Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8—Uncle Tom's Cabin.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
AMERICAN—1:30—7:30—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—2:20—8:20—The Aviator.
BELASCO—8:30—The Concert.
BIJOU—2:20—8:20—The Nest Egg.
BROADWAY—8—Romeo and Juliet.
CARNEGIE HALL—8—The Messiah.
CASINO—2:15—8:15—He Came from Milwaukee.
CIRCLE—2:15—8:15—Mother.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—8:15—I'll Be Hanged If I Do.
CRITERION—2:15—8:20—The Commuters.
DALY'S—2:30—8:30—Baby Mine.
GLOBE—2—L'Aiglon—8—Madame X.
EMPIRE—2:15—8:15—Secret Service.
FIFTH AVENUE—Vaudeville.
GAIETY—2:15—8:15—Get Rich Quick Wallingford.
GARRICK—2:15—8:20—The Impostor.
HACKETT—8:20—Daddy Dufard.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—2:15—8:15—The Girl and the Kaiser.
HIPPODROME—2—8—The International Cup—Ballet of Niagara—The Earthquake.
HUDSON—2:15—8:30—Nobody's Widow.
IRVING PLACE—8:15—Merchant of Venice.
JOE WEBER'S—2—8:15—Alma, Where Do You Live?
KNICKERBOCKER—8:20—The Foolish Virgin.
LIBERTY—2:15—8:15—The Spring Maid.
LYCEUM—8:15—Suzanne.
LYRIC—2:15—8—Two Women.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—9 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.—Poultry Show.
MAJESTIC—2:15—8:30—The Blue Bird.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—2—8—Vaudeville.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S—2:30—8:30—The Gamblers.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE — 8 — Koenigskinder.
NAZIMOVA'S—2:15—8:15—Drifting.
NEW AMSTERDAM— 2:15 — 8:15 — Madame Sherry.
NEW THEATRE—2—8:30—Old Heidelberg.
NEW YORK—8:15—Naughty Marietta.
PLAZA—1:30—7:30—Vaudeville.
REPUBLIC—2:15—8:15—Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.
WALLACK'S—2:15—8:20—Pomander Walk.
WEST END—2:15—8:15—The Cub.

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New-York Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 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 Chihuahua, Mex., says General Navarro at Pedernales is waiting for the two thousand troops to reinforce him before giving battle. ═══ It was reported at Washington that a clash had occurred between troops of Santo Domingo and Hayti at a point on the border. ═══ Major General Duvall, commander of the Department of the Philippines, caused military agents to search Japanese houses in Manila; the local police aided. ═══ A dispatch from Tsingtau, China, says the German cruiser Emden sailed for Ponape, Caroline Islands, where, it is reported, an insurrection has occurred. ═══ A dispatch from Catania, Sicily, says Mount Ætna is showing considerable activity. ═══ It was announced at St. Petersburg that the expulsion of Jews from the Russian capital has been begun. ═══ A cable dispatch from Rome stated that a large majority of ninety thousand railroad employes in Italy have voted in favor of a strike.

DOMESTIC.—The civil suit against the Beef Trust was dismissed in the Federal Circuit Court in Chicago, at the request of the government, in order to clear the way for trial of the packers on criminal charges. ═══ The case of Commander William S. Sims of the battleship Minnesota, who is said to have made an indiscreet speech in London, was referred by Secretary Meyer to President Taft, and it is thought in Washington that the commander will be reprimanded. ═══ Governor-elect John A. Dix at Albany devoted several hours to preparing his annual message and his inaugural address. ═══ Frank Worthing, a well known actor and leading man for Grace George, died suddenly on the stage at Detroit. ═══ Justice Betts in the Supreme Court at Kingston, N. Y., handed down a decision vacating the temporary injunction secured by Ellis B. Long, of Esopus, who brought action against the State Prison Commission to restrain the awarding of a contract for the new state prison at Wingdale, Dutchess County.

CITY.—Stocks were heavy. ═══ The state authorities closed the Northern Bank, with nine branches in the upper part of the city, and deposits aggregating nearly $7,000,000, alleging a long list of irregularities. ═══ Judge Fawcett, in Brooklyn, sentenced Maria Rappa and G. Pattenza to twenty-five years each in prison for kidnapping Giuseppe Longo. ═══ It was announced that Mayor Gaynor would not appoint a new Board of Elections until he was conversant with the results of the investigations of Commissioner of Accounts Fosdick. ═══ Police are looking for a man said to have gagged and robbed the girl cashier in a Cliff street plumbers' supply shop. ═══ A formal decree approving the offer made by the directors of the Bank of North America in way of settlement of the shareholders' claims was handed down by Judge Hand. ═══ The Presbyterian Hospital purchased twelve and one-half lots adjoining the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for today: Cloudy. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 41 degrees; lowest, 27.

THE "LANDSLIDE OF 1910."

An interesting light is thrown on the character of the "landslide of 1910" by the returns which have now been officially canvassed in nearly all the states. The vote cast for members of Congress by the two parties offers the most natural basis for contrasting the extent of the recent Democratic victory with the extent of the Republican victory in 1908 and with the extent of Democratic and Republican victories in earlier years. The conversion of a Republican majority of forty-five in the House of Representatives into a Democratic majority of sixty-five has been generally taken as showing the unquestioned re-establishment of Democratic supremacy in the Union. But on the vote actually cast for candidates for Congress the Democratic plurality was surprisingly narrow. Returns on Congress from Texas are still unofficial, but accepting the unofficial figures, which undoubtedly involve an overestimate of Democratic strength, the Democratic margin on a total vote of 11,314,499 was only 128,766. In the last campaign in which a Democratic House of Representatives was elected—that of 1892—the popular majority was 778,598. The Republican majority in 1894 was 1,082,252. In 1904 it was 1,652,720, and in 1908 it was 686,468. Those were real "landslides." This year's was a half-hearted one, due to the fact that an unusually light vote was brought out and to the further fact that the Republican party suffered much more acutely than the Democratic by "absenteeism" from the polls.

The Republican vote of 1910 was 5,592,814, against 7,242,985 in 1908, a loss of 1,650,171. The Democratic vote decreased from 6,556,517 to 5,721,580—a loss of 834,937. It is significant, also, that the vote for Republican candidates for Congress in many states fell far below the vote for Republican candidates for state offices. Thus the Republican state ticket in Illinois won by 60,438, while the plurality on the Congress ticket was less than 1,000. The Republican state ticket was successful in Missouri, but the Congress ticket failed to carry the state by 10,000. In Massachusetts the vote for Congress was a stand-off, while most of the Republican state candidates were elected by liberal pluralities. The Republicans lost all three Congress seats in Colorado, but elected several state officers. In this state the Democratic plurality on the Congress ticket was 45,188, but the highest Democratic plurality for a state office—Governor Dix's excepted—was 29,884, and the lowest was 1,873.

Apparently the voters generally intended to show their dissatisfaction with Republican leadership in Congress, rather than with Republican administration in the states. On an averaged vote for state candidates a Republican instead of a Democratic plurality in the country would be shown. The Democratic party is in power in the House of Representatives only on sufferance and not as the result of an enthusiastic acceptance by the country of Democratic leadership. That is the most patent suggestion of the "landslide of 1910."

NOT IN BRYANT PARK.

By some, at least, of those who more or less responsibly represent the National Academy of Design earnest disapproval of the plan to erect its proposed building along the western border of Bryant Park will, we suppose, be regarded as a manifestation of hostility to the academy itself, or at least of a lack of sympathetic interest in its welfare. So far as The Tribune is concerned there is no warrant for such a judgment, and we are persuaded that it is wholly erroneous. Our opposition to the plan proceeds primarily from the conviction that the proposed sacrifice of park space would not be compensated by any contributions to the general advantage which the academy could make, that it would be the desertion of a policy which is based on well considered principles and which ought to be maintained.

But we are equally convinced that it would be prejudicial to the best interests of the academy. It would seem to be needless to urge that a long frontage parallel and adjacent to the elevated railroad would inevitaby involve disadvantages from which a fine arts building ought to be free. That assuredly is the opinion which has heretofore prevailed among members of the academy, and it would be authoritatively asserted by them now if it were proposed to buy a site instead of receiving one as a gift from the city. If official and popular sentiment were unanimously favorable to the suggestion, the academy, in our opinion, would be bound for its own sake to resist the temptation.

Those who, assuming to speak for the academy, advocate the Bryant Park site appear singularly unwilling to profit by the lesson which they should have learned from the general condemnation of their recent scheme for converting to its use that part of Central Park where the Arsenal stands. That incident made it clear that public good will might be forfeited by insistence on an unacknowledged claim, and it would have been wise in abandoning that ill advised project to relinquish all idea of procuring free park space for an academy building. An ungrudging deference to public sentiment would have been becoming then, and we think that such an attitude would now enlist the practical support of intelligent and liberal citizens who are desirous of seeing the institution settled in a commodious and beautiful home of its own.

THE NEW INHERITANCE TAX.

What Controller Williams reports regarding the disappointingly low receipts from the new progressive inheritance tax, together with his conclusions regarding the migration of wealth to other states to escape its exactions, was doubtless expected. The defect in state income and inheritance taxes is the ease with which they can be avoided simply by a change of domicile, and this change in the case of a person with houses in more than one state is, as Mr. Williams points out, often merely mental. When a tax is raised in one state a person who has hitherto regarded himself as a resident of that state merely makes up his mind to regard himself henceforth as domiciled in another state where the tax is low or does not exist at all, and where he has his summer or winter home, as the case may be. When a man only has to change his mind to change his residence tax dodging is easy. The New York law undoubtedly invited a good many men to change their minds about where they lived.

One other consequence of the tax to which Mr. Williams alludes may prove of greater consequence to the state than the loss of wealthy citizens, and that is its effect in deterring capital from entering into New York enterprises. It will have some effect of this sort, for the tax is to be levied upon holdings in New York State corporations of estates of non-residents. Mr. Williams says that instances of capital's refusing investment in this state on the ground of the new tax have been brought to his attention. That feature of the New York law is common to other inheritance tax laws, and works harshly and unjustly when it results in a decedent's estate being taxed heavily in two or more states. If it should prove to affect New York enterprises in any considerable degree the state will have to recede from that part of its inheritance tax policy though it may still cling to its graduated tax.

BETTER TIMES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Striking testimony to the efficacy of the Philippine sections of the Payne tariff law is furnished in the latest report of General Edwards, the chief of the War Department's Bureau of Insular Affairs. In those sections long delayed recognition was given to the fact that the Philippine archipelago has become by force of circumstances a part of our economic system, and is consequently entitled to the benefits of a free exchange of products with the other components of that system. Though President Roosevelt and President Taft both earnestly advised legislation removing tariff barriers against Philippine products, the Senate held out for years against a self-evident act of reason and justice. It preferred to consider the baseless fears of certain interests in this country that they would suffer from Philippine competition, and continued, until the Payne tariff law was passed, to hold tariff duties on Philippine produces justifiable, although free entry was granted to similar products from Hawaii and Porto Rico.

The results of the first year of freer trade with the Philippines prove how groundless were the apprehensions of those who saw in the opening of our market to Philippine sugar and tobacco a menace to home industries. There has been no ruinous inflow to check domestic production and depress prices. The limits of free entry for sugar and tobacco fixed by the Payne law have not been reached and are not likely to be reached for several years to come. Selling values here were not affected, but, on the other hand, the Philippine tobacco and sugar industries were encouraged and steadied by the enlargement of their market, and in return much more liberal purchases were made in the United States for Philippine consumption. Imports from America doubled in value in the fiscal year 1909-'10, and exports to America increased in value 80 per cent. A freer interchange of products has helped both parties to the transaction economically, and has also undoubtedly contributed to strengthen the political bonds between the United States and the people of its Far Eastern dependency. Sound policy points to a removal in the near future of the few remaining discriminations against Philippine products seeking a market here.

We are glad to note that even our anti-imperialist friend "The Evening Post" is pleased with the workings of the Philippine sections of the Payne law. It admits the great benefits which have accrued and will accrue to the Filipinos through the privilege of free entry into the American market. Yet it has urged, and still urges, a course which, by making the archipelago independent without delay, would shut the American market to its products at a time when it most needs a chance to develop economically and industrially. Immediate independence for the Filipinos would have to be purchased by a sacrifice which they cannot afford to make of their best interests, material and political.

WHERE WERE THE DIRECTORS?

The methods by which the state authorities alleged that the assets of the Northern Bank and the Ætna Indemnity Company were impaired are of the sort familiar when such companies fall in the hands of speculative management. Some of the officers of the institutions at least appear to have been "dummies," who did exactly as the chief stockholder told them to do. Assets are alleged to have been exchanged for other assets of problematic value in accordance with the convenience of a needy speculator. Checks are alleged to have been "kited," and items entered upon bank passbooks are admitted by an employe of the bank to have been "faked." It is deplorable that the Northern Bank, formerly the Hamilton Bank, which suspended in 1907, should have fallen again into the hands of management of a sort similar to that which so recently wrecked it.

After the panic of 1907 the laws of the state were strengthened in ways which were generally admitted to be admirably calculated to guard against the speculative management of banks. But already the impossibility of preventing the manipulation of a bank's funds by an "insider" who has his tools in high places in the bank has been demonstrated.

One thing, however, is to be observed about such manipulations. If directors of banks were not too trusting in regard to the activities of the one man who is dominating their bank's affairs, whether he be the president or the chief stockholder, and scrutinized his relations to the bank and his business activities outside of it, they might guard against the havoc wrought by speculators. If the outside activities of the alleged speculator in control of the Northern Bank were what they seem to have been it should apparently have been possible for the practical business men on its directorate to have perceived the danger in his kind of "one-man" management. Business men in the directorate of a bank ought to be able to make up their minds with a fair degree of certainty as to whether the one man who is really running the bank is a reckless speculator or not. If he is promoting hazarduous enterprises he is vastly more dangerous to the bank than a cashier who is "playing the races" or gambling in stocks.

FIGHTING THE MENTAL SCOURGE.

A hearty godspeed is to be wished for the movement to combat the prevalence of insanity which was organized the other evening at the Academy of Medicine in this city. Perhaps there will be some wonder that it has been so long delayed, though that is not difficult to explain. Efforts seek lines of least resistance, in sanitation as well as everything else. Years ago campaigns were organized against various ills which were recognized as curable or preventable, and which in fact were comparatively susceptible to treatment, while the major ills, ignorantly or superstitiously supposed to be incurable, were passed by. There was no use in trying to cure consumption or cancer, men thought, and as for insanity, it was down to comparatively recent times so generally regarded as a direct "visitation of God," or else a possession of the devil, that it seemed blasphemous to attempt to deal with it otherwise than to restrain its victims within bounds.

But the world is learning. It has learned to cure diseases which were formerly considered incurable and to prevent some which were believed to be uncontrollable. So it has at last organized a campaign against the "great white plague" which is meeting with much success, and there is serious talk of the possible elimination of tuberculosis—at least pulmonary—from the world, or of making it as rare, let us say, as smallpox is in countries where enlightened measures are taken against it; and another is now being organized against the mysterious and exceptionally dreadful ravages of cancer, with a considerable and wholly commendable degree of confidence in its success. So tetanus and meningitis and all other maladies are being challenged and may probably be overthrown by the champions of health.

It is therefore high time for a concerted scientific movement against what is, after all, the most dreadful of all human ills and perhaps the most difficult to cure or to prevent. It may be that in the present or immediately prospective state of scientific knowledge and ability many cases of insanity are incurable and non-preventable. There is reason for thinking that many others are curable, and there can be little or no doubt that a large number are perfectly preventable. The proportion of cases which are directly due to improper habits of life, to evil environment and to the use of drugs is notoriously large. If only these could be prevented, inestimable good would be accomplished. That can be done, and there is ground for hoping that much more can be done in the wider field of general mental disorders—sufficient ground to justify and to encourage every possible effort to that end.

WHY PROTECT THEM?

From up the state comes the suggestion that the Legislature fix a closed season for politics, during which politicians shall be protected under the game laws. The suggestion is distinctly of merit—for the politicians. Hunting politicians is a sport far too restricted at present. Everything should be done to popularize it. The supply of politicians is plentiful. They are so numerous and so voracious as frequently to become a nuisance—even a menace—to the general public. Breeding places, like the celebrated Tammany preserve, keep up the numbers. The excitement and benefits of the politician chase are too little known or too little appreciated. Just now the glory of potting a Grady or bringing a Murphy to bag, for instance, would be worthy of the best efforts of a carefully planned and well organized expedition, while hunting the lesser ones of the breed would furnish rare and healthful sport for even the humblest members of the community.

In his proper place, of course, the politician is a reasonably harmless animal. Kept down in numbers and his habitat restricted so that depredations on public property would be infrequent if not impossible, he would be almost unobjectionable. We do not advocate the extermination of the politician, though we confess to doubts about the success of the experiments to breed him up to the grade of a domestic animal of general usefulness. But surely there should be no closed season for him now. It may even be advisable to put a bounty on his head, if his numbers and appetite continue to increase.

The Democrats of several states seem to be waking up in the cold gray light of the morning after.

Prize puzzle in New Jersey Democratic politics: Find the prevaricator.

It is an appalling bit of news that Pullman car porters are forming a trade union. Suppose that they should go on strike and we should have nobody to brush the dust from our coats into our eyes?

Was it not as much on account of Mr. William F. Sheehan as of almost any one else that the Democratic party went out of power in this state sixteen years ago?

"The World" complains that in spite of its recent rejuvenation the Democratic party is not yet Democratic. Our neighbor ought to be satisfied with the reflection that in its capacity for quarrelling over the division of spoils the party is at least as triumphantly Democratic as it has ever been.

"Christmas Skaters Drowned," "Three Murders Result from Christmas Spree," "Death in Christmas Candle," "Mistletoe Berries Kill Six," and so on. We may have to take a leaf from the book of the Fourth of July and agitate for a safe and sane Christmas.

While the Democratic party of New York is looking for a real "landslide" candidate for United States Senator it might well consider the qualifications and accomplishments of that great Democratic explorer and pathfinder, Dr. Cook.

The threat of the Union Ferry Company to abandon its five East River lines because they are no longer profitable may be well founded. Patronage of the ferries has greatly decreased, and of course a private corporation cannot be expected to maintain them at a loss. The continued operation of those ferries seems, however, to be necessary for public convenience and welfare, for the accommodation not only of traffic which prefers them as a matter of choice to bridges or tunnels, but also of that which really could not use the tunnels at all and could use the bridges only with great inconvenience and difficulty. It will thus be incumbent upon the city to devise ways and means for communication between its various parts, and there are those who think that it is called upon to provide passage across water as well as on land.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Among the "hints" given by a mother as to how to dress the baby is this: "Knit the baby's mittens without any thumb; then, no matter which way they are put on they are all right. If large enough he can move his fingers all around inside, while the long wrists keep the sleeves of his dress down over his arms and make him comfortable."

This was after the quarrel. "I can never forgive you," he cried. "Last night you said I was a lobster."

"But you know," she replied, and her tone was conciliatory, "you know how dearly I love lobsters."

With a glad cry he folded her to his breast.—Philadelphia Record.

LOOKING AHEAD.

The vows we made a year ago,
By us this year will be repeated;
And soon a list a yard or so
In length by us will be completed.

We'll vow to never more touch booze,
Tobacco and cigars abolish,
To cut bad habits; to enthuse
About our splendid moral polish.

We'll vow to this, we'll vow to that—
As we have done in years now perished;
Then knock each flatter than a hat—
Like many other vows we've cherished.

Perhaps it scarcely seems worth while,
This making vows just to be broken;
But it has grown into the style
To celebrate the New Year token.

A. W. U.

Sillicus—A woman never seems able to make up her mind.

Cynicus—Why should she? She would only change it again.—Philadelphia Record.

In an article on D'Annunzio and Debussy's forthcoming work, "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian," the Berlin "Börsen Courier" says: "The libretto is divided into four acts and includes, besides the usual choruses, etc., some elaborate ballet scenes. On the whole, it will be a 'mystery play,' with scenes laid at the time of the Middle Ages. D'Annunzio has made the subject an exhaustive study and has written the libretto in old French blank verse. The work will have its first production in Paris next spring."

"Yes," said the haughty front row beauty, "I was a member of the original Florodora sextet."

"Dear me," cried the Johnnie, "I thought that was your mother!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The growing opposition of French composers to modern Italian operatic music is being met by an Italian attempt to stem the enormous popularity of French literature and dramatic art in the peninsula. The quarrel is degenerating from a purely artistic into a financial one, the Paris "Temps" pointing out, after alluding to this unworthy phase of it, that, if Italian composers draw large royalties from France, French authors draw even larger ones from Italy, where four-fifths of the plays produced are of French origin. The controversy is assuming a decidedly acrid note.

"A horse is afraid of an auto, but an auto isn't afraid of anything," boasted the enthusiast.

"No, not even afraid of a train," said the other person. "You often read of an auto trying to butt a train off the track."—Buffalo Express.

OUR CITY PLAYGROUNDS

Efficiency Before Extension Keynote of League's Work.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have learned of Mr. Bradstreet's method of attacking the City Playground League by writing to the officers, honorary members and advisory board for the purpose of presenting arguments to defend his course of action. Is it possible that on one man may depend the life or death of such an important movement as the playground?

There was a mass meeting held recently to which Mr. Bradstreet and Mr. Stover were invited, as well as all who were known to be interested in playgrounds, to discuss this subject of vital importance. Unfortunately, this was held at such short notice that many were obliged to send regrets. Mr. Bradstreet was represented by a friend, as he did not attend, who read a paper, such as he sent to those interested in our league. This delegate was forced to admit at the meeting that the weakest point of this plan was that no efficient man or woman would consider holding such a position permanently without knowing just what the yearly salary would be.

There were other weak points, which should be apparent to those who are familiar with playgrounds:

First—The value of winter work is underestimated, or, rather, not appreciated in the least. The child coming from school needs opportunity for play in the fresh air and sunshine. It is not enough merely to have the opportunity; there should be a strong incentive.

Second—Mr. Bradstreet's computation that full salary is now paid for working three-sevenths of the time is absurd. No regular kindergartner would accept such salary with such hours as our park playgrounds system now offers. With a per diem system and uncertain yearly salary, and the necessity for putting up with hardships, I maintain that no efficient person will remain long except through an unusually deep missionary interest; and length of time in service largely determines efficiency.

Third—College students may be useful in exhibition work, for short periods of time, but that is not what the league stands for. "Spectacular display" may be advantageous in winning applause, but it is not for the children's benefit.

Fourth—There is gross misstatement in Mr. Bradstreet's paper. He said that the proposed schedule gave $2 a day to assistants and $3 to leaders. He distinctly stated at the conference that the summer workers alone would receive $3, and that all but three of those now working, some of whom have served seven years, may expect after January 1 $6 a week. He suggested that the teachers have a meeting and send a committee to meet the Committee on Salaries of the Board of Aldermen, but in response to a query refused to say who these were or when they met.

Fifth—That in the first budget request graded yearly salaries were asked would seem to prove that such a system was thought desirable. That the desired amount was not received ($5,000 more was given than last year) does not justify this blow at the efficiency of the whole system.

Sixth—That the college students and others temporarily employed last summer were not efficient was amply proved to many living near and seeing for themselves. The City Playground League stands for efficiency first and extension next.

We trust that the next mass meeting will be attended by all who are really anxious that the city children shall have their rightful chance for outdoor play, summer and winter.

MARY M'COMBER,
President of the City Playground League.
Brooklyn, Dec. 26, 1910.

NOTHING TO FEAR.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: James J. Hill in a recent interview takes a doleful view of financial conditions and has scared almost as many men as Halley's comet. Hard times will come when the rich men tie up all the money, as they have before, by illegal combinations. Mr. Hill is entitled to his opinion, but the nation is not on the way to the bow-wows, and there is no real reason why we should have any panics in this country.

With millions in undeveloped mines, with enough crops to feed the world, the country enters to-day under the sensible administration of President Taft upon an era of prosperity seldom equalled in the world's history. Business is getting into good shape. Attorney General Wickersham is getting after illegal combinations, high and low, and is fully able to handle the legal end of it.

The American citizen will have plenty of work if the steel, railroad and other interests stop importing a lot of cheap labor from the slums of the earth. There are enough farms in the Eastern and Middle states to deplete the Bowery and the East Side of its surplus population and to give every one a decent existence.

It wasn't the corn crop that brought down the price of meat. It was the bumper election crop. Our trust leaders have read history enough to know that it is best not to grind the people down too hard, and they considered it wise to go easy. We produce everything we need in America, the great West is still in its infancy, and long after Mr. Hill, one of our greatest American pioneers, has ceased his activity we shall continue to grow. We may have a dirty little Wall Street panic by men who love to play with money, but the government will still live.

Mr. Taft's administration has produced confidence. Soon we shall be feeding the world through the Panama Canal, and excursions will be coming from Europe, Asia and Africa to see the New World, which was born at Valley Forge, christened anew by Abraham Lincoln and will soon lead the earth in intelligence, wealth and progressive movements for the betterment of the human race. THEODORUS VAN WYCK.

New York, Dec. 27, 1910.

THERE ARE STILL A FEW.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There are still many people in this city who believe in the old-fashioned method of competition in the railways by favoring a group of independent lines. This point is most critical in consideration of the present subway tangle. Experience should have taught us long ago that competition between independents is not half as effective as is competition under a regulated monopoly; in other words, a spirit of unconscious co-operation exists under a method of single system operation of all street railway lines that could not exist when the oldtime independent operators got to squabbling. The era of independent rival street railway corporations is certainly long passed, as far as American cities go.

I would like to suggest that the proposed additions to the subway system of the city be contracted for under condition that they be a part of the system already built. This will enable the authorities to regulate properly the whole system, as such, and a sense of civic co-operation, together with the power to regulate monopoly, will thus result, to the benefit of all concerned.

MICHAEL J. HICKEY.
Brooklyn, Dec. 22, 1910.

CHICAGO, FOR INSTANCE.

From The Chicago Record-Herald.

The Boston City Council is considering an ordinance to establish the curfew. We could mention towns that would be lucky if they could even get their midnight closing ordinances to become effective.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 27.—The Pesident discussed legislation with Representatives Dwight and Hull to-day. Mr. Dwight expressed the opinion that a record for legislation enacted at a short session of Congress will be made this winter, that splendid progress had been made by the various committees on a number of bills and that they will be ready to report them as soon as Congress reconvenes.

"No progress has been made in organizing the new Commerce Court," said Martin A. Knapp, presiding judge of that court, after a talk with the President this morning, "because of the failure of the Senate to confirm all the nominations of the judges of the court."

President Taft has been invited by Colonel Archibald Hopkins, trustee of the Hampton Normal and Industrial Institute, at Hampton, Va., to attend the anniversary celebration of that institution on January 27 and 28. The President will give his answer later.

H. C. Emery, chairman of the Tariff Board, discussed the work of the board with the President. Ex-Delegate Dennis Flynn, of Oklahoma, discussed appointments, particularly the vacancy in the marshalship in the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and Representative Diekema talked to the President about legislative affairs.

Mr. Taft did not return to his office after luncheon, but remained at the White House the early part of the afternoon and later went for a long walk with Captain Butt.

A temporary wooden structure is being erected over a portion of the eastern portico of the White House immediately adjoining the large windows of the East Room, to accommodate the Marine Band at the state receptions.

THE CABINET.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 27.—The Secretary of State returned to Washington to-day from his estate at Valley Forge, where, with Mrs. Knox and their family, he spent Christmas. Mrs. Knox will be here later in the week.

The Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Meyer, who are entertaining a large house party, were hosts at a dinner to-night. Miss Elise Ames, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ames; Miss Lillian Sears, Mr. Cutler, Mr. Jacques and Mr. Harding, of Boston, and Mr. Cutting and Mr. Beall, of New York, are their house guests. Others at the dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Kennard, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Robins, Mr. and Mrs. Walcott Tuckerman, Countess Luise-Alexandra von Bernstorff, Miss Mary Southerland, Miss Mary Carlisle, Miss Cecelia May, Miss Alice Meyer, Count Pourtales, Robert Bacon, jr., Samuel Weldon, Basil Miles, Willing Spencer, A. C. Horstmann and George von L. Meyer, jr.

The Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Ballinger returned to-day from short trips out of town.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 27.—Miss Helen Taft and Robert Taft were the guests of honor at a dinner party to-night, with Mr. and Mrs. James Marion Johnston as hosts. There were fifty or more young people, friends of their daughter, Miss Sophy Johnston, a débutante of this season, and following the dinner there was an informal dance. Miss Johnston later took her guests to Mrs. Haywood's ball.

Mrs. William Haywood gave one of the most charmingly arranged dances of the winter to-night for her daughter, Miss Doris Haywood, inviting two hundred and fifty guests. The débutante of this and last season and a number of young married people were present.

Miss Amaryllis Gillett was hostess at a tea this afternoon for Mrs. and Miss Gillett-Hill, who are spending the winter in Washington. Assisting her were Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page, Mrs. J. William Henry, Miss Gertrude Greely, Miss Clara Swift, Miss Putnam, Miss Hammond, Miss May Hammond and Miss Marie Stevens.

Mrs. Roscoe C. Bulmer, who has been in Washington over Christmas, has gone to Fort Monroe to spend the remainder of the week with her husband, Lieutenant Commander Bulmer, who is stationed on the Salem, but is visiting at Fort Monroe.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Beekman Winthrop returned from New York to-day from a short visit to Mrs. Wood, mother of Mrs. Winthrop.

Mr. and Mrs. Edson Bradley also returned to-day from a visit in New York.

The Commissioner of the Land Office and Mrs. Fred Dennett were hosts at a children's dance to-night for their schoolgirl daughter, Miss Dorothy Dennett, who asked a number of young friends from the Cathedral school and elsewhere.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. Henry E. Coe gave a dance at Sherry's last evening for her debutante daughter, Miss Rosalie Coe. Miss Emily Coe assisted her mother and debutante sister in receiving the guests. The cotillon was led by Stowe Phelps, dancing with Miss Rosalie Coe, and the favors consisted of silver photograph frames, match safes, brass jardinieres and cretonne boxes. The guests included among others Miss Leila Ingersoll Haven, Miss Ethel Roosevelt, Miss Aileen Osborn, Miss Catherine L. Hamersley, Miss Marian Van Rensselaer Kennedy, Miss Agnes Le Roy Edgar, Miss Ruth Adams, Miss Helen D. Auerbach, Miss Anna Street, Miss Cornelia Landon, the Misses Muriel and Marjorie Kingsland, the Misses Caro Q. and Ursula W. Brown, William Rhinelander Stewart, jr., Lewis L. Delafield, jr., Oliver G. Wagstaff, Charles H. Marshall, jr., O'Donnell Iselin, Gallatin Pell, Frederick Osborn, William Baylis, jr., Percy R. Pyne, 2d, M. Taylor Pyne, jr., Grafton H. Pyne, Beekman Hoppin, Whitney Kernochan, Malcolm D. Sloane, Orson D. Munn, Howland S. Davis, Richard Gambrill and Henry C. Emmet, jr.

Mrs. Philip M. Lydig gave a small dinner last night at her house, in East 52d street, and afterward took her guests to the theatre.

Miss Adelaide Buchanan made her debut yesterday afternoon at a reception given for her by her aunt, Miss Jennie E. Taylor, at her home, in West 55th street. Assisting the debutante in receiving were Miss Georgiana Barber, Miss Ella Carpenter, Miss Cornelia B. McLoughlin, Miss Eloise Talcott, Miss Marydean Martin, Miss Katherine E. Force, Miss Muriel Kelly, Miss Augusta Whight and Miss Harriette L. McAlpin. The reception was followed by a theatre party and supper.

Mrs. Stephen H. Brown will give a dance this evening at her house, in East 70th street, for her debutante daughter, Miss Caro Quartley Brown.

Mrs. Thomas H. Barber will give a theatre party this evening for Miss Margaret Blagden, and afterward will take her guests to Sherry's for supper and informal dancing.

Mrs. P. Cooper Hewitt will give a dance on January 3 at her house, in Lexington avenue.

Miss Catherine L. Hamersley will give a theatre party, followed by a supper at Sherry's, on January 18.

Mrs. William Douglas Sloane has changed the date of her dance, which was set for next week, to January 30.

Mrs. Reginald Ronalds will return to town from Erie, Penn., where she spent the holidays, and will occupy her apartment at the Plaza.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Ledyard Blair are spending the holidays at Peapack, their country place, near Bernardsville, N. J.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss May Bourne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Bourne, to Ralph Beever Strassburger, of Norristown, Montgomery County, Penn. Mr. Strassburger is a graduate of the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, of the class of '05, and is a member of the Army and Navy clubs of Washington and this city and also of the New York Yacht Club. He recently resigned from the navy to engage in business in this city.

SOCIAL NOTES FROM NEWPORT.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Newport, Dec. 27.—Mrs. French Vanderbilt left to-day for New York for the winter. She will return here occasionally to entertain week-end parties. She will give a dinner in New York to-morrow evening for her niece, Miss Julia French.

Mrs. J. DeForest Danielson has gone to Boston after a visit here over Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrington Moore will leave here to-morrow, after spending their honeymoon in this city. They will not start immediately for Silver City, N. M., but will visit relatives in New York.

PHILOLOGISTS IN SESSION

Archæologists Also Open Convention at Brown University.

Providence, Dec. 27.—The annual convention of the American Philological Association and the Archæological Institute of America opened at Brown University today, the meetings to continue until Friday. The annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association and the American Folklore Society will also be held in conjunction with the other bodies this week.

The essays read at the Philological convention to-day were contributed by Roland G. Kent, United Society of Pennsylvania; Richard Wellington Husband, Dartmouth College; Edgar Howard Sturtevant, Barnard College; Edward Kennard Rand, Harvard; Charles Darwin Adams, Dartmouth; Curtis C. Bushnell, Syracuse; Robert B. English, Washington and Jefferson; Edwin W. Fay, University of Texas; Thomas Dwight Goodell, Yale; Ashton Waugh McWhorler, Hampden Sidney College; Martin L. Rouse, Toronto, and John C. Rolfe, University of Pennsylvania.

President W. H. P. Faunce of Brown delivered the address of welcome at a joint meeting to-night. He was introduced by Dr. Francis W. Kelsey, of the University of Michigan, who is president of the Archæological Institute. The response was by Maurice Hilton, of the University of Toronto.

Professor Paul Shorey, of the University of Chicago, as president of the Philological Association, discussed "Classical Philology and National Culture" as the topic of his annual address.

TEACHERS OF STATE GATHER

More than 2,000 Attend Annual Meeting at Rochester.

Rochester, Dec. 27.—More than two thousand teachers are in attendance to-day at the sixty-fifth annual meeting of New York State Teachers' Association, which opened here this morning. To-day's meeting included sessions of the state Association of Teachers of English, the Modern Languages Association and the recently created sections in music and sub-normal and backward instruction. A section for kindergarten work will be created by Miss Isdell, of Albany.

The topic for the general session this evening was "New Ideals in Higher Education," with Professor Herman Schneider, dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, as the chief speaker.

A WAY TO AID THE ENEMY.

From The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

If the Democrats only have the courage to abolish the Excise Department, take the starch out of the Public Service law, and send Cohalan or Cram to the United States Senate, they will place the Republican party in a position to win a splendid victory in this state in 1912.

METROPOLITAN CONTRASTS.

From The Philadelphia Inquirer.

There is a woman in New York who says it is utterly impossible for her to live on $3,000 a year. And there is a street sweeper who on a wage of $2 a day has bought a $40,000 flatbuilding and reared nine children. It all depends on how much you spend.

MISS CHEATHAM'S MATINEE

Humperdinck and Geraldine Farrar Among Those to Applaud.

Miss Kitty Cheatham gave her annual holiday matinee yesterday afternoon in the Lyceum Theatre. Miss Cheatham's matinees are ever events of interest. Yesterday's was especially so, for who sat in an upper right hand box but Engelbert Humperdinck, and didn't he come down upon the stage when Miss Cheatham whispered to her audience that she had a secret for them, and didn't he play her accompaniment to two of his own songs, a cradle song and another?

And then Miss Geraldine Farrar sat in an upper left hand box and applauded until her gloves seemed about to split, and at the end of the first group of songs stood up in her box and threw with surely the straightest aim ever possessed by prima donna a huge bunch of roses right at Miss Cheatham's feet.

In the programme were a number of the negro songs that have made Miss Cheatham famous, and a perfect riot of songs for children and nursery rhymes. And, of course, there were the mammy stories and the children stories, and every one in the large audience was very, very pleased.

The stage was decorated in a novel manner, with Christmas trees and lights and tinsel, while near by were the figures of a lifesize donkey and a little baby lamb. Miss Flora MacDonald accompanied Miss Cheatham charmingly at the piano.

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ELECTS.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The National Press Club elected the following officers to-day: President, Arthur J. Dodge, of "The Minneapolis Tribune"; vice-president, Frederic J. Haskin, of the Haskin Syndicate; secretary, Ralph Graves, of "The Washington Post"; treasurer, G. A. Lyon, jr., of "The Washington Star"; financial secretary, Arthur C. Johnson, of "The Rocky Mountain News," of Denver; governors, Frank B. Lord, of "The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin," and John P. Gavit, chief of the Washington staff of The Associated Press.

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

You can't keep Manhattan down. While Pittsburg was haggling over the express charges on a Western dinosaur, New York found one next door.—Washington Post.

They are planning to spend a tame New Year's Eve in New York. There is reason to believe, however, that the tameness of the Gotham cafés will not be of an oppressive character.—Dayton Journal.

Another gorgeous food palace is projected for Broadway. They do say, though, the real New Yorkers never go in 'em themselves to eat, and that they are supported entirely by visiting cattle kings and mining millionaires.—Buffalo News.

It is said that Dr. Cook has lost his key to New York City, but it won't matter much, anyway. They've changed the lock.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The cost of being sick also has gone up, at least in New York City. It is found that the expense of hospital maintenance there has increased 100 per cent in many instances during the last ten years.—Rome Sentinel.

An important piece of legislation to come before the Legislature of New York at its approaching session is a bill to make the city of New York still larger by annexing Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Yonkers, Pelham and East Chester, the whole to be treated as the County of Westchester. These places are very near New York and are as much a part of it as some of the other places embraced in the greater New York created some years ago.—Boston Globe.