THE DAILY JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1900.

Telephone Calls.

Business Office.....238 | Editorial Rooms.....86

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

DAILY BY MAIL.

Daily only, one month	$0.70
Daily only, three months	2.00
Daily only, one year	8.00
Daily, including Sunday, one year	10.00
Sunday only, one year	2.00

WHEN FURNISHED BY AGENTS.

Daily, per week, by carrier	15 cts
Sunday, single copy	5 cts
Daily and Sunday, per week, by carrier	20 cts

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Per year	$1.00

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Indianapolis, Ind.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL

Can be found at the following places:
NEW YORK—Astor House and Fifth Avenue Hotel.
CHICAGO—Palmer House, P. O. News Co., 217 Dearborn street.
CINCINNATI—J. R. Hawley & Co., 154 Vine street.
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If Colonel Baden-Powell wants anything he can have it now for the asking.

Some time ago Lord Roberts set May 18 as the limit for the relief of Mafeking. He seems to have spoken somewhat advisedly.

Just now it looks as if the war in South Africa will be over so long before the campaign that it will not be available for political capital.

Mrs. Dewey is said to have changed her mind about having her husband run for President, but no change is reported in the Bryan family.

Lady Sarah Wilson, who has been through the siege of Mafeking, will probably welcome a change of diet from hashed mule meat and curried locusts.

The Methodist General Conference should not be discouraged because it has taken eight ballots without electing a bishop. Political conventions sometimes continue deadlocked much longer than that.

The war in South Africa has been in progress several months, but it was not until Thursday that the British flag was raised on the soil of the Kruger republic. Mr. Kruger began the war by invading British territory.

Such exhibitions of corrupt politics and disreputable trickery as that shown in connection with the Montana senatorship show a great falling off since the days of Clay and Webster. But in those days there were no rotten borough States.

Speaking for every honest man in Indiana the Journal desires to say that C. F. W. Neely cannot be convicted too soon nor sent to the penitentiary to the limit of the law too straight to suit the requirements of his case and the demands of justice.

The Atlanta Journal has discovered that, since 1872, both Indiana and New York have given their electoral votes to Republican and Democratic candidates alternately. It consoles itself that in 1900 both States will vote for the Democratic candidate unless they break away from their practice in seven elections. On a 16-to-1 platform both States will vote as they did in 1896.

A few days ago a syndicate of bankers in New York loaned France $15,000,000. The money was needed to carry forward the exposition enterprise. The bankers of Paris tried in vain in the money centers of Europe; they then turned to the United States, and here they were able to obtain the money at low rates. Thus it appears that the United States has become the lender of money to Europe, changing the relations we have held from that of borrower to lender.

Mr. Curtis, of the Chicago Record, calls attention to the fact that the most bitter assailants of the administration, the Tammany leaders, have taken charge of the Kruger commissioners and that all of the arrangements for their reception in Washington have been made by men hostile to the President. He says that if these people desired to help the Boers they would not have pursued the course they have. This is true; the men who are in charge of the reception care nothing for the cause of the Boers, their sole purpose being to use them for political purposes.

Mrs. Dewey has exercised the time-honored privilege of woman; she has changed her mind. A few weeks ago it was announced she would like nothing better than to see her husband in the White House. Now, it is said, she fears the duties of chief executive would be too great a strain on the admiral, therefore she would not have him take the presidency under any consideration. Mrs. Dewey is also said to fear politics would destroy their present domestic happiness. If Mrs. Dewey can bring the admiral to her way of thinking she will confer a favor on many of her husband's admirers who wish to retain their respect for the naval hero.

"Hurry out here, Dad, the meanest kind of men get into office," wrote a young man in the far West to his father in the States. Some such suggestion seems to have been made to Mr. James J. Corbett, pugilist and former champion, for he has declared himself a receptive candidate for Congress. Like Mr. Hill, he says: "I am a Democrat and have always acted with the organization." He says that if nominated "my friends will see to it that I am elected." As John Morrissey, a noted pugilist and gambler of his time, once represented a New York city district in Congress, there is no reason why Mr. Corbett should not aspire to the same honor in a Tammany district.

Tammany leaders in New York are having a decidedly uncomfortable experience now that it has been discovered that several of them, including the mayor, are shareholders in the ice trust which has recently raised the price to 60 cents a hundred pounds. Outside of Croker, Tammany leaders hold $1,550,000 worth of the stock of the trust. The trust has recently bought the entire Maine crop, Mayor Van Wyck visiting that State and aiding in the negotiation. When the trade was completed the price was advanced. The docks of the city being controlled by the Tammany officials, the trust with which Tammany leaders are connected has a monopoly of the ice trade, driving out of the business all the small dealers. In resolutions, Tammany is very hostile to trusts, but in practice it is different.

IMPERIALISM AND EXPANSION.

If the Democratic party never does anything else it should be credited with contributing a new word to our political nomenclature, viz., "imperialism." No person has yet defined the word, and it will be difficult to do so. A work published several years ago entitled "A Dictionary of American Politics," contains many odd facts and phrases in connection with politics. There are definitions of such words as "barnburners," "hunkers," "wellborns," "snufftakers," and other terms which, after doing service in one or two campaigns, became obsolete. Such words never having acquired any permanent or legitimate meaning, are not found in any regular dictionary. They belong to the class of ephemeral political slang. That is where "imperialism" will be found in the future. The word, in its legitimate sense, is defined as "the system of imperial government, the principle or spirit of empire." That will continue to be its true definition, but some future edition of "A Dictionary of American Politics" will probably say: "Imperialism—a term applied by the Democratic party in the presidential campaign of 1900 to stigmatize the policy of establishing the authority of the United States in the new American possessions of that period—used derisively by party leaders for political effect." Looking over the long list of political phrases and nicknames of the past it is easy to see that they all appealed to popular ignorance and prejudice of the times, attempting to substitute slang for argument, or a senseless phrase, easily learned and repeated, for reason. The same will be found true of "imperialism," which no Democratic convention, candidate or orator dare attempt to define as a word of any real significance, meaning or application in the policy or affairs of a republic.

Very different from this senseless phrase is that of "expansion." This word represents a policy that every true American should be proud to avow and support, and, therefore, it will not be used by the Democratic party. At first they used the words as synonymous, but, finding they could not scare or deceive anybody with expansion, they fell back on imperialism as better suited to their purposes. Imperialism is a much better campaign phrase because, while it means nothing, it can be made, in Democratic hands, to stand for almost everything dangerous and bad. When a political party wants a bugaboo the more meaningless the phrase the better.

The Republican party should not hesitate to declare itself strongly in favor of the expansion brought about by the war with Spain. It is an expansion of national possessions, of national prestige, of national commerce. The acquisition of territory is not great, but it is important, involving valuable coaling and naval stations in two oceans and an open door to the commerce of the Pacific. The Americanizing of these new possessions will be an expansion of republican government and of Anglo-Saxon civilization. No political party dares oppose this, and the Republican party should gladly embrace the opportunity to champion it. Even the Democratic party, bourbon, reactionary, anti-progressive as it is, dares not place itself in opposition to the expansion and extension of republican government. If it should come in power it would not dare to relinquish a foot of the territory over which the American flag now floats, but for this year, at least, it will try to scare the people with the bugaboo of imperialism. That, to borrow an obsolete political slang phrase, may prove for them "a good-enough Morgan till after election."

WHAT IT MEANS.

The Boer commissioners are reported as saying that the only thing that can help them is for the United States to say to Great Britain "stop." If by the United States the commissioners mean the pro-Boer orators, Webster Davis, Senators Mason, Allen, Pettigrew and the meetings which have expressed sympathy for the Boers, the notice to Great Britain to "stop" has already been given. If, on the other hand, by the United States the commissioners mean the government of this country, the word "stop" will not be given. It is probably true that a majority of the people of the United States sympathize with the Boers, but sympathy is a sentiment which stops far short of plunging this Nation into war in behalf of the so-called South African Republic. Except the Webster Davises, the Senator Masons, the Sulzers and a class of demagogues who seem not to care what evils they may bring to the country so long as they appear as actors there is no sentiment in this country in favor of a policy which means a war with Great Britain. To render assistance to a few thousand people whose rulers would for years deny the right of suffrage to Americans who might settle in that country, and for all time if Catholics, even the frantic pro-Boers in New York would not demand a policy which would send the navy of Great Britain to attack our defenseless cities and otherwise lead us into a war that would cost billions of dollars and many thousands of lives.

In one of their statements the Boer commissioners refer to the Boer republic as "the helpless little sister" which it is the duty of the United States to rescue. Where have the Boers been fighting thus far? The impression one gets is that the territory of the Kruger republic was long since invaded. Such an impression is erroneous. President Kruger was so eager for war that he made an ultimatum to Great Britain and rushed his small army across his border to begin the war on British soil or territory which has not been claimed by the Boers. President Kruger took the initiative in this war. He closed every avenue for arbitration or a diplomatic adjustment of differences. Now that Mr. Kruger's commissioners are appealing to the United States to demand that Great Britain stop the war and thus assume a conflict which he so eagerly begun it is well to recall the fact that he stopped negotiations and began the war.

The point not to be lost sight of, and which should be emphasized, is that these commissioners urge the United States to do that which will be the same as a declaration of war with Great Britain. No portion of the people are in favor of being a party to what would be the most disastrous war of modern times.

The relief of Mafeking has all the elements of a dramatic event. Both the siege and the resistance have been among the most notable of modern times. The place, with a British garrison of 1,200 men commanded by Colonel Baden-Powell, was besieged by a greatly superior Boer force on the 15th of October, 1899, before the war was a week old. The place is of no strategic importance and might have been abandoned by the British before it was besieged if there had been opportunity. Since the siege began the holding of the place has been largely a matter of sentiment and honor. The siege of Ladysmith, which for awhile absorbed public attention, began Nov. 1, 1899, and lasted 118 days, the place being relieved Feb. 28. The siege of Mafeking, accompanied by much fighting and distressing hardships, including assault, bombardment, disease and threatened starvation, has lasted 215 days. The British force, reduced to a few hundred, might have surrendered without weakening the army or its operations to any appreciable extent, but it held out as a point of honor. The successful defense of the place has been largely due to the genius, energy and resourcefulness of Colonel Baden-Powell, and the result will give him a permanent place among England's military heroes. The final abandonment of the siege by the Boers after so long a struggle foreshadows the near end of the war.

The Kentucky Republican convention, held in Louisville on Thursday, was a spirited assemblage of representative men who made it very clear that the Republican party of that State will make a vigorous campaign against the present Democratic regime. One of the significant features of the convention was the speeches of three men who have, until recently, been Democrats. Marmaduke Bowden, a brilliant young lawyer and orator, and a Democrat until 1896, was placed at the head of the electoral ticket.

Everybody knows that defective flues are responsible for many fires, but it is startling to hear, on seemingly good authority, that they cause almost one-third of all the fires that occur in this city. This is greatly to the discredit of contractors, builders and workmen, but what is the building inspector paid for doing?

Colonel Edward G. McClernand, who has just been appointed military Governor of the Island of Cebu, in the Philippines group, is a son of General John A. McClernand, of Illinois, whose splendid record during the civil war is a part of history. Colonel McClernand is a graduate of West Point and has been in active service since the beginning of the war with Spain.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

An Absent Quantity.

An anomaly, I take it, and without exaggeration, is that imagined factor called "Kentucky civilization."

Statistical Gastronomy.

"The consumption of pie is on the increase."

"Of course; this is the rhubarb season, and rhubarb is cheap."

A Mistake Prevented.

"The country isn't as devoted to Admiral Dewey as it was."

"Yes, it is; that is why we won't help nominate him."

Boy with a Past.

Men love old school books, not because on learning's pabulum they've thrived;
But that they are reminded of the whalings
that have been survived.

An Unpleasant Contrast.

He—I believe I'll go to church with you this morning, Clara."

She—Indeed you won't; you've got your new suit, and mine hasn't come home yet.

Hackneyed but Safe.

New Hand—How shall I get up these literary criticisms?

Magazine Editor—Well, just say that all the men writers are imitating Rudyard Kipling, and that all the women writers remind you of George Eliot.

At the 'Phone.

Maud Muller, on a summer's day,
Called "Number, please!" to earn her pay.

Before her, numbers, printed small,
Fell down when any one would call.

The Judge took down his office 'phone,
And made to Maud his wishes known.

Said he, "I'll ask you just once more
For four-eleven-forty-four."

Said Maud, as mild as summer seas,
"What number did you ask for, please?"

Said he, "I told you twice before,
It's four-eleven-forty-four."

Said Maud, and you could hear her smile,
"Just hold the 'phone a little while."

A weary interval ensued,
The wires hummed an interlude,

And broken bits of talk came o'er
The 'phone, and made the waiter sore.

The wishbone-shaped receiver hook
He seized upon and wildly shook,

Till Maudie's voice he heard once more,
"What number are you waiting for?"

The Judge responded with a roar,
"It's four-eleven-forty-four."

Serenely Maud made answer then,
"That line is busy; call again."

The Judge had business late that day,
And so he merely walked away.

But as he walked he shook his head,
And this is what he sadly said:

"Of all the words of tongue or pen,
The d—dest are 'Busy; call again.'"

—Portland Oregonian.

INDIANA EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is the party which acts which makes mistakes. It is the party which does nothing that can sit back and criticise.—Richmond Item.

The Hon. Webster Davis surely is a prophet, even if not more than a false one, for only 200 people came out to hear him in his own Kansas City, showing him to be a prophet without honor in his own country.—Terre Haute Express.

If he is reported correctly Governor Taylor has expressed a desire to get away from Kentucky. No sensible man will deny that Kentucky is the best State in the country for self-respecting people to get away from since its Goebelism.—Muncie News.

Indiana Democrats are having a hard time to find state candidates. Some are afraid and others "dassen't," it seems. This prominent Democrat and that declines the "honor" for this or that reason. The only sure thing is that they do not fancy leading a forlorn hope.—Rockville Republican.

The Boer peace commissioners have arrived in New York, and the Democrats of that city are making much over them. It should be understood that this action on the part of the Democratic party is only for the purpose of embarrassing the administration, and not that the party is in sympathy at all with the Boers.—Columbus Republican.

While other Republican state conventions conveniently dodged the Porto Rican tariff iniquity, or referred to it in the language of subserviency, the Republicans of Iowa promptly voted down a resolution indorsing the action of Congress. Of course, this puts the convention "out of line" with the administration, but the Iowa Republicans probably concluded that political honesty pays quite as well as honesty of other kinds, and that which was a "plain duty" in December was none the less a duty in May. Good for the Republicans of the Hawkeye State.—Anderson Bulletin.

WANT QUIET SUNDAY

PRESBYTERIANS CONSIDER SABBATH OBSERVANCE QUESTION,

And Request Proprietors of Newspapers Not to Print Proceedings of the Assembly To-Morrow.

PRAISE FOR THE PRESIDENT

FOR CLOSING THE PARIS EXHIBIT ON FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.

Appointment of Committees—Candidates for Permanent Clerk—Other Religious Assemblies.

ST. LOUIS, May 18.—A very considerable part of to-day's session of the Presbyterian General Assembly was spent in considering the report of the special committee on Sabbath observance. During the discussion high praise was accorded to President McKinley and Secretary Hay for the instructions sent to Commissioner Peck, of the Paris exposition, and to Ambassador Porter, at Paris, touching the closing of the United States pavilion and offices at the exposition on the Sabbath.

The report strongly urges that Presbyterians throughout the land should abstain from numerous forms of Sunday desecrations now being more or less indulged in, and makes the broad request that railroad companies reduce Sunday transportation to a minimum, and that Congress and state legislatures shall appropriate no more money for exhibitions, without the proviso that such exhibits shall be closed on Sunday. A separate resolution was adopted by a large vote requesting proprietors of St. Louis newspapers not to print the proceedings of the assembly in their Sunday editions.

The attendance of delegates at to-day's session was greater than during yesterday, a number of belated ones having arrived. There are several full-blood Indians in the assemblage as delegates, among them being Thomas H. Aungie and Rev. Henry T. Selwyn, of Greenwood, S. D., who are both opposed to a revision of the creed, and Mr. Stephen Weston, a Choctaw.

Promptly at 9:30 o'clock Rev. Dr. Dickey, the new moderator, called the assembly to order, and appointed Mr. James H. Converse, of Philadelphia, vice moderator. He also announced the appointment of chairmen of the following committees:

Committee on bills and overtures, Rev. Robert F. Sample, New York; judicial committee, Dr. William McKibben, Cincinnati; policy, Dr. Daniel Webster Fisher; home missions, Dr. Richard S. Holmes; foreign missions, Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall; education, Dr. George B. Stewart; church erection, Dr. William H. Clark; theological seminaries, Dr. David R. Kerr; freedmen, Dr. E. Trumbell Lee, and aid for colleges, Dr. Willis H. Craig.

The announcement was then made that it was time for the presentation of synodical papers to the General Assembly. These were gathered up by pages, who gave them to the stated clerk. After action by the committee on bills and overtures these papers will be reported on later.

PERMANENT CLERK.

Provision was then made by the General Assembly to place the election of a permanent clerk in the hands of a committee composed of one commissioner from each synod, to be named hereafter by the moderator. This committee will give a hearing to all who wish to nominate candidates, and will eventually present two names for consideration by the General Assembly. Among the candidates for the position of permanent clerk, made vacant by the death of Rev. Dr. William E. Moore, of Columbus, O., are Rev. Dr. W. B. Noble, Dr. John Branch, Dr. John Miller, Dr. G. W. F. Birch and Dr. B. W. Gemmell.

The special committee on Sabbath observance reported that the present condition of the Sabbath question in the United States has more threatening aspects and more difficult problems than encouraging features.

Among the recommendations made on the subject by the special committee on the celebration of the twentieth century provision for a memorial fund was suggested, to be known as "The twentieth century fund for the endowment of Presbyterian collegiate and theological institutions, for the enlargement of missionary enterprises, for the erection of church buildings and payment of debt on churches and educational institutions, and for other work of the boards at the option of the donors." It was suggested that provision be made for the appointment of a central committee to consist of four ministers and three elders, with headquarters in Philadelphia, the committee to have general supervision of the work.

The report of the committee on the Omaha Theological Seminary, of which Dr. E. Trumbull is chairman, was in the form of an appeal for an endowment for the seminary, to insure its permanency and for rendering its usefulness undisturbed. This seminary has been in existence nine years and is the only school of its kind in the Presbyterian church between Chicago and the Pacific coast.

A communication from the Methodist Conference in Chicago was read, conveying congratulations and expressive of good will of that body. It was voted to send a cordial response to be delivered by a committee composed of one minister and one elder.

COMMITTEE APPORTIONMENT.

Majority and minority reports were made by the special committee on the method of apportionment of standing committees of the General Assembly. The majority report recommended that the standing committees be appointed by the moderator, assisted by a committee of ministers and elders, the latter committee to be also appointed by the moderator. This is the method now in vogue. The minority report thinks it advisable to divide the territory covered by the General Assembly into twenty-two election districts, equal in size, by combining the smaller synods and dividing the larger presbyteries when necessary for the election of the standing committees, each committee to select its own chairman.

Other special reports submitted were from the committees on time and practice and appeal, vacancies and supply, digest editions of the constitution, reprinting of minutes and on ministerial representation.

Rev. Dr. S. J. Niccolls, of this city, presented the special report of the committee on ministerial education, in which he showed the necessity of the education of ministers and of guarding against the lax examination of candidates.

Just before the adjournment at noon Rev. Dr. Frank Sneed, chairman of the committee on arrangements, welcomed the assemblage to St. Louis and presented Moderator Dickey with a gavel made from wood taken from three historical churches of this city.

At the afternoon session Rev. J. W. Hathaway, of New York city, took the lead in the consideration of the report of the special committee on Sabbath observance. Dr. Hathaway is a member of the committee. He heartily commended President McKinley and Secretary of State Hon. John H. Hay for instructions sent to Commissioner General Ferdinand W. Peck and Ambassador General Horace Porter to close the United States pavilion and offices at the Paris exposition on the Lord's day and to endeavor to secure concerted action of the American exhibitors to the same end. He deprecated the action of the French authorities who have denied to the American section the right to close their exhibits on the Lord's day and have consented to the closing of the United States pavilion only, which is distinctively the property of the United States government.

SABBATH DESECRATION.

The resolutions contained in the report were adopted one by one. They recommended among other things that the Presbyterian Church abstain from the dangerous forms of Sabbath desecration, such as advertising in the Sunday newspapers, the purchase and reading of them and from all forms of excursions, sports, games and amusements on the Lord's day, and also unnecessary secular work, traveling and visiting, etc. A plea was made to the railroad companies of this land to abandon Sunday excursions, so as to secure the minimum of transportation and service of their employes on Sunday. Whether or not the great St. Louis exposition was borne in the minds of the commissioners, a resolution was submitted requesting the United States Congress and all State legislatures to make no more appropriations for expositions to be held in this country without the proviso that such expositions shall be closed on Sunday.

Rev. Dr. John Fox, secretary of the Bible Society of New York, presented the Bible cause. He showed that in the State of Pennsylvania alone the Bible was printed and distributed in about forty different languages. Also that the Bible agents throughout the world are the church's missionaries. He set forth that a Bible without a missionary was more effective than a missionary without a Bible.

Word had been sent to the Bible agent at Manila by the Bible house to proceed with the provisional translation of the Bible into the different languages spoken by the Filipinos.

Dr. Jackson, of Jersey City, offered a resolution requesting the proprietors of the St. Louis daily newspapers to refrain from printing reports of the assembly in the Sunday issues of the paper. The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming vote.

Just at the close of the afternoon session the assembly voted to send fraternal greetings to the Southern Presbyterians, in session at Atlanta, Ga., and also to the Cumberland Presbyterians.

OTHER PRESBYTERIAN BODIES.

Features of the Second Day's Session of the Southern Assembly.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 18.—The second day's session of the Southern General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church opened at the Central Presbyterian Church with an increased attendance. The business of the assembly was begun after short devotional exercises. The most important matters to appear before the assembly at the morning session were the overtures from the different presbyteries and synods of the assembly. These were read by Stated Clerk Alexander to the commissioners. Some of them call for radical departures affecting the church management and other matters bearing directly on the affairs of certain presbyteries. These will constitute the work of the assembly and will likely be taken up separately. The executive committee on foreign missions made its report. The executive committee on home missions also made its report regarding the conditions of the home mission field, which was shown to be good. Moderator Martin announced his committees, which will have the consideration of their respective business during the assembly.

Cumberland General Assembly.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 18.—The enrollment to-day in the Cumberland Presbyterian Assembly was 240, making the largest assembly of the church ever held. The moderator to-day appointed the standing committees of the assembly, and on motion a new standing committee was formed, to which will be referred all matters in connection with the $1,000,000 endowment movement. A report was made showing that in the past year thirty-nine ministers have died, eight demitted, two suspended, four deposed and forty-five gained. Overtures for the assembly to eliminate from the $1,000,000 endowment plan the direction that $50,000 be raised to endow a post-graduate school in affiliation with the University of Chicago were referred to the committee on overtures.

The afternoon session was devoted to receiving papers and their reference to the proper committees. The report of the board of missions showed that the church had received offerings for foreign missions during the year from 1,114 congregations, 219 Endeavor societies, 46 Sunday schools, 60 individuals and three estates. The total amount received from all sources for mission work footed up $97,726. The most important business to-morrow will be the report of the board of publication.

ARRIVE AT WASHINGTON

BOER ENVOYS WELCOMED BY SULZER AND OTHER SYMPATHIZERS.

The Congressman Ascribes to Them Plenipotentiary Powers—Plans for the Sunday Night Meeting.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Messrs. Fischer, Wolmarans and Wessels, the Boer commissioners of the Transvaal, arrived in Washington to-night. Accompanied by the congressional and citizens' committee, which escorted them from New York. They reached the city on the congressional limited train at 8:30 o'clock, and were given an enthusiastic welcome. They were met at the station by members of the reception committee, which included some members of Congress, and escorted in carriages to the Arlington Hotel, where they are to remain during their stay in this city. A number of people were on hand to witness their arrival, as were also many along the route, which the delegates took to the hotel. The avenue was illuminated. At the hotel the envoys retired to their rooms for a short while and later, with the reception committee, assembled in the banquet hall, where they were given an informal reception. Representative Sulzer, the chairman of the reception committee, introduced the envoys and then briefly made an address, welcoming the visitors to the capital in the name "of the liberty-loving people of the greatest nation on earth."

He added: "The warm welcome which the envoys have received in the metropolis of the Nation is more than duplicated by the reception accorded them here. These three envoys are ministers plenipotentiary for the two republics of South Africa to the Republic of the United States. To-night they are tired and want to retire, but not before they shake hands with you who sympathize with people struggling for liberty and to maintain their freedom and their independence, no matter where it may be; no matter whether in South Africa, Europe, the Philippines or any other place."

Delegate Fischer responded. He thanked those present very much for their kindness and hoped to have the opportunity to show whether they deserved it or not. The delegates then retired to their rooms. Later Mr. Sulzer announced that the meeting Sunday evening at the Grand Opera House in honor of the commissioners was to be a reception and "not a demonstration." A number of prominent public men will make addresses, including Senators Wellington, Allen and Teller, Representatives Sulzer, De Armond, Rhea, Shafroth and Clark of Missouri, and Bourke Cockran, of New York, and two of the envoys, Fischer and Wessels. A committee consisting of Senators Teller, Mason and Allen and Representatives Robinson, Sulzer and Clark has been appointed to visit the White House and the State Department to arrange for the visit of the envoys to the President and Secretary Hay.

As Private Citizens.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—At the Cabinet meeting to-day the question of the reception of the Boer envoys was discussed. It is understood that they probably will be presented to the President by the secretary of state. They will be received with every courtesy, but only as private citizens and not in any diplomatic capacity.

SPELLMEYER IN LEAD

HE LACKS NEARLY ONE HUNDRED VOTES, HOWEVER, OF ELECTION.

Nine Ballots for Bishop Taken by the Methodist Episcopal Conference Without Result.

THREE MISSIONARY BISHOPS

TO BE CHOSEN BY THE CONFERENCE BEFORE ADJOURNMENT.

Report of Committee on Amusements Against Change in Present Laws—McCabe in Trouble.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

CHICAGO, May 18.—The feature of the Methodist Conference proceedings to-day, aside from the balloting for bishop, was the action of the committee on amusements, which adopted a recommendation that the church declare itself against all amusements that endanger Christian life. Nine ballots have been taken for bishop without result. Drs. Kelley and Bowen have withdrawn, and Dr. Spellmeyer is now in the lead.

The conference yesterday was twice during the debate on the report of the committee on the state of the church treated to the give-and-take game, in which Bishop McCabe and Dr. Buckley were participants. Dr. Buckley got unusually off the track in one of his motions, which was clearly out of order and the bishop called him down promptly, much to the amusement of the conference. By and by the previous question was called on the motion, but before putting the question the bishop began to say:

"Before I put the question I wish to——"

"I object; you are out of order. The rules forbid the bishop taking any part in a debate," came from Dr. Buckley.

"I was only going to ——"

"I object. You are out of order," replied Dr. Buckley.

The bishop said: "I wish to say, all that are in favor of the motion raise your hands," and hands went up numerously and came down to clap vigorously at the skill with which the bishop extricated himself from a breach of the rules.

By the way Bishop McCabe is not a model president in a storm; he is too good-natured and he gets befuddled with motions and counter motions. He would like to make a speech on every question, but cannot. He had had so little experience as a presiding officer when he held the Nebraska conference, in 1896, the second conference he ever held, that he became so confused that he confessed he had never read the Book of Discipline through in his like, and knew but little about rules of order.

An interesting bit of law interpretation cropped out in the discussion of the missionary bishop question on Thursday. Some people when defeated or about to be on the merits of a question take refuge behind the constitution, whether the forum be a civil legislative body or an ecclesiastical one. It seems evident that the wants of India and Malasia demand two additional bishops, and the trend of opinion was manifestly in the direction of providing them according to Bishop Thoburn's request, when the constitution bobbed up and for a while threatened to block the whole scheme; it provides that "a missionary bishop" may be constituted, but it does not provide for two or more. Now the original discoverer of this truth happened not to be a layman, but he is powerful in ecclesiastical law all the same, and he would, metaphorically speaking, shed the last drop of his precious blood rather than break or even bend "the constitution of the church." Now we have several able lawyers among the laymen, some of whom are eminent jurists at home, who are required to pass officially upon constitutional questions, two of whom the other day touched the little article "a." That as attorneys retained on opposite sides in a civil court, it would not be strange that they should see "a" in different light, if their case hinged upon it, might be expected, but when two of the most eminent gravely antagonized each other, where no fee is involved, looks strange, but so it was in this case, one maintaining that the phrase means one missionary bishop and only one, while the other assumed that in such a connection the conference could appoint "a missionary bishop" as often as it wished to, thus leaving many of the members of the body so befuddled by this clash of opinion upon the scope of the meaning of the article "a" that they concluded that in this case, at least, it is an indefinite article sure enough.

Chairman Dickey got his first setback in his attempt to capture the General Conference for his Prohibition party's benefit. By hurrying to the office of the Daily Advocate with the majority report, adopted about 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, he got it in Thursday morning's paper. The next thing was to get it before the conference on its passage, hence, early in the day Thursday he got the floor and asked its consideration. He was evidently out of order and the chair so ruled, but the zeal he manifests shows the purpose of the chairman of the temperance committeee.

T. A. G.

THE AMUSEMENT QUESTION.

Methodists Will Not Alter Their Attitude—Balloting for Bishop.

CHICAGO, May 18.—The Methodist Church will not, if the report of the committee is accepted, alter its position toward playing cards, dancing and certain other amusements. The amusement question is settled so far as the committee on the state of the church is concerned. By a vote of 45 to 25 the committee, to-day, decided to recommend that the section on prohibited amusements be taken out and that a new section be inserted in the chapter on advices. The paragraph to be inserted is as follows:

"Our church has, from the beginning of its history, insisted that dancing, playing of games at chance, attending theaters, horse races, circuses, dancing parties or patronizing dancing schools and other amusements which cannot be used in the name of Lord Jesus, are perilous to the spiritual life and influence of the members of our church and enervating to the spiritual power of the church in the great work of saving souls. The tendency in social circles towards dangerous amusements was never stronger than it is at the present time, and, therefore, we deem it wise to reaffirm our historic attitude on this subject and urge our people to abstain from and bear their unwavering testimony against all amusements and diversions which endanger Christian life and repress the spiritual power of the church. This advice must not be interpreted as the waiving of the church's right to call to account any member who continues to indulge in these diversions which cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Acting under the advice of the board of bishops, the committee on episcopacy, at its meeting, to-day, decided to recommend to the General Conference that an additional bishop be elected to take charge of the work in eastern China. This makes three missionary bishops which the conference will be called on to elect at the present session. The official to be put in charge of eastern Asia will be located in Shanghai, China, and will be required to spend four months in Japan and one in Corea each year. The action will be presented to the General Conference to-morrow. The committee decided upon Zurich, Switzerland, as the episcopal residence for Europe.

Bishop McCabe, who occasioned considerable surprise several days ago by preparing and giving out for publication a set of satirical resolutions referring to the outside work performed by the bishops, may be censured by the conference for his action. To-day Chairman J. M. Buckley declared that the committee on episcopacy would investigate Bishop McCabe's action and report to the General Conference. He laid the case before the subcommittee on administration of the bishops, together with a copy of the resolutions that have caused the trouble. The subcommittee considered the matter at a secret session and decided to follow the advice of Dr. Buckley and make a thorough investigation. Bishop McCabe will, it is said, be summoned before the committee.

The committee on Epworth League will recommend to the General Conference that the editorship of the Epworth Herald and the secretaryship of the national organization be not consolidated, as was requested by a memorial submitted for the committee's consideration. Another important decision arrived at by the committee to-day was that which takes the appointment of the general secretary from the hands of the board of control and makes him an elective officer, to be chosen by the conference.

The conference took three more ballots to-day for two additional bishops, but without result. Dr. Henry Spellmeyer, of Newark, N. J., and Dr. J. F. Berry, of Chicago, editor of the Epworth Herald, are, however, now far ahead in the voting, and though many believe it will require several more ballots to elect, friends of the two leading candidates are confident that they will be successful. A feature of to-day's balloting was the withdrawal of the names of Dr. W. V. Kelley and J. W. E. Bowen, the latter the colored candidate.

The sixth ballot (announced this morning) resulted: Henry Spellmeyer, 309; J. F. Berry, 264; D. H. Moore, 259; J. W. Hamilton, 232; W. V. Kelley, 166; J. W. E. Bowen, 57; T. B. Neely, 16. Others from one to thirteen votes each. The other ballots resulted:

Seventh ballot: H. Spellmeyer, 372; J. F. Berry, 294; D. B. Moore, 270; J. W. Hamilton, 255; J. W. E. Bowen, 41; T. B. Neely, 26. Others from one to twelve each. Necessary to a choice, 468.

Eighth ballot: H. Spellmeyer, 372; J. F. Berry, 335; D. H. Moore, 283; J. W. Hamilton, 248; T. B. Neely, 37; J. W. E. Bowen, 33; C. J. Little, 13. Others from one to eleven votes. Necessary to a choice, 456.

The ninth ballot was taken, and the result will be announced to-morrow.

A much disputed question—the removal of the time-limit on pastorates—also came up for discussion, debate being unfinished when the convention adjourned.

A. M. E. Conference.

COLUMBUS, O., May 18.—Bishop N. B. Salter presided over the A. M. E. Conference to-day. The election of a business manager furnished a lively contest, resulting in the defeat of the present incumbent, T. W. Henderson, and the election of R. H. W. Leake, of North Carolina.

H. G. Johnson, of Philadelphia, was elected editor of the Christian Recorder, at Philadelphia; H. T. Kealing, editor of the A. M. E. Church Review, Philadelphia. J. R. Hawkins, of North Carolina, was selected secretary of education; P. A. Hubbard, of Colorado, financial secretary, and H. B. Parks, of New York, secretary of misssions.

Bishop Coadjutor Elected.

MOBILE, Ala., May 18.—The Episcopal Council to-day unanimously elected the Rev. Robert Wood Barnwell, of Selma, Ala., as bishop coadjutor. This clergyman was born in Beaufort, S. C., Dec. 27, 1849; graduated at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., was a student at the General Theological Seminary, New York, ordained deacon by Bishop Williams and priest by Bishop Beckwith in 1897 at Atlanta. He was missionary for two years at Griffin, Ga., and rector of Trinity at Demopolis from 1876 to 1880, when he was called to St. Paul's, Selma.

Dunkards to Wash Feet on Sunday.

SPRINGFIELD, O., May 18.—The National Conference of River Brethren (Dunkards) is now in progress at Donnellsville. The great feet-washing and communion service will take place Saturday night. A thousand persons are expected to participate.

NO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

HOUSE COMMITTEE OPPOSED TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.

Damper on Numerous Projects—Call to Be Issued for Outstanding Two-Per Cent. Bonds.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The members of the House committee on public buildings and grounds are telling all anxious inquirers that there will be no omnibus nor any other kind of public building bill or bills reported at this session of Congress, not even to increase the limit of cost of any building now under construction. This will be sad news in many quarters. The only hope of doing anything towards increasing the limit of cost of any building will be to get the Senate to add it to some appropriation bill and take chances on getting the House to accept it.

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Charles Davis and John Jamison, of Sullivan, are here to obtain the approval of the controller of the currency for the establishment of a national bank at Sullivan with a capital of $25,000. They desire to call it the First National, but there used to be a bank there with that designation, which went out of existence some years ago. It is contrary to the policy of the Treasury Department to permit a new bank to take the name of a defunct institution in the same town, as to do so would lead to confusion. They will have to choose another name.

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Representative Overstreet's bill to correct the military record of William O. Eagle, Company C, One-hundred-and-thirty-second Indiana Infantry, to show that he was duly mustered into and honorably discharged from that company at the end of his service, was favorably reported to the House to-day. It seems from the testimony of his comrades that his name, through some error, was omitted from the roll, although he served the whole term with the company.

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The postoffices at Buddha, Lawrence county, and Ewington, Decatur county, have been ordered discontinued from May 31.

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The President has determined on the nomination of John R. Hazel to be United States judge for the Western district of New York.

× × ×

In response to the Senate resolution of the 16th inst. the secretary of the treasury to-day sent to the Senate a statement from the commissioner general of immigration concerning the immigration to the United States of Japanese laborers. From this statement it appears that 2,230 of these laborers arrived in 1898, 3,395 in 1899 and for the ten months ending April 30, 1900, 7,181. These figures indicate only those who have come direct to the United States from Japan, but do not embrace those reaching this country via Canada. How many there are coming in this way the