THE TRIBUNE'S FOREIGN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT'S LABORS

THE LIBERAL OUTLOOK.

Lords May Adopt Budget—Fewer Three-Cornered Elections.

[Special by French Cable to The Tribune.]
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London, Dec. 19.—With enfeebled drone of debate, but without final paroxysms of partisanship, the session of Parliament is winding up. The legislative results are large, when the Port of London bill, the children's bill and the miner's eight-hour law are added to the Irish University and the old age pension schemes, yet the failures outweigh the successes when moral issues like temperance and religious toleration have been defeated by the caucuses at Lansdowne House and Church House. The temporary flurry of enthusiasm over Mr. Asquith's proclamation respecting the veto of the Lords has passed, and there is much Radical and Whiggish discontent with the Premier's leadership. The Moderate Liberals are frightened by socialist tendencies, and the Advanced Radicals are sulking over deferred hopes. Difficulties of leadership will increase if the factions prove unmanageable.

Permanent department officials and Unionist whips are convinced that the dissolution of Parliament will occur in May or June, after the budget is produced. There are rumors that David Lloyd-George and Winston Spencer Churchill favor this course, but these are premature. The ministers are exhausted with the arduous labors of the session, and do not know their own minds. They will be braced up in the middle of February if the Chancellor of the Exchequer succeeds in finding new revenues for social reform, and the government may go on two or three years. The expectation that the Lords will throw out the budget and force an appeal to the country is based on the assumption that there will be revolutionary principles of land taxation. There must, however, be a new system of valuing land before the proposals of the reformers can be carried out, and taxes of this sort cannot be made available at once for the Treasury's use. The Moderate Liberals forecast a budget which will bear heavily against the publicans and the wealthy class, without containing anything revolutionary or justifying the Lords in rejecting it and suspending the financial administration. Prominent Tory Lords assert that the budget will be approved, bad as it may be, since heavy taxation will be the most practical method of discrediting the government and introducing tariff reform as an alternative policy.

Theories are more plentiful than facts, when Parliament and the clubs are breaking up for the holidays. It is not denied, however, that the Liberals are in better condition for a general election than are the Unionists, as far as candidates are concerned. The master of Hawarden, Gladstone's grandson, will be among the Liberal candidates, and, with the exception of a few retiring veterans, all the members of that side will seek re-election. Another fact is that there will be fewer Labor or Socialist candidates, in consequence of the recent decision of the courts prohibiting the use of trade union funds for political purposes. The reduction in the number of three-cornered fights will help the Liberals.

I. N. F.

BILLS PASSED AND LOST.

Session Adds to Bitterness Between the Houses.

(By The Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 19.—As far as practical work is concerned, the first session of Parliament under the Premiership of H. H. Asquith ended to-day. The two houses will meet again on Monday, but only to receive the King's assent to bills already passed, after which they will be prorogued until February 16.

Many minor laws were enacted during the year, but of the ten important measures foreshadowed in the King's speech only five find a place in the statute book. These are the old age pensions bill, the Irish Universities bills, to which assent was given before adjournment for the summer vacation; measures fixing the time miners shall work underground, providing for the purchase for $115,000,000 of the London docks and placing them under a central authority, and a bill for the better protection of children. This last named bill establishes police court trial for children, prohibits juvenile smoking and aims at preventing minors from visiting saloons.

Of the other measures projected, the licensing bill was rejected by the House of Lords; two education bills were withdrawn because of the failure of the Church party and the Nonconformists to reach a compromise; that intended to provide better housing of the working classes was put off until the next session, while the promised measure for Irish land valuation never saw light, and the Irish land purchase bill and the hop bill were dropped.

Among the measures of less importance, the government passed an act empowering the judges to give habitual criminals indeterminate sentences, for the twofold purpose of reforming their habits and protecting society, and a bill imposing penalties for attempts to break up public meetings. The latter is the result of the suffragette agitation, one of the political features of the year. So active have the women been that members of the Cabinet have been unable to obtain a hearing at public meetings, and for part of the session the galleries of the House of Commons had to be closed to the public because of frequent organized disturbances.

The session widened the breach between the Liberals and the House of Lords. The rejection of the licensing bill, for which the Liberals said they had received a mandate at the election of 1906, augmented the bad feeling resulting last year from the rejection or mutilation by the Lords of the education, plural voting and Scottish land valuation bills. "The Westminster Gazette" says:

Mr. Balfour and Lord Lansdowne appear to have registered a vow that the Liberals should make no further progress with reforms in the Church and schools, land and licensing. Hence the House of Lords question is for the Liberal party a question of its own existence, and the obstacles the House of Lords put in the way of Liberal legislation must be removed.

LORDS PASS THE MINERS' BILL.

Measure So Amended as to Make Practically a Nine-Hour Day.

London, Dec. 19.—The bill providing for an eight-hour day in coal mines, which, in process of amendment, became actually a measure for a day of nine hours, was finally adopted by the House of Lords this morning. It will take effect July 1, 1909. The bill originally contemplated eight hours from surface to surface, but its opponents eliminated the time occupied in descending to and ascending from the workings, and calculated half an hour's time each way. The result is that eight full hours must be spent in actual labor below ground.

Is Santa Claus Dead?

Will you help us answer this question for many destitute little children whom we know all about? If desired we will write just how your gift is used. Send just what you can, $1, $2, $5, $10, $100, to R. S. Minturn, Treas., Room 212, No. 105 East 22d Street.

R. FULTON CUTTING, President

N. Y. ASSOCIATION for IMPROVING the CONDITION of the POOR.

TURKEY HIGHLY PRAISED

Hearty French Congratulations for New Parliament.

[Special by French Cable to The Tribune.]
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Paris, Dec. 19.—French manifestations of sympathy with the Turkish parliament are genuine and enthusiastic. The moderation shown by the Young Turk party is regarded here as the best possible evidence that representative government at Constantinople will be permanent. Leading French statesmen, such as Alexandre Ribot, MM. Delcassé, Hanotaux, Méline, Barthou and Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, confess that their most sanguine expectations have been surpassed by the discovery of sterling intellectual, moral and enlightened qualities among their Ottoman colleagues.

The "Temps" attaches importance to the fact that out of 250 deputies, 150 are Mussulmans, and that the tolerance and justice shown by the Mussulmans toward the Christian minority mark a new departure in the traditions of Islam, and are a sure guarantee of the future. Premier Clemenceau's former organ, the "Aurore," declares that Turkey offers the unprecedented example of transforming within the short space of a few months an absolutely despotic rule into a government of liberty without spilling a single drop of blood. Henri Rochefort pays an eloquent tribute to Midhat Pacha, who under hopeless conditions founded the first Turkish parliament, which now, more than thirty years later, is revived after the longest parliamentary recess recorded in the world's history, and, by the singular irony of fate, is opened by the same Sultan, Abdul Hamid. Messages of congratulation have been received at the Turkish Embassy here from all parts of France, expressing enthusiastic joy at the auspicious beginning of the Ottoman parliament.

C. I. B.

GOOD WILL IN NEAR EAST.

Servia and Montenegro May Divide Novi-Bazar.

[Special by French Cable to The Tribune.]
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London, Dec. 19.—The Continent is settling down into a pacific Christmas mood. The conference over the Eastern question is coming on slowly but surely, and settlements between Bulgaria and Austria-Hungary with Turkey are fairly certain. Servia and Montenegro are likely to divide the sandjak of Novi-Bazar and pay Turkey for the territory.

The Sultan's appearance as a constitutional ruler, with his speech to parliament, has coincided strangely enough with signs of reaction in Egypt and Lord Morley's repudiation of what he calls wildcat measures in India and his championship of drastic methods of preventing blood-stained havoc and anarchic conspiracy. It may be uncertain whether Lord Morley has the spirit of a true imperialist or whether the Sultan can be depended upon as a convinced constitutional monarch, but the reawakening of the East goes on.

I. N. F.

DEPUTIES MEET AGAIN.

Credentials Examined—Son of Midhat Pacha a Senator.

Constantinople, Dec. 19.—The Chamber of Deputies met to-day and went into committee for the purpose of examining the mandates of the deputies. Ali Haida Bey, son of Midhat Pacha, author of the constitution, has been appointed a Senator. Said Pacha, former Grand Vizier, has been elected president of the Senate.

RENEWAL OF TREATIES.

Austria to Continue Servian and Bulgarian Relations.

Vienna, Dec. 19.—The lower house of the Reichsrath to-day adopted a bill empowering the government to continue the commercial modus vivendi with Servia, Bulgaria and Mexico.

ANOTHER ANTI-AUSTRIAN BOYCOTT.

League Organized by Czechs and Pan-Slavs at Moscow.

Moscow, Dec. 19.—A boycott league against Austrian goods was formally organized here to-day by the Czechs and Pan-Slavs as a protest against the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the disorders at Prague of three weeks ago. The league has branches in the South of Russia and in Poland.

SIMON NAMES CABINET.

Hippolyte, Claude, Hereaux, Marius, Canal and Magny Appointed.

Port-au-Prince, Dec. 19.—General Antoine Simon, the newly elected President of Hayti, to-day announced his new Cabinet, as follows:

Minister of the Interior—General HIPPOLYTE.
Minister of Foreign Affairs—M. CLAUDE.
Minister of Finance—M. HEREAUX.
Minister of War—General SEPTIMUS MARIUS.
Minister of Public Works—M. ANAL.
Minister of Justice—M. MAGNY.

THE ST. PIERRE RIOTS.

French Senator in Debate Calls United States Flag "Symbol of Liberty."

Paris, Dec. 19.—There was an animated incident in the Senate this morning, during the discussion of the colonial budget, regarding the recent rioting and raising of the American flag by the people of St. Pierre-Miquelon over the question of free schools. M. Milles-Le Croix, Minister of the Colonies, explained that owing to the clearly defined separatist movement at St. Pierre he had given the local governor instructions to be firm, but at the same time conciliatory. Senator Delahaye protested with energy against the aspersions thus cast upon the patriotism of the inhabitants of the island, and charged that the manifestations were an outgrowth of the persecution of the "free schools."

M. Delahaye was interrupted by a Senator, who called attention to the fact that the people of St. Pierre had raised the American flag, to which he replied that this had been done because the American flag was the symbol of liberty.

"No such incident has ever occurred in the older colonies," declared Senator Cicéron, of Guadeloupe.

"The reason is," M. Delahaye answered, "that these colonies are inhabited only by negroes."

Amid a storm of protestation Senator Lintilhac shouted: "We should think of the color of the flag, and not that of the colonist."

Senator Riotteau then demanded the recall of the French warship sent out to St. Pierre-Miquelon, but the Colonial Minister replied that in view of the disturbances her presence was necessary for the maintenance of the prestige of the flag.

A motion to increase the St. Pierre-Miquelon appropriation by $4,000 was finally adopted by the Senate.

EDICT HONORS CHINESE OFFICIALS.

Peking, Dec. 19.—An imperial edict issued to-day grants special honors to thirty-two princes and officials. Prince Ching, president of the Board of Foreign Affairs, is made a prince in perpetuity, and the members of the Grand Council receive other special honors. For the first time the edicts from the throne bear the seal of the Regent and the signatures of the Grand Councillors. This is in accordance with the regulations of the new regency.

ENGLAND'S CHRISTMAS

THE ROYAL HOUSE PARTY.

Entertainments at the Theatres—The Turner Exhibition.

[Special by French Cable to The Tribune.]
[Copyright, 1908, by The Tribune Association.]

London, Dec. 19.—The King will come up from Brighton for the close of Parliament, and will not return to London before the end of January unless the raw Norfolk air excites fresh irritation of his throat. The Sandringham Christmas will not have novel features. There will be the usual shooting rounds and entertainments for the tenants and servants. The children's party will be a large one, as invitations have been sent to many country families around Sandringham. Prince Edward, who once knocked over his grandfather in a game of blindman's bluff, has started his social career by being a guest at a country house with the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, arriving in London to-day, will be among the Sandringham guests.

The American Ambassador will spend the holidays at Wrest Park, where his daughter will join him at Christmas. Admiral Stockton will take a holiday in the country, and Professor Wilson will make a south coast journey, going as far as Cornwall before the naval conference reassembles. Premier Asquith will spend his Christmas in North Berwick, and as many as six of his associates will go to Egypt or Italy for rest. There will be a large muster of members of Parliament at Biarritz, headed by Sir Gilbert Parker.

The holiday entertainments have started off bravely, with "Pinkie and the Fairies" at His Majesty's Theatre. This is Graham Robertson's fairy play for children, young and old. The stage is managed with Beerbohm Tree's usual dexterity and inventiveness, and is provided with musical scores by Frederic Norton. While lacking the originality of Mr. Barrie's fantasy, it is mirthful, wholesome and a marked improvement upon ordinary pantomime. Ellen Terry plays with her oldtime vivacity as Aunt Imogen, who doesn't believe in fairies. Marie Lohr, Viola Tree, Stella Campbell and Iris Hawkins are among the actresses. The stage swarms with children, and there are lovely dances and color effects. "Peter Pan" will follow it next week at the Duke of York's Theatre, with a repetition of last year's cast, Hilda Trevelyan's understudy, Gertrude Lang, being substituted for her. There will be a new pantomime nearly every night for a fortnight, and "Dorothy" will be revived at the New Theatre, with Hayden Coffin and other singers in the company.

William Poel's production of "Samson Agonistes" has been highly praised by the critics.

Sir Edward Elgar's symphony has attracted another large audience to-day, and two more performances are promised speedily.

The English Play Society will produce a four-act comedy by Curtis Brown to-morrow at the Kingsway Theatre.

Much nonsense has appeared in print about the discovery of a series of Turner's oils and water colors. These works, which are now displayed on screens in the Turner Room, were transferred from the cellars where Ruskin left them after rejecting them with eighteen thousand other sketches and unexhibited works.

The opening of the Whistler house at Lowell as a museum coincides with the announcement here that Rodin's statue will be erected in the Embankment Gardens at Chelsea. It will be a bronze figure of Fame, holding in her arms a medallion or bust of Whistler. The money has been raised with the exception of $5,000 required for an improved pedestal.

Wilbur Wright's aeroplane flight is regarded by the English press as an achievement far in advance of anything previously done. It rounds out an amazing record of progress during the year in aerial locomotion.

I. N. F.

STANDARD OIL INVASION.

Business House Obtains Foothold on St. James's Park.

London, Dec. 11.—Great interest is shown here at the enterprise of the Anglo-American Oil Company, which is the name of the principal British branch of the Standard, in invading for business purposes one of the most exclusive and aristocratic sections of the West End. The company is beginning to erect two large buildings fronting on the south side of St. James's Park, at Queen Anne's Gate entrance. The park is faced on the west by Buckingham Palace, while the Foreign Office, the Admiralty buildings and a group of residences of high officials overlook the opposite end. Marlborough House, the residence of the Prince of Wales; Clarence House, the Duke of Connaught's home, and Carlton House Terrace, where the German Embassy and the residences of Mrs. Clarence Mackay, Mrs. Potter Palmer and other well known persons are situated, range along the north side of the park.

The Standard's buildings on the south side are opposite the German Embassy, and command a fine view of the ponds and walks. Just back of them are Queen Anne's Mansions, apartment houses which, being ten stories high, are the tallest buildings in London and regarded as skyscrapers. Mr. Rockefeller's representatives will have the chapel and barracks of the Life Guards on one side and Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Minister; Mr. Haldane, the Minister for War, and Admiral Sir John Fisher as neighbors on the other side.

Two large residences have been torn down to make way for the Standard's buildings. The largest belonged to the late Sir Clinton Dawkins, who was a prominent financier connected with the Indian and Egyptian administrations. The Standard is the first commercial firm to gain a foothold on St. James's Park, and undoubtedly it paid well for the premises which it will occupy. The other residents are surprised and not pleased that business should push into the neighborhood.

TREAT CASTRO GENTLY.

Germans Warned Against Loss of Large Venezuelan Orders.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—The Berlin "Neueste Nachrichten" prints an article to-day from a "well informed source," warning the German press against adopting an unfriendly attitude toward Castro. The writer says that Germany's business interests should cause the newspapers to refrain from offensive allusions, such as "former cowboy" and "president of a robber state." Castro, the article continues, is considering large additions to the equipment of both army and navy, and is thinking of placing the orders in Germany. The Venezuelan President is also seeking instructors for his military academy recently established in Caracas, and is likely to give preference to officers of the German army. All this leads the writer to hope that Germany will strive to obtain a permanent influence, both politically and economically, in Venezuela.

President Castro and his suite, who are going to Dr. Israel's sanatorium to-morrow, still maintain a cheerful attitude in spite of the troubles in Caracas. The German Foreign Office has received no advices from Venezuela to-day.

BIALYSTOK CRIMINALS PARDONED.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 19.—Emperor Nicholas pardoned to-day ten of the participants in the Bialystok massacre of 1906. He denied the petition of the League of Russian People to commute the sentences of two who were convicted of actual murder. Eleven Christians and seventy-three Jews were killed and over a hundred persons wounded in the Bialystock massacre. The ringleaders in the disorders were found guilty and sentenced last June.

A PARIS PROBLEM PLAY.

Heated Discussion of "Les Lys"—Monument to Horace Wells.

[Special by French Cable to The Tribune.]
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Paris, Dec. 19.—The right of a girl twenty-four years old to dispose of her heart and hand to the man whom she loves, but who is legally prevented from marrying her, instead of, under the conventional pretext of family honor, resigning herself to a life of celebacy, is the problem which was put to the Parisian public last night at the Vaudeville Theatre in the most poignant manner by a four-act comedy, "Les Lys," by Pierre Wolff and Gaston Leroux. It was admirably acted by Mlle. Suzanne Desprez and Mlle. Madeleine Lely, who, in the third act, burst forth with most drastic onslaughts against the prevailing French marriage laws and traditions yet listened to at any Paris theatre. The play, which is feeble in the first act and prolix in the second, elicited, by a scene of intensely dramatic assertion of the rights of a young woman to love, a perfect acclamation of enthusiasm, and to-day is discussed with party passion and sentimental frenzy. "Les Lys" has by this social proposition made a decided popular hit.

The University of Paris, the French Academy of Medicine and the municipal government of Paris have expressed favorable opinions in regard to a project to erect a monument in Paris in memory of Horace Wells, the dentist, of Hartford, Conn., who in the first half of the nineteenth century performed his operations with an anæsthetic composed of protoxide of nitrogen. His discovery is considered by the faculty of medicine here as the pioneer of the medical anæsthetic.

Among the Americans in Paris are Mr. and Mrs. Leo L. Redding, Colonel A. K. McClure, J. B. Laughlin, Dr. H. O. Adams, W. Hopkins, Mrs. Russell Harding, Mrs. Spreckels, the Misses Spreckels, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Mason, William M. Reid, Mrs. Van Rensselaer Thayer, Mrs. Parkinson Sharp, Mrs. Elizabeth Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitchell, Judge Norris, Captain James Archibald, Robert W. Burgess, Mrs. Scott Grant, Miss Fanny Reed and Mrs. Charles Greene.

C. I. B.

RULES FOR NAVAL WAR.

Good Prospect of Agreement at Conference in London.

[Special by French Cable to The Tribune.]
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London, Dec. 19.—There is promise of important results from the international naval conference which has completed its preliminary survey of the questions left open by the Hague congress. While diversities have been disclosed regarding definitions of contraband laws, blockade and other questions of belligerent and neutral rights, there is a tolerant spirit favorable for a final agreement. Every nation will need to modify rules which are no longer adapted to conditions of modern warfare.

An extreme application of the principle of a continuous voyage for the transshipment cargo to a neutral port or transit over neutral territory has been an American tradition since the Civil War. It has ceased to have practical value when America no longer dreads rebellion, and the security of neutral commerce has become a paramount national interest. Shippers and insurers in time of war want to know what is contraband and what are the liabilities of capture by cruisers and blockading squadrons over an indefinite area of operations. Their risks are increased by the existing uncertainties, and can be largely reduced by concurrent action of the powers represented at the naval conference. America and France can bring England and Germany together when the conference reassembles, if musty traditions are swept aside and there is a codification of laws for a prize court of appeal.

I. N. F.

NEW FRENCH BOOKS.

"Chronique" of Duchesse de Dino an Anecdotal History of Europe.

Paris, December 4.

The most interesting book of the week is the "Chronique" of the Duchesse de Dino (subsequently Duchesse de Talleyrand et de Sagan), edited and compiled by her granddaughter, Princesse de Radziwill, née Castellane, published by Messrs. Plon-Nourrit. This "Chronicle" deals with the history—the anecdotal history, one might say—of France and of Europe for thirty years; that is to say, from 1831 to 1862, and the present volume, the first of the series, covers the period from 1831 to 1835. It will be remembered that the "Souvenirs" of the Duchesse de Dino, published last spring by the Comtesse Jean de Castellane, terminate with the marriage of the witty and captivating Princesse Dorothée de Courlande with Comte Edmond de Périgord (Talleyrand's nephew), in 1809. Princesse Radziwill now makes public a sort of annotated diary of her remarkable ancestress, who played such an important part in European diplomacy during the earlier half of the last century. The narrative is replete with incidents and anecdotes that give it rare historic value.

From Fasquelle comes "Trumaille et Pélisson," a novel by M. Edmond Haricourt, curator of the Cluny Museum, who has drawn two remarkably truthful portraits of men that one meets with in French provincial life. M. Haricourt, besides being an erudite archæologist, is also a poet and dramatic author, and the characters that he evokes have something of the observation and humor and pathos of a Charles Dickens.

Armand Colin brings out a conscientious and comprehensive work, "La Hongrie au XXe Siècle," dealing with Hungary viewed from social and economic standpoints, and which is altogether the most trustworthy and satisfactory book on the subject that has so far appeared in France. It is written by M. Réné Gonnard, professor of the University of Lyons.

Calmann-Levy publish "Le Maitre du Pain," a novel by Mme. Lucy Achalme, which is a strongly drawn, lifelike story of a socialist community somewhat on the Oneida Community principles established in Auvergne. An Italian engineer upsets the Utopian little association by his invention of machine made bread. The romantic tale upon which this clever social study is hung is quite thrown in the shade, but the book is well worth reading.

C. I. B.

FRANCO-CANADIAN TRADE TREATY.

French Protectionists Hostile, and Canada Refuses Further Concessions.

Paris, Dec. 19.—W. S. Fielding, the Canadian Minister of Finance, who has been in this city for several days on business connected with the Franco-Canadian commercial treaty, is not particularly encouraged regarding the outlook for ratification by the French Senate. In view of the approaching general tariff revision in France, French protectionists are manifesting extreme hostility to the treaty, and Canada is not ready to offer further concessions.

Owing to the early reassembling of the Canadian Parliament Mr. Fielding does not expect to go to Germany before his return home, and the question of opening negotiations for a new Canadian-German treaty will consequently be postponed for the present.

PARIS HOLIDAY SHOW

Christmas Display Resembles Fancy Fair—Curious Gifts.

Paris, December 8.

As the end of the year approaches the shopping quarters of Paris begin to look like one huge fancy fair. The useful and the necessary disappear into the background, giving place for one short month to the luxurious and useless, the dainty and attractive. Apart from the glittering wares of the seductive jewellers of the Rue de la Paix, who invite you to spend thousands of dollars on your women friends by offering them large bags made of fine gold, sprinkled with diamonds and set with precious gems, tiny watches set as signets in rings for small fingers, and the like, the really characteristic Christmas offering as made and sold in Paris is not necessarily at all costly. It is the "article de Paris" that triumphs, the daintily decorated trifles that would look pretty on a boudoir table, the fanciful receptacle for chocolates, or the new flower holder intended to be screwed to the window frame of the motor car.

There are a certain number of toy displays, set pieces not exactly meant for sale, which youthful Parisians are brought into town to look at and which appeal more or less cleverly to the child mind. In one direction you may see a lovely Columbine going through her graceful evolutions on a pivot, while Pierrot does his fantastic turns and negroes give sketchy cakewalks; there is the retrospective battle piece or military display showing the meeting of General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette on horseback, with their respective staffs around them, and a picturesque group of Indian braves in probably correct attire, with a carefully painted background reproducing faithfully the scene of that historic interview. These things are all part of the Christmas tradition, and on any Thursday in December you may see the Parisian youth of both sexes being personally conducted round the city boulevards, taking the annual peep into Toyland which the weekly school holiday renders possible.

Inside the large department stores shopping is difficult by reason of the crowds of all classes that are flocking to see the toy display. Business is suspended, and with extraordinary good humor and patience the genuine purchasers make way for the thousands who will spend not a sou but who have brought up their little families to take a gratuitous look at the wondrous bazaar. Gramophones and piano organs are emitting contrasting sounds from every corner, and the noise, like the crush, by 5 o'clock in the evening is insupportable.

This season the humorous and grotesque predominate in Christmas gifts. The success of the clever caricatures of Caran d'Ache executed in flat pieces of wood has produced a whole school of imitators, whose works are adapted to all sorts of purposes. They are ingeniously expanded by one house to fit in with silks and satins and make very original boxes for sugar-plums. In this form they offer an amusing change from the dainty dolls dressed in tulle and lying in a bower of artificial roses of former years. Treated more simply, they are used as handles for grotesque red umbrellas, which open in their bunchiest parts and are seen to contain pens and pencils.

The same note, the humorous or grotesque, is also struck by some of the mechanical toys in which Paris excels. A little motor hansom cab darts across the pavement carrying a couple of passengers, who engage in a boxing match forthwith, and the faster the wheels travel the more rapidly are blows exchanged. Most fascinating of all the "étrennes" are these little motors, and the aeroplanes stand in the front rank. One of the best of the smaller models is a monoplane mounted on three small wheels. The roof of the platform, in the middle of which sits the aeronaut, is of linen, in red, white and blue, and behind the driver is the screw, with its two large revolving disks of pale blue cardboard. When duly wound up this fascinating little model can be suspended or set in motion on the table. Both Wilbur Wright and Henry Farman's aeroplanes are here, the former being on a very accurate design, which has to be put together by its owner before it can be seen or used. Each of its rather complicated parts is numbered and labelled, and when all is in position the original flying machine is before you in miniature down to the smallest detail.

Perhaps as interesting as the aeroplane is the hydroplane. Like a torpedo, the cylindrical hulk rushes along the surface of the water, propelled by a screw revolving rapidly in the air like a great red clover leaf. Two small torpedoes, one on either side, balance the craft, and the bold navigator sits on the stern and does his best to keep dry. Such things as these are made in the city by their inventors, each piece being cut by hand out of the simplest materials. The inconvenience of this is that the toys are not to be had in any quantities; you must buy them when you see them, or they will be lost. By the time you have discovered, their charm the supply is exhausted.

A very brave show is made at Christmas by the china and glass shops. Looking at the stacks of small objects purporting to be of Sèvres biscuit ware, it would appear that the state manufactory had laid aside its dignity to turn out prodigious quantities of small objects to be sold at low prices. This in reality is spurious Sèvres, however, and a good deal of it is made in Germany. The Nancy glass workers, Daum and his school, are responsible for the vases and jars in semi-opaque glass, with lurid lights and a strange lustre, sending back into the murky streets a reflection of the atmospheric conditions prevailing on the other side of the great glass window fronts.

C. I. B.

W. S. AMENT ILL AT HONOLULU.

Missionary on Way Here To Be Treated for Blood Clot on Brain.

Honolulu, Dec. 19.—W. S. Ament, the missionary, has arrived here on his way from China to New York, where he is going to be treated by a specialist for a blood clot on his brain, the result of an accident. During the greater part of the voyage here, Dr. Ament lay unconscious on the Nippon.

The Rev. Dr. Ament has been a missionary in China and the Far East for over thirty years. In February, 1901, after the Boxer uprising in China, Dr. Ament said that he collected indemnities from the Chinese covering one-third the damage done by Boxers to Christians living in China. Mark Twain wrote an article in "The North American Review" for February, 1901, which criticised Dr. Ament's transactions with the Chinese.

ARGENTINA ASKS BIDS FOR SHIPS.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 19.—Tenders will be invited immediately by the Argentine government for the construction of two battleships. Information regarding details of the plans, and whether the United States was included among the countries from which tenders are to be sought, was refused at the Ministry of Marine to-day. There is reason to believe, however, that tenders from the United States will receive due consideration.

SCIENTISTS GATHERING AT SANTIAGO.

Santiago de Chili, Dec. 19.—Twenty-five more delegates to the Pan-American Scientific Congress, which is to open here on December 24, reached this city to-day from various points in South and Central America. Many tourists from the United States are also arriving here. There is a general desire among the Latin-American delegations to hold the next congress at Washington. The Argentine delegation is specifically instructed to endeavor to bring this about.

The Financial World.

Bear speculators grew bold this week. They pitched into the market valiantly, day after day—quotations are generally lower than they were a week ago. In two or three parts of the market raiding processes had especial effect—Smelting Trust securities yielding readily and substantially. Much sensational "information" concerning that company was distributed, announcements of rival plants, backed by Standard Oil, having first place; of course this was declared to mean the complete wiping out of all Smelting profits. The quotation for Smelters stock was forced down under 77—having been up above 92 barely a week back. Yesterday it was at 81 (though the closing price still shows a net decline of nine points for the week) after President Daniel Guggenheim has officially announced that the Trust and its auxiliary companies are earning surpluses above the dividends they pay, and that incidentally there is in sight no competition in any profitable line, that even if new great copper enterprises were undertaken they couldn't get into practical working operation for some years to come. This official statement relieved a good many nervous souls of apprehension, for bear proclamations seemed beginning to upset the equanimity of even the property's most devoted friends. American Smelters pays 4 per cent. dividends. That for an industrial does not provide a very liberal return to investors at present figures. Yet, Amalgamated Copper, a 2 per cent. dividend payer, sells around 80—while investors on the outlook for bargains can find standard railway stocks paying twice that much at lower prices—Toledo, St. Louis and Western preferred, for example, in the 60's.

With the money market conditions that now prevail—promising still to remain at ease—dividend tests, interest yields, are bound to become more and more governing in the security market's course.

In Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, down materially for the week, there is probably a larger short interest than has been known for years in any one group of stocks—every professional bear committed to the limit of his margin capacity.

Signifying exhibit of what is represented by progressive railway management, by expanding profits and assured continuance of dividend yield—apt current testimony to investment return influence—appears conspicuously at the close of the week in the activity and buoyancy of Colorado Southern securities. For some time past banking circles have entertained the belief that James J. Hill would ultimately acquire this property as an auxiliary to his Great Northern system; and, therefore, no great surprise was yesterday challenged when reports ran through Wall Street that Mr. Hill had been finally able to take over the property through his Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. Colorado Southern expansion has been phenomenal—the strengthening of its earning capacity amazing—yet not many months ago this review was pointing out the bargain opportunity in Colorado Southern stock under $25 per share—less than half the present quotation. The property's destiny was clear to any fair minded student. Hawley management had already worked a revolution; and what since has come to pass is but natural sequence. Upon its own account, and as a wholly independent property, Colorado Southern prosperity is far past the testing point—while if it be given intimate relations with the Hill system there must forthwith be, of course, multiplication of its power and financial yield.

Colorado Southern is typical of the Hawley group generally. Alton, just now about to begin increased dividends, can pay 4 per cent. out of annual earnings—and still have close to twice 4 per cent. left for surplus.

What particularly is encouraging in the situation appears in developments from time to time indicative of the sterling quality of the character of our foremost business leaders. A notable instance is disclosed in testimony brought out by the government inquiry into coal trade conditions. An important witness, forced to tell of conditions ruling in the strike time of some years ago, when scarcity of coal had become a national calamity, recited what happened in course of his direct personal relationship with President Baer of the Reading company. How Mr. Baer has been criticised, abused, cartooned and indicted for years past on account of conditions that then prevailed is common knowledge. He has been held up as an arch-enemy of civilization, oppressor of labor, utterly out of touch with any of the humanities. Yet, so runs the testimony in court, throughout that critical period Mr. Baer was sturdily fighting every increase in the market price of coal. Instead of avarice and conspiracy, this leader in the coal trade stood actually, continually, as an aggressive opponent of every advance—insisting that the necessities of the poor must be regarded as the most urgent of arguments in holding prices down. "I feel it my duty to protect the poor," he said—though acceptance of the ordinary course of trade conditions must have forthwith meant the addition of millions to the revenues of corporations for which he was trustee.

Consequence belongs to this testimony by reason of the position of the witness from whom it was elicited—Clarence D. Simpson, whose record in the American coal trade is that of one who has virtually been the foremost of all the independents. Mr. Simpson was the owner of properties bought by what is popularly called the Coal Trust—and his associates were not inclined to accept offhand such loss of profits as the operating philanthropies of President Baer imposed. It is not, therefore, as any eulogist of President Baer that Mr. Simpson appears; but his evidence (that of a man of large affairs, absolutely independent of any other interests than those which are personally his own) throws a flood of light upon a situation which until now has been shamelessly misrepresented—makes clear the real Baer, the real type of American industrial leader—comes as a very gust of fresh air, revealing facts, discouraging and destroying frenzies. And such testimony, from such source, under all the circumstances, reaches the point of high public service.

Local traction issues stay conspicuous, some of them actually having been the strongest features of the market during the week—manipulators being full of mystery, rather a new cure for bankruptcy. Third Avenue has not been included in the movement—insiders not yet having obtained all the floating stock. So, also, accumulation plans account for the slow appreciation in United States Realty and the Hocking Coal and Brunswick City shares—a position bound ultimately to be succeeded by buoyancy.

Some efforts are made to create a sensation out of details attending the working out of Canadian Pacific alliances in this country; but it is difficult to find any very grave threats anywhere against the stability of railway earnings in even territory most directly affected. What clearly appears is logical basis for the Canadian Pacific's acquisition of the Wisconsin Central and certain other independent systems wherewith to expand and strengthen the Canadian Pacific's great auxiliary, the Soo system. The guarantee of 4 per cent. dividends upon Wisconsin Central preferred stock would represent a great bargain for Canadian Pacific.

Market manœuvres continue to facilitate further accumulation of Pacific Mail shares. Much talent is being exerted to keep the stock from making a premature advance.

Important Vanderbilt railway announcements are close at hand. New York Central must be chief beneficiary.

Inspiriting Chicago and Alton developments also impend.

H. ALLAWAY.