New-York Tribune.

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LONDON DRAMA.

Drury Lane, with Its Parable—Comedies with Unknown Heroines.

London, September 9.

The reopening of the theatres is the first sign of the social revival of London after the stagnant midsummer holiday. When the playhouses light up the "first nighters" look about and every one whom they are accustomed to see is smiling and bowing, and there is no longer any talk about an empty metropolis. The new plays may not be exhilarating in literary theme or dramatic treatment; but the playgoers are not as jaded as they were in July, and hence they are more tolerant in their judgments and more easily pleased. The London "first night" is always a social event—an informal reception where the same people are in the stalls and lobbies and where every one meets scores of acquaintances. It takes the place of a literary salon and enables actors, artists, writers and publishers to keep in touch with one another during the slack periods of the year, when there is no whirl of gayety and no chatter about rounds of engagements and the glamour and glitter of smartness. Playgoers slip back into their old places and enjoy a pleasurable sense of congenial companionship. Between the acts they gather in knots and talk seriously about the promise of the new dramatic season and the surprises which may be in reserve—whether there will be a revival of the fortunes of Pinero, Jones, Grundy and "the old gang" generally, or whether there will be an unexpected playwright to thrill the town with a genuine novelty.

Drury Lane melodrama, under the management of Mr. Arthur Collins, has its own standards and its direct appeal to a big audience; and so sumptuous is the stage setting and so lavish is the investment of capital in the autumnal production that failure is hardly within the range of probabilities. As "The Prodigal Son" has been brought out in America and is a close reproduction of the leading motives and incidents of the novel, it is unnecessary for me to outline the plot or describe the play in detail. Abstractly, it cannot be considered great drama, with a masterful grip on imagination or emotions; but as a melodrama, designed for an immense playhouse, it marks an advance upon all recent work of the same class at Drury Lane. For myself I would rather hear Mr. Caine talk about the parable with sonorous voice, flashing eye and dramatic gesture than to read his book or to witness the production of his play. That is because he talks in better literary form than he writes, and is more dramatic in the library than in the theatre. Yet when a melodrama is to be staged magnificently and to be witnessed by thousands of spectators in the course of the autumn at a theatre frequented by the masses, it cannot be a disadvantage that there is something to think about. In this respect Mr. Caine's illustrative commentary from Iceland and Monte Carlo on the story of the prodigal son is superior to the conventional theatrical melodrama at Drury Lane. It lacks humor—Mrs. John Wood, as Margret Neilsen, is the only performer who succeeds in raising a laugh—and the text is turgid and without literary charm; but there is a clear, consistent story, and it is told with a higher purpose than that of entertaining big crowds with splendid pictures, gorgeous properties and penny dreadful theatricals. If Drury Lane be a good point for observation, the barometer is rising among the English playhouses.

A better class of actors, moreover, is now employed in "The Prodigal Son" than is ordinarily seen at Drury Lane. Mr. George Alexander has left his own theatre to play the part of Oscar Stephensson, and he does it with fine variety and genuine force, and at times with not a little subtlety. Mr. Frank Cooper is no less successful in interpreting the robust but gloomy character of Magnus Stephensson; and his clear, resonant voice rings through the huge playhouse, so as to be heard at the remotest reach. Mrs. John Wood and Miss Mary Rorke do their work in a broad, effective style, and Miss Nancy Price has dropped her cockney accent and assumption of pert commonness, and is content with being handsome and vivacious. The best impersonation of character is the Thora of Miss Lily Hall Caine. Possibly because the Icelandic blood runs in the strain of the Isle of Man stock, but more probably because she is in thorough sympathy with her brother's ideas, she distinctly presents the affectionate, jealous and credulous Thora; and in the final act repeats the realism in a sincere, convincing portrayal of the child. While the Casino scene is grandiose and garish, the stage setting has as much simple beauty as richness and splendor. With five tableaus and four changes of scene, the mounting is picturesque and impressive. While the emotional effects of Victor Hugo's poetic melodramas are not produced, the dignity of an artistic intention is not lacking, and this has been missed in Mr. Caine's previous dramatic work, and critics have got out of the way of looking for anything of that sort at Drury Lane.

The barometer has not fallen at other theatres. His Majesty's has been reopened with Mr. Carr's effective rendering of "Oliver Twist," in which two remarkable illustrations of the art of acting are shown. One is Miss Constance Collier's Nancy, undoubtedly the best seen since Dickens's day; and the other is Mr. Tree's Fagin, in whom Cruikshank's grotesque fantasy is reduced to grim and sober realism by the actor's art. At the Adelphi there is a revival of old fashioned, wholesome comedy in "Dr. Wake's Patient," in which Mr. Mackay and Miss Braithwaite play the leading parts. A London doctor of low descent called suddenly into the country rescues an unknown lady who has been thrown from a horse, and becomes deeply enamoured while he is binding up her wounds. The subsequent quest for the patient, the discovery that she is an earl's daughter and the overcoming of differences of rank supply material for a slender yet agreeable romantic play of a type too good to be lost. The Haymarket, under the exclusive management of Mr. Harrison, continues to romp and frolic with the comic spirit. The new play, "On the Love Path," by Mr. McLellan, is one of those composite dramas which critics dislike and audiences are charmed with. It opens with a farrago of nonsense distinctly farcical; it runs into comedy of intrigue and winds up with melodrama. By turns it is everything except tragedy. Yet in every stage of the transition the playwright's touch is light, and there is no lack of brightness and sparkle. The current canon of criticism that a play must belong to one distinctive class is wantonly violated. It wabbles between broad farce and serious drama; yet the audience is indifferent to methods and changes of form, since it is amused and interested to the end.

The story itself is not novel, and consequently the wonder grows that with the uncertainty of dramatic form "On the Love Path" should be a bright, attractive play. An impressionable young man, heir to an earldom, is blackmailed over a trumped up breach of promise, and his accuser is finally exposed by a charming woman, who recognizes in him her worthless divorced husband. This is not a fresh theme; yet the old story is told with such vivacity and with so many amusing touches and decorative effects as to be highly entertaining. The impulsive Taunton, escaping momentarily from the swindler's entanglement, is nearly drowned while bathing at Sanbourne, and owes his life to an unknown lady, whom in his unconsciousness he has not seen. He decides that he is morally bound to propose marriage to his rescuer at sight as soon as he shall meet her. Learning that she is an American girl named Concannon he makes love first to Norah and next to Charity, and all the while it is to Mary that his debt of gratitude is due. The whimsical vacillating advances and retreats of this impetuous lover are admirably depicted by Mr. Du Maurier, who contrives to underlay the farcical nonsense of the part with a well bred, attractive personality; and with Miss Jeffreys, Miss Jessie Bateman and Miss Beatrice Forbes Robertson as the three Concannon girls there is fun enough at the fair even without the aid of Mr. Eric Lewis and other accomplished comedians. Yet the author is shrewd enough to know that an audience does not wish to spend the entire evening in thoughtless laughter over frivolity. A good deal that is unexpected happens before the tangle is unravelled by the melodramatic heroine, who risks her own reputation in rescuing her lover from the unscrupulous blackmailer. The bright and entertaining American play is preceded by a capital little curtain raiser, "A Privy Council," in which the unctious Samuel Pepys is caught by his wife while he is supping with a fascinating actress, who escapes detection by disguising herself as Charles II. and making pretence that a Cabinet Council has been held.

The veterans are already returning to work from their summer holidays. Sir Henry Irving has deferred his farewell provincial tour until October, but Mr. John Hare starts immediately on a long round of engagements, with "A Pair of Spectacles," "A Quiet Rubber" and "Caste" as his repertory, and one new play—"Julius Sterne," by Mr. Drinkwater. The Kendals will be playing at the St. James's by the end of another week and Mr. Forbes Robertson before the close of the month will open the new La Scala Theatre with "The Conqueror," by Mr. Fyffe. The leading American attraction will be "Clarisse" at the Duke of York's, with Mr. Gillette's company, and Miss Annie Russell has been engaged to play Barbara in Bernard Shaw's new play at the Court Theatre. There will be a fresh series of revivals of nearly all Mr. Shaw's plays at that theatre, where Mr. Granville Barker has been most successful in popularizing them. Mr. Robert Vernon Harcourt's "An Angel Unawares," at Terry's Theatre, will be an interesting experiment by a young playwright with American blood, and while a popular favorite, Miss Fanny Brough, will conduct it, Mr. Tree will look on with interest, for one of the chief actors is a graduate from his new school of acting. Mr. Sutro's new play will not be produced at the Garrick until "The Merchant of Venice," with Mr. Bourchier and his wife as Shylock and Portia, has been seen. Altogether there is promise of an interesting season, as there must always be when there are scores of London theatres to be kept in operation for the entertainment of the public.

I. N. F.

CONDITIONS OF PASSES.

Mexican Road Will Give Them to All Who Dare Ride.

Mexico City, Mexico, Sept. 17 (Special).—The Compania Ferrocarrilera y Maderera de Morelos y Mexico, which operates a logging railroad in the heart of the Sierra Madres, in the State of Morelos, is sending out passes to its friends and patrons, which are not of the usual annual kind, but are perpetual. The passes are signed in Chinese characters that are said to spell the name of the chief cook. The conditions on the back of the passes are signed "Old Man." The "old man" is H. E. Matton, who is general manager, chief engineer, general freight and passenger agent and superintendent of transportation. The conditions follow:

This pass is good on the grand trunk line and all its branches of the Cia. Ferrocarrilera y Manderera de Morelos y Mexico.

It is issued to all persons who will do us the courtesy to accept it.

It may be transferred to a member of the family, for instance, the mother-in-law (if you have one), brother-in-law without employment, etc.

Guests should not be offended if they are invited by brakemen to get down and help them in railing a flatcar or to take any obstruction like rocks from the track.

We would also suggest that every one be provided with lunches, drinks (with the exception of water during the rainy season), rain coat and umbrella, even if they are carried only to be loaned to employes.

The company will not be responsible for any damage caused to barefooted passengers.

Furthermore, we would advise that, on arriving at the junction point of the Central, at Fierro del Toro station, Cuernavaca division, any one who does not care to continue the trip to the terminus can amuse himself while waiting for the train to return to the city in visiting our great deposit, more or less 5,000 cords, of the best wood, which we always have on hand for sale at moderate prices. Ask for further information at the offices of our company, Prolongacion de Conco de Mayo 77.

The letter accompanying each pass is signed by H. E. Matton, general manager, and reads as follows:

Whenever you should desire to become our guest and make a trip over the whole "System," we would be very much pleased if you would notify us in time, so that we can kindly put at your service one of our magnificent special Platform cars, elegantly furnished with samples of our incomparable wood and lumber (for prices, inquire at our offices, Prolongacion de Conco de Mayo and richly upholstered with empty feed sacks (nearly new).

However, we are highly delighted to inform you that, as our road in places climbs to the enormous height of 17,000 feet (within a few hundred feet, more or less), many persons who are not used to the altitude are troubled with prickling sensations at the roots of the hair (if they are not baldheaded), slow action of the heart (if they are "marble hearted"), severe cramps in the hands (if they are "closefisted"), trembling of the knees (if they are accustomed to having "cold feet"), and, in fact, almost every one experiences some kind of a "queer" sensation, one way or another, all of which is due to our magnificent scenery (?).

All of these small troubles can be avoided if you will provide yourself with a few bottles of the proper preventives. If, however, you forget to do so, you will find the engineer provided with a small quantity of well known and reliable remedies, and if you cannot convince yourself that you are "up against it" maybe he will do something for you.

As you will notice, we have found it diplomatic to have our chef sign this pass, as it not only infuses in his mind a certain sense of responsibility, but also serves, in a measure, to counteract the bad impressions among his countrymen caused by the Chinese Exclusion laws of the United States.

However, if after considering the foregoing inducements you should decide to take an economical outing we will try to see that you have proper attention, and, if you stay, act as if we are not bothered.

DROWNS IN ERIE CANAL.

Guest on Launch Fell Into Water Unnoticed.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Utica, N. Y., Sept. 20.—Falling overboard unnoticed from the stern of a launch, Edward Allen, of Oswego, was drowned this afternoon in the Erie Canal. The launch went on for more than two miles before the absence of Allen was noted.

Allen was eighteen years old. Yesterday he received an invitation from the owner of the launch to go to New-York with him. Allen accepted the invitation, and the two started this morning. As the launch was passing through the canal at Canajoharie, Allen, who had been forward at the wheel, went aft, and crawling out on to the fantail sprawled out in the sun. The owner took the wheel, and when about a mile east of Canajoharie called back to Allen, who answered him. That was the last seen or heard of him.

It is supposed that when he fell off the fantail into the water he was struck by a propeller blade, and sank without any outcry. Two miles further along the owner turned around and found that Allen had disappeared. He put back and informed the police, who began a search for the body, which has not yet been found.

AN ANARCHIST NOBLEMAN.

Trial of M. Malato Looked Forward To with Interest in Paris.

Paris, September 12.

A sensational stage has been reached in the investigation which the French police have been conducting with respect to the anarchist plot to murder King Alfonso of Spain and President Loubet. Charles Malato, the well known anarchist philosophic writer, has been committed for trial, together with two other alleged accomplices of lesser note, on the charge of having received explosive bombs and of having aided and abetted the attempt to assassinate the Spanish monarch and M. Loubet, his host. The actual culprit who threw the bomb, which fortunately killed only a cavalryman's horse and damaged the presidential carriage, has disappeared, and the French police have no clew as to either his whereabouts or his identity. Indeed, the theory maintained in the anarchist and revolutionary clubs here is that the entire plot was worked up by that special department of the Spanish and French police whose business it is to watch the movements of anarchist leaders.

Several writers and politicians of distinction and influence are convinced that Charles Malato is innocent of the charge brought against him and have not hesitated to say so. Among these are the Abbé Charbonnel, the brilliant socialist polemist, whose renunciation of the soutane was an ecclesiastical nine days' wonder a couple of years ago; Jean Jaurès, until recently Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, under whose editorship M. Malato was a constant contributor to the Collectivist organ, "L'Humanité"; Gérault Richard, Paris Deputy; Senator Georges Clémenceau and others equally distinguished and prominent. The fact is that Charles Malato, notwithstanding his extreme and uncompromising views, is popular with, and even beloved by, all who know him. He has the reputation of being the most extravagantly polite man in all Paris. His charity is unbounded, and although he does not enjoy by any means a large fortune he gives the greater part of his income away and lives in extreme simplicity, not to say poverty. Although he has renounced his title, he belongs to one of the oldest and most aristocratic Neapolitan families, and has a right to call himself Count Charles di San Malato di Corne. He is the grandson of the last commander in chief and field marshal of the now extinct Neapolitan kingdom, and his ancestor distinguished himself by the ruthlessness with which he suppressed a popular insurrection, thus earning for his sovereign the nickname of "King Bomba" and the bitter denunciation of the late Mr. Gladstone.

The family seems to have had an explosive strain in its blood, for the field marshal's son, the present Marquis di San Malato, Charles Malato's father, throwing off all allegiance to King Bomba, came to Paris, where he figured prominently in the Commune, and for his share in that insurrectionary movement was sentenced to banishment for life in the French penal settlement of New-Caledonia. It was here that Charles Malato was born. After a brief spell as an official of the settlement he returned to Paris with his father, who had benefited by an amnesty, and quickly assumed a leading part among French anarchists. It was then that, together with Ernest Gégout, who had married a near relative of President Grévy, he was sentenced for anarchist propaganda to the old and now vanished political prison, Saint-Pelagie. Their experiences were published in a highly humorous work, entitled "Prisons Fin-de-Siècle," which was illustrated by Steinlen and other brilliant caricaturists of the once famous Chat-Noir. Gégout has now abandoned his anarchist vocation, and is assisting a wealthy aunt to restore a feudal castle on the banks of the Loire. Malato, however, stood firmly to his anarchist principles, and after a brief exile in London, the outcome of which was another humorous work, "Les Joyeusetés de L'Exile," he acquired French naturalization and was thus secured from expulsion. He then went to Sicily to help the revolutionists there, and finally settled down in a little cottage close to the Paris fortifications, overlooking, by the way, the railway line which King Alphonso travelled over on arriving in the French capital. Surrounded with books and with beggars, Charles Malato has lived in this diminutive house in the society of his father, who is now over ninety, and with the "lady companion" of the moment, for in anarchist circles all marriage ceremonies, whether civil or religious, have been abolished.

The old Marquis di San Malato is still so rigid a revolutionist that he has to be put to bed by his son if his attention should happen to alight in the daily papers upon any fact or incident which seems to imply a social injustice. The "lady companion" possesses what Charles Malato amiably describes as a "riche nature révolutionnaire" (a vigorous revolutionary temperament). In stormy weather, which affects her nerves, the casual guest will hear the smash of crockery, the thud of broken furniture, or the crashing of glass. Malato, after the most elaborate apologies for the unwonted noise, never fails to add with his suave smile, "but, my dear sir, what a rich revolutionary nature!" Her nature is, in any case, an improvement upon that of her predecessor, who was afflicted with homicidal mania, in the acute phases of which she would attack Malato with a carving knife, the broomstick being her favorite weapon when she was "only a little vexed."

Malato, however, is anything but a poltroon. Both his moral and physical courage are proverbial among his friends, and he is a first class swordsman, having that also in the blood, for he is a cousin of the great international champion fencer, Baron Athos di San Malato. Owing to strong evidence that Malato had no connection whatever with the bombs dispatched to him by some mysterious hand from Barcelona shortly before the attempt on the King of Spain's life, there is every probability that he will be acquitted. Like the late Elisée Reclus, the eminent geographer, Malato is recognized in literary and philosophical circles as a purely theoretical anarchist, and personally incapable of harming a fly, let alone throwing bombs. The trial of this wild mannered, exquisitely cultured and blue eyed Italian nobleman is looked forward to with genuine interest and with considerable amusement.

C. I. B.

ALBERS CONVICTED.

State Department Will Make a Diplomatic Inquiry Into the Case.

Washington, Sept. 20.—The State Department was informed to-day that the Nicaraguan court, in session at Ocotal, in the province of Segovia, has convicted William S. Albers, the American resident agent at Jalapa of the Port Limon Company, on the charge of resisting legal process and insulting President Zelaya. Sentence has not yet been imposed, however. Albers is said to be in free communication with the American Legation at Managua, and has the advice of counsel. So far as is known to the State Department, Mr. Lee, former Consul General at Panama, has not started for Ocotal, and it is said that the expected advices from Minister Merry, which will probably determine whether or not Mr. Lee should proceed, are not at hand. While it is believed here that Albers may have been indiscreet in forcibly resisting the Nicaraguan officials, a diplomatic inquiry will be made into the entry on his premises of these officials to test the correctness of his assertion that the intrusion was unwarranted and illegal.

A VAST TRANSACTION.

TRANSFER AT TREASURY.

Largest Cash Payment in the History of the World.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Sept. 20.—By signing a receipt for $1,259,598,278 58⅔, which has been delivered into his keeping, after two months and a half had been spent in counting it, Charles H. Treat, of New-York, Treasurer of the United States, has become the central figure in the biggest financial transaction in the history of the world.

No sum approximating this amount has ever before changed hands in a single transaction. It is a fourth larger than the entire amount of the Franco-Prussian War indemnity, and that was paid in a number of instalments, extending over a considerable period. It is nearly ten times as large as the indemnity China paid to Japan after the Chino-Japanese War, and twelve times as large as the combined price paid for the Philippine Islands and the Panama Canal.

In fact, all other financial transactions in the history of the world are dwarfed into insignificance by comparison with the stupendous sum which Treasurer Roberts turned over to Treasurer Treat. Tuesday afternoon, when Treasurer Treat affixed his signature to the slip of paper which recorded the transfer of Uncle Sam's resources, it meant that the whole sum in cash, bills, coin or available securities came into his immediate possession and control. The money is all stored in the big vaults of the Treasury Building in this city. There are fourteen heavily barred safes, in which bags of gold and silver and packages of greenbacks are piled. Besides this there is a large quantity of convertible bonds and securities. In the words of one of the Treasury officials, the whole represents Uncle Sam's pin money. It is the amount he keeps on hand against a rainy day.

The law requires that a count of all the money in the vaults of the United States Treasury shall take place when a new Treasurer comes into office. Mr. Treat, who nominally succeeded Ellis H. Roberts in office on July 1, was not authoritatively the keeper of the cash in these vaults until it had been shown officially to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that all the money which Mr. Roberts reported to be on hand on the day of his resignation was actually there. On July 1 a force of men and women was put to work counting the store of money, piece by piece. First the supply of greenbacks, $383,352,500, was counted over. This was done by expert women counters. The same was done with the securities and bonds. Then men were put at work in the underground vaults weighing the sacks of gold and silver coins. It took sixty-seven and one-quarter days to complete the operation. Not a cent's variation in the amount reported on hand by ex-Treasurer Roberts was discovered.

The bond which Mr. Treat is obliged to give for the privilege of looking after this vast sum is $150,000. Because of the satisfactory count ex-Treasurer Roberts is now relieved of responsibility for the money of which he had charge, and the bond of Treasurer Treat has been accepted by Secretary Shaw.

Eight years ago, when ex-Treasurer Roberts gave to D. N. Morgan, his predecessor, a receipt for the money taken over by him, the total amount as shown by the receipt, the original of which has been framed and adorns the outer wall of the Treasurer's office, was $796,925,439 17 2-3. That the wealth of the United States has grown enormously since then is strikingly illustrated by the figures given in the new receipt. There is an increase of more than $1,250,000,000. This increase is due almost entirely to the larger amount of securities and bonds for national banks now held in trust and to the larger reserve fund of paper currency. When Mr. Roberts took charge, on July 1, 1897, the amount of bonds and securities held in trust was $269,309,451 89 2-13. This has climbed up to $598,474,920 62 2-3. Two thousand more national banks are now in existence than at that time. The currency fund has grown correspondingly. It is now $383,352,500, as against $301,952,000 eight years ago.

BIG FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

Some of the biggest financial transactions of the world are summarized as follows:

Franco-Prussian War indemnity—France paid to Germany five milliards of francs ($1,000,000,000) as indemnity, stipulated in the Treaty of Frankfort on May 10, 1871. Three years were given in which to cancel the debt. The largest single payment was made thirty days after the treaty was signed, when one milliard of francs ($200,000,000) was paid into the German exchequer by the representative of the French government.

China's indemnity to Japan—China paid to Japan as the price of her disastrous war in 1892 $150,000,000.

Forty Million Panama check—A $40,000,000 check in favor of the Panama republic, payable to J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., fiscal agents, was signed by Secretary Shaw on May 9, 1904. This ranks as the largest check ever drawn. A few days prior to this Secretary Shaw made out a check for $1,000,000 to the same agents, and on May 19 signed for $9,000,000. The whole transaction was for $50,000,000.

Twenty millions to Spain—Secretary Lyman J. Gage, in 1899, signed four United States Treasury warrants of $5,000,000 each as payment to Spain, when the United States took the Philippine Islands. The warrants were signed in favor of Ambassador Cambon of France, as the representative of Spain in the negotiations.

Alaskan purchase—Another large deal, in which the United States figured, was the purchase of Alaska. For this slice of territory Secretary McCulloch paid to the representative of the Russian government $7,200,000.

Halifax award—A Treasury warrant for $5,500,000 was signed in 1876 by Secretary Benjamin H. Bristow for the purchase of certain fishing rights from Great Britain, under the Halifax award.

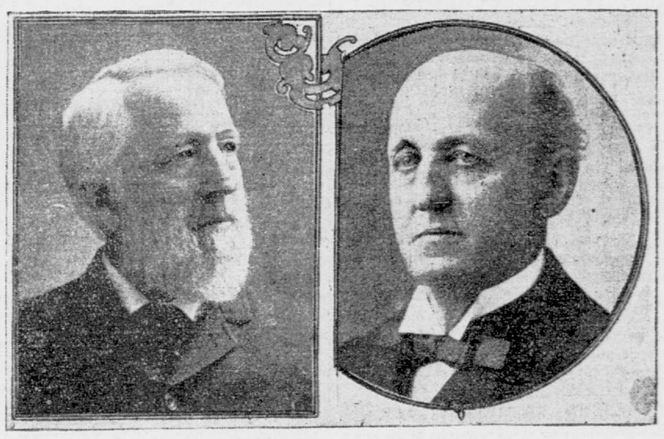
"This is by far the largest amount of money ever held by the United States Treasury, and emphasizes in a striking manner the wonderful resources of the institution," said Treasurer Treat. "Even the aggregate amount in the world famous Bank of England reaches a total of only $831,555,000, practically $400,000,000 less than the sum in the United States Treasury.

"Perhaps the most extraordinary fact in connection with the work just finished is that the findings of the committee which for several months has been engaged in counting the money in the Treasury agreed to a fraction of a cent with the Treasury book—a most extraordinary circumstance in view of the large sum of money involved. Never in my life have I seen so perfect a tally. As a general thing in counting large sums of money it is next to impossible to make the results agree exactly with the books, there being usually a difference of from several cents to a few dollars over or under the book figures, but this count is in perfect harmony with the books even to a fractional part of a cent. The two-thirds of a cent which appears in the total results from a divided coupon forming part of the Treasury holdings covered under the heading of bonds and stocks held in trust.

"At the time when Mr. Morgan went out of office, which was at the close of the Cleveland administration, people thought it a wonderful thing that the funds of the Treasury should be so near the billion mark. But that now seems a small amount as compared with the present total sum in the Treasury vaults. No one can doubt the prosperity of the nation whose Treasury has the resources possessed by our own.

"The last count of the funds in the Treasury occurred in 1897-'98, and lasted eight months, from July to the following February. The present count was accomplished much more rapidly. The count has also been remarkable for the reason that from first to last it has been devoid of surprises. No discoveries of a sensational nature, no queer happenings, nothing whatever out of the ordinary occurred—something rare in such cases."

PRINCIPALS IN THE LARGEST FINANCIAL TRANSACTION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.



ELLIS H. ROBERTS.
Former Treasurer of the United States.

CHARLES R. TREAT.
Treasurer of the United States.

Following is a copy of the United States Treasurer's receipt for the largest amount of money which ever changed hands in one transaction in the world's history:

Treasury of the United States.
Washington, D. C., July 1, 1905.

Received from Ellis H. Roberts, retiring Treasurer of the United States, government funds and securities amounting to one billion, two hundred and fifty-nine million, five hundred and ninety-eight thousand, two hundred and seventy-eight dollars, and fifty-eight and two-thirds cents, for which receipts in triplicate have been given, as follows:

United States notes	$6,520,267 00
U. S. currency in process of redemption	657,472 00
National bank notes in process of redemption	14,682,532 31
Gold certificates	1,600,120 00
Silver certificates	1,612,532 00
Gold coin	8,429,888 00
Standard silver dollars	153,407,591 00
Fractional silver coin	921,715 33
Minor coin	36,237 04
Total cash	$187,859,355 68
Treasurer's transfer account	93,922,330 28
U. S. paper currency in reserve	383,352,500 00
Incomplete gold certificates, series 1900	990,000 00
Bonds and other securities held in trust	593,474,092 62⅔
	$1,259,598,278 58⅔

Certified to me September 18, 1905, by
E. B. DASKAM,
A. T. HUNTINGTON,
E. W. HALE,
THOS. E. ROGERS,
Committee Appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.
CHAS. H. TREAT,
Treasurer of the United States.

SEALING PIRATE CAUGHT.

Captain McLean Arrested at Victoria, B. C.

Washington, Sept. 20.—Captain Alexander McLean was arrested on Monday at Victoria, B. C., by Canadian authorities at the request of the American consul, acting for the Department of Justice, under an indictment obtained more than a year ago at San Francisco, on a charge of conspiracy in fitting out the schooner Carmencita in violation of the sealing laws. A telegram received at the State Department to-day announcing the arrest says that the Carmencita had been refitted under the name of Acapulco, of alleged Mexican registry, and with a crew made up of men said to be as "choice a band of robbers and cutthroats as have manned a pirate craft since the days of Captain Kidd."

The search for McLean has proceeded since May, 1904. His movements have been known the greater part of this time, but his pelagic sealing cruises have been conducted so cleverly and with so sharp an observance of the letter of the law that it is said he has made these technicalities cover his alleged evasions of the law. For instance, he always has been careful not to be found within the three-mile limit of the sealing preserves, and, although an American, carrying in large part an English crew, he has not been registered under either American or British laws. On that account the reciprocal arrangement between these countries for the protection of the sealing industry has not applied to him. He has operated under both Mexican and Norwegian registration, and apparently has been successful in retaining one or the other, despite the fact that he forfeited Mexican papers at least once.

In September, 1904, the Carmencita was deprived of Mexican papers. The schooner had cleared at San Francisco in May of that year, and it is suspected was partly equipped for a sealing cruise at that time, but not sufficiently so to warrant the United States revenue cutters taking her into custody. It is believed that the schooner sailed for a cove on the coast of California, where sealing apparatus had been shipped from time to time, and there completely fitted out. Evidence pointing to this fact is in the hands of the Department of Justice, having been gathered by Secret Service officers through the personal direction of Chief Wilkie. This evidence was used in obtaining the indictment at San Francisco.

From the cove on the California coast the schooner took to the high seas, and was seen several times near the Pribiloff Islands, but never within the limit of the preserves. On August 6, 1904, the British cruiser Sheerwater found the schooner Carmencita just off the three-mile limit of St. Paul Island and boarded her. Her papers declared her to be Mexican, with Woodside as master. The master insisted that he was Woodside, but the British authorities say they recognized him as McLean. The fact that he flew the Mexican flag prevented his arrest at that time on the flimsy evidence that could be obtained. About a fortnight before this the Carmencita made a raid on the Copper Islands and had a brush with the Russian patrol. At least one of the crew was wounded, as he was sent to Seattle, Wash., for treatment. When the facts concerning the raid became known the Mexican government repudiated the registry, and the Carmencita for a time flew the Norwegian flag. It is understood that the schooner changed names several times in order to preserve registration, and that finally, under the name Acapulco, Mexican registration was again secured.

MR. SHONTS'S PLANS.

Double Track Idea Dropped—Arrangement for Engineers' Visit.

Chairman Shonts of the Isthmian Canal Commission talked yesterday concerning the health conditions in the canal zone. He said:

The report for the first two weeks of September, that has just reached me, shows seven cases of yellow fever, only one of which was a canal employe. The sanitary conditions are being steadily improved and the freight congestion is being abated.

Being asked when the work of double tracking the road across the isthmus would be accomplished, Mr. Shonts replied that the project, as approved several months ago, before the reorganization of the commission, had been put aside as unnecessary and involving an outlay that could be avoided. The plan in question involved the building of twenty-nine miles of road, omitting only the central portion of the route, from which a digression will ultimately be made when the canal is built and the road permanently established. The estimated cost of the material and labor was $800,000.

Mr. Shonts, in explaining the change of policy, said:

The commercial demands upon the road are not such as to justify the double tracking expense, and it is possible to increase greatly the efficiency of the road as a single track line, and under the present management this is being accomplished. The gain in efficiency may be as much as 40 per cent. Larger cars, greater power and good facilities will contribute to this result. One improvement involving economy is a coal hoist now being built at Colon that will not only greatly expedite the handling of our fuel supply, but will reduce the cost of transfer from ship to engine from $1.50 to 15 cents a ton. Instead of double tracking the line, as contemplated, we shall probably build a parallel track for about eight miles from the Culebra cut toward Panama, solely for the purpose of increasing our facilities for conveying the earth to the Pacific, near La Boca, where we can dispose of probably 25,000,000 cubic yards. This we may do without waiting to know what kind of a canal we are to dig. Of course, if it is to be a sea level canal the amount of earth to be moved in that direction may be a hundred million yards.

Concerning the visit of the advisory board of engineers to the isthmus, Mr. Shonts said:

The members of the board, together with officers and members of the commission, with secretaries, will make a party of about twenty-five. They will sail on the steamer Havana next Thursday, and will remain on the isthmus as long as necessary.

The members of the party will make their home on the Havana while conducting their investigations on the isthmus. There should be nothing in the arrangement to excite unfavorable comment. The commission has devoted its energies to the betterment of the accommodations for the canal laborers, and there are no satisfactory facilities on the isthmus for entertaining the engineers. Quite a number of them are foreigners and are our guests. It is certainly our duty to make them as comfortable as possible. The Havana will be necessarily detained to discharge cargo, and as the party will have been established for the trip it will be most convenient for them to remain aboard.

I have been the recipient of an open letter unfairly charging the commission with discriminating in favor of the officers and against the laborers in the matter of quarters. I may only say that when I went to the canal strip recently other members of the commission as well as myself were quartered in a cottage ward that had belonged to the hospital, and from Wednesday until Monday it was exactly in the state of unreadiness for use that we had found it in. We hope to treat the visiting engineers a little better.

It was learned yesterday that Jacob E. Markel, of Omaha, the successful competitor for the commissary concession on the isthmus, will send two squads of men on the Allianca, which sails for Colon on Saturday. They will take charge of the two hotels that are already completed for the accommodation of employes on the canal.

TO MEET IN PANAMA.

Canal Commission to Sail September 28—New Credit System.

Washington, Sept. 20.—In compliance with the instructions of President Roosevelt, issued on April 1, that meetings of the Isthmian Canal Commission shall be held in the offices of the Governor of the Canal Zone, on the first of January, April, July and October each year, the members of the commission are preparing to sail for the isthmus on September 28. Governor Magoon is the only member there.

Chairman Shonts has invited the members of the Board of Consulting Engineers, now in session in this city, to accompany the commission, and it is understood that all the members will go. The Havana, of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line, will take the party to the isthmus. She will be tied up at the wharf at Colon, and the members have been invited to retain their quarters aboard while they are making their investigations. A special train on the Panama Railroad will be placed at the disposal of the engineers, and any part of the line of the canal, including the city of Panama, may be visited each day at the pleasure of the board.

A new system of credit has been devised for the canal employes on the isthmus, and it will be put into effect about October 1. The system will meet the needs of the employes, and at the same time comply with the request of the Panama merchants to be put on an equal footing with the commissary stores run by the Canal Commission under the direct jurisdiction of the Panama Railroad officials. The system comprises coupon credit slips, which will be issued to canal employes on demand, in books containing credit respectively for $2 50, $5 and $25 gold. The books are so made up that credits for from one cent to $1 can be torn out as required. Employes will be allowed to get these credit books on demand at any time up to a certain percentage of the total amount of wages due them.

The merchants will accept the slips under an arrangement which makes the four banks of Panama the clearing house between the merchants and the railroad company. No liquor or tobacco is sold at the five government commissaries along the line of the road, and it has been decided to carry in these commissaries only such articles as shall be decided to constitute the necessaries of life. Just what these articles are has not been decided by the commission. The credit books are now being printed in New-York. The first consignment will be shipped on Saturday, and will be issued on demand as soon as they arrive on the isthmus. To guard against introducing a new medium of exchange on the isthmus through the universal use of the credit slips, their life has been limited to two months, after which they will not be redeemed.

CALLS CANAL A TOY.

J. J. Hill Says It Will Not Increase Foreign Trade.

Preston, Minn., Sept. 20.—Declaring that the Panama Canal would be an expensive toy which would be of little use in extending American foreign trade, James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railroad, to-day in an address to farmers of Southern Minnesota at the Fillmore County Fair, advised the farmers of the Northwest not to be deluded into thinking that government control of railroads would reduce rates.

Mr. Hill condemned "graft" in private and public life. He said a protective tariff would not create new markets or increase selling prices. The chief good that farmers could secure would be reduced transportation rates. Reduced rates would follow increased markets because on a business basis railroads could haul goods cheaper if more goods were shipped. Railroad rates would decline more slowly under government control than if fixed by intelligent managers of railroads. However, it was right that the government should secure fair treatment and prevent discrimination.

Mr. Hill said the Orient was the future market for the products of the Northwest. To secure that market Americans needed to increase foreign carrying facilities and to cease offending the Chinese. He called the Panama Canal a toy that the country could afford, since it appealed to the imagination of the people, but he derided the argument that it would increase American foreign trade.

NEW 'PHONE CO. WANTS FRANCHISE.

Application to Operate System in This City and Elsewhere Made.

The Commonwealth Telephone Company is the latest applicant for a franchise to establish a telephone service in this city. The company is incorporated under the laws of this State for the purpose of putting up a telephone system in this city and State and in New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Edwin M. Brooks is president.

The company applies for a twenty-five year franchise, the same as the others, and makes promises similar to other applicants with reference to lower rates and free telephones for the use of city departments. The application will come before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for hearing on October 13.