The Evening Times

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Sunday, July 16	20,901
Monday, July 17	42,052
Tuesday, July 18	42,490
Wednesday, July 19	42,247
Thursday, July 20	42,129
Friday, July 21	42,085
Saturday, July 22	42,554
Total	274,449
Daily average (Sunday, 20,901, excepted)	42,236

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By J. R. MASON, President.

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THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1899.

An Antillean Plague Spot.

The assassination of President Heureaux serves to call attention to a disgraceful condition of Antillean affairs which should receive attention in this country. The state in which the assassination occurred is a part of the little island of San Domingo. The other part belongs to the opera bouffe government of Haiti. The island lies between our possession of Porto Rico and our protectorate of Cuba. The conditions of civilization are quite as bad in Haiti as they are indicated to be in Santo Domingo by the rumored assassination of President Heureaux. In both of these contemptible little states the inhabitants have a cheerful habit of killing their rulers when they make up their minds for a political change. This would not be altogether bad if the motive were for an improved government. The history of the two countries, however, does not warrant belief in the affirmative of this proposition. The bald fact is that a change of rulers by the murder method in San Domingo simply means that one set of robbers has been superseded by another.

A state of things is thus indicated which should long ago have been looked after by the United States. Our general interest in orderly progress in the Antilles would have been sufficient excuse for our investigation of conditions down there at any time during these past twoscore years or more. It is evident that our example has been of no practical benefit to the inhabitants. But now that we have valuable property in hand and in prospect on both sides of San Domingo we should make it our business to see to it not only that the island's dual governmental systems are modernized, but also that the inhabitants show proper respect for civilized methods. We might as well begin now as at any time in future, for sooner or later we shall be compelled to make sharp enquiry into conditions down there, in order to protect our close interests from the constant menace of lawlessness and anarchy.

This Government should not feel content with the bare news of Heureaux's murder. The probe should be applied by us into the cause of the foul deed, and barriers should be erected by us against a repetition of the crime. In no other way can we make our power felt in New World affairs by the ignorant hordes that are retarding development in the Antilles. It may be that after a while we shall find it necessary, in order to complete our chain of defences around the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, to plant the flag in San Domingo. Certainly, there would be a rotten link in the chain if we should allow present conditions to continue on that island.

The Rebuke of Weyler.

General Weyler is now trying to stir up trouble in Spain. He is attempting to array the military strength of the country against the civil authority, the accomplishment of which, of course, would mean violent revolution.

When Weyler declared in a Senate speech that Spain had been passing through a crisis ever since the death of Premier Canovas del Castillo, he stated a truth of vast significance to Spain and of no small concern to the cause of liberty everywhere. Canovas was a revolutionist whose influence would have carried Spain back to mediaevalism if he had had full sway in the destiny of the distraught kingdom. His death, barbarous though it was, at the hands of an assassin, came just in time to save Spain from a fate worse than is represented by the loss of her colonies in the West and the East Indies. Weyler stands for what Canovas stood for. The only difference to Spain between them is that Weyler can do less harm than the dead lion, because of his lack of the wondrous capacity possessed by the other.

It is especially encouraging to the hope of better things for Spain that the reactionary sentiments expressed by Weyler received such a stern rebuke in the Spanish Senate from the lips of a representative of the government. "The army," said Minister Dato, "is intended for the service of the country, and not to further private ambitions." He also assured the nation that anybody attempting to defy authority would be inexorably dealt with. These utterances indicate a healthy growth in Spanish political sentiment. They are a guarantee of the relegation of the army to its proper place in the government, and mean that eventually the military strength of the country will be reduced to its actual needs. They also indicate that the present government has the situation so thoroughly in hand that Spain need no longer fear the evil intent of Don Carlos and his clan. In brief, it appears certain that what Weyler discerns is really the beginning of Spain's regeneration. Her treasury now being relieved of the heavy colonial burden and her manhood left free to remain at home and devote its energies to toil instead of being constantly strained at by the necessities of revolt in distant possessions, the dawn of a happy future seems to be shedding a glow over Spain. The next step will be to drive Weyler and the other reactionists out of public life, so the new movement will not be burdened with the handicap of their influence.

To Curb the Lynching Spirit.

It is hoped that the investigation which has been instituted by the State Department into the Talluiah lynchings will result in the formulation of a new policy toward such affairs. The possibility of their repetition is too constant a menace to international comity not to be viewed with serious concern by sober minds. It has been but a few years since the country was suddenly driven to the verge of war with Italy by just such an occurrence in the same community. The resources of the nation's diplomacy were then taxed to their utmost limit, under the management of Mr. Blaine, to satisfy the dignified and stern demands of Italy.

Obviously the need is an extension of the Federal authority so as to guarantee in positive terms the protection of the lives of foreigners resident in this country. The inadequacy of general statutes has been abundantly demonstrated. The inability of State authorities to properly deal with the matter is made apparent by multiplied examples of the freedom from justice of the perpetrators of crimes like that at Talluiah. Congress should take hold of the subject with vigor and put into the iron hands of the Federal judiciary the duty of detecting and punishing those who take the law into their own hands in dealing with the subjects of foreign powers. Under the present loose system it is a great wonder we have not had a greater number of international differences on this score. The influx of foreigners is too steady and voluminous for the machinery of naturalization to keep up with it, and even if every foreigner who lands upon our shores should desire to embrace the matchless advantages of citizenship in this Republic this could not, in the nature of things, be always accomplished in time to relieve the Government from its treaty responsibility for the protection of subjects or citizens of other states domiciled within its sovereign jurisdiction.

Let Congress, therefore, at the earliest practicable time enact a law bringing directly under the supervision and restraint of the Federal judiciary all cases involving the trial of citizens suspected of complicity in such crimes as that in Louisiana.

There could be no sort of question of the efficacy of such a law. It would undoubtedly curb the spirit of reckless disregard of right and order which animates mobs, and in the end would have a beneficial effect on that phase of national character which so frequently gives emotional expression to itself in the ruthless slaughter of criminal monsters who have no claim to the protection of foreign nations. Such a law would very greatly simplify the operations of our international machinery, as foreign powers would then know exactly where to look for redress in cases involving the general interests as well as the lives of their subjects in this country. President McKinley could make no more valuable recommendation to the Fifty-sixth Congress than one for the enactment of a statute embracing this principle.

Cool Canada.

There is a chilling coolness about our little Canadian friends which must be considered welcome and refreshing at this season of the year. A despatch from Ottawa to the "New York Tribune" contains the following, which will serve to illustrate the proposition:

> It is unanimously declared that the honor and interests of Canada demand that there should be no further delay in the matter, and that if the United States will not consent to arrive at an honorable settlement, then means will have to be provided by which Canada will no longer be deprived of a territory which rightly belongs to her, but which up to this date she had failed to occupy, in the hope that the United States Government would honorably and speedily consent to an amicable and satisfactory understanding regarding the matter.

When we reflect that the Canadians in one instance have established themselves, including their custom house, police station, and all other modern improvements, thirty miles inside the boundary line on American soil, the patience and self-abnegation of Canada in failing to occupy "territory which rightly belongs to her," because of a hope that the "United States Government would honorably and speedily consent to an amicable and satisfactory understanding," almost passes belief.

That hope seems to have been blasted, and now it is "unanimously declared" at the colonial capital that "means will have to be provided by which Canada will no longer be deprived of territory," which she never dreamed of claiming until it became necessary to her hog-in-the-trough policy in the Yukon country. Our own modest opinion is that "means will have to be provided" to inject a little decency into these wild and impudent provincials, or else the American people will some day become exasperated and turn the Ottawa Parliament House into an ice factory.

An Advancement in Art.

Some interesting reflections are suggested by a perusal of old magazines, with their out-of-date prints. There is one particular thing in which the old-time woodcuts were notably deficient. This was the ability to represent action; and, perhaps, the most notable example of this failure in artistic truth is the horse.

For at least one generation the conventional horse was of one pattern, and he was not much like the real animal. Whether running, walking, or trotting, he was represented in attitudes which the real horse never assumes. The art of the past was painstaking, slow, careful, and, hence, frequently inaccurate. One reason why the Japanese are so far in advance of us in certain branches of artistic work is that they have developed through countless generations a quickness of eye and a sureness of touch which few Europeans can hope to equal even approximately. A Japanese artist will sit down cross-legged on the floor, watch an insect poising just for an instant in the air, and transfer the counterfeit presentment of it to his paper with a few strokes of the brush. The European has to catch the insect and transfix him with a pin, mix his colors laboriously, study the creature in action for some time, and then take more time to paint it—and his picture is not true.

Photography, however, has been of much service in the training of the European and American eye. Instantaneous photography has been especially valuable in this way. It will reveal the fact that the Japanese view of a flying bird or insect is, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, absolutely correct, because he sees the thing as it is during one brief second, while our slower vision gets a sort of composite. Remington was the first artist who represented the moving horse with anything like this accuracy, and his pictures appeared at first, to eyes accustomed to conventionalized forms, uncommonly awkward and queer. But they really picture the horse as he is, and a series of snap-shot photographs will reveal that Remington's horse is according to nature.

"The Milk White Flag."

A contest now raging in the Twelfth Regiment of the New York National Guard illustrates the need for better ideals and organization in the National Guard. Colonel Leonard's retirement from the regiment to enter the volunteer service in the Philippines has precipitated a struggle which would be laughed at in Europe. The junior major of the regiment insists upon being elevated to the vacant command over the heads of three superiors—Lieutenant Colonel Leiter and the other two majors. It may be that the ambitious young gentleman reaching over the heads of his superiors for the colonelcy apparently has the backing of the State authorities because he is the best man for the place, irrespective of the mere accident that he is the son of the rich former Governor Dyer, of Rhode Island. Then again it is possible that he is not the best man for the place. At any rate, he is making a lively scramble for it, and the State officials are aiding him by postponing the election until they have selected the full quota of line officers for the regiment.

It was hoped that experience in the Spanish war, even though very few volunteer commands were able to get on the firing line, had taught the militia of the country some good, sound, military sense. But if the Twelfth Regiment of New York is a fit criterion it appears that nothing of real value was imparted to the spirit of our citizen soldiery. It seems still to be pretty much as it has been so grotesquely pictured by our eminent farceur, Mr. Charles H. Hoyt, in his rip-roaring farce, entitled "The Milk White Flag." The essential military spirit of rigidity in organization, which depends so much upon regularity in promotion, does not yet animate the militia. Its central and vitalizing idea remains—that is, sociability and rollicking good fellowship first and efficient organization afterward, only so far as the latter is agreeable to the rank and file.

It does not appear to have occurred to the State authorities any more than to the members of the organization that the lieutenant colonel, who has grown up with the Twelfth Regiment and attained his present position by the slow process of linear promotion, is more capable of properly administering the affairs of the regiment than the son of a rich man, who has been in the organization only a comparatively brief time. Are we to inter that the militia of the country is a social and not a military body?

The President will discover that the gentle and refreshing zephyrs that frolic across even the billowy bosom of Lake Champlain will bear to his unwilling ear the demand, strong and inexorable, of his fellow-citizens for the immediate removal of Otis and the despatch to Manila of a soldier who knows the business of the soldier. We hope the President will not let this disturb his rest too long, for there is a prospect of serious work ahead of him which his recreation should prepare him to meet.

Now that Senator Martin is denouncing one class of his critics as "common liars," we are certain that the campaign has really been opened in Virginia.

There is some semblance of truth in the report that Major General Wesley Merritt is to be assigned to the command in the Philippines; there is gratification in the rumor that Major General Brooke is to be relieved in Cuba; but what of truth or gratification can be discerned in the companion story of these two that Otis is to succeed Brooke in Cuba? What Otis needs is a good long rest at some Western post, where the duties will not overtax his capacity.

The fact that the Georgia militia has saved one man from mob violence is sufficient proof of the efficacy of this form of protection—provided, of course, the soldiery get the man before the lynchers lay hands upon him.

The highly important announcement is made by an Administration organ in New York that Major Hopkins, aide-de-camp to Mr. Alger, and the conqueror and pacificator of the Kalamazoo country, is about to sever his connection with the army. Hecker and Kirby are still to be heard from.

Lord Charles' Chinese Coins.

(From the London News.)

The interesting collection, illustrating the coinage and currency of the Chinese Empire, brought home by Lord Charles Beresford from his recent mission to China, has been generously lent by him to the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. This collection includes a series of silver taels of various sizes in the form of cast ingots in the rough, with a pair of scales, with brass and ivory weights, for estimating the value, and some fragments used as small change. There is a set of dollars of different nationalities which pass in China, among them being the new British dollar, first issued in 1898, and coined in India. Among the copper coinage is a collection of 10,000 cash, strung together in bundles by means of the central hole, which is a characteristic of Chinese copper coins, representing £1 in English money. This exhibit has been placed in the Chinese section, in the Cross Gallery, behind the Imperial Institute. The entrance to this gallery is through the Indian section, Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Lady or the Grocer?

(From the Atchison Globe.)

A sensational lawsuit will shortly be commenced in Atcison. Six months ago a prominent woman appeared at a grocery store where she traded, and said that her husband had given her the money to pay a month's bill, then due, but that she was greatly in need of the money, and requested the grocer to receipt the bill, saying she would pay the amount in three different installments. The conversation took place in the presence of three witnesses, the grocer, his bookkeeper, and head clerk. The woman paid no further attention to the matter, and when appealed to three months later, said she had paid the bill and had the receipt. The husband was drawn into the controversy, and stood by his wife. The grocer now says he will sue for the money, and prove by his own testimony and two of his employes that the woman is deliberately trying to defraud him.

Patti Objected.

(From the London Letter.)

The other day—this story comes straight from a friend of his—Sir James Blythe, one of the best-known men in London, invited Patti to dinner to meet forty other great men and women of the art world. She wrote:

"My Dear Sir James: I am in mourning, and I feel a hesitancy about attending a dinner to meet people of my own profession, but if you will give another dinner and ask only your friends, I shall be pleased to come."

Sir James, being a most amiable person, gave a dinner minus the entree of Patti, and on the following week issued cards to all his titled friends to meet the diva at another dinner. To this one she came in the full splendor of her diamonds and turquoise, looking like a bird of paradise that had crept into the gilded aviary of the kind. Lady Warwick, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Lord Rosebery—all the big people were there, and the diva was delighted.

To Prevent Disasters on the Ocean.

(From the London Echo.)

The latest thing in inventions is a steamer brake, which the inventor thinks would prevent to a great extent such disasters as that of the Paris. The apparatus consists of a curved steel sheet fitting round the stem of a steamer, and held there by bolts and a chain. These could be released at need, and the brake would fall to the required depth, quickly pulling the vessel up.

ANOTHER SNUB FOR MILES.

Officers Recommended by Him Fail to Get Commissions.

The "Baltimore Sun" today prints the following under a Washington date line:

"It is fortunate for General Miles that he has become accustomed to the snubs so repeatedly given him by the Administration, or he might have been shocked at the manner in which his recommendations for commissions in the volunteer army have been treated by the War Department and the President. In the distribution of over five hundred commissions for the eleven new regiments to be sent to the Philippines there is not one that can be credited to General Miles. Eleven colonels were selected from the regular army, many majors, captains, and other officers, and of the entire number it is said that not one of the new commissions was made at the approval or suggestion of the Major General Commanding the Army.

"The patronage at the Administration's disposal was too valuable, it is said, and the pressure from the politicians too great to permit General Miles to have any voice in regard to the selections. General Corbin was the only army officer consulted. It was not a surprise to General Miles that he should be ignored, for there has not been an occasion since he returned from Porto Rico last summer that the Administration had not taken every opportunity to show its displeasure and disapproval of his criticisms of the management of the army.

"The fact that Miles was responsible for the beef investigation, and the scandal following the testimony presented at the enquiry was sufficient cause, in the opinion of the Administration, to reduce the General to the ranks of those who have offended and can expect no forgiveness. General Breckinridge is in this class also, but his duties are such that he is not brought into intimate contact with the Secretary of War or the President.

"It would be naturally supposed, outside of Washington, that consideration would be given any recommendations made by the highest ranking officer for commissions in the volunteer organizations. General Miles, whose knowledge of the personnel of the army is superior to that of any official of the War Department, was entitled to submit at least the names of those officers he believed best qualified to be colonels of the new regiments, and possibly a number of other officers. Realizing, possibly, that his recommendation would not operate in favor of any officer, he made but few and they were not received favorably either by General Corbin or the President.

"As the appointments of the colonels were announced General Miles saw that he was being snubbed again, and when it came to the lieutenant colonels and majors he realized that politics was entering largely into the methods of selections, and in all instances merit and former services were having little weight. There was more pressure exerted possibly by leading politicians for the appointment of the colonels than for any of the other grades, although it was announced by the authorities that only regulars would be selected for these commands. An army officer ordinarily has little influence in politics, and it was believed that the rush for commissions would come from States where men who had served in volunteer organizations were anxious to secure billets in the regular establishment. The President and General Corbin, however, took the army register and selected the colonels they wished, and appointments were made out for several regiments while delegations were on their way to Washington with a view to urging the selection of others.

"Probably never have so many appointments been made by the President to important positions in so short a time in which Senators and Representatives have had so little voice. The policy of appointing only those who have served in the Spanish war relieved the President of considerable trouble in disposing of the patronage, which is said to have been most judiciously distributed from a political point of view. The material as a whole is regarded by army men to be good, and it is conceded that all the colonels deserve the promotions they have received. There are two or three instances where men were selected whose services in the Spanish war consisted in chiefly in advertising themselves and seeking glory to which they were not entitled, but on the whole there is no dissatisfaction, even by strong advocates of General Miles.

"Probably two-thirds of the officers are from civil life, or are now serving in volunteer regiments shortly to be mustered out. These in several instances were selected on account of meritorious services rendered, and little objection is raised to any of them. The army regards the recent increase in its personnel as representing careful consideration of the candidates and excellent judgment in making the selections, but it is asserted the same results could have been obtained in allowing General Miles the privilege of naming at least some of them, instead of humiliating him before the entire army as a Major General Commanding without influence or authority and scarcely having the respect of the Administration.

"The animosity toward Miles and the means that are employed to show it are illustrated in a recent recommendation for the appointment to a clerkship of an old soldier whom he had known for years. He was refused this appointment. Then he asked that he be given a messenger's position, and this was also refused.

"There was a time, in the days of Sherman and Sheridan, when the General Commanding the Army wielded actually more authority than the Secretary of War. It was never questioned, at least in affairs pertaining strictly to the service, and to have disapproved any recommendation would have been followed by a request for an explanation. General Schofield, whom Mr. Cleveland made Lieutenant General, was the actual head of the army, although a Democrat and serving the greater part of his term under Republican Administrations.

"General Miles has been peculiarly unfortunate, however, in antagonizing both the Cleveland and McKinley Administrations, and as a consequence his authority has dwindled until it now amounts to less than that of a division commander. Secretary Lamont would not approve a bill to create the grade of Lieutenant General for Miles, and this naturally caused him to be on unpleasant terms with the head of the department. With the departure of Secretary Alger, who has been his bitterest antagonist, and the advent of Mr. Root there may be some chance for General Miles to regain his lost prestige, but this he can never expect to fully accomplish, he has said recently, as long as Mr. McKinley remains in the White House."

A Masterly Description.

(From the New York Tribune.)

Otto is a German, who has his own trials with the English language, and who has found himself utterly unable to deal with some of its sounds at all. The word "Thursday," for example, he has never been able to pronounce, so that anyone could understand it. Having occasion recently to mention that day of the week in conversation, he avoided the struggle, and expressed his meaning by evolving this masterpiece: "I vill come," he said, "on—on—oh! you know—Tuesday after Vednesday!"

Glacier Monument.

(John Muir in the Atlantic.)

One of the best general views of the middle region of the park is to be had from the top of a majestic dome, which long ago I named the Clacier Monument. It is situated a few miles to the north of Cathedral Park, and rises to a height of about 1,500 feet above its base, and 10,000 feet above the sea. At first sight it seems sternly inaccessible, but a good climber will find that it may be scaled on the south side. Approaching it from this side you pass through a dense bryanthus-fringed grove of Patton hemlock, catching glimpses now and then of the colossal dome towering to an immense height above the dark evergreens; and when at length you have made your way across woods, wading through azalea and ledum thickets, you step abruptly out of the tree shadows and mossy leafy softness upon a bare porphyry pavement, and behold the dome unveiled in all its grandeur. Fancy a nicely proportioned monument, eight or ten feet high, hewn from one stone, standing in a pleasure ground; magnify it to a height of 1,500 feet, retaining its simplicity of form and fineness, and cover its surface with crystals; then you may gain an idea of the sublimity and beauty of this ice-burnished dome, one of many adorning this wonderful park.

WEALTHY LOVERS TO WED.

Reported Engagement of R. K. Cassatt and Miss Minnie Drexel Fell.

Philadelphia, Pa., July 27.—Though their engagement has not been officially announced, there is little doubt that the rumors that have been persistently circulated among the smart set for several weeks that Mr. Robert K. Cassatt will marry Miss Minnie Drexel Fell are correct.

Mr. Cassatt is the son of Mr. Alexander J. Cassatt, the multi-millionaire president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and Miss Fell is the daughter of Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer, and a granddaughter of the late S. A. J. Drexel, the great Philadelphia banker. At the Cassatt and Van Rensselaer country places yesterday no one could be found who would discuss the rumored engagement. Intimate friends of Mr. Cassatt and Miss Fell, however, admitted their engagement, but said the formal announcement would not be made for several weeks.

Socially and financially the alliance will be a brilliant one. The engagement is the outcome of a cruise on the steam yacht May toward the close of last winter. Mr. and Mrs. Van Rensselaer, with a large party of friends, sailed from Philadelphia on the May just after the great blizzard, with Havana as their destination. Mr. Cassatt and Miss Fell were of the party. The account of the trip given on the return of the May by some of those who participated in it showed that the cruise had been an exceedingly pleasant one. Mr. Cassatt and Miss Fell spent much time in each other's company, and there were those on board who noticed with interest the beginning of the romance which may shortly culminate in a marriage.

Miss Fell, who has a fortune of several millions, made her debut in Philadelphia society last winter. She was educated in France, and was little known among the younger or older set until Mrs. Van Rensselaer presented her at a tea at the Van Rensselaer mansion, in Rittenhouse Square, last December. During the winter several large balls were given in her honor and she was a conspicuous figure at the opera. Miss Fell's popularity began the moment she "came out," and her attractive personality has done much to increase it ever since. She has light hair, blue eyes, and is a fine type of the American girl. Yachting is her favorite pastime, a trait inherited from her mother.

Mr. Cassatt, who is twenty-seven years old, was graduated at Harvard in 1893. Like his father, he is a lover of horses and all kinds of outdoor sports. Since he left college he has devoted himself to acquiring a knowledge of every branch of the railroad business. He spent a year in the Altoona shops, and afterward worked with the surveyors and constructors. Recently he was transferred to the Philadelphia office of the New York, Pennsylvania and Northern Railroad.

It is said that the wedding is likely to take place next autumn. At present Miss Fell is at Camp Hill Hall, the old Fell country place, near Fort Washington, which was left to Miss Fell, her brother, and two sisters by their father.

It is understood that the formal announcement of the engagement will not be made until Miss Fell returns from her trip on board the May, which starts on the annual cruise of the Corinthian Yacht Club on Friday next.

TESTIMONY ON IMMIGRATION.

Several Witnesses Suggest That the Laws Be Revised.

New York, July 27.—The subcommittee of the United States Industrial Commission, which has been investigating the operation of the immigration laws at this port, concluded its session here yesterday and adjourned until September, when it will meet in Washington.

A number of witnesses were examined yesterday. Roman Dobbler, chief of the boarding inspectors of this port, said that the work of his department was seriously handicapped by the fact that there were not enough inspectors and that no women were employed. He thought that young men clerks, who came over with $40 or $50 in their pockets and large expectations were generally the first to fall back on the community for assistance.

Dr. Lorenzo Ullo, legal adviser of the immigration department, told the committee that the immigration laws were poorly drawn and in need of revision. The law says that criminals must be returned to the countries where they committed their crimes.

As a rule, Dr. Ullo said, a man who had committed a crime at home sails for the United States or some other country, so that it is impossible to have the steamer that brought him here take him back to the country in which he committed the crime. The law against contract labor, he declared, was also full of loopholes. If a man wants to contract with laborers to come here and work for him, all he has to do is to have the agreement made in a foreign country. Dr. Ullo said that as the contract laborer is generally innocent of any intent to violate our laws, it would be a good thing for the Government to divide with him the penalty exacted from the guilty contractor.

Mrs. Regina Steubler, chief matron of the barge office, said that it required constant vigilance to separate the bad from the good women immigrants. She said that there were many of the former, and that there ought to be a clause in the law prohibiting them from landing. At present, she said, the law was like India rubber, and it was always stretched in favor of, instead of against, undesirable women.

Dr. Egisto Rossi, chief of the Italian Bureau in this city, testified that the padrone system was being gradually broken up, and stated that the recent failure of a number of unworthy Italian bankers in this city was the best evidence of it. The Italian Bureau, he said, worked constantly against the padrone system, and stands ready at all times to give assistance to worthy Italian immigrants.

An Old Long Island Tree.

(From the New York Sun.)

The "eagle tree" of East Moriches, L. I., an oak centuries old, is said to be dying. It had been occupied by a pair of bald-headed eagles since the end of the last century, whether the same pair all this time is not sure, but such is the belief. The building of a railroad 100 yards from the tree drove them away a while, but in 1887 they returned, and the household was maintained until a hunter wounded the male eagle so badly that he died at the foot of the tree which was his home. They say the hunter would have been lynched if he had been caught. Ospreys are said to have afterward occupied the nest which the eagles abandoned, but this does not seem likely. The owner of the land where the tree grows says he does not own the tree, which had rights there before he came, and it shall never be cut down.

A Diabolical Weapon.

(From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.)

"I have handled a good many outlandish weapons," said a New Orleans curio dealer, "but here is a little instrument that for pure diabolism beats anything I ever saw in my life. I bought it the other day from a Norwegian sailor, who tells me it was given him by a Jap at Yokohama—a story that you may take for what it is worth." As he spoke he opened a showcase and took out what seemed to be an ordinary Chinese marking brush, of rather large size. The handle was some ten inches long, and the diameter of a lead pencil. By giving it a sharp twist it separated about a hand's breadth from the end, after the manner of a sword cane, and attached to the smaller piece was a slender glass rod with a needle point. The rod was not much bigger than a knitting needle, and with the handle it had the effect of a very small and delicate stiletto. "I should think that would break if it were used to stab with," remarked a visitor, after examining the contrivance. "Certainly it would," replied the dealer, "and that is where the fiendishness of the thing comes in. Look closely at the glass rod and you will see a tiny groove filed around it about two inches from the hilt. Suppose that it were driven into the body of a man, it would be certain to break at the groove, and would leave at least three inches of glass buried in his vitals. The puncture would be so small that it would close when the stump was drawn out, and I doubt exceedingly whether a single drop of blood would follow. In other words, the victim could receive his deathblow without knowing exactly what had happened to him. He would feel a shock and a pang, but find no wound, and meanwhile the assassin would stick his brush together and go about his business. The same idea might be applied to stylographic pens."

COMPTROLLER COLER VEXED.

If the Civil Service Rules Stand, He May Resign.

New York, July 27.—Comptroller Coler, declaring that the civil service rules adopted for New York city by the State Civil Service Commission will make it impossible for him to conduct his office in a businesslike way, said yesterday that unless the rules affecting exemptions in his department were changed he would resign.

"No self-respecting man," he said, "can retain this office unless he has the power to run it as it ought to be run. I shall ask the State Civil Service Commissioners to make such changes in the rules as are absolutely necessary for the efficiency of the office and the protection of myself, and if they don't make them I'll get out."

If the comptroller should resign, his place would be filled temporarily by appointment by Governor Roosevelt. A successor would be chosen by popular vote in November, to take office on January 1.

Under the rules as they now exist the comptroller will have to discharge many employes on August 11. It is believed by him and others that an eligible list cannot be certified by the local civil service board by that time, and even if it could be made ready there would be dissatisfaction on the comptroller's part.

"Most important of the positions affected," said Mr. Coler, "are those of a confidential nature and those that have to do with the handling of millions of dollars of city money for which I personally am responsible.

"For instance, under the new rules I am allowed only one bank messenger on the exempt list. The work of the office absolutely requires ten or more. Money has to be carried from each of the five boroughs. I am under heavy bonds, and am personally responsible for every dollar of the money these men carry. Now, suppose I have to take the first man certified on an eligible list. I have to take a long chance. Honesty should be the chief factor in making the selection, and the civil service examination does not go into that.

"Under the rules there can be only one messenger for the city paymaster's office and the auditor's department. We cover all five boroughs. The city paymaster has to send messengers out to all parts of the city to pay men. We have to pay them where they work or else they will have to go to the paymaster's office, in Chambers Street, and lose time for which the city must pay them.

"These rules work badly both ways. We are allowed ten examiners of accounts and institutions. The work could be done by one bookkeeper. They give us six chief clerks. There is only one, there will be only one while I am here, and heaven only knows what they think I could do with six.

"I have everything running in splendid fashion in the office now. If I have to discharge the men who have accomplished this result and take whatever the civil service gives me, the work of the office will be absolutely paralyzed."

George McAneny, Secretary of the Civil Service Reform Association, called on the comptroller late in the afternoon. As he was leaving he said:

"I think the comptroller has spoken hastily. The State board is doing its best, and when the comptroller explains his complaints to it I believe it will give relief. There are mistakes that are unavoidable. I think the ones the comptroller refers to are trivial."

WANTS THE BOOKS EXAMINED.

A Shareholder in the American Malting Company May Apply to Courts.

New York, July 27.—Otto Huber, a brewer in Brooklyn Borough, wants to have an expert examine the books of the American Malting Company, in which he and members of his family, are large stockholders, principally of the common stock. Unless this privilege is accorded him Mr. Huber threatens to apply to the chancery court, of New Jersey for an order compelling the company to produce its books.

John C. Clarke, a lawyer representing Mr. Huber, called at the office of the company, 80 Broadway, yesterday, and presented a letter signed by his client and some of the latter's relatives, in which a demand was made that the books be opened for the lawyer's inspection. It was also stated in the letter that unless this wish was accorded proceedings would be taken in the courts.

The lawyer was told that Mr. Huber or any other stockholder could examine the books at any time; that there was nothing to be hidden. Then the lawyer withdrew.

Mr. Huber's action became known in Wall Street and it made the stock of the American Malting Company a very interesting feature of the trading in the Stock Exchange. It opened at 69 for the preferred shares and promptly declined more than 8 points, ouching as low as 61. At the close shares showed a net loss of 5 1-4. In the price of the common stock the closing showed a decline of 2 3-4 points, and 2,500 shares changed hands, most of them during the afternoon.

Charles A. Stadler, President of the American Malting Company, is in Europe, and the treasurer, Elverton R. Chapman, sailed yesterday. C. M. Warner is acting president in Mr. Stadler's absence.

"Mr. Huber bought 5,000 shares of the common stock at 37," Mr. Warner said, "and he has 1,200 shares of the preferred stock. You see, he has sustained a heavy financial loss on the common stock, and I guess that's the trouble.

"Mr. Huber can see our books at any time, and so can any other shareholder. I guess Mr. Huber wanted to speculate. There is no opportunity for him or any other person to charge irregularities. I guess I'm the largest stockholder, and I'll buy more shares at the present figure. The company is making money, and pays 7 per cent a year in dividends on the preferred stock."

Mr. Huber was seen at Manhattan Beach last night. He refused to say anything about the case.

The American Malting Company was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey in September, 1897, with a capital of $30,000,000.

CURRENT HUMOR.

Retribution.

(From the Chicago News.)

"See here," said the grocer, bristling with righteous indignation, as the milkman made his morning call, "I'd like to have you explain how the chalk and white clay that I found in the bottom of my coffee-cup this morning got there!"

"Evidently," replied the milkman, as a peculiar smile chased itself across his countenance, "you have been sweetening your coffee with the same kind of sugar you sold my wife yesterday."

Badly Needed.

(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

"Where are you hurrying?"

"Off for New Jersey."

"What's in the wind?"

"I'm going to organize a kissingbug trust before the week is out."

His First Impression.

(From Tit-Bits.)

"The first writing was done on stone," remarked the wise man at dinner.

"Great gracious! Think of the postage!" involuntarily exclaimed the rising poet.

A Miserable State of Doubt.

(From the New York Journal.)

Handout Harry—Say, Teddy, wuz dat a real snake, or have I got 'em again?

Tiepass Teddy—It's a reel snake, all right. I seen it meself.

Handout Harry—Dat don't prove nottin'. You might have 'em, too.

Temerity.

(From the Ohio State Journal.)

"Our colonel is getting entirely too risky," remarked a Filipino soldier.

"Yes," assented a comrade, "he made us hold on to our trenches yesterday until the Americans got in plain view of us."

Industry.

(From Baltimore Jewish Comment.)

Mrs. De Cohen—I hear you've got a very industrious husband.

Laundress—Yes, mum; he's always finding something for me to do.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

A camel can carry a load of 1,500 pounds.

There is only one flock of pure merino sheep in England.

Comparatively few of Chicago's churches will close during July and August.

It is estimated that there are 50,000,000 English sparrows in Massachusetts.

For nervous disorders it is now found that the finest cure is the simple one of lying in bed.

Over a quarter of a million of people have already perished in consequence of the famine in Russia.

The highest point to which man can ascend without his health being very seriously affected is 16,050 feet.

In Sweden good hotels are erected by the communities in places where it is thought tourists would like to tarry.

In a backwoods county of California there lives a man who refuses to travel on a railroad train, as he prefers the stage coach.

Now the highest of the graduating honors at Cambridge University, in England, goes to a colored man, a Brahmin from Bombay.

Livery stables in New York city, without exception, it is stated, refuse to house automobiles, and this is well urged as a strong reason for the formation of an automobile club.

Norwegian legislators propose that girls who do not know how to knit, sew, wash, and cook, should be refused permission to marry. Daughters of wealthy men are not to be excepted.

Every year Chicago uses up about 41,000,000 pounds of soap. This is for all purposes, but does not include the various soap powders and other compounds which are sometimes used in its place.

The "Detroit News" says last year a Similac, Mich., man succeeded in growing tomatoes grafted into a potato vine. This year he is trying the experiment of grafting a rose bush on an apple tree.

The Ragged School Union of London comprises 155 schools, manned by 5,000 devoted voluntary teachers who, week by week, all the year round, give the children of these schools religious instruction.

Sir Robert Rawlinson, K. C. B., is the only man who was ever knocked out of the saddle by a cannon ball without being killed. The identical 42l-pound shot is preserved by Lady Rawlinson as an interesting relic.

The California State board of prison directors adopted a rule that hereafter when a convict is found with a deadly weapon in his possession he shall be kept in solitary confinement for the rest of the term, even if it be for his natural life.

One of the queer freaks of the Bangor, Me., police grist the other day was an intoxicated man, who went into a leading hotel and telephoned himself for the patrol wagon. When it came he climbed in and rode over to the City Hall to be locked up.

Lester E. Gilbert, of Marysville, Mo., started this week from Dalles, Ore., with 25,000 sheep, which are to be driven overland to Kansas. Twenty-five men assist him in herding the sheep, and fifty horses are taken along. The trip will occupy the entire summer and fall.

Some statistics recently collected in regard to the education of 220 literary celebrities of the day indicate that Eton, which has always enjoyed a distinguished place in letters, leads, with eleven representatives. Then follows Harrow, with ten, and a London school, King's College, is credited with six.

The increase of insanity in civilized centres of population is appalling. A half-dozen new asylums have been built in and about London in