

The Dispatch.

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RECIPROCITY WORKING WELL.
 The conclusion of a reciprocity treaty with the British West Indies is important in itself, for the trade between them and the United States amounted during the past year to about thirty million dollars, of which one-third were exports from this country. The indirect results of the treaty will not be less important. Hitherto the tariff of the West Indies favored Canada at the United States' expense, in regard to agricultural products. Now in return for the free entry of sugar and coffee grown in the British West Indies into our ports these English colonies have agreed to enlarge their free ports and reduce the duties on the leading agricultural and other products of the United States to a large extent. This means that our farmers and manufacturers will be able to compete with the Canadians for the West Indian market, and it is good news for Americans generally.

Canadians can't be expected to view the treaty with equanimity. They will not see their monopoly of the West Indian market smashed for our benefit with complacency. When they think it over the beauty of sticking to a selfish mother country will not be so apparent. Reflection may lead the Canadians to hanker after a little of the same reciprocity with their big neighbor. Perhaps in this way the commercial union, if no closer one, will come between this country and Canada.

altogether clear. It does seem plausible, however, that the open and mild winters during which the grip has flourished are congenial to the disease if not productive of it, and probably it would be a blessing in most respects if the cold weather which we have now were to stay steadily with us for a month or two. Whatever weather Providence vouchsafes, the grip may still be fought successfully and even warded off entirely by reasonable care of health and obedience to the advice of good physicians.

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PITTSBURG, FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 1891.

TWELVE PAGES

ELKINS AS SECRETARY OF WAR.

Though there are some outstanding accounts to settle with foreign nations, such as the Chile difficulty, the Italian claims for the New Orleans lynching, and the seal question in Bering Sea, none of them is sufficiently serious to give special significance to the nomination of Stephen B. Elkins as Secretary of War, yesterday sent to the Senate to be confirmed.

Mr. Elkins is a man of affairs. Of that there is no doubt. His capable and enterprising management of his own fortune indicates abundantly that he is equal to the administration of the War Office. Of course nobody expects the Secretary of War to have technical knowledge of the art of arms, any more than we look for a master mariner in the person who fills the Secretarship of the Navy. What is needed is first-rate executive talent, and Elkins is greatly gifted in such regard.

But, in view of late rumors the appointment of Elkins has pronounced political significance. It comes like an astonishingly quick verification of the story started by Elliott F. Shepard the other day, that Blaine and the President had arrived at an understanding, whereby in return for Elkins' appointment Blaine at a convenient opportunity would permanently decline further mention for the Presidency, leaving Harrison a "walk-over." At any rate Colonel Shepard was the first man in the country to mention the likelihood of Elkins' appointment. He coupled his prophecy with the assertion above noted as to the deal with Blaine. Usually the Colonel's inspiration is of the foolish and extravagant sort, but in this instance he has so far hit the bull's eye.

It is indeed beginning to look as though the President and Blaine may have arrived at an agreement. Senator Quay and other antagonists of the administration declare this is not so; but THE DISPATCH is compelled to note this morning what looks like affirmative evidence, even when in common with the general public it would prefer to believe otherwise.

THE UNITED TRACTION LINES.

What the public had been taught to look for during a long while past has been enormously done—the Duquesne is united with the Pittsburg Traction line.

It is of no importance whether this is called consolidation, leasing or a traffic arrangement. There is an admitted pooling of issues as well as of receipts, and a virtual division of the net profits.

What concerns the public now is to see that this arrangement inure to the comfort of patrons and the benefit of the city treasury, in place of being wholly for the good of the lines. The companies being now under one management, can run to the most economical advantage. They should, therefore, be expected to provide seats for every fare paid, and to stand a fair tax upon their cars for the benefit of the city which granted them enormously valuable franchises.

One of the first steps of the new management should be to hang out a plaid, bearing the legend "Full," upon every car when the last seat is taken.

The companies have finished their arrangements for mutual benefit. Now let the public begin to agitate for such concessions in respect to comfort as they are fairly entitled to demand.

THE GRIP MORE EASILY HANDLED.

The grip is one of the unwelcome gifts of the season. It has not yet reached the proportions of an epidemic here, but, judging by the experience of the last two winters, the changeable weather, ranging from unseasonable warmth to excessive cold within twenty-four hours, is calculated to promote the spread of the disease. The grip broke out in this country just about two years ago, when December was masquerading as April, and it reached its most dire ascendancy in Pittsburg at the close of last winter. The physicians have learned a good deal about the disease, and the public, too, appreciate now the necessity of guarding themselves against its attacks.

The grip is not likely to have it all its own way this season, for doctors and laymen alike know measurably how to mitigate its effects, if not to ward it off entirely.

Though reams of paper have been spied in the attempt to define the grip, trace its origin and describe the conditions under which it travels and grows, there remains still a wide divergence of opinion among medical experts on all these points. It is tolerably certain that the world-wide epidemic of 1889-90 started in the swampy districts about Bohemia, in Asia, after an unusually wet spring, and came West with the traders from Russia, the English post-laureate being now in the middle business, may yet dash off some light and airy things of this kind.

M. HENRI DE MAUASSANT, the author, is suffering from a disease of the central nervous system, and has been ordered by his doctor to take a complete rest. He is gaining ground, but his friends fear that he will become insane.

M. PAUL DESCHANEL, Deputy of the Eure-et-Loire, who has been

commissioned by the French Government to proceed to the United States with the view of investigating the social question and the position of the Negro in their country, will confer with Cardinal Gibbons, Henry George and the leading men in all religious bodies and schools of thought in America.

A Good Demand for Pastors.

STEUBENVILLE, Dec. 17.—[Special.]—The winter meeting of the Steubenville Presbyterian Church this evening, after a two-days' session at Mingo Junction, Rev. O. V. Stewart, Dr. Wallace of Uniontown, and Dr. Morrison were dismissed. There are 29 vacant pastorates in the Presbytery, many of them offering excellent opportunities for study and usefulness. The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held in January.

Rapid transit as it is now understood has been in partial operation since 1889, and in that year five persons were killed by street cars. As the horse disappeared before the cable and electricity the danger to life increased, and in 1890 seventeen persons lost

their lives in this way. The enlargement of the new system has proceeded very rapidly since then, and the transformation of the Pittsburg, Allegheny and Monongahela is in itself an immense factor. In comparing this year's record of mortality with last, the increase in the number of miles operated must be remembered, and then it will appear that already the deadliness of the street car under the new conditions is being checked. It will also serve the purpose of bringing the number of sacrifices to street cars into proper proportion to note that the steam railroads in this country during the last 11 months have killed 210 people. There is still room for great improvement, of course. Coronet McDowell has succeeded already in inducing the street car companies to protect pedestrians and passengers in various important ways. Councils has also contributed to the public's protection by legislation calling for watchmen at crossings, etc. More children than grown-up people are killed, as might be expected; and the remedy in this regard lies more with the parents than street car corporations or public officials. It is to be hoped that the cost in human life of rapid transit will be reduced considerably as people become trained to be ware of the new perils in the streets.

MANIACS who go in for crime are not getting the encouragement they probably dream they deserve. Neroless dooms himself instead of Russell Sage, and now poor Edward M. Field, who re-hypothesized that a lovely world—all his friends' possessions, is not allowed to retire into a cosy permanent asylum for a vacation. It won't be worth while for thieves and murderers to stay in the business if their privileges are curtailed in this fashion.

YOUNG HOPE, Mrs. Leslie-Wilde's addition, got into bed too late. It would have been a splendid free ad for her if only happened while she was swaying around the lecture platform.

THE Philadelphia Record says that Texas will render a substantial service to the National Democracy by sending Roger Q. Mills to the United States Senate. It would be a relief to the whole country, regardless of party, to have Mr. Mills laid away where his mouth would be a harmless toy to amuse the worthy old ladies in the Senate chamber.

RUSSELL HARRISON has endorsed the President's message editorially in the Helena Journal. That should be reward enough for any proud parent.

THE latest fashion news from Paris is that the civilized world, or the masculine half of it, is condemned to wear an uglier form of the high silk hat than any yet invented. The coming tie is described as a stove-pot hat cut down and sat upon. If it had been squared flat it would have been all right.

TWELVE baseball clubs will doubtless run the national game into the ground, and that's why the scheme of the magnates should be encouraged.

It is unfortunate that the variation of the weather cannot exceed certain definite limits, although great efforts in this line have been made lately. If it could be below zero and 90° above in the shade at the same moment the effect would be sensational indeed.

HARRISON and Morton and Harrison and Elkins are the latest ante-controversy tickets. The boomers propose, but, fortunately, the delegates dispose.

Ir is the appointment of Stephen B. Elkins to the War Secretariate is the result of an understanding between the President and Mr. Blaine, which is hard to believe, it does not and cannot interfere with the understanding of the Republican party has with Mr. Blaine.

HENRY IRVING announces that he has confidence still in the British drama. Wonder whether the British drama reciprocates.

NEW limited mail trains are the order of the day for Pittsburg. The calamitous experience of some of the expresses suggests that a popular novelty would be a train that is limited to staying on the track and carrying its passengers in safety.

SILENCE means consent, except in the case of Mr. Blaine. A little yes or no would be appreciated now.

WHEN Canada hears the news from the West Indies she will realize that "The Empire" is not so satisfied itself on the altar of loyalty, especially a loyalty that makes dollars scarce and drives its devotees from their native land.

NATHAN B. GOFF is for Harrison—and Harrison knew it before he made X. B. G. a Circuit Judge.

BY way of a startling novelty the Philadelphia Ledger suggests that the two great parties fight it out on the tariff issue next year. These revolutions that start in Philadelphia will shock the country to death once they are over.

PREFERRED BY FORTUNE.

SECRETARY FOSTER is improving in health, and will be able to be driven out next week.

ST. EDWIN ARNOLD calls Edgar Allan Poe the "Calvinist of American Literature," and thinks he should be better appreciated.

ARCHDEACONE ERNST, residing in the Rainier Palace, where Archdeacon Steimann is dead of influenza, has also been stricken with the disease.

THE Princess of Sagan, who contributed more than anyone else to the fame of Worth, has a will that reproduces even to details the residence of a Persian millionaire.

MR. AND MRS. GLADSTONE and Mr. Morley arrived at Blairitz yesterday. All the party are enjoying their usual health and none of them suffered any on the journey from London.

SENATOR DAWES, of Massachusetts, is in a sad state of mind. Five anxious fellow citizens are clamoring for his seat, and insisting upon him taking himself into the retirement department.

CONGRESSMAN HOAR says that he was once mistaken for a farmer by one of the professors of a divinity school near Concord who was charmed to find a rustic who knew so much about him.

EDWARD J. RICHARD, a Welsh bard, born in 1816, verse out of his head. The English post-laureate, being now in the middle business, may yet dash off some light and airy things of this kind.

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is suffering from a disease of the central nervous system, and has been ordered by his doctor to take a complete rest. He is gaining ground, but his friends fear that he will become insane.

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ing the last 11 months have killed 210 people.

There is still room for great improvement,

of course, in the Chicago Convention of 1894 that nominated Mr. Elkins was

held in the city of London to-day voted 2,500 guineas to

provide a wedding present for Prince of

Wales and Princess Victoria Mary of

Teck. It has been said that the Prince of

Wales feels a hesitancy about asking Parlia-

ment to make a grant for the proper sup-

port of his eldest son after his marriage to Prin-

cess Victoria Mary, and that Parliament

might in view of the great popularity of

the Territorial Legislature in 1894, Attorney

General of the Territory in 1894, Attorney