THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON.

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THEODORE W. NOYES.........Editor

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The Tariff Board.

The members of the tariff board appointed to investigate costs of production at home and abroad of articles now on the dutiable lists will meet in this town on the 21st instant for the purpose, it is stated, of conferring about the progress they have made, and with the view of submitting matter to the President with special reference to the woolen schedule of the Payne law.

These men have in discharge of their duty spent the greater part of their time abroad, and, it is understood, collected much information. This they will classify, and lay before the President as he may need it for purposes of making recommendations to Congress for further tariff revision.

The President's program for future revision piecemeal is subject to the action of Congress. If that body consents, and agrees to take up the question schedule by schedule, the President will go ahead. If it refuses, and insists upon the old method of general revision, the President's course will not be clear.

And when Congress is mentioned, the next Congress necessarily is meant. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the present Congress at the coming session to dispose of even one tariff schedule as important as that relating to woolens. With its time limited to three months, and all the supply bills to be disposed of, Congress next winter will have its hands full.

And when action by the next Congress based in part upon the statistics that have just been collected is suggested, we must take into consideration the complexion of that body. A republican House might follow the President's recommendations and accept the figures submitted, and the Senate might accept the House's work.

But what if the next House is under democratic control, with a tariff-for-revenue-only advocate in the Speaker's chair, and another such chairman of ways and means? The democrats condemn the whole Payne law. In their opinion the whole measure should be cast into outer darkness as soon as possible. They dislike many other schedules as much as they do the woolen schedule. What would be their response to the President's request for action on one schedule?

And what value will the democrats, if they come to deal with them, place on statistics gathered and classified by men selected under protection auspices? What if they insist on having the work done by men of their own selection? The tariff problem is as full of difficulty as an egg is of meat.

A Hint Ignored.

Repeatedly the news dispatches bring proof that life is not ordered according to adages or superstitions. An instance occurs in a case reported from Lenox, Mass. A severe thunderstorm burst over the Lenox Country Club and drove the golfers indoors. One of the members stood by a table in the act of taking a drink, when a bolt of lightning hit the house and passed down the chimney. The explosion knocked the glass from the hand that was raising it to expectant lips. It is at this point that the moralist would see a token of unmistakable warning, a hint to abstain from strong drink. Novelists have possibly already utilized some such incident as the turning point in the career of the reforming hero. But it is just at this point that truth differentiates from fiction. After the excitement caused by this thunderbolt had passed it was found that the glass in falling had struck a table so squarely that it had not broken or spilt its contents, and with that calmness of demeanor that is supposed to mark the leading men of emotional dramas in their greatest crises—some writers mention it as sang-froid—the disappointed drinker proceeded to finish his libation as if nothing had happened. It might be well to draw the veil at this point over this exhibition of refusal to take a hint. But truth compels the historian of the episode to persist. That justice be done the man who thus apparently defied providence and persisted in his wicked ways, it should be stated that the glass contained ginger ale.

The Sultan of Sulu is to make a tour of the world. This will be of educational value in helping to convince a number of people that there really is such a person.

Federal "Models."

Apropos of th[illegible]dy beginning of the work of refo[illegible] the District's penal institutions, th[illegible] New York Times recently said:

"The city of Washington, whose affairs are managed by the federal Congress, has for years maintained the worst jail in the country. This jail served as a place of detention for accused persons who might be innocent, as a reformatory for first offenders and as a prison for hardened criminals of both sexes. All were herded together. A commission reported to Congress two years ago that this jail was a sink of physical and moral iniquity. President Roosevelt in transmitting this report recommended that the institution be changed into a model for the whole country. It is being tardily transformed, with the best institutions of the states as its models. There is a myth about federal models. It has taken powerful hold of the popular imagination. There are no federal models. It is the states that in every case have furnished the models for the federal government."

This is lamentably true. Despite the exceptional opportunities here afforded by the constitutional bestowal upon Congress of exclusive jurisdiction, with the chance to make a seat of government which should appeal to all the world as an ideal community and municipality, Congress has lagged indifferent, inattentive, often ignorant of the necessities and the chances. Its treatment of the District of Columbia is a blot upon its record as a legislative institution. Regardless of the claims and needs of the people themselves, drawn here to do the government's work and to make a community organization for the comfortable support of those officially established here, Congress has given only a grudging attention to the affairs of the National Capital. It was not until 1878, nearly eight decades after the removal of the capital to Washington, that the national legislature established the municipality upon an equitable financial basis. Ever since that date it has interpreted the organic act always to the disadvantage of the District citizen-taxpayer, and to the apparent advantage, but to the actual disadvantage, as well, of the American at large, whose interest it is equally with that of the Washingtonian that the federal city be maintained on a broad, high plane of municipal efficiency.

We should have here in the District not only a model penal institution—which should be considered as the least of all requirements because representing the most negative and the least constructive phase of community life—but a model system of schools, a model fire department, a model police department, a model system of health inspection, model streets, a perfect tree system with a liberal provision for tree protection and preservation. In short, in every particular of municipal activity Washington should be everything that legislation can make it in behalf of the peace, security, health, comfort, education and physical and moral advancement of the people—a city without "problems," without festering slums, without unlovely byways, with every conceivable provision for the public recreation. Every municipal department should be abundantly funded.

The District today needs large increases in virtually every department of the municipal organization. It has not enough policemen or enough firemen. It has not enough health and sanitary inspectors. It lacks in school buildings. Its school teachers are poorly paid and unpensioned. Its magnificent equipment of trees is most meagerly cared for out of a miserable pittance. Its public recreation provisions are pitifully small and miserly financed. Its bathing pools are a travesty on public cleanliness. Many of its streets are at night so dark that human life is always in danger after the setting of the sun. Some of its alleys are veritable plague spots.

And all these lapses from the ideal of what the American capital should be are due to the fact that Congress has failed to discharge its constitutionally assigned duty in the broad spirit in which the exclusive jurisdiction clause was framed. No blame is to be attached to the people of Washington. They are inspired by the highest ideals and the most earnest desire to do their part as capital makers. Until Congress awakens to its full responsibility they can only wait and suffer and feel ashamed that their works and sacrifices are not adequately seconded by the nation.

America and the Future.

Mr. Watson of Georgia is depressed. His language shows it. "The whole nation," he exclaims, "seems to be plunging hellward." No, no. Not even Georgia is plunging in that direction.

This interesting man is at present in the dumps. His advice has been rejected by his fellow-citizens. He spoke against Hoke Smith, and the people of the state elected Mr. Smith governor. He spoke against T. W. Hardwick, and the voters of the tenth district will return Mr. Hardwick to Congress. Such an experience is discouraging, and an emotional man like Mr. Watson grows bitter under it.

But he is not alone in his feelings. There are others who survey the scene with misgivings, though without resort to such terms as Mr. Watson employs. They see the country plunging forward with a precipice across the path, and nothing, they think, can save us. As they read the stars, a sort of socialism will succeed our present plan, and anarchy will follow socialism. Then good-by to all that the fathers established, and their sons have supported for a hundred and odd years.

This was the tone of many men—some of them eminent—forty years ago. They were certain that, although the Union arms had triumphed in the field, the Union had not been saved. It would stagger on a few years—held together by force—and then go to pieces. Neither north nor south would ever again love it as both had once done.

From one of the middle states about that time a man of high patriotism and fine ability entered the House and took a look around. A look sufficed. He returned home without hope for the country's future, and in despair killed himself. Thirty years later his grandson occupied the same place in the House, and helped legislate for a thoroughly united country, with more power, at home and abroad, than it had ever exercised before. The grandfather had wholly misconceived the times and the spirit of his own people. He was standing on the verge of the most amazing development of the country, and did not know it. Pessimism conquered him.

As a nation we shall be stronger forty years hence than we are today. New problems are at hand, just as new problems confronted the men of the late sixties and early seventies. But we shall master them, as our fathers did those. We are a nation of working men—skilled workers—and you cannot keep a working man down. To rise is his nature, and in America also his opportunity. Let Mr. Watson and his kind readjust their glasses. Hell is not in the direction of our plunging.

Odell.

Benjamin Odell, jr., out of politics? Ah, if Thomas C. Platt could only hear the news! The older politician created the younger, and then the creature destroyed the creator. Such a thing had happened before, but there were features of this case which made it unusually interesting. The loss to the republicans will not be heavy. Mr. Odell has been without influence for several years, and was not a factor in anybody's calculations about this year's campaign. This man at Newburg and David B. Hill at Albany as mere lookers-on add to the peculiar character of the New York contest.

A properly equipped contributing editor should be sufficiently informed about libel laws to know when to avoid mentioning names.

One of nature's greatest marvels is the number of speeches one human system can contain.

The New York Tubes.

After many years of endeavor railway traffic between New York and the adjacent shores on the east and west has been established without the intervention of ferryboats. The tunnels communicating with Long Island have been placed in operation and in a short time the tubes between the Jersey shore and Manhattan will be used for passenger service, thus putting the big city directly in communication and physical contact with the rest of the country. This work has been a long time in completion and a much longer time in contemplation. Many tunnel and bridge schemes have been advanced in the past to link Manhattan Island with the Jersey shore, but until the present project was adopted and carried into execution all of these enterprises failed at the point of proposal.

Owing to the great width of the North river and the necessity to provide clearance room for the heavy marine traffic, all bridge schemes have been regarded with question by engineers. Any structure spanning this great waterway at a height to prevent interference with shipping would stand as one of the mechanical wonders of the world. The lack of proper approaches would add greatly to its cost, as to give access to the bridge way it would be necessary on both sides of the river to carry the structure far back into a densely inhabited section, involving an enormous expense.

In these circumstances the tube proposition was obviously the most attractive, but even with the modern devices for tunnel driving under water courses this work has been carried into execution against almost superhuman difficulties. Its successful completion on both sides of the island is to be regarded as a great victory for American enterprise and ability. Few people know the real cost of this construction, in money and in human life. Every piece of caisson work of any magnitude whatever exacts a sacrifice, and the North river tunnel has been no exception to the rule.

Of this, however, the thousands who will soon be carried through it and who are now being transported between Manhattan and Long Island will have no occasion to think. They will be given the benefit of a most valuable convenience, in the shortening of travel time and the elimination of annoying and confusing changes. They will not be stifled with locomotive smoke. They will not be delayed by fogs or ice. The only conceivable cause of impeded traffic is the derangement of the mechanical equipment, against which apparently every safeguard has been adopted. There will be some doubtless to regret the passing of the ferry with its opportunity to view the incomparable spectacle of New York's downtown district, perhaps the most impressive manifestation of human enterprise the world affords. But in these days the demand for speed and facility overwhelms the esthetic taste to a large extent, and probably in a few years the Hudson river ferryboat will be regarded as a curious relic of a slow-going age.

Bowles of Massachusetts.

A Samuel Bowles of Massachusetts in Congress? One of the name and of the famous family is a candidate. In journalism the stock has achieved much—is associated with the best New England journalistic traditions. Journalism and office-holding, however, have seldom been successfully associated in this country. Within the past quarter century several distinguished editors have tried office only to abandon it for their pens again. And had Mr. Greeley never yielded to the lure of a presidential nomination he would have escaped the mortification which hurried him to his grave. But if Mr. Bowles, with this record before him, will try his hand, good luck to him.

Aviation.

Moissant, the aviator, is the most confident of the breed. At any rate his conversation so indicates. He predicts not only the crossing of the Atlantic, but in a day and night, within five years. However much the average man may doubt that, the statement that follows, that nobody but the men who are actually flying is aware of the progress being made in aviation, is entirely persuasive. Many competent men, full of courage, are experimenting, and something very important is bound to result. Why should not man, who has conquered so much, conquer also the air?

Less business is reported from Wall street than was done a year ago. Possibly the lambs have decided to follow the advice of eminent financiers and economize.

William Loeb, jr., has gone to the Rocky mountains to hunt grizzly bears, which may seem tame sport compared with some of his recent activities.

The question of revising the picture on paper money is interesting, although very few people hold on to a bill long enough to study the illustrations.

Every now and then some New York prima donna is brought into notoriety by a zealous admirer, who insists on paying her alimony in advance.

It is not likely that the Crippen case will develop anything as melodramatic as the arrest by Inspector Dew.

The kaiser's expressed faith in Divine right does not prevent him from fortifying it with arms and ammunition.

There was a disposition not only to deprive Mr. Lorimer of a dinner, but to spoil his appetite.

Aviation has been doing better of late, with plenty of broken records and fewer broken ribs.

The Ballinger-Pinchot controversy contains more explosion than a bunch of firecrackers.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

The Unassertive Listener.

"That man agreed with every opinion I expressed," said the positive woman.

"Indeed," replied Miss Cayenne; "he must have been very much interested or very much bored."

Points of Interest.

"What were the chief points of interest you saw on your automobile tour?"

"Garages and police stations," replied Mr. Chuggins.

The Oratorical Special.

See that train shoot 'round the bend!
Goin' some, my brother!
Steam a-comin' from one end
And speeches from the other!

Animosity Utilized.

"How do you manage to get so much speed every now and then?" asked the base ball fan.

"I make believe I am trying to hit the umpire," replied the disgruntled pitcher.

Varied Responsibilities.

"I am out to punish all evildoers," said the energetic statesman.

"You think that an official ought to be a public servant?"

"Yes. And a private detective, too."

Futurity.

There beyond the hill there lies
Happiness. The rainbow skies
But reflect the brightness sent
From the Valley of Content.
So we journey on the way
Hour by hour and day by day
To the place which hope has set
As the end of all regret.

Weary grows the road and long,
But we climb with courage strong,
Though, as to one height we rise,
Just ahead another lies.
Still we follow, for we know
Evening shine and rainbow glow,
Yet their promise must fulfill
Over there, beyond the hill.

MISS NIGHTINGALE IN THE CRIMEA.

BY WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

Special Correspondence of The Star and the Chicago Record-Herald.

BALAKLAVA, Crimea, August 16, 1910.

Since writing yesterday of the work of Florence Nightingale at Balaklava during the Crimean war the news has come of her death, at the advanced age of ninety years, three months and two days. It is almost a miracle that her frail constitution has endured through so many years of thought and labor and the intense sympathy she has always shown for suffering humanity, and although she has been confined to her bed, a confirmed invalid, for more than a quarter of a century, few women have ever exercised so great an influence for good or have accomplished more practical results for the well being of their fellow-creatures.

Useful Life.

As everybody knows, the scene of Miss Nightingale's greatest usefulness and of her greatest distinction was here in the Crimea during the war waged against Russia in 1854-56 by the combined forces of England, France, Sardinia and Turkey, when she established precedents and set a standard for military hospital service that has since been universally recognized by civilized nations.

* * *

In September, 1854, after the battle of Alma, the English newspapers were filled with complaints and protests concerning the treatment of the sick and the wounded in the Crimea, and Sir Robert Peel started a relief fund, which amounted to nearly $80,000. Lord Sidney Herbert, secretary of war, asked Florence Nightingale if she would go to Turkey with a party of nurses and carry out the scheme of relief proposed by the contributors to the fund. It is a singular fact that his letter was crossed in the mails by one from Miss Nightingale volunteering her services, not as a leader or director of the movement, but as an ordinary nurse.

Crossed Letters.

Miss Nightingale was then a little more than thirty-four years old. She was the youngest daughter of William Shore Nightingale, a descendant of a famous old Derbyshire family of considerable wealth; and her mother was the daughter of William Smith, a practical philanthropist, an associate of Wilberforce in the abolition of slavery, in prison reforms and similar movements, and for many years a member of the house of commons. Miss Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy, May 12, 1820; hence her name.

* * *

From early childhood she had been associated with philanthropic movements in which her father and grandfather were engaged, and natural inclination, as well as a deep sympathy with distress, led her to give her entire time to benevolent work instead of seeking social enjoyment and distinction. During her girlhood she had been thoroughly educated, was familiar with the classics and modern languages, and was one of the first women anywhere to take up the study of medicine.

Philanthropic Impulses.

She gained pratical experience in the hospitals of London, Dublin and Edinburgh, spent three years with the Soeurs de Charite at Paris, in the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses at Kaiserwerth on the Rhine, and in the hospitals at Berlin and Brussels, and in 1850, upon her return to England, had undertaken the management of a Home for Sick Governesses in London. She was also engaged with Sir Robert Raikes in organizing "Ragged Schools" and in segregating diseased children who attended them. In the meantime she had established a training school for nurses—the first in England.

She thus had ten years of preparation for the work she was called to perform in the Crimea, and within ten days after receiving her invitation from the secretary of war was on her way to Constantinople, with a staff of thirty-eight trained nurses, including fourteen Anglican sisters and ten Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy. All of them were volunteers and among them were three ladies of noble families.

* * *

Upon their arrival at Constantinople Miss Nightingale and her nurses at once took charge of the hospitals at Scutari, the suburb which occupies the opposite bank of the Bosphorus, and there they found 3,000 diseased and wounded Englishmen lying on the ground, without any comforts and lacking actual necessities. They had no proper food or medical attendance, and the few surgeons who were trying to relieve their distress were without instruments or drugs or bandages, or even the commonest medical supplies. Hundreds died from sheer exhaustion, from lack of nourishment and ordinary attention, and, as Miss Nightingale herself described the scene, "neglect, mismanagement and disease had united to render the situation one of unparalleled hideousness."

Shocking Conditions.

Within a few days Miss Nightingale had in operation a kitchen capable of feeding 800 men daily, and a laundry which was ample to wash the linen that had never been changed until she came. With a daring that few men would have shown, she ordered warehouses broken open by force and confiscated supplies that were needed by her patients. Her courage, her zeal and her determination brought order out of chaos, and a few weeks after her arrival the hospitals at Scutari were in excellent condition.

As is usual in such cases, Miss Nightingale was the continual object of attack from malicious, jealous and uncharitable people. But this made no difference in her work or her influence, and when she received an autograph letter from Queen Victoria conveying her congratulations and expressions of gratitude and sympathy, she felt sure of her position.

More nurses kept coming from England and several other hospitals were established on the Bosphorus. Then Miss Nightingale went to the Crimea and organized at Balaklava and vicinity the work I described yesterday. In addition to hospitals, she established a series of reading tents and recreation huts for the diversion of the soldiers, and sent to England for books, periodicals and newspapers. She set up neat coffee houses as a counter-attraction to the liquor saloons; she started lecture courses, opened school rooms and upon her own responsibility founded a bank, where the soldiers could deposit their pay and secure money orders for transmission home. More than $350,000 passed through her hands in this way before the end of the war.

After the evacuation by the British troops, Florence Nightingale returned to England. Her last act in the Crimea was the dedication of a cross, twenty feet high, upon the crest of a crag overlooking her hospital. The only inscription was these words.

"Lord Have Mercy Upon Us."

* * *

Upon her return to England, Miss Nightingale received from Queen Victoria a beautiful jewel designed by Prince Albert, accompanied by an autograph letter; the Sultan of Turkey sent her a diamond bracelet, valued at $100,000, and she was overwhelmed with gifts, testimonials and tributes of every sort from municipalities, corporations, benevolent societies, religious associations and individuals. A fund in cash amounting to about $240,000, raised as a gift to her, was at her request devoted to the establishment of a training school for nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital. She was a guest of the queen at Balmoral, she received the "freedom of the city" from nearly every town of importance in England, and was honored in every possible way by every class of people, from royalty to the clubs of working men and women.

Rich Gifts.

She is the only woman who ever received the Order of Merit; she is the only woman who was ever made a member of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem; Queen Victoria bestowed upon her the Red Cross; the city of London conferred upon her "the freedom of the city," an honor enjoyed by only one other woman—the late Baroness Burdette Coutts. For twenty years or more her birthday has always been recognized by an autograph letter of congratulations from the Queen or the King of England and by resolutions of congratulations from numerous organizations throughout the world.

* * *

She celebrated her ninetieth birthday May 12 last, and one of the first acts of King George V, who came to the throne only a few days previously, was to send her a telegram of congratulations.

Birthday Celebrated.

After her return from the Crimea Miss Nightingale was engaged for several years, under the direction of the secretary of state for war, in reorganizing the military hospital service of Great Britain. Her instructions and rules in regard to army nursing, which fill a large volume, prepared at the request of the war office, has been the basis of reforms throughout the world. It was of special importance during the civil war in the United States and the war between France and Germany, which followed shortly after and led to the founding of the Red Cross Society, now established in every civilized country.

Miss Nightingale did not confine her work to the military service, but directed and assisted the organization of training schools for nurses in all the principal cities of Great Britain, and the establishment of district nursing associations for outdoor relief among the poor. Her theory has always been that hospitals should be reserved for surgical cases and infectious or contagious diseases; and that, so far as possible, the indigent sick should be treated in their own homes.

* * *

She reorganized the infirmaries connected with workhouses and almshouses throughout Great Britain, and through her influence acts of parliament were passed making compulsory the employment of trained nurses in these institutions instead of women paupers to whose tender mercies the care of the sick had always been committed.

Reforms Effected.

During all this activity Miss Nightingale found time to write a series of books of instruction and many pamphlets and papers concerning public health and the efficiency of hospital administration. In 1858 she published a book on hospital construction. In 1860 her "Notes on Nursing," a volume of five hundred pages, ran up to an edition of one hundred thousand copies. Other publications on similar subjects came from her pen with extraordinary frequency.

But at last her frail constitution broke down under this labor and responsibility. She became a helpless invalid, confined to her bed for more than twenty-five years, yet she continued to devote her entire time to "doing good work—work after my own heart, and, I trust, God's work." From her pillow she continued to direct several institutions and movements in which she was particularly interested. The meetings of boards of directors and trustees of a dozen benevolent institutions were held regularly in her bedroom, and her judgment was regarded of the highest value on all subjects relating to hospital management and benevolent work. Even up to the last month of her life she continued to receive reports and to give instructions, to write communications to the government authorities and to give advice upon various subjects, and it was not until forty-eight hours before her death that she was considered dangerously ill.

There never was a more useful woman than Florence Nightingale and never one more honored and revered throughout the world.

THE ST. PAUL MEETING.

From the Omaha Bee.

Scanning that conservation congress program from afar, how can anybody imagine a dull moment in St. Paul this week?

From the Kansas City Times.

The strategy of the anti-conservationists in taking the national conservation congress from Kansas City to St. Paul is being made clear.

From the Boston Advertiser.

Looks as if there were about as much politics as conservation out St. Paul way.

From the Syracuse Herald.

From this distance it would look as though the ancient feud between St. Paul and Minneapolis might receive a great forward impetus as the result of the large number of press dispatches that are now appearing in the papers dated St. Paul.

From the Milwaukee Journal.

The conservation congress appears to have generated at least two conflicting ideas.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

There has been much stirring oratory at the conservation congress, but it would be the part of wisdom to keep in mind the admonition of President Taft and get down to real and practical details, so that positive and tangible good shall flow from the proceedings.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

After reading the dispatches one comes to the conclusion that the conservation congress was organized for the private uses and exploitation of one Gifford Pinchot.

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

There appears to be a good deal of politics in the conservation congress at St. Paul, and politics of the worst description.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Gifford Pinchot burst into tears over the ovation given him at St. Paul. So did Ballinger.

THE FARGO AFFAIR.

From the Providence Journal.

The colonel naturally resented an unauthorized attempt to add to the membership of the Ananias Club.

From the Wilkesbarre Times-Leader.

That Fargo man who called Roosevelt a liar was probably blackballed in the Ananias Club.

From the Charlotte News and Observer.

That man ought not to have called Mr. Roosevelt "a liar." It showed bad manners, but then Roosevelt didn't display any better manners when he was in the White House.

From the Columbia State.

The man who applied the "ugly little word of three letters" to the colonel has been an apt scholar.

From the Providence Evening Tribune.

Mr. Roosevelt's attack on the man who called him a liar suggests that if everybody whose word he has doubted had wrenched his arm it would have come off long ago.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

It will probably be found that the Fargo man who used the shorter and uglier word is related in some close degree of consanguinity to the illustrious dental prodigy.

From the Houston Post.

That Fargo man who handed the shorter and uglier word to Teddy was unspeakably rude, but we cannot see how the Carnegie commission can avoid giving him a hero medal.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

All men are liars, says the proverb, but wasn't that Fargo man rubbing it in a little when he tried to make Teddy a member of the Ananias Club.

From the Columbus Evening Dispatch.

If, as the Fargo man said, the people are paying the expense of the Roosevelt trip through the country, he is the only one who has thought it a matter of public complaint.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE STAR

Fifty years ago the business of taking the census of this part of the country was not rated as highly as it is now. Consequently the census bureau was decennially reorganized, with the result that the experience of one census year was virtually wasted when the time came to count the people again. In The Star of September 5, 1860, is the following paragraph on the subject of the census bureau:

Census Force.

"The organization of the census bureau is progressing quite rapidly. Already a large number of returns have been received from the various marshals, which renders it necessary to have the clerical force appointed as soon as it can be done with consistency and propriety. It is very important that persons selected to fill positions in this bureau should be such as are in every way qualified to discharge the peculiar duties pertaining thereto. The Secretary of the Interior is well aware of this fact, and we learn has instructed the examining board to subject those applicants who may be sent before them to a very thorough examination, and to select those only who are found to be fully competent, without paying the least regard to the political influence which the individual may posses. Applicants are being examined each day. The board consists of Mr. Joseph C. G. Kennedy, the efficient superintendent of the bureau; W. B. Gulick, disbursing clerk of the same, and C. G. Wagner, detailed from the Interior Department. Some ten or twelve gentlemen, having passed a satisfactory examinaion, have received appointments and entered on the discharge of their duties. We are unable to publish the names of those thus appointed, inasmuch as it is the determination of the department to withhold the list until the entire force shall have been selected."

* * *

Little attention was paid half a century ago to the matter of the physical training of children, especially in the schools. The Star recognized this lack and urged that it be met, in the following paragraph, printed Setpember 5, 1860:

Physical Culture.

"Whoever will take the pains and examine into the physical condition of the children and youths belonging to the schools of our country will not fail to observe the many striking marks of physical weakness and imbecility. As a consequence of this physical inability will be found mental and moral inability. The laws of our nature are such that a sound and vigorous intellect must have a sound and vigorous body to dwell in. There may be spasmodic exhibitions of mental strength caused by some unnatural or unusual stimulus, which is, of course, temporary, and the superficial observer may wonder, admire, and perhaps even envy, but such hot-bed productions, though they may please a morbid and unnatural taste, are by no means desirable. The great error lies in the vain effort to secure strength and proper development of mind at the expense of the body. Where better than in our schools can our youth receive that physical training which they need and cannot get elsewhere? As a sound and healthy development of mind depends upon the proper development of all its faculties, so the body needs the full development of all its faculties in order to fulfill its high functions. In every school there should be a department for calisthenic and gymnastic exercise, upon the most approved and modern plan, adapted to meet the physical demands of our youth, so that they may come forth from the school with sound and healthy bodies as well as with highly cultivated minds."

* * *

Base ball was in its infancy as a sport half a century ago. Washington was beginning to take an interest in the game, a forerunner of the interest that has been manifested in it for many years despite the frequent disappointments caused the friends of the local professional representatives in the National and American leagues. In The Star of September 8, 1860, is an interesting paragraph in this connection:

Base Ball.

"We are much pleased to see that base ball, until lately confined to the north and east, is beginning to be duly appreciated in our southern cities. Combining grace, quickness and strength in the requisites for a good player, it gives an amount of open-air exercise that can be obtained in no other game that we know of; and in a community where a large majority of the young men lead so sedentary lives as in Washington it has long been a desideratum. Last spring the Potomac club, which is the pioneer organization of the south, played several interesting and closely contested matches, which gave a great impulse to the game; and now we have here three thoroughly organized clubs, the Potomac, National and Rythian, besides a host of minor organizations. On Tuesday next the Potomacs again try their skill against the National club. We are informed by amateurs that these clubs are both in fine playing condition and were never more evenly matched than now, and we advise all anxious to see a closely fought and exciting game to be present at sharp two Tuesday. The Potomac club at its last matches cared well for the softer sex and gave them as good accommodation as the nature of things allowed; to say nothing of the good-looking committee of five who looked so gallant and so warm. They were rewarded, too, for all—or nearly all—the ladies of Washington lent their presence to encourage their champions. With the natural charms that the game itself possesses, and with the added impulse that encouragement from the sex everywhere gives to the arms of Young America, we hope yet to see base ball here what cricket is in England, the national game."

ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The village band no more assaults the air
With tumult of the tubas and the drums,
It does not at the station wildly blare
The tune of "Hail, the Conquering Hero Comes!"

The member homeward plods his weary way—
No Main street cavalcade to give him pride;
He comes home at the closing of the day
And takes the little pathways to one side.

Podunktown isn't Washington, D. C.;
The nap upon his hat is brushed awry—
He knows the question first proposed will be
That popular, unanswerable "Why?"

Though Uncle Joe can "leave his fate with God,"
The member lets those words die in his throat—
He sighs and bows his head beneath the rod,
For in his district Providence don't vote.

Full many a gem of purest vocal charm
The dark unfathomed Record pages bear—
But "point with pride" nor yet "view with alarm"
The pee-pul at this hour can soothe or scare.

His train comes in just at the close of day,
But there are neither banners, cheers nor drums;
The member homeward plods his weary way
Without a "Hail, the Conquering Hero Comes!"
—Harper's Weekly.

TRAIN ROBBERS AT SEA.

They were a pair of highwaymen
Who sickened of their crime;
The holding-up of railway trains
Grows wearisome in time.
"Variety," they both exclaimed,
"Is what we sadly need.
An ocean voyage, now, would be
The proper thing, indeed."

They went aboard an ocean boat,
But soon, alas, they yearned
To ply again the evil trade
Which they had lately spurned.
"Since we are out of sight of land,"
The burly scoundrels said,
"We cannot loot a railway train;
Let's rob the ship instead."

They found the captain on the bridge.
"Throw up your hands!" they cried.
The skipper puffed his stogie twice,
Then tossed it o'er the side.
"I've sailed the sea for thirty years"—
He shed his coat and hat—
"But I have never yet become
Seasick enough for that!"

You've read about that famous fight,
And how the hold-up pair
Are now held down with ball and chain
Some place—no matter where.
So let us learn the lesson free
For which those rascals paid,
That every man will happier be
By sticking to his trade.
—Newark Evening News.

LONG LIVE MENELIK OF ABYSSINIA

If a cat has nine lives Menelik of Abyssinia has forty-nine, according to a New York journalist who boasts that he has kept "Menelik's death record." The countless obituary notices in the press of the world, highly eulogistic, would prove a valuable collection and secure, perhaps, for the collector-donor some valuable concession from Menelik.

Often Dead.

Notwithstanding his death reported even by those who "saw the old Negus Menelik put away and the new emperor, Ledj Eyassu, proclaimed Negus Negust, or king of kings," Menelik lives, and although still reported suffering from several paralytic strokes, may live for many years.

A dispatch from Rome, dated September 4, created surprise by the announcement that Menelik had suffered another attack of apoplexy, but that "immediate fatal termination of his illness seemed removed." On the 5th instant a dispatch from Addis Ababa corroborated the attack and the apparent convalescence. The incoherence of news from Abyssinia is due to the fact that bad news as to the monarch's death is enveloped in mystery for reasons of state.

It is to be borne in mind that government in Abyssinia is feudal in character and analogous in many ways to governments of medieval Europe. There is a nebulous sort of state council, consisting of rasses, or chiefs of provinces, which constitutes the power behind the throne, and this was essentially true a few years past, when the succession was decided by individual combat—"the best man wins." Now, however, the succession is arranged by decree of the reigning monarch, but Abyssinia is still refractory to this new order of things, and this condition is a matter of much solicitude on the part of Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany, directly interested in the exploitation of Abyssinia politically and economically.

* * *

Menelik, King of Choa, who was born in 1842, succeeded to the throne as supreme ruler of Abyssinia on the death of Johannes II, Emperor of Ethiopia, in 1889. It is a matter of remark that the British government has already conferred upon Negus Negust while 'king of kings' the orders of G. C. B. and G. C. M. G., marks of affection and esteem.

Menelik's Accession.

Menelik, after the death of his father, the King of Choa, in 1856, was seized and imprisoned at Gondar by King Theodoros, who finally obliged him to marry his daughter, Bafana. Menelik escaped from the toils of his imperious father-in-law in 1856, and reaching Choa he was welcomed and installed king. He then declared war against Theodoros, and, in turn, against Johannes, whom he succeeded as Menelik II, Emperor of Ethiopia.

There are some romantic stories told of Menelik. One is that he is grandson of the French poet Lamartine. The Lamartines, it is said, went to Abyssinia with their eight-year-old daughter Julie in 1832. The story relates that Julie was stolen and sold in a slave market in Abyssinia and purchased by the King of Choa. Menelik is her son.

It is necessary as connected with treaty relations of the country to note that it was Great Britain which led the Italians into Massowah, in violation of the rights acquired by purchase by Egypt, which country paid the government of the sublime porte the sum of £16,000. Did Great Britain or Italy reimburse Ismail Pasha, khedive the rapt? Never a piaster.

In 1870, it is interesting to recall, Great Britain seized Zeilah, in 1890 Berbera, Brava, Kismayu and the Egyptian equatorial provinces of Uganda, Unyoro, etc. In 1875, in command of an Egyptian expedition bound for the ports of Kismayu and Mombas, my expedition—that is, Gordon's expedition, for it was his inspiration—stopped in at Berbera for necessaries. Gen. Snyder of the British army, commanding at Aden, sent an officer with a detachment to know of the commanding officer by whose authority he was landing troops at Berbera. "Go tell your chief, by orders of the sovereign of the country, and," I added, laughingly, "by Gen. Gordon's orders, and if Gen. Snyder deems it insufficient, ask him what he proposes to do about it."

* * *

Gen. Baratieri, who commanded at Massouah, was forced into attacking the Abyssinians by the too ambitious and unscrupulous Crispi, was defeated at Amba-Alaghi and Adowa. Menelik denounced the treaty of 1889 and assured the recognition of the independence of Abyssinia by the treaty of October 26, 1896.

Italian Attack.

December 13, 1906, Great Britain, France and Italy undertook by an agreement of that day to recognize, respect and maintain the integrity of Abyssinia; "to act so that industrial concessions granted in the interest of one nation should not injure the other; to abstain from intervention in Abyssinian internal affairs; to concert together for the safeguarding of their respective interests in territories bordering on Abyssinia; to make agreement concerning railway construction; equal treatment in trade and transit for their respective nationals."

The powers directly interested in railway construction in Abyssinia have been so hopelessly divided that little progress has been made toward the development and exploitation of that country.

The feudalistic character of the government is illustrated by the struggle for supremacy, not so much now, on the part of the rasses, as for the aspirations of the present empress.

Menelik has undoubtedly shown much capacity in overcoming the rivalries that existed in Abyssinia. His own administraton was just, generous and conciliatory, and he endeavored to inculcate this spirit among the hitherto turbulent rasses. For centuries bitter rivalry has existed between the people of Tigre in the north and those of Choa in the south. Having overcome these feuds, in a measure, Menelik has established something like a stable union, which has been cemented by a marriage between Wazairo Choa Rogga, Menelik's daughter by Banafo, and Ras Michael, an important Tigran prince.

There has always been bitter feeling in Abyssinia between the north and the south. This rivalry is climatic, rather than racial, and is manifested in other countries than Abyssinia. The marriage of a daughter of the south to a northern prince was a bold stroke of policy on the part of Menelik. But it lacked the merit of pleasing the Empress Taitu.

The Empress Taitu has many enthusiastic admirers in the American press who do not hesitate to speak of her as another "Queen of Sheba," or another "Cleopatra." Alas! whatever pretension to beauty and form Taitu may have possessed has long ago disappeared in the fat that envelops the now ponderous empress.

Taitu is not beautiful, far from it. She is, however, clever, unscrupulous and possessed of a mad desire to reign when Menelik shall have disappeared. Having no children, issue of her marriage to Menelik, she is opposed to the succession of Lidj Eyassu, the son of Banafa's daughter.

The Empress Taitu besides is a non-progressist. She opposes occidental influence altogether. Railways, motor cars, telegraph and aerial inventions are abhorrent to her. These innovations have scarcely gotten beyond the realm of projects, and their failure so far delights the soul of Taitu, who may be an important factor in the discord the concesssions of construction have engendered in the souls of the concessionaires.

In the summer of 1908 Menelik suffered a stroke of paralysis. The question of the succession now became an important subject at court. Menelik, as soon as sufficiently re-established, appointed a council of regents composed of the Empress Taitu, Ras Apte Giorgis, formerly minister of war, and actually minister of foreign affairs, and Ras Tesama, a trusted friend of the Emperor. The council met in 1908 and designated Prince Eyassu heir presumptive, with Ras Tesama as guardian and regent. The prince, it may be added, has been educated with great care, speaks French, German and English and is greatly attracted by European culture.

Menelik has intrusted to Ras Tesama and Ras Apte Giorgis a political testament which will serve his successor as a program of government calculated to benefit the general interests of the state. The wise Menelik, with the knowledge of the intrigues of his spouse, at the moment of the announcement of the heir presumptive Lidj Eyassu, Ras Michael, the father of the prince, was in the Tigre at the head of several thousand soldiers, so as to be ready to suppress any attempt to revolt which the empress may have fostered.

The empress, however, was not entirely foiled. Aided by her friends in Choa, she surrounded the stricken emperor with a cordon of her own partisans. But the council was vigilant and nothing was effected by the empress. Toward the end of 1908 the emperor recovered in a great measure from his malady and thus checked the disposition of the empress to oppose the emperor's policy.

* * *

Now, in April, 1909, there appeared at the palace Herr Zintgraff, dragoman of the German legation at Addis Abeba. Herr Zintgraff was accompanied by Dr. Steinkuhler, both of whom had been convoked by Ras Michael, whose German predilections are very well known. Dr. Steinkuhler's services were accepted by the empress, but Herr Zintgraff, for reasons which do not appear, was refused. The empress might deal with one German intermeddler, but she might not compete with two, so Herr Zintgraff was ordered out.

German Doctors.

On the occasion of a grand Abyssinian festival at the capital the marriage of Prince Eyassu was consummated with Princess Romaine, the seven-year-old daughter of Emperor Johannes. The ceremony took place May 17, 1908, in the presence of Menelik. This was intended as another link in the chain which Menelik was forging between Choa and Tigre for the union of Abyssinia. The empress, however, looked upon it as a check upon her own aspirations. With a boldness and audacity almost incredible Taitu caused the name of Eyassu to be erased from a proclamation by the emperor requiring princes and people to swear fidelity to the heir apparent.

About this time Menelik's condition grew worse and the empress seized the occasion to refuse to Dr. Steinkuhler access to the emperor. In place of the German she summoned a Syrian physician, who, unfortunately, in the electrical treatment administered too violent a shock and the emperor's case was aggravated. The empress then had recourse to priests, prayers and anointments. When this came to the knowledge of Dr. Steinkuhler he protested and in a letter to the regent, Ras Giorgis, he charged that the emperor's attendants were trying to poison the emperor. Now Zintgraff, who was imperial chancellor and judge of the German legation, entertained the charges made before him against two favorites of the palace. The finance minister, Mulegebe, and the minister of the Household Matafari supported the charges, and, associating themselves with Dr. Steinkuhler, demanded the arrest of the accused. The emperor ordered a court of inquiry which exonerated the accused. The emperor, indignant at the action of the Germans, dismissed them. What was done to the unfortunate ministers is not recounted.

* * *

The empress profited by this incident to foment a revolt in Tigre. Again Menelik suffered another attack and again recovered. Exasperated by the intrigues of the empress he issued a proclamation in which Lidj Eyassu was again designated as his successor. This time the terms and the reading by the high priest were given special significance. The imperial proclamation said:

Successor Named.

"If any one should be so bold as to refuse to obey Eyassu and throw the kingdom in disorder may the malediction incurred by Judah and the anathema launched against Arius fall upon him. May the land abjure him who abjures my words and may a black dog be born to him for a son. Know all of you whom I have raised to dignity, great and small, that I curse all who shall disobey me and who after my death do not follow my nephew."

There has been interminable turmoil over the construction of the railways, one section of which from Djibouti to Harrar was opened January, 1903. After this there was general suspension until April 3, 1909, when work was renewed under a concession to the Franco-Ethiopian Railway Company.

The interests of the several powers in Abyssinia and adjacent countries may be summarized thus: Great Britain from Aden and Zeilah looks askance at any and all powers in Abyssinia; Italy at Massaua and in the Benadir surveys regretfully the sterile wastes in which she was planted by England; Germany's presence in Abyssinia is an enigma; France is at Djibouti and the French Somaliland, Abyssinia offered her vast possibilities when she might, as suggested, have marched from Djibouti in 1884 to Adowa and thence with an irresistible Abyssinian army have "smashed" the Mahdi, taken Khartum, cutting the road from Cape to Cairo, forced England to quit Egypt or forced the resumption of the status quo ante bellum (1882) in Egypt. Had France obeyed these suggestions, entirely realizable, there would have been no sacrifice of Gen. Gordon, no humiliation at Fashoda. It was a lost opportunity which is the indirect cause that England is in Egypt today and hopes that she may be in Abyssinia tomorrow.

CH. CHAILLE-LONG.

INSURGENCY.

From the Indianapolis News.

It is positively disheartening—the way insurgency keeps "subsiding"!

From the Boston Globe.

New Hampshire also seemed to have a touch of insurgentitis.

From the Memphis News-Scimitar.

[illegible]rment, too, showed signs of revolt.

From the Knoxville Sentinel.

Michigan insurged yesterday against Senator Julius Caesar Burrows. The provocation was great.

From the Providence Journal.

It is remarked that insurgency is in full swing, but the significance is that standpatism is being swung. Insurgency is yanking at the rope.

From the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

At any rate we may take Mr. Roosevelt's definition of "progressive" to mean opposition to precisely the same standpatism which "insurgency" opposes. Mr. Roosevelt may call it as he will, but an insurgent is a progressive who talks as he votes and votes as he talks, and who talks precisely as Roosevelt does.

WEATHER NOTES.

From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

We have about two more weeks of dog days, then the equinox and that frost in the air.

From the Newark Star.

Seems just like ending the summer holidays in midsummer.

From the Toledo Blade.

Another sign of an early winter. The yeggs have begun blowing bank safes.

From the Boston Advertiser.

Now, if the weather man would only, Joshua-like, command the sunshine to stand still!

From the Brooklyn Citizen.

Last evening's thunderstorm was, indeed, a "Godsend" to the whole community. Two or three days more of such weather as prevailed during the last two might have necessitated, as some suggest, a new census of the population.

From the Spokane Spokesman Review.

It stands around 100 in the shade where Vice President Sherman is sojourning. Still Mr. Sherman probably prefers it to being in hot water.