WORK OF CONGRESS

The Senate was not in session Saturday. But little progress was made in the House in considering the agricultural bill. The discussion dwelt mainly upon the proposed establishment of federal standards of cotton grades and federal inspection of grains. Consideration of the bill had not been concluded when the House adjourned till Monday.

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The passage of a large number of bills of minor importance and an extended discussion of a measure to authorize the damming of the Snake River, Washington, occupied the entire time of the Senate Monday. The session was brought to a sudden close by lack of a quorum. Charges of a serious nature against Gifford Pinchot, chief of the forestry bureau, were made in the House by Messrs. Smith of California and Mondell of Wyoming, during the consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill. Mr. Smith accused him of entering into a secret understanding with the City of Los Angeles with the view to securing the city valuable water rights in the Owens River Valley as against the interests of private parties having prior claims. Mr. Mondell denounced him for, as he charged, illegally paying the expenses of forest officials in attending conventions in the West. The bill was under discussion all day.

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Nearly the entire session of the Senate Tuesday was consumed in consideration of a bill to permit the building of a dam on the Snake river, Washington, and an adjournment was only reached after Mr. Heyburn of Idaho announced that he would not permit a vote to be taken. During the discussion of the bill Senator Teller made a speech against executive encroachment. Several bills of minor importance were passed. After having undergone many changes, the paragraph of the agricultural appropriation bill relating to the bureau of forestry, was finally pased by the House. Messrs. Mondell of Wyoming and Smith of California continued their attacks on the bureau, supported by Messrs. Bonynge of Colorado and Cushman of Washington. These embraced charges that the bureau had created timber monopolies in favor of large corporations, illegally assumed jurisdiction over water rights belonging to the Western States, and juggled with figures in order to obtain large appropriations from Congress. The appropriation for the investigation of soils was increased.

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The passage of a bill authorizing the construction of a dam across the Snake River in the State of Washington, and the consideration of a measure for adjudicating the claims of States against the government account of the disposition of the proceeds of public lands, occupied nearly the entire session of the Senate Wednesday. Debate of the agricultural appropriation bill in the House was devoid of the charges and imputations which marked its consideration on Monday and Tuesday. More progress was made with the measure than on any previous day. The discussion dwelt on a proposition for an increased appropriation for the farmers' bulletins, which, however, was refused, and the subject of inquiries into road building, etc., by the department, the trend of opinion being that such work should be encouraged. The session was opened with a bitter attack on Attorney General Bonaparte by Mr. Clark of Florida, who denounced him as being no lawyer, and unfit to hold his office. The occasion for the utterance was the reporting out of committee of a resolution by Mr. Clark calling for a statement of the expense connected with peonage investigations and prosecutions. That the resolution was simply a further and unnecessary attack on the Attorney General by Mr. Clark was the declaration of Mr. Caulfield of Missouri, who led the opposition. The resolution was tabled.

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The session of the Senate Thursday was largely consumed by discussion of a bill to reorganize the public school system in the District of Columbia by placing it under the control of a director appointed by the national commissioner of education. The bill relating to the settlement of claims of States on account of the disposition of public lands was again taken up and the Bacon amendment for settling the accounts of owners of cotton seized by the government during the Civil War, amounting to $5,000,000, was considered, but without results, either on the bill or the amendment. The Senate adjourned until Monday. Carrying a total of $11,508,806, the agricultural appropriation bill was passed by the House. During the debate a brief flurry was created by Mr. Harrison of New York, a Democrat, characterizing as socialistic the bill of Minority Leader Williams providing for the utilization of the treasury surplus in the construction and improvement of roads in the several States. With the agricultural bill out of the way, the Democrats, under the leadership of Mr. Williams, conducted a successful filibuster against the transaction of any further business. At 10:10 p. m. a motion to adjourn until Friday was forced through by the majority.

NATIONAL CAPITAL NOTES.

The Cullom bill, providing for an addition to the land at Fort Sheridan, Ill., passed the Senate.

The government of the little African republic of Liberia has appealed to America to protect her territorial integrity against France.

The House committee on navy affairs decided to report favorably the bills introduced by Mr. Butler of Pennsylvania and establishing the rank of machinists in the navy as warrant officers, and increasing the pay of mates to $1,200 at sea, $1,180 on shore and $960 on leave or waiting orders.

The bill introduced by Mr. Mann of Illinois to regulate commerce in adulterated and misbranded seed and to prevent the sale or transportation thereof was reported favorably to the House by the committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

The House committee on public lands agreed to report favorably the bill introduced by Mr. Mondell of Wyoming to increase from 160 to 320 acres the amount of non-timbered, non-irrigable lands takable under the homestead act.

Secretary Taft announced that Brig. Gen. Charles B. Hall, in charge of the general staff college at Leavenworth, Kan., will be promoted to the grade of major general on the retirement of Major Gen. A. W. Greely, and that Col. John B Kerr, commanding the Twelfth cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., will be appointed a brigadier general, vice Gen. Davis, promoted.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Plans for a world cruise by the American battleship fleet, now at Magdalena Bay, Mexico, have been announced by the President to his cabinet. The fleet is engaged in two weeks' target practice there, after which it will proceed to San Francisco, reaching that city May 5, to be feted and feasted for nine days. Then, after a rest, the fleet on July 6 is to leave for our possessions in the Pacific, stopping at Hawaii and Samoa, and then going by way of Australia to the Philippines and returning through the Suez Canal. In Australia the fleet will stop at Melbourne and Sydney to accept the invitation of Sir Alfred Deakin. It is expected that Admiral Evans will retire from the command on account of illness after reaching San Francisco. Captain Wainwright, now in command of the Louisiana, will probably succeed Evans as commander in chief of the fleet, although two other officers are his seniors. Wainwright is the man who, in command of the converted yacht Gloucester, smashed several of the Spanish ships at Santiago.

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No piece of American political furniture would more surprise the founders of the republic than the undesirable three-legged stool which the vice-presidential chair has become. The founders put it in the best room, second only to the President's seat. Now it is out in the back yard of political favor. Yet it is an important office; the presidency of the Senate is a place of power. Four Vice Presidents have risen to the highest office through the death of the President. Three others—Adams, Jefferson, Van Buren—were Vice President before they were President. In the case of the early Vice Presidents, election to the second place meant that they had been candidates for the first place. And, most people think, that what that really means ought to prevail now; that is, no man should be elected Vice President who is not regarded as good enough to be President.

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Attorney General Bonaparte has instructed the United States Attorney at New Orleans to suspend action begun there against a number of longshoremen for illegal boycotting since the Supreme Court decisions in the Danbury hatters' case and the Buck's stove and range case. The Department of Justice wanted all Federal attorneys to advise with the experts at Washington before acting. But Mr. Bonaparte denied the statement that all Federal attorneys had been ordered to bring no actions against labor unions. He held that as the hatters' case had been decided on a demurrer and the matter remanded to the Circuit Court for a rehearing, nothing should be done in similar cases until a final decision is rendered.

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After a conference at the White House between the President, Secretary Garfield, Commissioner of Corporations Smith, and Commissioner of Labor Neill, it was decided that three bills should be prepared and submitted to Congress to amend the Sherman anti-trust and the liability laws. One will make it possible for industrial corporations to unite under Federal supervision and for railroads to pool under the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Another will so amend the Sherman law as to exempt labor unions from the clause prohibiting combinations in restraint of trade. The third would amend the employers' liability law to meet the objections of the Supreme Court.

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Representative Esch of Wisconsin is preparing to make a vigorous effort to have Congress prohibit the use of irons as a form of punishment in the navy. He has introduced a bill on this subject, and, as soon as the naval appropriation bill is out of the way, he will appear before the committee on naval affairs to make an argument on behalf of his measure. He will go to this hearing well fortified with facts, for he has been in correspondence with many naval officers and enlisted men on the subject. He says he will be prepared to show that this form of punishment is not only cruel and inhuman, but that its use has a baneful influence upon discipline and encourages desertion.

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Two naval records were made the other day. A gun crew, in command of a young officer who has been out of Annapolis less than two years, made a hit with every one of twenty-five shots from an eight-inch gun, and fired nearly three shots to the minutes. The Chester, a new scouting cruiser, steamed twenty-six and fifty-three hundredths knots for four hours on a trial cruise, and proved itself the fastest boat of its type in any navy of the world.

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Attorney General Bonaparte before the House committee on public lands urged a favorable report on a joint Senate resolution instructing the Attorney General to institute certain suits to establish the title of the United States to lands in the Pacific coast States granted to railroads in the sixties under special conditions, which conditions, it is now claimed, have been violated by the grantees. The latter are now being heard.

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President Roosevelt has directed Herbert Knox Smith, of the bureau of corporations, to investigate the methods of stock trading with a view to furnishing the basis of possible future legislation regulating such practices.

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The War Department has agreed to maintain three batteries of artillery at Fort Snelling, equipped with modern field guns, and to provide a range for artillery and general target practice at Sparta, Wis.

WAR ON FRISCO PLAGUE.

Great Cleaning Up of Coast City for Coming Visit of Big Fleet.

After a fight lasting for months the marine hospital service is at last easy in mind over the proposed visit of the battleship fleet to San Francisco. Wonderful work has been done by Surgeon General Wyman, in co-operation with the local authorities, toward stamping out the bubonic plague, and complete victory appears to be in sight. It was said at one time that unless the progress of the plague were stopped the fleet would not be allowed to touch at San Francisco. Once exposed to the disease, there is no telling how badly it would cut into the fleet, and the government has been overcareful, if anything, to take no chances.

At Magdalena bay, where the fleet now is, it will remain some time for target practice, and thence will steam to 'Frisco. Since the plague first developed 121 cases have been verified bacteriologically and thirty-eight clinically, and these have resulted in seventy-seven deaths, or more than 50 per cent of all afflicted.

The common rat is the greatest disseminator of the infection, and the surgeons waged merciless war against him. In the last week reported to headquarters, 9,915 rats had been trapped, 7,888 bounty rats had been received, 2,583 had been examined bacteriologically and twenty-six had been found infected with the bacillus of the plague.

The humble flea also has come in for his share of investigation, and the Treasury Department has issued elaborate instructions to the marine hospital service and to health officers generally, directing how fleas shall be collected and forwarded for examination. The department circulated exhaustive reports of the experiments with rats, mice and fleas by the British plague commission in India, where the bubonic plague has become a common scourge. These have been supplemented with studies made in the Pacific ports; and now it is desired to extend the investigation to other places in the United States.

DENVER'S ANARCHIST.

The Desperate Character Who Murdered Father Heinrichs.

The picture herewith presented is the best one ever made of Giuseppe Alio, the Italian anarchist who assassinated Father Heinrichs at the altar in Denver. No written description could so plainly portray the man's character as does the picture. He is one of the submerged tenth—ignorant, poverty-stricken, fanatical, ill-fed, ill-kempt. Alio was speedily found guilty of murder in the first degree. Before being placed in his cell, after conviction, he was stripped and given a new suit of clothes. His cell was thoroughly searched and cleaned—even new bed clothing being supplied. In spite of these precautions the assassin managed in some manner to procure a razor blade and made a murderous assault on a "trusty" who was engaged in mopping out Alio's cell. The assassin cut the trusty's throat, but not fatally, and then made a desperate effort to regain his liberty, but was soon overpowered. Denver believes there is in the city a gang of anarchists ready to go to any limit to aid him.

GIUSEPPE ALIO.

POLITICS and POLITICIANS

The Illinois Republican convention indorsed Speaker Cannon for President on Secretary Taft's platform. Gov. Deneen's administration was commended.

Republicans of the First Iowa District instructed their delegates for Taft as a presidential candidate and indorsed Senator Allison for re-election.

The Republicans of the First Kentucky District divided between Taft and Fairbanks for President, and will send contesting delegations to the national convention.

Nebraska Republicans, in State convention, unanimously indorsed Secretary Taft for President. The delegates were instructed to vote for Taft first, last and all the time.

At a conference in Washington of leading Democrats, including several Senators and Representatives, it was decided to urge the various States not to tie up their delegations at once.

The Oklahoma Republican State convention instructed its delegation to Chicago to "vote for any proposition favorable to the candidacy of William H. Taft for the presidency."

The Missouri Republican State convention in St. Louis adopted resolutions commending the administration of President Roosevelt, and instructed the four delegates at large to the national convention to support Taft for the presidential nomination.

After a sounding of sentiment, which showed that Minnesota Republicans by an overwhelming majority favor Taft for President, the State central committee passed a resolution indorsing his candidacy.

The Indiana Democratic State convention named a State ticket, adopted a platform and instructed the thirty delegates to the national convention to vote for William J. Bryan for President. Thomas R. Marshall of Columbia City won the gubernatorial nomination and Thomas Taggart was re-elected national committeeman.

William Jennings Bryan will receive the vote of Iowa's delegates to the Democratic national convention. When the district delegates were indorsed and the delegates at large selected by the State convention at Cedar Rapids they were bound by iron-clad instructions to aid the Nebraskan's candidacy.

President Roosevelt, by manifesting an active interest in the proposal that Congress take some action looking to tariff revision, has stirred up a feeling of alarm in the camp of the "reactionaries" who fear that the President's efforts will result in the adoption of the suggestion that early action is desirable.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade conditions in the Chicago district says:

"The volume of trade, as reflected by payments through the banks, maintains steady recovery, but the commercial mortality is yet high and the process of liquidation, although fatal to many weak concerns, is really placing credit upon a healthier basis. Factory outputs still remain much behind those at this time last year and new demands come forward rather slowly in leading industries, yet there is further evidence of increased distribution, particularly in general merchandise, breadstuffs and provisions.

"Spring exhibits in retail lines command more interest, and wholesale dealings in the staples reach a satisfactory aggregate. Some caution is exercised in making commitments for distant delivery and mail orders from the interior are moderate, but the current buying is well maintained in textiles, footwear, light weight apparel, household needs and food products.

"Mercantile collections throughout the West have almost returned to the normal state, and country storekeepers report seasonable consumption, the buying being much stimulated by warmer weather.

"Farmers, as a rule, find the outlook very promising and, being in a strong position financially, they are expending liberally for machinery and materials for improvements. Country banks are enabled with less difficulty than heretofore to furnish the funds to carry on spring work and shipments of currency from this city are less than at this time last year.

"Financial affairs generally denote decreasing anxiety as to the future, deposits accumulate and the discount rate for choice commercial paper is now more frequently quoted at 5 per cent, although the offerings of manufacturers make a comparatively light showing.

"Failures reported in the Chicago district number 33, against 32 last week and 22 a year ago. Those with liabilities over $5,000 number 12, against 10 last week and 4 in 1907."

NEW YORK.

The first week of spring has seen an expansion in retail trade and an enlargement of operations in building lines, especially at the West. Conservative estimates of actual needs govern buying, and replacement of broken stocks is the chief source of jobbing and wholesale demand. Trade in the primary branches is therefore quiet, and operations in industrial lines are below normal. Fall trade is backward, awaiting clearer view of the future crop and price conditions. Industrial conditions are still very irregular, and short or reduced time is practically universal. The iron and steel industry does not show much increase in activity outside of the seasonable lines. The textile trade is still depressed, with short time and wage reductions common in cotton goods manufacture North and South. Fear of a coal strike has subsided and buying is less active in this line. The leather and shoe trades are irregular and unsettled. Shipments of shoes are 26 per cent below last year.

Business failures for the week ending March 26 number in the United States 286, against 303 last week, 166 in the like week of 1907, 169 in 196, 227 in 1905 and 212 in 1904. Canadian failures for the week number 40, as against 39 last week and 21 in this week a year ago.—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

THE MARKETS

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, $4.00 to $7.35; hogs, prime heavy, $4.00 to $5.85; sheep, fair to choice, $3.00 to $6.75; wheat, No. 2, 94c to 95c; corn, No. 2, 64c to 65c; oats, standard, 52c to 53c; rye, No. 2, 74c to 77c; hay, timothy, $9.50 to $16.00; prairie, $8.00 to $12.00; butter, choice creamery, 25c to 29c; eggs, fresh, 14c to 16c; potatoes, per bushel, 63c to 70c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, $3.00 to $6.90; hogs, good to choice heavy, $5.50 to $5.35; sheep, common to prime, $3.00 to $5.00; wheat, No. 2, 96c to 98c; corn, No. 2 white, 63c to 64c; oats, No. 2 white, 52c to 53c.

St. Louis—Cattle, $4.50 to $7.25; hogs, $4.00 to $5.75; sheep, $3.00 to $5.75; wheat, No. 2, 99c to $1.00; corn, No. 2, 63c to 64c; oats, No. 2, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 83c to 84c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, $4.00 to $5.85; hogs, $4.00 to $5.05; sheep, $3.00 to $5.50; wheat, No. 2, $1.00 to $1.01; corn, No. 2 mixed, 64c to 65c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 86c to 87c.

Detroit—Cattle, $4.00 to $5.60; hogs, $4.00 to $4.65; sheep, $2.50 to $5.00; wheat, No. 2, 96c to 97c; corn, No. 3 yellow, 67c to 68c; oats, No. 3 white, 53c to 55c; rye, No. 2, 84c to 85c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern $1.06 to $1.08; corn, No. 3, 63c to 64c; oats, standard, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 1, 80c to 81c; barley, No. 2, 88c to 90c; pork, mess, $11.90.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, $4.00 to $6.50; hogs, fair to choice, $4.00 to $5.70; sheep, common to good mixed, $4.00 to $5.50; lambs, fair to choice, $5.00 to $8.30.

New York—Cattle, $4.00 to $7.15; hogs, $3.50 to $5.95; sheep, $3.00 to $5.50; wheat, No. 2 red, $1.00 to $1.02; corn, No. 2, 68c to 70c; oats, natural white, 57c to 60c; butter, creamery, 25c to 29c; eggs, western, 13c to 16c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, 95c to 97c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 65c to 66c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 81c to 82c; clover seed, prime, $13.35.

SHORT NEWS NOTES.

William F. Manning, who was campaign manager for Alton B. Parker in 1904, died of pneumonia in New York.

Paraplegia, a species of paralysis, is interesting New York physicians. The patient is Miss Mary Asche, who is said to have become afflicted because of too much dancing.

The death record of New York City for 1907, just issued by the department of health of that place shows a rate lower than any of the other great cities in the world—18.48.

Death of Grace Seamans, an 8-year-old girl in New York, is directly attributable, the doctors say, to the terrifying effects of a "black-hand" letter which she picked up on the doorstep of her home some time ago.

WHITE PLAGUE NOW DECLARED ON THE WANE

Census Bureau Figures Show a Decrease in Tuberculosis Deaths in 1906.

CANCER IS ON THE INCREASE.

Table of Mortality Rates Announced by Officials of Department at Washington.

Mortality statistics compiled by the census bureau, according to a report recently issued by the government, show a decrease in the death rate among those afflicted with tuberculosis and meningitis and an increase in the mortality from cancer diseases, typhoid fever, whooping cough and violence. The report covers all mortality statistics in the fifteen registration States and the District of Columbia and in seventy-seven cities in non-registration States for the years 1905 and 1906.

The causes of death, with their rates, for 1906, ranked according to the number of deaths for each 100,000, are as follows:

Tuberculosis of lungs	159.4
Pneumonia (including bronchopneumonia)	149.0
Heart disease	130.7
Diarrhœa and enteritis	122.9
Violence	120.9
Bright's disease and nephritis	99.8
Apoplexy	71.8
Cancer	70.8
Premature birth	34.8
Old age	34.3
Congenital debility	34.2
Typhoid fever	32.1
Bronchitis	30.3
Diphtheria and croup	26.3
Meningitis	25.6

While a part of the decrease in the number of deaths from tuberculosis shown in 1906 as against 1905 is due to the inclusion among the registration States of several with a low mortality rate from this disease, there was also noticeable a noteworthy decrease in the old registration area. Of the total number of deaths 36,032 were shown to be males and 29,309 females, the age of greatest mortality among males ranging from 25 to 29 and among females from 20 to 24 years. South Dakota and Michigan showed the lowest mortality among the States, while Colorado and California had the highest. Neither of the latter States showed an increase in the disease among the native population. New York had the highest mortality rate among the cities, that rate being 503 in 1906, as compared with 536 in 1905.

Cancer was the cause of 29,020 deaths in 1906, of which 11,166 were males and 17,854 females. The age of greatest mortality from this disease is between the ages of 60 and 64. California showed the highest death rate and New Jersey the lowest, while Boston led all the large cities.

Practically all of the increase in the mortality from typhoid fever comes with the inclusion of new registration States. This rate was 28 in 1905 and 32 in 1906. Pennsylvania and Colorado showed the highest death rate from typhoid, while Massachusetts and Rhode Island had the lowest. Pittsburg and Allegheny, Pa., lead the registration cities in mortality from typhoid.

The total number of deaths in the entire registration area for 1906 from all forms of violence was 49,552, corresponding to a death rate of 120.9 per 100,000 of estimated population. The death rate from suicide apparently showed a large increase for each year of the period from 1902 to 1905 and a decrease for 1906.

Deaths from accidental traumatisms numbered 20,842, and the rate was 50.8 per 100,000 of population; the corresponding rate for 1905 was 42.1. Deaths from steam railroad accidents and injuries for the registration area numbered 7,090, and 183 were due to automobile accidents.

Girl's Nerve-Racking Experience.

A midnight battle with three score infuriated blood-sucking bats, which assailed her from all sides, was an experience which came recently to Miss Alice L. Earle of South Norwalk, Conn.

Attacked in bed in the middle of the night, Miss Earle jumped up in alarm, only to be more generally attacked by the vampires. Her nerves stood her in good stead, for she wrapped a bed covering about her head and body, rushed from the room, slammed the door, and fainted in the arms of her maid.

Miss Earle was spending the winter in San Antonio, Texas. Contrary to the custom of these parts, she threw open her window. During the night a terrific thunder storm arose, which drove the bats into the room. When daylight came the attendants of the hotel entered the room and killed sixty-one bats.

San Francisco Grafting Again.

Coincident with the liberating of Schmitz and Ruef, the convicted San Francisco grafters, a number of the police officers under the present administration have been caught with marked money taken to protect divekeepers in Chinatown.

Parents of Truants Punished.

Five fathers and one mother of truant school children were sentenced to one day in jail and a fine of $5 by a Chicago justice and warrants for other parents were out.

Ice Trust Case Fails.

The New York grand jury voted to dismiss the charge of conspiracy in restraint of trade brought against the American Ice Company by Attorney General Jackson after Jerome had failed to act.

Against Jokes on the Rich.

Corporation Counsel Brundage of the city of Chicago has warned the vaudeville theaters of the city that hereafter they must prevent their actors from getting off jokes offensive to or reflecting on the character of John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie and other men of wealth

Civil War Stories

A Southerner sends a story of an adventure during the Civil War in which the heroes were two boys, the youngest only 10 years old. A lead of wheat was hidden under the floor of their uncle's barn, about twelve miles northeast from Richmond, and the boys volunteered to go and get it. It was in August, 1863. They started with a wagon and two good mules, approached the farm from the southwest, and made a detour over ditches and through fences because they did not dare to go by the regular road. The Federals were encamped about two miles east.

We reached the barn without having been seen, and driving into a shed attached to the building, succeeded in loading the grain, and secured the sacks by crossing ropes tightly over the top, to the high sides of the wagon.

To reach Richmond road we had to drive within sight of the Yankee camp. At this point the road tuned at right angles toward the south. We had put ropes round the axles next the shoulder, so as to stop the "chuck" of the wheels, and so reached this turn without being seen, but had traveled only a short distance on the old station road when we found that we had been discovered, and could see a party of horsemen coming after us at a rapid pace.

My cousin, who was an expert driver, although so young, told me to hold on tight while he mounted the near mule, and then commenced the race of our lives.

For some distance the road was corduroy, and at the rate we were going, it was only by the most dexterous movements and tightest grip that I could stay on the sacks. Our pursuers were gaining on us. At first they fired only a few shots, but soon a shower of bullets punctured the sacks all round me, and sent the wheat flying into my face. My coat and hat were struck several times.

It seemed that a few moments would surely settle the matter. I shall never forget the yells of those Yankees, accompanied by the incessant thup! thup! of the bullets as they came faster and faster; but strange to say, not a bullet touched us or the horses.

At a sharp turn in the road, a blind road led off into the woods, and as we were driving on the side of the road in the grass, Paul took this chance, and dashed into this road, where the high-bush huckleberry grew rank and thick. We were now out of range of the Federal guns, but we did not slacken our pace. Grazing a tree here and missing a stump there, we dashed over logs, through hollows and up hill until we were sure that our pursuers had kept to the main road.

We were congratulating ourselves when "Halt!" brought us to a stop, and a soldier, with gun ready, demanded, "Who comes here?'

I answered, "A friend." Then came the order, "Advance and give the countesign!"

It was now dusk, and we could see the blue overcoat, and thought that this was a Federal picket; but as we came nearer, I saw gray trousers, so I told my cousin to risk the words with which we had been furnished for the night—"R. E. Lee."

"You can pass," the sentry said.

Just a short time before this we had heard a discharge of arms in the direction of the road that we had left, but we were surprised to see a dozen or more Yankees lined up as prisoners when we reached headquarters. One of them swore lustily at us for the trap which we had run them into. We were glad indeed to rest by the camp fire inside of our lines, and the next day, about 10 o'clock arrived in Richmond, with a loss of comparatively little of the wheat.

Old Richmond never looked more beautiful, nor could there have been two more thankful boys. We enjoyed the fruits of our trip, too, for we had a change to wheat bread, which was a treat, after months of nothing but corn bread.

Made Raid on Soup.

Some of the incidents of a war play now running in New York suggested to a civilian of the present generation that the playwright of to-day takes a while lot of license. A veteran with an empty sleeve took issue with him.

"The incidents you mention," he said to the young man, "may not have occurred as here presented. But the struggle had its comedy situations. It was not all grim, and it was a good thing it wasn't.

"There wasn't much time in the closing days of the war for farcical incidents, but while the masters of the great trouble were formulating plans Falstaffs were plentiful in remote places. One of these whom I knew had got up to the title of major. He was a German.

"His battalion consisted of the rawest lot of recruits that were ever huddled under one command. The aggregation was mounted. It was assigned to duty at a post in close proximity to a settlement of bushwhackers.

"These were not the bushwhackers of later days. They were for the most part young men who were banded together awaiting an opportunity of getting to the front. Pending that soldiering with them was a frolic.

"The big German major took his part with all the seriousness of a division commander on the eve of a battle. Once a week, sometimes oftener, the major sent hurry orders for the recruits to ration up for a two days' scout and then took them out solemnly into the country.

"As often as the column went out on scout as often did it return, a day or two later, usually splashed with the mud of the country roads, the horses looking jaded and uncurried. If they ever brought back a prisoner that fact was kept concealed by the major.

"On one of these scouts the column had an experience that was not down in the major's tactics. The bushwhackers, who always knew of the coming of the column and scattered, concluded to give him a surprise.

"The column had halted at the end of its first day's ride and was bivouacking in a corn field. The camp fires had been lighted and the air was redolent with the odor of noodle soup. The bugles had sounded for the serving of rations. Even the pickets had come into camp for grub.

"Without warning the bushwhackers rose up out of the fodder shocks and the fence corners; with one combined rush they swept down upon Major Joseph's soup line and captured it. The colonel of the bushwhackers, a former school teacher, and his staff appeared simultaneously, as the major reported it to his superior officer, before the major's shack and demanded his rations.

"The colonel saluted the major and begged his pardon for the intrusion. He said he and his men had not come to fight, but they were almighty hungry, and the odor of the noodle soup had made them furious.

"If permitted to have their fill they would retire in good order and the major could do likewise. If the major wanted fight, he could have it, but they were not there with any hostile intentions, other than those mentioned.

"The major was virtually a prisoner. He submitted gracefully and asked the colonel and his staff to be his guests as long as the grub held out. The colonel regretted to say that he and his staff would need all there was, and as the major could go back to town and get more, they would have to sweep the board.

"They devoured every morsel. When the repast was finished the colonel's eye fell on the major's spyglass; he allowed that as the government had plenty on hand and the article was scarce in the Confederacy he would have to take it. The major removed the field glass from his uniform and handed it over.

"The major was then politely requested to send word to his men in camp that they were to allow the visitors to depart in peace. This was done, and the bushwhackers scattered as only bushwhackers know how to do.

"Major Joseph broke camp that night and returned to the city before daybreak. It was his last scouting expedition from that post. He was ordered to the front soon after, and, I believe, under the watchful eye of his superior officer, who was an old West Pointer, he did some creditable fighting until he was mustered out.

"The story of the bushwhackers' raid on Major Joseph's noodle soup got to the headquarters of many commanding officers, but I do not think it ever had general circulation." — Detroit Free Press.

How Sickles Got His Medal.

The presentation to General Sickles by the War Department, after a long delay, of a medal for meritorious conduct at the battle of Gettysburg, recalled an interesting incident. At the national G. A. R. encampment at Buffalo, General Ruggles of the regular army and General Sickles were two of the conspicuous old generals in attendance. Ex-Governor Upham of Wisconsin, together with E. A. Shores of the same State, were guests at the same hotel with General Ruggles. On the third day of the encampment Mr. Shores was presented to the general. The conversation turned upon the subject of badges, several of which General Ruggles was wearing, when he remarked that it was unfortunate that General Sickles was unable to get a medal from the War Department. "Sickles deserves the bade," said he, "for he commanded his regiment to the end of the engagement after he had lost his leg by the explosion of a shell; but unfortunately there is no one living, so far as is known, who was an eye-witness of the general's action, and the testimony of an eye-witness is absolutely necessary before the medal can be awarded."

When General Ruggles had ceased talking Mr. Shores said: "General, I think I can furnish the evidence that is desired. I was General Birney's orderly in that battle, and was sent with a message to General Sickles to say that General Birney was ready to take command at any time. It was then well known among the Federal soldiers that General Sickles had lost a leg, and it was supposed he would be taken from the field. When I found General Sickles he was on a stretcher with a clamp on the stump of his leg to prevent loss of blood, and he was giving orders while sitting on the stretcher on which he had been carried to the front. I delivered General Birney's message, when with a vigorous adjective General Sickles said: 'You tell General Birney that when I want him to take command I will let him know.'"

The next day at the suggestion of General Ruggles, Mr. Shores called upon General Sickles, and repeated the statement made the day before, which evidently reached the War Department, for General Sickles afterward received the much-desired medal.

Christians and Gentlemen.

In General Morris Schaff's recent reminiscences, "The Spirit of Old West Point," there is an incident that goes to show that not even the first bitterness of the struggle between the North and the South could put out altogether the fires of friendship.

It was the fate of Stephen D. Ramseur of North Carolina to fall in the Confederate service. His last hours had a close connection with West Point, where he had been enrolled as a cadet.

When, in the darkness, after the Battle of Cedar Creek, the Union cavalry charged the broken and fleeing remnants of a division of Early's corps, Custer, who was in the midst, heard one of his troopers who had seized the horses ask the driver whom he had in his ambulance.

"Do not tell him," commanded a weak, husky voice.

Whereupon Custer, who recognized the voice as one he had so often heard at West Point, exclaimed:

"Is that you, Ramseur?"

Custer had him taken to Sheridan's headquarters, where his old friends, Merritt, Custer and the gallant Pennington, gathered round him and showed him every tenderness to the last. He died about 10 o'clock the next day.