Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:10—Way Down East.
ACADEMY OF DESIGN—10 a. m. to 10 p. m.—Tissot's Paintings illustrating the Life of Christ.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8:10—Mikado.
BIJOU—2—Sapho in Japanese—8—Tim Murphy in The Carpet Bagger.
BROADWAY—8—Ben-Hur.
CASINO—8—The Casino Girl.
CRITERION THEATRE—8:15—The Pride of Jennico.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—Trelawny of the Wells.
EDEN MUSEE—9 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Waxworks, Grand Concert and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:20—A Man and His Wife.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:15—Rip Van Winkle.
FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—8—The Great Ruby.
GARDEN THEATRE—8—Hearts Are Trumps.
GARRICK THEATRE—8—Sherlock Holmes.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8:15—A Guilty Mother.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Oliver Goldsmith.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8—Quo Vadis.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—Mlle. Nitouche.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8:15—The Viceroy.
KOSTER & BIALE'S—8:15—Progress.
LYCEUM THEATRE—2:15—8:30—My Daughter-in-Law.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2—8—Circus.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:30—Why Smith Left Home.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—Children's Easter Festival.
MURRAY HILL—2—8—The Dancing Girl.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8—Quo Vadis.
PASTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
VICTORIA—8:20—A Hot Old Time.
WALLACK'S—8—Sapho.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1900.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The requisite remounts and equipment have reached Bloemfontein, and it is announced that Lord Roberts is prepared to advance; the epidemic of enteric fever in the British camp is abating; General Sir Frederick Carrington, with the Mafeking relief column, has arrived at Beira; dispatches from Kimberley point to a renewal of activity in that region; Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in a speech at Bristol intimated that a general election in Great Britain in the near future is improbable. ═══ American jockeys were either winners or were placed in most of the races at Newmarket Craven, England, one race being won by Richard Croker's horse. ═══ Robert Alan Mowbray Stevenson, the artist, is dead. ═══ The Earl of Londesborough died in London.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The Porto Rican resolution to carry out the President's recent recommendation was adopted; the Alaskan Civil Code bill was considered, and several measures of minor importance were passed. ═══ House: The entire day was spent in considering the Naval Appropriation bill; the proposal that the Navy should make insular surveys was rejected.

DOMESTIC.—The Turkish Minister in Washington called on the Acting Secretary of State and was informed, it is said, that this Government would tolerate no further delay in payment of indemnity for outrages on American missionaries. ═══ The figures of the Cuban census were made public in Washington, and are regarded as justifying the Administration's decision to allow municipal suffrage; the elections in the island will take place on June 16.

CITY.—Stocks were irregular, but generally higher at the close. ═══ Arrests were made by Sheriff Molloy, with the aid of a company of the 7th Regiment, of twenty-six Italian strikers at the new Croton dam, who are charged with inciting their companions to riot. ═══ Ex-President Harrison and others, who will be prominent in the Ecumenical Missionary Conference, arrived in the city. ═══ It was announced that L. E. Quigg would remain president of the County Committee for the present; the County Committee held a short session.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 70 degrees; lowest, 57; average, 64½.

NO CAUSE FOR WORRY.

The announcement by the Corporation Counsel that he will endeavor to collect from certain street railway companies large sums due for paving under the agreements by which they hold their franchises has been the signal for a renewed protest against franchise taxation. Friends of the companies point to the charges against them for paving and clearing away snow from their tracks, and say these expenses are the taxes they pay for their franchises, and that it is outrageous double taxation to assess those franchises as real estate.

Such complaints would come with rather better grace from franchise holders if they had ever shown any disposition to pay these charges to which they now point with pride as their taxes. As a matter of fact, they have resisted their collection on every possible pretext and shown an unmistakable disposition to grab every possible privilege in the streets and meet no corresponding obligation. Even now, while urging these debts which they owe the city as a reason for the exemption of their franchises from taxation, they show no readiness to pay them, but are forcing the city to resort to the courts for their collection. But putting aside the fact that the companies are less ready to pay these bills than to use them as an argument for escaping some other charge, the question remains how far such payments, even if made, are a moral title to exemption from franchise taxation. The answer is clear when the exact nature of a street franchise is kept in mind. The companies are fond of causing confusion on this point. As soon as it comes to a question of taxation they assert that a franchise is a mere permission to do something, that it merely frees them as corporations from arbitrary restrictions on natural rights of individuals. At other times, however, they call franchises property. They buy and sell them. They are worth millions without a dollar spent in improving them. Once obtained, they are an absolute lien upon public streets, and cannot be revoked by the authorities. As Judge Selden once declared, they are in the nature of a freehold.

Now, it is that property in streets which is taxed as real estate at its value, and that tax is not any the less just because the owner of the property taxed paid for it either a sum outright, or a perpetual rent in the way of a pavement and snow removal agreement. The Tax Commissioners might properly consider the fixed charges on a franchise as an element in determining its value, a franchise held subject to a rental being clearly worth less than one held absolutely. This consideration, however, must be exercised with a view to the provision of the Franchise Tax law for deduction of payments in the nature of a franchise tax from the tax levied under it. Manifestly it would not be fair to lower the estimate of a franchise value because of a rental charge upon it and then call that rental a tax and deduct it again.

The householder who pays a ground rent does not thereby escape taxation on the value of the property he enjoys, and the franchise holder, simply because the city happens to be his landlord, should not escape taxes on the value of the street freehold he enjoys because of the price he pays for the property. Moreover, when he complains about the injustice of taxing him and proclaims that the rent is really a tax, he should remember that if he is right he is absolutely protected by the law from injustice. Let him show that the old charges are taxes, and they will be deducted from his new taxes. Instead of making an outcry and seeking sympathy, all he has to do is to convince the Tax Commissioners, or, failing in that, an impartial court trained to decide such questions without prejudice and on sound legal and business principles, that his paving and street cleaning bill is really a tax bill, and he will secure complete relief. The law is more careful to guard him from double taxation on his franchise than he is or ever has been to pay any taxes at all on that franchise.

STEEL AND WIRE WORKING.

Objections of Stock Exchange members to the Steel and Wire management go deep just now. That is partly because Wall Street rather than the outside public has suffered, cynics may say, but it would be more fair to realize that some regard for the National welfare, and particularly for the prosperity of the great industries, strengthens the indignation commonly expressed. Among the thousands in the Street even cynics must admit that there are some patriotic men, and some whose sound business sense foresaw evils more than a year ago as the inevitable consequence of making great industries too much dependent upon stock jobbing operations. They cared enough for the general welfare then to refuse their countenance when it would have been highly profitable for them, and they care too much now to exaggerate or magnify the evil consequences which to them are not unexpected. One remedy which is hotly urged by some is the removal of the Steel and Wire stock from the list because of the contradictory statements made about the business of the company. That would not help anybody except the gamblers and the scalpers, now that the stock has been widely distributed. In some fashion men would buy and sell it and make quotations for it, and the less responsible those dealings the more would sharks find means to prosper.

It is not of the least use to blink the fact that there has been persistent and stupendous lying about the business of this company. The statement of its president, according to dispatches published yesterday, singularly unites in one the two views which have seemed to most people irreconcilable. In one sentence he says: "Our plants have been working night and day "on overdue contracts and to meet current de-"mands." In the next he says: "The tremendous "pace began to pile up stocks largely in excess of "the demand." Apparently he wishes people to believe that the company has been unconsciously increasing output at a tremendous rate, or else that it has been so poorly managed that a tremendous decline in demand has piled up stocks largely before it was discovered. The world knows that a nearer approach to accuracy may be found in the statement by jobbers that the demand has rapidly decreased and stocks heavily accumulated because of the prices charged. It was recently shown in these columns that this company had much more than doubled the margin between the cost of material and prices of finished products, in that respect going beyond all other companies. It would be strange if the demand had not declined.

Fair men will admit that the company has not taken the course calculated to help it out of trouble, or to promote the general welfare. It might have reduced prices of products when materials declined and when the demand began to shrink, and would thus have encouraged a larger demand. That would have helped all other industries, for congestion in any one part of the system of connecting channels must always affect every other part more or less. But if for reasons which the public cannot perceive it was essential to hold prices to the top notch, which was reached by an arbitrary advance about January 1, when other prices were declining, the only other course consistent with good faith and good management was to curtail production, as has been done now in a curiously fragmentary and scattering way. It looks as if there were two opposing forces in the management, one always disposed to hoist prices and force markets and "jam it through," while the other desires a more reasonable course. Only six weeks ago Pittsburg dispatches printed in "Dun's Review" stated that a further advance of prices had been ordered at a meeting there, adding $5 more a ton, which was apparently revoked before it went into effect.

The lesson of greatest public importance is that the industries upon which millions of families depend for their livelihood ought not to be exposed to the hazards of speculation or the devices of men to force stocks up or down. That is an evil which ought to have been checked at the outset by refusing to admit stocks of such corporations to quotations on any board. But no one thought that necessary years ago. The evil might have been greatly limited had bankers and underwriters and promoters been wiser one year ago, when almost everybody thought he saw before him a new and grander industrial evolution. The remedy has now to be applied under conditions of increasing difficulty, and Congress may well consider in the action it is about to take on the subject that a far more important evil than has heretofore been realized is the power of stock jobbers and speculative schemes to affect the welfare of millions of workers.

ENGLAND'S "ALL IN ALL."

A startling note of alarm is sounded by Mr. H. W. Wilson in "The Nineteenth Century" concerning the condition of the British fleet. Not fearing to incur the odium of being deemed a pessimist or an alarmist, he strikes out squarely with the inquiry whether Parliament and people are not being grossly misled, and whether the actual efficiency of the fleet is not so much less than what it appears to be on paper as to imperil the security of the kingdom and empire of which that fleet is the "all in all." True, Great Britain is spending 50 per cent more on shipbuilding than Germany, and over 100 per cent more than France. But those who triumphantly cite these figures do not mention Russia's stupendous construction programme. Neither—this is one of Mr. Wilson's most impressive general points—do they take into account that Great Britain has an enormous commerce to protect with her fleet, while France and Russia have practically none, and so could use their entire naval forces in attack.

Coming to details, Mr. Wilson points out that Great Britain is spending each year less than the sum declared by the Admiralty to be "the lowest consistent with safety"; that the dockyards, machine shops and foundries are inadequate to the work required; that the extreme cheapness with which British ships are built causes them to be built far more slowly than foreign ships, since the contractor will neglect work on them in order to expedite it on the foreign ships for which he is better paid; that the Admiralty is "fooling" with thirty-year-old ships armed with muzzle loaders; that British battleships are filled with inflammable wood fittings, and in battle would "burn like tar barrels"; that many of them have no smokeless powder; that the heavy guns can be loaded in only one instead of—as in other navies—in any position; that there are no electric but only hand hoists for ammunition, so that the rate of fire must be slow; that the great Portsmouth dockyard is without electric lights; that British marksmanship in target practice is inferior to French; that the service is under-officered and under-manned, and, finally, that the building of swift merchant ships, which could be used as auxiliaries, is being neglected.

That is, on the whole, a startling indictment of the British Admiralty, especially since it is made by so high an authority as Mr. Wilson. It is well calculated to cause much heart searching in official circles and a considerable agitation in the popular mind. We do not know that a single one of his charges can be successfully controverted. On the contrary, there is reason to think they are all true. There is, to be sure, apparently one redeeming—or at least relieving—aspect of the case, which Mr. Wilson himself, with admirable frankness, concedes. That is that the other European fleets would, on examination, probably disclose similar or at least equally serious defects. No doubt that is true. So high an authority as M. Lockroy has recently declared that the French navy is all but helpless for lack of coaling stations. Others have pointed out the gravest defects in ships, armament, and what not. Such discussion of the Russian navy is, of course, not permitted, but we all remember the wretched fate of the Popoffs, and there are other circumstances strongly militating against a too buoyant faith in the potency of the Russian fleet. All that, however, though it may be superficially consoling, is not really to the point at issue. It is not to the imperfection and weakness of its rivals, but to its own perfection and strength, that a nation must look for safety. Not all the deficiencies and defects known and suspected in the French and Russian fleets should delude Great Britain for one moment into delaying to repair every deficiency and defect her most exacting critics can discover in hers.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

It is gratifying to learn that the Chamber of Commerce and Columbia University have devised a plan whereby the young men of the city, the State and the country will have an opportunity to fit themselves thoroughly for the duties of Government service and business life. This is one of the good results of our present policy of expansion. European countries have long since seen the necessity of establishing facilities for higher commercial education, and the movement is now spreading rapidly in this country as well. The business men, the Boards of Trade and the Chambers of Commerce of various cities are lending their support to the educational scheme, and it is probable that within a year or two commercial courses will be offered in all the large universities.

Having foreseen the necessity some time ago, New-York will probably be the first in the field. A special committee of the Chamber of Commerce presented last year an exhaustive report on commercial education and offered a number of valuable suggestions toward putting the plan into practice. The Chamber also suggested the advisability of establishing a collegiate course in commerce in connection with Columbia University, where so much has already been done in economic and political education by the School of Political Science. The plan has met with a ready response from members of the Chamber and others interested in commercial education. A subscription list has been started for raising the necessary fund, headed by the president of the Chamber; a number of names have already been added, and it is hoped that arrangements can be completed in time to allow Columbia to begin the new course in the autumn.

STRANGE THINGS IN GUAM.

Astronomers are getting ready to send out expeditions at great expense of time and labor to observe the solar eclipse in various more or less remote spots of the world. This phenomenon lasts only a minute or two, but they consider themselves well repaid if they get an unobstructed view of what happens in that brief space of time. There is a phenomenon now to be noted in the South Pacific Ocean, however, that would seem equally to repay the immediate dispatch of a squad of scientific observers, for it may not last much longer than the coming obscuration of the sun after it becomes generally known in the centres of civilization. The observers needed are political economists and sociologists, and the phenomenon to be viewed is the state of affairs now existing in the island of Guam. We published an interesting account of it in last Sunday's Illustrated Supplement, in a letter from Lieutenant Safford, U. S. N., who has been Vice-Governor of the island.

According to his account, Guam is one of those spots of virgin soil in the economic world such as exist in very few places on the earth to-day. Guam, in fact, seems to be at the antipodes in more than the geographical sense. The political economists used to conjecture a remote island, cut off from the network of a highly complex civilization, its stresses and strains, and imagine what the inhabitants would do and what sort of a development would take place there. Lieutenant Safford leads us to believe that if they are quick about it they can see in Guam something like an actual realization of this iridescent dream.

In his simple but startling phrase, everybody in Guam is rich. Everybody owns land, and everybody gets a good living from it by cultivating it. Nobody wants to work for anybody else, because he has all he can do working for himself. There are no "captains of industry" and no walking delegates; no iniquitous trusts and no labor unions. There are, therefore, apparently no strikes and no lockouts—no "labor problem" at all, in the sinister sense in which we hear of it sometimes nearer home. There is no conflict between capital and labor, because every man is at once his own capitalist and his only hired man. If anybody thought of a conflict he could be much more easily convinced of the common interests of capital and labor than some of his contemporaries in this part of the world. No one set of farmers finds it necessary or desirable to crush any other set—they do not even compete with each other, and hence, as there is no concentration of executive function or saving of superfluous salaries, it may be feared that there is little of that economy of operation that enables the payment of big dividends and the consequent diffusion of prosperity. It may also be doubted whether there is any just conception of the right of "labor" to manage other people's business, to prevent other fellows from earning a living when it chooses not to, and to show sympathy with the oppressed by putting all the rest of the community to loss, discomfort and danger.

It is only just now that these people in Guam have had any taxes to speak of; having discovered that taxes are for the benefit of the community (in Guam), they actually approve of them! Nobody wants any money; they have little more use for it than Robinson Crusoe had, for there is no "effective demand" for what people do not raise themselves. "You have to beg people to sell you things," as Lieutenant Safford puts it; and it is difficult at that, for, apart from tobacco, they can only exchange their products for something else they do not want. We are glad to hear about that tobacco, for it brings us a little nearer to real civilization again.

The economist will be relieved, however, to learn also that these people do have some of the properties of civilized man. There are some who have tried to encroach upon the land of their neighbors, and have had to be restrained therefrom by the strong hand of the law. Also we hear of some who, being forced into office against their will, and receiving no salary, have been "subject to the temptation of accepting bribes to keep body and soul together." We are not informed whether or not they yielded, but it is, after all, a satisfaction to know that Guam is really on this earth. The lack of all the smoothly running machinery of modern civilization is, of course, a terrible handicap to true progress in this island. It will doubtless be speedily supplied. But in the mean time Guam is a most interesting place for the economists to study, only we advise them to lose no time about it.

BETRAYING THE RED CROSS.

It would be difficult to express too strongly the abhorrence and detestation which all right minded men must feel toward the conduct of the so-called Chicago Ambulance Corps which went out to South Africa under cover of the Red Cross, and, immediately upon arrival, cast off that benevolent guise and entered the army as full fledged combatants. There was incredulity at the first rumor of such treachery and an unwillingness to credit later reports. At last, however, the story seems to be officially confirmed, and we are driven to the acknowledgment that, by men calling themselves American citizens, the honor and sanctity of the Red Cross have for the first time been extensively and premeditatedly violated. That is infamy for the men who have done the thing. It is a shame to the Nation under whose flag the thing was planned. It will be fortunate, indeed, if it does not prove to be a calamity to humanity.

The Red Cross system ever since its institution has been one of the most noble of charities and one of the most efficient means of mitigating the cruelties of war. The Red Cross has come to be recognized the world around as a badge of neutral benevolence, as immune from assault as the white flag of truce, and marking its wearer with something akin to sanctity. These men have used it as a mask, a disguise of trickery. They have made it possible hereafter to doubt the sincerity of those who wear it.

That is the measure of their iniquity. It does not matter much that they add a certain fighting strength to one side or the other in this unhappy war. Nor is the shame they have brought upon the United States the most serious matter; for it is not to be questioned that this Government acted in entire good faith in letting them depart. It could not know that they were lying and perjuring themselves when they pledged themselves to the Red Cross service. But upon the Red Cross service the blow, most undeserved, falls with its full weight. It will be a grateful task for honest men to vindicate that noble organization from the reproach which these traitors have cast upon it.

The arresting and disarming of the Croton River strikers must be regarded as wise and just. The carrying of concealed deadly weapons is forbidden by law, and there is no reason why that law should not be enforced upon striking workmen as well as upon any one else.

Sweden joins the militant procession of the Powers by voting increased supplies for new rifles, cannon and ammunition, for the organization of additional volunteer corps, and for enlargement of the navy. It is not clear whether such increase of strength is meant to meet the aggressions of her hereditary foe, Russia, or to deal with the antagonism of her side partner, Norway. Sweden has not figured much in wars for some generations. But she once produced some of the best fighting stock of the world, and there is no reason to suppose that she has lost her vitality. With the pent up hatreds and accumulated wrongs of two centuries let loose, she might make a brave showing against even that colossal Eastern neighbor and foe which has made the spoliation of Finland the first step in a march to Stockholm.

Judging from the tone of some of the speeches at the Brooklyn Democratic Club dinner, what troubles the Democratic campaigners most is the prosperity of the country under Republican rule. They must get rid of this inconvenient prosperity and bring on hard times, or else their stock in trade is gone.

"Better security than Bardolph's" is required to give credit to Laureate Austin's declaration that the Irish are not a poetic people. The opinion of the world has long been to the contrary, and that their prosaic qualities are in a general way insufficient to make ends meet and accounts balance. Not poetic, forsooth! The land blossoms with song abounding as its shamrock, as it has done since the days of St. Patrick; some better and some worse, but all of the most conscientious lyrical intention. It is now in order for Ireland to declare that Sir Alfred is not poetic, a point of view deficient in novelty, but better sustained than the depreciatory dictum to which it would be a rejoinder.

Lord Roberts's criticisms of the Spion Kop affair and Sir Redvers Buller's "Christmas at Pretoria" talk would make a particularly interesting "deadly parallel."

If there is any essential difference between the offence of shooting one's adversary under cover of the white flag and that of getting in a position to shoot him under cover of the Red Cross, it is not apparent to ordinary intelligence. Many simple minded persons would say that the one crime called for a drumhead court martial and an unostentatious execution as distinctly as the other.

In considering the question of the smoke evil in New-York Harbor, the testimony of one navigator that he has found the smoke a menace to safe passage seems to the average layman more convincing than that of several that they have never been bothered by it.

The Cuban elections are set for June 16. That will be a Saturday, thus denoting a departure from the former rule of Sunday elections. The change is in accordance with United States ideas, and it is to be hoped the general conduct of the elections will similarly be well up to the United States standard. It will be the first opportunity of the Cuban people to show their fitness for some degree of local self-government, and every well wisher of the island must hope that it will be improved.

PERSONAL.

The Governor of the British Gold Coast Colony, who is reported to be in such imminent danger from attack by the native Ashantees, is Sir Frederick Mitchell Hodgson. He was born in 1850, and entered the British Postoffice service in 1869. In 1882 he became Postmaster-General of British Guiana, a post which he exchanged for the Colonial Secretaryship of the Gold Coast in 1888. In 1892 he raised a force of Gold Coast volunteers, which he commanded as major. Having administered the colony in the absence of the Governor on several occasions, he was appointed to succeed Sir W. E. Maxwell on March 22, 1898.

The Rev. Charles M. Sheldon says that he sees in Topeka an ideal city, and hopes that his schemes for social regeneration will be realized there.

The late Senator Phletus Sawyer, of Wisconsin, according to the Washington correspondent of "The Chicago Record," seldom wrote a letter, because he was sensitive about his weakness in spelling, and dictated nearly everything to a stenographer. But he had a marvellous eye and memory for figures. When he was chairman of the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives and made up the River and Harbor bill, he could tell to a copper the appropriations that had been made each year for any number of years for any public improvement in that line. His memory was as accurate as the books of the Treasury.

The late Dr James Martineau left an estate valued at about $14,000. He bequeathed his manuscripts, lectures, sermons, prayers and notes of lectures or of private study, and his letters and private papers, to his daughters, Mary Ellen, Gertrude and Edith, and the will, made when the testator was nearly ninety-four years old, continues: "In case of my death before I have brought my half executed literary designs nearer to completion and without having left my express instructions with regard to them, I here record my judgment that no set of my college lectures need be read, as possibly meriting publication, except the course on 'The Grounds and Truths of Religion' and (more doubtfully) 'The Manual of Logical Psychology.' If I should leave it less of a fragment than it is at present. By this judgment I do not wish to fetter, but only to help, the discretion of my daughters; they are free to deal as they may think best with what I leave behind me, but I would recommend them not to publish any of my lectures on philosophical subjects without the approval previously obtained of the Rev. Charles Barnes Upton."

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A committee of the Anglo-Saxon Union is making earnest efforts to stimulate the interest of Great Britain in Canadian news. Moberly Bell, of "The London Times," in a recent letter to the Toronto branch of the union, suggested that if it desired that English newspaper readers should be better informed as to Canada it should persuade one of the cable companies to grant the use of a wire for one hour each night for £2,000 a year, "so that," wrote Mr. Bell, "we should have on the breakfast table each morning a column of news from Anglo-Saxonism beyond the sea."

It is not generally known that a great deal of the paper money that is constantly circulating about gets frequent washings in the same way as the housewife or maid goes at the dirty clothes on a Monday morning. In some banks there is a regular washday every month, usually at the beginning, when a clerk may be seen bent over a tub and rubbing real money up and down a washboard. The dirty greenbacks that have been saved up for a month are soaped and rubbed just like handkerchiefs and socks, and are run through a wringer before being put out to dry. The paper currency may be handled somewhat roughly, as it does not tear, because there is in it a great deal of silk and linen. After the notes have been passed through the wringer they are hung on a line stretched in the bank clerks' department. Said one clerk the other day: "I wash about a hundred notes every month, and when I'm done you can hardly tell them from new money. The washing strengthens as well as cleans the notes."—(Philadelphia Record.

It is said that the little city of Orea, in Sweden, owns and operates a nursery that brings it an annual income of $150,000, a sum that pays all the expenses of the municipality, including free schools for the children and a free telephone system for the people.

"See how I can count, mamma," said Kitty. "There's my right foot. That's one. There's my left foot. That's two. Two and one make three. Three feet make a yard, and I want to go out and play in it!"—(Chicago Tribune.

Some discussion has arisen in London as to the proper way of pronouncing the historic Huguenot name, Bosanquet. At a recent meeting of lawyers a slip was passed around for suggestions. One clever little man wrote at once:

Take a B, two O's and K,
Sealed—you have your Bosanquet.

Another, a sporting man, wrote:

Lively only at a banquet,
Is the barrister Bosanquet.

Sir Frank Lockwood, who had a turn at the sheet, wrote:

You will get no hanky-panky
From the barrister Bosanquet.

The bearer of the name must be in a good deal of doubt how to call himself.

To-day I was arrested for beating my wife.

"Who is that person?" I asked, as the police dragged me from my house, indicating as I spoke a man in manacles sitting in the patrol wagon.

The police hastened to explain that he was the secretary of a trust they had just raided.

"Then I will walk to the station!" said I, with quiet dignity.

I am still confident that the trust problem can be solved by a rigid adherence to the policy of social ostracism.—(Detroit Journal.

A woman who had ignored a subpœna to appear as a witness in a case recently tried in Westmoreland, Kan., was brought before the court by the Sheriff to answer for contempt.

"What reason, madam," said the Judge, severely, "have you for not obeying the summons of the Court?"

"I hain't got none, Mr. Judge," she replied, "only we have smallpox down at our house, an' I thought you might be kinder sorter prejudiced ag'in it."

Court was instantly adjourned, and the Judge, Sheriff and onlookers stampeded for the outside.

"Goodnight, dearest," he murmured, as he prepared to go forth into the darkness just as the cuckoo clock chirped 12:15.

"Better stick to facts and make it good morning, young man," said a gruff voice from the top of the stairs.—(Chicago News.

THE CHI PSI CONVENTION.

MEMBERS TO HAVE A DINNER TO-NIGHT, AT WHICH CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER AND EX-SPEAKER REED ARE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT.

The annual convention of the Chi Psi fraternity was continued yesterday at the Holland House, a variety of business being transacted. Last night the delegates were entertained at dinner at the Café Boulevard by H. L. Twitchel, secretary of the New-York Alumni Association. The convention will continue until to-night. There will be a joint dinner of the delegates and the Alumni Association at the Holland House. Among the prominent Chi Psi men expected to be present are Chief Justice Fuller, ex-Speaker Reed, Commodore Gerry and Justice Francis M. Scott.

MR. GOULD WINS SHIRTWAIST SUIT.

ANSWER SERVED IN ANOTHER ACTION FOR CLOTHING BILLS.

Mrs. Howard Gould, who was sued in a municipal court by Mme. Mirabella for $85 for a silk waist, won her case yesterday, Justice Steiner deciding that she need not pay the bill. He assessed $10 costs on the plaintiff. Mrs. Gould declined to pay for the garment on the ground that it did not fit.

Mr. Hummel, Mrs. Gould's lawyer, intimated yesterday that the costs of the action, when collected for Mrs. Gould, would be given to the poor.

A. H. Hummel yesterday served Mrs. Howard Gould's answer to the suit of Mrs. Marietta Smith and Henrietta Dillon, who seek to recover $1,935 for wearing apparel furnished to Mrs. Gould. Mr. Hummel, in his defence, alleges that his client does not owe the plaintiffs a cent, having paid them $1,010, which is more than the plaintiffs are entitled to. Mrs. Gould's reasons for not paying the bill are set forth in the answer in detail, and in the case of an imported muslin painted tea gown, for which a bill of $350 was rendered, Mrs. Gould avers that she did not order the garment at all.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

The pupils of the Stanhope-Wheatcroft Dramatic School gave their last matinee for the season at the Madison Square Theatre yesterday. They presented an act from "Hamlet" and three one-act plays.

The seventh regular service of the Actors' Church Alliance will be held at All Souls' Episcopal Church, at Madison-ave. and Sixty-sixth-st., on Sunday at 11 a. m. The Rev. Dr. R. Heber Newton, the rector of the church, will make an address of welcome, and there will be a sermon by the Rev. Walter E. Bentley, who was formerly an actor, on "The Church's Message to the Theatre of To-day."

The Rudolph Aronson Opera Company has been incorporated at Albany for the purpose of exploiting the light operas which Mr. Aronson has been buying in Europe in the last few weeks. The company will probably produce certain works itself and dispose of others to other managers, and it may also attempt to place American works on the European stage.

To-morrow night is Miss Mary Mannering's farewell night at Daly's, as it ends her three years' contract with Daniel Frohman. As a compliment to Miss Mannering "Trelawny of the Wells" will be performed and she will appear for the last time at Rose Trelawny, taking her leave not only in the play from her associates of the Bagnigge Wells Theatre, but also from her companions at Daly's.

PEOPLE SCATTERED IN PORTO RICO.

From The San Juan News, Porto Rico, April 8.

Charles E. Buell, who was secretary of the United States Special Commission, has written a letter to The New-York Tribune in which he points out the need in Porto Rico of village communities. His views are well worth considering.

Mr. Buell says that only 19 per cent of the total population of Porto Rico live in towns; the remainder, 81 per cent, live dispersed in the country, not in villages even, but singly. "This scattered state of the people makes it difficult to spread the educational system. The children cannot be sent to school, because they have long distances to go. Thus, so long as the present conditions prevail the extension of public instruction seems impossible. The solution is to group the country people in villages.

THE PASSING THRONG.

THE TALE OF A LIFE'S WORK.

Robert Corning, of Buffalo, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, yesterday said: "I ran across an old school friend on the rain yesterday whom I had lost sight of for years, and the talk naturally drifted on what we had both been doing since our happy salad days. My tale was soon told, and while not devoid of certain successful features was of a cut and dried character, but when he came to unfold the story of his life it really sounded like a fairy tale. After leaving school, which he did before completing the full course, Benedict returned home and entered the bank, which was a sort of family institution, becoming its cashier, and upon the death of his father practically the sole manager and director. To him in the course of his regular business came a man who desired to build in the little country village a pearl button factory. The security offered for the loan was sufficient, the business proposition a good one, and so money was advanced to the pearl button manufactor, and as the trade increased the obligation to be bank increased as well. But one fine day the manufacturer failed, and Benedict and his uncle tok over the business, as they felt that the bank should not be held responsible. For two or three years after that the factory was conducted on a paying basis, until some genius made the discovery that the hitherto useless shells of the Mississippi River mussels or clams could be made into pearl buttons and sold at a much cheaper rate than the button then on the market. Dozens of factories started up on the banks of the Mississippi, and, presto! the bottom fell out of the pearl button business in other parts of the country.

A FORTUNE IN A DREAM.

"There were my friend and his uncle with a pearl button factory on their hands, with the business completely ruined. So they cast about them for something else to manufacture in the former button factory. The more they looked about the les likely it seemed that they would find what they were looking for, when one morning Benedict woke rom a sound sleep in which he had dreamed of a carpet stretcher and tacker that could be manipuated standing up. So vivid was his dream that in that instant between waking and sleeping that pattakes of both, he now swears, he saw the stretche actually before him in operation on his bedroom carpet. Being devoid of any knowledge of mechanics, he sent for one of his workmen, described what he wanted and told him to see what he could o. The model turned out worked to perfection, and Benedict took it to Washington and patented it. He then, somewhat in fear as to the result, stared in to manufacture the carpet stretchers. He bught the material for his first thousand at thirty days, the goods were completed in fifteen days, and and paid for in the next ten, and the money was in hand to meet the thirty day order, so that no a cent was actually advanced in cash for the new venture. To-day they are being turned out at the rate of four thousand a day and are selling like wildfire, while Benedict is drawing a double income from the invention. First, he gets a royalty on every one manufactured, and, besides his, he receives dividends from the stock he owns in the factory. He accounts for it by the fact that he was worrying night and day over what s put in that blessed factory, but it reaches further than that to my mind, and I think telepathy must have entered into it. The story is absolutely true in every detail."

PROSPERITY IN THE NORTHWEST.

M. O. Hersey, of Boston, who has just returned from a business trip through the Northwest, was at the Hote Manhattan yesterday. He said: Everywhere I found conditions in all branches of trade to be of th best. There seemed to be emplyment for every one and a consequent contentmnt with life, which I should think would be a chching political argument in favor of the Republican nominee in the coming campaign. Just a wek ago to-day I was in Oshkosh, Wis., and no les than forty inches of snow lay upon the ground while raw, disagreeable, windy and intensely cld winter weather prevailed. In Chicago, too, I found five inches of snow, and cold weather, wile here in New-York, just one week later, it is alost like summer, and for me, at least, I assure you, the contrast is almost too great."

VALUE OF VANDERBILT ESTATE.

AN EXPLANATION OF SEEMING SHRINKAGE.

Some surprise was expressd yesterday when it became generally known tha the appraised value of the estate of Cornelius Vanderbilt amounted to about $60,000,000. Chauncey M Depew at the time of Mr. Vanderbilt's death eimated it at about $70,000,000. The inheritance tax mounts to $320,272.48, which has been paid and receipd for by Controller Coler. This does not include he transfer tax on the $5,000,000 trust fund left b. W. H. Vanderbilt to Cornelius Vanderbilt, with the power of appointment. Neither H. B. Anderson or E. V. W. Rossiter would comment upon he matter yesterday, and Chauncey M. Depew, te other executor, is in Washington. It may be sai, however, in explanation of the apparent shrinkge of the estate, as was pointed out by The Tribune at the time of Mr. Vanderbilt's death, that for sme months previous to his decease he knew tha he could never be active again, and that death was a matter of only a few months, and bestowed a large portion of his estate where he intended it shoul go. This left the property to be disposed of uner the will considerably lessened, and explains the apparent shortness.

Henry B. Anderson, who drew up and offered for probate Cornelius Vanderbilt's will, when seen yesterday by a Tribune reporter said that any question as to the low appraisement o the estate for taxable purposes did not concern him. He explained that the only person wo could speak with any authority upon the divsion of the estate or matters connected with its taxation was E. V. W. Rossiter.

WILL OF EX-SENATOR SAWYER.

Oshkosh, Wis., April 19.—The wil of the late United States Senator Philetus Sawyr was filed for probate this afternoon. The estate is estimated to be worth over $3,000,000, and all goe to the family with the exception of $10,000 left to the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Oshkosh.

DINNER OF THE OLD GUARD.

The Old Guard will hold its anniversary dinner at its armory, Broadway and Fory-ninth-st., tomorrow evening. Major S. Ellis Briggs will preside, and the following officers, elected on March 21, will be installed: Major, S. Ellis Briggs; adjutant, Robert P. Lyon; treasurer, James F. Wenman. Company A—John D. Quiney, captain; Frank H. Clement, first lieutenant, and Edward E. Blohm, second lieutenant. Company B—Belden J. Rogers, captain; W. H Sealch, first lieutenant, and S