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New-York Daily Tribune.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1909.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The nominations of William Loeb, jr., to be Collector of the Port of New York, and Beekman Winthrop, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy, were confirmed; adjournment without day was taken at 2:17 p. m.

FOREIGN.—The Tribune's correspondent in London says that the recent by-elections indicate strongly the return of the Unionists to power on the tariff issues; all the weekly papers, with the exception of "The Saturday Review," warmly greet President Taft and praise his predecessor. ═══ The Tribune's correspondent in Paris says that no alarm is shown in official or financial circles regarding the outcome of the Balkan difficulty; it is generally believed that the powers will allow Austria and Servia to negotiate undisturbed. ═══ President Gomez of Cuba signed the general amnesty bill; a wave of crime is feared in Havana, owing to the release of so many prisoners and the fact that many police officials have been discharged. ═══ José Cisneros, a merchant of Havana, fired two shots at General Nuñez, former Governor of Havana; the general was not hurt. ═══ Members of the Douma sharply attacked the government's system of suppressing revolutionary agitation. ═══ President Gomez has forbidden Castro to enter Venezuela; it is thought that the ex-President may go to Nicaragua. ═══ A strike of employes on the French line has been averted, a settlement having been reached between the company and the men. ═══ Ten persons have been killed by avalanches in Austria.

DOMESTIC.—President Taft issued a call for a special session of Congress, to convene on March 15. ═══ Six members of the new Cabinet were sworn in at Washington. ═══ Inauguration crowds left Washington in seventy special and extra trains besides the regular ones. ═══ The city of Philadelphia planned the establishment of a wireless station on top of the City Hall tower, 537 feet above the ground, to give communication with the surrounding country and ocean within a radius of one thousand miles. ═══ Both state and defence closed in the Cooper-Sharp trial for the murder of ex-Senator Carmack, in Nashville, and arguments will begin Monday. ═══ According to a statement by Dr. Albert W. Ferris, president of the State Commission in Lunacy, at Albany, attendants employed in state hospitals for the insane who strike patients will be prosecuted for assault. ═══ The Buffalo & Lackawanna Traction Company was authorized by the upstate Public Service Commission at Albany to execute and deliver to the New York Trust Company a first mortgage of $1,500,000. ═══ Governor Hughes returned to Albany from Washington, where he attended the inauguration of President Taft.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and generally firm. ═══ It was estimated that President Taft had travelled more than 200,000 miles in the last nine years. ═══ Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, Dr. E. R. L. Gould and W. M. Ivins were mentioned as candidates for Mayor. ═══ It became known that Mrs. Russell Sage and others associated with her had purchased land in Queens Borough for model tenement houses. ═══ Joseph Pulitzer returned, summoned here, it was said, by his counsel in the Panama Canal libel case. ═══ Norbert Brouillet, a real estate dealer, left a large share of his estate to four Brooklyn churches, to whose pastors he was unknown. ═══ President Thomas and members of the governing committee of the Stock Exchange, appeared before Governor Hughes's investigating committee. ═══ Justice Gaynor spoke of the improvement of the national and city newspaper press in an address at the laying of the cornerstone of the new Press Club house. ═══ William J. Bryan paid the city a brief visit on his way to lecture in Newark.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain or snow. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 36 degrees; lowest, 22.

ENFORCING TREATY OBLIGATIONS.

An important reform which President Taft hopes to see credited to his administration is the assertion, through legislation, of the federal government's power to enforce treaty obligations. That is one of the federal powers which has been allowed to remain latent, and the omission to apply it has more than once seriously embarrassed the United States. As a nation accepting treaty favors from other nations, this country has often had to confess that it does not guarantee to aliens the same rights and protection which it asks for its own citizens in alien jurisdictions. The treaties which we sign with other powers impose what are apparently mutual obligations. But when the pinch comes the bargain is found to have been one-sided. We do not give a *quid pro quo*. For other governments are in a position to compel their citizens or subjects to respect treaty promises, while an administration at Washington has to intrust the execution of its pledges to uncertain agencies quite beyond its control.

Through our failure to provide machinery to secure the observance of treaties we incur the reproach of shiftlessness and irresponsibility. Our policy leaves to the civil and criminal courts of the states the execution of laws to which an alien wronged in person or property must appeal. The states are presumed to act as the federal government's representatives in granting redress. But the federal government cannot regulate the actions of its presumptive representatives, and if they neglect or refuse to do their duty the nation has no remedy and must confess to an aggrieved claimant nation that the treaty rights which its citizens or subjects are supposed to enjoy here are subject to the veto of a local power not a party to the original treaty contract. Furthermore, a state may undertake to pass and enforce legislation nullifying the treaty rights granted to foreigners, and the federal government has at present no convenient means of asserting its superior authority. Irreparable harm might be done by a state's withdrawing treaty rights from the aliens within its jurisdiction before the question of its authority or lack of authority thus to legislate in defiance of treaty obligations could be definitely settled.

In his inaugural address President Taft advocates the assertion of the inherent federal power to carry out the obligations of treaties contracted under the provisions of the Constitution. He rightly said that it puts the national government "in a pusillanimous position to "make definite engagements to protect aliens "and then to excuse the failure to perform "those engagements by an explanation that the "duty to keep them is in states and cities not "within our control." The recent agitations in California and Nevada for a suspension locally of rights guaranteed to Japanese subjects resident in these commonwealths shows that peace may be endangered, as well as national dignity offended, by misuse of powers unwisely left in the hands of states and cities. The new President favors legislation which will take all suits arising from injuries inflicted on aliens into the federal courts, and will also give the federal courts power to intervene and annul local ordinances or laws which seek to set aside treaty provisions. Such a step is necessary if we are to remove the reproach of international irresponsibility and compel local respect for the solemn contracts into which we have entered with other nations.

THE TRIAL OF A LIBEL SUIT.

The Tribune did not wait until the present legal proceedings had been proposed to condemn the publication by "The New York World" of scandalous charges relating to the purchase of the Panama Canal. It appeared to us from the first, as it does now, that "The World" had committed a serious offence against private rights and public decency. It was not betrayed by haste into a mistaken judgment and an improper course, but acted deliberately and, it would seem, in the face of a specific warning that the accusations which it was about to circulate were not only false but were being dealt in elsewhere by blackmailers. The freedom of the press is not attacked when the courts are invoked in such a case.

While the recent preliminary processes of the law were going on—with some seemingly foolish effort to make a mystery of them—we were not greatly disturbed by the cry of the sufferers that the ancient crime of seditious libel against the United States was to be alleged in the pleadings. That unconcern has been justified by the indictments found, here and at Washington, which aver that various individual citizens have been libelled, and which, in that respect, are entirely familiar and regular.

There is, however, another feature of the case as it now stands which deserves the gravest consideration. From the office of the United States Attorney in Washington there lately came, apparently on sufficient authority, the announcement of a confident expectation that Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, proprietor of "The World," and members of the staff of that newspaper who had been indicted with him would be required to appear for trial in Washington. Without professing, or possessing, any authentic information on the subject, we think that, indictments having now been found in this jurisdiction, the proceedings in Washington will be dropped and the cause tried here. But, whether or not the event is to confirm this opinion, we deem it our duty to say that the defendants ought not to be, and we believe they will not be, taken to Washington or anywhere else for trial.

In referring, on March 26, 1895, to an effort to take Mr. Charles A. Dana, editor of "The New York Sun," to Washington for trial on a charge of criminal libel, The Tribune said:

> It matters little how harmless may be the action proposed in any particular case in which power is asserted if the power asserted be arbitrary power. If its assertion under any circumstances would be inconsistent with liberty of the person or of the press, there is no safety but in prompt and uncompromising denial of the right to exercise it in any case. Once yielded to and established upon the firm footing of judicial precedent, it cannot well be lawfully disputed. It is liable to be made at any time an instrument of oppression. The assertion now made of the power to take the editor of a newspaper from his home to the District of Columbia to try him for an article in his newspaper which constitutes a libel under the laws of that District is a threat against the liberty of the press in every state in the Union. The establishment of that power would limit, infringe upon and reduce the liberty of the press.

We have seen no reason to revise the opinion then and thus expressed. It was confirmed at the time in these words by Mr. Elihu Root, of counsel for Mr. Dana:

> Upon this indictment Mr. Dana stands as stands every editor of a newspaper in the United States. He writes his editorial with the specific intent that it shall be published at the place of publication, which is here fixed in the indictment as the city of New York. It is published there; he is responsible civilly and criminally for that. . . . It would be a great limitation upon the fredom of the press in this country to say that every editor in every city and state is liable to be taken to any part of the earth where his papers may happen to go, and tried over and over again, hundreds of times perhaps, for a single article. . . . The freedom of the press! How can there be freedom of the press if there exists the arbitrary power to punish all over the length and breadth of this land?

The view which we took and which Mr. Root sustained with characteristic vigor of utterance was affirmed by the decision of the court in Mr. Dana's favor. If that interpretation of the law has been reversed or modified in any analogous case, we are not aware of the fact. That it conforms to the principles of justice we entertain no doubt whatsoever.

FRENCH TARIFF REVISION.

The proposals of the tariff commission of the French Chamber of Deputies, although still incomplete and far from enactment into law, have already served to stir the partisans of free trade in Great Britain to the depths as they have not been stirred before for many years. All the chambers of commerce in the United Kingdom have been protesting against the prospective increase of French tariff duties as "greatly prejudicial to the friendly interests of a friendly "nation." As a result of these protests the advisory committee of the Board of Trade has urged the government to take "prompt and decisive action" in the matter, and several members have gone so far as to urge the adoption of some species of retaliation. Further, a prominent Liberal Member of Parliament, formerly president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, has declared that he and many other leading Liberal free traders are in favor of retaliation, adding that they "could never allow "their adherence to the principles of free trade "to cause them to throw away the weapon of "retaliation"—which amazing pronouncement arouses wonder as to what sort of free traders they can be who cling to and use a measure which it is the fundamental principle of free trade that they must utterly discard and renounce.

In what form the French tariff revision will finally be enacted it is impossible to say. That some considerable revision will be made seems assured, and, indeed, we may regard it as highly desirable, if not necessary. The existing tariff was made in 1892, seventeen years ago. Since that time there have been great changes in industrial and commercial conditions, and every other important Continental country has recast its tariff system. Obviously, as France is thus the last of all to revise her tariff, she cannot be accused of beginning a tariff war or of committing aggressions against her neighbors. She is simply following their example and is changing her customs rates to meet the changes which they have already made in theirs.

The changes which the commission now proposes would, if made, impose a certain surcharge upon the goods of other lands. But the total of such increase would be less than half as great as the total of surcharges upon French goods imposed by the tariffs of other lands since the present French rates were adopted. That is, in these seventeen years other European lands have been largely increasing their duties on French goods, and now France merely proposes to increase her duties on their goods less than one-half as much.

The existing French tariff of 1892 is a protectionist measure, and it has proved so highly profitable to French commerce that the revision of it will naturally maintain and in some degree probably extend and increase its protectionist features. Thus in 1891, the year before the tariff was enacted, French imports were $953,600,000 and exports $714,000,000, showing an adverse balance of trade of $239,600,000. In 1907 imports were $1,244,600,000 and exports $1,119,200,000, showing an adverse balance of trade of only $125,400,000. Thus in seventeen years imports increased 30 per cent and exports 56 per cent, while the difference between them, the adverse balance of trade, decreased by about 48 per cent. Those results must be regarded as satisfactory to French commerce and industry.

The special interest of Great Britain in the case is considerable, since in 1907 the United Kingdom's exports to France were $117,500,000 and imports from France were $265,000,000. But according to these figures France herself should be more interested than the United Kingdom in maintaining friendly commercial relations, since the balance of trade is greatly in her favor. The chances are that in the end the principle will prevail which was set forth weeks ago by Mr. Cruppi, the French Minister of Commerce, that no tariff changes would be approved by the government which would be likely to produce unfavorable effects upon the foreign political relations of France. That declaration was supposed to refer particularly to relations with Great Britain, but it may be assumed to refer also to those with the rest of the world.

THE AHEARN CASE.

The decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court sweeps away the confusion of mind that existed over the right of the Board of Aldermen to reinstate Mr. Ahearn. This confusion proceeded from the fact that the Board of Aldermen "elected" him. If the law had provided for the "appointment" of his successor no one would have thought seriously that the appointing power could reinstate him after he had been removed for cause by the Governor, but the word "election" set every one to considering the provisions regarding eligibility for elective offices, in which, of course, nothing was said about removal being a bar to re-election. But the court rules that, although in terms an election, Mr. Ahearn's reinstatement was an appointment just as much as if it had been made by a single official.

The decision is in accordance with good sense and good morals. It ought not to be possible legally to defeat the plain purpose of a law, as Mr. Ahearn's reappointment defeated the plain purpose of the law regarding removals to provide a suitable penalty for misconduct or inefficiency in office. The decision does not of itself eject the Borough President from office. It was an overruling of a demurrer brought to prevent the determination of Mr. Ahearn's title by a trial by jury. The lower court thought the protest valid, and an appeal may now be taken to the Court of Appeals on the technical issue. If that action fails, the arrested *quo warranto* proceeding will be resumed and a jury will pass on the facts of the situation, with the instruction from the Appellate Division that the so-called "election" was null and void. It is left also to Mr. Ahearn's counsel to attack the constitutionality of the power of removal given to the Governor in the city charter. That issue has not been considered in the proceedings so far. The Borough President may thus hold on to his office by virtue of legal procrastinations. But even if final determination of the case can be postponed until after December 31, 1909, when his term expires, the law will be so cleared up that a similar attempt to overrule the Governor and defeat the law of the state will be out of the question in the future.

HERTZ WAVE POSSIBILITIES.

The interruption of telegraphic communication between Washington and northern cities last week, in consequence of the prostration of wires and poles, freshly illustrates one of the drawbacks to the old Morse system. The resulting inconvenience was magnified by an unusual combination of circumstances. Railroad traffic, unusually heavy because of the widespread wish to witness the inauguration ceremonies, was beset with exceptional difficulties. Hence there was an extraordinary number of persons who wanted to report to anxious friends at home, and millions of others were eager for those details of the celebration which the press alone could supply. The recent trouble differed from that experienced many times before, not in kind but in degree. A winter seldom passes without the partial or complete suspension of telegraphic service at least half a dozen times from the same cause as that which operated on Thursday and Friday.

Practically no relief was afforded on this occasion by Hertz wave telegraphy, for various reasons. Up to the present time that method of communication has not proved so satisfactory over land areas as over water. Many of the stations now in existence along the coast belong to the national government, and are not available for general use. Those established on a commercial basis are designed chiefly for the exchange of messages between ship and shore, and are more or less dependent on connections with land wires. Moreover, marvellous as is the progress made since the world first heard of Marconi, further development is needed before regular service in the interior of the continent may be expected. Still, if the recent past is any guide to the future, it would not be unreasonable to expect continued advances during the next decade.

Perhaps no question affecting the practical utility of radiotelegraphy has a greater interest for experts just now than whether the generation of ether waves by a method adopted by Poulsen is superior to that used by Marconi. The Dane employs an "arc," and the Italian a "spark gap." Poulsen and his champions are disposed to believe that the electric vibrations developed by an arc go further than the others, are less susceptible to the paralyzing influence of sunlight, travel successfully over land, and, because they may easily be "tuned," diminish the chance of interference and insure a greater measure of secrecy.

These claims were discussed elaborately in "The London Times" a few days ago (February 24) by Dr. J. A. Fleming, an authority of repute and a Fellow of the Royal Society. This electrician thinks that evidence to support the notion that waves generated by an arc will traverse land areas without hindrance is yet lacking. Any superiority which they may possess in the matter of "tuning" is, in his opinion, more than offset by the simplicity of the apparatus used with the older method, which, by the way, Marconi has materially improved. When waves are generated by an arc, Dr. Fleming asserts, the mechanism employed must be constantly watched and frequently adjusted to keep it working right. It needs the attention of another man than the one who operates the key and uses the receiver. The spark generator, he says, is practically automatic and calls for no care besides that easily given by the operator. An additional merit with which the spark system is credited is that it can be made to work with a storage battery in emergencies and is not entirely dependent on the dynamo, like the arc system. In other words, the latter could not have summoned the Baltic to the Republic's aid, whereas the former did.

Dr. Fleming's verdict should not be considered a final expression of his own judgment. Much less is it a guide to the uninitiated in making an immediate choice. While it reveals some of the complications of the task yet to be performed, it encourages a hope that wireless telegraphy will prove a more valuable resource a few years hence than it is now.

Importing oats into the United States is equal to carrying coals to Newcastle.

"Nobody controls me!" declares Controller Metz. What a blessed escape from an awful responsibility!

In calling the Hobsonisms about war with Japan "buncombe," we are afraid Admiral Evans does a little injustice to an ancient and honorable North Carolina county and bestows unmerited dignity upon something which might more appropriately be called "flubdub."

The Senate must have been overcome with the emotion which the spectacle of confident and triumphant virtue always inspires when it heard the Hon. Joseph W. Bailey object to confirming a nominee for a post in the Cabinet on the ground that he had performed some legal services for the Waters-Pierce company. Mr. Bailey, with his intense consciousness of impeccability, is ever prone to condemn in the walk and conduct of other public servants—or prospective public servants—what he generously condones in his own personal and political record.

The Tennessee Senators who ran away to Kentucky in order to break the quorum at Nashville are back again in the legislative harness. Their heroics fizzled out, for the remnant left behind did what it wanted to do in spite of their absence. Quorum breaking is cheap political horseplay. Legislators in the minority should take their punishment when necessary, but stick resolutely to the appointed arena in which political differences are to be fought out.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The bureau of supplies and accounts of the Navy Department has made computations which show that the "around the world" tour of the Atlantic fleet cost this government approximately $1,000 a man on the ships. Exact figures showing expenses in all particulars are not yet obtainable, but from those at hand the bureau believes it has made at least a fairly accurate estimate. The bureau, in making its estimate, has taken into consideration the amounts expended for fuel, provisions, pay, coal and many other items incidental to the cruise.

"How is your rich uncle, Tommy?"
"Very ill; I'm afraid he won't last long."
"Then you can lend me that $10 I asked you for last week."—Meggendorfer Blätter.

Principals of Chicago schools who believe in promotions along Civil Service reform lines have started a movement to select a new city superintendent from their own force. By means of a referendum vote the principals will choose from their own ranks a candidate, who will be presented to the Board of Education, and the latter will be asked to appoint him. The place of superintendent, left vacant by the resignation of Edwin G. Cooley, pays $10,000 a year.

"Do you think that Miss Kidder was having fun with me?" asked Charley.
"Well, old chap, give me the details," was Arthur's response.
"You see, I had my bull terrier with me. And I said to her, 'That dog knows as much as I do.' And she said, 'Don't you think 10 shillings was too much to pay for him?'"—Illustrated Bits.

J. H. Thiry, a school official of the Borough of Queens, has written to the bureau of manufactures in reference to the recent publication in Consular and Trade Reports of an article on "School Savings Banks in Belgium." Mr. Thiry says that the system is making steady progress in the United States. He has compiled and published the statistics, which show that on January 1, 1908, the 101 cities which have adopted the system had a record of $739,646 due depositors. Out of 503,078 students attending the schools, 178,817 were depositors. Since the establishment of the first American School Savings Bank, on March 16, 1885, up to January 1, 1908, the amounts deposited aggregated $4,419,454, and the amounts withdrawn $3,659,808.

Young Wife—Don't you admire a man who always says the right thing at the right time?
The Spinster—I'm sure I could if I ever have the pleasure of meeting such a man.—Illustrated Bits.

A small drove of immigrants, each tagged with a red ticket and in charge of an officer, reached the Grand Central Station of the subway yesterday afternoon. They were billed through to some point on the New York Central road, and had only a short time to catch the train. The immigrant officer urged them on in the usual gentle manner which must be applied to newcomers who have no appreciation of the value of time. One elderly woman staggered under a great canvas bag, which she carried on her back. Behind her walked an able bodied man, a member of the party, who was told in pantomime by a man who was watching the group to help the woman. He made no move in that direction, however, but called two children, who did what they could to ease the woman's burden as she toiled up the steps. And as the man who would not help followed smilingly, one man who was watching the crowd said: "There goes a man who believes in woman's rights—to work for him."

There is a certain Pittsburg broker who insists that every clerk in his establishment shall present an immaculate personal appearance.
"If you care to retain your position in this house," said he one morning to one offender whom he had summoned to the private office, "you will have to devote more attention to your toilet. Why, man, you present the appearance of one who has not shaved for a week."
"Beg pardon, sir," said the clerk, "but I am raising a beard."
"That's no excuse," said the boss. "You must do that sort of thing outside business hours."—Harper's Weekly.

ROOSEVELT AS PRESIDENT.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

From The Rochester Post-Express.

But many wise things and many great things have been accomplished since Mr. Roosevelt took the oath of office, and for those he will long be remembered. No President ever did so much on behalf of international peace and the settlement of national quarrels by arbitration.

SOME THINGS NOT DOUBTFUL.

From The Springfield Republican.

But whatever the ultimate estimate of Mr. Roosevelt and his administration may be, there are some things which are not left doubtful. He has vividly impressed the imagination of the people of his time, and his extraordinarily complex personality makes him one of the most interesting men ever in the service of the Republic.

FAME SECURE.

From The Syracuse Herald (Ind.).

As Wendell Phillips said in one of his finest orations, the motions of a gladiator engaged in a life and death struggle are not a proper subject of disparagement or censure. Roosevelt will be judged by the net result of his Presidential labors; and, so judged, his fame will be secure.

THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE.

From The Springfield Union.

As a result of the Roosevelt leadership, as a result of his earnest purpose to serve the whole people without regard to class, race or religion, much far-reaching legislation has been enacted. Some of it has been, as we have said, of a revolutionary character and of a value that cannot yet be accurately determined; but the underlying principle, "equal opportunities for all, special privileges to none," has been fundamentally correct.

A SOUTHERN VIEW.

From The Charlotte (N. C.) Observer (Dem.).

Mr. Roosevelt will rank in history as one of the five great Presidents of the United States. We would name as the preceding four Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Cleveland. He has done more in the last eight years to impress himself upon the world than any other man in it, not excepting William of Germany. And notwithstanding his infirmities of character and temper, his frequent follies and even worse, he is, we believe, the most popular man in the United States to-day.

FEW SUPERIORS.

From The Boston Transcript.

Mr. Roosevelt's severest critics must grant that in his intellectual range and in capacity for accomplishment he has had few superiors among American executives. He has had some serious faults in method and manner. Still, it is not wholly clear that any one could, without beating a bass drum, get together enough of a crowd to summon to the windows, to look out on the world, those privileged interests which had been shaping American legislation to their own liking. One may regret the beating of the drum, but before condemning it one must pause to consider whether the force which it operates to assemble is not sufficiently useful to justify the disturbance.

About People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 6.—President Taft's second day in office was even more strenuous than his first, visitors by the thousand flocking into the office buildings and the Executive Mansion. Many clubs and organizations were received in the East Room, including the Brooklyn Union League Club. Among those who shook hands with the President were Senators Aldrich, Burton, Dolliver, Burkett, Burrows, Smith, Bankhead, Frazier, Martin, Lodge, Foster, McEnery, Hopkins, Carter, Warner, Nelson and Milton; Representatives Alexander, Wanger, Fowler, Scott, Slaughter, Driscoll, Bennet, Olcott and Grant; Governors Quinby, Deneen and Willson; also, members of the Conservation Committee on Co-operation, headed by ex-Governor Pardee, of California; Seth Bullock and Marcus Braun, of the Hungarian Republican Club, of New York, who told President Taft that he had been elected an honorary member.

Six members of the President's Cabinet were sworn in by Chief Justice Fuller, of the Supreme Court of the United States, at 10:15 a. m. in the Cabinet room. Secretaries Knox, Meyer, Wilson, Ballinger and Nagel and Postmaster General Hitchcock signed the oath. The only persons at the ceremony, which was devoid of formality, were Secretary Carpenter, Senator Burton, John Barrett and Richard Harlan.

By Monday nearly all the relatives and members of the President's family who came for the inauguration will have departed. Robert Taft, the eldest son of the President, returned to Yale; Miss Helen Taft and Charles Taft will resume their studies at Bryn Mawr and Watertown, respectively, on Monday, and Henry W. and Horace Taft left here for their homes to-day. Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft and children and their guests will remain a few days longer.

President and Mrs. Taft's dinner guests to-night included Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 6.—The Brazilian Ambassador and Mme. Nabuco gave a large dinner to-night. Their guests included the German Ambassador and Countess von Bernstorff, the Turkish Ambassador, Senator Kean, Miss Kean, and the Hon. Maud Pauncefote.

The Belgian Minister and Baroness Moncheur had as dinner guests the Russian Ambassador, Senator du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. Bourke Cockran, Representative and Mrs. Dwight, Mr. and Mrs. Beekman Winthrop and Miss Boardman.

The Danish Minister and Countess Moltke had a large dinner party to-night.

The British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce left here yesterday for a Western trip of some length.

The Swedish Minister and Mme. de Lagercrantz entertained at dinner last night in honor of Countess de Paude, of New York, their house guest for the week.

The Persian Minister has as his guest until Sunday H. H. Topakyan, recently appointed by the Shah Consul General at New York.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 6.—Mr. and Mrs. Ten Eyck Wendell gave a dinner to-night in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burden, of New York. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Taft, ex-Senator and Mrs. John B. Henderson, Mrs. Frederick Benedict and the Misses Cameron, daughters of the late Sir Roderick Cameron, of New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth gave a large dinner to-night.

Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson entertained the Misses Harriet and Catherine Anderson, nieces of President and Mrs. Taft, at a large musical reception to-night. Miss Helen Taft, Miss Louise Taft and Robert Taft were among the numerous guests.

The Vice-President and Mrs. Sherman were the guests at dinner last night of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Wash. The other guests were the Italian Ambassador and Baroness Mayor des Planches, the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, ex-Governor and Mrs. Herrick, Representative and Mrs. Longworth, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Draper, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Morgan, of San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lanfear Norrie, of New York; Mrs. Wolcott, Mrs. Rush Huidekoper, Mrs. Frick, Miss Robinson, Miss Wetmore, Chester A. Arthur, of Colorado Springs; Major T. B. Mott, Frederick W. Martin, of New York; John Barrett, Mr. Schmidlapp, of Cincinnati, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. McLean.

Colonel and Mrs. Colin Campbell, of England, who arrived in New York yesterday, will come to Washington to visit for several weeks Mrs. Campbell's mother, Mrs. L. Z. Leiter.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Harding, of New York, arrived here yesterday, the former to be one of the ushers at the wedding of Miss Laura Jackson and Mr. Ekengren to-day, the latter to be matron of honor. Eliot Gregory, also of New York, who is the guest of Mrs. Jackson, gave his niece away. The Swedish Minister was best man, and the bridal party was accompanied by the Swedish Wedding March on entering the drawing room.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Lent continues very gay, and while there are no formal balls, there are plenty of informal dances, entertainments, especially musicals, tableaus and amateur theatricals. In fact, entertainments of a dramatic character seem to be more popular than ever this year, and what was probably the most successful one of the winter took place on Friday night last at a reception given by Mrs. Vanderbilt at her house, in West 57th street, and to which she had bidden some four hundred of her friends. Dinners and luncheons figure as largely as ever on the programme of society, without any suggestion of the fasting prescribed for the penitential season, and both operas are still drawing crowded houses, the Metropolitan in particular continuing to form the most popular rendezvous of the fashionable world on the four subscription nights of the week.

Many well known faces, however, are missed from the boxes of the parterre row there; for people have begun to leave for Europe, some bound for London, some for Paris, but the majority of them booked for the South of France and for Italy. The American contingent on the Riviera is particularly large this spring. The presence of King Edward at Biarritz, where he arrives to-morrow evening for a three or four weeks' stay, is likewise attracting many to that picturesque and bracing French seaside resort within easy motoring distance of the Spanish frontier. Among those who have sailed are Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Mrs. W. Seward Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Morris, Mrs. Devereux Clapp, Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Havemeyer, Mr. and Mrs. James Brown and Miss Angelica S. Brown, Albert Gallatin and Louis Webb, while Alfred G. Vanderbilt, who only arrived here from Liverpool on Friday, sails again for England this week.

Others again are off to the Pacific Coast, to Aiken, to Palm Beach and to other Southern resorts in search of sunnier weather than that with which New York has been afflicted during the last few days. At Palm Beach are Mr. and Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Juilliard, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh J. Chisholm, Mrs. J. Frederic Kernochan, Mrs. Poultney Bigelow and her daughter, Miss Dorothy Bigelow; Miss Eweretta Whitney, Mrs. Frederick Edey and Mr. and Mrs. Paulding Fosdick, who were married only the other day.

As usual at this time of the year, country seats are beginning to be opened in the vicinity of New York, and are the scene of merry house parties for the week end. This is especially the case on Long Island, where the spring hunting season would have opened during the last week had it not been for the abominable weather. The Meadow Brook hounds are now under the mastership of Maxwell Stevenson, who has succeeded Samuel Willets, and large fields and brisk runs are looked for from now on. Tuxedo also presents a scene of life and animation just at present. Most of the cottages are occupied by their owners, and on Saturdays and Sundays the clubhouse is crowded.

Following the example of Mayfair, in London, New York society seems to have adopted Sunday as a favorite day for dinner parties at home, and possibly owing to this, the Sunday evening entertainments at the leading restaurants, which were in vogue a few winters ago, have now to a great extent gone out of fashion. Most of the series of dinners which Mrs. Mackay has been giving at her house in Madison avenue during the winter, dinners followed by musicals, have taken place on Sunday, and among the dinners set for to-night is one to be given by Mrs. John R. Drexel at her house in East 62d street.

Bishop Courtney officiated yesterday afternoon at the wedding of Joseph Ballestier Russell, jr., to Miss Jacquelyne Kelley at the East 83d street home of her parents, Commander J. D. Jerrold Kelley, U. S. N., and Mrs. Kelley. The bride, arrayed in white satin crêpe trimmed with old point lace, and with a veil of tulle combined with lace, carried a bouquet of white lilacs and lilies-of-the-valley. She was attended by her two sisters, Miss Muriel and Miss Nathalie Kelley, in frocks of pale green chiffon over white satin, embroidered with flowers in pastel shades and gold. Their picture hats were of white lace, with flowers to match the costumes, and each carried a shower bouquet of mauve lilacs and pink roses. Charles T. Russell was his brother's best man. The bridegroom is a nephew of the late Governor William E. Russell of Massachusetts and a member of the Somerset and Union clubs, of Boston. After the honeymoon, which will be spent in the South, the newly married couple will make their home at Cambridge, Mass. Among those invited to the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Russell, Mrs. Arent Schuyler Crowninshield, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Pell, Miss Beatrice Benjamin, Miss Amy Baker, Rear Admiral and Mrs. W. S. Cowles, Dr. and Mrs. Clarence C. Rice, Miss Gladys Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. J. Victor Onativia, jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scribner.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin and Harold Vanderbilt are among those at Aiken, where Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney are much missed. For they have given up their plan of spending March at their place there, and are sailing very shortly for England, where Harry Payne Whitney will captain an American polo team in the various polo tournaments at Ranelagh, Hurlingham, etc. They expect to remain abroad the entire summer and fall, going to their place in Yorkshire for the autumn shooting season. They are not expected to take part in the post-Lenten season on Long Island or the summer season at Newport.

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, jr., who has been spending a few days at Washington, returns to town to-morrow afternoon to busy herself with the details of the entertainment which she is organizing in behalf of the Lisa Day Nursery, and which, consisting of tableaus and songs, is to be given at the Plaza on March 25.

Mrs. J. Russell Soley gives a dinner on Tuesday evening at her house, in East 56th street.

Mrs. Frederic Gallatin, jr., has issued invitations for a dance at Sherry's on April 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Thébaud, who have been visiting Canada, have returned and are at their place at White Plains for the spring.

Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, Mrs. Henry A. Alexander, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, Mrs. Langdon Geer, Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan and Mrs. Arthur Murray Dodge are among the women interested in the organization of the Mi-Carême toy party which is to be given at the Waldorf-Astoria on Thursday night, March 18, for the benefit of the West Side Juvenile Club, in Greenwich street. The entertainment will include amateur vaudeville and a dance, and it is hoped that the guests—at any rate the younger ones among them—may come arrayed as toys or as dolls.

Two days later the Loomis Sanatorium Guild will give its annual chocolatière for the benefit of the Loomis Sanatorium Annex at the Plaza, and during the course of the entertainment chocolate will be dispensed by a number of young girls arrayed in the costume worn by the chocolatière of the famous painting of that name, in the Royal Picture Gallery at Dresden. Among them will be Miss Vera Onativia, Miss Gladys Roosevelt, Miss Eleanor, Miss Katharine and Miss Virginia Duane, Miss Antoinette Heckscher, Miss Hester Davis and Miss Leonie Alexandre.

IN THE BERKSHIRES.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Lenox, March 6.—Mr. and Mrs. William B. O. Field and William A. Delano have been in Lenox examining the work on their country house, which is under construction.

Many rentals are being made. Dr. and Mrs. William Armstrong have leased The Poplars, of Samuel Frothingham; Mrs. Henry Dibblee, of Chicago, will occupy Mrs. William B. Bacon's villa, Rock Lawn; Mrs. George P. King has leased Fair Acres, the estate of Peyton Van Rensselaer, in Stockbridge; Frederick Bull has leased Deepdene, the country place of Dr. Francis P. Kinnicut.

Another large country place will be built in the Tyringham Valley. Mrs. Robert W. Chapin, of London, has bought the Gardener farm of 130 acres, and will erect a country house, to cost $100,000. The Chapins formerly owned Norwood Estate, in Lenox, which they sold to Marshall Kernochan.

William Pollock, of New York, is registered at the Wendell, in Pittsfield.

Mrs. Oscar Iasigi and Miss Nora Iasigi have departed for a tour in the West Indies. They will open Clovercroft in May.

Richard Goodman has withdrawn his villa, Yokun, from the agents, and intends to spend the summer there. Mr. Goodman is in New York. Miss Rosalie Goodman is a guest of Miss Clementina Furniss in New York.

Charles Astor Bristed has declined a renomination as a selectman of Stockbridge.

Mrs. John Struthers has arrived at the hotel.

SOCIAL NOTES FROM NEWPORT.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Newport, R. I., March 6.—Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. C. Taylor, who were among the last of the summer colonists to close their season last autumn, are to return early in the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Thayer, of Boston, who were Newport visitors last summer, are again to take a cottage for the coming season.

Colonel C. L. F. Robinson, who has been making a short visit in Newport, returned to New York to-day. He will sail on Wednesday to join Morton F. Plant for a yachting cruise of several months in European waters.

TAXATION AND FRANCHISES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have been a reader of your paper for many years. Your editorial in The Tribune of March 3 about taxing franchises meets my hearty approval, as it expresses so much hard, common sense, for by all principles of justice the real or possible earning power should control the assessment value of a franchise; and I wish to ask your opinion of the justness in the following case:

We have here an electric light plant, capitalized at $48,000. We had also a splendid equipment as to machinery, etc., and put out nearly the sum of $75,000, all told. It now more than pays the running expenses for, say, five months of the year, but does not pay during the balance of the year, and it is necessary to keep it in operation for the winter residents and for street lighting. Until last year it has been run at an actual loss, and has never paid or earned a dividend of more than 1 per cent for the total period of its existence. So the stock has merely a nominal value, next to nothing, and the company owes so much money that it will be years before any sum can be realized. The state board has estimated it at $22,500, but by much labor on the part of our officers it has been reduced to $18,000, to which is added $13,000 for tangible property (land, building and plant). We have to pay taxes, amounting last year to over $535, besides a state tax of about $52.

Really, the franchise is worth nothing at all, and the company is a beneficent corporation, in fact. This assessment has been imposed on us year after year, so that it is not only a "sample" but the "real goods" dealt out by our state board; and considered as an indication of the knowledge, justice and fairness of our honorable board, is it any wonder that the courts are full of contests on franchises? JOSEPH S. OSBORNE.

East Hampton, N. Y., March 4, 1909.

STILL READING THE TRIBUNE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: On February 26 myself and Mrs. Austin passed our sixty-fourth wedding anniversary. I am in my eighty-sixth year and Mrs. Austin is in her eighty-first. We are still taking the daily Tribune. I. E. AUSTIN.

Rupert, Vt., March 1, 1909.