Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8—The Ensign.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
AMERICAN—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:20—The Aviator.
BELASCO—2:20—8:20—The Concert.
BIJOU—8:20—The Nest Egg.
BROADWAY—8—Macbeth.
CARNEGIE HALL — 8:15 — Boston Symphony Orchestra.
CASINO—8:15—He Came from Milwaukee.
CIRCLE—8:15—Mother.
CITY—8:15—Raffles.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—8:15—I'll Be Hanged If I Do.
CRITERION—8:20—The Commuters.
DALY'S—8:20—Baby Mine.
EMPIRE—8:15—Sherlock Holmes.
FIFTH AVENUE—2—8—Vaudeville.
GAIETY—8:15—Get Rich Quick Wallingford.
GARRICK—2:15—8:20—The Speckled Band.
GLOBE—8:20—L'Aiglon.
HACKETT—2:15—8:20—Daddy Dufard.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—The Girl and the Kaiser.
HIPPODROME—2—8—The International Cup—Ballet of Niagara—The Earthquake.
HUDSON—8:20—Nobody's Widow.
IRVING PLACE—8:15—Das Musikantenmädel.
JOE WEBER'S—8:15—Alma, Where Do You Live?
KNICKERBOCKER—8—Henry of Navarre.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Country Boy.
LYCEUM—2:20—8:30—The Importance of Being Earnest.
LYRIC—8—Two Women.
MAJESTIC—2—8:20—The Blue Bird.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—2—8—Vaudeville.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S—8:20—The Gamblers.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE — 8:15 — La Bohème.
NAZIMOVA'S—8:15—Madame Trouhadour.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—Madame Sherry.
NEW THEATRE—8:15—Mary Magdalene.
NEW YORK—8:15—Naughty Marietta.
REPUBLIC—8:15—Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.
WALLACK'S—8:15—Getting a Polish.
WEST END—8:15—The Summer Widowers.

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New-York Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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 Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee made its final report; about three hundred bills were introduced. House: The Moon bill to modify, revise and amend the laws governing the judiciary was explained by its author; a bill providing for the settlement of a claim by Pennsylvania for money paid to its militia for service during the Civil War was introduced.

FOREIGN.—The returns from the British elections up to last night showed a net gain for the Unionists of three seats. The German Imperial Supreme Court, a dispatch from Leipsic says, has ordered the Reichsbank to surrender to the Turkish government $4,500,000 deposited with it by the deposed Sultan Abdul Hamid. The Reichstag, in Berlin, passed the second reading of the bill establishing labor exchanges composed equally of representatives of employers and laborers to settle labor questions. Professor Ludwig Knaus, the genre painter, died in Berlin. A family of seven persons died in Graudenz, Prussia, from eating impure food. A German aviator in a biplane carried four passengers twice around a field at Johannisthal, Germany.

DOMESTIC.—Miss Helen Taft at Washington unveiled the monument to General Baron von Steuben; addresses were made by President Taft, the German Ambassador and Representative Bartholdt. The seventh annual gathering of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress opened a three-day session at Washington, with delegates from all parts of the country in attendance; President Taft made an address of welcome. It was announced at Boston that the grave of Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy would be guarded constantly after the funeral to-day, until the erection of a mausoleum in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

CITY.—Stocks advanced after early declines. The customs authorities took jewelry worth $20,000 from Mrs. Theodore P. Shonts, who contended the articles were not dutiable because they were merely exchanged abroad. Walter Hall, who robbed the Greenwich Bank of $44,000 while its paying teller, surrendered to the District Attorney, restored $15,000 and pleaded guilty to the indictment against him.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Cloudy. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 39 degrees; lowest, 29.

THE VINDICATION OF MR. BALLINGER.

Although the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee divided almost on partisan lines, we are persuaded that the verdict of an ordinary petty jury, had it had the case presented to it, must have been the same as that of the majority of the committee clearing Mr. Ballinger. Such grave dereliction in office on the part of a public officer as planning to sacrifice the interests of the public he is sworn to protect is not to be lightly assumed to exist when it can be shown by no act of his. Intent may fairly be inferred from actions—that is a legal maxim; but to infer the existence of an intent that has never been carried into effect is something fair minded men are unwilling to do. Yet that is what the enemies of Mr. Ballinger invited the investigating committee to do. It was asked to adjudge him an enemy of conservation, although conservation had suffered in no respect at his hands, but its scope had, on the contrary, been notably extended by him.

It is true that his accusers pointed to some acts of the Secretary from which conservation had not suffered, but from which, so they said, it might have suffered but for their own vigilance, as evidences of his hostility or unfaithfulness to the interests of the people. They asked the committee to infer "inevitably" that because these acts might have resulted badly for conservation Mr. Ballinger intended that they should result disastrously to it.

The whole controversy sprang from Mr. Ballinger's action in restoring to entry the water power site lands. The cry was raised that he was an enemy of conservation seeking to undo it. Yet this action was taken upon advice and consultation with and with the full approval of President Taft, an earnest conservationist. And their rewithdrawal followed promptly, after further consultation with the President, in time to protect, and for the purpose of protecting, the public interest. Mr. Taft's full participation in this proceeding is guarantee enough that the momentary hesitancy in this policy sprang from an honest doubt concerning the law. The other charges followed this one and sought to establish existence of an intent to destroy conservation. They consisted largely of insinuation and inference, and in no instance was the evidence of Mr. Ballinger's unfaithfulness to the public interest stronger than in the case of the water power sites, and how slight that was we have just seen.

With regard to the water power sites the committee finds that the Secretary acted "in good faith and not in enmity to the government," and, as we have already said, Mr. Taft's part in it is proof enough of the justice of this finding. With regard to the Cunningham claims the committee finds that "his conduct is not justly censurable." In regard to the other acts of the Secretary from which his assailants sought to have his unfaithfulness to the interests of the public inferred, the committee finds him to have been "justified"; and in general it reports "that he is not an enemy of, nor "hostile to, a reasonable and judicious "policy of conservation, and that no "ground whatever has been shown justi-"fying the opinion that he is not a faith-"ful and efficient public officer."

The committee heard the case patiently, permitting Mr. Ballinger's accusers to present all their inferences and make all their insinuations. Thus the public was permitted to hear everything they had to say against the Secretary, whether their evidence was legal or not in its nature, and the general impression was that they had notably failed in making out a case. This report is in line with the general impression.

MR. TAFT'S CIVIL SERVICE SUGGESTIONS.

President Taft's suggestion in his message that first, second and third class postmasters should be put in the Civil Service classified list is his most striking reference to Civil Service reform and it shows what a thorough Civil Service reformer he is. It is the first time so far as we are aware that any President has suggested extending the classified Civil Service list to offices of such importance. Legally, the change is feasible. Postmasters of no grade are mentioned in the Constitution as among the officers with regard to whose appointment the advice and consent of the Senate are required. The Senate by a change in the law might put all postmasterships in the rank of inferior offices with regard to the filling of which its consent would not be required. To ask this, however, as Mr. Taft says in his message, is to ask from the Senate a considerable concession of its power. The Senate has always been jealous of its influence over appointments, and we fear it is a long way from being ready to make this concession, which would make the postoffice, like the consular, service a career free from the vicissitudes of politics.

Mr. Taft touches upon a more immediate and practicable matter which Civil Service reformers everywhere are studying in what he has to say about the need of a system for pensioning superannuated civil employes. The necessity of providing some machinery for taking out of the public service those civil servants that have outlived their usefulness is felt by any one who approaches the problem of increasing governmental efficiency and effecting economies. Mr. Taft dismisses a civil pension system as impracticable on account of its cost and because

It is demoralizing to the service since it makes difficult the dismissal of incompetent employes after they have partly earned their pension.

And he reaches the conclusion that there should be a "compulsory savings "arrangement, the employe to set aside "from his salary a sum sufficient, with "the help of a liberal rate of interest "from the government, to purchase an "adequate annuity for him on retirement, this accumulation to be inalienably his and claimable if he leaves the "service before reaching the retirement "age or by his heirs in case of his "death."

This is exactly the conclusion reached by the New York State Civil Service Commission in its last annual report. It recommended a Civil Service "insurance system" a year ago, saying:

Any insurance system, it is believed, should be so organized that every individual would have his own particular insurance, paid for by himself and no one else, except the state in the case of employes already advanced in service, and every insurance policy should have at all times an adequate surrender value, so that no question could arise as to property right in office, or in the pension fund contributed to by an employe which would be sacrificed by separation from the service. It is absolutely essential to the discipline of the public service that heads of departments should have the fullest right of removal for reasonable cause, without the necessity of proving in court a case of positive malfeasance. Any property right in a fund attached to the public service would tend unreasonably to hamper the exercise of that power, and to put the administration of the public service at the mercy of organized public servants.

The idea that such an insurance or annuity arrangement should have a surrender value has appealed to Mr. Taft as it must appeal to every one who considers this subject of civil pensions. Only thus can the danger of such pensions, the difficulty of dismissing a pensioner who has contributed to a fund, be avoided. This danger is peculiarly great in this state, where the courts incline to view interests in such funds as vested and involving what is virtually a property right in office. Under the federal law this legal difficulty of removal might not exist, but a no less real one would exist in the reluctance of an administrator to cause an employe to lose the sum of his contributions to a pension fund. Either difficulty the surrender value would appear to obviate.

ONE TEST OF SINCERITY.

To the general proposition that the national government ought to be economically administered nobody ever demurs. The need of economy, not merely for the sake of saving money, but as an expression of the sense of official responsibility and constant solicitude for the common welfare, is universally acknowledged. It is not only acknowledged but proclaimed, always with peculiar fervor, by the opposition in political campaigns. Provided such professions of devotion to the public interest are sincere, the country can hardly hear too many of them.

A test of the sincerity of Republicans and Democrats in this matter, but especially, perhaps, of Democrats, who have been intense and voluble on the subject in recent years, will be supplied in the treatment by Congress of the President's earnest recommendation that the number of customs districts should be largely reduced and several navy yards and stations abolished. The saving thus contemplated is not enormous, but it is considerable, and there is a moral element, also, involved in the question. Moreover, the action of Congress, or its failure to act, will not be set down in the final reckoning to the credit or blame of Senators and Representatives only. The immediate responsibility will be theirs, but this is pre-eminently a case in which the course taken by members of Congress will reflect the wishes of their constituents.

If a community which gains some supposed prestige and actual pecuniary advantage from the maintenance of a navy yard near by insists that it shall not be abolished, however useless to the department and expensive to the government—that is, to all the people—the voice of that community appealing for economical administration must sound hollow hereafter, particularly if it comes from the lips of a Senator or Representative who has refused to vote against extravagance and inefficiency.

CANAL DEFENCE AND NEUTRALITY.

The President's recommendation that suitable provision be made for the fortification of the Panama Canal ought to be affirmatively acted upon without serious demur. The fundamental fact concerning the legal and international status of the canal is that it is—in the thought of Grant and the words of Hayes—an American canal under American control. It is our canal, by virtue of tradition and precedent since the days of the Isthmian treaty with New Granada; by virtue of purchase and of subsequent vast expenditures of labor and of money, and by virtue of that geographical logic which makes it an integral portion of our coastal waters and its control an indispensable condition of our national security, peace and comfort. Under such circumstances, to fail to safeguard in the best possible manner a possession of such value and importance would be shortsighted and foolish.

It is urged, it is true, that we should neutralize the canal, and therefore should not fortify it. That is a *non sequitur*. To neutralize the canal, in the only sense permissible to American policy, would make fortification of it not unnecesary, but all the more necessary. To neutralize it in the sense of asking other nations to join in guaranteeing its security would be a step wholly unacceptable, at least to any one having proper regard for national consistency and dignity. This nation has repeatedly refused to enter into any such entanglements, there or elsewhere on this continent, or to sanction any such European protectorate over American property, and it has no mind at this late day to reverse its sound and honorable policy. The canal is therefore to be neutralized only in the sense that America, constructing, owning, controlling and operating it, will keep it open for the impartial use of all the well disposed nations of the world. But if we are to do that, it inevitably follows that we must take all needful precautions to protect it against harm by some ill disposed power. If we were to leave it undefended there would be no guarantee that in case of war between Ruritania and Kravonia, for example, the Ruritanian fleet would not seize it and either destroy it or bar all passage of it by the ships not only of Kravonia but also of all other nations. In such neglect to safeguard it for the use of the world we should be betraying the trust which the world reposes in us. Suppose that when she wished to send her ships through the Suez Canal Russia had found Japan barring the way, would she not have had just cause for complaint against Great Britain for not protecting the freedom of that highway?

Whether, then, the canal be neutralized or not, whether it be primarily our own private waterway or a highway open and free to all the world, it is incumbent upon us so to fortify it as to make it as secure as possible against seizure, attack, or any hostile interference. It is also necessary for us to do so at once, since the date of its completion and opening is near at hand. If we begin work on the fortifications now we shall not be able to complete them sooner than the canal itself will be completed. There should be no hesitation and no delay. The fortifications are as essential as the dams and locks themselves, and they should be pushed to completion *pari passu* with them.

NEW SHIPS AND NAMES.

There is cause for gratification in the names which are said to have been selected for the two new battleships authorized at the last session of Congress. They have been chosen in accord with the rule which, with a single historic exception, names battleships exclusively after states, though unfortunately names of states are not exclusively reserved for battleships. And certainly it is fitting that the largest and most powerful ships in the navy shall bear the names of the states of New York and Texas, the one the principal state of the whole Union and the other the largest and most populous of the Southern states. Thus amends will be made for the circumstance that the name of Texas has hitherto been borne by merely a second class battleship, though a good one, while that of New York—the state, not the city—has not hitherto been given to any.

There is always a reluctance on the part of sailors to change the name of a ship. Yet it is necessary to do so if these two new ships are to have these names, and if these two great states are to have fitting representation on the navy list. There will be regret that the Texas of 1898 will have to give up the name which the gallant Philip made famous and that the flagship of Sampson will no more bear the name by which he knew her. But in the one case the change is necessitated by naval growth and development, and in the other it is a penalty of the error which was made in giving to a ship the name of a city when there was a state of the same name which would have the stronger claim upon recognition of that sort. If in time the state names which are now borne by cruisers are transferred to battleships it will be well. There are large cities enough to give names to a great fleet of cruisers without using names of states, every one of which will be needed for battleships.

Despite some irregularities the nomenclature of our navy, if less romantic, is much more consistent and comprehensible than that of others. The British is perhaps most heterogeneous. Among battleships there are the King Edward, the Hannibal, the Lord Nelson, the Mars, the Africa, the London, the Temeraire, the Ramillies, the Trafalgar, the Cornwallis, the Bulwark and the Venerable, no two of the names belonging to the same class of objects. And among cruisers we find the Hyacinth and the Gibraltar, the Endymion and the Gladiator, the Ariadne and the Furious! In the French fleet are the St. Louis, the Gaulois, the Charles Martel, the Justice, the Brennus and the Voltaire, all battleships, while among cruisers are the Joan of Arc, the Glory, the Montcalm, the Leon Gambetta, the Marseillaise and the Ernest Renan. Germany is a little more orderly, yet she has battleships named for Beowulf, Barbaressa, Prussia, Woerth and William II—a legendary hero, an Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, a kingdom, a land battle and a modern German Emperor—while among the cruisers are the Empress Augusta, the Gazelle, the Hamburg and the Thetis. On the whole, if the North Dakota sounds less romantic than the Undine and the Wheeling has less of historic suggestion than the Trafalgar, our ships are more readily identified, according to their classes, by their names than those of other countries, and that is not an unimportant consideration.

The public hopes that "Dig, you tarriers, dig!" may soon become a familiar version of the old song.

If the young women of Pasadena don't want to dance with Japanese officers, all right. They don't have to. And if the Japanese officers don't want to open their ships to the visits of people who won't dance with them, also all right. They don't have to. Wherefore let there be peace.

When the use of Faneuil Hall is denied to the colored people of Boston for a celebration of the centenary of Charles Sumner's birth it seems time for somebody to sit up and take notice.

A committee of the French Chamber of Deputies recommends the electoral franchise for women, and the suffering suffragettes of Great Britain declare with one shriek that "they order this matter better in France."

The unveiling of Steuben's statue marks the payment of a deserved and too long delayed tribute to one of the finest spirits in our Revolution.

Where should we be if the constitutional amendment putting the city into a position to build subways had not been passed? That was what cut the Gordian knot.

About this season the city hears much and favorably of the Hon. William H. Edwards, for whose glory all snow falls.

With subways and a five-cent fare all over the city, what becomes of the theory that a five-cent fare all over a single borough on the surface cars is ruinous?

When a particularly inflammable factory is ill provided with fire escapes and the only door leading from the chief workroom to the stairs is locked so that nobody can get out, and a fire occurs with heavy loss of life, is not the disaster to be described as an inscrutable "act of God"?

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The festival of Chanucah, commemorative of the dedication of the Temple after it had been destroyed by Antiochus Epiphanes, will begin among the Jews this year on December 25. The festival lasts eight days and is also known as the Feast of Lights and is often spoken of as the "Jews' Christmas." The coincidence of dates this year, a writer on the subject says, will make this appellation additionally popular, "despite the fact that the festivals are as unlike in significance as the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving."

Fame came to the Man.

"I will have a five-cent cigar named for you," she said, sweetly.

Fate followed on her heels. "I will make you smoke the cigar," hissed Fate. Hastily the Man turned down the by-way to Obscurity.—Life

Commenting on recent railway statistics, "The Railway and Engineering Review" calls attention to the fact that for the last ten years "the number of passengers carried on the railroads of the United States has averaged nearly 750,000,000, and for the decade 7,000,000,000 passengers were handled. It is estimated that an average of nine trips are taken by every person in the country each year. The railroad rolling stock has been wonderfully improved. The weight of locomotives has more than doubled within ten years and the capacity of the cars has been increased about 10 per cent. In one year 1,500,000,000 tons of freight were hauled within the confines of the United States, or, in round numbers, fifteen tons for every man, woman and child in the country."

"Mrs. Pufferly is tickled to death with the way she fooled the customs inspectors."

"How did she do it?"

"She didn't buy a thing abroad."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Law Notes" tells of an invitation of an Arizona sheriff, a few years ago, who "cordially requested" the attendance of certain favored ones at the hanging of a convicted murderer. Said the invitation: "Latest improved methods in the art of scientific strangulation will be employed and everything possible will be done to make the proceedings cheerful and the execution a success." This grewsome summons so outraged the Governor that he granted the felon a respite and gave the sheriff a dressing down. The hangman had to get out a new list of invitations and, properly sobered, he issued them "with feelings of profound regret and sorrow" and added this injunction: "You are expected to deport yourself in a respectful manner, and any 'flippant' or 'unseemly' language of conduct on your part will not be allowed. Conduct, on any one's part, bordering on ribaldry and tending to mar the solemnity of the occasion will not be tolerated."

"We ought to simplify our law practice."

"That's right."

"Suppose we agree that a man is to be considered innocent until he has been convicted, say, three times."—Washington Herald.

A London letter in a Vienna newspaper says: "Our music, always popular, has found a new use in the English election campaign. On Mr. Redmond's return from America it was noised about that he had collected $400,000 in the New World for election purposes, and he was immediately called the 'Dollar Prince.' Since then the tuneful strains of 'The Dollar Princess' are used instead of hisses and groans by audiences opposed to the Redmond party, and the effect is not alone pleasant, but it injects humor into a situation which is usually severe."

"How's Mamie getting along with her shopping?"

"Fine. She's got dad down to his last two-dollar bill."—Detroit Free Press.

"We have large cigar establishments in our country," writes an American from Prague, "but the cigar is not of as much importance with us as it is in Austria, because the government here is the only cigar dealer. Every time one buys a cigar or cigarette in Austria he patronizes the government, and the law's watchful eye is always keen to detect any violation of this monopoly. The various brands of cigars sold by the privileged dealers are well known, and the people who buy them know the prices without asking. Recently several new brands have been added to the list and their advent was duly advertised. I have not yet seen the 'Ideales,' 'Victorias' or 'Enteractos', but I judge by the published prices that they will supply a long felt want. These prices are, respectively, a hundred, $1.80, $1.20 and 90 cents."

Teacher—And now, Willie, who holds the ascension record at the present time?

Willie (instantly)—Elijah.—Puck.

PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE

Results of Scientific Methods Told at Railway Rate Hearing.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The railroad freight rate hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington last week brought the subject of scientific management into great prominence. It is probable that, being a new science, the public has only a faint idea of what scientific management really is. Having had considerable to do with it in the last five years, may I trespass somewhat on your space to explain this science which is to save money for the railroads?

In every operation of doing work there are two functions—planning and performance. The planning consists in, say, machine shop work, of selecting the machine in which the work is to be done, choosing the tool to use in the machine, determining the sequence of operations, the speed of the machine, the depth and thickness of cut and a number of other considerations. Under the usual form of management planning, as well as performing, is usually left to the workman or to a badly overworked foreman. The work is laid out and done largely according to precedent or tradition—in the way the work or some job nearly like it was done by some one else.

Scientific management separates sharply the planning and performance. Few workmen know the full capability of their machine, and are therefore unable to plan their work to the best advantage. Under scientific management men specially trained for the purpose plan all work and issue definite written instructions to the men for its performance.

The skilled workman then has only to follow the instructions in order to duplicate the results required by the planning department. In its highest form scientific management provides the stimulus for the workman to duplicate these results by giving him a rate of pay greater than the usual rate of his class when he does the work in accordance with the time allowed, and giving him a much lower rate when he does not accomplish the task as laid down. It is noteworthy that few men fail to obtain the higher pay when they have been properly instructed.

It should be noted that, although the workman receives more money in a given period of time, the employer benefits to a much greater degree. The cost per unit of product is less, and, the work being done quicker the capacity of his factory is increased without the expenditure of a dollar for new machinery. These are no idle dreams. They are hard facts, based on experience. Witness the testimony of Henry M. Towne, of H. V. Scheel, of Frank B. Gilbreth and other men before the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the articles and editorials in "Industrial Engineering" this last summer.

Scientific management involves more than planning of the work, however, in its last analysis. It involves a study of men, of materials and of tools; a standardizing of tools and equipment, and an investigation of their qualities and capacity. It involves motion study, to discover what motions made by the men are unnecessary and therefore wasteful, and a rectification of the conditions which make for useless motions. I refer you to the work of Gilbreth, who reduced the motions of a bricklayer in laying one brick from 18 to 6, as one of the great examples of what motion study will do—and bricklaying is an art so old that the bricklayers of four thousand years ago worked almost the same as the men of to-day. I personally know of a case where the output of a man in a machine shop was quadrupled by motion study, and the man was considered a good machinist, who used the best methods of his trade.

Summed up in a few lines, scientific management might be termed "applied common sense." It requires a man to do only that work for which he is best fitted, but requires him to do that work at his greatest efficiency. It requires that the conditions be made right for the greatest efficiency of the worker, this including not only the tools he works with, but his surroundings, his pay and everything else which affects his work.

The world owes a debt of gratitude to Frederick W. Taylor, the man who reduced the principles of management to a science, and who almost single handed for a quarter of a century worked on in the face of opposition and discouragements that would have appalled an ordinary man. It is a cause for gratification that Mr. Taylor's reward has come while he is yet among us.

ROBERT THURSTON KENT,
Editor "Industrial Engineering."
New York, Dec. 1, 1910.

SECOND CHANCE HARD TO GET.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I was released from the penitentiary on August 29 after having served one year (less commutation for good behavior) for committing petit larceny. Since my release I have been trying to obtain employment, but have met with no success. Why? I have no reference.

Is there not some firm or corporation among your readers who is Good Samaritan enough to give me a chance to make a man of myself so that I can again face the world with a future before me? I am thirty-four years old, quick and accurate at figures, thorough bookkeeper, conversant with office detail and correspondence and am willing to work for any salary that will enable me to support myself honestly.

I have done wrong—I know it. I was punished for it, too. I lost my dear mother while I was away, and in the last letter I wrote to her I promised that I would never drink intoxicating liquor (the actual cause of my downfall) again and that I would shun evil companions. These promises I mean to keep, and as I said before I want a chance to make a man of myself again, to make a character for myself, to make a future for myself, and I'll do it if I get the chance.

Will some good Samaritan give me that chance? FREDERICK.

New York, Dec. 5, 1910.

AN ENVIABLE TURF RECORD.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In to-day's Tribune I note the heading "Belmont Appeals to the Public." I have been long resident in England, and though not a betting man have always taken a keen interest in "the sport of kings."

There is not a more honored name on the English turf than that of August Belmont. That a certain amount of jealousy should exist in England toward American owners is only to be expected.

August Belmont's appeal to the American public should not be in vain, and I trust that he will gain the support of the American public for the encouragement of clean racing in America. To such men as August Belmont England owes a deep debt of gratitude for having assisted in ousting what was radically bad over there.

ANGLO-AMERICAN (Harvard, '86).
New York, Dec. 5, 1910.

BUY YOUR PRESENTS EARLY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Will you kindly help us again this year to remind people to do their Christmas shopping before December 15? The public begins to realize the injustice to the workers of the late holiday rush, but needs constant reminders to be considerate. Since merchants are now willing to do their share by displaying holiday goods in November, can we not by united effort stir the public conscience against thoughtlessly making Christmas a season to be dreaded by thousands of workers?

We are grateful for the help you have given us before in extending this appeal and trust we may count again on your influence. (MISS) EDITH KENDALL,
Member of the Governing Board of the Consumers' League.
New York, Dec. 7, 1910.

COMMENT ON THE MESSAGE.

NO DISAPPOINTMENT.

From The Philadelphia Ledger (Ind.).

No President, midway of his first term, has ever presented such a record of positive achievement, with so little of self-assertion, and those who have trusted him to lead the country in the paths of lawful security, peace and confidence will not be disappointed of their hope.

A QUIETING EFFECT.

From the Rochester Post-Express.

President Taft writes without the slightest touch of sensationalism; he gives a vast amount of information, and deals like a wise, conservative, and constructive statesman with the problems before him. His message should have a quieting effect upon the country.

PROGRESSIVE, YET CONSERVATIVE.

From The Springfield Republican (Ind.).

The message breathes a progressive spirit throughout. Yet it is the most conservative message we have had from the White House in at least six years. The business world in its present state of fright should find it on the whole a decidedly reassuring document.

NON-POLITICAL.

From The Boston Transcript.

President Taft is content to "give Congress information from time to time of the state of the Union." In his second annual message he does not essay in any manner to strike out on new paths, he assumes no political leadership and reviews no past campaigns. His message is a judicial, painstaking and accurate review of conditions in the United States over which the Executive Department has authority.

BUSINESSLIKE.

From The Philadelphia Record (Ind.).

President Taft's message to the expiring Congress is not a homily or a project of social and commercial reform. It is a plain, businesslike document, setting forth many interesting improvements in the management of public business and recommending others; but on the whole, it is very moderate in its call for further legislation.

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY.

From The Buffalo Commercial.

President Taft is unquestionably doing the cause of good government eminent service in pressing with intelligence and energy the work of promoting economy and efficiency in the Executive departments. The fundamental reason for the existence undetected of waste, duplication, and bad management is the lack of prompt, accurate information. That information will be supplied before long by agencies that will make possible a real "budget."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

From The Philadelphia Inquirer.

If the Republicans of the nation will only read the message and carefully consider it, they will begin to wonder how it was that so many of them either voted for Democratic candidates for Congress, or refrained from voting at all, at the recent election. It is an able document and full of hard sense, and it is a great pity that we cannot have a Republican Congress one year hence to carry the President's propositions into effect.

TARIFF REVISION AND EXPENSES.

From The Washington Post.

By taking, first of all, a strong stand for immediate reduction in the cost of government, and giving emphasis to his words by making a sharp cut in appropriations, the President not only displays a purpose to meet the wishes of the people, but a full comprehension of the fact that tariff revision in itself is an imperative call for a scaling down of expenditures. Is it not wise and prudent to put the Treasury in order for the inevitable loss of revenue that attaches to reviston downward?

A MARK OF GENIUS.

From The New Haven Register.

If genius is the faculty of taking infinite pains, the President is by this message shown to be a genius. He has covered everything, conscientiously, painstakingly. It is a brainy message, an illuminating message, a message that proves the President knows what he wants and is not afraid to speak his wants. In its plainness, in its thoroughness, in its indication of mighty grasp of the whole situation, it is one of the greatest documents we have had from any President in years.

REAL HONORS.

From The Syracuse Herald.

Nobel prizes, Carnegie hero awards, Rhodes scholarships and all such rewards of bravery and intellect are about to fade into insignificance when Walter Camp is getting ready to pick his 1910 all-American football team.

AN EVEN BET.

From The Philadelphia Telegraph.

Marriage notice of a couple who were wedded in 1864 has just been published in a New York newspaper. It is an even bet as to whether a messenger boy was called to take the marriage notice to the newspaper at the conclusion of the ceremony or wifey gave it to the old man to mail.

UGH—NO!

From The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Somebody figures it out that there are seven eggs in cold storage for every man, woman and child in the country. The storage companies may rest assured that a great many of these shares never will be claimed.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 7.—The President delivered the opening address at the seventh annual meeting of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress this morning, and this afternoon addressed several thousand persons at the exercises attending the unveiling of the statue of General von Steuben.

Judge Joseph R. Lamar, of Georgia, is being strongly urged for appointment to the Supreme Court. Many telegrams and letters indorsing him have been received at the White House. A Delaware delegation called in the interest of Judge William M. Lanning of the Third Circuit. The President conferred with a number of Senators and Representatives on the Supreme Court and Commerce Court appointments.

The President will be the guest of honor at the dedication to-morrow afternoon of the Holy Cross Academy, at 26th and Upton streets. Cardinal Gibbons will officiate at the dedication.

Governor Deneen of Illinois, Representative Joseph E. Ransdell and Secretary Norton were dinner guests at the White House this evening.

Late this afternoon, following the unveiling of the monument to Baron von Steuben, President Taft held a large reception in the East Room, when he greeted about fifteen hundred German-Americans who came to Washington for the unveiling.

Representatives Tawney, Nye, Miller and Stevens talked to the President about Indian affairs.

The Secretary of the Interior and Oscar Lawlor, Assistant Attorney General for the Interior Department, spent half an hour with the President this afternoon.

Among the White House callers were Senators Warren, Oliver, Curtis, Taylor, Brown, Culberson, Briggs, Du Pont, Crane and Purcell, Representatives Wadsworth, Howland, Kendall, Slayden, Cooper, Henry, Morehead, Beall, Semp, Moon (of Tennessee), Kahn, Parsons, Ellis, Heald, Weeks and Miller, and Governor Sloan of Arizona.

Mrs. Taft occupied a box at the Columbia Theatre this afternoon to hear the Russian Symphony Orchestra. Her guests were Mrs. Nathaniel Francis, Mrs. A. Garrison McClintock, Mrs. Horace Westcott and Viscountess de Sibour.

The President and Mrs. Taft gave audience to the Liederkranz society at the White House late this afternoon and were delighted with a specially arranged song recital. They had a number of friends with them.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 7.—The Russian Ambassador and Baroness Rosen were sponsors for the Russian Symphony Orchestra, which gave a concert at the Columbia Theatre this afternoon. They had with them in their box Baroness Elizabeth Rosen and some members of the Embassy staff. Prince Koudacheff, Russian Counsellor, also occupied a box and had with him a party of friends.

The British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce, who have been travelling in South and Central America, will sail for England on December 12, and on December 24 will sail from England for this country. They will arrive here just in time for the New Year's reception at the White House.

Captain Sowerby, British naval attaché, who is shooting in Texas, will return to the capital December 20.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 7.—Miss Helen Taft had a strenuous day, going for a ride this morning, unveiling the Steuben statue early in the afternoon, later appearing as the guest of honor at the tea with Mrs. William F. Dennis as hostess, and going to a dinner to-night, when Miss Margery Colton entertained in her honor.

Colonel and Mrs. Thomas W. Symons were hosts at a dinner to-night in honor of Justice and Mrs. Charles E. Hughes, and had as additional guests Mr. and Mrs. John W. Foster, Brigadier General and Mrs. Henry G. Sharpe, Mr. and Mrs. James Marion Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Hennen Jennings, Miss Margaretta Symons and Frederick Huidekoper.

Mr. and Mrs. Truxton Beale entertained at luncheon the Secretary of the Navy, the Danish Minister and Countess Moltke, the Minister to Norway and Mrs. Herbert H. D. Peirce, Mrs. Thomas F. Bayard, Lord Eustace and others.

A large and smart party witnessed the marriage at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon of Miss Winifred Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Todd Davis, and Lieutenant Richard C. Moore, Engineer Corps, U. S. A., in the hall room of the Highlands. The bride was attended by Miss Dorothy Langhtt as maid of honor, and Miss Mary Landis and Miss Maitland Marshall were bridesmaids. Two nieces of the bride, Miss Evelyn Teel and Miss Irene Davis, were flower girls. The Rev. Charles Wood, officiated, and the bridegroom was attended by Lieutenant Julian L. Schley, of the Engineer Corps, while Lieutenants Max C. Tyler, Daniel I. Sultan and Roger G. Alexander, of the same branch of the service, were ushers.

Mrs. William F. Dennis had assisting her at the tea given this afternoon in compliment to Miss Helen Taft Mrs. Horace Lurton, Mrs. Robert L. Taylor, Mrs. Greene Clay Goodloe, Miss Hammond, Miss McMullin, Mrs. Hamilton Browning, of New York, and Mrs. Riker, of Kentucky.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Southerland entertained guests at dinner to-night, and Mrs. Stanley Matthews entertained a number of guests at luncheon to meet Mrs. John Cropper.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. J. Francis A. Clark gave a dinner, followed by a dance, last night at her house in Fifth avenue for her sister, Miss Dorothy Bigelow. Among the guests were Mrs. Clark's mother, Mrs. Poultney Bigelow; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel, jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. M. V. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Newell W. Tilton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Victor Onativia, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Chance, of Cumberland, England; Mr. and Mrs. Snowden A. Fahnestock, Commodore and Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James, Miss Charlotte K. Harding, Miss Anne B. Tracy, Miss Joan Whitbridge, Miss Beatrice Cladin, Miss Josephine Osborn, Miss Dorothy Browne, of England; Miss D