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PITTSBURGH, SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 1899.
A HUNG JURY.

The long delay of the jury in the Cronin case before bringing in a verdict yesterday, has been a source of much speculation.

In determining the fate of five men, each of whom the evidence may have borne with varying degrees, it was to be expected that the jury would take considerable time.

It is not too much to say that a disagreement on this case will be a grave defect of justice. The constantly changing points of view of the jury members, and the fact that the men on trial have been remarkable for their conduct in the case in contrast to the trial of friendless criminals.

It is certainly to be taken for granted that a fire boat of such deep draft as those which guard the fronts of other cities would not be of use in our shallow rivers. But it is certain that a boat cannot be built on a hull that is not of such a draft as to be of use in our shallow rivers.

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CONGRESS appropriated \$300,000 for the celebration of the Congressional Centennial, but by the blunder of a clerk two figures were knocked off, and the appropriation as passed was only \$300. The blundering clerk appeared to be the cause of the error.

Mr. H. D. LYONS, of Chicago, in a communication elsewhere, makes rather the statement of Mr. Scott's denial that the Spring Valley and the Chicago and North Western strike were refused work on the resumption of operations. The record which Mr. Scott is making for himself at Spring Valley, and his letter to Mr. Dewey advertising the same, are in the hands of the Chicago and North Western corporation man, should have been given to the public for its party's good.

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THE TOPICAL TALKER.
Umbrellas Are Not Fitting Gifts for Invalids.
A Plan That Tells Tale of Stupidity.
A Plea for Mr. Carnegie—Weather Statistics.

"HAVE you made out a list of what you want your friends to give you at Christmas?" I asked a lady who has been an invalid for years and years.

"No, but I have made out a list of what I do not want," she replied, with a smile, "and I've underscored umbrellas, gum boots and gossamer hats in that category. During the 15 or 20 years that I've been confined almost exclusively to my house or my bed, I've received no less than three umbrellas as Christmas presents."

A great many Christmas presents are given without thought of their appropriateness. The record which Mr. Scott is making for himself at Spring Valley, and his letter to Mr. Dewey advertising the same, are in the hands of the Chicago and North Western corporation man, should have been given to the public for its party's good.

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