

New-York Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1912.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Dr. Sun Yat-sen was inaugurated at Nanking provisional President of the republic of China. The Empress Dowager of China contributed some \$2,000,000 to the anti-revolutionary war effort. The Chinese soldiers guarding the arsenal at Lan-chau mutinied; the commander fled. Paraguay was reported still in the throes of a revolution; the capital was blockaded and all communications interrupted. Judge Juan M. Menocal was appointed Secretary of Justice in the Cuban government, succeeding J. M. Barquet. The figure of the population of the United States was shown to be 92,237,784.

DOMESTIC.—Senator La Follette failed to appear at Lansing, Mich., and Governor Osborn taking charge of the meeting, made a speech criticizing the Wisconsin Senator's record. Ohio Progressive Democrats formed a league to fight the Presidential candidacy of Governor Judson. A Boston dispatch said that Sheriff Seavey, of Suffolk County, Mass., died from worry about the Rev. C. V. T. Rison, an evangelist, who had been arrested. A woman seen sent a long manuscript copy of "revelations" to Champ Clark, in which she warned the nation that it faced the fate of Sodom. The trial of the first woman to be hanged resumed at Chicago, with Henry Vreeder again on the stand. W. M. Moyer, warden of the federal prison at Atlanta, said C. W. Morse had offered \$100,000 to bribe the warden to let a girl escape. In the United States District Court at Los Angeles Olaf Teitmoen, Anton Johannsen and J. E. Munsey, indicted labor leaders, obtained a stay until January 12 before entering their pleas. Mrs. May Harrington Stallo filed suit in Cincinnati for divorce from Edmund K. Stallo, of New York. Slight earthquake shocks were felt in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. A temperature of 22 degrees below zero was reported from Grand Forks, N. D.; a billiard raged in Montana. The Albin National Bank, at Albion, Mich., was placed in the hands of the Controller of the Currency.

CITY.—Stocks closed higher. Mrs. John S. Crosby, president of a woman's domestic organization and leader of a group of first women to be made a special deputy by Sheriff Harburger. Alfred Tennyson Dickens, son of Charles Dickens, the novelist, died suddenly from heart disease at the Hotel Astor in New York. The Corcoran and Corcoran families were placed in the hands of the Controller of the Currency. The trial of Patrolman Barry for falsely arresting a Brooklyn youth came to an end before Deputy Commissioner Walsh and decision was rendered in favor of the youth. The Alis-Chalmers bondholders' committee made arrangements with the Central Trust Company to advance the January interest on the defaulted by the manufacturing company.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for today: Snow. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 59 degrees; lowest, 26.

FEDERAL QUARANTINE CONTROL.

A number of New York physicians, under the lead of Dr. William M. Polk, president of the Academy of Medicine, are promoting a movement to have the surgeon general of the Marine Hospital Service take completely under his jurisdiction the administration of quarantine and all health regulation at this port. In seeking to supplant, for political reasons, a quarantine administrator whose sixteen years of service have safeguarded the entire country from the importation of epidemics Governor Dix has greatly strengthened this movement.

It is one of the curious inconsistencies of public administration in this country that the Marine Hospital Service should, in providing a national quarantine administration, except from its immediate jurisdiction Boston, Philadelphia and New York, the three great immigrant gateways. And yet cholera, plague, smallpox and yellow fever almost invariably come over in the steerage. On the other hand, immigration itself is regulated entirely by the federal government, although it is obviously as important to the country at large that no undesirable aliens be imported as that no undesirable aliens make a permanent landing. So long as Dr. Doty, with the backing of the state government, stood guard here against the invasion of transatlantic pests necessary for a unified system of handling diseased immigrants was little appreciated. But now that his tenure of office seems doubtful, to say the least, and the immediate welfare of the entire nation is shown to be at the mercy of a state executive responsible to a very small percentage of the country's population, the injustice and the danger of the situation become clearly apparent. Governor Dix may or may not appoint a successor to Dr. Doty who will measure up to Dr. Doty's standard. In any event local—that is, state—policies will undoubtedly dictate the political explanation of the attack on Dr. Doty seems the Governor to reappoint Dr. Doty, some of the most eminent physicians of this city have already pointed out the probability that next summer the danger of a cholera invasion from the Mediterranean will be greater than it was during last summer, when Dr. Doty's defensive measures proved so successful. With any but the strictest quarantine administration here in New York at that time the country may expect several thousands of infected immigrants to be

sprinkled over its fair expanse to start a national epidemic, for between one-half and two-thirds of all steerage passengers arriving at this port pass through the city and state to other jurisdictions. Yet the protection against such a contingency under the present system is left to the ramifications of local politics.

It happens that the federal government already possesses in the Marine Hospital Service practically all the machinery necessary for a national quarantine administration embracing every port. The law, too, is such that little or no legislation would be needed to effect a transfer. Moreover, this particular branch of the administration of the Treasury Department has made an enviable reputation for efficiency and for the high grade of its personnel, developed by an almost complete absence of politics and a long prevalent system of promotion according to merit. It has fairly won the confidence of the people.

Dr. Doty himself and every one of the members of his consulting board, which includes Dr. Polk, are in favor of the change, according to good authority. To transfer an office of the utmost importance not alone to the United States but to the whole of North America, one which requires a carefully trained expert with a high sense of civic duty and responsibility for its administration, from the jurisdiction of 14th Street to that of the specialists at the head of the Marine Hospital Service would be a change so likely at this time to produce fortunate results that it is at least worthy of the most earnest consideration.

THE PROTESTS AGAINST JUDGE HOOK.

The protests that have been made by certain Western states against President Taft's consideration of Judge Hook's name for the Supreme Court vacancy reveal the strong feeling that exists in that part of the country about the Minnesota case decision, just as did the sudden show of passion by the Governors conference last summer. Judge Hook's office, in the Western eyes, is the same as that which led the Governors in intemperate language to denounce the tyranny of the federal bench and to name a committee to go to Washington and "impress" the Supreme Court. It is impossible to sympathize with the state of mind or with the intensity of the protest against the real interests of the country. The decision in which Judge Hook concurred opened the way to a sensible solution of the present difficulties. It was probably sound law, moreover, for it is not to be supposed that when the states surrendered to Congress the authority to regulate interstate commerce they reserved the right to hamper and interfere with that regulation under the guise of regulating commerce within their own borders. The Supreme Court has since rendered a decision which has by many been interpreted as indicating that when it takes up the Minnesota case it will sustain the view of Judge Hook and his associates.

Perhaps such a controversy over the consideration of a judge's name for promotion would be avoided if the custom prevailed of judges refraining from sitting on appeals from their own decisions. Judge Van Devanter sat on the appeal from his own decision in the Standard Oil case, and it made no difference. It is not unlikely that if Judge Hook should be appointed and should sit on the appeal from his own decision it would likewise make no difference. But the prospect naturally arouses opposition, and the custom, if it continues to prevail, will make difficult the promotion of judges who have sat recently in great cases which are to come up on appeal, for inevitably judges of independence and force will displease some interests by the position they have taken in lower courts, and it would be unfortunate if what some would regard as a disqualification in one case should bar the country from securing the service of an especially able judge on the Supreme bench.

YUAN "PLAYING DOUBLE?"

It is not surprising that the Manchus suspect the Prime Minister of China of "playing double." There are, indeed, three major reasons why they might naturally expect him to do so. One is their own proneness to "play double" and their inclination, shared with most other people in the world, to judge others by themselves. Another is the familiar practice of doing that same thing in which Chinese statesmen and politicians commonly indulge. The third is the well known record of Mr. Yuan himself, who throughout his public career has been one of the most versatile opportunists in the world, turning from one side to the other with the utmost expedition and nonchalance. He was thus regarded as having betrayed the Emperor and the reformers to the formidable Dowager Empress in the last reign, and for that cause has since been regarded with distrust and resentment by many of the reform party.

A discriminating estimate, however, will hold Yuan Shih-kai to be not a traitor nor a trickster, but an opportunist in the more creditable sense of that term. To one aim and principle and cause he is unwaveringly loyal, and that is the welfare of the Chinese Empire. When the urging of reformers seems to tend to that end he is the most strenuous of reformers. When reforms have been inopportune and impracticable he has been conservative almost to reaction. That he is at heart a reformer is not to be questioned in view of the fact that nearly all of the substantial and significant reforms in late years in China have been due to his initiative. And that, by the way, is another reason why the Manchus should not have expected him to be a thick and thin supporter of their reactionary and moribund rule.

At the present time Mr. Yuan is confronted with greater perplexities and difficulties than any other Chinese minister, at least in our day, has known. He is in a situation which demands the exercise of an opportunist policy. It is going to be a hard task to save China from disruption, chaos and foreign intervention—perhaps impossible to hold the whole empire together—and in undertaking that task single-handed he will need to use every aid that he may be able to enlist and to seek along the line of least resistance. It is an open question whether it would be better to rehabilitate China as a republic or as a constitutional monarchy, and if Mr. Yuan hesitates to commit himself unreservedly to either side he is

guided by counsels of prudence. If Dr. Sun and his followers succeed in establishing their republic, Mr. Yuan may find it too late to get down on that side of the fence. Indeed, there is reason to doubt if he could at any time and on any grounds have made himself persona grata to them. But whatever happens, he must be credited with having made a brave and unselfish fight for the integrity of the Chinese Empire.

THE EASIEST WAY.

According to Governor Chase S. Osborn of Michigan Senator La Follette is a Progressive who believes in making progress along "the easiest way." Even the most lion-hearted reformers before this have been known to prefer to follow the line of least resistance in demolishing old abuses, and there is no inherent improbability in the Governor's avowal that Mr. La Follette selects with not a little circumspection the political dragons which he purposes to slay. It will be interesting to see how the Wisconsin Senator meets the charge that he shrewdly picked out railroad domination as a profitable thing to war against in Wisconsin, while closing his eyes to the equally objectionable domination of the breweries and the saloons.

Governor Osborn is himself something of a Progressive and showed the quality of his progressiveness last spring by supporting the Canadian reciprocity agreement on its merits as a national policy, in spite of the fact that there was a good deal of opposition to it for local reasons in his own state. Mr. La Follette announced that he favored Canadian reciprocity in principle, but managed to find grounds for opposing the compact before Congress—the only one which there was any chance whatsoever of getting Canada to accept. Observation of the Wisconsin Senator's tactics at that time may have led Mr. Osborn into further search for evidence of "easiest way" progress. At any rate, he frankly admitted yesterday that he was puzzled to account for what seemed to him a tendency on Mr. La Follette's part to take up "things which might be termed popular" and that contained the least danger of getting Canada to accept. He had noticed also that while Senator La Follette did great work in ridding Wisconsin of corrupt railroad domination, he has never said anything against brewery domination in that state. Really as between the two I should prefer road domination. However, it was good politics to fight the railroad domination, but it would not have got Senator La Follette anywhere probably if he had fought the brewery-owned saloons.

It is a great thing to know when to fight and whom to fight. Even Governor Osborn will admit that Don Quixote would probably have been able to win office on a reform platform if he had known how to keep Rosinante always centering along "the easiest way."

AS TO STANDARDIZING GOLF.

Why standardize the golf ball? If standardization had been adopted in the days when the Scotch played the game with feather-stuffed spheres golf would never have reached the enormous development that it has attained to-day. Inventions have improved the game. The lively ball has added to its delight. Even the duffer can now boast of the "two-hundred-yard drive," while the heart of the good player is set upon one of three hundred yards. With traps and hazards the game may always be kept sufficiently difficult, no matter what distance annihilating invention the future yields.

It is just because golf is not standardized that it has such attractions for its devotees. There is room for individualism. You may put with an instrument modelled upon a safety razor. The revolt which followed a rule from St. Andrews barring that putter showed how dear is individuality in golf. The ball you use may be filled with wound rubber, with water, compressed air or a dozen other things. Each one of the hundred kinds of balls, with pimples, dents or warps on its surface, fits furthest, travels most truly, stays best on the putting green from an approach shot and puts best, in the opinion of its devotees.

Besides there is always the lure of something better, the ball that will really do all the things that each player asserts bravely of the one that he plays for the moment plus his faith upon. Golf is really a search for perfection, for the perfect "form," the perfect swing, the perfect way of playing the approach shot "dead to the hole," the perfect putter and the perfect ball. In other things men are content with less than perfection, but not in golf. Why shut the door to the ideal in the timid belief that when the ideal is realized the game will be no more?

ALIENS WITHIN OUR GATES.

This city has long been unique in the extent and variety of its alien population. Nowhere else in the world do so many nationalities mix in large masses and in no other metropolis is the ratio of foreign born to native anything like so high. New York's exceptionally rapid growth in the last two decades has been due in large part to the steady inflow of immigration, and with each year's advance the city has become more and more alien in tongue and blood.

A Census Bureau bulletin just issued gives some interesting details of the alien invasion. In 1910 this city had 4,798,883 inhabitants, of whom 1,926,900 were foreign born whites, including Chinese, Japanese and West Indian negroes, the foreign born population probably aggregated 2,000,000 in round numbers. Nearly 40 per cent of those whom the census classifies as New Yorkers are of foreign birth, and they, with their descendants in the first generation, are in a large majority in the foremost American city. It is true that the first generation is already far on the way toward Americanization, but the fact remains that this city continues as native in spirit and tendencies as it does solely through the grip which our civilization takes at once on those newcomers on whom it has free opportunity to work. The public school is undoubtedly the most powerful of the agencies which shape the newer generation into conformity with the native model.

The Census Bureau's report discloses a marked change since 1900 in the character of the city's alien population. Formerly the two chief foreign elements here were the Irish and the Germans. They entered actively into the life of the city and directly affected its politics and its standards of living. Now both Irish and German immigration has been checked. The number of German born here decreased between 1900 and 1910 from 324,198 to 279,200 and the number of Irish born from 275,073 to 232,500. Those two nationalities have now been outnumbered by the Italians, who have

increased from 145,420 to 340,400; by the Austro-Hungarians, who have increased from 121,992 to 235,500, and by the Russians, who have now come to the front with 485,000 souls—nearly as many as the Irish and Germans combined.

The mixture of nationalities in our melting pot is far more variegated now than it was in 1900. One would hardly suspect that there were 32,100 Rumanians in New York—more than the French and Swiss together. The newer comers from Eastern Europe have not as yet made much of a mark on the city's life. They are disposed to cling together and are slow in becoming Americanized. The problem of assimilating them is still before us. Yet it can hardly be considered a depressing one in view of the measure of success with which the process of converting the alien raw material of decades past into good American citizens has been carried on.

Whether the photographs purporting to depict Mr. Gompers standing on the American flag are "fakes" or are actual views taken on the occasion when he was compelled to mount a table draped with the flag in order to get above a crowd that he was addressing, the matter is of no importance, and the attempt to arouse prejudice against Mr. Gompers by their circulation is discreditable to those who indulge in it. Large questions concerning Mr. Gompers' aims and conduct are at issue. Silly abuse and petty misrepresentation of him will not promote the right. The Tribune has gravely criticized Mr. Gompers' course in the McNamee and other matters. It would incalculable respect for the flag. But it sees no reason for fuss about the table incident, for even if Mr. Gompers happened while speaking from a table top to put his foot over the line where the flag was draped there is no evidence of intended disrespect to it.

The Tribune called attention yesterday morning to some of the apparently well founded complaints of Judge George C. Holt of the miserable accommodations furnished to the Judges of the United States courts in this city. By a striking if not a happy coincidence Judge Holt was a passenger yesterday morning in an elevator which got wedged in its shaft in the Postoffice Building, marooning those on board for twenty minutes. That is not a very unusual occurrence in the Postoffice Building. No one can say that the Judge drew on his imagination in depicting the inconveniences to which he and his colleagues in this district are subjected through the neglect or parsimony of Congress.

In taking pot shots at wild animals from aeroplanes there will be perhaps a new and fascinating sensation, but the quality of the sportsmanship will be open to question.

"The Louisville Courier-Journal" recently contained a special dispatch reporting that the Hon. Urey Woodson, Kentucky's member of the Democratic National Committee and secretary of that body, was in Chicago conducting a "gum-shoe" campaign in Governor Judson Harman's interest. It was disclosed, with the mysterious emphasis usually laid on such discoveries, that Mr. Woodson had not registered at the hotel where he was staying and had had telephone connections with his room suspended. Such reports are fearfully disquieting. It is rank cruelty to a statesman of the Hon. Urey's expansiveness to set him on a still hunt in squeakless goloshes. One might as well expect the Hon. "Ollie" James to discuss the devilities of "the interests" in a whisper.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

To the Editor of The Tribune: The year is not far advanced yet, and I would like to suggest to all religious teachers, preachers and public speakers that they make a resolution not to bring religion into politics or attack a public man on account of his religion. It makes no difference what church a public official goes to, or if he goes to no church. His religion should not be mentioned in connection with his office. We all know it makes no difference what a man's religion is if he is a good, square, upright, honest man. The best President we ever had in this country was a man who belonged to no church or creed. Some say he was a Unitarian. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

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For, on the street, when you meet a man whom you know, you need not remove your hat in salutation. You say "Hello, Billy," and he responds "Hello, Fritz," and both rush on, too busy to say more."

"Who is that man with the tremendously bulging brow?" "Don't you know him? That's Ringletton, the expert. He's the originator of a new line of mathematical endeavor."

"What's that?" "Bragging dividends for dissolved trusts"—Island Plain Dealer.

AN EFFORT TO SAVE LIFE.

The Tenants' Union Regards as Such the Sullivan-Shortt Bill.

To the Editor of The Tribune: The letter of President Miller to the taxpayers of the Borough of The Bronx published this morning was read and considered by members of the Tenants' Union committee on homes, whose object is to relieve the deadly congestion of population in our city by discouraging the forestallers of some sites whom they believe to be responsible. Although the evil we are combating is most drastic, we desire to use the mild means contained in the Sullivan-Shortt bill as the nearest remedy at hand. The gradual removal of the penalty that prevents the building of houses provided for in this bill is not an experiment, only an innovation, here. The same remedy has been successfully applied at Vancouver, B. C. None of the dire consequences prophesied by President Miller have appeared there. Nor was the expected decrease in the values of land apparent. The wondrous stimulus to the creation of improvements actually increased the value of land. Other cities in Canada are adopting the same method of taxation in self-defence to keep all their workers from moving to Vancouver.

What President Miller calls an unnatural increase in buildings, which, competing with one another, makes rent reasonable, has not worked harshly in Vancouver. The untimely vacancy of convenient building sites, due to the greed of the owners thereof, is the very evil which the Sullivan-Shortt bill proposes to mitigate. Is it natural to see, as you may in many places in The Bronx, a block of tenements surrounded by acres of vacant lots?

Mr. Miller complains that we are trying to frame laws to overcome the law of supply and demand. What are he and the other taxpayers, or forestallers, doing to increase the supply of land? We need not ask what they are doing to limit the supply, to make land artificially scarce. The property owners are warned by President Miller that they must protect their interests through their Senators and Assemblymen. May we not warn the tenants of The Bronx that they must defend their own lives and the terribly congested lives of their neighbors in Manhattan through their Senators and Assemblymen?

The Sullivan-Shortt bill is a life defensive measure that ought to take precedence of all other measures before the Legislature, and should receive the support of all useful citizens.

CORNELIUS DONOVAN, President.
New York, Dec. 21, 1911.

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People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The executive offices were generally deserted today. The President remained in his private study in the White House, dictating his efficient and economy message to Assistant Secretary Forster. Secretary Hillis went to Oxford, Md., to visit a school he attended when a boy, and the engagement book for the day was blank. The President, Mrs. Taft and Major Butt, took a long automobile ride late this afternoon. Miss Edith Percy Morgan, of New York, who has been a guest at the White House, went home today. Robert Taft and his college friends, who have also been at the White House for the Christmas festivities, returned today to Harvard Law School. They are John C. Townsend, Stanhope Bayne Jones and Walter Logan, of New York, and Frederick Eckstein, of Cincinnati. Miss Carver, of Chicago, was a guest at the MacVeagh home, will assist her hostess.

THE CABINET.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Mrs. MacVeagh has as her house guest Mrs. Flisk Warren, of Boston, who arrived this morning. She will assist Mrs. MacVeagh at the latter's Christmas reception, to-morrow afternoon. Miss Carver, of Chicago, was a guest at the MacVeagh home, will assist her hostess. The Secretary of War and Mrs. Stimson have returned from New York, where they spent the holidays. Mrs. Stimson is in deep mourning for her mother and will not take any part in social affairs this season. Mrs. Willard, of New York, who has been a guest at the White House, will be in the Blue Room at the White House yesterday for a time, but will take no official part in society. Mrs. Knox will be at home to-morrow and will have with her her newest daughter-in-law, Mrs. Hugh S. Knox, formerly Miss Katherine McCook, of New York, who arrived with Mrs. Knox in time for the Christmas reception at the White House. Although Mrs. Hugh Knox is already well known in Washington society, this will be her debut as a member of the official circle. Mrs. Walter L. Fisher, Mrs. George von Meyer and Mrs. Charles Nagel will hold receptions to-morrow.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Mrs. Bryce, wife of the British Ambassador, will be her guest at the White House yesterday. Mrs. Bryce, who arrived at the embassy to-day, Mrs. Bryce entertained a few friends at luncheon to-day to meet her. The German Ambassador and Countess von Bernstorff will entertain at dinner on Friday evening. The Swiss Minister, Dr. Ritter, who has been absent for some months, is expected to arrive in Washington on January 4. The same ship will bring the dean of the diplomatic corps, Count Hengelmüller, Ambassador to Austria-Hungary, and the American Ambassador to Great Britain.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Miss Taft and her cousin, Miss Harriet Anderson, who arrived at the White House yesterday for a winter visit, were among the guests at the dinner given this evening by Senator du Pont, of Delaware, and his daughter, Mrs. Crowninshield, for Miss Mary Southard and her fiancé, Louis Bohn, of Boston, who will be married to-morrow. The Vice-President and Mrs. Sherman returned to-day from Utica, where they spent the holidays with their sons and daughters-in-law. Rear Admiral and Mrs. Richardson Clover entertained a company of sixty young people at a dance this evening for their younger daughter, Miss Beatrice Clover, who will return to school at Catskill, N. Y., on Thursday. The young people were received by the young hostess and her sister, Miss Eudora Clover, as Mrs. Clover has not sufficiently recovered from a severe illness to undertake any social duties. Among the guests was Charles Taft.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

To the Editor of The Tribune: The year is not far advanced yet, and I would like to suggest to all religious teachers, preachers and public speakers that they make a resolution not to bring religion into politics or attack a public man on account of his religion. It makes no difference what church a public official goes to, or if he goes to no church. His religion should not be mentioned in connection with his office. We all know it makes no difference what a man's religion is if he is a good, square, upright, honest man. The best President we ever had in this country was a man who belonged to no church or creed. Some say he was a Unitarian. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

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