TOWN DIVIDED ON QUESTION OF HATS.

It Caused Suspension of Senior and Junior Classes of Brocton, Ill., High School.

FACTIONAL FIGHT THREATENED.

Boys and Girls Exchanged Hats and Marched Into School—They Contend That Punishment Is Too Severe.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Charleston, Ill., Dec. 29.—The town of Brocton, a few miles north of this city, is in the throes of a struggle between the principal of the High School and the members of the senior and junior classes.

Professor E. M. Hollingsworth, backed by the Board of Education, has suspended all the members of these two classes with one exception.

The crisis came just before dismissal for the holidays, and what brought it about was a question of hats.

One day, about two weeks ago, at the recess hour, the boys and girls of the two classes exchanged hats, marching about the grounds and into the schoolroom. Professor Hollingsworth, who is a graduate of the Kansas State Normal at Emporia and a strict disciplinarian, gave the young people a severe reprimand.

In a few days the offense was repeated, and the ire of the principal was so aroused that he undertook to deprive the offenders of the recess hour altogether.

The first day of their confinement the classes proved so restless that the teacher decided that work would best suit their temperaments, so he sent them to the blackboard to do exercises.

The two classes, twenty-eight in number, rose as one, and, seeming to have a mutual understanding and a courageous ringleader, deliberately marched out of the schoolroom. Only one junior, Miss Blanche Boswell, remained.

A meeting of the Board of Education was immediately called, and Professor Hollingsworth laid the case before them. The disobedient pupils were given a choice between obeying his rules or being suspended. They chose the latter, giving as a reason that Professor Hollingsworth was "too strict."

Professor Hollingsworth states that, in his opinion, the affair will soon blow over, and that all the pupils will be back in a short while. But a different view is held by the suspended pupils and their parents and a part of the public.

There are some who say that if the Board of Education persists in upholding the principal there will be a big fight at the election next spring and a new board and a new teacher. At any rate affairs just now are in a strained condition.

Discipline in the school, say some of the patrons, has been rather lax heretofore, and Professor Hollingsworth's efforts to hold the pupils in strict order proved rather distasteful. The suspended pupils contend that no harm was meant by exchanging headgear, and really they cannot see why it was such a serious offense. They were used to doing this at picnics and parties and saw no reason why they should not do so in their sport on the school grounds.

Meantime, if the School Board does not relent, nor the scholars report, there is slim chance of any commencement exercises for the Brocton High School in the next two years. This fact itself will draw public attention to the differences between the teacher and pupils and force an issue and some sort of a settlement, for one of the red-letter days of Brocton is its annual school commencement.

Brocton has about 800 inhabitants, and unless the affair reaches a speedy settlement there will be two angry and determined factions, and every person in the town will belong to one or the other of them.

Professor Hollingsworth, the principal of the school, is about 40 years old, and bears an excellent reputation as a teacher. The members of the Board of Education are W. H. Allen, W. G. Hixon and Frank Davis, and all are substantial men.

GREAT NAMES IN LITERATURE.

London Writer's List of Century's Five Best.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Dec. 29.—The approach of the new century sets the critics summarizing the literary performances of the last hundred years.

One well-known writer gives a list of the greatest names imaginative literature has given to the world during that period.

They are: Byron, Goethe, Scott, Balzac and Turgueneff. As the most important books of the century he mentions Bryon's "Childe Harold," Scott's "Waverly," Heine's "Buch der Leider," Balzac's "Pere Goriot," Carlyle's "Sartor Resartus" and Turgueneff's "Virgin Soil."

Rural Free Delivery.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Rural free delivery service will be established January 15 as follows:

Kansas—Everest, Brown County; two carriers; length of routes, fifty-one miles; population served, 1,015; carriers, Oscar H. Lacketer and W. H. Wright. Silver Lake, Shawnee County; one carrier; length of route, twenty-four and five-eighths miles; population served, 506; carrier, J. E. Howe.

Missouri—Browning, Linn County; one carrier; length of route, twenty-six miles; population served, 720; carrier, B. R. Carter. Norborne, Carroll County; one carrier; length of route, twenty-six and one-half miles; population served, 700; carrier, Frank Sperry.

How Will She End?

Just budding into womanhood, so fresh, so fair and fine that we turn to watch her as she passes, she trips along the street a picture of health and beauty. Among the passing crowd of worn and wrinkled women, she looks a being from another world. Will she ever be like them? Could they once have been as fair as she? No beauty can last under the strain and drain of female weakness, from which the majority of women suffer in a greater or less degree. They might preserve their fairness of face and form if they would cure the disastrous diseases which affect the womanly organs. Women are cured of such diseases by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It stops the enfeebling drains, heals inflammation and ulceration, cures bearing-down pains, strengthens the nervous system, and restores the general health. It contains no opium, cocaine or other narcotic.

"I had been a great sufferer from female weakness," writes Mrs. M. B. Wallace, of Muenster, Cook Co., Texas. "*I tried four doctors and none did me any good.* I suffered six years, but at last I found relief. I followed your advice, and took eight bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and four of his 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I now feel like a *new woman*. I have gained eighteen pounds."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure biliousness.

CITY OFFICIALS ON WHAT NEW CENTURY MAY BRING

The end of the century, now the occasion for much review of the years that have passed and of general speculation on the future 100 years, has caused several city officials who have kept informed of the world's conditions to prepare short statements of their hopes for the Twentieth Century, based upon the achievements of the last century. Some of these will be found below:

Mr. Hermann's Look Forward.

"Progress will be the electrical word of the Twentieth Century, for the world will witness greater marvels than ever before. An exalted civilization has been the boon of the past century and the efforts of all previous peoples have been easily surpassed. However, I expect the Twentieth Century to be even more magnificent, exceeding in every realm of science and endeavor the brilliant record bequeathed to it. All that has been done up to this time will serve as a wise stimulus for the new century.

"The world will be governed better; states will be governed better; cities will be governed better. I believe that those of us who live long enough will see the adoption of new ideas and new systems in this country. We have taught Europe, old Europe, many valuable lessons, young as we are as a people, but Europe will lend us some ideas that she has acquired in the march of time that will serve us well in many ways. One plan that will materially assist in the improvements of State and municipal affairs will be the 'merit system,' as applied to officials and employes. The time is at hand when a person will obtain his position strictly upon his ability and by no other means. That change will work wonders for the people.

"E. A. HERMANN,
"Sewer Commissioner."

Mr. Flad Hopes for Better Things.

"The new century will be notable for many unprecedented acquirements of every kind. I feel hopeful and I look pleasantly toward the future. It would be extremely difficult to suggest where the advancement is to assert itself most emphatically and memorably, but it seems that a study of conditions as they exist should indicate rather distinctly what the new century is apt to bring.

"St. Louis is at the door of a new and brighter era, and the next few years betoken many blessings for the city. Speaking for my own department, I should predict that we shall have a method of providing clear, potable water, as that is most required. And, if the city should progress as rapidly and permanently as circumstances indicate, it may not be very many years before we will be drawing water from the Missouri River to supply our suburbs and the densely populated West End.

"Summing up everything, I hope for the better in everything.

"EDWARD FLAD,
"Water Commissioner."

"It is indeed befitting that the death of the Nineteenth Century, a long expanse of time replete with more intellectual and commercial progress than any previous like period, and unparalleled for brilliant achievement in every domain of science and industry, should be commemorated in a particular manner in every section of the United States and throughout the whole world.

"The departure of the Nineteenth Century merely signifies the dawn of a new century of far more glittering promise; it is equivalent to a fond farewell to the precursor and an ardent welcome to the guest who will bring all that is best and noblest to the human family. In gratitude for all that we have received in the last 100 years, and in petition for great and good things for the Twentieth Century, we should consider it a happy privilege to pause at the parting of the ways to present prayers to the Almighty.

"Bright lights shining in every window in St. Louis New Year's Eve would add a pleasant charm to the farewell and the welcome. Let the churches be open for prayer, let the homes be gayly lighted, and, in general, let the city celebrate in a joyful but solemn manner. It is my purpose to greet the new century at the threshold with the lights in my own home.

"St. Louis has much to be grateful for and much greater prospects are in anticipation. A new era is upon us, and not the least evidence of what the future has in store for us is the success of the World's Fair venture, with its attendant blessings and sureties of progress.

"I hope that the Nicaragua Canal will soon be started and completed; it would be a magnificent beginning of the Twentieth Century and would result in immense benefits, not only to the United States, but also to all of North and South America, to Europe, to Asia and to the whole world.

"ISAAC H. STURGISON,
"City Comptroller."

WILL INVITE PRESIDENT KRUGER.

Colonel Lynch of the Irish-Americans Goes Abroad for That Purpose.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Dec. 29.—Among the passengers on the French liner La Normandie, which sailed to-day, was Colonel Arthur Lynch, who commanded the Second Irish Brigade in the Boer War.

Colonel Lynch said he would go at once to The Hague and call on President Kruger. He added:

"I will point out to President Kruger that should he decide to visit this country he will receive a welcome so enthusiastic as to carry conviction to the world that the great majority of the people of the United States do not view with approval or equanimity the destruction of liberty and independence in South Africa.

"President Kruger has already received invitations from various centers in the United States to come to America, but the local friends of the cause have hesitated to follow the precedent for two reasons: First, on account of the advanced age of the venerable statesman, coupled with drawbacks of a sea voyage at this inclement season of the year; secondly, because of the fact that President Kruger, being the head of his people by the divine right of popular choice and election, it was felt that an invitation ought properly to emanate from sources more responsible and authoritative than representative citizens."

TO AUCTION SEALING RIGHTS.

Russian Government Will Let the Privilege in February.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—(Copyright, 1900, by W. R. Hearst.)—The Government will sell at auction, in February, at Khabarosk, in East Siberia, the privilege of seal hunting on the Commander and Walrus islands in the Arctic seas.

There will be many bidders, though the value of the privilege has considerably decreased, owing to the enormous slaughter in recent years.

The number of seals caught on Commander Island in 1896 was 54,581, while last year the catch did not exceed 1,000.

Seal life on the islands will soon be extinct unless steps are taken to protect the remaining animals.

It is in the hope that such measures will be adopted that a number of sealers have planned to attend the sale and bid for the privilege to be disposed of by the Russian Government.

KANSAS CITY FOOTPADS' WORK.

Two Women Held Up, Beaten and Robbed by Thugs.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 29.—With the suppression of smallpox news and everything relating to the footpad assaults, which are now of regular occurrence, Kansas City is in the hands of censors. On Thursday night Mrs. Mary Bolder was struck on the head by a coupling pin in the hands of a man, said to be a negro. No arrests were made. Within a week previous two other women had been similarly dealt with, one, a Mrs. Stull, being now confined to her house in a highly nervous condition and threatened with permanent destruction of her eyesight. Miss Mark Clarke, the first of the victims, is out again, but she has three stitches in her scalp, as a result of the encounter with the thugs. She not only was felled, but was also robbed, the thief securing her purse, containing about $20. From Mrs. Stull he took $10.

The police refuse to give any information regarding these events, and apparently are unable to cope with the situation.

NO OLD MEN ARE WANTED.

Another Change in New York District Attorney's Office.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Dec. 29.—John F. McIntyre, senior assistant of Colonel Gardiner in the District Attorney's office, resigned to-day by request. The new District Attorney, Mr. Philbin, immediately installed Charles E. Le Barbier as his successor.

Other and more sweeping changes are expected on Monday, it being the intention of District Attorney Philbin to dismiss, with few exceptions, the assistants of his predecessors.

Mr. McIntyre has long been connected with the District Attorney's office and has handled many famous cases. He said at the time of Colonel Gardiner's removal that he would resign at the earliest moment consistent with his sense of duty, and, receiving an intimation this morning that his services could now be dispensed with, he submitted his resignation, which was accepted at once.

It is said that less than a dozen men of a force of three hundred will be retained in the District Attorney's office by Mr. Philbin.

WATCH-NIGHT MEETINGS.

Services to Be Held To-Morrow in Many Alton Churches.

Many of the churches in Alton will hold their annual watch meeting and roll call to-morrow evening.

The members of First Methodist Church have arranged a special programme and will see the old year out and the new year in.

At the Cumberland Presbyterian Church a programme will be rendered, and a supper served. After the supper the annual roll call will be read. This is the first roll call in the new house of worship, built by the Cumberland Presbyterians in the last year.

MR. ASTOR WILL TRY AGAIN.

He Will Make Another Effort to Enter English Society.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

London, Dec. 29.—(Copyright, 1900, by W. R. Hearst.)—William Waldorf Astor will make an attempt to get back into society with a great ball, to be given at Cliveden, his handsome country seat on the Thames. Everybody in society who can be induced to attend has been invited.

Pauline Astor, who has suddenly developed from a little girl into a graceful young woman, will act as hostess. Mr. Astor still has political aspirations, and a number of men prominent in political life are beng assiduously cultivated by him.

The ball, which will be given about the middle of January, will be the most lavish country-house affair of the year.

FOR GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL HOME.

Burton Holmes to Deliver Lecture on the Passion Play.

Mr. Burton Holmes will lecture on Oberammergau and the Passion Play at the Odeon Wednesday evening, January 2, for the benefit of the Girls' Industrial Home. Mmes. M. A. Hendel, J. C. Birge, E. G. and Charles W. Scudder, J. H. Bernard, E. O. Stanard, W. B. Dean and E. R. Hoyt from among the managers of the home have the affair in charge and are making every effort to insure success.

Mr. Holmes spent several weeks in Oberammergau and in its vicinity, where he studied the home life of the peasants, as well as their presentation of biblical characters upon the stage. He saw those who took leading roles in the play at work in their fields, or in the shops where they were carving wood. These circumstances are not without influence on the villagers' interpretation of scenes from the New Testament.

A feature of the lecture will be stereopticon views, both still and moving. The still pictures are said to be among Mr. Holmes's most successful achievements in photographic art. The moving pictures were also taken by Mr. Holmes himself in the village while the Passion Play was in progress.

BIG CHINA SALE.

A 25 Per Cent Discount Made on All Goods at the R. B. Gray China Co.

Elsewhere in to-day's Republic will be found the announcement of the R. B. Gray China Co., 312 North Broadway, Discount Sale. This sale was brought about by the late arrival of their foreign wares, intended for the holiday season, and the desire to very materially reduce the unusually large stock prior to the annual stock-taking. In view of this a discount sale will be inaugurated and continue for the next ten days, and all goods will be cut 25 per cent. This is an unusual offer, considering the prices and quality of goods carried by this firm. The sale will be confined to no particular line of goods, but will embrace everything displayed on the three sample floors. The shopper is invited to visit the store, examine the goods and inspect the prices.

MR. KERENS NOT CONSULTED.

Akins-Hitchcock Combination Obtains Administration Appointments.

The Akins-Hitchcock combination is slowly getting a line on the administration appointments. Within the last three weeks at least five appointments have been made from the Interior Department, which are chargeable to the Republican State Committee, and Mr. Kerens has known practically nothing of them.

These appointments have been made at the request of the State Committee. They are all connected with the Interior Department. One of them, T. J. Jenkins of Springfield, a strong Akins follower, has received a place in the Department of Forestry and is located in Montana. Others have been sent to the Indian Territory as timber inspectors and department surveyors. These places all pay in the neighborhood of $1,200 a year, with traveling expenses.

If Mr. Kerens knew of the movement, he has made no protest. Several of his lieutenants who have visited the city in the last day or so are ignorant of the appointments. Mr. Kerens has been in the city for several days, and he has been frequently consulted by politicians out in the State. The influx of Republicans, however, has not poured into Mr. Kerens's offices alone. At Republican State headquarters several of the leaders have been casting up the outlook, assisted by Chairman Akins. The latter is feeling particularly jubilant at the result of his efforts in the last month, and his friends declare that he has strong hopes in the future of fixing his friends in several more important jobs in the State.

The appearance of H. L. Eads, Postmaster at Pattonsburg, at the Hitchcock reception last week, is significant. Eads's appointment is being held up in Washington. He says that the President will stand by him, notwithstanding the opposition of the Senate to the confirmation, and, if necessary, his appointment will be made ad interim, in which case he can hold his office without the Senate's confirmation. Sam Jurden of Holder, who is after the position of Collector of the Port at Kansas City, has strong assurances that he will land the place, with the assistance of Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock. The friends of F. E. Kellogg, the Internal Revenue Collector at Kansas City, are beginning to think he will be supplanted in case Jurden is appointed, as both hail from the Sixth Congressional District.

The finest equipped eye-testing parlor in the city can be seen at E. B. Straus, eye expert, No. 722 Locust st. Consultation free.

HE KNOWS A "CREMONA"

And Also Knows the Good Qualities of Dr. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. Experience of a Violin Maker.

There are not a dozen men in the United States who can tell a genuine Cremona violin from a counterfeit. Mr. Thomas Beddow of No. 1102 Hickory street is one of the twelve. He has two genuine "Cremonas" himself, which are worth in the thousands of dollars. Mr. Beddow is a violinmaker and his instruments are beautiful, artistic, and possess the peculiar mellow "singing" qualities so much coveted by performers.

Sitting day after day at one's chosen work, fashioning and finishing violins, may be a labor of love, but not apt to aid nature in the process of turning food into bone and muscle. Mr. Beddow developed dyspepsia by his sedentary habits, and that he is not a chronic sufferer now, he attributes to Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. The following letter is brief, but to the point:

Gentlemen—Your tablets are splendid; not only myself, but my daughter, can testify to that effect. They cured me and they cured her, and whenever either of us are troubled with heartburn, sour stomach, or any disorder of the stomach, we turn to Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets for relief, and we always get it. I will be glad to speak a good word for this remedy at any and all times.

Respectfully yours,
THOMAS BEDDOW,
1102 Hickory street, St. Louis, Mo.

FIFTY TONS OF CANDY

Have Been Sent to Our Soldiers in the Philippine Islands by the Government.

Fifty tons of candy have been sent to the soldiers in the Philippine Islands by the Commissary Department of the army during the last three months and large amounts to the soldiers in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

This is done upon advice of the medical officers of the army, because it is a physiological fact that a moderate consumption of confectionery promotes health and satisfies a natural craving of the stomach.

Candy was never furnished to the United States army before, although it has been commonly used as a ration by the French and British troops in the tropics.

This explodes another old-fashioned theory that sweets were injurious to the digestive organs, while a moderate use of sweets is actually beneficial.

Very few things are injurious and the food cranks who advocate the use of a few grains and vegetables and decry the use of sweets and meats are in error, as a wholesome variety of meat and vegetable food is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the highest condition of health.

The best rule to follow is to eat what the appetite craves, and if there is any discomfort or trouble in digesting meat and sweets the difficulty can be readily overcome by the regular use after meals of some safe digestive composed of pepsin and diastase, which will assist the stomach by increasing the flow of gastric juice and furnish the natural peptone lacking in weak stomachs.

The best preparation of this kind is probably Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, which may be found at all drug stores.

Years of use have demonstrated the value and effectiveness of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets in all cases of impaired digestion.