Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:15—Seven Days.
BELASCO—8:15—Is Matrimony a Failure?
BIJOU—8:15—The Lottery Man.
BROADWAY—8:15—The Jolly Bachelors.
CASINO—8:15—The Chocolate Soldier.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—8:30—The Affinity.
CRITERION—8:20—The Bachelor's Baby.
DALY'S—8:15—The King of Cadonia.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:15—What Every Woman Knows.
FIFTH AVENUE—2—8—Vaudeville.
GAIETY—8:15—The Fortune Hunter.
GARRICK—8:15—Your Humble Servant.
GLOBE—8:15—The Old Town.
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—8:15—Fritzchen.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—The Dollar Princess.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Fires of Fate.
LYCEUM—8:30—Penelope.
LYRIC—8:15—The City.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—10 a. m.—Automobile Show.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Aida.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE—8:30—The Passing of the Third Floor Back.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—La Bohème.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—The Barrier.
NEW THEATRE—8:30—School for Scandal.
NEW YORK—8:15—The Man Who Owns Broadway.
SAVOY—8:15—The Commanding Officer.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—8:15—Ice Hockey.
STUYVESANT—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—Cameo Kirby.

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New-York Tribune.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1910.

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 Paris newspapers say the American policy in Manchuria probably has for its object the forcing of Japan out of China. ═══ The Aero Club of France decided to issue a formal challenge for the balloon and aeroplane cups, both international and both held by the Aero Club of America. ═══ Lieutenant Ernest H. Shackleton announced that he had decided to make another trip to the Antarctic regions. ═══ It is reported from Managua that a split has occurred in the Nicaraguan revolutionist army and that General Chamorra will continue fighting. ═══ Secretary Dickinson of the War Department called on President Gomez in Havana, Cuba. ═══ A hospital at Raibl, in Carinthia, Austria, was engulfed with its seven inmates by a mine over which it stood. ═══ The village of Scopolo, near Parma, Italy, is being slowly carried to destruction by a landslide two miles wide; the inhabitants are carrying their valuables to safe ground while they have time.

DOMESTIC.—Secretary Ballinger, at Washington, suspended a superintendent and four supervisors as the result of an investigation. ═══ Cardinal Gibbons was greeted by both statesmen and churchmen on his annual visit to Washington. ═══ The annual report of the First Assistant Postmaster General was made public at Washington. ═══ It was said at Albany that the organization leaders were still undecided on the policy they would pursue in regard to Governor Hughes's legislative programme. ═══ All was pronounced to be in readiness at Los Angeles for the international aviation meet, which begins to-day. ═══ It was announced at Keokuk, Iowa, that New York and Boston capital was behind a project to build the second largest dam in the world across the Mississippi at that point. ═══ Dr. Wiley declared at Washington that the campaign in favor of bleached flour was being waged chiefly by the makers of bleaching machinery. ═══ In a statement issued at Cherry, Ill., by the Red Cross and mine workers it was recommended that continued relief be in the form of pensions to widows of the St. Paul mine victims.

CITY.—Mayor Gaynor appointed commissioners for the Tenement, Health and Park departments. ═══ Borough President McAneny, in an address on subways, said he favored the plan of assessing benefited property along the routes. ═══ The laymen's missionary movement begins a campaign in Manhattan to-day to interest business men in the project of world evangelization. ═══ The sermon which the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Richards, who died suddenly on Friday, had prepared for yesterday was read in the Brick Presbyterian Church by Dr. Van Dyke. ═══ Mrs. Pauline Russelle, an animal trainer, was attacked by a performing leopard and badly clawed. ═══ Thirty shipwrecked sailors from three lost vessels are on their way to this port on the steamship Bermudian. ═══ Miss Grace Starkey, injured in a coasting accident in Passaic, N. J., died from her injuries. ═══ Governor Hughes attended a memorial service for his father at Calvary Baptist Church.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for today: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 32 degrees; lowest, 24.

A NEW LAW FOR PANAMA.

The latest change in the governmental system of the Isthmian Canal Zone, if it shall be effected as proposed, might well be made the last. At any rate, before it is enacted it should be carefully considered with a view to making it the last. There have been several changes thus far since the United States assumed the government of that interesting strip of land, six years ago. Perhaps every one has been desirable and for the better, and we are inclined to think that such has been the case. It is probably desirable that there shall now be another and a radical change, with a view to the greatest possible permanence of the new system which it is designed to establish.

It is assumed that each new scheme of government has been devised and adopted to meet new conditions and needs which have arisen in the progress of our great work there. Nothing else would be creditable or justifiable. And it must be cheerfully testified that in general, perhaps not without exception, the conditions and needs have been satisfactorily met. But the question now arises whether the work has not proceeded so far as to have practically reached its ultimate conditions and needs, so that the new system of administration which is now adopted may be permanent not only for the few years which are to elapse before the canal is opened to navigation, but also with equal fitness for the years of its use as a highway of the world's commerce. It would seem unfortunate to make a radical change now, and then, five or six years hence, to be compelled to make another. Considerable modification of details there will, of course, have to be when construction stops and operation begins, but it would seem as if the supreme form of authority might remain unchanged.

The pending plan provides for the abolition of a commission of several persons and the substitution of a single governor or director, who shall have entire supervision of all the departments of administration. This plan, we are told, is favored because of the centralization of authority and responsibility which it would effect. We have no doubt that for that very reason it will be unfavorably criticised and opposed by some who would apply a uniform system of government, Procrustes fashion, to all places and to all conditions, but we cannot regard such objections as well founded. In the direction of such a work as the canal, whether in construction or in operation, a single supreme head is eminently desirable, while in the government of such a people as that of the Canal Zone centralized and somewhat autocratic authority is practically indispensable. The bill which has just passed the House of Representatives may not be perfect in every detail, but in the general principle of establishing a single head for the isthmian government it appeals strongly to public approval.

THE COST OF LIVING.

An investigation by Congress into the rise in the cost of living is so often suggested that it seems not improbable one will be undertaken, sooner or later, which will go into the subject more broadly than the Agricultural Department will be able to do in the inquiry it is at present making.

The value of such an investigation would probably be largely scientific. Considerable information of use to scientists might be obtained, but it is hardly likely to lead to any such definite conclusions that legislation would result from it. The subject is complex. The causes of the rise in prices are presumably various, and it is improbable that the fundamental ones could be reached by legislation.

Economists have one favorite explanation for the phenomenon. "The New York Journal of Commerce" recently asked the leading professors of political economy in the American universities for their views upon the question, and published contributions from a number of them, including, for example, Professors Taussig, Sumner, Carver, Seligman, Fisher and Jenks. Without exception, the American economists named the increased gold supply as the chief cause for the increase in prices. Only one emphatic dissent was heard, that of M. Yves Guyot, the editor of "Le Journal des Economistes," of Paris, who, however, does not accept the quantitative theory of money. Aside from the fact that this theory is only a theory, and not one of universal acceptance, before the increase in the supply of gold can be accepted with any degree of certainty as the chief cause of the rise of living expenses it would have to be shown that the gold supply had increased faster than the uses of gold have increased through the growth of the world's population and through the increased number of nations whose currency is now on a gold basis. Material on which to base a sound conclusion is lacking.

Moreover, the difficulty with accepting any one cause as an explanation is that the rise in prices is not characterized by anything approaching uniformity. There are doubtless commodities whose prices have stood still during this period of rise. Some have more than doubled in price, while others have increased only 25 per cent. Moreover, there are other obvious causes which are not in the domain of hypothesis like the quantitative theory of money. Production of many commodities, especially of food products, can be shown not to have kept pace even with the increase in population, while the average consumption of individuals has steadily increased. To each single explanation it is possible to raise objections. If the American tariff is suggested as a cause, it is possible to point to the same phenomenon of advancing prices in free trade England and to the fact that though the tariff was lowered the cost of living goes up. To the trusts as the sole explanation it is easy to object that a greater rise of prices has taken place in commodities not controlled by trusts than in those thus engrossed.

Perhaps the explanation will be found in a study of the factors that used to keep prices down and in an inquiry as to how far they are operating to-day. The factors which largely contributed to low prices were the opening of virgin lands to agriculture, the multiplication of labor saving inventions and the widening of the competitive area in the labor market. Virgin lands are no longer being opened. Labor combinations and labor laws have changed conditions in the labor market. Production is no longer being revolutionized by labor saving inventions to the extent it formerly was.

BUSHIDO.

The common reproach that the Japanese as a nation are deficient in personal and public honesty is more and more resented, and concerted and systematic efforts are being made to prove the injustice of it. The theory of the critics of Japan is that for ages military valor was exalted, while industrial and commercial pursuits were despised, and that in consequence, while patriotic devotion was developed to an excessive degree, honesty in business affairs was not inculcated but, on the contrary, all sorts of deceit were permitted, if not encouraged. It has seemed to us difficult to reconcile this with the singularly painstaking thoroughness and honesty with which Japanese artisans have always done much of their work, even in places in which such care seemed unnecessary; and the idea is now advanced that the dishonesty which some impute to the Japanese would be incompatible with the national spirit of Japan, which has from ancient days been earnestly cultivated and of which *Bushido* is the militant expression.

A monthly review has been recently established at Tokio for the express purpose of explaining and promoting the national spirit, the name of which, *Yamato-damashii*, it bears. It is authoritative, being edited by Colonel Takahashi under the patronage of Admiral Ito, General Terauchi and General Nogi, and it contains some notable expositions of Japanese ethics. Thus, the editor, declaring it to be the object of the publication "to lead humanity to true happiness," proclaims that "it is the duty of all men to improve their condition of life by forming good habits and acquiring refined customs, and to carry out the divine will with unswerving faith."

Not the least interesting contribution is from Count Nogi, the hero of Port Arthur, who says of *Bushido*: "It is the putting into practice of the principles of loyalty, filial piety, uprightness and courage." Of course, it may be argued that all this does not enjoin integrity upon the mercantile classes, who are entirely apart from the military, and that, indeed, the possession of military and patriotic virtues and filial piety may not necessarily make men honest in pecuniary matters, since many of the most perfect knights of mediæval chivalry were also "robber barons." That may in a sense be true, yet we should certainly expect the inculcation of the principles of the "spirit of Japan" to incline men toward uprightness in all the relations of life, and since now the old clan and class distinctions are largely broken down and are rapidly vanishing, we may hope to see the high principles of *Bushido* as surely applied to the activities of peace and the market place as to those of war and the battlefield.

AVIATION AT LOS ANGELES.

Tests of aeroplanes similar to those at Rheims, Brescia and elsewhere in Europe a few months ago will be held at Los Angeles this week. If in the number of machines exhibited the competition does not equal those which created a sensation last year, it will still be full of interest. Foreign as well as American airships will be tested, though the Wrights have not seen fit to enter the lists. The aeroplane is much more of a novelty in California than it is in the East. The flights made by the Wrights at Fort Myer, Farman's exhibitions at Brighton Beach in 1908 and Wilbur Wright's performance during the Hudson-Fulton celebration took the edge off the curiosity of thousands of observers in the Atlantic states. Even if the races at Los Angeles are not intended primarily to advertise the machines which participate, they will undoubtedly serve that purpose. But Americans who, undeterred by the fate of Delagrange and other professional aeronauts, may wish to own and operate aeroplanes will do well to remember that the Dayton inventors allege that their patents have been infringed by at least one of their fellow countrymen and by certain foreigners, and that suits have been begun in the federal courts to settle the question.

The United States has been slower than Europe in organizing aeroplane races which have a commercial aspect, but it has led the world in one particular. Our government preceded all others in beginning experiments to ascertain the fitness of heavier than air machines for military service. It was with that aim in view that Congress appropriated the money for constructing and testing the "aerodrome" of the late secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The contracts with the Wrights and Mr. Herring for aeroplanes to be used by the signal corps of the army date back at least two years. The authorities in France and England now show a lively appreciation of the merits of that type of airship and have given orders for several military aeroplanes, but the country which produced Langley and the Wrights set them an example.

BASEBALL AND LEGISLATION.

Men desirous of serving their country in Congress have long recognized that even in this land of widely disseminated education and general high standards of intelligence the ability to speak well before an audience is a greater asset to the candidate than a thorough knowledge of constitutional law and economics, and that the ability to make attractive promises is more to be desired than the capacity to draft a currency law or devise a national banking system. A popular personality goes further than mere wisdom in a campaign.

In recognition of this fact the proposition has been made in Pittsburg to run Hans Wagner, the ball player, for Congress. Mr. Wagner may possibly have within him the making of a great statesman, but that does not yet appear, and it is not because of such a possibility that the suggestion of his candidacy has been made. He is a successful baseball player, and the political managers behind the idea are convinced that there are a great many persons who would vote for him on his baseball record, without any regard to his fitness for discussing tariff legislation or serving on the Committee on Sagebrush. This is not very flattering to the public, in Pittsburg or elsewhere, for the same principle might be applied in any one of the larger cities of the country with a fair chance of proving successful.

Mr. Wagner's modest statement that he knows more about running for first base than about running for Congress will not hurt his chances with the baseball loving public, and it has not been observed that he positively declines to accept a nomination. Pittsburg faces the possibility, therefore, of a Congressional campaign conducted in accordance with the Spalding handbook, and under those conditions Mr. Wagner can probably be depended on to score.

A WATER RIGHT DECISION.

Two features of a recent decision by the Court of Chancery in New Jersey in the suit of the City of Paterson agt. the East Jersey Water Company are worthy of passing note for their clear determination of points which frequently arise in connection with the use of water of streams.

The city showed that the water company was taking water from the Passaic River upstream from the city for diversion and sale to other communities not situated on that part of the river, and contended that such diversion was a violation of the rights of the city, which, as a riparian owner, was entitled to the full flow of the stream diminished by only the lawful and reasonable uses of upper riparian owners. The Chancellor found this contention to be well founded, ordered the diversion to be stopped and directed, on certain conditions, the issuing of a permanent injunction against it. The city also contended that it had the right to construct a sewer system emptying into the river, and consequently to have the full flow of the river for dilution of the sewage. The Chancellor curtly and emphatically denied that claim, declaring that thereupon the complainant had no standing in equity.

The gist of the whole decision was, then, that a riparian owner has a right to enjoy, for lawful and reasonable use, the full flow of a stream, excepting only such part of it as may have been lawfully and reasonably used by other riparian owners above him, but that no riparian owner has a right to use the stream for the flushing of an open sewer. All of which conforms to common sense and might profitably be applied to other streams than the Passaic.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Liquidation on a moderate scale in last week's stock market was due in large part to higher rates for money and to the realization of profits in securities that have enjoyed phenomenal advances in the last twelve months. Some apprehension was felt in the financial community over the President's attitude toward the corporations, and speculators offered stocks down on the theory that an active selling movement would develop following the publication of Mr. Taft's recommendations affecting railway and industrial companies; but operations of this character failed to materialize, owing to the fact that there was nothing in the message of a nature to injure American investment interests. Indeed, the President's views favored investors. Honestly conducted corporations have nothing to fear from legislation along the lines proposed. Investors are not active in the securities market at the moment, and the belief that the current year will be a period of high money rates tends to discourage investment buying at prevailing prices, on the theory that better opportunities will be presented as a consequence of an expected natural readjustment of quotations to the higher rates of interest.

Call money went as high as 14 per cent in the first week of the new year, and though rates eased off materially before the close indications pointed to firm loan quotations for months to come. The advance in money attracted a large amount of out-of-town funds to this centre, and the gain by the local banks of more than $8,000,000 on their operations with the interior compared favorably with the weekly totals received in 1908, when business depression sent currency to New York for employment in the loan market. Time money is in fair demand and a somewhat better supply of commercial paper is reported. The requirements of merchants in the loan market promise to be heavy in the course of the first half of the year, and the probability of a record breaking general business at good profits insures borrowers ready accommodation at the banks. Our foreign trade balance is unsatisfactory and London continues to settle its obligations in South America at the expense of the New York market, as reflected in further engagements of gold for Brazil and Argentina. Exports of both cotton and breadstuffs are light in volume as compared with former years, though the high prices at which cotton is being sold offsets the shrinkage in the volume of shipments. Imports of merchandise are heavy, and at the port of New York foreign drygoods received in the last twelve months show a gain to the value of $36,715,424 over 1908.

Trade movements have been somewhat lighter in recent days, owing to adverse weather conditions, but in all lines optimism prevails and expectations of increasing demands for goods are general. Local retail operations have been helped by an inquiry for seasonable merchandise, while wholesale departments are quiet, though expectant of larger orders as soon as salesmen reach their fields of activity. Commodity prices remain high, and the level is above any ever before known, heavy costs, however, failing to affect domestic demands from consumers. Foreign buying here, nevertheless, has been reduced as a consequence of the advanced quotations for staple products. The cotton goods market shows a fair movement at the higher prices, and the mills and jobbers are going ahead with confidence, in the belief that 15-cent cotton is likely to hold until the new crop comes into sight, curtailment of operations as a result of the price of the raw material being confined in large part to goods of coarse variety. Speculative liquidation of cotton futures has lowered quotations to a small extent, and buying by the mills has been a feature in recent days. Print cloths at Fall River have been advanced.

No fundamental change is reported in the market for breadstuffs. Prices are strong and higher than at the close of 1909, the advance being based on bullish news from Argentina and strong spot quotations. A better milling demand is reported in the Northwest, and farmers appear to be holding back supplies in the expectation that better figures will be offered later in the season, despite the fact that there is no sign of improvement in the export trade but an increase in the world's visible supply in the last week of more than six hundred thousand bushels. Indications point to large crops in Russia, India and Australia. The agricultural community is an active buyer of farm implements, and is becoming more of a factor in the iron and steel market, which continues strong and active. An advance of 50 cents in non-Bessemer ores has had no adverse effect upon the volume of business, and buying in the last few days has been heavy. In the month of December another high record for pig iron production was established, with 2,635,680 tons, making the total output for the year 25,393,184 tons, comparing with 15,936,018 in 1908 and 25,781,361 in 1907, the banner year. If the current rate of production is maintained throughout 1910 the year's total will amount to more than 31,600,000 tons. Copper trade conditions are rapidly improving.

Bank clearings are heavy and show an increase of 40 per cent for the last week over the preceding week and 22 per cent as compared with the corresponding time in 1909, end of the year settlements, which were larger than any shown by previous records, of course, contributing to the marked expansion in payments through clearing houses. In 1909 clearings in all cities reached the enormous total of $164,195,488,940, record figures, and an increase of 25 per cent over 1908, 13 per cent over 1907 and 3.8 per cent over 1906. It may be recalled that the last named year established a new record for bank exchanges. Another evidence of the improvement that has taken place in the industrial world is found in the decreasing number of commercial failures, which last week amounted to 271, against 329 in the same time in 1909. Railroad earnings do not show the large percentage of increase reported in the autumn months, but comparisons are now being made with a period of growing traffic receipts.

Everybody will hope that the negotiations between General Estrada and President Madriz will result in the immediate stopping of hostilities and the prompt restoration of lasting peace to Nicaragua. With Mr. Zelaya out of the way, it ought not to be difficult to establish a satisfactory understanding between the government and the insurgents, since it is to be assumed that they both desire the welfare of their common country.

If Mr. Woodruff is sure that the support of direct nominations is all due to a misconception why doesn't he clarify the minds of the misguided public? An end of the agitation would be easy to effect if all that was necessary were an explanation that the Governor's plan threatened the continuance of the blessed convention system.

A Happy New Year to the Democratic party, and may many of its patriots find during the year the peace and comfort afforded by the emoluments of public office.—Houston Post.

This seems to be in the nature of a "kind word" to the Hon. Charles F. Murphy, and we hope that it brings encouragement amid the trials of a hard winter.

The testimony, arguments and other records of the Oberlin M. Carter case cover fifty thousand printed pages, and the example of that notable triumph of patient and persistent justice is worth it.

The logic of taking the Board of Water Supply to task for the exorbitant costs of land condemnation in the Catskills and elsewhere when that board really has nothing to do with the matter, and has persistently and consistently opposed and protested against the present system, is not quite apparent.

Concerning the appointment of Mr. Charles T. White to the important office of Tax Commissioner we need to say no more and can properly say no less than that we are sorry to lose a member of the staff who has served The Tribune for many years with a high degree of intelligence and fidelity, and that we confidently expect him to exhibit the same qualities in the service of the city.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A notable addition to the monuments of Vienna will be that of Johann Strauss, which is rapidly approaching completion at the studio of Professor Edmund Hellmers. It will be in the form of a pergola, in the centre of which there will be a statue of heroic size of the "waltz king" holding his violin. "The features of the musician," says Adolf Kahl, in a description of the work, "are true, and the pose of the figure is beyond criticism; but it will be impossible to show Strauss in bronze or marble as he was. Those who saw him lead, while his band played 'The Blue Danube' or 'Wiener Blut,' saw how he danced with every muscle and by look, action and tone created the dance spirit in those who played and in those who listened, will think any statue of the man tame and incomplete."

Crawford—What do you think of the fight woman is making for the ballot?
Crabshaw—She would probably succeed better if she went back to first principles and began to cry for it.—Life.

This is a true telephone story: Having called up what she thought was the right number, a woman asked: "Are you at leisure this afternoon?"

"Sure."

"Mrs. Nicely recommended you, and I suppose you will make the same price for me that you did for her."

"Of course—what's wanted?"

"Well, it's only a few hairs on my chin, and I want them off before I go down South. Surely—won't it hurt?"

"Say—what are you giving us? This is a garage." Bang!!

China Merchant—Heavens! I've broken a piece out of that expensive dinner set!
Old Clerk—Cheer up. Mend it with glue, set it where some customer will knock it to the floor with his coat and charge him for the whole set.—Cleveland Leader.

According to "The Frankfort Gazette," some successful experiments were recently carried on at Nuremberg by the firm of Wirth, Beck & Knauss in steering a motorboat by means of wireless telegraphy. At the lighthouse on the lake they erected the antennæ and on the bridge they installed the transmitting apparatus. On the boat the wire was stretched between two masts, 13 feet in height and 13 feet apart. The receiving apparatus was fitted in the forepart of the boat, and in the stern were the switch and electric steering gear. In the course of the trials the boat was made to describe curves to the right or left and to turn sharply in either direction. The object of the tests was to prove that it was possible to transmit signals to an intermediate point, and thence, as directed by a shore station, to control the steering gear on board a vessel.

Gillis—Great Scott, man! What do you call that thing?
Willis—We decided at our house this year that we would give only useful presents, and this is the beautiful, embroidered, hand painted snow shovel that my wife gave me.—Puck.

"The engagement of Miss Solange de Lesseps to Don Fernando Mesia Stuart," says a letter from Paris in a Vienna paper, "brings together anew two famous families which had already been united. Miss de Lesseps is the granddaughter of the Suez Canal builder, Ferdinand Marie Vicomte de Lesseps, who, when he died in 1894, in his ninetieth year, left a large family of children. Don Fernando is the son of the Duke of Tamanes and Marie Stuart Fitz-James. His mother was the only sister of the ex-Empress Eugénie. De Lesseps was a cousin of the French Empress, and the opening of the Suez Canal marked the zenith of the glory of both. On the memorable December 4, 1870, De Lesseps was one of the few who went to the Tuileries to offer his sympathy and services to the fallen Empress."

Husband—Have you done your best to economize this month, Mary, as I requested?
Wife—Oh, yes; I spoke to the grocer, the butcher, and the landlord, and got them to put off presenting their bills until next month.—Illustrated Bits.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

INSURANCE OF MINERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is now some months since the terrible Cherry Hill mining disaster and the appointment by the National Civic Federation of a committee to investigate the matter of prevention of mining accidents, employers' liability, and compensation in case of accident, as well as wage earners' insurance. Yet, so far as I can learn, nothing has as yet been made public on these most important subjects.

So far as federal and state statutes are concerned, the present status is neither humane nor politic in a business sense, for the employers' liability in industrial accidents, under the various statutes or common law liability, would not compel the employers in mine or factory to respond in damages in probably over one in ten of the accidents which occur.

Our present system, it seems to me, is wrong, because it is based on the theory of fault or negligence. Change this to one of risk of the industry, and provide for the payment of some compensation to every injured employe (if accident was not the result of the injured's wilful act) and to the family of any employe killed in the discharge of his duty, the cost of this ultimately to be a charge against the cost of production to be borne by the consumer.

Why may not our statesmen, industrial magnates and labor leaders formulate a scientific and comprehensive plan of labor insurance, incorporated into the wage system itself as an essential part of it, and free from any suspicion of organized benevolence or enforced charity?

As to the state encouraged, state aided or state compelled insurance system, as adopted in Europe, I shall say nothing here. In 1894, led by that able man Andrew H. Green, we tried to engraft on to our state constitution somewhat of this system, but were unsuccessful.

If we established government testing stations such as are in Europe for the investigation of all problems relating to safeguarding laborers in mines, and possibly if we had a law prescribing a penalty for any mine owner who did not use proper safety devices for the protection of his workmen, I doubt not the number of accidents in mines would be greatly reduced.

Why may not each state have its own museum of safety and sanitation, where every employer of labor could obtain the information he needed for the proper safeguarding of all sorts of machinery and all classes of industries?

JOSIAH C. PUMPELLY.
New York, Jan. 5, 1910.

COMPLAINT FROM HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I would like to call attention to the filthy condition of East 60th street, between First and Second avenues. It more nearly resembles a dumping place for garbage and refuse generally than a street in a great city.

The residents evidently are allowed to make any use of the street they choose, and when warmer weather prevails the odors are most unpleasant.

HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT.
New York, Jan. 6, 1910.

DR. BUCKLEY ON SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The great increase of interest in woman suffrage has stimulated Dr. Buckley to reprint his article of some years ago on its evils and dangers.

Unfortunately for Dr. Buckley's reputation as a prophet, he was just as firmly convinced of the evils and dangers of letting women vote as lay delegates to the Methodist General Conference. For many years he fought that reform in the Church with all his might, but it came to pass, and none of the disastrous results that he predicted have been realized. It will be the same with general suffrage for women.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.
Dorchester, Mass., Jan. 6, 1910.

AS TO PINCHOT'S DISMISSAL.

Press Comments on the Action of President Taft.

MR. TAFT "HAS DONE HIS DUTY."

From The New York Times.

"If thee wants that rope, thee can have it," observed the Quaker to the pirate who was climbing hand-over-hand up a rope over the ship's side; and with one blow of an axe he severed the rope. President Taft has by a like summary act presented to Mr. Gifford Pinchot the rope he has so long appeared to covet. The President has done his duty to himself and to his country, and he has done it in a manly way. Dignity, prudence and self-respect demand that when he finds disloyalty in his own official household he shall cast it out.

MERITS APPROVAL.

From The New York Sun.

In dealing with the now intolerable Mr. Gifford Pinchot as common sense and self-respect prescribe, the President should have the unqualified approval and support of all good citizens, no matter what they think of the Forester's past public services. Mr. Pinchot set to other officers of the government an example tending to the destruction of the administrative system of which he and they were subordinate parts. The least charitable view of Mr. Gifford Pinchot's performance is that he was endeavoring for an ulterior purpose to bring about his own removal. The most charitable view is that he became afflicted with megalomania of the same sort as was recently diagnosed by Attorney General Wickersham in the case of Glavis.

DISQUALIFIED HIMSELF.

From The New York World.

Mr. Taft's removal of Mr. Pinchot from office has done much to clear up the situation. The administration is no longer under the necessity of maintaining a truce between two bitterly hostile factions. The simple question for Congress is to determine whether the charges made against Secretary Ballinger are true. If they are true, Mr. Ballinger will have to follow Mr. Pinchot into retirement. While Mr. Pinchot by his folly has disqualified himself for further service under the Taft administration and deprived the government of an excellent public official whose zeal and integrity nobody can question, he has not disqualified himself as the moral prosecuting attorney in the investigation. His evidence is entitled to the same weight that it would have had if he had not made it necessary for the President to remove him for insubordination.

REASONS UNANSWERABLE.

From The New York Evening Post.

President Taft's statement of his reasons for removing Mr. Pinchot is unanswerable. It is couched, too, in language of fine restraint and just feeling. The step which he has taken must have cost him dear, as the administration and even personal affection which he has cherished for Mr. Pinchot have often been freely expressed. But there was nothing else to be done. The dignity of the Presidency and discipline in the public service must be upheld at all hazards. Mr. Taft well knows that by the course he has been forced to adopt he exposes himself and his administration to bitter attack. Coming on top of other things, it may lead, as is freely predicted in Washington, to an open breach in the Republican party. In any event, the President has embarked upon a stormy sea.

WHAT DISMISSAL MEANS.

From The Philadelphia Evening Times.

Chief Forester Pinchot's dismissal by the President is of grave significance, and the conflict over the conservation question between the aggressive Pinchot and Secretary of the Interior Ballinger becomes now a nation-wide controversy in which the old friends and supporters of Roosevelt probably will be arrayed against the Taft administration. The dismissal of Pinchot, who is known as a man of ideas and integrity, is the only course the President could properly take to uphold the discipline of the government. Recognition of the fact that there should be an investigation is general, not only in Congress, but outside of it.

NOTHING ELSE TO DO.

From The Baltimore Evening News.

It was manifestly impossible for the Chief Forester to remain long in the service when he was constantly at loggerheads with his superior officers. There was absolutely nothing for the President to do except to get rid of him. His action was one of flagrant insubordination, utterly subversive of discipline, and would have made the administration a laughing stock had it not been promptly rebuked.

ONLY PROPER COURSE.

From The Washington Post.

President Taft has taken the only proper and dignified course left to him by removing Forester Pinchot and his offending subordinates. It was perfectly plain that both Forester Pinchot and Secretary Ballinger could not serve the government to advantage in the places they held. They had worked at cross purposes too long. One or the other should have been asked to resign long ago. The pending investigation of the Interior Department and the Bureau of Forestry need not be abandoned by the President's dismissal of Pinchot. Let the inquiry proceed. But Mr. Pinchot's flagrant insubordination could not have been overlooked by the President, whatever the effect may have been upon the investigation.

COOK AND MUNCHAUSEN.

From The Syracuse Post-Standard.

The man who paid two cents for Dr. Cook's signature got a bargain. Consider what would be given to-day for Munchausen's.

PLENTY OF MOURNERS.

From The Detroit Free Press.

After you review the papers, magazines and other periodicals your one best bet is that the cartoonists would don crape if "Uncle Joe" were put out of business.

BLENDED.

From The Rochester Post-Express.

"Whiskey and Common Sense" is the heading of an editorial in "The Philadelphia Ledger." That's the first time that whiskey and common sense ever went together.

FIRST TIME WE'D HEARD IT.

From The Utica Observer.

Mr. Metz was re-elected Controller four years ago on the Tammany ticket, which George B. McClellan headed, he having been adopted by Tammany from the opposition, under whom he served his first term as Controller. If a man can serve under two parties and then leave the office of Controller with the praise of both he must be a pretty decent sort of fellow.

LONDON NOTES

An American Missioner—The Salting Bequests.

London, December 24.

An enthusiast is Mr. Silas McBee, with his American energy, and a useful one in promoting a spirit of tolerance. His heart is set upon bringing all Christian bodies together in the World's Mission Congress at Edinburgh next June; and he has remarkable success in interesting prelates and laymen in this practical approach to Christian unity. He is vice-chairman of the Commission on Co-operation and Promoting Unity, which has been in session during the last ten days and has agreed unanimously upon a report. The chairman is a layman, Sir Andrew Fraser, a veteran of the Indian service and formerly Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, and among the members are the Dean of Westminster, the Rev. Walter Howard Frere, Superior of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield; the Rev. Dr. Findlay, of the Wesleyan Theological Institution, and representatives of Scotch Presbyterianism and English Nonconformity. The only American attending the sessions has been the editor of "The Churchman," and he has represented all the religious bodies in the United States which have accepted the idea that unity is possible and highly expedient in missionary work. As a foreigner he has been listened to with respect by his British associates, and his ardor and zeal have been infectious.

The Bishop of London, who is a strong supporter of the missionary congress, having faith in Mr. McBee's persuasive powers, gave a luncheon for him and invited several bishops and influential churchmen to meet him, and when the right moment came the visitor talked about what was closest to his heart and carried everybody with him. The Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Bishop of Southwark and other prelates have already committed themselves to active participation in the proceedings at Edinburgh, and the members of the commission were most anxious to have the co-operation of the Primate himself. Mr. McBee was considered the most promising negotiator, and accordingly he was Archbishop Davidson's guest at the Old Palace in Canterbury last night, where he could explain in detail the results of co-operation in missionary work by religious bodies in America and the prospects of a similar growth of Christian tolerance and practical efficiency in consequence of the approaching congress in Edinburgh. Mr. McBee has already exerted a strong influence at Oxford and Cambridge, where he has met the heads of colleges and important men, and if in the end the two archbishops and many bishops find themselves on the same platform with the leaders of Wesleyanism, Presbyterianism, Congregationalism and Nonconformity generally, it will be a salutary result to which his enthusiasm has largely contributed.

When English art connoisseurs read the accounts of the Van Dyck exhibition in New York they bless the memory of George Salting, who anticipated the energy of American collectors and stored in national museums treasures which can never be auctioned off, bought up and exported. His will, while drawn as long ago as 1889, was never amended nor revoked, and by it his various collections were bequeathed to the nation. He knew his ground when he was buying Oriental china, Renaissance objets d'art and old English furniture, and he assumed with good reason that the trustees of the South Kensington Museum would not question the soundness of his judgment nor be anxious to thin out his collections in any of the specialties in which he had interested himself. Accordingly, he did not arm the trustees with discretion, but directed them to keep his collections together and not to distribute them among the sections. While he began his experiences as a collector by purchasing old Chinese porcelains and Japanese ceramics, and subsequently included Renaissance work, he made few mistakes in training his taste, and invariably acknowledged them when he found out that he had been misled. It was one of his chief merits as a collector that he had an open mind after purchase, and when he was convinced that he had been imposed upon he got rid of the rubbish. His vigilance in weeding out his collections equalled his energy and intelligence in acquiring them.

He was not equally confident of his knowledge and taste in the selection of paintings, prints and miniatures, although he employed experienced advisers in auction rooms and in private negotiations. If he had been self-opinionated or obstinate he would not have allowed the trustees of the National Gallery and of the British Museum the privilege of rejecting any of his paintings, drawings and prints. As he knew his limitations and suspected that some of his treasures might not be authentic works, he authorized the trustees of both institutions to select from his collections any that they might deem worthy of being added to the national treasures. Many of these works are already on exhibition at the National Gallery. How valuable the other additions will be is apparent from two gems now to be seen at the Burlington Fine Art show—a Holy Family by Luca Signorelli and a beautiful example of Florenzo di Lorenzo—a Virgin and Child with angels. Among the other Italian pictures is a remarkable Sebastiano del Piombo, and there are little mas