

TO-DAY'S NEWS IN BRIEF.

BUSINESS. Local discount rates were quoted at 5 to 7 per cent on call and time loans. The clearing-house exchange was quoted as follows: New York, 100 discount bid, par asked; Chicago, 30 discount bid, 30 discount asked; Cincinnati, 25 discount bid, 25 discount asked; New Orleans, 100 discount bid, par asked; Louisville, 25 discount bid, par asked.

WASHINGTON. Trade between Belgium and the United States is rapidly assuming large proportions. American machinery has the preference in that country.

It is announced that a successor to the late ex-President Harrison as a member of the Hague Arbitration Commission will be chosen from the judiciary.

President McKinley is expected in Washington shortly to confer with his Cabinet and to transact any business that may demand his personal attention.

Consular reports indicate that in the Transvaal there will soon be a demand for various railroad material.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has handed down a ruling on drafts.

LOCAL AND SUBURBAN. Matthew O'Toole, a painter, is killed by an electric stock received from a drain pipe in contact with lightning wires.

The Board of Public Improvements approves the draft of an ordinance permitting wire-using companies to place conduits outside the present underground district.

Oliver cars now use new loops in turning at the downtown terminus of the line.

Local contractors say the strike of steel workers will not affect building operations here, as most of the steel contracted for is in a position to be delivered under any conditions.

The northwest corner of Eighteenth and Market streets opposite Union Station, was sold for \$300,000.

The coroner's jury in the inquest into the death of Mrs. Bridget O'Connell, killed by Broadway cars, held the two motormen responsible.

James Campbell has opened negotiations to secure control of Laclede Gas Company stock, with a view, it is believed, to a consolidation of the electric light, heat and power companies.

Councilman Sheehan offers an amendment to the smoke-shed bill which includes steamboats and locomotives.

John Smith is mentioned for the place of Director General of the Fair. President Francis asks information about the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase.

The Council Committee on Sanitary Affairs reports the garbage contract with an amendment reducing the term from seven to three years.

Delinquent owners of vehicles thronged the License Collector's office and kept the clerical force busy. The police made numerous arrests.

GENERAL DOMESTIC. Judge Clark of the Federal Court at Cincinnati decides that picketing by strikers is "unlawful, immoral and wrong."

Man accused of murder, arrested in Arkansas, where, disguised as a woman, he had been teaching school.

Respirations for homeostems in the reservations recently through open are continuing at the rate of thousands daily.

Camp Dockery has been decided upon as a name for the point near Nevada selected for the annual encampment of Missouri State troops.

Robbers wrecked a bank building at Alexandria, O., without getting access to the strong box.

Denver ministers propose to organize a vigilance committee to fight the drug element that has been perniciously active in that city.

The pursuit of the Great Northern train robbers in Montana has been abandoned. Orin D. Moryman of Maryville, Mo., was drowned at Eagle in the Klondike country, on July 2.

Mr. Carnegie has offered \$2,000 for a library building at Stillman, Minn., where the State Penitentiary is located.

Adjutant General Corbin and Surgeon General Sternberg have arrived at Manila.

The Vermont County Teachers' Institute is in session at Nevada.

Ida and Edith Foreland, popular London actresses, committed suicide. They had failed to secure an engagement.

Extensive frauds in the Turkish customs at Constantinople have been discovered. The British force at Tien-Tsin has been increased by 1,000 men.

SPORTING. Richard Croker has ordered all his racing stock shipped to England and will quit the American turf.

Shamrock II, the new cup challenger, will sail for New York July 25.

RAILROADS. President Hill of the Great Northern says railroads will have heavy movement of grain even though corn crop is partial failure.

President Lowry of Soe Line says the prospects for heavy grain crops in Northwest were never better.

Officers were elected for the Arkansas Midland and also the Brinkley, Helena and Indian Bay.

Burlington tracks near East Leavenworth are threatened by inroads of the Missouri River.

Pennsylvania officials deny that there has been any deal to gain possession or control of the Santa Fe.

The Union Pacific will give an excursion to Colorado, Wyoming and Utah to press representatives.

Proceedings have been instituted against the Baltimore and Ohio growing out of its ownership of the Union Stock Yards at Baltimore.

The Illinois Central will light thirty miles of its track outside of Chicago with electricity.

Marine Intelligence. New York, July 15.—Arrived: Groszer Kur-tur, from Bremen.

Lisard, July 15.—Passed: Steamer Marquette, New York, for London.

Boulogne, July 15.—Sailed: Steamer Bulgaria, Hamburg, for New York.

Laghorn, July 15.—Arrived: Steamer Calabria, New York, via Mexico.

Moville, July 15.—Arrived: Steamer Astoria, New York, for Glasgow, and proceeded.

Liverpool, July 15.—Arrived: Steamers Dominion, Portland, Me.; Parisian, Montreal.

New York, July 15.—Arrived: Steamer George Eastman, New York, via Boston.

Sailed: Steamers Celtic, Liverpool; Victoria, Marseilles, via Gibraltar.

Glasgow, July 15.—Arrived: Steamer Astoria, New York, via Mexico.

Rottterdam, July 15.—Arrived: Steamer Stansdam, New York and Boulogne.

Boulogne, July 15.—Arrived: Steamer Stansdam, New York for Rottterdam (and proceeded).

Lisard, July 17, 4 a. m.—Passed: Steamer St. Paul, New York, for Southampton.

SEEKING CONTROL OF LACLEDE GAS COMPANY

James Campbell's Negotiations for Common Stock at Par for Parties Who Now Control the Imperial Plant Believed to Be Another Step Toward Consolidation of Electric Light, Heat and Power Companies.

Another step has been taken in the deal for the consolidation of the lighting and power companies of St. Louis, and negotiations are on which probably will result in the merger of the common stock now in the field before the close of the year.

Yesterday James Campbell, vice president of the Laclede Gas Light Company, and a heavy stockholder in the Missouri Electric and other electric light and power companies, sent out letters to the stockholders of the Laclede Gas Company making them what was practically an offer for their stock, and asking them to sign the following contract:

CONTRACT PROPOSED TO STOCKHOLDERS. "For and in consideration of services rendered and to be rendered by you in your effort to secure par for Laclede Gas Light Company's common stock, August 30th, 1901, signed hereby agree to sell and deliver to you or your assigns—shares Laclede Gas Light Company's stock held by— you at par, upon the following conditions: You are to notify me on or before August 30th, 1901, that you have entered into firm contract for the sale of control at par, and that same is to be delivered and paid for October 15th, 1901, and certificates of stock to be deposited with the Mercantile Trust Company of St. Louis, or the Trust Company of America, New York City, on or before September 15th, 1901, according to the receipt for same and retaining 10 per cent on account, the remaining 90 per cent to be paid October 15th, 1901.

The dividend of 2 per cent will be paid to stockholders on or before August 30th, 1901. The Laclede Gas Company has a paid-up stock of \$11,000,000, of which \$8,500,000 is common and \$2,500,000 preferred stock. On the Stock Exchange yesterday the common stock was quoted at 5 1/2 bid and 5 3/4 asked. It has never sold at par. The preferred stock had 98 bid, but there has been no market for it for some time.

DEAL ARRANGED BY MR. BRUCKMAN. When asked in regard to the letter and the proposed consolidation deal yesterday, Mr. Campbell said: "I have sent out a letter to the common stock at par, and if I succeed in getting a controlling interest it means that the same parties who have secured control of the Imperial will secure control of the Laclede Gas Company."

"Whether the deal will include the purchase of the other lighting companies will depend upon the value placed upon their properties, but as yet there has been no consolidation.

"The deal so far has been arranged by Mr. E. G. Bruckman, president of the Imperial, and any further information in regard to the deal will have to be obtained from him.

"The parties behind the deal succeed in obtaining control of the other companies it is probable that there will be a consolidation, but if they do not, it means that the same parties will operate both the Laclede Gas and the Imperial, Electric Light, Heat and Power Company.

Mr. Bruckman reiterated what Mr. Campbell had said, but refused to say who is behind him in the deal.

"It does not necessarily mean a consolidation," said Mr. Bruckman, "but the same parties who control the Imperial are desirous of obtaining control of the Laclede Gas Company."

I cannot give you the names of the parties interested in the deal until the matter is further advanced.

CORPORATE INVESTMENT COMPANY IN THE DEAL. The deal for the consolidation of the Imperial, Electric Light, Heat and Power Company, which is absorbed by the Corporate Investment Company, which also includes the Laclede Gas Company and the City Lighting Company, which has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 has been issued, and also assumed the bonds of the Imperial company, of which \$1,000,000 has been issued out of an authorized issue of \$2,500,000.

Corporate Investment Company's stock was quoted on the Stock Exchange yesterday at 40 bid and none offered. The Corporate Investment Company owns all the stock of the Imperial Company, the purchase of a controlling interest in the Imperial company means the purchase of the control of the Corporate Investment Company.

EASTERN SYNDICATE SAID TO BE INTERESTED. About a month ago the controlling interest in the Imperial company was sold to the Eastern Syndicate, which is a partnership of Whitey, Miller, Elkins, Miller and others.

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SHOULD WE OBSERVE SUNDAY? HAVE BEEN NAMED?

Governor Dockery's Proclamation for Prayer and Fasting Brings Forth This Question.

SOME CLERGYMEN CRITICAL. Catholics and Episcopalians Will Not Observe Sunday as a Fast Day, but Will Pray.

In response to the requests of the Christian people of Missouri, Governor Dockery set aside next Sunday as a day for fasting and prayer that the drought may be dispelled, and now a discussion has arisen as to whether it would not have been more in accordance with the custom of the churches to have named a week day.

Some persons object most seriously to Sunday as that day is little observed as a fast day, it being rather a feasting day, and the same persons contend that in observing Sunday no special sacrifice will be made for the blessing that is asked.

These persons ask if the Governor acted thoughtlessly, not thinking of the fact that the Catholics and the members of the Episcopal Church never observe Sunday as a fast day.

In his defense, others say that surely the Governor's object was to appoint a day which he thought would be most widely observed.

Many are in favor of asking the Governor to change the date from Sunday to a week-day, but it is not clear how they would express themselves as feeling that, in the face of criticism, even from the clergy, the Governor acted with a great deal of moral courage, and they have so far remained silent.

The Reverend Doctor P. G. Robert, former rector of the Church of the Christian Pooling, says that he thinks the Governor must have acted in error, or perhaps in ignorance of the customs of the Catholic and Episcopal churches. "I can't understand it," he says.

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LORD ROSEBERY ISSUES MANIFESTO.

Former Premier Expresses Regret That a Weak Government Should Be Met by a Weaker Opposition.

CRISIS IN NATION'S AFFAIRS. Lord Rosebery has issued a manifesto on the divisions in the Liberal party.

It is contained in a letter to the City Liberal Club, which had invited him to deliver an address.

He disclaims any desire to re-enter politics, but speaks out "under the remarkable charter" agreed upon by Liberal members of the House of Commons of "hearty and undisputed allegiance to the leader and complete liberty of action to dissent with regard to one vital question before the country."

The Liberal party can become a power, he continues, only when it shall have made up its mind on the "imperial questions which are at this moment embodied in the war."

After assuring that "the whole Empire has rallied to the war," he discusses the attitude of the Liberal party. "What is the attitude of the Liberal party?" he asks. "Neutrality and an open mind? Now I contend that this is an impossible attitude and spells impotence. No party can exist on such conditions."

He declares that the difference would not cease to operate when the war is over, because "statesmen who dissociate themselves from a nation in a great national question, such as the war in which we all strive to suffer together, dissociate themselves for much longer than they think."

Gloomy Forelook. He considers that the severance is a "fundamental and incurable antagonism of principle, with regard to the Empire at large, and our consequent policy."

As there is this "honest and irreconcilable difference of opinion on questions of the first importance," he can see no favorable issue.

Lord Rosebery concludes with a gloomy touch. "It is a matter of sorrow and anxiety," he says, "to see a Government faced by a weaker opposition at a juncture of foreign hostility and international competition, which needs all the vigilance, power and ability at our command."

He believes Great Britain is at a crisis which may have unlimited effects upon its future.

DOCTOR STEVENS DIES AT PEORIA. Father of Walter B. Stevens Passes Away—Relatives Were at His Bedside.

The Reverend Doctor A. A. Stevens, father of Walter B. Stevens, secretary of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, died yesterday afternoon at Peoria, Ill., after an illness of several weeks.

Walter B. Stevens departed for Peoria yesterday.

Old age and heart failure are ascribed as the causes of the death.

A special telegram from Peoria says: Doctor Stevens was born in Cheshire, Conn. in 1817, and received his collegiate education at Yale, finishing at Andover Theological School and entering the ministry of the Congregational Church at once.

He preached two years in the East before settling in Newton, Ia., remaining there one year, when he removed to Peoria. Here he has since resided, and was a member of the Peoria church.

There was only one Congregational Church in Peoria when he came here, and he well brought the local strength of his denomination to the front.

The old Main Street Congregational Church became the First Congregational Church, and Doctor Stevens remained its pastor until 1882, when falling ill, he resigned the pastorate and returned to his home.

He has since been engaged in various business affairs. Mrs. Stevens preceded her aged husband to the grave four years ago.

Funeral services were not completed, but the services will be held Thursday at the First Church, and President Blandford of the Peoria College has been asked to preach the funeral sermon.

CONCERT AT MANSION. Second Regiment Band Will Entertain Governor and Public.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Springfield, Ill., July 15.—With a temperature nearing the 100-degree mark, the men of the Second Regiment spent the most uncomfortable day of the week in camp. The band was called out for the morning drill work was concluded with a fine drill work in the morning.

The Signal Corps, in the morning the work of the day, the band worked with the general and post headquarters, and others finished over this afternoon.

Governor and Mrs. Yates have invited the general public to be present at the concert to be given to-morrow evening at the Executive Mansion by the Second Regiment Band, instead of having an evening parade.

Col. Stuart will march the entire command to the city, leaving camp shortly before 7 o'clock. The regiment will return through the city grounds, being reviewed by Governor and Mrs. Yates there, and will be in camp to-morrow.

The guard detail for to-morrow was announced, upon the following: Of the day, Captain Thomas McCougle, Company B; officer of the guard, Major George D. Dwyer, Company M; and superintendent of the guard, Second Lieutenant Adolph Erickson, Company E, Second Infantry.

Captain Mendelsohn is recovering from an attack of illness which has kept him confined to his quarters since last Sunday evening.

General orders were issued to-day from the Adjutant General's office as follows: Ordering an election for Captain in Company D, Sixth Infantry, and to fill such other vacancies as may exist, on Monday, July 22, First Lieutenant J. M. Shippitt to preside.

Upon his own application, placing Major Willis McCree, late of the Second Infantry, upon the list of honorably discharged to the following enlisted men: Private William E. Wells, Company G, Second Infantry; and Privates Joseph C. Davidson, John B. Drummond and George E. Dyon of Company E, Second Infantry.

JACOB BRANN'S WILL—Jacob Brann, by his will, died for probate yesterday, left his estate to his wife, Christine Brann, who is said to be old and blind.

CARDINAL GIBBONS IS IN LONDON.

Says That the Pope is Much Pleased With the Progress of the Church in America.

London, July 15.—Cardinal Gibbons was entertained at dinner to-night at the Brazilian Legation and several distinguished peers and diplomats were present.

To a reporter of the Associated Press he said: "I hope to meet Cardinal Vaughan, who will return to London to-morrow, and spend several days with him. I shall devote the next few weeks to rest in England and Ireland. I had a delightful time in Rome, where, apparently, the miraculous health and strength of the Pope are the subject of constant surprise."

Pope's Interest in United States. "The interest displayed by the Pope in the United States is as intense as ever, and he is thankful to know that the progress of the church in this country keeps pace with America's commercial development. He astonishes every one by his powers of memory and his familiarity with every detail of American life."

"I have been myself in many countries in Europe and have returned to the United States each time more convinced of the wonderful future in store for us if we maintain the educational, religious and commercial progress so well begun."

France and the Philippines. "So far as the Philippines are concerned, there are many problems, including the disposition of the Catholic mission in the Holy Land, which is anxious to have solved on the basis of fairness which characterizes American policy generally."