AMERICAN RULE IN CUBA

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A YEAR AND A HALF.

Much Yet to Be Done—The Cubans' Hatred of Americans—Analysis of Its Causes—An Unpopular Court.

Havana Letter in New York Post.

The foreigner who lands for the first time in Cuba anxious to see what a Spanish country looks like after a year and a half of American rule makes at the outset one discoverey which is not altogether disappointing. He realizes at once that the general appearance of things has remained about the same; that two years have not been enough to Americanize the Pearl of the Antilles. Lovers of the picturesque and of local color need not worry; not a single skyscraper and hardly a single modern building catches the eye of the newcomer as he enters the harbor of Havana, and the old city, with its low houses painted in white, yellow, pink and blue, stretches before him. The stars and stripes floating over Morro Castle and the Governor's palace alone remind him that something has been changed.

Nevertheless, there are some little things which very soon strike him as being at variance with the stories he has read in books. The harbor of Havana, for example, has been given a reputation for fragrance by Froude and other writers which it utterly fails to live up to. I have sailed into it in the middle of the day under a pouring tropical rain, and sailed out of it after 10 o'clock at night, and both times my efforts to detect unsavory odors have met with complete failure.

In the city of Havana itself, which not long ago had a world-wide reputation for filth, I experienced another disappointment. The narrow streets of the business part of the town are no worse than, say, Third avenue in the metropolis of the Empire State, and the perfumes which they give off during the hot hours of the day differ only in species from that which assail the passer-by in the crowded thoroughfares of any other big city. As to the broader streets which stretch around Central Parpue, they are as clean as any Broadway of the United States. They are sprinkled several times a day with a disinfectant. The parks, which are not very numerous, are being very nicely fixed up. The Spaniards had them all fenced in, and so thickly and irregularly were they planted that they seemed to be samples of virgin forests. The engineering department has given them an aspect more modern; it has opened them for the enjoyment of the people, who seem to be making the most of them. All official buildings, from the governor's palace in the Vivac down, have been thoroughly transformed and equipped with modern conveniences.

NOT A MODEL CITY.

But in all that pertains to private enterprise little or nothing seems to have been done. The old mediaeval omnibus is still the only means of transport for those who cannot afford to take a cab. In Obispo and O'Reilly streets there are the signs of some American plumbers and kodak and bicycle stores and soda-water fountains. But these quaint old streets, with their sidewalks a few inches wide, have not lost their picturesqueness, and nobody can ever mistake them for the thoroughfares of a modern community. Havana has not yet a modern hotel nor a first-class restaurant, although there are many places with high pretensions, where the prices only are up to date, comparing with those of the best hostelries in New York.

When one asks what is the matter with American capital, and why it is so slow in coming to build up this country, the answer is this: In the first place you are told that the political situation is too unsettled, the future of Cuba too uncertain, to warrant investments of large capital. Nobody knows how long the American occupation is to last, and, if it ends, who is to take the place of the present government. In the second place it is complained that all big enterprises are handicapped or checked by the Foraker law, which prohibits the granting of any franchises by the military government. This law, far-sighted and well intended as it was when it was framed, has come to be looked upon here by Americans, Cubans and Spaniards alike as a nuisance.

Meanwhile, you meet here all sorts of people going around whining and grumbling that business is dull, that money is scarce, that there is no credit anywhere, and that this is to last as long as something definite does not take the place of the provisionary state of things. If one were to believe the prophets of evil who crowd the cafes and the newspaper offices of Havana, one would think that there are no redeeming features in the work done by this temporary government, which has succeeded in restoring peace order and security all over the island, and in wiping out famine, filth, misery and all the diseases that are the ordinary accompaniment. I have found scarcely a man who was ready to acknowledge that some good has been done by the American administration, and that everything is not failure in the record of those whom they call mildly the "interventors." I have had opportunity to obtain the opinions of men who are likely to represent the best educated and most intelligent class among the Cubans—university men, publicists, lawyers—all of whom spoke fluently—besides Spanish—either French or English, or both; and if there is one feeling which appeared to me to be well-nigh unanimous among all of them, it is a feeling of dislike and distrust for these "interventors," to whom they owe whatever freedom they now enjoy. Moreover, if there is one political platform which seems to unite all parties, it is immediate independence, with the watchword: "Cuba for the Cubans."

CUBAN SENTIMENT.

That Cuba should want to govern itself after having fought for this end so many years is not astonishing. That many politicians, of the kind one meets in the offices around O'Reilly street, should overlook the difficulties and obstacles which must accompany the transition from one rule to another, and should shout for the immediate departure of the American authorities, that, too, is quite natural. Demagogues and politicians are wont to overlook the practical difficulties which stand in the way of their own ambitions and go against the popular feeling, and the popular feeling in Cuba is unmistakably for independence. Then there is a good deal of unfairness, of ingratitude and of nonsense in the hostile talk of the Cubans against both the American government and the American people. They pretend not to believe in the pledge of independence given to them, and lament already their liberty lost and their fatherland taken from them. One man summed up for me his opinion of the American people in this sweeping judgment: "They are all thieves and hypocrites." Another one, remembering that Americans have some family ties with the British, ventured the following statement: "The Americans cannot deny that they descend from the English. Well, that is to say that they are all Jesuits!" A third claimed that the Americans have stolen the money of the country, enriched themselves and acted worse than the Spaniards. The most sober-minded contented themselves with accusing them of inexperience in colonial matters. Vainly have I tried, after seeing the splendid work done by Colonel Black's department, to draw out an acknowledgment that, at least from the point of view of cleanliness and sanitation, Cuba is better off than it ever was before. Even that side of the matter does not find any acknowledgment, and a distinguished Cuban litterateur, to whom I was timidly suggesting that, perhaps, there might be something to except in that direction, shrugged his shoulders with contempt. He did concede that the separation of church and state was not a bad thing, and that the American government deserved the credit for that. The only opinion favorable to annexation that I was able to gather from an inhabitant of the island came from a priest whom I met on the steamer, and who, when questioned as to his preferences, enthusiastically called for annexation. But this priest was a Jesuit and a Spaniard. When he spoke of the prospects of the future, he most philosophically prophesied hard times for himself and his fellows. The Cubans are very bad, he said.

A MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

When one has laid aside all the criticisms and has made allowance for the natural exaggerations of partisanship, for the spirit of opposition that is in the blood of this people there must remain something to justify or at least explain their state of mind. This is what I found to account for it: There is undoubtedly something unpleasant for a people like the Cubans, proud as they are and aware as they are of the intelligence and ability that exist among them, anxious as they are to be their own masters, in the thought that they are subjected to the arbitrary rule of a military government, and are, consequently, treated more or less like some savage tribe recently conquered. The military government, it is true, is not very tyrannical, and one might wish that many a republic could have as wise, as intelligent, as self-controlled, as liberal an administrator as is the general who now commands over Cuba. But his government is a military one and to a certain extent an arbitrary one. Indeed, there is something humiliating to men who have lived for years in a most active political atmosphere to be subjected to the possibly wise but, after all, arbitrary will of a foreign officer.

Then, too, some American officials have made bad records. The postal frauds cannot be ignored when talking of Cuban grievances. American officers, too, have spent Cuban money with a lavishness not infrequent among military people. A Cuban engineer complained to me that money has been wasted in the construction of the crematory, which had to be rebuilt several times; in contracts for public works, in the wages paid to workingmen, in the building of that strategical railway of Triscornia. But it is not generally matters of actual misrule that arouse the most bitter feelings against the foreign government. It is in matters seemingly of small importance that sometimes are made the worst mistakes and the greatest blunders. The Americans are disliked, no doubt, because they are Americans; no people likes to be governed by an alien race. And the lower the people are in the scale of civilization the stronger that feeling seems to be. The Americans in Cuba, as has been often said, do not all possess the tact which is required in dealing with sensitive people like the Cubans. Many have an idea that it is the duty of the inhabitants of the island to "get accustomed" to American ways. "They treat us as if we were negroes," said to me, most bitterly, a former officer of insurgents. The higher officials are men of good breeding and gentlemanly manners. But among the subordinate officers, as well as among some of the American business men here, one finds people who are anything but diplomats, and who too often would wound the feelings of all they meet.

AN UNPOPULAR COURT.

There is one American institution here which symbolizes more than anything else all that goes to make the rule of the United States unpopular. It is the court of justice that holds its sittings at a prison called the Vivac, and over which presides an officer whose name is rapidly becoming a household word all over the island—Major Pitcher. This court was established with the best intentions in order to insure prompt justice to every one charged with light offenses, and as a matter of fact in point of speed it has no rival. But in the administration of justice speed is not the only thing to be considered. The man intrusted with the presiding office of this court is no doubt conscientious, and as a soldier he seems to know his business. But as a magistrate he lacks the self-possession and indulgence which such an office requires. I have seen him at work and he reminded me of a popular character of the French army known as Colonel Ramollot. He treats the accused who are brought before him and charged with slight offenses, such as drunkenness, insults to a policeman, etc., as if they were mutinous soldiers who would need a pitiless harshness, and with a soldierly bluntness sends all away with "$10 fine and ten days in jail." That he treats Americans with the same indiscriminating severity does not make him more popular. Cubans all hate him and so do many Americans. Even orderly people who have nothing to fear from this justice sommaire think that a peaceful community need not be treated like a camp of riotous soldiers.

As a whole, it seems that this colonial experiment carried on by the American government in Cuba has been, like all similar experiments, marked by some shortcomings, but also by many excellent results. I do not believe that when it ends Cuba will return to anarchy. There are more elements of peace and stability in the island than many believe. I attended a political meeting during the election period which was more orderly than any other meeting of the kind I ever saw. If the island has a good many hot-headed and harebrained demagogues, it has also a number of experienced leaders and a large body of conservative people, indifferent to politics, who will neutralize the restlessness of a handful of politicians.

There will be no doubt many mistakes, some disturbances, some fanaticism, and not a little noise. The Spanish temper, which an old Italian historian once described as prone to discord and to violence, will very likely assert itself again and again. The best government is worth nothing when it is imposed by a foreign power, and it is safer for a nation to work out her own salvation than to have it forced upon her by uncongenial neighbors. The United States have done already a great deal for Cuba. If they do not want to be repaid in hatred and rebellion, they would better not do too much.

MINISTER WU'S CAREER.

His Progressive Spirit—His Training and Character.

Washington Special in New York Post.

The Chinese troubles have brought into special prominence not only here but to a lesser extent throughout the civilized world Mr. Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister at this capital. He is recognized as one of the most remarkable men that China has ever produced. Not only is he unlike former Chinese ministers here, but he is not at all typical of the ministers now representing China at the European and other capitals. So famous has he become that the suggestion has been made in one newspaper—purporting to emanate from Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn—that the present dynasty should be overthrown by the powers and Wu Ting Fang established as ruler with the police support of the western nations. While this scheme is obviously chimerical, there is something in the conditions of Mr. Wu's appointment and his record here to make him a man whose career may well be watched.

He represents not the China of tradition, but the aggressive, commercial elements. His appointment was a recognition of these interests. He is one of the most cosmopolitan of men. He was the first Chinese to take a full legal course in England and be admitted as a barrister there. He could practice law with success. His command of the English language is excellent, and he is almost as familiar with western institutions as any native of the new world. It is said that Wu owes his appointment and promotion while standing for the progressive element in Chinese affairs, to the favor of Li Hung Chang, who early discovered his abilities and decided to bring him to the front. Wu is a genuine Chinese and not a Manchu, which makes his rise in politics all the more notable. He has no long line of mandarin ancestors, but, what is better, a Chinese family of sufficient means and intelligence to send him to Europe for an education.

How successful Minister Wu would be as the trustee of western civilization in the management of China could not be foretold. It is feared that his western education and associations would make him persona non grata to the stolid Chinese element, but that this element will have much to say in the reorganization of Chinese affairs may be an open question. The next difficulty would be the rivalry between the Slav and the Saxon. It is unlikely that Russia would look with favor upon any man whom the two great English speaking peoples expressed a willingness to support in this capacity.

For Minister Wu everybody in Washington has the kindliest of feelings. He is genial and approachable at all times, and talks freely and intelligently upon the great public questions. At the same time he appears to love his native land and to be keenly alive to its greatest needs.

They Believe the World Is Flat.

Chicago Times-Herald.

There is no member of the human family so stuffed with pride as the Chinese. They are an old, and, from their standpoint, an intelligent people. They are taught and do believe that the world is flat and is entirely occupied by China, and that other nations hang from the edges. They claim to be the inventors of gunpowder, the compass and several other things which modern civilization claims were originated in the western world. They hate foreigners, but their contempt for them far exceeds their hate.

THE GROWTH OF JAPAN

THE ISLAND EMPIRE ANXIOUS TO BE A POWER IN THE WORLD.

Army and Navy Have Become Formidable and Modern—School Children Taught to Hate Russia.

Boston Herald.

For several years the great powers of the world have been expecting an international crisis in China, in which, perhaps, all, or nearly all, would be compelled to show force. Yet when the crisis did come it was at such an unexpected moment and from such an unlooked-for cause that, notwithstanding the fact that European armies are supposed to be kept practically on a war footing, not one of them was ready to at once put an army into the field to defend or avenge its subjects and protect its interests. Russia, which had a force only a few days distant from the Chinese frontier, was unprepared in its commissary department. The only nation, and one not yet wholly recognized as a first-class power, which stood ready for the emergency, both on land and water, was Japan, which, a little more than a quarter of a century ago, was held to be almost as "dark" as China herself.

This marvelous thing about the readiness of Japan to take her part in the general movement of the world against China is the rapid development of her naval and military resources in the five years that have elapsed since she thrashed China at home and on the seas. Then she had an army of 25,000 men that gave so good an account of itself that the unprepared world first gasped with astonishment and then applauded her heartily. On the water Japan proved that her men were as good sailors as soldiers. The Japanese naval and military force at that time was not large, but it was well equipped, well drilled and composed of fearless and desperate fighters.

AFTER THE CHINESE WAR.

Japan emerged from her conflict with China in 1895 richer by an indemnity of $82,500,000. Of this she devoted about $29,000,000 to army expansion, and more than $50,000,000 to the navy. Thus she used China's money to become prepared to do battle again with her old enemy, while $10,000,000 constitutes a war reserve, which is probably being used now.

In the war of 1894-1895 Japan had only one small battleship, the Fuso, which is now twenty-two years old, has a tonnage of 3,700, is at the bottom of the list in the fine new navy and makes a sorry appearance beside her sister monster first-class battleships of from 12,000 to 15,000 tons. In the second class is the Chinyen, of 7,400 tons, which was captured from the Chinese at the battle of Wei-Hai-Wei, and beside her the Fuso looks small, although both of them have the same speed, about thirteen knots.

As a matter of fact, the brunt of the fighting at the battle of Yalu was sustained by six of the present second-class Japanese cruisers. There are now nine in the Japanese navy, the Takasago, the Kasagi and the Chitose having been built since the war. The Japanese torpedo flotilla has been greatly increased. When the complement is filled she will have twenty torpedo destroyers, of which twelve are built and building, some in England and others in France and Germany.

Many of these are already in Japanese waters, while others are on their way home. In 1895 the Japanese navy was small compared to what it is to-day. The development in the last five years would have been remarkable in a nation much older in ship building and ship manning experience. She has in that time acquired four new first-class battleships of a gross tonnage of about 50,000 and a gross complement of about 2,681 men. The Fuji, 12,450 tons, and the Yashima, 12,140 tons, are almost exact reproductions of the British Royal Sovereign. The Shikishima and the Asabi are about 15,000 tons each and are the Majestic over again, only improved. There are beside these two more battleships of the type of the Shikishima now being built in England, the Hatsuse and one unnamed. The Hatsuse will be delivered to Japan this summer.

THE NEW CRUISERS.

Of the new first-class cruisers four of the six are already in Japan, and the others will be there soon. They constitute a formidable addition to the country's naval strength. In fact, they are equal to the combined strength of the Japanese navy in her late war. They range from 9,400 to 9,875 tons, and are a trifle larger than the United States steamer Brooklyn, which is 9,215 tons. They are equally good fighting machines, and have about the same speed. The Asama, at her trials, did 20.37 knots with natural, and 22.07 with forced draught. The Asama carries four 8-inch guns, the Brooklyn eight 8-inch, although against the Brooklyn's twelve 5-inch the Japanese cruiser carries fourteen 6-inch guns. In the matter of protection the Asama has the better of it, for she carries a belt of seven inches of Harveyized steel, while the Brooklyn's belt is only three inches.

The Japanese cruisers are protected in their gun positions by six inches of steel. This gives them an advantage over the Russian Rurik, 10,923 tons, and Rossia, 12,130 tons, whose batteries are unprotected. The advantage in speed lies with the Japanese. The Takasago, 4,160 tons, built in England, has a speed of twenty-four knots and an armament of two 8-inch, ten 4.7-inch, twelve 12-pounders, six 2½-pounder quick fires, and five torpedo tubes. The Kasagi, built in Philadelphia, and the Chitosi, built in San Francisco, are larger and slower, having a speed of twenty-three knots. Besides these, there are in the Japanese navy of the smaller craft five third-class cruisers, twenty coast-defense ships, two first-class and fifteen second-class gunboats, four dispatch boats and a torpedo depot ship. There are also several vessels below the second-class cruiser rank now building, but they will not be ready for service this summer. However, the Japanese navy now has a tonnage of between 210,000 and 220,000, while the Russians have only between 85,000 and 90,000 tons, including the Petropavlovsk, unless Russia should send more vessels to the Orient, as will, doubtless, be the case.

JAPAN'S MERCHANT MARINE.

The development of Japan's merchant marine has kept pace with that of her navy. Exclusive of native craft, Japan in 1893 had a tonnage of only 155,000; now she has between 600,000 and 650,000 tons, largely the result of liberal government subsidies. A transport fleet of more than 100 ships is now ready for service.

Speaking of the Japanese navy a British naval officer, who spent some time on a Japanese war vessel, said: "I was naturally much interested at first in looking around me and taking stock of the Japanese sailors and their vessel. She was in superb fighting trim, beautifully clean and well found in every part, and the duty was carried on with thorough man-of-war smartness. It was impossible to watch these little, active, clever, determined sailors without feeling that the men of the finest navy in the world would find them worthy foemen. Of the Chinese they have unmeasured contempt, certainly not undeserved."

The naval and military officers of Japan are as carefully trained as those of any of the older nations in the art of modern war. Their own naval and military schools are well equipped in all matters. They send their young men to Annapolis in this country and to the best war schools in Europe. The Japanese are ready and able, and learn very rapidly.

After her war with China Japan laid down an extensive programme of army expansion. At the beginning of that war her army on a peace footing comprised 69,000 officers and men. With army expansion the land forces were increased to 145,000 men on a peace footing, and between 530,000 and 540,000 men on a war footing. So much progress was made that at the end of 1898 there were 120 800 men with the colors, beside 4,520 students in the military schools. The first reserves numbered over 115,000 and the second 75,000. At the present war footing the army is not less than 380,000 men of all arms, and perhaps more.

THE JAPANESE ARMY.

In 1894 the Japanese army consisted of six divisions, not including the Imperial Guards and the Yezo militia. The headquarters of all these at that time, excepting at Kumamoto, in Kiu-Shiu, were on the Pacific, or facing away from Siberia. The Yezo militia has since been abolished, and a seventh division has been formed in the Hokkaido and five more in other places, all on the coast of the Sea of Japan, directly in front of Corea or Siberia. Thus has Japan put a lock on her back door. Her Pacific ocean and inland sea approaches are so strongly fortified that an invasion from that side would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible. During the war with China her weakest spot was at Tsurgua, on the Japanese sea, behind Osaka and Kioto, where her manufactures are carried on. Now Tsurgua is strongly fortified, and is flanked by army divisions on the west and east, and has railway communication.

Although Japan has a population of 44,000,000, that of a first-class power, she is not very much ahead in wealth and resources of the small kingdom of the Netherlands or Scotland. So it is, then, that her naval and military expansion has taxed her mightily, and it has been only through the consummate ability of her rulers that she has been able to pull through. The management of her treasury has been in the hands of very able men. The Department of Finance has been managed successively by three brilliant men—Okuma, Matsugata and Watanabe. In 1887 the national debt was 307,000,000 yen; in 1894, just before the outbreak of the Chinese war, it had been reduced to 283,500,000 yen, and there was a surplus of about $11,700,000 in the treasury, which was used to good advantage at the opening of hostilities.

Later domestic loans of $58,400,000 were raised. Not including the English loan of £10,000,000, Japan's national debt now stands at about $207,000,000, with annual charges of 25 cents per head of population. She has a war reserve of $25,000,000, and the London loan of £10,000,000 is available. There is also an unexpended amount apportioned to army and navy expansion that could also be used, as well as the "budget" for next year, about $23,000,000.

THE EMPIRE'S FINANCES.

The national finances of Japan are thoroughly sound. When the Chinese borrowed money in England security was offered. As security for her obligations Japan steadily refused to pledge anything but the national credit. The government has been very punctilious in the discharge of all its obligations.

In 1895 the excise tax on sake was $7,800,000; since then it provides $27,000,000, which defrays the ordinary annual expenses of the army and navy, and it is expected that the returns from the sake tax will increase in proportion with that of these two branches of military service.

At no late date Japan will be forced to take into consideration the question of population. In 1872 the census of the islands returned a little more than 33,000,000 souls. It has since increased 11,000,000, or 33 per cent. Not more than 14 per cent. of Japan is under cultivation, and it is put to it to feed 400,000 new mouths yearly. Not more than 75,000 Japanese live out of the country, even including the soldiers in Korea. Japan has hitherto managed to raise her own breadstuffs, and even exports $3,000,000 worth of rice every year, but in 1897 she had to import foodstuffs to the value of $23,000,000. To offset this she is endeavoring to stimulate and develop her nascent manufactures.

It is these questions that confront her in her struggle for existence. She has been forced to become a power, and has responded to the demand with a virility that is amazing. She must colonize sooner or later, and on this fact hangs the fate of Korea and perhaps of China. She must also be strong in her defence against the mighty and insatiable Russian. This is never out of her mind. In the Japanese primary schools the teachers made a point of admonishing their youthful charges to "grow up to be strong enough to chastise Russia."

In Korea the influence of Japan has increased rapidly. The Japanese are everywhere in evidence. She has possession of the railroad and has begun work on another. Japanese soldiers will police the line, which will be 300 miles long and cost $11,500,000. Military telegraph operators will be employed on it. The telegraph is already in the hands of Japanese. The currency is Japanese and they are building a mint. The management of the mails is in their hands also. There are now about 25,000 Japanese permanently living in Korea.

When one sees the swarms of children in Japan and the decreasing death rate the question of the future of the islands in point of population looms into such magnitude that it will take the best endeavors of the best heads in the empire to solve it.

Peaceful immigration into the United States and other countries will hardly be great enough to affect the growing congestion in Japan. There is no question as to the exceptional character of this class of immigrants, but the landing of great numbers of them would doubtless be combated, as in the case of other extensive Oriental immigration. The estimated Japanese population in Hawaii is 40,000; in Korea, 25,000; in the United States, 10,000; and in the Philippines, China, Mexico, South America and Australia there are small colonies.

COMPRESSED AIR.

Humorist Alden Sees Danger Unless It Is Handled Carefully.

Pearson's Magazine.

There is a great future for compressed air, provided that it is handled carefully. Our present method of ventilating rooms by opening the widows, and admitting the outside air, is crude an unsatisfactory. Open your window in any city for the admission of fresh air and you admit several millions of microbes, not to mention a large and varied assortment of more or less unhealthy chemicals.

But when the day arrives, as it apparently will—that solidified air of the purest quality is brought from the mountains and delivered at your door in "chunks," precisely as ice is delivered, we shall have fresh air without any contamination. Instead of opening the window on going to bed we shall place a brick of solidified air in the middle of the room, and in a few moments the room will be filled with the finest quality of air.

Our aim will be, not to admit the outside air, but to keep it carefully out of our houses. With that view windows will be abolished and light will be admitted through thick plate-glass, fixed permanently in the wall. Twice a day the servant will close the tight fitting doors of each room and thoroughly exhaust the air with an air-pump. Good-sized pieces of solidified air will then be placed in the room and it will immediately be filled with air that is really pure.

There is, however, one danger in connection with solidified air to which the attention of the public has not yet been called. It is well known that all sorts of microbes that are found in water are preserved unharmed in ice, and that when the ice melts they are set free to do their deadly work. Now sound is contained in air, and may it not very well happen that when the air is solidified whatever sounds may be contained in it may be preserved to be set free at some extremely inconvenient time? Thus solidified Swiss air may be full of yodelling, and a brick of it placed in a bedroom at night may suddenly give forth the unholy sounds in the middle of the night. Or air from Italy may contain compressed hand organ music or the unprintable remarks of tourists who have received their hotel bills with extra charges for "view of Vesuvius" or "association with the memory of Milor Byron."

If these things are possible—and who shall say that they are not possible—solidified air will be as dangerous as solidified water, and we shall find that the common air of the city, in spite of its sulphurous acid and its assorted microbes of diphtheria, scarlet fever and pneumonia, is preferable to imported air contaminated with all sorts of sounds, musical, commercial and profane.

A Land Without Tramps.

The Independent.

Why do we never see a tramp in Germany?

There are poor people enough and many must be out of a job now and then. Yet Germany is a nation without tramps. Is America a poorer country that we count our tramps by the tens of thousands?

I once visited a so-called "tramp colony" near Bielefeld, Westphalia, guided by an expert in such matters, Dr. Hinzpeter, who was for many years tutor to the Emperor. Here I was told the secret of tramp extermination. Germany allows no man to prowl about the country without giving an account of himself. If he is looking for work he must make it clear that he has means of support during his search. If he has no means of support the government offers him these means, but on the important condition that he works in return. The government thus relieves the tramp, but sees to it that the particular individual does a job by way of equivalent.

Now, if that tramp is an honest man he will be grateful for the opportunity of tiding over his hard times and earning something into the bargain. On the other hand, if the tramp is merely a loafer, intent upon living at the expense of his fellows, the government gives him such a taste of work that in the future tramping will have vastly less charms for him.

HORSE HEADGEAR FOR SUMMER.

Humane Devices for the Comfort of the Faithful Beast.

New York Tribune.

The bicycle, motor wagon and trolley have done much toward crowding the horse to the background, but where the animal continues to be employed it receives as much consideration as ever, and with the advent of warm weather new contrivances for the protection of the horse from the effects of the heat make their appearance. The sponge fastened on the head of the dray horse and the rope gear by which drivers of covered wagons make the burden of the shafts lighter for their horses usually come into use about the time when men begin to wear straw hats, and are used whenever the weather is excessively hot. Drivers of heavy drays and wagons make long detours in order to bring their teams to a public trough, and at the places where horses are changed on the car lines which are still operated by horses men are employed to cool off the animals with hose and sponge.

The coach horse has less attention in his line, and is consequently the greatest sufferer during the dog days. The fly net is out of style, long tails are not fashionable, and a wet sponge between the ears would spoil the looks of a stylish turnout. A few years ago a tiny umbrella fastened on the headstall and spreading over the horse's head became popular, and this was followed by an arrangement made of canvas which served as a sunshade and a sponge holder combined. Last year a straw bonnet much like the old fashioned sunbonnets worn by women thirty years ago was made for horses, and this has been "much worn," as the fashion papers say, this summer. One large manufacturing concern has its teams adorned with these bonnets, made of heavy straw, trimmed with colored ribbon and fastened with a well-tied bowknot. During the last hot wave a cab driver who makes his headquarters at one of the large uptown clubs had his horses bonneted, and although the peculiar dress caused some people to laugh the human appliance occasioned much favorable comment. Dealers in horse furnishings have them on sale in several patterns, and say that horses are better and certainly more comfortable for wearing them.

DWELLINGS COOLED.

An Apparatus Which Gives Comfort in Hot Weather.

Cassier's Magazine.

The cooling of buildings in warm weather, something after the manner followed in warming them in winter, has frequently suggested itself as a matter of comfort, and even economy, in the case of workshops, for example, where trying summer temperatures may seriously affect productive capacity. Except in a few cases, however, in chocolate making, for instance, where the temperature must be low enough to enable the chocolate to harden, and in making the familiar gelatine capsules in which medicines are administered, such cooling has not been practiced, though exception should be made of a few attempts to cool theaters and other amusement halls by blowing in air which had previously been passed over ice racks. But cooling dwelling houses has been an unpracticed art until quite recently. Particulars have recently been given of what has been done along this line in a dwelling in which there is a system of indirect hot water radiators, located in ducts over which air is led by natural draughts in winter. In summer water at a temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit is circulated through these radiators and the air cooled by them is distributed through the house. As a probable forerunner of many similar installations this plant is an interesting one to engineers and architects, as well as to house owners who have the means to indulge in such a luxury.

England and the Fourth of July.

W. T. Stead, in New York Independent.

I wish with all my heart that we could adopt the Fourth of July as the festival day of the whole English-speaking race. If this suggestion should seem strange to Americans, it is not unfamiliar to many Englishmen. We consider that the triumph of the American revolt against George III was a vindication of the essentially English idea of democratic self-government, and we believe that we have benefited by it almost as much as the Americans. It taught us a lesson which made the British colonial empire a possibility, and if we are now involved in a suicidal war in South Africa it is largely because our government has forgotten the principles of George Washington and has gone back to the principles of George III.

For some years past I have presided at a distinctly British celebration of the Fourth of July at my brother's settlement in Southeast London, at Browning Hall, and I have always repudiated the idea that Americans should be allowed to monopolize the Fourth of July. It is one of the great days of the English-speaking race in the celebration of which all members of the English-speaking nations should participate.

Belgian Hare Characteristics.

Orange Judd Farmer.

Among the general merits of the Belgian hare, it is exceedingly domestic and will thrive in close confinement. It is, therefore, in preference to all others, the animal to be raised in cities where space is a consideration. A box three by four is ample room for a doe and her little ones. Another important factor in the breeding and care of animals in cities is cleanliness. In this respect we have no domestic animal or fowl that will compare with the Belgian hare. The demands for feed that the Belgian hare makes are small. It may be kept on the trimmings of garden vegetables or hay. A little grain should be given the doe while the youngsters are kept with her, but the amount then is so small that it is hardly worth the mention. Grain must be fed when fattening for the table.

As a meat producer the Belgian hare stands high, not only in its superb quality of meat but in quantity as well. It will excel, in the latter regard, any animal that can be kept in equal space or at no greater expense. Upon this solid economic basis must rest the business of propagating them. The Belgian hare is the most prolific animal that has thus far been domesticated. In this respect it is a marvel. It will produce its young every sixty days and on an average of from eight to twelve at a time. Fifty per year is a conservative estimate of what a single doe may produce. Thus it will more than make up in number for its small size. There is, after all, no little advantage in its being small. An ordinary family cannot readily care for the meat of a large animal, but the hare can be served fresh, the four or six pounds meeting the demands of the average family.

THE NEW YORK STORE

ESTABLISHED 1853 — SOLE AGENTS FOR BUTTERICK PATTERNS

Indiana's Greatest Dry Goods Emporium.

Wash Goods Most Wanted Now!

And at the prices we are offering them for on Monday they will go with a rush. The New York Store's supremacy in the wash goods as in other things will make these departments of wash materials an object of interest . . . . . .

Domestic Stuffs

34-inch Batistes in light grounds with colored figures and stripes, the 12½c kind, Monday, a yard 7½c

Twenty-five pieces 27-inch Madras in light grounds with colored figures, suitable for dresses, or waists or shirts, a 15c quality, Monday, a yard 10c

One hundred pieces of Lawns and Dimities in light and dark grounds with colored stripes, figures and dots, at, a yard..... 12½c, 15c

EXTRA—50 pieces of corded Batiste in light grounds with neat figures suitable either for dresses or shirt waists, 10c kind, Monday, a yard..... 5c

36-inch Percales, standard quality, in light grounds with stripes, suitable for shirt waists or shirts, 10c kind, Monday a yard..... 5c

Fifty pieces Dimity cords and lawns in white grounds with neat colored stripes and figures, 8c quality, Monday, a yard..... 3½c

—East Aisle.

Imported Stuffs

All our best printed French Organdies in the 39c and 45c qualities. Monday, a yard..... 15c

About 20 pieces odds and ends of Swisses, Silk Stripe Novelties and Mohair Muslins in 75c to $1.25 values. Monday, a yard.. 39c

Imported Striped Swisses in a broken line of colors, 50c values. Monday, a yard..... 19c

—West Aisle.

The July Silk Sale

With favorable weather we expect the silk sale to develop its full strength this week.

Some of the items that drew such great throngs during the last six days are still to be had. To these we have added others and the combination of the old with the new has phenomenal drawing powers.

WE WILL CALL YOUR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE LINE OF SILKS TO BE DISPLAYED ON OUR CENTER SILK COUNTER, consisting of high-class Foulards and Grenadines, in a variety of colors and designs. THIS SEASON'S EXCLUSIVE PATTERNS, TAKEN FROM OUR REGULAR STOCK, absolutely the highest quality ever shown at, a yard..... 69c

Only recently most of these Silks retailed at a dollar and a dollar and a quarter.

Black Dress Goods

Some good values in black for traveling and seashore costumes, good blacks every one of them.

All-wool Etamines, a yard..... 39c

All-wool Storm Serges, a yard... 59c

All-wool Canvas Cloth, a yard... 59c

All-wool Cheviots, a yard..... 75c

Pebble Cheviots, a yard..... $1.75

Brilliantines, for bathing suits, a yard, 29c, 39c and 49c.

—West Aisle.

July Reductions in Summer Suits, Skirts and Waists

They are all high-class, model, ready-to-wear garments

The Suits and Skirts are made of Pique, Linen, Burlap and Galatea (only one of a kind), on which special July prices have been placed.

Then there's some white and navy Pique Suits prettily trimmed and strapped, some of them slightly soiled, were $10; special for $3.50

Handsomely tucked White Waists, tucked both front and back, made with dress sleeves and flaring cuffs; also, a few delicate pink and blue Waists in the lot, sizes 32 to 44, for..... $1.25

—Second Floor.

'Sorosis'

Means much to every woman that wears Shoes. The character, style, fit and comfort of these Shoes is famous the world over.

"SOROSIS" signifies the best ready-to-wear Shoe that money can secure. You can buy them from a reliable merchant in all the great cities of the world. Beware of imitations. "Just as good" are offered in many places, but there is only one "Sorosis," and there is no necessity of wasting time with imitations. Buy the best and you will be satisfied.

PRICE $3.50 PRICE

—Rear Main Floor.

Linen Specials

250 dozen Hemmed Huck Towels, in heavy quality, with white and colored borders, 17c value; Monday, each 12½c

8c Check Glass Toweling, a yard 4c

75c quality Cream Table Linen, in short lengths, at, a yard.... 58c

200 REMNANTS of Table Damask on bargain table, Monday, at bargain prices.

Lace Plaid White goods, in a 15c quality, at, a yard..... 7c

—Basement.

July Hosiery

A chance for about 765 ladies. An import order of about 765 pairs of fancy, fast-colored, Striped Lisle Thread Hose, imported to sell at 50c, just came in, should have come a month earlier, and that we may close them out will sell them Monday at, a pair..... 21c

An opportunity for the children. Children's Fast Black, fine-ribbed, lightweight Cotton Hose, regular 15c quality, at, a pair 10c

Children's fine-ribbed, Fast Black, full, regular made Cotton Hose, with white polka dots, 50c qualities, a pair..... 35c

A few dozen of children's fancy-stripe Lisle Hose, new this season, all sizes, at, a pair..... 35c

—East Aisle.

Specials in Men's Wear

Why go to the exclusive furnishing stores and pay double for the same goods. Shopping here means marked economy.

Men's Colored Madras Shirts, one pair cuffs to match, to wear with white collars, sizes 15½ to 17, all this season's dollar Shirts, choice, Monday, each 39c

Men's fast-colored, laundered Percale Shirts, all have cuffs to match, some have two collars, dollar qualities, while they last, each..... 29c

Men's tan-colored Half Hose, with double heels and toes, regular 12½c kind, at, a pair..... 8⅓c

Men's fancy colored Wash String Ties, Monday,

Six for 5c

—East Aisle.

New Basement Specials

A cleaning-up sale of samples, nothing but the best quality goods at unusually low prices.

Some of the articles are slightly shopworn, but otherwise in good condition.

2 Trunks, 34 and 36-inch sizes, one was $27, the other $16.50, now for

$13.50 and $9.00

2 Model Steel Ranges, one 6-hole, with reservoir and high closet; the other 4-hole, were $47.50 and $35, now for

$36.00 and $29.00

3 of our high-grade Wringers, were $5; now, each.... $3.49

6 Lawn Mowers, were $2.98 and $3.25; now, each..... $1.98

Our high-grade Rubber Hose, just 800 feet, was 15c and 18c; now, a foot 12c

Wood Water Pails, 2-hoop, sold everywhere for 10c and 12c; our price 5c

Croquet Sets, 6-ball, worth 89c, for 69c

A lot of 16 and 18-inch Leather-bound Telescopes, slightly soiled, at one-third off regular prices.

See our line of heavy, Retinned Steel Hotel Ware; also, all-copper Hotel Ware.

Don't forget our great clearance sale of Screen Doors and Windows.

Screen Wire, all sizes, for, a square foot 1¼c

PETTIS DRY GOODS CO. PETTIS DRY GOODS CO.