THE WORLD'S FAIR STEAL.

HOW THE SWINDLE WAS DRIVEN THROUGH THE HOUSE.

The House Begins by Inferentially Expressing Its Lack of Confidence in Mr. Durborow and His Committee—How the Scheme was Developed—Democrats, Two to One, Vote Against It—The Minority Refuse to be Bound by Their Caucus Obligations and Join the Republicans in Overcoming the Majority—How the Treasury was Looted.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 6.—On Dec. 23, 1891, Speaker Crisp appointed the House Committees. Among them was the Committee on the World's Columbian Exposition. Its members were Messrs. Durborow of Illinois, McCreary of Kentucky, Reilly of Pennsylvania, Houk of Ohio, Wheeler of Alabama, Lagan of Louisiana, and Little of New York, Democrats, and Messrs. Cogswell of Massachusetts, Dingley of Maine, McKenna of California, and Dolliver of Iowa, Republicans.

On Feb. 4 the House adopted the new rules. While specifying the jurisdiction of the various standing committees, they did not define that of the Committee on the Columbian Exposition. It is a select committee, appointed for the first time in the Fifty-first Congress. It was to have charge of all matters pertaining to the Exposition. Speaker Crisp made Mr. Durborow of Illinois its Chairman. Durborow comes from Chicago. He had been active in securing the nomination of Judge Crisp in caucus. It was his first term in Congress. He had had no previous experience in legislative bodies.

On Jan. 5 Gen. Henderson of Iowa introduced a resolution proposing an investigation of the work of the World's Fair Commission. Gen. Henderson is a member of the Committee on Appropriations. The practice before and since then has been to refer resolutions of investigation to the Committee on Rules. They report back, either recommending the appointment of a special committee of investigation, or that it shall be conducted by the appropriate committee of the House. Judge Crisp being sick, Benton McMillin was acting Speaker when Henderson's resolution was introduced. He referred it to the Committee on Appropriations. Mr. Durborow is a driving and a handsome young man. If he heard the reference made he did not protest. An old member, jealous of the privileges of his committee, would have had his ears open and have made a protest then and there. The fight for jurisdiction might then have been successful. It would have enlisted the sympathies of other Chairmen of committees, jealous to maintain their privileges, and have aroused a feeling on behalf of the Committee on the World's Columbian Exposition that might have reversed the action of the Speaker pro tem.

It was not till the Committee on Appropriations had reported a resolution, giving itself jurisdiction, that Mr. Durborow seemed to realize the situation. He then offered a substitute referring the whole matter to the World's Fair Committee. The debate over this proposition was long and bitter. Under the spirit of the rules Durborow's committee certainly had jurisdiction of the investigation. Any other disposal of it was in the nature of a reflection upon his committee. It indicated that the members of the committee were not considered as trustworthy by the House as those of the Committee on Appropriations. Mr. Durborow was ably seconded by James B. Reilly of Pennsylvania, an old and experienced legislator. He had won his spurs in the celebrated fight over the creation of the Electoral Commission.

It was a hard fight on the lines laid down by the Committee on Appropriations. The vote on referring the matter to the World's Fair Committee was yeas 98, nays 147. Among those who voted against it were Messrs. Fithian, Forman, Lane, McGann, Newberry, Scott, Snow, Wike, and Williams, Illinois Democrats. Mr. Springer, Mr. Durborow, and Mr. Busey were the only Illinois Democrats who voted for it. The Illinois Republicans who voted against it were Messrs. Smith and Taylor. The Illinois Republicans who voted for it were Messrs. Henderson, Hitt, Hopkins, and Post. Fon Cable, Democrat, from Rock Island, was absent.

Messrs. Reilly and Durborow then endeavored to secure the appointment of a select committee of seven to make the investigation. The House, however, had no mercy. It rejected this proposition by a vote of 105 to 125. Five Illinois Democrats voted against it. Messrs. Busey, Durborow, McGann, Newberry, Scott, Springer, and Steward voted for it. Those who voted against it were Messrs. Fithian, Forman, Lane, Wike, and Williams. These five had been supporters of Mr. Mills in the contest for the Speakership.

Failing to secure a select committee, the Durborow contingent gave up the fight. The proposition of the Committee on Appropriations was adopted without a yea and nay vote.

Thus, at the beginning of the session, the House virtually ignored the World's Fair Committee, and Illinois Democrats and Illinois Republicans joined in humbling it.

II.—EVERYBODY AT WORK.

Despite the action of the House, Mr. Durborow's committee went resolutely to work. The majority, ignoring the promises made by Messrs. Springer and Lawler on behalf of Chicago in the Fifty-first Congress, reported a bill appropriating directly and indirectly over $6,000,000 of Government money for the Fair. It virtually made the United States a special partner with the Illinois corporation in the enterprise. As a stockholder it was to be allowed to participate in the profit only to the extent of $5,000,000.

Meantime, Chicago aided the majority of the committee in every possible way. It gave a grand excursion to members of Congress on Feb. 22. All who desired to visit Chicago were enabled to go there without expense. Once there their hotel bills were paid, and they were dined and wined, flattered and cajoled. They virtually had the freedom of the city.

From that day to the present members of Congress have been overwhelmed with printed matter relating to the Fair. Illustrated newspapers, circulars, and pamphlets were sent to them, and various devices used to win them.

The Durborow bill was placed upon the calendar. The report urging its adoption was antagonized by a strong minority report, made by the Hon. Joseph J. Little of New York. Apparently no effort was made by the Chairman of the committee to secure the consideration of the bill. It rested upon the calendar, like a grub in a cocoon, abiding its time. It could not be reached in the morning hour. Even if it had obtained this right of way, it could easily have been beaten by filibustering.

But this was not all. The Chairman of the committee had learned from the fate of the Bland bill that a special order allowing two or three days for its consideration would be of no avail unless an hour was specified at which the vote must be taken. The rules made a cloture possible. But the Committee on Rules would not report such a resolution without the signatures of a majority of the Democratic members of the House. This was the understanding in the Democratic caucus over the rules when it gave its sanction to the rule permitting the Committee on Rules to report a cloture. To obtain a majority of signatures for the World's Fair appropriation would have been harder than to obtain them for a vote on the Silver bill.

Another thing, the sentiment of the Democratic side of the House was decidedly opposed to a cloture upon any bill. It was believed that the privileges and results of Suspension Day ought to apply to all measures of legislation. On such days no filibustering was allowed, and bills were passed to a vote within thirty minutes. But while they could be considered by a majority vote, it required a two-thirds vote to pass them. There was no show for the World's Fair appropriation on Suspension Day, even with the aid of the solid Republican vote. Only a fair minority of the Democrats favored the appropriation. All efforts to turn this minority into a majority were futile.

The friends of the bill, however, manifested no uneasiness. There was a quiet confidence among them that betokened a flank movement. They meant to turn down the majority of the Democratic members through the aid of the Republicans. How this was to be done was not exactly foreseen by the opponents of the measure. It was certainly not possible to do it under the rules of the House. But it was done. How it was done is worth detailing.

III.—HOW IT WAS DONE.

The scheme of the looters was masked. Chairman Durborow asked Mr. Little, who drew up the minority report, whether he would filibuster against the consideration of the bill if it was called up in the House. Mr. Little replied that he would not. He, moreover, offered to go with Mr. Durborow to the Committee on Rules and ask to have a time set for its consideration. He assented, but never carried out the agreement. Meantime something else occurred.

After considering the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill for three weeks, the House sent it over to the Senate. There Senator Allison, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, took charge of it. After a due period of incubation, his committee hatched the Chicago egg. It was placed in a Sundry Civil pail and sent back to the House. It was against precedent, and entirely out of place. A man might just as well have put an oyster in a quart of strawberries.

The work of the Senate done, Washington was filled with shouters from Chicago. Every effort to influence the action of the House was made. The leading newspaper in Washington opened fire upon those who were opposed to the appropriation. Ex-members of Congress from Chicago and elsewhere were daily seen upon the floor. The Director-General of the World's Fair, with his staff of subordinate officers, all drawing salaries from the coffers of the Government, were on hand. Doorkeepers, librarians, and messengers of the House were utilized on behalf of the Fair. The Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois was seen in one of the cloak rooms of the House.

But this was not all. The Senate, in tacking the appropriation to the Sundry Civil bill, put with it a proviso that the Fair should be closed on Sunday. This gave the Chicago men ground upon which to work. They held that the closing of the Fair on Sunday would rob them of more than $3,000,000 in receipts. If the Government did this it was in duty bound to make good the loss by a $5,000,000 appropriation.

Meantime the mails of members were burdened with petitions from churches and religious organizations urging them to vote for the Sunday-closing proviso. The Senate amendment making the appropriation of $5,000,000 was voted down on July 19 by 123 ayes to 110 nays. One hundred and sixteen Democrats voted against it and 58 Democrats for it. Fifty-two Republicans—all who were in the House unpaired—voted with the 58 Democrats. After defeating the appropriation, the House adopted the Sunday closing proviso by a vote of 147 to 61.

Thus without giving Chicago the $5,000,000 the House took away $3,000,000 of its receipts. All but four of the Republicans in the House voted for it. This sent the bill to a conference committee with the $5,000,000 knocked out and the Sunday closing retained. The appropriation was defeated by 13 majority, the Democrats voting against it two to one.

The advocates of the Fair, however, were not dismayed by this vote. They redoubled their efforts upon the floor of the House and elsewhere. By securing a change of 7 votes they would be able to overcome the 13 majority. The 7 votes were secured. Furthermore, absenteeism in the House favored the appropriation. It gave it a majority of 9. Add to this the majority of one, secured by the change of 7 votes, and the total majority on behalf of the measure was 10.

This second vote was taken on July 27, after the conference committee had reported their disagreement. The vote was upon a motion that the House should recede from its disagreement to the Senate amendment making the appropriation of $5,000,000. On July 19, 116 Democrats voted against the appropriation, and 58 Democrats for it. On July 27, 106 Democrats voted against it and 64 for it, counting Judge Holman, who voted for it so as to make a motion to reconsider. Fifty-two Republicans voted for it on July 19, and 53 Republicans on July 27. The Farmers' Alliance members joined with the majority of the Democrats in voting against the appropriation.

The record showed a majority on the second vote of 33 Democrats against it, while every Republican voting voted for it.

IV.—THE FILIBUSTERING.

With the action of the Senate and these figures in mind, the reader can readily understand the filibustering that followed. Judge Holman, Gov. Sayres, Mr. Dockery, Benton McMillin, and others asserted that the appropriation was fastened upon the Sundry Civil bill in defiance of the rules of the Senate. In doing this the Senate exerted an unjust pressure upon the House. In standing by its action it maintained this pressure. It virtually said to the House, "You shall have none of the appropriation in the Sundry Civil bill unless you give these $5,000,000 to Chicago." The appropriations were spread in nearly every Congressional district in the Union.

This pressure aroused an indignation that awoke filibustering. The leader of the filibusters felt that the bill should be considered upon its own merits, without prejudicing other appropriations. There were others in the rank of the filibusters who believed that Congress had no Constitutional authority to make such an appropriation, or to loan the money of the people to any corporation whatever. They believed that as long as a majority of the Democrats were opposed to such measures they were justified in defeating the appropriation by every parliamentary means within their power.

To be sure, the House had voted to recede from its disagreement to the Senate amendment. Judge Holman had moved to reconsider the vote and Gen. Bingham had moved to table his motion. The filibusters simply jumped in with a motion to adjourn, and, pending that motion, with a motion that when the House adjourn it adjourn till such a time. The latter motion was amended so as to specify a time further on. Neither of the last two motions could be passed without a quorum if one was demanded. Each day the House was tied up by these motions. Whenever the filibusters demanded the yeas and nays they had enough sympathizers among the majority of the Democrats to procure them. It only requires one-fifth of those present to get the yeas and nays.

All this was very fine. Watchdog Holman, while not actively aiding the filibusters, was undoubtedly encouraging them, with a view of defeating the appropriation. Through his influence the appropriations of last year's Sundry Civil bill had been extended to 12 o'clock Saturday night. On Saturday afternoon he brought before the House a motion to still further extend them till Aug. 4, and asked unanimous consent for its passage. To the surprise of all, the Hon. A. J. Hopkins, a Republican leader from Illinois, objected.

This objection did the business. At 12 o'clock on Saturday night the Government Printing Office, and various other bureaus dependent upon the Sundry Civil bill for sustenance, closed their doors. But Tom Reed intensified Hopkins's objection. News had been received of the death of Mr. Craig, a Democratic member of the House from Pennsylvania. His colleague, the Hon. James B. Reilly, announced the death and moved, as a mark of respect, that the House adjourn. Such a motion had never been opposed since the foundation of the Government. Ex-Speaker Reed, who was extremely active on behalf of the Senate amendment, opposed Mr. Reilly's resolution in a two minutes' speech, and voted against it. It is the only vote of the century cast against such a resolution. It was taken by the Democrats as an indication of the spirit animating those who were determined to force the Senate proposition through the House.

On Monday morning the galleries were packed with Government types and pressmen anxiously watching the situation. It was fortunate that Monday was Suspension Day. The Watchdog promptly took advantage of it. He moved to suspend the rules and pass a resolution extending the appropriations of the last Sundry Civil bill until Aug. 4. Under the rules, half an hour's debate was allowed. Gen. Bingham immediately sailed in, accusing the Democrats of blocking the wheels of the Government by their filibustering. He was cheered by the Government employees in the gallery, who evidently did not understand the situation.

The Democrats, however, promptly laid the burden where it belonged, upon the shoulders of Mr. Hopkins of Illinois, whose objection, and whose objection alone, had prevented the extension of the Sundry Civil appropriations. The short debate that followed was quite bitter. Mr. Reed held the Democracy responsible for blocking the wheels of Government, notwithstanding the fact that the revolution of the wheels was stopped by the objection of a Republican member from Illinois.

The Holman resolution was then passed by a two-thirds vote, all furnished by the Democrats. And the Government employees filed out of the galleries, wiser men than when they entered them.

This resolution was passed on Aug. 1. In three days it would be necessary to either again extend the appropriation, or pass the Sundry Civil bill, with no Suspension Day in sight for a fortnight. It had become difficult to secure a quorum. Members were scattering to their homes to look after their political fences. The filibusters remained as determined as ever.

In this dilemma over a hundred members of the House signed a call for a Democratic caucus. It was held on Monday evening. A resolution recommending the postponement of the consideration of the World's Fair appropriation till December next was passed by a vote of 93 to 31. Many of those favoring the appropriation refused to be bound by the action of the caucus. Their course left the filibusterers free to follow their own bent. On Tuesday morning they continued their dilatory tactics. Three recesses were taken in succession, the leading members going into conference in the Ways and Means Committee room.

Finally the matter was referred to a committee of ten, five favoring the appropriation and five opposed to it. The members of this committee were Messrs. Bankhead of Alabama, McCreary of Kentucky, Culberson of Texas, McMillin of Tennessee, Cummings of New York, Durborow of Illinois, Shively of Indiana, Fellows of New York, Reilly of Pennsylvania, and Williams of Illinois. The first five opposed the appropriation and the last five favored it.

This committee went into session immediately. The filibustering spirit was represented by Messrs. Bankhead, Culberson, and Cummings, and the moderate opposition by Messrs. McCreary and McMillin. The committee was instructed to find some compromise by which the deadlock could be broken. After a long session, they adjourned till 9:30 the next morning. Much feeling was displayed, and at times it seemed as though it would be almost impossible to reach an agreement. Finally, however, nine of the members of the committee agreed upon a proposition. No newspaper has as yet correctly printed it. It was as follows:

This committee submit to the Democrats of the House the following proposition, it being understood that it does not commit any member of the committee or of the House for or against the World's Fair appropriation:

1. Reconsider the vote by which the House has receded from its disagreement to the senate amendment and send the Sundry Civil bill back into conference.

2. That, pending the conference on the Sundry Civil bill, the Durborow bill appropriating $5,000,000 be taken up, reduced to $2,500,000, appropriating this sum to aid in the success of the Fair, and that a final vote upon it, without interruption, be taken not later than Saturday, Aug. 6, at 2 P. M.

3. That meantime last year's Sundry Civil appropriations be extended and the power of the House be exerted to enforce the attendance of absent members.

4. That whether the Durborow bill as amended be carried or defeated, the vote thereon shall be regarded as a settlement of the question and the Sundry Civil bill shall be considered as without the Senate amendment.

Meantime the House had adjourned and another Democratic caucus had been called for 2 P. M. In discussing the proposition from the committee of ten, it was seen that No. 2 did not provide for any amendment to the Durborow bill, aside from its reduction to $2,500,000. The caucus provided for further amendments and unanimously agreed to the report.

Previous to this motion by Mr. Bailey of Texas that the members of the caucus be bound by its action was amended on motion of Judge Culberson of Texas so as to apply only to the present proposition. At this Mr. Bailey and Mr. Kilgore left the caucus. This boded evil. It was feared that filibustering might be continued. The disposition was there, but the weapons were struck from the hands of the filibusters by the Committee on Rules.

Gen. Catchings on the next day reported a resolution from that committee making the day Suspension Day. On suspension days, no filibustering being allowed, the House can pass any measure it pleases by a two-third vote. The Watchdog immediately moved to suspend the rules and pass a resolution that the House reconsider the vote by which it receded from its disagreement to the World's Fair amendment; that it insist upon its disagreement; and that the bill be sent to conference. This resolution was agreed to—141 to 50—and the Sundry Civil bill was sent to conference.

Thereupon Mr. Reilly, chairman of the committee of ten, and a member of the World's Fair Committee, moved to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution providing that immediately after its adoption the House proceed to the consideration of a substitute for the Durborow bill. This substitute was merely the original bill amended as suggested by the committee of ten. As the substitute carried an appropriation, under the rules of the House it would have to be considered in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Reilly's motion further provided that at 1 o'clock on Friday the Committee of the Whole should report the bill and amendments to the House, and that the previous question should be considered as ordered to their passage. This was carried by a vote of 187 to 7.

It will be seen that this is a cloture rule, and the only cloture rule of the session. It came from the House, and not from the Committee on Rules, and was passed by a majority of more than 26 to 1.

The debate in Committee of the Whole on the $2,500,000 appropriation was very spirited. Leaves of absence had been revoked, and the Speaker, in accordance with a resolution of the House, had telegraphed for absent members. Over 200 members were present when the committee reported the bill to the House, and the vote was taken on the bill and pending amendments at 1 P. M. on Friday. The first vote was upon a substitute offered by Mr. De Armond of Missouri for the first section of the bill. It provided that if the World's Columbian Exposition should deposit in the Mint of the United States a sufficient quantity of silver bullion, it should be coined and delivered to the Exposition in half dollar coins in an amount not exceeding $5,000,000. This was lost by a vote of 76 to 139. The bill was then ordered to a third reading, and the yeas and nays on its final passage were secured. It was passed by a vote of 131 to 83. Those who voted for the proposition and were recorded against the $5,000,000 clause on July 27 were Messrs. Andrew of Massachusetts, Bretz, Brookshire, and Brown of Indiana, Butler of Iowa, Bentley, Clancy, and Coombs of New York, Hall of Minnesota, Lapham of Rhode Island, Martin of Indiana, Page of Maryland, Parrett of Indiana, and Tarsney of Missouri. Eighty-three Democrats voted against the proposition and only seventy-nine for it. The Democrats from the New England and Middle States who voted for it were: Andrew and Stevens of Massachusetts, Bentley, Clancy, Coombs, Cox, Fellows, Rockwell, and Tracey of New York, Cadmus, English, Fowler, and Geissenhaner of New Jersey, Daniels of New Hampshire, Lapham and Page of Rhode Island, Sperry of Connecticut, Reilly and Wolverton of Pennsylvania. The Democrats from these States who voted against it were Messrs. Bacon, Covert, Cummings, Dunphy, Little, Van Horn, and Warner of New York, De Forest of Connecticut, and Mutchler of Pennsylvania. So the appropriation was made by the House and confirmed by the Senate. Chicago got half of what she asked, but no one supposes that this will satisfy her. She will undoubtedly be back at the next session with her plaster extended, asking for a further appropriation.

AMOS J. CUMMINGS.

THE AIR BRAKE.

How the Invention Was Suggested to a Young Mechanic.

The air brake was a creature of George Westinghouse's youth; he had invented it before he was 21 years of age, and nearly a quarter of a century has passed since he saw his invention applied with success to a railway train. It has gone upon record as one of the great achievements.

The air brake was suggested to him on the inspiration of the moment, but that is not infrequently the beginning of great inventions. The suggestion of the divisibility of the electric current came to Edison one summer Sunday afternoon as he stood with Prof. Barker of the University of Pennsylvania watching a majestic piece of mechanism in operation at the Wallace works in Ansonia. The hint of the telephone was received in an instant almost by Bell, and the suggestion of the quadruplex telegraph came to Edison, as he informs us, "between two thoughts." Ericsson received the hint of the screw propeller as he watched a fish swimming in a quiet pool, and Westinghouse had the first suggestion of the air brake while in a railway accident. His train was brought to a standstill, and the idea came to him that it could be possible to invent some mechanical appliance which would give an engineer command of a train such as he did not possess in the use of the throttle and the reversing lever. He turned this idea over in his mind, and, being skillful with his hands and having the capacity of the inventor, he constructed in a little while the first model of the air brake.

It happened that not long afterward he was in Chicago, and he met an inventor who thought that he had some valuable inspiration for the perfect brake, and had such faith in this inspiration that he had worked it out and had secured patents for his design.

Westinghouse said: "I, too, have a scheme for a railway brake which will enable the engineer on a train to apply the brake from the engine to the last car, and will bring a train to a standstill in far less time than the hand brake now in use can do."

"Ah, but," the older inventor said, "you cannot make a brake which will do these things without infringing upon my patents."

"I can and will," replied young Westinghouse, and within a year he had done his work and found himself a famous man.

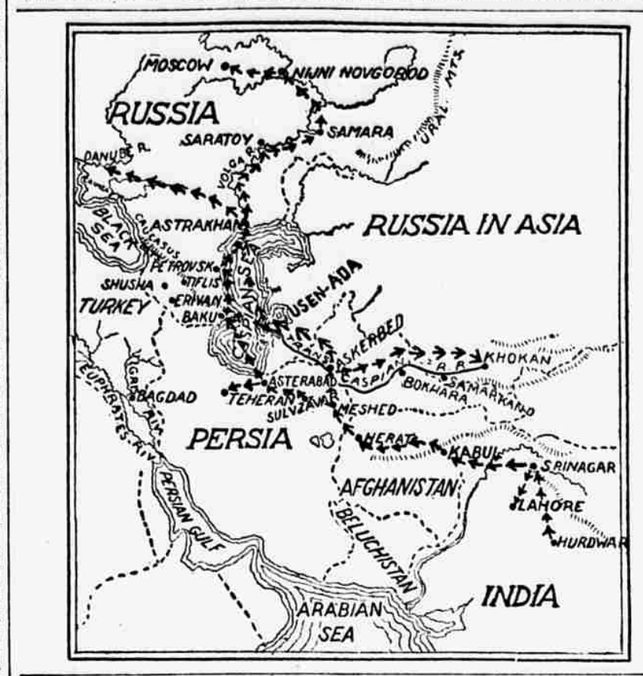
THE ASIATIC CHOLERA.

WHAT CAUSE HAS AMERICA TO DREAD ITS APPROACH?

Originating in India, Its Successive Epidemics of This Century Have Advanced Through Europe and Crossed to Our Shores—It Has Now Invaded Russia, and Perhaps is Raging in Paris—It Will Knock at the Gates of Our Seaports, but Will Find Us Prepared to Meet It.

The epidemic of Asiatic cholera which has been ravaging the countries south of the Black and Caspian seas during the past winter, spring, and summer may prove of greater interest to the people of this continent than has heretofore been supposed. Reports of cholera, more or less terrible in their details, are expected to come every year from the sun-beaten lands of the East, which are its constant home, but they are usually no cause for dread. It is fortunately only occasionally that the plague leaps its natural boundaries and penetrates Europe. When it does there is just reason for alarm from the civilized world, for it rarely stays its course until it has encircled the globe.

The present epidemic is one of these exceptions. Late in May the cholera, after having ravaged the filthy and crowded cities of India, Persia, Afghanistan, and the shores of the Red Sea, leaped the mountains and inland seas, which are its natural northern boundaries, and plunged into the very heart of European Russia. The plague took this course in 1830, and spread over Europe and America with frightful results. Several times since, it has burst its boundaries, and the end has always been the same. The Western Continent has never escaped. In 1849, in 1866, and in 1873 the scourge of Europe became the scourge of America. There is no reason to suppose that cholera will not knock at our doors now. Our hope lies in the immense gain in efficiency in our quarantine service since the last visitation, and in the increased efficiency of our local health authorities.



The danger has been recognized both in England and the United States. The last numbers of the great British medical journals, whose conservatism is universally recognized, have contained considerable discussions of the subject, and have advised the adoption of prompt and efficient defensive measures. The medical journals on this side of the Atlantic have followed in the same vein.

Very lately Supervising Surgeon-General Wyman of the Marine Hospital service sent a communication to the Secretary of the Treasury, asking that the Government make special preparations to meet the plague in case it appears. In his letter he said:

"A serious matter for consideration is the baggage of immigrants arriving at the port of New York coming directly from the infected districts or from districts contiguous thereto. Under the present arrangement the baggage of all immigrants passes without detention through New York to points of destination, the health authorities of some of the States being notified when this baggage comes from suspected localities. I have now to urge that the baggage of the kind just mentioned be thoroughly disinfected on Ellis Island before being permitted to be sent forward. For this purpose there should be two or three large steam disinfecting chambers established, for which there is ample room on the island, and I would respectfully urge that steps be immediately taken for the establishment of such a plant."

He also sent out a circular to surgeons in charge of quarantine stations on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts ordering that no vessel from ports through which cholera can reach us be passed without special disinfection after prescribed methods. Meantime he has asked the Secretary of State to cable Consuls in the affected districts directing them to publish the fact that rigid disinfection will be enforced at our ports, and to discourage shipments by all lawful methods. The local Board of Health of this city is also making preparations.

Such precautions against a plague which is as yet scarcely nearer to us than the opposite side of the globe may seem needless to many whose information is gathered from the disconnected cable reports in the daily papers. That they are warranted by the situation, however, is fully shown by the history of the present and of past epidemics of cholera.

THE HOME OF CHOLERA.

There is always cholera in India. It began there before history, and has become a very part of the land and the civilization. Its seed is in the earth, and its breath is in the air. Its sway is undisputed by the swarming people, who lie down at its coming and die without effort or protest against their fate. The hot sun and the humid, feverish atmosphere have much to do with its unchecked presence and occasional violent outbreaks, but the civilization of the land does more. Superstition and uncleanliness prevail to an almost unbelievable extent. The cities and towns of the Indian hills are undrained, unwatered, and filthy. The people live in a state of degradation which appeals more strongly to the nose even than to the eye. Under such conditions the plague thrives and fattens upon unnumbered victims.

Travelling is done by caravans, which, in themselves, are hotbeds of disease, and spread it far and wide. The hordes of pilgrims which yearly seek the sacred cities, marching in straggling armies of thousands upon thousands, serve to propagate and spread it. Lastly, the great fairs and festivals, which occur at frequent intervals, attracting visitors from the uttermost parts of India, and from Persia, Afghanistan, and neighboring principalities, are a prolific source of contagion. In particular, the great festivals of Juggernaut and Hurdwar, which occur at intervals of twelve years, and are attended by upward of a million people, are active agents in its spread. It is a significant fact that each of the greater epidemics which have penetrated Europe and encircled the globe have originated in years when one or the other of these great festivals were held. In 1823, the year in which the epidemic which reached us in 1832 began, so violent was the outbreak of cholera at the Juggernaut festival that the famous idol car could not be dragged around for lack of able men. The epidemic which reached us in 1866 received its impulse from the Hurdwar festival, and at the same festival began the present epidemic, vastated many small villages. The reports made by Spiradon C. Zavitziano, the Government medical officer at Constantinople, show that from June, 1891, to February, 1892, there were 6,461 deaths in four provinces. This induced the Turkish Government to erect new lazarettos, and the Russian Government established strict quarantines on the ports of the Black Sea.

Meanwhile the plague appeared with unusual violence in the villages of northern India, and, with the impulse of the Hurdwar festival, soon became a raging epidemic. The pilgrims and the Provindahs scattered it broadcast. It began to appear at it in May. At that time the district of Srinagar, in the extreme north of India, was the centre of the plague. There were 1,000 deaths there in one week. All work in the country districts was suspended. The ignorant and superstitious people felt that a judgment was on them and made no attempt to stay its ravages. Hundreds were taken sick daily and lay down by the roadside or in the fields to die. The dead were left unburied in the blazing sun, and the stench became horrible. The capital of the district, the city of Srinagar, took fire and burned to the ground. The inhabitants, without food or clothing, took to the country to increase the awful misery there. An attempt was made to help them from Lahore, but it resulted in carrying the cholera there, with hundreds of deaths. Srinagar was one of the filthiest cities of India. Between May 6 and June 11 5,000 of its population of 124,000 died of cholera. There were 258 deaths on May 25. The dead were seldom buried.

Meantime the cholera in Turkey was increasing. The Government report of May 27 said that "a frightful outbreak of the plague, accompanied by an extraordinary mortality, has broken out in Mesopotamia," the country lying between the Tigris and the Euphrates. Thus the present epidemic has two sources far removed, one east of Persia in India, and the other west of Persia in Turkey, but both tending north to the Caspian Sea, and thence into Europe. Whether they had a common origin cannot now be determined. It is to the Indian outbreak, however, that the European epidemic is due.

THE WESTWARD MARCH OF THE PLAGUE.

In April the cholera began its westward march from India to the Caspian Sea. It had laid waste a large territory of northern India. It crossed the Indus and invaded Afghanistan. Cabul was attacked with frightful loss of life, and then Herat, where, in spite of the abundant water in and around the city, the camps of the pilgrims and traders gave unlimited impetus to its spread. Hundreds of villages along the caravan routes between these two cities were attacked, and the plague spread north and south through the country districts. From Herat it went northwest to the holy city of Meshed, the Mecca of many eastern populations. Thousands died in Meshed, and the scene was terrible. For weeks the deaths averaged over 100 daily. It is still raging there, the last reports being that it was on the decrease, the daily death roll having dropped to 35. Still westward the cholera travelled in the wake of the caravans. It reached Sabzevar and other towns, and in a few days reached Asterabad, on the Caspian Sea. Its ravages here and in the neighboring provinces were very great. Its appearance at Asterabad alarmed the Russian authorities, and all the Russian ports on the Caspian were closely quarantined. There is a considerable trade between Asterabad and Astrakhan, at the mouth of the Volga.

Meantime the cholera had also been spreading north from Meshed, following lines of caravan traffic over the mountains, and had appeared at the large city of Askhabad, on the northern frontier of Persia. From there its spread along the line of the Transcaspian Railroad was very rapid. It almost immediately appeared several hundred miles west at Usun-Ada, a railroad city on the east shore of the Caspian, the port through which the enormous trade of Turkestan and central Asia reaches Russia by water. This news created great alarm in St. Petersburg, and equipments for quarantining the Russian ports of the Caspian were redoubled. The cholera also ran eastward along the railroad to its terminus at Khokan, attacking every town on the route and spreading into the country districts of Turkestan and Russian Asia. The great Russo-Asiatic city of Bokhara, with its extensive European trade, was stricken heavily, as also was the entire State of Zamarkand to the east. The reports from these centres of trade and manufactures indicate large losses of life.

Thomas C. Heenan, United States Consul at Odessa, reported as follows on June 8:

"I found Bokhara, when I visited it in April, very clean for an Asiatic city, and I expressed my surprise to the Russian residents. I was informed that Russians had compelled the Ameer to have the city thoroughly cleansed, going even to the extent of obliging the pious Mussulmen to kill their sheep outside the city limits, a condition of things by no means relished by the natives, who prefer to do their killing on the streets fronting their shops."

INTO EUROPEAN RUSSIA.

In May the cholera crossed the Caspian, in spite of all precautions, and invaded Baku, a Russian seaport just south of the Caucasus Mountains. It is the great petroleum port of the Caspian, and filthy beyond description. Sewerage and a proper water supply were never provided, notwithstanding the large size of the city, and there was never an attempt at sanitation. The ravages of the disease in this town have been fearful from the beginning. Day after day the cable has sent us reports of the deaths, which frequently exceeded 100 daily. It is still unabated. From Baku it spread rapidly all over the country south of the Caucasus Mountains, Tiflis, Elizabetpol, Shamachi, Errivan, and Shurha, all large and important cities, yielded large death crops daily, and the villages and country districts suffered and still continue to suffer greatly. The cholera was now in Europe, and it spread rapidly. The authorities, much alarmed, bent all their energies toward keeping it from Astrakhan, the port at the mouth of the Volga. But they were unsuccessful. The ships from Baku and Asterabad and Usun-Ada carried it to Petrovsk, half way between Baku and Astrakhan, and from there it reached Astrakhan almost immediately. There was now no hope of checking it, for the Volga is an important avenue of traffic into central Russia.

The cholera is still dealing death at Astrakhan, where from the first its sway was complete. Only a few days after its appearance there cases were reported at Saratov, 500 miles up the Volga, where it had been carried by steamboats, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the Government authorities to check it. Its appearance at Saratov alarmed not only Russia but all Europe. It meant that every European country would soon be visited. Germany immediately established quarantine stations all along the Russian frontier, and England, France, and Spain ordered that every vessel from Russian ports be detained and fumigated. The alarm in Russia was very general and amounted almost to consternation. The province of Samara, where the plague first showed itself with particular violence, had been the centre of the great famine of the year before. Its people were weakened and demoralized by sickness and privation. The worst fears were realized. The cholera went through the district like fire. The death roll was tremendous. From there it spread along railroad lines in all directions. The Russians were easy prey. The famine had left them no spirit to resist the pestilence.

The Government now undertook the most vigorous measures. Many towns and cities were so surrounded with sanitary pickets that it was almost impossible to gain admittance to them. Others were thoroughly cleansed and fumigated, the officials showing a fine disregard of private rights in their measures to prepare the town for the pestilence. The greatest of fears were for Nijni Novgorod, on the Volga, about 400 miles above Samara, where the great fair of the late summer was to be held. Many thousands from all parts of Russia visit this fair. The town was cleansed and disinfected in the most thorough manner, but the cholera got there late in July. Schools of instruction in the use of disinfectants were opened in the cities, and schedules of obligatory sanitary measures were sent to every factory in the empire. The cable reports, however, that the Russians are too demoralized to carry out the requirements of these schedules. About the middle of July a riot was occasioned in Saratov by the report that the doctors in the hospitals were burying cholera patients alive. The mob sacked the Government houses and the cholera hospitals, dragging the patients away. Disorder was suppressed by the troops. All the way from Afghanistan the course of the cholera has been accented by riots. Those at Astrakhan, occasioned by popular distrust of the officials and their sanitary measures, resulted in large loss of life and destruction of property. On July 16 the Czar presided at a council, at which was discussed a proposition to appoint an official with dictatorial power to combat the epidemic. At the same time the Government is publicly belittling the epidemic, and has prohibited the sale of a St. Petersburg newspaper which published true reports of it. During two days of the third week in July the official record showed 1,300 death in Russia, of which 812 were in cities on the Volga. For the four days ending July 21, 2,500 deaths are reported. These reports are probably far below the truth.

During the latter part of July the plague has been moving slowly westward, following railroad lines. This has greatly alarmed Germany. Spain has been making extensive preparations for the reception of the pestilence during the past three weeks. All vessels from Russian ports are detained at quarantine for long periods.

On July 21 four deaths from cholera occurred in Moscow, which, owing to strict quarantine, had held out till then. The cable announces that the greatest apprehensions are felt at St. Petersburg. On the occasion of a former epidemic the Czar had St. Petersburg surrounded by troops, with cannon trained on the various highways to the city to keep out plague-stricken people; but the cholera broke out among the soldiers and reached the city after all. This year a quarantine, not so vigorous but probably more effective, has been established around the city. During the last week it has been announced that the cholera has made inroads upon the Crimean territory bordering upon the Black Sea. This is ominous, for not only does the Danube, the highway into Austria, empty into the Black Sea near the Crimean peninsula, but an enormous trade finds its way from the ports of this water out through the Mediterranean to Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France, as well as to the northern ports of Africa. Thus the cholera threatens to invade the western countries of Europe by the southern, as well as the northern route. There is a report that it has appeared in Odessa, but so far it lacks confirmation. It is through these ports of the Black Sea that the products of the East come to the United States.

Meantime western Europe has been thrown into a state of great excitement by the epidemic in Paris. The Parisian authorities declare that it is not Asiatic cholera which has occasioned the death of hundreds during the past few weeks, but a local disease termed cholerine, occasioned by the use of polluted Seine water. The British medical journals boldly attack this position and declare that the disease is Asiatic cholera. They accuse the Parisian authorities of endeavoring to suppress the real facts. The pestilence is increasing daily, and the situation is becoming grave. A special commission has been appointed to take measures for its suppression, and Pasteur has been called in consultation. The same disease has lately appeared at Vienna on the Danube, and has occasioned no small alarm. Distinguished French and German physicians are reported to have expressed the opinion that it is really Asiatic cholera, which has reached Paris from Russia by ship, and has come up the Danube out of the Black Sea to Vienna. Time alone will settle this question.

In any event, it is scarcely probable that cholera will not cross the Atlantic.

THE EPIDEMIC OF 1832.

Those who remember visitations of cholera to this country tremble at the prospect of its return. We never saw the disease until 1832, when it raged here with frightful violence. It came to us over precisely the course followed by the present epidemic, except that there were then no railroads to aid it. It reached Quebec first by ship, and travelled down Lake Champlain. It broke out in New York, and two days later was in Albany. Then it moved west, appearing within a few days at Utica, Schenectady, Syracuse, and Buffalo. It ravaged New York State, appearing without warning in most of the towns and villages.

In New York city it created a panic. It centred at the Five Points, then an overcrowded locality, far more filthy than any section of the city to-day, and spread like fire in every direction. For a long period the death rate averaged seventy a day. The physicians of that day did not understand its nature, and attributed its spread to contagion in the air. The people left town by thousands, and took refuge in neighboring country villages. During that year 4,740 persons died of cholera throughout the country, and the year following 1,000 more. Boston, Newark, Philadelphia, and New Orleans also suffered greatly. In Philadelphia the panic was so great that the dead were left unburied by hundreds until a committee of citizens volunteered to gather up the bodies and place them under ground. It also spread to Havana, where 10,000 of the 100,000 inhabitants died of it in a year.

In 1848 the cholera came again. This time it reached the country by ships from Europe to New Orleans. It reached New York, but did not amount to much here. It covered the entire West. It was worst at New Orleans, where 1,