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New-York Daily Tribune

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1905.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: Mr. Beveridge made an ineffectual attempt to have a day for a vote on the Statehood bill set; a bill permitting American women who have married foreigners to regain citizenship in the United States was discussed without reaching a vote. House: All records in pension legislation were broken, 459 bills being passed in 108 minutes.

FOREIGN.—A vote of confidence in the Combes Ministry passed the French Chamber of Deputies by ten votes at midnight. It was announced in Liverpool that the ocean rate war had been settled, and that all lines affected would increase rates after January 17. It was believed in St. Petersburg that the committee of Ministers had decided to relax the censorship of the Russian press. The Czar issued a rescript on the fall of Port Arthur, in which he declared that Russia had recovered from much more serious reverses. General Stoessel arrived in Nagasaki from Port Arthur. Japanese papers sharply criticised France for alleged aid given to the Baltic fleet.

DOMESTIC.—S. F. Nixon, Speaker of the New-York Assembly, had a conference with President Roosevelt, which did not, Mr. Nixon said, relate to political affairs. The American Banana Company asked the State Department to back up its suit against Costa Rica for $2,000,000 damages. T. K. Niedringhaus, chairman of the Republican State Committee of Missouri, denied having made pledges to brewers in return for campaign contributions.

CITY.—Stocks were strong. William T. Wardwell offered a $100,000 site for a Red Cross hospital in this city. A man was garroted and robbed in front of the Waldorf on a Thirty-fourth-st. crosstown car. The photograph of Rosseau, arrested in Philadelphia, was identified as that of the man who took the infernal machine to the Cunard Line pier, and who tried to wreck the statue of Frederick the Great. Mrs. Brodie L. Duke made a statement in her defence.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair and continued cold. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 25 degrees; lowest, 16.

LONGER CONGRESS SESSIONS.

An extra session of the 59th Congress seems now a certainty. Our Washington dispatches announce that President Roosevelt will call the two houses together early next fall. It is apparent that an extra session must be resorted to if the new Congress is to wrestle successfully with the legislative problems which are to come before it. No federal legislature in years has been confronted with a more serious and exacting programme than that which will fall to the Congress coming into existence on March 4. That body will need to bring to its task an exceptional store of intelligence, patience and industry, and it is from every point of view desirable that the two houses organize as soon as practicable and set to work.

It was some years ago the fashion to sneer at Congress as a body whose activities it was the part of wisdom to minimize and suppress. President Cleveland once deplored the fact that he was about "to have Congress on his hands"; but we have happily outgrown the frivolous notion that Congress is, and can be, only a disturbing and meddlesome factor in national politics. So long as the party in power is content to play a merely negative role, the participation of the two houses in government may be looked on as an infliction, unwelcome, but necessary to be endured. But this narrow and patronizing valuation of the legislative branch can have no place in the thoughts of an Executive broad minded enough to appreciate the true functions of Congress and to wish to make the House and Senate partners in executing such policies as the national welfare demands.

It is becoming apparent, in fact, that the activities of the two houses, instead of being curtailed in the public interest, must, in the near future, be materially enlarged. Congress has no longer time enough in which to do its legitimate and necessary work. Under our present arrangement of long and short sessions, three months are given one year and about six months another year to legislative business. The House of Representatives elected in November, 1904, could not meet, except through a call from the President, until December, 1905. Two months would have to be taken to complete an organization, and then, with their own canvasses for renomination and re-election already beginning, the members would be expected to settle down to work. In a Presidential year everything must be sacrificed to forcing an adjournment by June. In a mid-term year the struggle for the control of the next House has an equally distracting effect. Thus at the long session passing questions of party politics assume a wholly artificial importance, while at the short session there is barely time to crowd through the routine appropriation work.

To accomplish anything of special importance an extra session has now to be called. President Cleveland called one in 1893 to secure the repeal of the silver purchasing clauses of the Sherman act. President McKinley summoned one in 1897 to pass the Dingley Tariff act. President Roosevelt called one in 1903 to get the Cuban Reciprocity bill through. Now Congress is to meet ahead of time to consider railroad rate regulation and the possible modification of certain tariff schedules. The Tribune has long advocated a change in our political calendar which would carry Inauguration Day forward to April 30, thus relieving the legislative block at the short session. But this reform seems now more remote than ever. Yet the increasing scope and importance of federal legislation will make some lengthening of the present sessions more and more imperative. The expedient of extra sessions may serve for a time. Eventually, however, we must face the necessity of allotting Congress an ampler period for the discharge of duties which are becoming yearly more arduous and more complicated.

THE CANAL COMMISSION.

The first annual report of the Isthmian Canal Commission, the accompanying letter of the Secretary of War and the message of the President concerning it are all about what well informed men expected them to be, and are, we may add, what the country will generally regard with satisfaction. It has been known, somewhat vaguely, that actual work is proceeding on the isthmus. The special articles upon the subject which The Tribune has been printing have revealed more clearly than before the extent and value of that work. There is no occasion to criticise the Canal Commission for lack of promptness or of energy. It has acted, too, in the main with discretion, and the account of its stewardship thus far is worthy of approval. The letter of the Secretary of War largely confirms the report of the commission, with the ample authority of the personal knowledge which its writer acquired during his recent visit to the isthmus.

If it be asked why, then, there should be a demand for a reorganization of the commission, such as that suggested by the President in his message, the answer is to be found in the report itself and in the Secretary's letter. In the preliminary stage of the work the present system has worked well, though not always perfectly; but the work is now coming to another and different stage, in which another and different system of direction is desirable. The judgment of the President and Secretary, that the present system, or the present provision of law, is inelastic and clumsy, may seem harsh, but it is just. The great work in hand cannot be adapted to a hard and fast system; the system must be adapted to the work. We must have that system which observation and experience indicate to be the best for the attainment of the end in view. Moreover, since the President is held by law, and will be held by the nation, responsible for the work, he should have the authority to exercise his own discretion to a larger extent in the organization of the force which is to be responsible to him, and to which he is necessarily to delegate his authority in matters of detail.

There is, of course, as we have hitherto insisted, no thought of reflection upon the present commission. It has done its work, upon the whole, in a satisfactory manner; but it has done its work. The new work which is now at hand, and which will be in hand for ten years and more to come, needs a differently constituted commission for its performance. This is evident to those who have most carefully studied the situation upon the spot and at first hand. It can be no more evident to any one than to the present commissioners. The more faithfully they have done their work, the more clearly they will perceive this, and the more ready they will be to acquiesce in the President's recommendations.

MORE MODEL TENEMENTS.

The plan of Mr. Henry Phipps to invest a million dollars in model tenement houses is based upon a clear conception of the essential elements of success in any attempt to solve the housing problem. In this sphere the highest philanthropy is and must be enlightened business ability. A tenement house may be the perfection of comfort and sanitation, but it is not a model tenement house unless it pays. When it earns a fair interest on the investment it is an example to builders and real estate owners whose only aim is to make money, and it is an object lesson to tenants of what they have a right to expect of their landlords as rent payers and not as beggars. Rooms that are rented below cost are not a home, but a charitable institution. A charitable institution is a most excellent thing for some persons, but it is not what the great body of the people who dwell in tenement houses want. They want light, healthful homes at a fair price, while for the most part they have been able to get only dark, unsanitary dwellings for a rental utterly out of proportion to the real estate investment. This is partly due to the rapacity of landlords, partly to the ignorance of tenants, and partly to the comparative lack of really good workmen's dwellings at any price.

The generosity of Mr. Phipps prepares the way for supplying this lack on a really liberal scale. The original million dollars is merely a nucleus, for if it earns 4 per cent, to be invested in more houses, it will be possible to build with increasing rapidity, and model houses will grow at the rate of compound interest. But the direct benefit is only the smallest part of the good to be done. As Mr. Phipps says, any discouragement of investors on a purely business basis would stop building and leave the people worse off than they are now. The framers of the present tenement house law, under the able guidance of Mr. Robert W. De Forest, kept this truth in mind and struck the happy mean which insured sanitary homes without reaching for impossibilities. New law tenements are found to be a good investment. If now on a scale large enough to make an impression houses better than the speculative builders would erect are provided and made profitable, a powerful pressure will be put on the builders to be satisfied with moderate returns and do all that they can afford to do in the way of improvements.

One or two model tenements will not do this. They are mere exotics. The importance of Mr. Phipps's enterprise lies in its scope. It can have an appreciable effect on the market. Speculative builders may never be content with 4 per cent, and their houses may continue to be inferior to the model, but the standard not only for apartments but for rents will be set. Other model tenements will spring up, and the better class of builders will tend more and more to copy them. Each year the number of suitable dwellings will increase, and make it more difficult for the extortioner to keep tenants in unsanitary structures. These, instead of being the home of vast numbers of self-respecting people, will become the resort only of the shiftless at decreasing rentals.

The would-be model tenement which is not conducted as a business enterprise earning a small but regular profit will only exaggerate the evils of tenement house life. Buildings such as Mr. Phipps proposes to erect possess a power of exorcism, making the bad tenement house unprofitable and forcing owners in general to make improvements as a measure of business sagacity.

AN INTERURBAN EPISODE.

The duel with nature's weapons which began in a subway express train at Forty-second-st. the other morning, continued to Fourteenth-st. and resulted in the arrest of both performers at the City Hall seems to have originated in a double misunderstanding. One of the combatants, a gentleman from Boston, thought there would be room enough for him to sit down if the other, a gentleman of this city, would only move along. In grudging response to the request of Number One, a small amount of space was provided for Number Two, but the atmosphere had become overcharged by that time, and a snappy dialogue ended in a physical encounter. The final and compelling provocation was the designation of Number One as a "hog" by Number Two, who subsequently explained that he had employed that term in its local transportation sense, which is familiar to New-Yorkers, but strange and offensive to the inhabitants of Boston. That was unquestionably an indiscretion which excused, or, at the very least, extenuated, the resentment of Number One, who, on the other hand, had already made the mistake of assuming that Number Two was occupying more space than belonged to him, instead of the single seat to which he was entitled and which was marked off from those adjoining it on either side by the customary depressions.

At the risk of causing the pattern to be changed, we confess our surprise that any transportation company in this city should be so generous as to have provided seats of the width of those in the subway cars. A hasty calculation has convinced us that three more could have been put into the available space if each had been made two inches narrower—which means that three additional passengers might have been carried at one time. There would have been more discomfort, but there is no reason to suppose it would have led to rioting, and it is even conceivable that our Boston friend, having secured a seat without encroaching on another's right, would have exhibited the manners appropriate to his habitat, avoided arrest and escaped a fine.

UNWHOLESOME MILK.

While it is doubtless true that the milk which is supplied to this city is better in quality than it ever was before, there is room for improvement. Just now, probably, little adulterated milk is being sold here, owing to the activity of the Department of Health. The facilities for transporting milk from the dairies are constantly being improved. As an article in another part of to-day's Tribune, however, indicates, a great deal of the milk which is shipped here is produced under conditions decidedly unsanitary. According to the officials of the Department of Health, nine-tenths of the 1,500,000 quarts consumed in this city every twenty-four hours is produced under such conditions. Cows are kept in dark, dirty and poorly ventilated stables. The milkers are careless. Oftentimes the water used for washing utensils employed and cooling the milk is dirty. These seems like small details to the dairyman, but when the statistics of the Department of Health show that six thousand infants under five years of age have died in this city in one summer from diarrhœal diseases, a large proportion of these deaths being due, it is asserted by the department, to an excessive number of bacteria in the milk, Commissioner Darlington is right in asking that the producers shall co-operate with him by remedying these evils. That milk can be brought to the door of the consumer in New-York comparatively free from bacteria is proved by the fact that it is done by certain dairymen who take great precautions. What they have done can be done by any dairyman.

Milk is an excellent medium for the transportation of the bacilli of certain diseases. Owing to the fact that the names of milkmen serving those who may be suffering from these diseases are never taken in this city, it is not known whether any epidemics have followed the use of contaminated milk or not. As the article already referred to indicates, many epidemics have followed the use of milk contaminated at the point of production. It is hardly too much to demand, therefore, that no milk shall be shipped from a dairy infected by typhoid or diphtheria until it is absolutely certain there is no possibility of the bacilli reaching the milk. A glance at the causes of several of the epidemics enumerated in The Tribune's article will show how imperative it is that the sanitary conditions of the dairy shall be good.

HOW TO DEAL WITH CANCER.

Two announcements about the cause and curability of cancer have been made in the last few days. Dr. H. R. Gaylord, of Buffalo, is the author of one. Fully six or seven years ago he satisfied himself and a few professional friends that he had found the germ of this distressing disease. Since then he has been trying to produce a serum which would prove efficient in fighting the latter. He thinks that he has succeeded, for he says that he has been able to cure a number of mice to which cancer had been imparted by inoculation. Dr. Roswell Park, who has given much study to the nature of the disorder, and who is in charge of the institution in which Dr. Gaylord has prosecuted these researches, is credited with cherishing much faith in the accuracy of his assistant's methods and results; and his indorsement is certainly to be regarded with profound respect. As yet the work has not been carried to its final stage. Perhaps Dr. Gaylord might have waited a few months longer before reporting progress. It is not unlikely, though, that he was impelled to speak just now by the other declaration to which reference has been made.

Seven physicians connected with the Harvard Medical School, after four years of investigation, have concluded that the best cure for cancer is surgery. Treatment with Röntgen rays is sometimes attended with happy results when the diseased conditions are on the surface, but it is pronounced ineffectual when there is a deep seated malignant tumor. The verdict on this subject which comes from Boston is not the less valuable because it lacks novelty. It emanates from an institution of high standing and it is based on recent inquiry. On its own merits alone it is entitled to be regarded with some confidence, but the importance of the declaration is enhanced by the fact that it is in close accord with the latest report of the workers under the British Cancer Research Fund.

In announcing the convictions of himself and his associates, Dr. E. H. Nichols, of Harvard, refers to the belief that cancer is caused by a protozoon, or microscopic organism belonging to the animal kingdom. In the last dozen years a number of men of repute have imagined that they had found such a germ. Diminutive bodies distributed in cancerous tissue, and not observed elsewhere, have repeatedly been described by experts, and a baleful influence has been imputed to them. Dr. Nichols does not dispute their existence, but he says that they are merely "excretions," and that the germ theory, as applied to cancer, is now "exploded." The serums which certain foreign specialists use in treating human patients, and which Dr. Gaylord has tried on mice, are prepared from the supposed parasites; but, if the latter are not really living organisms, misgivings must arise concerning the virtues of any remedy derived therefrom.

If drugs and other medicinal agents are useless in fighting cancer, a resort to them is worse than useless. The practitioner who employs them wastes precious time. When he finally realizes that the knife is necessary the prospect of recovery has been perceptibly, not to say seriously, impaired. The operator whose assistance is invoked often finds that the hidden tumor ramifies in a surprising manner, thus compelling him to extend his exploration beyond the intended limits and prolonging the period during which anæsthesia is requisite. If the patient survives the operation itself, there is a possibility that further trouble will ensue in a year or two. In view of these only too familiar circumstances, the Harvard investigators reiterate the advice given by leading New-York surgeons, to remove a cancer at as early a stage of its history as possible.

Confronted by such conflicting opinions, what should a physician do who has a case of cancer under his supervision? Keep alert to the possibility that Dr. Gaylord or somebody else may eventually be able to supply a helpful remedy. Then wait until the remedy has been employed successfully on from twenty to fifty patients by specialists who cannot be suspected of bias. Independent testimony from competent witnesses is a prerequisite to the acceptance of every supposed discovery in science. Until it is forthcoming in the present instance, reliance should be placed only upon thoroughly approved methods of procedure.

The English correspondent who reports the surrender of Port Arthur "amazing" probably was not there when the Russians contemplated the certainty of defeat by assault. All the provisions in the world would have been of no avail to avert the horrors which must accompany the carrying of a place by storm, and if the Japanese forces had reached the position to do that, the surrender was in line with the highest standards of courage.

Judging from Mr. Jerome's intelligent activity in the pursuit of gamblers, the "man higher up" will do well to climb higher at once.

The war cloud in the Balkans is getting busy again. We are told a conflict is inevitable, though no one can tell whether it will come this spring or not. Precisely the same might have been said in any winter for the last twenty years.

Congressman Vespasian Warner must be the sort of a man who likes trouble if he is ready to take the Pension Commissionership after all the warnings put forth by his predecessors.

Such winters as the present and the last should prevent skating and sleighing from becoming lost arts in Gotham.

Russia's omission of war appropriations from her budget may mean one of two things—either that she expects the war to end at once or that she means to keep her military finances secret. The latter explanation is several hundred per cent the more probable.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A Scotch woman made a vow not to drink liquor, and a day or two after supped at a friend's house. At the supper wine was passed about like tea. The new temperance convert looked at the wine longingly. Her hostess said, "I'm sorry ye canna drink a glass o' wine wi' us on account o' yer temperance principles." The other had just taken on her plate a piece of cake. She said thoughtfully, extending her plate toward the wine bottle, "Aweel, just pour it on my cake and I'll eat it."

THE PINCH OF GENTILITY.

[Dedicated to Mrs. Praga, who has written a book showing how to keep an elegant house on £200 a year.]

Once upon a time my Mabel
Cooked me plain and homely fare;
Simple beef adorned my table,
Simple cabbage, too, was there;
Here was salt and here was mustard,
Here a glass or two of custard
Round the roasted apples clustered—
Otherwise the board was bare.

But the ancient order ended
When by melancholy chance
On a little tome descended
Mistress Mabel's eager glance.
Straightway dawned another æon:
Mabel vowed that she would see an
End of everything plebeian—
Now we aim at elegance.

Knives and forks and glasses glitter
Round a centre of sateen,
And, instead of vulgar bitter,
Claret (name unknown) is seen.
Lizzie then, the porter's daughter,
Brings the purée—Mabel's taught her
So to call the cabbage water
Ladled from the soup tureen.

After this, in silver dishes,
Enter bits of skin and bone,
Mixed with heads and tails of fishes
With a flavor all their own.
Patent jellies, round and hollow,
Filled with custard powder, follow—
Jellies which are hard to swallow,
Though they lend the feast a tone.

Finger bowls then Lizzie places
On their doylies fringed with dirt,
Manufactured out of laces
Which were once an evening skirt.
Coffee essence—so the label
Calls the mixture—decks the table;
Thus does providential Mabel
Strive to give us our dessert.

When the pinch of hunger wakes me
Just as I begin to snore,
When a longing overtakes me
For the vulgar meals of yore;
When I lie there, faint and dizzy,
Still I hear the luckless Lizzy
Toiling in the kitchen, busy
Washing up for evermore.

—(Punch.

Once, when driving, Queen Amelie of Portugal saw a large crowd surrounding some one who had fallen down. The footman was sent to ascertain what was the cause of the accident, and, returning, reported that it was a young girl who had fainted from weakness. The Queen left her carriage, according to "The Indianapolis News," and assisted the girl into the privacy of a nearby shop, and then personally attended to her professionally. The Queen then made inquiries about the girl. She was a milliner, who, having failed to get work at her trade, had undertaken other employment for the support of an invalid mother, but with such poor success that she was nearly starved. The Queen is now her patroness, and she is at the head of one of Lisbon's leading bonnet shops.

The Boss—How did my wife ever come to pick out a nursegirl as pretty as you are?

The Nurse—I suppose she wanted to be sure that the children had police protection when they were on the street.—(Chicago Journal.

"The London Chronicle" relates that during the recent fog a military man, advanced in years, lost his way completely in the nocturnal vapor. Bumping against a stranger, he explained his misfortune and gave his address. "I know it quite well," said the stranger, "and I will take you there." It was some distance, but the guide never hesitated for a moment on the whole route. "This is your door," he said at last, as a house loomed dimly before them. "Bless my soul," said the old gentleman, "so it is! But how on earth have you been able to make your way through such a fog?" "I know every stick and stone in this part of London," said the stranger, quietly, "for I am blind!"

"And is this the fastest train on your road?" growled the cranky passenger.

"Yes, sir," said the conductor. "This is the limited."

"Well, your company ought to raise the limit."—(Philadelphia Ledger.

A resident of Tarrytown-on-Hudson has paid $20,000 for a pink. This is a species of "frenzied finance" which probably even Mr. Lawson would approve, as the flower in question is an off-pink of the famous pink for which the Boston financier paid $25,000.

Household Hint.—The Visitor—Your cook is perfection itself. How do you manage her?

The Hostess—Easily. We learn what dishes she likes best herself, and then we have those only.—(Puck.

Whittier's poem, "The Prisoner for Debt," stirred the New-England conscience to the abrogation of a law that was a disgrace to the State of Massachusetts. New-York is in need of another Whittier to abolish imprisonment for debt in this State. Meantime, it is to be hoped legislators will reread the concluding stanza of Whittier's poem:

Down with the law that binds him thus!
Unworthy freemen, let it find
No refuge from the withering curse
Of God and human kind!
Open the prisoner's living tomb,
And usher from its brooding gloom
The victims of your savage code
To the free sun and air of God;
No longer dare as crime to brand
The chastening of the Almighty's hand.

A curious custom has just been celebrated at Klin, near Moscow. All the marriageable girls in the town lined up in the principal street, decked out in their simple finery, many of them also having with them the stock of linen, household and personal, which forms part of their dowry. The young men contemplating matrimony then walked down the serried ranks of beauty as they moved toward the church and selected the girls of their choice. A formal visit to the parents to arrange details was then made in each case and a date fixed for the ceremony.

THE DOYEN.

[George A. Walker, of Washington, who has just been sent to prison at the age of 104, is declared to be "the world's oldest habitual thief." He is an Oxford graduate.]

George, I congratulate you, though
There are who think such conduct wrong;
I'm glad to hear that you are going strong.

I feel a patriotic thrill,
The States may hold you now, but, oh!
'Twas Oxford gave you all your skill,
You know.

But now this side the herring pond
We look in vain for men like thee;
To find them we must search beyond
The sea.

"Too old at forty" 's what we hear
On Britain's unprogressive shore.
But you have reached your hundredth year,
And more.

At competition still you laugh;
No modern hustle makes you blue.
Youth will be served—but only after you.

The moral of this tale, no doubt,
Is plain to all. Don't trust to luck.
"Hard labor" brought our George from out
The ruck.

—(London Chronicle.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 14.—The President's guests at luncheon to-day were Secretary Morton and J. J. Hill.

President Roosevelt received a number of souvenirs from Africa to-day. The Rev. William H. Sheppard, a colored missionary, who has spent fourteen years in the Congo country, brought to the White House a pipe, a rug, a catskin and a piece of cloth, from the Bakuba tribe. The President was much interested in Mr. Sheppard's story of his work among the natives.

Among the other callers were Oscar S. Straus, formerly Minister to Turkey; S. Fred Nixon, Speaker of the New-York Assembly; State Senator Fancher, of New-York; Senators Kean and Dryden, of New-Jersey, who presented Chief Justice Gummere of the State Supreme Court; Eugen d'Albert, the pianist, and Mme. d'Albert, Justice W. M. McCarty, of the Supreme Court, and Judge C. W. Morse, of the United States District Court of Utah; Senator Overman, of North Carolina, who urged the appointment of Captain John Wilkes, of Charlotte, as a member of the Board of Visitors at West Point, and Representatives Dayton, of West Virginia, and Butler, of Pennsylvania, members of the Naval Affairs Committee, who talked to the President about the Naval bill.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt will entertain the diplomatic corps at dinner next Thursday night.

Before a select company M. Funck Brentano, of France, to-night delivered a lecture in French at the White House on "The Country Gentleman in Old France."

THE CABINET.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 14.—The Secretary of State and Mrs. Hay gave a dinner to-night. Their guests were the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Shaw, the Postmaster General and Mrs. Wynne, the secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Metcalf, Senator and Mrs. Cullom, Senator and Mrs. Spooner, Senator and Mrs. Foraker, Senator and Mrs. Elkins, Senator and Mrs. Alger, Lieutenant General and Mrs. Chaffee, Major General and Mrs. Gillespie, Representative and Mrs. H. K. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Root, the Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Eugene Schuyler and Professor Langley.

The Misses Hitchcock gave a dinner to-night in honor of Miss Roosevelt, daughter of the President.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 14.—The Russian Ambassador and Countess Marguerite Cassini entertained the members of the embassy staff and their families at dinner this evening in celebration of the Russian New Year. The only outside guests were a few friends from New-York. The holiday was observed last night with a supper at the home of the naval attaché of the embassy and Mme. Boutakoff. The elder daughter of the Ambassador, who has been seriously ill, is now much better, and Countess Cassini has entirely recovered from her recent indisposition. She was one of a theatre party at the matinee this afternoon to see John Drew.

Mr. Dering, of the British Embassy, led the cotillion with Miss Martha Cameron last night at the dance given in honor of the latter by Representative Bourke Cockran, of New-York.

The counsellor of the German Embassy and Baroness von dem Bussche-Haddenhausen entertained informally at dinner this evening.

Stanislas Gutowski, of the Russian Embassy, will give a dinner to-morrow night in honor of the Netherlands Minister and Mme. van Swinderen, whose marriage occurred last month.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 14.—Senator and Mrs. Fairbanks were hosts at a dinner this evening, when the company included the Italian Ambassador and Baroness Mayor des Planches, the Secretary of War and Mrs. Taft, Associate Justice and Mrs. McKenna, Senator and Mrs. Hopkins, Senator Dick, General and Mrs. Draper, Colonel and Mrs. Symons, Representative and Mrs. Boutell, Mr. and Mrs. Cropper, Mrs. Audenried, Representative Lovering and Miss Lovering, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Fuller and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ackert.

The Speaker of the House and Miss Cannon gave a dinner this evening. Their guests were the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Morton, the Secretary of Agriculture, Senator Allison, Senator and Mrs. Depew, Senator Wetmore, Senator and Mrs. Aldrich, Mrs. Hobson, Mrs. Longworth, Mrs. Loose, Mrs. Shonts Miss Williams, Miss Hegeman, General Crozier and Mr. Blythe.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaff had as dinner guests to-night the British Ambassador and Lady Durand, the Spanish Minister, Senator Hale, the Assistant Secretary of War and Mrs. Oliver, and the latter's sister, Mrs. Archibald Murray, of New-York; Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Gordon-Cumming, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Rae, Mrs. John Rodgers, Dr. and Mrs. Fremont Smith, the Rev. Dr. Roland Cotton Smith and Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Nicholas Fish, Mrs. Oliver Cromwell, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Squire, Richard Parsons and Mr. Eldridge, of New-York.

Mrs. Peirce Crosby, who is entertaining this winter, for the first time since the death of Admiral Crosby, was "at home" to a large number of callers this afternoon.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Although the season is in full swing, and nothing has interfered so far to mar its brilliancy, yet the exodus to the South and to the French Riviera is already beginning, and the next two or three weeks will witness a large number of departures of well known people in search of more clement weather and of sunnier skies than those of a New-York winter.

Many weddings are set for the week which opens to-day. The series begins to-morrow, with the marriage at St. Thomas's Church, of Miss Florence Lounsbery, daughter of Henry B. Lounsbery, to Frederick Beasley Alexander, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Alexander. The bride will have only one attendant, her cousin, Miss Edith Lounsbery, daughter of Mrs. Richard Lounsbery, while the bridegroom will be attended by his brother as best man, his ushers including Howard Willets, Raymond Little and Lothrop Randolph.

On the following day society will proceed downtown to Old Trinity Church at the head of Wall Street, to attend the marriage of Miss Katherine Dix, eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Morgan Dix, to William H. Wheelock. The ceremony will be performed by Dr. Dix, who will likewise give his daughter away. Her sister Emily will be her maid of honor, and her bridesmaids will be Miss Therese Iselin, Miss Marion Whitaker, Miss Frederica Webb, Miss Pauline Robinson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Beverley Robinson; Miss Natalie Chauncey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elihu Chauncey; Miss Olive Thorndyke and Miss Mary Sargent, of Boston. The bridegroom, who is a son of Dr. and Mrs. George G. Wheelock, of Park-ave., will have Norton Perkins as his best man, and Beverley Robinson, Charles A. Cone, George G. Ward, Guy R. McLean, Edward Thurston, Dr. Austen Riggs, Frederick Jordan, of Philadelphia, and R. B. Flershen, of Chicago, as his ushers. Afterward the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Dix will give a reception at their house, in West Twenty-fifth-st. It may be added that the bridegroom has recently gone into the real estate business with several of his Harvard University friends, including Charles Cone and Beverley Robinson.

On Wednesday Miss Grace Eaton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Llewellyn Eaton, will be married to Frank L. Schoonmaker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvanus L. Schoonmaker, of East Thirty-fifth-st., at the Collegiate Church, Fifth-ave. and Forty-eighth-st. Henry W. Bull will officiate as best man and Frederick Byers, Lewis E. Waring, Frank Reamer, Hastings Arnold, Henry Lowe, William C. Clark, Charles W. Fisk and George S. Oliver are to be the ushers. The bride will be attended by Mrs. Lewis E. Waring and Mrs. Witherbee Black, as well as by Miss Betty Collamore and Miss Evelyn Ellison, of Philadelphia; Miss Helen Judson, Miss Louise Vanderhoef, Miss Mona House, of Texas, and Miss Madeline Evans, of Morristown, while little Margaret Luce and Gretchen Schoonmaker, of Pittsburg, are to be the flower girls.

On Saturday the wedding of Mrs. Astor's grandson, Henry Coleman Drayton, to Miss Constance Knower will take a large number of well known people to St. Thomas's Church. Miss Knower, who entertains her bridal attendants at luncheon on Tuesday, will have her sister Margaret as her maid of honor, and her bridesmaids will be Miss Caroline Drayton, Miss Augusta Munn, Misses Helen and Elizabeth Cutting, Miss Sydney Henop, Miss Antoinette Hewitt and Miss Constance Pratt. The bridegroom will have his cousin, J. Laurens Van Alen, as his best man, and Orme Wilson, jr., Ogden L. Mills, William Sands, Norman Delano, William Post and Richard Derby, jr., as his ushers. After the ceremony Mrs. Benjamin Knower will give a reception for the newly married couple at her house, in East Seventy-seventh-st.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gibert Thebaud celebrate today the fifteenth anniversary of their wedding by a large house party at their country place near White Plains. To-night, after dinner, there will be a dramatic entertainment, beginning immediately after midnight, and in which professional performers brought from town by special train late this evening will take part.

A number of club elections take place this month. At the Calumet the terms of office, as governors, of Alfred Huydekoper Bond, Edgar Freeman, Alfred Kessler, Arthur Turnure and John M. Wing will expire on Thursday night. At the Union Club, a little later, George De Witt, John M. Bowers, Charles D. Dickey, Henry W. de Forest, Edward Cooper, George C. Clark and Richard Young are the governors who retire. At the University Club the meeting takes place on March 1, when Douglas Robinson, Horace Russell, Charles Steele, Edward King and Walter G. Oakman go out of office as governors.

Mrs. John Jacob Astor will have the use of her mother-in-law's house, in addition to her own, for her ball, which takes place to-morrow night. About three hundred and fifty invitations have been issued. Elisha Dyer, jr., will lead the cotillion with his hostess.

Among the other dances of the week is the dinner dance organized by Mrs. Frederic De Peyster and Montgomery Strong at Delmonico's on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Barclay Parsons, who moved into their new house, No. 35 East Fiftieth-st., yesterday, give a reception for Miss Sylvia Parsons to-morrow afternoon. In the morning the meeting of the Skating Club at the St. Nicholas Skating Rink will divide the attention of society with Albert Morris Bagby's musical at the Waldorf-Astoria. Receptions will also be given to-morrow by Mrs. John J. White and Mrs. Edwin Weatherbee.

Among the many dinners scheduled for the week which opens to-day are those of Mrs. Philip Livingston on Saturday at her house in Fifth-ave.; of James Henry Smith, on Friday, at his house in Fifth-ave.; of Mrs. Ogden Mills, on Tuesday, and of Mrs. Warren C. Beach, on Thursday.

Announcement was made yesterday of the engagement of Henry De Rham 2d, son of Charles De Rham, to Miss Frances Appleton Dana, daughter of Richard H. Dana, of Cambridge, Mass.

Trinity Church, Hoboken, was the scene yesterday afternoon of the marriage of Miss Eleanor Lewis to Thomas Bloodgood Peck, jr. The ceremony was performed by the rector, the Rev. Dr. J. Clayton Mitchell, and the benediction was given by the Right Rev. Chauncey Brewster, Bishop of Connecticut. The bride, whose dress was entirely of old Brussels point lace, with which she wore a lace veil that had been used at the weddings of the women of her family—the Stevens family, of Castle Point—for several generations, was attended by her sister, Mrs. James Millar Cumming; Miss Mary P. Stevens, Miss Mary Delafield, Miss Bertha Stockwell, Miss Lois Low, Miss Gertrude Houghton and Miss Alice Agnew, all arrayed alike in frocks of white chiffon cloth, incrusted with Irish lace, tulle hats trimmed with white plumes and carrying large muffs of white chiffon, ornamented with lilies-of-the-valley. There were also two little flower girls, namely, Emily Stevens, daughter of Colonel Edwin A. Stevens, of Castle Point, Hoboken, and Elsie Stevens, daughter of Richard Stevens. Staunton B. Peck was his brother's best man, and the ushers included