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—The Mollusc.
GAIETY—8:15—The Fortune Hunter.
GARDEN—8:15—The Little Town of Bethlehem.
GARRICK—8:15—Your Humble Servant.
GLOBE—8:15—The Old Town.
HACKETT—8:15—Prince of Bohemia.
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—A Lucky Star.
IRVING PLACE—8:15—Die Foerster Christ'l.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—The Dollar Princess.
LIBERTY—8—The Arcadians.
LYCEUM—3—Lecture—8:30—Penelope.
LYRIC—8:15—The City.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE—8:30—The Passing of the Third Floor Back.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—8:15—Concert.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Manon.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—The Barrier.
NEW THEATRE—8:30—Don.
NEW YORK—8:15—The Man Who Owns Broadway.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—8:15—Ice Hockey.
STUYVESANT—8:15—The Lily.
WEST END—8:15—The Belle of Brittany.

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New-York Tribune.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 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; Ogden M. Reid, secretary; James M. Barrett, treasurer. The address of the officers is the office of this newspaper.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The conference report on the Ballinger-Pinchot inquiry resolution was adopted. House: A measure granting separate statehood to Arizona and New Mexico was passed.

FOREIGN.—A special dispatch from London says the election figures indicate the return of the Liberals to power, but by a reduced majority. The Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands handed down a decision holding that the island government has power to regulate foreign commerce with the islands. The Asiatic squadron of the Pacific fleet, United States navy, anchored in Yokohama. Count Khuen von Hedervary formed a Hungarian ministry satisfactory to the Emperor-King. The American Consul General in Paris, in a speech before the American Chamber of Commerce, explained that the Payne tariff law was not anti-foreign in character.

DOMESTIC.—The President nominated United States District Judge Loyal E. Knappen to succeed Judge Horace Lurton on the bench of the United States Circuit Court, 6th circuit. The National Civic Federation began a three days' conference at Washington, President Taft making the opening address. The Smithsonian Institution at Washington received a report from ex-President Roosevelt, dated at Nairobi, Africa, to the effect that the expedition under his command had collected 8,846 kinds of vertebrates, besides many other specimens. The United States Supreme Court refused a rehearing in the case of John R. Walsh, the convicted Chicago financier. Annual reports of the Public Service Commission, 2d District, the State Engineer and Surveyor, the Commissioner of Agriculture and a report of the State Geologist were made public at Albany. Frank Schermerhorn, who attempted suicide following the murder of Miss Sarah Brymer, at Millbrook, N. Y., confessed the crime at the Vassar Hospital, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. The purchase outright or control of the Western Maryland Railroad by the New York Central lines, with a new branch of the Pittsburg & Lake Erie into West Virginia, was rumored in Baltimore. The Shoshone dam, the highest structure of its kind in the world, was completed at Cody, Wyo.

CITY.—Stocks were weak. Counsel for F. A. Heinze began their fight to quash the indictments against him. Mrs. E. H. Harriman increased her holdings in the Night and Day Bank and will take an active part in its management. Two new theatres and a great restaurant will be erected on one block in Long Acre Square. Commissioner Edwards removed Owen Murphy, deputy Commissioner of Street Cleaning for Brooklyn. Shirtwaist strikers called on the Mayor and asked him to act as arbitrator. Advance figures of the report of the Board of Magistrates showed a big drop in arrests during 1909. Thomas Hassett, secretary of the Board of Water Supply, resigned, and his place was taken by Thomas H. Keogh.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain and warmer. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 39; lowest, 22.

TRANSFERS AND EARNINGS.

Our contemporary "The New York Times" has never been able to disabuse its mind of the logic of the street railway companies that when a passenger is carried on a transfer he is two passengers—a "cash passenger" and a "transfer passenger"—for each of whom the road receives 2½ cents, which sum, of course, is totally inadequate. Therefore it is not surprising that "The Times" sees financial advantages resulting from the cutting off of transfers which no one else can perceive. So good a railroad man as Mr. Whitridge has said that the reduction in transfers on his system has been without perceptible effect upon net earnings. We ourselves have examined the latest reports of the street railways to find any conclusive evidence as to the effect of the policy and have found nothing but that the cash passengers of the Metropolitan system fell off 1,129,633 in 1909, a year of increasing traffic. This decrease may or may not be due to the lessening of facilities offered to passengers through the reduction of transfers; we are not prepared to say.

But "The Times" notes the decline of 3,945,638 in the number of transfer passengers and the increase of $1,302,888 in net earnings on the Metropolitan and puts the two together as largely cause and effect. "Doubtless," it remarks, "the result is obscured by other considerations, but there is basis for saying that the economy resulting from not having to carry four millions of passengers free assisted in turning a deficit of $897,537 into a surplus of $536,164."

What is this basis? It is certainly not to be found in the reports of the company. "The Times's" own story of the Metropolitan system's report for the year shows that the reduction in what is known in the books as "operating expenses" was not due to a lowering of actual operating costs, but to a reduction in the sum applied out of earnings in the last six months of 1909 to "maintenance charges." Says "The Times": "This increase"—that is to say, the increase in net earnings—"according to "a foot note, is more than covered by "a reduction in maintenance charges for "the six months ended December 31, "1909, over the corresponding period of "1908." Thus the improvement in net earnings is not due to economies resulting from handling few passengers, but to the improved physical condition of the property as a result of the large sums the receivers have put into it. A reduction in maintenance charges which would convert a deficit into a surplus was expected as a result of the gradual restoration of the property to a reasonable state of repair. Precisely that has taken place, and that is all.

THE GOVERNOR'S RETIREMENT.

General regret will be felt at the announcement in The Tribune yesterday that Governor Hughes will under no circumstances accept another nomination. Although it was understood when he became a candidate in 1908 that he would retire to private life at the end of his present term, the hope had grown that he would see his way clear to take a renomination, and the politicians had already announced their intention of not opposing him if he again became a candidate. The reasons for his retirement are compelling. He has given four years of his life when his earning capacity was at its highest to the service of the public, and he is said to be about $40,000 poorer than when he entered office.

Mr. Hughes may not call this a sacrifice, but as words are ordinarily employed it is a greater sacrifice than the public should require of those who serve it. The inadequacy of the salary of Governor has been recognized since the first term of Mr. Hughes. The Tribune repeatedly urged the passage of the bill proposed two years ago raising the salary of the office to $25,000, but the same small variety of politics that attempted to stand in the way of his renomination stood in the way of making his compensation for a second term adequate.

Politically the determination of the Governor not to run again removes from the field of consideration the Republican party's strongest candidate. With Mr. Hughes eliminated it becomes incumbent upon the party to make the best possible record on which to enter the coming state campaign. With him in the field it might be possible to postpone the various Hughes measures whose passage the public demands, and by renominating him to enter the contest with confidence. But with any other candidate for Governor the party will be largely judged by what is done at this session of the Legislature. If his programme is treated this year as it was last the party will be embarrassed in attempting to go before the voters as the party of Governor Hughes.

A COVERT COMPLIMENT.

"The New York World" speaks slightingly of Republican insurrections as "a "recreation, a diversion, a form of amuse-"ment." It seems to be a little upset because Republicans wage war with more discretion, tact and reasonableness than Democrats do when they divide against one another. Of course, every good Jeffersonian scorns half-way insurgency. When he smites his brother he loves to smite him hip and thigh, and the greater the casualties the higher the credit attaching to the participants in the engagement. The Democratic party and the Republican party have both split at various times on the same issues, but the Republican schismatics have generally found a way to dispose of the cause of the estrangement, while their Democratic brethren have often forgotten the cause while still maintaining the pursuit of their ancient antagonisms.

"The World's" depreciation of the capacity of the Republican party for Sicilian and Corsican vendettas is in reality a convincing tribute to the party's efficiency. That efficiency is based on reasonableness, and no party which lacks reasonableness can command public confidence in its dependability as an instrument of government. The Republican party has ruled long because the voters know that it is not easily moved to rancor or folly, and will not allow personal contentiousness to obstruct the execution of its established policies.

THE LATER INAUGURATION.

The plans of the House Judiciary Committee for amending our political calendar were sharply criticised last week on the floor of the House, although they were offered with the committee's unanimous indorsement. Representative Gaines, chairman of the Committee on the Election of President, Vice-President and Representatives in Congress, undoubtedly uncovered a material defect in the draft of a constitutional amendment for the shifting of the inauguration date for 1913 from March 4 to the last Thursday of April and lengthening correspondingly the terms of Senators and Representatives elected for terms expiring on March 4, 1913. The Judiciary Committee, he showed, had forgotten the provision in the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution describing the process of electing a President and Vice-President. If there is no majority vote of the electors the House of Representatives elects a President from among the highest three candidates and the Senate elects as Vice-President one of the highest two candidates on the voting list. The Senate must elect on the first ballot, if there is a quorum voting and no vacancy exists in the office of Vice-President, who always has power to break a tie. But the House may be deadlocked, and the Twelfth Amendment allowed the lower branch the interval between the date of the futile proceedings of the electors and March 4 following in which to choose a President. If the date of the Presidential inauguration is to be changed from March 4 to the last Thursday of April, it is obvious that the interval of grace allowed to the House of Representatives should be correspondingly extended.

It was also suggested that while Congress was about it additional changes could be made with profit in the rules governing the Presidential succession. That succession is still incompletely guarded. For instance, if between the date of their choice by the electors or by the houses of Congress, acting after a failure of the electors, and the date of the inauguration both President-elect and Vice-President-elect die or become disqualified, who succeeds to the vacant Presidency? There is no provision against such a contingency. The risk of double death or disqualification is not great, perhaps, but it is well worth eliminating. Why should Congress not couple some new safeguard against an extinction of the succession with the other changes now proposed?

We cannot find much merit in other criticisms made in the House on the Judiciary Committee's plan. It seems to us altogether unfair to represent the change of dates as a mere concession to local pressure in the District of Columbia in behalf of a fête day with larger "circus" possibilities. Were Washington's wish to attract bigger crowds to the inaugural display the only thing to be considered, Congress would waste no time talking about a change. It is desirable, all other things being equal, that the inaugural pageant should have a more attractive and congenial setting. But it is vastly more desirable that the two sessions of Congress should be better balanced.

Representative Perkins, of this state, raised the point against the lengthening of the short session that it would give two months more of official life to members of the House who had failed of reelection in the preceding November. Those who think that a Representative who is about to retire, whether beaten for renomination or for re-election or withdrawing of his own volition, cannot be expected to legislate with as much intelligence or public spirit as if he had just won another victory at the polls may feel that such an objection is serious. But it assumes a disqualification for good service which need not exist and which, where it did exist, would apply to only a small fraction of the membership of any House. Moreover, it would sacrifice the great advantage of giving the re-elected and therefore still supposedly conscientious majority of the House a chance to do really serious work at the short session to the very small consideration of preventing an extension of the post-election service of the present "hold-overs" from three months to five months. The "hold-over" may or may not be an undesirable feature in our legislative system. The time-marking and do-nothing short session of Congress certainly is an undesirable feature.

CIVIL SERVICE INSURANCE.

The question of pensioning employes in the Civil Service is being much more frequently discussed now than it used to be. President Taft in his annual message had something to say about the need of providing for their retirement on a competence. And the impression is gaining ground that in order not to retain its employes beyond the years when they are efficient suitable provision must be made for securing to them an income after their retirement. The suggestions of the State Civil Service Commission on this question are therefore timely and interesting.

The objection to pensions is that under the rulings of the courts an employe's interest in a pension fund is a vested interest, which makes his dismissal difficult. If the pension system that prevails in the Police Department in this city, for example, were introduced into the Civil Service generally, the dismissal of civil employes would become as difficult as are dismissals from the police force. That is the great objection to a pension system, and should be sufficient to prevent its adoption. The State Civil Service Commission has this in mind when it recommends that the subject "should not be dealt with piecemeal "for any department or political division, "or by any hastily devised legislation, "but that the general policy of provision "for retirement pensions should be care-"fully considered, and if any action is "taken a comprehensive scheme should "be adopted which would at once insure "economical administration and the pres-"ervation of efficiency and discipline in "the service."

To avoid this difficulty the commission recommends an insurance system for civil employes. The policy of each employe would be paid for by a contribution from his salary, similar to the contribution exacted in the case of a pension fund. But the employe would be the owner of the policy himself, and it would have a surrender value. Thus, the commission thinks, the danger of creating a property right in the incumbency of office would be avoided. The commission appears to have made a real contribution toward the settlement of what may soon be a pressing problem.

HUMANITY AGAINST NATURE.

From the points of view of so-called nature and of pure utilitarianism there doubtless seems to be ground for the recommendations which are reported—perhaps not altogether accurately—to have been made by a professor of physiology at Harvard the other day, that the aged and hopelessly infirm should be left to die without charitable care, and that the attention which is now given to them should be devoted to younger and curable cases. That is the law of nature, in the wild. Indeed, instead of merely being left to die, the aged and infirm are often put to death, as cumberers of the earth. In measuring the value of life solely by dollars and cents, too, it might seem to be folly to spend money on prolonging a life which at best could not be greatly, if at all, productive, when the same money might improve the condition of a potentially profitable life.

Nature, however, thus interpreted, is not the only factor to be considered. Humanity demands attention, and it is a large part of the mission and the function of humanity to oppose and to overcome nature, or at least such phases of nature as those in question. Perhaps a truer statement of the case would be to say that humanity itself is a phase of nature, and that its care for the aged is just as natural as their neglect or destruction which elsewhere prevails. We are not inclined to think that man is less a part of nature than the wolf, or that the civilized man is less a part of nature's economy than the savage. If evolution be a law of nature, the higher forms of life are as natural as the lower, and it is the scheme of nature that man shall be endowed with instincts to which the wolf and the tiger are strangers. In that view of the case the "natural" argument for inhumanity does not prevail.

Nor are we sure that the utilitarian argument is more valid. Moral qualities and traits count in the long run for pecuniary profit. The state of society which is produced through civilization and cultivation and the development of the finer instincts of man affords a more promising field for growth in wealth than that which is rude and harsh and savage. It pays to be humane. We have, of course, no idea that the lecturer whom we have quoted meant or desired to have his suggestions literally acted upon. But it is perhaps well to guard from the outset against even the least misapprehension or improper application of his remarks. The statement of a conditional hypothesis is not to be taken as an authoritative proclamation and recommendation of established truth.

MARTIAN "CANALS."

One of the astronomers who improved the exceptional opportunity for the study of Mars afforded by the nearness of that planet to the earth last autumn was M. Antoniadi, director of an observatory in Paris, who employed the great glass at Meudon, France. A summary of the conclusions to which his latest observations have led him was supplied to our Paris correspondent a few days ago and was printed in Monday's Tribune. In estimating their value it should be borne in mind that M. Antoniadi is an honored member of several astronomical societies, and also that he made use of the largest telescope in Europe, an instrument of far greater magnifying power than the one at the disposal of Schiaparelli, the first observer of the so-called "canals."

The most important announcement of the Meudon observer is that these puzzling lines are not continuous, but break up into spots of irregular shape and distinctness when the condition of the earth's atmosphere is most favorable to scrutiny. He also pronounces an optical illusion the network of markings on the planetary surface which Professor Lowell has described. So faint are the strange markings in question that more than one professional star gazer has regarded them as unreal, but the genuineness of some of them has been put beyond dispute by photography. For that particular service a large measure of credit is due to Professor Lowell. The most vital problem to be solved, however, relates to their nature. If, as M. Antoniadi reports, they consist of detached areas, there is good reason for rejecting the supposition that they are artificial waterways and for hesitating to believe that they are belts of vegetation, made possible by unseen canals. A lack of continuity in the lines would be fatal to the first of these theories, if not to the second.

Some of M. Antoniadi's professional brethren are equally outspoken in their skepticism. Others, for one cause or another, are more reserved, but Professor Lowell stands almost alone in his interpretation. In the notion that other celestial bodies than the earth are abodes of life there is a pleasing fascination, but before adopting it in any particular instance it is fair to demand scientific proof. So long as that which has been offered in regard to Mars fails to convince any considerable number of astronomers, the uninitiated may well be skeptical.

Chairman Conners is holding on tenaciously and confidently. He does not believe that he can be displaced by any rivals in Jeffersonian statesmanship who deal in and are dealt with in "kind words."

Seeing that it was the French who first proclaimed the codfish to be sacred, the threatened strike of the Malouine fishermen on the Newfoundland Banks would seem almost to savor of sacrilege.

Cleveland purposes to stop "joy riding" in municipal automobiles by painting all such vehicles a bright yellow and blue. Doubtless such coloring may facilitate recognition of the cars, but we should say that it was eminently appropriate for one engaged in "joy riding."

There can be no question of the potential efficacy of the method now being adopted in Cleveland to force down the price of meat. If a considerable part of the population of any city refrains from buying meat the selling value of the stock on hand there will go down. The chief drawback to the remedy is that it is likely to be considered too thoroughgoing.

Another important water right decision has just been announced in New Jersey, to the effect that prohibition of diversion or alienation of potable water applies to wells as well as to streams. If New Jersey keeps on she will presently rank as the great lawgiver of the states on this important subject.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

When the snowstorm had subsided temporarily on Saturday, a little lad in the upper part of the city, heavily booted and warmly wrapped, went out and, armed with a small shovel, began clearing away in front of the house, while his mother watched from a window overlooking the street. He had worked only a few minutes when his grandfather joined him, and they were having a fine time, when the boy's father came along and also became one of the street cleaning force. The wife and mother, impressed by the scene, brought a camera and took a picture of the trio after posing them, and she says that when the picture is finished she will hang it next to "The Spirit of '76," which hangs in her library, and label it "The Spirit of 1910."

A RICH MAN'S PRAYER.

Lord, give me strength and give me health,
And make me wiser day by day;
Let me keep adding to my wealth,
And guard me from my foes, I pray.
Lord, let the ones who wish me ill
By kinder feelings be imbued,
And let the skies above me still
Be ever soft and rosy hued.

Lord, let my daughter be as pure
As are the snowflakes when they fall;
Let all the joys she has endure,
And let her bear no ills at all.
Lord, let my wife have faith in me,
Faith that will not be undermined,
From all suspicion keep her free,
And also just a little blind.

Lord, cause my son to hope to rise,
To wish to gain proud eminence;
Let him succeed in all he tries,
And kindly give him common sense.
Lord, finally I humbly pray
That he may shun the dizzy whirl
Instead of waking up some day
The husband of a chorus girl.
—Chicago Record-Herald.

An elderly couple who could have been recognized from a distance as hailing from "Down South" were among the arrivals at the Pennsylvania ferry at 23d street one day last week. Approaching the horseless conveyances, the man asked what it would cost to be taken, trunk and all, to a hotel on Fifth avenue. The driver's statement that the hotel had gone out of existence long ago did not seem to impress the man favorably, and he appealed to several other drivers. Finally, convinced that he must find another stopping place, he consulted with his wife, and then asked to be taken to the nearest station house. "Why there?" asked the driver. "Well, I'm a stranger in this city and take no chances." He received a list of reputable hotels from the lieutenant in charge, and it was a long time before he concluded where to go.

Mrs. A.—What's the matter with Mrs. De Style? She looks the picture of embarrassment.

Mrs. Z.—No wonder. Her little boy used all of her old love letters to make the tail of his kite, and they came down in the neighbor's yard.—Chicago News.

"One of the performers at the Teatro Lirico, at Milan, had an exciting experience on the occasion of his first appearance this year. The opera 'Favorita' was being performed," says "The Rome Gazette," "and despite the fact that the barytone, Aineto, sang and played well, he was loudly hissed and ridiculed. The curtain went down on the first act and Aineto, in the costume of the King of Castile, stepped before the curtain, close to the footlights, and addressed the audience in a voice tremulous with rage. He said that he was the victim of a heartless claque—that he had been hissed and his conscientious efforts had been groaned at because he had refused to pay the claque. The audience received his remarks with loud applause. The claque melted away and the heroic singer from that time until the end of the performance received much applause."

"Do you think love goes where it's sent?"
"Yes, if properly expressed."—Judge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE PRESIDENT IS RIGHT.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The very interesting controversy concerning the protection and care of our forests and coal which has just culminated and over which there seems to be some talk about grave political consequences ensuing is of a truth watched with extended attention, and, depend upon it, with but one ultimate result—the support and upholding of President Taft by the average common sense of the people of the United States.

Mr. Pinchot, as a trained forester in charge of an important bureau, was enthusiastic and earnest in season and out of season in his pet work, but unfortunately he overrated his position and forgot that a bureau chief may do good work and work of much general benefit, but that nevertheless, this work may be done in a manner so unbecoming and offensive as to be insupportable. The average man has respect and confidence in the President of the United States, and Mr. Taft's action in asserting the proper dignity of his official position in regard to bureau chiefs will be supported by the plain thinking people of the nation.

A MAN FROM DUTCHESS COUNTY.
Fishkill, N. Y., Jan. 15, 1910.

THE REMOVAL OF SNOW.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There is no legitimate reason why the snow should not be shovelled into the sewers. There are always several manholes in every block, and there is no reason why these manhole covers should not be removed and the snow shovelled through these openings. The temperature of the sewers varies between 50 and 90 degrees; therefore, the snow would melt almost as fast as it was shovelled in, and what little did not melt would be carried away by the natural flow of water through the sewers to the river.

There may perhaps be a few sewers which it would not be advisable to use this way, but the Street Cleaning Department could get the location of these from the Highway Department.

When McDonough Craven was Street Cleaning Commissioner he tried this method of snow disposal, and found it worked admirably, but was stopped by some foolish ordinance or bylaw in the charter, which was evidently inserted for the benefit of snow grafters.

I feel sure the present Commissioner would like to use this method of snow disposal if legally allowed to do so. In my opinion, the proper method of doing this would be to start the gangs of men shovelling into the sewers on the principal arteries of travel just as soon as the snow commences to fall, and keep them going as long as it continues to snow; then those arteries will be cleaned as soon as the snow stops falling, and the men can be turned into other streets.

This would not only effect a great saving in the cost of snow removal, but would also be of great benefit to the public on account of removing the snow blockade in much less time than by present methods.

R. A. RUTHERFURD.
New York, Jan. 15, 1910.

READING MADE EASY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Several commuters on the Lackawanna railroad who are in business in Wall Street have requested me to draw your attention to a recent improvement on the Lackawanna railroad that is gratifying to all who travel on that line—the modernization of the lighting of the trains throughout the system. The work extended through several months, and has resulted in giving light that enables all to read in any part of a car as well as if seated under a library light at home. One result from this modernization of the lighting service is told by a director of the largest news company in the country, a commuter who resides at Morristown, N. J. He states that the improvements in lighting on the Lackawanna, the Pennsylvania, the Central of New Jersey and several other railroads that serve the suburbs of New York have brought about a very large increase in the sales of newspapers, magazines and other printed matter at ferry and railroad stations. Oculists who formerly advised their patients not to read while travelling in the cars now say that the most of the cars used in suburban service hereabouts are more scientifically lighted than the most of the mansions of the wealthy in the same districts. There are now in our country forty-nine thousand passenger cars on steam roads that are lighted by the most advanced methods of compressed gas and electricity. The roads that serve the New York suburban districts are expending more money for lighting than is spent for trains de luxe in Europe. The doubling of the population in the suburban districts about New York within fifteen years has made it possible for the steam roads to expend enormous sums in the betterment of roadbeds; for longer, heavier and well bonded rails; for high cost passenger coaches, that are better than the best parlor cars of a few years ago, and other improvements that are paid for out of the liberal revenues derived from the suburban business in passengers and freight. The zone of New York to-day is doing 28 per cent of the steam railroad business of the nation, and the business is growing rapidly—mainly because of the recent accelerations of suburban passenger and freight trains. The increase in velocity of the steam passenger trains that serve the suburban business of New York during five years has added time to the commuter's work in New York that is the equivalent of three days of eight hours each a month.

I did not mean to inflict a long letter upon you. I am an investigating engineer whose chief business is the physical valuation of railroads, and in this work I pick up a good deal of matter like the foregoing. Your Commuters' Column has made a big hit with solid men on the roll of the big army of commuters, and from such I got the hint to drop these lines to the good old Tribune, which seems to be a prime favorite among the commuters.

G. WILFRED PEARCE.
Newark, N. J., Jan. 17, 1910.

A REMARKABLE TRIBUTE.

From The Youth's Companion.

When President Cleveland died it was discovered that New York had not followed the custom of a generation and put a portrait of him in the executive chamber of its Capitol, which he occupied when Governor. The New-York Tribune, a Republican newspaper, which opposed Cleveland every time he was a candidate for public office, called attention to the omission and organized a subscription for the purchase of a portrait. It chanced that such a portrait, painted by Eastman Johnson during Cleveland's first term as President, was in the market, and that it was the portrait most admired by Cleveland. Sufficient money was raised for its purchase, and it is now hanging, along with the portraits of other governors, in the state Capitol. It would not have been remarkable if a Democratic newspaper had led this worthy movement, but when an opposition paper gladly undertakes the work it becomes a tribute to the sterling qualities of a patriotic American that deserves appreciation by all admirers of the dead statesman.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 17.—The President delivered the opening address at the first session of the National Civic Federation this morning. He was accompanied by Captain Butt.

On learning of the death of Joaquim Nabuco, the Brazilian Ambassador, President Taft called at the embassy to express his sympathy. The President will attend the funeral.

The President sent a long list of judicial nominations to the Senate to-day.

President Taft is contemplating sending to Congress a special message recommending the consolidation of all bureaus having to do with the public health. A delegation consisting of Professor Irving Fisher, of New York; Dr. George W. Gay, of Baltimore; Dr. A. M. Craig, of Philadelphia; Dr. George M. Kober, of Washington, and Dr. J. N. McCormick, of Kentucky, and representing the American Medical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Public Health Association, discussed this subject with him.

Francis T. Homer, of Baltimore, was recommended to-day by Judge Henry Stockbridge, of Baltimore, for appointment to the judgeship in Maryland not yet created. A bill creating this office has been introduced in the House by Representative Pearre, and President Taft has promised to approve it.

The President was compelled to decline an invitation presented by Representative Hill to attend the dinner of the Manufacturers' Association of Bridgeport, Conn., on March 21. He will be in New Haven on that date to attend the meeting of the Yale Corporation. It is possible that another date will be set for the dinner, Mr. Taft having expressed a willingness to attend.

Mr. Taft accepted the invitation of the National Board of Trade, of Washington, to attend its dinner on January 26.

Representative Mondell, after a conference with the President, said he did not consider it proper to introduce conservation bills contrary to his views.

Seumas McManus, the Irish poet and humorist, discussed the political situation in Great Britain with the President.

President Taft will receive the governors of the states who are in Washington attending the convention of the National Civic Federation to-morrow afternoon.

The President received the French Ambassador in the Blue Room this afternoon.

The White House callers included the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Senators Smith and Owen, Representatives Fiss, Rodenberg, Hayes, Martin, McKinley, Goebel, Austin and Thomas, George B. Cortelyou, ex-Secretary of the Treasury; James F. Speyer, of New York, and Henry Gassaway Davis.

THE CABINET.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 17.—The Attorney General went to New York yesterday on a hurried business trip, and returned here this evening.

The Secretary of the Treasury has gone to New York to deliver an address. He is expected back to-morrow.

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Dickinson have as a house guest William J. Calhoun, of Chicago, recently appointed Minister to China. He will be here for some time preparing for his new duties.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 17.—The Netherlands Minister and Mme. Loudon recalled their invitations for a dinner this evening in honor of the Japanese Ambassador and Baroness Uchida as soon as they learned of the death of the Brazilian Ambassador.

Mme. de Lagercrantz, wife of the Swedish Minister, recalled invitations to a tea this afternoon on learning of the death of Senhor Nabuco.

The British second secretary and Mrs. Kennard entertained at dinner last night the Spanish Minister, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, A. Rustem Bey; Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wylie, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Wilson, Mrs. Purdy and Miss Todd.

Lieutenant von Breuning and A. C. Horstmann, German attachés, are spending several days in New York.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 17.—Mr. and Mrs. John Hays Hammond entertained two hundred and fifty guests at a reception and supper to-night, which followed a lecture on "The Holy City of the Mayas" by Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, the members of the Washington Archæological Society being among the guests.

Mrs. A. C. Barney, who is giving a series of breakfasts, entertained to-day Mr. and Mrs. Edmunton Pendleton, Mrs. Hunt Slater, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Chatard, Dr. and Mrs. Magruder, A. Rustem Bey, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires; Brigadier General James A. Buchanan and John O. Sibert. Later in the afternoon Mrs. Barney held a large reception in honor of the recently appointed Minister to Persia and Mrs. Charles W. Russell and their daughter. Mrs. John McGowan and Miss Schenck assisted Mrs. Barney.

Brigadier General and Mrs. Arthur Murray returned to Washington to-day from Fortress Monroe, where they have been for several days and where many entertainments were given for them. The Misses Murray accompanied their parents on the trip and took with them Miss Carol Newberry and Miss Annie Irwin.

Mrs. Potter Palmer, who came here last week as the guest of the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. MacVeagh and attended the dinner given by them for the President, has gone to New York.

Representative and Mrs. J. Van Vechten Olcott have taken apartments at Stoneleigh Court and will take possession this week.

Among the hosts entertaining dinner parties to-night were Senator Du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Glover and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Thropp.

Miss Evelyn F. Carpenter entertained a number of young people at a dinner-dance at the Chevy Chase Club to-night.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Noyes entertained at a dinner-dance to-night for a number of the season's debutantes. Dinner parties with Mr. and Mrs. James M. Johnston, Mrs. Robert Hinckley and Rear Admiral and Mrs. Clover as hosts joined in the dance.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Miss Electra Havemeyer, who is to be married to James Watson Webb on February 8 in St. Bartholomew's Church, will have her cousin, Miss Louise Jackson, for her maid of honor, and her sister, Mrs. Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen, as her matron of honor. The bridesmaids will include Miss Margaret Dix, Miss Anita Peabody, Miss Ethel Cowdin and Miss Katharine S. Atterbury. W. Seward Webb, jr., will act as his brother's best man, and among the ushers will be Vanderbilt Webb, Robert L. Bacon, Joseph W. Burden, George Whitney, James J. Higginson, jr., Gordon Abbott, Howard Roome and Ernest Tracy. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Dr. R. Heber Newton, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Endicott Peabody, of Groton, Mass. The reception which follows at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, in East 66th street, will be very small, on account of the death of Hamilton McK. Twombly. Mr. Webb will give his farewell bachelor dinner at Delmonico's on January 29.

Mrs. George J. Gould will give a dance this evening at her house, in Fifth avenue, for her daughter, Miss Marjorie Gould. Phœnix Ingraham will lead the cotillion, with Miss Gould for his partner.

Lispenard Stewart will give a large dinner this evening at Sherry's for his niece, Miss Evelyn Witherbee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spencer Witherbee.

The grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria was crowded, as usual, yesterday morning, for Albert Morris Bagby's musical morning, the artists being Mme. Bonnice de Pasquali, John McCormack, Mario Sammarco and Victor Herbert and his string orchestra. In the audience were Mrs. Whitney Warren, Mrs. E. Nott Potter, jr., Mrs. Robert Goelet, Mrs. Edward Clarkson Potter, Miss Emily de L. Potter, Miss Katharine S. Atterbury, Mrs. J. Montford Schley, Mrs. Arthur Mason Jones, Mrs. M. Dwight Collier, Mrs. William Kingsland, Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander, Mrs. Seth Barton French, Mrs. Alexander Dallas Bache Pratt, Mrs. Robert J. Hare Powel, Miss Margaret Remsen and Mrs. Warren Delano, jr.

Miss Louise Davis Van Beuren, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick T. Van Beuren, will be married to Howard Bayne to-day in the old Van Beuren mansion, in West 16th street.

Mrs. Charles F. Hoffman will give a dinner on January 29 at her house, in Fifth avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Olin will leave town for Mexico on January 27.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Elizabeth Bertron, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Reading Bertron, to Snowden Andrews Fahnestock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Fahnestock, of Washington, and a grandson of Harris C. Fahnestock, of this city. No date has been set for the wedding.

Mrs. Herbert Shipman will return to town to-day from Washington.

COUNTESS CASSINI'S DEBUT.

Sings in a Concert in the Theatre Femina in Paris.

Paris, Jan. 17.—Countess Cassini, niece of the former Russian Ambassador at Washington, who has been studying in Paris for the last two years, made her debut in a concert at the Théâtre Fémina this afternoon. A fashionable audience was present, including Count Cassini and many members of the diplomatic corps. The countess sang in Italian, German and French.

SULTAN RECEIVES MR. FAIRBANKS

Constantinople, Jan. 17. — Ambassador Straus to-day presented Charles W. Fairbanks, former Vice-President of the United States, to the Sultan, who engaged him in a long conversation on the subject of his tour.

Mr. Fairbanks later visited the parliament, where he was received by the president of the Chamber. Consul General Edward H. Ozmun gave a musical this afternoon in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks.

HONOR ROSS MARVIN'S MEMORY.

Nearly one hundred officers, cadets and guests on board the training ship Newport paid tribute yesterday to the memory of Professor Ross G. Marvin, the only member of Commander Peary's expedition who lost his life in the voyage that culminated in the discovery of the pole. Professor Marvin was a graduate of the old schoolship St. Mary's, which has been replaced by the Newport.

The cadets and officers were addressed by Richard Aldcroft, Commissioner of Education; Gustave Straubenmuller, Assistant City Superintendent of Schools, and Captain L. H. Everhart, U. S. N., commander of the Newport. The speakers told of the efficient work