

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The President and Mrs. Roosevelt returned to the White House this evening after spending four days at Pine Knot, their cottage near Charlottesville, Va.

The programme for the President's New Year's Day reception is as follows: The Vice-President, the members of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps.

11:20 a. m.—The Chief Justice and the associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, the judges of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, former members of the United States Court of Claims, members of the United States Cabinet, ambassadors and ministers of the United States.

11:45 a. m.—Officers of the army, officers of the navy, officers of the marine corps, commanding general and general staff of the militia of the District of Columbia.

12:15 p. m.—The regents and secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Civil Service Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Isthmian Canal Commission, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, assistant secretaries of departments, the Solicitor General, Assistant Attorneys General, Assistant Postmasters General, the Librarian of Congress, the heads of bureaus of the various departments and the president of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

12:30 p. m.—The Society of the Cincinnati, the Aztec Club of 1847, the Associated Veterans of the War of 1846-47, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Medal of Honor Veterans' Union, the Veterans Legion, the Union Veterans' Union, the Society of the Army of Santiago, the Spanish War Veterans, the Army and Navy Union, the Minute Men, the Sons of the American Revolution and the members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association of the District of Columbia.

1 p. m.—Reception of citizens. Men to be received, whether in carriages or on foot, will enter the White House by the north entrance and will leave it by the east entrance, opposite the Treasury. Carriages will approach the White House by the northwestern gate and depart by the northeastern gate, and be parked in East Executive avenue, where they will remain until called to the east entrance, from which all guests will depart.

Miss Ethel Roosevelt joined her brother, Theodore Roosevelt, jr., at the White House last evening, after several days spent in New York.

THE CABINET.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The Secretary of State and Mrs. Root have invited their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Elihu Root, jr., of New York; their younger son, Edward Wales Root, and their son-in-law and daughter, Lieutenant and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, 3d.

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Taft are in mourning for the mother of the New Year's reception at the White House nor hold their usual afternoon reception for the officers of the army and navy. They have retired from official entertaining for the season.

Mrs. Meyer, wife of the Postmaster General, who has been indisposed for several days, is much better, and expects to attend the New Year's reception at the White House and hold the usual afternoon reception at her home.

Mrs. Nonpareil, wife of the Attorney General, will arrive in Washington to-morrow afternoon to remain until after the first of the year. She will have several out-of-town guests among them Mrs. Roosevelt of Boston; Mrs. and Miss M. Gould of Cambridge, Mass., and Miss Stewart and Mrs. Katherine H. McSherry, of Baltimore.

The Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. James R. Garfield have as their guests until after New Year's Mrs. Stanley Brown, formerly Miss Mollie Garfield, sister of the Secretary of the Interior, and Garfield, who is a luncheon on Friday in honor of the Ambassador to Great Britain and Mrs. White-law Reid.

The Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Straus have as guests their two daughters, Mrs. Hochstadter and Mrs. Schaefer, of New York, who will arrive this afternoon. Mrs. Hochstadter will remain with her parents for about a month, while her sister will return to New York just after the New Year. Isidor Straus, brother of the Secretary, and Mrs. Isidor Straus are also guests of the Secretary and Mrs. Straus.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY. (From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Dec. 29.—The Italian Ambassador and Baroness Mayer entertained at dinner at their first large formal affair of the season this afternoon, with fully two hundred people from the diplomatic corps and resident society.

German Sculptor Wants Memorial To Be Made an International Event. Gustave Eberlein, a German sculptor, was the guest of William H. Fletcher at dinner at the Engineers' club last night. In speaking of the proposed site for the Fulton memorial monument Mr. Eberlein said: "It is beautiful, and in my estimation it is a superb spot. The American people have a great opportunity in this work, and the proposed site affords the greatest possibilities ever seen on the banks of your river."

MISS VESTA VICTORIA SUEZ. Justice Green, in the City Court, yesterday set for January 6 the trial of the suit brought by "Bert" Cooper, theatrical manager and song composer, against Miss Vesta Victoria Suez to recover 50 per cent of her salary for thirty-two weeks. Cooper says he obtained a contract for Miss Victoria at \$200 a week, for which he was to receive, but she is claiming that she was to receive only \$100 a week.

QUEEN RECEIVES MRS. EGAN. Copenhagen, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Maurice P. Egan, wife of the American Minister to Denmark, had an hour's audience with Queen Louise to-day. Her majesty expressed great interest in the development in America of hospital and Red Cross work, and said that only her many duties to her own beloved country prevented her from paying a visit to the United States.

COLONEL MURDOCK SERIOUSLY ILL. Wichita, Kan., Dec. 29.—Colonel Marshall M. Murdock, editor of "The Wichita Daily Eagle," who has been ill with catarrh of the stomach, suffered a hemorrhage last night. His physicians have little hope of his recovery. Colonel Murdock, who is seventy years of age, was prominent in Kansas society since the time of the border warfare. His son, Representative Victor Murdock, is hurrying from Washington.

maintaining ideal standards of scholarship, and the Superintendent considers it far wiser to furnish seven hundred schoolrooms with teachers of moderate attainments than to deprive some thirty thousand pupils of proper facilities. Educational authorities are largely arrayed against the examination system in schools; why should not superintendents share this sentiment to some degree when they come to deal with teachers? Even though the mere mitigation of examination tests should enable seven hundred more teachers to secure appointments—which is doubtful—the advisability of establishing a businesslike "trying out" system remains indisputable. If competent teachers are wanted, they can be found only by giving applicants a chance to teach.

The weather bureau to-day issued the following bulletin: "A distant earthquake of considerable intensity was recorded by the seismographs at the weather bureau this morning, commencing at 12:30 a. m., and lasting for over one hour. The first preliminary tremors continued for four minutes and thirty seconds, and the strongest motion occurred at 12:45 a. m., at which time the actual earthquake continued for about five minutes."

Must have been the John A. Johnson boom. That would produce just about five millimetres of motion in Washington. Who says that America is too stolid to have a proper appreciation of fine literature and literary genius? Let the slanderer read how an Indiana court postponed indefinitely the trial of a novelist on the charge of having rashly disturbed the bucolic peace of his happy Indiana home. In delivering the genius from the unkind meshes of the law the judge exalts him above the vulgar herd of money grubbers and novel readers. The genius, by this precedent, now ranks at least with the Man Higher Up.

What more can the worshippers of Art ask? "The New York World," having evidently conceded the inevitability of Mr. Bryan's nomination at Denver, has now turned its attention to arranging a platform for him. It wants Mr. Bryan to stand for "tariff reform" as a paramount issue. Mr. Bryan is, however, his own campaign manager and his own platform. There will be no postscript a la Parker attached to the output of the resolutions committee at the next Democratic National Convention.

THE TALK OF THE DAY. An advertiser in the "Hanover Courier" says: "I am looking for a helpmate—a wife. I am well educated and well to do. My ideal is the Countess Rixa in Kelpie's novel, 'Muttertschaft,' and a woman like her I would take as my wife. Women who believe that they resemble this character are requested to address," etc., etc. The editorial comment on the unique advertisement shows that there is some doubt on the part of the paper as to whether the "Muttertschaft" enthusiast wishes to marry a woman of the Rixa stamp or to increase the sale of the book.

The Novelist—Did "opportunity" ever knock upon your door? If it did, it must have been disguised as a wolf—Philadelphia Inquirer. "Der Gesundheitsgenuss" has an interesting account of the use of ozone in places of amusement, based on experiments made at the Royal Interimstheater, in Stuttgart. "To open windows and doors," says the writer, "in order to improve the air of a room lowers the temperature, which must be raised again if the people would be comfortable and productive of much harm. At the Stuttgart theatre, after a performance, when the air was heavy, ozone was conducted in small tubes into every part of the auditorium, and in a few minutes the air was pure. The remarkable fact about the ozone apparatus is that it can be run for about 5 to 10 minutes an hour."

Mrs. Naggs (reading)—In some parts of Africa the more wives a man has the greater his social importance. Naggs—Well, I suppose the people there admire a brave man—Chicago News. Referring to the death of King Oscar, Dr. Wilhelm Kohler tells this anecdote in a Mannheim paper: About fifty years ago Oscar, then a prince, boarded a passenger steamer at Marseilles, or a North Sea steamer. Shortly after starting the captain said to the young man: "Did I see you at Marseilles yesterday in uniform?" "Quite likely."

"And may I ask what the uniform was?" "That of an admiral."

"Admiral? Are you not rather young for that rank?" "As you know to my name," he answered, smiling, "than to my nautical knowledge."

"And the name, if I may ask?" "Bernadotte."

"Possibly a kinsman of the great marshal?" "He was my grandfather, later King of Sweden, and I am Prince Oscar of Sweden, the King's brother."

The captain made a respectful bow, and asked the young prince if he knew that he had relatives in Marseilles. "Yes," said Oscar, "but I have never had time to look them up."

"There is one on board, may I present him?" "Do, by all means."

"And, 'Bernadotte!'" Presently a man came on deck, naked to the waist, covered with grime and soot. He stood at attention, awaiting orders, when the captain said: "Your royal highness, I have the honor to present your cousin."

"Aunt—Yes, Johnny, Santa Claus brought you a baby brother, 'Great Scott! Another present that ain't any use!'—The Bits. The old-fashioned practice mentioned in the Druce case, that the fifth Duke of Portland had his carriage strapped to a railway truck whenever he took to the railroad, and that he sat in the carriage in preference to an ordinary compartment, sounds strangely to the modern ear, says "The Dundee Advertiser." It was a common practice with moneyed people of conservative habits in the early days of the railway, and the companies made a provision accordingly. A supply of trucks was kept at all the principal stations, and the line, and no charge was made for embarking or landing the carriages or horses.

"Call a messenger boy, quick!" cried the business man. "Oh, sir," said the model office boy, paling perceptibly and visibly engaged in a mental struggle, "I cannot do it, for I have never yet spoken an untruth to my superiors."

CANES FOR SELF-DEFENCE. From The Columbus Dispatch. "If you want to keep off hold-up-men," said an old man in New York, "carry a cane. A hold-up man is more afraid of a cane than he is of a revolver. He is really afraid that the man carrying it will stab it in his face or eyes or get the end of it in his mouth. On this account they're just as much afraid of a small, light stick as they are of a heavy one."

There are so many different ways of using a cane that men are afraid to carry one. Nine men out of ten who carry revolvers couldn't hit a bull's-eye at fifty yards, and nine out of ten who carry a cane couldn't take any skill or practice to learn to slambang away with a walking stick.

SPRING GUNS AND MURDER. From The Tacoma Ledger. A King County convict who set a spring gun in his trunk, which killed the landlady, of a murder in the second degree, Malice was not proved, and the Supreme Court has just reversed the lower court's conviction and set aside the trial. The case presents curious questions of law. It seems that the curiosity of the woman was the cause of her death. It is worth noting that the convict, who was a man who kept out of other people's trunks. Still, a man who sets a trap gun in his trunk should not go acquit in the case of a murder. Two are for the coffee, holding five gallons each, and the third is to contain ten gallons of hot water. When a big alarm conner in the car, which is to be used in the fire department, and Michigan avenue, will make the run and be attached to a fire engine, steam being used to make the coffee.

entitled to serious consideration; for the acts of the executive departments in construing and executing the laws touch the people even more closely than the processes by which proposed laws are beaten into shape in Congress. An intimate knowledge of the doings of the executive branch cannot be less valuable to the average citizen than a transcript of the proceedings of the department in which laws are made and are ashered into existence.

The Keep commission, which did a useful work in investigating departmental methods and cutting the meshes of red tape, suggested the publication of a bulletin in which the transactions of the departments should be recorded at first hand for the benefit of readers desiring such information. Publicity, it was argued, would force uniformity in method and stimulate efficiency in administration. At present each department goes its own way and maintains a system of information suited to its own ideas or convenience. The Treasury, the State and the War departments, for instance, collate and publish data with exemplary promptness and fullness. On the other hand, the Navy Department and the Interior Department show little expedition, the Navy Department being the slowest of all to furnish information which it would be desirable to have promptly in the hands of the public. Economy and efficiency would both be served if a better standard were set in this respect, and a joint administrative publication something like that which Mr. Hobson outlined would meet a long felt want on the part of seekers for current information about administrative matters.

THE END OF THE DRUCE CASE. The opening of the Druce grave will probably put an end to the Druce claims. A son of T. C. Druce had testified that he had lived with his father, had been with him when he died and had seen his body buried. Against that testimony the claimant, a grandson of T. C. Druce, had contended that the grave contained only a coffin filled with lead, and that T. C. Druce had ceased to exist only because the Duke of Portland determined no longer to masquerade under that name. When the coffin was opened yesterday it was found to hold "the body of an aged, bearded man," a description which in a general way coincided with that of the mysterious Druce. Beside this direct testimony of the son, sustained as fully as possible by the evidence of the tomb itself, all the moonshine about mysterious coincidences of appearance and eccentricity between the duke and the shopkeeper, and all the wonderful stories of the "great identifiers" who seem to have flocked to London from the ends of the earth, and even the remarkable fact that Dickens, who used to buy handkerchiefs or something of the sort in Druce's "bazaar," wrote the "Mystery of Edwin Drood"—Druce, Drood, extraordinary, wasn't it?—all these romantic, suggestive, coincidental bits of evidence which seemed to fit together so nicely became utterly unworthy of further consideration. Herbert Druce saw his father die, saw him buried, and the opening of the grave discovers bones which must be presumed to be his father's. That seems to make an end of it.

The case had in it all the qualities of a first class mystery. In the first place it concerned a duke, and that was enough to induce a great many men and women in England to buy shares in a stock company formed to explore the Portland skeleton closet. Moreover, the late duke seemed to be just the kind of man to have a skeleton closet worth such a scrutiny. He was eccentric and unconventional. He had subterranean passages constructed from his mansion—one, it is said, leading to Druce's bazaar. His friends seem to have had doubts about what the fifth holder of the title did on his subterranean excursions, and the victims of curiosity were interested enough to invest their shillings and sometimes their pounds in order to find out. The late Druce is said to have looked so much like the late Portland that no one could say they were not one and the same person at opposite ends of the tunnel connecting their respective establishments. Druce was said to have betrayed signs of great agitation whenever one of the nobility entered his shop. Forsyth, only a duke running a shop and in danger of a trial in his double life would have done that! Then there was Dickens, too, who knew a mystery, for he was nipped off untimely as he was unfolding one to the public. Well, Dickens told a female witness, she said, that he knew Druce was Portland. This confidential disclosure took place in a certain park, and somebody swore, or somebody's journal showed, that Dickens did talk to some girl once in that park. This female witness had a diary about the Dickens conversation, but some one in a crowd had stolen it from her. We summarize a little of the evidence to show how natural it was for a certain order of speculative human mind to conclude that "there must be something behind this Druce-Portland mystery."

The interest of those who so dearly love a lord's skeleton closet that they will buy shares in a stock company formed to explore it is easily understood. But greater to us than the mystery of the late duke's subterranean habits is the mystery in the attraction which such a case has for witnesses and identifiers. A host of people were ready to swear that they saw Druce after his alleged burial. Others knew both Druce and Portland and knew that they were one. Dickens was dragged into the case. More than one person, we believe, was positively sworn of the burial of lead when the duke finally laid aside his double existence. One American witness, whose evidence to that effect was crossed and the water to testify to it, in spite of the prospect that the grave would be opened, positively swore by some earlier exploits gained the name of the "great American identifier," and perhaps if we could learn more about the British witnesses who eagerly took the stand we might find that they figured similarly before. There seems to exist a class of persons who are ready to swear to anything if for a moment they can thereby participate in a sensation.

AN OVERSTRENUOUS CONGRESS. It would be difficult to determine offhand whether a sense of humor or a sense of the eternal fitness of things, or yet an appreciation of the greatness of their opportunity, was lacking to the members of the Indian Congress in their singularly strenuous session the other day. We must assume that men so intelligent and so conversant with the general affairs of the world were aware of the earnest movements in their behalf which had been going on in various lands; that in England there were men who in their passionate sympathy with their Aryan brothers approved even the preachments of Mr. Keir Hardie; that in the United States men of light and leading were publicly organizing and agitating for the advancement of Indian interests, and that even in Russia there were statesmen capable of diverting their attention from the suppression of Donbas long enough to contemplate the reclaiming of the Light of Asia by way of Peshawar and the Khyber Pass.

In such circumstances the occasion seemed suspicious for the Indian Congress to set before the world an encouraging example of unity, self-control and orderly procedure, evincing eminent fitness for that self-government which an eminent minority of Babus desire. Such a spectacle, of Brahmins and Pariahs, Moslems and Parsees, sinking all individual fads and fancies and harmoniously co-operating to demand home rule on the convincing ground of their demonstrated capacity to exercise it aright would have been most impressive and inspiring to all the friends of India in foreign parts. It would have served as an effective counterfoil to the commemoation—which was occurring at almost the same moment—of the fiftieth anniversary of the quelling of the great Sepoy Mutiny and the confirmation of the rule of the Ferintosh over Hindustan.

Instead, however, the members of the congress, ignoring the regard of the outer world, surrendered themselves to domestic introspection and mutual suasion of a most vigorous and material kind. Seizing upon the furniture of their meeting hall, they impudently dismembered it and applied the resultant fragments to various selected portions of one another's anatomy and to the furniture of one another's anatomy. Complete details of the calligraphic symposium are not yet at hand, but it is understood that Yar Mohammed Yusuf applied a chair leg to the cranium of Hurree Chunder Moorjee with such excess of zeal as to induce the irreparable fracturing of both the head and the leg; that Chhimbo Singh, from Bikaneer, impelled the most substantial part of a chair back against the ribs of Tanta the Bill to such effect that four of the bones were promptly converted into eight; that Killa Khan, the Marri chief, brought a large section of a table top into intimate contact with the countenance of Jowar Singh, the Sikh, so as to cause a yawning rift in each of the impinging objects; while Abdul Haq Ratta and little Boh Hla-oo with chair seat and desk lid expounded to Nubbee Baksh Punjabi Raj the convincing syllogisms of "India for the Indians." In fact, *matutis mutandis*, a certain historic scene recorded by Truthful James in the Transactions of Our Society upon the Stanislaus was vigorously rehearsed, until the advent of Messrs. Mulvaney, Leary and Oertheris induced involuntary and precipitate adjournment.

Meantime, the one solitary British flag in all the world which is not lowered at sunset, but floats mast-high by night as well as by day, continued to fly above the topmasts of Lucknow. The latest suggestion for sidetracking Mr. Bryan emanates from "The Washington Post." It is ingenious and its soothing logic may persuade where the strenuous ratiocination of Colonel Watterson and other demonstrators of the necessity of elimination has failed. "The Post" wants to elect the Nebraska leader Vice-President and assures him that he would earn more glory and have more enjoyment in the second office of the Republic than in the first. It says:

If the Democracy should win with an available Presidential candidate, and with Mr. Bryan for Vice-President, where would the Nebraska find its party in Congress, and as presiding officer of the Senate he would be able to accomplish much for the party, even though Republicans were in the majority. He would mingle daily with the leaders on both sides, and would occupy a unique position himself as a leader. He would be, in name and in fact, a great commoner, capable of accomplishing great good for his party and for the country. His influence upon legislation would be infinitely greater than it would be if he were President, with a Republican Congress thwarting every move.

Pity the sorrows of a poor Democratic President with a Republican Congress thwarting every move! The post of honor is the minor station. But suppose a Republican Congress was as cold to the advice of a Democratic President of the Senate as it was to a Democratic President of the United States. And suppose the Democratic President neglected to consult the real leader of the party in the dispensation of Nebraska and other patronage. Then the minor honor might not be sweeter and more sufficing than the major. Mr. Bryan will probably conclude to commend "The Post's" suggestion of gain through loss to some other deserving Democrat.

WANTON MISCHIEF. The person arrested at the Brooklyn Bridge the other day on the charge of cutting the clothing of others in the crowd may or may not be guilty of the offence. That remains to be proved. The incident is a reminder, however, of the frequent commission of that and similar offences by some persons, both there and elsewhere. In the last few years scores of complaints have been made, and there have doubtless been many more cases in which public complaint has not been made. Both men and women have had their outer garments deliberately cut and slashed, burned with acids, stained with ink or defiled with filth, and almost invariably they have been unable to attribute the deeds to any personal enmity or spite, but have been forced to the conclusion that they were done by strangers through sheer wantonness.

It seems a strange perversity of human nature that men should systematically commit such outrages through mere love of mischief. Crime usually has an object of personal gain or revenge, but in these cases none such is visible. There is not even the monstrously perverted pleasure of directly witnessing and gloating over the pain and distress of the victims, because in the great majority of cases the victims have been unconscious of the outrages until some time after the infliction of them. The only satisfaction the criminal could enjoy, therefore, was the knowledge that the wrong had been done and that at some time and in some place, unknown to him, the victim would become aware of it and would suffer distress. It would be difficult to conceive a more purely and wantonly malignant type of evil-doing—as perfectly malignant in the comparatively petty deed of soiling a dress as it could be in that of arson or murder.

Such a person is a monster. Yet after all he is nothing more than a development of a common type. The wanton mischief of certain classes of boys is a familiar fact. It seems a little thing for boys to smear dirt upon a clean wall, to chip bits from ornamental stone work, to break shrubs in the park or to commit any of the thousand and one acts by which the world around them is disfigured. Yet the principle involved is precisely the same as that in more serious offences. It is the doing of evil for the evil's own sake. And such a spirit tolerated in the boy may naturally grow into the grosser malignance of the man. It is, of course, the most lackeyed of traits that "the child is father to the man," yet there is perhaps no other familiar fact which is more generally or more disastrously disregarded. It is little less than a wonder of the world that, with all the cost and effort which we put forth for the punishment of wrongdoing, and with all the other matters which we so diligently and successfully teach in our schools, no greater progress has been made in the inculcation of the most elementary principles of ethics—unless, indeed, we are persuaded that "to be a well favored man is the gift of fortune, but to write and 'read comes by nature.'"

Colonel J. C. Hemphill, of "The Charleston News and Courier," sees all sorts of trouble ahead at Denver. His soul is vexed because Democrats whom he refuses to recognize as Democrats are going to nominate a Presidential candidate who he classifies as a Populist. But there is worse behind. Colorado has Democrats of both sexes. If the male worshippers of Mr. Bryan are false Democrats, he asks, are the female worshippers to be properly classed as false Democratesses, Democratines or Democratites? If we were in the Colonel's predicament we should cut Denver.

In making it somewhat easier for women teachers to secure places in the New York City schools Superintendent Maxwell takes cognizance of actual conditions. The present shortage of more than seven hundred teachers indicates the practical impossibility of main-

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Index to Advertisements.

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New York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1907.

This newspaper is owned and published by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation; office and principal place of business, Tribune Building, No. 154 Nassau street, New York; Ogden Mills, president; Nathaniel Tuttle, secretary and treasurer. The address of the office is the office of this newspaper.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Instruments at Slide and Laid-back recorded a great earthquake, which is believed to have affected a part of Central or South America. The coffin of T. C. Druce was opened at Highgate Cemetery and the result, found to contain a man's remains, the result, found to contain a man's remains, the result, found to contain a man's remains.

DOMESTIC.—President Roosevelt returned to Washington this morning after a four-day stay at Pine Knot, Va. Viscount Aoki, the Japanese Ambassador, who left Washington on his way to Tokyo, expressed friendly sentiments for the United States and a thousand passengers took another ship. Secretary Taft delivered three speeches at Boston, the principal one being on the causes of the recent financial stringency and the immigration policy of the national administration.

CITY.—Stocks closed strong. Three brokers were arrested on a charge of grand larceny. Metropolitan Street Railway minority stockholders organized a committee to push those who were guilty of illegal acts in conducting the company's affairs. Receivers were appointed to take over the Passaic Steel Company. The Rapid Transit Company discharged three hundred men and stopped all permanent improvements. An Italian liner under attachment was halted by the court and a thousand passengers took another ship. General Henry L. Burnett refused to commit himself yet to Governor Hughes's candidacy. Magistrate Butts decided that the alien could not alter the state statutes and the court ordered the release of John the Sunday Schooler, was rescued, a raving maniac. Dispatches from New England and other Eastern States tell of a continuation of the reopening of schools. Two men were sunk off Point Judith, R. I., and a fishing schooner was wrecked near Boothbay, Harbor, Me., but no lives were lost.

AN ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN. Many jokes will doubtless be cracked at the expense of Representative Richmond Pearson Hobson and his latest project of setting up a government publication similar to and in some respects competing with the venerable yet often perversely misappreciated "Congressional Record." Innumerable gibes have been aimed at the staid and unobtrusive organ of the legislative department which immortalizes eloquence never reduced to speech in either branch of Congress and records vociferous and long continued applause audible only to the typesetter in the Government Printing office. "The Congressional Record" has been disparaged as dull, perfunctory and lacking in color. Yet in the end it is necessary to go to it for any adequate account of the transactions on the floor of the two houses and for a complete understanding of the arguments advanced for or against any legislative measure of national importance.

It is said that "The Congressional Record" will few readers. But only the rash and flippant will dispute the essential value of such a periodical. The constituency, fit though few, which it serves does a work of enlightenment whose political importance cannot be belittled. The prime essential in the conduct of a progressive democratic government is publicity, and what a transcript of the debates and votes in Congress accomplishes in the legislative department has been so strikingly lacking in the field of executive action. Congress sits only seven months in one year and only three months in another year, and publishes a daily record; but the executive departments carry on their work unceasingly the whole year through and for the most part keep the public informed of their operations through occasional and often long delayed reports or bulletins. Mr. Hobson's proposal, though it may not be altogether satisfactory in its details, is therefore logical and

Norman, Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis, Mrs. Huntington Wilson, Miss Grace Jarvis, Miss Edith Sanger, Miss Katherine Elkins, Edward Wales Root, Robert Hill, Joseph Leiter, Lieutenant Edward McCauley and Stephen B. Elkins, jr. Miss Christine Keane Roosevelt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Emlen Roosevelt, is the guest of her grandmother, Mrs. Keane, and her uncle, Senator John Keane, at their 1 street home. On Friday she will go to the White House as the guest of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. Miss Gladys Roosevelt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis Roosevelt, of New York, will also visit the President and Mrs. Roosevelt in the social season. The Speaker and Miss Cannon have returned to Washington from their home in Danville, Va., and brought Mrs. Lessor, the Speaker's daughter, with them to spend the winter. Mrs. John W. Foster was at home this afternoon to a large contingent of the social world. Mrs. James R. McKee and Miss Mary Scott McKee were with Mrs. Foster.

Mrs. Robert Hinckley gave a large dance to-night for the friends of her schoolgirl daughter, Miss Gladys Hinckley. A number of dinner parties preceded the dance.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

This is the last day of the year, and its departure as well as the arrival of 1908, which is leap year, will be observed tonight in the customary manner at the various fashionable restaurants and smart clubs. Many country house parties will be given in connection with the celebration, and at Ardley, at Lakewood, and especially at Tuxedo, there will be much gaiety. The gaiety will culminate at Tuxedo in the New Year's Eve ball, which always takes place at the clubhouse. Most of the villas and cottages are full of guests for the occasion, who will be brought on to the dance after dinner by their respective hosts and hostesses.

Mrs. William B. Anderson gave a dance last night at her home in Madison avenue for her daughter, Miss Alice Anderson, who made her debut about a year ago, and her son, Walter P. Anderson. Among the features of the evening was the first appearance since their marriage of young W. Gooden Coogan and his bride, who was Miss Dorothy Potter. Others present were Miss Lucy Margaret Roosevelt, Miss Emily Sloane, Miss Clara Wright Barclay, Miss Frances Alexander, Miss Antoinette Heckscher, Miss Constance and Miss Beatrice Pratt, Miss Eleanor Dunne, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Lanier T. Frelinghuysen, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Lanier Winslow, Francis and Maurice Roche, Alexander D. B. Pratt and Monroe Robinson.

Another dance of last evening was that of Mrs. James A. Glover at the Hotel Gotham for her daughter, Miss Susanna Livingston Glover, one of the debutantes of the season, with whom Charles H. Woodruff, jr., led the cotillon. The favors comprised fans, card and cigar cases, match boxes and other trifles. Among the thirty guests were Miss Charlotte Deland, Miss Gladys and Miss Lorraine Roosevelt, Miss Mercer Atterbury, Miss Lorraine Roosevelt, Miss Katherine Fairfax, Miss Constance Scherhorn, Miss Nathalie Bailey, Hamilton Fish, jr., J. R. Suydam, jr., Ashton de Poyeter, W. A. Hadden, Theodore Roosevelt, jr., Alexander S. Webb, Henry R. Beckman and Robert L. Gerry.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goeltz, who spent the early part of the season at Mrs. Ogden Goeltz's house at Fifth avenue and 43rd street, have now moved into their own home, No. 547 Fifth avenue, opposite that of Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, and adjoining that of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Osgood Field.

Many are going over to Philadelphia to-day to attend the wedding of Sidney J. Colford, jr., to Miss Clara Knight, in St. Bartholomew's Church.

Mrs. Stephen Van Rensselaer Crosby, of Boston, is staying with Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, jr., at their house in Madison avenue. Mrs. Crosby is a sister of Mrs. Morgan.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. de Forest are entertaining a large party at their country place at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Drexel will give a dinner dance for their niece, Miss Mary Astor Paul and Miss Frances Fell, the latter a daughter of Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer, on January 23, at their house in East 63d street.

Mrs. Howland Davis gave a small dance last night at her home in Madison avenue.

PEACE DINNER GIVEN.

Conclusion of Central American Agreement Celebrated in Washington. Washington, Dec. 30.—What was termed a "peace dinner" was given here to-night by the delegates to the recent Central American conference in celebration of the conclusion of an agreement of amity. Toasts were given by the representatives of the United States, Mexico and the five republics parties to the agreement, and speeches were made expressing good will and a desire for lasting peace. In addition to Central Americans there were present Ambassador Creel, of Mexico; Assistant Secretary Bacon, the Haytian Minister, the ministers of the South American republics, the Spanish Minister, John W. Foster, Secretary Loeb and several officials of the State Department.

ENTERTAINED BY MR. WILCOX. William R. Wilcox, chairman of the Public Service Commission, gave a dinner at his home, No. 13 East 57th street, last evening, for Abel E. Blackman, the commission's retiring counsel. Judge Willard Bartlett took the oath as a judge of the Court of Appeals to-morrow, Governor Hughes will appoint Mr. Blackman a justice of the Supreme Court to fill the vacancy. Beside Judge Blackman, the guests included the chief of the commission, the secretary, also George S. Coleman, the newly appointed counsel; several of the associate counsel to the commission, and two or three personal friends of Mr. Wilcox.

SMOKER FOR CORNELL MUSICAL CLUBS. A smoker will be given to the members of the Cornell musical clubs at the Cornell Club, No. 58 West 64th street, this evening. The members of the musical clubs will arrive immediately after their concert at the Waldorf.

YARNELL BEQUEST FOR CHURCH. Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—By the terms of his will, which was probated to-day, the entire estate of the late Isaac H. Yarnell, of this city, amounting to more than \$300,000, is given in trust to his widow, and upon her death to St. Clement's Protestant Episcopal Church, of this city. Mr. Yarnell was a well known lawyer.

PROFESSOR SEYMOUR, OF YALE, ILL. New Haven, Dec. 30.—Professor Thomas D. Seymour, senior professor of Greek in Yale University, is dangerously ill at his home in Hillhouse avenue. After exacting literary work outside of his regular college duties, Professor Seymour several weeks ago had an attack of grip, which developed into pneumonia. Two physicians are in attendance and his condition is extremely serious.