NATIONAL CAPITAL NOTES.

THE NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO BE WELCOMED—DEPARTURE OF DUKE D'ARCOS—TABLET FOR VICE-PRESIDENT WILSON.

Washington, June 7 (Special).—The appointment of the Hon. Michael Herbert as successor to the late Lord Pauncefote is especially acceptable to society people at the capital, since it insures much gayety at the British Embassy under the new régime. Both Mr. Herbert and his wife are fond of society, and during their previous residence here their home was a popular gathering place with the fashionable clans, and their presence eagerly sought by all those who entertained. They are, too, equipped to play important social roles, and it is safe to predict that in the performance of his social duties the new ambassador will outshine all of his predecesesors, even the famous Lord Lyons.

The British Embassy at Washington is a natural social centre. It is centrally located, its latch string is left hospitably out, and the allowances for its maintenance and for entertaining exceed those made by any other government. No matter what the preference of the ambassador, tradition has made it necessary to do a certain amount of entertaining. It is expected by the home government, and from the establishment of the first British Legation on this side of the water until now the English representative has done in a social way all that could be looked for. Under certain ministers the embassy was naturally more brilliant than under others, and the presence of young women has added interest and gayety, but no matter what the conditions, the British Minister has never been accused of shirking his social duties.

Even the unpopular Jackson, who was recalled in Madison's administration for his offensive criticism of this government, entertained acceptably, and the British Legation was never more popular than when Sir Lionel Sackville-West—likewise dismissed in disgrace—was at its head, and his three daughters acted as hostesses. The social part of Lord Pauncefote's administration will always be memorable, not for its brilliancy, for the balls, routs and cotillons, features of other regimes, were absent, but for the good taste and sincerity that marked every act of the late ambassador and his family, and for the handsome and dignified manner in which he offered and returned hospitality.

The British Embassy is sufficiently fine to satisfy the most exacting. It is built in the fashion of a quarter of a century ago, with mansard roof, stone trimmings and a red brick foundation. Its rooms are spacious and well lighted. The hangings are handsome, the furniture solid and substantial, but there is no attempt at originality in either furniture or decoration, which could hardly be expected in an official dwelling whose occupants are constantly changing. The table furniture is rich and massive, especially the silver plate, a gift of the late Queen, which is used only on state occasions. English servants are brought from the other side for the embassy service, and the atmosphere of "the tight little isle" is unmistakable, both inside and outside the house, where, over the porte cochère, the British coat-of-arms in bronze is fixed.

The handsome allowances made by Great Britain to its diplomatic agents is in marked contrast to the policy of the United States in this regard, which is less generous with its foreign representatives than any other nation not of its own but of much lower rank. When the appointment of ambassadors was authorized by Congress, it was also provided that they should have no increase of pay over that enjoyed by the grade from which they were to be promoted—a provision made necessary by the opposition that had arisen against the creation of ambassadors because of the extra expense it would involve. It is, however, impossible for the ambassadors at the capitals to which they are accredited to live in a style approaching that of their colleagues or commensurate with the dignity of the country they represent on the pittance they draw as salaries, no matter how magnificent the sum may seem to the constituency of Senator Bailey or the farmers of Kansas, and it is thought that Congress should do something for their relief.

An ambassador can, of course, refuse to adopt the scale of living of the world about him, he can accept hospitality without returning it, he can attend state funerals in a hackney cab—as was told of a certain minister in the Cleveland regime—he can sacrifice his own dignity and the dignity of his country by meeting none of the social requirements custom has established and possibly save something out of the $17,500 annually allowed him, but by this course the real object of his mission would be defeated, and it would be as well to abolish the embassies and intrust the diplomatic questions that arise to the consular agents.

It has been the custom in late years to appoint rich men to the high diplomatic positions, and by this means the prestige of the United States in foreign countries has been increased. Mr. Choate and his predecessor, Mr. Hay, maintained the American Embassy at St. James on a handsome scale. General Porter, following the precedent already established by those who went before him, has made the embassy over which he presides one of the most notable at the French capital, and his colleagues in Berlin, Rome, St. Petersburg and Vienna have dipped deep into their private purses to meet the expenses of their offices. But it is thought by many that it may not always be possible to find a person for the chief of an embassy who unites the requisite attributes, wealth and ability, and that it is not right to defeat the intentions of the founders of the republic, and limit the circle from which appointments of this class may be made, precluding men of acknowledged ability and who deserve well of their country, simply because they have not the millions to do what the government should provide for.

That the return of the Spanish Minister to this post was doubtful has long been known to his intimate friends here, who have been expecting to hear of his transfer, but the formal announcement of his recall causes widespread regret, for both the Duke de Arcos and his American born duchess are extremely popular in Washington, whither they came when the relations between this country and Spain were still strained. Nothing could exceed the tact and intelligence with which the Spanish envoy set about re-establishing the old relations, and it is doubtful if any other man in the diplomatic service of Spain could have succeeded so promptly. But his especial fitness for what was at that time a most difficult mission had been gravely considered in Madrid, and his selection was not made without due deliberation. The main reason that inspired his appointment was that he had served here as attaché of the Spanish Legation twenty years before, and knew the country and people, the national traditions and language; but to these considerations were added the fine record he had made at other posts, the tact and judgment he had invariably displayed; moreover, he had married an American woman, and his large fortune insured his keeping up a handsome establishment. Then, too, his title is an old and illustrious one, which could be counted upon for some effect at the capital of a republic even.

A bronze tablet to commemorate the life and work of the late Henry Wilson, one time Vice-President of the United States, will shortly be placed in the Vice-President's room at the Capitol, where Mr. Wilson died suddenly when in attendance upon the Senate. It was cast by Henry Barnard, of New-York, is one and a half feet high, and bears an inscription written by Senator Hoar, which reads:

> In this room Henry Wilson, Vice-President of the United States and Senator for eighteen years, died November 22, 1875.
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> The son of a farm laborer, never at school more than twelve months, in youth a journeyman shoemaker, he raised himself to the high places of fame, honor and power, and by unwearied study made himself an authority in the history of his country and an eloquent public speaker, to whom Senate and people eagerly listened. He dealt with and controlled vast public expenditure during a great civil war, yet he lived and died poor and left to his grateful countrymen the memory of an honorable public service and a good name far better than riches.

An interesting visitor to the capital last week was M. Carrouy, the French Minister at Peru, who has been sent by his government to visit all the French consulates on this continent. His mission was undertaken for the purpose of discovering means of improving the French consular service and advancing her commercial interests. He has made the tour of South America, and as soon as he has finished the itinerary laid out for this country and Canada he will sail for France and report in person the result of his investigations. The distinguished foreigner spoke with warm admiration of the United States and confessed himself astonished at her unlimited resources and the evidences of wealth he met with on every side.

The Sultan of Sulu is said to have been subjected by a graphophone, an electric fan and the electric lights on a United States warship he visited, the mechanism of which so filled him with awe and wonder that he felt there was no use in resisting a power with such forces at its command. General Miles tells of an equally wonderful victory over some rebellious Indians in the West, a delegation of whom visited his camp for a powwow. Among other things they were shown a telephone and allowed to talk over it. Much interested they demanded to know whence came the voices they heard, and why they should come through the little black instrument. It was, of course, impossible to make them understand the principles of electricity, so the general told them that the Great Spirit had lent his lightning to the white men, and that forced the human voices into the little box they saw. So impressed were they by this wonder and the understanding with the Great Spirit which it implied that they returned to their homes and became such advocates for peace that their tribe surrendered.

A party of Hawaiians visited the National Museum the other day to see the royal yacht of Queen Kapiolani, which she presented to that institution many years ago. The gift was inspired by a visit of this royal personage to the museum when on her way through the United States to England in 1887. Knowing her fondness for aquatic sports, some of the members of her suite suggested that she should see the section devoted to boats. Once there, the Queen took the greatest delight in examining the craft, and explained at length the difference between the canoes used in the Hawaiian Islands and those on exhibition. Noting the interest of the attendants, she finally said:

"I will send you one of my boats for your museum if you would like to have it."

The offer was gladly accepted, and on her return home she sent her own royal craft, which, as it hangs on the walls of the museum, seems hardly worthy its high sounding title. It is merely a big log, eighteen feet long and eighteen inches wide, hollowed out with rude instruments into the semblance of a canoe. A small float is extended on arms from each side of the canoe, and a sail of rudely plaited straw is supported on rough hewn masts. A large gourd in the bottom suggests that it was not watertight, and a small English flag, which the Queen was wont to stick in the stern of her pleasure boat when off on an outing, indicates where her sympathies lay.

A prominent figure at the coronation festivities will be Mrs. Richardson Clover, wife of the naval attaché of the American Embassy. Mrs. Clover was a Miss Miller, the daughter of the late Senator Miller, of California, and a belle in Washington when her father represented that State. She was married shortly after the death of Senator Miller, and from that time until her husband's appointment to London resided in Washington, where she entertained handsomely and constantly. Captain Clover was attached to the embassy at St. James's during President McKinley's first administration, and has served there continuously since. Shortly after her husband had presented his credentials Mrs. Clover took a house in the most fashionable part of London, and began to entertain elaborately, gaining in a few months a position in the social world that it takes most people as many years to acquire. She was presented to Queen Victoria and has already been presented to King Edward, from whom both she and Captain Clover have received many evidences of favor.

AT CONNECTICUT'S CAPITAL

LITTLE INTEREST IN VOTING A NEW CONSTITUTION—HARTFORD BRIDGE TO HAVE DRAW—LABOR TROUBLES ENDING.

Hartford, June 7 (Special).—The interest in the voting on the adoption of the constitution submitted by the recent convention does not seem to be intense. The date of the election is Monday, June 16, and yet there is no appreciable excitement. The discussion continues in the press, and some organizations have passed upon it unfavorably, notably the Economic League, which just now bids fair to sweep over the State for a season. The New-Haven branch of that organization is out in a square denunciation of the proposed constitution, and there have been other denunciations from similar sources. It is safe to say that the labor organizations will be against it, and the Democratic party will largely vote against it, with the Republicans somewhat divided. The New-Haven Republican League has refused to consider the matter as a party issue, and Chairman Thayer, of the State committee of the Democratic party, has refused to call forces together for the defeat or acceptance of the measure. But, in spite of the fact that there have been efforts to keep the thing out of party politics, it is bound to get in there, sooner or later. The press is divided, with the Democratic papers, as a rule, being against it and the Republican papers, as a rule, being for it, although there are exceptions. The constitution is an improvement on the present one in many ways, and a slight improvement in the matter of representation. There has arisen a doubt as to the matter of voting upon the document. The convention authorized an open ballot, apparently in the interest of economy, but the act providing for the convention provides that the election shall be taken in the same manner as ballots in other elections. It is argued in favor of the proposition of the convention that, having once been called, it is a fundamental body, and is not bound by any act as to its methods. The ballot will be taken openly. It is true, without doubt, that the convention could have "proclaimed" the document without the trouble of submitting it if it had so chosen, but Connecticut is not Virginia.

The quarrel between this city and Springfield over the proposed bridge over the Connecticut River at this city continues, and thus far the up-river city has the best of it. The War Department, by the report of Major Powell, opposes the bridge without a draw, and this in spite of the fact that there are twelve bridges between this city and Springfield without any draws whatever, these bridges being low, while the proposed bridge in this city has forty feet between low water mark and the superstructure. This will allow the passage of any tugboat or barge under the bridge that can possibly be used above this city. One of the schemes of the Connecticut River Navigation Association is to dam the river at intervals, and thus make deep water for steamers. This would destroy valuable water powers up the river, and in low water would undoubtedly seriously affect navigation to this city. The whole idea is chimerical. As ex-Governor Bulkeley, president of the Bridge Commission, says: "Ocean steamers can never go up to Springfield, even if J. Pierpont Morgan has any to spare."

The labor troubles are getting to a state where something is bound to happen soon, and it is safe to predict that all workingmen who care to work will be at work within a few days. The Underwood typewriter factory has opened, in spite of the strike declared by the union, and its benches are filling up rapidly, while the union men who are out seem to be much demoralized. Many of the families who came up to this city from Bayonne with the factory have returned since the strike began, and it is hardly probable that one-third of the men formerly employed are now on strike, and they cut less and less figure every day. The carpenters' strike and the lumber yard tieup are still on, but they are sure of settlement before many days. The sentiment of the community, which is looked upon to control strikes in this region, has been gradually working against them, and that has much to do with what is to come.

It has been noted as a singular omission on the part of the French visitors to this country in honor of Count Rochambeau that they did not include Hartford in their tour. It was in this city that Rochambeau and Washington first met, September 17, 1780, both guests of Colonel Wadsworth, and it was underneath the old elm in front of the Wadsworth mansion, now the site of the Wadsworth Athenæum, art galleries and public library, that the two grasped each other by the hand. "The Connecticut Courant" in its account of the event said:

Last week their excellencies Governor Trumbull, General Washington, Count Rochambeau and Admiral Terney arrived in this town with Marquis Lafayette, General Knox and other officers of distinction in the allied armies. The greatest satisfaction was expressed at the meeting and the highest marks of mutual respect were paid.

Rochambeau was in Hartford twice after this first visit, his second visit being in connection with the mapping out of the plans for the capture of Lord Cornwallis. Indeed, Connecticut was the theatre for much of the action of the French allies, Lauzun being encamped in Lebanon near to the home of Governor Trumbull during the winter succeeding the meeting of Washington and Rochambeau. The tree under which the two men met is standing, with a suitable bronze tablet marking it, but it is doomed to die before many years. The asphalt paving of the street, the regrading of which has brought a large proportion of its roots above ground, has aided in bringing it into a disreputable appearance, but its scarred limbs and dying branches are still eloquent of the event which happened at its base.

A notable meeting to be held in this city the coming week is the conference of the Congressional Ministers' Association, and the notable fact about the meeting is that it will be the centennial of the birth of Dr. Horace Bushnell, the eminent minister, whose home was here, and whose life benefited the city of Hartford greatly, both in material and spiritual ways. The meeting, in fact, will take on the form of a Bushnell memorial, and there will be addresses both by clergymen and laymen on the life and work of Dr. Bushnell.

AT THE GARDEN CITY HOTEL.

Garden City, Long Island, June 6 (Special).—This picturesque suburban town seems to have grown rapidly in public favor as a spring, summer and fall resort, for a large number of representative families have settled themselves at the Garden City Hotel, and on the register are such names as Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Mrs. Orme Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Sorchan, Miss Sorchan, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Belmont, Mrs. Dean Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Rhinelander, the Winthrops, Livingstons, Rossiters, Tappens, Dykemans and Rutherfurds. An outlay in its construction a year ago of about $500,000 has made it one of the most complete and luxurious resort hotels in America, a fact that is appreciated by those who patronize it. A guarantee that excellence can be found here is that Joseph J. Lannin is lessee and manager and caters to the comfort of his guests with liberality.

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA.

Continued from sixth page.

years been president of the Corn Exchange Bank, of this city.

James A. Flynn was born in the town of Chatham in 1857, and has been a New-York since 1871, when he attended the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. For the last six years he has been superintendent of contracts for the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland.

Judge J. R. Cady, historian of the association, was elected Judge of the Columbia County Superior Court in 1889, and was unanimously renominated at the expiration of his term, but declined to accept. He was a delegate-at-large to the Constitutional Convention of 1894, in which he served as chairman of the committee on canals. He has steadily devoted himself to his profession, and has been employed in many important litigations.

Benjamin F. Hamilton, secretary of the association, was born in this city and owes his identification with Columbia County to the fact that he was for many years an officer of the Hudson Steamboat Company. He is now with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

John Martin Crapser, treasurer of the association, was in the United States Internal Revenue Service until 1883, when he became accountant for a large commercial house in this city.

Among the prominent members who have worked hard for the association are Colonel George W. Van Slyck, the lawyer and clubman, and one of the five founders of the Holland Society; George W. Van Siclen, who lately retired from active law practice to his country home at Cornwall, and who is known as the author of several valuable books on real estate law, the year books of the Holland Society and a Dutch translation of Andrew Carnegie's "Triumphant Democracy"; Wilson M. Powell, who has been a Wall Street lawyer since 1862; R. S. Gernon, of the Cotton Exchange; J. W. Darrow, editor and publisher of newspapers at Chatham, Rensselaer and Kinderhook; Frank Bailey, vice-president of the Title Guarantee and Trust Company; Dr. W. K. Simpson, chief of clinic and instruction in laryncology, College of Physicians and Surgeons; J. B. Esselstyn, of the Union Central Life Insurance Company; Clarence Schenck, an insurance broker; John H. Forshew, secretary of the Graff Furnace Company; Edwin Hawley, president of the Chicago and Minneapolis Railroad Company; Dr. Eugene H. Porter, Editor of "The North American Journal of Homœopathy"; Dr. P. C. Cole, who has practised here since the close of the Civil War, in which he was surgeon major; George T. Powell, director of the School of Practical Agriculture; ex-Congressman John G. Schumaker, of Brooklyn; Eolyn D. Cummings, of the Singer Sewing Machine Company, and many others.

AT THE VOLCANO'S MOUTH

PROFESSOR HEILPRIN'S DARING ASCENT OF MONT PELEE—HIS SCIENTIFIC CAREER AND THRILLING EXPERIENCES.

Geologist, geographer, explorer and all around scientist—that, in a nutshell, is Professor Angelo Heilprin, who has just made the perilous trip to the top of Mont Pelée to wrest from the crater its secrets, in the interests of science. Professor Heilprin is no closet scientist; when he has needed facts he has not delved in books for them, but has gone to Nature herself.

When not travelling Professor Heilprin makes his home in Philadelphia, where he takes an active part in the work of many scientific bodies. As president of the Philadelphia Geographical Society he contributed largely to the success of that body in the field of research and exploration.

Professor Heilprin is a man of many accomplishments. To those who have regarded him only as a scientist, the fact that he is also a skilled artist and musician comes with surprise. His paintings have appeared in a number of expositions. The record of Professor Heilprin's scientific discoveries is written in his books, but for a record of his experiences one must go further. Modest and unassuming, Professor Heilprin can be induced to talk freely on any subject except himself. He has faced death fully a score of times, but it is only from the lips of his companions that the details of these escapes have become known.

It was this characteristic of the man that led George Kennan, who accompanied Professor Heilprin on the ascent of Mont Pelée, to remark:

"I must pay the highest possible tribute to Heilprin. He is modest and brave, a superb mountaineer, and the nerviest and pluckiest man I ever knew. The ascent was the most terrifying experience of my life."

Professor Heilprin's courage and presence of mind are illustrated by his experience while making the ascent of Mount Orizaba, in Mexico, several years ago. His only companion was a guide, through whom the story became public. The guide was about thirty feet ahead of Professor Heilprin and the two were attached to the same rope.

They were ascending an ice slope, when the guide slipped and came skimming down the slope, gaining speed every moment. A few yards behind Professor Heilprin was a precipice, and he realized that if the guide went over he would be dragged after him. One alternative was to cut the rope and save himself, but he chose the other alternative. Placing himself directly in the guide's path, he braced himself and waited, in the hope of stopping the man's progress. The impetus the guide had gained was so great, however, that Heilprin was knocked from his feet, and the two men slid toward the edge of the precipice. There was no rock or tree to clutch, and the two had given themselves up for lost, when a sudden dip in the ice slackened their speed and enabled them to come to a halt. When they arose to their feet again they found themselves within a yard of the edge of the precipice! Professor Heilprin induced the terror stricken guide to resume the interrupted ascent, and the men reached the summit of Mount Orizaba without further mishap.

In appearance Professor Heilprin is a short, slightly built, nervous looking little man, with a sandy mustache. Born at Satoralja-Ujhely, Hungary, in 1853, he was brought to this country by his parents when he was only three years old. His father was Michael Heilprin, a Hebrew scholar. Professor Heilprin began his literary work as an assistant to his father in the revision of the American Cyclopedia.

Young Heilprin's inclination for scientific work had already shown itself, and in 1876, after the completion of his education here, he went abroad for scientific study. From Huxley he learned biology; from Judd, geology, and from Etheridge, palæontology. He made such advancement that in 1877 he received the Forbes medal. From England he went to Paris, thence to the University of Geneva, and later to the museums of Florence and the Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna.

After travelling through Europe he returned to the United States in 1879, and a year later was made professor of invertebrate palæontology at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Subsequently he became professor of geology in the same institution, and in 1883 was made curator in charge of the academy, a position he continued to hold for nine years, when he resigned it.

Professor Heilprin's record as an explorer is a remarkable one. He has organized scientific expeditions to Florida, the Bermudas, Central America and Mexico. It was in the last named country that Professor Heilprin made one of his most important discoveries. Mount Popocatepetl had long been thought to be the highest peak on the North American Continent. Professor Heilprin declared that this distinction was due to Mount Orizaba, which is 18,200 feet high. Scientists ridiculed this claim, but later measurements showed that Heilprin was correct.

Professor Heilprin's part in arctic exploration has been no small one. He had already visited Greenland in the interests of science, and in 1892 he commanded the Peary relief expedition, under the auspices of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Heilprin's services to the cause of arctic exploration were recognized by Lieutenant Peary, who named one of the largest glaciers in the world for him. It forms the eastern side of Inglefield Gulf, in Northwest Greenland.

Professor Heilprin is the author of "Town Geology," "The Lesson of the Philadelphia Rocks," "The Geographical and Geological Distribution of Animals," "Explorations in the Okeechobee Wilderness," "The Bermuda Islands," "The Geological Evidences of Evolution," "The Arctic Problem" and "The Earth and Its Story."

In the last few years Professor Heilprin has made trips to Africa and the Klondike. His explorations of the Atlas Mountains and the Desert of Sahara have not yet resulted in any books, but after his journey to the gold regions of the North Professor Heilprin published a volume on "Alaska and the Klondike."

Professor Heilprin is a rapid and fluent talker, and even the best of stenographers have a hard time keeping up with him. He frequently appears on the lecture platform, but it is always to speak on a different topic. His grasp of scientific subjects is remarkably comprehensive, and no matter what topic comes up in the course of discussion, Professor Heilprin is ready to speak on it. The subject of volcanoes and volcanic eruptions has always possessed a special interest for him.

THE MOUNT WASHINGTON HOUSE.

In the heart of the White Mountains, near the foot of Mount Washington, the Mount Washington House has been erected for the present season. It stands on a most eligible site, near the older Mount Pleasant Hotel, and is under the same management, that of Anderson & Price.

In its form it differs from all other mountain hotels. It is of the shape of a Y, the main body of the house running north and south and two ells diverging at the northern tower. From the dining room, in the northeastern wing, one looks into Jefferson Notch and across the golf links to the towering Presidential range. From the ball room, at the southern end of the house, the Crawford House and the gateway of the Crawford Notch form the central features of the view.

Mount Washington and the neighboring peaks of Monroe, Franklin, Pleasant and Clifton at the right, and Clay, Jefferson and part of Adams on the left, form the landscape as one looks from the east side of the house. The effect is symmetrical and beautiful in grouping, the towering summit of Mount Washington being in the centre.

The front of the house is 460 feet in length, and the hotel stands at an elevation of about 75 feet above the Ammonoosuc River. The lower story is built of native bowlders, the smaller ones being used entire, while the larger ones were split. Above the first story the house is of wood, the first floor being wholly devoted to public rooms and the business offices of the establishment, with three stories of chambers above, the structure being capped by towers, in which are about forty sleeping rooms. The entire number of guests' sleeping rooms in the house is about 350.

Among the many attractions offered by the management are a golf course of eighteen holes, 5,500 yards; a roof garden, swimming pool, squash courts, bowling green and every device for comfort and luxury known in modern hotel construction. There is a professional riding master with well trained saddle horses, and a professional instructor in swimming. A daily concert by the combined orchestra of twenty-two pieces will be a feature for the entire season.

THE POPULAR PANAMA.

HOW THE PRESENT HAT HABIT GREW UP—WHERE THE PALM LEAF HEADGEAR IS MADE.

The moth eaten and threadbare jokes about the expensive hats for women in comparison with the democratic headgear of the men of a family must be laid away for a while. For many years there has been little change in the prices of men's straw hats. The regular article ranged from $1 50 to $5, with bargain counter variations. The man who waits for bargains until the season is well advanced is rewarded by securing a "first class article" from a huckster's wagon at 50 cents.

But this summer has brought a new straw hat condition, because of the popularity of the Panama. In discussing the matter a hat dealer said that the Panama hat habit was an outgrowth of expansion. "Our people have been going to the tropical possessions of late," he said, "and the big, light straw hats, which are called 'Panama,' because they come from almost any old place down South except Panama, are among the souvenirs which they bring back with them. One person in a family having one of these hats made, the others want the same kind, and in that way little orders became large ones, hats were made in large quantities for 'Yankee trade,' and the Panama hat habit became established."

The chief shipping point for Panama hats is Guayaquil, and it was on the order of a merchant at that point that the first South American hats of the Alpine shape were made. Before 1897 all of these hats were of the shapeless sombrero shape, with a crease across the top of the crown. The shape has been improved, but the method of making the hats is the same as it was many years ago when they received the name "Panama," because they came by way of that place to the United States and other distant countries. The material used in the making of Panama hats is the screw palm, called by naturalists Carludovica palmata. It is of the palm family, and is described by Charles R. Dodge, expert for the United States on fibres, as follows:

"It is a stemless species, common in shady places all over Panama and along the coast of New-Granada and Ecuador. The leaves, pleated like a fan, are borne on three cornered stalks, six to fourteen feet high. They are about four feet in diameter and deeply cut into four or five divisions, each of which is again cut. The leaves are gathered while young and stiff, and the parallel veins are removed, after which they are split into shreds, but not separated at the stalk end, and immersed in boiling water for a short time and bleached in the sun."

These strands are about a yard long and about a half inch wide. Before they are ready for the braider they are rolled from either edge and become round, and then they are again pressed flat and are ready for the weaver. In order to work the material it must be dipped into water every few minutes. If this is not done the strands become brittle and break. A hat to command a high price must be perfect, and in order that it may be so and have no loose strand, no broken part, the weavers never work in the hot hours of the day, and many of them do their weaving only at night, by candle light.

A first class hat, one of the kind offered in this city at the present time for $75, usually takes about six months to make, and when it comes here it is shapeless, dirty and unsightly. Here it is cleaned and pressed into shape. The expert can tell by the "button," the central point of the crown of the hat, where the weaver begins the work, in which part of the country the hat was made. Every country has its peculiar style, which is taught to the children when they begin to work. They practise on low grade material for years, and when they have acquired sufficient skill they begin work with the better material, but it matters not what grade of hat they make, the "button" is always made in the same way.

One of the famous Panama hats was the one which was worn by Louis Napoleon some time in the fifties. It had a great breadth of brim, was firm in texture as silk, pliable and exceedingly light. The hat was valued at $500. It took a long time in those days to order merchandise from South America, and the Emperor had the satisfaction of possessing the only hat of the kind in Paris. But the next season the broad brimmed Panama hats were popular with persons who could afford to pay high prices for the luxury, and the same thing happened in Paris that has taken place here—straw hat makers put imitation hats on the market, and the original article suffered in popularity. The hat makers in Southern France and Italy flooded the country with "Panama" hats, and Napoleon III gave the fashion its death stroke by presenting his famous specimen to the head gardener of the Tuileries.

New-Orleans was the American headquarters for Panama hats before the Civil War, and the place where they were sold largely was the French Market. In those days ice was sent to Havana in casks padded and packed with straw. The empty casks were returned to New-Orleans, and usually contained, besides the refuse straw, bundles of Panama hats, the profits in which were divided between the shipper and the skipper who smuggled them into port.

One of the finest specimens that ever came to New-York was owned by a man who was one of the American agents of the Havana lottery.

"TRAINED NURSE" WAS A WAITER.

SHE ADMITS THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN DRUNK WHEN SHE INTERFERED WITH A POLICEMAN.

Effie Scott, the young woman who was arrested on Friday night, charged with interfering with Policeman Maloney, of the West Thirty-seventh-st. station, while he was attending Reynold Miller, of No. 221 West Thirty-fifth-st., who was run over by a truck as he was crossing Seventh-ave., and who subsequently died from his injuries, was arraigned in the West Side Police court yesterday before Magistrate Barlow.

Maloney told the magistrate that he knew the woman, and that she was not a trained nurse but a waiter in a boarding house. Magistrate Barlow asked the prisoner if she was a trained nurse, and she told the magistrate that she had no recollection of having made such a statement to the policeman.

"Were you drunk?" inquired the magistrate. She replied, "I might have been." She was fined $5, which was paid by Muncey Scott, who said he was her husband. Joseph Ryan, of No. 152 Sixth-st., Jersey City, the driver of the truck which ran over Miller, was held to await the action of the coroner.

NEW DIVISION AND NEW DEPUTY CHIEF.

LATTER IN THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE HAS NEVER BEEN COMPLAINED OF.

Fire Commissioner Sturgis yesterday issued an order creating a new division, to be known as the Fourth Division, for the Boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx. Battalion Chief John J. Cashman, of the 14th Battalion, has been appointed deputy chief in charge of the new division, with headquarters in The Bronx.

The new deputy chief became a member of the department on October 17, 1866; was promoted to assistant foreman on April 27, 1879, and made battalion chief on August 4, 1886. In the thirty-five years of his service the records show that he has never had a complaint entered against him, and that he has done fire duty in districts south of Houston-st. for over thirty years.

COMMENCEMENT AT HOBART COLLEGE.

Geneva, N. Y., June 7 (Special).—Hobart commencement day is on Wednesday, June 18. Some of the most important features of commencement week are the baccalaureate sermon, on June 15, by the Rev. Dr. George Hodges, dean of the Episcopal Theological School, at Cambridge, Mass.; the sermon before the religious societies of the college by the Rev. Alexander Mann, B. A., '81, of East Orange, N. J., and the Phi Beta Kappa oration by Frank Warren Hackett, Washington, ex-Assistant Secretary of the Navy, on "The Attitude of the Scholar Toward Men in Public Life."

THE WEST POINT CENTENNIAL.

On the occasion of the celebration of the centennial of the United States Military Academy at West Point to-morrow, Tuesday and Wednesday, the West Shore Railroad announces special train facilities for the convenience of those desiring to take part in the ceremonies. At the celebration there will be a remarkable gathering of prominent United States officials.

The programme follows:

Monday—Alumni Day. Tuesday—Field Day. Yale and West Point will play baseball on the Parade Ground. For this contest a special train will leave Franklin-st. at 12:20 p. m. and West Forty-second-st. at 12:45 p. m. A special train will leave West Point immediately after the parade. Wednesday—Centennial Day, when military honors to the President of the United States will be given at 10 a. m. There will be fireworks in the evening, and a special train to New-York immediately after. Thursday—Graduation Day.

For full information, copy of programme, etc., apply to any ticket agent of the West Shore Railroad.

THE FISHERMAN'S BAIT.

From The Philadelphia Press.

His only bait a flask of rye,
'Twould seem the sport were slow as death,
Yet all day long the streamlet by
He'll sit and fish with baited breath.

Foreign Resorts.

ZERMATT (5315 feet) (SWITZERLAND) Viege-Zermatt Railway Grand Hotels Seiler

The most picturesque and delightful Summer Resorts at the foot of "The Matterhorn" (14705 ft.), and "The Monte Rosa" (15217 ft.)

European Advertisements.

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Will find THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE for sale at the bookstalls of the leading hotels throughout the Continent of Europe and Great Britain, as well as on the Reading Room tables. It may also be obtained at the principal railroad stations. Persons unable to procure The Tribune conveniently will confer a favor by notifying The Tribune's European Business Office, No. 149 Fleet Street, London.

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LONDON, ENGLAND. HOTEL WINDSOR, Victoria Street (near WESTMINSTER ABBEY). Over 200 rooms. Electrically lighted throughout. CORONATION TERMS: Inclusive charge for two persons occupying double bedroom for 14 days, £35. For other information, etc., apply to J. R. CLEAVE & CO., Proprietors. Telegrams, Earnestness, London.

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Foreign Resorts.

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THE LANGHAM HOTEL, LONDON. Unrivalled Situation in Portland Place. At Top of Regent St. W. Convenient for the Best Shops, Theatres, Etc. Every Modern Comfort and Convenience. Moderate Tariff.

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Hotel Chatham, PARIS.

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GRAND HOTEL de l'ATHENEE, 15 RUE SCRIBE, OPPOSITE THE GRAND OPERA. The Modern Hotel of Paris. A. ARMBRUSTER Manager.

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