FOR THE BUSY MAN.

Constant Reader Tells What He Missed in Last Week's Papers.

"Anything of overmastering interest in the world affairs of the week?" queried the Busy Man, approaching the Constant Reader, buried in a pile of newspapers.

"Nothing of more interest in all parts of the world than the arrival of the United States battleship fleet in North American waters," was the reply.

"Rear Admiral Evans's squadron has reached another point of destination, Magdalena Bay, on the Pacific coast of the Lower California peninsula of Mexico, after a trip of between thirteen thousand and fourteen thousand miles from Hampton Roads, from which departure was made on December 16. Simultaneously with arrival there announcement is made officially that the fleet will circumnavigate the globe before returning to the North Atlantic Station. A month is to be spent in target practice on the Mexican coast and then the fleet will start for San Francisco. But there will be stops at four California ports, where officers and men will be entertained in a befitting manner. On May 5 the fleet is scheduled to reach the Golden Gate, where it will join the Pacific Squadron, and there will be a joint review in San Francisco Bay on May 8, at which the President will be represented by Secretary Metcalf of the Navy Department. Between May and July the fleet will make a trip to the Puget Sound ports and return to San Francisco. On July 6 the start will be made across the Pacific Ocean to what Secretary Metcalf calls 'our Pacific possessions,' but a somewhat roundabout route will be taken on the way to Manila, in order to accept the cordial invitation of Australia to pay a visit to Melbourne and Sydney, which has been supplemented by the English government through Ambassador Bryce. The first stop will be at the Hawaiian Islands for coal, and the next at Samoa for the same purpose. After the stay at Australian ports the fleet will go northward to Manila, where the fall target practice will take place. From the Philippines the return home will be by way of the Suez Canal, with such stops as may be found needful for coal and other supplies. With the return to this port will end the greatest cruise of warships ever undertaken, and if the same success attends the rest of the voyage as has thus far it will make an unprecedented record. It is denied that four battleships will be left at Manila, as there is no intention of dividing the fleet, but two new ones, the Wisconsin and the Nebraska, may be added on the Pacific Coast to the sixteen now comprising the squadron."

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES.

"Is the President as busy as ever in promoting the public weal?"

"Yes, his energies do not seem to flag. He sent a message to Congress the other day in regard to the reinstatement of the negro soldiers ignominiously dismissed from the army after the Brownsville affair in August, 1906, asking authority to permit the re-enlistment of any man who can prove his innocence of participation in the shooting or in concealing the perpetrators. As the Senate approved of the President's action the necessary legislation to permit this is expected. The President has directed the Commissioner of Corporations to set on foot an inquiry in regard to stock gambling and the steps that can be taken by the federal government to put an end to its evils. It was in regard to this subject that the President expressed himself most emphatically in his special message to Congress the latter part of January. It is not expected that the investigation of the subject will result in any legislation at the present session. A conference at the White House, attended by a number of Cabinet officers and others, took up at the instance of the President consideration of the modification of the Sherman anti-trust act, the provisions of which have been held to be inimical to labor unions, and other measures for the benefit of the labor interests of the country. At another conference it was decided to urge the repayment to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of its $2,000,000 expended to put an end to the damage caused by the break in the banks of the Colorado River, which formed the Salton Sea.

"In the political field there has been no especial development in the week. Save for the appearance of Governor Hughes in Boston, where he had a most hearty welcome, but spoke on social rather than political topics, none of the prominent Presidential candidates has been much in the public eye. Despite the fact that his state has declared for Governor John Johnson of Minnesota, he has not expressed any further opinion in regard to his candidacy. The Populists of Kansas declare that they have no use for Mr. Bryan and that the Republicans are nearer the Populist ideas than he is. Two Congress districts in Missouri have instructed delegates for Governor Hughes, the first in line for him. A suggestion has come to the front that if a Southern man is put on the ticket with Secretary Taft it may be Congressman Slemp, of Virginia, but another report is that he will be a member of the Cabinet under President Taft. The prospect of Governor Hughes securing his anti-racetrack gambling legislation is regarded as bright by those conversant with the Albany situation. Every effort is to be made to secure the adjournment of the Legislature early in April, in advance of the state convention. One of the interested visitors to the national conventions next summer will be Ambassador Bryce, whose standard work, 'The American Commonwealth,' has a chapter devoted to the methods of nominating and electing Presidents.

IN FOREIGN LANDS.

"The tempest in a teapot, or, in another phrase, squall in a saucepan, over the private letter of the German Emperor to the First Lord of the English Admiralty about the navies of the two countries served to supply no international incident, as the newspaper effort to secure its publication failed. But Lord Tweedmouth had to explain that he had shown it to the Foreign Secretary, who agreed with him that it was a private communication, and as such he replied to it. This did not disclose how the matter was made public, but it is said that the recipient was indiscreet enough to show the letter also to some women friends who could not keep the secret. The incident recalls the woman of rank who was known as the 'babbling Brooke,' and also the historic incident in which a state secret was disclosed to a newspaper which is embodied in George Meredith's novel 'Diana of the Crossways.' As King Edward sent a letter to his royal nephew of Germany, it is to be concluded that the incident will not be allowed to disturb the friendly feelings of the two monarchs, nor of the two countries. On his way to the Biscayan seaside resort, Biarritz, King Edward made one of his frequent visits to Paris, which he sometimes makes incognito, and as a result thereof it is expected that President Fallières will make a state visit to London in May, which will increase the entente cordiale already existing between the two countries on opposite sides of the English Channel. King Edward has given up his projected yachting trip on the Mediterranean.

"King Alfonso has made his trip to Barcelona, the hotbed of intrigues, and returned in safety to his capital, much to the delight of his people and greatly to the relief of the police charged with his safety, who have since found bombs in Barcelona. The ratification of the treaty by which Belgium takes over the Congo Free State from King Leopold has not yet been secured, but it is regarded as extremely probable that its terms will be accepted. The danger of an outbreak of hostilities between Japan and China has been averted by the apology of the latter for seizing the Tatsu Maru.

"The force of Oriental diplomacy in this country has been greatly increased by the return to Washington of the two able and skilled representatives of Japan and China, both of whom have had previous experience in this country—Baron Takahira and Mr. Wu. They have taken pains to express the friendliest feelings, especially the former, who at the dinner given to him by the Japanese Society in this city declared in the most emphatic manner that Japan was for peace, and praised President Roosevelt as a great peacemaker. He also showed that Japan's compact with Great Britain was simply to secure the peace of the Orient, with no ulterior motives against any other country, least of all the United States.

"The anomalous position of the Porto Ricans, who are citizens of no country, although their country belongs to the United States, it is designed to remedy by a bill before Congress, which will give them the same standing as the residents of Hawaii. How far in the future similar action in regard to the Filipinos will be deemed necessary is uncertain, but at any rate it is not yet proposed. New records in the matter of crossing the Atlantic have been made by the big Cunarders, the Mauretania making the speediest eastward run and the Lusitania the world's record for a day's run.

PANAMA SOUR GRAPES.

"If it were not so evidently a case of 'sour grapes' on the part of the former chief engineer of the Panama Canal, John F. Stevens, his criticism of the value of the work now in progress would carry more weight. He had nothing to say in regard to the points he now makes when he was put in charge of the work, and it was not until his views were not adopted and his connection with the work was ended that he found occasion to denounce what he calls the folly of pursuing the work. He tries to make out that the canal would be of little value commercially or from a military point of view and that it could not be self-supporting, as the Suez Canal has proved. But there were similar disclaimers in regard to the latter when it was in course of construction, and they were proved worthless by the results. Secretary Taft has not dignified the canal strictures by a denial, but says he agrees with the American people as to the importance of the work.

"The name of Harry K. Thaw is again before the public in the suit begun by his wife for the annulment of their marriage on the ground that he was insane at the time it was contracted. The contrast between this course and the attitude of devotion displayed at his two trials, with the scarcely credible revelations made on the witness stand, is only another illustration of the proverbs relative to feminine fickleness. A new terror will have been added to the term mother-in-law if it shall be proved that one shot her son-in-law in the back, as is charged at Paterson. Harry Orchard, whose marvellous confession was the chief feature of the Haywood trial in Idaho, has pleaded guilty to murder, and so saves his neck, but will receive a sentence of life imprisonment.

"District Attorney Jerome having declared the charges against him mendacious and misleading in his reply to the allegations made to the Governor, now Mayor McClellan and Police Commissioner Bingham will have to reply to charges of neglect of duty made by Dr. Parkhurst. The Mayor will have a new appointment to make, of a successor to Hugh Bonner, head of the Fire Department, who died at his official post a month after taking his new office, giving up his life for the city as bravely as he ever faced a fire in the discharge of his duty on the uniformed force.

"Another death which may be regarded as directly due to the financial disturbance last fall, which carried such a train of disaster in its wake, occurred in the week, that of John G. Jenkins, the venerable former head of the First National Bank of Brooklyn and the Williamsburg Trust Company, and associated with his sons in the Jenkins Trust Company, all of which have been involved in ruin. He and his three sons were under indictment for conspiracy and perjury, but in his case a change of venue recently sought in the courts has been secured by act of Providence. Ever since his fortune, at one time estimated at millions, had been swept away, the successful banker, active church worker and promoter of many business and charitable enterprises had struggled to maintain a serene front in face of the adverse blows of fate. In view of his frank statement of his affairs a vote of hearty support was given to him by the Baptist Church in Brooklyn, of which he had been the chief supporter, and the Methodist Church in Sea Cliff, Long Island, near his country home, was also a stanch supporter. But the blow to the self-made man, who from a boy-of-all-work in a bank at six dollars a month rose to be cashier and president, head of great public enterprises and a millionaire several times over, and then found all swept away in a night, as it were, himself and his family indicted and to be brought to trial, was too much to withstand, and at threescore and ten his life ended.

"The other names on the death roll of the week include those of Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa, the well known New York physician; Edmondo de Amicis, the Italian writer of works of travel, fiction and that popular child's book "The Heart of a Boy"; Congressman Adolph Meyer, of Louisiana; Frederick Warren Freer, known as the painter of beautiful women; W. A. Sutherland, a Rochester lawyer and corporation counsel, who had been a candidate for state office, and Edward K. Jones, a New York lawyer."

PRINCE EDWARD OF WALES AS A SPORTSMAN, FOLLOWING THE HOUNDS ON FOOT.

Prince Edward is standing with his legs crossed, second from the left-hand side. He is now in the full swing of a cadet's training at Osborne, no distinction being made between him and the other cadets. Like the other boys, he follows the basset hounds of the cadets. The basset was introduced into England by Sir Everett Millais. It has a capital nose and a rich, full cry, but a pack takes some time to pull down a hare. The word "basset" is simply French for "dwarfish," and the French apply it generically to short-legged dogs. It may interest Welsh readers to know that the prince, who is rather shy, is known at home by the name of David, not as "Eddy." —The Sphere.

TO SAVE GAME BIRDS.

Commercial Hunters To Be Fought by Audubon Campaign.

Until all the mating birds of spring may fly from their winter homes to the north to rear their young safe from the potshots of unsportsmanlike and market hunters a national campaign against spring shooting will be carried from state to state, it was announced here last week. Acting on the protests of sportsmen and the warning of the Department of Agriculture, the National Association of Audubon Societies has undertaken to make a last stand for the existence of the dying races of American game birds in every state in which shooting during the breeding season is not forbidden by law. In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Oklahoma a determined fight is to-day being carried on against the commercial interests which are organized to fight the movement.

That the most desperate measures have been taken by the men who butcher birds for the market to prevent protective legislation in these states, as well as the twenty others in which the law still leaves the game birds easy prey while breeding, is known to-day. Although this market lobby has always been active in opposing laws which threatened to curtail their gains in any particular state, the possibility of such a general protection throughout the country has aroused them to finance a widespread and unscrupulous fight. To pit against these rich and selfish interests the Audubon workers have simply the moral support of sportsmen and the general unselfish desire of the people to save the game birds from extinction.

From January 1 on to a reasonable open season in the fall is the period in which protection is to be asked for the mating birds and their young. In fifteen states and nine Canadian provinces the game birds are already shielded by law during this crucial time. Unless such measures are taken at once by the remaining states, the government authorities are convinced that game shooting in this country will soon cease to exist and every species become extinct.

On the legislatures in the Dakotas, Wyoming, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and all the Southern states will depend the life or death of American game when this matter is brought before them this year or next. In each of these states all the money and influence of the commercial bird killers are already at work.

"Every real, true sportsman is behind us in the fight for the dying game birds of this country," said William Dutcher, president of the association, at its headquarters, No. 141 Broadway. "We will make our stand for these game species just as faithfully as we have worked for the protection of the non-game birds. If every patriotic citizen will take his place with us to defend the birds against rapid extinction, we shall be equipped to oppose all the selfish interests that money can buy, and the grewsome story of the wild pigeon, the heath hen, the Esquimau curlew and the Carolina parroquet species, exterminated by the wasteful greed of man, will not be repeated."

YACHTING APLENTY.

Pennants Now Flying on Florida East Coast.

St. Augustine, Fla., March 11.—Last week the automobile races at Ormond drew many visitors from this city, and others came up from Palm Beach and Miami "to see the cars go by." The yacht races here were unusually interesting. Golfers have their hour in the morning when every one goes to the club house.

A large bridge tournament, begun in the "four hundred" rotunda of the Ponce de Leon during the week, is still in progress. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ely, of New York City, are at the Alcazar, with their daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Griffin, and her daughter, Miss Majorie Smylie. Brigadier General William H. Bissbee, U. S. N. (retired), is also a guest of that hotel, with his sister, Mrs. Mary Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith, Woonsocket, R. I. Brigadier General John E. Summers, U. S. A. (retired), with his daughter, Miss Summers, is also at the Alcazar.

Mrs. A. Mackey-Smith, wife of the Coadjutor Bishop of Philadelphia, with her twin daughters, the Misses Mackey-Smith, and Miss Curtin, came up from Ormond on Tuesday to finish their visit here and are at the Ponce de Leon.

The yacht races for the commodore's cup, presented by Commodore E. S. Renwick, of New York City, will be sailed this week, and next week there will be a series of five races. Next week the annual tournament for the St. Augustine cups will be held on the links of the St. Augustine Golf Club.

Captain F. A. Hinman, U. S. A. (retired), with Mrs. Hinman, gave a delightful excursion to the "cabin" this week at Ormond Beach. A number of the guests of the Hotel Ormond are going in the ocean about noon each day. Automobiles and carriages make frequent trips to New Smyrna to visit the ruins of the old Spanish chapel, now the property of Washington Conner, of New York City.

Palm Beach is still the mecca of hundreds of visitors who arrive daily, many limiting their visit to a few days, while others are here for the motor boat races and carnival to be held on Lake Worth. The golf ball held in the crimson dining room of the Breakers was a beautiful function. The room was converted into a bower of magnolia, bamboo and palm leaves. Garden parties given beneath the cocoanut palms are proving delightful diversions. Among those entertaining at the Houseboat was Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne, who acted as host in honor of the eighteenth anniversary of her daughter's birthday. Among her guests were Mrs. Henry M. Flagler, Mrs. Andrew Anderson and Miss Smethurst, Mrs. H. McVicar, Miss Roelker, Mrs. Fred Sterry, S. L. Schoonmaker and William Thaw.

Lyman Gage and Mrs. Seward Webb are late arrivals at the Royal Poinciana.

Never has Biscayne Bay and the mouth of the Miami River been so picturesque with houseboats and yachts. Flying the pennant of the New York Yacht Club are the Huntress, the Edris and the Bonita. The houseboat Saramar, the power boat Elmer W, the steam yachts Wayfarer and Magnolia, the auxiliary schooner Whim and the Naranna, the Savalo, the Lois and the Iris are among the others.

Mrs. E. A. Twombley, of New York City, recently took Mrs. Austin Corbin up the Miami River to General Lawrence's famous orange grove and the wilds of the Everglades.

With several golf courses, golf is the most popular sport at Nassau, although conditions are perfect for all sorts of water sports, sea bathing, cruising and visits to the sea islands occupying those not interested in the gutta percha sphere. Among the late arrivals at the Hotel Colonial are Rear Admiral James M. Forsythe and Mrs. Forsythe, Mrs. Helfenstein, Mrs. Henry McCormick, Miss McCormick, Miss Scheil, Mrs. D. Haldeman, Miss Haldeman and Mrs. Gross, of Harrisburg, and Mr. and Mrs. John F. Archibold, Mrs. M. M. Van Buren and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Graef, of New York City.

BOATING AND GOLF.

Popular Pastimes at Lakewood—Social Diversions.

Lakewood, March 14.—The weekly contingent of Wall Street men who come down for their beloved golf is showing a decided increase now that the turf is drying, and the books of the Lakewood and the other hotels show an augmenting list each week. The breaking up of the ice on Lake Carasaljo has given the opportunity for boating and everybody is turning to rowboats and canoes.

Mrs. Kingdon, the mother of Mrs. George Jay Gould, is at Georgian Court, where she intends to remain for a month, with the three youngest of the Gould children, who have been spending the winter in Lakewood.

Commodore Lewis Cass Ledyard of the New York Yacht Club is making an extended visit at the Lakewood Hotel. He is accompanied by Mrs. Ledyard, Miss Jean Morris, Miss M. H. Morris, Miss Harriet J. Roger and Mlle. Surban.

William Cary Sanger, of Springfield, N. Y., ex-Assistant Secretary of War, is spending a fortnight in Lakewood with Mrs. Sanger.

Judge M. H. Hirschberg, of the Supreme Court of New York, is making an extended visit at the Lakewood Hotel, and is accompanied by Mrs. Hirschberg and Miss Frances Hirschberg. Judge Hirschberg is recovering from a severe illness.

Mrs. E. M. Horne gave a roller skating party at the Arcade rink on Thursday morning for about thirty guests.

Miss Rachael Schauffler, who has just returned to Lakewood after a long absence, was the chief guest at a tea given on Wednesday by the Misses Glover. Mrs. R. F. Manning and Mme. de Montalvo poured. Among those present were Mrs. W. B. Schauffler, Mrs. A. D. Davis, Mrs. Pack, Mrs. H. B. Walker, Miss Nightingale, Miss Hinsdale, Miss Gordon, Miss Babcock, Miss Macerow, Miss Winifred Smith, Miss Harp and Miss Baldwin.

Mrs. S. Kearney gave a dinner on Tuesday evening, at which she entertained Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Claflin, Mr. and Mrs. William Ross Proctor, Miss Singer, of Pittsburg; Mrs. Tracy, Mrs. Mott, of Oswego, N. Y., and Mrs. Henry S. Kearney.

Mrs. William Ross Proctor entertained the members of the younger set at bridge on Thursday afternoon in honor of her sister, Miss Singer, of Pittsburg.

Among the arrivals at the Lakewood Hotel are the following from Manhattan: Joseph G. Ketchel, Miss L. Jacobs, E. K. Butler, W. H. F. Gade, Miss F. Gade, Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Bimberg, Jesse N. Sulzberger, A. C. Bergenstein, Miss S. N. Bergenstein, S. C. Burchell, Grant Strauss, L. E. Shorey, R. H. Stearns, Benjamin Steckler, J. Lohman, H. N. Bloomer, Miss Meadows, Mlle. Francis, Dr. and Mrs. Allen M. Thomas, Master Jack Thomas and J. B. Fowler; from Philadelphia, Jesse Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Newton, Mrs. F. J. Friedman, Charles M. Rainsford, W. O. Fehling, C. R. Howell, Mrs. Dora Ginsberg and John Hatfield; from Brooklyn, Morris Kurtz, Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Ulman, Ruth Ulman, Helen Ulman, Sadie Munn, John Byrnes, Miss A. Klein, Miss E. M. Blackman and James Cavanaugh.

At the Laurel House are registered the following from Manhattan: L. D. Foster, H. E. Armstrong, J. F. Sprague, Miss E. Nichol, Charles A. Hafner, B. Newcombe, A. R. Allen, Julius Avagee and W. N. Bruce; from Philadelphia, James W. King, Robert Braman, H. C. Thomas and H. C. Miller; from Brooklyn, John S. Dean, Miss Helen Dean, Herman Bancroft, John Arbuckle, Mrs. Thomas Cochran and C. A. Jamison.

At the Laurel-in-the-Pines are registered from Manhattan: Mrs. F. M. Freeman, W. A. Tibbots, F. G. Hinsdale, D. C. Blair, W. H. Bowen, Miss Ella T. Murphy, Mrs. E. F. Murphy and Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson; from Philadelphia, C. K. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Matsen, Miss Matsen, J. B. Thomas, H. Lambelet, Mr. and Mrs. M. Franklin, M. C. Payne and Mrs. C. G. Wetter; from Brooklyn, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Southard, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. McCutcheon, Schuyler Blankley, Charles Sullivan, Mrs. J. C. Van Nostrand, Mrs. Lowell M. Palmer and Miss Windsor.

HEADQUARTERS FOR "SONS OF ELSEWHERE."

Continued from third page.

National California Club in New York, has brought the subject to the attention of the presidents of the various women's state organizations.

The views of such of the societies as are actively opposed to the plan are perhaps expressed by the officer of one of the larger and older of the state societies. "Various plans," said he, "for such a structure have been mooted from time to time by a number of the smaller societies, but the idea has not been favored by the larger organizations, since no plan yet put forward could be realized save by radical reconstruction of existing organizations, a considerable loss in identity and the obtaining of various advantages by lesser organizations at the expense of the greater."

The Ohio Society maintains rooms in the Waldorf-Astoria and has monthly meetings. It is probably the richest of the societies, having a fund of $25,000. Its banquets and large entertainments are given in auditoriums hired for the occasion. The relatively small number of members who use the rooms is sometimes used as an argument that little would be gained by the erection of a building. As the president of one society put it: "When we come to New York our interests take us in different directions. We join the clubs for our social life, the state societies being useful only to bring us together for old times' sake. Once or twice a year is sufficient for this."

The states which are represented by societies in New York are Alabama, California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. The county societies, so far as they can be ascertained, are Albany, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware Valley, Dutchess, Franklin, Genesee, Greene, Jefferson, Oneida, Onondaga, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Suffolk and Wayne.

Among the women's state societies are the National California Club, the Daughters of the Empire State, the Daughters of Ohio, the South Carolina Society, the Daughters of Indiana, the New Yorkers, the Iowa New Yorkers, the National Society of Ohio Women and the Society of Kentucky Women.

KEPT BUSY BY WILLS.

Surrogate's Office Orders Have Affected $750,000,000 in Year.

The wills filed in a year in the Surrogates' office in this county number 2,500. No computation of the gross amount collected and distributed under orders made by the Surrogates' Court has ever been made or is possible, but it has been known to exceed in one year $750,000,000.

New York has two Surrogates, Abner C. Thomas, elected in 1899, and Charles H. Beckett, appointed by Governor Hughes in December last. A summary of some of last year's transactions, recently prepared, shows in part the great volume of business done during the twelve months ended on March 2.

Surrogates under the first constitution of New York were appointed by the Governor. Under the second constitution they were appointed by the Governor and Senate for terms of four years. The constitution of 1846 abolished the office of Surrogate except in counties where the population exceeds forty thousand and devolved its duties on the county judge. In counties of forty thousand population, of which New York was one, Surrogates were elected. New York now has two.

The Surrogates' Court has power to take proof of wills, to grant letters testamentary and of administration, to direct and control the conduct and settle the accounts of executors and administrators, to enforce the payments of debts and legacies and the distribution of the estates of intestates, to order the sale and disposition of the real estate of deceased persons, to administer justice in all matters relating to affairs of deceased persons, to appoint, control and remove guardians for minors, to cause the admeasurement of dower to widows.

The number of written decisions rendered in the Surrogates' Court last year was 4,338, the number of letters of administration issued 4,881, of letters of guardianship 1,619, and of accounts filed 2,346.

There were 122 will contests during the year, and the depositions of 6,915 witnesses were taken. There were 535 hearings in contested will cases, and 10,030 oaths and acknowledgments taken. There were 4,310 searches made, 13,205 decrees and orders filed and 24,041 certificates or transcripts issued.

The number of those who die intestate and for whom administrators are appointed yearly averages 4,500. Those leaving property for distribution average 7,000. The average number of beneficiaries under a will is eight and of creditors of a decedent (it has been found by the Surrogates' records) is twelve. In each year, therefore, 130,000 persons, approximately, are directly and individually interested in the administration of the Surrogates' office—56,000 as heirs-at-law, next of kin or beneficiaries, and 84,000 as creditors. And these figures do not take into account the very large number of charitable, educational and quasi-public institutions and their patrons and charges receiving money by bequests.

In all, it is estimated, not less than 120,000 persons are directly interested in the transactions of the Surrogates' Court in a year. Last year 122 wills executed abroad were filed for probate here, and 2,659 notices to delinquent special guardians were sent out; 3,293 letters requiring answer were responded to, and 2,925,000 lines of legal copying were done. Surrogate Beckett was probate clerk of the Surrogates' office under the administration of Daniel G. Rollins, many years before his appointment by Governor Hughes in December.

HIS ONLY RESOURCE.

The Navy Department decided recently that officers receiving unexpected orders to foreign duty should be allowed to draw two months' advance pay, or "dead horse," as it is called in the navy. Officers are required to defray travelling expenses out of their own funds, and upon reporting at the new station they are reimbursed from the United States Treasury, after the usual delay incident to "red tape." Unless officers had money put by, it proved extremely embarrassing to have to meet the expenses of a long journey, and for this reason the recent order was issued. Naval officers tell of an incident that occurred some years ago, when a notably impecunious officer on duty in New York received orders to proceed to Sitka to join one of the ships of the Bering Sea patrol squadron. The officer, who had no ready money and could not persuade any of his friends to make him a loan, wrote a long letter to the Secretary of the Navy asking to be relieved of his orders or to be furnished with money to defray his travelling expenses. The Secretary saw in the letter an attempt to get out of unpleasant duty, and a peremptory telegram ordered the officer to proceed at once. He obeyed, first telegraphing as follows:

"Have proceeded in obedience to orders on foot. Next address Harrisburg."

Needless to say, upon his arrival in Harrisburg he found a telegram authorizing him to draw travel money in advance.—Lippincott's.

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