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States Dipping into National Treasury.

Congressman Tawney, chairman of the house appropriations committee, in discussing the tendency toward federal centralization, which was the theme of Secretary Root's recent speech, calls attention to another side of the question. This is the tendency of the states, while yielding up some of their powers to the national government, to make heavier demands on the national treasury. Congress is more and more called upon to appropriate for purposes that once fell within state lines. This tendency, the congressman says, is chiefly exhibited in the agricultural and sundry civil bills.

It would be interesting if Mr. Tawney would go a little more into details in his indictment of the states. Evidently, however, he has in mind such appropriations as those for aid to state soldiers' homes, agricultural schools, experiment stations and some of the expenditures for river, harbor and irrigation projects.

It is only natural that with the tendency to centralize authority at Washington, there should go also a tendency to centralize appropriations there. States which once undertook great projects of internal improvement, now look to the national government to finance these plans. With the single exception of New York's large expenditure for the modernizing of the Erie canal, there has of late years been nothing of this sort undertaken by single states. The great irrigation projects of the arid west, which will people the deserts of the benefited states, increase their wealth and their taxrolls, are national projects. On the other hand, it is the public land owned by the national government that finances them.

There can be no doubt that the taxing power of the federal government will grow with its other powers. President Roosevelt's tentative discussion of income and inheritance taxation in his recent message is one presage of the changes that are coming. The whole subject of centralization, which Secretary Root so cogently discussed, and which congress finds confronting it at every turn, has become one of the most important problems of the day. In its solution is bound up the solution of many another problem that vexes our political thought and growth.

Santa Claus ran well ahead of his ticket.

Sugar Trust Methods.

Receiver Earl of the defunct financial institution in Philadelphia, of which Frank N. Hipple was president, says that the sugar trust deliberately set out to ruin Adolph Segel, the sugar refinery promoter, and in doing so carried down Hipple's bank and drove him to suicide. Mr. Earl has brought suit against the sugar trust. The evidence which he promises to produce shows that disreputable methods were used to crush Segel. Agents of the trust wormed themselves into his confidence as spies, threats and other pressure were used, money was borrowed from him under the guise of friendship until finally the trust had him in its toils. Then it squeezed him to death. This suit will be watched with deep interest.

The post-Christmas lunch makes a noise like cold turkey.

The Tariff on Art.

The American Free Art League of Boston is inaugurating a new campaign for the abolition of the duty on paintings and sculpture. It ought to be a very easy and simple thing to repeal the amendment to the act of 1897, which imposes a duty of 20 per cent on art, but it is hardly to be expected that anything of the kind will be done at this time. The "standpatter" has everything so thoroly nailed down that tariff revisionists in congress have about abandoned hope of any action until after the next presidential election. It is the plan apparently of republican leaders to postpone all discussion of the tariff question and the consideration of any tariff schedule until the republicans have elected another president.

The duty on art, however, is a matter upon which there can be so little difference of opinion and the advantages to be gained from its repeal are so many that it would seem as if a practical, common sense view of the matter would remove at once this stupid provision which, in the interest of revenue, operates mainly as an obstacle in the way of the art education of the people.

It is well understood, of course, that the artists of the country are in favor of free art. They are not asking for anything so absurd as protection. They know that no amount of discrimination in their favor will enable them to paint better pictures or build up a larger degree of skill as artists. Protection which shuts out the product of one mechanical industry may create a market for a domestic industry engaged in producing merchandise, but the products of art are not affected in that way.

The duty imposed in the tariff of 1897 was expected to produce revenues to the amount of a million dollars a year. It has never produced over half a million and instead of a benefit, it is a positive detriment to American artists. They have testified universally against it and it cannot be contended that the tax on art is calculated to be of material benefit to the artists. What they want is that great works of art shall become more common, that the taste for art may be stimulated and the demand for their products increased. This is the only selfish interest they have in the matter. They have also a philanthropic interest, which is that the public should enjoy more than is now possible the educational benefit of free art thru the more general distribution of art works of merit.

So far from the duty on art being of advantage to the artist, or even to the general public, financially, it is doubtless true that the free importation of works of art with the probable improved opportunities for art study in America would result in the saving of more money than is represented by the revenues of the government derived from art. The money expended abroad by art students which might otherwise be employed at home were opportunities for art study improved, as they naturally would be by the free importation of art, would amount to more than the government collects in the way of taxes.

Nobody has suppressed Senator La Follette yet. And the winter is wearing away.

Railroad Stocks and Rates.

Mr. Harriman stated to the trans-Mississippi congress that if rates are to be lowered the railroads must be able to carry their traffic at a less cost than now.

This is an opinion from a man who controls a great many miles of railroad, but who is not a railroad man in the best sense of the term, a man who has grown up with railroads. Harriman's interest in transportation is recent. He is a Wall street railroader and while a very keen one, he cannot be expected to take any but the Wall street view of the railroad problem. Still there is no doubt that in many respects the railroads have gone very far toward the limit in economy of management.

There is one important aspect, however, in which the railroads have somewhat disappointed public expectation. This is in the matter of issuing securities on which rates are partially based. The railroads have not been economical in this regard. This is shown by some very old and some quite new illustrations. Some years ago Daniel Drew, when Commodore Vanderbilt had Erie stock cornered, started a press printing more certificates and soon had Vanderbilt's corner broken by this simple device. The people are still paying interest on this little joke of Daniel Drew on Commodore Vanderbilt. One of the new illustrations is the recent annual meeting of the Pullman company when it declared a stock dividend and increased its capitalization from $74,000,000 to $100,000,000 to get rid of its surplus. The people will have to raise nearly $3,000,000 a year in sleeping car fares to pay the dividends on this new stock, which does not appear to have been needed at all.

When the Northern Pacific and Great Northern jointly bought the Burlington, $216,000,000 of 4 per cent bonds were issued and it was the expressed intention to pay interest on these bonds in addition to earning a dividend upon the old stock of $108,000,000. It has been done.

James J. Hill testified that in the Northern Securities merger there were issued on the Northern Pacific $22,500,000 and on the Great Northern $39,500,000, or a total of $62,000,000 in excess of the old capital.

More recently it has become known that the Great Northern stockholders benefited last year by a dividend of 147 per cent, 100 on the deal, 7 per cent in cash and the rest in new stock issued. Leaving out the ore deal the dividends in stock issued and cash aggregated 47 per cent.

Other railroads that had the opportunity have been doing as liberally in the way of increasing their stock debt. This kind of work on the part of the railroads has been checked up by Senator La Follette, who, taking all the estimates of the experts, came to the conclusion that the value of the railroads in the country was $5,000,000,000 instead of the $11,000,000,000 claimed. On this basis he figured that on an 8 per cent basis the railroads were overcharging the country on carrying freight $285,000,000 annually.

Whether La Follette's figures are correct or not, there is no doubt that many of the richest and strongest lines have been greatly overcapitalized with the apparent purpose of opposing an impregnable obstacle between themselves and too radical rate reductions.

Mr. Harriman and Senator La Follette so directly clash upon the possibility of a further reduction of rates that the question naturally arises, why? Mr. Harriman would undoubtedly say it was because the railroads had reached the lowest point at which they could perform the service and make a fair return on the capital invested. Senator La Follette would retort that it was because the railroads had issued a lot of stock which represented no value put into the roads and that when it was subtracted the railroad dividend would rise beyond what was reasonable. This is a matter about which the public is entitled to know the facts.

The smallest horse in the world has just died at Pomeroy, Ohio. "Minnie Speck" weighed 62 pounds, was 25 inches in height and her shoes were the size of a silver dollar. When she was 2 years of age her owner, Ed Wigand, of Columbus, Ohio, carried her in a thirty-six-inch dress suit case (with her head out) from city to city, and he has exhibited her at all of the state fairs for the last four years. Minnie craved oats and grass just like the big horses and died finally of acute indigestion.

An outcry for government ownership of butter from Portland, Ore., brings the news that the people have been spreading their bread with 80c butter, some philanthropical gentlemen having gotten the product into a corner.

A reverend gentleman with a comfortable parsonage at Cincinnati, O., recently commented on women as leading selfish, lazy and luxurious lives. He ought to put in a few weeks studying the life and habits of the dressmaker.

Thirty-two tons of Jordan river water have been imported at New York for the use of those expensive people who are not affected by baptism in common United States water.

A Denver girl with the choice of going on the stage or doing housework has chosen housework. It's steadier work and you are much surer of your pay.

Thank goodness those "Do your Christmas shopping early" signs have been called in, and there are none out saying "Register today or you cannot vote."

The report that Adam was a negro agrees with the claim of the women that he did not treat Eve white in the incident of the apple.

Having rejected simplified spelling, the house could not bring itself to spell $5,000 with a 7, a 5 and two ciphers.

The bargain counter on the day after Christmas looks like the frappe bowl in some banquet hall deserted.

With two months more of this weather, the coal trade will be throwing goods on the bargain counter.

THE CAR SHORTAGE PROBLEM

Washburn (N. D.) Leader—The loss to farmers of the state thru the shortage of cars is hard to estimate, but will reach a large sum. In many of the places the farmers are unable to dispose of their grain, and in consequence thereof are unable to meet their bills, and the tradesmen must suffer with them. The Minneapolis Journal has taken up the matter and is doing good work in giving it publicity.

Marion (N. D.) Sentinel—The Minneapolis Journal is to be complimented in the way of bringing forth facts in regard to the car shortage in the northwest this season. Congressman Marshall, "the man who does things," intends to make the railroads "sit up and take notice."

Dassel (Minn.) Anchor—The Minneapolis Journal is conducting a good campaign of publicity on the question of the wheat blockade, caused by the failure of the railroads to furnish empties at non-competitive points. There is a great cause for complaint without a doubt.

Oakes (N. D.) Times—The Minneapolis Journal, with its usual energy, is laying bare the facts why there is so much of a congestion of wheat in the elevators and at loading stations all along the railroad lines in North Dakota. The agitation has attracted the attention of our public men, and Congressman Marshall has taken the matter up with the interstate commerce commission to the end that the grain may be moved and the farmers get the money they had depended on to meet their obligations.

Ortonville Journal—The Minneapolis Journal is doing a very commendable work in an effort to assist outlying northwestern towns to secure fuel. That something is radically wrong with transportation facilities when fuel is plentiful at the terminals and people who have the money to buy with suffer because the railroads do not supply the dealers with fuel ordered months in advance does not even admit of argument. Publicity will undoubtedly assist the management of railroads to see their duty.

THE TWENTY-SIXT'

I've washed my face an' combed my hair
An' not forgot to say my prayer,
An' never jerked or slammed the door,
Nor gone a slidin' on the floor,
Because four weeks ago I knew
That Christmas day would soon be due—
I'm waitin' for the twenty-sixt'!

I've had a thousand chances where
I might 'a yanked somebody's chair;
I've seen a thousand dandy ways
Where I might do some things to raise
The dickens, but I've had to wait
Till Christmas is wiped off the slate—
I'm waitin' for the twenty-sixt'!

Three nights a week I've set an' read
Until 'twas time to go to bed.
When I was tempted strong to go
An' tease my sister an' her beau;
Three nights a week her beau has smiled
An' said I am a model child—
I'm waitin' for the twenty-sixt'!

I've been the best boy in the school,
Learned everything an' broke no rule;
The teacher tells the other boys
To notice how I make no noise,
An' how I get my answers right
An' how I always am polite—
I'm waitin' for the twenty-sixt'!

I've gone to Sunday school each week
An' told why Moses was so meek,
An' who was Cain, an' all about
The way Goliy' got knocked out.
The teacher Sunday told my ma
I'm the best boy she ever saw—
I'm waitin' for the twenty-sixt'!

An' yesterday a man went by
Who wore a plug hat two feet high;
I had a snowball, an' I itched
An' squirmed, an' all my fingers twitched
To sock it one, but I did not;
A boy must sacrifice a lot—
I'm waitin' for the twenty-sixt'!

Oh, Christmas comes but once a year,
But it's a long time gettin' here.
It is hard to do just what you should;
It is hard to keep on bein' good
When wall-eyed Walter King comes by
And yells: "Fight me; you dassen't try"—
I'm waitin' for the twenty-sixt'!

—Washington Star.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

DEC. 26.

1194—Emperor Frederick II, one of the most remarkable historic figures of the middle ages, born. Died Dec. 13, 1250.

1717—First pantomime produced in London, called "Harlequin Executed."

1805—Treaty of Presburg.

1837—Admiral George Dewey, U. S. N., born.

1874—Governor Warmoth stabbed and killed D. C. Byerley of the New Orleans Bulletin.

GOALS FROM THE FIELD

Ralph W. Wheelock announces his return to the editorial tripod (this is fiction, he really is to have a desk) in a pink circular trimmed with lacy language and garnished with poetry. "Rafe" has been absent from his regular job, issuing peddlers' licenses, checking up police pay roll and editing speeches for the mayor for two years. Should think he would be glad to get back to the steady and not too arduous duties of an editor.

In welcoming Bro. Wheelock back to the ranks, it may be well to remind him of some things which have passed a given point while he was away and which it will be necessary for him to give his views upon before he can be considered caught up.

First—It is known that Carrie Nation is about to sue the Brownsville soldiers for violation of copyright.

Second—It is admitted that Mark Twain is not yet even partially dead.

Third—The politicians no longer point with pride or view with alarm. They point to Roosevelt and view themselves in his mirror.

Fourth—Rockefeller's conk is still bald, on the outside.

Fifth—The report that Ida Tarbell will go on the stage arose from the fact that she is making up the forms of a new book.

Sixth—The tariff has not been revised.

By beginning at page 365 and working forward on the even numbers and backward on the odd numbers, Ralph will arrive at the point of departure at half past 2, 1907.

At the starting point for a new volume of Thoughts on Things, what is the matter with his telling us what he thinks about J. B. Foraker?

HANDEL'S 'THE MESSIAH'

Nothing was better suited to round out a Christmas day otherwise without flaw than the superb rendering of "The Messiah" at the Auditorium last evening by the Philharmonic club and the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra. At any rate, enough Minneapolis people to fill the Auditorium were in that state of mind. Not all of them were regular patrons of the club and orchestra, and not all were musical. A large part were people who have come to look upon "The Messiah" as an essential part of the Christmas festivities, and they attend its rendition with religious fidelity.

Perhaps a more appreciative and sympathetic audience never filled that great temple of music. If the music was good, certainly an appreciable degree of its excellence can be attributed to the perfect sympathy existing between the performers and the audience.

Time and circumstance seem to remove a performance of this nature from the field of critical comment. Even if the concert as a performance were open to such comment, no matter how mild, it would seem out of keeping with the spirit of the occasion to measure it by ordinary standards. It would be like sitting in judgment on a Christmas gift from one's best friend.

The work of the Philharmonics and the orchestra from beginning to end was done with such fervor and zeal, and with such precision of technical detail, and such appreciation of the inspiration of the wonderful composition, such a throwing of the soul into every note, that no Christmas audience could fail to respond. The audience did respond, and never have singers or players been accorded more honest and sincere praise.

One almost has to ask pardon for venturing to suggest that any one of the four soloists excelled the others, but if such a hairsplitting decision were to be made, the laurel wreath would probably go to Reed Miller, the tenor. Mr. Miller has a sweetly lyrical voice suited to a nicety to the Messiah solos, and besides rendering his parts clearly and perfectly as to tone and enunciation, he threw into his work a sympathy that sometimes was lacking in the others. Mrs. Mabelle Crawford-Welpton, contralto, failed in some degree to appreciate just how vast a hall the Auditorium is, and her voice sometimes failed to penetrate to the remote corners. But she made up in depth and sweetness for any failure in volume. Her aria, "He Was Despised and Rejected of Men," abundantly atoned for microscopic shortcomings in other parts. Miss Marie Stoddart, soprano, also failed slightly to fill the great hall, and she sang best when she did not attempt the impossible. The sweetness of her singing, particularly when accompanied only by the great organ, left an impression that will always endear her to a Minneapolis audience.

Only good can be said of Tom Daniel, basso. Large, handsome, benigh looking, he sang his way into instant favor, culminating at the last with his magnificent interpretation of "Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage?" His voice is full of warmth and sympathy. It is no fault of any of the soloists if the Auditorium was too vast for them to fill. Singers trained to smaller halls cannot be expected here to accomplish with their voices what they could easily do in halls half as large.

A sense of the thoro harmony existing among the soloists, the Philharmonics and the orchestra, born of a mutual respect for the authority and ability of each, was imparted to the audience, and created an impression that the three combined to make a particularly well balanced rendering of the great oratorio.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

Miss Phoebe Davies, the Anna Moore of the "Way Down East" cast, which will be seen at the Metropolitan all next week, beginning Sunday evening, has played the part over 6,000 times. She was the original of the character and has not missed a performance of the play since its production ten years ago. A special holiday matinee will be given on New Year's Day.

Fairly effervescing with mirth and fun is "Too Much Johnson," with which the Frawleys are doing themselves proud at the Lyceum this week. The web in which T. Daniel Frawley, as Augustus Billings, has ensnared the "Johnsons" and himself, is untangled with a series of brilliant prevarications that keeps the audience in roars of laughter.

Something pretty close to the musical marvel is little Willie Eckstein, the 10-year-old boy who is giving a brief piano recital each afternoon and evening at the Orpheum theater. He is a wonder, both to the children who envy him and to the elders who applaud the daily exploitation of his unusual ability.

One of the high-class features presented at the Unique this week is put on by Perez and King. It is a combination act producing operatic singing and sculpture posing and appeals to those who appreciate the artistic.

Augustus Thomas' excellent drama, "Arizona" played to two capacity holiday audiences at the Bijou yesterday afternoon and evening and indications point to big business for this popular attraction for the remainder of the week.

Harry Clay Blaney, in "The Boy Behind the Gun," by Charles E. Blaney, and supported by a company of forty players, including Kitty Wolfe and a troup of Royal Guards of Japan, will be the attraction at the Bijou New Year's week.

Bedouin warriors are noted for the spirit of their steeds. They are the cruelest people known to civilization.

BOOKS

By W. P. K.

WHERE BOYS ARE BRED TO PERIL.—Norman Duncan, who has written much of life in Labrador and Newfoundland—life of special interest to older folk—has drawn upon the same field for a book for younger readers. In The Adventures of Billy Topsail Mr. Duncan has told of a series of adventures of a Newfoundland lad in a way to hold spellbound any true-hearted American boy. Newfoundland, says Mr. Duncan, is a land where all boys have adventures; "and that is not surprising," he adds, "for the conditions of life are such that every Newfoundland lad intimately knows hardship and peril at an age when the boys of the cities still grasp a hand when they cross the street." Billy Topsail is a typical boy of this land of adventure and peril, and it cannot fail to do any boy good to read about him.

Fleming H. Revell company, New York. $1.50.

Little Dorrit's Original.

The venerable Mrs. Cooper of Southgate, Eng., the original of Dickens' "Little Dorrit," has just been made known to the public. Tho many have known the fact that Dickens wrote his story as the result of a promise to a playmate of childhood, the reading public generally has been in ignorance of the fact that that playmate was Mrs. Cooper. She is now in her ninety-fifth year, and, tho feeble, recently opened a sale of work in aid of a boys' training school near her home. Mrs. Cooper's brother, Tom Mitton, was a schoolfellow of Dickens, and Mrs. Cooper says that she and Dickens were on terms of affectionate relationship in childhood, that Dickens called her "Little Dorrit," and told her as a child that he would write a story and give it this pet name of hers.

"IN CLIVE'S COMMAND" as a book title suggests India and adventure, and that is what one gets in a new book by Herbert Strang, bearing the title given. It is only romance with a background of history, the author says, but it is the romance of action, and history of the same sort, with which the story deals. The capture of Gheria and the battle of Plassey are the turning points in the adventure of the hero, Desmond Burke, who is driven from home by a cruel brother, sold as a slave in India, the victim and the hero of almost endless adventures, until falling in with Clive, his hero, he takes a hand in larger events. The story is one that will take hold of the boy of action, and as likely as not, of his father, also.

The Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

JUSTUS MILES FORMAN AS A BALKAN LIEUTENANT.—There is always "trouble in the Balkans," and so Justus Miles Forman, the novelist, best known by his "Buchanan's Wife," went into the Balkans not long ago to see what the never-ceasing trouble is all about.

He found a sort of "holy war" in progress, and also found that his advent was hailed with delight, because, being there, he was expected to take part in the fighting—to do in the Balkans as the Balkanese do.

He is tall and athletic and of eminently capable appearance, and was promptly made a first lieutenant (his friends insist that he isn't even yet entirely clear as which side of the "holy war" he enlisted on), and was mounted on a shaggy mountain pony and given a rifle and a huge pistol, officers in the Balkans having no use for pretty swords.

For some weeks he took part in active guerrilla campaigning, covering many miles of mountain country, "roughing it" in every imaginable way, and taking the hardships of marching, fighting and camping as a hugely pleasant experience.

After a while, however, he began to think that the novelty of being a Balkan target had worn off, and so, with the profuse and courteous regrets of his wild companions in arms, and before any of the always imminent accidents of war could chance to come his way, he resigned his commission and returned to civilization.

THE MAGAZINES

Record of Discoveries.—The universal interest in discoveries which throw light on ancient civilizations, and the home and business life of those prehistoric peoples whom we often arrogantly speak of as primitive, has never been greater than it is today. Between the elaborate monographs, full of detail, which the great archeologists publish, and the ephemeral notices of the daily papers, there is a desire by many for a more popular and concise statement of these discoveries and the conclusions based thereon. To satisfy this desire a unique magazine under the title of Records of the Past was established five years ago. That it is acceptably filling this field is shown by its constantly increasing patronage. Its list of editors, under the leadership of Professor G. Frederick Wright, D.D., LL.D., includes some of the most eminent archeologists in our country.

The December number contains, among other things: "The Dome of SS. Sergius and Bacchus at Constantinople," by Dr. Allan Marquand; "Ancient American Free Delivery," by Frank Abial Flower; "Mound Builders of the Mississippi Valley," by Richard Herrmann; "The Fortress of Masada," by Frederick Bennett Wright.

A Literary "Find."—Among the late Mrs. Pearl Craigie's literary effects was found one of her characteristic stories of English life, and it was eventually placed upon the market for sale, say the editors of Broadway. With an idea that such a story would be a decided literary "scoop," they immediately snapped it up, and it will appear in the January Broadway. "The Differing Stars," as it is entitled, is one of John Oliver Hobbes' cleverest short stories, written in dramatic, incisive fashion, and filled with epigrams and good character delineation. It details the story of a young girl's love for a genius and what came of it.

Mr. Howells' New Story—W. D. Howells' new four-part novelette, "A Sleep and a Forgetting," is continued in the Dec. 22 issue of Harper's Weekly. Lovers of Mr. Howells' subtle and absorbing art will read with pleasure this penetrating and touching history of the tragic shadow that fell upon the mind of the young American girl who is the center of the action, and of the way in which it was finally lifted.

VOTE-SWAPPING PLAN IS BARED IN HOUSE

Custom of Congressmen to Trade Support Brought Visibly to Fore in Debate on Jamestown Exposition Appropriation, the Remarks Causing Considerable Mirth.

Special to The Journal.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Everyone knows that vote trading is common in congress, and that many appropriations are made, not upon their merits, but upon the principle of "You pat my back and I'll pat yours." But it isn't often that such a situation is frankly admitted upon the house floor, as it was recently by Representative Clark of Missouri. Coming from Missouri, Clark did not have to be "shown" about appropriations for the St. Louis exposition. Here is what he said about such appropriations:

"There are certain events in the history of our country that ought to be celebrated by the congress of the United States, and the Louisiana purchase was one of them; and there are five or six along that line. I voted for the appropriation for the Louisiana Purchase exposition, and I have been paying to members the debt incurred on that occasion ever since, and I am not thru with it yet. (Laughter.) But the gentleman from New York has not any particular vantage ground in a controversy of that kind, when you remember the exposition at Buffalo. (Laughter.) That didn't celebrate anything that I ever heard of."

Here Representative Wadsworth of New York interrupted to say: "Except that it was the domicile of the original buffalo," whereat the members laughed again.

Mr. Clark resumed: "I always pay my debts. I am going to vote for the Jamestown performance, whatever they want, and I think when I get thru with that item I am out of debt to all members of congress on account of the Louisiana Purchase exposition."

Representative Payne: "That will be an event worthy of celebration."

Mr. Clark: "I think so myself."

Many explanations have been sought for the reluctance of Senator Thomas C. Platt to resign his seat in the senate, which both physically and mentally, by the best testimony of his friends, he is no longer able to fill.

Superficially it has looked to political observers that the only thing a man in Platt's advanced age would consider would be his own convenience and pleasure. But beyond and behind this change lies an interesting chapter of "high finance."

There are two great financial combinations for control, not only in the field of railroad supremacy in the United States, but also in relation to the financial domination of various other extensive industrial and commercial enterprises, as well as the majority in the next republican national convention. What may be described as premature reports of President Roosevelt's aspirations after he shall leave the White House have a material influence.

"There is no doubt that a movement has begun to render impossible the election of Mr. Roosevelt as a senator when his term in the White House has expired. It is not necessary in this connection to narrate the various questions of controversy which have arisen between Mr. Roosevelt as chief executive and not only the corporations and trusts on the other, but the combined individualities of various candidates for the republican nomination to succeed him."

Odell Rises from Grave.

Recent reports of E. H. Harriman's alleged willingness to rehabilitate Benjamin B. Odell in supremacy in New York politics is regarded here as only one factor of the great game of the political financial giants which will become more apparent as the months develop between the present time and the next republican national convention. There is high authority for the statement that the Rockefeller-Harriman interests in the financial world, which just now are seeking to throttle the Morgan-Hill interests in the railroad world, are determined to force the nomination of Charles W. Fairbanks, the present vicepresident, as the next chief executive of the nation.

Mr. Roosevelt believes in his own right that he is the leader of the republican organization in New York that determined that Elihu Root shall be the next United States senator from New York.

Root has been for years Platt's factional enemy in the republican organization in New York.

The trend of emigration from northern Europe to the countries around the Mediterranean is strikingly illustrated by a story which has come to Washington from Greece. Emigration has hitherto taken place principally from the Peloponnesus, but it is now spreading to central Greece, to Thessaly and the islands. Because of this emigration, not more than half of the usual number of army conscripts responded to the last call. It is estimated that by the end of the year the number who have expatriated themselves will reach 20,000. The situation is producing consternation in official circles, and a committee of deputies has been appointed to make an investigation. Probably measures will be adopted to restrict emigration. Of course practically all of the emigrants come to America.

But, tho losing their citizens, the Greek officials know how to even up with Americans. They have levied a prohibitive tariff on American shoes, which promised to become quite as popular in Greece as they are becoming in France. One firm imported 500 pairs and had no difficulty in selling them, as the Greek-made shoes are painfully expensive. The Greek shoemakers raised a howl, and the tariff went up sky-high. So high was the tariff that the American firm, which had shipped another lot of 500 pairs, found it cheaper to freight them back to America.

State monopolies did not all die with Queen Elizabeth. Rumania has them on tobacco, salt, matches, stamps and playing cards. They yield for the fiscal year of 1905-06 a revenue of $11,400,000, which was nearly one-fourth of the entire revenues of the country for that year.

What Other People Think

Best Books for a Girl.

To the Editor of The Journal.

I wish somebody who is familiar with the best books for young people would publish in The Journal a list of a dozen of the best books for a girl of 14 to read. —Parent.

In this university town with its teachers and libraries it would seem as if this request might be gratified.

Lighting and Telephone Service.

To the Editor of The Journal.

A few words, please, in regard to the lighting of the city, and the use of the telephones. I understand the gas franchise* expires this year. It is absolutely necessary for the city to be ready to take advantage of this and purchase the plant. And when the franchise of the Minneapolis General Electric Light company expires, buy that also. Then the city can be lighted at a saving to the taxpayers of thousands of dollars. Why give these valuable franchises away when they can be so profitably utilized?

The telephone is another very important matter that needs attention. I consider it a great injustice to our people that we have to have two phones. It is an unnecessary expense. Every firm doing business in the city is forced to put in both phones. It is high time to begin to agitate the proposition of connecting a Twin City patron with a Northwestern line patron, so that a Twin City patron can do business with a Northwestern patron without extra charge. When this is done there will soon be double the number of phones in use. A great many cities have this privilege. This is a matter that the city council should take hold of, and, if possible, settle it to the satisfaction of the people. These franchises are also very valuable. Mayor Jones, in his message a year ago, dwelt on the value of franchises granted by the city to the different companies now operating here. He said the need of the people is the very thing that gives value to the franchise. —T. K. Gray.

*The gas company's franchise does not expire till 1910.—Editor.

Disestablishment in France.

To the Editor of The Journal.

Will you please explain the law of 1881, which I see mentioned in connection with the church and state situation in France? Also, will the pending law confiscate church property or make it subject to taxation? —James Hall.

Andover, S. D.

The law of 1881 regulated the right of public assembly. Tho not specifically aimed at religious assemblies, it was construed to place them to a certain extent under the control of the civil authorities. Religious congregations under this law might meet only after complying with the civil regulations. The later law of which you speak is not "pending." It was passed a year ago and granted that length of time for the congregations to form "associations culturelles" or public worship associations to which the churches were to be turned over. The Catholics refused to form these associations, and, under the provisions of the law, the title to the property has now been lost by them, altho the government has still another year in which it may turn churches over to associations legally formed. The state, however, has now the power to seize, sell or destroy the property. It must dispose of such seized property within five years.

Official recognition has been given to two sailor pipers at Portsmouth (Eng.) naval barracks. They are Scotsmen, and on enlisting they brought their pipes with them. They have now been fitted out in kilts of the Royal Stuart tartan, tunics of the orthodox Scotch cut, and Glengarry caps with cockades.

QUARRIED THE ROCK FOR CARDIFF GIANT

Michael Foley, Who Made Fort Dodge Famous, Is Dead at the Age of 82.

Special to The Journal.

Fort Dodge, Iowa, Dec. 26.—Michael Foley, who quarried the rock for the "Cardiff Giant," that made Fort Dodge famous, is dead at the age of 82 years, after a residence in this city of forty-eight years.

About forty years ago two New Yorkers came to Fort Dodge in search of a large piece of rock of certain dimensions and kind. They had searched the country pretty thoroly and were on the point of leaving without having found what they were searching for, when it was suggested to them that Foley might find it for them.

Foley undertook to get it for them, and when it had been excavated from a large bed of gypsum it was found to be twice the size wanted. It was cut in two and half of it hauled to Fort Dodge and used in the foundation of a dwelling house.

Boone was then the nearest town having a railroad and a contract was made to haul it there, a distance of forty miles, and place it aboard of a flatcar on the North-Western road. The man who took the contract broke down every bridge between this city and Boone in getting his load there.

When within six miles of Boone the man gave up the contract in disgust, owing to the heavy roads, and another man with six horses finished the task. Before he started with his load he chiseled off about 1,200 pounds of the stone to lighten the load.

Twenty-four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive Mr. Foley.

'FUTURE' DEALS ARE VOID

Illinois Supreme Court Holds Traders Plan Is Illegal.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—The Board of Trade practice of dealing in "futures" is illegal, and contracts offered to be made and then repudiated cannot be enforced, according to a decision of the Illinois supreme court yesterday in the case of Woods vs. Bates.

In another decision the Supreme court held that the rules of the Chicago Board of Trade do not infringe upon public policy, and the courts of the state are therefore powerless to interfere in their enforcement.

In the "future" case it developed from the testimony that Harry Woods, a broker, had offered Mark Bates 60,000 bushels of December wheat at 82⅞ cents, leaving the offer open for a specified time upon the payment to him of $60 by Bates.

While the offer was still open Bates decided to accept, but Woods then refused to enter into the contract.

Bates sued and obtained a verdict in the trial court for $1,625 damages—the amount it was claimed he would have made out of the transaction had the contract been made by Woods. After reviewing the testimony the supreme court decided that a "future" deal was an option, and as such was illegal, and that a contract based upon such a transaction was contrary to law.

NO INSURANCE ON THE LATTER

Kansas City Star.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce officially estimates last April's fire loss at $350,000,000. It makes no efforts to guess the damage done by the Schmitz-Reuf exposures, or by the anti-Japanese hysteria

Defective Page