ANOTHER RUSSIA AT WORK

THE STRONG MAN OF ACTION NOW TO THE FRONT.

Half a Million More Independent Farmers —Foreign Capital Invited—Work of the Duma—The Army Reorganized —Russia's Foreign Policy Outlined.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 16.—Among the many foreigners whose presence here on business has been a feature of the year there are several who have been here before. Some of them were here ten years ago with the aim of finding employment for capital at a time when with the Siberian Railroad a new and successful undertaking and no apparent serious rival to Russia in the Orient, the empire seemed a land of promise.

Comparing conditions then and now these visitors say that they notice a great rise in prices, that Russians circulate money more quickly than they did, and that it is less difficult to find among them men with business habits like their own. They are less dilatory and less sceptical toward new proposals. The comment is of value, because it is this Russia that is in the ascendant just now, the Russia of material development and positive results. The other Russia of frustrated struggling is brooding apart and will doubtless be heard from again. In the present it is the practical, enterprising man, primed with optimism, that is well to the foreground.

This enhancement of business as a vocation is a new thing in Russia. Agriculture and the army used to be the two respectable occupations outside of Government employment. Foreign money, which was always wanted, used to be gathered by foreign groups, chiefly French, and lent to the Russian Treasury to hold up imperial credit. The capitalist taking risks with his money in ventures that were not directly under Government control was not encouraged to come in.

In the past two or three years that attitude has been reversed, and now the financial agents sent abroad by the Russian Government are instructed to encourage foreign capitalists to turn to Russia as a field for business. Two powerful influences are favoring this movement. The internal quiet in the political and labor world and two excellent harvests have placed Russia's finances for the time being in a better position than they have ever been in her history. Her gold reserve and the price of her Government securities are the highest on record.

In so far she is good security if foreign money is to be employed here. Her own securities are held abroad almost exclusively by the French, and in that quarter she has no need to create more securities. The Government and the Russian business world have now set out to attract British and latterly American money. But this money is not content with a sure thing at 4 per cent. and will only come in apparently to take up enterprises which the foreign capitalists can conduct in their own way.

The second influence in favor of the business man is the determined policy of Mr. Stolypin's Government to engage in what the Germans call "real politik." He is doing all that he can to encourage the energetic worker as against his two aversions, the professorial theorist and the revolutionary dreamer. It is plainly his hope that by making material prosperity a possibility and an aim in life for most of his countrymen he may help to suppress that futile, yearning Russian soul which is so precious to the literary critics and which he holds to be the worst curse of the Slav race.

So far the advent of the yeoman freehold farmer is the chief testimony to Mr. Stolypin's policy of encouraging the strong. Before winter closed down on field work this year over 30,000,000 acres of land had passed into individual ownership either by the actual breaking up of the communes or by purchase from estate owners through the Land Bank, acting as intermediary between the Treasury and the new farmers. Over half a million of families, or about 3,000,000 of the population, have moved out into this independent life.

The problem of the vast mass of population that remains in the commune system after the energetic spirits have gone forth has not so far caused trouble, mainly from the fortunate accident of two great harvests coming at the time when the new land act was entering on its first stages and giving enough money or its equivalent for the immediate needs of all. But it is an enormous affair that will have to be faced, this growing up of millions of human beings whose chief common quality is inertia.

It is hoped that many of them will be absorbed by the great works of canalization, irrigation and constructional schemes for manufactures, but for many of them that would be too great a wrench from the the casual, easy going past. Some foresee that the Treasury will yet have to make grants to alleviate the distress of the communes that are on the down grade in the same way that it is helping the more energetic peasants into their new state as land owning farmers.

In this present period of economic change the Duma has to play a difficult part. Now that the land act is on the statute book the Legislature has nothing more to do with it. The change that it introduces is so enormous that the other reforms now under discussion seem very small by comparison.

Even the elementary education bill, which should have been the most encouraging of all steps forward, has failed in the Duma to rouse public confidence. It was the chief measure of the present year, but no sooner had it been introduced than the debates converted themselves into furious recriminations over the religious and the language questions, and the education of the children of the people was the last thing heard of.

Not for the first time Mr. Stolypin's Cabinet and the Holy Synod came in conflict. Under the Government's bill all the schools for the teaching of children were to be placed under the Education Department. Its inspectors were to have the right of entry, which means that they would decide whether the teaching and the management of the schools were efficient. The Synod protested that no outside laymen would be allowed to enter its church schools, which are very numerous and are kept up out of the revenues of the church lands.

The majority of the Duma has supported the Government proposal, but it is expected that the Church, backed by the court party and the powerful Right party in the Council of Empire and the "has beens" in Russian administration, who have seats there and who hate the present regime, will succeed in taking the substance out of the bill. The task is made easier by the chronic racial feud on the language question.

In the Baltic provinces why should the population, which is German speaking, be compelled to pay for schools where their children must learn Russian and not their mother tongue? And why should not Esthonians and Letts be taught their own languages in the public schools?" And so with Poles, Armenians and Tatars. Happily Finland is not yet wholly absorbed by Russia, and it is not proposed that the Finns should be forced to learn Russian in their schools; otherwise there would have been the bitterest resistance of all.

One significant phenomenon emerges from this racial educational dispute: the non-Russians in the Duma have made such a disproportionate display in view of their numbers in the empire and have been so bitter in their boasts of not being Russians that they have unquestionably strengthened the Russian nationalist, even the jingo sentiment which is now the ruling tone of Russian society.

The collisions between the Duma and the Council of Empire, although they have been frequent enough, will be better suited for treatment next year than now. They are an important constitutional fact, although they raise no sensation. Next year begins the last working session of the present Duma; then there is the electoral campaign.

There is no reason to doubt that the Czar wishes the Duma well as an institution. He has occasional long conversations with its Speaker, Mr. Goutchkoff, and recently he has gone further in inviting the chairman of its financial committee, Mr. Alenezenko, the Octobrist member for Kharkoff, to Czarskoe Seloe to explain its method of handling the public accounts. But to the Czar an agreeable Duma is a Duma that agrees with him; a loyal, well behaved assembly that harmonizes with the Holy Synod, with the bureaucracy, even with the traditions of autocracy.

It would be fatal to the Duma at the next elections, even with the present limited electorate of the fairly well to do, to have the reputation of being a tame and docile body. Mr. Stolypin knows that, and he knows that he needs the driving force of a public spirited, honest Duma to make headway against the obstinate, reactionary Council of Empire, where half the membership is nominated by the Czar and most of the other half is elected by the land owning aristocracy.

The difficulty of the Duma and of Mr. Stolypin is that the people are not bothering much about politics just now. The good times and the reforming spirit are working in opposite directions. Probably it is not a thing to desire, but the best help toward constitutional progress next year would be a bad harvest.

The greatest political change of the year has been in the State Department. It is not only that Mr. Isvolsky has made way for Mr. Sazonoff but the whole method of conducting foreign business is being overhauled. For instance, until a month ago the important official known as the chief of the bureau of the personnel, who is in closest touch with changes and promotions in the service abroad, was Mr. Savinsky, a court chamberlain of the Czar and above all things a leader of fashion. He is succeeded by Mr. Artzemovitch, Russian Consul-General in Berlin, an appointment which to Russians denotes a break from the past, for the consular service furnishes neither court chamberlains nor leaders of fashion.

The new course is in harmony with the "realpolitik" of internal policy. The brothers-in-law Messrs. Stolypin and Sazonoff are cooperating with a single mind in home and foreign affairs.

Mr. Isvolsky was believed here to have owed his appointment partly to King Edward's influence with the Czar. Anyhow he was identified in European diplomacy with the idea of the isolation of Germany, although personally his bête noir was notoriously Austria, or more especially her Foreign Minister, Count Aehrenthal. Mr. Sazonoff has no prepossessions of that kind: for him all friendships are good if they are good for Russia. He is an intellectual man and a hard worker; his task is to give Russia a foreign policy which her armed strength can sustain and to bring her to an independent and respected position.

What has rankled most in the minds of Russians these last years has been neither the defeat by Japan nor that England came forward with her friendship for purely selfish reasons at a moment when Russia could not stand out for terms so much as the assertion, repeatedly rubbed in, that she is allowed to exist in peace merely by sufferance of the German Emperor. Russia's present European arrangements have brought her charges of ingratitude from Germany, who reminds her that during the Japanese war and afterward she could have done what she liked to her frontiers.

The determination of the Nationalist party, whose influence is paramount now, is to destroy all ground for so patronizingly superior an attitude. A great work of reorganization in the Russian army has just been carried through to that end. Its rearming is now completed and the morale of the men is good. If in the arbitrament of war the commanders should fail to prove great leaders, at any rate the old accusation of favoritism in their appointments will not hold good, for the rule that the senior commands in peace time may be held only by Generals who would be called to lead their men in war is being firmly enforced, and the daily work at present is for too hard for court favorites to care for the job.

In one branch of defence the position is wholly unsatisfactory. No headway at all is being made with the navy. Mr. Rodzianko, leader of the Octobrist party, which is Mr. Stolypin's chief support in the Duma, has just insisted again that Russia must have a strong fleet in the Baltic. As an admirer of German culture and believer in German friendship he says that patriotic Russians must insist on restoring the balance of power in eastern Europe. The best friends are those who feel themselves of equal strength.

And yet, he adds, the Duma will absolutely refuse to give any money to the Navy Department without ample guarantees. The only reason given so far for refusing admission in the Admiralty to the Duma's new broom is the assertion in the court papers that disclosures about dishonest contracts in the past would prejudice the esprit de corps of the service. A commission of inquiry into the system of naval contracts and staff appointments is now sitting under Gen. Roedeger, the last Minister of War and an honest man, but its area of operation is so limited that neither the Duma nor the nation expects from it any serious results. Nothing is to be expected until public pressure is more strenuous than it is now.

For the Russians who are attracted most by grant schemes the projected railroad through Persia to the Indian frontier is a welcome apparition. Most people doubt whether it will even begin to materialize within the next five years. It is opposed both by the people who hold that Russians should devote their capital and energies to developing their own country and also by the Moscow manufacturers, who have at present a virtual monopoly of the north Persian trade. They declare that so far from the new railroad helping Russian manufactures to find a market in India, English commerce would through superior organization and higher grade manufactures oust the Russians from north Persia.

The real reason why the scheme was brought before the public after the interview between Mr. Sazonoff and the German Foreign Minister at Potsdam has been given by Mr. Klemm, chief of the Persian section of the Russian State Department. He points out that the Russian arrangement with Turkey in 1900 by which the latter agreed not to grant any railroad construction concessions in her eastern territory adjoining Persia terminates at the end of this year. There is no treaty obstacle to prevent Germany, for instance, from securing after the beginning of the year concessions both from Turkey and Persia that would support or at least prevent opposition to her Bagdad railroad scheme.

If such a project were launched without Russia having headed it off by promulgating the Anglo-Russian international route to India it would be counted as severe a setback as Russian diplomacy received in the Balkans two years ago. Thus the Indo-Persian line seems at present to have more politics than railroading in it.

POEMS WORTH READING.

As Usual.

Ten little resolutions, proud and pert and fine.
One smoked a strong perfecto, and then there were nine.

Nine little resolutions. Mr. Never-will-be-late
Slept plum through the alarm clock, and then there were but eight.

Eight little resolutions. The rain poured down from heaven,
And one declined to go to church and so there were seven.

Seven little resolutions. One, blind to error's tricks,
Drank two tall whiskey rickeys, and then there were six!

Six little resolutions. One took a tempting dive
And lost his margin on the curb, and there then were five.

Five little resolutions—till one got mad and swore,
(The trolley crowd walked on his feet) and so there were but four.

Four little resolutions. One really couldn't see
The harm of betting on a horse. And then there were three.

Three little resolutions. One gossiped all he knew
(Or thought he did) about his friends, and then there were two.

Two little resolutions. One told a lie "for fun"
And then another to save that. And so there was but one!

One little resolution, neglected and forgot
Just died of inanition. All ten had gone to pot.

WARWICK JAMES PRICE.

Cactus Centre's Jingo.

From the Denver Republican.

A feller blowed among us from across the Texas way;
He claimed to be a cowboy, but war talk was his lay;
He'd harp upon the chances of a big war with Japan
Till he had us plannin' battles and enlistin' to a man.

He sure was most convincin' when upon his special line;
He had the strength of navies and the fightin' units fine;
We clean forgot our poker, and the run of drinks was light,
When we sat around and listened to this jingo talkin' fight.

But the stranger got to fussin' with old Chinee Jim one day,
And the Oriental slapped him, and jest took his gun away.
Whereupon Bear Hawkins murmurs: "Boys, I sure am plum surprised
That this imitation Hobson ever got us hypnotized."

So we organized a Peace Club, and we all swore to the pact,
And to shoot the jingo's boot heels was our first official act;
And he faded o'er the cactus in the fallin' shades of night,
And we know the joy of livin' now that no one's talkin' fight.

Annual.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Along about the last of May
A lover gay rode down this way
And paused but long enough to say
"I love you" to his lady.
Along about the first of June
He sang his tune and gained his boon
And parted from her all too soon—
Alas! and lack-a-dadee!

Oh, that's the way the ditties go
That seek to show the weight of woe
That simple little maidens know
Who trust a total stranger.
And simple maidens softly sigh
And loudly cry that they would die
Before they'd cast a tender eye
On things that threatened danger.

But that's a silly way to do,
O maiden true, I swear to you;
Permit the fickle swain to woo;
Let this your sorrowing sex cheer—
Another one will come to-day,
(Whate'er they say, life's not all May)
And, even though he rides away,
Another's coming next year!

A Vanished Hero.

From the Denver Republican.

In reading the season's new fiction
One misses a figure of size
(Not even De Morganish diction
Atones for the loss, in our eyes);
What reader remained all unsmitten
With the hero of eaglelike glance—
The hero of whom it was written:
"He was the best swordsman in France."

When blades were crossed oft in a tavern,
Or in holding the mob on the stairs—
Or perchance 'twas a fight in a cavern—
No blow took this man unawares.
His fencing was all one desired;
His enemies had a scant chance
In facing this hero, admired,
Who was the best swordsman in France.

But now all in vain do we wait him;
No longer he brightens our days;
No longer do swart villains bait him—
No longer his trusty blade slays;
We have heroes of other description—
His sword rusts with Ivanhoe's lance—
On his tomb is this simple inscription:
"He was the best swordsman in France."

Loafing.

From the Washington Star.

'Tain't no use complainin' 'cause the frost is in the air
And there ain't no birds a-singin' in the treetops anywhere;
These modern institutions that the landlords all provide
Have sweet and soothin' comforts, it will hardly be denied.
There's a radiator boomin' with a warmth that's soft and mild
And an easy chair in waitin' when there's time to be beguiled.
The north wind shakes the shutters, then discouraged passes by,
For loafin' in December's jest as good as in July.

The city folks in summer to the farm come troopin' down
An' when old winter's here it looks right good to me in town;
I miss the clouds a-driftin' o'er the distant sky so blue,
But the paper on the ceiling has a mighty pleasant hue.
And the window, when the climate has set in for snowin' hard,
Is the frame around a picture prettier than a mailin' card;
And life seems kind and peaceful as I notice, with a sigh,
That loafin' in December's jest as good as in July.

Father and the Poets.

From the Denver Republican.

When poets are in straits most sore
For themes on which to touch,
There's one thing from the muses' store
That they can always clutch;
One subject that will never fail
To make the reader glad;
'Twill bring the chuckles forth galore:
And that one theme is Dad.

'Tis easy, faith, to grind it out:
"When father trimmed the tree."
"When father fixed the water spout,"
"When father shopped with me";
For he is mixed in all the things
That deal with weal or woe;
When other notions take to wings
The "father" theme will go.

"When father built the furnace fire,"
"When father shovelled snow,"
"When father fixed the auto tire"—
'Tis thus his sagas go;
He'll stand for anything, depend—
For verses good or bad!
And that is why this thing is penned
Upon the theme of Dad.

Careless.

From the Washington Star.

Whenever anything goes wrong
The cause is quickly seen;
There isn't any graft so strong
Nor petty rogues so keen
But we might spoil their little jokes
And stop each wicked caper
By which they plunder honest folks,
If all would read the paper.

The gold brick and the green goods game,
The badger trick so old,
For many years have been the same,
As often has been told.
When there is any crooked biz
That turns our hopes to vapor,
The answer nearly always is,
"They didn't read the paper!"

A Champion Kicker.

He was a curious sort of man and nothing seemed to please him;
If you proposed a certain plan a different plan would seize him.
No matter what you'd say or do he was a cranky being;
No matter what your point of view he'd joy in disagreeing.
No matter what your scheme might be flaws he was always picking—
It was no wonder he became a master mind at kicking.

He kicked at every one he knew, at all times, in all places;
He snarled and growled and howled and made the wryest kind of faces.
He kicked at woman, man and child, at all who came anear him;
He kicked in such a manner that all people came to fear him.
He kicked at all with whom he dealt with greatest of endeavor,
And acted just as if he felt he had to kick forever.

There was naught left worth kicking at—'twas hard luck and he struck it;
With no one near he clutched the air and straightway kicked the bucket!

NATHAN M. LEVY.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Is there any good authority for this expression: "He never acted like John did?" That is, is it ever correct to use "like" (an adverb with prepositional force) followed by a sentence? I've been taught that this "like" should always be followed by a noun or pronoun and that "as" should be used for it in the expression used above. In this vicinity in Pennsylvania this expression or this form is frequently on the lips of teachers, preachers and other educated folk. W. C. J.

It is not feasible to dispose of this question on the score of grammar. The grammarians are at one in denouncing it as an error; they aver that it does not parse. The dictionaries denounce it; only in the most recent Webster is it recognized that the matter has two sides in this statement: "The use of like as a conjunction meaning as (as, Do like I do), though occasionally found in good writers, is a provincialism and contrary to good usage." In general the use of like in this sense is to be avoided, for it really is not in good usage of the most careful speakers. But it is entitled to respect as a provincialism. In the Southern States it is frequent in educated speech; all over the country it is met with in uncultured speech. In truth its provincialism is rooted in the difference of English dialect. In the dialect which chanced to survive as cultured English speech like was employed as adjective, adverb, preposition and no more. In a dozen dialects of equal validity at the beginning it was employed as a conjunction. This force has persisted with such vitality that the conjunction like remains just in the borderland of good speech; its use is not to be classed as an error; it is simply a difference of opinion as to the propriety of its inclusion in good English. In such a case only those who are sure of their position may venture to use a disputed word, much as only the best spellers can afford to use the reformed variety of that art.

The question of Mr. James McConnell regarding the location of Ireland's Eye has put me on some very interesting research work the results of which I here offer:

"Ireland's Eye," properly Hir land sie according to Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, quoting Mr. Monck Mason, is a little island nearly one mile north of Howth Hill in the county of Dublin, circumference one mile, superficial extent fifty three acres. It is pyramidal in form, studded with acuminated rocks which at a distance make it look like a "castled steep." Its south shore presents a frontage of dangerous rocks, and on the southwest shore are the remains of an ancient Irish sanctuary, said to have been founded by St. Nessan about the year 570, in which are said to have been preserved among other relics "The Garland of Howth," a book comprising the Four Gospels. The interior of the building was but 12 by 24 feet. The island, however, is believed to have a far more remote antiquity than A. D. 570, some authorities holding that it is the Edros, Adros or Andros mentioned by Claudius Ptolemy (Geographia II., 2, section 12) as one of four islands off the east coast of Hibernia and the same that Pliny calls Andros. Richard of Cirencester calls it Edria. Robert G. Latham, a fellow of King's College, Cambridge, however, in an article in Dr. Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography, seems to discredit this identification and recognize as the island meant Bardsy Island off the coast of Wales. The level portion of the islet produces a variety of rare plants and affords good pasturage for sheep and goats, but like Howth it is or used to be overrun with rabbits.

J. A. A.

The following may satisfy your correspondent's query. Ireland's Eye is a rocky islet lying about a mile from the north side of the Hill of Howth in the county of Dublin, Ireland. It is not more than a mile in circumference. The present name of this island is a corruption from the Danish translation of its original Irish appellation. As a matter of fact it had several names, but the one from which its present name is derived was Inis-Ereann, the meaning of which is the Island of Eire. It was also known as Inis-mac-Nessan (the Island of the Sons of Nessan). Nessan was a Prince of the royal family of Leinster, whose sons Dicholla, Munissa and Nadsiugh caused a church to be erected on this island in the seventh century, the ruins of which are still to be seen. According to *O'Clery's Calendar* it was also known as Inis Faithlenn, or Innisfallen, the Island of Faithlenn.

Its present name is the result of the Danish translation of Inis-Ereann, for the translators understood Ereann to be the genitive case of Eire (Ireland), as it has the same form; accordingly they made it Ireland's Ey (Ireland's Island, instead of Erin's Island; Ey being Danish for Island), which in modern times has been corrupted to Ireland's Eye, placing an utterly false construction upon its name. Even Ussher was deceived by this, for he called the island Oculus Hiberniæ.

VINCENT F. O'REILLY.

Would you be kind enough to let me know where the new day, and consequently the new year, starts first? Is it in the Chatham Islands, near New Zealand, or in Easter Island, about 230 miles west of the coast of Chile? A. BOWSKI.

By agreement of the important maritime nations the international date line has been fixed at the anti-meridian of Greenwich. This meridian of 180° passes for the most part through empty sea in the Pacific. In computing the change of the day this mathematical line is not followed rigidly but concessions are admitted on the score of political or commercial convenience. Thus in the north Pacific the date line is drawn through Bering Strait east of its true position and then westward to include the Aleutian Islands in the American day. Similarly at the south the line is drawn eastward to include the Chatham Islands in the New Zealand day for they are under the administration of that dominion. The only considerable archipelago intersected by the anti-meridian is Fiji, and in this case the date line is swung eastward so that all Fiji may come within the same day. It is at this date line thus compensated that the new day and the new year begin. Astronomically the earliest start of the day is in Bering Strait, then the Chatham Islands, then the eastern, or Lau, group of Fiji; but these are all sparsely inhabited spots of earth, and the Chukchis, Fijians and Moriori are not in the least worried about the day as it passes. Easter Island has the American day. Its nearest neighbor, Pitcairn Island, has a complication as regards one day of the week, but this is theological rather than astronomical; the descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty have all become Seventh Day Adventists and observe the Sabbath on the last day of the week.

Anent the statement in my book on American flags, quoted in the issue of December 25, that Francis Scott Key commenced the song "The Star Spangled Banner" on the deck of his own vessel, I will say that this was the vessel to which he and Skinner were transferred from the British frigate Surprise, and they were permitted to take Dr. Beanes with them. This was stated by Key himself. Their vessel was kept under the guns of the Surprise during the bombardment of Fort McHenry.

Admiral Preble in his elaborate work on flags says:

"Her Majesty's ship of the line of that name [the Minden] has generally been credited as having been the vessel on board of which it [the song] was composed; but she was not one of the enemy's fleet at the bombardment. From 1854 to 1859 the Minden, 74 * * * was anchored in Hong-Kong harbor, China, as a hospital ship. When broken up in 1859 her timbers were anxiously sought after by patriotic Americans, from the supposition that on her deck our national song was composed."

Francis Scott Key narrated the account of the origin of "The Star Spangled Banner" shortly after the British designs on Baltimore failed, to his brother-in-law, Roger B. Taney, subsequently Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, who contributed Key's version, from memory, in an introductory letter to the "Poems of the late Francis S. Key, Esq.," published in 1857. This was the first published detailed and authentic account of the origin of the song.

Judge Taney speaks of the vessel in which Key and his fellow prisoners were and where he commenced the song as "their own vessel," not the British ship Minden, as subsequent writers have stated. PELEG D. HARRISON.

What is the authority of the use of peeved in place of peevish? W. H. MCGRAW.

None whatever. It is a neologism and painfully new at that. It would appear that those who are endeavoring to secure currency for the word see in peevish a derivative from a verb to peeve and therefore assume to employ the hypothetical verb. In this they are more successful than the philologists, for scientific investigators after tracing peevish back to the middle English unchanged save for spelling have had to confess their inability to assign its earlier source. Nowhere does any verb to peeve appear in the past history of the word peevish, and those who use it now have not the rank to secure currency for their coinage.

The sermon accredited to Alf. Burnett is printed in "The Harp of a Thousand Strings," published in 1858 by Dick & Fitzgerald, compiled by Samuel P. Avery. And it is worth reprinting. O. R.

Allibone assigns the date of 1868 and cites the title "The Harp of a Thousand Strings, or Laughter of a Lifetime: Konceived, Komplied and Komikally Konkokted by Spavery."

Does any old New Yorker remember the Rotunda in the northeast corner of City Hall Park in the early '50s? I believe it was erected by some painter to exhibit panoramic pictures. It had a dome and large columns in front and was occupied by the Post Office and the Croton Water Department later. A. L. POOLE.

The Rotunda was built in 1817 by John Vanderlyn, an artist and pupil of Gilbert Stuart. In this building he exhibited panoramas of Paris, Athens, Mexico, Versailles (by himself), and several battle pieces. The venture did not recoup him for his initial expense and at the end of three years, when his lease expired, the city took over the property.

Noticing the inquiry in your columns as to Isaac Brokaw, the maker of clocks at Bridgetown, I beg to say that I am the possessor of one of such clocks, the grandfather variety, which dates from 1750 or thereabouts. Bridgetown is the former name of Rahway, N. J. M. L. CROWELL.

Iowa Lawyer's Years of Practice.

From the Washington Herald.

John Porter of Eldora, Iowa, is the oldest practitioner before the United States Supreme Court in point of years of service, having been admitted March 3, 1853. Mr. Porter has known every President since Fillmore with the exception of Roosevelt and Taft.

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Bridge. H. B. R. says: The winning declaration is three no trumps, doubled, and the declarer wins five by cards, at the same time detecting his adversaries in a revoke. A bets he can take two of the tricks, and 50 in honors for the balance of the penalty. B bets if he takes any tricks he cannot take any points. What is the correct way to score in this situation?

Although not distinctly so stated in the modern laws of the game, it is understood that the penalty cannot be divided, and that if the declarer takes tricks he must take it all out in tricks, so that B is right. As to the scoring, there is nothing gained by taking the two tricks, as the game is already won, and the two tricks, worth only 24 points each, are not as good as the value of three tricks at 50 each, the revoke penalty being 150 points. It is always better to take the points unless the tricks are necessary to fulfil the contract or to win the game.

J. D. O. says: The dealer bids one no trump and second hand passes. Y holds six hearts to the ace king queen. Z bets he should have over-called his partner's no trump with two hearts. Y bets that his heart tricks are probably just what are wanted to help out the no trumper. Which is right?

What else Y held is not stated, but if the rest of his hand was a bust, he should warn his partner that if the no trump call is not pretty safe, they had better try hearts. Many a weak no trump call, made by the dealer originally, is saved by a partner's over-calling in a red suit.

Mrs. T. says: The dealer having bid one spade, I find in my hand seven of that suit to the three top honors. Should I bid two spades in order to induce my partner to go no trumps, or should I double?

Two spades is the better call, as it shows the strength to be exceptional and at once distinguishes the bid from the simple protection which is shown by a double. Doubling means that the suit will be taken care of, but does not necessarily mean that the doubler can win three or four tricks in it. Two spades means a practically established suit.

F. D. R. says: The dealer bids one spade, second player says one diamond. Third player has a good no trumper, but no protection in diamonds. B bets he should never call no trumps after a suit has been shown by an adversary unless the no trumper can stop that suit.

This is pushing the principle a bit too far. To bid one no trump, even without any protection in a suit called by the adversary, is a fair gamble, because even if they make five or six tricks the no trump contract may still be fulfilled. It is only when one comes to bidding two or three in no trumps that protection in the called suit is essential.

Bridge. G. A. C. says: A bets that there is no penalty against the dealer for turning up the last trick and looking at it, provided it is his lead for the following trick. B bets that as the dealer can gain just as much by the irregularity as his adversaries he should be equally penalized, to which A replies that the adversaries show the trick to each other, whereas the dealer has no partner to be informed.

There is nothing in law 95 to distinguish the dealer from any other player who may turn up a trick that has once been turned down and quitted, but as there is no penalty provided for the offence it really does not matter.

Pedro. W. J. W. says: Playing single pedro, nine points possible, A has 2 to go, B wants 2 and C 6. A gets the pitch and takes home low only, so he is set back. B wins jack and game, while C gets high and pedro. Who wins?

The points go out in order when the bidder's score has been disposed of: High, low, jack, game, pedro. This gives B his second point before the time comes to count C's pedro, so that B wins.

Cinch. S. B. S. says: It being the rule that we score by deducting the lower score from the higher, A—B have named hearts on a bid of eight and have made ten points, but Y is found to have held a card too many. A bets he can score the full ten, as the penalty for the foul hand is that Y—Z cannot score anything, so there is nothing to deduct. Y bets that as the rules distinctly say the player in error can play the hand out to prevent his opponents from scoring too much, it must mean that Y—Z can play the hand to deduct points they make from A—B's score.

Y is in error as to the meaning of the law referred to. The player with the foul hand can play it out to prevent his opponents from scoring but he cannot avoid the penalty, which is that he scores nothing himself, so that there is nothing to deduct. By his play Y may have held A—B down to ten points when they otherwise would have made eleven or twelve. That is the meaning of the law.

Progressive Bridge. G. C. B. says: Changing partners and keeping individual scores, A bets that chicane should be added to the score of the partners, while B bets it should be deducted from the honor score of the adversaries. A contends that such a deduction might spoil the player's chance for a prize, as it is an individual score and not a partnership one.

A decision in such a case as this depends on how the scores are kept. In all progressive bridge games the lower score should be deducted from the higher at each table when the time comes to progress. When this is done it makes no difference whether chicane is deducted or not, as the net result as between those four players is the same. But when it is the rule that each side keeps all it makes, regardless of what it loses, the game is no longer bridge and the results are purely a matter of luck. When this is the rule the player who is chicane scores it and keeps the points. In some places they even take 20 points each when aces are divided in a no trumper.

Five Hundred. J. H. N. says: What is the penalty for failure to discard correctly?

The bidder's hand is foul if he has too many cards or if the widow has too many and the bidder is short, and he must be set back; but if both adversaries have their right number they play the hand out to score for tricks.

M. W. Y. says: A is the highest bidder and leads two winning clubs in a no trumper. To the second club B does not follow suit. The third club B trumps with the joker. A bets that if the joker is to be the highest club it must be played when clubs are led if the holder of the joker has no clubs. B bets he can play the joker when he likes.

The joker is never the highest of any particular suit in a no trumper, but is a suit by itself and B is correct in saying that the holder of the joker can suit himself about the trick he wins with it, so that he does not revoke.

Poker. C. E. S. says: We have a house rule that if a man opens a jackpot by mistake and discovers it before the draw he can take his money out. A opened, two men came in and A stood pat, betting the limit. Both men called him and he laid down what he thought was a straight but proved to be only a pair of eights. Does A get his money back? He says he does, as he did not draw any cards.

The rule reading "before the draw" would seem to limit the time to the giving out of cards by the dealer, whether the opener took any or not, so that A's money is lost.

F. A. T. says: All jacks. A opens and all pass. Must he show five cards?

Yes.

S. S. McS. says: A player is in the habit of offering to bet before the deal that he will hold either a king or a deuce. What are the odds for or against such a side bet?

Does the bet hold good after the draw or only before it? That is the first question. If only before the draw he has five cards to represent his chances to get one of eight cards that win for him. That is 1 in 6½, or 5½ to 1, against getting either a king or a deuce in the first card dealt him, and as he has five dealt him he has 5 in 6½, or 10 in 13 to win.

M. E. says: To decide a bet, which is the more likely to be dealt to a player, a straight or a flush?

The odds against getting a pat flush are 508 to 1. The odds against getting a pat straight of any kind, excluding straight flushes, are 254 to 1 only. The odds against a four card flush being held and filled by drawing to it are 119 to 1. The odds against a four card straight, open at both ends, being held, drawn to and filled are 146 to 1. The odds against an interior four card straight being held, drawn to and filled are 101 to 1.

The point always overlooked by those who go into this calculation is that a player will have about four times as many four card interior straights dealt to him as he will have four card open enders, so that the average on all kinds of four card straights held and filled makes it about 110 to 1 against, as compared to the 119 to 1 against the four card and filled flush.

H. V. A. says: The pot has advanced to aces when B opens. After the draw he announces that he did not hold aces, but only queens. Is the deal void?

No. If any one has come in against the false openers the pot must be played for, just as it would be if there were no advancing of the opening qualification.

Pinochle. W. A. says: In three hand A lays down 80 kings and 60 queens and scores 240. B says it is only 220.

The sum of 80 and 60 is only 140, if A melds his cards that way. If after melding the 80 kings A will marry three of them with three of his queens he can get 80 more for that. Then he will find himself with one queen left, which he can meld for 60, giving him a total of 220, as B says.

C. M. P. says: A bets he can meld the five trumps for 190 in three hand. B says 150 only.

If A melds the marriage first, that is 40, to which he can add the rest of the sequence for 150 more; total, 190.

L. S. H. says: In three hand A has the trump sequence and a second king. Is this worth 190?

Yes, without the second king.

W. S. L. says: A melds 150 trumps in two hand and after winning another trick he lays down three more kings for 80. B bets this cannot be done, as the first king is used in the 150 meld.

B is wrong. The two melds are in different classes and both are regular.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The total Democratic representation in both branches of the New York Legislature will be 114. Fifty-eight votes will control the Senatorial caucus. New York county has elected thirty-nine Democratic Senators and Assemblymen and Kings county twenty-five, a total of sixty-four. These two counties therefore can dominate the Senatorial caucus. But Kings county and the up-State Democrats can also dominate the caucus. Since the death of Patrick Henry McCarren, John H. McCooey, his successor as head of the Kings county Democratic organization, has had an offensive and defensive alliance with Charles F. Murphy, chief of Tammany.

One result of the election in New York State is that the Republican candidates will not hereafter occupy the first column on printed ballots and voting machines. The law directs that precedence shall be given to the party casting the highest number of votes for Governor and that other parties shall be placed in the order of their strength. The Democrats will have first place next year. The Republicans have had first place on Governor since November, 1895.

Governor-elect Dix of New York speaking in a desultory way a short time ago recalled that Democrats of New York State for thirty years had had something like a superstition in favor of holding State conventions in Syracuse, where Grover Cleveland was nominated for Governor in 1882 and from where he started on his road to the Presidency. The anti-snap convention to support Cleveland for a renomination in 1892 was also held in Syracuse in that year.

Then, too, one of the great political tragedies in the Democratic party of the State, it was remarked, occurred in Syracuse in 1879, when John Kelly, Tammany's chieftain, bolted the renomination of Lucius Robinson, ran himself and turned the State Government over to Alonzo B. Cornell and his friends, Roscoe Conkling, Thomas C. Platt and Chester A. Arthur.

It was left to two bachelor Democratic Governors of New York to be the first to appoint women to the important work of the State Board of Charities. Gov. Tilden, on April 29, 1876, appointed Josephine Shaw Lowell, and Gov. Hill, on October 4, 1890, appointed Mrs. Beekman de Peyster.

Governor-elect Dix of New York is confronted with appropriations by the Republicans of $49,000,000 for the State Government and a total revenue of $37,000,000. A conference on taxation will be held at Utica, January 12 and 13, to discuss methods of assessment and taxation in the State. E. E. Woodbury, chairman of the State Board of Tax Commissioners, will be permanent chairman of the conference.

Following each new census Congress makes a reapportionment of the representation in that body. In 1790, when Congress first had the power to fix the basis of representation, there were 106 members of the House of Representatives. Now there are 391. Under the 1900 apportionment the ratio was one Congressman for each 193,167 population. The present Congress may fix the basis of representation and the State Legislatures will then redistrict the respective States. It may be that Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, States that show an increase of less than 10 per cent. in population, will lose one or more members each.

Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana show an increase of between 10 and 20 per cent.

States showing an increase of between 20 and 30 per cent. are Texas, Arkansas, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

States showing an increase of between 30 and 60 per cent. are Florida, New Jersey Colorado, Utah and South Dakota.

Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon North Dakota, Montana and Washington show an increase of 50 per cent.

On January 1, 1892, when the last Democratic Governor of New York, Roswell P. Flower, was inaugurated, Senator Jacob Cantor of New York was temporary President of the State Senate. William F. Sheehan of Buffalo was Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Senate. The well known Senators were Joseph Aspinall, now a Supreme Court Justice of the Second department; Harvey J. Donaldson of Saratoga, Louis W. Emerson of Warren, George Z. Erwin of St. Lawrence, Joseph Mullin of Jefferson, Henry J. Coggeshall of Oneida, Edmund O'Connor, Charles T. Saxton of Wayne and Cornelius R. Parsons of Monroe, Republicans, and John McCarty and Patrick Henry McCarren of Kings, William L. Brown, John F. Ahearn, George F. Roesch, Martin T. McMahon, Edward P. Hagan and George W. Plunkitt of New York, Charles P. McClelland of Westchester and Charles E. Walker of Steuben, Democrats. Charles T. Dunning of Orange was clerk of the Senate and Charles W. Sutherland of Kings assistant clerk.

The State officers were: Secretary of State, Frank Rice of Ontario; Comptroller, Frank Campbell of Steuben; Treasurer, Elliot Danforth of Chenango; Attorney-General, Simon W. Rosendale of Albany, and State Engineer and Surveyor, Martin Schenck of Rensselaer.

The Democrats in 1906 won the State offices below Governor as follows: Lieutenant-Governor, Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler; Secretary of State, John Whalen; Comptroller, Martin H. Glynn; Treasurer, Julius Hauser; Attorney-General, William S. Jackson, and State Engineer and Surveyor, Frederick Skene.

Money in Pecan Culture.

From the Yazoo Sentinel.

The owner of an eighty acre pecan orchard in south Georgia recently refused an offer of $1,600 for an acre of it. This orchard is twelve years old. It has probably been bearing from five to six years. It is estimated that pecan orchards can be brought to bearing age at a cost of $40 or less an acre.

In dozens of districts in the South land for pecan orchards may be had at from $19 to $25 an acre, as well located and as productive as are to be found anywhere. By the selection of the proper variety of nut and proper care in handling the orchard there is no question as to the fine profits which can be made within a few years. A twelve-year-old orchard is just reaching its full maturity. Indeed, its bearing value continues to increase year by year, and it is good for a hundred years or more. Under the best methods in vogue to-day it can be made productive after five or six years.

Hallucinations of Henbane.

From the Westminster Gazette.

Henbane bears a remarkable reputation for creating the most extraordinary hallucinations. Dr. Houlton relates that some monks who ate the roots by mistake for parsnips transformed their monastery into a lunatic asylum.

One monk rang the bell for matins at midnight, and of those of the community who attended some could not read, others "fancied the letters were running about like ants," and some read what was not in their books. Even the exhalations from these pretty but very poisonous flowers produce these weird effects.

Caring for Birds in New Jersey.

Lower Creek correspondence Salem Sunbeam.

Birds and the small wild animals in this township were hard pressed for food during the days the ground was all covered with snow. The miller at Hancock's Bridge scattered a little seed in front of the mill door, and larks, some of them so weak they could scarcely walk, and other birds gathered there and ate, not afraid of man or the moment, so emboldened were they by hunger.

A turkey buzzard entered a farmer's hen roost for shelter and was removed to his pig pen. So hard pressed for food was it that it ate corn.

COINS AND STAMPS.

San José, Costa Rica.—Is there a premium on United States $3 gold pieces of 1868 or any other year? When the United States issued the Columbian fifty cent silver piece in 1892, did the Government sell at a premium? Is there a premium on the coin to day?

There is a premium on all the $3 gold pieces which were issued from 1854 to 1889 inclusive. The market price for the commoner dates paid by dealers is $4 for each coin if uncirculated. Specimens of the issue of 1868 are among the commonest of the series. No premium was charged for the Columbian half dollars by the Government. Those dated 1892 are a trifle scarcer than those of 1893, but none of them commands a premium worth mentioning.

V. C., Townsend, Mon.—There is no premium of any account on the 1824 half dollar, which even in the finest condition would not be worth more than 60 cents.

B. S., New York—Please let me know the value of a $1 piece dated 1861.

The value depends altogether upon the mint letter. Two varieties were made in 1861, one at the Philadelphia mint and the other at the gold mint at Dahlonega, Ga. The Philadelphia coins do not bear a mint letter, and can thus be distinguished from the others which are marked D. The Philadelphia 1861 gold dollar is worth a couple of dollars or so, if in perfect condition, while the Dahlonega coin has an auction record of $280 for an uncirculated specimen. At the time this price was paid only two or three specimens of the variety were known to exist, but the high premium attracted attention and a number of additional specimens were brought to the surface.

M. McK., Derrick City, Pa.—The large copper cents of 1836 and 1844 are valued according to their condition they are not scarce. Dealers quote specimens of the 1836 date at ten cents in fair and $1 in fine condition. The 1844 cent is quoted at five cents in good and $1 in uncirculated condition.

M. T. G., Tarrytown, N. Y.—The coin of which you enclose a rubbing is a civil war tradesman's token, and it is not held at a premium.

J. A. M., Rensselaer, N. Y.—Kindly inform me if any of the following copper cents, in good condition, are rare: 1817, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1856. Also 1808, with head facing to the left, and 1793, with Liberty cap, both in worn condition.

The value of these pieces varies according to their state of preservation. None of the cents seems to be rare, with the possible exception of the cent dated 1793. Its worn condition, however, deprives it of value.

W. H. G., New York.—There are three varieties of the cent dated 1817. The commonest shows thirteen stars around the head of Liberty, and is quoted by dealers at 15 cents in good condition. The rarest of the year shows fifteen stars around the border, and is quoted at 50 cents in good and $2 in fine condition.

Bronx, New York.—Do any of the double eagles of 1907 command a premium? I have one of that date with the date in Roman numerals and without the motto "In Good We Trust." The design is noticeably high in the centre, and the coin has a wire edge.

Two varieties of the Saint Gaudens design of double eagle dated 1907 command a premium. The first is the one with the wire edge and Roman numerals, of which the coin you describe is probably an example. It is held around $30. About $35 has been brought at auction for a perfectly uncirculated specimen. The other variety is similar in design in every way but is much more concave in form. Only a very limited number of the pieces of the latter variety were coined, and none has been offered at public sale. None of the Saint Gaudens gold coins of 1907 shows the motto "In God We Trust."

W. P. R., Brooklyn.—There is no premium on the 1858 half dollar.

M. F. McM.—Kindly inform me if there is a premium on the twenty dollar bill which was issued in 1778 and which reads that the bearer on demand will receive twenty English or Spanish dollars in gold or silver.

Very few of the notes of Continental currency are worth more than a few cents. Dealers quote such bills irrespective of denomination at from 25 to 50 cents each, with rare exceptions.

A. A. E., Rheims, N. Y.—There are two varieties of the 1825 cent, one with large letters in the inscription on the reverse, the other with small letters. Dealers quote both variaties at 15 cents in good and $2 in fine condition.

J. R., New York—Can you inform me if the following coins have any value more than face: Washington cent, 1783, and large copper cents dated 1797, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 18[illegible], all with Liberty head. Also 1812, 1849, red, and half cents of 1803, with Liberty head, and one of 1853. They are all in good state of preservation.

Cents have such a wide range of value, governed by their state of preservation, that it is impossible to give an approximate estimate of their value from a description. While none of the dates you describe is rare, yet if in uncirculated condition some of them might bring a substantial premium.

Sang at His Own Funeral.

From the Christian Herald.

We hear now and then of a man reading his own obituary in the papers, but it is a rare thing for a dead man to sing at his own funeral. Pietro Ficco, a shoemaker and amateur musician, had a very great fondness for the phonograph.

He purchased a good many records and occasionally sang into his own phonograph and kept records of the songs. He was taken seriously ill. He realized that he could not recover, and being a poor man and unable to get up much of a funeral he requested that they use his phonograph to furnish the music for the funeral services.

He picked out the "Angel's Serenade" and Gounod's "Ave Maria," sung by himself, and these were used, and thus the dead man took an important part at his own funeral service. He instructed that his phonograph and seventy-two records, a number of them his own, should be sent to his mother in Italy.

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