Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—Siberia.
AMERICAN—8:15—Me, Him and I.
BELASCO'S—8—Adrea.
BIJOU—8:15—The Music Master.
BROADWAY—8:20—Fatinitza.
CASINO—8:15—Lady Teazle.
CIRCLE—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:20—Cousin Billy.
DALY'S—8—The Duchess of Dantzig.
EDEN MUSEE—Wonders in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:20—The Little Minister.
GARDEN—8—The College Widow.
GARRICK—8:10—You Never Can Tell.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HARLEM—8:15—The Two Orphans.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—Woodland.
HUDSON—8:20—Sunday.
IRVING PLACE—8:20—Sappho.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—The Winter's Tale.
LEW FIELDS'S—8—It Happened in Nordland.
LIBERTY—8:30—The Money Makers.
LYCEUM—8:30—Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace.
LYRIC—8:15—Fantana.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—10 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Automobile Show.
MAJESTIC—8—Babes in Toyland.
MANHATTAN—8:15—Leah Kleschna.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Romeo and Juliet.
NEW-AMSTERDAM—8:15—Humpty Dumpty.
NEW-YORK—8:15—Home Folks.
PRINCESS—8—Sweet Lavender.
SAVOY—8:30—Mrs. Leffingwell's Boots.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The Sho-Gun.
WEBER MUSIC HALL—8—Vaudeville.
WEST END—8:15—The Burgomaster.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1905.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: A special message was received from the President, advocating the appointment of experts to study industrial and trade conditions abroad, with a view to benefiting American commerce; discussion of the Statehood bill continued. House: The session was devoted to consideration of the Army Appropriation bill, a vote on which will be taken to-day; Mr. Degetau, the Commissioner from Porto Rico, made his first speech in Congress.

FOREIGN.—While the Czar was blessing the waters of the Neva, in St. Petersburg, a number of grapeshot, accidentally discharged from a battery in firing a salute, fell near. England is convinced that the Austro-Russian reform measures for Macedonia are a failure, and has sent a note to the powers with a view to paving the way to the adoption of more drastic measures. The first public session of the North Sea Commission was held at the French Foreign Office. Six persons were killed and nine seriously injured in a collision of three trains on the Midland Railway, England. A number of Herero chiefs have surrendered, and it is believed that the end of the revolution is near, but Germany continues to send troops to South Africa.

DOMESTIC.—Secretary Hay has received assurances from the powers that they will not attempt to extend their territorial possessions in China at the close of the Russo-Japanese War. No election for United States Senator was effected in Missouri, the single ballot taken showing a loss of four votes by Neidringhaus; the Republican State Committee is to meet.

CITY.—Stocks irregular, closing weak. "Cadets" threatened the life of Simon C. Noot, who is conducting the crusade, backed by wealthy Hebrews, against them. The slot machines were taken from the Fulton-st. station. A servant at the home of Mrs. William D. Guthrie put the entire household in terror; a policeman finally ejected him. Coroner Jackson was arrested, charged with attempted bribery. B. L. Duke was liberated by Justice Gaynor, and later there was a meeting with his wife. Poolsellers refused to obey subpœnas issued by Police Commissioner McAdoo for their appearance before him. Senator Platt and ex-Governor Odell came to the city for political conferences. The people of The Bronx made their wants known to the Rapid Transit Commission. District Attorney Jerome seized more gambling instruments and examined several poolsellers summoned to his office by subpœnas. An Italian shot his successful rival in love four times; the victim will die, say the surgeons.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair and colder. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 45 degrees; lowest, 34.

NEUTRALITY UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

China deserves sympathy. She is trying to be neutral, but the belligerents will not let her. There is reason to believe that at the beginning of the war she regarded one belligerent with as much or as little favor as the other, and sincerely meant to hold the balance true between them. We have seen no cause since for thinking she has changed her policy. Her situation has, however, been an uncommonly trying one. Although she is not a party to the war, the war is being fought upon her soil. In such circumstances a large part of her lands and waters must be regarded as the very reverse of neutral, and it is obviously difficult to draw and to maintain a hard and fast line between what is and what is not neutral. The American government suggested that that should be done as far as possible, and the belligerents agreed to do so. Perhaps they have done so to the best of their ability. Perhaps, too, it was too much to expect a strict delimitation of the field of war. If the Russians were fighting the Japanese in the Chinese province of Shing-King, and saw they could win great advantage by making a side raid into Chi-Li, also a Chinese province, it would be contrary to human nature to expect them to refrain from doing so. If the Japanese were using the Blonde and Elliot islands as bases of operations against the Russians, and found it to their advantage thus to employ the Miao-Tao Islands, it was only natural for them to occupy the latter group.

There are charges and countercharges. Russia complains that Japan occupied the Miao-Tao Islands, "cut out" a Russian vessel at Che-Foo and enjoyed special and exclusive commercial facilities on the Chinese coast. Japan replies that Russian armies occupied land outside of Manchuria, that a Russian military telegraph station was maintained at Che-Foo, and that Russian ships abusively presumed upon the hospitality of Chinese harbors. Nor are complaints limited to the Far East. Japan sees what she regards as breaches of neutrality elsewhere. She thinks France has acted wrongly in giving to the Russian fleet so prolonged use of French harbors and coaling stations. Thus, charges and complaints lead to threats of grave retaliation against China for something which she has not desired and has not been able to prevent, until finally the good offices of America are practically asked for all around for a settlement of the troubles.

The fact is that neither of the belligerents has seemed much inclined to forfeit or to forego an advantage through an excessively strict interpretation of the neutrality laws—which are not laws, after all, but very elastic customs—while the rest of the world has largely misapprehended the force and application of those so-called laws. It has seemed strange for France to give asylum and supply to Russian warships. Yet she has a perfect right to do so, unless she has herself specially renounced it. One nation may ordain that ships of a belligerent shall remain in its ports not more than twenty-four hours and shall receive no more coal than is necessary to carry them to their nearest home port. Another may, with equal propriety and with equally scrupulous regard for the principles and practice of neutrality, permit the ships to stay in its ports as long as they please and to take aboard all the coal they want. The only thing that can be required is that it shall treat both belligerents alike. It would probably be a good thing to have the principles and practice of neutrality made uniform the world over and erected to the dignity and force of international law, and a step toward that end might have been taken at The Hague had not Russia disapproved the summoning of a second congress there. Meantime, it is to be hoped that China will be able to vindicate her course upon the ground either of impartiality or of non possumus. It would be a dreadful thing to have all China dragged into the war, or to have the victor, at the end of the war, proceed to spoliate China in punishment for breaches of neutrality.

RAPID TRANSIT AMENDMENTS.

Efforts to have the Rapid Transit Commission legislated out of existence are renewed from time to time, and there are indications that they will be unusually energetic this year. It is not so certain, however, that the number of citizens who would like to see them succeed is large and increasing. There is, of course, no doubt that the commission, whose original members were named in the act creating it, and which is self-perpetuating, is an exception to the general rule of republican government. But those characteristics of the commission, deliberately provided to meet an emergency, were overwhelmingly approved by the people of this city, and thus far have been justified by results.

The contract under which the first subway was built and has gone into operation does not constitute a suitable precedent for future undertakings of a similar nature, and, if there were good reasons to suppose that the commission considered only a few minor modifications to be needful in the public interest, the people would unquestionably insist on having the control of rapid transit affairs transferred to other hands. But we have seen no evidence that the commission is either indifferent to public sentiment or indisposed to recognize changed conditions. A few days ago it unanimously declared its utter hostility to every scheme involving the use of the parks for railroad purposes. Yesterday its chief engineer sharply reminded the Interborough company that, whatever contract No. 1 may be held to authorize, contract No. 2 does not permit the obstruction and defacement of subway stations.

The bills just introduced in the legislature at the instance of the commission also seem to us to show a proper regard for the public interest. If the amendment designed to make all of a contractor's tunnel property subject to taxation does, in fact, as some think, exempt his real estate now taxable, that error can easily be corrected. The other changes proposed are evidently meant to meet demands which have been generally urged, and if they are opposed it will probably be because of a desire to get rid of the commission altogether than because they are unsound in principle. The provision relating to the construction and control of pipe galleries in future subways is eminently wise. Such ducts are indispensable; they should always be at the service of the city, and it is a great pity that they were not built on those terms in connection with the first underground road.

The policy indicated by the amendment which would enable the commission to make an operating contract for any period of less than fifty years is correct, but we are inclined to go further and limit subway contracts to a term of twenty-five years, with the chance of renewal on a revaluation. Nobody doubts that vast amounts of money are now eager for investment in such enterprises. Commercially and otherwise the first of them is a great success. The proposition which repelled capital for so many years has been demonstrated. The city is no longer compelled to sue; it is in a position to dictate. But there would still be grave danger in confiding its rapid transit interests to Tammany Hall. The present management is incorruptible, and the pretence that it is inferior in wisdom to the organization which usually governs New-York appears to us ridiculous.

MORMON OATHS.

Most of the witnesses at the Smoot investigation who have told about the strange and weird oaths of the Endowment House have treated the affair as a sort of joke. The idea of having their hearts cut out and their livers sliced into thin bits for revealing the secrets of Mormonism did not strike them seriously. After they had told about being "sealed" voices were raised in the newspapers warning the Senators to remember the extravagant and bloodcurdling rituals of their schoolboy days and to take along with them their sense of humor in judging of the "enormities" of Mormonism. It would not do for Senators to take at their face value as indications of antagonism to law and decency all this childish tomfoolery. It seems, however, that Bishop Daniel Connelly, of the Mormon Church, takes it seriously, and is by no means willing to have his Church "let down easily" on the theory that it is not a dangerous institution, but only a rather poor joke. At a meeting in Eureka he is reported to have denounced as "traitors" the witnesses who revealed the Endowment House oaths, and said: "I have known "traitors to be shot, and I warn you not to fall "into the ways of traitors. The United States "government shoots men for breaking their "oaths, and the covenants with God are much "more sacred than an oath given to the gov-"ernment."

That is an interesting commentary on the Smoot case. Does the Mormon bishop wish the United States Senate to consider that as authoritative? It is a matter of history, we believe, that in the early days of Utah the Mormons made use of murder and massacre to establish their power over the Territory. In later years they have professed a changed attitude toward the United States government and toward the moral law as interpreted by other people. They vigorously deny that they are lawbreakers, that the corporate power of the organization of which Mr. Smoot is a pillar is used to promote polygamy or is in any way hostile to public interests. The revelations from the Endowment House made Mormonism look silly, but silliness is not a crime, and Mr. Smoot seemed likely to reap the benefit of a Senatorial sense that the things for which his exclusion was demanded were ridiculous rather than terrible. Now Bishop Connelly comes preaching to young people's societies the shooting of traitors. Mr. Smoot is himself not a polygamist. His fortunes turn on the essential character of the institution of which he is an officer. Is it a public enemy? Has it a spirit of defiance to the law which disqualifies him regardless of his individual conformance? If the Mormon Church is a secret, oathbound body, which seriously means the murderous threats of its ritual, and continues such teachings as those of Bishop Connelly to its children, it would seem difficult to regard one of its apostles, whatever his personal conduct, as a free American citizen, acknowledging unreserved allegiance to his country and giving full obedience to its laws.

NEW-JERSEY'S CORPORATION LAWS.

Corporations chartered under the laws of New-Jersey need not worry about the likelihood of any radical change being made immediately in those laws. A close examination of Governor Stokes's inaugural address will disclose the fact that the most drastic recommendation which he makes is for the appointment of a commission to review the corporation laws and suggest what changes, if any, are needed.

That does not necessarily mean action at the present session of the legislature. Indeed, as a rule, matters referred to commissions are not attended to with undue haste. Undoubtedly examination and analysis will show the desirability—nay, the necessity—of so amending the laws as to give greater protection to legitimate business interests and at the same time protect the public against dishonest concerns. It is a matter of great importance both to New-Jersey and investors generally and requires careful and impartial investigation.

Meantime the Governor's remarks may have the good effect of smothering at birth bills such as were introduced last year and the year before to stifle the protests and tie the hands of minority stockholders.

LIGHTING WITH ACETYLENE.

According to "Engineering," there are now in use in France more than 40,000 plants for the production of acetylene gas for illuminating purposes. A very few—scarcely more than a hundred—are devoted to the lighting of towns, and only the smallest towns have introduced the system. The great majority of the installations have been made by individuals for their own places of residence and business houses. Both the French government and the French insurance companies have adopted strict rules regarding the arrangement and position of the generator. On the other side of the Atlantic, as in the United States, it is not regarded wise to have the apparatus inside the building that is to be lighted. Much less damage would result from an explosion if the plant were out of doors.

It is probable that the consumption of calcium carbide, from which acetylene is obtained by the addition of water, is larger in this country than in any other, but the method of using it is somewhat different here. In the United States large quantities of acetylene are added to ordinary water gas, to "enrich" the latter, thus making unnecessary the employment of certain volatile products of petroleum which were formerly required. Inasmuch as "Engineering" makes no reference to the observance of such a practice in France, it may be supposed that most of the acetylene generated in that country is consumed without admixture with any other gas than air.

After the discovery of a cheap way to make calcium carbide, about a dozen years ago, a great revolution in modes of lighting was anticipated. Accidents which resulted from the careless handling of acetylene rendered it unpopular for a time, and it has come into favor more slowly than was expected. Among the hopes that were cherished for a time was that a lamp for household use might be devised in which water and calcium carbide would take the place of kerosene. Hundreds of devices of that sort have been patented, but it is hard to find one that is thoroughly "fool proof." Acetylene gives such a beautiful light and is so cheap that the failure to develop a perfectly satisfactory portable lamp for its utilization is greatly to be lamented.

OUR PAST DUE CORONERS.

Even in Shakespeare's time the English coroner had worn out the patience of the most enduring. It seems strange that in this day and generation New-York still tolerates him. But it is Mayor McClellan who is responsible for his stay. A judicious bill was adopted by the legislature at its last session which would have relieved the metropolis of the venerable infliction, but Tammany and the Mayor intervened, and the bill was defeated. It is clear that if Mr. Murphy retains his clutch over this metropolis the antique system of coroners is not likely to be displaced by the more modern arrangement of medical examiners.

Senator Elsberg is firm in the faith that the position of coroner in this city is antiquated and outworn, and his bill ought to become a law. Our coroners usually hold their places, not because of their fitness for their offices, but because of their political pull. Senator Elsberg's bill has been prepared by officers and counsel for the State Medical Association, and our present coroners' physicians may become members of the new Board of Medical Examiners under the Civil Service rules. Their duties will be strictly those of physicians, and the number of them in all parts of the city will reach fifteen. At present a coroner may be taken from any profession or trade.

IMMIGRATION IN 1903-'04.

The report of the Commissioner of Immigration for the fiscal year 1903-'04, just issued, exhibits the working of our immigration inspection system under the changed conditions created by the act of Congress of March 3, 1903. That legislation seems to have thoroughly justified itself. According to the showing made by Commissioner General Sargent, the flood of immigration has not been materially checked by the safeguards enacted. But the quality of the raw material offered us for citizenship has been distinctly bettered, and the "dumping" of paupers, defectives and derelicts generally has been effectively blocked. In last year's report Mr. Sargent expressed some rather pessimistic views on the immigration problem. This year he writes more optimistically, for he cheerfully admits that in the more recent inflow of immigration there has been "a marked improvement in character and thrift."

The year 1903-'04 showed a moderate decrease in the total of admissions. In 1902-'03 857,046 immigrants were landed. But last year only 812,870 applicants passed muster under the new law. The volume of immigration from Italy and Sicily fell off most. The decrease from the kingdom of Italy was 37,326—nearly equal to the year's total decrease. From Austria-Hungary there was a falling off in arrivals of 28,855. Italy and Austria-Hungary last year contributed 436,733 immigrants—or over half the total. For 1903-'04 they contributed 370,452—or a little over 45 per cent. Arrivals from Russia and Finland show a slight increase—145,141 this year, against 136,093 last year. For some reason by no means evident the movement of immigration from Sweden has been sensibly checked. Only 27,763 Swedes came here in 1903-'04, against 46,028 in 1902-'03. Immigration from England increased about 33 per cent—from 26,219 to 38,626. From Scotland and France there were slight gains, while from Japan, Rumania and Greece arrivals were fewer. This greater distribution of the volume of immigration is considered by Mr. Sargent a hopeful sign, for smaller accessions from various nationalities are far more easily assimilated than great masses from one or two particular countries. Moreover, it has been found through experience that newcomers from Italy and Austria-Hungary are especially addicted to colony life, and cannot be as readily dispersed as other races from the chief centres of population.

Another excellent effect of the new law is to be noted. Immigrants admitted now bring more ready money with them, and are far less likely to become public charges. The 857,046 arriving in 1902-'03 had $16,117,513. The 812,870 who came in in 1903-'04 had $20,894,383. This gain of 30 per cent in ready cash, while the volume of immigration decreased 5 per cent, testifies plainly to the greater desirability of the newer comers. The applicants debarred from landing and deported numbered 7,994 in 1903-'04, against 8,769 in 1902-'03. The newer and more stringent admission tests of recent years have had a notable effect. Since 1892—when the regulation of immigration was first attempted—47,768 defectives and contract laborers have been debarred. Only 16,763—or over 33 per cent—have been debarred in the last two years.

Mr. Sargent still holds that the great problem to be met in dealing with alien applicants for citizenship is the stagnation of this inflow in a few centres of population. From this stagnation come the abuses of "foreign colony" life, the "padrone" system, the maintenance of a reign of terror through secret societies, and a general retardation of the processes of assimilation and education. If immigrants could be barred from the seaports and dispersed through the interior, Mr. Sargent thinks, the task of fitting them for useful citizenship would be far easier. Yet there is much encouragement to be found in the fact that the more clannish and intractable elements in the inflow are becoming relatively smaller under present conditions, and that the defective and undesirable immigrant is giving way to one with greater capital, greater thrift and a greater capacity for sharing the burdens of national development.

The tearing out of slot machines and signs from a part of the subway is an overt act that will probably expedite a general determination of the matter more effectively than an ocean of talk.

The starting up of the Fall River mills, after a six months' strike, is generally credited to the business sagacity of Massachusetts' new Governor. Still, unless the mills were to close for good, a six months' trial of strike methods would seem to be long enough under any circumstances.

One of the law breaking automobile "scorchers" arrested on Wednesday night is at least able to plead the extenuating circumstance of truthfulness. He admitted—or boasted—that his machine could make sixty miles an hour, and that he would have run it at that pace if he had realized the police were after him. Usually a "scorcher" lies about it, and is ready to swear that his mile-a-minute engine cannot possibly make more than eight miles an hour.

It will be a good thing for officials of our Postoffice Department to investigate and study our foreign mail service. It will be better if, as a result of such action, we presently get a rational parcels post system, connecting us with the other great nations.

The proposal to plant trees along the widened Delancey-st. is, upon its face, an admirable one, but it irresistibly suggests that there is a plan afoot for tearing that street open a few years hence and destroying all the trees. That is the New-York way of doing things. Upper Broadway was thus despoiled, in a fashion that the next half century can scarcely repair. The moment Fourth-ave., in Brooklyn, was transformed into the beautiful parkway it now is there arose an organized effort to have it all torn open again and every tree destroyed. But one of these days we ought to learn enough to leave a good thing alone when we have got it, and to provide ourselves with the useful without at the same time destroying the beautiful.

When the cotton planters of Georgia hear of that probable shortage in the Egyptian cotton crop their recent bonfires will not seem such brilliant affairs as they thought them to be at the time.

General Nadien, one of the Russian officers captured at Port Arthur, says the bravery shown by the Japanese navy is beyond comparison and the bravery of the Japanese soldiers is unrivalled. To all of which there is general assent, as also to his further statement: "It seems shameful to kill such men." Why not stop it?

It seems to be a close race nowadays between John Doe and "the Man Higher Up."

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The Guatemalan Minister had attended a reception in Washington recently. As he was leaving he said to the negro who called the carriages: "Call the carriage of the Guatemalan Minister—you understand: Guatemalan Minister." "Yes, sir; understand perfectly, sir," he replied, and then shouted at the top of his lungs: "The carriage for the Watermelon Minister!"

A TRAGEDY OF THE TRACK.

The crowd was gathered at the start,
The "auto" course was clear,
The stern chauffeur upon the seat
Was Chauncey Vere de Vere.

Like galloping tuberculi
The thing began to cough.
Brave Chauncey seized the what's-it's-name—
A shot, and they were off!

His engine was a thing-um-bob
Imported from Paree,
His tires, I wot, were you-know-what—
The kind they ought to be.

Small wonder, then, that Chauncey sped
More swiftly than the wynde—
Before him lay the open course,
His rivals all behind.

But Chauncey looked with anguished gaze
Upon his steering gear—
The crack-a-jack was out of whack
And acting very queer.

The thing-ma-jig began to dig,
The what's-it's-name to pop,
And shame, oh, shame! the "auto" came
Abruptly to a stop!

With leers and jeers and dastard sneers
The rival cars shot by—
Their spunk was up to win the cup,
Their hopes and speed were high.

But prone beneath his moveless car
Our anguished hero lay—
No hope was his—the funny-biz
Had broken quite away.

So Vere de Vere, the chauffeur, wept
Beside a wayside ditch.
"All lost!" he cried, "because of that
Defective ask-me-which!" —(Life.

Wife—Henry, what makes you in such a furious temper?

Husband—I'm trying to read a Scotch dialect story. The plot is fearfully exciting, but I can't hurdle over the language fast enough to keep up with the hero!—(Detroit Free Press.

FRENZIED FINANCE.

Lives of great men oft remind us,
If we only owned a trust,
We could squeeze each smaller dealer
Till he'd pay our price or bust.
—(Princeton Tiger.

No less than fourteen electric mountain railways are now under construction in Switzerland, according to "The Indianapolis News." Within the course of a few years all the leading Alpine heights can be reached by mountain railways. Switzerland is spending many millions on these enterprises, and it is hoped that, with these increasing facilities, the number of tourists will become greater every year. The Jungfrau and Chamounix railways will be completed and open for passenger traffic by the summer of 1906.

Not Needed.—"Do you favor the whipping post for wife beaters?"

"No," answered the woman who has been several times married. "The flatiron or the stove lifter is good enough for me."—(Washington Star.

London is far ahead of New-York in the matter of underground traction. When the electrification of the railways which run underground in London is completed, the traveller will be able to traverse sixty miles underground by electric traction without running twice over the same piece of track.

Suspicious.—"John, we will have to change milkmen."

"Why, my dear, aren't we getting pure milk from this one?"

"Well, he acts suspiciously. As he drove up this morning I heard him whistling 'I'm On the Water Wagon Now'!"—(Cleveland Leader.

Serpent worship still survives in India, and a snake shrine is said to be as much an attraction in a house on the Malabar Coast as a garden in the case of a country home in the United States. Serpents are, however, most unobtrusive, and unless one walks noiselessly and barefooted in the dark, as Hindoos do, snakebite is an improbable contingency.

Of Course.—"I want some man to figure out how much electricity it is going to take to run my mill. Whom would you recommend?"

"One of those lightning calculators, of course!"—(New-Orleans Times-Democrat.

What is declared by "The Philadelphia Record" to be the largest and heaviest cold rolled steel band saw ever made has just been turned out at the Disston works, Tacony. It is 20 feet long, 15 inches wide, 0.134 of an inch thick, and weighs 1,474 pounds. By repeated rolling the thickness of the band was reduced from 0.270 to 0.134 of an inch. The saw is perfectly straight, and is a marvel for uniformity of thickness. Bands up to 50 feet long and 14 inches wide are regularly made at the Tacony plant, but it is said that never before has a band of such length and weight been cold rolled at any shop in the world.

Improving.—She—I think I've been quite economical.

Her Husband—Do you?

She—Certainly. I'm sure we haven't run in debt half as much as last month.—(Brooklyn Life.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 19.—The President and Mrs. Roosevelt entertained the diplomatic corps at a state dinner to-night. The guests were received in the East Room. Mrs. Roosevelt wore black net, pailletted with smoked pearls. Miss Roosevelt's gown was of yellow silk, trimmed with lace and chiffon. The usual decorations of flowers and shaded lights added to the attractiveness of the state dining room, and the Marine Band, stationed in the corridor, played throughout the evening. Those at the table were:

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt.	The Minister of Panama and Mme. Obaldia.
The Russian Ambassador and Countess Cassini.	The Guatemalan Minister.
The Mexican Ambassador.	The Turkish Minister.
The Italian Ambassador and Baroness Mayor des Planches.	The Brazilian Minister.
The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand.	The chargé d'affaires of Germany.
The British Ambassador and Lady Durand.	The chargé d'affaires of Austria-Hungary.
The Minister of Sweden and Norway.	The chargé d'affaires of Venezuela.
The Danish Minister.	The Chargé d'affaires of the Argentine Republic.
The Haytian Minister and Mme. Léger.	The chargé d'affaires of Colombia and Mme. Perez Triana.
The Costa Rican Minister.	The chargé d'affaires of Switzerland.
The Nicaraguan Minister.	The Secretary of State and Mrs. Hay.
The Japanese Minister.	Senator and Mrs. Cullom.
The Belgian Minister and Baroness Moncheur.	The Bishop of Massachusetts and Mrs. Lawrence.
The Siamese Minister.	Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt.
The Chilian Minister and Mme. Walker-Martinez.	Colonel and Mrs. A. C. Tyler.
The Portuguese Minister.	Mrs. W. S. Cowles.
The Cuban Minister and Mme. Quesada.	Miss Roosevelt.
The Spanish Minister.	Miss Isabella Selmes.
The Chinese Minister.	Miss Lorraine Roosevelt.
The Netherlands Minister and Mme. Van Swinderen.	Miss Eleanor Whitridge.
The Bolivian Minister and Mme. Calderon.	Miss Corinne Robinson.
	Miss Laura Chanler.
	Major Charles L. McCawley.

Miss Isabelle Selmes, Miss Corinne Robinson, Miss Laura Chanler, Miss Lorraine Roosevelt and Miss Eleanor Whitridge are guests at the White House.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt will give their next state dinner on February 2, for the Supreme Court.

President Roosevelt received a call to-day from A. W. Merrefield, of Flathead County, Mont., who was his superintendent in North Dakota from 1883 to 1889, when their ranch was on the Little Missouri, at Medora. Mr. Merrefield is the messenger bearing Montana's electoral vote to Washington, and was escorted to the White House by Representative Dixon. The President was delighted to meet his old friend again, and, after a long chat about their ranching days, invited him to luncheon at the White House to-morrow.

John Flinn, superintendent of the Chamberlain (S. D.) Indian School, brought President Roosevelt to-day a Sioux war bonnet and a buckskin coat, which were sent by South Dakota admirers.

Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, was an early caller at the White House, his mission being to correct an erroneous statement that he had telephoned from Harrisburg a protest against the confirmation of Robert Watchorn as Commissioner of Immigration at New-York. "The appointment is credited to New-York," said Senator Knox, "and his selection is no concern of mine. I did not make any protest by telephone or otherwise."

President Roosevelt received a delegation from New-Orleans to-day to urge the establishment of a government steamship line between the Crescent City and Panama. They said that there were many reasons why the line should run to New-Orleans instead of New-York.

Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole, the Hawaiian Delegate in Congress, known among his people as "Prince Cupid," called on the President to-day to lay before him the needs of Honolulu for harbor improvements. Representative Rodenberg visited the White House to press the claims of an East St. Louis man for the internal revenue collectorship of Western Illinois; Senator Teller, to say a word against the appointment of a certain man as postmaster in a Colorado town; Señor Riano, first secretary of the Spanish Legation, who came to say goodby on the eve of sailing for Paris. Indian Commissioner Leupp took up some matters connected with his department, and the official messengers bearing the electoral votes of Illinois and Nebraska were introduced by members of Congress.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 19.—Señora Calderon and Señorita Elena Calderon, wife and daughter of the Bolivian Minister, had as luncheon guests to-day Señorita Walker-Martinez, Miss Shaw, Miss Taylor, Miss Mercer, Miss Conrad, Miss Anderson, Miss Heald, Miss Needham and Miss Stevens.

Mme. Boutakoff, wife of the naval attaché of the Russian Embassy, closed the festivities of the Russian Christmas this evening by entertaining a number of young messenger boys at a little party. Each of the sixty lads pulled a string that brought him a prize from a prettily decorated tree, and when he departed each carried a knife, a box of crayons or paints and similar trifles, together with gay colored handkerchiefs filled with bonbons.

Señor Riano, of the Spanish Legation, whose marriage to Miss Ward, of this city, will take place in the near future, is about to make a short visit to Europe.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Jan. 19.—Senator and Mrs. Hopkins had as guests at dinner this evening Senator and Miss Dietrich, the Commissioner of Pensions and Mrs. Warner, Representative and Mrs. Crumpacker, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Patterson, Mrs. Peffers, of Evanston, Ill., and Mrs. James Hopkins, of Chicago.

Wives of Senators who received this afternoon had an unusual number of callers, owing to the spring-like weather. Mrs. Depew, who was at home for the first time this season, was assisted in welcoming her visitors by Miss Paulding, while Baroness Moncheur, wife of the Belgian Minister, and Mrs. Benedict poured tea. Mrs. Thomas C. Platt did not receive, as she has gone to New-York for a short visit. Mrs. Alger had Mrs. Garret A. Hobart with her, and Mrs. Aldrich was assisted by Mrs. Elisha Dyer and Miss Jones. Mrs. William A. Clark, wife of the Senator from Montana, was not at home to-day.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth entertained a dinner company this evening.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

At Delmonico's there was the second of the dinner dances organized by Mrs. Frederic J. De Peyster and J. Montgomery Strong. Ashton De Peyster led the cotillion, dancing with Miss Dorothy Grinnell. Among the patronesses who were present, presiding at the various tables at the dinner preceding the dance, were Mrs. Dallas Bache Pratt, Mrs. George R. Schieffelin, Mrs. Benjamin Knower, Mrs. George B. Post, Mrs. E. V. Potter, Mrs. Berkeley Mostyn, Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge, Mrs. Woodbury Langdon, Mrs. Herbert Parsons and Mrs. W. Emlen Roosevelt.

W. Ruloff Kip, who sails soon for Europe, where he will travel on the Continent in his motor, will entertain a large party at dinner at Sherry's to-morrow night.

Miss Laura Satterlee's marriage to Tracy A. Johnson is to take place on February 14, at Grace Church. Miss Satterlee, who is a daughter of Dr. F. Le Roy Satterlee, will have Miss Grace Biddle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Biddle, as her only bridesmaid. Reginald Johnson will be his brother's best man, and the ushers will be Wilmerding Biddle, Guy Van Amringe, Robert Swan, Hugh Milliken, William V. Higgins, and Albert Hale, of Boston.

Miss Julia Edgar has returned to town from Washington. Her marriage to Richard H. Williams, jr., will take place in the Church of the Incarnation shortly after Easter. Her brother, Newbold Le Roy Edgar, married a daughter of the late William De Forest Manice and a granddaughter of the late William Remsen.

Miss Georgette Kidd's marriage to Charles C. Dickinson took place quietly yesterday afternoon at her mother's house in Fifth-ave. The bridegroom is a graduate of Cornell and a lineal descendant of Captain John Dickinson. His family live near Albany on lands which have been in their possession since Colonial days. Miss Lottie Hall Williams was the bride's only attendant. Francis Hamilton officiated as best man, and Austin Corbin, J. McMillin Hamilton, Thornton Warren and Baron von der Tann were the ushers.

James V. Parker left town yesterday for Palm Beach.

Colonel Oliver H. Payne has also gone South, and will be at his country seat at Thomasville, Ga., until May.

Lucius Wilmerding has joined Mrs. Wilmerding and Miss Caroline Wilmerding in Paris.

Among those who gave dinners last night were Mrs. H. McK. Twombly and Mrs. Warren C. Beal. Mrs. H. De Berkeley Parsons entertained a bridge party, and those who had receptions included Mrs. Lewis Cruger Hasell, Mrs. A. Hollaut Forbes, Mrs. John Wolfe and Mrs. William F. King.

Several dances are scheduled for to-day, among them that to be given by Mrs. Edward Copeland Wallace in the annex of the Metropolitan Club, and another by William E. Havemeyer at Delmonico's.

GATHERED ABOUT TOWN.

In instructing agents to discourage smoking in the waiting rooms of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit, the management of the road incidentally gives a lesson in polite deportment to its officials. The following notice to agents may be seen posted in Brooklyn elevated stations:

Apparently very little effort is made by agents to prevent the practice of passengers smoking in the company's waiting rooms.

Agents who notice passengers smoking will call their attention to the rule by saying, "Please do not smoke in the waiting room."

Housekeepers on the Park Slope, Brooklyn, were just a bit puzzled by a circular stuffed in their letter boxes a few days ago by an enterprising grocer. It began by announcing, "We will try by every fair means to make you glad if you join our list of satisfied customers." Then it gave a few sample items of the stock carried, among them "Yarmouth bloaters, large, fat and sweet, just the thing to excite the appetite for drink, six in box, 25 cents." Now, what the housekeepers wish to know is, Did the grocer get his parcels of circulars for the household trade mixed with that for drink dispensaries?

At the northwest end of the horseshoe which circles the second tier at the Metropolitan Opera House is a room for the press, which is to its occupants a sacred precinct. The rank outsiders, no matter how many millions of this world's goods they may possess or how high their social station, who by any chance drift into this room between acts of the opera are subjected to a battery of remarks, directed not so much at them as around them, which usually causes their speedy exit. Only the music critics, the messenger boys and Mr. Conried have the free entrée to this room, which is by turns a workshop and a hatchery for epigrams. Accordingly, when, about two weeks ago, August Spanuth, the music critic of "The Staats Zeitung," rose from his labors, handed his copy to a messenger boy and sought his outer garments, great was his surprise to find his silk hat missing. There was no other critic with a silk hat that night save W. J. Henderson, and his was far too small for Mr. Spanuth, which caused him to make certain remarks not calculated to smooth the latter's already ruffled feelings. There was one other hat in the room, but this, when it was donned by Mr. Spanuth, proved many sizes too small, perching on his blond head like a wen. An usher was sent out to find an owner for this hat, but without success. Mr. Spanuth went home hatless, and for two weeks no trace of his hat was found.

Then, night before last, in walked Mr. Conried and announced that he had a hat too large for him. Mr. Spanuth leaped from his chair. "Let me look at it!" he cried. Sure enough, within were the initials "A. S." "Dear, dear," said Mr. Conried, "is your head larger than mine?"

"It does seem surprising," came a voice from the corner. The two principals looked sharply at the speaker, but he was busy writing again, with the face of a sphinx.

"That reminds me," Mr. Conried began. The critics stopped in their work—all but the man in the corner. "Of two uncles of mine," Mr. Conried continued, "in the fatherland. One was stingy and never bought a new hat; the other was not. One day my stingy uncle was crossing a bridge in a crowd. It was a windy day, and his old hat blew off, as did several others. My uncle picked up the best one of the lot and went on his way.

"Not long after, he and I were dining at my other uncle's. I told the generous uncle that his brother had achieved a new hat, and then, to temper his surprise, I told him how it happened. 'Let me see his new hat!' cried my uncle. We went out into the hall. His new 'lid' was my