Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8—Uncle Tom's Cabin.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
AMERICAN—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:20—The Aviator.
BELASCO—8:30—The Concert.
ELIOT—8:20—The Nest Egg.
BROADWAY—8:15—Hamlet.
CARNEGIE HALL—2—The Messiah—8:15—Concert.
CASINO—8:15—He Came from Milwaukee.
CIRCLE—8:15—Mother.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—2:20—8:15—I'll Be Hanged If I Do.
CRITERION—8:20—The Commuters.
DALY'S—8:30—Baby Mine.
EMPIRE—8:15—Too Much Johnson.
FIFTH AVENUE—2—8—Vaudeville.
GAIETY—8:15—Get Rich Quick Wallingford.
GARRICK—8:20—The Impostor.
GLOBE—8—Camille.
HACKETT—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—8:30—Nobody's Widow.
IRVING PLACE—8:15—Freund Fritz.
JOE WEBER'S—8:15—Alma, Where Do You Live?
KNICKERBOCKER—8:20—The Foolish Virgin.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Spring Maid.
LYCEUM—2—Kitty Cheatham—8:15—Suzanne.
LYRIC—8—Two Women.
MAJESTIC—2:15—8:30—The Blue Bird.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—2—8—Vaudeville.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S—8:30—The Gamblers.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Koenigskinder.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—10 a. m. to 6 p. m.—8 p. m. to 10 p. m.
NAZIMOVA'S—8:15—Drifting.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—Madame Sherry.
NEW THEATRE—8:30—Old Heidelberg.
NEW YORK—8:15—Naughty Marietta.
PLAZA—1:30—7:30—Vaudeville.
REPUBLIC—8:15—Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.
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New-York Tribune.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 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.

FOREIGN.—A dispatch from Peking says the government is reluctant to grant constitutional reform immediately, but will probably do so in the near future. ═══ A dispatch from Chihuahua, Mexico, says about two thousand federal troops are marching to surround the insurgents at Pedernales and Mal Paso. ═══ A dispatch from Lisbon says J. Luciano de Castro, ex-Premier of Portugal, and other officials of the Portuguese Credit Foncier Bank were held in heavy bail in that city on a charge of using illegal methods. ═══ Evidence given at the inquest into the wreck of the Scotch express at Kirkby-Stephen, England, on Saturday, indicated that twenty-seven persons were killed instead of seven, as at first reported.

DOMESTIC.—It was learned in Washington that President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt were carrying on an active correspondence, that the President had solicited and received the advice of his predecessor and that they had exchanged Christmas felicitations of a cordial nature. ═══ President Taft, at Washington, approved the expenditure of $20,000,000 for reclamation work in the West. ═══ Arch Hoxsey, the Wright aviator, established a new world's record by an altitude flight of 11,474 feet at Los Angeles. ═══ David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford Junior University, in a speech at Chicago, said that all Europe was "in hock to its uncle," and there would be no war for many years to come. ═══ Reports of the Superintendent of Public Works, the State Engineer and the Canal Advisory Board to Governor White on the progress of the barge canal were made public at Albany. ═══ It was announced at Glens Falls, N. Y., that Joseph A. Kellogg, had accepted the appointment of First Assistant Deputy Attorney General from Mr. Carmody, newly elected Attorney General of New York. ═══ Oscar Chitwood, a prisoner in the county jail, charged with killing a Sheriff, was lynched at Hot Springs, Ark.

CITY.—The Salvation Army, after giving away thousands of basket dinners to the needy poor, held a Christmas party for the youngsters and distributed seven thousand toys; the Volunteers of America likewise gave away Christmas dinners, and more than a score of institutions provided entertainments for their inmates, while special dinners were features of the day. ═══ An aviator who attempted a flight from Jersey to New York came to grief when his machine dropped to the ground and was wrecked. ═══ The host and several guests at a christening party in Williamsburg required surgical aid after police quieted a fight provoked by a neighbor who had not been asked to attend. ═══ While Mrs. Stetson issued a statement denying any aim to be head of the Christian Science Church, her friends continued to be active in her behalf to that end. ═══ A friend of City Chamberlain Hyde said the latter was shooting in Florida and did not know that he was wanted to testify before the legislative investigating committee. ═══ A bull seal, floating on a cake of ice, was seen off Sandy Hook by men on board the Harbor Supervisor's cutter.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Cloudy. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 33 degrees; lowest, 21.

THE SIZE OF THE HOUSE.

The report from Washington that the membership of the House of Representatives under the new apportionment must be fixed at 440, if no state is to lose a part of its present representation, indicates pretty clearly that the new apportionment law will sanction an enlargement of the popular branch of Congress to at least 440 members. The House is disposed to deal tenderly with delegations from states whose representation would be decreased by an undue enlargement of the representative ratio. It has only once since the foundation of the government voted for a contraction of its membership. Under the fifth census, in 1830, the number of representatives was 242, having been increased by 29 over the number allotted under the fourth census. In 1841, after the sixth enumeration, the size of the popular branch was reduced to 232 and many states suffered a serious loss in members. New York's quota was cut from 40 to 34, Pennsylvania's from 28 to 24, and Virginia's from 21 to 15.

The reduction proved unpopular, and from the seventh census on the membership of the House has been materially increased in each reapportionment measure. Between 1860 and 1870 the gain was 50; between 1870 and 1880, 39; between 1880 and 1890, 26, and between 1890 and 1900, 34—five of these seats being created on the admission of Oklahoma. It is proposed now to make an increase of at least 49, three of these seats being assigned to the new states of Arizona and New Mexico. That would not be an excessive enlargement, for it would only represent the natural growth of the country as a whole, and would give to the states which are growing more rapidly proper credit for their growth, without penalizing the states which are increasing in population at the same rate as the country at large or at a somewhat smaller rate.

So long as the House of Representatives clung to the idea that the present chamber could not be enlarged and that the desks which now encumber it could not be dispensed with, there was a natural opposition to marked increases in membership. In 1901, after the census of the previous year, the House organization strongly opposed an enlargement, and the Census Committee, of which Albert J. Hopkins, of Illinois, was chairman, reported an apportionment bill practically retaining the old limit of membership. But the states which would have lost members under such a measure combined to defeat the committee plan and won enough support to substitute the present apportionment law, prepared by Representative Burleigh, of Maine, and designed to obviate a threatened loss of seats by Maine, Nebraska and Virginia. Many important states, including Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Maine, Virginia, Kentucky and Nebraska, would be affected by a revival of the Hopkins plan of non-expansion. Their influence will doubtless be enough to insure sufficient increase in membership to save any state from the mortification of having its representation reduced.

DIRECT NOMINATIONS.

The Democratic state platform contained a declaration for the enactment of a state-wide direct primaries law "to "insure to the people the right to choose "members of political committees and "nominate candidates for public office." Governor-elect Dix is reported as intending to go even further than the platform's declaration in his message. Presumably he will recommend some nominating system for the consideration of the Legislature.

The Democratic state boss just now is furnishing conclusive proof of the need of such a law. Those Democrats who are protesting vehemently against the elevation of Grady to the presidency of the Senate and the appointment of Sheehan or Cohalan to the United States Senatorship give eloquent testimony that for all practical purposes Murphy is the Democratic party. If the defeat of the Republicans was a protest by the voters against bossism, it was lamentable that it saddled on the incoming administration a boss of even greater power than the syndicate of Republicans whose acts had aroused popular disfavor.

Direct nominations may or may not suffice to abolish boss-ship of the Murphy sort. Experience in various states at least indicates that the direct primary sufficiently disturbs a boss's self-confidence to keep him a reasonably safe and sane individual. With party committees elective at primaries would Murphy force a Grady on a Senate some of whose members were as opposed to him as are the upstate Democrats?

Tammany Hall Democrats under the leadership of Grady helped Old Guard Republicans to kill the Hughes direct nominations measure. The record of Tammany in the Legislature is not a happy one for the proposed reform. Grady's so-called direct nominations bill was a farce. It is to be hoped that Governor Dix will recommend a definite, workable scheme for direct nominations and hold his party colleagues, even from Tammany, to the consideration of that system. And lest Tammany prove unruly, we trust Senator Hinman or some other Republican will reintroduce the principle of the Hughes measure, which had so much support, Democratic as well as Republican.

RURAL CORRUPTION.

The stories of election bribery in Adams County, Ohio, delineate the rake's progress of a community. The judge who started proceedings against the vote sellers acknowledges that in his youth he, too, bought votes. The sheriff of the county declares that not one person has been honestly elected to office in the county in twenty years. A third of the voting population is said to have been habitually venal, and even men whose normal function in the community would have been to exercise a certain moral leadership are understood to have had a price for their votes. Corruption was so systematized that the parties had a sort of card index of the purchasable votes, with the price of each, from a glass of whiskey to $25, recorded in it. When this began, so those who remember its beginning say, the transactions were carried on secretly and in whispers. Recently votes have been dealt in almost as openly as other commodities, and the incredible story is told of voters offering themselves at public auction to the highest bidder. "The young voters," says the foreman of the Adams County Grand Judy, "did not know they were "doing wrong. Their fathers had been "selling votes before them."

The picture may be overdrawn. Nothing really comparable in extent with the corruption of Adams County has ever been known to exist in one of the big cities of the country, in New York, for instance, with its notorious ring politics. But, then, rural corruption at its worst probably exceeds municipal corruption at its worst. And there is a reason why it should. The very isolation of a rural community, which is supposed to keep it in the paths of innocence and free from evil communications, is its weakness once it has grown familiar with the face of a vice. When a city goes on the downward path the attention of other cities, of the nation, of the world, perhaps, if its affairs are important enough, is directed to it, and the opinion of other communities is a potent factor in awakening its conscience. But the very obscurity of a rural neighborhood keeps it from feeling the force of outside opinion. Its affairs lack importance, and the stress of publicity naturally falls upon city matters, the great newspapers of the country being published in cities, for city readers chiefly, interested, as self-governing people, in the difficulties, failures, problems and successes of other cities.

When a rural community's moral standards are weakened it does not quickly experience the sensation of seeing itself as others see it and of feeling the scorn of outside communities not corrupted as it has been. The value which a community sets upon the good opinion of other communities is a potent factor in its moral regeneration. At a recent election held in a city of this state and attracting wide attention, those who are familiar with what happened say that the most remarkable influence that compassed the defeat of a machine candidate was the community's sudden realization that the eyes of the state, perhaps even of the whole country, were upon it. That thought is said to have stimulated the moral perceptions even of doctors of divinity and college professors, leaders of the bar and pillars of local society generally.

HUSTLE MIGHT DO IT.

Adjournment of the Legislature by April 1 is one of the cardinal points in the recently announced creed of Assemblyman Frisbie, slated for the Speakership. Time was when the legislative machine was engineered by a boss who understood how, and the three months' session was the regular thing. When the boss lost his grip and the Governor kept his hands off the sessions stretched to four and five and six months, and three extraordinary sessions were added in the last five years.

Neither the domination of a boss nor the interference of a Governor is essential to a reasonably short and creditable legislative session. A little work in the first month or two would relieve the congestion of committee calendars in the third to a remarkable degree. Attendance of legislators regularly for five days a week in the first two months and prompt introduction of local bills would go far toward making unnecessary all day sittings at the end of a four months' session. "Do it now" is quite as applicable to legislators as to anybody in the hustling business world. Maybe Mr. Frisbie can get his flock to work early. It's a Democratic flock, and seems set on "reforming" Republican methods. Certainly he would be establishing a valuable precedent.

OF PUTTERS.

When Mr. Harry Vardon in his "Complete Golfer" reaches the question of putting, after one hundred and fifty pages or so telling in exact detail just how every other stroke is made—where the feet shall be, how the club shall be gripped, what the "follow through" is, and the thousand other things that make up the true "form" of golf—he remarks lamely: "I have no similar in-"struction to offer in the matter of put-"ting. There is no rule and there is no "best way. . . . The fact is that there "is more individuality in putting than in "any other department of golf, and it is "absolutely imperative that this individ-"uality should be allowed to have its "way. I seriously believe that every "man has had a particular kind of put-"ting method awarded to him by Na-"ture." If he had added that it took a particular kind of putter to enable him to bring out the particular kind of putting concealed in his system by Nature he would have stated the prevailing impression, to which the St. Andrews ruling against "mallet headed" putters runs counter. That is why there is an outcry over that ukase.

This feeling that a man can put only with one club, which perhaps has not yet been invented, is so firmly established that it will make acceptance of the St. Andrews rule difficult. It is leading, nevertheless, to the development of such freak instruments for coaxing the ball into the cup that authorities jealous of the traditions of the game may be justified in thinking it time to interfere. The Schenectady putter, the most popular instrument that falls under the St. Andrews ban, looks no more inappropriate as an instrument of golf than would a blackboard eraser with a shaft stuck in it. It is the least sinner, for as the heathen loves an ugly idol the golfer seeking after new gods worships an ugly putter; a very Billikens of an instrument is sure to impress him as the embodiment of good luck. Everything animate and inanimate is imitated. There is the putter with the swan's neck, which for sheer ungracefulness would make a swan die of shame. It resembles a putter as much as a swan boat resembles a boat. But some golfers respond to a mysterious prompting—of that nature to which Mr. Vardon so respectfully alludes—to use it. There is the putter which has an arch of iron like a bucket handle over it from heel to toe and a shaft extending upward from the centre of this iron. And there are the thousand other unblushing monstrosities that are drawn forth from caddy bags on the putting greens.

Æsthetically we may regret their existence, but they do not change the character of the game, and that is ordinarily the reason for barring innovations in sports. A man may still miss a six-inch put with the most perfect adaptation of a soup ladle that was ever taken out on the links, and that is proof enough that they are all real putters. Our sympathy goes with the St. Andrews authorities. But let them be philosophers. Golf was ever a philosopher's game, and where is poor laughable human nature ever stripped so stark naked as when some splay-footed putter—perhaps the thirty-sixth in its owner's collection—is pulled confidently out of the bag and set in action?

TWO NEW CONSTITUTIONS.

The closing year sees two new constitutions in course of formation and adoption in Europe, under widely different conditions and of widely different characters. One is that of the Reichsland of Elsass-Lothringen, of which we were speaking the other day as a possible new member of the German empire. Apparently it is not to be that, for it is to have no representation in the Bundesrath, though it is to have a complete system of domestic government, with a Parliament of two chambers. The upper chamber is to consist of thirty-six members, of whom half are to be appointed by the imperial government and half are to be chosen by various trades and professions, including certain *ex officio* members, such as the heads of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant churches and a representative of the University of Strassburg. The lower chamber is to be elected by popular suffrage of all males possessing ordinary qualifications and twenty-five years old, with two votes for each over thirty-five and three for each over forty-five. The state will sustain a relationship to the empire much like that of one of our territories to the United States, belonging to it but not being an equal part of it.

The other new constitution is that of Portugal, which presents some decided novelties, the practicability of which is to be determined by experience. The prevalence of Socialistic doctrines is suggested in the provision for a single chambered Legislature, elected by universal suffrage for three years. The President of the republic will be elected by the Legislature, as in France, for five years, but will be ineligible for re-election until after the expiration of another regular term. The Cabinet will be based upon both the French and the American systems. Most of its members will be appointed by the President in accordance with the political complexion of the Legislature and will be responsible to the Legislature, as in France. But the ministers of the army, the navy, the treasury and public works are to be considered non-political and will not be removable by an adverse vote of the Legislature such as would compel the others to resign. Their tenure will, therefore, be similar to that of American Cabinet officers.

These new constitutions add to the great variety of systems under which the various nations of Europe are endeavoring to solve the problems of human government—in some cases to see how much of power can be retained for the personal sovereign, and in others to see how directly self-government can be exercised by the people. A comparison of all the different constitutions would be instructive, though perhaps a little bewildering. We should find in it, however, a strong confirmation of Pope's philosophy,

For forms of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best.

For some of the best governed countries have the worst constitutions, while some of the worst governed have constitutions which are theoretically all but perfect. The ruling factor, after all, is the genius of the people and their capacity for self-government.

These are belated Christmas greetings to our friend and neighbor The Tribune—but after next Saturday night it will not have to defend the state administration at Albany, the first real vacation it has had in sixteen years.—The New York World.

"The World" will not have to wait long for its vacation.

Champ Clark says he believes in Santa Claus. Belief in the stocking filling saint should be an article of faith with the whole Democratic party.

Professor Adams S. Hill, of Harvard University, who died on Sunday, will be remembered with gratitude as a pioneer among college instructors in teaching students to write the English language simply and clearly. He made lucidity the test of good composition and frowned on the sophomoric ponderosity and eloquence which had previously been too generally accepted as a mark of college learning. American collegians do not now write as well as they ought to, but commendable progress has been made toward better standards through the labors of Professor Hill and the many other teachers whom his ideas and methods influenced.

The "jimswinger" coat arrives in Oklahoma at the same time that the "pantaloon skirt" arrives in New York. The "jimswinger" coat is defined by Governor-elect Cruce as "any old coat with "long tails that flap out behind in the "wind." The new skirt, as its name implies, is any old skirt without any tails to flap out behind in the wind.

Seattle promises us the novel spectacle of a recall election, which is to determine whether the Mayor is to remain in office or is to be dismissed as an unprofitable servant. The experiment will be interesting and instructive, though we are not sure that it will inspire general emulation. It is a good thing to have a penalty for unsatisfactory work in office. It is a better thing for voters to pay more attention to their candidates and to make more sure that they are the right kind of men.

A dispatch about earthquake shocks at David, Panama, contains the reminder that that city is 205 miles west of Panama. There are those who may be surprised at the mention of such a distance in a country which has been scoffed at as tiny. In fact, Panama has a territorial extent which would reach from New York to Cleveland and a seacoast of more than 1,250 miles.

The organization of a Spanish Literary Circle in this city, composed of college professors, consuls, journalists and business men, is a commendable step. It will promote the study of a noble and attractive literature which is not now as well known to the non-Spanish world as it should be and will increase practical familiarity with that European language which now stands third in the numbers who use it and second in its promise and potency of future utility.

When a single steamer from this port carries more than $7,000,000 in cash or money orders as Christmas gifts from immigrants to the "old folks at home," it would seem that St. Nicholas has transferred his patronage from Russia to America.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

It had long light curls, rosy cheeks and big blue eyes. It was handsomely dressed and neat as wax when it fell and had its head smashed and both legs cut off by a baggage cart near the Grand Central terminal yesterday morning. The owner of the injured-beyond-repair doll looked sorrowfully at the wreck and, turning to her older sister, said: "Let's take it to grandma's and we'll have a funeral when all the fun is over." The pieces were gathered and carried away and the incident probably added a novel feature to "grandma's" entertainment.

"How do you like living in a prohibition state?"

"It isn't so different," replied Colonel Stillwell. "I know a number of men that are due for the same New Year resolutions we used to make in Kentucky."—Washington Star.

The application of the Brewers' Association of Pilsen for an injunction restraining importers and brewers from using the word "Pilsner" to describe beer other than that which is brewed in the Bohemian capital city recalls an incident at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. A visitor from Austria was asked at a beer place how he liked the 'Pilsner' and answered: "I could tell before I tasted it that it was an imitation."

"How did you know?"

"By the label on the bottle. Ours is 'Pilsner Bier.' This is 'Pilsener Beer.' As long as you brand it honestly that way you impose on no one."

"Guess I must have been born unlucky."

"What makes you say that?"

"Well, for instance, I went to a ball game once. There were eighteen players on the diamond, fifteen or twenty on the benches, ten thousand people in the grandstand, twenty thousand on the bleachers, and—the ball hit me."—Toledo Blade.

Having settled the theatre hat problem through the kind consent of the women to remove it, theatrical Berlin is now confronted with the difficulty of a theatre cap, which feminine spectators have taken to wearing instead, and which is as effective in intercepting the view of the stage of those behind them as were the hats themselves.

"What do you mean by calling him 'a doctor of the new school'?"

"Why, he doesn't make a practice of saying that he was summoned just in time."—Buffalo Express.

"The discussions on illiteracy in the French army which have taken place recently," says the Paris correspondent of the "St. Petersburg Gazette," "have been fruitful of at least one good result. An energetic woman, Mme. Lagardelle, wrote to the military authorities saying that 'something must be done to remove this point of criticism' and offered her services as an instructor. Her patriotic offer was accepted and 'soldiers' classes' have been formed under her direction in which she acts as instructor of reading and writing. 'One teacher cannot do much to correct this lamentable condition,' writes an admirer of the volunteer, 'but her example will bring others forward, and the good results will stand to a woman's credit.'"

Mr. Squiggs—I hear that Professor Wiseman, the prophet, has decided that the world will come to an end next Christmas Day.

Tommy Squiggs—Before or after dinner, pa?—Tit-Bits.

SOCIALISM AND GOVERNORS

Writer Sees Too Much Radicalism in Conferences of State Heads.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: William George Jordan, of No. 172 West 81st street, New York City, is the originator, it now seems, of the "House of Governors." When Roosevelt called the Governors together, a few years ago, the public got the idea, as usual, that it was something original with himself. "The Century Magazine" has been publishing Mr. Jordan, whose central idea seems to be to get the Governors of all the states to agree on uniform legislation. He scouts the idea of national uniformity, while he fails to see that state uniformity, which would be state socialism, would prepare the whole for easy translation into state and national socialism in its wider sense. It would come.

The friends of national uniform laws have been working long and vainly for their realization. We have had a great variety of calls along the line—marriage and divorce, child labor, compulsory education, industrial education and many others. Mr. Jordan says, "There are perhaps fifty great questions in this country to-day wherein uniform laws seem essential for the best interests of all the states, and on these Congress is powerless to act." Counting all that the various "sociologists" and socialists want, there are easily fifty, sure enough.

But it will be the greatest blunder of the age to give any more uniformity than we already have. Our every state is an immense country of itself. Every one of our Governors should attend as strictly as possible to the needs of his own state. But Mr. Jordan is already intercepted if the Owen bill for a national health bureau passes. Perhaps all of his entire fifty laws would be pretty well embraced in this bureau, which, it is said, covers every vital department save that of the army and navy, while even over these it would also exercise a lively jurisdiction. Roosevelt, Taft, the life insurance companies, the American Medical Association and many thousands of self-interested people are fighting for this bureau, while eighteen millions of other people are antagonizing it. There are enough enlisted in its interest to prove to Mr. Jordan that national uniformity is very much within the bounds of possibility.

Mr. Jordan may mean well and think he has the solution of all the problems of the day in his hand; but in reality he is playing to state and national socialism, while, withal, the growing possibilities of the Owen bill scatter to the winds his every proposition. The wise Governors of our land will continue to keep his "house" at the distance it deserves.

FRANCIS B. LIVESEY.

Clarkson, Md., Dec. 24, 1910.

CUTTING DOWN THE VOTE.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

Sir: In addition to points you make anent the election of Senators by popular vote, you might have added that in the states of the solid South not only have the black men been long since disfranchised, but also half the white men as well. They get rid of the white man by making the payment of a tax a prerequisite for voting. This is worse than your point about a man in a small state having more voice than in a large state. Look up the laws and the resultant vote in Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia, Texas, etc.

UNCLE JOHN JAECKERS.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 24, 1910.

AN ADMIRABLE RECORD.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: William Orr, of Orr's Mills, N. Y., celebrated his eightieth birthday on Friday, December 23. Mr. Orr arrived in America in 1847, on the packet ship Glenmore, from Belfast, in the fairly good time of 63 days. He cast his first vote for John C. Frémont, in 1856, and has voted for every Republican nominee for President since, never having missed an election in all those years.

Mr. Orr has read The Tribune for nearly sixty years, is a warm supporter of President Taft and an ardent admirer of Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Orr attends to business every day, enjoys the best of health, outside of a little lameness. He expects to vote for President Taft in 1912. Mr. Orr was a firm believer in Governor Hughes, and against all, said Mr. Hughes would win by over 50,000.

D. LINCOLN ORR.

Orr's Mills, N. Y., Dec. 24, 1910.

THE PRICE OF OIL.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

Sir: The statement of Charles T. White in a letter printed in The Tribune on Saturday that the price of oil in New York City is six cents a gallon was a great surprise to me. If true, why do I pay 10 3-10 cents a gallon at the cheapest grocery in Poughkeepsie and draw it myself to my residence? Fact is, the suburban and rural dweller is justified by the North Carolina man and will not be deceived by half truths.

EMORY S. HAYNES.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Dec. 24, 1910.

FROM A WOMAN WHO SMOKES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In reply to your query whether women should be permitted to smoke in public places permit me, as one addicted to the weed, to protest against the present arrangement at the new Hotel Ritz-Carlton, where men and women are allowed to smoke in the principal rooms of the restaurant. It is a bid for popular favor, and it will be popular with the demi-mondaines and those who ape their ways, but it inevitably tends to drive out refined trade. Refined women in this country still hesitate to smoke in public. I, for one, would like the privilege of taking three or four puffs at a cigarette after dinner in a room adjacent to the ladies' dressing room, where no man is allowed to enter, and where, therefore, objectionable women will not care to congregate. If men and women wish to smoke together at dinner in a restaurant, let them retire to a palm garden or hire a private dining room.

New York, Dec. 26, 1910. W. DE C. E.

WEAKNESS, ANYHOW.

From The Louisville Courier-Journal.

The death of the "Bachelor Girls' Club" of New York may be ascribed to heart failure.

THEY AGREE FULLY.

From The Schenectady Union.

Mayor Gaynor of New York does not believe in overheating the streetcars. He is in thorough accord with every surface railway corporation.

A CONFINING BUSINESS NOW.

From The Pittsburg Dispatch.

They promptly convicted an Italian kidnapper New York. If they can keep on making sharp examples that industry may become decidedly unpleasant.

BUT THAT'S NEW YORK, TOO.

From The Buffalo Commercial.

The best place to have boils, as Dr. Franklin shrewdly observed, is on some other fellow. The best place for a Pintsch gas tank to supply cars from, says the New York Explosive Commission, is—Mott Haven.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 26.—The President and Mrs. Taft have so far spent their holiday alone with their three children, but to-morrow Mrs. Taft's nieces, the Misses Harriet and Katherine Anderson, of Cincinnati, and John Ewen, of Chicago, a friend of Robert Taft, will arrive. Other guests will be here on Wednesday, and the White House will have the merriest Christmas week seen there in a long time.

Mrs. Taft is proudly showing her Christmas visitors a beautiful ring presented to her by the wives of the members of the Cabinet.

Charles Taft has put in a strenuous day exchanging Christmas calls with his friends and comparing notes on the gifts left in large numbers by Santa Claus.

The President spent several hours in his office to-day looking over his mail and dictating replies.

THE CABINET.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 26.—While most of the Cabinet families spent the day quietly, entertaining informally a few friends at dinner to-night, the home of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Nagel presented a joyous scene. They entertained Miss Helen Taft and Robert Taft at dinner to-night and invited a number of young people to meet them, including Miss Marion Oliver, the Misses Julia H. and Violet Shepley, of Boston; Miss Sophy Johnston, Miss Shirley Putnam, Miss Hildegarde Nagel, the Assistant Secretaery of Commerce and Labor, Jonkheer W. H. de Beaufort, the Netherlands attaché; Captain Graham L. Johnson and Lieutenant Kenneth Pratt, of the White House staff; Mr. Fowler, of Chicago; Dr. Charles E. Hughes and Dr. Davis.

The Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Nagel have as house guests for the rest of the holidays the Misses Shepley, of Boston, the nieces of Mrs. Nagel, who arrived here to-day.

The Postmaster General will return to-morrow from Boston, where he went to spend Christmas with his relatives.

The Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Ballinger will probably return to-morrow from a few days' outing in Virginia.

The Secretary of the Navy, with his family, attended the performance of "The Follies of 1910" this afternoon.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 26.—The Austrian Ambassador and Baroness Hengelmüller invited the bachelor members of the embassy staff to dine with them at the embassy to-night.

The Mexican Ambassador went to New York to-day, but will return here to-morrow.

The Austrian naval attaché and Baroness Preuschen von und zu Liebenstein, who went to Delaware to join the house party of Senator du Pont over Christmas, will visit in New York before returning here on Thursday.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 26.—Miss Helen Taft was the guest of honor to-night at a charmingly arranged domino party, with Miss Edith T. A. Gracie as hostess. Robert Taft was also a guest, and Miss Hildegarde Nagel, whose parents had been hosts at a dinner party in honor of Miss Taft and her brother, accompanied her party to the home of Miss Gracie. There were eighty young people in the party.

Mrs. L. Z. Leiter and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leiter will have as their guests for the New Year's Miss Gwendolyn Burden, of New York. She will remain for the ball which Mrs. Leiter will give in honor of Miss Helen Taft on January 3.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. McLean have issued invitations for a ball in honor of Miss Helen Taft on January 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Goelet Gerry were the guests of honor at a dinner given last night by Mrs. Townsend. The Danish Minister and Countess Moltke, the Spanish Minister and Señora de Riano, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Moore, Mr. Horstmann, of the German Embassy; Mr. and Mrs. Gist Blair and Mr. and Mrs. George Howard were among the guests, and a big Christmas tree in the ballroom added much to the pleasure of the guests.

Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Gherardi entertained guests at dinner at the Chevy Chase Club to-night.

Mrs. Wirt Dexter, of Boston, will arrive here on Thursday to visit the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. MacVeagh. She will, of course, be a guest at the big dinner party they are giving that night.

Mrs. James B. Aleshire and Miss Margery Aleshire received several hundred guests at a tea this afternoon. Assisting them were Mrs. John A. Johnson, Mrs. Charles G. Treat, Mrs. Benjamin F. Cheatham, Mrs. David S. Stanley, Mrs. Joseph Powell Tracy, the Misses Murray, Miss Hatch, Miss Weeks, Miss Allen and a number of others.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. Henry Coe gives a dance this evening at Sherry's for her daughters, Miss Rosalie and Miss Emily Coe, and Mrs. John Innes Kane will have an evening reception, with music, at her house, in East 49th street, which will recall to many the entertainments at her old home, the Schermerhorn mansion, in 23d street, when Washington Square was the centre of the New York world of fashion.

Among the other hostesses of to-day are Mrs. Theodore Frelinghuysen, who is giving a dinner at her house, in West 47th street; Mrs. Robert R. Livingston, who has a dinner this evening for her daughter, Miss Laura Livingston, at her home, in North Washington Square, and Mrs. Philip Lydig, who has invitations out for a dinner, followed by a theatre party, at her house, in East 52d street.

Miss Jennie E. Taylor gives a reception this afternoon at her house, in West 55th street, for her debutante niece, Miss Adelaide Buchanan.

Mrs. Geraldyn Redmond has issued invitations for a dance at the Colony Club, on the night of January 11, for Miss Elizabeth J. Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Stevens Sands, recently married, take possession to-day of their apartments, No. 49 East 53d street.

Mrs. W. Seward Webb's house party, at Shelburne, Vt., for the holidays includes Mr. and Mrs. F. Egerton Webb, Miss Laura Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pulitzer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Purdy, Mr. and Mrs. J. Watson Webb, Major G. Creighton Webb, and Louis, Vanderbilt and W. Seward Webb, jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Delafield have left town to spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. George Winthrop Folsom, at Lenox, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Tuckerman are spending their honeymoon at Palm Beach, Fla., staying at The Breakers. Mrs. Tuckerman was Miss Atterbury, of New York.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rone Auerbach are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son, at their house, in East 10th street. Mrs. Auerbach was Miss Dorothy Toler, a daughter of Mrs. Henry Pennington Toler.

A. Eugene Gallatin and the members of the Motor Car Touring Society will give a dinner at the Ritz on January 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Goelet Gerry have left town for Washington, where they are spending their holidays with Mrs. Gerry's mother, Mrs. Richard Townsend.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Prescott Rowe have arrived from Brookline, Mass., to stay with Mrs. Rowe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Livingston.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt and their little girl are leaving for Europe early next month, in order to complete the convalesence of Reginald Vanderbilt in the south of France. They are now staying with Alfred G. Vanderbilt, at his house, in East 62d street.

Major General and Mrs. Frederick D. Grant, with their son-in-law and daughter, Prince and Princess Cantacuzene, have left town for Chicago, there to spend the holidays with Mrs. Potter Palmer.

Lady Paget, wife of Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Paget and daughter of the late Mrs. Paran Stevens, of New York, sails from England for this city next week.

SOCIAL NOTES FROM NEWPORT.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Newport, Dec. 26.—Roderick Terry, jr., Mrs. Eugene Hale, jr., and Frederick Godwin are members of a house party which is being entertained by Dr. and Mrs. Roderick Terry at their villa here.

Mrs. French Vanderbilt's house party has broken up and the guests have returned to New York.

Lorillard Spencer, jr., has returned to New York after spending the holiday with his family in Newport.

Miss J. C. Alexander, who has been visiting in Newport, has returned to New York.

Mrs. French Vanderbilt will give a dinner in New York on Thursday in honor of her niece, Miss Julia S. French, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Tuck French.

Mrs. William T. Bull is confined to her home, Dudley Place, Middletown, by illness. Her sons, James G. Blaine, 3d, and William T. Bull, are spending the holiday season with their mother. The latter will leave in January for a trip abroad, to be gone several months. His tutor will accompany him.

NOTES FROM TUXEDO PARK.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Tuxedo Park, Dec. 26.—The holidays at Tuxedo have been very gay. A large crowd of well known New Yorkers came out today on the special train for the skating and tobogganing on Tuxedo Lake.

The finals for the handicap court tennis matches for the Mason cup at the Racquet Club were decided to-day. A large and fashionable audience witnessed the games.

Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Winslow, who are in the Waldo House, entertained at a house party over to-day.

Mrs. Price Post will give a dinner and dance at her villa to-morrow night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Tower, Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Spedden, Mr. and Mrs. Eben Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Grenville Kane, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Carhart and Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Lee entertained house parties to-day.

Mr