Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Easiest Way.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:15—Seven Days.
BELASCO—8:15—Is Matrimony a Failure?
BERKELEY—8:30—Know Thyself.
BIJOU—8:15—The Lottery Man.
BROADWAY—2:15—8:15—The Midnight Sons.
CARNEGIE HALL—8:15—The Messiah.
CASINO—8:15—The Chocolate Soldier.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—8:15—The Melting Pot.
CRITERION—8:20—The Bachelor's Baby.
DALY'S—8:15—The Belle of Brittany.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:15—What Every Woman Knows.
GAIETY—8:15—The Fortune Hunter.
GARDEN—8:20—His Name on the Door.
GARRICK—8:15—The Harvest Moon.
HACKETT—2:15—8:15—Cameo Kirby.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2:15—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—Old Dutch.
HIPPODROME—2—8—A Trip to Japan; Inside the Earth; the Ballet of Jewels.
HUDSON—8:15—The Next of Kin.
IRVING PLACE—2:30—Das Wunder-Baeumchen—8:15—Der Floh im Ohr.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—The Dollar Princess.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Fires of Fate.
LYCEUM—2:20—8:30—Penelope.
LYRIC—8:15—The City.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—9 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.—New York Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE—8:30—The Passing of the Third Floor Back.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Tosca.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—10 to 6—8 to 10—Winter Exhibition.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—The Slyer Star.
NEW THEATRE—2:15—The School for Scandal—8:15—Don and Liz the Mother.
NEW YORK—8:15—The Man Who Owns Broadway.
SAVOY—2:15—8:15—The Commanding Officer.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—8:15—Ice Hockey.
STUYVESANT—2:15—8:15—The Lily.
WALLACK'S—8:15—A Little Brother of the Rich.
WEBER'S—8:15—The Goddess of Liberty.
WEST END—8:15—The Girl and the Wizard.

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New-York Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1909.

This newspaper is owned and published by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation; office and principal place of business, Tribune Building, No. 154 Nassau street, New York; Ogden Mills, president; Henry W. Sackett, secretary; James M. Barrett, treasurer. The address of the officers is the office of this newspaper.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The French Chamber of Deputies passed the high tariff bill, but it has to go through many stages before becoming a law. ==== Joseph Chamberlain, in a manifesto issued to Birmingham electors, said Great Britain was threatened by foreign nations as never before. ==== The centenary of William Ewart Gladstone's birth was celebrated at Westminster and in his favorite church at Hawarden, many foreign countries being represented. ==== The Sultan of Turkey accepted the resignations of the Grand Vizier and the other members of his Cabinet. ==== Government in Managua is in a state of chaos, Congress admitting the claim of Zelaya as "titular President" of Nicaragua, while discussing measures recommended by Madriz. ==== Zelaya was indifferently received in the City of Mexico, no government officials being present to greet him. ==== A conference in Melbourne, Australia, on wireless stations in the Pacific announced the points selected, all of which are to be under British control. ==== Nearly five thousand cases of typhoid fever, due to polluted drinking water, have been reported in Montreal. ==== It is estimated that eleven schooners, with crews totalling sixty men, belonging to Newfoundland, were lost in the Christmas storm.

DOMESTIC.—President Taft will soon begin work on his message dealing with conservation of natural resources. ==== A conference was arranged at Washington for Friday among Chairman Knapp of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Commissioner Neill of the Bureau of Labor and H. B. Perham, of the railway department of the American Federation of Labor. ==== It was announced at Austin that the State of Texas would not be bound by the decision of President Taft defining whiskey. ==== Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, who is ill at Point Loma, Cal., suffered a relapse. ==== The People's Mutual Life Insurance Association and League, a so-called fraternal beneficiary society, with headquarters at Syracuse, was directed by Supreme Court Justice Andrews, at Utica, to show cause why the State Superintendent of Insurance should not be put in possession of its business, pending the determination of the question whether it should be liquidated.

CITY.—Stocks were strong and higher. ==== Secretary MacVeagh returned to Washington after a conference here on the customs frauds. ==== Ambassador Bryce, in an address to the New York State teachers, in session here, said the formation of "good Americans" was in their hands. ==== Wu Ting-fang, the retiring Chinese Minister, sailed for Europe. ==== Justice Newberger decided that neither Commissioner Smith of the Park Department nor his secretary, Nagle, need tell the Commissioners of Accounts what Nagle does for his $1,800 a year. ==== The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Coal Company declared an initial dividend of 2½ per cent quarterly, putting the stock on a 10 per cent yearly basis. ==== Cotton in the May and other active options touched the high mark of the year. ==== Judge Gaynor failed to make complete announcement of his appointments.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 26 degrees; lowest, 11.

ONE REASON.

Mayor-elect Gaynor echoes a common complaint when he declares that he cannot get the men he wants to accept office. Mayor McClellan, if we mistake not, uttered it once and assigned as the reason for his failure the fact that no prestige attaches to the service of the city. Doubtless this has much to do with the disinclination which both he and Mr. Gaynor have encountered. The opportunity of succeeding officials whom it is unnecessary to name is not tempting to the right sort of men. Still, it must be remembered that Mayor Low contrived to attract such men as Mr. Rives and Mr. De Forest, for example, into the public service, and, to change from the city to the state, Governor Hughes has been notably successful in drawing upon business life for appointees of the highest character.

Doubtless Mayor Low had and the Governor has had refusals that were disappointing to them, and to some extent at least their experience has corresponded with that of Mr. Gaynor. But we wonder to what extent the Mayor-elect's failure to secure the co-operation of the men whose co-operation he desires is due to the equivocal position which he occupies with respect to Tammany Hall. It is obvious enough that many men who might feel it their duty as citizens to take office under an administration that promised much for the city would refuse to serve in an administration in which the hand of Murphy might be felt to an unknown degree.

We know, and the Mayor himself evidently realizes, that the public opinion that supported him generously in his previous activities now withholds its support from him because of the position in which he has placed himself. What Tammany hopes from the new administration was made plain from the Mount Clemens correspondence, and what Tammany hopes the decent people of this city fear. Mr. Gaynor may have given no assurances to Murphy or Tammany, but as yet he has not done much to reassure the public. While this equivocal situation continues we can see plenty of reasons why men who might be valuable members of his administration should decline to enter it.

CONDEMNATION EXTORTION.

It is encouraging to find a justice of the Supreme Court dealing as frankly as Justice Howard did on Tuesday with the scandal of extravagant condemnation proceedings. His criticism of the wasteful use of public money in paying the salaries and allowances of condemnation commissions was unsparing, and he matched his words by deeds in cutting the compensation sought in the case before him about 35 per cent. Justice Howard may not have calculated with absolute exactitude the excess charges likely to be saddled on New York City for the services of condemnation agents appointed to acquire lands for the Ashokan Valley reservoir, but his estimate that with proper management under a rational system of condemnation proceedings the city would have paid only $90,000 for services which promise to cost it $1,000,000 is entitled to serious consideration. To judge from the great reduction in expense effected in bank receiverships since the old system of distributing appointments as political perquisites was abandoned, the indicated overcharge in condemnation proceedings in the Catskill region may not be very wide of the mark.

The fact is that commissionerships and receiverships of this sort were long regarded as more or less legitimate forms of political patronage. They constituted a link between politicians who controlled nominations for judicial offices and judges who could return campaign favors by naming friends of the party managers for places involving the minimum amount of labor and the maximum amount of compensation. The depositors in failed banks used to see their hopes of a partial distribution of the remaining assets fade as extravagantly paid receivers, with extravagantly paid counsel, ate up what the directors of the institution had left. It was considered one of the unavoidable hardships of bankruptcy that receivers should profit inordinately at the expense of the unlucky creditors. But one day the public woke up to the fact that there was no need of employing receivers named by the politicians to fatten on the misfortunes of depositors and stockholders, and the odious system passed away.

It is time to abolish the equally odious system of throwing condemnation commissionerships into the hands of political appointees, who look upon their compensation as a gratuity obtained through influence, not as remuneration for which they must give the public an adequate return. If judges did not have these prize packages to distribute the politicians would not keep so close an eye on condemnation appointments or be so eager to create situations necessitating condemnation proceedings. Judges would be freed from an obnoxious pressure in behalf of favored applicants for these sinecures and would be better able to accept nominations without incurring a moral obligation to look with kindliness on the suggestions of bosses able to control judicial conventions. The politicians love nothing better than to compel the community to pay five to ten times over for a service out of which they and their friends can make a profit. Justice Howard bluntly says that the overcharge on public enterprises averages 40 per cent. On condemnation commissions it rises far above 40 per cent, and nowhere along the whole line of honest graft is the openness of the overcharge more apparent. Mayor-elect Gaynor has declared war on condemnation sinecures. If he can get the courts and the Legislature to co-operate with him in rationalizing the process of condemnation and properly reducing its cost he will deserve gratitude for having helped to abolish one of the most exasperating forms of political extortion.

FRANCO-GERMAN APPROACHMENT.

The forthcoming meeting of the German Emperor and the President of the French Republic must be regarded as one of the most interesting and significant incidents in European politics in our time and as well adapted to make the new year lastingly memorable. Of course, it will not be a visit of one of the dignitaries to the other, as so many other heads of states visit. They will meet on neutral ground, at the International Oceanographic Congress at Monaco. But the meeting will be no less real, and it may and probably will lead to an interchange of visits at Paris and Berlin in the near future, for which the two nations concerned and all the world will have cause for gratitude to the Prince of Monaco, who is bringing the meeting about.

There is, indeed, no convincing reason why there should not be an interchange of visits between the Emperor and the President and an actual approachment between the two countries. It was only a few years ago that Fashoda was an ominous name, when the doings of "perfidious Albion" in Egypt were resented only a little less than the conquest of Alsace and Lorraine, and when the animosity between Great Britain and France was deemed the most serious menace to European peace. But how far away it all seems now! A little steadying of the nerves, a little recognition of the need of making mutual allowances, and a clear appreciation of the community of interests and of the extent to which it would be served by an *entente cordiale*—nothing more was needed, in the hands of benevolently and reasonably disposed statesmen, to bring the two nations into good relations.

The only grounds for continued animosity between France and Germany are political, the results of the war of 1870-'71. But if they are to prevail, between what two powers on the whole continent might there not be hatred? The grounds for friendship are far more practical and vital. Among all European countries Germany stands second as the source of France's purchases and third as a market for France's exports. On the other hand, France stands fourth among those from which Germany buys and third among those to which she sells. The actual volume of trade between the two is enormous and yet is susceptible of great increase. France buys $125,000,000 from and sells $130,000,000 a year to Germany. It is in view of practical facts like these that practical men in both countries have for years been striving to establish an *entente*, and that there has been founded in Berlin a French newspaper expressly devoted to the task of promoting better relations. The meeting of the Emperor and the President will undoubtedly give an impetus to the movement and may bring its consummation within measurable distance.

PUBLICITY AND DOCKS.

Into the merits of the question about the lease of certain East River piers to the Mallory Line it is impossible to enter without further information than has yet been made public. But Mayor McClellan's suspicions were properly aroused by the fact that the line was the lowest of three bidders and by the alleged appearance in the case of a person who has been advertised as the dispenser of patronage of the coming administration and the confidential adviser of the Mayor-elect.

The scandal, if it turns out to be one, is characteristic of the history of the Dock Department. The leases of the piers have been constantly the subject of "pull." The Ice Trust, when Tammany officials were interested in it, used the Dock Department for its purposes. Tammany contractors have enjoyed special favors in the way of leases and dumping privileges.

What is badly needed in relation to dock leases is adequate publicity. The suggestion made by the Mercantile Exchange the other day and rejected by Dock Commissioner Spooner had much merit. It was that when a lease was recommended by the Dock Department to the Board of Estimate notice should be sent to the Maritime Exchange in order that it might present its views on the subject. This suggestion met with approval from several commercial bodies. Perhaps such a notice should not be confined to the exchange, but should be sent to the various trade organizations likely to be interested. That might give to the leasing of docks and piers the publicity which is so badly needed.

FOR A MAP OF THE WORLD.

It may be a little surprising to many persons to be told that there is not in existence and has never yet been made a uniform map of the world, at least not one on any considerable scale. Small maps there are, no doubt; indeed, they are to be found in most atlases. And there are admirable large scale maps of many parts of the earth, our own national and state surveys producing some which are worthy to rank with any others. But not all of the world has been thus charted, and there is no uniformity of scale or method among the maps produced by the various countries. The French government has perhaps done more and, on the whole, better map making than any other, but while it is making its map of Asia on the scale of 1:1,000,000 it is making or has made its map of Africa on only half that scale. British maps vary among three or four different scales, and so do our own.

Now the task has at last been undertaken of producing through international co-operation an entirely uniform map of the whole surface of the globe, a representative of our government having recently participated in a scientific congress to that end in London. The scale which has been adopted is that of 1:1,000,000, or about sixteen miles to the inch. That is the scale on which probably the majority of existing government maps are drawn, and it seems to be acceptable to all. It is, of course, pretty large for some regions and decidedly too small for others, but it probably offers as good an average as any could. It has the advantage, too, of being perfectly simple and of being a decimal scale.

Of course, uniformity in other respects than scale is also imperative. It must be observed in the method of indicating all natural features, altitudes, contour, etc., and also the artificial features, such as towns and cities, boundaries, railroads and telegraph lines. It will also be required in the styles of lettering, and—perhaps most difficult of all to manage—in the spelling of names. It has been determined, we believe, that Latin letters shall be used in all cases and that the form of name used shall be that which is authoritatively employed by the country in which the place is found, special rules being adopted for the transliteration of names from non-Latin texts to Latin. It is not improbable that this practice will have an important effect upon popular usage in names. Doubtless Vienna, for example, will figure upon the map as Wien, Florence as Firenze, Leghorn as Livorno, Munich as München, and so on. There would be a gain for euphony if some of these changes secured universal popular acceptance, but in other cases there would be a loss, and in most of them there would be confusion. Despite the difficulties and embarrassments which may be caused by this and other features of the work, however, we may expect it to be carried to a successful conclusion and to prove of great value to the world; not the least part of that value arising from its promotion of the realization of kinship among all nations.

A COLOSSAL RAIN GAUGE.

More than one explorer who has come back from Central Asia has reported that the region seemed to be drying up and was less habitable than it had previously been. That the last word on the subject has not been spoken seems probable from an investigation made by a well known Russian meteorologist, Dr. Woeikoff. The result of his study has just been published by "Nature," a London scientific weekly. He has examined a series of reports regarding the level of the Sea of Aral, a huge sink in Western Asia into which drain several streams flowing from the eastward. The first authentic information about that sheet of water dates from a survey by Admiral Butakoff, "back in the 40's," sixty or seventy years ago. From that time until 1880 there was a continuous, if not regular, fall. For an interval of nineteen years there is no satisfactory record, but in 1899 a decided rise was in progress. Islands and peninsulas charted by Butakoff had then disappeared, having evidently been submerged, and as recently as 1908 the level was growing higher and the area covered by the sea greater. In other words, for at least forty years evaporation more than offset the supply from rainfall and drainage. For at least ten years, and probably longer, the gain has more than compensated the loss.

Dr. Woeikoff's revelation is interesting not merely for the light it throws on conditions in Central Asia, but also for the lesson it affords to persons who fancy that the climate in various parts of the world has undergone a permanent change. For instance, it has been popularly supposed that in certain sections of the United States the rainfall has been diminished by the cutting away of forests. The highest meteorological authorities in this country pronounce that belief erroneous. They declare that the spongy soil on a forested slope prevents the rain from running down into the streams as rapidly as it otherwise would, but deny that trees have any influence on precipitation. In support of their surmises those who hold the contrary theory are occasionally able to cite official figures indicating that less rain is now observed than at some previous stage of history. It seems probable, however, that their records cover too short a period, and that if their observations are continued long enough they will discover that any scarcity of precipitation is a temporary phenomenon only.

The same logic applies likewise to the supposition that the country does not experience such severe cold as it once did. For twenty, thirty and even forty years the opinion may seem sound, but an eventual reaction may surely be expected. There is no reason to believe that the output of solar heat has varied for centuries, but its influence is strangely and even persistently modified by eccentricities in the distribution of the air which controls the direction of the winds and which exerts a modifying influence on temperature. Yet in time a balancing of the account may reasonably be looked for. Nature believes in a square deal.

UNITED.

How easy it is to differ in many particulars but to remain in concord on the main issue we gather from a recent description by "The Houston Post" of the delightfully harmonious relations which exist between it and the Hon. William J. Bryan. "The Post" says:

> Contemporaries that declare we are in disagreement with Mr. Bryan do us an injustice. Excepting free raw materials, prohibition, government ownership of railroads, the initiative and referendum, federal charters for corporations, government guarantee of bank deposits, federal ownership of telegraph, government payment of campaign expenses and several other things of more or less importance, we are in entire agreement with Mr. Bryan.

We do not know whether Mr. Bryan ever enthusiastically and militantly championed the polar claims of Dr. Cook and thus put himself in touch with "The Post" on the Arctic exploration issue. There may have been a slight variation of opinion on that point also, especially when "The Post" betrayed signs of wanting to run Dr. Cook for the Presidency. Yet we believe that on the really vital matter "The Post" is, as it says, at one with Mr. Bryan in thought and aspiration. Each feels that the real intentions of Providence will never be fulfilled until the Democrats of the country are provided with offices, or at least until enough of them are so provided to make a far more creditable showing in the federal blue book and the roster of fourth class postoffices. An "August noonday thirst" makes Texas and Nebraska kin. Such kinship naturally cannot be disturbed by differences over mere political abstractions.

The motto of the National Highways Protective Society appears to be, Let no guilty chauffeur escape! More power to its elbow!

What an impressive sight it must be for a Democratic Senator to walk into the conference room and behold: Senator Money, chairman of the conference; Hernando D. Money, jr., conference clerk; Mrs. Hernando D. Money, jr., assistant conference clerk; Miss Money, messenger. We call the wicked New-York Tribune to witness that the Lord has taken care of at least one Democratic family.—Houston Post.

It may have been the Lord who provided, but it looks to us a good deal like a case of self-help.

Can it be that Mr. Gaynor, having learned with difficulty, has so soon forgotten where Tammany Hall is? It is full of statesmen and patriots who will not refuse to serve the city.

The offer of Madriz to Estrada to settle the Guatemalan trouble by laying down arms and having a "free election" may impress the latter as the offer of the Portuguese in the old story impressed his Spanish antagonist. The Portuguese in the course of the fight fell into a deep ditch, from which he could not get up without assistance, whereupon he exclaimed, with a splendid show of magnanimity, "If you will help me out of this I will spare your life!"

"The Philadelphia Press" prints a reproduction of a photograph taken in that city in Spruce street, between 6th and 7th streets, showing a trolley car standing in the snow just where it had been abandoned three days before. Perhaps no Philadelphians have been around since the storm, and the man with the camera should be hailed as an Arctic discoverer.

Paris will need a new Haussmann to spend the $180,000,000 about to be devoted to public improvements, and will probably find him.

Manhattan is to have a new Borough President with a two days' tenure of office. He cannot exercise much power or draw much salary. Yet his election is welcome, if only because it frustrates the avowed intention of the partisans of John F. Ahearn to keep the office vacant till January 1 as a testimonial of respect for and confidence in him.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A campaign for better ventilation methods in public buildings has been started by the Chicago chapter of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. W. L. Bronaugh, the Illinois member of the central publicity committee, has taken steps to secure the co-operation of the city and state medical societies in the organization's efforts to acquaint the general public with the dangers of impure air. The matter of state legislation will be considered at a meeting of the society next month.

"He boasts that he has been able to remain a bachelor, though exposed to all temptations."

"He ought to keep still about it. That only shows that nobody wants him—and look at the guys that can get married!"—Cleveland Leader.

The police "third degree," so frequently used by New York's detective force in cases where prisoners do not know their rights, has fallen under the ban of the highest court of the State of Washington. That tribunal has set aside a conviction in a felony case where it was proved that a material witness, under a threat of a prosecuting officer, testified as he suggested. The court holds that "it is far better that criminals should escape punishment than that the courts should condone such proceedings."

"Why do people have silver weddings, pa?"

"Just to show to the world what their powers of endurance have been."—Judge.

The old style, vitriolic brand of journalism does not seem to be extinct yet in the Southwest. Here's a mild paragraph from "The Novice (Tex.) Nugget," a new organ of light and leading: "There is a bunch of hoodlums in this section whose bump of cussedness is abnormally developed, while all that is decent and gentle is lacking in their composition. We refer to parties who on numerous occasions have sent prospectors to this town miles out of their way, and only this week parties en route from Coleman to this place with a cistern for the hotel were routed via Atoka and finally arrived here. And there are other instances. When a man has fallen so low as to wilfully and maliciously send a loaded wagon out of its course he is too cussedly low-down to merit the notice of a decent, self-respecting yellow cur."

"I enjoy grand opera."

"But they sing it in Italian or French."

"That's all right with me. They can't sing it in dialect."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Apparently it pays not to be cruel to horses out in Chicago. A teamster who admitted abandoning his horses for six hours on a recent stormy day was fined $50 by a magistrate. The Humane Society prosecuted the case vigorously and promised to report the matter to the driver's employers. Presumably he will lose his job, as he was unable to pay the fine and will have to serve a jail term.

"The way to run this country," said the egotist, "is to put thoroughly wise, capable, alert and honest men in control of all affairs."

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "but what are we going to do? There's only one of you."—Washington Star.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

BRONX BOROUGH HALL LIGHTING.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The calendar of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for December 30 contains a report of the Controller recommending an issue of $8,000 corporate stock, for the purpose of providing means for new electric wiring, equipment and fixtures in the Municipal Building, Borough of The Bronx, situated at 177th street and Third avenue.

It would be of interest to the taxpayer to know why new wiring equipment and fixtures are required and how $8,000 can be expended in a building no larger than Bronx Borough Hall.

BRONX TAXPAYER.

Borough of The Bronx, New York, Dec. 28, 1909.

WHERE ABBREVIATION HELPS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: After all no one can deny that Dr. Cook is the No. Pole discoverer!

New York, Dec. 28, 1909. N. M. G.

AN ANSWER TO "BRITISHER."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The fulminations of "Britisher" in the columns of The Tribune have been an endless source of amusement for some time past, but his diatribe directed against the Irish National party in to-day's issue of your paper was a tissue of false statements, and his reasoning was unsound and illogical.

Just think of "Ben" Tillman going to a foreign country to solicit funds to free Carolina (notice "Britisher's" covert sneer at America) because her population would not be allowed to make illicit whiskey. But the ancestors of Tillman and his Carolina constituents helped to send another "Ben," the immortal Franklin, to France to beg men and money to aid the American patriots to throw off the yoke of England.

As to the hackneyed slander rehashed by "Britisher" of Irish servant girls contributing to the National party fund, allow me to inform him that more of that money goes in one year to help England build her Dreadnoughts than the Irish party, which is the army and navy of Ireland, would receive in a century.

THOMAS WIXTED.

Brooklyn, Dec. 28, 1909.

HONOR ORIGINATOR OF "AMERICA"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The genial German poet Mathias Ringmann, who in the spring of 1507 coined the word America, then first suggested it as a name for the New World in his treatise entitled "Cosmographiæ Introductio," published on April 25, 1507, in the city of St. Dié, Vosges, and after much persuasion finally induced his friend and collaborator, Martin Waldseemueller, to place his name on his famous mappomundi and globe, died in the fall of 1511. It appears to me that the four-hundredth anniversary of his death should not be permitted to pass by appreciative Americans without publicly honoring the man who, poetically inspired, created the most appropriate appellation for the Western Continent. His deed will outlive time, and his memory should not be forgotten.

It might also be appropriate for the American Historical Association, now in session, to put itself on record on this matter, especially as President Albert Bushnell Hart has said that he is glad that "the origin of the name America has been traced to Ringmann. HEINRICH CHARLES.

New York, Dec. 28, 1909.

WON'T SOMEBODY DREAM TRUE?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In reading this morning's Tribune there was discovered a letter bearing the cheerful statement that "there are still many good people who think that Cook reached the pole. It is particularly interesting at this time to be on the inside of the Cook controversy and to be able to see by abundant, strong and true pictures, not that Cook is a humbug and a deceiver, but that he did in his effort successfully reach the real and true North Pole.

Cannot one science assist another? There certainly must be found here and there those who by transcendentalism are able to ferret out the truth.

It has for some years been my experience to be able by a spirit sense to become cognizant of the grim truth of a condition, whether for or against the specified case in question. These are not hallucinations, but good, clear scientific phenomena, and worth while taking in consideration.

Brooklyn, Dec. 27, 1909. M. LODGE.

SOME MEAN MAN WROTE THIS.

From The Washington Star.

It does not occur to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt that the twenty-five thousand women in New York who, according to her estimates, support their husbands have enough to do without going to work at the polls.

THE SWIFT BOARD REPORT.

From The Engineering Magazine for January.

We felt it a duty last March and April, although with much sorrow, to point out that the scheme which was being forced upon the navy (against the views of most of the personnel) was wrong and could only bring about inefficiency and waste. It is now a duty, but a very cheerful one, to comment very cordially upon the system which Secretary Meyer has established, based upon the report of the Swift board, and to say that we believe the general principles of the new system are correct, and that if it is administered in a spirit of reasonableness, which will permit of modification where modification is found necessary, a high degree of efficiency and economy are the assured outcome of its operation.

HARVARD'S ELECTIVE SYSTEM.

From The Boston Transcript.

Harvard had the snaps, but President Lowell the ginger.

1910 HOLIDAYS.

From The Rome Sentinel.

Legal holidays for 1910 in New York State and the days of the week upon which they fall are as follows: New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1; Lincoln's Birthday, Saturday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, Tuesday, February 22; Memorial Day, Monday, May 30; Independence Day, Monday, July 4; Labor Day, Monday, September 5; Columbus Day, Wednesday, October 12; general Election Day, Tuesday November 8; Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, (probably) November 24; Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25. The coming year is one when most of the important holidays come on a Sunday or have a Sunday next to them.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 29.—The President spent a long and busy day in his office. He will leave here to-morrow morning for New York to attend the wedding of his niece and return in time for the Cabinet meeting on Friday. This gives him little time this week for work, as Saturday will be devoted exclusively to the New Year's reception. The official programme of this reception was made public to-day.

Representative Martin was in conference with the President to-day and discussed the desirability of compelling corporations to take out federal licenses.

Señor Creel, Special Ambassador from Mexico, called to say goodby to the President this morning.

A. A. Rose, legislative representative in Washington of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, discussed railway legislation with President Taft to-day.

The President's callers included Senators Bristow, Smoot, Cullom, Jones, Curtis and Gamble, Representatives Woods, Bartholdt, Bingham, Pray and Humphrey, William L. Ward, Republican National Committeeman for New York, and Bishop Harding, of Washington.

THE CABINET.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 29.—The Secretary of the Treasury returned to Washington today from a short visit in New York. Mrs. MacVeagh, who has been too indisposed for social duties for several weeks, is rapidly recovering, and will begin her regular Wednesday receptions in January.

The Postmaster General has issued invitations for a dinner to be given in honor of the President and Mrs. Taft on February 7. Ten days later the Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Ballinger will entertain the President and Mrs. Taft, and the series of official Cabinet dinners will close with that of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Nagel a week later.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 29.—Miss Helen Taft and Robert A. Taft were the guests of honor at a dinner party of forty young people to-night, with Miss Mabel Boardman as hostess. The dinner was to have preceded the dance at the White House, for which invitations were recalled after the death of Mrs. H. D. Taft. Miss Eleanor Roelker, of New York; Miss Elizabeth Persons, of Columbus, Ohio, and R. A. Wodell, a Yale student, all guests at the White House, shared the honors of the evening with Miss Taft and her brother. Sixty or seventy additional guests were invited from other dinner parties of the evening, and the ballroom was a brilliant scene until after midnight. The Boardman house was the home of the President and his family at the time of the inauguration. It was made additionally attractive to-night by the use of Christmas greens, holly, scarlet ribbons and blossoms.

Brigadier General and Mrs. Clarence R. Edwards entertained at dinner to-night the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. MacVeagh, the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, Mr. and Mrs. Truman H. Newberry, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Keep, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Legare, Mrs. Thomas Bayard, Frederick W. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. McClintock, Sir Charles Ross, C. R. Simpkins and Colonel McCawley.

Miss Aleshire, daughter of Brigadier General and Mrs. James B. Aleshire, entertained Miss Helen Taft, her cousin, Miss Parsons, and Miss Eleanor Roelker, Miss Taft's house guests, at luncheon to-day. Invited to meet them were the Hon. Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, Miss Annie Irwin, Miss Marguerite Barbour, Miss Carol Newberry, Miss Katherine Weeks, Miss Root, the Misses Murray, Miss Dorothy Williams, Miss Langfitt, Miss Cheathem, Miss Oliver, Miss Michie, Miss Ridgely, Miss Pinchon, Miss Howry, Miss Webster, Miss Marshall, Miss Sibley, of Detroit, and Miss Southerland.

Commander and Mrs. William M. Irwin entertained young people at dinner to-night for their daughter, Miss Annie Irwin. In the party were the Misses Murray, Miss Aleshire, Miss Root, of New York; Miss Newberry, Miss Sibley, Miss Weeks, Miss Michie, Miss Mary Regina Irwin, Lieutenant Rockwell, Dr. Davis, Carroll Huhn, Jesse Brown, Seaton Schroeder, Charles Walcott, Cadets Griswold, Strong and Homer, Mr. Prescott, Harry Irwin and others.

Mrs. Guidet Duryee entertained at dinner to-night for her daughter, Miss Marie Duryee, having as guests Miss Pinchon, Miss Mary McCauley, Miss Jessie Krogstad, Miss Frances Noyes, Miss Olga Roosevelt, Miss Elizabeth Howry, Miss Marguerite Barbour, Miss Katherine Britton, Miss Elsie Downing, Miss Maud Conrad, Miss Eleanor Finley, Miss Helen Parker, Mr. Martin, of the Swiss Legation; Rustem Bey, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires; Mr. De Thal, Russian secretary; Baron von Hardenbroek and Lieutenant von Brüning, German attachés; William Bowie Clark, "Jack" Siebert, Frank Scott, George Totten, John B. Henderson, jr., Mr. Welldon, Lieutenant White, Malcolm B. Henry and Mr. Meyer.

Mrs. James C. Pilling gave a cotillon to-night at the Colonial Dames Club, in Connecticut avenue, for her debutante daughter, Miss Ruth Pilling. The list of guests was made up from various dinner parties which had been organized to precede the dance at the White House, and about seventy young couples were invited.

The marriage of Miss Mary Wallace Mason, daughter of Professor and Mrs. Beverly Randolph Mason, of Gunston Hall, to Philip Halsey Patchin, of the State Department, took place at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon in St. Margaret's Church, and was followed by a reception at Gunston Hall. The Bishop of Atlanta, the Right Rev. C. K. Nelson, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Herbert Scott Smith, officiated. Ira H. Patchin, of New York, was best man for his brother, and Miss Josephine Mason, the bride's sister, was her only attendant. The ushers were Lieutenant Victor M. Foster, Frank Gordon, of Pittsburg; Harris M. Crist, Philip Lee Scantling, Dr. William Beverly Mason and Henry Richard Mason. Mr. and Mrs. Patchin will take an Eastern wedding trip, and will be at home in this city after January 15.

Representative and Mrs. Henry Boutell entertained a number of young people at dinner to-night for their daughter, Miss Alice Boutell, and their son, Hugh Boutell, and afterward took them all to the cotillion given by Mrs. Pilling.

Seymour Morris, of Chicago, will arrive here to-morrow to join the house party being entertained by Mrs. L. Z. Leiter. Amos Lawrence, of Boston, arrived to-day to be Mrs. Leiter's guest.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Jennie Floyd-Jones Carpender, daughter of William Carpender, to Philip Van Rensselaer Schuyler. Miss Carpender is a sister of Mrs. Edward H. Floyd-Jones and of Noel Lispenard Carpender and a granddaughter of the late William Floyd-Jones, of Massapequa, Long Island. She is also a great-great-granddaughter of Brigadier General John Neilson, of the Revolution, and great-granddaughter of Colonel William Carpender, of the War of 1812. Mr. Schuyler is a son of Richards K. Schuyler and a direct descendant of the patroon Kilian Van Rensselaer, of Albany, and also of Captain Philip P. Schuyler, of Albany.

Miss Louise W. Taft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Waters Taft and a niece of the President, will be married to-day at the home of her parents, in West 48th street, to George H. Snowdon, of Seattle.

Mrs. Winthrop Burr gave a dance at Sherry's last night for her daughters, Miss Frances and Miss Rosamond Burr. There was general dancing in the early part of the evening, followed by a cotillion, led by J. Harry Alexandre, jr. Among the guests were Miss Evelyn Witherbee, Miss Joan Whitridge, Miss Helen Coster, Miss Dorothy Hyde, Miss Marjorie Gould, Miss Beatrice Flagg, Miss Virginia Alexandre, Miss Gladys and Miss Jean Roosevelt, Miss Emily Sloane, Miss Laura Emmet, Miss Catherine L. Hamersley, Miss Dorothy and Miss Anzonella Kane, Miss Josephine Osborn, Miss Katharine H. Tilford, Miss Joan Tuckerman, Miss Barbara Burr, Miss Leslie Bradley, Miss Nora Thayer, Miss Ellen Farnsworth, Miss Ruth Dickerson, of Boston; Courtlandt P. Dixon, Murray Hoffman, Eliot Cross, C. Suydam Cutting, Howland Davis, George Roosevelt, William A. Drayton, Arthur Mason Jones, George B. Wagstaff, Harry K. Knapp, jr., Henry Ripley and Richard Whitney, Francis W. Sargent, Tucker Burr, jr., Francis H. Burr and Carleton Burr, of Boston.

Miss Renée Noël Gourd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henri E. Gourd, was married at noon yesterday in St. Patrick's Cathedral to Louis J. de Grenon de Milhau. The ceremony was performed by Archbishop Farley, assisted by Monsignor Lavelle, the Rev. Father Wucher, of the Church of St. Vincent de Paul,