WASHINGTON NEWS NOTES.

Washington, December 31.

SENATOR VEST'S LITTLE FABLE.—Senator Vest is not discussing for publication any of the various propositions advanced for the reorganization of the Democratic party, though it is known that the eminent Missourian has his own ideas as to what is needed. A story he told the other day probably illustrates his understanding of the cause of his party's demoralization and may point to his remedy. It was immediately after the final vote had been taken on the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. There was no harmony of action among the Democrats and their allies in the Senate on this convention. Some of them had voted outright with the Republicans. "Culberson," said Senator Vest to his bright young colleague from Texas, "the Democratic party at present is in the condition of old Parson Shaw's pack of fox hounds. When I was a boy in Kentucky the Parson was the greatest fox hunter in the State. In his love of the chase and the aggravation of soul caused by the hounds, he sometimes forgot his piety. On the advice of a neighbor he once introduced a new strain into his pack of hounds—crossed the breed, as dog fanciers call it—in the hope of benefiting them. Instead of having the desired effect, crossing the breed only made Parson Shaw's hounds all the more trifling and good for nothing. For a year or more after the breed was crossed and the new stock was matured, the Parson was unable to have any enjoyment at his favorite sport. Complainingly he explained the cause to his superserviceable neighbor. 'This new breed of hounds looks finer than the old breed,' said Parson Shaw to his neighbor, 'but their superiority is confined wholly to their looks. I have not been able to get any work out of the pack since I crossed them, on your advice. The reason is that the pups go at a Gilpin gait for about a hundred yards, when they strike the trail, and then sit down across it to recuperate the strength they exhaust in the tremendous noise they make, and the blankety blank old dogs, humiliated by the capers and noise of the pups, won't run at all. I have concluded to do no more fox hunting until through nature's processes the pack is bred back to the original breed.'"

DISPUTING THE RIGHT TO EXECUTE.—Through Justice Brown the Supreme Court of the United States has enunciated the principle that when the law declares that a man shall be hanged by the neck until he is dead, execution of sentence shall not be averted by haggling and quibbling over who shall hang him. This decision was based on a case from the State of Idaho. A certain citizen of that State, named "Diamond Field Jack," was convicted four years ago of murder and sentenced to be hanged. Soon after sentence was passed upon him the Legislature amended the Penal Code of the State to the extent of taking out of the hands of the county Sheriffs the duty and oftimes the pleasure of hanging condemned men, and giving to the Warden of the State Penitentiary a monopoly of this business. Forthwith a dispute arose between the Sheriff and the Warden for the pleasure of hanging "Diamond Field Jack." His lawyers seized upon the opportunity to save his neck, and for four years the courts all along the line from Idaho to the majestic judicial tribunal in Washington have had to deal with this problem, to wit: The sentence of the trial court was that the Sheriff of Shoshone County should hang "Diamond Field Jack" by the neck until he was dead, "and may God have mercy on his soul." The new law of Idaho distinctly directed that every person sentenced to be hanged should be conveyed to the State Penitentiary and turned over to the Warden of that institution for execution. The Sheriff stubbornly insisted upon his privilege under the old law, under which "Diamond Field Jack" was convicted, and the Warden as stubbornly insisted upon the full enjoyment of his monopoly of the hanging business under the new law. Pending this dispute "Diamond Field Jack" has been living well for four years at the expense of the taxpayers of Shoshone County. In moving the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States Justice Brown observes that as it makes no difference to the law as to which official executes the mandate of the trial court it should make no difference to "Diamond Field Jack" whether he is hanged by the Sheriff or the Warden, and therefore the sentence of the Court below is confirmed and the warring Idaho officials are advised to compose their differences and settle among themselves as to who shall hang "Diamond Field Jack." At last accounts "Diamond Field Jack" was still alive, though the Sheriff and the Warden were trying to get together on his case.

INDIAN EDUCATION AND PROGRESS.—The poor Indian is making good progress in learning the ways of the paleface, according to Miss Estelle Reel, General Superintendent of Indian Schools, though, according to the same high authority, there are some things which he must learn before he can be considered wholly civilized. In the twenty-six months Miss Reel has been in office she has spent over seventeen months in the field. Her plan of action has been to visit the Indian in camp and school, observing the peculiarities of the different tribes and endeavoring to devise plans that will work the greatest good to the greatest number and make them self-supporting. She emphasizes overshadowing importance of industrial training for both boys and girls. The boys, she says, should be taught stock raising and farming and acquire a sufficient knowledge of tools to enable them to mend their farm implements and shoe their horses, and the girls should be trained in the art of practical housekeeping. "The problem now before us," declares Miss Reel, "is the selection of the best method for transforming the Indian from a consumer to a producer. He must be brought to the point where he will have respect for the dignity of labor, and where he will have the ambition to support his family and not look to the Government for help." Miss Reel is an advocate of what she calls "the outing system," which might be a short cut to the solution of the problem by leading to a kind of process of amalgamation. She explains that "the outing system" originated with Major Pratt, the Army officer who has charge of the Indian School at Carlisle, Penn. It consists of putting Indian children in good white homes, where they will be treated as members of the family and paid a small wage for their services. Miss Reel does not say so, but it is obvious that this system, if generally applied, would eventuate in the disappearance of the Indian race through intermarriage with the whites.

DESERVING NATIONAL PENSIONERS.—New-York friends of Major-General Henry W. Lawton are complaining that the bill to give his widow a pension of $100 a month has been amended in the Senate to the extent of cutting the amount down to $50 a month. The principle which apparently has governed the Senate in thus cutting down the amount is that the widows of all Army officers killed in the line of duty should receive a uniform pension. The amount seems to have been fixed at $50 a month by the bill passed at the last session giving this pension to the widow of Colonel Stotsenburg, whose husband was killed while leading the Nebraska regiment in battle at the outbreak of the insurrection in the Philippines. Colonel Stotsenburg's rank in the Regular Army was that of first lieutenant. The friends of Colonel Liscum, who was nearing the age of retirement when he was killed in the gallant charge of the 9th Infantry at Tien-Tsin, China, are going to make an effort to get his widow a pension commensurate with her requirements. Aside from the long and honorable service of her husband, Mrs. Liscum has won on her own account special consideration. Returning soldiers from the Philippines—officers as well as enlisted men—unite in declaring that Mrs. Liscum for nearly two years was veritably a ministering angel to the sick and wounded in the hospitals around Manila. She and Mrs. Lawton were the leaders in this work, and labored with a love and devotion to the cause that cooled many a fevered brow in the far off Philippines, and soothed many an aching mother's heart in America by letters written home about the condition or the brave deeds of "the boys."

As far as known no application has yet been made for a pension for Mrs. Liscum, but when it is made it will be backed by an influence seldom arrayed in such a cause.

THE TURN IN WEBSTER DAVIS'S FORTUNES.—Reports which reach Washington from the West indicate that the somewhat fickle and emotional Webster Davis not only has found congenial environment in the Popocratic camp, but that a great wave of prosperity has engulfed him since he foresswore allegiance to the Republican party and espoused Bryanism because the English army was permitted by this Government to overrun Oom Paul Kruger's country. Mr. Davis was Assistant Secretary of the Interior, as well as a Republican, until he visited South Africa. Now he is not only a Popocrat of high degree, but is also rapidly approaching the state of that most hateful of all objects to Popocracy, to wit, a Plutocrat with a big "P." He is putting up with his own money block after block of expensive buildings in Kansas City. His sudden flight to affluence, even better than his experience in statesmanship, shows the opportunities open to "young Absaloms" in America, provided, of course, every "young Absalom" has the emotional temperament, the silver tongue and the frugal habits of the Hon. Webster Davis.

TO DISCUSS MUNICIPAL MISRULE.—The City Club will give a dinner next Friday night, at which the general topic of discussion will be "The Cause of Our Present Municipal Misrule." The speakers will be Bishop Potter, Mark Twain, James C. Carter, W. H. Baldwin, jr., and President King of the Merchants' Association. Among those who have been invited to be present are Abraham S. Hewitt, W. Bourke Cockran, Alexander E. Orr, St. Clair McKelway, Charles Sprague Smith, Robert C. Morris and Joel B. Erhardt.

ARMY AND NAVY NOTES.

Washington, December 31.

THE SURVEY WAR.—The bitter fight conducted by Chairman Cannon of the Appropriations Committee in behalf of the Coast Survey against the Naval Hydrographic Office at the last session of Congress, which came near defeating the Naval Appropriation bill, but which happily ended with a complete victory for the Navy, may not be fought over again this year, as Mr. Cannon then threatened, for two good reasons, the least of which is Mr. Cannon's absorbing candidacy for Senator Cullom's seat, and the other involving certain trump cards which the Navy is ready to play if the controversy is reopened. One of these cards is a comparison between the enormous amount of deep water and insular survey accomplished by the Navy in the last year, at insignificant cost, against the insignificant but expensive product of the Coast Survey. Another is the following modus vivendi, concluded by Rear-Admiral Bradford, of the Navy; Brigadier-General Wilson, of the Army Engineers, and Superintendent Tittman, of the Coast Survey, as a result of orders from the President, after several stubborn conferences:

In conference, the officers detailed from the Treasury, War and Navy departments suggest that, in view of the limited time given them for discussion and of the enormous work now before both legislative bodies, it is deemed best that the wording of the provision for ocean and lake surveys as given in Public Act 195, approved June 7, 1900, shall be continued this session, and that the officers shall resume their conference in the summer and autumn in the hope that a conclusion may be reached before the next annual reports are submitted, which will be entirely satisfactory to all branches of the Government, and which will be for the best interests of the great work under consideration.

R. B. BRADFORD,
JOHN M. WILSON,
O. H. TITTMAN.

Washington, December 15, 1900.

The act referred to is the last Naval Appropriation act, and its words were: "Ocean and lake survey; for hydrographic surveys, $100,000." A third card consists of an official report to the Navy Department from Commander A. W. Beehler, the United States Naval Attache at Berlin, unmasking an industrious secret agent of one branch of the Government at war with another, and disclosing an unenviable plot to take from the Navy certain technical work that it has efficiently performed for a hundred years, and give it to a civil bureau, which is conspicuous chiefly for its fine patronage pickings and elastic payrolls. This report is as follows:

I respectfully report that Charles Colt Yates, of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, called to see me yesterday, and asked for information concerning the hydrographic work of the German navy. He had, through the State Department, obtained authority through the United States Ambassador to visit the nautical department of the German navy and the Seewarte in Hamburg. He intended to visit the Hydrographic Office here to-day. I informed him that I had collected data, and that I had requested additional information on the subject from the German navy department, and that he would find that on file in the Navy Department in Washington upon his return; that it was hardly necessary to duplicate the work. He at first said that he was travelling at his own expense for his own information, and upon further questions he admitted that he was travelling under orders of the Coast Survey to collect data about hydrographic work.

ARMY BUYS A TRANSPORT.—The Quartermaster-General of the Army has just closed a deal whereby the Army Transport Service acquires possession of the steamship Samoa, a vessel of 10,000 tons register. This will be the largest transport owned by the Government. She will be renamed, according to the custom of the War Department, after some prominent dead Army officer. The vessel is now on the way to Hong-Kong, and will be delivered to the United States upon her arrival there. It is the intention of the War Department, if possible, to have the vessel fitted up at Hong-Kong with accommodations to bring home a load of volunteers from the Philippines. After her arrival at San Francisco she will be fitted up for use as combination freight and animal ship.

ARMY SAUERKRAUT.—A large quantity of sauerkraut will be purchased for the Army in the Philippines. Bids were received by Major W. L. Alexander, purchasing commissary officer of the Department of the Lakes, on December 29, for supplying troops stationed in and about Manila with 20,000 gallons of sauerkraut, and it will be shipped from Chicago early in January. With it will be sent 150,000 two pound cans of roast beef, 60,043 pounds of bacon and 62,500 pounds of ham.

NAVAL OFFICERS ON SHORE DUTY.—Rear-Admiral Crowninshield has sent the House Naval Committee the following statement showing the duties of officers on shore and at sea in support of the plan to increase the number of cadets at the Naval Academy:

Officers.	On shore.	At sea.
Rear-admirals	13	5
Captains	46	16
Commanders	65	30
Lieutenant-commanders	92	74
Lieutenants	111	182
Lieutenants (junior grade)	36	68
Ensigns	2	108
Cadets	—	111

Of the captains and commanders on shore nineteen are engineer officers, who are not required to go to sea, and several others are under orders to command vessels approaching completion. In calling attention to the sea and shore duty of the lower grades in the table the Rear-Admiral gives in a few words one of the most potent reasons for the superiority of the American naval officer. He says:

It will be seen that of a total of 618 (ten sick in addition) 469 are performing sea duty. In other words, 76 per cent (nearly) of this class of officers in which the Bureau requests an increase are now performing duty at sea. The 149 officers of these lower grades who are performing duty on shore are absolutely necessary in positions at the Naval Academy, in the administrative and technical bureaus of the Navy Department, in the construction and inspection of work at navy yards, the technical inspection of material being used or constructed at private yards, and in the manifold duties of a naval officer ashore. Close acquaintance with all the details of construction and administration has been the characteristic of the American naval officer for years, and to such close acquaintance may be largely attributed the high standard of perfection which we have reached in all naval matters. In this respect our system differs from that of many foreign governments, where the naval officer aboard ship is unacquainted with the manufacture of the weapons that he uses and where the construction branches on shore are unacquainted with the necessities of the seagoing branches.

ARMY OFFICERS OF TWO WARS.—The effort of the Senate to incorporate in the pending Army bill a clause giving to Army officers who served in the Civil War as well as in the Spanish war the right already enjoyed by naval officers to retire in the next higher grade is likely to succeed unless the bill fails altogether. Adjutant-General Corbin has completed a list of the Regular Army officers who will be benefited by this equalizing of the law for the two services. The number of officers in the respective grades who saw duty nearly forty years ago and are still on the active list is as follows: Colonels, staff, 34; colonels, line, 39; lieutenant-colonels, staff, 31; lieutenant-colonels, line, 42; majors, staff, 30; majors, line, 58; captains, staff, 1; captains, line, 27; chaplains, 6; total, 268.

CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS TO THE ACADEMIES.—The members of Congress who will serve on the Boards of Visitors to the Military Academy and Naval Academy have been named by the Speaker of the House. Those who will serve on the West Point Board are: Mahon, of Pennsylvania; Landis, of Indiana, and Hay, of Virginia. Of these Representatives Mr. Hay is the only one serving on the Committee on Military Affairs. The Board of Visitors to Annapolis will include Representatives Pearre, of Maryland; Loud, of California, and Myer, of Louisiana. The latter is the only member of the Board who is also a member of the House Naval Committee.

ASKS COURT TO VACATE ITS ORDER.

NEW-YORK MAN OBJECTS TO BEING WITNESS BEFORE TRIAL IN CHICAGO RAILWAY SUIT.

Newburg D. Lawton, through his counsel, W. Benton Crisp, yesterday applied to Justice Blanchard, in the Supreme Court, for an order vacating an order made by the Court directing the examination of Mr. Lawton as a witness before trial in an action brought by John H. Witbeck against the Chicago General Railway Company and other defendants for the recovery of $121,072, which the plaintiff alleges he lent the defendants, and the return of certain securities which he was to receive as collateral for his loan. The suits had been brought in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Ill., and Mr. Lawton is in this State.

Mr. Witbeck set forth that in January, 1900, he lent the $121,072 on a distinct agreement that certain securities were to be given to him. Some of the securities, he alleges, were delivered to a third person, but the agreement was broken on January 29 last by a majority of the Board of Directors of the defendant company. Among the directors named are C. L. Bonny and L. C. Bonny. Mr. Lawton is also named as concerned in the alleged violation of the agreement. The plaintiff alleges fraud. The allegations are denied by the defendants named and the officials of the Chicago General Railway Company. Justice Blanchard reserved his decision.

To Be Sure
See The Tribune Almanac, 1901.

MANY ANNUAL REPORTS.

HEADS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS TELL OF THE WORK DONE IN 1900.

Albany, Dec. 31.—Theodore P. Gilman, who upon the death of State Controller William J. Morgan was appointed as his successor, and who prior to that time was the deputy, retires from office today to take up under Controller-elect Knight the place of deputy. As deputy he was designated to represent the Controller in visiting the charitable institutions, to obtain the data upon which the classification of salaries should be made under the act of 1899. He personally visited each of the thirteen charitable institutions, and made examinations of the duties of all the employes, forming the basis for a schedule of salaries subsequently accepted by the Governor. It goes into force to-morrow.

In balancing the accounts of the State in the Controller's Department for the fiscal year ended Sepember 30, 1900, the receipts and expenditures for the year, briefly stated, are as follows:

The balance in the Treasury of all funds of the State on October 1, 1899, was $4,504,814 74; receipts from all sources during the fiscal year were $32,006,883 51, making a total of $36,511,698 25. The payments for all purposes during the year were $29,221,895 79, leaving a balance in the Treasury September 30, 1900, of $7,289,802 55, which balance was distributed as follows:

Canal fund	$1,190,632 36
School fund	440,370 07
General fund	5,280,134 63
Trust and miscellaneous funds	378,665 49

The tax rate established by the Legislature of 1900 was the lowest, with one exception, in over forty years, being only 1.96 mills on the dollar. The appropriations made by the last Legislature amounted to $23,926,377 84, divided as follows:

General fund	$12,004,862 57
Canal	2,228,436 72
Schools	4,158,166 66
Insane	5,544,891 89

During the year the receipts from indirect sources have been as follows:

Tax on corporations	$2,624,508 05
Organization tax	356,778 61
Tax on transfers	4,334,803 27
Non-resident taxes	74,742 98
Sale of public lands	35,542 30
Fees of public officers	91,253 93
License fees for sale of liquors	4,235,870 25
Notaries' fees	51,858 50
Niagara State Reservation	8,223 87
State prisons	10,664 86
Public administrators	3,831 53
Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva	14,448 20
Banking Department, for expenses	89,084 81
Insurance Department, for expenses	283,518 10
Railroad Commission, for expenses	79,214 58
United States, for Soldiers and Sailors' Home	151,031 64
Pool tax	95,445 62
State Racing Commission	4,024 50
State institutions, sales, etc	395,436 87
Fines under dairy law	27,631 59
License fees for detectives	1,550 00
Interest on Treasury deposits	32,910 40
Miscellaneous	10,725 65
Making a total of	$13,013,100 06

The receipts from indirect sources were about $2,800,000 in excess of the amount received the previous year, which excess is quite largely accounted for by a single payment, on account of the transfer tax. The receipts reported by the transfer tax bureau of the Department were the largest since the passage of the first Inheritance Tax law, and the receipts in the Corporation Tax Bureau also reached the high water mark.

GRATIFYING SHOWING OF CHARITIES BUREAU.

The Charities Bureau shows a gratifying decrease in the per capita cost of the maintenance of the inmates of the thirteen charitable institutions reporting to the State Controller. The statistics of the last three fiscal years in this respect show the following conditions:

1897-'98	$181 90
1898-'99	171 40
1899-1900	160 52

LAND ACQUIRED BY THE STATE.

During the year the State acquired title by purchase to 105,229.37 acres in the forest preserve and 1,901.25 acres by reinstatement of cancelled tax sales, and lost by cancellation and redemption 736.66 acres, leaving an aggregate holding at the close of the fiscal year of 1,307,067.70 acres. The average price paid for the purchases made by the Forest Preserve Board and the Forest, Fish and Game Commission was $3 04 an acre.

ENGINEER BOND'S REPORT.

PLANS FOR A BARGE CANAL AND GOOD ROADS.

Albany, Dec. 31.—Edward A. Bond, State Engineer and Surveyor will report that one of his principal duties has been the making of a survey and plans and estimate for a barge canal across the State, for which $200,000 was appropriated. This survey is completed, and the results will be presented to the Legislature in February, 1901.

The topographical survey of the State has been in progress in co-operation with the United States. The results are published in sheets 12 inches by 18 inches, showing about twelve miles by eighteen miles, so that 240 sheets will cover the State; of these 102 are completed and published, fifteen sheets are mapped and in the hands of the engravers, twenty-six are surveyed and in the hands of draughtsmen, and of the remaining ninety-seven three-quarters are triangulated and are ready to be surveyed.

The State Engineer has also had charge of the survey, design and construction of good roads under the Higgle-Armstrong law of 1898, under which law the sum of $250,000 has been appropriated by the State during the three years it has been in force. Twenty-three roads have thus been built in twelve counties, and aggregating fifty-three and one-half miles. In addition to this 131 petitions have been received from twenty-seven counties for an aggregate of eight hundred miles, of which surveys and estimates have been made or are in progress: for eighty roads in twenty-three counties, aggregating four hundred and six miles, and showing an average estimated or actual cost of $7,625 a mile.

During 1899 there was built in one of our counties a gravel road, which has given entire satisfaction, and which cost much less than a macadam road would have cost. There have since been many calls from different parts of the State for roads of this or a similar character, and it has been decided to recommend these cheaper roads where heavy traffic does not make it necessary to build the high class and more costly macadam roads, and thus to enable those counties which have as yet made no petitions to avail themselves of the Good Roads law.

IMPROVING THE CANALS.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED UNDER COLONEL PARTRIDGE FOR THE YEAR.

Albany, Dec. 31.—The year 1900 closes the second year of the administration of Colonel John N. Partridge, of Brooklyn, as Superintendent of Public Works. The year has not been so successful, so far as navigation is concerned, as was the previous year, although the totals for business done will measure well up to the three or four years preceding.

The Legislature of 1899 made appropriations authorizing a large number of improvements, such as the construction of bridges, the building of dikes, etc. The Legislature of 1900 made still further appropriations along this line, and the Superintendent has succeeded in getting almost all of this special work either completed, under way, or under contract to be completed at an early date. The department has under construction extensive bridges of the latest design at Waterford, West Troy, Minden, Utica, Rome, Syracuse, Rochester, Lockport and other places. Some of these bridges call for an expenditure of upward of $75,000.

The policy begun by Superintendent Partridge during the first year of his administration of reconstructing the towing path by grading, gravelling and rolling, has been continued during the last year, with the result that the towing path from end to end of the Erie and Champlain canals is in better condition than had been known for a great many years.

The Superintendent, as a member of the Canal Board, has had to devote a great deal of his time in the consideration of claims against the State growing out of the $9,000,000 canal improvement, and still more time has had to be devoted to the running down of the marauders who for years made a business of destroying State property that they might profit by patronage of the forces engaged in making the repairs. These men had headquarters at Forestport. Through the services of his own force and those of skilled detectives the District Attorney of Oneida County was enabled to secure the indictment of fifteen men, who, with one or two exceptions, have been convicted on trial or confessed, and have been made to pay the penalty.

CONVICT LABOR ON HIGHWAYS.

Albany, Dec. 31.—The State Prison Commission during the last year has given much attention to the employment of jail prisoners in highway improvements, and has persistently urged this matter upon the attention of Sheriffs and Boards of Supervisors. In quite a number of counties in the State these suggestions have been accepted, and the jail convicts are either employed in improving highways or in preparing stone to be used on highways. In still other counties this suggestion is under discussion by the Board of Supervisors. During the year the Commission issued a large number of certificates permitting the purchase by officers and institutions, in the open market, of goods which the prisons were unable to supply.

REPORT OF CHARITY BOARD.

Albany, Dec. 31.—During the year which terminates to-day the State Board of Charities visited and inspected all of the institutions, societies and associations, more than five hundred in number, within its jurisdiction, pointing out to the authorities of such institutions any evils, defects or abuses requiring remedy. The result of this work has been the improvement of several hundred public and private charitable institutions, and the Board is able to report that for the most part such institutions are in good condition, comparatively free from any serious evils and rendering beneficent public service.

One of the most important features of the Board's work is that which relates to the supervision of institutions for the care of dependent children. There are 122 such institutions in this State in receipt of public moneys, and their inmates number nearly 30,000. More than 15,000 children were discharged from such institutions during the year, showing the almost constant change of population that is going on in them.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY GENERAL ROE, THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

Albany, Dec. 31.—The annual report of Major-General Charles F. Roe, commanding officer of the National Guard, was made public to-day. It shows the aggregate strength of the National Guard on September 30, 1900, to be 14,251, divided as follows: Commissioned officers, 855; enlisted men, 13,396. The report says:

A grand total of 10,045 enlisted men and seamen qualified in general and supplementary practice, the same being 83.74 per cent of the number practising.

The condition of the Guard is much improved since the last report, with the exception of a few organizations. The attention paid to the detailed work, books and internal discipline is marked. The change of having the inspections and musters in the fall of the year only a month preceding the report to the Governor as to the condition of the Guard is believed to be much more satisfactory, as it shows the actual condition of the Guard at that time, and not after a period of vacation. The performance of field service and practice marches by the organizations in camp this year was very satisfactory.

I desire to call special attention to the fine showing of the Guard in small arms practice; the figures show a decided improvement over last year.

Under the head of recommendations the commanding officer urges that the appropriations be sufficiently increased to warrant ordering the whole of the Guard for field service each year, which will eventually prove to be good economic policy and of great benefit to the State and Nation, as it will materially increase the efficiency of the Guard.

It is earnestly recommended that steps be taken to acquire land in rear of the long range targets at Creedmoor, this being absolutely necessary to make the range safe.

ADJUTANT-GEN. HOFFMAN'S REPORT.

Albany, Dec. 31.—Adjutant-General Edward M. Hoffman to-day submitted to Governor Roosevelt his annual report. Among other things the report says:

All organizations of the National Guard and Naval Militia are now well equipped for active service with the exception of the hospital corps of the various commands, and the supplying of this important branch of the service with the best obtainable equipment is being rapidly advanced.

The transferring of the 13th Regiment from the infantry to the heavy artillery service has necessitated a large expenditure to equip it with the necessary guns and instruments for instruction purposes.

The Board of officers which originally prepared the military code has been convened to consider and report upon such amendments to it as are deemed advisable to present to the Legislature for its consideration. The recommendations contained in the report of the Major-General commanding, setting forth the necessity of increased appropriations for the National Guard, are heartily approved, the object being that the practical instruction may be further extended.

I desire to especially recommend that the appropriation for repairs and betterments of armories be increased. The reason for this will be apparent when it is considered that the increase in age of the armories makes the cost of repairs greater year by year. It is also desirable that the Armory Commission should have its funds appropriated in a lump sum in order that they may be expended on those armories most needing the repairs. As a rule, the armories and arsenals, camp grounds, etc., are well cared for by those immediately in charge, and the interests of the State looked after thoroughly.

LUNACY COMMISSION'S WORK.

Albany, Dec. 31.—A further reduction in the cost of maintaining the insane is reported by the Lunacy Commission in the face of a marked advance in the prices of nearly every article entering into provisions and stores account. A thorough investigation was made by the Commission of the payrolls of the New-York State hospitals, and a reduction was effected in the salaries and wages of officers and employes. The annual per capita cost of maintaining the insane during the year just closed was $165 (inclusive of every item, salaries, wages, provisions, medicines, fuel and light, etc.), as against $178 42 for the preceding year. Building operations have been conducted on a vast scale on Long Island and on Ward's Island for the accommodation of patients of the Manhattan State Hospital. Further experimental studies have been prosecuted by Professor Atwater, the Government food expert, with a view to a more nutritious and at the same time more economical dieting for the insane of New-York.

The Commission returned to their homes in other States and countries during the year 115 non-resident and alien patients at a total cost of $4,541 56. Great difficulty had been experienced by the Commission in securing the deportation of aliens, by reason of the refusal of many steamship companies to receive this most undesirable class of passengers, even when accompanied by trained attendants. The Commission has collected during the year through agents appointed for the purpose $122,860 49 from the relatives of insane patients liable for their support, and, in addition, has received from private or so-called "bond" cases $87,333 13.

SCHOOL EXPENSES INCREASED.

Albany, Dec. 31.—Charles R. Skinner, Superintendent of Public Instruction, has finished compiling the school statistics for the last school year. There was expended for all purposes in support of the public schools of the State the sum of $33,421,491 37, this being an increase over the previous year of $5,368,509 88. About $4,500,000 of this increase is shown in New-York City alone. There was paid for teachers' salaries $19,218,898 63, and the average annual salary paid teachers throughout the State was $604 78. There were employed 31,768 teachers, which was an increase of 1,269 over the previous year.

Out of the 1,569,653 pupils of school age residing in the State, 1,200,574 attended the public schools some part of the year, and 163,949 attended private schools. This shows that 88 per cent of all children of school age in this State attended either a public or private school some part of the year. A number of weak rural districts have been annulled, and a larger number of small districts have taken advantage of the law permitting them to contract with adjoining districts for the education of their pupils than during any previous year. The report shows that there were 217 less men employed in the teaching force of the State than during the previous year, while there were 1,703 more women. The increase in the value of school property during the year is reported as $6,614,880. The entire public school property of the State is valued at $81,768,493.

PROTECTING FISH AND GAME.

Albany, Dec. 31.—The annual summary of the work of the Forest, Fish and Game Commission shows that the Commission has collected and passed over to the State Treasury a total of $13,293 78, made up as follows:

Fines and penalties, $6,609 67; trespasses, $2,042 31; net licenses, $1,651; shellfish rentals, $2,173 41; miscellaneous, $317 35. The total collections to the close of the current year amount to $16,938 55.

Extensive improvements have been made to the State reservation on the St. Lawrence, known as the International Park.

The State fish culturist, acting under the direction of the Commission, has distributed in the various waters of the State the enormous total of 219,135,198 fish of different kinds.

During the year the game protectors destroyed 2,615 illegal devices for the capture of fish and game, which were valued at $30,412 35, and the Department prosecuted a total of 357 offenders against the fish and game laws, securing 336 convictions. There were also 53 cases of trespass on State lands which were taken into court and convictions secured.

The area of forest controlled and cared for by the Commission at the close of the current year amounts to 1,370,923 acres. Of this total, 1,290,987 acres are included in the Adirondack preserve, and 79,941 acres in the Catskills.

STATE CIVIL SERVICE RECORD.

Albany, Dec. 31.—According to the report of the State Civil Service Commission, during the year 1900, 4,600 persons have applied for competitive examination and 3,700 persons have been examined. The number of appointments made during the year has not yet been ascertained, but will exceed the number of appointments made during the year 1899.

On June 16 the Commission extended the rules so as to include positions in the Civil Service of the counties of Erie, New-York, Kings, Queens and Richmond. This action brought under the jurisdiction of the Commission about thirteen hundred employes, making the number of places now subject to the State Civil Service rules about nine thousand.

IMPROVING STATE BUILDINGS.

Albany, Dec. 31.—H. H. Bender, Superintendent of Public Buildings, in his annual report to the Legislature will enumerate in detail the needed repairs, improvements and additions made to the Capitol, the Executive Mansion, the State Hall, the Agricultural and Geological Hall and the Capitol boiler house during the year 1900.

The Executive Mansion has been thoroughly renovated, repaired, repainted and redecorated where necessary, together with the furniture and fixtures which it contains. The walls of two greenhouses have been rebuilt, and all have been painted inside and out. Special attention has been given to putting the plumbing and drainage on the premises in first class sanitary condition.

The Agricultural and Geological Hall has been practically rebuilt under an appropriation recommended by the Superintendent and passed by the last Legislature.

The Assembly Chamber and lobby have been entirely refitted with new carpets, new curtains and new chairs for the members. The new chairs are of mahogany and upholstered in leather, and are made in varying sizes to accommodate the diversity of physique of the Assemblymen.

Dates! Records! Figures!
See The Tribune Almanac, 1901.

KELLER TAKES BLAME.

SAYS HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BELLEVUE'S CONDITION—EXPLANATIONS TO BE ASKED.

John W. Keller, Commissioner of Charities, who has been ill in his apartments at the New-Amsterdam Hotel for some days, was able to receive callers yesterday, and in the course of the day he not only granted a number of interviews, but attended to some business relating to the administration of Bellevue Hospital. He yesterday discharged seventeen employes of the hospital, owing to a shortage of the funds. This shortage, it is said, was due to a failure on the part of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to make a sufficient appropriation for the hospital expense. Among the Commissioner's callers yesterday were Deputy Charities Commissioner Brennan, Secretary Borden, of the Charities Department; Superintendent O'Rourke, of Bellevue Hospital; Dr. Allan Fitch and Dr. Robert W. Hills, of the State Board of Charities.

Commissioner Keller was seen later in the day by a Tribune reporter. When asked concerning the charge made by Dr. Weston that the Commissioner of Charities was alone responsible for the conditions of affairs at Bellevue Hospital, he said:

I know I am responsible, and I am not trying to shift the responsibility. I am responsible for the affair, and am not trying to make a scapegoat out of Superintendent O'Rourke or anybody else. The conditions at Bellevue will be thoroughly investigated, and all offenders punished.

I wish it to be understood that I have no ill feeling for the members of the Bellevue Medical Board. I am not antagonizing any member of that Board. I sent a letter to Dr. Charles L. Dana, president of the Board, some days ago, in which I recited the alleged evils in the hospital and asked some questions about the hospital instruction and administration. That the learned Medical Board is thoroughly qualified to treat patients I have not the slightest doubt. If that Medical Board were to do something that was not right and could not show itself to be right, I would then take steps to right matters. It is not for me to say as to the methods of treatment to be made by the members of the Board. Since I have been Commissioner of Charities I have never turned down a recommendation made by that Board for the appointment of an interne. Of course, I have supreme authority over Bellevue Hospital, and I could dispense with the services of the Medical Board.

DR. FITCH TO EXPLAIN.

I am not going to act hastily in my efforts to better the condition of affairs at Bellevue Hospital. I am going to act in a manner satisfactory to myself. If I cannot make better the conditions there, the public may criticise me. There will be a thorough examination of the insane pavilion. There are certain things that Dr. Fitch has got to explain. If he cannot explain them satisfactorily to me, then he will have to suffer. At present I have instituted what I call a police service at the hospital. I appointed Dr. Schultz for the purpose of seeing that patients were not maltreated, and not to treat them.

I demand of Superintendent O'Rourke that the general condition of affairs in the hospital shall be to the benefit of the patients. He has not as yet offered to me an altogether satisfactory explanation regarding certain things. I shall conduct no formal public investigation, but any person who has a complaint to make should make it to me. The reports about the alleged brutality at the hospital are greatly exaggerated. More than twenty-four thousand cases were treated at the hospital in the year, and the number of complaints of ill treatment are comparatively few.

SAYS OLD ABUSES CONTINUE.

General James R. O'Beirne, who was one of the Commissioners of Charities under Mayor Strong, said yesterday that it was manifest that many of the abuses existing in Bellevue six years ago, had not been rectified. He continued:

My investigation of affairs there proved beyond a doubt that patients were robbed in the most flagrant manner. It was a common report that some of the members of the house staff obtained money from patients for transferring them to another hospital. At least these reports were common when I took office. Soon after I was appointed a contractor who was taken to Bellevue while on a spree was robbed of $4,000. He preferred to lose the money rather than risk publicity. He had the money when he was taken to the ambulance, and not a cent when he left Bellevue. To safeguard the valuables and money of patients, searchers were appointed while I was a Charities Commissioner, and they were under bonds. It was their duty to search patients on arriving at the hospital, and to make a record of the money and valuables of the patients in the presence of another person, and to keep the money or valuables in a safe place until the patient was discharged.

While I was in office one of the members of the house staff was suspended for taking money for having a patient removed to another hospital. This suspension was later removed. There were many complaints against Dr. Allan Fitch, the examiner in lunacy, for accepting large fees for the services for which he was paid a salary. Dr. Fitch was examined on this matter, and declared that under the law he was entitled to a $25 fee, provided the patient's family could afford to pay it. It was finally agreed that in such cases Dr. Fitch might accept a fee no greater than that amount.

ALL CHARGES TO BE LOOKED INTO.

Commissioner Keller said yesterday that all reports about robberies of patients would be thoroughly investigated; also the reports about the undertakers' trust.

It has been learned at the hospital that a young man representing himself to be a reporter of a weekly publication went to the hospital and without the knowledge of officials secured a complete list of the names and addresses of every patient in the hospital. This list was furnished to a Second-ave. undertaker, who was thus enabled to get the first information when a death occurred in the hospital.

Another nurse was suspended from Bellevue Hospital yesterday. This was on complaint of Dr. Joseph D. Bryant. The nurse, D. J. Rooney, of Ward No. 4, was accompanying Dr. Bryant on a visit to the patients in Ward No. 3. At the Mills Training School it could not be learned why the nurse was suspended. Rooney will appear to-morrow before the Board of Managers of the Mills Training School. The managers will to-morrow resume their investigation of the charges against the nurses of the school.

Letters were mailed to the members of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital yesterday, giving notice of the monthly meeting of the Board to-morrow.

A BUST OF PROFESSOR EGLESTON.

TO BE PLACED IN THE NEW ASSEMBLY HALL OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

The students of Columbia University are having made a bronze bust of the late Professor Thomas Egleston, who founded the Columbia School of Mines in 1864. The bust will be placed in the new Assembly Hall of the University.

The plaster cast of the bust is completed, except for a few finishing touches. Dr. Chandler, of Columbia, has declared that it is more like Professor Egleston than any photograph ever taken of him. William Couper, the sculptor, is making the bust. It is of heroic size, and represents Professor Egleston in his robe. At its base there will be an inscription, reading:

THOMAS EGLESTON,
Founder and First Professor of the School
of Mines (1864).
Died January 15, 1900.
A Token of Grateful Remembrance From
the Students