Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8—Little Johnny Jones.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:30—Before and After.
BELASCO—8:15—The Rose of the Rancho.
BIJOU—8:20—Comtesse Coquette.
BROADWAY—8:10—The Parisian Model.
CASINO—8:15—The White Hen.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:30—His Excellency the Governor.
GARRICK—8:30—Caught in the Rain.
HACKETT—8:30—The Chorus Lady.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—2:15—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—The Orchid.
HIPPODROME—2—8—Wild West, Neptune's Daughter and Pioneer Days.
HUDSON—8:15—Brewster's Millions.
IRVING PLACE—8:20—Das Blumenboot.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—The Red Mill.
LIBERTY—8:15—Sweetmy Jane.
LYCEUM—8:15—The Boys of Company B.
LYRIC—8:15—The Road to Yesterday.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2—8—Wild West.
MAJESTIC—8:15—The Prince Chap.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—8:15—Concert.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—Julius Cæsar.
SAVOY—8:15—The Man of the Hour.
WALLACK'S—8:15—Divorcons.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1907.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Conservative Cubans strongly oppose the scheme of the American General Staff to create a standing army of twelve thousand men. ═══ The election campaign for Congress in Ecuador has given rise to many fights, in one of which at Quito a number of persons were killed. ═══ Premier Clemenceau's effort to settle the waiters' strike has failed; the government is making preparations to suppress May Day disorders. ═══ Mexico has demanded of Guatemala the arrest of General Lima on the charge of being accessory to the murder of General Barillas; diplomatic relations will be severed if the demand is refused. ═══ Experiments in exploding torpedoes by means of Hertzian waves were successfully carried out at Cartagena, Spain. ═══ The crew of the British tank steamer Lucifer, which foundered, were landed at Falmouth by the Sagami.

DOMESTIC.—President Roosevelt and his party returned to Washington from the trip to Jamestown. ═══ Friends of Secretary Taft in Ohio said that they had obtained control of the State Republican Central Committee. ═══ Mr. Taft, in an address at Dayton, praised the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, especially in the outlying possessions of the United States. ═══ A town was destroyed, eight persons killed and great damage done by a tornado in Texas. ═══ Reports from all parts of the country showed that there was little danger of any labor trouble on a large scale on May 1, except in San Francisco. ═══ Two men were killed and 100 passengers had a narrow escape when part of a Wabash train plunged from a trestle near Pittsburg. ═══ Robert H. Fuller, secretary to the Governor at Albany, gave out a list of organizations which have pledged support to the Governor's utilities measure. ═══ Ex-Mayor McGuire of Syracuse denied that his advocacy of Bryan for President meant a repudiation of Hearst. ═══ A son of Allie Merrifield, the horseman, was killed by inhaling the fumes of burned gas; another son's life was saved by artificial respiration. ═══ The body of James Henry Smith reached San Francisco.

CITY.—Governor Hughes addressed the People's Institute, touching on the public utilities bill and the power of the Governor to remove heads of departments. ═══ It was learned that $800,000 in securities had been stolen from the Trust Company of America. ═══ That President Castro would lay down the Presidency of Venezuela and go to Switzerland to recuperate his health was learned here. ═══ Labor conditions on the opening of the outdoor construction season were said to be good. ═══ The Rev. Dr. Hillis, at a meeting in Plymouth Church, advocated the removal of the Czar and a revolution for the Russian people. ═══ The Rev. Dr. Aked preached his second sermon in the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church before a large congregation. ═══ Chief Engineer Rice, in a long report, said there must be ten more subways before 1916 to meet the increasing demands for transit facilities. ═══ One boy was killed, another's right leg was broken and several others were injured when a grandstand collapsed on a baseball field at Jersey City. ═══ General Bingham visited the Tenderloin police station and made complaints against two patrolmen.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Partly cloudy. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 51 degrees; lowest, 44.

A QUESTIONABLE PROPOSAL.

The problem of providing new or enlarged thoroughfares in Manhattan is a serious one both with respect to expense and to the engineering, architectural and traffic difficulties involved. Even in London, where the cost of remodelling and creating streets has proved very great, the problem is much simpler than in New York because of the absence of modern buildings and skyscrapers in the British metropolis. In some London improvements the heavy costs of condemnation, razing and paving have been more easily defrayed by condemning, in addition to the area actually to be used for the future thoroughfares, strips of land adjoining the same; these strips have been resold by the city at a presumably large profit after the new street had increased their market value. So attractive is this scheme as a means of relieving at one blow both the city and the property owners along the street that the New York City Improvement Commission has recently advocated its adoption by the powers who will some day transform Manhattan.

However well the plan may have worked in London, it is impossible to follow it in New York simply on the strength of an English success. Questions of law and questions of policy both arise and call for answers extremely adverse to the scheme. It is, in the first place, by no means obvious that the city has either a moral or legal right to condemn property which is not actually to be used for public purposes. If there is nothing to hinder such condemnation, an unwise or dishonest set of city fathers might some day condemn all land adjoining all streets for some mysterious purpose and give us municipal ownership of the municipality with a vengeance. Nothing save the discretion of a few men would prevent the widening of the condemned strips. Most Americans will doubt the right of a municipality to separate them from their real estate simply to reduce the tax rate. Economy, even in supposedly money mad America, has not yet become the criterion of rights. The fact that London has successfully condemned property for speculative purposes probably shows one of two things—either the aristocracy of its government or else an exceptional unanimity of opinion in an exceptional emergency. The English are not sticklers for mere logical consistency and would probably refuse to commit themselves to the theory and general practice of speculative condemnation.

The best argument against the proposal, though, is found in the living—alas! living—witness against extending municipal powers, to wit, our typical city government itself. The barefaced marauding indulged in by the elected and their elect whenever property is to be condemned should put an end to all discussion. And, if this does not convince, think of the opportunities for juggling in the resale of the condemned land. Who feels sure that even the most public auction would be honestly conducted for the sole benefit of the taxpayers? Finally, how about the temptation to cover losses caused by foolish expenditures and misappropriations by condemning a few choice city blocks? And how about the length of time such property might be held in order to realize the necessary profits? Is it absurd to think that Tammany, if it had this chance, might not eventually reproduce the evils of the *main morte*? Much as we sympathize with every effort to improve the streets, we hope that this latest suggestion will not even be seriously discussed until American city government has been transformed.

THE TEACHERS' SALARY MUDDLE.

The women school teachers are now divided into hostile camps over the so-called Equal Pay bill. The teachers of the primary grades oppose the bill, while the teachers of the upper grades favor it. The reason for this is that the bill applies the "equal pay for equal work" too strictly. There are no men teachers in the classes below grade 4B, therefore the women teachers in those classes will not be particularly benefited by the bill if it becomes a law. Without in any way debating the contention of the women that they should receive the same salaries as the men or the still broader question whether the women in the city schools are underpaid, there are reasons for opposing the present bill. If the salaries of the women teachers are to be raised, this bill is the wrong way to go about it.

In the first place, the "equal pay for equal work" principle as embodied in the bill has resulted in an absurdity. The bill provides, in effect, that in the grades where men are employed the women may receive the same salary as the men. Men are employed only in the upper classes—that is to say, from the eighth grade down to and including the fourth B grade. From the fourth B grade down to the first grade only women are employed. The result is that if the provisions of the bill are carried into effect the maximum salary of a woman teaching the fourth B grade will be about $1,000 more than the maximum salary of a woman teaching the grade below. The maximum salary of a woman teaching a child in the second half of its fourth year in school will be nearly twice as great as that of a woman teaching a child in the first half of its fourth year. That disparity is in itself absurd, and it will be productive of wire pulling on the part of the teachers to obtain promotions from the lower to the higher grades. At present there is very little difference between the maximum salaries of a primary teacher and the teacher of the graduating class. This condition makes teachers of experience who are peculiarly qualified for teaching little children content to remain in the lower grades. Politics is not invoked to secure promotions. Different qualifications are necessary for teaching the higher grades from those necessary for teaching the lower, but the difference is more of kind than degree, and it seems desirable under any changed schedule of pay that the present condition of little advance in salaries from the bottom to the top of the schools should be maintained.

Again, the appeal by municipal employes from the municipal authorities to the Legislature for increased pay is liable to gross abuse and is a practice to be discouraged. The municipal authorities have full power to adjust the teachers' salaries, and they ought to be left free to exercise their discretion. If the disparity between the salaries of the men and the women is unfair, or if the salaries of the women, irrespective of what the men receive, are inadequate, the proper place for such a campaign as the women have carried on at Albany this winter is before the Board of Education and the Board of Estimate. How badly an appeal to a body unfamiliar with local conditions works is illustrated by the present measure, for which the primary teachers joined in the campaign only to find that they would not profit by its operation, and against which they are now in an equally energetic campaign.

FOR BETTER STREETS.

Generally speaking, any well considered movement for the improvement of city streets is to be commended. The gospel of good roads has been zealously and not ineffectively proclaimed for these many years, partly by rural dwellers, but partly, also, by city folk who want pleasant driving and riding when they take their outings. It was and is wholly commendable, and its results have been exceedingly beneficial. But there is now room for suspicion that city advocates of good rural roads are suffering from the proverbial case of beam and mote. What a reflection it would be upon this metropolis if the grangers from Squedunk and Wayback Cross Roads should start an organized agitation for better streets in New York for their safety and comfort when they "come to town"!

We are not, indeed, prepared to deny that there is some provocation for such a movement. If the main village street of Squedunk were in as bad condition as some parts of Broadway there would be a chorus of protest from all the Manhattanese automobilists who pass that way. If the turnpike in Wayback Cross Roads had half as many holes and pitfalls to the rod as Madison avenue has, every New Yorker who saw it would be vociferous with contempt and anathemas for the local roadmaster who permitted such barbarism. What, then, must we expect to hear when a delegation from Hayseed County visits New York to see the sights, and observes that the roadways of our chief thoroughfares are in a worse plight than Deacon 'Bijah's cow lane, by heck!

What will be accomplished by the mass meeting of civic organizations which the City Club is calling for to-day remains to be seen. But there can be no question that the phraseology of the call is not a bit too severe in speaking of "the intolerable condition" of the streets. Their condition is intolerable—or should be, to any civilized and self-respecting community.

THE DOUMA.

The cables recently brought to us a hint of Dr. de Martens's extraordinary comments in the London "Times" on the character and impending fate of the Russian Douma. The full text, now at hand, does not diminish the amazement which was felt at that pessimistic outburst of the counsels of despair. Dr. de Martens—for whom, with all the world, we must entertain the highest respect—considers the Douma as at present constituted a hopeless failure and an actual evil, because under the extended franchise system now in force it was made too largely representative of the common people, and therefore not sufficiently highly educated. He exclaims upon the fact that scarcely one-fourth of the members have had university educations, while "some of them can barely read." From such a body, in his opinion, no good can possibly come, but harm is certain to proceed; wherefore it should be dissolved forthwith. Its dissolution, indeed, "is absolutely inevitable. It is a question of time—of days or weeks." (He wrote this on April 7 and the Douma is not yet dissolved.) But at the same time he would instantly call for a new Douma, and by means of a *coup d'etat* would arbitrarily change the election laws so as to provide for a much restricted franchise.

In all this Dr. de Martens is doubtless sincere, but we cannot help thinking that he affords an illustration of the unfortunate limitations of some academic minds. Thus he complains that the present Douma is not national in character, but representative of classes and cliques. Surely the new one would be still more subject to the same criticism if it were chosen by restricted classes of the people. If the present Douma does not command the confidence of all the educated classes because its university men are a minority, surely one chosen as he proposes would fail to command the confidence of the masses of the people who were excluded from participation in the elections. More than that, it would almost certainly provoke positive distrust and resentment, and would be looked upon as a mere creature of that bureaucracy against the misgovernment of which the Russian people have so long and so bitterly protested.

The Douma has, no doubt, its faults, and some of them are grievous. It may commit some errors, and there are certainly some very grave problems before it, its solution of which may be regarded with some trepidation. Nevertheless, we cannot look upon the case as nearly so hopeless as Dr. de Martens seems to do, nor can we think that his summary prescription is the best possible course to pursue concerning it. He who learns to swim is bound to splash and flounder for a time, but in the end he learns. We have sufficient faith in the Russian people and in those men of real light and leading who are now at the fore to believe that they will learn the art of ordered and temperate self-government, and that they will do so by actual experience rather than by a reversion to the system under which the evils of Russia have arisen. We shall hope that Dr. de Martens will prove to be as false a prophet as was Guizot when he sententiously declared, "There is no morrow for universal suffrage!" on the very eve of the revolution which made such suffrage an accomplished and enduring fact. We never expected it would be easy work to transform Russia into a free country, and we are, therefore, not surprised at the slowness and difficulties of the progress she is making. Rather are we gratefully surprised at her moving forward so rapidly and with so few stumblings.

THE QUESTION AT ISSUE.

Governor Hughes was on firm ground last night when in his Cooper Union speech he outlined his views concerning the removal of the proposed public service commissioners and inferentially set before the people the proper standard for judgment of the Kelsey case. With a logical and convincing argument he demonstrated the wisdom of concentrated executive responsibility and the idleness of fears that power would be abused, and gave his adhesion to the plan of making the commissioners removable in the same manner as sheriffs in these words:

> I have not the slightest objection to, but rather favor, the duty being imposed upon the Governor to formulate charges and give the officer an opportunity to be heard. But the removal should not be limited to acts which constitute a crime or involve moral turpitude. We do not want our offices conducted by men who simply keep within the Penal Code and do not outrage the moral sentiment of the community.

The declaration that officeholding should not depend on conformity to the Penal Code, if properly considered, will help to clear away many honest doubts concerning pending questions. The Governor stands for the highest possible efficiency of public service. He does not charge wrongdoing when he says that Mr. Kelsey does not meet the present requirements of the Insurance Department, and those who attempt to block the needed reorganization of that department on the ground that no wrongdoing has been proved are merely clouding the issue. The proper question for the Senate is whether or not Mr. Kelsey, for all his unquestioned honesty and attractive personality, has effected the radical reforms which the insurance situation demanded.

HIGH ELECTRIC PRESSURES.

When the first practical attempt was made about fifteen years ago to convert the power of a waterfall into electricity, so that it could be used at a distance from its source, the necessity arose for solving a number of new problems. In a general way it was known that the size of the conductor used for the transmission of a current must bear some relation to the volume of the latter. To actuate telegraphic instruments hundreds of miles from the sending station through a slender thread of metal was practicable because only a very little electricity was required. To send several hundred horse power even a dozen miles away was a different proposition. A corresponding increase in the quantity of iron or copper used for the service was out of the question. No pole line would carry it, and its cost would be enormous. There was another way, however, to deal with the difficulty. By increasing the pressure, or voltage, it was feasible to accomplish the same result, but the principle could not be applied without elaborate mathematical calculation and much experiment for the development of "transformers" which would safely perform the duty of raising and lowering voltages.

Another essential to success was an improvement in the art of insulation, for the higher the pressure the more readily would the current escape from a wire at the points where it was supported. Indeed, the difficulty of guarding against such losses has imposed the chief restriction on advances in electric power transmission. Still, so admirably have these several classes of work been performed that amazing progress has been effected in a short time. The employment of 11,000 volts on the line from Niagara to Buffalo was, everything considered, at the time a remarkable achievement. In 1898 the highest pressure anywhere in the world was 40,000 volts. At present there are six lines carrying a voltage of 60,000, two being in California, one in Mexico, one in the State of Washington, one between Niagara and Toronto and one between Niagara and Syracuse. These range in length from 75 to 218 miles, and two of them have been put in operation only within the last few months. Finally, there is promise of a new record being made in Southern California. Two or three years ago work was undertaken on the Kern River with a view to supplying Los Angeles with electric power, the capacity of the station being upward of 26,000 horsepower. It seems to have been the original intention to adopt a pressure of 67,000 volts on this line, which is 128 miles long, but the manufacturer of some of the equipment declares that 75,000 volts will be tried, and the result of the experiment ought soon to be known.

The first effect of any such demonstration, no doubt, will be to encourage the projectors of new lines elsewhere to undertake to reach more distant communities than could otherwise be economically served, or, if no temptation of that kind offers, to lessen the amount of metal they use—an exceedingly inviting possibility in view of the extraordinary rise in the price of copper of late years. Any revival of the proposition to supply New York City from Niagara is apparently precluded by the check put on further power development at the Falls by the Federal government, but equally ambitious schemes in other parts of the world would be promoted by a conspicuous gain in the voltages which can be employed. Perhaps, too, the electric power companies which have done pioneer work for the world may be led to consider whether they can profit by the revelation. An increase in pressure on their lines would involve the use of new insulators, longer cross arms than were at first adopted and a change in transformers. The last mentioned item of expense would be formidable, but if there was a reasonable prospect of meeting it by an increase in the quantity of current transmitted and marketed considerations of cost would not cause hesitation. The only remaining question to be disposed of then apparently would relate to the temporary interruption of service for purposes of reconstruction, and no trouble on that score would be anticipated if, as a safeguard against accident, the line had been duplicated.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Stock Exchange conditions are still most unsatisfactory, despite evidences that the decline in prices has been checked. There is no more anxiety regarding the ability of weak houses to meet obligations because of the violent movement of prices, but many brokers now find difficulty in paying ordinary office expenses on account of the dulness. That the situation in Wall Street is not a reflection of conditions throughout the business world may be readily demonstrated by a comparison of last week's payments through the clearing houses with the corresponding week in 1906. It is found that a decrease of 25 per cent at New York was accompanied by an average gain of almost 7 per cent at other leading cities. One result of the speculative inactivity is an unusually early opening of the vacation season, plans being made before the customary date, in the face of a distinctly backward season as to temperature. A brief rally in prices was effected by rumors that the President's speech at Jamestown would indicate a change in the attitude of the administration in the matter of enforcing laws pertaining to railways, and the moderate recovery was retained in spite of dulness, while more adverse crop reports failed to exercise the usual depressing influence. Considering all the factors there was more strength in securities than seemed probable when the week opened, yet the average of the sixty most active railway securities is now $15 a share lower than at the corresponding date last year.

Foreign financial centres are in a less strained position, several of the leading banks having reduced the official rate of discount, and the monetary outlook is to that extent brighter. The pressure that has existed is more clearly appreciated now that improvement is general. Three times since the year opened has the Bank of England reduced its rate, 4 per cent being quoted now, against 6 per cent in January, yet the rate has never been higher at this date in forty years. Gold exports appear more imminent now than when foreign money markets were more stringent, because the ease in this country has become relatively greater, New York leading the movement toward lower rates. Many financial experts commented on the readiness with which gold could have been brought from abroad during recent months because of this nation's foreign credits, but New York was really heavily indebted to Europe, and with the first symptom of local ease every maturing obligation was met instead of being renewed, as had been done for months. To this demand for remittance may be attributed the rapid advance in rates of foreign exchange that revives discussion as to the probability of gold going to Paris, especially as French exchange on London has fallen close to the basis upon which profits may be figured on triangular operations. There is little domestic movement of money at present, but when crop needs begin to draw on this centre it is probable that shipments to the interior will be exceptionally large, but during the remainder of the fiscal year no startling developments are anticipated. Hence the comparative ease of sixty-day money in relation with loans maturing in six months.

In some sections the season is fully three weeks behind normal, and this delay in developing spring trade prevents retail distribution, which in turn is felt in the small supplementary orders from wholesale and jobbing houses, while collections are similarly retarded. Other districts report favorable weather, most satisfactory trade and prompt payments, but it is unusually hard to arrive at the average condition of the whole country. Future trade will depend very largely upon the crops, and here also the situation is decidedly confusing. Uncertainty in some farming regions has produced conservatism in demand for implements and other supplies, country dealers allowing stocks to become depleted, and subsequently there will be the usual complaints that manufacturers do not deliver promptly. A few days of settled warm weather would quickly regain the lost ground in most states, but on the whole spring trade is now backward. Foreign commerce has not wavered in its onward progress, latest weekly reports exhibiting the usual gain over last year's figures, with notable comparisons of imports. May Day will establish a unique record by the scarcity of serious labor disputes. Several threatened struggles have been averted, and numerous advances in wages will become effective. Lake navigation at the North was tardy this year, but is now well opened, and the tonnage of freight is unusual, many new steamers having been added to the fleet.

Industrial plants report little idle machinery, the least satisfactory statements coming from shoe factories where spring orders are almost finished and fall contracts hardly warrant vigorous activity. Yet shipments from Boston last week were 12 per cent larger than in the same week of 1906, and pressure continues for quick shipment of russet goods. Distant business is slow in coming forward because buyers hope for better terms on account of the reaction in prices of hides, but it is stated by producers that footwear did not advance in proportion to the preceding rise in hides, and quotations are firmly held. More imports of pig iron emphasize the inability of domestic furnaces to supply steel mills when consumption is at the present rate, and talk of curtailment receives little indorsement in this industry. Order books are opened for delivery in 1908, and business is placed with a confidence that should confound the chronic pessimist. In many cases it is possible to secure substantial premiums on early deliveries, but as a rule the leading interest maintains steady quotations. Woollen mills are receiving more orders, clothiers' salesmen reporting a definite trend to demand that made it possible to take on certain lines, and the raw material is attracting more attention at leading Eastern markets, while firm prices are expected at the London auction sale that opens to-morrow. Cotton mills are so far behind with deliveries in most departments that much trading between jobbers and dealers is necessary in order to fill urgent orders.

The news that Blackwell's Island Bridge will cost some $8,000,000 more than estimated raises the question whether politicians have engineered the bridge or engineers have politicianed it.

The Italian government is well within its rights in wanting to know the condition of laborers at Panama before any more of its subjects go thither. But when it finds out all the facts it will doubtless realize that conditions on the isthmus are on the whole much more desirable than those in some Italian "colonies" in our large cities or in the rural settlements near New York.

A reform wave struck Fort Smith, Ark. The retail merchants, annoyed by Sunday law enforcement, have formed a league to see to it that there is an equal and impartial enforcement of all the Sunday laws, arguing, as "The Fort Smith Times" says, that "if the people of "Fort Smith are not to be permitted to live in a "rational atmosphere, they should abide in a "graveyard, and as the tendency was toward "the latter, the means should be adapted to such "an end." To regard the 'lid" as a tombstone is certainly a cheerless and pessimistic view!

The failure of Philadelphia to retain Major Cassius E. Gillette as the chief engineer of its waterworks will occasion regret, if not surprise, among those who are acquainted with his character and professional qualifications. He rendered material aid to Mayor Weaver in a particularly formidable municipal crisis, and in order to do so sacrificed his place in the army. Fortunately, the present contingency was foreseen at that time, for it appears that three public spirited men in Philadelphia united in a pledge to guarantee him $15,000 annually for a certain period in case he should be prematurely dropped from the city's service. This agreement, it is reported, is good for three years more.

"A good many of you display signs of too "great prosperity for the salaries you draw. What "is the secret of your financial success?" This sounds like an arraignment of some of New York's millionaire police, but it's not. It's part of the tongue drubbing the chief of Chicago's detectives recently gave his men. How much in common New York and Chicago have!

Last Friday the striking lamplighters and their sympathizers took pains to extinguish hundreds of street lamps in order to "bring the company to terms." Luckily all the lamps were relighted before nightfall, so that the public suffered no material inconvenience. The curious feature of the matter is that, although over a hundred square blocks were covered by the strikers and their friends, nobody was arrested. Can it be that the police on the East Side, where most of the work was done, cannot distinguish an official lamplighter from an unofficial one? Or are the city guardians aiding the strikers in their efforts to wring more money from the "grasping corporation"? Or—horrible thought!—are there areas of one hundred square blocks on the East Side where bluecoats do not flourish?

PERSONAL.

Mayor Fitzgerald observed Arbor Day by planting an elm tree on Boston Common on Saturday. The tree is an offspring of the Washington Elm at Cambridge, which was presented to the city by Jackson Dawson, of the Arnold Arboretum.

Dr. Tikhon, formerly Archbishop of the Orthodox Russian Church in the United States, has arrived at Yaroslav, Russia, to assume his new duties. The Rev. Dr. Nicholas, Bishop of Taurida, a councillor of the empire and formerly bishop of the Orthodox Church in the United States, has been appointed Bishop of Finland.

J. Ogden Armour's shipment of horses to enter at the International Horse Show in London includes six Percheron drafters which won the international championship at Liverpool in 1906. The animals will be exhibited throughout England and Scotland, and will take part in the May Day parade in Liverpool and the Royal Agricultural Show, which opens in London on June 1.

Major William W. Gibson, the American military attaché at St. Petersburg, has gone to Sweden, where he will meet Captain Herman J. Koehler, instructor in military gymnastics and physical culture at West Point, who is making a tour of Europe, studying military gymnastics. Major Gibson, who is also military attaché to Sweden, will make arrangements to present Captain Koehler to the Swedish officials and to enable him to visit the schools and gymnasium.

William Dudley Foulke, ex-chairman of the special commission of the National Civil Service Reform League and ex-United States Civil Service Commissioner, has arrived in St. Petersburg to study the methods of the Russian Parliament.

Lady Henry Somerset, who has made the temperance cause her life work, has announced that after this spring she will retire from public life and will be heard no more on public platforms.

Frank Steinhart, who recently resigned as American consul general to Cuba, has been in the service of the Army and State departments for twenty-five years. He speaks four languages and has been nicknamed "the consul of all nations" because of his ability to help the people of other nationalities besides his own.

General Luis Terrazas, whose wealth is estimated in the hundreds of millions, lately celebrated the seventh-fifth anniversary of his birth at his home in Chihuahua, Mexico. Terrazas is said to be the largest individual land owner in the world, his estates in Western Mexico covering fifteen million acres. He owns several hundred thousand head of cattle, horses, sheep and goats. Some of the richest mines in Mexico belong to him.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

According to official figures, says "The Chicago News," since the reclamation law was enacted by Congress in 1902 eight towns have been built and ten thousand people have settled on what were desert lands. One hundred miles of branch railways have been built, 1,267 miles of canals have been dug, many of which carry whole rivers, and forty-seven tunnels have been excavated. It is estimated that the territory embraced in what is known as the arid regions of the United States covers 600,000,000 acres of which about 60,000,000 acres are subject to irrigation and can be converted into farms fully as productive as lands in the most favored sections.

"Here's a letter from a young man," said the answers-to-correspondents editor, "who wants to know how he can break himself of the cigarette habit."

"Tell him to marry a strong minded woman who objects to it," growled the snake editor.—Chicago News.

"The silver wedding festivities in honor of Prince and Princess Arnulf," says a Munich paper, "came to a close with a gala performance at the Royal Opera House of Donizetti's 'Elixir of Love,' its first performance in Munich in thirty-five years. The venerable prince regent, who is seldom seen in the theatre, was present and remained seated between the prince and the princess until the curtain fell on the last scene, and seemed to enjoy the performance and the many manifestations of loyalty and of respect which came to him from the large audience."

Hicks—One result of race suicide is that the science of genealogy is going to get easier and easier with every succeeding generation.

Wicks—You forget about the increase of divorce.—Somerville Journal.

A remarkable espionage trial recently closed in the Supreme Court of Germany at Leipsic. The accused man was an ex-lieutenant in the Austrian army named Bartmann, and the charge against him was of spying in Germany on behalf of France. His defence was that he really wished to deceive France in the interests of Germany. At the last German manœuvres, after getting a commission from a French agent for "information," he offered himself to a German staff officer as a counter spy, but was rejected on account of his antecedents. Soon after this he was arrested on the manœuvres ground, when he again affirmed his plan to deceive the French. The Leipsic court seems to have accepted this plea. At any rate, he was acquitted.

"After all," said "Alec" Smart, "the old saying: 'There's always room at the top' doesn't mean anything."

"Unless," replied the travelling man, "it means that the lower berths in a sleeper are usually taken before you get there."—Philadelphia Press.

Every animal and plant has its parasite, and from this general law, it seems, the tea plant is not exempt. Two insects are described as spending their lives in tea drinking. They are the plague of the Assam tea gardens, and are known as the "tea bug" and "tea mite." The mites spend their entire lives on the tea plant and are never known to attack any other leaf. They live in families and societies on the upper side of the full grown leaf and spin a delicate web for a shelter. They then puncture the leaves and pump out the liquid in the plant veins. They seem to become dainty in their tastes, for a sprinkling of muddy water over their floor and tea table is the only remedy known to check their ravages. Even this is not always effectual. The tea bug is still more destructive and is evidently possessed of an appreciation of the best kinds of tea, since it always attacks those of a mild and delicate flavor.

One day the children were having an object lesson on the heron. The master called attention to its small tail, saying: "The bird has no tail to speak of." The next day he asked the scholars to write a description of the bird, and one youngster wound up by saying: "The heron 'as a tail, buf it must not be talked of."—Morley Observer.

TAFT AND HUGHES.

From The Hartford Courant.

What a ticket Taft and Hughes would be! The American voter wouldn't do a thing to the opposing candidates. "Also ran" would be quietly graven on their political tombstones.

DANDELIONS.

From The Spokane Spokesman-Review.

Topeka, Kan., has just had a "dandelion day," when all citizens were expected to go down on their knees and dig up the weed. Unfortunately, a snowstorm interfered with the programme. One day, however, will hardly be enough anywhere in which to carry on the war. There must be constant vigilance and constant effort. Various methods have been suggested and employed by different persons in past seasons, with more or less success. Gasolene and kerosene poured on the plant are said to effectually kill it, but may also have an injurious effect on the grass if care is not exercised. A good knife and elbow power produce good results, though the exercise is rather wearying. It is well for citizens to talk with one another, get the best results of experience, and then go to work. But, whatever the method, let the pest be thoroughly cleaned out.

POOR AARON BURR!

From The Charleston News and Courier.

"The New York World" compares William Randolph Hearst to Aaron Burr. They were always taking advantage of poor Burr.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

Opportunism Rather than Imperial Federation.

London, April 17.

Spade work for imperial federation has been resumed at the Colonial Office with more facility of organization than enthusiasm. The seven premiers around Lord Elgin's table represent an area of 7,500,000 square miles where loyalty to the Crown is a tradition and self-government is a reality. The Prime Minister has welcomed them in stately periods as the responsible heads of a group of nations as free and self-respecting as England; the Lord Mayor has greeted them as honorary freemen of the city, and they could hardly be more splendidly entertained if they were sovereigns of great European kingdoms. If leader writers and after dinner speakers are to be believed, the Colonial Conference is an event of momentous importance in English history; yet the premiers themselves have quietly settled down to work in a methodical way for a series of academic discussions which are unlikely to lead to practical results. They are more inclined to magnify difficulties than to overrate the significance of this amphictyonic council of a world-wide empire. There are common interests, as there were at the assemblies of Thermopylæ and Delphi; but the spirit of self-sacrifice for noble ideals is lacking, and without stimulus of that sort there cannot be enthusiasm for a great cause. The premiers are jealous of the independence of their Greater Britain and determined to resent the slightest attempt on the part of the Colonial Office or the Imperial government to restrict discussions or to regulate the conference. The Liberal ministers, on the other hand, are opportunists, who date everything in politics from the last general election, and are convinced that the decision against preferential trade and Chamberlainism was final and cannot be reversed by the colonies. There is no commanding personality in the Colonial Office, as there was a few years ago. Optimism has declined. A close, calculating spirit of enlightened self-interest prevails.

Enthusiasm for imperial policies may be lacking, but the conference has been rapidly organized for a month of effective and comprehensive discussion. When the first council was held, in 1887, there were half-hearted debates on safe subjects, such as patents and merchandise marks, bankruptcy processes, sugar production and investment of trust funds in colonial securities. Nothing was accomplished, and no impression was made on the colonies. Ten years afterward there was another conference, with a more interesting programme, including ocean cables, commerce, defence, penny postage, emigration and political relations; and after a free exchange of views three academic resolutions were adopted. In 1902 Mr. Chamberlain was Colonial Secretary, in the plenitude of his power, and when the third conference was held an atmosphere was created for imperial interests. A general scheme of military and naval defence was set aside because Sir Wilfrid Laurier opposed it as anti-national, and Mr. Deakin and the Australians are now grateful to him for having taken a strong line of his own. Commercial and political relations, however, were discussed in a fraternal spirit. Mr. Chamberlain proposed a definite scheme for an Imperial Council; the colonial delegates recommended that there should be a conference once in four years, and preferential trade within the empire was pronounced desirable, since Free Trade has ceased to be either reasonable or practical. The Liberal government has not encouraged the continuance of the discussion of preferential trade at the new conference, but this cannot be prevented. Mr. Deakin has come from Australia with a new phrase, "Mutual concessions for mutual advantage"; Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not forgotten that he set the example of preferential trade, and Sir Joseph Ward, Dr. Jameson, Mr. Moor and Sir Robert Bond favor the same policy. The premiers are not agreed on any scheme for a permanent Imperial Council or the constitution of future conferences; but they are prepared to discuss these matters, as well as imperial defence, naturalization, emigration, judicial appeals, the extension of British interests in the Pacific and other questions. The premiers have no idea of being hampered or controlled by the Colonial Office or the Prime Minister. They insist upon having from the outset a free field for discussion and absolute independence of action.

The Prime Minister in his opportunist speech has described it as a conference between the Premiers and the members of the present government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Deakin have welcomed this definition as marking an advance from the previous conception of a conference between the Secretary for the Colonies and the colonial ministers. The conference acquires new dignity as one between government and governments, but it also falls under the limitations of the representative system of self-government. Neither the ministry here nor the colonial premiers can go behind the Parliament and electorate to which they are accountable. This is the Prime Minister's perfunctory method of explaining that, while preferential trade may be discussed, the Liberal government cannot make any concessions which will reverse the verdict of the country in favor of Free Trade. This is logical, but it is also disconcerting. It is virtually an admission that there cannot be an agreement on the subject of paramount interest to the colonies. Compliments may be exchanged, good feeling may be fostered, but imperial reciprocity cannot be taken up on the business side. Matters of secondary importance may be discussed in a spirit of accommodation, but the main issue must be deferred until there has been another general election in the kingdom and there is a government empowered to deal practically with reciprocity between the mother country and the colonies. The Premier of New Zealand emphasized the fact that the colonial governments could not have preferential relations with political parties in England. They can have dealings and consultations with the ministry of the day, yet their sympathies must lie with the party which is willing to meet them on their own ground and make business arrangements with them. Preferential trade with colonies has become a party question in England. The Liberal party is unwilling to alter the fiscal system and to set up a revenue tariff for the sake of drawing the colonies into closer relations with the mother state. The tariff reformers now in opposition are more flexible. They are looking hopefully for another conference, when the work of imperial reciprocity can be taken up with the approval of the electorate.

While the futility of the present conference must be assumed so far as any trade preferences to the colonies are concerned, there are two other subjects of exceptional importance—imperial defence and the establishment of a permanent council for the empire. Mr. Chamberlain when the last conference assembled cautiously suggested the formation of an advisory council, which might gradually be endowed with executive, and possibly with legislative, powers. This was an overture for imperial federation, and it was proposed with the understanding that the colonies on being admitted to the council should contribute substantially to military and naval armaments. As largely increased taxation was the condition for representation in the council, Sir Wilfrid Laurier flatly declined to have Canada drawn into what he described as the maelstrom of European armaments. The Prime Minister is careful to disclaim any intention of asking the colonies for money for armaments, although he admits that the cost of naval defence and responsibility for the conduct of foreign affairs hang together. That is a plain intimation that