## STORM AND THE MARKETS

**NO APPARENT REASON WHY PRICES SHOULD ADVANCE.**

**Views of Dealers in Local Stalls—Protracted Freeze May Affect Oyster Supply.**

There is no reason why the present storm should increase the price of many articles of food, according to the statements of several dealers in the Center market made to a Star reporter today. Eggs and poultry from nearby states, and oysters and fish, it is stated, are the only things which should really be affected by the conditions at this time. Some of the dealers, it is stated, have advanced the price of eggs to as much as 35 cents a dozen at retail, although the advance in the wholesale market has been but slight. One dealer said he had bought before the storm and he would gladly sell fresh eggs at 30 cents, as they cost him only 23 cents a dozen. There is but very little difference now between the wholesale and retail prices, he stated.

The butter market is firm. Probably the greatest fear is about the oyster market. Oystermen predict that a cold wave lasting a few days will double the present prices. There is ice over most of the creeks down the river, and the dredgers are unable to work. Very few bivalves are coming here on the lower river steamers. The heavy fall of snow has increased the troubles of the dredgers, and with so much snow in the water a cold snap would render it impossible for any oysters to be taken from the beds this side of the mouth of the river.

**Good Supply of Fish.**

The price of fish, it is stated, has advanced a trifle, although the supply on hand is large enough to fill the demands for many days. Dealers in marine products do not depend upon their supplies from the Potomac river. Shad and white perch are being received from the Carolinas, as are Spanish mackerel and other fish. Just after the heavy rain a few weeks ago some fine bass were taken from the Potomac, and they are selling at 15 and 20 cents a pound.

Fishermen along the coast of the Carolinas, and as far south as Florida, are on a strike, and this is affecting the market much more than the storm. They are demanding $75 a month and board, instead of $40, the wages they have been receiving for several years.

There has been no increase in the price of meats. The stock on the market, one dealer stated, is larger than it has been at this season in many years. Unless the western trains are delayed for more than ten days, he said, there will be no danger of a meat famine. Such a condition of affairs, he said, would really help the local market.

**Vegetables From the South.**

Southern vegetables are plentiful in the market, and there has been no increase in prices. Country people will not be largely in evidence at the Center market tomorrow and fowls and eggs from nearby places may be a trifle higher. Dressed chickens were selling at from 14 to 18 cents a pound today, and the country people who were on the market line this afternoon were asking 35 cents a dozen for eggs.

## BUSINESS MEN ACTIVE.

**Call Special Meeting in Interest of G. A. R. Encampment.**

A committee of the Business Men's Association will hold a meeting in the rooms of the organization, in the Bond building, at 4:15 o'clock this afternoon. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and name those who shall compose the executive committee, which will be empowered to raise funds for the proper entertainment of the G. A. R. veterans at their coming encampment next fall. The following named gentlemen are expected to be present at the meeting: M. Dyrenforth, president of the Business Men's Association; Barry Bulkley, secretary; Chapin Brown, William Hahn, L. M. Saunders, W. S. Knox, Allison Nailor and James F. Oyster.

It is expected that the executive committee to be named will be composed of either fifty or twenty prominent business men, the actual number being as yet undetermined.

A meeting of the board of directors of the Business Men's Association will be held tonight, at the board rooms, in the Bond building, to receive the report of the committee's work this afternoon. It is expected that the names of the executive committee will be then announced, and work will be commenced to secure subscriptions not later than Monday.

Secretary Bulkley of the association said to an Evening Star reporter today:

"We are going to push the matter of raising funds for the veterans' encampment from now on. We cannot afford to let the work go backward. We have already over $20,000 subscribed for this purpose, and we fully expect to raise the required amount shortly after our committees get to work."

Arrangements are progressing for the annual dinner of the Business Men's Association to be held at the Riggs House, Thursday evening, February 6. It is expected by those having the affair in charge that nearly every member of the organization will be present at the function.

Invitations have been issued to the members of the District committees of both the House of Representatives and Senate, and nearly all of the men comprising these committees have promised to be present at the dinner.

## FOR A PERMANENT BUREAU.

**Passage of the Census Bill by the House of Representatives.**

The census bureau was made a permanent branch of the government service so far as the House of Representatives is concerned yesterday. The bill passed at 5 o'clock amid the applause of several hundred census clerks who occupied seats in the galleries.

The bill is to go into effect on the 1st of July next. Section 5 of the measure, however, which extends the civil service laws over the employes of the bureau, is made operative as soon as the bill becomes a law, that is, all persons in the employ of the office when the bill is signed by the President are thereby included in the classified service, and made eligible for transfer to other departments of the government or for retention permanently in the census office. The number which will thus be affected is estimated at 2,000.

The civil service provision of the bill was the principal point of discussion, and was undoubtedly the attractive feature of the bill to many members. An illustration of this was given when Mr. Gillet, chairman of the civil service committee, offered an amendment making it discretionary with the President to classify the office and providing that all appointments to the same should hereafter be made through the civil service commission. This amendment was met with a storm of objections. Mr. Grosvenor took occasion at this time to severely criticise the method of filling vacancies under the present civil service law and at the same time to pay a high compliment to the census office force. The amendment was overwhelmingly voted down by a viva voce vote.

The popularity of Appointment Clerk Langley of the census office was made manifest when an amendment was presented by Mr. Landis to make his salary under the permanent bill $2,500 instead of $2,100. The amendment needed no urging, and was unanimously adopted.

Chairman Hopkins announced that in his opinion any further amendments made to the bill would endanger its passage by the Senate, and although several were offered regarding the distribution of employes over the entire country, none was adopted except a line declaring that none but American citizens should be employed in the office. The bill was passed without a division.

**Epitaph.**

From Life.

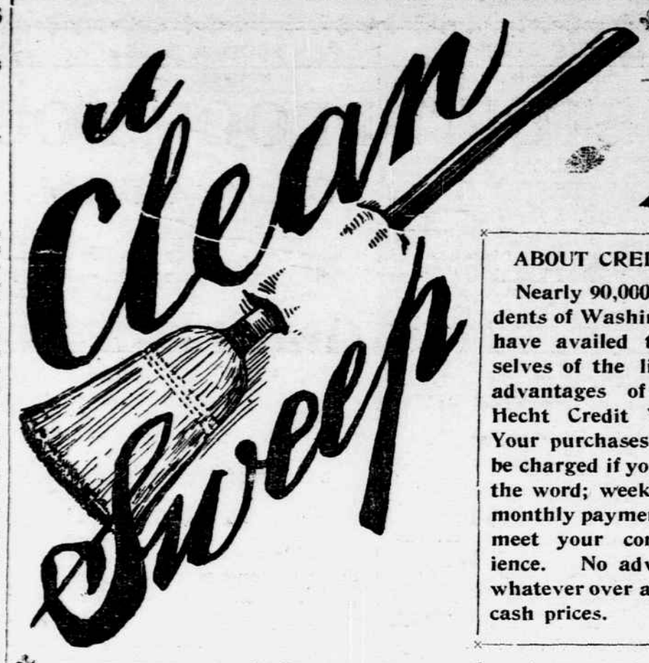
Here lies Luke Longpenne, the distinguished historical novelist, who died at the age of eleven years in the full height of his fame, three weeks after the publication of his first book.


THE SATURDAY STAR

BY MAIL $1.00 PER YEAR.



OPEN UNTIL 9 O'CLOCK SATURDAY EVENING FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.




**ABOUT CREDIT.**

**Nearly 90,000 residents of Washington have availed themselves of the liberal advantages of the Hecht Credit Way. Your purchases will be charged if you say the word; weekly or monthly payments to meet your convenience. No advance whatever over actual cash prices.**

# Another Day==and the Sale Ends

When the stores close tomorrow evening this most wonderfully successful sale will have achieved its object. Entered upon two weeks ago with the determination to greatly reduce stocks prior to inventory—the same determination (and a little pardonable pride) prompts us to make the last day

**The Biggest and Busiest Day of the Sale.**

Honest, legitimate and surprisingly great price lessening—conservative truth telling—these have spelled success for this most popular sale.

But tomorrow—let the offerings below speak for themselves. There's a story in every item—an invitation in every price. And there's not a department which has not its full share in the day's doings.

## Ladies' $25 Costumes = = = = $13.98

Here's a surprise we've reserved until the last—in fact, intended to hold them out entirely from the Clean Sweep Sale. But in they go for tomorrow's selling—the best $25 Suits you ever saw, and the price will be $13.98. The suits are in several styles, all very smart and fashionable—the fabrics are the most popular of the season's stuffs. But keep in mind that the sacrifice in price is for tomorrow only—and the first comers will have the better choosing.

## Dress Skirts Hold Out Many Saving Attractions.

Elegant Silk Dress Skirts, with corded satin bands, fine tucked flounces, designs in white silk stitching, applique lace, hemstitched and tucked circular flounces, stitched taffeta bands, accordion pleating, etc. Best velveteen bindings. Sell up to $30.00. Clean Sweep price..... $9.65

Finest Black Cheviot Dress Skirts, narrow hip, serpentine effect, beautifully trimmed with stitched taffeta silk bands in four widths, forming deep flounce—sell for $12.98. Clean Sweep price..... $8.98

Ladies' Gray, Brown and Blue Walking Skirts — double-strapped seams and stitched flounce; a very stylish garment. Sale Price..... $1.79

Beautiful Black Cheviot Serge Skirts, made in the newest styles—trimmed with 6 rows of stitched satin bands; worth several times the Sale Price..... $3.98

Ladies' Fine Walking or Pedestrian Skirts; stylishly made in black and gray; trimmed with rows of fine tucking; readily selling at $12.50. Sale Price..... $4.98

Wide-wale Cheviot Skirts, beautifully made with deep flounce; blue and black; readily sold at $8.98. Sale Price..... $4.98

Fine Black and Blue Cheviot Serge Skirts, beautifully trimmed with stitched taffeta silk bands, made with wide flare; $9.98 has been the price..... $4.98

Ladies' Very Fine Walking or Pedestrian Skirts; stylishly made of highest grade materials; a garment readily selling at $12.50..... $6.98

## Ladies' $19.98 Kersey Coats = = = $7.50

These beautiful coats are made of the very finest quality of English kersey cloth, tan, castor, black, blue and brown—lined throughout with best Skinner Satin; some have triple-stitched yokes back and front; wide strapped seams; velvet collar; deep cuff sleeves; rows of silk stitching around; two rows pearl buttons. The coats are full 28 inches long and are sold readily everywhere at $19.98 and thereabouts—the Clean Sweep Sale brings the price down to $7.50.

## The Sale Brings Tempting Values in Ladies' Coats.

The new style Raglans, made of finest English kersey, castor and black—deep flounce and tailor-stitched bottom, cuff sleeves, velvet collar, half lined with satin, very swagger and stylish; $25 is the marked price. Clean-sweep sale price..... $14.98

Ladies' Elegant and Very Stylish Velour Coats, elaborately braided, satin lined; high grade in every respect; selling at $24.98. Sale price... $12.50

Choice from all the Short Coats in the finest black kersey cloth, elegantly made and lined, many selling readily as high as $9.98. Sale price..... $4.98

## Taffeta Silk Waists —$7 and $8 Qualities—Sale Price = $2.98

Here's the quick-selling line—which always means that the savings are extraordinary. Finest quality of Black and Colored Taffeta Silk Waists in many styles, such as applique effects in embroidery, clusters of tucks and all-over tuck effects, silk herringbone-stripe inserting, hemstitching, etc. These waists sell readily at $7.00 and $8.00, but the quick closing-out before inventory places them in the Clean Sweep Sale marked at the unheard-of price of $2.98.

## Bedwear at Close-Out Prices.

Heavy Bed Comforts, neat coverings, white cotton filling, sell at $1.50—sale price..... 89c.

Heavy 11-4 Tan and Gray Blankets, neatly colored borders, sell at $1 pair..... 69c.

## Men's and Women's Furnishings Priced for Quick Selling.

Lower-than-ever last day specials in Women's and Men's Furnishings—

Women's All-wool Golf Gloves, gray, white, red and black. Sell at 50c. Sale Price..... 39c.

Women's good quality Ribbed Hose, fast color, selling always at 15c..... 9c.

Men's Double-breasted Mackintoshes, high grade, selling at $2.50. Sale Price.. $1.59

Ladies' Knit Shopping Bags, selling at 39c. and 50c..... 17c.

Men's High-grade Underwear, selling readily from $1 to $2—Clean-Sweep Sale Price..... 59c.

Men's Sweaters, the kind always sold at 50c. Clean-Sweep Sale Price..... 29c.

Children's Sleeping Gowns, nice, soft quality, all sizes, sold at 25c. Sale Price..... 15c.

Ladies' Knit Shopping Bags, best quality, sell at 75c. and $1 29c.

## Millinery. The Clean Sweep Sale Lowers Prices as Never Before.

Last day before inventory means much in the millinery department—and the price reductions are of the most unusual kind.

Ladies' Stylish Trimmed Hats and Bonnets, made and trimmed in good quality materials throughout; especial values at from $3.98 to $5—special.. 98c.

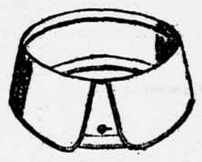
Ladies' and Misses' Stylishly Trimmed Hats of finest fur felts, velvets and braids, trimmed with velvet, ribbons, breasts, pompons, &c., in the newest effects; selling readily up to $4.00—very special at..... 69c.

Ladies' Untrimmed Hats, made of finest fur felts, in short-backs, turbans, large, small and medium dress shapes; all perfectly new goods, selling from $1.39 to $2.25. 29c.

Chenille Cord, in black and many colors, sells at 15c. yd.—2c.

## Clean Sweep Specials for Saturday.

Men's Linen Collars, sold at 10c.—some stores ask 15c.—



**5 cents.**

Children's Umbrellas, Paragon frame, mounted on steel rod, full 24-inch—for Saturday,

**25 cents.**

Choice from all Men's Fine 50c. Neckwear, newest effects and colors—for Saturday,

**25 cents.**

Children's Ribbed Hose, extra good grade, never sold under 12½c.—Saturday,

**6½ cents.**

Men's, Women's and Children's Jersey Fleece-lined Gloves and Silk Mitts—sell at 35c. and 50c.

**9 cents.**

Boys' All-wool Knee Pants, excellent for wear and nice looking, low priced at 50 cents.

**22 cents.**

## A Clean-Sweep Sale of Embroideries.

Lot of Embroideries, with insertings to match, sell at 8c. and 10c. yard—special... 3½c.

Lot of Wide Embroideries, skirt patterns, 10 and 12 inches, sell at 25c. yard—special..... 8½c.

Lot of Point de Paris Laces and Insertings to match, sell at 15c. yard. 5½c.

Lot of fine Valenciennes Laces and Insertings to match—12 yards (worth 35c.)—for..... 15c.

Choice from all 25c. and 35c. Embroideries—sale price, per yard..... 17c.

## Quick Selling Prices on Shoes for the Sale's Last Day.

"75 cents" is the keynote of tomorrow's Clean Sweep shoe pricing—and there must be substantial reducing of stock by the day's selling. Read the offerings:

Boys' and Youths' All Solid Leather Shoes, kid and casco calf, $1.25 always—special..... 75c.

Misses' Button and Lace Dongola Shoes, neat patent leather tips, selling at $1.25—special.. 75c.

Ladies' Kid Spring-heel Button and Lace Shoes, broad and medium toe, sell at $1.25..... 75c.

Little Men's Shoes, low and spring heels, quilted bottoms, excellent make, $1.25 value—special..... 75c.

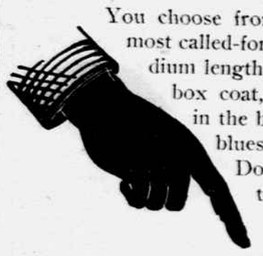
Men's and Boys' Best Rubbers—75c. kind.....25c.

## The Overcoats. But One More Day of the Sale Prices.

The Overcoat sale will end tomorrow—and the smallest prices we have ever named for like high qualities will be things of the past.

Pronounced success is the record of the sale. The fact that the occasion is above and beyond every precedent in value giving accounts for the lively selling.

Keep in mind that the Storm Coats—the protectors against the wintry weather—in every style, are included in the sale.



You choose from all the season's best and newest and most called-for styles and fabrics—long, short and medium lengths, coats with yokes and without, the long box coat, the very swagger paddocks and surtouts; in the black friezes, Oxford grays, olives, blacks, blues—made in the very highest style.

Do not allow tomorrow to pass without getting in for a choice from the coats which have attracted so many buyers.

**Overcoats which sell up to $15.00 - - - - $7.50**

**Overcoats which sell up to $20.00 - - - $11.75**

**Overcoats which sell up to $25.00 - - - $14.75**

**Overcoats for Young Men (and will fit Small Men), selling up to $15.00 - - - - - $5.00**

## Trousers Reduced Half and Third.

Pants which sold at $2..... 99c. Pants which sold at $4..... $2.25 Pants which sold at $6..... $3.75

## Boys' Clothing. An Array of Big Specials for Saturday.

Parents who consult their own interests will not allow tomorrow to pass without a visit to this Boys' Clothing Department. Some of the greatest chances in all the sale are here. These, for instance—

**Suits.**

Boys' Double-breasted Suits, neat dark stripe and mixture effects, about 15 styles; also Vestie Suits; none sold less than $2.98; some for much more—choice..... $1.19

Boys' Double-breasted Suits, 2 and 3 of a kind, tasteful dark mixtures and plain blue, from best-selling lines; $3.98 regularly $1.98

Boys' Russian Blouse Suits, very stylish and finest qualities; sell up to $6; kid and patent leather belts; remarkably priced.... $2.98

Young Men's Long Pants Suits, all very superior in material and tailoring; sold at $7 and $8..... $3.98

Choice of any Boys' Suit, many styles and kinds, selling at $6 and $7..... $2.98

**Overcoats.**

Boys' Overcoats, very dressy and superior grade; selling at $3.50..... $1.98

Choice of a special lot of Boys' High-grade Overcoats, popular Oxford gray; sold up to $5.98—special at..... $2.98

Boys' Double-breasted Reefers, with storm collar, blue and Oxford gray; sell up to $4.98; every coat high grade..... $1.98

Young Men's Best Quality English Kersey Cloth Overcoats, blue, brown and black, finest linings; sold at $12 and $15—a most remarkable offering at..... $5.00

**Three Clean-Sweep Specials.**

Boys' White and Percale Laundered Waists; "Mother's Friend" waistband; attached and detached collar— 39c.

Boys' All-wool Knee Pants, excellent wearing; the quality sold at 50c. usually— 22c.

Boys' All-wool Knee Pants; some with double seat and knees; very durable— 39c.

## Standard Toilet Accessories.

Tetlow's Gossamer Face Powder, flesh or white—11c.

Mennen's Borated Talcum Powder—10c.

Colgate's Cashmere Bouquet Soap—12c.

Williams' Barbers' Shaving Soap—7c. bar. Choice Bay Rum, Witch Hazel or Florida Water, large bottle—8c. 98c. Atomizers, spray and sprinkler top—39c.

# HECHTS' GREATER STORES, 513-515 Seventh Street.


## MR. DRAKE'S FIRST RULING

**CODE OF LAWS RELATING TO INSURANCE COMPANIES.**

**Fees to Be Paid by Those Doing Business in the District of Columbia.**

The District superintendent of insurance, Mr. Thomas E. Drake, has notified the District Commissioners of his first ruling. "It being the duty of the superintendent of insurance," he says, "to interpret and apply the code of law of the District of Columbia, in effect January 1, 1902, relating to insurance companies and insurance agents, I, therefore, concurring in the opinion of the city solicitor, beg leave to submit to you for your approval the following ruling on sections 646, 654 and 655 in regard to licenses, viz:

"First—Section 646 of the code, so far as it refers to licenses, relates to the insurance company itself. Second—Sections 654 and 655 refer to agents and not to companies, unless acting as agent.

"Under this ruling the distinguishing features in respect to companies, agents, licenses and fees to be paid, are as follows:

**Matter of Fees.**

"1—All companies and associations for filing charter and other qualifying documents, together with issuing license to company; such license authorizing the company to issue only its own policies, $10.

"2—Local and foreign companies—Each insurance company, local or foreign, desiring to act as agent for the purpose of receiving business from another company, or from agents or representatives of any other company, is required to procure a 'general insurance license.' Fee to be paid by the company, $50.

"3—Foreign companies must be licensed under section 646 before they can in any way do business in the District of Columbia. A foreign company issuing its own policy to a person in the District of Columbia is not required to be represented by the principal, or policy-writing agent. If such a company desires, however, to do business in the District by issuing policies there, then its representative must hold a 'general insurance license.' Fee to be paid by the agent, $50.

**Policy Writers' License.**

"4. Principal, or policy-writing agents' license—This 'general insurance license' may be issued to a person, or a firm not exceeding two members, or an association, or to a corporation or secretary or assistant secretary of either of such bodies having such officers. Under this form of license an unlimited number of companies may be represented by an agent, and power is granted to the licensee to appoint solicitors for each company he represents. A policy writing agent may also act as broker. Fee to be paid by the agent, $50.

"5. Broker's general insurance license—This license carries with it all the privileges granted a principal, or policy-writing agent, except that the licensee cannot issue policies nor appoint solicitors. A broker represents no company, but places the business he controls wherever he elects in companies that are licensed to do business in the District of Columbia. Fee to be paid by broker, $50.

**Two Classes of Solicitors.**

"6. Solicitor's license—A solicitor must be employed in some capacity by a company or its principal agent. License privilege is limited to one company only, and the name of such company must be embodied in the license. Fee to be paid by the solicitor, $5.

"7. Industrial solicitor's license—Limited to one company and the name of such company must appear in the license. Fee to be paid by the solicitor, $2.

"Licenses for companies, agents, solicitors and brokers now doing business in the District will bear date as of January 1, 1902, and be in force until April 30, 1902; fees for which must be prepaid. Applications for annual licenses for the same must be applied for and prepaid during the month of March, 1902. Annual licenses take effect May 1, 1902.

"All licenses are transferable by assignment, fee for each assignment being 25 cents."

**Prayer as Divorce Cause.**

From the Indianapolis News.

Mrs. Emma Knecht has filed suit for divorce on most unusual grounds. She claims that her husband spends his Sundays preaching and praying, and that he will not even stop for his dinner. She recently had him arrested for preaching all day, and she claimed that he drank beer and became intoxicated. He was acquitted in the courts, and then she preferred the charge of profanity.

## LOST THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE

**CANNED FRUIT SHIPPERS WANT LEGISLATION.**

**Shut Out From Former Market by the Tariff — Favorable to Reciprocity.**

The Pacific coast industries are not a unit in the opposition to trade reciprocity which comes from that section of the United States. Information has been received in Washington to the effect that the canned fruit trade of the Pacific coast is in a bad way, owing to a lack of friendly trade relations with some of the countries to the west.

During the year 1900 California shipped 75,000 cases of canned fruits to Australia. During the past year this trade almost entirely disappeared, owing to the new Australian tariff, which amounts to an ad valorem import tax of nearly 75 per cent upon canned goods. There is still a good trade with New Zealand, so the loss of Australian trade is considered as entirely due to Australia's new tariff law.

No hostility is felt toward Australia on this account, however, for it is realized that the United States import duties on hides, wool and coal militate against Australia's chief products, and that some concessions must be made for American products to obtain a friendly foothold.

The California fruit canners believe that they are entitled to consideration from Congress by reason of the fact that they are heavily taxed in the tariff on imported tin plates. The tin cans are the chief item of expense in the business, and the present import duty on the material from which they are made decreases the consumption of the manufactured article. They say that it is an undisputed fact that domestic manufacturers are making tinplates cheaper than their competitors in England and that the argument for the protection of infant industry will no longer hold. The fruit canners believe that if the republican party still insists upon continuing the present import duty on tinplates that the fruit canning industry should be given relief in the form of reciprocity with countries buying American canned fruits and offering to buy more if some trade concessions are made by the producing country.

The State Department says that Australia never has been considered in the making of a reciprocity treaty, although there would seem to be an excellent opportunity for work in that direction. The average import duty in the United States on all classes of goods is, under the Dingley law, about 30 per cent, and the average on manufactured goods is about 50 per cent. The new Australian tariff is considerably lower than our own, being about 30 per cent on manufactured goods, or 20 per cent less than the United States average. This average, however, does not apply in Australia to particular instances where especially high tariffs are imposed, such as that collected from imported canned fruit.

This is but one instance of the many opportunities for the extension of American trade constantly being brought to the attention of the State Department by those interested here and abroad. Reciprocity, however, in the form of treaties is apparently looked upon as a dead issue in the Senate, for a time at least, and any tariff concessions which are made in any direction will have to be secured through that most difficult of all methods—direct legislation.

## GERMAN OFFICERS AT CAPITOL.

**Considerable Confusion When They Entered the House.**

About twenty of the petty officers of the German warship Moltke, at Baltimore, were among the spectators in the galleries at the opening of yesterday's session of the Senate.

While the bill for the protection of miners was being discussed in the House today something of a stir was caused by the appearance of officers and marines of the Moltke, who marched into the public gallery in uniform and accoutered with their side arms. The confusion was so pronounced that the Speaker was obliged to call the House to order.

**Curious Way of Poaching.**

From the London Mail.

The three keepers of the well-known Gris-Nez lighthouse, near Boulogne, have just been found guilty of a curious offense against the French game laws. Taking advantage of the fact that immense numbers of birds are attracted to the vicinity by the powerful light, the men spread a net beneath the lantern and snared thousands of victims, which they afterward collected and sold.

Some idea of the trade they carried on may be gathered from the fact that between October 10 and 14 the lighthouse keepers caught 5,914 birds, including 3,496 larks, 766 fieldfares, and a large number of landrails, water hens, &c.

The men were fined £2 each.

## DIVORCE IN ITALY.

**Views of an Italian Novelist and of the Pope on a New Law.**

Rome Cor. the London Chronicle.

In the course of an interview just accorded to a representative of the Giornale d'Italia in connection with the Italian divorce law proposals, Antonio Fogazzaro, the well-known novelist, who is also a deputy in the Italian chamber, expressed himself as follows:

"From the religious point of view, I hold that the action of Providence in social evolution tends toward the triumph of sincerity, inasmuch as it preserves the religious sentiment by sifting out the chaff from the wheat, and thus diminishes that vast section of people who, occupying a middle position between honest believers and honest unbelievers, observe the outward formalities of worship, but live according to their own desires, and profane what is most sacred. In this providential order of things, divorce, like civil marriage, has a tendency to lessen hypocrisy. Doubtless the temptations to which it exposes people are considerable; but conjugal fidelity, amid sorrow and sacrifice, cannot fail to shine forth and win the world's respect. Hence, I do not myself partake of the fears which beset some minds when face to face with the divorce problem. As a politician, I regard as the principal misfortune of such a law its character of avowed hostility to the Catholic Church. While I predict that this law will, in the long run, react to the advantage of Catholicism, the fact remains that such is most certainly not the intention of its promoters, who aim at opposing a law of urgent justice to that law of fitness insisted upon by Catholic teaching. It surpasses my comprehension why political men should persist in irritating a strong enemy whom they have confined but cannot crush. In its social aspect divorce spells retrogression. Social evolution clearly indicates a progress from polygamy to monogamy; and further progress involves whatever contributes to render monogamic union more effectual, more intimate and more permanent. Divorce, on the other hand, is a hidden trend toward polygamy, and a reaction to promiscuous instincts."

At a consistory held December 16 the pope delivered an allocution on the new divorce measure before the Italian parliament. He began by saying that, though he would have liked to speak of more joyous things, he was obliged to speak of the sorrows which had marked the last few years. The causes which troubled Roman Catholicism were of various kinds, and they were not small ones. He did not propose to touch on all of them, but would confine himself to speaking of a matter which tended to the detriment of morals and faith, and which ought not to be passed over in silence.

He said that if old age gave authority, if faith in the common fatherland was worth anything, he addressed not only a warning, but also an appeal, to those who proposed to vote in favor of the bill now drawn up to desist from their intention in the name of all that they held sacred and dear. He exhorted them not to refuse to consider the conjugal bonds of the Christian as bonds holy, indissoluble and eternal in virtue of divine right. No human law could ever abrogate such a right.

The pope then expounded at some length his views on the sanctity and indissolubility of religious marriage, and after a detailed consideration of its relations with the civil law, urged the evil results, so far as the family and society were concerned, which divorce involved. The power of a state, he said, being closely allied with its morals and its laws, corruption meant its ruin, and the laxity which it encouraged was not only a private calamity, but also a public calamity, for it contributed to the perversion of the people.

**Wei-Hai-Wei People.**

From the Japan Weekly Advertiser.

"A Resident" writes on Wei-hai-Wei a descriptive article which really does give some idea of the place he is describing. Wei-hai-Wei, just three years a British possession, has a population of over 150,000, mostly Chinese.

"They are all poor, all simple, unlettered peasant folk, knowing little about anything beyond their own village, their own plot of farm lands. Everything is settled by the village elders, and it matters not much to them whether they are ruled by His Britannic Majesty King Edward VII, the barbarian king across the sea or their own secluded Emperor in Peking. The fact of the matter is, the learning of China has been much overrated. In every village, it is true, some old man, one of the lower literati, who has failed to get office, has a school for boys, and the little urchins may be heard repeating in a loud sing-song their lessons, but, as a matter of fact, not 30 per cent of the men can read, less than that portion can write, and once out in this workaday world the smattering of learning acquired as a child is forgotten. From dawn to dark they work among the rice and the barley, their wants are simple, they have no use for books, no need for letters."