

To care for him who has been the victim, and for his widow and orphans.

The National Tribune.

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SQUARE DEALS.

The National Tribune has reason to believe that all advertisers admitted to its columns are thoroughly reliable.

President Roosevelt has made more strictly personal appointments than any other President since Andrew Jackson.

Quite a number of Senators labor under the hallucination that it is part of their duties to say something every day to help fill up the Record, and they say it, whether they have really anything to say or not.

Silver has advanced in price quite rapidly until it is now 66 cents an ounce, and many think it will go to 70. This is bringing into market many surplus stocks and recently \$13,000,000 worth of silver was sent from Mexico to New York.

A Texas murderer on the scaffold wished everybody a Merry Christmas. Christmas carols were somewhat merrier for peace-loving citizens after the murderer got his deserts and others of like mind were deterred by his punishment.

For a long time the German socialists and their allies have made much over "militarism" to express the burden that the great standing army lays upon the people. Now it is being superseded by "marinism" owing to the additional taxes levied to carry out Germany's ambitious naval program.

There is a growing feeling in Congress in favor of having the work on the Isthmian Canal done by contract after the plans have been thoroughly worked out. There are several, if not many, contractors in this country who have had experience on great works, such as the Chicago Drainage Canal, railroad building and harbor improvements, who could undertake a work of that kind with reasonable hope of being able to carry it to success.

The insurance troubles in this country have awakened the Canadians to the consideration of whether they are not also paying too much for life insurance and they find that their local companies, to whom they pay about \$15,000,000 a year, are absorbing even more of the policy-holders' money than those in the United States. These companies are built up on the general English plan, which provides a whole lot of places for relatives and consequently the insurance companies are, as the phrase is there, "overstaffed." As a rule one-third of their collections go to the general expenses.

American sewing machines are making rapid headway in China over those of German make though the American machine is from 25 per cent to 40 per cent higher than the German. This advance is due to an educational campaign made by the Singer Sewing Machine Co. So far the trade is confined to the tailor shops and none has been introduced into the houses even of the wealthy. The Government has adopted a new uniform for its troops which is half Chinese and half foreign and it is expected that a large number of sewing machines will be used in the manufacture of the new clothes.

The Canadians are making a vigorous effort to develop boot and shoe factories, but it is not thought that they will be successful, because the American manufacturers have got to such a development that they can specialize to meet every demand as to quality, last and individual preference. The Canadian manufacturers will not be able to do this and in order to have any considerable trade one small establishment must make everything from ladies' fine shoes to cowhide boots for the lumber region. The American manufacturer, who has already 80,000,000 customers, can readily adjust himself to the wants of 6,000,000 in Canada, while the Canadian manufacturer has only his 6,000,000 from whom to draw.

As was to be expected, Admiral Dewey, while strongly in favor of good, square, fair-play fighting among the cadets, when nothing else will suffice, is strongly opposed to hazing, which he denounces as brutalizing and cowardly. He says "An evenly-matched fight with the proper incentive behind it does not hurt anybody; it tends to harden and broaden him." There is as much difference, however, between fair fighting and hazing as there is between piracy and legitimate warfare. The Admiral urges the utmost stringency in dealing with hazers. He would not allow any midshipman who, being on duty, witnessed a hazing without reporting it, to remain in the Academy one hour. He should be instantly dismissed, with no possible hope of reinstatement.

THE PRISONERS OF WAR.

It is to be earnestly hoped that Congress will not fail to pass the Prisoners of War Bill this Winter. Of all the soldiers of the war who escaped death or grievous mutilation, those who were confined in rebel prisons had much the hardest lot. There is no gaining say in this statement. No man who had a taste of Andersonville, Florence or Salisbury but will say that he would willingly take six months of the hardest service he saw in the field rather than one month of either of those prisons.

The best proof are the statistics. Andersonville proper, may be said to have lasted not much over three months. That is, the great mass of those confined there did not enter the prison until the last of May, and they left early in September. Yet in those dreadful three months one out of every three who so much as set foot inside the prison died, and one of the remaining two had his constitution so broken that he died in some other prison. In all there were some 45,000 prisoners sent to Andersonville from first to last. Of these nearly 14,000 died before they were taken away. How many died after their transfer to other prisons God only knows. We only remember that when we got off the cars after a short journey we left dead comrades on every car, and that when we camped for a night in the woods we left dead comrades lying all around when we boarded the cars to renew the journey.

The records of every fighting regiment in the army will show that the mortality among those members captured who remained with the regiment, no matter how much fighting it afterward did, or how many terrible hardships it suffered. These facts are undeniable, and completely support the strongest stories that have been told of the sufferings in rebel prisons.

It must be remembered all the time that the awful mortality in the prisons was not among unseasoned recruits, or weaklings of the hospital. Almost invariably the prisoners were hardy, seasoned veterans, taken from the very line of battle. If the sufferings were such as to kill off within a few weeks men who had passed through the indescribable strains of the swift march under a burning sun to Gettysburg, whose strength had been superior to the months of campaigning in the malarious swamps of the Mississippi, or over the rugged heights of the Cumberland, what words can adequately picture their horrors?

The next point is that where the starvation and hardship were sufficient to kill at least three out of every five men subjected to them, the other two must have had their constitutions irreparably injured. They earned and deserve unusual recognition from the mere fact that they were in prison, and had to endure for their country much more than fell to the lot of the soldier in the field.

The force of these arguments has always been recognized by Congressmen familiar with the history of the war, and every year we have had assurances that the Ex-Prisoners of War Bill would be passed. Every session has been a grievous disappointment in the failure to pass the bill. In the meanwhile thousands of those whose bodies were forever wrecked by the awful sufferings of Belle Isle, Andersonville, Salisbury, Florence and Camp Ford have passed from beds of pain to the rest of the grave. They have gone mourning a Nation's ingratitude to men who gave it all that men could give, and yet which neglected them cruelly in the days when they terribly needed help.

Now that but a remnant of these martyred men survive Congress can not in decency longer neglect this great duty. Let us have the Prisoners of War Bill passed at once in sacred memory of the 71,000 brave men who laid down their lives in rebel prisons, and in scant and tardy justice to those who yet survive.

A PROMISING STEP.

What seems a most promising step in the way of settling the difficulties between capital and labor has been taken in England, where the conditions have been for years exceedingly bad. It has been strongly asserted that the labor union influence was ruining the British precedence in the markets of the world; and that something radical must be done to avoid the continual strikes and lockouts. The new plan is modeled upon an arrangement which was made in 1838 by the employers and employes in the engineering works and which has been productive of very satisfactory results. Into the present plan have entered the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, on one side, and on the other the Amalgamated Society, the Associated Society, the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners, the Operative Stone Masons and the London and Manchester Order of Bricklayers—workingmen's organizations comprising about 134,000 men employed in the building trades of the Kingdom.

By this plan all England is divided into three "Centers"—Northern, Midland and Southern, which are again subdivided into local districts. When a dispute arises between the employers and the employes it must be referred to the Local Conciliation Board, which has seven days in which to effect a settlement, or the matter will be referred to the "Center" Conciliation Board. This has also seven days in which to effect an adjustment. If it fails the matter then goes to the National Conciliation Board, which has another seven days in which to consider the matter, making altogether 21 days, during which there must be no stoppage of work. If at the end of 21 days no agreement has been reached, the parties are free to pursue such courses as they may deem best. This plan will at least prevent the arbitrary and disastrous action on both sides by hot-headed or designing men who may have their own interests to serve in precipitating trouble. It looks as if it were as likely to be successful as the engineering plan. If it does it will probably reveal the defects, which can be remedied in order to make another plan which will be successful.

More than 500 bills for railroad regulation have already been introduced into Congress. This is something unprecedented in the history of that body. Substantially every member has introduced a bill in his anxiety to show his constituents that he has really thought out something on the great question and has found a remedy. These bills are usually as crude, inchoate and impracticable as many of the speeches which have been made during the heat-of-the-moment campaign. The authors have only words, without any really valuable ideas. Of the total, more than 500, not more than three or four will receive serious consideration.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

It is thought that immediately after the holiday recess the Senate will take up the Panama canal matter and give it precedence over everything else until something definite is arrived at. The probability is that the very wide powers conferred upon the President by the Spooner act will be materially curtailed and a large measure of the responsibility and duty in the enterprise restored to where it properly belongs, in the Legislative Branch of the Government. First among these will be the control of the salaries of the employees. It was a strong departure from the customs of our Government to allow the Executive branch to employ men at discretion and fix their salaries. Such a thing had never been done before the Spanish war indicated the wisdom of giving the President unusual powers. The President is said to be anxious for Congress to assume this share of the burden, and will go so far as to recommend, in a special message, that an amendment be adopted at once so that the work of building the canal may be pushed forward. He said to a visitor:

"The people want the canal built, and so do I. Therefore, I shall not permit anything that my critics may think touches my personal pride to interfere with the speediest possible prosecution of the great work."

The allusion to his critics has reference to a remark by a Senator that the President would find that he could not build the Panama Canal by hurling the 10 Commandments at the public in sections. It does not follow that all the salaries will be cut down, because Congress recognizes that exceptional men are needed for the work and they must be paid exceptional salaries, such as they would receive from great corporations. But Congress will show great discrimination in bestowing these salaries, so that the larger ones will only go to experts and not to the rewards of successful placehunters. That is, while Mr. Shonts may not be high-priced at \$30,000 a year, but Gov. Magoon may be at \$17,500 and Mr. Bishop at \$10,000.

It is utterly impossible to gain any clear view of the situation in Russia. It seems as if the autocracy has utterly broken down, with the army and the navy worse demoralized, if anything, than the bureaucracy. The great, vast population is in a seethe of mutinous discontent, deeply incensed at the gross corruption and incompetence of the officials, and striking blindly at everything in sight. At last there appears to be some organization among the workmen, with leaders coming to the front, but this may be an illusion. It takes a long time to develop real leaders in such a cataclysm as this. Early in the week it appeared possible that the Finns, who have some ideas of coherence and unity, would declare their independence and get in shape to maintain it. There was the possibility also of the same thing in Poland. We have heard less of these in the last few days. Therefore, it may be that the revolution is going on quietly, or it may be that the movement has been suppressed or fallen by reason of lack of leaders to carry it forward. If the Finns and Poles are capable of independence, now is their golden opportunity. They can break away from Russia without any fears of being crushed under the overwhelming legions which Russia has heretofore moved against them.

The Ohio Supreme Court has made a startling innovation in criminal law by holding that the State has the same right to a change of venue as the criminal has. Among the foundation stones of our criminal laws is that a man charged with a crime has a right to a speedy trial by his immediate neighbors and where he can have all the assistance of his friends and witnesses in proving his innocence. The criminal has been allowed the change of venue when ever he alleged that the sentiment of the community was so strong against him that he despaired of having a fair trial. It has never been regarded as possible for the State to have such a privilege because it might be abused by trying a man in some locality where the sentiment was strong against him. It was a principle that played an important part in the case of Jefferson Davis. Under our theory of law he had to be tried for treason in some County or District where he committed the actual offense, and it was hopeless to expect to secure a conviction by any jury in the limits of the late so-called Southern Confederacy. If the Government had had the right to a change of venue Davis might have been tried in Ohio or Pennsylvania, where a conviction would have been certain.

The factional disturbances in the Republican Party in New York seem to have resulted in a substantial victory for Gov. Higgins, with whom President Roosevelt has sided. The test of strength came upon the election of a Speaker for the House of Representatives of the Assembly. Ex-Gov. Odell favored Edwin A. Merritt, Jr., but upon a count of noses could only show up 37 votes in his support. Gov. Higgins and President Roosevelt favor the election of James W. Wadsworth, Jr., and a clear and undoubted majority of the House has been rallied to his support. Ex-Gov. Odell is not dismayed, however, and will continue the fight. He says that politics is like a hurdle race, in which one frequently gets a trip and a bad fall, but the only thing to do is to keep a stiff upper lip and ride straight ahead for the next one. That is what he is going to do.

The Canadians want a tariff war against us and particularly on the lumber products. They bought last year \$1,000,000 worth of furniture and manufactures of wood most of which was made from Canadian lumber and sold back to them at a profit. There was another lumber sold to them by their own amount of \$1,185,000. They desire a tariff on the lumber which goes out of the country that will prohibit this trade and encourage the Canadian manufacturers. They believe that a tariff of \$3 a thousand will give the Canadian lumbermen the control of the market in the Northwest. Ontario has already forbidden the export of logs and British Columbia is about to follow.

ARE YOU FROM KENTUCKY?

The Commercial Club of Louisville, Ky., has devised a new and quite ingenious plan for advertising Kentucky and calling attention to its resources. It will have a "Home-coming week" next June for all Kentuckians who are living out of the State. Quite an attractive program has been arranged at which many distinguished sons of Kentucky, such as ex-Governor Francis, ex-United States Senators Lindsay and Carlisle, Associate Justice John M. Harlan, will be present and make addresses. Special excursions will be run to various points of interest and the railroads will make a one cent a mile fare all over the country. A handsome medal will be given to the person present who can prove the closest relationship to Daniel Boone. There will be also prizes given to the former Kentuckian who comes the greatest distance to the one who has lived longest outside the State; to the one who left the State at the earliest age and to the one who left it at the most advanced age.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AT PHILADELPHIA.

Commander-in-Chief James Tanner, with Adjt.-Gen. John Tweedale, Assistant Adjt.-Gen. William F. Rogers and other members of his staff, will be present at the Annual Meeting of the Grand Army Association of Philadelphia and vicinity at the rooms of Post 2, on Friday evening, Dec. 23. It is expected that a great number of prominent comrades will be present, and an unusually enjoyable time is anticipated.

Maine supplies nearly all the spoils used in the thread trade of the world. The material is white birch, which grows plentifully in the northeast part of the State, particularly in Aroostook and Washington Counties. The business for this year has just been completed, and the last cargo of spool bars shipped to the great thread manufacturers of England and Scotland. This brings the shipment this year up to a total of 7,000,000 feet, an advance of about 1,000,000 feet over last year's business. It is feared that next year's business will not be as good, as the white birch that can be readily reached by streams and railroads is becoming scarce and the white birch from Finland is coming into competition. The yellow birch is not so good for either spools or box shooks, and commands a very much lower price. The yellow birch is used for making hubs, but not a great deal of it is consumed in the course of a year.

The alarm over the steady decrease of the birth rate in France is increased by the census of 1904, the results of which have just been published. In that year the excess of births over deaths was only 57,626, as against an excess in 1903 of 73,106. The diminution is fairly general, extending to 56 Departments out of the 87. The average excess of births over deaths is only 19 per 1000 inhabitants, where it is 149 in Germany, 125 in Austria, 118 in Hungary, 118 in Belgium, 115 in Great Britain, 105 in Holland, 104 in Italy, 150 in Norway, and 108 in Sweden. Such a low birth rate is as near a standstill in population as a country can get.

An interesting decision has been made by the Supreme Court of Indiana as to when the relation of passengers and carriers is severed. In the particular case before the court a passenger, without any necessity therefor, went into a depot waiting-room on reaching his destination, and there engaged in social conversation with some acquaintances for 10 or 15 minutes, after which he left the depot and received injuries on the premises. The court decided that he had severed his relations with the railroad when he stopped to chat, and consequently it was not liable for any injuries that happened to him afterward.

The Supreme Court of the United States has administered a sharp lesson to the railroads in the matter of protracting litigation. Mrs. G. H. Mathew was injured while in a Wabash car at Excelsior Springs, Mo., in 1899, and was awarded damages of \$2,500 by the court at that place, which was affirmed by the Missouri Supreme Court. The Wabash appealed to the Federal courts, and the case went on up to the Supreme Court, which affirms the judgment of the lower tribunals, terms the appeal "frivolous," and assesses 10 per cent additional damages as a punishment.

PERSONAL.

Dec. 14, Maj.-Gen. Charles F. Roe, commanding the National Guard of New York, delivered an interesting lecture at the Baptist Temple in Brooklyn for the benefit of the sick and relief funds of the Brooklyn Garrison, Army and Navy Union, U. S. A. Gen. Roe was introduced by the Rev. John H. Wadsworth, who was the Chaplain of the battleship Maine when she was destroyed. Gen. Roe gave a very interesting lecture of his adventures and narrow escapes in the far West at the time of the Civil War. He was then a Lieutenant in the 15th U. S.

The Grand Army and the Army and Navy Union of Greater New York have taken up, with deep interest, the case of Richard W. Wright, instructor of the machinist class at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, who has been removed, and the matter will be brought to the attention of the President by National Commander J. Edwin Browne. Wright is a veteran of the civil war and also a member of the Army and Navy Union.

The President has shaken the box in a way to stir up the diplomats. David H. Easton has been Ambassador to Brazil, but there has been a good deal of discontent there with him, and charges were preferred which called for investigation by a Special Agent of the State Department. The result of this investigation was understood, was adverse to Mr. Thompson, and his removal anticipated. The President thought that the charges were not so grave as the State Department represented, and, therefore, instead of removing Thompson has transferred him to Cleveland to succeed E. D. Conger. Clement C. Griscom, Minister to Japan, and who has commended himself by his work there, is transferred to Brazil, and it is thought that Minister Lelshman will be transferred from Constantinople to Tokio. Minister Lelshman has had rather an arduous time of it with the Sultan, and undoubtedly will be glad to transfer to some country that feels more kindly toward the United States. It is said that the President would raise the mission to Constantinople to an embassy if the Sultan takes the initiative, which he has not so far shown. Any inclination toward doing. Ambassador Conger, now at Mexico, desires

TO RETIRE ALTOGETHER FROM THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

Col. William H. Clapp, U. S. A., retired, died at East Hartford, Conn., Dec. 21. He was born in Ohio and spent the beginning of his military life in the 71st N. Y. Then he became a Lieutenant in the 42d Ohio and in 1853 was appointed Captain and A. A. O., in which capacity he served throughout the war. He was brevetted Major and Lieutenant-Colonel, and received a commission as Second Lieutenant in the 2d U. S. in February, 1862, and captured with him as Lieutenant-Colonel, Sept. 7, 1860.

Daniel E. Stormes, Secretary of State of Indiana, and now serving his second term, has been found short in his accounts by the amount of \$27,000. He has put his property in the hands of trustees to meet his indebtedness. He says that he took the money to use in the purchase of his predecessor, but that he had been able to meet their indebtedness to the State when called upon. He had also done so, and did not now owe the State one dollar.

Conrade William Padgett, of Millville, Pa., is famous as a rattlesnake killer, in which profession he makes much profit. He sells the skins for ladies' belts and the rattles for the cure for rheumatism. He occasionally sells a large rattler for a good price to some collector. He tells a romantic story of his service in the 13th N. J. He was captured with nine others at Laurel Hill, Va., May 8, 1864, but managed to escape from prison. After a march, which he says was 800 miles long, he got within 20 miles of the sea, when he was captured by a band of guerrillas, who determined to kill him. He was taken to the house of a young woman whose affluence he had been killed the day before, and she was only too willing to execute him in retaliation. In the morning he was taken out under a tree, where the young woman measured off 20 paces and then fired at him, but aimed a little too high. A Confederate Lieutenant came up in the nick of time, stopped the proceedings and took Padgett back to prison, where he was soon after paroled and exchanged.

Col. John R. Hurd, of the 2d Ky., has just learned that he was brevetted a Brigadier-General for gallantry at Chilton, Ga., during the Chickamauga. It seems that the notice of this honor has been wandering around somewhere in the mails and in the offices until within a few weeks since it had entered the 2d Ky. as a Captain, became Colonel of the regiment, was mustered out in 1864, and then raised the 173d Ohio, of which he became Colonel. He was in the service June 26, 1865, and has been for many years living at Pueblo, Colo., and is a member of the Colorado Legislature.

Rev. William Howe, said to be the oldest Baptist clergyman living, will be 100 years old on May 26, 1906. He is the founder of Tremont Temple, Boston, and lives in Cambridge, Mass.

John Hawkes, a Cincinnati lumberman, has just returned from Europe after a long and arduous trip. He is known among travelers as "the old man of the sea."

Professor Yoshitaro Nakamura, graduate of the Imperial Agricultural College at Taipei, Japan, is a student in the Minnesota State School of Agriculture, taking a special course in animal husbandry and meats.

Archbishop Williams, of Boston, who recently underwent a second operation for cataracts, has recovered some with improved eyesight. His eyes are still weak, not having recovered from the effects of the operation.

The rocks in Mayor Dunne's official vaulting horse are so old that the history the City Council has refused to confirm an appointment by the Mayor. He sent in the name of Capt. John F. Finery as a member of the Board of Local Improvements. Council members referred the nomination to a committee, and the roll called showed the committee standing seven to six against Finery's confirmation. Six Democrats and one Republican voted against the nomination and two Republicans and four Democrats for it.

The last blow at Addicksism in Delaware politics has been delivered in the appointment of the new Collector of the District of Delaware. The nomination was confirmed by the Senate within an hour after its receipt and has unusual significance. It is an honor rarely given to appointees, and is believed to indicate the desire of the Senate to unite the factious parties in Delaware and allow the party to elect some one to fill Senator Ball's long vacant seat.

John A. Burbank, at one time Governor of the Territory of Dakota, died at his home in Richmond, Ind., Dec. 18, at the age of 84, leaving a widow and two daughters. One of these is the wife of Justice Joseph H. Kibbey, of Arizona, and the other the wife of Henry Miller, Superintendent of the Chicago & Illinois Harbor.

Henry S. Pritchett, for the past five years President of the Institute of Technology at Boston, has resigned to become President of the Carnegie foundation fund for pensioning of aged and needy professors.

The Administration is dissatisfied with Irving F. Baxter, who was appointed United States District Attorney for Nebraska last Spring, and he will be asked to resign. Mr. Baxter is a native of Chicago & Illinois Harbor.

The President has appointed W. Sewell Collector of Customs in the District of Columbia. He is a native of better known as Bill Sewell, lives at Island Falls, Me., and was a guide for Mr. Roosevelt when he made hunting trips in the Maine woods 20 years ago. He was in the Maine woods at that time, and was taken by him to his ranch in South Dakota, where he acted as superintendent for several years. He has been Collector of Customs in Idaho and held several other offices. He was a sharp contest for the place, and Sewell made a personal canvass of the entire County, receiving the indorsement of the majority of the voters.

A contract to renovate and restore the home of Patrick Henry, in Charlotte County, Va., has been awarded to J. T. McLaughlin by Patrick Henry's two grandsons, Gen. George Washington and Mrs. James Lyons, of Richmond, who have bought the property.

THE SPIRIT OF CONGRESS.

Some of the More Notable Proceedings of the Week.

Monday, Dec. 18.—Whether the Senate warranted in ignoring a Senator convicted of a crime on charges of misconduct and in not assigning him to places on standing committees, yet leaving his name on the Senate roll, such drastic character to the Senate and then dropped without a ruling on the question, which had been raised by Mr. Bailey. Several Senate leaders took up the subject. On account of its delicacy, the debate naturally was not as open as would be necessary for a final determination of the question.

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