AFFAIRS AT THE NAVY YARD.

A BUSY WEEK AT THE HOME NAVAL STATION.

THE INDIANA COMING TO THE YARD—A GOOD REPORT ON THE KATAHDIN—OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST.

Several things happened to make the week just ended one of interest at the yard, among them being the commissioning of the monitor Terror, the return of the Katahdin from her trial trips, the arrival of the flagship New-York and the cruiser Columbia in port, and the detachment from service in the Bureau of Yards and Docks of Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer. In addition to these incidents the short visit of Field Marshal Yamagata, of Japan, made a little flurry of excitement, and, altogether, the station has been a little more busy than usual.

The Terror is not yet ready for sea, the official showing of her percentage of completion having 1 per cent of work yet to be done on her. The chief work necessary is connected with her engine-room and the turret-moving machinery, the latter not being entirely satisfactory. The engines, under the care of Chief Engineer Conrad J. Habighurst, are rapidly being brought to the maximum standard of efficiency, and it is expected that a dock trial of about four hours will be given them this week. In the mean time the turrets will be attended to, and that missing 1 per cent will be wiped out in a short time.

A flattering report of the trial trips of the ram Katahdin has been made to the Department by the Board which had charge of the vessel during her recent cruises in the Sound and at sea. A few changes, unimportant in character, are recommended, including the erection of guards around the hatches, to prevent water from entering the interior of the ship. The reports from the engine-room state that the main engines worked well and the journals and bearings showed no tendency to heat. Air and circulating pumps worked well and steadily, and maintained a fair vacuum. One run was made overout and return over a course thirty-six knots in length, natural draught being used with full power, with the exception of one hour during the westward run, when forced draught of 1.5 inches pressure was used, the same break in the run being made on the eastward run. The speed of the ship varied from thirteen to sixteen knots under a steam pressure of 160 pounds. The corrected time for the westward run was 2.94 hours, with the current against the ship the whole distance, while the eastward run was made in 2.71 hours, with a favorable current for two-thirds the distance of the run.

MOVEMENTS OF THE SHIPS.

Neither the New-York nor the Columbia came up to the yard, and the members of the two crews who had shore leave started on their journeys from the anchorage off Tompkinsville, Staten Island. Some of the officers of the ships made visits ashore, and there were many callers at the vessels, which were here only for their usual visit when the men are entitled to leave. Some desertions were reported, but the percentage was not so large as to cause any particular comment, and many of the names posted as deserters were guilty of no more serious offence than overstaying their time. The Columbia, which was slated to start on her return trip to Hampton Roads yesterday afternoon, is, it is said, a little short of men in her fireroom force, but that is becoming an old story, as the same difficulty is present on the monitor Terror, now at the yard fitting out. Those missing from the New-York are less in number than those from the Columbia, and for this various reasons are advanced.

The Indiana sailed from Hampton Roads yesterday for New-York, and on her way up her battery will be subjected to a series of tests. She will probably reach the yard to-morrow, and will be the chief "show piece" of the station while she is here. There are to be some slight repairs made to the battle-ship while she is in port, but they will not take long. The official report of her trial trip has been received at the Department, and is full of praise for the vessel in detail and as a whole. On the trip between Port Royal and Norfolk, which she made in forty hours, under natural draught and with four boilers only making steam, she averaged thirteen and a half knots, which is regarded as an excellent showing for a ship designed to make fifteen knots under the best conditions. This trial completed the official test of the ship, and the percentage of the contract price which was withheld to insure any changes or repairs for which the contractors might be held responsible, will now be paid to the Cramps.

The fact that the Department has detached Lieutenant Peary from his duty in the Yards and Docks Bureau at the yard and placed him on waiting orders has caused considerable comment, and has revived the rumor that he was making preparations for another trip to the frozen North. The authorities at the Department, however, say that the action indicates no such trip on Mr. Peary's part, who, so far as known, has made no application for leave of absence. At the yard it is said that there is no knowledge that any such trip is intended, and Mr. Peary himself, who was in Rutland, Vt., on Friday night delivering a lecture, also denies that he is bound for the North. In the mean time there is no explanation of his detachment from active duty. Civil Engineer Franklin C. Prindle, who was detached from the bureau shortly after the transfer of Chief Engineer Asserson, has returned to the yard on temporary duty, and it is regarded as possible that his stay will be made permanent, owing to the absence of Mr. Peary.

WORK ON NEW VESSELS.

There is a strong probability that there may be a change in a part of the armament of the battle-ships Kearsarge and Kentucky. This relates to the 5-inch guns. The Ordnance Bureau is desirous of substituting 6-inch guns for the smaller type, and in any event, if the opinion of Captain William T. Sampson, chief of the bureau, prevails, the battle-ships to be authorized at this session will have 6-inch guns as a portion of their main battery. The Kearsarge and her sister ship are to be armed each with four 13-inch, four 8-inch and fourteen 5-inch guns, besides those composing their secondary batteries. Captain Sampson would like to have about ten 6-inch guns as a part of their armament. While before the Walker Board, which is considering the question of armament for the proposed ships, Captain Sampson made known his preference of 6-inch guns over 5-inch; and the Board will consider the suggestion in connection with the other recommendations which it has before it. Forgings for 5-inch guns for the Kearsarge and Kentucky are being received at the Washington Navy Yard and are being machined and assembled there. Contracts for these forgings were let some time ago. Even if the 5-inch guns are not placed, as originally decided upon, it is said by the Department authorities that they would be very useful for merchant steamers in case of war, when such steamers would be transformed into auxiliary cruisers.

The following statement showing the condition of work on vessels being built on April 1 has been issued by the Navy Department: Massachusetts, 99 per cent; Brooklyn, 77 per cent; Iowa, 58 per cent; Nashville, 77 per cent; Wilmington, 77 per cent; Helena, 77 per cent; Oregon, 98 per cent; Puritan, 93 per cent; Terror, 99 per cent; gunboat No. 11, 3 6-10 per cent; gunboat No. 12, 3 6-10 per cent; gunboats Nos. 10, 13, 14 and 15, 0 per cent; torpedo-boat No. 3, 32 per cent; torpedo-boat No. 4, 31 per cent; torpedo-boat No. 5, 31 per cent; torpedo-boat No. 8, 5 per cent; submarine torpedo-boat, 25 per cent; steam tug No. 5, 20 per cent.

MORE KEARSARGE RELICS.

The Navy Department is still hearing of the discovery of relics of the old Kearsarge, which was wrecked on Roncador reef in the Caribbean Sea nearly two years ago. A letter just received by Acting Secretary McAdoo from Captain T. Wright, commanding the schooner Lida Fowler, now at Philadelphia, offers to secure for the Department several articles recovered from the vessel's wreckage. Captain Wright stated that a Mr. Holzerson, who resides at San Andreas, United States of Colombia, has in his possession these articles which belonged to the old Kearsarge: Two writing desks, two lamps, one small and one large; one large soup bowl, with cover marked "U. S. Navy," and other silver tableware. In one of the desks were found letters addressed to Commodore Oscar F. Heyerman, who died some months ago, thus proving conclusively that the desks were aboard the Kearsarge when she went to pieces. Captain Wright states that Mr. Holzerson bought the relics at an auction sale held by the authorities of San Andreas, where the relics were taken by wreckers. Mr. Holzerson, the Department officials believe, desires to sell all of the Kearsarge relics he has, with the exception of the large lamp, which he told Captain Wright he intends to present to the new battle-ship Kearsarge when that vessel is put into commission. Acting Secretary McAdoo has written to Captain Wright to make arrangements through him for the recovery of the relics.

RUMORS ABOUT THE SQUADRON.

Just what the programme of the Secretary for the North Atlantic Squadron is no one seems to know, and officials are as much bothered by the question as are those not supposed to have inside information. The Secretary, while at Fort Monroe, had a talk with Admiral Bunce, commanding the fleet, in relation to the season's work. It is understood that the Admiral has been considering the question as to what ships can be used for the naval militia duty, as he has been informed by the Department that several States having Naval Reserve organizations have sent requests for ships to the Department, with the idea that the men should have short practice cruises during the summer. This information, it is said, was sent to him so that he could make arrangements which would prevent these practice cruises from interfering with the manoeuvres of the squadron, which will not be interfered with unless conditions should arise which would make active operations necessary.

The feasibility of concentrating the Naval Militia of the Atlantic States at some one point is being considered, and such concentration is desired, but it seems at present as if the limit of mobilization would be the forces of three States. With this number of men, however, some interesting work can be accomplished, which will be beneficial to the service. The dispatch-boat Dolphin, which has just returned from the Spanish Main, will be attached to the North Atlantic Squadron, as soon as repairs are completed at the Norfolk Navy Yard. She will be commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Richardson Clover, who has been detached from special duty in Washington, and ordered to join her. She will probably be used by Admiral Bunce as a station of observation from which to watch the manoeuvres of the fleet.

The squadron will be largely increased before the summer is over. In addition to the vessels already in service there will be assigned, before July 1, if the present plans are carried out, the Massachusetts, Texas and Terror. The Terror and Amphitrite, however, can hardly be counted as vessels taking part in the evolutions. The Texas, repairs on which will be completed soon, will be commanded by Captain Henry Glass, her former commander, and Lieutenant-Commander J. D. J. Kelley will resume his post as her executive officer.

YOUNG WOMEN DRILLED.

AN EXHIBITION OF PHYSICAL CULTURE BY PRATT INSTITUTE STUDENTS.

The young women who comprise the senior, junior and freshman classes in the High School of Pratt Institute gave an admirable rehearsal in physical culture on Friday night in the gymnasium of the institute, in Ryerson-st. Miss Jessie A. Lines, the instructor, was drillmaster. The programme was as follows:

1. March.....Freshmen
2. Winding motion, wands.....Freshmen
3. Clubs.....Juniors
4. (a) Balls.....Seniors
   (b) Gilbert Steps.....Seniors
5. Swedish educational gymnastics: Free standing exercises.....Seniors and Juniors
   Apparatus work.....Seniors, Juniors and Freshmen
6. Running Jump.....Freshmen
7. Clubs.....Seniors
8. School fencing.....Juniors
9. Spanish dance.....Seniors and Juniors

There were not more than 150 people present when the entering march was played. All the girls looked well in costumes of blue which reached just to the knees. These were of two pieces, and made after a flowing fashion, which prevails at present in the popular styles of bicycle attire for young women. In the first drill the girls carried sticks, which they waved. They wore their class colors, yellow and purple. The winding motions by the same class were applauded. The girls of the senior class performed a number of delicate and interesting feats with rubber balls. At times one of the class would drop one of these, and would receive a penetrating look from Miss Lines, who was anxious that everything should pass off perfectly. Some of the girls displayed a good deal of agility in jumping and fencing. Some of the girls in the rehearsal were:

Mabel Conover, Edith Williams, Isabel Fisher, Mary Tolman, Gertrude Lamb, Elsie Roller, Clara Wood, Hattie Adams, Eva Jones, Nellie Roe, Josephine Nevius, Belle Huntington, Frances Brisell, Katherine Van Lauvan, Lulu Warner, Carol Pierson, Bessie Eastman, Effie Eascert, Frances Taylor, Ethel Weeks, Mary Youngs, Effie Weber, Mary C. McCaffery, Ethel McEheine, Josephine Olsen, Marion Ackerley, Florence Johnson, Ruth Babcock, Ethel Burdett, Bessie De Baun, Jessie Moss, Gertie Smith, Maud Harmon, Daisy Fabris, Mabel Hall, Elizabeth Bolliter, Georgie Fairfield, Florence Dunkley, Genevieve McDonald, Grace Michaelsis, Grace Connolly, Edith Craft, Jessemine Kenard, Mary Heffley, Irene De Baun, Katie Lamb, Alice Day, Lottie Gore, Grace Hardenbergh, Marie Ferm, Charlotte Suffern, Lark Eacret, Bessie Berdett and Eleanor Gribbons.

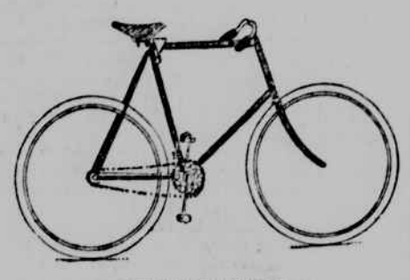
There were only a few of the High School boys present, invitations being limited to certain members of the senior class.

A BICYCLE BARROOM.

D. A. SAMMIS'S STARTLING INVENTION TO EVADE THE RAINES LAW.

The thousands of wheelmen in New-York and Brooklyn have looked upon Sunday as a boon, and the day has usually been devoted to century runs or rides into the country. Since the Raines law became effective, the interest that generally comes with warm weather seems to have lagged. This is due in a large degree to the fact that the weary rider is unable to quench his thirst in the usual manner on Sunday. Before the advent of the Raines law he could get in at the back door of most country barrooms. Now he is compelled to return dry and disgusted.

Among the army of wheelmen who have been racking their intellects to evolve a means of defeating the law is D. A. Sammis, who is secretary of the Liberty Wheelmen, of No. 309 Gates-ave., Brooklyn. Sammis was one of the first to realize that the pleasure of riding could not be complete without the usual "sifter," and for more than two weeks his inventive genius was brought into active work. The result is shown in the accompanying picture.



THE TANK BICYCLE.

The iron posts which compose the frame of a bicycle are hollow. Sammis conceived the idea of converting the main or centre post, which is nearly perpendicular, into a storage tank. Last week he placed his wheel in a shop with instructions as to how he wanted changes made. Near the bottom of the centre post he had placed a miniature faucet, and near the top, on one side, he ordered a small cylindrical projection. The rest of the paraphernalia consists of a funnel and a cup.

The hollow post will contain more than a pint of whiskey, and he believes that the result of his mental faculties will prove an invaluable boon to all wheelmen who use stimulants. After the post has been filled, there is a little steel cap which screws on and makes it airtight. Sammis gave his improved wheel, as he calls it, a trial a few nights ago, and was wonderfully pleased with the results. The Liberty Club, it is said, will adopt his idea. In this connection it might not be amiss to state that the centre post of the latest bicycles is nearly twice as large as heretofore.

Friends of Sammis have suggested that his travelling liquor-store is incomplete without facilities for cooling, and it is not improbable that his next invention will have an ice-box attachment.

THEY HAD A FAMILY FIGHT.

Joseph Kempf, of Floyd-st. and Throop-ave., while drunk Friday night visited the apartments of John Maguire, at No. 25 Floyd-st. He became so hilarious that Maguire ordered him to depart, and Kempf then seized a stove lifter and struck him on the head. An ugly wound was inflicted. Maguire's wife Ellen then went to her husband's assistance and was knocked down and her collar bone broken. A policeman of the Vernon-ave. station who had heard the screams of Maguire and his wife arrested Kempf after a lively scuffle.

In the Lee Avenue Police Court yesterday Justice Goetting remanded him for trial in default of $1,000 bail.

DEPEW'S BIRTHDAY DINNER.

HE IS ENTERTAINED BY THE MONTAUK CLUB.

IN SPITE OF THE HEAT, THE BANQUET HALL IS CROWDED AND EVERYBODY HAS A GOOD TIME.

The Montauk Club gave its annual dinner to Chauncey M. Depew last evening, it being Dr. Depew's birthday. The thermometer was doing its best to ooze out of the top of the tube, but the twofold inducement of hearing Mr. Depew and of partaking of one of the famous dinners prepared by the Montauk's steward brought out a crowd which filled the main banquet hall and overflowed into the "jolly room" above.

The guest of honor was seated between Charles A. Moore, the president of the Montauk Club, and General Stewart L. Woodford, president of the Union League Club, of Brooklyn. Whether or not Mr. Depew and Mr. Moore touched upon political topics in their conversation during the dinner no one else knows. Mr. Moore is one of the most energetic and enthusiastic supporters of Major McKinley for the Presidency.

The following were the persons present:

Head Table—Chauncey M. Depew, Charles A. Moore, General Stewart L. Woodford, St. Clair McKelway, William C. Wallace, Timothy L. Woodruff, C. N. Bovee, jr., F. E. Dodge, John S. James, J. W. Vrooman, F. P. Morris, C. E. Knapp, W. H. Garrison, Captain H. A. Bourne, H. A. Bourne, jr., Frank Bourne, R. Maplesden, Thomas C. Long, G. B. Horton, W. W. Goodrich, A. E. Lamb, Frank Squier, J. G. Dettmer, E. G. Blackford, L. J. Busby, S. S. Whitehouse, T. F. Curley, A. R. Johnson, John Cartledge and G. B. Horton.

Table B.—S. C. Bake, John Lefferts, jr., Warren C. Treadwell, W. N. Peak, Hugo Hirsh, S. B. Pettit, C. L. Williston, John Anderson, George H. Fletcher, Dr. W. H. Bennett, W. L. Candee, Jerome E. Morse, Rufus T. Griggs, W. B. Moore, H. J. Straukamp, S. M. Hoye, W. F. Smith, Grenville Perrin, J. C. Reilly, W. D. Sargent and W. L. Candee.

Table C—W. A. Avis, H. B. Henson, W. G. Gilmore, F. E. Walbridge, E. A. Olds, James Foster, R. F. Downing, C. L. Rossiter, Charles L. Housman, Charles Brown, W. H. Cummings, L. Mollenhauer, John W. Wilson, Horace J. Morse, J. H. Walbridge, J. B. Cornwall, E. H. Barnes, Colonel J. N. Partridge, J. M. Walsh, James Matthews, F. L. Mathews, S. Valentine, Charles S. Burr, W. C. Burr, W. A. Brown, A. B. Abernethy, J. D. Weir and G. Herbert Potter.

Table D—Howard S. White, Albert A. White, A. B. Ryker, James H. English, John Barnes, L. W. Seaman, jr., A. J. Newton, E. I. Horsman, A. Kalb, Thomas Adams, jr., George D. Webber, Charles T. Young, F. C. Wendell, C. E. Taynton, G. E. Brightson, Thomas E. Byrne, W. P. Callaghan, M. O'Meara, Victor A. Harden, W. Burtenshaw, W. H. Hill, A. S. Higgins, A. A. Barclay, William H. English, L. W. Seaman, jr., L. A. Lewis, F. B. Frear, S. N. Ballard, William Kane, Leonard Moody, F. H. Davol, W. Longman, S. Underhill, Joseph F. Keating, George W. Roderick, E. F. Keating, R. N. Graves, J. J. Roberts and Dr. H. B. Delatour.

Table E.—Morison Hoyt, John Dunbar, C. L. Edgar, A. A. Glasier, S. E. Buchanan, George S. Adams, Chas. W. Price, Colonel L. L. Langdon, George A. Price, E. M. Phelps, W. E. Conrow, W. B. Emerson, Wm. Wilson, R. Ross Appleton, W. S. Barstow, Winthrop Thayer, Frank A. Thayer, Henry Bowers, J. Weymer, H. M. Littell, Legrand Van Valkenberg, Willis Van Valkenberg, Frank J. Price, Henry A. Price, Herbert Cockshaw, R. B. Atterbury, Theo. Conrow, Jackson Wallace and E. B. Jordan.

Table F—A. R. Moore, A. J. Walker, J. C. Woodhull, Charles G. Elliott, D. T. Merritt, D. McEwen, W. H. Hoschke, Dr. R. N. Denison, Edward J. Richards, J. M. Hodges, W. H. Reynolds, Charles L. Walker and E. Rutzler.

Table G—A. P. Hanan, F. M. Smith, George Muir, H. M. Adams, J. F. Goddard, J. C. Juhring, J. L. Hopkins and A. W. Jenkins.

"Jolly Room"—Charles G. Street, William T. Lyons, F. E. Pitkin, George C. Case, S. E. Vernon, F. S. Sherry, N. T. Thayer, John G. Luke, C. F. Hohn, C. C. Knowlton, James Weir, L. H. Irwin, E. McDonald, W. W. Henshaw, E. F. Walker, G. D. Provost, John J. Luke, Theodore Newcomb, A. L. J. Smith and F. L. Wyckoff.

After the dinner, Mr. Moore, in an apt and fitting speech, introduced the guest of honor, who was received with hearty cheers.

Dr. Depew said in part:

Mr. President and Gentlemen: Words would be inadequate for me to express my profound appreciation of this continuation of your annual compliment. The large number and the distinction in every walk in life of the gentlemen who participate in this courtesy give to it more than individual or local significance. It seems to me to be a platform upon which can be expressed with frankness and freedom opinions upon all questions. We may be of one great party or the other in politics, or of no party; we may be of any sect in religion, or of no profession, and yet a fair treatment of any subject in the field of inquiry or controversy is received in the broadest and most catholic spirit. The discussions, which, serious or festive, have marked this occasion in former years, have been attended afterward by extraordinary results in municipal and State affairs. We have had the fullest proof that the truth sown ever so carelessly, if it falls in proper soil, bears ever the most generous fruit.

CONDITIONS ARE REVERSED.

We are again, as we were four years ago, in a Presidential year. We will all admit that the conditions are reversed. Then the handwriting was upon the wall which marked the success of the opposition over the party which had held power in the Government for a generation. Then we all felt that there was to be a condemnation of the system of protection as a principle of public policy and the trial, in some form, of the theory of free trade. We all knew that the craving for more currency would find expression either in the actual debasement of the currency or in a combination of forces so powerful and so threatening as to endanger the continuance of settled standards. But the handwriting is equally clear upon the wall today that there is to be another trial, and a vigorous one, of the principle and practice of protection; that there is to be a defeat, and an overwhelming one, of the friends of flat money, of a debased currency or of the free coinage of silver.

Rapid as has been the progress of the century, fast as has been the pace of the half-century and great as have been the evolutions and revolutions of the last quarter of a century, none have been more significant or more pregnant with results to our country than the story of the last four years. It will stand by itself as one of the most interesting chapters when the future historian comes to write the history of the people of the United States during the nineteenth century. The retirement from power of the Republican party after thirty-three years of rule was an event of no ordinary importance; the advent into the possession of every department of our Government of the Democratic party and its allies was an event of extraordinary interest. These four years will be remarkable for the culmination in them of the fads and theories which have come to the front since the Civil War. Fifty years from now the story will read like a romance of the rise of the Populist party, its wild, vague, impossible and impracticable theories, the singular public men whom it threw to the surface, its capture of several States and its ability to hold the balance of power in the Congress of the United States, and then its disintegration and dissipation almost as rapidly as it was organized. After three years of stormy life and untimely death we may apply to it the epitaph upon the tombstone of the infant: "If so soon I was to be done for, what on earth was I begun for?"

Not less interesting will be the history of the movement in favor of the free coinage of silver and the great proportions which it assumed. It was but a year ago that it controlled all the Southern States, all the States between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast, and had a strong foothold in the Northwest. It frightened the politicians of both parties; it forced recognition in both of the National platforms and drove into silence or acquiescence most of our statesmen of National reputation. While I differ widely from President Cleveland on almost every part of his public policy, while I think that his theories, so far as they have been practically carried out, have been disastrous, and if wholly carried out would have been fatal to our industries, nevertheless, in the frankness and the fairness of this platform it is due to him to say that the rout of the free coinage of silver policy and the energizing of the National credit by the triumph of sound money are more largely due to his throwing upon that side with magnificent courage and ability the whole strength and power of his great office and of his administration, than to anything else.

SUFFERING MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

While we have had a period of distress which has brought so much suffering to millions of homes, and while the cost has been more than that of a disastrous war, yet the suffering has not been in vain and the cost has not been lost if it shall have gained for us in education by discussion and by the experiences of our people the death of the absurdities of populism and the triumph of that sound money and unquestioned currency which shall keep this great trading, business and commercial Republic in honorable relations with and in the lead among the great trading, business and commercial nations of the world. But that will not be its only compensation. The experience of the last twelve months has enforced the lessons of the necessity of stability in the diplomatic service; of training for the difficult art of diplomacy and of a foreign office which shall have in its permanency and in its power both the confidence of Congress and the country and the ability to cope with dignity and honor with every question which affects the relations of the United States with foreign governments.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

The magnificent revival of business, so hopeful for every industry, for every mill, for every factory, for every furnace, for every railroad, for labor and for wages, which began in the fall, had become paralyzed by March, by the country daring neither to invest nor employ, nor to buy, because of a continuing refusal to provide the Government with the means for meeting its ordinary obligations in the time of profound peace, or buying great guns, or building fortifications for the protection of our coasts and harbors, while at the same time Congress was practically declaring war every few days, and calling to some power to come on and submit all differences, whether formulated or not, to the arbitrament of war. There must come out of the terrible cost of this method of diplomacy—a cost without results, either in fame, or in territory, or measures—a strengthening of our diplomatic service and our foreign office, and there must also come the triumph of a movement begun within the year, and rapidly commanding the confidence and support of the best sentiment of the civilized world, for the creation of a permanent international court of arbitration to which nations, and especially English-speaking nations, can with dignity and honor submit every question in dispute between them.

SHOULD BE BETTER ACQUAINTED.

I have been impressed during a recent tour of over eight thousand miles with the fact that we, as Americans, know less about each other than we do about foreign countries. Almost any intelligent person whom you meet is familiar with the industrial and social conditions of Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, and the knowledge of many of them extends to all the continents of the globe. Very few are familiar with the climatic, the agricultural, the industrial or the commercial conditions and possibilities of the Gulf States, or of that vast territory which extends from the boundaries of Oregon and California over thousands of miles of arid plain, with some beautiful oases of cultivated land, up to the Missouri River. Our country is so vast in extent, and capital, labor and competition have become so concentrated in crowded centres, that we need a department of government to teach congested populations where they can find air, health, wealth and liberty. Why should miners be starving in one territory when productive mines are calling for labor in another? Why should farmers, freezing in inclement climates or with their barns, their houses, their fences and their stock blown to pieces by resistless blizzards, give it up and return again to the older settlements, when rich fields and alluring climates wait for and want them? In the thousands of miles of the great American desert ten millions of people could live in prosperity and happiness under a scientific system of irrigation—such a system as only the Government could inaugurate. Strange as it may appear, the historian, in looking over our country and citing its benefactors, will give a place, and a good one, to Brigham Young. Having stopped his caravan in the Salt Lake Valley, with the mountains of snow encircling it and the alkali plains, hard and dry and unproductive, he saw that if he brought the water from the mountain and distributed it on the plain he could produce an earthly paradise for his co-religionists. He also discovered that the real secret of successful farming in a country of rich soil is the small farm, which the farmer and his family can look after personally and attend to in every detail. That principle has made Utah the most prosperous of the intermontane States, and Salt Lake its largest city.

FROM SNOW TO RICE.

Governor Flower tells of a farmer from Jefferson County who settled in the Northwest. In narrating to the Governor his experiences, he said that in order to resist the blizzard he built a snow fence four feet wide and six feet high. When the wind blew it over then the "darned old fence was six feet wide and four feet high." I found this farmer in Texas, where he had gone with his neighbors. They had demonstrated that rice could be profitably raised upon hitherto almost worthless prairie land, and that little colony are now living in comfort and comparative affluence. We know so little of the magnificent scenery, the unique succession of fertile valleys and the climatic and productive possibilities of California, because Nature, always jealous of her treasures, has placed the Pacific Ocean on one side of the golden coast and a thousand miles of desert on the other. The heat in that desert was 107 degrees in the car in March, and Yuma is said to be the hottest place in the world. It is narrated of a soldier who died there, and who was the wickedest man in the regiment, that he was buried with military honors and went to his proper place. A few days afterward the commander of the garrison saw him walking about the camp, and threatened him with arrest, court-martial and execution for having come back so unceremoniously after he had been properly mustered out. The soldier's excuse was that he had become so accustomed to the temperature of Fort Yuma that he had come back for his blankets. After twelve hours of intolerable heat and suffocating dust the traveller comes almost instantaneously into a garden of roses, fields of evergreen alfalfa grass and groves of orange, lemon and other trees, filling the air with the perfume of their blossom or laden with goldened fruit. The desert ends and Paradise begins where irrigation has redeemed the sand and made it a fruitful mine of annual wealth. We met at one of the stations in the desert an original genius, a surviving product of earlier times, when the West was wild and woolly. From saloonkeeper, cowboy and desperado, he had become a justice of the peace, the fountain of the law and the keeper of the village grocery. He greeted me cordially, said he would have known me anywhere from my picture, and then frankly answered my question as what in his judgment were the two most important decisions in his judicial career. He said: "The first was a man brought before me for shooting a Chinaman. I decided that there was nothing in the statutes of the State or of the United States that made it a crime to kill a Chinaman. And," said he, "when I read in our county paper the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on the Chinese Exclusion act, I found that my opinion had been sustained by Chief Justice Waite." The other case was that of a man who fell into the gorge of the canyon. "In the discharge of my duty as a judge I sat upon the body and searched it. I found in its clothes $40 in money and a .32-calibre pistol. Under the laws of the State of Texas it is a misdemeanor to carry concealed weapons, and so I fined the corpse for violating the law, and the Court took possession of the pistol and the $40."

PLENTY OF ROOM FOR BRAG.

We are naturally a boastful people, and yet the better I know our country the more I am impressed of our boundless basis for bragging. The language of exaggeration and metaphor seems inadequate to state the conditions for health, wealth and happiness in the United States when you add to them the possibilities of the future. Education and credit are the factors which will develop these possibilities and minimize the return of periodical disaster. The largest and the finest building in every town on the Pacific Coast is a schoolhouse. And by credit I mean National credit, with unquestioned stability and assuring to enterprise and energy the results of their forecast, and daring. The more I see and know of the United States, the more I am an optimist. And the more I see and the better I know the men and women of our time, the more I am a happy optimist. There are many secrets of perpetual youth, but one of the best, in the enjoyment which it gives to the increase of years, is faith—faith in the goodness of the old times and the people who lived in them; faith that the present is better than the past, and faith that the future will be better than the present. The kiss with which we bid good night to our loved ones is sweeter far if accompanied with the belief that we shall greet them on the morrow with the kiss of a better day.

We must have some faith in our illusions. The Legislature has just exhibited it in solemnly enacting into law that a bicycle is not a vehicle, but a trunk. We are always in danger if we go too far in doubt or experiment, as was exhibited in that mortuary poem of Cincinnatus which so delighted Dean Holmes:

> Little Willie from the mirror
> Sucked the mercury all off,
> Thinking in his childish error
> It would cure his whooping cough.
> At the funeral Willie's mother
> Blandly said to Mr. Brown:
> "It was a chilly day for Willie
> When the mercury went down."

Well, gentlemen, we close to-night another year. May the cordial handclasp with which we met keep our hearts warm with the anticipation of another cordial and vigorous greeting for us all when next April comes around.

Features of the evening's entertainment were a parody on "Hiawatha," written by Frank Squier, ex-Park Commissioner, which was circulated among the guests in pamphlet form, and a song of six verses written by E. S. Keating, a member of the club, which was sung to the tune of "Maryland, My Maryland." The song was addressed to Mr. Depew, and was sung by Mr. Keating, the members of the club joining in the chorus.

GATHERED ABOUT THE TOWN.

The residents of Caton-ave., Flatbush, are angry at the sight of a dozen or more telegraph poles, which were put up in front of their houses on Friday by some company, and they are now trying to find out by whose authority they were placed. Through W. H. Garrison, J. S. de Selding and others they will soon take steps to have them removed.

At the inquest on the body of Valentine Merklen, of No. 148 Putnam-ave., held by Coroner Coombs on Saturday night, evidence was brought out that Mr. Merklen's death was accidental, and not by his own hand.

A handsome parlor carpet was found by E. Hilyed, of No. 371 McDonough-st., last Saturday. He turned it over to the police of the Fourteenth Precinct, where it now awaits an owner.

E. von Frederick, of Blythebourne, has postponed his bicycle trip around the world until Sunday, April 26. He intended to start yesterday, but his new wheel, which is being made for him, was not ready. He will leave the New-York City Hall at about 10 o'clock, and will be accompanied by a number of Brooklyn and New-York wheelmen for several miles up the river. His whole outfit, including his wheel and extra clothing, will not weigh over twenty-eight pounds.

Thomas Miller, who was arrested on Friday afternoon by Mounted Policeman Collins for reckless driving on the Boulevard, was fined $10 yesterday by Judge Steers, who gave him a lecture on the danger of reckless driving in the city limits.

The Brooklyn Elevated Railroad Company will run trains to West Brighton Beach by way of the old Culver Road in Thirty-sixth-st. beginning this morning. If the business is large enough, there will be four trains an hour and a smoking-car in each train. This step was brought about by the sudden and unexpected warm weather.

The annual meeting for the election of officers and directors of the Manufacturers' Association of Kings and Queens counties will be held on Monday evening at No. 345 Clinton-ave., at 8 o'clock. An attractive programme has been provided for the evening.

MAGUIRE GETS ONE YEAR.

Justice Goetting, in the Lee Avenue Police Court yesterday sentenced Peter Maguire to the penitentiary for one year for robbing Stephen M. Dressing, a Pole, living at No. 159 North Tenth-st. Dressing was passing along North Tenth-st., early yesterday morning, when Maguire jumped out of a hallway and demanded money for beer. Being refused, it is alleged, he attempted to rifle Dussing's pockets. Policeman Montgomery, of the Bedford-ave. station, heard Dressing's cries for help and arrested Maguire.

Direct from the Manufacturers.

Brooklyn Furniture Company has purchased for this Spring's trade an extra large stock of Furniture from the different factories; they are all of the latest styles, no old patterns or shop-worn goods, and the very best make. On account of backward season we will dispose of them at prices lower than the lowest.

We will guarantee to compete in price with much inferior goods that are at present flooding the market.

This stock consists of

Parlor Suits,	Chamber Suits,
Parlor Cabinets,	Dining Tables,
Parlor Tables,	Side Boards,
3-piece Divan Suits,	China Cabinets,
Fancy Chairs & Rockers,	Dining Chairs,
Book Cases,	Chiffoniers,
Desks,	Folding Beds,
Brass and Onyx Tables,	Solid Brass and White
Fancy Gold Pieces,	Enamel Bedsteads.

When you are out shopping, step in, let us show you our immense establishment and get our prices. Polite salesmen and passenger elevators to each floor.

Brooklyn Furniture Company,
553 to 571 Fulton St.,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

YOU CAN BUY
FURNITURE
AT
A. D. MATTHEWS & SONS
At unusually Low Prices for new and desirable goods.
FULTON STREET, GALLATIN PLACE AND LIVINGSTON STREET.

BACKUS ON THE RAINES LAW.

HE OVERRULES MILES ON THE QUESTION OF RESTAURANTS.

District-Attorney Backus interpreted the law on the Raines bill at his office yesterday morning to the officers of the Kings County Liquor Dealers' Association, who met there for the purpose of ascertaining just how far their Sunday rights extend under the new measure. In addition to the liquor dealers and their counsel there were present Superintendent McKelvey, Inspector MacKellar and John W. Nutt, who represented Deputy Excise Commissioner Michell, T. De Quincy Tully came in early and wanted to be a party to the conference, but there were discouragements offered and Mr. Tully went away.

The questions put by the liquor dealers and Mr. Backus's answers are as follows:

Q.—Does the term, "members of a family" include a man's relatives other than those who live with him? A.—No; the family may consist of any members who live there commonly, and the domestic servants.

Q.—May persons not members of the family enter the barrooms during prohibited hours to clean up? A.—No.

Q.—What constitutes a saloon? Is a back room divided from a store proper by a brick wall with a door leading into the saloon, to be considered as coming under the designation of premises from which we are prohibited? A.—Every room that is connected with the saloon for saloon purposes is a part of the saloon if commonly used as part of the saloon.

Q.—Can stained-glass windows remain in the door and windows of a saloon if the interior of the premises is exposed fully to view? A.—Literally, no; but the spirit of the law is complied with if a full and unobstructed view is given of every part of the premises, and this answer is given to apply to places that have been built in good faith where removals are necessary.

Q.—Where the building is not a modern one, and one-half of the doors are composed of small lights of glass, must the shutters which are put up to protect certain windows be removed? A.—They must, if necessary, to give a full and unobstructed view of the premises.

Q.—Can restaurants sell or give away liquors during prohibited hours, with meals or otherwise? A.—Mere restaurants, no.

Q.—Is it a violation of the Raines law for a saloonkeeper to sell food to be eaten on the premises? A.—No.

Q.—What is meant by the word "guest" in that law? A.—The word "guest" in this law applies where there is a bona fide hotel, and a bona fide guest of the hotel either for the purpose of lodging or feeding.

Q.—Must a guest register? A.—He must be a bona fide guest of a bona fide hotel but the law says nothing about registration. Whether or not he has registered may be evidence as to whether he is a bona fide guest of a bone fide hotel; but registration is not one of the essential elements of the Raines law.

Q.—Must a light be kept burning in the store during the prohibited hours? A.—No.

Q.—Where a club exists over a saloon, can liquor be sold to the members during the hours of prohibition? A.—No.

It will be seen that Mr. Backus reverses the decision regarding restaurants, given by his assistant, Mr. Miles, some time ago. Mr. Miles informed the police that restaurants could sell liquor with meals on Sunday, and that a sandwich is regarded in the law as a meal. The police will abide by the District-Attorney's decision.

After the conference was over Superintendent McKelvey met the police captains and instructed them regarding Mr. Backus's decisions.

Jacob Brenner, counsel to the old excise department, has received an offer of a similar position with the new board. He will confer with Commissioner Lyman to-morrow at Albany.

A THRIFTY CORONER.

From The Topeka Capital.

Few people who followed the trial of the Hillmon case knew just why two Coroner's inquests were held over the body of the man found at Crooked Creek, in Barber County.

This is the reason:

There was $25 in bills found in the coat on the body. The Coroner took charge of this money, as was proper. When the first jury had finished its deliberations and adjourned, he drew out these bills and paid them for their services. This took $12.

There was $13 remaining. Clearly, it would never do to turn this money over to the county to be held in trust for the dead man's relatives, if he had any. But what should be done with it?

The mind of the Coroner was equal to the occasion.

He declared himself dissatisfied with the verdict, and called the jury together for a second inquest. The verdict was the same as that given at the first sitting, but the mind of the Coroner was satisfied. The $25 was exhausted.

Such was Western Kansas thrift in the early days.

SMOKY FIREPLACES