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Three Months of Albany.

By a curious coincidence the date of the election of a United States Senator this year corresponds almost exactly with the end of the Allds trial last year, March 31 for the former, March 29 for the latter. Upon the first three months of legislative activity these two incidents, both outside the ordinary routine, have had the same effect, the effect of almost completely paralyzing all progress, preventing all work upon the routine business of State government.

To-day the Democratic State administration is precisely where the last Republican administration was on April 1, 1910. Nothing has been accomplished, there is no evidence of any serious effort to fulfil campaign promises, to keep platform pledges. Last year the Republican situation after April 1 grew steadily worse until there came the final collapse of all orderly or sane action in the last days of the struggle between the Governor and his party over the direct primary.

At the moment Governor DIX is superficially in a slightly more comfortable position than was his predecessor a year ago. It is still possible for the two factions of his party to get together, and neither faction is openly hostile to him. On the other hand, if Mr. HUGHES had lost the support of the party organization he had still a considerable personal following. So far as it is possible to see at the present moment, if the Hon. JOHN A. DIX has made fewer enemies in his position he has failed completely to make friends or win general admiration.

Had Governor DIX entered the Senatorship quarrel at the outset he would have violated a campaign promise, but he might have won the support of a certain faction of the mugwumps. Had he stayed out altogether he might have commanded the strength in the Legislature of the party machine and the majority membership. As it is he can hope for no real support from either, since he did too late to satisfy the minority what a majority of his party believe he never should have done.

It is still possible that the Democratic administration may be saved from actual and pitiable collapse this year. But it is not by any means certain or even likely. The greatest of all promises, the most useful of all services, that of reorganizing the State finance, has been forgotten in the heat of a factional war. Now that the Capitol has burned there can be no hope of a reduction of budget or diminution of appropriations.

Governor DIX was elected as a business man. In the condition in which his administration finds itself to-day most business concerns are placed in the hands of receivers. Nothing in politics is impossible, the Legislature may adjourn two months hence after having earned for the people, the stockholders of this business, a substantial dividend, but to bring about such a result Governor DIX will have to perform miracles no longer expected of him by those who supported him last November.

The situation at Albany at the present time seems no more to be one demanding reform, but rescue, and it is not difficult to discern from what direction the salvage corps will come.

Suppression of Indecent Novels.

Many good people in England are disturbed about the character of current fiction. They are hardly to blame, for many young men and older women have adopted the trick of trying to shock their readers in order to attract attention, and accomplish their object by telling suggestive stories. There is no way of detecting the nature of these products beforehand, for neither the titles nor the author's name gives any hint of it, and there are few publishing houses that can resist the temptation of a possible "best seller." These books, therefore, fall easily into the hands of young people, and of grown people too, who have no taste for that sort of literature. To check the spread of such books an association has been formed, headed by peers, baronets, clergymen, school teachers and ladies, among these being the Dowager Marchioness of DUFFERIN and the wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

What these well meaning persons can do about the matter it is difficult to guess. The nuisance is real; the erotic mania is not confined to England; it is complained of in Germany, Italy and even France. There Senator BÉRENGER has organized a society for the suppression of objectionable literature, while some of the worst offenders have been elected to the French Academy. They can hardly think of setting up a censorship, for that would do more harm than good, as the commotion made by the devotees of "art" in behalf of some censored plays has shown. A list of offensive books would lead to endless discussion and would serve merely as an advertisement. A recommendation to parents to supervise their children's reading would guard against one side of the evil, but where can parents be found who would undertake the task?

It is not a question of British prudishness, but of decency. The line between the two may be difficult to draw sometimes, but hardly in the cases the association has in mind. The libraries have to deal practically with the problem, and while they undoubtedly make ridiculous mistakes of taste and of judgment occasionally, we fancy that few persons object to their principle of suppression. However admirable, for instance, the tales of Master GIOVANNI BOCCACCIO may be in the original Italian, it must take an absorbing devotion to art and to the new morality to find fault with holding them back in translation from school children. Yet every month some more obnoxious new book is sold indiscriminately.

Any organized effort to suppress these books is sure to fail. The only remedy is the refusal of the public to buy or to read them, which would involve no great sacrifice. The policy of letting things alone is justified by the history of literature, for these outbursts of nastiness have been spasmodic and short lived in the past. That may be small comfort for those who suffer from the nuisance now, however.

The War in Morocco.

After several years of comparative calm the situation in Morocco has become critical. At the present time the Sultan is practically besieged in his capital. As recently as March 12 the city was assaulted, and the success of the defence was almost wholly due to the service rendered by French artillery under direction of a French officer, Commandant MANGIN.

On March 8 the Sultan's forces made a successful foray and defeated a portion of the rebel forces, but on the same day a correspondent of the Paris *Matin* had from M. GAILLARD, the French Consul at Fez, this gloomy statement:

" For my part, in all the years I have been in Morocco I have never seen a situation so serious. Not that I have any fear for the Europeans in Fez, but because I have never seen a moment so united in its demands or an uprising so extended. * * * Never even in the time of ABD EL AZIZ have things reached so serious a pass."

Among the prisoners taken on March 8 there were discovered members of a great many tribes. As the French Consul pointed out in this same interview, it seemed unmistakable that the old policy of setting tribes against each other had failed. In the next few days the extent of the uprising was unmistakable, the standard of revolt was raised on all sides, the Holy War against the infidels was preached generally and the march against Fez began.

On March 12 the city was actually in a state of siege. About it in a wide circle the villages were in flames. Messengers from Mekinez were cut off, communication in all directions was interrupted, no civilians ventured outside the walls, and merchants who had been plundered by the rebels arrived in a pitiable state; one man who had set out with a considerable caravan came in alone and naked. In the city itself there was a complete panic and the streets were filled with terrified people. Even MULAY HAFID had ordered his horses to be saddled, everything prepared for flight.

At this time the fate of the city was in the hands of Commandant MANGIN and his French battery. An attack by the rebels was subsequently repulsed after some fighting which took place under the walls of the palace itself. In the fighting which followed in subsequent days the rebels were scattered, and for the moment the Moroccan Sultan, MULAY HAFID, seems to have held his ground and escaped destruction, and there has been a cessation in the fighting.

The disorder which has shown itself so strikingly at Fez is reproduced all over the Shereefian Empire. French troops in the Shawia have been attacked and their commander killed, a Spanish train near Melilla has been pillaged, from Tafilet down on the edge of the Sahara an expedition has been sent by rebels against French troops in the Ghir region at Colomb Bechar. From one end of Morocco to another it is clear that anarchy is triumphant. Disorder is an incident in Morocco, but the present situation has hardly a parallel in recent history.

For the French this state of affairs is instantly serious. Their garrisons on the frontiers of the Moroccan Empire, along the Muluya, in the Shawia and in the Ghir, on the edge of the Sahara, are to be reenforced at once, but this is only a detail. Steps have at last been taken to create in Morocco a strong military force officered and equipped by the French themselves, and to meet the expense of such a force the French Government has authorized a loan and the remission of certain debts.

If this force is to be made up of Moroccans, the truth is that it will be in all but name French; that like the native troops in Algeria it will be loyal to its officers and its paymaster. This body, to consist of 5,000 men, is to be organized at Fez, and thus at last the French pacific penetration is to find its way into the Shereefian capital. With a force but slightly larger and containing many native troops the French now garrison the large territory from Casablanca to the foothills of the Atlas in the Shawia.

Such a sudden and considerable expansion of French influence in Morocco might seem an immediate source of annoyance to German pride. But from the German side no protest has yet come. At the moment it is clear that the whole governmental system, crude and weak as it was, will collapse, to be succeeded by chaos, if the Shereefian authority is not supported. Such a collapse would be fatal to German interests quite as much as French. Nor is it likely that Germany is at the present time prepared to sacrifice a Pomeranian grenadier to police Morocco.

The truth is that the French alone have a military establishment trained to meet the present emergency, and a considerable number of officers as well as men whose military experience in Morocco, in the Sahara, in West Africa, has prepared them for such an emergency. Hence the calmness with which Germany and other European Powers except Spain have accepted the programme of the French Government despite the fact that this programme will in effect place a French garrison in Fez and inevitably give France an upper hand in Morocco which hereafter cannot easily be questioned.

As for the French themselves, as usual in their colonial undertakings they must advance, because to retreat is impossible. Anarchy in Morocco instantly and necessarily overflows not merely into northern Algeria, but from Tafilet on the edge of the desert spreads east to the frontier of Tripoli and north to the territory of Tunis. The Holy War that is now being preached among the Moroccan rebels is in fact a call to arms to all Mohammedans, and there are upward of 7,000,000 Mohammedans in French North Africa.

Now, as always, the French Ministers in the Chamber of Deputies are solemnly pledging that there shall be no "expedition" into Morocco. But in fact it seems that France, reluctantly perhaps if the wishes of the radical majority of citizens are considered, is merely following to its logical conclusion the line marked out for it when the first French army landed near Algiers. Since then, as L. MARCH PHILLIPS has pointed out in his book upon French work in this region, it has been a battle between chaos and order in North Africa, a battle which could only end when order had been established throughout this whole Africa Minor, had been established in Morocco, the last stronghold of chaos.

Missing Men.

In no month of 1910 were fewer than 206 persons reported to the police as missing from their places of residence in the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx, and while the January and December reports showed the smallest number of disappearances, there is nothing in the records to indicate that the weather conditions have any particular influence on the fluctuations of the figures. In Brooklyn and Queens this seems not to be the case, for the 120 persons who "turned up missing" in these boroughs in July made exactly double the number reported in January and only a dozen less than double the number reported in December. In fact, the figures appear to indicate that the springtime inspires a wanderlust on Long Island that is not operative on Manhattan or the continent.

During the last year the police were informed that 2,657 men and 1,170 women had disappeared, a total of 3,827. The statistics given in the annual report of the Commissioner of Police furnish no clue to the reasons that actuated these citizens. Any reader is at liberty to supply whatever explanation pleases him. He may imagine them sad, or bored, or fearful; carefully concealing themselves to promote their happiness, to escape unwelcome duty, to relieve their friends or kinsmen of burdens, to thwart justice, to save their necks or their skins, to get away from unloved wives and husbands, to bilk their creditors, to see some new thing. Of them 2,219 men and 883 women were found or returned home, leaving 438 men and 287 women to be accounted for.

Of those who are carried on the police books as "still missing," a great many are at home and in good health. Not a few were never "missing" except to the minds of some nervous or frightened friends or relations. To notify the police is the first thought in the minds of some women when husband is unaccountably absent from dinner; to inform the police of his return somewhat the worse for wear is the last thought that comes to these same women. The police have other things to do than to keep close track of such matters. If it is a case affecting them, calling for real activity, they are sure to hear of it from hospital, prison or the river in due season. The police are not excited by small things.

For example, they refuse to be alarmed excessively over the ordinary "kidnapping" of a child. They know the chances favor the theory that the frantic mother who appeals to them at midnight to find her offspring turned the youngster out into the street in the morning to be relieved of its presence. Experience has taught them that the boy or girl is pretty sure to turn up, gloriously full of sweetmeats bought by some kind hearted patrolman, and having suffered nothing worse than a fright. Cases of another kind come to them, it is true, and enlist more than official assistance, but these are, happily, few and far between.

Twice since the November balloting the Democratic members-elect of the Sixty-second Congress have met in caucus, and have transacted business with every appearance of good nature, toleration and order. The prediction that they would be at each other's throats before their first session opened has not been fulfilled. They have given evidence of their desire to make good their platform pledge of economy by voting to abolish a number of jobs valuable to themselves as patronage. If they continue as well as they have begun they will give the lie to the hopes of their partisan opponents and the fears of their unconvinced supporters.

That it is known to be the resort and hangout for all kinds of dangerous criminals is a striking illustration of the present inefficiency of our Police Department. In the old days that could not have happened for a minute.—*From a speech by an assailant of the city administration.*

So in the "old days" the police reached the highest peak of virtue. Who would have suspected it?

An Iowa Editor Remembers.

From the Wyoming Journal.

We had intended to say it before, but forgot it. When in Des Moines lately we saw Miss Jessie Bradshaw, formerly of Wyoming. She is a teacher in the city schools. She sent her kind remembrances to all the old friends in Wyoming, which we hereby deliver in this general but none the less sincere and earnest way.

Wanted to Know.

Mistress—Are you fond of children?
Nurse maid—Nope. Are you?

GUNS OF THE WORLD'S NAVIES.

The artillery material of warships is generally divided into heaviest, heavy, medium and light guns, the first including calibres greater than 11 inches, the second calibres from 8 to 11 inches, the third from 4 to 7½ inches, the fourth below 4 inches. These four classes are still in use by most navies, although the tendency of late years has been to use only two classes, the heaviest and the medium so far as calibre is concerned.

The heaviest or most powerful guns are designed to perforate the heaviest armor on perpendicular impact with a certain excess of energy at battle ranges. Until quite recently it was assumed that the decisive action between battleships would take place at about 1,500 to 2,500 yards, but the increased radius of action of the torpedo (the distance it can run) has greatly increased the fighting range for artillery, and all nations are now agreed that the main battle ranges will be between 5,500 and 6,500 yards, or between three and four miles. This of course makes greater demands on the power of the heaviest ships' guns, inasmuch as they are now expected to accomplish at three or four miles what was formerly required of them at less than half that range.

There were two ways of meeting these higher requirements: to improve the present calibres or to introduce higher calibres. At first it was decided, for economical reasons, to try the first method, and attempts were made to increase the energy by lengthening the bore or gun tube and using heavier projectiles.

A double turret of 12 inch guns 45 calibres long, like those on the Dreadnoughts of the Téméraire type, with all accessories, including ammunition, weighs about 900 tons, whereas the turret of similar character for 12 inch guns 50 calibres long, like that on the St. Vincent class of 1908-09, weighs about 950 tons. In other words, lengthening the gun tube five calibres involved an increase in weight of fifty tons, or 5.6 per cent. This lengthening also increased the perforating power of the regular projectiles of that gun about 3 per cent.

By increasing the calibre of the guns to 13.6 inches the increased energy of perforation will be bought at far greater cost. A double turret armed with such guns 45 calibres long weighs about 1,200 tons, that is, 35 per cent. more than a turret with 12 inch guns 45 calibres long, but the energy of penetration will be increased only 12 per cent. Increasing the striking energy by this method is therefore much the more expensive.

The increase in muzzle velocity and the weight of projectile naturally required an increase in the weight of the powder charge. But this again affected the material of the surface of the bore more seriously. The chemical and mechanical actions of the hot powder gases have the effect (at first in the vicinity of the loading chamber) of rapidly eroding or wearing away the bore. This affects the accuracy of fire very materially, because the rifling no longer fully serves its purpose of giving the projectiles their necessary rotation about their longer axis. The result is that the latter readily tumble. This effect also reduces the life of a gun, which for our guns is about as follows: 12 inch, 83 shots; 10 inch, 100 shots; 8 inch, 125 shots; 6 inch, 166 shots; 5 inch, 200 shots. This means that the guns become unserviceable from this cause after firing uninterruptedly for one hour with service charge and that they can then no longer shoot accurately or hit.

The British guns are even shorter lived. The greater part of the 12 inch guns of 35 and 40 calibres length, guns which are not nearly so highly taxed in endurance as the more modern pieces, stand only sixty rounds and many have stood even less.

The great strain on the modern gun bores has again brought up the question whether the wire wound guns are equal to the forged tube guns. The British gun constructors use a relatively thin inner tube about which steel wire of rectangular cross section is wound in layers to give the necessary resisting power. Over this a massive jacket and several rings are shrunk. The wire winding, which formerly covered only the rear three-quarters of the inner tube, is now in the 50 calibre tubes carried up to the muzzle. Even in the 40 calibre tubes a certain sagging was noticed, due to lack of strength of material in a longitudinal direction, evidenced in the drooping of the long chase. This drooping in case of a lengthening of the bore or tube, in spite of the fact that the wire winding has been extended over the entire length of the tube, must necessarily increase with increased length of tube.

Moreover, according to the investigations of the German gun constructor P. Siwy, the temperature of the gases in the bore of a modern high power gun at the moment of firing is about 3,000 to 5,000 degrees centigrade, and is therefore considerably higher than the melting point of gun steel. At first only the innermost layer of metal, a few hundredths of an inch thick, is heated and attempts to expand, but as this is prevented by the outer, cold material, great pressure is the result, and this lasts until the heat is disseminated and the temperature equalized. The more rapid the firing the greater the pressure, which penetrates deeper into the innermost layer, causing a change in the molecular structure.

But this heating also acts chemically. The inner material is deprived of part of its carbon and is therefore hardened. The inner layer endeavors to contract, to draw its particles together, and from this results a contraction of the bore and fine cracks which offer points of weakness for the better action of other disturbing causes.

In addition the innermost layer of the gun tube is also softened by the heat, so that the gases rushing out carry with them particles of the solid gun material. Siwy has calculated from the amount of iron in the gases blown out of guns and examined by him that from a good 11 inch gun at least two-thirds of a pound of iron is blown out in this way at every shot. The contraction of the bore above referred to leads to the bursting of the gun.

The French and Americans use thicker inner tubes than the British, and the Krupp guns are similarly constructed. The well known French constructor Canet, after an experience in gun construction extending over more than thirty years, is of the opinion that wire wound guns are no longer justified in view of the fact that perfectly homogeneous steel blocks of adequate size for gun construction can now be readily produced. The British are introducing a 13.5 inch gun, the United States a 14 inch, designed primarily for coast defence, and the reasons for increasing the calibre are as follows:

We have reached the limit of development of the 12 inch gun, and if we wish to increase the effect of our armor piercing projectiles we must make them larger. Larger spaces for bursting charges in the shell are required, but for ballistic reasons we cannot make the projectiles any longer, hence we must adopt a larger calibre. In order to prevent too great a reduction in the life of the gun a reduced muzzle velocity is adopted, such that the energy of the projectile at the principal fighting ranges (5,500 to 6,500 yards) shall not fall below that of the old smaller calibre.

But the introduction of a 13.5 inch gun leads to an increase in the ship's displacement. Dreadnoughts with ten 12 inch guns now have a displacement of 18,200 tons, but to carry ten 13½ inch guns they would require a displacement of 25,000 tons. Another point about these larger calibres is the time it takes to replace a worn out inner tube. Of course, when the inner tubes are worn out the guns are unserviceable and the ships have to seek a harbor or naval base to have new tubes put in. The greater the life of a tube the less frequently will this have to be done, and the quicker it can be done the less the reserve of inner tubes required to be kept on hand at the naval bases. Japan considers a reserve of 100 per cent. necessary, while Great Britain believes that one of 25 per cent. will suffice.

The rapidity of fire has been gradually increased to four shots a minute for the 12 inch, and the 13½ inch will probably be about the same. Formerly on all the larger warships there were a number of guns of medium calibre, but the calibre of these guns has gradually been increased in the German navy from 5.9 inch to 6.7 inch; in other navies to 7½, 8¼ and 9½ inch; so England finally decided to have but one calibre, that of the heaviest guns.

The smaller calibres still retained on the modern Dreadnoughts are designed for defence against torpedo boat attack. The increased speed of the larger ships led to an increased speed in torpedo boats, and this again led to the torpedo boats being made larger with better protection. It became more difficult to put the torpedo boats out of action with small calibre guns. For this reason the old 2 inch rapid fire guns were soon discarded, and in the first Dreadnoughts they were replaced by the 3 inch and later by 4 inch guns.

The Germans and the Japanese still believe that the 3½ inch guns are sufficiently effective for this purpose, and their 5.9 and 4.7 inch guns are designed primarily to take part in the fight against the larger warships, although they may also be used against torpedo boats.

The rapidity of fire of the smaller calibres is of course much greater than that of the most powerful guns: that of the 7½ inch is eight shots a minute, the 6.7 inch ten shots, the 5.9 inch twelve, the 4 inch fifteen, the 3½ inch twenty to forty, and the 2 inch machine gun seventy or eighty.

A WIFE'S SUPPORT.

An Important Decision Affecting Matrimonial Rights.

From Bench and Bar.

The crude common law notions of the matrimonial relation, which often resulted in great injustice to the wife, have gradually given place to more enlightened theories. The modification of the law in this respect has been brought about chiefly by statute, but to some extent also by judicial decision. An important case, recently decided, which marks another step in this progress, is De Brauwere vs. De Brauwere (69 Misc. 472), where the late Justice Whitney held that an abandoned wife who has expended her own money for necessaries for herself and the children of the marriage may recover the amount so expended in an action directly against the husband. This decision seems to have been a novel one.

It is, however, only the logical extension of doctrines long recognized by the law, namely, that one who has supplied a wife with necessaries which the husband has failed to provide may recover the reasonable value thereof from the husband, on the theory of an agency implied in law, or, to put it otherwise, that the wife has the irrevocable right to pledge her husband's credit for necessaries in case he fails to supply her therewith; and further, that she may in such case even borrow money on his credit and expend it for necessaries, and that the lender may recover the amount so lent and expended from the husband, on the theory that he is subrogated to the rights of those who have furnished the necessaries purchased with the money so loaned.

These rules, were, however, inadequate to meet the needs of the wife in many cases, because oftentimes the delinquent husband had no credit which she could pledge; and even if he had credit, or she could procure assistance from friends, she was placed in the position of a suppliant for favor. The De Brauwere case by extending the doctrine of subrogation to the wife herself has placed her in a position of independence, where she can draw upon her own resources, if she has such, for necessaries, or purchase them with her own earnings, and compel the husband to reimburse her.

The doctrine of subrogation is certainly sufficient to support the decision, but Justice Whitney suggested a ground even more satisfactory from a legal point of view—although he expressly refrained from deciding the case on that ground—namely, that the right of the wife to recover "is based upon an absolute right to support from her husband; that at common law she could not directly enforce this right because of her disability to sue; that therefore she was restricted to her authority as his agent to order necessaries; * * * that since her disabilities have been removed by recent statutes she can sue her husband directly in this State for breach of the contract of support" (p. 475).

Minor Mineral Products.

Most of the American phosphate is mined in Florida. Of the total product in 1909, worth $10,772,120, Florida produced $8,541,301 worth. The 1908 figures were $11,399,124 and $8,481,539, respectively, says the United States Geological Survey. While Florida slightly increased its product in 1909 over 1908, South Carolina and Tennessee, the other producing States, had reduced outputs.

California produces all the borax mined in the United States and is now supplying nearly all the domestic demand. The principal mine is in the Death Valley region in Inyo county. Another mine is in Los Angeles county. The mineral product is coalminite, or borate of lime, most of which is shipped crude to Alameda, Cal., or to Bayonne, N. J., for refining. About half the product is consumed in enamelling kitchenware, but new uses for borax are found every year.

Sand lime brick manufacturing is a comparatively new industry in this country, but it has developed rapidly. It is now firmly established and will probably show steady growth. It began in 1901 at Michigan City, Ind., with one plant producing only a few thousand bricks. This was followed by a plant at Wilmington, N. C. In 1903 there were sixteen plants in operation, which marketed a product valued at $155,040. From this small beginning the number of operating plants and the value of the product increased steadily until 1907, when ninety-four operating plants reported an output valued at $1,255,769. These figures are the highest yet recorded in the industry. In common with other industries the manufacture of sand lime brick fell off considerably in 1908. In 1909, however, there was a small increase, and 1910 when figured up will probably exceed the record of 1907.

The industry was started in the '90s in Germany, where are now 280 plants in operation. In places where brick clay is not found and where sand and lime can be easily procured, these bricks can be made cheaper than ordinary clay bricks. In 1902 the German Government purchased 9,000,000 bricks of this kind for constructing army buildings at a saving of $20,000 from the cost of clay bricks.

Gypsum mined in the United States in 1907 totalled 2,252,785 short tons, an increase of nearly 31 per cent. over the production of 1908, and 20 per cent. more than that of 1907. There was a large increase in the quantity of gypsum sold without calcining and used principally as land plaster and as an ingredient of Portland cement and in paint, but a drop of about 11 cents a ton in value. The sales of gypsum calcined for plaster showed not only a large increase in quantity but an increase in value at the mills, averaging nearly 30 cents a ton. Gypsum was produced in sixteen States and two Territories besides Alaska. The largest production was reported from New York. Michigan and Iowa occupied second and third places. The number of mills reporting production in 1909 was ninety-one, against eighty-eight in 1908.

The increase in total value of gypsum and gypsum products imported into the United States in 1909 over 1908 was a little less than 20 per cent.

Coke.

The production of coke in beehive ovens and retorts in the United States in 1909 was 29,315,065 short tons, worth $89,965,483, against 26,033,518 tons, worth $62,483,983 in 1908. The increase was 51.02 per cent. in quantity and 43.92 per cent. in value. Notwithstanding this increase the output was still 1,463,499 short tons and $21,573,643 below the high record made in 1907, which was 40,779,564 short tons, valued at $111,539,126. The 1909 increase over 1908 was mainly made in the last half of that year.

The average price a ton was $2.40 in 1908, against $2.29 in 1909, while in 1907 the average price was $2.74 a ton. Coke made in the by-product ovens is the more profitable. At the close of 1909 there were 919 of them under construction. Their product in 1909 averaged in price $3.27 a ton, against $2.10 for the output of the beehive ovens.

Well—Maybe.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

She does not wear a harem skirt, and has no wish to wear one;
The disposition that she has might well be called a fair one;
She has no foolish whims or fads, she's wise and she is witty,
And, more important still, perhaps, she's graceful and she's pretty.

She has no time for trashy books, she never looks inside them;
Her talents are uncommon ones, and well she has applied them;
She plays the harp with spendid skill, she's modest, as she should be.
There may be sweeter girls, but I can't well see how there could be.

Yet why should I be wasting time in singing praises of her?
She is my sister; so, of course, the world must know I love her;
She's all my sister ought to be, as faultless as a baby;
If all girls were as she, should I approve of them? Well—maybe.

WHEN THE PARK WAS FENCED.

Recollections of the Days of Old New York.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When 8 years old I lived in Beekman street, south side, between Park row and William street; police station there now. I went to a private school opposite. A few doors west of it lived Mayor Woodhull. A son of his went to the school; he was killed by falling from the roof of their house while flying a kite. On the corner of Cliff street was St. George's Church, whose clock supplied the time for the neighborhood. Dr. Spring's Brick Church occupied the triangle Park row, Beekman and Nassau streets. There was no post office at the south end of the park, but a large iron gate. On the "Fourth" the militia paraded; the park was filled with booths, and at night there were fireworks set off in front of the City Hall. There was an iron fence around the park. At a point nearly opposite Frankfort street was a triangle, each leg about two feet, which was shut out of the park by the fence. Can any one tell why? I understood it was for lack of title. On Chambers street, opposite the park, was Billy Burton's Theatre, with the finest comedy cast ever brought together. On Chatham street was the Chatham Theatre, the home of the melodrama. Just south of Beekman street was the famous Park Theatre, the home of the tragedians Kean, elder Booth, Forrest, &c. Barnum's Museum, where the St. Paul Building is now, was a great place for the boys; admission one shilling. I used to take my lunch and stay all day.

The hotels below Chambers street were: American, corner of Park place, afterward burned with loss of life; Astor, Franklin, Globe, City, &c., all on Broadway. Retail stores were on Maiden lane; the wholesale district east of Broadway from Pine street. At the corner of Broadway and Beaver street was the large boarding house of the Misses Mix and Trip. Whitehall street and State street were residences. Where the Custom House now is were some of our wealthy citizens.

The Harlem Railroad had its headquarters at Tryon row, where the Brooklyn Bridge entrance now is. A small room where the Municipal Building is now being erected was its depot, ticket office and waiting room. The cars stood out in the street. When it was time for a train to start the cars were drawn by horses up to Fourth avenue, where the locomotive was attached. The train then went through the tunnel. The roundhouse was where the Seventy-first Regiment Armory is now. When about 10 years old I walked from Twenty-first street to Yorkville, Eighty-sixth street. It was a country road, rail fences, a few houses, all frame and of no pretension.

The first opera I ever attended was at Castle Garden. You had to go over a bridge to get to it. The opera was "Norma" and the artists Grisi and Mario. I stood in the park and saw the Park Theatre burn. It was a cloudy night and the fire could be seen for a long distance. One of your correspondents inquires in reference to Winter Garden. This was built in the late '50s. The Lafarge House, covering the present Broadway Central, was built, and through it was the entrance to Tripler Hall, where Jenny Lind sang after singing at Castle Garden. The hotel and hall were magnificent for those days. In this hotel Jim Fiske was murdered. On the site of Tripler Hall was built the first theatre New York had seen. It was intended for Laura Keene, but when finished it was found that W. E. Burton had the lease. A theatre was then built for Laura Keene on the other side of Broadway; there she coined money. Burton did not make a success; the sympathy of the public was with Miss Keene. She had a fine company, Joe Jefferson, Sothern, Agnes Robinson, Dion Boucicault and others. There was produced the "American Cousin," which had such a remarkable run.

Julian's Band came over in the early '50s and gave its first performance at Castle Garden. There he heard the katydids, which suggested his composing the polka by that name.

Then there was the old Walton House in Franklin Square, on which I would look with thoughts of its Revolutionary history. Then there was George W. Brown's chop house, and Dorlan's, the real original, at Fulton Market, where you could stand and see oysters frying a golden brown in clear pork fat. From each oyster as you cut ran the milk. Why cannot we have them now?

NEW YORK, April 1. F. A. TANNER.

GOVERNMENT VOUCHERS.

How the Travelling Employee Uses His Spare Time.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At regular intervals the newspapers invite the attention of the public to that ancient spectre, the expense account of the employees of the United States Government. A great weariness possesses me when I see this, but usually I haven't the heart to protest. Now, however, the month has ended, and with it I have passed another of those documents up to the Department to have its every item subjected to the scrutiny of some clerk who possibly never travelled a mile nor ate a meal on a railroad in his life.

Let me give some idea of that account. It was in the amount of $16 and some cents expended during one calendar month. It was made in triplicate on a form about the size of a tax return blank. It bore my signature beneath an oath, taken before a notary, which said oath contains just 179 words and closes with "So help me God" (printed in capitals). On that form are blanks for the certifications of two more officers, as well as half a dozen spaces for references and check and letter numbers. Within the vasty depths of the interior of this form a space is provided for the itemizing of the account, and some itemizing is necessary, or rather required. Likewise explanations as to why the expenditures were made. And this is only a part. Accompanying the account were five copies of letters authorizing me to "incur" the attendant expense, and lastly a package of "sub-vouchers" showing that I had paid the stated sums. The mere fact that I had sworn so apparently did not count. I estimate that my time required to prepare this document is worth at my present rate of pay about $15.

How much the time of the auditors will amount to is not for me to say, but judging from the queries sometimes propounded I should estimate about $30. Some economy is this.

Now it is said that $12,000,000 is expended yearly in official travel expenses. I make that about $40 an employee. Also, we hear now a careful investigation of the whole subject is to be made. What will we have to do then? Study integral calculus in order to get the documents up satisfactorily? Shall we have any other duty assigned us besides the taking of receipts and preparation of the vouchers? If it is made any more complicated the entire month will be necessary.

Common sense properly applied could reduce some of this red tape to efficiency, and efficiency is true economy.

I have sworn to a stack of these accounts (also at them), and each time I felt that I was perjuring myself, for they were not "just and true in all respects." No traveller can charge every cent expended by reason of travel in a satisfactory form for reimbursement, unless he has a mind fit for nothing else, and then he has no business to be travelling.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

NEW YORK, April 1.

The Handle of Bourne.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Wrong, O luminous oracle; it is not, and never has been, "Jack" Bourne. "Johnny" Bourne he was universally called in New Bedford where in the early '70s he used to stagger that archaic town by his sartorial accomplishments and his royal style of spending the money that his doting father, plutocratic old Jonathan Bourne dealt out to him in allopathic doses. He was a prince in the eyes of us younger chaps, and one of his great pleasures was to stuff us full of delectable cream cakes made at a famous bakery on Union street.

I am aware that these are but airy trifles of information, but as the commonest things in the early lives of great statesmen are oft regarded as important exegeses of their later careers, I beg the inclusion of matters that show the Senator's juvenile leanings toward the referendum.

But not "Jack"—please not. Call him "Johnny" as New Bedford and Harvard meteorically knew him. A. FIDUS ACHATES.

BOSTON, April 1.

CHIPS OF OLD WORLD POLITICS.

Germany and France.

Germany showed at the critical time some disposition to impede France in asserting herself in the Moroccan crisis. According to English sources of information the policy of Berlin was to interfere in Africa with a view to forcing France to assent to Germany's plans in the Bagdad railway matter, regardless of the interests of England. This view is perhaps a trifle fanciful, and anyway the Bagdad railway problem has been solved without an Anglo-German clash.

The suspicions aroused, however, show the extent to which the relations between France and Germany are regarded as the keystone of the European situation, and how very unstable that keystone is considered. It is pointed out that the only real assurance of peace is the absolute strength and solidity of the two groups into which the Powers are divided. The least weakening in either the Triple Alliance or the Triple Entente is the signal for political aggravations and political nervousness. Thus the repeated hints since the Potsdam interview that the understanding between France, England and Russia had been terminated or weakened has set the prophets of disaster croaking.

Another source of trouble is the misconception which prevails as to what the relations between France and Germany ought to be, or rather as to what it is reasonable to expect them to be. To assume the possibility of cordial friendship and good will is absurd. The blood shed forty years ago has not dried in the memories of the men of to-day. The gap in French territory is too great for the wound to have healed yet. France may no longer regard the "revanche" as a practical aim, but she is none the less bitter. As for Germany, the constant tone of her press, for instance in the matter of the Foreign Legion enlistments, is proof that though victor and gainer, she fears, suspects and hates France. Her mind is more bent on the "revanche" as an element of the future than is that of France itself.

Therefore the reasonable thing to seek between the two peoples is a cool, practical working agreement, allowing each to develop along its own lines without interference from the other. Such an agreement in its full extent would clear the way for France to assume in Morocco some such position as England has in Egypt or she herself in Tunis. She would assume military control, allowing native government to rule domestic affairs—native government within humane limits—and maintaining an open door and equal trading advantages for all nations. Such an arrangement would give France fair compensation for the sacrifices she is making; it would mean the speedy civilization and development of Morocco, and justice would be done to all other interests. European opinion seems to be, however, that a free hand will never be given to France until some new drawing together of the Triple Entente or else an effectual regrouping of the Powers restores equilibrium to international politics.

Change Impending in Turkey.

Those who keep their eyes on Salonica, which is now spoken of by pessimists as the virtual capital of Turkey, are sure that they see signs of impending change. Indeed there are many who believe that nothing but lack of political ambition on the part of Mahmud Shevket Pasha prevents him from becoming at once the military dictator of Turkey. His popularity has been steadily increasing since he led his victorious army into Constantinople and smashed the power of Abdul Hamid forever. He is the idol of the soldiers.

Besides, there is a great reaction among the officers against the Committee of Union and Progress, and consequently against liberal ideas in general. The committee is neither united nor progressive. It has done nothing for the country in the last year except turn out Cabinet Ministers. At present the Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha, and the Foreign Minister, Rifaat Pasha, are slated for decapitation, but it appears they have the bad taste to resist; they have made a deal with Halil Bey, the newly named Minister of the Interior, and simply refuse to be put out.

The committee magnates are amazed at the outrageous resistance to their behests, but as they are split up among themselves they are unable for the moment to inflict proper punishment. The secrets of their meetings are guarded by an ironclad oath; but there are leaks, and it is said that the recriminations exchanged are of the most violent character. Meanwhile the military clubs at Uskub and Monastir are looming into prominence. The opinion is growing fashionable in military circles that however excellent parliamentary government may be for other peoples it is unsuited to the Turkish genius. Strong one man power, backed by an army, is the growing ideal.

It is well understood that Shevket Pasha holds these very opinions. Should he decide in the near future to put them to a practical test it would seem as if all the support he needed were ready made to his hand.

British Naval Programme.

England is not going to quit Dreadnought building this year, in spite of talk of limitation of armament negotiations with Germany and actual arbitration pourparlers with the United States, the strongest two Power combination among existing possibilities. The naval estimates for 1911-12, just out, call for a total expenditure of £44,392,500, against £40,603,700 for 1910-11, an increase of £3,788,800, or about $18,944,000. Out of this great sum five new Dreadnoughts are to be built.

There is to be an increase in the personnel of thirty-five commissioned officers, seventy-nine subordinate officers, 149 warrant officers, 1,870 petty officers and seamen, and 1,117 boys, a total of 3,246 men. A small reduction in the coastguard service will make the net increase 3,000.

A new dry dock is to be built at Rosyth, and two new floating docks for Portsmouth and the Medway are to be finished during the fiscal year. Ships of old programmes will call for payments amounting to £13,325,232, or about $66,626,150. The new programme calls for an expenditure of £1,738,645, or $8,693,225, in the year, but its ultimate cost will be £15,063,877, or considerably more than $75,000,000. The vessels embraced in it are:

Large armored ships	5
Protected cruisers	3
Unarmored cruiser	1
Destroyers	20
Submarines	6
River gunboats	2
Depot ship for destroyers	1
Hospital ship	1
Total	39

The vote for new construction is £309,605 more than this year's. Two of the big ships are to be built in dock yards, the rest by contract.

The Alsace-Lorraine Constitution.

The German Government has rejected the liberal amendments introduced by the Reichstag commission into the proposed constitution for Alsace-Lorraine. These amendments made the Statthalter or Governor independent of the Kaiser, and placed the Reichsland on the same footing as the other confederated States, with three votes in the Bundesrath.

Secretary of the Interior Delbrück made the announcement that the Federal Council would not consent to such concessions, but it is taken for granted that Prussia is the real opponent. It is the purpose of Prussia to make the annexed provinces an appanage, while granting them the semblance of liberty.

A sort of compromise has been arrived at under which the Statthalter will be still the puppet of the Kaiser, but the province will have three representatives in the council. When Delbrück announced his agreement to this the representatives in the Reichstag of the other German States took alarm. The Kaiser was to appoint the Statthalter and the Statthalter was to appoint the plenipotentiaries to the Federal Council; what was this but giving Prussia three more votes in that body?

So more compromising had to be done. It was stipulated that the votes of Alsace-Lorraine should never be counted when Prussia might secure by their adhesion to her views a majority in the Council which she would not have without them.

The remodelled constitution pleases no one better than the original draft did. The people of the province say that all its benefits are mere shams. It leaves them exactly where they were before both as respects internal administration and influence in German politics. Equally, the German conservatives are enraged. Their grievance is that even the semblance of freedom should be allowed to conquered people. They appeal through the *Kreuzzeitung* to the Prussian Landtag to protest. The feeling is so bitter that it is a question whether the Conservative-Clerical combination on which Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg relies in the Reichstag may not be shattered.

Carp's Clean Sweep.

Premier Carp's victory in the Rumanian elections is complete. He has 164 seats out of 183 in the Sobranje. In the first ballots for the Senate he secured 30 seats to 18 divided equally between the Liberals and Conservative Democrats. His majority in the popular vote, however, was only 483, with a total count of 8,000.

A Pioneer of Modern Business.

Captain Kidd told how he buried his treasure.
"I merely used a filing system to show where it was," he cried.
Herewith none wondered it was lost.