WAR FEELING IN GERMANY.

The Conflict Now in Progress Between British and Boers

Overshadows Every Other Topic in Political Circles at Berlin.

Dr. Barth, the Liberal Leader, and a Steadfast Friend of Great Britain, of the Opinion That England Will Lose the Whole of South Africa, and Contends That Secretary Chamberlain Blundered in Provoking War Without Having Made Necessary Military Preparations.

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BERLIN, Dec. 30.—The South African war overshadows everything else here. The correspondent of the Associated Press has just had an interesting interview with the Liberal leader, Dr. Barth, who is one of the most steadfast friends of Great Britain and America, but who also condemns the war. Dr. Barth said:

"At present it looks as if England might lose the whole of South Africa. I have private information from Africa, via Holland, according to which the rebellious movement among the Cape Boers has assumed much more serious proportions than the English newspapers admit. There never was a greater piece of political stupidity than that shown by Mr. Chamberlain in provoking war, without having made the necessary military preparations. If England had only waited a few years, she could have had everything without war.

"If England is totally defeated, this war will be the best thing for the world, even for England. It will be a lesson she will not soon forget. It will have a wholesome influence upon the jingoes of all countries, including the German. Our navy scheme, which is almost sure of adoption, must be understood to be in connection with the war in South Africa, all fine phrases offered in explanation notwithstanding. The increase was decided upon because Germany has lost confidence in the men who are shaping England's policy.

"The brutality of the present English policies renders Germany's position too insecure. What happens in the Transvaal to-day on land may happen to Germany upon the sea to-morrow. Distrust of England makes it necessary for Germany to be so strong at sea that the English jingoes will think twice before attacking Germany. If the English statesmen of to-day were of the type of Gladstone and Morley, we should have no concern; but with such political 'Jack o'Lanterns' as Mr. Chamberlain at the helm, we don't know what to expect, and must arm for any eventuality."

The German press generally during the last few days has expressed the opinion that Great Britain will lose not only the war, but also South Africa.

From an excellent authority the correspondent of the Associated Press hears that Great Britain has instructed her Minister at The Hague, Sir Henry Howard, to sign the peace convention with the reservation of Article No. 10, all the conference Powers having consented to such reservation.

The correspondent of the Associated Press also learns in Government circles that Germany does not believe the report that Great Britain intends to take decisive steps soon at Delagoa Bay. It is admitted that Germany would be informed beforehand of any serious steps intended, and the reports circulated are considered to be ballons d'essay, issued by the countries interested in preventing Great Britain from getting Delagoa Bay.

THE CREW OF THE PELOTAS.

All Were Saved by the Dungeness Coast Guards.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Hamburg and South American liner Pelotas, from Santos for Hamburg, struck on the sands on the east side of Dungeness, the southern extremity of Kent, soon after midnight in the midst of a terrific gale which raged all around the coast. The storm was the worst of the winter, and seas immediately began breaking over the steamer. For a time it appeared as though no one on board of her could be saved.

The Dungeness coast guards, seeing the Pelotas' signals of distress, made desperate and for a time unsuccessful efforts to launch the lifeboat in the heavy surf beating the shore. Finally the coast guardsmen succeeded in reaching the Pelotas. They remained alongside the steamer all night, and eventually put the rocket apparatus in operation, saving the crew.

During the whole time the wind blew with hurricane force, accompanied by heavy rain and hail. There were no passengers.

The Hamburg and South American line, owners of the Pelotas, have no connection whatever with the Hamburg-American line sailing to New York.

Later in the day it became known that the Pelotas was driven ashore owing to the loss of her rudder.

WAGNER PALACE CAR CO.

Has Ceased to Exist as an Individual Corporation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The Wagner Palace Car Company to-day ceased to exist as an individual organization.

The formal and official transfer of the Wagner Company under the terms of its merger agreement with the Pullman Company was effected this afternoon at the offices of the Wagner Company in this city, $20,000,000 of the stock of the Wagner Company being transferred to the Pullman interests, and an equal amount of Pullman stock being transferred to the Wagner interests on even terms. The offices of the combined interests at New York City will be those heretofore occupied by the Wagner Company, and officers of the Wagner Company will for the present, and possibly permanently, maintain their relative positions. Webb becomes a member of the Board of Directors of the Consolidated Companies.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Judge Tuthill of the Superior Court to-day refused to issue the injunction prayed for by Truman A. Taylor, a stockholder in the Pullman Palace Company, to prevent the merging of that company and the Wagner Palace Car Company under the name of the Pullman Company. It was claimed in the bill of complaint that through the consolidation of the companies, a monopoly of the sleeping car business would be secured in violation of the anti-trust Act.

Judge Tuthill held that the sleeping car business was in the control of the railroad companies, and combination between them would have to be shown before any monopoly of the business could be declared.

"The sleeping car companies," said Judge Tuthill, "are but the agents of the railroads, acting under contracts, as do the other employes of the railroads."

The transfer of the stock of the Pullman Company for the purchase of the Wagner Company can be consummated with no fear of judicial interference. The decision of the court sustained the contentions advanced by the counsel for the Pullman Company.

LI HUNG CHANG.

Appointed Acting Viceroy of Two Provinces in China.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The Chinese Minister, Wu Hung Chang, has received a dispatch from China stating that Li Hung Chang has been appointed Acting Viceroy of two provinces in the south of China adjacent to Canton.

The Minister says this is a marked distinction to the venerable Chinese statesman, as the provinces are among the most populous and commercially important in the empire.

Mr. Wu's dispatch clears up a misapprehension created by a recent unofficial dispatch stating that Earl Li would be made Viceroy of one province, that of Canton, and that this would be followed by a degradation. On the contrary, the Minister's advices show that the double Viceroyalty is an unusual proceeding, said to be analagous to that of Viceroyalty of India.

The appearance of Li Hung Chang at the head of affairs in Southern China, it is believed, will have an important influence in that quarter, where the French "sphere of influence" is supposed to be located.

WEST INDIA FAMINE.

Will Be Far More Distressing Than That Two Years Ago.

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions has received from Rev. R. A. Hume, D. D., at Ahmednagar, India, a letter dated December 2d, in which he says that the present famine in Western India is sure to be far more distressing than even the awful famine of two years ago, as a severe drouth already has begun in the Ahmednagar district, and no rain can be expected until the middle of June.

The writer says that Ahmednagar has suffered also from the plague, and is not free from it. Sholapus is now in a severe epidemic, and Bombay is perhaps in the beginning of another plague experience.

In view of it all, says the correspondent, the Government, as always, is acting most nobly, but official relief never can meet the multitude of necessities.

Value of Silver Decreases.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The quarterly statement of the values of foreign coins issued by the Director of the Mint shows that during the last three months the value of silver has decreased .188 cents per ounce, and the value of foreign silver coins has decreased accordingly. These figures will be followed in estimating the value of all foreign merchandise exported to the United States on and after January 1, 1900.

Four Men Killed.

LANCASTER (Pa.), Dec. 30. — Four men were killed and several others injured by a boiler explosion one mile west of Elizabethtown this morning. They were employes of Kellar & Kresser, railroad contractors. The dead: Donald Haldemann, Witt Sherbairn, Harris (colored), and an Italian known as Toney, who was hurled 150 feet.

Death of a Newspaper Man.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—H. Johnson, a newspaper man connected with the "Chronicle," was found dead in the bath tub at his home to-day. It is supposed that he was attacked with heart failure after getting out of his bath, and fell back into the water and was drowned. It had been the dead man's custom to take a bath each night on returning from his work, and before going to bed. He must have been preparing to leave the bath room when he was attacked, because he had his moccasins on, and the towels showed that they had been used. Deceased was about 24 years of age, and was a native of Walnut Creek, where his parents reside.

A Jockey Suspended.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—Jockey Burns, the well known rider, has been suspended for an indefinite period. The Board of Stewards of the California Jockey Club assigns the reason for their action Burns' failure to make the weight to ride Sly in the last race to-day.

Life Imprisonment.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—Judge Lawlor to-day sentenced Elias Muscat to life imprisonment at Folsom prison for murder of Sebastiana de Sanchez, a Spanish woman with whom he was living, in July last.

The "Help" That Helps.

During some six weeks spent, a few years ago, in the most crowded ward in the world, among thousands of people who lived in the narrowest quarter and upon the most scanty wage, I gave six hours every day to receiving anybody and everybody who came to me. During that time I had visits from dilapidated gentlemen from Albany and Jersey City and Philadelphia and the like, who supposed that I was a credulous fool whose money and himself would be soon parted, and who gave me what they considered many excellent reasons for presenting them with $5 apiece. But, during that whole period, not one of the many thousands who lived in the crowded tenements all around me, and to hundreds of whom I preached three times a week, asked me for a penny. Not one! They came to me by day and by night, men and women, boys and girls, for counsel, courage, sympathy, admonition, reproof, guidance, and such light as I could give them—but never, one of them, for money. They are my friends to-day, and they know that I am theirs; and, little as that last may mean to the weakest and the worst of them, I believe that, in the case of any man or woman who tries to understand and hearten his fellow, it counts for a thousandfold more than does doles, or bread, or institutional relief.—Bishop Potter in Popular Science Monthly.

Fungi in mines yield light.

NEW REGIME AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Mayor Phelan Makes Public His List of Appointments

To Serve on the Commissions and Boards

Colonel George H. Mendell Selected as President of the Board of Public Works, With Jeremiah Mahoney and Marsden Manson as Associate Members.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30. — Mayor Phelan to-night announced the following appointments to the commissions and boards under the new charter:

Board of Public Works—Colonel George H. Mendell, President, term three years; Jeremiah Mahoney, term two years; Marsden Manson, term one year.

Civil Service Commission — John E. Quinn, Jr., Richard Freud, P. H. McCarthy.

Board of Education—James Denman, John B. Casserly, C. W. Mark, Mary W. Kincaid.

Police Commission—William Thomas, J. Bigby, George A. Newhall, Dr. W. F. McNutt.

Fire Commission—Rolla V. Watt, David I. Mahoney, M. H. Hecht, John H. Grady.

Election Commission—A. W. Voorsanger, Sheldon G. Kellogg, Jeremiah Deasy, M. Greenblatt, Oliver Everett.

Park Commission—Frederick W. Zeile, Jasper McDonald, A. B. Spreckels, John A. Stanton, Reuben H. Lloyd.

Board of Health—Dr. Louis Bazet, Dr. R. W. Baum, Dr. W. E. Hopkins, Dr. J. M. Williamson, Dr. William D. McCarthy.

THE TREATY WITH FRANCE.

The New Convention Causes a Stir Among California Exporters.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—Official copies of the reciprocity treaties negotiated by Kasson and representatives of France and Great Britain have been received in this city. The fact is developed that this State, if it has any share in reciprocity, has so small a one that it is not visible. On the other hand, it is developed by the official text that the grossest discrimination has been practiced against those products which California has been shipping abroad, and working to make a market for during a period of years. Some of the exporters of California dried and canned fruits are very angry, and they will prepare a communication that will be addressed to the California delegation at Washington.

The list of articles upon which France will reduce her duties if the treaty is adopted is as follows: Horses, butter, lucerne and clover seed, fodder, cast iron, skins and hides prepared, boots and shoes and parts of the same, bolts and cords and other leather manufactured for machinery, dynamos, machine tools, dynamo conductors and parts, arc lamps, known as regulars, sugar, chicory roots (green or dried), eggs, cheese, honey, porcelain, cardboard (rough in sheets). Prunes or dried fruits are not mentioned.

Among the articles the United States will let in at lower duties are the following articles in which California is especially concerned: Nuts, prunes, olive oil, plants and seeds.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Cloudy and Threatening Over Country West of Rockies.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—The following are the seasonal rainfalls to date as compared with those of same date last season and rainfalls in last twenty-four hours:

Stations.	Last 24 hours.	This Season.	Last Season.
Eureka	0.86	26.53	10.38
Red Bluff	1.04	10.86	3.83
Sacramento	0.86	9.85	3.91
San Francisco	0.69	10.36	3.99
Fresno	0.12	4.55	1.92
Independence	0.10	1.76	0.61
San Luis Obispo	0.98	10.34	1.31
Los Angeles	0.02	3.49	0.30
San Diego	0.02	1.94	1.08
Yuma	0.00	0.58	1.32

San Francisco data: Maximum temperature 56, minimum 44, mean 50.

The weather is cloudy and threatening over the country west of the Rocky Mountains, and rain or snow has fallen in all districts. The rain was heaviest in the Sacramento Valley, where it averages over an inch. A thunderstorm is reported at Eureka.

The pressure has risen rapidly west of the Rocky Mountains, but the wind remains southerly, and conditions are favorable for showers to-night, and in the northern portion Sunday.

The temperature has risen generally over the Pacific Slope.

AARON WOLFSOHN.

The Man Thought to be Dead Proves His Identity.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30.—Aaron Wolfsohn arrived here from the East this evening and was identified by S. A. D. Jones, local agent of the New York Life Insurance Company, as the man he had insured for $10,000, notwithstanding his previous positive declaration that the man who committed suicide in a lodging-house in this city several weeks ago was Wolfsohn, and whose heirs were entitled to the amount of the policy which was paid over to the Public Administrator of this county.

The man who arrived from the East to-night to help unravel the mystery was recognized as Aaron Wolfsohn not only by Jones, but by hotel clerks and others who had reason to remember him, and the admission of Jones that he was mistaken when he identified the suicide as the policy holder has thickened a mystery which the police authorities will endeavor to solve. The identity of the dead man will be a subject of investigation, and the cause of his death will be more closely looked into.

The Buchanan Case.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30. — The Hugh Buchanan case was revived to-day by the petition of the District Attorney of Napa County to the Supreme Court for a writ of habeas corpus for the release of Buchanan from the Napa State Hospital. A hearing on the application will be held on January 4th. Eight years ago Hugh Buchanan killed a man at Marysville, and while the matter was pending he was adjudged insane and committed to the Napa State Hospital. Recently his friends have attempted to have him released, but the Superintendent, Dr. A. M. Gardner, says that the man is still insane.

The Raisin Industry.

FRESNO, Dec. 30.—The proposed plan of a combine in which raisin growers and packers shall be equally represented has been laid before a meeting of Fresno and Kings County packers, and after a decision in a favorable spirit Messrs. George B. Noble, Thomas H. Lynch, Charles King, W. H. Griffin and C. G. Bonner were appointed a committee to confer on the subject with the Raisin Growers' Association Directors next Monday. The project involves the purchase of all existing plants at a fair valuation and concerted action by all packers.

Want an Extra Session.

FRESNO, Dec. 30.—George Frost, President of the Riverside Water Company, who has been here for several days, has gone to Porterville, Tulare County. His mission is to interview fruit men and others for signtaures to a petition to Governor Gage for a special session of the Legislature as a step toward putting a crimp in the Jamaica treaty.

The Lawton Fund.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—The total contributions to the Lawton fund to-night on the Pacific Coast amount to $6,866.50. Of this amount, $5,867.50 was contributed by this city and $498 by Portland, Or. Among to-day's contributors was Mrs. John A. Logan, Jr., whose husband, Captain J. A. Logan, was recently killed in the Philippines.

Santa Clara's Grand Jury.

SAN JOSE, Dec. 30.—The retiring Grand Jury for the year reported to-day. Among the recommendations is an urgent request upon the Supervisors that they indorse the ordinance requiring all dairy cattle to be subjected to the suberculin test. There is also a demand that some steps be taken to stop the useless complaints in Chinese cases, which cost the county heavily.

Banker Cole En Route to Boston.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30.—Charles H. Cole, the Boston banker, accused of embezzling $900,000 of the funds of the Globe National Bank of that city, and arrested here, started for Boston to-night in charge of United States Marshal Osborne. His wife and son accompanied him. Cole was cheerful and very willing to face the charges.

Two Overdue Vessels.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—Two of the overdue fleet of ships reinsured at an advance yesterday arrived in port to-day. They are the British ship Rajore, from Liverpool, and Arschal de Turenne. The vessels report rough weather in the vicinity of Cape Horn.

Death of a Pioneeer.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—General Joseph G. Wall, a pioneer and prominent citizen, died at his home at Alameda to-day of pneumonia. The death was sudden and unexpected. General Wall was a native of Ireland, but came to this country when quite young. General Wall was 70 years of age.

A Chinaman Suicides.

STOCKTON, Dec. 30.—Ah Gun, an eccentric Chinaman, hung himself in Chinatown to-day.

EVENTS ON THE TURF.

RESULTS OF COAST AND EASTERN RACES.

San Mateo, High Ho, Imperious, Dr. Bernays, Sybaris and Afamada Winners at Oakland.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—Dr. Rowell wound up the year of 1899 in brilliant style by capturing three races in rapid succession, and he would have made it four straight if Satsuma had not been left a dozen lengths in the last race. Jockey Eddie Jones was also very much in evidence. Weather at Oakland cloudy and track sloppy. Results:

Five furlongs, selling, San Mateo (L. Turner), 7 to 1, won; Silvertone (Jenkins), 2 to 1, second; Etta H. (Burns), 9 to 2, third. Time—1:02. Monrovia, Saul of Tarsus, Miss Soak, Yaruba, Mike Rice and Gusto also ran.

Six furlongs, selling, High Ho (Vittitoe), 5 to 1, won; Pat Morrissey (Thorpe), 1 to 3, second; Rosalbra (E. Jones), 15 to 1, third. Time—1:15½. Yule, Florinel II., Choteau, Sylvan Lass and Expedient also ran.

Mile and a sixteenth, selling, Imperious (E. Jones), even, won; Einstein (Bassinger), 15 to 1, second; Lost Girl (T. Walsh), 12 to 1, third. Time—1:49¾. Dr. Marks, Grand Sachem, Judge Wofford and Don Luis also ran. Scotch Plaid left at the post.

Free handicap, mile and a quarter, Dr. Bernays (E. Jones), 2 to 1, won; Meadowthorpe (T. Burns), 3 to 1, second; Lothian (Spencer), 10 to 1, third. Time—2:10½. Stuttgart and Faunette also ran.

Seven furlongs, Sybaris (E. Jones), 18 to 5, won; Dr. Sheppard (Thorpe), 2 to 1, second; Dr. Nembula (Jenkins), 7 to 2, third. Time—1:28¾. Princess Zeika and Erwin also ran.

Six furlongs, Afamada (Jenkins), 11 to 10, won; Plan (T. Walsh), 12 to 5, second; February (Vittitoe), 6 to 1, third. Time—1:15¼. Satsuma and Sister Alice also ran.

AT NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 30. — The stewards to-day reached a conclusion in their investigation of the running of the jumper Fred Perkins, and as a result Jockey J. Pierce, who rode him, was ruled off the turf. In the St. Lorenzo case, also under investigation, the stewards decided to refuse the entry of the horse St. Lorenzo in future, and restored A. H. Jones, the owner, and A. McIntyre, the jockey, to all privileges. Weather cool and track fast. Results:

Mile and a sixteenth, selling, School Girl won, Nailer second, Musket third. Time—1:51½.

Five and a half furlongs, Triaditza won, Tom Gilmore second, Gold d'Or third. Time—1:08½.

Six furlongs, J. E. Kline won, Brown Vail second, Tobe Payne third. Time—1:14½.

Seven and a half furlongs, imp. Mint Sauce won, Andes second, Molo third. Time—1:35.

Mile and a sixteenth, selling, Yuba Dam won, Klondike Queen second, Joe Doughty third. Time—1:50.

CLASSIFICATION OF FREIGHT RATES.

Attorney General Griggs Returns to Commerce Commission

The Transcript of Evidence in the Complaint Filed by Shippers.

Declines to Direct Injunction Proceedings Against the Railroads on the Ground That the Evidence Shows No Violation of the Anti-Trust Law or Conspiracy in the Restraint of Trade or Commerce Among the Several States.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Attorney General Griggs to-day returned to the Interstate Commerce Commission the transcript of the evidence taken at a hearing before the commission last week in the matter of the new freight classification, with a view to action by the Attorney General under the anti-trust law, if his judgment should warrant the same.

In his letter to the commission, referring to the demand of the shippers that legal action against the railroads be taken, the Attorney General says:

"A railroad company may raise its rates to an unreasonable point; it may discriminate among its shippers; it may charge more for a short than a long haul, but none of these acts, however unjust and wrongful, amounts to a violation of the anti-trust law. To authorize the Attorney General to direct an injunction proceeding under this law, it must be shown that there is a contract, combination * * * or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States."

In the first place, there is no contract, combination or conspiracy shown. There is consultation by representative railroad men in committee respecting suggested changes in classification. There is subsequent independent action by railroad companies in the adoption of the new classification recommended by the committee. The testimony taken does not show that any railroad acted under compulsion of a combination in adopting the official classification. It must be conceded that a common classification by railroad companies operating in the same territory is a desirable thing. Will it be insisted that railroads cannot consult respecting freight classification? Or because one railroad company adopts a certain classification, another cannot? The anti-trust law says there must be a contract, or combination, or conspiracy. This must be shown. And it must be shown to restrain individual action. This is not shown in the testimony submitted.

"Moreover, there must not only be a contract, combination or conspiracy, but it must be in restraint of interstate commerce. As applied to carriers, this means a combination to suppress competition. It is only by suppressing competition and arbitrarily fixing the rates that a restraint can be put upon interstate commerce. The filing of an official classification does not fix the rates. It places articles in certain classes, but the rates for the classes are determined by the railroad companies outside the classification. If a railroad company maintains the existing rates, the change of an article from a lower to a higher class will increase the rate, but from aught that appears in this testimony, every railroad company using the classification is at liberty at any time to change the existing rates, upon giving the notice required by the Interstate Commerce Act. Moreover, each railroad company is free to take any article out of the existing classification by making a commodity rate. In other words, no suppression of competition, no arbitrary fixing of rates, no restraint of interstate commerce is shown.

"The Trans-Missouri and Joint Traffic Association cases afford no precedent for the action required in this case. Each of these associations was formed by a contract, under which the companies selected a central authority to fix and maintain rates. There was an absolute suppression of competition. The power of independent action was destroyed. No company could change a rate fixed by the managers of the association without subjecting itself to a penalty.

"If the testimony submitted showed a combination among the railroad companies to restrain commerce among the several States, it would not hesitate to invoke the remedy provided by the anti-trust law, but to take such action upon the faith of the facts submitted would not only be futile, but absurd. If there be a remedy for the complaining shippers, it lies in an appeal to your commission under the Interstate Commerce Law."

HAD A JOLLY TIME.

First Annual Smoker of the Commercial Travelers.

The first annual smoker of Sacramento Council, No. 140, United Commercial Travelers of America, was held at Elks' Hall, Ninth and J streets, last night, and though an impromptu affair, it proved to be one of the most enjoyable and thoroughly jolly given in this city for many a long day.

Christmas time is the only season of the year which finds the travelers all at home, and for that reason the first annual union was held last night.

Senior Councellor James B. Treadwell acted as master of ceremonies, and well and truly did he play his part, assisted as he was by the sixty of his brethren, and applauded by the invited guests. He, in opening the smoker, had something to say, and he said it well, as follows:

"Sacramento Council bids you all welcome to this, their first informal smoker, and I trust that all members and guests will partake freely of the good things that we have here, and that each one present appoint himself a committee of one to make his neighbor happy.

"Last January Sacramento Council was organized by about thirty travelers; to-day we have sixty names on our roll, and it is without egotism that when I say that they are as fine a body of men, mentally, morally and physically, as any who represent any other city, Sacramento ought to be proud of them and help foster the only organization of its kind holding a charter in this city.

"The year just passed has been a successful one, commercially; the travelers and their firms are happy and sincerely hope that the high watermark has not been reached.

"If push and determination count for anything, you may rest assured that the boys of the road from Sacramento will keep her flag in the front rank of the progressive column.

"It is indeed gratifying to know that during the year we have not lost any members, and barring a few bruises which time and our accident policies will heal, we are just as healthy and jolly a lot as we were a year ago.

"Last September we appeared before the public. Drummers' Day at the State Fair was the feature, and from opinions expressed by the press and public our work on that day was highly satisfactory, and I take this occasion to officially thank those who aided us, and particularly the press of the city, who have always been our friends.

"In a gathering of this kind we cast dull care to the winds; we gather to have a happy time, so let happiness reign supreme, and when you drink let your toast be that we all may be spared to meet again a year hence.

"As many as can will be called to do a "turn," and accordingly to the full measure of his ability and inclination, let him add to the evening's enjoyment."

And then the evening began in earnest, and, assisted by Neale's excellent orchestra, no time was lost about it. Song and story and good things to eat and drink followed one another without intermission. And excellent voices were among the travelers—voices which, had not their possessors preferred to cast their lot with the knights of the sample case, might have created a furore in operatic or other circles.

Late in the evening, after songs, speeches and stories had had full swing, the Murray & Mack Quartet arrived from the Clunie Opera-house, and it is safe to say they never sang before a more appreciative audience.

R. T. Cohn and other local talent also added their mite to the jolliest, most whole-souled, sparkling smoker given in this city in many moons. The commercial travelers did themselves proud, and they will be remembered by their guests until the suns roll around and the second annual smoker is announced.

Sacramento Council, No. 140, United Commercial Travelers of America, was organized nearly a year ago, with a membership of thirty. To-day there are sixty-four members on the roll. Its officers are: Senior Councellor, James F. Treadwell; Junior Councellor, R. M. Richardson; Past Councellor, W. F. Peterson; Secretary, H. C. Fisher; Conductor, A. Hampel; Page, C. M. Zeitler; Sentinel, C. B. Wilson.

FOR VAGRANCY.

Arrest of George Harris, a Habitue of L Street.

Officers Max P. Fisher and Logue, who are on the "down-town beat," which includes the L-street crib quarter, have been doing some shaking up among the class of loafers who are supported by women. Several of these fellows have left town, the officers say, and a few have actually gone to work.

Last night the officers arrested George Harris, alias Brown, whom they booked for vagrancy. He had been warned to go to work, but sneered at the warning. A woman named Della Fox, who occupies one of the L-street dens, where Harris has been seen nightly, has made a half-way admission that she and Harris are married.

If this is found to be true a more serious charge will be laid against him.

Red Men's Ball.

On Washington's Birthday the Improved Order of Red Men and Degree of Pocahontas will give their annual ball at Turner Hall.

"With Perquisites."

Senator Pomeroy used to tell of a local preacher in Kansas who had forced himself upon the stump after Lincoln's nomination and who demanded recognition of the party for his services during the campaign. He said he would like to be sent as Minister Plenipotentitary to England or France, and when told it was impossible insisted on being appointed Consul at Liverpool. Finding that the "powers that be" considered that equally preposterous, he was quite offended at what he considered a lack of appreciation of his services in a State that nothing could have turned against the Republicans. Finally, Senator Pomeroy said to him: 'I'm going to Washington in about two weeks time. Think the matter over, and if you should light on something in reason, I'll aid you in getting it." In ten days he called on the Senator again, his head still away up in the clouds, and being assured of the impossibility of getting what he thought was about his due, said:

"Senator, can't you think of some place that would suit me?"

"Yes," said Pomeroy, "I've thought of a place that would suit you and that you would suit, and that there is a possibility of getting for you. It's an Indian agency."

"An Indian agency? What's that?" queried the preacher.

"Well, you are to look after the welfare of our red brothers, and see that their supplies are properly and honestly delivered to them.."

"What is it worth?"

"One thousand five hundred dollars and perquisites," returned the Senator.

"Perquisites—what perquisites?"

"Well, you see, my friend, the Government contracts for so many head of beef cattle averaging about so many hundred pounds. Now, in delivering these cattle, they are to be counted while being driven into the inclosure, and if a yearling should happen to slip in now and then, you are not to make too much fuss about it, and there you will find your perqusites. Think it over."

"I'll take it," said the reverend gentleman; "I've already thought it over, and do you know, Senator, I think veal is a blamed sight better than beef for Indians, anyway."—Utica Observer.

Filling a Long Felt Want.

Professor Charles G. D. Roberts, the poet, reads the modern languages very easily, but speaks them imperfectly. At a reception held in New York just prior to his leaving for Europe, Roberts was introduced to a distinguished French artist, who was here on a visit. The artist asked in his own tongue, "You speak French?"

"No," answered the poet; "I am sorry I do not, but I understand it well when it is spoken to me."

"I am so glad," replied the Frenchman; "you are the audience I have long wanted. I can talk to you all I please and you cannot talk back!"—Philadelphia Post.

A self-fertilizing crop—laziness.

AMERICANS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

How They Were Treated When the War Broke Out.

Given Their Choice of Joining the Boer Army or Clearing Out.

Howard J. Rothschild, an American Citizen Employed on a Paper at Johannesburg, Who Has Just Arrived at New York, Relates the Experience of Himself and Others in the South African Republic.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Howard J. Rothschild, an American citizen, who was employed on the "Standard and Digger," a mining paper published in Johannesburg, has just got back to New York from the Transvaal.

Mr. Rothschild was at Pilgrim's Rest, a little mining camp 180 miles northeast of Johannesburg, when the Boers declared war, October 11th.

"There were 800 whites, mostly Americans and Englishmen, in Pilgrim's Rest," said Mr. Rothschild, "when the war was declared. The gold mine there is owned by the Ecksteins, who own other mines in the Transvaal. We asked permission to stay, and the Boers at first gave us permission to do so, on the understanding that we would form a home guard to protect the place from the British or any one else. We accepted these conditions, but next day we were told by the Burghers that we had twenty-four hours either to enlist in the Boer army or get out of the place. Most of us decided to get out.

"There was $29,000 in gold, which had been taken from the mine, and the Burghers seized this, first giving B. F. Thompson, a Scotchman, and Secretary of the mining company, a receipt and a note promising that the Transvaal Government would repay the money upon the conclusion of the war. Of course, if the Transvaal is beaten by England no return will be made. This same proceeding took place at all the mines not shut up in the besieged towns.

Mr. Thompson and I went to the stables to get horses to ride out to inspect a mine some miles in the country, when we were approached by an American named Blake, uniformed as a Second Lieutenant in the Boer army. Blake, who had recruited 200 Americans for the Boer army, showed us a proclamation which had just been issued by the Transvaal Government, confiscating all horses, fodder, gold and stores to carry on war against England, and promising to pay for them on the conclusion of the war.

"Thompson and I returned to his house, and there we found that the Boer commander had taken possession of his residence, worth $30,000. In it was the finest collection of gold nuggets in South Africa, worth at least $50,000. Mr. Thompson also had $45,000 in gold of his own, all of which went to the Transvaal. Thousands of Englishmen were treated in the same way.

"When the Boers took possession of the gold mine at Pilgrim's Rest they turned out all the Kaffir laborers, broke the pumping machinery and flooded the mine. They also flooded the Bonanza and the Robinson deep mines near Johannesburg, two of the richest gold mines in South Africa.

"The Boers furnished us with horses and an armed escort for the long ride to Johannesburg. No man in the party was allowed to take away with him more than $50.

"Being unable to prove that I was an American citizen, I was treated the same as the British subjects.

"The Government has taken all the most fertile lands for the raising of crops for the Boer army. The Boer women, the young boys and the old men have left their own farms, and are working the Government farms, aided by Kaffirs. In this way they can keep their army well provisioned. At all of these Government farms we saw the Boer women plowing and doing the hardest kind of manual labor."

Cannon Was Discharged.

The other day Judge Arnold laughed heartily at a little episode which occurred in his court, says the Philadelphia "Record," and which was relished by all who heard it. Representative John Fow was attorney for several people who had been charged with some trifling violation of the law. The defendant was a man named Cannon, and as the matter was settled before the trial began Cannon did not think his presence necessary, and, therefore, left. As there were several others jointly accused Mr. Fow asked the court to discharge them. "Well," said Judge Arnold briskly, "where's Cannon?" "Ch," replied the Seventeenth Ward statesman, with a twinkle in his eye, "he just went off, and I'm trying to discharge the rest of them, although he was the big gun of the party." Judge Arnold laughed heartily at the joke, and entered into the spirt of it. "Well, Mr. Fow," he responded, "where there's so much smoke I think there must have been some firing, but as Cannon has gone off I'll discharge the rest of them for you."

Taken at His Word.

Evan P. Howell tells the New York "Telegraph" a rather good story about a Southerner who brought suit some years ago against the South Carolina Railroad for damages to his property. He lost the case in the Superior Court, but insisted upon carrying it to the Supreme Court, where he represented his own cause. He began his argument by saying whimsically:

"May it please the court, there is an old French adage which says, 'A man who is his own lawyer hath a fool for a client.'"

The next week the Supreme Court pronounced its decision, which was adverse to the Southerner. He was in Augusta at the time, but received the announcement of his second and final disappointment by means of a telegram sent him by a prominent Judge, who was an intimate friend of his. The telegram read as follows:

"Judgment for defendant in error. French adage affirmed by Supreme Court."

The German Postoffice at Kaio Chau, China, forwarded 236,288 letters, papers and packages during the first year of its existence.