BANKS AND THE CURRENCY.

REPORT OF JAMES H. ECKELS, COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.

He Urges That the Banks Be Allowed to Issue Notes to the Full Amount of Bonds Deposited, and Believes That They Should Issue All the Paper Currency of the Country.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The annual report of James H. Eckels, Comptroller of the Currency, for the year ended Oct. 31, 1897, opens with a brief review of the history of the legislation which constitutes the present National Bank act, and invites the attention of Congress to amendments to the law recommended in former reports without specifically repeating them. On the subject of bank note circulation the Comptroller says:

"It is noticeable that in all the changes which have been wrought in the National Currency act, from its inception to the present time, the feature subject to criticism, but which was intended should constitute the principal benefit to be conferred, has remained comparatively unchanged, namely, the note-issuing function. Whatever justification there was in the first instance for restricting the issuing of notes against the bonds of the Government, deposited with the Treasurer of the United States, to 90 per cent. of the par value thereof long since ceased. In the report of every Comptroller of the Currency during the past twenty years the wisdom of changing the existing law so that the banks, and through them the communities in which located, might have the additional benefit of an added loanable capital, has been urged. Despite all this the law still remains without amendment. Not only should the Bank act be amended in this particular, but Congress should seriously consider such a change in the method of bank-note issues as will enable the banks of the country to more adequately meet the demands of trade and commerce in all sections of the country. The business of banking, like every other form of investment, must be made attractive to capital. If it is placed upon a footing different from other undertakings, embarrassed through unnecessary restrictions, and deprived of proper sources of profit, the result can not be otherwise than that investable capital will seek other means of employment, and to such extent deprive the people of the benefits of the agency most requisite to commercial activity.

"It is considered by every great commercial Government, except the United States, to be the sole province of the banks to issue the paper which circulates as currency. The belief in a bank-note currency as being better and safer than a Government paper currency prevailed unquestioned in this country until, under the apparent exigencies of the war, the Government undertook to issue paper currency. Even under such circumstances the promise was always given, however, that it should be retired at the earliest practicable moment and the admission freely made that it was neither a wise measure nor a safe form of currency.

"Between the competition of the Government note issues on the one hand and the unnecessary restrictions imposed by law upon the other, together with the increasing price of bonds required to be deposited as security, the note-issuing function of the banks has been permitted to become merely an incident to the conduct of the national banking associations of the country. It has been seriously suggested more than once that the bank-note issues be done away with and all paper be issued by the Government instead. The danger of such a course is not to be overestimated. The experience of every Government has been that Governmental currency paper is a source of weakness and danger. In the United States, where there has been the nearest approximation to success, with the aid of the Federal paper comparatively limited in amount, the credit of the Government has been more than once put in jeopardy through it, and the business interests of the country subjected to unnecessary loss and confusion.

"The argument that the Government, better than the banks, can provide for the redemption of paper-note issues will not stand the test of a careful analysis. The Government has no means for caring for its demand liabilities except through borrowing and through the levying of taxes. Upon the other hand, the banks have assets which can be promptly converted into cash to meet their outstanding notes when presented. Their ability to command gold has always been beyond that of the Government, for in each financial exigency which has confronted the Government the banks have furnished to it the amounts necessary to maintain its solvency. It is impossible to believe that with a system of bank-note issues, based in part upon securities and in part upon bank assets, the country cannot be provided with a safe, sound, and stable bank-note issue, always commensurate with and responsive to the demands of trade. The Bank of England, the Bank of Scotland, and the Bank of Ireland have been found to be ample in their resources to provide the note issues for use in the trade of the United Kingdom. The same is true of the Bank of France. The Deutsche Reichsbank, or German Imperial Bank, has for more than twenty-two years issued bank-note paper against assets which has maintained its value and has been so controlled as to successfully meet the commercial needs of the empire.

The total number of national banks organized since the date the first certificate of authority was issued, on June 20, 1863, to the close of the year just ended was 5,095, making an average for each year of 158. On Oct. 31 last there were in active operation 3,617 banks, having an authorized capital stock of $630,230,295. The total outstanding circulation of the banks then in operation was $229,199,886, of which $202,994,555 was secured by bonds of the United States, and the balance by lawful money deposited with the Treasurer of the United States. The total circulation outstanding of all national banks on Oct. 31 was $230,131,005, of which amount $1,558,800 was secured by bonds held for account of insolvent and liquidating banks, and $226,205,925 by lawful money deposited for their account and by active banks reducing circulation. The net decrease in the amount of circulation secured by bonds during the year was $12,584,334, and the gross decrease in the total circulation was $4,851,292.

The 3,617 banks in operation are divided geographically as follows: 588, with an authorized capital stock of $159,291,620, in the New England States; 956, with an aggregate capital stock of $195,124,275, in the Eastern States; 546, with a capital stock of $66,761,900, in the Southern States; 1,046, with a capital stock of $160,163,967, in the Middle States; 357, with a capital stock of $32,654,160, in the Western States, and 124, with a capital stock of $17,465,000, in the Pacific States. Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, and Texas lead in point of number of active banks. Arranged according to capital stock, Massachusetts is first, with $94,327,500; New York second, with $83,169,940; Pennsylvania third, with $75,193,390, followed by Ohio, with $45,235,967; Illinois, with $37,296,000, and Texas, with $19,986,000.

During the year just closed 144 national banks were organized, located in 18 States and 2 Territories, with an aggregate capital stock of $4,420,000. The number of banks which left the system by reason of the expiration of their charters during the report year was 2, with a capital stock of $150,000 and circulation of $61,200. These banks were located in New York and Indiana, and were succeeded by new associations with a capital stock of $100,000 and circulation of $54,750. The number of banks which went into voluntary liquidation during the year was 71, having a capital stock of $6,659,000 and circulation of $1,729,040. A comparison with the report of last year shows the number of banks to have decreased 62, with a decrease of capital stock of $11,090,500.

Of the 6,337,114 shares issued on July 5, 1897, 5,464,037 are held by residents of the States in which the banks are located, 873,077 by nonresidents, of which 21,729 are held by residents of foreign countries. The number owned by women is 1,418,542.

The investments by residents in the New England and Eastern States in the stock of the national banks located in the Southern States amount to $5,294,600; in the Middle States, $8,678,200; in the Western States, $4,507,300; in the Pacific States, $1,823,000, and in all these sections, $20,303,700.

The shareholders number 281,225, of which 279,149 are natural persons, including 101,944 women. The corporations which are shareholders number 11,076. The average investment by each shareholder is about $2,250. A further classification shows that 169,948 persons or corporations hold stock of the par value of $1,000 or less; 79,756, over $1,000 or less than $5,000; 29,541, $5,000 or less than $30,000, and 1,980, $30,000 or over.

During the year 38 banks were placed in the hands of receivers. Of this number 1 has resumed business. Of the total number of insolvent banks 26 were finally closed during the year, leaving 127 still in process of liquidation. The affairs of 46 banks in the hands of receivers have also been practically wound up, but cannot be finally closed because of litigation pending. These banks are now on the inactive list, the expenses of the receiverships being only nominal and limited to the payment for services actually rendered. The increase in the rate per cent. paid to creditors of insolvent national banks is due in part to the greater efficiency and economy in conducting the liquidations, and shows conclusively, the Comptroller says, that Governmental supervision is growing more and more effective as new and improved methods are evolved from experience in handling the affairs of insolvent associations.

There was paid to creditors of insolvent banks during the year $13,169,781 in dividends, or 17½ per cent. of all the dividends ($75,935,925) that have been paid during the period of thirty-four years of the existence of the system. Since Oct. 31, the end of the report year, 17 additional dividends have been ordered, amounting in the aggregate to about $625,000.

The returns from savings banks throughout the United States, the report says, are practically complete, but their value is somewhat impaired by the want of uniformity in dates showing the conditions of the institutions. The number of savings banks covered by the report is 990, being eight less than reported the previous year. There has been an increase in the resources of these banks of $55,517,311, in deposits of $47,947,096, and in surplus and other undivided profits of $9,224,585. The increase in the number of depositors is 135,638. The number of depositors is 5,201,132, and the amount to their credit is $1,939,376,035, which does not include $44,037,529 of deposits subject to check in stock savings banks, which are operated under charters permitting both a commercial and savings bank business. Investments by savings banks in United States bonds amount to $163,886,928, and in other bonds, stocks, &c., $772,374,743.

The report contains the latest compiled statistics relative to the world's monetary systems and the stock of gold, silver, and paper currency. A very interesting feature of this statement is the per capita amount of each kind of money in the countries named. The per capita averages in the principal countries of the world are as follows: United States, $23.70; United Kingdom, $20.65; France, $34.68; Germany, $18.85; Austria-Hungary, $9.33, and Russia, $8.95.

The Comptroller renews his recommendation made in a former report with reference to the manner of compensating national bank examiners, that they be put upon an annual salary instead of receiving a fee for each examination, as now, the fund out of which their salary is to be paid to be raised by assessment upon the banks. The great benefit to be derived from such a change, the Comptroller says, would lie in the fact that the examiner would be in a position where he could apportion his time in making examinations in accordance with the needs of the banks, and that only in this way can that complete scrutiny be had of the banks' affairs which is due to the officers and shareholders and to the patrons and the general public.

QUEER LETTERS THEY GET.

Samples from the Mail of Department Officials at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Some curious letters have been received this week at the Post Office and the Interior Department. The Postmaster-General received one from a man in Brooklyn who asked his assistance in securing the office of national superintendent of pigeon lofts. The writer explained that the office had not yet been created, but some one had recommended its establishment. The incumbent was to have charge of the raising of pigeons for army and navy service.

The Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General had his attention called to the recent yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans by a letter from the Postmaster at Maiden, N. C. The latter forwarded an envelope received from New Orleans, and bearing the marks of having passed through a disinfecting machine, and he complained that some one between New Orleans and Maiden had a punching machine and was mutilating letters. He asked for an investigation. Evidently he had not heard of the epidemic.

Postmaster-General Gary received a letter from a telegraph operator in Mashonaland, South Africa, who said that the climate did not agree with him there and asked for a place in he postal telegraph service here.

A man in California has taken time by the forelock and has applied to Secretary Bliss for the place of Surveyor-General of Hawaii. A Mississippi Postmaster has notified the Postmaster-General that he is going to give up his office and go to New Orleans, where he expects to get a place in a "holesale" house. He has served as Postmaster for nearly four years, and asked for a recommendation from the Postmaster-General.

Another letter was from the Secretary of the Fort Wrangel, Glenora and Lake Teslin Transportation Company of Tacoma, Wash. The writer said that there appeared to be some question as to the proper manner of spelling the name of Fort Wrangell, and his company spelled it with one "l." He wanted to know which was correct, one "l" or two. The Secretary of the Interior referred the letter to the Board of Geographic Names, and received a reply that the proper method of spelling the name was "Wrangell." It was named after a Russian Admiral, Baron Von Wrangell, and although different members of the family have employed different methods of spelling it, the Board of Geographic Names thought that as Baron Von Wrangell spelled it with two "l's," they should follow his example.

As an illustration of the great stretch of territory under the flag of the United States, First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath to-day exhibited two letters, one from a town in Montana and the second from a point in the far South. The first said that they were out of coal, had no wood, and no light, and were about to freeze, all owing to the negligence of the department in Washington. The other said that they had been struck by a hot wave, and prayed the department to protect them from a quarantine.

AN ANCIENT MAP OF PALESTINE.

The Mosaic Discovered by Workmen in the Ruins of an Ancient Church.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The Rev. Dr. Hyvernat of the Catholic University has called attention to the recent discovery of an ancient map at Madaba, a hamlet in Palestine beyond the Jordan. In clearing away the ruins of a very ancient church to make room for a new structure the workmen discovered a mosaic pavement in which was reproduced a map of Palestine. Some parts of the mosaic are wanting, but the northern and southern extremities are intact, and show that the map included that part of Palestine which lies between Zebulon to the north and the delta of the Nile to the south. It is impossible to say what were the limits of the map from east to west; very likely it extended from the desert to the sea.

At first sight one might be tempted to view this mosaic map as an artistic execution of the Onomasticon of Eusebius. It seems almost certain that there is some literary relationship between them; yet they are quite independent. The mosaic was conceived on a much larger scale than the Onomasticon. Though its Biblical character appears evident from the many Scriptural citations relative to the twelve tribes, nevertheless it exceeds the Biblical framework, at least as conceived by Eusebius; thus, in Egypt, it reproduces localities that do not figure in the Bible.

It is a map of contemporaneous geography, such as might have been executed according to the methods of the time. The identifications made by the author of the mosaic may be false, but there is no reason to suspect that he put anything on his map which did not exist in his time. This is evident from the extreme care which he seems to have taken to be faithful to the facts. The ancient name of a place is never given without the contemporary name attached. Often only the contemporary name appears, without any attempt to identify it by an ancient name. The map is devoid of any religious character which might have been given it, for instance, by placing a cross on Calvary, or by depicting the baptism of our Saviour, or the Dead Sea surrounded by flames. On the contrary, the map is quite realistic. One perceives boats in the Dead Sea, because, in fact, there were boats there; but there are no fish in its waters, because fish could not live in them. In the waters of the Jordan, however, one sees fish. Every city has its own character, and nature is reproduced as faithfully as possible.

Whatever may be said concerning some slight details, the objective value of the map is considerable. Its maker endeavored sincerely to represent things as they existed in his day. But that date it is difficult to determine exactly. Father Cleopatra, Archbishop of the Greek convent at Jerusalem, who examined it, thinks that it dates back to the beginning of the fifth century. He reported its discovery to the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres at Paris at its last meeting. Its discovery will prove of great interest to lovers of the Holy Land and to students of ancient geography.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MONOLITH.

Milwaukee Wants to Get It for the Wisconsin Semi-Centennial.

ASHLAND, Wis., Dec. 5.—Five years ago, in an attempt to show what they could do, the great red sandstone quarries of F. Prentice at Houghton Point cut out the greatest monolith the world has ever seen. It was then attempted to convey the stone to the World's Fair, but the engineering questions involved proved too much for the experts who had charge, or necessitated the expenditure of more money than was at hand. The stone has lain in the quarry till now.

Efforts are beginning to move this stone and set it up on the lake front at Milwaukee in time for the semi-centennial of statehood. It is said the questions of engineering have been solved satisfactorily, and that from $40,000 to $50,000 will move the stone to the water and float it down the lakes to Milwaukee. This monolith is 10 feet square at the base, 115 feet high, and tapers to a square of 4 feet at the top. It is 10 feet longer than any single stone ever quarried so far as records show. It is a dark blood-red sandstone, without a flaw, either in texture or color, and it is said that but few quarries in the world are able to produce such a shaft.

Killed by Illuminating Gas.

Sophie Wolf, 17 years old, who arrived here from Austria three weeks ago, was found dead yesterday in a room back of Ferdinand Niebour's dyeing and cleaning establishment at 1039 Broadway, Brooklyn. She had been asphyxiated by illuminating gas. Niebour's wife hired the girl as a domestic servant on Thursday.

ONLY ONE POST OFFICE.

CONSOLIDATION IN GREATER NEW YORK BEGINS ON JAN. 1.

All the Offices but Brooklyn, Jamaica and Richmond to Be Brought Into One at Once, and They Will Follow—Better and Quicker Facilities—Some Great Contrasts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—It has been decided finally by the Post Office Department to proceed with the consolidation of the Post Offices of Greater New York along the lines previously laid down in THE SUN, and George W. Beavers, chief of the division of salaries and allowances, has charge of the work of arranging the details of the scheme. It was determined originally to have a commission go to New York and make an exhaustive examination of the conditions of the Post Offices which will be included in the consolidation, but it has been determined to place the whole matter in the hands of Mr. Beavers, who, in addition to being supplied with all the data necessary from the files of his division, is further equipped by reason of his seventeen years' experience as a Post Office inspector in New York and Brooklyn. He has been in close touch with Postmasters Dayton and Wilson, and is now engaged on the compilation of the statistics and the arrangement of the minor details. As this consolidation is the largest of all in the country and concerns every branch of the Post Office Department, all the officials, from the Postmaster down, are taking an active interest in it.

It was intended originally by the department to wait for the action of Congress before taking any step in the matter, as the consolidation could not be effected wholly without the repeal of the Gorman-Pasco amendment that county seats should not be affected by the consolidation of Post Offices. But the department has sounded the people of New York and the officials of the Post Offices and found that they are to a large extent heartily in favor of the proposed consolidation, and it has been agreed that it should be carried into effect as far as possible without waiting for the action of the coming Congress, and after such action the remainder of the plan will be completed. The department expects to have everything arranged by the 1st of January, and the consolidation will go into effect at that date or as near then as possible.

The consolidation of the Post Offices is done on the same theory that a railroad, the administration of which is closely similar to that of the Post Office Department, has divisions and subdivisions. Instead of all the officials reporting to the President, each division has its own head, and the executive head of the road has but to examine the reports of the division superintendents to know just what is being done on the whole length of his lines. The department sets on the theory that if it can handle the reports of 10,000 Postmasters instead of 70,000, it will be able to expedite business and make a much better showing. The people of New York, however, are not concerned with the national aspect of the situation as much as with local outlook. The consolidation means much to them. Mails will be expedited, deliveries hastened, special delivery accelerated and made possible where it does not now exist. The reason for all this will be that instead of seventy separate Post Offices scattered over Greater New York there will be but four. There cannot at present be but one, for the amendment referred to prevents the consolidation of the offices at the county seats. The offices which will be left out are Brooklyn, Jamaica, and Richmond.

The following towns will be consolidated: New York with its stations, an office of the first class; Queens county—Arverne, Bayside, Cedarhurst, Clarenceville, College Point (third class), Corona, Creedmoor, Douglaston, Elmhurst, Elmont, Evergreen, Far Rockaway (third class), Floral Park (first class), Flushing (second class), Foster's Meadow, Glendale Station, Hollis, Inwood, Laurel Hill, Lawrence Station (third class), Little Neck, Long Island City and stations (second class), Maspeth, Metropolitan, Middle Village, Oceanus (third class), Ozone Park, Queens, Richmond Hill (third class), Springland, Whitestone (second class), Willets Point, Winfield Junction, Woodhaven (third class), and Woodside. Richmond county—Castleton Corners, Dongan Hills, Great Kills, Greenridge, Grreischer'sVille, Kinoleumville, Mariner's Harbor, New Brighton (second class), New Dorp (third class), New Springville, Port Richmond (second class), Prince's Bay, Rosebank (third class), Rossville, Seaside, Stapleton, and Tompkinsville (second class), Tottenville (third class), and West New Brighton (second class).

This list includes two extremes. The largest office, New York, is the largest in the United States, in gross and net receipts, and in the amount of mail handled and the number of employees. The smallest, Greenridge, is one of the smallest offices in the country, its receipts last year being only $70. Within the territory of the Greater New York are found first, second, third, and fourth class offices, and almost every condition of postal activity will be found in the country. So the consolidation of these offices means something more than a mere local application of the theory; it means an experiment along broader lines than hitherto attempted by the department. It means that the department will have before it an example for constant study, from the results of which it can draw deductions which will be of great value to the country at large.

So far the idea has been applied on a small scale and has had merely a local application. In Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia, where it has been carried further than any where else, it has been found to be of great benefit to both department and people; it now remains for New York to demonstrate that it will be of value to the country at large. In Greater New York are to be found all the elements essential to such an experiment. There are the best paying and one of the poorest paying offices; the best paid and one of the poorest paid Postmasters; many postal stations and sub-stations; offices with many clerks and carriers, offices with no clerks or carriers; offices where under the terms of the consolidation the salaries of the Postmasters will be increased and offices where it will be reduced; offices with free delivery and others without; places where free delivery would never be a possibility except under consolidation; resorts which have large patronage in the summer and are practically deserted in the winter, and towns where special delivery is unknown. In addition, there are the railway mail service, with its special mail cars and sometimes trains; the pouch mail, thrown into the baggage car; the street-car mail service, with similar conditions; star-route service, and pneumatic-tube service. Finally, there is the largest territory to be served from any one office, the largest business and social mail to be handled and the great mass of the foreign mail to further complicate matters. Nowhere else in the United States presents these conditions, and if the test is the success that it is agreed it will be, there will no longer be any doubt of its application to the country at large.

The patrons of the service will be benefited by receiving free delivery where there is none now; they will have more frequent deliveries and despatches of mails, both in the city and to other points; the office will receive larger appropriations, which means better service; the street-car mail system will be extended; the pneumatic tube service will be extended, and the service will be improved in every respect. At present there are but six offices on the list that have free delivery, only thirteen where there is an allowance for clerk hire.

In some cases the Postmaster will find his salary reduced to a much smaller sum than he is now receiving, yet he will be compensated by being placed under the civil service, and will then be eligible for promotion to the highest place in the great office. The Postmasters at the smaller offices will find their salaries raised and will also be eligible to promotion. It will give the Postmaster at New York much greater responsibilities. He is now one of the best paid officials of the Government, receiving as much as the Vice-President of the United States or a Cabinet officer. He will then control, under the department regulations and the Civil Service law, the appointment of several thousand Post Office employees, the arrangement of hundreds of miles of railway mail service, street-car mail service, and the star-route service. He will have charge of a business of $8,000,000 a year, and be expected to clear a profit of $4,500,000. He will expend $3,500,000, have charge of millions in Government property, spend $150,000 in rent, and receive $8,000 a year, at least until Congress sees fit to advance his salary.

The department expects the revenues of the office to increase rapidly. The better the facilities the more business, both in business and social life. It is on short hauls that the department makes the most profit. In carrying the mail from one part of the city to another a net profit of 1 cent can readily be expected. It is the letters to Alaska and other far-away points that cause a deficit. It is estimated that under the new arrangement the receipts of the Greater New York office will increase several hundred thousand dollars, and as 50 per cent. of it will be net profit, why should not the office receive the benefit?

PROSPECTS IN SIBERIA.

A Merchant There Thinks the Country Will Boom When the Railroad Is Completed.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.—Mr. E. Emeric, one of the richest merchants in Siberia, arrived on the China steamer, on his way to Moscow, where he has large business interests. Emeric is a native of Massachusetts, and went to Siberia about twenty-eight years ago. His shrewd yankee business foresight led him to take advantage of business opportunities, and now he is one of the most influential merchants in that country. He has many business agencies and many ships.

In speaking of the trans-Siberian railroad, he said it would be completed to Irkutsk in a few months. The work on both ends of the line is being rushed as rapidly as possible. The road which runs to Irkutsk is already graded, and in a few months rails will be laid.

"Business has improved wonderfully in Amur country," said Emeric. "A great many ships and steel barges are running on the river, and it is believed that when the railroad is completed there will be the biggest kind of a boom there."

A NATIONAL QUARANTINE.

Surgeon-General Wyman Urges the Establishment of One.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, says Surgeon-General Wyman of the Marine Hospital service, in his annual report to Secretary Gage, there were 54,477 patients treated at the hospitals and dispensaries under his charge. This was 673 in excess of the number treated there the previous year; but the total expenditures from the Marine Hospital fund ($538,356) were $21,000 less than those of last year.

To meet the growing demands of the service new regulations have been prepared and will be shortly issued. The discipline of the corps is reported as being excellent, and the Surgeon-General invites attention to the excellent work done by the officers during the recent visitation of yellow fever in the South. Three officers contracted yellow fever and one met death by accident in the line of duty.

Medical and surgical statistics and contributed articles by officers of the corps on topics related to their professional work are contained in the report. The increased work of the bureau necessitates an increased clerical force, which the Surgeon-General asks may be provided for.

The report contains a brief history for the year of cholera, smallpox, the bubonic plague, and yellow fever, and the measures adopted by the bureau with regard to each, and discusses the question of leprosy in the United States. Imperfect statistics are given of the number of cases of leprosy in the nineteen countries represented at the leprosy conference held in Berlin last October. These show, approximately, 130,000 in India, the maximum; 2,500 in Hawaii, and 250 in the United States. The cause of the disease is declared to be the bacillus lepræ, which is contagious, but not hereditary, and the conference recommended isolation as the best means of preventing its spread.

The recent epidemic of yellow fever is statistically and historically treated in the report. Up to Nov. 10 the number of cases officially reported was 4,198, with 423 deaths. New Orleans had 1,722 cases and 244 deaths. The Surgeon-General says that there is little doubt that the work which was done by the Marine Hospital experts had a marked effect in controlling the spread of the disease and preventing a much more extensive epidemic. Ocean Springs, Miss., where the disease was first discovered in the United States, is not a seaport and the place of its entrance into the United States is not yet determined. Two skilled bacteriologists of the bureau are now making an investigation in Havana of the nature and origin of the disease.

Sanitary inspectors of the hospital service were maintained during the year at Rio, Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Colon, Aspinwall, and Yokohama. An officer also visited the ports of China.

The report gives a full description of the eleven national quarantine stations, and an account of the measures taken to enforce the national regulations at San Francisco and Sabine Pass, Tex., where, on account of local inadequacy, interference was necessary. Attention is called to the fact that an effort was made more than a year ago to supplant the national quarantine station on Ship Island by a State quarantine on a neighboring island, nearer the shore, but it failed. The Surgeon-General refers to attempts to excite connecting the Ship Island station on account of its alleged proximity to the shore. It has, he says, been falsely stated that the island is five miles out, whereas it is really twelve. The station was located on Ship Island in 1894, after a storm had destroyed the one at Chorderlour with the loss of five lives.

Surgeon-General Wyman repeats his recommendation for the enactment of a strict national quarantine law, the necessity for which increases as the years go by. If a new law cannot be passed, he urges the strengthening of the present law to prevent interference with interstate commerce and to prevent the spread of disease.

TO GO OFF THE ACTIVE LIST.

Eight Rear Admirals and Five Brigadier-Generals to Be Retired Next Year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Eight Rear Admirals of the navy and five Brigadier-Generals of the army will be retired compulsorily for age in the calendar year beginning January, 1899. Two of the Rear Admirals hold the grade of Commodore at present, but will be promoted before the end of the year. The high ranking of officers of the navy who will be compelled to retire from active service on reaching the age of 62 years, and the dates on which they will go on the inactive list are: Rear Admirals Lester A. Beardslee, Feb. 1; Thomas O. Selfridge, Feb. 6; William A. Kirkland, July 3; Charles S. Norton (now a Commodore), Aug. 10; Montgomery Sicard, Sept. 30; Edmond O. Matthews, Oct. 24; Joseph N. Miller, Nov. 22, and Francis M. Bunce (now a Commodore), Dec. 25.

No Major-General of the army will reach the retiring age, which in the military service is 64, until 1900, but their seniors in years and juniors in rank, who will pass from the regular list without attaining the highest grade of the military arm, in the coming year are: Brig.-Gens. William H. Bisland, Commissary-General of Subsistence, on Jan. 28; George H. Weeks, Quartermaster-General, Feb. 3; Samuel Breck, Adjutant-General, Feb. 25; William H. Graham, Sept. 28, and John J. Coppinger, Oct. 11.

Thirteen other officers of the army and fifteen of the navy will reach the retiring age in 1898. The army will lose one Colonel and four each of its Lieutenant-Colonels, Majors, and Captains.

In the navy the law relating to age retirements will affect one Commander, five chief engineers, one pay director, one pay inspector, four medical directors, one chaplain, one civil engineer, and one naval constructor.

BUCK BROKE ITS OWN NECK.

It Went Careering Through a Massachusetts Town and Ran Into a Stone Wall.

BOSTON, Dec. 5.—Deer are not uncommon in Massachusetts, but there is a law prohibiting the killing of them in any season. Deer, like wild ducks and geese, seem to know where they are safe, and this intuitive knowledge would account, perhaps, for the presence of the big buck which broke its neck against a stone wall in Reading last Monday night. Reading is twelve miles from Boston, and is a thickly settled suburb, but a mad dog could not possibly have aroused the town quicker than the presence of the deer. He was a big fellow, computed by the prongs on his antlers to be at least ten years old. It is said that the town undertaker, Mr. Edward F. Brooks, computed the age of the animal, and that he began first by examining its teeth.

The buck, which before being dressed weighed over 200 pounds, had been loitering around Reading for some time. Various persons had noticed the big buck in the orchards, and one farmer is sure that the animal was in the pasture with his Jersey cows one day last week. The people in town received these reports with winks and smiles, and some even asked for the brand of whiskey subtle enough to conjure up such scenes. On Monday night a 215 lb. night watchman, while on his way through Haven street, saw the buck gazing in apparent rapture at a big arc light. The electric had "jacked" him, and the reverie was not broken until the watchman was within ten yards. Getting a whiff of the watchman's presence, the deer stamped and snorted, and cleared a neighboring fence at a bound.

"Damne if he didn't bark like a dog," said the watchman after the excitement was over, "and he soared over fences like a swallow."

The deer disappeared from the watchman's sight, taking fence after fence until he reached the graveyard, where he jumped the mounds and caverted around among the headstones and monuments until an apparent dislike for the place shaped his course to the street again.

He next appeared in Gould street, badly frightened and going at a two-minute clip through what in daytime is the busiest part of the town. His presence aroused a watchdog, which ran out barking, and the buck turned. He attempted to jump a high stone wall, struck his head against the toppling stones, and fell back with a broken neck.

Half the town was out by this time. Men and boys and policemen and dogs were on the run, yelling and barking, and when they arrived at the spot where lay the unfortunate deer the watchman appeared with Mr. Brooks, the undertaker. Dr. Wakefield of Reading secured the head, which he will have set up as a souvenir of the unusual occurrence.

Several deer have been killed this fall down on the cape, where they are known to be in considerable numbers, and men who know assert that the inhabitants of some of the cape towns run them with dogs.

TO SELL A MISSING MAN'S BOAT.

Fauth Left It in Capt. Terry's Care Five Years Ago and Disappeared.

EAST MORICHES, L. I., Dec. 5.—Arthur B. Fauth, a summer resident here, started in a skiff for Fire Island in the latter part of the summer of 1892. He did not return and as nothing was heard of him it was supposed that his boat had been wrecked and that he had been drowned. Fauth had employed Capt. George E. Terry of this place to look after the catboat Virginia, which he owned. After Fauth's disappearance Capt. Terry kept the boat in condition, not knowing but that her owner might return.

Two years after Fauth left a friend of his saw the skiff in which Fauth sailed away lying at a dock at Bath Beach, and he learned that it had been sold by Fauth about two days after he left here. Henry S. Terry of Brookhaven is positive that he met Fauth on an Albany boat shortly after his disappearance.

To recover what it has cost him to keep the catboat in order, Capt. Terry has applied to the courts for an order to sell the boat.

FOR CURRENCY REFORM.

SENATOR LODGE THINKS THERE IS A CHANCE OF PASSING A BILL.

He Believes a Manly Fight Should Be Made for Sound Money and That the Prospect of Success Is Brighter Than It Was for the Repeal of the Sherman Law in 1893.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts is emphatically in favor of action by Congress regarding the currency. He believes that it is better to propose some simple proposition, which there is a chance of passing, than to present an elaborate plan. He is ready to consider important changes, however, if they appear to be supported by the business community. He said to-day:

"I certainly believe that the effort should be made to pass a currency measure at the coming session. I do not see why the situation is not sufficiently favorable to warrant an aggressive fight for some simple measure for the protection of the Treasury. It is certainly much brighter than it was for the repeal of the Sherman law in 1893, when the Senate met with an absolute majority in favor of silver. Public opinion at that time converted that hostile majority into a majority of eleven votes the other way, and if the business men of the country are in earnest in desiring currency reform they ought to be able to accomplish the same result again. The point of the whole matter is that a manly fight for sound currency will disclose our position, even if it does not result in victory. The Republican party is not in the habit of going into a fight admitting that it is whipped, and I see no reason for doing so in this case. If the sound-money men show some of the spirit and aggressiveness which the silver men have shown in coming here and demanding free coinage, they can win. I see no reason why we should not put the same energy into this fight as into the fight for a proper tariff.

"A measure which provides that the greenbacks shall not be reissued after redemption in gold, except for gold, seems to me not only the most feasible proposition, but a thoroughly reasonable and effective one. It is simply and easily comprehensible, and would have support which would not be given for a more complicated proposition. A large bond issue for the purpose of retiring the greenbacks obviously is out of the question and should be avoided, for reasons into which I need not enter. One of the difficulties of a more comprehensive plan than is involved in stopping the reissue of redeemed greenbacks, except for gold, is that there is such a multiplicity of plans that public opinion is confused and uncertain regarding them. If the monetary commission, which meets for its final session next week, should report a carefully matured plan and the business sentiment of the country should heartily unite in demanding its enactment, something more might be accomplished than I have indicated.

"It will require, however, a good deal of discussion in the press and in Congress to clarify the issue if more is undertaken than I have suggested, and to convince the people of the merits of any complete plan which might finally be made the basis for legislation. I think the present is a good time for the serious consideration of the subject, and that we might as well meet our opponents in the discussion and to permit them to continue the propaganda for free silver without offering any alternative for the admitted defects of the existing financial system. Some simple amendments to the Bank act might also be made, if a complete revision is, as I suppose, impossible at this time. I mean by this that permission ought to be given to the banks to issue notes up to the face value of their bonds and to organize with a small capital, say $20,000. These amendments would increase the currency, give it greater elasticity, and tend to furnish currency and banking facilities to parts of the country which greatly need them."

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY GIFTS.

Copies of Old Mexican Picture Writings and Autographs of St. Thomas Aquinas.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The Catholic University has received a gift from Dr. Edward Seler of Berlin. It is a fac-simile copy of the fourteen fragments of old Mexican picture writings in the possession of the Royal Library at Berlin, and is somewhat similar in workmanship and execution to the celebrated Codex Vaticanus, a copy of which has been presented to the university. These fragments were purchased by Alexander von Humboldt early in the century in Mexico. They probably belonged once to Boturni, an antiquary of Milan. They are of considerable importance for the study of the Mexican hieroglyphs. Most of them belong to the early part of the sixteenth century and are of Christian origin. Three belong to the pre-Christian period of Mexican life. All are valuable to the historian of life and manners, the archæologist and the geographer.

Another gift of much importance to the religious world comes from W. J. D. Croke of Rome. Mr. Croke sent ten copies of an album containing fac-similes of the autographs of St. Thomas Aquinas, whose teachings are at present regarded as the fountain head of Catholic philosophy. They are taken from the Bible of Viterbo and seventeen from the Subiaco Codices. The history of the autographs of St. Thomas Aquinas is very interesting, notably that of the autograph copy of the "Summa Contra Gentiles," which is now in the Vatican Library, and is regarded as one of the most precious of treasures. For a century after the publication of this work the manuscript was preserved at Naples, whence it was taken to Bergamo, where the Dominicans kept close guard over it. In the seventeenth century they presented ten pages of it to Pope Innocent Frederici Borromeo, and it remained intact until the French Revolution, when it disappeared. It was next discovered in the possession of an Italian priest who bequeathed it to his three nephews. Hoping to profit by its division they broke it into three parts. Eventually it was acquired by a physician, who presented it to the clergy of Bergamo, and in 1876 they gave it to Pope Pius IX. The same manuscript contains also autograph fragments of St. Thomas Aquinas's commentaries on Isaiah and Boethius. It has been edited twice by Uccelli, once for the Mai collection and a second time at Rome in 1880 for Pope Leo XIII. A manuscript Bible at Viterbo was long known to contain autographs of St. Thomas Aquinas in the shape of marginal comments. Another autograph of St. Thomas was found in the fourth book of the sentences of Peter Lombard was known to exist at Barcelona, but since 1835 it has been lost to view. The latest autograph of the saint known to scholars is his letter to Abbot Bernard of Monte Cassino on a passage of St. Gregory the Great concerning predestination.

Rearrangement of Supreme Justices on the Bench.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The retirement of Associate Justice Field will cause a rearrangement of his late associates on the bench, which will go into effect to-morrow. The place so long occupied by the venerable jurist at the right of Chief Justice Fuller will be taken by Associate Justice Harlan, who now, after twenty years' service, becomes the ranking Associate Judge and oldest member of the court. The other Justices, Brewer, Shiras, and Peckham, who have been seated on the left of the bench, go over to the right with Justice Harlan, taking their seats in the order named, while Justices Gray, Brown, and White will be seated on the left, the last chair being thus vacated for the new Justice when he shall appear.

Court Calendars This Day.

Appellate Division—Supreme Court—Recess until Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1897, at 1 P. M.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part I.—Motion calendar called at 10:30 A. M. Part II.—Ex parte motions. Part III.—Motions. Demurrers—Nos. 540, 549, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 602, 606, 601, 603, 604, 605, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617. Preferred Cases—Nos. 5281, 5558, 5471, 5505, 5506. Part IV.—Law and Fact. Nos. 1357, 5244, 5848, 5317, 4899, 4868, 5085, 5207, 5311, 5243, 5253, 5362, 5405, 4977, 5267, 5269, 5256, 5264, 4576, 5417, 4977, 5382, 5125, 4798, 1680, 5245, 4993, 5358, 5002, 5067, 5419, 4564, 4558, 5257, 5487, 5248, 5249, 5303, 5552, 5594, 5606, 5615, 5624, 5634. Part V.—Cases from Part I. Part VI.—Cases from Part IV. Part VII.—Elevated R. R. cases. Trial Term.—Part II.—Preferred causes. Nos. 14119, 13908, 13710, 13457, 12957, 12956, 13217, 12995, 13129, 12444, 12466, 13060, 12927, 9919, 12606, 13380, 13418, 13276, 12376, 12677, 11811, 11746, 11813. Part III. Nos. 7307, 5440, 3607, 3810