

STATE REGENTS MEET.

Senator Lewis Asks for Suggestions—The Standing Committees.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Albany, Dec. 3.—The joint legislative committee which is studying the subject of educational unification attended, as spectators, the annual meeting of the State Regents this afternoon.

Senator Merton F. Lewis, of Rochester, chairman of the committee, in a brief address to the Regents said the committee intended to bring about, if possible, legislation that would harmonize the difference existing between the Regents and the Department of Public Instruction, and that would result in a marked improvement in the State educational system.

Senator Lewis asked that the Regents submit to the committee any suggestions they may have for unifying the system, or any bills that embody their views. He said he would ask Superintendent Skinner of the State Department of Public Instruction to do the same. The Senator's request was referred to the committee on legislation.

The attendance at the meeting to-day was large, those present being Chancellor William Crowell Doane, Vice-Chancellor Whitelaw Reid and Regents Charles E. Fitch, William H. Watson, St. Clair McKelway, Daniel Beach, Pliny T. Sexton, Lewis A. Stimson, Albert Vander Veer, Thomas A. Hendrick, Robert C. Pruyn, Charles A. Gardiner and Charles S. Francis, and Charles R. Skinner, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Chancellor appointed for 1904 the following standing committees:

Finance—Regents Beach, T. Gilford Smith, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Regents Lord and Pruyn.

Education—Chancellor Reid, Regents Turner, Sexton, Nottingham, Gardner and the Secretary of State.

College—Regents Watson, Fitch, Stimson, Hendrick, Nottingham and Gardiner.

Home Education—Regents Sexton, Fitch, T. Gilford Smith, Stimson, Pruyn and Francis.

Library—Regents McKelway and Sexton, Vice-Chancellor Reid, Regents Vander Veer, Lord and Hendrick.

Museum—Regent T. Gilford Smith, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Regent Francis.

These members were elected to the executive committee: Chancellor Doane, Vice-Chancellor Reid, Regents Depew, Watson, McKelway, Beach, Sexton, T. Gilford Smith and Gardiner.

The work of the New-York Library Association Institutes, as reported by Dr. Canfield, Librarian of Columbia University, was approved, and the Regents agreed to co-operate with the Library Association in this work.

Loans were authorized to the Superintendent of Forests and to the State Director of Education at the St. Louis Exposition.

The Regents spent some minutes on the death of Regent Carroll E. Smith, which was presented, with a biographic sketch, by Regent Fitch.

The Syracuse Business High School, the High School of Commerce, New-York, and the Girls' Technical High School, New-York, were admitted to the University. Permanent charters were granted to Ahern Hall Memorial Library at Brooklyn, Morrissey Library at South Salem and the Erie County Library at Canastota.

The joint legislative committee on educational unification considered in executive session the briefs of the two State educational departments and adjourned until December 21.

ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

EVANS SAILS FOR HONOLULU.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Secretary Moody has received a cable message from Rear Admiral Evans, commanding the Asiatic station, saying that the New-Orleans, the Albany, the Cincinnati, the Raleigh and the Pompey sailed for Yokohama to-day for Honolulu and that the battleship Oregon will follow in a day or two. It was expected that the entire fleet would have started this practice cruise on December 1 and the delay in getting off is attributed to the Navy Department to the difficulty of coaling, probably due to a storm.

In a cable dispatch to Admiral Evans to-day he was directed to return with his fleet to Yokohama and Honolulu and that the battleship Oregon will follow in a day or two. It was expected that the entire fleet would have started this practice cruise on December 1 and the delay in getting off is attributed to the Navy Department to the difficulty of coaling, probably due to a storm.

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TO PRESIDENT, \$30,000.

J. K. Gracie, His Uncle, Leaves Ethel and Kermit \$5,000 Each.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Hempstead, N. Y., Dec. 3.—Under the terms of the will of James King Gracie, whose funeral President Roosevelt attended in New-York a few days ago, the President receives \$30,000. Mr. Gracie was the President's uncle. Mr. Roosevelt's sisters, Mrs. Cowles and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, also receive \$30,000 each. The children of the President, Kermit, for whom Mr. Gracie was godfather, and Ethel, who was the godchild of Mrs. Gracie, receive \$5,000 each. Almost every person related to Mr. Gracie is remembered.

Mr. Gracie leaves to his sister, Margaret Gracie Higginson, his father's portrait, his grandfather's miniature and the china. The silver dishes of the Gracie family are left to a nephew, Archibald Gracie. To Mrs. Douglas Robinson are given all the bronzes. The trustees are to set aside \$100,000 and invest it jointly for Archibald Gracie and Adeline Gracie, who are to receive the income annually. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars is set aside to be divided equally between three nieces, Elizabeth Gracie Ogden, Esther Gracie Ogden and Eleanor Roosevelt. \$15,000 is left in trust to be divided equally. Other bequests are \$10,000 to Theodore Douglas Robinson, \$10,000 in trust for Ella S. Bullock, a sister-in-law, \$10,000 in trust for Martha Louise Bullock, a niece, \$5,000 to the executor, Douglas Robinson, and \$5,000 to Stewart Douglas Robinson.

The Orpheic Hospital, of Manhattan, receives \$5,000 for the endowment of a bed and \$25,000 for a general endowment fund. The bed is to be given to the hospital. The \$25,000 is to be equally divided between Elizabeth Gracie Ogden, Esther Gracie Ogden and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Gracie and Archibald Gracie.

Only one piece of land was mentioned. It is at Fifty-one West End street, where Margaret Gracie Higginson, the testator's sister; Adeline Gracie, a niece; Elizabeth Gracie, a niece, and the three nieces, Elizabeth, Esther and Eleanor, are to receive the proceeds. The executor is James J. Higginson, the testator's brother-in-law, and the trustee is Stewart Douglas Robinson.

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CUTTING DOWN TITLES.

Steps Toward Reducing Number of Hereditary Honors in Europe.

Italy and Spain may be said to be taking the lead in a movement which has for its object the restriction of the number of nobles bearing high sounding titles without possessing the necessary means to support them with befitting dignity. The governments of these two kingdoms appear to have come to the sensible conclusion that a title of nobility borne by a man who is dependent on the charity of others and is often driven to resort to questionable means for living is not calculated to reflect dignity on the nobility of a country. Spain may be said to have begun the movement by enacting a title deus which have to be paid by the heir to a title before he can assume it. And in cases where the noble inherits a number of titles, as, for instance, the Duke of Alba and of Berwick, who is likewise Duke of Olivares, Duke of Liria, Duke of Huescar and Duke of Arjonova, besides numerous other titles, he is obliged to pay the duke on each one of them or let it drop. Nor can his successor take it up unless he pays the arrears. Thanks to this provision, the number of titles in Spain is rapidly diminishing. In the reign of Queen Isabella and the late King Alfonso these titles were large as to excite ridicule, the dukes alone being numbered by hundreds. But now a man has to pay heavily to assume a title inherited from his father, mother or other relative, he thinks twice before adding himself with the expense, while quantities of titles of duke, marquis and count are being allowed to lapse merely because the people who have inherited them do not have the money to pay the dues.

In Italy, where, as I announced some time ago, the government has instituted heavy penalties for those bearing titles not sanctioned by the Royal Department of Heraldry at Rome, after subjecting them to a thorough examination, the new Cabinet is now drawing up laws on the same lines as those of Spain, debarring the heir to any nobiliary title from taking possession thereof until he has paid the dues proportionate to the scale of the various gradations of the nobility. Ere long other nations will probably follow suit.

In France there has long been a party in the legislature in favor of imposing heavy duties on all nobiliary titles, and the only thing that has caused the government to refrain from taking any steps in the matter has been the feeling that were it to enact these taxes they would be considered as the recognition of nobiliary titles by the republic.

In England Parliament formerly imposed duties upon the burials of titled personages, £50 being levied by the inland Revenue Department for the funeral of a duke, £200 for that of a marquis, £100 for that of an earl, £125 for that of a viscount, £100 for that of a baron, £75 for that of a baronet, while a mere £50 was considered sufficient duty to be paid for the funeral of a mere knight.

Inasmuch as King Peter of Serbia is sending through Ambassador Tower at Berlin a personal letter to President Roosevelt, requesting the United States to resume diplomatic relations with his government, it is well to draw attention to the fact that not merely King Peter, but also his wife, the queen, are being regarded as nobles by the Serbian court. In England Parliament formerly imposed duties upon the burials of titled personages, £50 being levied by the inland Revenue Department for the funeral of a duke, £200 for that of a marquis, £100 for that of an earl, £125 for that of a viscount, £100 for that of a baron, £75 for that of a baronet, while a mere £50 was considered sufficient duty to be paid for the funeral of a mere knight.

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