS VASSAR—Oh, Mr. Yale, won't you please sing one of your good old college songs?

Mr. Yale—Why, certainly; what shall it be?

Miss Vassar—Sing "There is a Tavern in the Town."

Mr. Yale—I can't do it, Miss Vassar. That one is knocked out; it didn't get a license.

WHERE are you going my ancient maid?
"To the Court House, sir," she said.
And why are you going there, my dear?
"To see if Judge White will let me sell beer."

MR. GALLY—Mr. Taylormade, is my suit done?

Mr. Taylormade—Yes, sir.

Mr. G.—Well, this is the first time you ever finished a suit for me on time. Please box it up, and I will take it with me.

Mr. T.—Mr. Gally, that suit don't leave this establishment until you pay for it. I have had enough trouble with you.

Mr. G.—That isn't quite fair, Mr. Taylormade. You finished it on time, and I think I should be allowed to pay for it on time. G. S. C.

GLEANED IN GREAT GOTHAM.

The Latest Musical Prodigy.

[NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS.]

NEW YORK, March 29.—Another musical phenomenon has made his first bow before the public. He is but 11 years old, and the connoisseurs composing the audience that listened to his piano playing last night think that his skill is marvelous in one so young. As his name, F. Burgemeister, indicates, he is a little German, but his musical education has been received in this country. He began practicing at the age of 7, and not long after became a pupil of Dr. Eberhard's Musical Conservatory. He reads any kind of music as most people read ordinary print, and once read, the most intricate score has become his own.

He Swears for Swearing Falsely.

Conviction of so comparatively trivial a misdemeanor as getting drunk renders a person ineligible for admission into the police force of this city. Frederick Conklin, who had been twice convicted of offenses which consigned him to prison for long periods, swore when applying for admission that he had never been convicted of even a misdemeanor. His application was successful and he became a policeman. He had not been one long when he ran against a colleague, who had him arrested for one of the offenses for which he had served. His recognition was followed by his immediate dismissal from the force, and to-day he was sentenced to ten years in State prison for his perjury.

Original Bidders Not Cut Out.

When the L. M. Bates Drygoods Company failed, several months ago, a receiver was appointed to wind up the business and sell the stock on hand. By direction of the Supreme Court, sealed tenders were advertised for the stock in a lump. R. H. White & Co., of Boston, and James A. Hearn & Son, of this city, sent in bids in compliance with the terms of the advertisement, but the time had expired when the bid of Jordan, Marsh & Co., of Boston, which was $13,000 over that of Hearn & Son, the higher of the two previous bidders, was received. The receiver, nevertheless, accepted it, subject to confirmation of the Supreme Court. The Court has decided that Hearn & Son were the legal purchasers at the amount of their original bid, so they take the cake.

Young Clothesline Thieves Captured.

Persons living on the east side of Central Park, about half-way between Yorkville and Harlem, have been losing the clothes which were hung on their roofs to dry every Monday for several months past. Detectives searched for the thieves in vain for many weary weeks, but at last they arrested one who "peached" on the rest, and in that way three more were secured. The clothesline plunderers proved to be boys of 10 and 11 years old, who live in the neighborhood. The things they stole they pawned, and then destroyed the tickets. The detectives have received some of the stolen linen. The boys are locked up, pending examination.

A Fat Freak Fined for a Spree.

Ellen Gerrard, a 400-pound fat freak, who has been on exhibition as different museums here and elsewhere, was arraigned in the Jefferson Market Police Court to-day for being drunk. She was collared in the street last night, while yelling at the top of her lungs. It took two men to escort her to the lockup. She was fined $10 by Judge Duffy.

One Way of Exciting Prejudice.

Lawyer Ambrose H. Purdy, counsel for Krulisch, the boy accused of murdering Drug Clerk Wechsung with a hatchet, wrote to Superintendent Murray to-day that there is exhibited in Doris' Museum, on Eighth avenue, an alleged reproduction of the murder in wax, with a dummy representing Krulisch wielding the ax. Mr. Purdy said he thought this was calculated to create a public prejudice against his client. The Superintendent sent his letter to Mr. Doris. It had not arrived in the evening. Mr. Doris said he would remove the wax figure if the Superintendent wanted him to.

THAT CENTENNIAL QUADRILLE.

Mrs. Angell, of Foxbury, Pa., Should be Invited to Participate.

NEW YORK, March 29.—A lady living at Foxbury, Pa., is probably better entitled to a place in the opening quadrille at the Washington Centennial ball than any lady yet named, if the committee really desires to assign these places with reference to the dancer's ancestors. The lady is Mrs. Edmund A. Angell, the wife of a clergyman at Foxbury, and she is the great granddaughter of Mary Ball, who not only opened the Inauguration ball, dancing with Washington a century ago, but was General Washington's cousin also. Mr. Angell, writing to a New York friend, thus outlines the genealogical situation.

General Washington's mother was Mary Ball and she married Augustin Washington in March, 1730. Her brother was Colonel Joseph Ball, and his daughter Mary, named after Washington's mother, danced with her cousin, George Washington, at the inauguration ball in New York in 1789. Four years later Mary Ball married Colonel Alexander Dalrymple Orr, then a member of Congress from Kentucky. They had six children. The eldest of them, Mary Ball Orr, married John Calhoun Andrews in 1819, and John, the eldest son of this marriage, married in 1843. He left two daughters and one son who are still living. My wife, Eliza, is the eldest child. The matter, therefore, stands thus: Eliza Angell is the eldest daughter of the eldest son of the eldest daughter of Mary Ball, who opened the ball with the Father of His Country 100 years ago. These statements are to be found substantially as I make them in Dr. Richard Henry Collin's "History of Kentucky."

Startled the Old Man.

From the Philadelphia Record.]

An Oxford young man called on his sweetheart the other evening, and then tied his horse to a post on which the dinner bell hung, and shortly before daylight the pair were startled by the tolling of the bell, the impatient steed having nibbled at the rope. The future father-in-law, imagining the barn on fire, started down stairs three steps at a time, when the youth jumped to his team and cut away, leaving explanations for his ladylove.

Guarding Against Desertion.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The War Department has issued a series of instructions for the guidance of recruiting officers in examining applicants for enlistment in the army. An outline chart of the human figure is to be furnished in each case, upon which are to be indicated any distinctive scar or mark, to insure identification in case of desertion.

Bought a Wife for a $4,000 House.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Soon after losing his wife in January, 35-year-old Casper Grissing, of Mont Clair, N. J., began to pay attention to Minnie Treen, a pretty housemaid of 23. Minnie did not smile on his suit at first, but finally agreed to marry him if he would sell his $4,000 house to her for $1. The transfer of real estate was made on Saturday and the marriage took place yesterday.

How It Happened.

From the Detroit Free Press.]

A Missouri weekly asks its readers to excuse lack of editorial matter by explaining that the editor is "now lying in bed, with one foot in the grave, while four of the best physicians of the town surround our couch and sew up the gaping wounds which disfigure us." He fell over a cow which was lying on the sidewalk.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

THE price of silver in 1888 averaged 93¾c per ounce, as against $1 01⅜ in 1887.

AN effort is being made to amalgamate all the coal mines in the United Kingdom, with a capital of $500,000,000.

THE national bank depositories now hold $43,615,349 Government bonds, exclusive of disbursing officers' balances.

THE net debt of the United States on March 1 was $1,128,240,318; and the decrease since July 1, 1888, has been $87,265,338.

THE number of inhabitants to each mile of railroad in this country in 1850 was 2,571; in 1887 the number was only 412.

THE savings banks of New York State number 135, with 1,382,858 depositors, and carry deposits amounting to $623,677,515.

ACCORDING to statistics produced before the Women's Congress, at Detroit, there are 3,000,000 women and girls in this country engaged in work other than domestic.

THE largest flume in the world has just been completed in Southern California. It is 50 miles long, cost $1,000,000 and consumed 9,000,000 feet of lumber in its construction.

PENNSYLVANIA has 286 natural gas companies organized within her State borders. Pittsburg has 76 of them; Greensburg, 24; Washington, 19; Beaver, 18; Brownsville, 7; Uniontown, 6, and the balance are scattered among nearly as many different towns and cities.

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

—Mrs. Ed Wickliffe, of Bowman, Ga., has a gold ring that is known to be over 400 years old.

—There is a boy in Luthersville, Ga., who has six grandmothers and three grandfathers still living.

—A vein of hot mineral water has been struck on the Alma (Mich.) sanitarium at a depth of 2,876 feet.

—Palmyra, Neb., is short on Bibles, and a local paper last week published the ten commandments "by request."

—The library of the British Museum will not hereafter supply novels to readers until five years after publication.

—Italy has opened its universities to women and Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark have done likewise.

—Breach of promise suits tried in the schoolhouses are the latest thing in the way of entertainments in Cass county, Missouri.

—C. W. Haskins, of Oakland, Cal., is making a list of the immigrants who went to the coast in '49. He estimates the number at 60,000.

—Middletown, N. Y., has a bl