

HOW NEW YORK SHOPS.

\$20,000,000 Pass Over the Great City's Counters For Holiday Things.

Some person with a love for large figures has said that in Christmas week \$20,000,000 is handed over counters of this city as tribute to Santa Claus, says a New York correspondent. That sum may sound suspiciously great, and the statistician might be charged with the evil of exaggeration, but when it is remembered that gifts for 3,000,000 of people are purchased here \$20,000,000 do not seem too large for the total. An average of a trifle over \$5 per person is large, or small, according to the financial rank of the reader, and in New York it is particularly difficult to strike a fair average, because of the extremes of poverty and wealth. The Fifth avenue millionaire gives his wife a \$30,000 diamond necklace, while the father of the east side brings joy to the heart of the child of the tenements with a gaudily painted ten-cent toy. One Christmas, a half a dozen years ago, William K. Vanderbilt gave his wife, now Mrs. Belmont, a pearl necklace that cost him \$1,500,000 to gather the fifteen feet of strung pearls together. That same Christmas more than one child found delight in

most anything from heavy clothing, household furniture, kitchen utensils, to tiny gimcrack toys can be bought. Ten cents is the prevailing price for the average run of things, and at a squeeze this can be brought down to nine, or even eight cents. Grand street is the centre of the great East side. The Bowery boy buys the Bowery girl a ninety-nine-cent diamond ring there, and she reciprocates by purchasing a seven-carat, seventy-nine-cent diamond stud. Women with seven or eight children toddling along in open-mouthed wonder manage to get through the alarming crush with their trancelike charges in some remarkable way. A man with a hobby horse on one shoulder, a velocipede in his hand, a Christmas tree under his arm, big dolls sticking out of every pocket, a dozen packages held in some miraculous manner in the other hand, stops and buys a five pound box of candy for forty cents, stows it away somehow, and goes on as happy as the millionaire riding through the Park in his victoria. Tough girls not above sneaking a

a goodly section of Brooklyn, a large part of Jersey and a big portion of all the suburban towns within fifty miles of New York do their shopping.

Diggest Sweet Potato Grown.



A Kansas farmer, John Graham, of Abilene, has grown a sweet potato which he says is the largest in the world. It is twenty-five inches in circumference and nine inches in length. It weighs nine and three-quarters pounds.

Wedding Threads.

In certain parts of China the young women wear their hair in a long, single plait, with which is intertwined a strand of bright scarlet thread, which denotes them to be marriageable.

Latest Style in Hairdressing.

The latest style of hairdressing, that of the Duchesse d'Angouleme, daughter of Louis XVI, and Marie Antoinette, which was the popular vogue in the early part of the century, when the bonnie duchesse was exiled to England, is having a revival in France. It is said that seldom have Parisian elegantes encountered a fashion more difficult to revive than this one. It is a most complicated method of hairdressing, but perhaps for this reason it is likely to be more popular. In order to accomplish it it is necessary to draw the hair straight up from the nape of the neck, tie it firmly on the top of the head, and then arrange it so as to imitate bows. There must be a parting from ear to ear, but it must not be far back from the forehead. All the hair behind this division must be brushed back and tied together with the back hair. The front hair has a central parting. There is an arrangement of short curls brought into a bunch at each side by means of a side comb, or



NEW FORM OF CUIFFURE.

there may be a group of cones to right and left of the parting. These cones were originally called "comb curls," because they were not allowed to fall, but were stiffly arranged and held in place by small combs or hairpins.

Old Church in Virginia.

One of the very few old churches still standing and practically unchanged is St. Luke's, at Smithville, Isle of Wight county, Va. It was built in 1632, as attested by the date on some of the bricks, under the superintendence of Joseph Bridger, whose descendants still live in the county and worship in the church. The records of the family, which are unbroken for a period of 150 years, establish the date of the building of the church, and are full of interesting details of early colonial history. It appears that St. Luke's was originally so well built and of such excellent material that no repairs were made to it until 1737, 105 years after its completion. At that time it was ordered "that Peter Woodward do the shingling of the church with good cypress shingles of good substance, and well nailed, for 700 pounds of tobacco, 300 pounds being now levied." It was again reshingled in 1821, eighty-four years later.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

A Remarkable Rat.

The Cincinnati Zoo boasts a curiosity in the way of a white rat. It closely resembles a miniature white bear and has two long tusks growing out of the sides of the mouth and curving upward to fully twice the length of the head. The rat is not more than a week old. Its parents are the ordinary white rats, beloved of the small boy, as also are its brothers and sisters. Being in a cage, somewhat removed from view, no one paid particular attention to the white rat family. When the little monstrosity was discovered he was nearly a week old. The keeper promptly removed him from the rest of the family and is bringing him up most carefully. When molested the



HAS TUSKS LIKE A BOAR.

little thing grunts like a pig instead of making the noise common to its kind.

A People Who Cannot Make Fire.

The Papuans of the Malay coast of New Guinea are still in the most primitive state. They are wholly unacquainted with metals and make their weapons of stone, bones and wood. They do not know how to start a fire, though fire is used among them. When a Russian asked them how they made a fire, they regarded it as very amusing, and answered that when a person's fire went out, he got some of a neighbor, and if all the fires in the village should go out, they would get it from the next village. Their fathers and grandfathers had told them that they remembered a time or had heard from their ancestors that there was a time when fire was not known, and everything was eaten raw. The natives of the southern coast of New Guinea, having no iron, shave themselves with a piece of glass. Formerly they shaved with flint which they could sharpen quite well and used with considerable dexterity.

School Children's Eyesight.

Out of 25,000 school children examined in Minneapolis, 8000 had defective eyesight. The highest percentage of defect was found in a poorly lighted and unsanitary building.

A law of the State of Massachusetts prohibits towns from offering more than \$500 as a reward for the arrest and conviction of a murderer.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

WOULD NOT RESPOND.

Soldier to Court: Martialed at Lebanon for Desertion.

Gen. J. P. S. Gobin, commander of the Third brigade, N. G. P., has appointed officers to sit on the general court martial to convene in Lebanon, Pa., on Monday, December 20. A charge of desertion has been brought against Peter J. Dahm, a private of Company H, Fourth regiment, of Lebanon, who failed to respond to the call to go to the Hazelton region during the late strike. The court is empowered to hear any other cases that may be brought. This is the first case of the kind ever tried in the Pennsylvania guard. There is talk of other members of Company H, being court-martialed, some of whom it is said have violated the rules.

The following Pennsylvania pensions were granted last week: Luther M. Furst, Altoona, \$10; Hugh Hutchinson, Irwin, \$8; John G. Groves, Couderdport, \$8; Michael Baker, Lamonsville, \$8; Herman Knoek, Saxonburg, \$10; John M. Robinson, Erie, \$6; William Deter, Gazman, \$8; Henry Lloyd, dead, New Brighton, \$10; Thomas Kiskadden, Indian Run, \$6 to \$12; Peter B. Mason, Sandy Lake, \$6 to \$8; Valentine Smith, Johnston, \$8 to \$12; John G. Thompson, Black Lick, \$6 to \$8; Thomas J. Humes, Bradford, \$8 to \$8; Alexander B. Mahon, Derry station, \$6 to \$8; Mary L. Bishop, Oil City, \$8; Henry Smith, Harvey, Greene county, \$17; Hathaway Hallenbeck, Erie, \$8; Wesley F. Gossard, Conemaugh, \$8; Abraham Myers, Keokburg, \$1; Samuel Bond, Allegheny, \$6; William Woter, Allegheny, \$6; James E. O'Brien, Mill Village, \$6 to \$12; Madeline E. Cook, Hollidaysburg, \$5; Margaret Herpock, Pittsburg, \$8.

A terrific explosion of gas in the Clear Spring mine at Pittsburg last week cost three men their lives. The remarkable escape of seven others from a living tomb forms a thrilling incident of the accident. The injured men are Adam Donavitch, Peter Donavitch and Alexander Darbrastey. The first intimation of a mishap was when the earth violently shook and caused whole blocks of houses to sway as though an earthquake were in progress. The explosion blew the roof of the mine and great masses of coal and rock obstructed the work of the rescuers. The seven entombed men escaped bodily harm, and were rescued after several hours' work. One of the men who escaped said a runaway car had knocked loose a prop, which it carried in its front, and struck the deadly gas escaping from the opening thus caused. The mine is badly damaged.

Two parties were organized at Khe-dive, Greene county, to engage in a rat hunt. Squads of men with dogs and grubbing hoes, pitchforks and steel traps, scoured the country. When the hunt closed traps were counted, with the result that the side led by Capt. E. H. Davis scored 1,719 and Capt. W. N. Christopher, 1,213. J. C. Aresford killed 384 rats, E. H. Davis 314, Robert Rich 242 and several others over 100 each. The prize was an oyster supper.

Lester L. Miller, a business man of Myerstown, committed suicide Thursday night rather than face a charge of forgery. Miller was accused of having forged the name of Henry B. Loomis, of Myerstown, as indorser to a note of \$65. When a constable went to Miller's residence to arrest him he asked permission to go up stairs. A few minutes later the report of a revolver was heard. James Coffman, of Salt Lick township, when he awoke the other morning found that in the night some persons had cut down all the trees in his orchard and the vines in his vineyard. The moonshiners have a grudge against Coffman. They accuse him of disclosing the location of the illicit stills of John Whites and William Pletcher, which were recently raided. Coffman has received threatening letters, one of which stated that his barn was to be burned.

Mrs. J. M. Wilson, of Millbrook, was cleaning out an old closet in her kitchen last Thursday and throwing the rubbish in the kitchen stove. A package, which she supposed contained hellebore, was dropped into the fire. Immediately there was an explosion. The stove was blown apart and Mrs. Wilson sustained serious injuries. The package contained gunpowder.

A tract of coal land embracing about 1,000 acres in German township near High House has been purchased by Frank J. Hearne, proprietor of the Riverside iron works at Wheeling and operator of three iron furnaces, the price paid being \$200 per acre. It is the intention of the purchaser to increase his block to 1,500 acres and begin shipping coal to Wheeling as soon as possible.

Edwin H. Heidler, who was convicted of murdering his brother-in-law, Levi Kroder, over money matters, was refused a new trial at Erie, and sentenced to be hanged by Judge Walling a few days ago. Heidler escaped from jail while awaiting trial, but was recaptured. His will be the first hanging in Erie county for 50 years.

Thomas Tate, of West Salem township, for whom Lisbon, O., and Greenville officers have been searching, was arrested a few days ago at Conneaut, O. Tate is wanted at Lisbon for attacking a team of horses from H. B. Robinson. He is also wanted for forging a check at that place.

The oil and supply house at the Coleraine colliery, operated by A. S. Vanwickie, Hazleton, were destroyed in a mysterious manner by fire a few days ago. During the late coal strike Vanwickie's breaker at Beavermead was burned.

M. Heine, a Johnstown merchant, last week made an assignment to J. G. Stewart, his father-in-law, for the benefit of his creditors. Assets and liabilities, which are not known, are said, however, to be equal.

While George Smith, of Smithton, was absent from home for a few hours, an unknown man attacked his wife, robbed her of \$5 and knocked her senseless to prevent an outcry.

John Hollingsworth, a prisoner in Altoona's lockup, fell off his sleeping bench the other day and struck his head on the floor so violently that a blood clot was formed. George Sellers, of Charleroi, secured a verdict of \$42.50 against that borough for false arrest. Sellers was arrested because he refused to pay his dog tax. By the bursting of his gun a few days ago, Stephen Nemaki, of Shamokin, had his right foot blown off.

CONGRESS.

House.

Washington, Dec. 7.—In the house after the adoption of several routine resolutions the house heard a message from President McKinley, transmitting the report of Special Commissioner Handy relating to the exhibit of the United States at the Paris exposition.

A discussion as to the proper committees to consider the president's currency recommendations followed. The afternoon of Friday, December 17, was set apart for memorial exercises on the death of the late Congressman Holman of Indiana, and in the afternoon of Tuesday, January 18, for memorial exercises on the death of Senator Earl, of South Carolina.

Governor of Ohio, addressed the house on the civil service law, and secured the earnest attention of the body, and especially of his republican colleagues.

"I agree with the president," he said, "when he says that there are places under the civil service law that ought not to be. But I must differ from him when he says that the law needs the approval of the people. If you will go west of the Allegheny mountains and submit the question, 'shall the civil service law, as now administered, be continued?' 95 out of every 100 would vote against it."

December 8.—When the session of the house began Mr. Walker, of Massachusetts, moved and the house agreed, that the committee on banking and currency be permitted to sit during the session of the house. W. A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, reported the pension appropriation bill and gave notice that he would call it up for consideration.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.—The house entered upon the consideration of the pension appropriation bill, and stirred up a debate that promises to continue for several days. John Allen, of Mississippi, presented a series of amendments designed, as he said, to correct some of the most glaring evils. They prohibited the granting of pensions to widows whose applications were not filed during their widowhood, and the granting of pensions to widows whose applications were based on marriages contracted after the passage of this act, and to permanently insane or idiotic minors who had reached their majority. It was admitted, on both sides of the house, during the discussion, that the \$140,000,000 carried by the bill for pensions would not cover the expenditures, but a congress would be in session, Mr. Cannon said it would be easy to make good any deficiency that might occur. Mr. Allen declined any intention of attacking the federal soldiers or the pension rolls. But he said he could not but marvel at the fact that 975,000 names were now on the rolls, and that there were 600,000 applicants in the pension office. There had been but 2,200,000 men in the federal army, and he was reminded of a meeting between an ex-confederate and ex-federalist at a blue and gray reunion. They were facilitating themselves on the disappearance of all hostility.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 10.—The house passed the pension appropriation bill without amendment and adjourned until Monday. The debate touched not only the question of our pension policy, but that of civil service reform and the receipts and expenditures of the treasury under the Dingley law. On the latter question Mr. Dingley made an important statement in which he expressed the opinion that the receipts would equal the outlay in relation to the present fiscal year and predicted a surplus of \$10,000,000 next year. The civil service law was savagely attacked by several members.

Senate.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The opening prayer in the senate Tuesday was by Rev. Charles Berry, D. D., of Wolverhampton, Eng., and was ordered to be printed in the record.

A motion was made by Mr. Lodge (rep. Ill.) to take up the immigration bill. It was resisted by Mr. Gear (rep. Ia.), who insisted upon the necessity of action for the settlement of all matters pertaining to the Pacific railroads. He added that he proposed to introduce a bill tomorrow giving the president full power in relation to the Kansas Pacific sale. The matter was discussed for a few minutes and without coming to any definite conclusion it went over, and the senate adjourned.

Washington, Dec. 8.—In the senate the bills introduced and referred were the following: By Mr. Hawley (rep. Conn.), for two additional regiments of artillery. By Mr. Gallager (rep. N. H.), regulating and defining the civil service of the United States.

Mr. Allen (rep. Neb.) offered a resolution declaring it to be the sense of the senate that congress should "with all due and convenient speed, acknowledge, by appropriate act, the political independence of the republic of Cuba," and he addressed the senate in its support.

He declared that he would not be content or satisfied with a simple acknowledgment of belligerent rights, but would demand absolute and unconditional political liberty.

Mr. Allen declared himself also "a strong sympathizer with the struggle of the Irish people to liberate themselves from the galling yoke of British tyranny." The resolution was referred to the committee on foreign relations and then at 1 p. m. the death of Representative Wright, of Massachusetts, having been announced, the senate adjourned.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.—Senator Gallinger, chairman of the committee on pensions, called attention to the increasing demand for private pension legislation and requested senators to be careful in the future to see that their bills for private pensions were meritorious before they were introduced. Senator Hoar presented a petition signed by 21,259 natives of Hawaii, protesting against the annexation of those islands to the United States. An attempt was made by Senator McBride to secure an appropriation not exceeding \$250,000 for the relief of the Klondike miners, but the net result was a resolution calling on the secretary of war for all information he had on that subject. An hour was devoted to the consideration of private pension bills and forty-five were passed.

THE BUDGET FOR 1898.

An Increase of \$40,928,915 Over the Estimates For the Current Year.

The book of estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year, beginning July 1 next, shows an increase of \$40,928,915 over the estimates for the current fiscal year, and \$21,980,108 more than the actual appropriations for the same period. The total is \$423,647,885, as against \$401,718,970 for the present year and an appropriation of \$430,667,777. The increase is made up almost entirely of estimates for fortifications and river and harbor improvements.

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HOW NEW YORK SPENDS ITS MILLIONS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.

WERE BORN IN 1815.

Ladies Who Claim to Be the Oldest Living Twins in the Country.

The claim of the Newell brothers, of Missouri, that they are the oldest pair of twins in the country, will not hold, according to a correspondent of the Chicago Times-Herald. Mrs. H. H. Johnson, recently of Kankakee, Ill., and now of Omaha, Neb., and Mrs. David Noggle, of Janesville, Wis., are one month older. These ladies are the twin children—Polly M. and Anna M.—of Benjamin and Eunice Mosher Lewis, and were born at Bristol, N. Y., May 29, 1815. They were the youngest of fifteen children. The twins went to Milan, Ohio, when about seventeen, married there, and in 1837 Mrs. Noggle came to Wisconsin to live the life of a pioneer. Mrs. Noggle is a woman of native ability and can tell many interesting tales of early life in Wisconsin. She is the mother of



OLDEST LIVING TWINS.

the man to let her off "where dere sellin' de bennies." Fourteenth street and Sixth avenue is where the biggest part of the city,

seven children. The sisters are both in full possession of their faculties and are as active as women of sixty-five.

a nickel toy. Christmases back John D. Rockefeller sent a check for \$100,000 to the Fifty-seventh Street Baptist church as a holiday offering, and the same day the organ grinder of Mulberry Bend dropped a couple of coppers in the plate of the Italian church in Roosevelt street.

So much for the extremes of Christmas giving in New York.

Fully one-half of the Christmas shopping is done the day and the night before Christmas; not one-half financially, but numerically. The moderately poor, the poor and the very poor must wait until the very last minute to get their small funds together for the great event. The money gift of the employer to the bread winner of the family is made the day before Christmas, and often times the extent of that gift determines the scope of the Christmas shopping for the family. Again if Christmas comes near the end of the week, as it does this year, many will get their week's pay on Thursday night.

Another potent reason for delaying the shopping to the last minute is that things are cheaper on Christmas Eve than earlier in the week. Toys and games and clothing have suffered from the rough handling, there are rips and tears which, however, can be easily sewed up; paint has been scraped off, parts of games lost and numerous other mishaps have occurred, all of which induces the shop owner to make a material reduction in his prices. Again, he does not want to carry a single piece of his Christmas stock over for a year, as he loses the use of the money. So he is eager to mark things down to the real cost, or a trifle below, if needs be, to get rid of them.

People who have to watch the pennies are quick to recognize these advantages. So Christmas Eve is the great shopping time for the lower part of town and the East side. Vesey street is the Christmas Eve stamping ground of the old First and Fourth Warders. The people for the most part of this district esteem themselves lucky if they can spend \$2, and as this sum has to supply the Christmas dinner, as well as to bring Santa Claus to an abnormally large family of children, sharp bargaining must be done.

Each carts line the streets from Broadway to the North River, and al-