

Retirement of a Social Inspector—The Modern Strand.

The retirement of Sir Francis Jeune from the presidency of the Divorce, Probate and Admiralty Division has been followed by well-deserved tributes from bench, bar and press.

For nearly fifteen years he has been the chief sanitary inspector of the social life of England. With an open sewer, as he was in the habit of saying, in front of his court windows, yet he has not lost his faith in the purity of home life nor in the essential soundness and sweetness of human nature.

The French Academy of Medicine has just elected to its membership in the person of Professor Polier, one of the youngest men ever included within its ranks, as his career has been one of the most brilliantly rapid among his contemporaries.

Professor F. G. Peabody, of Harvard, is presiding at the meetings of the Religious Educational Association Convention, now being held at Boston.

The Dutch are forming committees throughout the South African colonies for the purpose of presenting Mr. Steyn with a national testimonial on his arrival in February 15.

C. A. Orr, the American consul at Barranquilla, Colombia, reports to the government that American money is now the basis for nearly all transactions in Colombia.

About \$600 has been pledged on a \$10,000 statue of John G. Whittier, to be erected by the Whittier Home Association. The society held its annual meeting recently in Amherst, Mass., and determined to erect the statue as soon as possible.

A memorial to the late Senator Hoar has been suggested by the State House Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature. The details have not yet been made public, but it is thought that a large and suitable monument will be erected.

General Greely, chief signal officer, U. S. A., will convert the Omaha (Neb.) barracks into a signal corps post, where experiments will be made with airships and dirigible balloons.

Emperor William some days ago asked King Edward to send a delegate from the Church of England to attend the coronation of the new Sultan of Turkey at Berlin, on February 27.

When clouds and darkness hung above the land, and proved himself to be all a man of power, who could command.

Mr. Pennell's brilliant etchings of New-York "sky scrapers" at the International Exhibition have not convinced London artists that high buildings can be picturesque.

The Strand between the east and west ends of Aldwych—the semi-circular approaches to the new roadway to Holborn. They do not object to the new Gaiety Theatre, which is a well designed and highly ornamental structure.

When the north and south clasp hands 'o'er heroes' graves. Would he ask more?—(Mary Isabella Forsyth, in The Christian Intelligencer.)

For the first time since 1782 the annual meeting of the Society of Friends, the Quakers, will be held, this year, outside of London.

Mrs. Nubridie (dilemma)—Oh, John, please send me a telegram for me, quick! Mr. Nubridie—What's the matter, what has happened? Mrs. Nubridie—Why, I'm taking a correspondence course in cooking and the cake I made is running all over the place. I want to telegraph them quick to find out what to do.—(Brooklyn Life.)

The Hon. Jehiah Nebuchadnezzar Foote, formerly of Knobnott, now of Trenton, Mo., writes to "The St. Louis Republic" authorizing him to call him "Jim." Mr. Foote has been known until recently as J. N., modestly keeping to himself what those initials stood for. He writes: "Upon consulting the various newspapers of this State, I find that much unseemly levity has been created by the publication of my full name. Numerous editors, never before suspected of seeing the point of anything else, have apparently gone a long way out of their way to attach a false and disgraceful significance to my name or names. In some cases making comments quite painful to one who has never come before the public with any other but the most serious purpose and earnest desire to bestow such humble benefits as he could, and certainly not for the amusement of foolish or vicious persons."

"What's the matter?" asked the optimist; "I thought you had left me \$100,000." "He did," replied the pessimist, "confound it, he provides in his will that I've got to use \$50 to buy him a tombstone."—(Chicago Record-Herald.)

A remarkable Alpine mountain-climbing feat has been performed on Mont Blanc—this time on skis. A party of four men, among whom was an Englishman named Dr. Fontaine, accompanied by the two Chamounix guides, Jean and Joseph Ravenel, have traversed the whole chain of Mont Blanc on skis. They started from St. Gervais and descended at Courmayeur. Here they took a day's rest, and then skied back to Chamounix, doing the return journey in ten hours.

Most unfortunate—Mother (who wants to be very nice to her little boy, and has decided to have made his pile in Australia)—Now, Charlie, you've never seen uncle before. Go and shake hands with Charlie. Oh, you've never seen him before, I'm sure—last year's pantomime!—(Punch.)

force, although there has been no strenuous effort so to arrange the details that the wearers of the uniform shall be used to the best advantage. Many patrolmen are protected by powerful leaders in Tammany Hall, and are continued in comfortable places in which they have little to do. The police force will never be a credit to New-York until its members are convinced that they have lost the power practically to arrange a great number of patrols in the way that suits them best.

There is no reason now why the inauguration on March 4 should not be a joyous occasion—Governor Vardaman has refused to attend.

"See Paris and die" is a saying that needs revision. It appears that it is very costly to die in Paris, owing to the high price of official red tape of various kinds, and hence the American Consul General in Paris has sent the following advice to his fellow countrymen: "Whatever else you attempt in Paris, never try to die here."

The Hon. George Washington Plunkitt sees anarchy ahead unless we go back to "bosses" and the spoils system. The ex-Senator talks like a man who isn't thoroughly enjoying life "outside the breastworks."

The organization of a commission for judicially condemning lands needed for the Panama Canal marks the beginning of a rational era in that undertaking. In the old days the Colonial authorities gave some fearful and wonderful awards when Frenchmen wanted land for canal purposes. Any bit of swamp or hill that lay in the path of the canal was betokened by a gold mine to its happy possessor. Now there is a prospect of fair dealing, with no "graft."

PERSONAL.

The eight ambassadors of the German Empire in Madrid, Rome, Washington, Constantinople, Paris, London, St. Petersburg, and Vienna are all members of the nobility. Their emoluments are \$35,000 in the first three cities mentioned, \$30,000 in the next three and \$27,500 in the last two.

One of the most remarkable instances of hereditary office among solicitors is that of the acting Under Sheriff of London. Tufnell Burchell sits in the Sheriff's court in Red Lion Square, on a bench that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather successively occupied.

The French Academy of Medicine has just elected to its membership in the person of Professor Polier, one of the youngest men ever included within its ranks, as his career has been one of the most brilliantly rapid among his contemporaries.

Professor F. G. Peabody, of Harvard, is presiding at the meetings of the Religious Educational Association Convention, now being held at Boston.

The Dutch are forming committees throughout the South African colonies for the purpose of presenting Mr. Steyn with a national testimonial on his arrival in February 15.

C. A. Orr, the American consul at Barranquilla, Colombia, reports to the government that American money is now the basis for nearly all transactions in Colombia.

About \$600 has been pledged on a \$10,000 statue of John G. Whittier, to be erected by the Whittier Home Association. The society held its annual meeting recently in Amherst, Mass., and determined to erect the statue as soon as possible.

A memorial to the late Senator Hoar has been suggested by the State House Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature. The details have not yet been made public, but it is thought that a large and suitable monument will be erected.

General Greely, chief signal officer, U. S. A., will convert the Omaha (Neb.) barracks into a signal corps post, where experiments will be made with airships and dirigible balloons.

Emperor William some days ago asked King Edward to send a delegate from the Church of England to attend the coronation of the new Sultan of Turkey at Berlin, on February 27.

When clouds and darkness hung above the land, and proved himself to be all a man of power, who could command.

Mr. Pennell's brilliant etchings of New-York "sky scrapers" at the International Exhibition have not convinced London artists that high buildings can be picturesque.

The Strand between the east and west ends of Aldwych—the semi-circular approaches to the new roadway to Holborn. They do not object to the new Gaiety Theatre, which is a well designed and highly ornamental structure.

When the north and south clasp hands 'o'er heroes' graves. Would he ask more?—(Mary Isabella Forsyth, in The Christian Intelligencer.)

For the first time since 1782 the annual meeting of the Society of Friends, the Quakers, will be held, this year, outside of London.

Mrs. Nubridie (dilemma)—Oh, John, please send me a telegram for me, quick! Mr. Nubridie—What's the matter, what has happened? Mrs. Nubridie—Why, I'm taking a correspondence course in cooking and the cake I made is running all over the place. I want to telegraph them quick to find out what to do.—(Brooklyn Life.)

The Hon. Jehiah Nebuchadnezzar Foote, formerly of Knobnott, now of Trenton, Mo., writes to "The St. Louis Republic" authorizing him to call him "Jim." Mr. Foote has been known until recently as J. N., modestly keeping to himself what those initials stood for. He writes: "Upon consulting the various newspapers of this State, I find that much unseemly levity has been created by the publication of my full name. Numerous editors, never before suspected of seeing the point of anything else, have apparently gone a long way out of their way to attach a false and disgraceful significance to my name or names. In some cases making comments quite painful to one who has never come before the public with any other but the most serious purpose and earnest desire to bestow such humble benefits as he could, and certainly not for the amusement of foolish or vicious persons."

"What's the matter?" asked the optimist; "I thought you had left me \$100,000." "He did," replied the pessimist, "confound it, he provides in his will that I've got to use \$50 to buy him a tombstone."—(Chicago Record-Herald.)

A remarkable Alpine mountain-climbing feat has been performed on Mont Blanc—this time on skis. A party of four men, among whom was an Englishman named Dr. Fontaine, accompanied by the two Chamounix guides, Jean and Joseph Ravenel, have traversed the whole chain of Mont Blanc on skis. They started from St. Gervais and descended at Courmayeur. Here they took a day's rest, and then skied back to Chamounix, doing the return journey in ten hours.

Most unfortunate—Mother (who wants to be very nice to her little boy, and has decided to have made his pile in Australia)—Now, Charlie, you've never seen uncle before. Go and shake hands with Charlie. Oh, you've never seen him before, I'm sure—last year's pantomime!—(Punch.)

which we hear a dozen times an hour is simply a corruption of "Jesus" and that "Hully Gee" is a dear to "tough boys" and to would-be wits, is a like treatment of "Holy Jesus!"

If these too common expressions were uttered in their original form, they would sound shocking to most of those who now use them, and would quickly be abandoned. Masking the Divine Name behind mispronunciation or contraction does not lessen the offence. It rather increases it, adding insult to injury. It would be to our present credit if that particular expletive were at once eliminated from our vocabulary, even from the vocabulary of obnoxious slang, and it would be for our lasting credit if the rest of the world were dissuaded from the notion that the use of it is the invariable hallmark of American speech.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Despite several reactions and much irregularity last week, the average of the sixty most active railway stocks rose to a new high point for the year, and the volume of business continued very large. Arbitrage business showed a moderate excess of purchases over sales, owing to the stronger financial situation abroad. Conditions in Wall Street are still extremely puzzling. There does not seem to be any evidence of much increase in interest on the part of the general public, yet there appears to be consistent support by insiders who prevent any material reaction by promptly absorbing all the stock that is offered. The largest gains in price occur in such stocks as Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and Great Northern preferred, in which transactions are extremely rare. Fundamental conditions are unchanged, all influences tending to support prices, especially the steady gains in railway earnings and the persistent ease of the money market. On the other hand, it is well to bear in mind that prices have had a material advance, and are within an average of about \$5 of the highest point attained in September, 1902, at the culmination of a violent speculative debacle to which the public contributed largely, whereas there is less evidence of this class of buying at the present time.

A sudden alteration in sterling exchange at Paris and New-York, indicating less pressure for gold in Europe, was promptly reflected in the attitude of bankers, who cancelled several engagements of gold that were to be shipped on Thursday. The change in attitude was most pronounced, for in the previous week one steamer took over \$9,000,000 to Paris, most of which was in the form of coin, but during the last week less than \$1,750,000 went on the French steamer, notwithstanding the fact that over \$5,000,000 in bars was available. In addition to the consignments to Paris, a large shipment was made to Argentina, and about \$3,000,000 to Cuba established a new record since this movement began on October 27, as compared with any similar period in the nation's history. The three principal European banks made remarkably good reports, as might be expected after the large quantity of gold received from America, yet after it was too late to ship on Thursday's steamer rates of exchange again shifted to a point that made exports of gold profitable, and applications were made for the remaining supply of available bars. Notwithstanding this continued drain upon the gold supply and the gradual reduction in surplus reserves of the associated banks, money remains abundant and easy.

Business still has adverse weather with which to contend, reports from almost every section of the country indicating that the winter is unusually severe. All kinds of transportation are delayed, while the destruction of telegraph wires restricts business. It is possible that much of this trade will be made up subsequently, and, of course, where sales are merely postponed, the ultimate result will be satisfactory. Yet it is probable that a good deal of business has been lost, particularly in perishable freight and other merchandise required for immediate consumption. To some extent the loss is neutralized in the aggregate by extra dealings in winter goods, but these benefits do not come to the same individuals that have suffered loss. Although bank exchanges are largely swelled by activity in Wall Street, after making a proper allowance for this factor, there still appears a material increase over the corresponding period last year, and the other measures of trade, such as railway earnings and insolvencies, indicate that business is making steady progress. Notwithstanding more or less interruption from labor difficulties, the outlook is encouraging for an active spring season in the building trades, many cities reporting that more permits are being issued than at this time last year.

In the face of an official report that 17,767,600 bales of cotton had been ginned up to January 16, against 9,485,537 bales last year, the price of middling uplands advanced steadily to 7.90, or about \$5 a bale since the upward movement began. As 824 ginneries refused to make returns, it is evident that this crop may reach 13,500,000 bales, which is about two million more than conservative estimates of the year's requirements. In view of these definite figures, it is difficult to understand how even the most aggressive speculation can maintain prices in the vicinity of eight cents a pound. The only distinct advantage to be gained by holding back the crop will come through the inability to make deliveries against short contracts, but there is no reason to believe that any heavy short account exists. Chiefly because of the high position of prices the wheat market is unsettled and inactive. Exports are very small—in fact, the output is almost entirely limited to flour—and the reduced movement at the Northwest is probably largely due to the weather. Speculative fluctuations of both wheat and corn are chiefly in response to conditions abroad, as the domestic situation has become pretty well defined.

Although there is comparatively little idle machinery in the leading manufacturing industries, more or less conservatism is shown by purchasers for future delivery, particularly in textiles and footwear. Returns are most satisfactory from the woolen mills, which have withdrawn many lines, owing to their overbold condition, and apparently the remarkable strength of the raw material has not made this industry unprofitable. In cotton fabrics, however, the erratic movement of the raw material has seriously retarded the placing of contracts, and although prices now average slightly lower the disposition of buyers is to wait for still better terms. Increased business in leather has tended to maintain prices, and footwear factories insist on recently established list prices, which results in the postponement of orders for next fall and winter. At present the shoe shops are busy on spring shipments, and there is no disposition to offer buyers any better terms. The best news of the week comes from the iron and steel industry, pig iron production having steadily increased, until all preceding records are far surpassed, yet consumption has evidently kept pace, for there is no evidence of accumulated stocks.

The omission of a "not" by an error of the type in an article on irremovable civil servants yesterday caused The Tribune to say: "The ideal of the merit system is tenure dependent 'on actual fitness—tenure practically terminable 'only on conviction of crime.'" What we meant to say, as we hope our readers inferred from the context, was: "The ideal of the merit system is tenure dependent on actual fitness—not 'tenure practically terminable only on conviction of crime.'"

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment had a busy meeting last Friday, and authorized appropriations amounting to several millions of dollars. Tammany influence in city grants may speedily result in adding four hundred to the population.

as they have usually been to former governments. In four years his majority in the Commons has been reduced by about 35. But it still remains at nearly 100. If the same ratio of losses should prevail, the end of even six years would still find him with a majority of more than 80, and that would be a majority for all purposes, even for a dissolution.

GERMAN CANALS AND RAILROADS.

There is significant suggestion in the coincidence of two current items of news. One is that the Prussian Diet is passing by overwhelming majorities bills for the construction of an elaborate system of canals connecting the navigable rivers of the kingdom and connecting with the canal and river systems of the empire and of Austria-Hungary. The other is that the government is considering the construction of an electric railroad from Berlin to Hamburg the trains on which shall make more than a hundred miles an hour.

The coincidence and the whole example of Germany count heavily against the anti-canal contention that canals are obsolete and must give way to railroads as means of transportation. There is no country in the world more strictly up to date in engineering than is Germany. The experiments between Berlin and Zossen in rapid electric traction have attracted the admiring attention of the world. Yet now, just as the building of a long stretch of high speed railroad is contemplated practically, the government commits itself to a scheme of canal construction and extension of the most elaborate kind, far surpassing anything proposed in this country. Evidently our German cousins and rivals do not consider canals to be obsolete.

It is also to be noted that canals are not constructed there for the sake of competition, but purely upon their own merits. The government owns the railroads and it also owns the canals. Of course, it does not build its own canals to compete with its own railroads. It builds the one system as the complement of the other, because it believes there is need of both and a profitable use for both, side by side. There is a railroad from Hamburg or from Harburg to Bremen, yet the government insists upon having a canal from the Elbe to the Weser. There is more than one railroad from Bremen to the Rhine, yet there must also be a Weser-Rhine canal. There is a railroad on each bank of the Rhine, but there must also be a canal between those rivers. Such is the policy of Germany. It is a policy from which there are no signs of receding, but which, on the contrary, is being maintained and even advanced. It may be that the example of that great commercial and industrial empire is worth considering, even in this great commercial and industrial republic.

AUTOMOBILE WONDERS.

In more than one respect the automobile is fairly entitled to rank as just about the foremost wonder of the world in the twentieth century. It is doing so many things that would be impossible to anything else in the world. It is changing the natural conditions of the earth, setting altitude and latitude at naught, and menacing even the precession of the equinoxes with reversal or transformation.

Thus it was only a few days ago that we had indubitable reports to the effect that one of them had crossed the Andes by way of a mountain pass the summit of which was about a mile higher than the tip of the loftiest peak in the whole range. We did not know before that the automobile was a bird, but from that achievement it seems to be a triumphant rival of "the condor of the Andes, that can soar through 'heaven's unfathomable depths,' etc. Or else it must be that all our measurements of Andean peaks and passes have been monstrously inaccurate.

Now comes another gasoline perfumed tale that somebody has ridden in an automobile to the southern end of New-Zealand, which we are infallibly informed, is the southernmost point in the world that can be thus reached. Now, in the dim, distant past, when we studied geography in a little red schoolhouse, we were informed in Olney's geography that the southern extremity of New-Zealand was in about 47 degrees 16 minutes south latitude, while the South American continent extended to somewhere about 56 degrees south. Reference to some recent maps of good repute confirms that early impression. According to the geographers, then, it would be possible for an automobile to go some hundreds of miles further south than this one has done, and that without leaving the continent on a long ocean voyage. But, of course, the geographers would be wrong. New-Zealand must really be further south than Terra del Fuego.

These are great triumphs for the machine. Two of the three dimensions of physics have already been overcome, and the third will doubtless be knocked galley west before we go to press. But, really, wouldn't it be just as well to give less attention to remodelling the universe and a little more to devising machines that will not "skid" and will not break down in awkward places? Yesterday, for example, was not a pleasant day on which to lie on the flat of your back under the starboard bow of a "Crimson Corker" manipulating a monkey wrench!

OUR NATIONAL EXPLETIVE!

There has recently been, in English literary journals and elsewhere, some more or less academic discussion of the origin and significance of the common expletive "Great Scott!" We are not sure that any conclusion has been agreed upon, though the weight of evidence and opinion seems to confirm the widely accepted theory that it is of German origin, and is simply an Anglicization of German words meaning "Great God!" At any rate, it is certainly not an Americanism, and has nothing to do with General Scott, but, so far as it is used here, is borrowed from England. Perhaps, if the origin and meaning of it which we have mentioned were more generally understood, it would not be so commonly used as an expletive by people to whom its platonic form, "Great God!" would sound like blasphemy.

It might be well, by the way, to consider if it would not be desirable to invent or to adopt some phrase as a "national expletive" other than that which is coming to be generally regarded as such. Every nation has a traditional characteristic expletive. The Englishman insists that the Frenchman's is "Sacre!" or "Parbleu!" while the Frenchman is equally ready to ascribe what he frames as "Goddam!" to the Englishman. Of course the German has his "Gott in Himmel!" and various others, and the Spaniard his mouth-filling "Car-r-ramba!" while the Italian vents his emotions in "Cospetto!" or "Corpo di Bacco!" Well, they are none of them particularly edifying. But we are inclined to think that the worst of the lot, the most offensive, not only to religious susceptibilities, but to the sense of courteous decency, is that which our transatlantic friends are now regarding and are enshrining in their literature, with quotation marks, as our national expletive.

For, while the profane use of any of the titles of the Deity is more or less offensive, by common consent the worst is such use of the name of the Second Person of the Christian Trinity. It seems to be agreed that we should treat with especial reverence the name of that—
—Soft, meek, patient, humble, tranquil spirit,
The first true gentleman that ever breathed.
Yet we must know that one of the most familiar expletives, on the lips of women and children as well as of men, is a profane vulgarization of His name. Whatever the origin of "Great Scott!" there is no question that the "Gee!"

put of the wells, or it may buy crude oil at a higher price than the State refinery can afford to pay and sell the refined product at less than the cost of production. It may, in a word, treat the State refinery in exactly the way in which individual competitors are driven out of business by more powerful rivals. The State rushes in where private capital fears to tread.

With sympathy for the well owners of Kansas, who see in the large dividends of the oil trust profits they feel should be theirs, we think that they are urging Kansas to a perilous undertaking. In the words of "The Topeka Herald," they are "using the State treasury to beat a trust." The State of Kansas has no more terrors for the Standard Oil Company as a rival than has any other equal aggregation of capital in private hands. The troubles of Kansas are probably only just beginning if it persists in building its State refinery. States are small things, relatively, with which to enter the economic arena to-day. Some State must learn this lesson for the benefit of all legislators. It looks now as if Kansas has elected to fill that altruistic role.

NEW RECORDS IN EXPORTS.

Congress was recently asked by the State Department to create a staff of commercial agents, with diplomatic rank, whose function it should be to facilitate the sale abroad of American manufactures. The step proposed has been generally commended as timely and practical; for in spite of the shopworn contention of the Cobdenite school of economists, that under a high protective tariff we cannot possibly create a market abroad for our manufactured products, the American people are waking up to the fact that we have already created such a market, and that the time is ripe for cultivating and expanding it. A bulletin just issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor gives an excellent idea of the growth in the last decade of our export trade in manufactures—a growth which the Cobdenites have a thousand times declared to be a fiction and a chimera. In violation of all the laws of free trade logic we have been selling enormous quantities of manufactured goods abroad, and under the Dingley tariff—the most protective in our history—we have increased the value of such sales to over \$500,000,000 annually.

In the calendar year 1904 all records for exports of manufactures were broken. The total reached—\$502,764,729—is the highest ever known, and the gain for the year—\$51,000,000—exceeded any gain hitherto recorded. The increase in our sales of manufactures has been indeed phenomenal. In 1894 we sent abroad manufactures valued at \$177,800,968. In 1896 and 1898 we under the Wilson-Gorman law—the totals were a little larger—\$201,153,693 in 1895 and \$233,081,541 in 1896. In the last eight years, under the Dingley law, the increase has been greatly accelerated. The total for 1897 was \$279,618,898, for 1899 \$350,787,801, for 1902 \$410,650,967 and for 1904 \$502,764,729.

It cannot be said that this expansion has been in any sense forced or artificial. On the contrary, it has come through wholly natural causes, and certainly without any concerted effort on the part of American manufacturers. It has been the general complaint of our consuls—a complaint voiced vigorously in the January "Bulletin of the International Bureau of the American Republics"—that American manufacturers have not hitherto taken sufficient trouble to familiarize themselves with trade conditions abroad, and have failed signally to consult the special wants and tastes of foreign purchasers. The trade we have been built up in spite of such shortsightedness, and in competition with rivals like the Germans, who earnestly seek to adapt themselves to foreign market conditions. It is so much the more evident, therefore, that our export trade needs only to be cultivated intelligently in the next decade or two to insure it an extraordinary expansion. The zeal, patience and judgment our rivals have shown in this field will, if imitated by us, easily double the value of our exports of manufactures; and with the initial obstacles removed this trade will go on steadily gaining headway. The State Department has wisely recommended the creation of a staff of agents to study foreign trade conditions and bring the American manufacturer into closer touch with them; for only a greater knowledge of and greater interest in the foreign market seem to be needed to lift the United States to a vastly more important place as an exporter of manufactured products.

BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY PROSPECTS.

There seems to be a premonition that the forthcoming session of the British Parliament, which begins on Tuesday, will be the last of the present House of Commons. The ground for that is not, however, apparent. A Parliament usually comes to an end in one of three ways. It reaches the limit of its legal term, or the Ministry is defeated, or a dissolution is voluntarily sought for tactical reasons. We cannot at this distance see that any of those causes is likely to operate this spring, or at any time this year. Obviously the first will not. This Parliament is still comparatively young. It dates from December 3, 1900, and has thus lived out less than four and one-quarter of the seven years to which it is entitled. True, no Parliament lives out its full term. But not for many years has one been dissolved in less than five years without some other cause than time. This is the fifteenth Parliament of Victoria and the first of Edward VII. The fourteenth lasted five years and six weeks, the twelfth five years and nearly eleven months, the tenth more than five and a half years, the ninth more than six years, the eighth five years and seven weeks, and the sixth six years and five weeks. On the ground of time, therefore, this Parliament should not be dissolved for at least a year to come.

It does not appear that any tactical advantage to the government demands an early dissolution. There is no troublesome issue on hand which the Ministry wishes to avoid, nor is there any current circumstance or opportunity which it wishes to improve. The new session bids fair to be a practical but not sensational one. It begins late, since Easter comes very late this year, and there will be short time for voting Supply between February 14 and March 21, and the time will probably be practically monopolized by that supreme obligation. Other topics must wait until after April 1. Even then it is doubtful if any seriously contentious issues are raised. Redistribution is said to have been shelved, and the next election, whenever it occurs, will probably be conducted upon the present inequitable system, which is as bad as the inequality between our own Southern and Northern States. Immigration and some other matters connected with social and industrial reform are likely to be considered, but over them there will be little controversy. Of course, the Budget is an unknown quantity, and it may contain some surprises, such as a revenue tariff, but that is not likely. Mr. Balfour is understood to be averse—and logically so—to raising the general fiscal issue in this Parliament.

The dominant fact of the situation, after all, is that Mr. Balfour remains in full control. His notably successful leadership of his party and of the government remains unimpaired. Seldom in English history has a Prime Minister maintained a more perfect mastery of the situation, in difficult circumstances. He has held his Parliamentary majority in hand with unrivalled tact and with undoubted force of both moral and intellectual leadership with a success seldom approximated, and is consequently well able to choose his own time for dissolution. There is no reason at present apparent why he should defer the appeal to the people. It is true that the by-elections have largely been adverse to him,

Advertisements table with columns for Page Col. and Page Col. listing various services like Insurance Adjusters, Real Estate, etc.

Index to Advertisements.

Index to Advertisements table listing categories like Amusements, Bankers & Brokers, etc.

New-York Daily Tribune

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1905.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The day passed without serious disorder at St. Petersburg; the police continue to make arrests. The report that the government would establish a zemsky zabor, but expressed doubts of the Emperor's ability to break away from the reactionary influences.

DOMESTIC.—The House of Representatives will consider this week appropriation bills and the Swayne improvement case; the House the Naval Appropriation, River and Harbor bills and District of Columbia legislation.

CITY.—Arrangements were completed for receiving the visiting party of Roosevelt on his two days' visit here. Several persons, including four women and children, were rescued from two coal barges which were being swept down the North River by a heavy gale.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair and much colder. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 43 degrees; lowest, 19.

TEACHING A STATE A LESSON.

Private monopoly and State socialism have come to a clash in Kansas. That State has a long history of Populism, and so it is not surprising that its Senate has passed a bill for the creation of a State oil refinery, that the lower house will probably acquiesce in the measure, and that Governor Hoch will sign it. Recent occurrences show how the biggest monopoly in the country, the Standard Oil Trust, is prepared to meet such competition. There is some novelty in the idea of a State as a competitor. Smith, Jones and Robinson as competitors, either individually or as a corporation, are, or were, familiar enough, but "the State of Kansas, refiner of crude petroleum," is a novelty. The oil fields of Kansas are of comparatively recent development, but it is said by the State papers that the wells are now producing six million barrels of oil a year. These wells are mostly in the possession of private owners. The Standard Oil Company, through its representative, the Prairie Oil Company, buys the oil at a trifle more than a cent a gallon, refines it at a cost believed by the friends of the State refinery to be about a cent a gallon, and sells the product at a handsome profit. The owners of the wells want another market for their petroleum, but capital refuses to enter the refining business in competition with the trust. It is one of those well learned lessons of capital. The administration of Governor Hoch is committed to a State refinery by an election promise of reform in the oil situation and by the Governor's message. The Senate bill provides for the expenditure of \$400,000 on a refinery, but it was expected the lower house would cut that down to \$50,000 or \$100,000 for an experimental plant. Now, however, the action of the Standard Oil Company in closing its operations in the Kansas oil fields is reported to have ended opposition to the State venture. The practical boycott on the Kansas wells declared by the trust is a shrewd measure, for should it be maintained it would end oil production in Kansas for many months. It will take considerable time to erect a State refinery, and when it is finished it will have, according to estimates, a capacity of only about five thousand barrels a day, or about one-fourth of the total production of Kansas. The trust probably does not intend that the closing of operations there shall be permanent. That action was meant, as President Young of the Prairie Oil Company is quoted in yesterday's papers as saying, "to teach the State of Kansas a lesson." It is a vigorous intimation that the Standard Oil Company means business, and if, as one of the legislators says, Kansas is not going to treat the trust "in a gentle and ladylike way," neither is the trust going to treat Kansas "in a gentle and ladylike way." There are many things that the trust may do for the further education of Kansas. It may paralyze oil production there until the State refinery comes into existence; it may then leave the State refinery the impossibility of handling all the out-