READING GETS SIX

Dividend, Long Expected, Is at Last Increased.

Wall Street's three years of waiting for an increase in the dividend on the common stock of the Reading Company came to an end yesterday, when the directors, at a meeting held in Philadelphia, declared a semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent, thus placing the stock on a 6 per cent yearly basis. The stock has been paying 4 per cent a year since 1906, when the rate was increased from 3½ per cent.

The increase, although so long expected, came rather as a surprise to the Street yesterday, early reports from Philadelphia having been to the effect that nothing would be done in the matter of increasing the rate at this time. The announcement was followed by a sharp advance in the stock, which had declined 2 points, to 168¾, in the early trading, until it touched 171¾. Profit taking later in the day caused a reaction and the stock closed at 170⅝, a net gain of 1⅝ points for the day. The transactions in the stock represented about one-half the total day's dealings on the stock exchange, being upward of 300,000 shares.

Since the recent action of the directors of the Central Railroad of New Jersey in declaring a special dividend of 2 per cent, which it is understood will be continued twice a year hereafter, meaning 12 per cent a year on the stock, certain interests in the Reading Company, which owns approximately $14,000,000 of Jersey Central stock, have been urging an advance in the dividend to 7 per cent a year, but apparently the management thought 6 per cent was enough for the present.

For years Reading has been the most active speculative stock traded in on the exchange, largely on rumors of a forthcoming increase in the dividend, and though expectations in this direction always met with disappointment, they revived with the approach of each dividend period, and between times the stock continued to be one of the leaders in the trading.

The directors of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company also met yesterday and declared a semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent on the common stock. This compares with 2 per cent and 1 per cent extra at the last preceding dividend period and places the stock on a regular 6 per cent a year basis. The directors also declared the regular semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent on the preferred stock. Both dividends are payable January 8.

REPORT ON CROPS.

Acreage and Production of Grain Estimated.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The crop reporting board of the Department of Agriculture in a bulletin issued to-day estimates the average weight a measured bushel of various crops to be as follows: Spring wheat, 57.1 pounds; winter wheat, 58.4 pounds, and oats, 32.7 pounds, against 57.3, 58.8 and 29.8 pounds, respectively, last year. The quality of corn is 84.2 per cent, against 86.9 last year.

The final estimates indicate the harvested acreage and production of important farm crops of the United States in 1909 and 1908 as follows:

Crop.	Acres.	Production. *Bushels.
Corn, 1909	108,771,000	2,772,376,000
Corn, 1908	101,788,000	2,668,651,000
Winter wheat, 1909	28,330,000	446,366,000
Winter wheat, 1908	30,349,000	437,908,000
Spring wheat, 1909	18,393,000	290,823,000
Spring wheat, 1908	17,208,000	226,694,000
All wheat, 1909	46,723,000	737,189,000
All wheat, 1908	47,557,000	664,602,000
Oats, 1909	33,204,000	1,007,353,000
Oats, 1908	32,344,000	807,156,000

*Bushels of weight.

LEHIGH MAY HAVE NEW HEAD.

Report Says That E. B. Thomas May Be Succeeded by H. I. Miller.

There was a report in Wall Street yesterday that E. B. Thomas, president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, would resign shortly and would be succeeded by H. I. Miller, formerly president of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad Company. Mr. Miller retired as president of the latter road following the separation of the 'Frisco from the Rock Island system, it being one of the subsidiaries of the 'Frisco road.

Recently the Moores and D. G. Reid, of the Rock Island, bought a large block of Lehigh Valley stock, and it was officially announced that they would be elected members of the Lehigh Valley board at the annual meeting of the stockholders, in January. There have been rumors since then that there might be some changes in the management as a result of the new interests entering the board.

Another report yesterday was that Oscar G. Murray, who was re-elected president of the Baltimore & Ohio at a meeting of the directors last Thursday, would resign next week and would be succeeded by Daniel Willard, at present vice-president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. At the time of his re-election it was understood that Mr. Murray would lay down the burden of the presidency after the first of the year and become chairman of the board, and Mr. Willard was one of the men mentioned as likely to succeed him.

HILL BUYS SPOKANE RAILROAD.

James J. Hill, according to advices received in Wall Street yesterday from Spokane, Wash., has announced the purchase by the Great Northern Railway Company of a controlling interest in the Spokane & Inland Empire Railroad, which will be used as a feeder for the Great Northern. The Spokane & Inland Empire Railroad Company, which has outstanding $10,000,000 common and $6,311,500 preferred stock, owns the entire capital stock of the Coeur d'Alene & Spokane Railway Company, the Spokane Terminal Company, the Spokane Traction Company and the Spokane & Inland Railway Company, all of which are operated as divisions of it. The road operates two hundred and forty-two miles of track.

Silver Gifts Delight Women

Hundreds of useful articles and trinkets may be had at the Meriden store, either in sterling or silver plate.

Inspect the immense Christmas assortment here and make *her* gift of silver this year.

The MERIDEN Co.,
Silversmiths
(International Silver Co., Successor.)
218 FIFTH AVE. Madison Sq.

ART EXHIBITIONS AND SALES.

To-Day (Thursday) and to-morrow (Friday) and Saturday Afternoons, at 2.30 o'clock
IN THE
Fifth Ave. Art Galleries,
"SILO BUILDING."
546 Fifth Ave.,
Cor. 4 th St.
Mr. James P. Silo, Auctioneer.

The B. Benguiat Collection of Rare Eastern Rugs
(IN ALL SIZES AND WEAVES).

Mr. Benguiat has long been known to lovers of antique and rare rugs in this country and Europe as possessing one of the finest and most judiciously selected collections.

EXHIBITION UNTIL TIME OF SALE.

H. W. TAFT A WITNESS.

Denies That President Was at Bellevue, as Rossen Asserts.

Ellis L. Rossen, the former school principal, who is an inmate of the psychopathic ward in Bellevue Hospital, continued his fight yesterday before Justice Seabury, in the Supreme Court, against his commitment to a state institution for the insane. He again conducted his case in person, and also was a witness.

The chief interest in the proceedings was in the fact that Henry W. Taft, brother of President Taft, was a witness. Rossen insists that President Taft called on him at Bellevue on Monday evening. Rossen wanted to examine the President's brother to prove his assertion. Mr. Taft said that the President did not visit Bellevue on Monday, although he was in this city. He denied also that Mrs. Taft and Miss Taft were in New York on a certain date mentioned by Rossen.

Dr. Gregory was again a witness. Rossen asked him:

"You have a $100 bill in your pocket now, haven't you?"

The alienist, plainly puzzled, acknowledged that he had. This seemed to please Rossen, who has asserted that Mrs. Taft and Miss Taft left some money for him at Bellevue which he never got. Thus encouraged, Rossen asked Dr. Gregory when and where he got the bill. The physician replied that he got it at a bank about a month ago and had been carrying it since.

"You keep it, then, as a souvenir?" Rossen asked.

"No, not exactly that," was Dr. Gregory's answer, "but I have an automobile and I may have use at any time for that $100 bill."

Rossen's own testimony consisted chiefly of a story of his travels in this country and Canada. He explained his alleged annoyance of Mrs. Taft in Washington by saying that he met a friend of the latter in the Corcoran Art Gallery who suggested that he write to Mrs. Taft to offer his services as tutor to Charles Taft.

Justice Seabury reserved decision in order to render his opinion in writing, as is required in commitment proceedings.

PHENIX LOSES AGAIN.

Sheldon Company's Atlanta Agency $45,000 Short.

According to a statement given out yesterday at the New York office of the Insurance Department of the state, a shortage of between $45,000 and $50,000 existed in the Atlanta agency of the Phenix Insurance (fire) Company, of Brooklyn, prior to January, 1907. Superintendent Hotchkiss of the State Insurance Department in this statement says that, although President Sheldon of the Phenix was informed of the shortage at the time, yet he failed to report it to the directors.

The statement issued by Superintendent Hotchkiss follows:

The shortage of the Atlanta general agency existed prior to January 1, 1907. Its amount seems to have been between $45,000 and $50,000. The company's representatives held certain property turned over at the time by Mr. Stockdell, the general agent, who was in charge at Atlanta, but such property is not thought to be enough to balance the shortage.

Mr. Sheldon was informed of the shortage in January, 1907. He did not report it to the company's directors nor mention it until the present examination began. He then mentioned it to another officer of the company and asked that the amount be charged off. Such officer declined to do so. This officer who declined to charge off the account was Vice-President Ingraham.

The department has not yet completed the pending examination of the home office of this company and knows the facts as to this shortage only from testimony taken in the progress of the examination. As soon as possible examiners will proceed to Atlanta and get the facts.

I have brought the substance of the testimony taken by the department to the attention of Commissioner Wright, of Georgia.

Charles F. Hard, son of George M. Hard, one of the Phenix directors, has been appointed head of the Southeastern department of the company since Mr. Sheldon retired.

CONDEMNATION FAILS

Court Attacks Commissioners in Rejecting Report.

Justice Dowling in refusing yesterday to confirm the final majority report of a condemnation commission appointed to acquire property for the widening and opening of East 222d street, said that the damages allowed were disproportionate to the evidence submitted and that he did not believe that any part of the report could be confirmed.

The commission consisted of Michael J. Devlin, Louis Falk and Pierre C. Carroll. The latter submitted a minority report. The commissioners were appointed on July 25, 1904. They prepared their preliminary report in June, 1906, in which the three commissioners concurred. After testimony taken by an expert for the city had been submitted to them, the commissioners later made a second preliminary report on April 6, 1908, in which awards for land and buildings were raised.

Justice Dowling says in his decision rejecting the report:

"One of the commissioners had personal knowledge of what the actual cost was of removing or altering the buildings on the parcels taken, and still joined in a report allowing sums far in excess of that, and in part awarding what was supposed to be the entire value of the buildings. Full value seems to have been awarded for buildings erected during the pendency of the proceeding, and of the good faith of which action there is serious doubt."

The entire matter will be submitted to new commissioners.

METZ CLINGS TO SEASIDE PARK.

Controller Metz is not content to let the Rockaway Park proposition drop because a question has been raised as to the title to the land, and again to-morrow will bring it before the Board of Estimate. In announcing this intention yesterday he characterized the clouded title objection as "rot."

"The city does not buy land until the title is assured by search, anyway," he added. "It looks now as though it were a scheme to have the matter laid over, so that the next administration might be credited with establishing the seaside park for the people."

TEN CENT FARE HEARING.

Following a long delay, occasioned by the work of establishing a physical valuation on the properties of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, the hearing of the complaint against that road for charging a 10-cent fare to Coney Island was renewed before the Public Service Commission yesterday. Bion J. Arnold, consulting engineer to the commission, was the only witness, and after he had testified in some detail as to the make-up of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company's capitalization of $142,000,000, the hearing was adjourned subject to call by the commission.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

May Be In The

QUALITY ADS.

On Page 11, To-Day's

NEW-YORK TRIBUNE

IN ARMY AND NAVY

Meyer Wants Thorough Inspection System.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington December 15.

IMPROVEMENTS EXPECTED.—In the enlarged method of inspection which Secretary Meyer has adopted as a feature of his reorganization of navy yard operation and department administration he expects to perfect a system which will subject all branches of work to intelligent and discriminating survey. The general scope of this important duty will be under Captain Aaron Ward, who is about to attain the grade of rear admiral and has been president of the board of inspection and survey. That board will be continued and be composed of various officers representing different branches of the service, line and staff, for the purpose of inspecting ships of war about to go into commission, as well as those in reserve. The board will recommend work which is found to be necessary and report upon the installation of improvements and upon the alterations which have been made.

Another board of similar character will be organized to inspect work at shore stations, having to do generally with the examination of the product and methods of the various shops at navy yards. There will be also an increase in the number of inspectors attached to different manufacturing plants where work is being done for the Navy Department under contract and at the shops at navy yards. It has further been recommended by the surgeon general of the navy that a new office of inspector general under the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery be created. The incumbent will be a senior medical officer of experience, who will have an assistant and will inspect hospitals on shore and the sick bays on ships and have general supervision of matters of administration and personnel pertaining to the naval medical corps. This recommendation is now under consideration by Rear Admiral W. P. Potter, aid for personnel.

ORDERS ISSUED.—The following orders have been issued:

ARMY.

Major GEORGE B. DUNCAN, 2d Infantry, from Walter Reed General Hospital, District of Columbia, to proper station.

Captain TILMAN CAMPBELL, 3d Field Artillery, detailed to fill vacancy in subsistence department, January 28, 1910, vice Captain WILLARD D. NEWBILL, commissary, assigned to 3d Field Artillery.

Captain GARRISON M'CASKEY, 15th Infantry, from Hot Springs to Presidio of San Francisco general hospital.

Captain LEON B. KROMER, quartermaster, to office quartermaster general, for temporary duty.

First Lieutenant EVERETT A. ANDERSON, medical reserve corps, from Alcatraz Island to Fort Rosecrans, December 28.

First Lieutenant LOUIS H. M'KINLAY, 6th Field Artillery, to recruiting service.

Leaves of absence: Major GEORGE B. DUNCAN, 2d Infantry, one month; Captain VERGE E. SWEAZEY, medical corps, fifteen days.

NAVY.

Captain E. E. WRIGHT, detached navy yard, Philadelphia, to duty as commandant naval station, Guantanamo, and to command the Newark.

Lieutenant Commander S. V. GRAHAM, detached command of the Sylph; to navy yard, Washington.

Lieutenant C. A. RICHARDS, detached the Ohio; to the Connecticut.

Lieutenant J. T. BOWERS, to navy yard, Norfolk.

Lieutenant A. N. MITCHELL, detached navy yard, Norfolk, to navy yard, Puget Sound.

Ensign J. P. MILLER, detached the Ohio; to the Mississippi.

Ensign H. BROWN, detached the Ohio; to the Nebraska.

Midshipman J. G. STEVENS, detached the Ohio; to the Celtic.

Midshipman M. B. DE MOTT, detached Naval Academy; home, await orders.

Assistant Naval Constructor R. W. RYDEN, detached navy yard, Portsmouth; leave, two months.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.—The following movements of vessels have been reported to the Navy Department:

ARRIVED.

Dec. 12.—The Tacoma and the Leonidas, at Bluefields.

Dec. 13—The Hull, the Truxtun, the Whipple, the Paul Jones, the Perry, the Preble, the Hopkins, the Goldsborough and the Lawrence, at Mare Island.

Dec. 14.—The Macdonough, at Key West; the Tennessee and the Washington, at Shanghai; the Maryland and the Colorado, at Kobé.

Dec. 15—The South Dakota and the California, at Yokohama; the Princeton, at Acapulco.

SAILED.

Dec. 14—The Birmingham and the Salem, from Provincetown for Hampton Roads.

COLONEL HOWE NEXT BRIGADIER.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Col. Walter Howe, of the coast artillery, now stationed at Fort Hancock, N. J., will be made a brigadier general to succeed Winfield S. Edgerly, when the latter officer retires on December 29.

BIBLE SOCIETY LACKS $100,000.

Has Until Year's End to Complete $500,000 Sage Condition.

The American Bible Society has raised $330,000 of the $500,000 which must be secured by January 1 to receive the $500,000 Sage endowment. By the end of the present week the total amount subscribed will reach $400,000, it was said.

Among the amounts of money subscribed have been twenty-four gifts of $1,000 each from women and twenty-four of a like denomination from men. The largest gift has been one of $25,000 and the smallest 10 cents.

Speaking of the plans for allotting the John S. Kennedy and Bloodgood Cutter bequests of $50,000 and $500,000, respectively, the latter amount left to the society about three years ago, the Rev. Dr. Henry O. Dwight, secretary of the society, said yesterday that this matter would probably come up in January. One of the plans to be discussed will be that of allotting a certain amount from the combined bequests each year, the whole to be spent in fifteen years in foreign fields.

"To show alone how the matter of printing Bibles has been increased," said Dr. Dwight, "for the first six months of this year 800,000 Bibles were printed and circulated in China, while during the whole of the previous year the number was only 500,000. Nearly every Bible was paid for. In Turkey there is also a wonderful increase. The matter of distribution in foreign countries is in itself a big expense."

LAWYER'S TRIAL BEGINS.

Brooklyn Man Accused of Seeking Commission by Fraud.

Joseph E. Martin, a Brooklyn lawyer, was placed on trial before Judge Dike, in the County Court, Brooklyn, yesterday, on the charge of filing a fraudulent document. In the charges it is also alleged that he made false statements to Justice Carr, of the Supreme Court, in order to obtain a judgment against Theodore E. Tack and Russell Sage Raphael, brokers, of Manhattan.

Mr. Martin represented that they owed him $165,794 47 as commission for selling bonds of a Western railroad in their possession for $1,500,000. The brokers denied this and brought suit. A jury was obtained yesterday afternoon, and the case will proceed to-day.

HITCH IN COPPER MERGER.

Offer of Utah for Nevada Shares Reported Refused.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—According to information on the street to-day, Philadelphia interests are blocking the proposed merger of what are known as the Guggenheim copper properties, because the terms offered for the holdings are not deemed sufficient. There are heavy holdings here of Nevada Consolidated, which, it is said, is to be merged under the plan with Utah and the Boston Consolidated. The local interests are represented by C. Hartman Kuhn, W. H. Smith and other well known financial agents. It is said that the offer was one share of Utah for two and a quarter shares of Nevada, and negotiations have ceased since that offer was declined.

Of Interest to Women

DRESS ACCESSORIES

Correct Modes in Veils, Gloves and Handkerchiefs.

Winter weather, bringing in its train high winds, is looked upon by manufacturers of veils as their harvest time. The veiling to which they have pinned their faith this year shows, like some of the gowns and suits, the Russian influence.

The hexagon or octagonal mesh and the "Russian net," the most popular face veils, have quite superseded the "complexion veil" of last year. The style at present is to wear veils with a border all around, rather than those sold by the yard. For the woman who does not mind having a leaf or a flower covering a part of her face, the new lace veils with these appliques in black are being offered.

The accessories in woman's toilet are often her greatest extravagance, and since nothing is more pleasing than a varied stock of veils, gloves and handkerchiefs, these articles make most acceptable Christmas gifts. Surely the enticing display which the merchants are making of these "necessary luxuries" indicates that they fully expect Santa Claus to avail himself of the suggestion.

Colored handkerchiefs are selling like wildfire. Some have initials, some have embroidered corners or edges and all are bordered with some delicate shade of linen. The conservative woman, however, adheres to the pure white, of which a much larger and finer variety is to be bought this year. The American industry has undertaken to supply the home market with the heavy scalloped linen handkerchiefs and the prettily embroidered lighter ones that formerly bore the stamp of France and Germany and were sold at higher prices.

The woman who is fastidious in her dress knows that gloves must be changed with gowns, and that nothing so quickly marks the woman who doesn't know what is comme il faut than to wear dark gloves with light dresses or heavy kid for afternoons. Fashions in gloves change little from season to season, except in the matter of stitching. At present it is heavy and black.

In the matter of handbags the latest importations from Paris and London indicate that the miniature trunk carried last year is to be replaced by the smaller bag of fancy leather and more graceful lines. It is not, perhaps, so practical, but it is far more artistic and pleasing to the eye. Many models have little watches. Some are decorated with jewels and some show a combination of different kinds of leather. The fastenings and handles are often made of the leather, but copper and German silver are much used. The latest variety looks more like the old-fashioned reticule and is closed with buckles and straps.

SEEN IN THE SHOPS.

A new fad just in time for the holidays is the French perfume burner, a deep bottle with a wick at the top. It is only necessary to burn this a moment to perfume the room. The fancy bottles cost $5 95, and the plain $3.

A brass tea kettle with its lamp inclosed in a small square brass frame with heavy green and blue glass panels may also be used for a night lamp by removing the kettle. Its price is $8.

Toy horses made of white or gray cotton flannel and smartly harnessed sell for from $1 50 to $3.

Brass tipped scissors and a brass paper cutter, in a red leather case, sell for $1 50.

A pretty work bag made of tucked pastel ribbons, with a top like a big flower, sells for $3 50.

Indian baskets with brown and white designs and in all shapes sell for $2 and upward.

Mexican rain idols in quaint pottery sell for 50 cents apiece, and make unique den ornaments.

Plain leather sheepskins in large sizes and fifteen different shades are $1 50. This also includes the burning in of initials if desired.

The dinner chime of five notes is very musical and sells for $12.

A goldfish aquarium with a place at each end for a potted palm sells for $15.

Navajo silver spoons in two sizes sell for from $1 50 to $3.

Japanese candles with glass shades are $2.

Glass pitchers with silver tops have an ice chamber in the centre for cooling claret cup or ale, and sell for $7.

HELP FOR STRIKERS

Rich Women Give $1,300 After Hearing Girls' Stories.

Thirteen hundred dollars was raised in a few minutes at the Colony Club yesterday afternoon to aid the striking shirtwaist makers in their fight against the bosses. After the little Jewish and Italian girls had told their stories at a meeting called by Miss Anne Morgan, Mrs. Egerton L. Winthrop, jr., and Miss Elisabeth Marbury Mrs. Archibald Alexander asked if the audience couldn't have the honor of replenishing the treasury of the strikers.

"After hearing of the wonderful proofs of courage—so splendid in these children—which the strikers have given we must all feel," she said, "that we want to help them. They must need money. Would it help to have the treasury replenished?"

Miss Mary Dreier, president of the Woman's Trade Union League, who acted as chairman, said that nothing would be more acceptable, and so Mrs. Philip Lydig and Miss Elsie de Wolfe passed the baskets, which soon overflowed with bills of large denomination and pledges written upon visiting cards. At the same time Miss Marbury announced that Lee Shubert would contribute half the receipts of one of his best theatres for the whole of next week to the strikers.

The gymnasium was packed for the occasion with a fashionable audience, which included Mme. Nordica, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Clarence Mackay, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Mrs. John Drexel, Miss Julia Marlowe, Mrs. Frederic Tams, Mrs. Gilbert Jones, Mrs. Julian Heath, Miss Ida Tarbell and Miss Jeannette Gilder.

Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, president of the Colony Club, introduced Miss Dreier as chairman, and said that while the Colony Club as a club was taking no action in regard to the strike and could take none, it was glad to offer its rooms for the meeting, so that individuals who might be interested could hear what the strikers had to say. Miss Dreier then introduced John Mitchell, who read the letter which the Associated Waist and Dress Manufacturers had addressed to the organizers of the meeting, and said that it would be referred to the New York State Board of Arbitration. This statement was made in behalf of Miss Morgan, Mrs. Winthrop and Miss Marbury, and speaking for himself Mr. Mitchell denied the assertion of the employers that they were willing to arbitrate, as they had refused, he said, to arbitrate the one essential point, namely, recognition of the union.

Miss Clara Lemlich was then called to refute that part of the letter which referred to herself, the employers having stated that she had quoted her own wages at $3 a week, when in reality she was earning $15. Miss Lemlich, wearing a gray coat and a red hat, took the stage with perfect composure.

"My dear ladies," she said, "I was the one to move for a general strike. It is true that I made $15 a week. I never said that I was making only $3. I said that other girls were, but even with $15 a week if I were to tell you all my troubles I think you would be interested. But I have no right to kick when other girls are getting only $3."

Eight or nine of the strikers followed Miss Lemlich, but none of their names were given, for, as Miss Dreier explained, they couldn't afford to have it known that they had spoken at this meeting.

The next speaker also had been getting a "big salary," but she explained that because one was scheduled for $15 a week it didn't necessarily mean that one got it.

"I get $15 a week for only two months, when the season is steady," she said. "Then I walk the streets. You are charged if you break a machine, even if it is not your own fault. One girl had to pay $8 for breaking a machine. Another had to pay 60 cents for breaking a pin-tucking foot. I think when an employer gets pay for the work he ought to pay for his own foots."

Then came some little girls, who said that they were supporting families.

"I earn $6 50 a week," said one, "and I support a family. I have no father, my mother is sick and I have two little sisters."

"This child is only fifteen," said Miss Dreier, "and, according to the law, ought to be working only eight hours a day. The majority of the girls," she added, "are between seventeen and twenty."

The next little breadwinner said she had supported three little children and a sick mother on $3 50 a week.

"That's all I have to say," she remarked after having stated these facts.

"That's enough," responded the audience.

All these speakers had been Jewish girls, and Miss Dreier now introduced a "little Italian sister," who told about the jealousies between the Jews and Italians, which, as she alleged, the employers fostered.

"Our employer," she said, "got a priest to come and tell the Italian girls in our shop that if they went on strike with the Jewish girls they would go—excuse the language—to hell."

The testimony of some girls who had been arrested on picket duty closed the deposition of the strikers, and the Rev. Percy Clay Moran confirmed what they said.

"I have been doing some picketing myself," he stated, "and I never saw more perfectly behaved young persons than the strikers. Many of the policemen hate the work they now have to do, and we are not paying them for such work. As for the men in the service of the employers, they are recruited from the East Side gangs. When they see a girl speak to a strike breaker they go behind her, shove her, pull down her hair or pull off her hat. She turns around to resent the insult, the gang boy disappears, the girl is arrested and the employer gives evidence against her."

Miss Dreier summed up the situation by saying that the firms still holding out were "absolutely determined to crush the union," and that there was nothing for the girls to do but to continue to strike.

TAILOR-MADE GOWN OF CYPRESS GREEN CLOTH.

THE TRIBUNE PATTERN.

The simple, plain wrapper or bath robe is one that is always comfortable and always finds a place. This is made of quilted India silk and is soft and warm and cosey without appreciable weight. The model can be used for flannel, cashmere, albatross or for any material that is suited to a wrapper of the sort. Quilted silk has a special charm and practicability, inasmuch as it means the greatest possible warmth with the minimum of weight. The robe is a simple one, yet its lines are graceful and becoming.

NO. 6,524—TISSUE PAPER PATTERN OF PLAIN WRAPPER OR BATH ROBE, FOR 10 CENTS.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is 8½ yards 27 inches, 5¼ yards 44 inches or 4¼ yards 52 inches wide with one-half yard 21 inches for the trimming and nine frogs.

The pattern, No. 6,524, is cut in sizes for a 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inch bust measure and will be mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents.

Please give number of pattern and bust measure distinctly. Address Pattern Department, New-York Tribune. If in a hurry for pattern, send an extra 2-cent stamp and we will mail by letter postage in sealed envelope.

CHRISTMAS GREENS

Demand for Trees Will Exceed Supply, Dealers Say.

According to the Christmas tree man in West street, New York is going to celebrate Christmas with a gusto this year. Judging from his sale and his order books, so far, he thinks, the demand for trees will far exceed the supply.

"They're scare as thunder," he said yesterday to a Tribune reporter, "and they're goin' up in price every day. We're selling 'em for 25 cents more a bundle than yesterday, and to-morrer they'll be that much dearer 'n they are to-day. If you're wise, you'll buy 'em before Saturday or you'll have to pay an orful lot."

"The farm," as the space in front of the New York Central pier is called, looks like a transplanted forest. For almost a week it has been piled up with trees and boughs, to which carloads are being added every morning. Most of them have come from Maine and Canada, where men have been busy buying up land and chopping down forests ever since the middle of October.

It has been difficult to fill the demand for very high trees for restaurants, churches and armories, but a few big specimens reared their heads skyward some thirty feet down there at the market. The prices they bring average $10 for fifteen feet, and $1 for every foot extra. Little trees come in bunches of four or six and cost, at the wholesaler's, $1 or more a bundle.

By the time they reach the retailer uptown they will cost from 50 cents, for the smallest, to $1 50 or $2 for those of six or seven feet. By the end of next week the prophet knows not what prices they will bring.

The men who deal in trees look down upon greens and holly as beneath their dignity, but the women who sell these mediocre products declare they wouldn't be bothered with the trees.

One woman at Washington Market yesterday whose stand was a veritable bower of Christmas greens—holly wreaths, pine garlands, laurel, mistletoe and cedar boughs—said that it was not a bit too early to invest in holly, because it keeps for months at a time. When it seems to shrivel up it can be revived by sprinkling it with hot water. Laurel is plentiful, but pine for ropes is scarce. That the mistletoe which comes from Merrie England is full of berries this year is an encouraging bit of news. As it is imported, it is rare and high priced, as usual.

If a faint suggestion of soap is detected in fruit, salad or cheese, it would be a gross injustice to suspect the housewife of carelessness. On the contrary, she should be commended for safeguarding the health of her family. She has been following the latest admonitions of Professor Metchnikoff, he of anti-old-age fame, and has given the viands in question a bath in soapy water. This is to kill the germs of gastro-enteritis, which, according to Professor Metchnikoff, dwell in large numbers on the surfaces of fruit and salad and on the rind of cheese, and are particularly fatal to children. No fewer than ten thousand French children die every year, he says, from the ravages of this microscopic monster, not to mention grown persons, but fortunately it doesn't like soap, and with soap and water always at hand no housekeeper need allow the members of her family to go to an early grave through the agency of proteus, as the troublesome organism has been named. Boiling water will answer the same purpose, but to dip salad into boiling water is manifestly impossible. Some unregenerate persons use salt and water, but the housewife who understands her duty will not be satisfied with such wretched half measures.

Christmas Stories

And Other Good Things

—IN—

Next Sunday's Tribune

(Magazine Section)

Torchy and the Great Skid
Not a Christmas tale, but full of rollicking humor.
By SEWELL FORD

Bowdoin's Proposal
"No man is a Santa Claus to his valet," but he may be to his stenographer.
By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS

Christmas Memories
Recollections of experiences in many lands, tales both sad and joyful.
By EIGHT GRAND OPERA STARS

The Little White Stocking
A story of love and pathos, degradation and regeneration.
By JOSEPHINE MOYLE

The Vanishing of Antoine Malet
Another in the series of "Romantic Tales of Missing Heirs."
By WILLIAM M. CLEMENS

A Son of the Immortals
A King and a prospective Queen of Kosnovia have a desperate time with a mob bent on their murder in the next instalment of the fine serial
By LOUIS TRACY

Give yourself and friends a treat by ordering this magazine in advance, and give the children a treat by showing them the funny drawing, "A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE," by Grace G. Wiederseim.

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