CABLE NEWS FROM GERMANY

THE EMPEROR ANNOYED BY THE DELAY OF THE ARMY BILL.

Social Democrats Fighting the Proposal Tooth and Nail—An International Conference on Cholera To Be Held in Six or Eight Weeks—Delay in Rearming the Russian Infantry—An Aged German Apparently Dies and Comes to Life Again.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—Despite the valiant efforts of the semi-official press and the semi-official orators, the prospects of passing the Army bill without substantial concessions from the Government is again darkening. The statistical campaign of the last three weeks has failed to move popular opinion to the extent expected, and the dailies having connection with Chancellor Caprivi's press bureau have been reduced to ringing the changes on the statement that the Triple Alliance has but 1,176,838 men in its standing armies, while the Dual Alliance has 1,500,000—a disparity of numerical strength to be altered only by Germany's taking the lead of Austria-Hungary and Italy in increasing her peace effective.

The Emperor and Chancellor Caprivi are greatly exasperated by the studied slowness of the Army bill commission and the concurrent refusal of the people to join in any reactionary movement in favor of the measure. Much of the blame for the general resistance to the Government's demands is traceable to the Social Democrats, who have mobilized their campaign forces in every city and considerable village of the empire, and are fighting every detail of the Government's proposal tooth and nail. The Social Democratic leaders in the Reichstag are emphasizing constantly the impossibility of meeting the tax burdens while the present depression of trade leaves tens of thousands out of employment, and omit no opportunity to twit the Ministers upon their uncompromising attitude toward the workingmen in the last miners' strike.

The supporters of the Army bill admit regretfully that the passage of the measure depends now, as it did originally, upon the amount of pressure brought to bear from the Vatican upon the Clericals. This situation has been recognized by the Government, and powerful influences have been concentrated upon the Holy Chair. As yet there has been no response, and Radicals and Social Democrats are anticipating the failure of the manœuvre by prophesying the dissolution of the Reichstag in the near future. Their prophesies must be taken, however, with a grain of salt, as in Germany the strong presumption always is that the Government will get what it asks for.

The home rule conflict in Great Britain is casting its shadow in Germany. Among the Social Democrats especially the progress of the debates in the House of Commons is watched eagerly, and many newspaper leaders are devoted to the conduct of the parliamentary representatives of the independent labor movement. The Social Democratic chieftains express contemptuously their surprise that English labor leaders should condescend to accept the assistance of the Liberal bourgeoisie or the Tory land owners. The *Vorwaerts*, central organ of the Social Democrats, in a half conciliatory article explains that the labor interests of Great Britain may be able to gain some important points from the Liberal Cabinet just now while Mr. Gladstone is hard pressed for a home rule majority, and exhorts the Parliamentary labor contingent to demand its pound of flesh in return for its support of the Home Rule bill. The peculiarities of the present situation in English politics, says the *Vorwaerts*, may thus be exploited by the English Socialists, if they persist in negotiating with the old parties. Not because one party is better than the other, but from the purely utilitarian point of view Keir Hardie and his colleagues should treat with Mr. Gladstone, if they treat with anybody, rather than with Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Balfour, from whom they can expect nothing but promises for years to come.

The *Vorwaerts* then lets loose a torrent of abuse upon Joseph Chamberlain, who is denounced as the renegade leader of apostate Radicals, whose only present object is obstruction to please their Tory allies. Mr. Chamberlain is depicted as an "ambitious demagogue," "the most disagreeable person in the present legislative squabble, either inside or outside the House," and as "more Tory than the Tories themselves." The other Social Democratic journals advise a "no compromise" policy, such as has been followed by the Social Democrats in the Reichstag. If the English Socialists wish to make political "deals," however, they say the Tories should be their last resort. An alliance between the Lords and the workingmen, they added, would be the death blow to the present Socialistic agitation in Great Britain.

Work on the bill for the prevention, suppression, or supervision of epidemic diseases by imperial authority has not made satisfactory progress. The draft of the bill will be published on Monday or Tuesday probably, and in the ordinary course of legislation the bill will not be passed before the middle of April. The delay has caused much adverse criticism among medical authorities on cholera, who have been urging constantly the necessity of immediate action. Prof. Koch is said to have predicted last November in an official memorandum that cholera would reappear in Hamburg and other cities infected last fall during the first fortnight in next March, and his opinion has been fortified recently by the epidemic in Nietleben and the occasional deaths from cholera in Hamburg and Altona. Unless the bill be rushed through the Bundesrath and Reichstag in panicky haste, it is likely to become operative too late for the accomplishment of anything like prevention.

Most of the European powers have accepted the Government's invitation to an international conference concerning cholera. The conference will meet probably in six or eight weeks, and will take steps toward international coöperation in checking the progress of the epidemic from country to country while interfering as little as possible with the course of international trade and travel. An imperial bill for the supervision and suppression of cattle diseases will be submitted to the Bundesrath shortly. The bill contains several drastic provisions, and on the whole is modelled after the regulations now operative in England against the importation of live cattle. Numerous cattle inspectors will be appointed to supervise fairs and markets and to stand guard where hitherto the greatest imports of cattle have been brought over the border. The bill will apply to all German States without modification or exception.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Koelnische Zeitung* says that the defective work of the Russian small arms factories on the new small calibre rifles will delay for four years the rearming of the Russian infantry. According to the understanding between the war offices of Russia and France he says, French factories were to make some 500,000 rifles and the Russian Government factories were to provide the rest, so that the deliveries should be completed simultaneously. France delivered her share of the rifles last summer. The Russian factories, however, have delivered up to date but 5,000 rifles which would stand the test. The Russian War Office is making an investigation of the causes of the defectiveness of the work, and is trying to fix the responsibility among the officials in charge.

The Roman Catholic students of the Bonn University celebrated on Tuesday the Pope's episcopal jubilee with a commers in Beethoven Hall. Among the guests in the seats of honor were Rector Dr. Samisch, nearly all the members of the Catholic theological faculty, representatives of several other faculties, and many priests. Johann Hinsenkamp, a Catholic student of philosophy, as the principal orator of the evening, dwelt upon the world-wide power of the Vatican and the energy and sagacity of the present Pope.

Frederick Pollach, student of theology, made a highly patriotic speech, which was received with exceptional enthusiasm, in response to the toast, "Emperor and Empire." He spoke especially of the loyalty of the Rhineland to the crown and united Germany. Dr. Samisch, in responding for the guests, eulogized the students and professors for their cordial loyalty to the Emperor and empire. The Dean of the theological faculty, Prof. Kirschkamp, after thanking their students for their hospitality and manifestations and reverence of the Pope, edited a Latin despatch of congratulation to the Vatican.

The activity of the Roman Catholics in organizing jubilee demonstrations, holding meetings for the discussion of the school question, and circulating petitions for the return of the Jesuit orders, has caused the Protestants to revive their opposition campaign. Besides starting several petitions against the return of the Jesuits, the Lutheran leaders have sent out a call for a national German Evangelical Conference to be held in Barmen on Feb. 20. The principal object of the conference will be to protest against any compromise between Government and Clericals which would result in the readmission of the Jesuits, although the school question and other problems of religion and politics will be considered. Among the delegates to the conference will be many of the foremost Protestant politicians of Germany.

United States Consul-General Edwards's report on German trade for last year shows that the value of the exports of the North German States to America declined from $51,245,107 in 1891, to $48,916,270 in 1892.

The everlasting agitation of the agrarian party to induce the Reichstag to "relieve the prevalent agricultural depression," has been increased with such vigor recently that the manufacturing interests are starting a counter demonstration. The national Liberal *Correspondenz* reflects the opinion of all, except the agrarian Conservatives, when it says editorially: "This agrarian movement is without reason, and the complaints and contentions of its leaders are entirely lacking justification. No class or branch of industry in the German empire, in proportion to its position in economic life, and the number of persons engaged in it, is more adequately represented in our parliamentary bodies. One needs to take only a hasty glance at the membership of the Reichstag and the Prussian lower House to recognize the baselessness of the assertions that our agricultural interests are inadequately represented. Inadequacy of representation is certainly not because of the present depression."

Elise Bohndorff, wife of a Berlin master baker, while suffering from religious mania, murdered her ten-year-old son early on Wednesday morning. Her husband left his wife and son to go down stairs to regulate the ovens; when he returned his wife was standing by the boy's bedside. She turned as her husband entered and said: "Evil spirits came and told me to do it, so I killed him." She threw down the bedclothes and revealed the boy strangled to death by a waist strap which she had bound round his neck. She remained calm at the bedside until the policeman whom Bohndorff summoned told her she must go with him. Then she threw herself upon her boy's body, kissed and embraced it, and threatened to kill herself. She was taken to an asylum.

The Society of Social Politics, an organization under the influence of the Socialists of the Chair, will meet at the university on March 20. Some twenty professors, most of them belonging to the Social reform school, will be present. Knapp of Strassburg will introduce the subject of "Domestic Migration and the Rural Laborer," which will be discussed further in reports of specialists, notably Count Kanitz and Dr. Weber of Berlin. Prof. Sering of Berlin will introduce a discussion of the distribution of land and the security of small agricultural holdings.

The copy books from the girls' high school in Trier will be sent to the Chicago Fair to show the methods of instruction in German high schools for young women. In written examinations instituted by the Prussian Department on Education the Trier high school for girls made the best record.

Five days ago a man of seventy in Soeren, Schleswig, was pronounced by his physician to be dying, took leave of wife and children, and then ceased breathing. The body was prepared for burial in a coffin. The widow received the customary visits of condolence, and, according to the local fashion, distributed small glasses of brandy among the callers. On the day of the funeral her guests became somewhat noisy while drinking in the room next to the parlor, where the body lay. The disturbance awoke the apparently dead man from the state of coma in which he had lain for two days, and he called out, "Mother, give me something to drink; I feel so weak."

The visiting women ran screaming from the house, followed by the wife and children of the man in the coffin. The physician, who was summoned, found his patient breathing naturally, although he had relapsed into unconsciousness after asking for a drink. The old man is now in a fair way to recover entirely from his illness.

GLADSTONE'S SPEECH TO-DAY.

It Is Expected There Will be a Street Demonstration in His Honor.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Mr. Gladstone's friends were much opposed to his speaking in the House yesterday, as they wished him to save his strength for to-morrow. Their fears that he would exhaust himself, however, were groundless, for to-day Mr. Gladstone was feeling well as ever, went to church twice, and had his usual appetite.

Thirty-seven questions, which are to come up in the House, are likely to delay the introduction of the Home Rule bill. The whips are urging members to postpone their questions until later, so that Mr. Gladstone may be able to begin his speech as early as 4 o'clock. There is every prospect that a great street demonstration will be made during Mr. Gladstone's progress from his house to Westminster. In expectation of this demonstration a special police escort has been detailed to accompany Mr. Gladstone from Downing street to the House of Commons.

The Marseilles Epidemic.

MARSEILLES, Feb. 12.—Between 6 o'clock last evening and 2 o'clock this afternoon eight persons died of the choleraic epidemic, and several fresh cases were taken to the hospital. Two patients were discharged as cured from the hospital. The Swedish Consul has refused to issue clean bills to vessels sailing for Swedish ports. A five days' quarantine has been established by the Greek Government for all arrivals from this port.

A Parnellite Convention.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Timothy Harrington has sent circulars to members of the National League requesting them to send delegates to a convention of Parnellites to be held in Dublin just before the second reading of the Home Rule bill. The object of the convention will be to decide upon the acceptance or repudiation of the Home Rule bill by the Parnellite members of the House.

Robbing the Pomeranian Unfortunates.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The Customs officials at Greenock report that during the excitement on the steamer Pomeranian, which came back to port after a terrible experience in a storm, the luggage of the dead and living passengers was plundered of all small articles of high value. Nothing has been learned as to the identity of the thieves.

Notes of Foreign Happenings.

The Lancashire operative spinners have resolved to continue their fight against the master spinners. The strike pay has been reduced 50 per cent. by the unions.

Verdi has telegraphed to Signor Martini, Minister of Education, concerning the title of Marquis conferred upon him by the King: "My gratitude would be far greater had I been spared this honor."

The Columbian Express of the Pennsylvania Railroad

makes the tour of the Keystone State in broad daylight. The wild mountain scenery viewed from this train is peculiarly attractive. The train leaves New York at 9 A. M.—*Adv.*

The sick relish and thrive upon Cudahy's "Rex" Brand Fluid Beef. Palatable and strengthening. Sold by all druggists.—*Adv.*

BEAUTY IN THE GYMNASIUM.

AN EXHIBITION OF THE BERKELEY LADIES' ATHLETIC CLUB.

Club and Dumb Bell Exercise, Hanging Ring, and Other Acrobatic Feats Performed by Fair Gymnasts, Who Add a Purely Feminine Touch in the Graceful Scarf Drill.

A certain society girl at the Vaudeville Club the other night let fall a startling remark.

She was absorbed in watching one of the dancers who are imported nightly to entertain Mr. Teall and his contingent. The ladies in

CLUB EXERCISE.

the boxes wore that tired look which seems to be the trade mark, as it were, of a member of the smart set, but all the same they kept a sharp eye on the stage. The dancer executed a pirouette, and gave a kick of such pretensions that even the Vaudeville Club uttered a murmur of applause. Then it was that the young woman exploded the bomb which has torn up the minds of her hearers ever since.

"Humph!" she said with fine scorn; "I can kick higher than that myself!"

There was a gasp among her hearers which recalled the speaker to herself, and the way she blushed was ample proof that the art is not quite extinct. But the mischief was done. A conviction came to the minds of those present that the New York girl is possessed of ac-

LEG EXERCISE.

complishments which it has not entered into the mind of the New York man to conceive.

Could the walls of certain gymnasiums speak, this assurance would be rendered doubly sure. For example, what a tale the Berkeley Lyceum could unfold to substantiate not only the high-kicking claims of athletic young women in private life, but their ability to run, jump, turn somersaults, swing clubs and dumb bells, fence, and otherwise demonstrate their skill in athletics!

The Berkeley Ladies' Athletic Club has just held what it calls its fourth annual open day. This announcement must not, however, be taken too literally, for in reality the day was open to only a very select few. For instance, at the very outset one runs up against the cruel and inflexible restriction:

"Only ladies admitted."

This rule in itself shuts out at one blow a large and deserving portion of our population. But rebellion would be useless, and the Berkeley ladies will continue to exclude all persons in trousers—except, of course, themselves.

"Trousers!"

Exactly—trousers. They all wear them, little and big, old and young, and they seem to derive a concentrated satisfaction from the act. The exclusiveness which hedges the exhibition about is due to trousers. Within the padded walls of the gymnasium there is no room for the fiction that a woman does not possess those useful members sometimes called "limbs," but classified in physiology as "legs."

ONE OF THE FORTY THIEVES.

Not that the human form divine is obtrusively *en evidence* at the gymnasium. Oh, not at all. But it is very agreeably so, even to a long-time habitué of comic opera.

The costume adopted by the club is discretion itself; that is—well, at any rate, it is convenient, and, while not ravishingly beautiful, at least does not disfigure, as some gymnastic suits do. The upper part is a deep, full blouse with a wide turned-over collar and full sleeves gathered into a band. The lower portion consists of very full Turkish trousers extending to the knee, not below it. When the heels are brought together the bifurcation of this garment ceases to be apparent, but as the body assumes the various postures called for in the drills, the convenience, as well as the existence, of the division is indubitably evident.

The suits are of a uniform color and material—dark blue flannel—and are braided hussar fashion, with gold cords. Long black stockings reach above the knee, and the feet are encased in noiseless slippers of kangaroo leather or canvas.

All the movements were executed with an accompaniment of music and almost without a word of command. The teachers, however (there were two who alternated in leading the classes), always stood in front and accompanied the manœuvres.

The modern Amazons who were to display their muscular development ranged in age from tender infants of three years to women in the prime of life. The little ones, forty in number, were a second Forty Thieves, for they stole the hearts of the entire audience. There were even a half dozen boys in this number, tiny little fellows in jerseys, and with Fauntleroy curls leaving a golden wake behind them. The children marched and countermarched, taking prodigious steps. Then they drilled with rings and dumb bells, bending and swaying with genuine grace, and swinging the light wooden bells with remarkable accuracy.

However, the first stir of real excitement in the audience began when about fifteen young women marched down the hall and formed in position for a drill with Indian clubs. They faced their teacher, a remarkably graceful young woman in a suit of bright red, confined at the waist by a broad canvas belt with gold fastenings. She was as graceful in her movements as a young Greek and roused a murmur of admiration at the ease and dexterity with which she swung her clubs. Some of her class were not far behind her in gracefulness, and all of them executed the most difficult movements without a single clash of the clubs, or one inadvertent blow on their own heads or shoulders, which is the common fate of the unskilled.

During this drill there was a great stretching of necks in the audience. Those who were acquainted with the performers concentrated their attention on those they knew, and, it must be confessed, criticised every detail of their appearance and action. Quite as much consideration was given to the figures of the performers as to the figures they described with their clubs, and if those fifteen pairs of ears did not burn furiously it was because they were so well fanned by the whirling clubs.

If all the emotions that ran riot in that audience could have been summed up it would have been a surprising list. One woman was secretly shocked at the costumes, while her neighbor dilated on this "step in the right direction, giving some hope that women will be emancipated from the present style of dress." One girl said she thought Miss —— had "a perfectly lovely figure."

"Great goodness!" said her companion. "Before I'd show such ankles in public!"

"What good is it all going to do them, any way?" said a dear old lady, with a solemn shake of her white curls. "Swinging Indian clubs won't teach them how to make Indian pudding. Those girls ought to be practising with a dumb waiter instead of dumb bells."

"Oh, they can do both!" said the lady with her. "I want my daughter to have a sound, well-developed body, and other things will come all right."

Just then the part of the entertainment described on the programme as "Apparatus work," was reached, and a straight, well-formed girl, with short curly black hair, caught hold of two covered rings hanging by ropes from the ceiling, and, before you could wink, was hanging head downward with her feet in the rings. The old lady gasped. Everybody said "Ah!" and held their breath. The young woman remained suspended a moment, then reaching up, caught the rings with her hands and let herself down to the floor again. Loud applause greeted

SCARF DRILL.

the performance, and the girl retired covered with smiles and glory.

At the same time the teacher in red and one of the star pupils worked their way up and down the hall by means of the travelling rings. To indulge in these little excursions it is necessary to be equipped with not only a strong right arm but a strong left one as well. Catching by the first of a row of rings suspended from the ceiling the traveller swings herself out and catches the second ring; then swinging back and drawing herself way up by one arm, she goes forward again, and, dropping the first ring, catches the third, and so on.

The applause greeting this performance had scarcely subsided when several charming young women turned somersaults around the horizontal bar. Then the curly haired acrobat came forward again and had a great deal of fun with the rings, lying at full length with her head in one, her feet in the other, and otherwise supported only by a stiff backbone and upper lip and the consciousness that she was doing her duty in the cause of athletics. When she touched the floor again she smiled modestly in recognition of the applause and retired to her perch on the springboard, where a group of the girls, with bright scarlet cloaks around them, were awaiting their turn to display their muscle.

The next feature was a trapeze performance by a very pretty girl, whose lithe figure showed to great advantage as she performed sundry feats in midair. The young woman who had spoken in such a cruelly disparaging manner, and in whose eye a gleam of envy was growing more and more apparent, sniffed scornfully.

THE MASCULINE ELEMENT.

"It's a regular circus!" she said. "When they get down you expect to see them stand on one foot and throw you a kiss. It seems as if I ought to be able to smell the sawdust." And she sniffed once more.

"It does seem like a circus," admitted her companion. "But all the same I like it and I wish I was in it. Guess I'll join."

Just then twenty young women, with dumb bells in their hands, marched upon the floor and began what proved to be the best drill of the afternoon. It was given to the accompaniment of the "Anvil Chorus," and throughout the drill the dumb bells were struck against each other in various positions, keeping unerring time to the music. In the anvil part, especially, the blows produced a clear, sharp, and genuinely musical sound.

The programme closed with a scarf drill, which transported the observer from "the canvas-tented, sawdust-scented, ever-jolly circus" to the stage of the skirt dancer.

The feminine athletes prefer to be known only by their deeds, and hide their names from a too curious public. But their faces are those of the very swell girls who can be seen on the avenue any pleasant day. But as they appear then, clad in robes of purest French extraction, and with only the tips of dainty patent leather boots glancing from under their skirts, one would think the Turkish trousers, the horizontal bar, and the flying trapeze only the creations of a dream. Only there is a freedom of motion, a thoroughbred gait and carriage, about these healthy young women which would make any girl echo the admiring witness who thought she would join.

From a *fin de siecle* point of view the exhibition was an invigorating spectacle. But it would have frozen our great grandmothers' blood in their veins.

QUITE PROFESSIONAL.

Some of the members of the club are Mrs. Edwin B. Weatherbee, Miss Amy S. Weeks, Miss E. A. L. Wesson, Mrs. William Ziegler, Mrs. Bessie Thayer, Miss May Tiffany, Mrs. Louis Tiffany, Miss Violet M. L. G. McKay Ward, Mrs. Frederick F. Ballard, Mrs. J. W. Champney, Miss Helen Gould, Miss Anna Gould, Mrs. Charles de Hart Brower, Mrs. F. W. Paul Brüning, Mrs. Nicholas Cambreling, Miss Mabel Clyde, Mrs. Gilman Collamore, Mrs. Charles Loomis Dana, Mrs. Lockwood De Forrest, Mrs. William Curtis Demarest, Miss Catharine Drexel, Mrs. F. H. Dyett, Miss F. P. Earle, Miss Mary F. Hackley, Miss Elizabeth Lawrence Hasbrouck, Miss Marie Havemeyer, Miss Louise De Forrest Haynes, Miss Mildred Howells, Miss Isabel Hoyt, Mrs. George Stanton Jones-Floyd, Miss Gertrude Ruth Kidder, Miss Mary Newbold Lawrence, Mrs. Leon Marie, Miss F. Edna Maxwell, Miss

THE FAIRY.

Olina Maxwell, Mrs. Henry King McHarg, Miss Catharine Minturn, Miss Bertha Montague, Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, Mrs. S. S. Packard, Miss Mary Eddy Parsons, Miss Emily and Miss Helen Poor, Miss Marion Stockwell Read, Mrs. Edward Sanford, Jr., Miss Flora Chapin Sprague, Mrs. Frederick J. Stone, Mrs. Arthur Brooks, Mrs. Joseph H. Choate, Miss Mary L. Hawkins, Mrs. Francis H. Weeks, Mrs. W. Gill Wylie, Mrs. John S. White, Miss E. A. Slade, Mrs. Janvier Le Duc, and Dr. Mary Bissell.

The instructors of the class are Miss D. M. Elliott and Miss M. G. Potter.

LIFE INSURANCE FOR WOMEN.

This Company Believes that They Are Better Risks Than Men.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—The *Tribune* says: An application for a certificate of incorporation for the Woman's Life Insurance Company of Chicago will be forwarded to Springfield tomorrow with a list of prominent men and women as incorporators.

The company is capitalized at $250,000. It is not the purpose of the company to confine its business to insuring the lives of women, but simply to do a life insurance business without discriminating against women. A woman who was the main promoter of the enterprise expressed herself on the subject as follows:

"Some years ago I became anxious concerning the education of my children, especially in view of my possible death, and the only way I could think of to provide for it was by insuring my life. I made application by letter to a local company, and in reply received a list of questions that I would be required to answer in writing before I could be accepted. I began to read the questions, and before I got through reading them threw down the paper in a rage. I then got my husband to inquire among all the companies in the city to see if any of them would insure a woman on the same general principles that it would a man, and he found that they were all alike.

"This painful experience led me to make a study of the question of woman's health and longevity. I took the mortuary reports of Chicago and the tenth census reports and made a thorough investigation, and the conclusion I reached—and that any one will reach who makes a study of the subject—was that a woman was a far better risk than a man. Women are as a fact in the statistics longer lived than men, and the reasons for it are not at all obscure. Women have not the vices of men and do not follow the dangerous callings of men, nor do the dangerous travelling that men do, nor live with the dangerous surroundings of men.

"The pretext is that a woman's sex subjects her to serious and incessant peril, particularly in connection with maternity. But I have made a careful study of these matters, and I am ready to prove that the theories on this subject are contradicted by the facts. Even if the theories were correct, the danger from this source would not be a tenth part as great as the dangers that men are exposed to on account of their sex and their habits.

"Our theory is that the discrimination of the life insurance companies against woman is an unreasoning prejudice and a relic of the condition of subjection which has existed ever since Adam, and is so slowly passing away even in this enlightened day. I have addressed communications to all the insurance journals in the country on this subject, and they all sustain my position. The only objection offered to it was by a paper in California, which said the insurance of women's lives would lead to their being murdered by their husbands for the insurance money."

BEER FAMINE AT ASBURY PARK.

Bad Roads Impeded the Supply Wagons and a Dry Sunday Ensued.

ASBURY PARK, Feb. 12.—A beer famine caused considerable annoyance here yesterday among a certain class of persons. The laws passed at the instance of Founder James A. Bradley prohibit the sale of beer here, but any person living in the Park can have it delivered by the case by the bottlers, whose establishments are in Neptune City, Long Branch, and Spring Lake Beach. Owing to the bad condition of the roads the most of the "beer arks," as the wagons are called, did not make their regular Saturday trips to the Park yesterday. Michael Barrett, a bottler at Neptune City, the nearest point, ran out of beer at noon. When his customers found that there was none of the liquid to be had for use over Sunday this side of Long Branch, some of them hired teams and drove there for a supply.

Barrett had telegraphed to Newark for a car load of beer, and could not explain to the thirsty customers who crowded into his place why it had not arrived. He again telegraphed to Newark, asking why his order had not been filled, and in reply was told that the beer had been shipped several hours before. The car was finally found on a side track, where it had been left while a freight train was being drilled. It was brought here as a special train. A force of men began hauling the beer, and at 11 o'clock the wagons were in the Park delivering the cases. The wagons ran until midnight, but many persons were unable to secure their usual supply, and to-day most of them drove to Long Branch for it.

MR. BLUME'S UMBRELLA.

The Way He Carried It Caused a Fight in an Elevated Station.

Henry Blume came from Bellaire, O., a few days ago to visit his brother-in-law, Leo Huttir, who lives at 316 East Seventy-ninth street. On Saturday night Huttir took his guest out to show him the town. They went to the Eightieth street station of the Second avenue elevated road to catch a down train. Blume had an umbrella tucked under his arm, with the end sticking straight out. In a way that threatened the eyes of those behind him.

Guard William M. Wilson of 1,444 Second avenue, on his way to report for duty, noticed the dangerous way Blume carried his umbrella, and spoke to him about it. Huttir says that Wilson was not content with remonstrating, but emphasized his words by shoving Blume so violently that he would have fallen in front of an approaching train had not he caught him. Huttir took up the battle for his friend, and he and the guard came to blows. Huttir is 50 years old, but the guard is 60. The latter got the worse of the encounter.

"If you will go to the station I will have you locked up," Huttir suggested, and the guard consented. They rode to 125th street together and went to the East 126th street station.

There the guard turned the tables on Huttir, who was locked up.

Yesterday he was held by Justice Simms in $300 bail for trial. Mr. Huttir is a real estate dealer.

Mr. Ecclesine's Noisy Servant.

Margaret Welsh, 35 years old, a servant in the house of ex-Senator Thomas C. E. Ecclesine of 102 West 128th street, discovered a decanter of whiskey in the pantry on Saturday and drank the greater part of it. She was in a very hilarious mood when the family discovered her condition, and abused all hands roundly when requested to go to bed. She made so much noise that a crowd collected in the street. The woman was finally taken to the police station. Yesterday she was fined $5.

Tragedy in a Corning Boarding House.

CORNING, N. Y., Feb. 12.—E. G. Hamlin, 60 years old, was shot this evening by G. W. Morey, aged 63 years, in a boarding house on East Erin avenue. The ball entered the left side of the head, near the base of the skull, and came out through his cheek. Hamlin came to this place four years ago from Sandwich, Mass. It is said that Morey was jealous of Hamlin's attentions to his young wife. Morey is locked up in jail. Hamlin's recovery is doubtful.

The Modern Invalid

Has tastes medicinally, in keeping with other luxuries. A remedy must be pleasantly acceptable in form, purely wholesome in composition, truly beneficial in effect, and entirely free from every objectionable quality. If really ill he consults a physician; if constipated he uses the gentle family laxative, Syrup of Figs.—*Adv.*

CHURCH SINGERS TROUBLED.

THEY BESIEGE THE DOORS OF MR. DAVID M. STONE.

He Shunts Them Off and Incidentally Relates Some of the Things He Has Done for the Central Congregational Church.

When a man who is known to be rich, religious, charitable, and successful in what he undertakes joins a church the members naturally look up to him. When he shows himself liberal in all emergencies and interested in church work, it is also quite natural to expect him to take a leading part in the church's affairs. That is one aspect of this story. Another is that the reputation which such a member gains carries with it some unpleasant consequences. Everybody in the church with an axe to grind is sure to appeal for his support. If anything goes wrong his advice is sought by all interested. Thus if he tries to turn away from all these intruders and attempts to retire to privacy, disappointments are engendered and unpleasant remarks are made. A third and important feature is ingratitude, as shown by the tendency of the church managers to act contrary to the advice of their benefactor.

All these conditions have been brought before the public through the action of the Music Committee of the Central Congregational Church of Brooklyn, of which the Rev. A. J. F. Behrends is pastor, and Mr. David M. Stone is an influential member. The church, an odd-looking structure of corrugated iron, painted white, is just east of Franklin avenue, in Hancock street, within a stone's throw of the handsome residence of Mr. Stone at 482 Franklin avenue. Mr. Stone, as everybody knows, is the editor and principal proprietor of the venerable and exceedingly profitable *Journal of Commerce*. He has been prominent in the church for twenty-one years, during which time he has missed the service on only three occasions, twice when he was a guest at other churches and once when he was ill. Although trusteeships and other honors have frequently been proffered him, he has always declined them, preferring to be a high private and prove his interest by handsome benefactions. There isn't a member of the church from the President of the Board of Trustees and the pastor down to the sexton who wouldn't be very sorry if it were suggested that Mr. Stone thought of leaving the church. Yet in his twenty-one years of honored membership his wishes have frequently been crossed and his advice disregarded. Now, Mr. Stone is a hard-headed man, a man of practical affairs and executive ability and knows a good deal about how to make an enterprize successful, while church trustees and committees are not usually composed of men of the same calibre, so that when Mr. Stone's advice was disregarded, the church sometimes got into difficulties, and had to appeal to him to get it out again, which was, of course, some satisfaction.

A short time ago the old Music Committee was turned down and a new one was installed. Some members say that the change was due to the fact that the former committee couldn't tell the difference between "Johnny Get Your Gun" and a Beethoven sonata. Others deny this and say the old committee wanted to be relieved of its responsibilities and labors. The first act of the new committee was to notify all but one of the members of the choir that their services would be dispensed with after May 1. The choir consisted of Lewis H. Moore, organist, who has been there eight years; Jenny M. Clerihew, soprano, engaged last year; Katharine Cavannah Parker, contralto, an old member; Harry Forseman, bass, and Charles S. Phillips, tenor. It was also announced that the committee had $5,000 to pay in salaries during the coming year to an organist and quartet. The result was that Moore and all the singers, excepting Phillips, who was retained, were indignant and anxious to have the decrees of expulsion rescinded, while other organists and singers within and outside of the church united in a scramble for the vacant places. Mr. Stone was bombarded with appeals from both parties. The ins and their friends wanted him to use his influence to change the minds of the committee, while the friends of the outs wanted him to favor the respective candidates put forward by them. Mr. Stone has been accustomed to having people ring his door bell to learn the address of the sexton or the hours at which services are held. His house being so handy to the church, and he being so well known in connection with it, this was only natural, although frequently annoying. But the musical crisis was too much for him. Not only his house but also his office was invaded, and strangers lay in wait outside of both to talk choir to him.

He began his efforts to get rid of these people by instructing his sexton to say that he could see no strangers. That didn't succeed, because the callers pretended to know him. So he finally had some notices printed on slips of paper, which he gave to his servants and the clerks in his office, and every caller, at either house or office, was looked at if he might be bent on talking music, received one. It read as follows:

"482 FRANKLIN AVENUE.

"The public announcement that there would be a change May 1 in the choir of the Central Congregational Church has brought a throng of applicants for the vacant places to me on the supposition that I have something to do with the management of the church affairs. I have not time to answer each correspondent by letter, and I have put this in type to say that I have nothing to do with engaging singers, have no influence whatever with those who have the control, and my personal wishes are not consulted in any manner, either in the discharge or hiring of those employed by the Board of Trustees. I understand that the following compose the Music Committee, to whom all applications should be addressed: John F. Anderson, Jr., 1,325 Pacific street; Robert D. Benedict, 363 Adelphi street; Stanley B. Hill, 391 Washington avenue, all of Brooklyn. DAVID M. STONE."

This had considerable effect, and as no persuasion could overcome the vigilance of those who guarded Mr. Stone's peace, the hordes that beset him fell off rapidly. When THE SUN reporter called at Mr. Stone's residence yesterday the neat looking maid studied his card earnestly.

"Do you know Mr. Stone?" she asked.

"My card will introduce me," said the reporter.

"Mr. Stone never sees strangers," she said. "Can't you tell me what you wish to see him about?"

It required considerable diplomacy on the part of the reporter to induce her to take the card to Mr. Stone.

"The fact is," said Mr. Stone to the reporter afterward, "people will insist upon calling upon me to use my influence in church matters, when I really have none. I have nothing to do with the management of the church. Ever since I entered the church the trustees and others have been asking my advice and then acting directly contrary to it. When they thought of building a church and were looking for a site they came to me. I strongly urged the selection of the site opposite this house. It could have been purchased for less than the one they have, and was preferable. When it came to building the church one of the trustees asked my opinion of corrugated iron. Mr. Talmage's Tabernacle was built of that then, and there was a tobacco warehouse of corrugated iron in South Brooklyn. The trustee was enthusiastic about it, spoke about its fireproof qualities, &c. I calmly explained to him some very practical objections to the use of iron. But it was selected, anyhow. The Tabernacle and the warehouse both burned down, and every member of the church regrets now that my advice wasn't followed. The same trustee consulted with me about the roof. He wanted to use artificial slate. I showed him how that might be all right as the top for a small, compact, immovable house, but that it would be sure to crack whenever the frame of the church moved. It was used anyhow, and the members had to raise their umbrellas to keep off the rain during the first services. Then, after the church was completed, it was in debt about $64,000. Dr. Storrs, then pastor, came to my house one Sunday and wanted to talk about the matter. I told him I would not talk about such matters on Sunday, but would see him the next day.

"Well, it seems he had arranged with Kimball, the professional church debt raiser, to come to our church. Kimball, you know, holds services in a peculiar way and has been pretty successful. There are always some strange scenes at them, however. Well, when the hymn and first prayer were over that morning Dr. Storrs got up and introduced Kimball as the man who had come to help us raise our debt. I immediately saw that Storrs was aiming to get Kimball to talk so that I would be forced into making a big contribution. I immediately got up, put on my hat, and went out. The next day a paragraph was inserted in one of the papers saying that I had left the church because I did not want to contribute. I went to the evening services that day, but as Kimball was still at it I did not stay. They raised $22,000 amid great excitement. To give you an idea of what they did I'll tell you just one incident. A member, who was greatly excited, said he didn't have any money to give, but his boy had a team of goats which he wanted to offer. So Kimball auctioned off the goats from the pulpit.

"Well, there was a member named Cook who agreed with me that these carryings on were not proper, so he went to Storrs and told him I would leave the church if they were not stopped. Storrs promised to give them up, but Kimball induced him to reconsider, and when I went to church next Sunday Kimball would again have been sprung upon me if Cook had not interfered. Well, I was then appealed to for a plan to raise the money. I told them I objected to any consideration of the subject on Sunday, but advised holding a meeting for the specific purpose of raising the debt on some secular day. After great opposition my plan was followed. I addressed the meeting and said I was opposed to any excitement. Nobody should contribute except after calm deliberation. I knew that some who had subscribed under Kimball's persuasion would thereby pinch their families, while others owed money. I said I did not believe in taking money from these. Then I started off with a contribution of $5,000. After $25,000 had been raised things began to get exciting again, and I called a halt, much to the disgust of the trustees. I moved an adjournment for a week to give opportunity for further deliberation on the part of all. This, too, was opposed, but finally prevailed. At the adjourned meeting the balance of the money needed was subscribed. Furthermore, the money subscribed at the two meetings at which I presided was all paid, while over $3,000 of that raised by Kimball did not materialize, and a few of us had to make it good.

"As for the choir business, when they had a precentor I asked them to put in a quartet, and agreed to contribute liberally to the expense. They refused, and went on with the precentor. By and by they put in a quartet without saying anything to me."

When Mr. Stone had finished with the above he stopped to think for a while. Then he added:

"But, you understand, there is no dissension in the church. All is harmonious."

THE ETCHENS WIELDED KNIVES;

The Mannels Didn't, So They Were Driven from the Field in Disorder.

Ernest Etchen, a cook at the Park Avenue Hotel, and his wife were prisoners at the Essex Market Police Court yesterday. Otto Mannel, a bartender, and Mary, his wife, appeared as complainants. The Mannels and the Etchens live at