THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1898.

CITY GOVERNMENT AT THE CAPITAL

Claim Made That It Fails Through Lack of Partisanship.

DETAILS OF INEFFICIENCY CHARGED

The Streets of Washington, It Is Asserted, Are No Better Paved and panies have long desired to establish Not Nearly So Well Cleaned, Its fit for decent people to ride in, but are Lights and Water Are Worse, and unable to get the promise of the com-Its Government Less Efficient Than in Partisan New York.

Washington Letter in the Sun.

This is the only city in the United States that is not ruled by its own citizens. Just now a feeble effort is being made to secure local self-government, though it has no larger promise of success than any of those that have preceded it. The agitation is interesting chiefly as showing that in the absence of many of the usual features of municipal government that are obnoxious to the advocates of local nonpartisanship, the administration of the usiness affairs of the community is not better than that of other cities. The arguments of the agitators prove that other communities, where partisanship is constant and rampant, have little to fear in a comparison with Washington.

Citizens of the district are extremely cautious about criticising the local administration or any part of the national government. It is the traditional and sustained policy to keep all persons of influence in a pleasant state of mind toward the people here. "The conditions here are, or could easily be made, the ideal of the advocates of local non-partisanship," said an intelligent citizen who was an active local politician before his business in the departments induced him to become a resident of the capital. The population of the district is 280,000, which is enough to make experiments in local government significant. Certainly there never was a better opportunity for experiment. Even without any change in methods we should be able to see some of the beneficent effects of non-partisanship that its advocates promise when their principles are adopted.

ADVANTAGES.

"Among the 280,000 people there are many men of wealth, who take pride in the beauty and good government of their town. An unusually large proportion of the whole is made up of wellto-do people. Probably no other city has as large a percentage of citizens administration The rate of growth of the town is about the average of other cities of the same class, and it is reasonable to estimate that in twenty years or less the population will reach half a million. We have parks wisely planned, wide avenues and streets meeting at monument circles, arboreal suburbs, fine homes, and the 'magnificent distances' that are without parallel. Everything is ripe for an adminis-tration of business affairs that will make the place, without extravagant outlay, a model for all the world. Under the present system there are no vard politicians keeping bosses in power to pervert the proper course of public expenditures. The jobbery complained of in most communities does

were a political power. The muddiness about the railway stations gives to the visitor a painful first impression of the capital city such as I have not had on reaching many cities that are ruled by political parties

BEHIND THE TIMES. "At the two railway stations northern visitors are astonished at the motwalks were covered. Here and there ley collection of dirty, rickety cabs, the sidewalks were cleaned by resicoupes, and carriages, to which horses dents, but about every government fit only for the boneyard are attached and driven by jehus equally as dirty and dilapidated. The railway comby the sun and the winds of heaven. His ambition, when he prospers, is to missioners for proper rules and reguown an express wagon. His wagon h lations against the competition of the a blight. Ramshackle and rickety, it

stations

crazy cabs that now hang about the is saved from collapse by an assortment of ropes, strings and scraps. It "Street lighting is no better and no is covered with scraps of rag carpet cheaper here than elsewhere. The qualor old canvas, and drawn by a horse ity of the gas is about that of other rescued from the glue factory to its towns, but it is not good. The proporown disgust. One powerful argument tion of electric lights is not greater Not being governed than elsewhere. by popular vote, it would be easy for the district administration to solve the problems of lighting that other cities are restrained from attacking by the political influence of corporations. The ular government. price of gas should be lower or else the company should pay a profit into the treasury, as in Paris, Electric light-"With regard to the police and deing might be made so cheap as to en-

tective force of Washington, the less able a much larger proportion of private houses to use the current. businesslike management all are miss-"The streets are abominably cut up ing. Three or four policemen will make by street rallway lines, a part of which are underground electric and a part drunket negro whose only desire is horse. The continued use of the latter to be allowed to amble his way homescems to be due to the leisurely way in which the slow-moving traction company replaces its burned power house. If the building goes on no fasery police station in the city, yet the ter than the removal of the bricks of criminal still breathes the air of freethe burned structure, it must be months more before the horses are lom. Young colored boys, whose auabandoned. Horse cars go bumping dacity is amazing, have made it un-

along Pennsylvania avenue on rails that are loosely laid down without spikes THE COLORED ELEMENT. "This reminds me of one respect in which Washington is unfortunate. Its own doorstep, and no arrests were labor is virtually all black, and there-

made. Policemen are allowed in Washington to make arrests without a warfore mortally slow and incredibly inefficient. Wherever the Washington negro does not constitute the sole rant, and they have even been known to arrest persons against whom no source of labor supply, wherever he has charge had been made merely on the any competition, he must inevitably go under. He can't polish a shot. By fanciful suspicion of the policemen themselves that their victim might possibly have committed an offence. comparison with the quick, but thorough Italian bootblack his work is that There is authority for the statement of a whitewasher compared with a that a house owner who protested against the forced entry of a policeskilled painter. He is shiftless, mostly

man into his home at night to arrest caring only to earn enough to take him to a picnic, or where he is industrious a person who was not there, and for he is not expert. His shine does not whom he had no warrant, was rebuked in court by the police justice for shine on the heels and edges. This is true of whatever he does. In sweepresisting an officer. "Yet in spite of all these drawbacks ing the street or in following the sweep-

with a fixed income of from \$1,200 to \$5,000 a year. These are forces for good refuse, but not all. It is astonishing in which kissing goes by favor, and made a mistake."-Washington Star.

how his ways are tolerated. The doorwhere the humble citizen therefore has boy at one of the large dry goods stores is a well-dressed colored boy. little show, it is not likely that the who chews gum incessantiy as no the and lazily opens the door. Undoubt-ediy the lack of efficient laborers tells back to the system in vogue when political suffrage was enjoyed in the political suffrage was enjoyed in the sole source of trouble. A few weeks ago there was an icy snow fall and the

"Those were the days of jobbery and orruption, of rotten pavements and endless mudholes. Those were the days of the 'featherduster legislature," so building they remained icy until the sun turned the ice to slush. The slush called because as each day's session closed the newly enfranchised states. was allowed to stay until it was dried men would carry away every portable article of furniture from the city hall and other public buildings, even in-"The appearance of the streets is much affected by the colored citizen, cluding the splitoons and feather dust-

HAWTHORNE GAVE UP.

Fried to Write a Novel on the Incidents of Evangeline.

From the Washington Post. A man from Massachusetts told the following in one of the hotels last night: against local self-government is the "Few people know that Hawthorne large percentage of negroes. It is not near publishing 'Evangeline,' came surprising that ambitious citizens with which Longfellow wrote, but it is a the ability to influence the votes of fact. A few years ago there died in these people should see glory and Salem, Mass., an old gentlenmn named emoluments for themselves in a pop-Horace Ingersoll, who was not related to Bob Ingersoll, but who was a wonderful man in his way. Years and years ago Horace Ingersoll heard the story

of 'Evangeline' from a woman friend of his who had been spending some said the better. Discipline, system, and time in Nova Scotia. One day the old gentleman, who was a personal friend of both Hawthorne and Longfellow a great hullabaloo over arresting a was dining at Longfellow's home in Cambridge, and Hawthorne was there also. After dinner Ingersoll told to the ward unmolested, but at least one mur-der has been committed recently in and Hawthorne decided then and there open daylight by a man known to ev- that he would make a novel of it. He wrote a few chapters and then gave it up in despair, because he found that the subject was too grand for his prosaic pen. So Ingersoll gave Lorgsafe for women to go to market in fellow permission to use the nar broad daylight for fear of being rative, and under his poetic touch knocked down and robbed of their it blossomed into one of the masterpleces of literature, pecketbooks. Half a dozen cases of this kind occurred in one week last Ingersoll personally and he told fall, one lady being assaulted on her months before his death. And, by the way, it is worthy of mention that Ingersoll died in the house in which Hawthorne lived for many years.'

A Weighty Consideration.

'I wish." said the bookkeeper, discon tentedly, "that I had taken up a scientiac career. I've a great mind to be an astronomer, yet. 'Are you tired of figures?"

"A little."

"But if you were an astronomer you would be obliged to make calculations or a scale that you never have to attempt now. You'd have to deal with millions and billions and quadrillions of miles mstead of hundreds and thousands of dollars, as you do new." "That's very true. But 1 wouldn't b

"Cowld



"Clinchers" for Friday

In addition to the large number of special items advertised in yesterday's evening papers we shall place on sale today the following list of stupendous trade winners. Every item is a total eclipse in itself.

Surprisingly Low Prices The Last of the In Fine Dress Goods

Friday has always proved Itself to be a great stock reduction day in our Dress Goods Department. Special efforts will be made today to further diminish a cumbersome stock. Here are a few prices that will do it.



Half Wool Figured and Plaid around. special...... 25c Black Figured Dress Goods, 22c grade, special 17c they will be marked All of our 39-cent Spring Dress goods that have come in within the last ten days, 29c

special..... Our regular 49c Wool Spring Dress Goods, comprising about thirty-five different patterns and weaves, special

Black Figured Dress Goods, also Plain Black Mohair, regular price 35c., special..... All Wool Black Figured Dress Goods, 69-cent

grade, special.....

Beautiful Silks At Bargain Prices

Black Brocaded Silks, 69c grade, special..... Satin Rhadame, guaranteed all silk, real value

750..... Silk Velours, in all the new effects, regular

Blankets The most pretentious store in town never dreamed of bargains such as we offer you. Look to your tried merchant for stability in merchandise, lowness of price and general satisfaction all

We have still a large stock of Dress Goods, 16c 121/2c Just received, 45 pieces black and colored figured dress goods, real value 35c., 5c large double blankets of cotton, but of good weight and worth fully 59c. Until the last is sold

29c.

Also about twenty pair of a better quality, worth 75c,

49c.

All of our \$6.00 slightly soiled **39C** all-wool blankets have been reduced to

\$3.98.

25c

And rather than carry over the palance of our \$7.00 strictly allwool blankets, we have marked the same

\$4.98.

Upholstery Department

Silkolines in the latest styles 47c and colorings, 36 inches wide, were 15c; special. 10c 53C Cretonnes in all the newest 89c vide, worth 25c; special 15c Tapestry in entirely new effects, 50 inches wide, 39c worth 59c; special..... High Art Tickings, corded effects, worth 35c; 25c Axminster Moquette Rugs, regular \$1.98 Fur Rugs, in white and grey, regular \$1.98 price \$2.75 \$1.98 4c Special 2c Embroidery 2c 500 yards Cambric Embroid-5c worth less than 81/3c; special 41/2C One lot extra quality Cambric 79c Embroideries, 10c grade, 6c 5c 3c Onelot Cambric Embroid-eries, 121/3c grade; special. 7c 5c Ladies' 4c 25c Handkerchiefs One hundred dozen white 37c **37c** hemstitched Handkerchiefs, **3c** 6c grade; special...... **3c** One hundred and fifty dozen 11c Swiss Embroidered Handkerchiefs, 1236 grade; 8c 3c 10c One hundred dozen Swiss 10c

"Now, Charles, let us make a list of your debts." "One moment, dear uncle, till I have filled up your inkstand."-Tit-Bits. Visitor-"Pat says he's descinded from

some of the greatest houses in Ireland." Mike-"Musha! So he did, many a toimeon a ladder!"-Tit-Bits.

boy's voice sounds like his father's."- | came home from his worruk and axed wot was there for dinner. He was toired

A New Zealand author recently applied an' hungry an' cross as two sthicks, so be was, an' I give him a soft answer." to Mr. Kipling for advice, and received the following tote, which he says, he considered "encouraging": "No man's

advice is of the least bonefit in our busi-ness (and I are a very busy man). Keep traint painted, and, after sitting for an on trying till you either fail or succeed." hour in silence he thought he would break the monotony. "How are you get-

WISE AND OTHERWISE. COMPILED BY THE POCKET MAGAZINE.

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POLICEMEN.

bot lay its heavy charge on every dollar of tax money. The affairs of the town are not run with an eye single to the welfare of a political pariy. "Yet in the arguments for local self-

government toned down to save the feelings of commissioners and legislators it is asserted that the people of Washington are forced to drink the polluted, unfiltered water of the Potomac, than which only the water of Jersey City is less drinkable. The water is obviously dirty, though that does not necessarily imply that it is unwholesome, but it is impure under the tests of the chemist and the microscopist, Experts have affirmed that in its unfiltered, unboiled state, it is detrimental to health and is in some degree responsible when the citizen is not able to resist the encroachments of disease. It is contended that by a process of filtering it is easily possible. without great expense, to make the water more petable, or at least less displeasing to the sight; that many a city less financially able, has drawn its pure water from distant hills and brought it into its homes. The advocates of local self-government assert that if the form of government were changed to that of other cities, no such condition of the water supply could endure. Evidently they forget Jersey City.

UNHEALTHFUL AND DIRTY.

"The death rate of Washington seems to support this argument. It is higher than that of most, if not all, Northern cities of the same class. This is partly due, of course, to the greater mortality among the blacks, and partly due to the malarial conditions. But these conditions can be changed. The signs of inefficient administration are frequent enough to make that count among the causes. An epidemic of diphtheria or scarlet fever is among the rarest o. things in a well-regulated community of this size. At this mo-ment there is what would be called elsewhere an epidemic of each. The new cases of diphtheria in one week were fifty-eight. This may mean inefficient methods of seclusion or a bad state of the water supply, and of the atmosphere, or both. Typhoid fever is Weekly. not an uncommon thing here, even in the winter months. Yet sanitarians assert that it is possible to make Washington a healthful as well as a beautiful city.

"Foilage covers a multitude of sins. Just now the veil of leaves is withdrawn, and the place is naked to the eye. It is undeniably dirty. Covered as miles of its tree-lined streets are with cracked, uneven asphalt, showing had inspection, they are not kept clean by the sweeping machines and the negro laborers. Besides being badly put down in many cases, the pave-

ents have no proper drainage, although the natural topography is such almost to require skill to prevent self-drainage. On a rainy day the streets of no ring-ruled city are mud-There are virtually no street crossings. To go down the southwest side of Pennsylvania avenue it to wade through muddy water above the shoe

tops. The sidewalks are atrocious, made of soft red bricks that are as uneven as the course of true love. Little puddles of water stand for a full day after a rain. About Center Market at this season of the year there is an atmosphere of carelessness. In the street the black man builds his fire to cook his coffee and bacon, unchange. disturbed by the easy policeman, who does not always wear his coat buttoned while on duty and who is usualwant! ly lacking in dignity. He leans against a lamp post and chats as amiably with grandma, forgot (hic) latch key, the colored man as though the latter

Julia-"Did you say Jeannette is tryin: to get into business?" Jennie-"Yes." "What kind of business does she want to Professional Call Delayed.-New Wo-man Physician-"George, is there any prospect of it clearing off very soon?" "Everybody's." - Youker's get into?" Statesman. -"No: why?

Not Unreasonable Supposition .-- Yeast-Where do they get the gold leaf from? Crimsonbeak-Oh, I believe they gathe them from the trees out at the Klondike -Yonkers Statesman. Carl.

"I find \$12 a high price for this parrot, I suppose he speaks a good deal"" "No, not at all, but he understands everything,"-Fliegende Blatter.

Willis-"Parker's salary was doubled : short time ago, so I hear." Walace-"Yes, it was; but it got him in lots of trouble." Willis-"How's that?" Wallace-"His wife found it out."-Town l'opies.

"Maud is going to give the Sunday school Christmas tree a lovely doll with real hair. Isn't it just like her?" London paper under the heading, "Sit ations Wanted." It reads as follows: "As Phain Cook, General Servant, or "It isn't just like her if it has real hair. Indianapolis Journal. ALC: N 18

House Parlormaid; where there is a dog or dogs. Pug preferred; age 38.-E. E. S., etc."-New York Times. Two newsboys in the gallery witness a erformance of "Hamlet," In the last cones, after Hamlet has killed Laertes Singerly (to friend recently married)ind the King, and the Queen has died of soison and Hamlet of a poisoned wound. one of the newsboys exclaims: "Jim, what a time that must have been for extra specials!"-Tit-Bits.

. . . . Singerly-Can't sing! Why, man, that Information .- "This," said the little boy who was showing his eastern rela-tives the suburban beauties of Chicago, is the park that General Jackson was thinks she can.-Chicago News,

amed after."-Chicago Tribune.

A grand wedding?"

No

Not the Way to Cork .- Charles Kenny, Another Clever Woman .- "My wife can dining once at the house of a friend, chanced to swallow a piece of cork with his wine, the result being a severe fit of coughing. "Take care, my friend," said teil what time it is in the middle of the night when it is pitch dark." "How does she do it?" She makes me get up and look at the clock."-Chicago Record. his next neighbor, with a rather feeble attempt at humor. "that's not the way for Cork!" "No." gasped the irrepres-. . . . "I hear that the crowd hooted you when

you appeared at the Pedlington Theater Royal." "False, me boy, false," replied the eminent tragedian. "All false, There ible sufferer, "it's the way to kill Kenny!"-London Figaro. was no crowd."-Household Words.

Stranger .- "I notice this handsome o much about?" Peck—"Oh. she's married now." Beck—That's too bad; but you al-ways were unlucky with your love arapartment house is illuminted, and there are sounds of reverly within. What is The janitor's funeral."-New York fairs Peck-"Yes; decidedly so."

• • • • • • Beck-"By the way, whom did Disappointed in His Boy .- "Smith's just DATTS Peck-"Mo."-Chicago News. bout discouraged trying to make some thing out of that boy of his."

An old Georgia negro hearing that his former master had decided to enlist in 'I saw him today, and he told me he had just bet a pot of money on the foot ball team the boy plays in, and lost it he Cuban army, said to him: "Marse Tom, doan you do no sich fool all."-Detroit Journal. thing ez dat-doan yo do it!" "Why shouldn't I?"

Alternative .- "Don't leave th Kase, Marse Tom"-and here the old table," said the landlady as her new boarder rose from his scanty breakfast. man lowered his voice—"you's got a touch er de rheumatism, en you can't run ez fast now ez you run en-durin' er de war!" "I must, madam. It's hard wood, and my teeth are not what they used to be "----Atlanta Constitution. Detroit Free Press.

. . . . Magistrate-"The gamekeeper declares that he saw you take this pheasant, What have you to say to that?" Pris-oner-"I only took it for a lark." Magisone thing I cawn't understand, doncherno! Willie Addlepate-Why, when we stop o consideh-aw-how uncomfortable it trate-"Six months for making ornithological error."-Tit-Bits.

s in a crowd-why, aw-1 cawn't see why 8 8 8 5 When Lord Dufferin was viceroy of India, he had a "shikarry," or sporting servant, whose special duty was to atcrowd .-- Puck. tend the visitors at the vice-regal court Relieved .- "Borus," cautiously inquired

that the visitors at the vice reactions on their shooting excursions. Returning one day from one of these expeditions, the "shikarry" encountered the viceroy, who, full of courteeus solicitude for his Nagus, literary editor of the Daily Bread, Nagus, liferary editor of the Daily Bread, "are you goin to write a Christmas story this year, as usual?" "I have already written one," replied the other, "and sent it to another paper." "Borus," exclaimed Nagus, impulsively slapping him on the back, "let's go out and take something!" sucs is an of contents sometride for his guests' enjoyment, acked: "Well, what sort of sport has Lord — had?" "Oh," replied the scrupulously points Indian, "the young Sahib shot divinely, but God was very merciful to the birds."-Ex--Chicago Record.

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Fr. Dugan-"I am afraid, Bridgei, that you are as much at fault in this quarrel as Patrick. You must learn to exercise forbearance, and remember that a soft At 2 a. m .- "Who is it? What do you

(Voice from without ("It's Willie (hic), "Goodn much that dear

ting along?" he inquired. To his astonishmeat the artist, absorbed in his work, replied: "Move your head a little to the right, and shut your mouth." Not being

N. W. P .- "Mrs. Smith sent for me to accustomed to such a form of address come over and see her three days ago, and I have been waiting ever since for it to clear off. I am sure she will be ex-pecting me."-Philadelphia North Amer-ican. Bits.

"I told you," said Mr. Gobbler, as he An Actor's Excuse,-After his first gazed reoroachfully at his wife through the slats of the coop where she was be-ing fattened. "not to come near the house until after Christmas. Why did you dis-bloy me", "I just couldn't help it, dear." ging." On one occasion, when a wretch obey me?" "I just couldn't help it, denr." ging." On one occasion, when a wretch-ging." On one occasion, when a wretch-ging." On one occasion, when a wretch-ed play had been going for some weeks Peafowl yesterday, and I did so want to see how she was dressed."-Detroit Fras

why he "gagged" so much, To this Mr. Penley replied promptly: A new and alarming phase of the do-mestic service problem is revealed by an advertisement that recently appeared in the country, and have to catch the 12.15 from Waterloo!"-Tit-Bits.

A Louisville gambler on one occasion thought he had a good thing when a stranger who wooked as if he had plenty of money came along and suggested a friendly game of poker. The game ran along smoothly for a while, and at last, Singerly (to friend recently married)-Why, old man, you look and and dejected Have you met with a disappointment in your matrimonial venture? Wederly-Alas! yes. My wife cannot away, and after all the cash was up and it came to a show-down the Louisville ought to cause you to rejoice. I think you are to be congratulated. I think Wederly-But the trcuble is that she stranger showed four sings and the stranger showed four aces. "Take the noney, mister!" gasped the astonished Kentuckian; "inke it, if you have the heart to do so; but I'll be darned if that was the hand I dealt you!"-Argonaut.

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A good (and true?) story is going the ound which shows to what extent the folent ebuiltions and caprices of the German emperor are regarded in his own country. An English gentleman, it ap-pears, was walking with a friend in Unter den Linden, and in the course of a discussion on the Kaiser's conduct com nitted a grievous error of Majestats Beck-"What became of that charming little north side widow you used to rave exclaimed. "The emperor's a- fool," he exclaimed, whereupon an English-speak ing police officer tay ped him on the shoul-der and said, "You must come mit me to ze police station." "What for?" asked the Englishman. "Mein herr did cail ze kaiser a — fool." replied the man. "No, no," urged the cute Briton, "It was the Russian emperor I was talking about." "Dat vill not vash," went on the confoot exstable; "dere is no emperor a cept the German emperor." After which, Dame Rumor has it, the police officer and the Englishman agreed to keep cach oth cr's secret, and perted on good terms,-Westminster Gazette.

National Characteristics.-- A German and a Frenchman sat opposite each other at a table d'hote in a certain hotel in Switzerland. "You are a Frenchman,

A Puzzle.-Willie Addiepate-There is me thing I cawn't understand, doncher-to? Chollie Noddlekins-What's that? his vis-a-vis. "You are a German, I pre-sume?" "To be sure; but tell me, pray

how you made that discovery." "Benaus it is that there are always more people in a crowd than there are where there is no dry retort.- London Figaro.

> "Kismet."-- A lady living in a fashion able quarter has a bit of statuary hear-ing the inscription "Kismet." The house-maid was dusing the room the other day when the mistress appeared. "Shure, ma'am, what's the manin' of the 'ritin' on the bottom of this" asked the maid, referring to the inscription on the statue.

"Kismet means 'fate,' " replied the nistream

Bridget was limping painfully when our with her sweetheart not long afterward. and he asked:

"What's the mailer, Bridget?" "Faith," was the answer. "I have th most tirrible korns on me kismet!" "From "it bits answer turneth away wrath." Bridget O'Hoolihan – "Begorra, yer riverence, that's jist wot stharted the throuble. Pat

1ce, \$1.50, special..... Extra Quality Checked Wash Silks. 49c grade, special..... **Our Bargain List**

All of the following are to be had at or near the bargain counter in the center of the store all day today.

8c Dress Ginghams, choice of any..... 31/2c Cotton Crash, special..... c Shirting Prints, choice of any 8c Fancy Outing Flannels, special...... 4½c Values 8c Pillow Cases, ready for use, special..... \$1.00 White Crochet Spreads, regular price \$1.00, special

7c Pure Linen Crash, special..... 41/2c, yard wide, Unbleached Muslin, special..... 6c, best quality, 4-4 Unbleached Muslin, special...... 434c loc Soft Finish Cambric, as good as Lonsdale,

special..... 6c, vard wide, Bleached Muslin, special..... apc Bleached Table Damask, special..... 49c Bleached and Unbleached Sheets, best quality,

size 81x90, special..... roc, All-Linen, Fringed Napkins, special.....

15c Brown Sheeting, 10-4, special..... 6c Checked Nainsook, suitable for Men's Aprons and

Shirts, special..... All of our 1rc Turkish Bath Towels, special..... All of our 15c pure linen Towels, special All of our 18c pure linen Towels, special......121/2c chiefs, 15c grade; special 10c

LEBECK & CORIN.

WHAF RAILROADS SPEND. They Are the Great Disbursing Agencies of the Country.

From the Sun The railroads of the United States expend in a year a sum more than \$100,000,000 in excess of the total expenditures of the United States govrnment, and this computation does not include nearly \$250,000,000 paid in ably, that the largest items of expenthe form of interest upon railroad bonds or guaranteed stock and from \$80,000,000 to \$100,000,000 paid in the form of dividends to stockholders. The railroada, indeed, are the great disbursing agencies of the country, handling never less than a billion dollars in a year and disbursing it all, or practically all, for railroads as a rule practically a cash business, turning noney rapidly.

An estimate made by one of the scientific papers a short time ago gave as the average annual expense of

besides \$35,000,000 for the purchase of alls, ties and sleepers, and \$15,000,000 for the construction of new bridges. The railroads of the country spent last year for fences, sign-boards, signals, and watch towers \$3,500,000' and for printing and advertising \$8,500,000. Very few persons have an accurate idea of the extent to which railroad expenses are to be subdivided, supposing, probditure are for cars and engines, fuel, employes, and terminals. Such is the fact, but there are other large items, and one of the largest of these is the item of taxes. Railroad corporations in the United States are heavily taxed, and they pay collectively in a year, it

has been estimated, \$49,000,000, There is then another item which figures item of legal expenses, railroads being drawn into almost coi stant litigation and requiring at all times the services of counsel. It is estimated that

expenses of American railroads for pro-American railroads in maintaining the fessional legal services amount in a condition of their roadbeds \$75,000,000, year to about \$10,000,000, and this is, 000,000 a day.

of course, exclusive of the sums requisite to meet claims for personal injuries or damages to property. Some of the large railroad companies expend as much as a quarter of a million dollars in a year for the settlement of such cases or the payment of judgments recovered. This item of expense on all American railroads is ordinarily put at about \$5,000,000. A serious accident may entail on a ratiroad company damages so large as to offset many months of profit, and some railroads have been crippled for long periods by such cases.

Embroidered Handker-

There are in the United States 800,-000 railroad employes, 100,000 station men, 35,000 engineers, 40,000 firemen and helpers, 25,000 conductors and despatchers, 65,000 trainmen, 30,000 machinists 100,000 shopmen other than machinists. 20,000 telegraph operators and their helpers, 45,000 switchmen, flagmen and watchmen and 175,000 trackmen. The daily pay roll on all American rail-roads combined, officers and clerical staff included, amounts to about \$2,

not keep large bank accounts, and do largely in all railroad accounts, the