Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8—The Rose of the Rancho.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—2:15—8:15—The Secret Orchard.
BELASCO—2:15—8:15—The Warrens of Virginia.
BIJOU—2:15—8:15—The Comet.
BLANEY'S—2:15—8:15—The Bad Boy and His Teddy Bears.
BROADWAY—2:15—8:15—The Parisian Model.
CARNEGIE HALL—2:30—Concert.
CASINO—2:15—8:15—Funabashi.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—2:15—8:15—Miss Hook of Holland.
DALY'S—2:15—8:20—The House of a Thousand Candles.
DEWEY—2—8—Vaudeville.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—2:15—8:15—Quality Street.
GARRICK—2:15—8:30—Under the Greenwood Tree.
GERMAN—2:15—Der Gruene Kakadu, Letzte Masken and Literatur—8:20—Der Dummkopf.
GOTHAM—2—8—Vaudeville.
HACKETT—2:15—8:30—The Witching Hour.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—2:15—8:15—The Girl Behind the Counter.
HIPPODROME—2—8—The Four Seasons and Winter Carnival.
HUDSON—2:30—8:20—Her Sister.
KNICKERBOCKER—2:15—8:15—The Talk of New York.
LIBERTY—2:15—8:20—Polly of the Circus.
LYCEUM—2:15—8:30—The Thief.
LYRIC—2:15—8:15—Rosmersholm.
MADISON SQUARE—2:15—8:15—The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary.
MAJESTIC—2:15—8:15—The Top o' th' World.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—2—Louise—8—Il Trovatore.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—3—Song recital.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—2—Marta—8—Aïda.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—10 a. m. to 6 p. m.—8 to 10 p. m.—Winter Exhibition.
NEW AMSTERDAM—2:15—8:15—The Merry Widow.
NEW CIRCLE—2:15—8:15—Playing the Ponies.
NEW YORK—2—8:30—Advanced vaudeville.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—Three sessions daily—Ice skating.
SAVOY—2:15—8:15—Man of the Hour.
STUYVESANT—2—8:15—A Grand Army Man.
WALLACK'S—2:15—8:15—A Knight for a Day.
WEBER'S MUSIC HALL—2:15—8:15—Burlesque of The Merry Widow.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1908.

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 officers is the office of this newspaper.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—The Senate was not in session. ═══ House: The bill for codification of the laws was considered; there was a lively discussion of causes of the financial panic.

DOMESTIC.—It was said in Washington that changed conditions on the isthmus may increase the cost of the Panama Canal to $200,000,000. ═══ The report that E. Benjamin Andrews would resign as Chancellor of the State University of Nebraska was reiterated in Lincoln, it being said that his resignation would reach the Board of Regents as soon as it appoints a successor; Mr. Andrews declined to discuss the report, but his secretary denied it. ═══ It was announced that a meeting of the board of directors of the Pittsburg Stock Exchange will be held on Monday morning, when definite action regarding the resumption of business will be taken. ═══ President Roosevelt, in conversation with a caller at the White House, predicted the nomination of Secretary Taft for the Presidency on the first ballot. ═══ A man was frozen to death at Malone, N. Y. ═══ Democratic friends gave a dinner for ex-Judge Alton B. Parker at Kingston, N. Y. ═══ It was said at Albany that a number of legislative agents had already registered. ═══ The judges of the Court of Appeals paid their annual visit to the Governor at Albany.

FOREIGN.—The Panther and the Yankton, belonging to the auxiliary division of the American battleship fleet, arrived at Rio de Janeiro, where the armored vessels are expected to arrive to-day; the torpedo boats arrived at Pernambuco. ═══ The Belgian government issued its reply to the Congo State Commission; King Leopold is said to desire no personal profit from the donations reserved under the treaty, but threatens to take his former place in the Congo administration if the treaty is not ratified. ═══ Socialist demonstrations in Berlin in favor of general suffrage were dispersed by police, many arrests being made; a motion in the Landtag to grant the demand for electoral reform was rejected. ═══ The North German Lloyd and the Hamburg-American steamship companies, it was announced at Bremen, have entered into a four-year agreement, which will result in unity of action against the British lines in the ocean rate war. ═══ Rodolphe Lemieux, the delegate of Canada to Japan, said that he believed his mission had been entirely successful; the State Department at Washington denied rumors of friction between Japan and the United States regarding restriction of immigration.

CITY.—Stocks declined in the late trading. ═══ A large crowd listened to Secretary Taft before the People's Institute in Cooper Union. ═══ The Thaw jury was completed, and it was announced arguments would be begun on Monday. ═══ It was rumored in Wall Street that the Knickerbocker receivership would be made permanent at the next court session. ═══ The Public Service Commission issued an order to the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company directing it to report why it had decreased the number of bridge trains on Thursday night. ═══ Controller Metz and Borough President Coler nearly came to blows after a meeting of the Board of Estimate. ═══ The Cripple Creek Central Railroad Company passed dividends on both its common and preferred stock. ═══ The Supreme Court declared the law mutualizing the Equitable constitutional. ═══ "Fingey" Conners had a new slogan for Governor Johnson's campaign for the Presidency. ═══ Announcement was made of a plan to form a union of employes in the milk trade to obtain a six-day working week. ═══ Mayor McClellan recognized John F. Ahearn as President de facto of the Borough of Manhattan. ═══ A mortgage of $45,000,000, it was learned, was the principal provision of the Westinghouse reorganization plan.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain or snow. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 30 degrees; lowest, 17.

"RIGID ECONOMY."

The Mayor in his message assures us that despite "rigid economy" the budget increased in a year about $13,000,000, and, while he does not extend that assurance to the city debt, we feel sure that the jump of nearly $70,000,000 in the bonded obligations occurred also despite the same "rigid economy." We have now a city debt of about $700,000,000, which would make a very respectable national debt for a fair sized nation, and unlike most national debts this monster that hangs over the city continually grows. Nations endeavor to reduce their debts, and in time of peace generally make considerable progress in that direction. But the city debt increases with each passing year. The assessors annually add something to the asssessed value of the property within the city—all the traffic will bear—and there is an immediate rush by the constituted authorities to get out all the additional bonds that the increased assessments make possible, always, of course, observing the "most rigid economy."

It is the fashion to talk of the cost of armies and navies, of the everlasting preparation for war in time of peace, but, bless you, an army and navy are cheap compared to whatever it is the city spends its money on with such "rigid economy." If the "rigid economies" of the national government piled up any such heap of debts upon the nation as the city loads upon its inhabitants the national debt, comparing the population of the country with that of the city, would be ten or twelve billions of dollars, instead of only about one billion. Peace hath its bonded debt as well as war.

Of course, we all know where the money goes in a general way. There is a vast array of organizations, mostly called "civic," whose self-appointed duty it is to suggest ways in which it is imperatively necessary for the city to spend that small margin between the actual debt and the possible debt. One of these estimable bodies calls the city's attention to the fact that there can be no real education of children so long as their teeth are not brushed every morning. The city's duty to its "teeming millions" requires that municipal toothbrushes shall be furnished and kept in the school, and a city inspector of teeth cleaning shall be appointed for each school, with a supervisor over all to see that the little ones sweep their teeth. Bonds are issued for this, and a disinterested civic organization pats itself upon the back for having served the city admirably in its dire distress for a way to spend its unspent millions. The purchasing of the toothbrushes, it may be said in passing, and the brushing of the teeth are conducted with the most "rigid economy."

The debt limit has not been reached. Another civic organization is heard from. It is of the neighborhood order. It suggests that unborn generations will need a playground in an unbuilt section of the city, and that it is the city's duty, in the name of civilization, to buy a piece of land as a site for it. The property may be got now from certain civic spirits for ten times its value, whereas if the city waits fifty years, until a house is built within five miles of it, it cannot be got for less than one hundred times its value. The city, like a prudent purchaser, buys at once for ten times the property's value—say for $10,000,000—saving thereby, of course, the $90,000,000 additional which it would ultimately have cost. That is "rigid economy." Then there is that greatest civic organization of all, to which most of the present administration's members belong. It keeps a constant eye on the unused margin below the debt limit, and with an ingenuity and resource unequalled by the many and various minor civic organizations which specialize in suggesting ways for spending municipal money it finds a thousand modes of getting rid of the funds. All involve contracts which reward the civic spirits.

As for the budget itself, the Mayor speaks with remarkable confidence of the expenditure of about $150,000,000. It would take a really extraordinary man to say that a dollar or two of so vast a sum did not get astray, especially considering the utter lack of system with which the budget is prepared. The Board of Estimate knows of the disposition of nothing, but only of lump sums prepared with a view to a horizontal cut. The cut is applied with a sense of ruthless virtue, except, of course, where a little judicious logrolling saves a department estimate intact. Then the lump sum goes forth to be spent, no one central authority can find out how. And withal, if this proves economy, no department ever has enough to manage its affairs effectively! Any one circulating casually among city employes can see, however, that the city's funds are spent with a "rigid economy" of personal effort. That is a "rigid economy" which can always be counted upon.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

Southern and Western Senators and Representatives who have studied the Aldrich currency bill are reported to be opposed to it as discriminating against their sections, and they well may be, for no bank could expect to avail itself of the provisions of the bill unless it were situated in the great bond market of the country. Even the advocates of the measure are said to acknowledge this. But this is not all. One object of currency reform is supposed to be the imparting of such elasticity to the currency as to furnish an abundant supply of money for the movement of the crops in those parts of the country from which the crops are to be shipped. Would this bill do that? Obviously the extra notes provided for would not come out unless in some way there was profit to the bankers over and above the 6 per cent tax. If such notes moved crops they would do so only on a very expensive basis. Would the South and West be satisfied with that?

There is another consideration which affects the people of the country generally. The new bill, if passed, would furnish a reason for banks to enter the field of savings bank investments and compete with savings banks for their choicest bonds. If the national banks really should buy bonds for supplementary circulation obviously the price of bonds would rise and the actual interest upon existing issues would decline, while subsequent issues would be put forth at lower rates of interest. Thus savings banks would be driven into inferior fields of investment or would have to be content with less interest and so pay lower dividends to depositors. The artificial stimulation of bond values would be a good thing for men with bonds to sell, but a bad thing for the people who invest their savings through the savings banks in the bond market.

To those friends of currency reform who are disposed to accept the present measure as "the most the country would stand for just now," but who expect better things later—a credit currency, perhaps, or a central bank, it may be, when the people emerge from their present darkness—let us suggest reflection upon what effect the passage of the present bill would have on the prospects of ultimate, real reform. Let us suppose that the bill is passed and the national banks actually do load up with $250,000,000 worth of county, city, state and railroad bonds. The market price of those bonds is raised by the process. Will any Senator or Representative then dare suggest that this law be repealed and that the country go upon a basis of asset currency? Bonds would inevitably be depressed by the banks' selling this $250,000,000 worth. Every city, town and county in the nation whose bonds were held as the basis of circulation would be threatening punishment to its Representative if he voted to change the currency system. The suggested scheme would tie the country indefinitely to bond secured currency with all the force of those local interests which always predominate in the Congressional mind.

THE INDIANS IN AFRICA.

The seriousness of the race problem in the Transvaal may be appreciated when it is remembered that there are in that country many thousands of Indians, chiefly engaged in the learned professions or in mercantile pursuits, who are practically outlawed, classed with habitual criminals and lepers, and liable to be arrested without warrants, fined $500, imprisoned for six months and then forcibly expelled from the country. Yet they are peaceful, industrious, self-supporting, lawabiding, loyal British subjects, theoretically entitled, under "Old Pam's" *civis Britannicus sum* principle, to the equal protection of British law. And the rub is that they not only regard themselves in that light, but the hundreds of millions of their countrymen at home in India do the same and hold the British government—not the colonial government at Pretoria, but the imperial government at Westminster—accountable for all that happens to them.

The Boers of the Transvaal apparently do not care what embarrassment is caused to the imperial government nor how much disaffection is provoked in India. They want to get rid of the Indians, chiefly, it seems, because the latter are, as a rule, particularly intelligent, shrewd and enterprising, so that in business or professional activities they get ahead of the Boers. The Indians are not inclined to consider the subtleties of the British constitutional system as it prevails in the self-governing colonies, but, observing that the same Union Jack flies over the government houses at Calcutta and at Pretoria, with primitive Aryan logic they argue that as loyal British subjects they are entitled to stand under that flag wherever it flies, and there to enjoy all the immunities and privileges of British subjects. As for the third party to the case, the British imperial government, it does not want to interfere with the home rule which it has so recently granted to the Boers, and neither does it want to see disaffection increased in India.

The situation is a most perplexing one and the result cannot be foreseen, but is likely to be far reaching and almost epochal in its importance. The problem before the British government resembles in some respects problems which have been before our own national government in dealing with individual states, but is more delicate and embarrassing, seeing that the colonies enjoy a much larger measure of self-government than do our states, and that the ties which unite the colonies with the whole empire are far less strong than those which bind these states in the federal Union. To coerce a self-governing colony would be a most unwelcome proceeding, and so would it be to confess the inability of the imperial government to secure equal rights to all its subjects in all parts of the empire. The third course of safety somewhere between these two is what is yet to be discovered.

REFORMS IN THE NAVY.

Senator Hale's purpose in introducing a bill increasing salaries in the navy and dealing with various problems of naval organization and administration was, apparently, to stimulate discussion of the navy's present needs. The Senator from Maine has offered certain suggestions which he desires to have frankly discussed in Congress. He does not pretend to have found a solution of the vexatious controversies which have created so much friction between line and staff and have aroused the suspicion of the public that naval officers are not intent enough on composing their differences in a broad minded and sensible way. Undoubtedly Mr. Hale feels that some attempt to allay antagonisms should be made before confidence in the ability of staff and line to live together harmoniously and work for the good not of a corps but of the whole service is seriously impaired.

Jealousies between line and staff are traditional, and there is a disposition to regard them as inevitable. Yet they lead to unseemly disputes and contribute to unrest and inefficiency. In a model navy there should be no discords between the different corps based on what one corps regards as the usurpation or unwarranted claims of another. It must be remembered that modern growth has greatly diminished the relative importance of the line—the old fighting, navigating and universally dominant branch of the service. This changed condition was recognized by the line itself when it accepted amalgamation ten years ago with the engineering corps; for the vast increase in the scope and responsibility of the work of the engineer officers made it impracticable to treat them any longer as mere auxiliaries. The enlarged line must now do the engineering work aboard ship, just as it does the work which falls in the army to the commissary, quartermaster's, adjutant general's and inspection departments. Whether a further amalgamation is desirable is an open question.

As to changes in pay, no increase for the navy could fairly be made without a relative increase for the army. Navy salaries are based on the army schedule, so that it would be simpler, perhaps, to begin with a readjustment in the army.

Mr. Hale's proposal to maintain the Naval Academy on its present basis, but to turn the great majority of its graduates back into civil life, will doubtless meet with vigorous opposition. The navy is still under-officered, and it has not yet reached its maximum growth. It is better to have too many officers than too few, and so far as we can see there is no real necessity for the restriction of admissions to the grade of midshipman to seventy-five a year.

AGAIN THE EIGHTH REGIMENT.

The rehabilitation of the 8th Regiment by order of Governor Hughes on the recommendation of General Roe has been officially announced, to the great satisfaction of many officers. But no measure less severe than disbandment could have brought about a change for the better. Veterans who had known the 8th in its days of harmony and prosperity, and who were proud of their connection with the oldest regiment in the state service, felt the blow keenly, but no one blamed the general officers for taking the steps which brought to an end the discipline destroying era of dispute.

The order reducing the command to a battalion, with Major Elmore Farrington Austin in command, went into effect on December 10, 1906. Anticipating the change, The Tribune two weeks before that date recalled the fact that a similar condition had existed some years before in the 69th Regiment, when General George Moore Smith, then lieutenant colonel of the 7th Regiment, was placed at the head of the five-company battalion. We said:

> In a comparatively short time the Irish organization regained its regimental standing, and men who know him well predict that Major Austin will be as successful with the 8th as his chief was with the 69th and that it will not be long before the Official Register will bear again the roster of the 8th Regiment.

The predictions have been verified, and an additional advantage will probably result from the drastic measures of a year ago. It has been proposed to change the restored regiment from infantry to heavy artillery. There is a heavy artillery regiment in Brooklyn, but that arm of the service is not represented in Manhattan, although there can be no doubt as to the necessity for these troops if the organized militia is really to become the first reserve to the regular establishment. The tour of duty which the 8th performed last season at Fort Totten showed that the men were well qualified for the work. They went to camp with the regulars, 80 per cent strong, won the respect of officers and men by their soldierly conduct and intelligent work, and were further rewarded by praise from Colonel Whistler, the regular army officer in command. With the mischief making element eliminated there seems to be a bright future for the new regiment, and we congratulate the state on its restoration.

STREAMS, SEWERS AND WELLS.

It is in a measure gratifying to observe that at last steps are being taken to stay the devastating epidemic of typhoid fever which has long been raging in and about the city of Trenton, N. J. We must, it is true, question the wisdom of the direction in which steps are being taken, at least as anything more than a temporary expedient, and even that only on conditions which probably do not exist. But it is gratifying and encouraging—though the statement may seem like a deplorable confession or a bitter indictment of the places in question—to know that something is being done and that the community has not settled down into an apathetic and fatalistic belief that the scourge is an inevitable and inscrutable visitation of Divine Providence against which it would be impious to struggle. That seemed to be the attitude of the managers of the State Asylum for the Insane at Trenton last year, but the city happily is more rational.

But we must question the wisdom of the course which has apparently been adopted—namely, to make no effort to purify the water supply, but to abandon it as hopeless and to seek new supplies which have not yet been contaminated. It is just possible that such a change of source can be more speedily effected than the purification of the present supply. If so it should be done, as a makeshift. But we cannot accept as sane the suggestion of some of the officials concerned, that any considerable supply of naturally potable water should be abandoned and given over to pollution. Not long ago one of the professional sages of Trenton put forth the amazing proposition that all streams of water were naturally intended to be used as sewers, and that they should, therefore, be abandoned as sources of potable water and our supplies should be drawn from artesian wells. That was a counsel of madness and despair.

We should say, on the contrary, that no running stream is naturally meant to be a sewer, and that any such use of one is a perversion. The sewage itself is too valuable to be wasted in that fashion and the water is certainly too valuable thus to be spoiled. In well populated countries the supplies of potable water are of great value and are to be jealously safeguarded, especially those from lakes, springs and streams. For they are in most cases preferable to the supply from artesian or other wells, for a variety of reasons. The quality of spring and stream water is usually far better, for all purposes, than that of well water, and the cost of utilizing it for urban supplies is much less.

The one conceivable advantage which artesian well water can have over surface water is its supposed greater freedom from contamination. But that freedom is by no means absolute and impregnable. In the case of artesian wells of moderate depth, at any rate, there is a real and considerable danger of contamination, and that danger, which may exist in the case of any well, however deep, is much intensified by the prevalence of the very policy which drives men to the use of wells—namely, the reckless pouring out of crude and poisonous sewage into streams and lakes and elsewhere. When streams of liquid poison are let loose on or in the soil there is no telling whither they may not flow or what mischief they may not do. The only safe policy is to destroy their virulence and make them innocuous before they are let loose. If that is done our springs and streams and lakes will be available for the supply which is so much needed and which they can best provide.

Arriving at Rio de Janeiro to-day, the fleet will be on schedule time. The distance from Port of Spain to Rio de Janeiro by the route followed is something over 3,050 miles, which, at ten knots, would consume about twelve days and eight hours. The fleet left Port of Spain on December 28, and to-day is consequently its thirteenth day out. It is assured of a fine welcome at the Brazilian capital, at the hands of both the Brazilian government and people and the accomplished American Ambassador, and will doubtless have a memorable ten days on its first visit in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Transvaal's yield of gold for the month of December broke all records. Nature seems to be generously working to restore confidence.

A strong sense of justice guides the Hearst Assemblyman who has introduced a bill commanding the New York City Police Commissioner to rehear the charges on the strength of which that once eminent guardian of the peace, "Suspender Jack," was dismissed from the police force. In view of "Jack's" famous public remarks about razing the City Hall if Mayor McClellan were not deposed, and about the capital running knee deep in blood if the people's rights, in the form of Mr. Hearst, were trampled in the dust, the propriety of passing the Assemblyman's bill can scarcely be questioned. Discharge from the police force was not the proper treatment for "Suspender Jack." His case should be reheard and decided strictly on its merits.

One of the most persistent and tedious stock topics of the modern jokemonger gets a bewildering swat in the dexter optic when a man, as reported in our columns yesterday, weds his own mother-in-law; which moves us to observe that the much cribbed Josephus Miller was wiser than his plagiarists, for in his justly celebrated compendium of midriff ticklers he did not include even one single, solitary mother-in-law joke.

The Hon. John Sharp Williams wants to improve the army by reducing its strength to thirty-five thousand men. Mr. Williams evidently believes that the army can be made attractive by restricting enlistments and establishing a waiting list for carefully selected eligibles.

With full appreciation of the work done by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals it is not easy to see just what a professor in humanity at Columbia University would find to do.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Ernst Müller, in his "Reisebilder," tells this story: "In the matter of tips to servants of high and low degree there is no one who can compare with the New Yorker. He uses neither judgment nor arithmetic in making these donations. Sometimes I have compared this quality with a certain kind of hysteria. The woman who has 'faint spells' is seldom overcome when alone, but usually in the presence of those who, she thinks, will sympathize with her. So it is with the big tip New Yorker. When he takes his luncheon alone his tip is of the normal kind; when he is accompanied by a guest his 'liberality' makes itself manifest, and when he is the host at a large gathering he has a regular fit of generosity. At least, some of the people who live in the same house with the hysterical woman usually know how to look upon the attacks of weakness. They are not fooled. Neither is the American deceived by the lavish giver of 'trinkgeld.'"

Clara—What kind of face powder do you use?
Maud—Why do you ask?
"Charlie Spooner says it's the best he ever tasted."—Life.

"Some people get their fun on the ice with skates and a favored few with iceboats, but up in Wilton they use automobiles," says "The Kennebec Journal." "Dr. A. L. York, while automobiling on the ice at Wilton Lake one day last week had a narrow escape when the machine went through a thin spot to the bottom in forty feet of water. Dr. York and friend jumped just in time to escape going down with the wreck. The car was taken out with tackle and shears, none the worse for the bath."

Nurse—Doctor, a sponge is missing; possibly you sewed it up inside the patient.
Eminent Surgeon—Thank you; remind me to add $10 to the bill for material.—Puck.

"I can beat that," said a man in an uptown club, when the story of the time-telling fox terrier, which was recently published, was under discussion. "Tip was an Irish setter—his name was really Tipperary, and Tip for short. He knew when it was Sunday, and he kept the day. He was the only Sabbatarian dog I ever knew. He used to sleep on a rug in my room. I had to keep early hours in those days, and every morning at 7 o'clock Tip would put his cold nose against my face and remind me that it was time to go to work. Then, while I was dressing, he would go to the village postoffice and bring home the mail. On Sunday mornings he never stirred off his rug until I was good and ready to get up, which was usually quite late, and nothing could induce him to go to the postoffice on that day. And the best part of the story is, it is absolutely true."

"I thought you turned over a new leaf?"
"Well, the darned thing blew back."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

August Yunkermann, the veteran interpreter of Fritz Reuter, whose presentation of "Uncle Bräsig" is remembered by some of the patrons of the German Theatre, of New York, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday last month by appearing at the Thalia Theatre, Berlin, in the part of the old uncle. An enthusiastic audience rewarded the efforts of the veteran with applause. "The performance," says a Berlin paper, "was notable only because of the appearance of the young, old Yunkermann, and his fellow actors contrived to make themselves inconspicuous on his account."

First Disputant—Then I'm a liar?
Second Ditto—On the contrary, my dear fellow; you have just spoken the truth.—Tit-Bits.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 10.—The President conferred with Secretary Taft on army affairs this morning before Mr. Taft went to New York.

Senators Burkett and Brown, of Nebraska, came before the Cabinet meeting to urge the reappointment of Benjamin F. Thomas, postmaster at Omaha. The President promised to send Mr. Thomas's name to the Senate.

Callers before the Cabinet meeting included Senators McEnery, Curtis and Hopkins, Representatives Shirley, Denby and Wilson, Interstate Commerce Commissioner Harlan and Assistant Attorney General Cooley.

The Cabinet was in session from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt have issued invitations to their dinner in honor of the diplomatic corps next Thursday evening, and to the official reception to the judiciary on January 23.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt had the following guests at dinner this evening:

The Speaker and Miss Cannon.	Mrs. Le Seure.
Senator and Mrs. Borah.	Mrs. Townsend.
Senator Bourne.	Mrs. Timmons.
Senator and Mrs. Brown.	Miss Kean.
Senator and Mrs. Dixon.	Miss Carow.
Senator and Mrs. Taylor.	Miss Christine Roosevelt.
Senator and Mrs. Stephenson.	Miss Upham.
Senator and Mrs. Johnston.	John Barrett.
Representative and Mrs. Sereno E. Payne.	Herbert Putnam.
Representative and Mrs. John Sharp Williams.	Lieutenant Commander Hilary P. Jones.
Major and Mrs. McCawley.	Lieutenant Butler.
	Captain Van Horn.
	Lieutenant Shackford.

The table decorations were pink and white carnations, and Mrs. Roosevelt's dress was white chiffon, trimmed with lace and blue silk. Later in the evening several hundred invited guests enjoyed a musical programme.

THE CABINET.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 10.—The Secretary of War and Mrs. Taft have as a house guest Mrs. George Post Wheeler, wife of the secretary of the British Embassy in Japan, who accompanied them on their trip from the Philippines. Mrs. Wheeler, under her pen name of Hallie Erminie Rives, has written a new book with Japan as a setting.

The Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Straus were among the Cabinet hosts of the evening, entertaining at dinner the Vice-President and Mrs. Fairbanks, the Ambassador from France and Mme. Jusserand, the Ambassador from Germany and Baroness von Sternburg, the Ambassador from Russia, the Ambassador from Great Britain and Mrs. James Bryce, Senator and Mrs. Depew, Senator Dillingham, Representative and Mrs. Longworth, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Beekman Winthrop, Mr. and Mrs. A. Abraham, of Brooklyn, Mrs. Bayard, Mrs. Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis and Mr. and Mrs. Hockstadter.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 10.—Visiting the Austro-Hungarian Embassy are Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. Oelrichs, of New York. The Ambassador and Baroness Hengelmüller will give a dinner on Sunday night, when Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, Mrs. Hubbard and Miss Oelrichs will be among the guests.

Baroness von Sternburg held a reception at the German Embassy this afternoon, inviting a number of people to meet Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, the house guests of Rear Admiral and Mrs. Cowles. Miss Langham assisted the baroness, presiding at the tea table.

The Minister from the Netherlands and Mme. van Swinderen will sail for Europe on January 21, to be absent several months.

Herman de Lagercrantz, the Minister from Sweden, who went abroad in October expecting to return here about the middle of this month, has had his leave of absence prolonged, and he will not reach Washington until March.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 10.—Senator and Mrs. Burrows were among the dinner hosts to-night, entertaining Mme. Nabuco, wife of the Ambassador from Brazil; Senator and Mrs. Scott, Senator and Mrs. Hopkins, Senator Brandegee, the Assistant Secretary of War and Mrs. Oliver, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Newberry and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Foster.

Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Lloyd H. Chandler, Dr. and Mrs. Duncan McKim, Mrs. Hope Slater and a large number of others gave dinners to-night.

A number of out of town people are here to attend the wedding to-morrow afternoon of Miss Gertrude Claggett, daughter of Mrs. William M. Claggett, and Paymaster Bonnaffon, at the Women's Club, in I street. Mme. de Sibour, Miss Claggett's sister, will be her only attendant, and Lieutenant Bonnaffon will be best man for his brother.

Colonel and Mrs. Charles S. Bromwell had dining with them to-night the Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Garfield, the Minister from Belgium and Baroness Moncheur, Associate Justice and Mrs. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Boardman, Lieutenant General and Mrs. Henry C. Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Glover, the second secretary of the British Embassy and Mrs. George Young, Mr. and Mrs. McClintock and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vrooman.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney will give her annual dance on January 21 at her house, in West 57th street. It will be attended by the relatives of Count Szechenyi, whose marriage to Mrs. Whitney's sister, Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, is set for January 27. Miss Vanderbilt will have no attendants at her wedding. The count will have for his best man Count Sigray, who is now on his way across the ocean. The ceremony will be performed by Monsignor Lavelle, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and will take place at noon in the ballroom of Mrs. Vanderbilt's home, in West 57th street. The wedding breakfast, which will follow, will be in the dining room, breakfast room and foyer hall.

Mrs. Charles H. Marshall will give a dinner this evening at her house, in East 77th street, for her debutante daughter, Miss Evelyn Marshall.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Marguerite Walker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walker, jr., and a granddaughter of the late Samuel Sloane, to Rae H. Rogers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Rogers, of Hyde Park. Miss Walker made her debut last Monday at a reception given by her grandmother, Mrs. Joseph Walker, at her home, in Fifth avenue.

Mrs. Payne Whitney gave a dinner last night at her home, in Fifth avenue.

There will be another of the Saturday Evening Dances to-night at Delmonico's. Among the patronesses are Mrs. Charles R. Huntington, Mrs. Grinnell, Mrs. Sackett M. Barclay and Mrs. Lindsley Tappin.

Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt will give a series of musicals at her home, in Fifth avenue, the first one to take place to-night. The Philharmonic Orchestra will play, and Fritz Kreisler, the violinist, will appear on this occasion. On the following Saturday Miss Geraldine Farrar will sing and Richard Barthelemy will be at the piano.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy R. Pyne, who sailed for Europe a few days ago, will spend the winter in the Azores.

Mrs. James A. Burden, jr., will give a small dance on January 18 at her home, in East 91st street.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard Ronalds left town yesterday for Tuxedo to spend the week-end.

Reginald C. Vanderbilt arrived in town yesterday from Newport. He and Mrs. Vanderbilt are booked to sail for Europe on January 30.

Mrs. Walter Cutting and Miss Cutting, who have been staying at the St. Regis, have gone to Palm Beach, Fla., for the remainder of the winter.

OVER 6,000 FAMILIES RELIEVED.

Association for Improving Condition of Poor Short on Contributions, However.

The annual report of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, to be issued to-day, gives details of the work in the year ended September 30, 1907. The relief department treated 6,688 families, affording help to 33,000 persons. Through the joint application bureau of the United Charities the association also gave aid to 7,281 persons.

The financial troubles had no effect on contributions, but there was no unusual increase in subscriptions, which, if all applications are to be met, should be the case, as recently the increase in the appeals for aid has been 25 per cent.

The report expresses regret at the failure of the city to acquire land for the ocean park at Rockaway Beach. A site for a hospital for children suffering from tuberculosis of the bone and glands has been promised to the association in this park, and it succeeded about eighteen months ago in raising $250,000 for a building.

The association has devoted much time to teaching mothers in the tenement districts the proper care of their infants. Twenty nurses were employed for this purpose. The disbursements for the year amounted to $195,188 59.

EX-EMPRESS SAILS FOR COLOMBO.

Marseilles, Jan. 10.—Ex-Empress Eugénie, widow of Napoleon III, and her suite, sailed to-day for Colombo.

EMPRESS VISITS AMERICAN CHURCH.

Berlin, Jan. 10.—The German Empress visited the American Church, in the west end of Berlin, to-day. She was received by the pastor, Dr. Dickie.

COMES 11,000 MILES TO LECTURE HERE.

Professor Paul Milyoukov, member of the third Douma for St. Petersburg, is on his way to America to make an address on Tuesday evening on "Constitutional Government for Russia," in Carnegie Hall, under the auspices of the Civic Forum. Professor Milyoukov is travelling eleven thousand miles for the sole purpose of delivering this address, and will arrive on the Carmania on Monday morning. He will return to Russia on Thursday, being obliged to be present at the re opening of the Douma, after its three weeks' recess. Bishop Potter will preside at the meeting.

A METAPHOR WITH A HISTORY.

From The Manchester Guardian.

To "know a hawk from a hernshaw" is a metaphor with a curious history. It is a comparison drawn from falconry. "Hernshaw" is a corruption of "heronshaw," or young heron, a bird which was a common prey of the falcons. To know a hawk from a hernshaw is therefore to be able to distinguish the falcon from its prey. A further colloquial corruption crept into the phrase—"to know a hawk from a handsaw," a form used by Hamlet in one place. Possibly the distinction between a hawk and a hernshaw was found not to be strong enough for the purposes of the proverb.

$2,000 FOR A CRACKER.

From The Dundee Advertiser.

The "North Country Millionaire" who is said to have spent £100 on a box of Christmas crackers has not succeeded in snatching the record of—shall we say?—extravagance from that wealthy predecessor who two or three years ago paid £250 for a mere half-dozen crackers, specially made for him by a firm of London silversmiths. These costly cosaques, which were enshrined in an exquisite silver box, had wrappers of rare old lace and figured satin, and each contained in a silver casket, which formed its centre, a valuable ring or brooch. But, so far as we know, the costliest cracker on record was one constructed of gold in such faithful imitation of a sheaf of wheat that its modelling kept an industrious goldsmith hard at work for six months. Tucked away in this golden sheaf was a ring set with rare and perfectly matched pearls; and the sum paid for this king of crackers, which measured only four inches in length, was £400.

AUTOMOBILES ON RAILS.

From The Pathfinder.

Locomotives cannot always be had for drawing special cars for the use of railway inspectors, and this condition is causing a growing demand for small inspection cars that are propelled just as automobiles are; in fact, they are railway autos. They are coming into use in all countries where there are railways. In the United States these inspection cars are made so as to make a speed of forty miles an hour, and enough gasolene is taken along to run the auto 150 miles. Even in India these machines are being used, and one manager of a railroad has had a machine built that will run either on the rails or the wagon roads.

VANDERBILT FARM IN TAX DISPUTE.

Varied Opinions as to Value of Staten Island Property—Cameron Estate Up.

George W. Vanderbilt and Sir Roderick Cameron contend that the city is taxing them too heavily on their Staten Island property. They have appealed to the courts, and Eugene L. Richards, of No. 79 William street, has been appointed referee to review the assessment.

Mr. Vanderbilt objects to paying $2,250 on 173 acres, long known as the Vanderbilt farm, at New Dorp. The Cameron place is in the interior of the island. The Vanderbilt farm is assessed at $751 an acre, while the city says the owner's agent put the market price at $2,500.

At the hearing yesterday Guy C. Dempsey, Deputy Tax Commissioner of Richmond Borough, complained that he had a lot of trouble getting the rich residents of the borough to pay what they owed the city, while the small property owners never had a complaint.

Talbert Root, for twelve years agent for the Vanderbilt estate, in support of the appeal, said the property was worth about $100,000 and that it rented for only $800 a year, or four-fifths of 1 per cent on that valuation. He said he rented to the previous tenant, who had a brother in the tax office, for only $675 a year. He could not remember ever hearing that the city sought to buy the land, nor could he recall saying that it could not be purchased for less than $325,000.

Charles W. Schutzendorf, a real estate broker, of No. 38 Water street, Stapleton, Staten Island, called as an expert by Mr. Gaillard, said in his opinion the Vanderbilt farm at New Dorp was worth about $102,000, at an average rate of $575 an acre. The expert admitted that land adjoining the Vanderbilt estate had been sold as far back as 1887 at $1,450 an acre.

EVILS OF CONGESTED POPULATION.

City Departments and Civic Bodies to Exhibit New York Conditions.

Several of the city departments and many of the civic bodies in New York will contribute material for an exhibit of the congestion of population in New York City which is to be held in the American Museum of Natural History from March 9 to 23.

The object of the exhibition is to show the causes and the evils of the massing of people in New York. Maps, charts, moving pictures, models and illustrative material on the following subjects will be shown:

The physiographic and economic causes for the growth of population in New York City, the density and distribution of nationalities, the housing conditions, children in congested districts, the industries and industrial conditions, the health, sickness and mortality, the methods of distributing the population.

Governor Hughes, Mayor McClellan and a number of the heads of city departments will speak. The following departments and organizations will take part:

The Board of Health, the Department of Charities, the New York City Consumers' League, the National Consumers' League, the New York Charity Organization Society, the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, the Metropolitan Parks' Association, the Federation of Churches and Christian Organization in New York City, the City Club, the Neighborhood Workers' Association, the Public Education Association, the New York Child Labor Committee, the Bureau of Municipal Research, the Committee on the Physical Welfare of School Children, the New York Anti-Saloon League, the Committee of Fourteen, the Industrial Removal Committee and the Children's Aid Society.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

Among the passengers who will sail to-day for Europe are:

THE LUSITANIA, FOR LIVERPOOL.

Julius P. Meyer.	H. Cecil Jackson.
George R. Dyer.	W. H. Kessler.
Lord Herbert Vane Tempest.	Mrs. John J. Knox.
Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Norton.	Miss Maud Amy.
	Francis M. Wilson.

THE PHILADELPHIA, FOR SOUTHAMPTON.

E. K. Bennett.	Mrs. Amy Grant.
Miss Florence M. Bragg.	Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Johnson.
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Brown.	Mrs. Thomas F. White.

THE PRINZESS IRENE, FOR NAPLES.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Hart.	Miss A. A. Sprague.
Dr. Isaac Norris.	Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Thomson.
Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Henry.	Mr. and Mrs. J. R. White.