EARTH TIME TEST FAILS.

BEATEN BY WAR NEWS.

Australia Cables Hold Up Washington New Year Messages.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 1.—The New Year's greetings sent from the Naval Observatory at the birth of the year 1905 failed to reach round the world. The Eastern Extension and Australasia Telegraph Company said its wires were so busy that they could not be spared for the few minutes required for the signal. Consequently, the time test, by which it was hoped to ascertain whether other great clocks of the world were "right" by our national standard, was a pronounced failure. The Occident failed, apparently, to receive the signals dispatched from Washington at midnight.

All the necessary preliminary preparations had been made, as upon the two preceding occasions when the messages flashed over 300,000 miles of telegraph lines and covered three-quarters of the civilized world in an instant. All the telegraph companies in the United States and Canada recently gave assurances to Admiral Colby M. Chester, the superintendent of the Naval Observatory, that they would do their utmost to facilitate the experiment, and General A. W. Greely, chief of the Signal Corps, promised him to place all the cable lines of the War Department at his service. Lieutenant Commander E. E. Hayden, who is in charge of the navy's nautical instruments and of chronometers and time service at the observatory, made all arrangements for the connection of the wires at the institution with the telegraph lines that lead from Washington to the outside world.

EXPERTS ON HAND.

Expert telegraphers and mechanics were on hand last night to remedy any defects in the apparatus that might threaten the success of the tests, and J. W. Collins, chief operator of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was present to lend what assistance he could.

As in the last hours of 1902-'03, when practically the same trials were made, the signals were arranged to start at five minutes before midnight, five minutes before 1, five minutes before 2 and five minutes before 3 o'clock. The messages consisted of the single second beats transmitted automatically from the standard clock of the observatory to the telegraph wire, continuing for four minutes and twenty-nine seconds before each hour stroke. Then for the intervening time until the hour was ended there was a pause, and on the stroke of the hour itself one long, strong impulse. The preliminary strokes on the seconds and the pause were calculated to fasten the attention of whomsoever was within sound of the telegraph instruments all over the world, so that when the sixtieth second was struck the listener would be sure to recognize it.

About twenty women and men, mostly friends of Admiral Chester and Commander Hayden, gathered in the commander's office to witness the trials and watch the old year out. The instruments were placed on a mahogany cabinet at one side of the room, and to the ordinary onlooker they seemed a mere mass of brass plates, keys, wires and gutta percha knobs. As each second was ticked off, there was a flash, a tremble and a bell-like note from this network of machinery, and the visitors present held their breath or uttered little exclamations of excitement.

"Well, I don't understand it yet," remarked one white haired man, "why do they keep ringing that bell? I don't see why they can't send the last one first and do away with all this bell ringing."

HINTS AT JEALOUSY.

"There will probably be some delay in getting round the world to-night," said Admiral Chester, after he had explained the mechanism. "The eastern extension cable on the other side is so full of Japanese and Russian war business that they may not be able to give us the time we want. However, we are hoping for the best."

After the last stroke of 12 had been sounded the visitors all wished each other a happy New Year and most of them went home.

Admiral Chester, Commander Hayden and Mr. Collins remained until 3 a. m. to receive acknowledging dispatches from remote observatories. Up to a late hour this evening nothing had been heard from Europe, Australia, Asia or Africa. Replies came promptly from the branch hydrographic offices in Chicago, McGill University, Montreal; Aberdeen University, Hamilton, Ontario; Columbia, Mo., and Northfield, Minn. All these points received the beats promptly except the Minnesota observer, who reported that Washington time was .06 of a second slow. All the replies wished the officials in Washington a "happy New Year."

"I think that a little jealousy may have prompted the Eastern Extension Company to deny us their wires," said Admiral Chester, commenting on the failure of the messages to travel as far as he had hoped they would. "There was nothing in it for them, in the first place, and then our effort to advertise Washington standard time may have been received with small favor in England. They swear by Greenwich over there, you know."

Nothing more was heard from the test until late this afternoon, when two belated messages came in, the first from Tacubaya, Mexico, and the other from Cordoba, Argentina. The latter, from the director of the observatory, was in cipher that could not be translated to-day. The message from Mexico was as follows:

"All signals received perfectly via Galveston; 0.64 of a second slow. Please accept our best wishes and greetings.

"FELIPE VALLE, Director."

Much curiosity is manifested on the failure of Honolulu, Midway and Manila to make any acknowledgment, as well as the silence maintained by the Pacific Coast of the United States, Alaska and Porto Rico, as in all these places prompt replies were expected from officials of this government.

HOW TIME SIGNALS ARE SENT.

Feats Possible by Co-operation of Land Lines and Cables.

The plan pursued in sending daily time signals from Washington is as follows: A few minutes before noon telegraph wires in one of the rooms of the Naval Observatory are connected with a cup containing mercury under the pendulum of the master clock. With every swing a point on the pendulum comes in contact with the fluid. An electric current is thus enabled to flow through the wires for an infinitesimal fraction of a second, and then ceases. An ordinary telegraph sounder in the room gives a click with each contact. Any number of circuits, including distant cities, can be actuated by the same apparatus. Hundreds of sounders, in railway and telegraph offices, in government bureaus and in astronomical observatories, all respond in unison to the tick of the master clock. Human agency is necessary in switching circuits on and off, before and after this service is rendered, but the signals themselves are sent automatically by a timepiece whose regulation by telescopic observations of the stars one of the finest pieces of scientific work done in Washington.

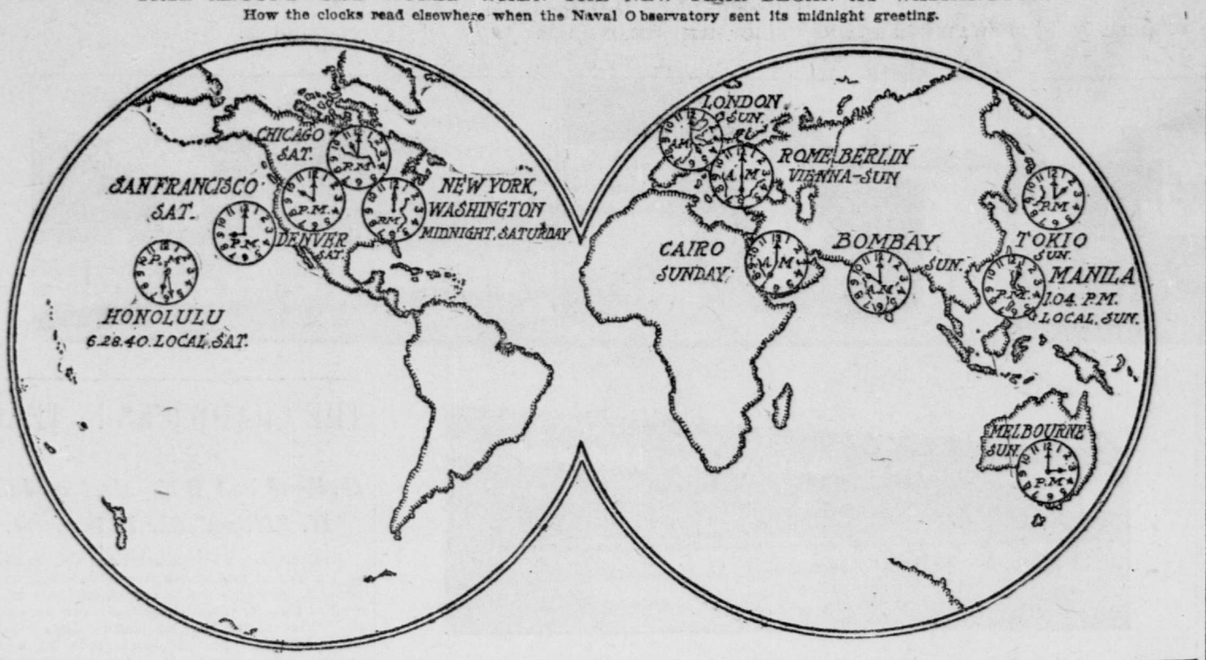
The clicking of the sounders may continue for about five minutes, beginning at 11:55 a. m. By means of a simple bit of clockwork an interruption is effected ten seconds before noon. Attention is arrested by this brief silence, and men who have taken out their watches when the preparatory signals began now stop talking and listen eagerly. Exactly at noon the clock again actuates on the sounders, the hour being indicated by the first click after the pause.

The same plan can be adopted in midnight service, and also to 1, 2 and 3 a. m., Eastern time, for the benefit of those parts of this country which use Central, Mountain and Pacific time, respectively. The rotation of the earth requires four minutes for each degree of longitude, so that where "Standard" time is used, there is a difference of an hour for every fifteen degrees. New-England and a part of the Middle Atlantic States region is governed by the seventy-fifth meridian, which is exactly five hours away from Greenwich, the world's starting point in reckoning time as well as longitude. Chicago and Minneapolis are near the ninety-fifth meridian, Denver almost exactly on the 105th and San Francisco near the 120th. In each successive belt, going westward to the middle of the Pacific Ocean, midnight comes an hour later than it does in the one next preceding. Going the other way, it comes an hour earlier for every fifteen degrees. Nearly all civilized countries have now adopted the system, but a few still stick to local or solar time. France still obstinately holds out, and Paris clocks differ from those in London about nine minutes. Madrid and Greenwich are fifteen minutes apart in fact, but Spain has sensibly joined the procession. A traveller from England does not have to set his watch again while in Spain, to insure keeping appointments and catching trains.

If a message, which is more elaborate than a clock tick, is sent, a few seconds would be required in the manipulation of a telegraphic key by an operator. Hence a little time would be consumed in transmission. Again, in communicating with countries on the other side of the globe, it is necessary to use land wires and ocean cables successively. A single circuit that embraces both cannot be operated. Hence at certain points the message must be taken off and repeated. The chief delay in reaching Australia and Japan would be due to the necessity for repetition, not the actual transmission. In ordinary commercial business the delay at junctions might amount to many minutes, or even two or three hours. But when special arrangements have been made in advance for co-operation the aggregate might be reduced to a minute or two.

TIME AROUND THE WORLD WHEN THE NEW YEAR BEGAN AT WASHINGTON.

How the clocks read elsewhere when the Naval Observatory sent its midnight greeting.



A QUIET NEW YEAR'S.

CHURCHES WELL FILLED.

Sabbath Calm Between Noise and Festivity.

While the first day of the year is usually reserved for feasting and merrymaking, with an exchange of social pleasantries, yesterday, the beginning of 1905, was given over to Church observances of the holiday. The secular celebration, which began on Saturday night with a riotous rejoicing such as Broadway has seldom seen, will be continued to-day. The Sunday which brought about the double holiday caused a break in the merriment, which gave an opportunity for recuperation from the pleasures of the New Year's Eve, and will let the mirth begin to-day afresh.

In most of the churches yesterday special sermons were preached. The pastors devoted themselves to New Year's thoughts and drew morals from the happenings of the year just closed to large congregations. The day was one for family gatherings. The hotel dining rooms and restaurants were well filled last night, but not as they were on Saturday night, or will be this evening.

To-day there will be special matinees at most of the theatres. The clubs will keep open house for members and their friends. Luncheons more or less elaborate will be spread at all of them, and at some there will be entertainments of various sorts. The old Dutch custom of making New Year's calls, which has fallen into disuse in recent years, will be observed to some extent to-day. There will be some special sporting contests, which will attract visitors, while many will leave town for country clubs. The special New Year's Day free luncheons in the saloons will doubtless prove of interest to many.

NEW YEAR GIFTS TO "CENTRALS."

Miss Iselin, Miss Gould and Others Remember Girls at Telephone Exchanges.

Sixteen telephone girls in the New-Rochelle office received a visit from Miss Georgiana Iselin on Saturday. Miss Iselin was accompanied by her secretary, who carried sixteen two-pound boxes of candy and distributed them among the "centrals." Afterward Miss Iselin inspected the switchboards and equipment of the office and pronounced them wonderful.

At Tarrytown the telephone girls were rejoicing over remembrances they received from Miss Helen Miller Gould. Miss Gould, it is said, sent to each of the girls a $20 gold piece. The girls in the Harlem and Westchester exchanges report that they received about $500 in cash, two hundred pounds of candy and a large consignment of prayer-books, rosary beads and other holiday gifts.

"EMULATE THE DEVIL'S PATIENCE."

So the Rev. Dr. Eckman Tells Congregation—"Success Never an Accident."

The Rev. Dr. George P. Eckman, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, at West End-ave. and Eighty-sixth-st., said from the pulpit to his congregation last night: "The patience of the devil is worthy of emulation." The sermon was the first of a series for the young men of his congregation.

Dr. Eckman said in part:

"The devil is supposed to be the pictorial embodiment of meanness. The patience of that spirit is worthy of emulation. Nobody ever criticised him for idleness or lack of industry. Success is an achievement; it is never an accident.

The successful man of to-day is a compact embodiment of energy. The first thing for a young man to do is to acquire a character. This is an achievement and not a gift to be acquired by accident. No young man should be a misfit.

FEAST FOR CHICAGO POOR.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—Six thousand hungry men, women and children were made happy to-day at the Coliseum Annex, where the Volunteers of America gave their eighth annual dinner to the poor of Chicago. For seven hours after the doors were thrown open a threadbare throng filled the place to its full capacity. Besides the dinner in the Coliseum Annex, the religious organization distributed 1,000 baskets of food among the needy who were unable to participate in the regular New Year dinner.

BURNING MORE COTTON.

Ocilla, Ga., Jan. 1.—In the presence of about 300 farmers and merchants of this place, a bale of cotton was thrown off a wagon on one of the main streets of the town, set on fire and burned to ashes yesterday afternoon. Many citizens witnessed the scene with curious interest, and knew not what it all meant.

As it burned planters and merchants gathered around the fire and held an informal indignation meeting in contempt of the speculators in cotton. The people here have agreed to burn a bale at every decline in the price of cotton.

PLAN PEABODY'S ELECTION.

Denver, Jan. 1.—Announcement was made to-day by Republicans that when the General Assembly convenes in joint session to canvass the vote for State officers, as required by the constitution, two sets of returns will be presented from the Denver election commission. The majority report will show a plurality of about 4,600 for Alva Adams, the Democratic candidate for Governor, while the minority report will set forth extensive election frauds, and will declare that Governor Peabody carried this county by a plurality sufficient to overcome Adams's plurality of about 6,500 in the remainder of the State. The minority report from Denver will be supported by the full Republican vote of the legislature.

Another announcement by the Republicans to-day is that the Senate, when called to order, will consist of twenty-one Republicans and thirteen Democrats, with one vacancy. It had been generally supposed since the completion of the canvass that there would be at the outset nineteen Republican and fifteen Democratic Senators.

REVENUE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

London, Jan. 1.—The treasury returns for the United Kingdom, issued last night, show for the three quarters ending to-day a total revenue of $481,248,320, a net decrease of $8,541,265 compared with the same period of 1903. Of this total $447,063,535 was paid into the exchequer. The net decrease is $8,218,955 compared with 1902.

GET SAFE ROBBING TRIO.

WANTED IN MANY STATES.

Pinkertons, Headquarters Men and P. O. Inspectors Make Capture.

For the American Bankers' Association, co-operating with Assistant Superintendent Dougherty of the Pinkerton Agency and Inspectors Jacobs and Meyers, of the Postoffice Department, Detective Sergeants Kiernan and Brennan, of Inspector McClusky's staff, yesterday arrested in the lower end of the Bowery three "yegg" burglars, said by the Pinkertons to have been concerned in sixteen bank burglaries, two in this State and fourteen in Southern States. Inspector Jacobs says they were concerned in twenty postoffice burglaries in the Eastern and Southern States. The prisoners gave their names as William Smith, Thomas Kennedy and Edward James.

On November 10 the bank of Briscoe & Tupper, of Churchville, N. Y., informed the American Bankers' Association that burglars had demolished their safe with nitroglycerine, getting $2,000 in currency, silver and gold. Five explosions were heard in the bank while the burglars were operating. There were three. They escaped in a rig stolen from John J. Shaw, of Churchville.

From the descriptions obtained the Pinkertons who were put on the cases believed two of the burglars were Smith and Kennedy, who are expert "yegg" vault and safe burglars. A general alarm was sent to all of the Pinkerton agencies. Meanwhile postoffices at Tannersville and Harrison, N. Y., had been broken into, $3,200 in stamps being stolen.

Pinkerton detectives disguised as "yegg" men have been frequenting resorts on the Bowery known to be frequented by "yegg" men, and in one of these dives they found Smith, Kennedy and Casey on Saturday night. Casey, in "yegg" parlance, is a "gay cat," "pathfinder" or "locater," who acts as an advance agent of burglars, selecting banks and postoffices easy to rob.

At Police Headquarters yesterday Assistant Superintendent Dougherty identified William Smith as Gus DeFord, alias "Kentucky Yellow," alias "Buggsey," an expert vault and safe burglar, who operates with high explosives. De Ford was at one time a saloonkeeper in Cleveland, Tenn. For the last seven years he has been engaged in safe cracking. De Ford, when arrested, wore a large solitaire diamond ring, a diamond stud, solid gold watch and other jewelry. He appears like a prosperous young business man.

Mr. Dougherty and Inspector Jacobs identified Kennedy as a well known Western "yeggman," known among his associates as "Hamilton Jack." He is not long out of prison. He wore a handsome gold watch, diamond pin and a signet ring. He is the "stick up" or strong arm man of the outfit. His duties appear to have consisted of intimidating intruders while De Ford cracked the safes. De Ford and Kennedy had come here to spend their money. De Ford is also wanted for bank burglaries at Fort Mill, S. C.; the Savings Institution of Sandy Springs, Md., and the Bank of Brunson, Brunson, S. C.

A PROSPEROUS 1905.

That's What Employers and Workmen Are Expecting.

After a year of extraordinary depression in the shop trades, especially the metal business, employers in these trades and representatives of local and national unions who were seen yesterday predict a boom for the year 1905. Among the contributing causes is the fact that there is to be no change in the national administration. In the last year business was at a low ebb in the various shops and foundries, and from the time the Democratic and Republican conventions were talked of up to the election men were continually laid off.

A representative of the Townsend-Downey Shipbuilding Company said yesterday that last year had been one of unprecedented dulness in the trade, but there was no reason why the coming year should not be a good year. He went on:

The men are satisfied, and I believe the prospects for the next year are much better than last year. I should think, as the main object of the workingmen is to work, no trouble is to be expected in 1905.

I do not believe the open shop agitation will cause much trouble. All the shop trades are working more or less on that plan. The men have experienced the worst year they have had for a long time, and it will be their fault if 1905 is not much better than 1904.

Another employer said that the revival in the iron trade in the faill would have a good deal to do in stimulating enterprise in the shop trades.

William McInerney, secretary-treasurer of the Pattern Makers' League of North America said that the fact that there would be no change of administration had already shown itself. The situation has already begun to improve, he declared, and continued:

We have received word from locals throughout the country that employers are preparing to take back old hands they had discharged. Some of them have done so already. We have no trouble with the employers, and no strikes are anticipated. There may be minor troubles with individual employers which cannot be avoided in a large organization, but they are insignificant.

Bernard Lavey, delegate of the Iron Moulders' Conference Board of New-York, and its vicinity, which takes in twelve unions, said that since the election foundrymen were beginning to take on men. Said he:

In one foundry, where the force of moulders was reduced from seventy-five to thirty-four, with a corresponding reduction in other departments, there are now fifty-nine moulders, and the employers are looking for the rest of the men. I have had talks with a number of founders, and they are all talking of increasing their forces of men.

NO OPPOSITION TO KNOX.

Harrisburg, Penn., Jan. 1.—United States Senators Penrose and Knox were the guests of Governor Pennypacker at dinner this evening at the executive mansion.

Both the Senators will return to Washington on Wednesday and will come back here on January 17, when, it is generally believed, Senator Knox will be elected by the legislature.

The joint Republican caucus for the selection of a candidate for United States Senator will be held at 9 o'clock to-morrow night. There will be no opposition to the selection of Senator Knox.

ANOTHER INDICTMENT.

Continued from first page.

attorney, and Joost H. Schneider, their field agent. All of these men have been indicted. The alleged leaders in the Oregon conspiracy are S. A. D. Puter, Horace G. McKinley, N. W. Tarpley, Salmon B. Ormsby, Clarke Loomis, Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann.

Five conspirators have been convicted in Oregon and six more are under indictment. The sweeping character of the land frauds is almost incredible. Last year $106,071 was recovered in fines and judgments for depredations upon the public domains, 324 criminal prosecutions are pending, and 125 civil suits are awaiting trial for the recovery of $2,009,863, the value of timber unlawfully taken.

Within the last three weeks the fraudulent entry of 350,000 acres of the public domain has been reported to the Interior Department. All the conspirators have operated through the General Land Office, and it is expected that not less than four officials of the General Land Office will eventually be indicted.

The details of Benson's alleged attempts to bribe subordinates of the land offices have already been published, and from now on further interesting details may be anticipated. When the entire story of the public land frauds shall have been told it will constitute one of the most sensational pieces of detective work in the annals of the federal Secret Service. It will have had the effect of saving to the government hundreds of millions of dollars, and of putting an end to a system of fraud and chicanery which in magnitude far exceeds the postal conspiracies exposed a year ago.

The unflinching determination of the President to run down every dishonest official, to bring to the bar of justice every one who has attempted to mulct the government, to compel "a square deal for every man," will in the end be found to have been the mainspring of the land fraud investigation and the chief cause of its success.

VICTIM OF PERJURERS.

Senator Mitchell Says There Is a Conspiracy Against Him.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 1.—Senator John H. Mitchell has made the following statements regarding his connection with the alleged land frauds conspiracy and his indictment by the federal grand jury. Senator Mitchell said:

I am innocent as a babe unborn of any complicity in any land frauds in Oregon or elsewhere. I assert in the most positive terms that the indictment must be based upon the testimony of self-confessed and convicted land thieves and perjurers, who have been offered immunity in case they meet the vindictive desire of Secretary Hitchcock and his agents, who have by their testimony involved me and others in the frauds.

The prosecuting officer, Francis J. Heney, filled the newspapers of the United States with press dispatches from Portland ten days before the grand jury met, to the effect that I was involved in the land frauds. I immediately left Washington for Portland to answer any charges made against me by the grand jury, and I wired Heney that I desired the privilege of going before the grand jury to answer any charges against me. On my arrival in Portland I made a similar request of the foreman of the jury.

I was told by Mr. Heney that I could go before the grand jury. Upon my appearance there I was told by Mr. Heney that no evidence had been submitted to the jury against me. I then said that if there was no charge against me to answer I was still ready to submit to an examination. I did so for two hour and a half and answered promptly all questions.

I was not advised as to what the charge against me was and assured the jury that I was ready and willing to answer any other questions which either Heney or any members of the jury might wish to ask me, and especially did I desire the privilege of answering any charges that might be made against me by any witnesses.

Having been assured that no such evidence, up to that date, had been submitted, I then remained in Portland for four days after that, and, receiving no word either from Heney or the grand jury, the latter being in session at the time, I left Portland last evening for my place of duty in Washington.

If an indictment has been returned against me I am prepared to meet it before a trial jury immediately, and in this connection I defy the prosecuting officer to produce against me one particle of evidence worthy of a moment's belief which in any manner, improperly or criminally, connects me with any land frauds or with any confessed criminals, and I shall demand a trial at the earliest possible moment.

That there have been land frauds in Oregon I do not deny, but, speaking for myself, I do deny in the most positive and unqualified manner that I have been in any wise, either directly or indirectly, connected therewith or received any benefit therefrom.

FIGHT ON TUBERCULOSIS.

Commissioner Crain at Work in Thirteenth Ward.

Thomas C. T. Crain, Tenement House Commissioner, says in his annual report to the Mayor that of forty-eight blocks in the Thirteenth Ward, Manhattan, there were only seven in which there were no deaths from tuberculosis in 1904. There were 187 deaths from tuberculosis there in all. The ward is bounded on the north by Rivington-st., on the east by East-st., on the south by Grand and Division sts., and on the west by Norfolk-st.

Commissioner Crain, at his home, No. 121 West Seventy-fifth-st., said last evening:

Since the decision of the Court of Appeals in the Moschen case, affirming the constitutionality of the school sink provisions of the Tenement House law, by the old Building Bureau of Manhattan alone an average of more than five hundred school sinks have weekly been ordered out.

When these school sinks are removed and sanitary plumbing substituted for them, and the general structural orders made by the department respecting light and ventilation are enforced, and unwholesome conditions remedied or removed through the department's periodic sanitary inspections, the department will have done its part toward the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis. In the ward in question from January 1 to October 31 last there were nearly 1,100 sanitary inspections made, or a little over two to every case of contagious disease reported and about six to every case of tuberculosis. The conditions discovered as the result of such inspections led the department to file in the same period 684 violations against tenement houses in the ward.

INJUNCTION AGAINST DRUG TRUST.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Judge Healy of the Circuit Court of Cook County to-day granted a temporary injunction, returnable on the third Monday in January, to Isaac Platt, a retail druggist of Chicago, against the National Retail Druggists' Association, the National Association of Wholesale Druggists and other dealers in and manufacturers of drugs.

Mr. Platt prayed for the injunction on the ground that the defendants had refused to sell him drugs because he had put in operation a scale of prices below that maintained by the defendants. Judge Healy granted the injunction on the ground that the defendants were operating as a combination in restraint of trade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

WORK OF E. T. POTTER.

Friend Tells About His Building Inventions.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have read your notice of the death of Edward Tuckerman Potter, a man I have known for the greater part of our lives, and a close friend since, a decade or so ago, he ceased to reside a good part of his time abroad. Your lines accord kindly recognition to one born a genius and reared to the acquisition of many accomplishments, and you specially refer to his achievements in the field of music, and also draw attention to one example of his work as an ecclesiastical architect. The Church of the Heavenly Rest, however, was among his earliest output, and the meagre space allowed for its single façade—a mere gateway surmounted by a tower—afforded little opportunity for that combination of impressive mass and very delicate detail which distinguish his later work, e. g., his St. John's Church in Yonkers, and still more his Colt Memorial Buildings—church and parish house—in Hartford. The latter example is besides, almost, if not quite, sui generis—at least in this country—in its mastery of color harmony produced by stone of various hues.

Here and there one may find not bad effects in façade work from the juxtaposition of several kinds of stone of different colors, but generally otherwise good architecture is impaired by the contrasts being too violent. Mr. Potter, however, selected stone of subdued tints, and the different varieties are so effectively and harmoniously blended that the general result is most grateful to the artistic eye. It reminds one of some of La Farge's stained glass output or of some rare textile fabric from the Orient, with its colors toned down by time, rather than of a material so hard and intractible as stone.

But in a third field of the æsthetic faculty Mr. Potter has likewise distinguished himself, though in much more esoteric fashion than in architecture and music. The few who have been favored with the full collection of his versifications, privately printed, but never published, cannot but observe that many of his numbers indicate plainly enough the haste of one much preoccupied both with professional research and family and social claims. Marks of that indifference to public, and especially to expert opinion, and that feeling of irresponsibility characteristic of the clever amateur, are sufficiently apparent, but the glow of genuine inspiration everywhere shines through the atmosphere of dilettanteism, and here and there the form has been handled so faithfully as to lift the rendering to a place on the platform of genuine and distinguished poetry.

You allude to his many ties with philanthropic work, and refer to his connection with the improvement of tenement houses. He offered, in fact, a rare example of genius permeated by a spirit of benevolence, and, so endowed, he clearly realized that the more or less submerged masses cannot be lifted up to higher mental and moral conditions till they are housed with more than the prevalent regard for sanitation and with better opportunities for joint privacy and decency, and, moreover, for a much greater share in the delectation and refinement afforded by the fine arts. It is, perhaps, nine or ten years since you gave place in your columns to a letter of mine expressing interest in an anonymous contribution to "The Atlantic Monthly," in which the writer suggested the introduction in this country of open-air schools—including music in their curriculum—in the evenings of the summer season. I commended the proposition as one which, if realized, would be a help to civilization. And I well recall the satisfaction with which he told me he was the writer of the article, and the appreciation he evinced at my concurrence in his views on the subject.

But, as too often happens, Mr. Potter's chief claim to remembrance is that which is least known, and, where superficially known (and even that to very few), is least appreciated. As I stood yesterday morning among those who listened at his funeral to the solemn burial rite of the Anglican Communion, I wondered if more than the veriest few there thought of him as anything more than a man of charming personality, of ingratiating manners, accomplished in many directions, especially in tonal and plastic art—indeed, a "retired architect," and a composer of carols and other music which had afforded them pleasure and amusement—if even those of his own profession (supposing such present) realized that they were assisting at the obsequies of a great inventor, who had devoted most of his adult years not to securing commissions giving him opportunities to gratify his taste and talent for the production of fine architecture, ecclesiastical, domestic or (and best paying) the financial sky-scraping variety, but for the solution of the momentous problem of how to render feasible the providing of proper homes for the vast majority of all communities, those not rich, the poor, the very poor—homes, whether urban, suburban or rural, by which everything possible, under the unavoidable restrictions of expenditure, local ordinance, site, environment, etc., for the supply of sunlight, thorough draught, heating, cooling and ventilating of quarters, with the privacy and convenience of their occupants, has been thoroughly thought out and planned.

This the oft recurrent "Tenement House Committee" has tried to do, but with only scant success, largely because vested material interests and low class politics, together with the dense ignorance and lack of appreciation of the very classes most to be benefited, have interfered but mainly because the problem has been handled, in a more or less perfunctory way, by parties qualified in some measure, it is true, by public spirit and beneficent intent, but handicapped by necessary attention to their private affairs, and not at all well peopled in general technical knowledge and prolonged specialistic study and research which our friend brought to the subject.

Later on his rare inventiveness devised a system of what may almost be called instantaneous building by indefinite multiples of units of manufactured building materials. The very simplicity of this thoroughly original project has so far prevented its feasibility from being recognized by the average theorist or practitioner trained in the ruts of building and engineering operations. The scheme concerns itself not with the æsthetics, but simply with the constructional elements of the building art, and it is the present writer's conviction that the programme of the processes involved in the inventor's presentation, though temporarily submerged by his long illness, and now by his death, will yet be taken up as a practical issue by some one or some group gifted with adequate imagination and foresight, as well as capital.

This was the view taken by our model citizen, Andrew H. Green, to whom, as he was already greatly interested in Mr. Potter's designs for the relief of house tenants in congested districts, I submitted his new concoction for rapid building of constructional units. He was unable to do so himself, the early stage of his finally fatal illness being merely coincident with his closing labors thereon. The Father of Greater New-York was so impressed with my explanations and with the potentialities of the project that he wrote a letter indorsing it, which appeared in print, and had it not been for his tragical and wretchedly incongruous taking off, not long after, by an insane man's miserable mistake, he would doubtless have included the scheme among those selected in his later days for encouragement and promotion, as of special significance and inherent beneficence for mankind.

When the system is developed in practice, the world will witness a new era in the provision springing up in the night, like Aladdin's palace, for the health and comfort of the multitudes who do its pioneering and colonizing work; for the frontiersman, who blazes his way through the primeval forest; for the irrigator, who turns the burning barren sands of the world's ancient deserts into toil for countless new gardens of Eden; for the miner, who wrests from the earth's depths the precious metals needed by the housewife, the farmer, the manufacturer, the seaman, the jeweller, and by every purchaser and seller on the globe—and, since red-handed war still harries the earth, for the soldier, who, till the greater era of universal international arbitration dawns on the stricken earth, must needs be led to slaughter, rapine and the destruction of all the blessings wrought by peace.

In trying to keep this great inventor's beneficent projects from being laid out of sight with himself I discharge a promise made long ago to him. But I made him yet another, and that was, if I should survive him and opportunity should offer, to give his widow equal credit with himself for their development, if not for their inception. He recognized with myself that many a man, ambitious to advance his own or other's good, has really been mainly "made" by his wife—and has received the world's rewards and applause, unshared by her, for a record unattainable except through her unfaltering sympathy, her intelligence, her accomplishments, her competent criticism and advice and her steady co-operation, so far as her general culture qualified her in his current labors on his specialistic plane. His own pecuniary means exhausted, he's supports him and insures continuance of the leisure required for research and elaboration. Nor, as the writer knows by experience, does the normal woman always confine her generosity to her kith and kin. Sometimes she does not wait for wedlock and maternity, its ordinary outlet, to exercise the function assigned by the Creator to her sex as the primal cherisher of life.

Mr. Potter's mental endowment was indeed sufficiently robust and self-poised for him to have outlined his various benevolent schemes without assistance from any second party, but his competence to project them in shape for presentation to those qualified to realize them "pro bono publico" he felt he owed in chief measure to his helpmeet. And his nature was too grateful not to make his deep appreciation thereof apparent, and too just for him to be otherwise than anxious that the facts should form part of his record.

New-York, Dec. 27, 1904. A. J. BLOOR.

THANKS FOR GIFTS FOR LEPERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Bethesda Home Society of the United States of America wishes to thank you for your kindness in inserting the appeal in your paper for help for Bethesda.

As many of your readers have answered our appeal by sending in bandages, books and toys, without giving any name, it has been impossible for us to thank them personally for their donations. Should you, therefore, feel disposed to allow us to thank your kind readers, through your columns, for their liberal gifts to the poor lepers in Surinam, we should greatly appreciate your kindness.

A. E. SCOTT, Secretary and Treasurer.

Buffalo, Dec. 30, 1904.

HOW USE OF NAME AMERICAN BEGAN.

Good Reasons Why the Present Custom Should Continue.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In The Tribune of a few days ago appeared a letter from a correspondent in Ottawa, Canada, upon the subject of the exclusive use of the term "American" by the people of the United States, the correspondent taking exception to such use, claiming also the right for Canadians to be known as "Americans."

We did not originate the custom, but, doubtless, it is too late to change it, and we shall continue its use, and with good reason.

May I call a few witnesses from other countries than our own?

In 1620 the Puritans resolved to "go to America." We know where they landed and remained, and we know that the result of their thought and influence is largely the strength and power of this people to-day.

In 1776 George III issued his proclamation calling for "troops to put down rebellion in America."

In English history the people of the colonies during the Revolution are called "Americans."

Lafayette offered his "services in the cause of American liberty."

In 1777 Lafayette said to Washington, "The King, my master, has acknowledged the independence of America."

William Pitt said in the House of Lords, "You cannot, my lords, you cannot conquer America." He also said, "If I were an American, as I am an Englishman," etc.

It is said that Benedict Arnold, when dying in London, requested to be allowed to die in his "American" uniform.

When Bainbridge, Decatur and Preble forced the pirates of Tripoli to abandon the exaction of tribute the Pope declared that "the Americans have done more toward punishing the insolent pirates than all Europe put together."

In all the above was reference had to other than the people of the United States?

The searching of "American" vessels and the impressing of "American" seaman were the real cause of the War of 1812.

Now, one or two witnesses from our own country. The Chief Justice of our Supreme Court said in 1868, "The American Republic is an indestructible union of indestructible States. Notice it is the American Republic. That does not include Canada—yet.

General Robert E. Lee, at the close of the Civil War, said to the Southern people: "We are one country . . . bring your children up to be Americans."

A French officer at Manila, after Dewey's great achievement in that harbor, said, "The fire of the Americans was awful."

The whole world knows of the "American" army, "American" navy, "American" poet, author, painter, sculptor. It also knows of the "American" push, and is on the lookout for the "American" heiress.

At Niagara we gaze from the "American" side at the Canadian Falls; from the Canadian side at the "American" Falls.

The schooner "America" brought over the cup. Had Canada anything to do with that achievement?

Was any one ever spoken of as distinctively an "American" except an inhabitant of the United States of America?

Was ever Venezuelan, Brazilian, Chilian, Peruvian, Colombian called an "American," except as the word followed the prefix "South" or "Spanish"? Was ever an inhabitant of any of the republics between Mexico and Panama designated as "American," except only with the prefix "Central"?

Was ever Canadian denominated other than "British American"?

We, the people of the United States, are distinctively "Americans," the world over, and have been for 130 years. However we came by it, the title is our. Ours it will remain.

The only way in which our Canadian neighbors can ever become "Americans" lies in the possibility of their, some day, knocking for admission at our door and being received by us—a possibility very remote, but yet a possibility.

In the mean time "Americans" proper will remain the head of the family, acting the mother to the whole lot; maintaining the Monroe—"American"—Doctrine, constructing the "American" canal, protecting all against foreign domination and granting to all, South, Central and British, the daughter-in-law's privilege to be called by the family name, but always with a prefix.

ALBERT F. SHERWOOD.

Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 27, 1904.

THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT.

Pungent Statement of Varying Views.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The life lines are hard for him who poses as an independent here in our America in these strenuous days, and he is greatly to be pitied. He has to say unusual things, to take issue from time to time with something or other, to get off the plane of the general and show himself peculiar; as an advanced thinker, for instance, as a discoverer that something is not what it seems, or as the father of a new theory about that of which nobody can know anything. His case appeals more forcibly to one's sympathy when the victim is a newspaper man, because of the exigency of the demand under which he labors to make good his pretensions, and the consequent broader exposure to criticism and ridicule to which he is subject. Some examples of this latter class are just now somewhat prominently in view in relation to the purpose of our Republican administration to make effective the promise of its last convention's platform touching the disfranchisement of American citizens in violation of the national Constitution. One of these, here in our town, says that the enforcement of the penalty clause of the Fourteenth Amendment would be to the full as wicked as is the action that demands it. He seems to have got his notion of the Constitution from Kentucky, where, some years ago, a reviewer of the Constitution ruled certain constitutional provisions unconstitutional. Another, of your city, says that existing conditions in the South are greatly to the advantage of our Republican politicians, and that therefore they do not obey the Constitution's command. And a third, also of your city, approves very heartily of the constitutional penalty provision, but objects to its enforcement. These are all that I have seen. Three independents; three diverse views. If there were more there would be more views, no doubt, since to think on any way, to speak another way, just any other way, appears to be the essence of independence. This last one appears to think that if the South is not bothered about constitutional provisions she will come around all right ultimately. And that may be so. It was that way before in the old slavery days; the Constitution was not much of anything to the South, and things came out right at last. But the process of rectification was hot from the heart of Hades that time, and there ought to be a better way now.

The fact is that there is now only one obstacle of any consequence in the way of establishing the clear purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution and formal obedience thereto throughout the United States. That obstacle is that absurd and ridiculous "Senatorial courtesy" rule of the upper house of Congress. The Republican party of the North, voting upon that suffrage plank of its platform at the late election, approved of that as emphatically as of any other of its planks, and will support the application of its principle, not in any vindictive spirit or with any purpose to "punish the South," as Mr. Tillman pathetically whispers it to his followers, but as a measure of justice to the people of the North, as well as to others, and of public safety and consistency and fidelity to the fundamentals of right relations between men and men upon the earth. The crushing condemnation but now pronounced upon the slanderers of Mr. Roosevelt by the citizens of the North is a ringing proclamation of their readiness to enforce the right when once they clearly see what is the right. A Republican administration with that stupendous November vote behind it should make it clearly understood that there is to be no more monkeying with the Constitution of the United States.

Indianapolis, Dec. 24, 1904. O. W. SEARS.

PROF. WALDSTEIN WILL OFFER PROOF.

Professor Charles Waldstein, of Cambridge, who is in this city, yesterday characterized as inaccurate the cable dispatch which quoted the Italian government as denying that it had given him authorization to work for the international excavation of Herculaneum. He said:

I have full faith in the chiefs of the Italian government, with whom I arranged matters last spring. The cable message bears traces of not being authentic in itself by mentioning an international society for archæological excavation which does not exist. I shall make full explanations and give proof at my lecture on Tuesday afternoon.