The Evening Times

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Sunday, January 14	29,942
Monday, January 15	41,881
Tuesday, January 16	42,233
Wednesday, January 17	42,434
Thursday, January 18	42,177
Friday, January 19	42,095
Saturday, January 20	42,241
Total	274,011
Daily average (Sunday, 20,942, excepted)	42,178

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ADVERTISERS' GUARANTEE COMPANY,
By J. R. MASON, President.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1900.

The Wreck of British Hope.

It is too early to measure the extent of the terrible disaster to the British arms at Spion Kop, reported by General Buller today. It is sadly evident that Warren's attack upon the height was an abject blunder, based upon an absolutely mistaken view of its relations to the adjacent Boer positions. Warren appears to have assured Buller that Spion Kop dominated the whole of Joubert's semi-circular line from Dewdrop around to Acton Homes, and that its possession would render untenable the area within that semi-lune back to the Dewdrop road. On the contrary, it is now developed that Spion Kop was not necessary to the integrity of the Boer line. That being the fact, Joubert is seen to have prepared it to serve as a lion trap, into which the victims walked and died like so many sheep.

The reports tells us that after Warren took possession of the hill, Boer batteries previously masked and silent, and having the range of his trenches to an inch, broke loose from the circumjacent ridges and poured in a murderous fire all day Wednesday. Under this bombardment it was impossible to bring up artillery, and Wednesday night Warren withdrew to his old position, thoroughly defeated, and with a casualty list that it is to be apprehended will run up into the thousands.

It is fairly inconceivable that an officer of Sir Charles Warren's strategical reputation and South African experience, should have made the fatal preliminary mistake he evidently did, in the assumptions upon which he proceeded to take Spion Kop. The scouting and skirmishing done for his benefit on the left by Dundonald and Clery had been active, and, as the English military critics have thought, effective. Moreover, he had the assistance of several war balloons in locating the dispositions, entrenchments, and emplacements of the Boers. Yet he was pitiably trapped and apparently with less excuse than any of his predecessors in the same business.

What the immediate consequences of the disaster may be, it would be impossible to say; but if the losses of Warren's division are as serious as may be surmised, it is not certain that the left wing and the transport of Buller's army are not in grave danger. If there are re-enforcements that can be pushed forward instantly to fill the ranks and the vacant places at the guns, no worse thing may happen at the moment than the compulsory abandonment of Ladysmith to its fate, which is more than likely to have been settled by the affair of Spion Kop. But if there are no fresh troops to bring up, Buller will have to look to the safety of his army and be quick about it; for an attack by Joubert at this point in the game would appear to be natural to expect.

It may be assumed without much risk that a further attempt to turn the Boer extreme right is under existing conditions impracticable with Buller's present force. As all things are possible, he may retrieve his fortunes, but just now he is probably thrown on the defensive. There is nothing discoverable in the situation to encourage any hope for the relief of Ladysmith, and, unless the resisting power of its garrison is much greater than there is reason to suppose, its early capitulation should not occasion any surprise. The blunder at Spion Kop in many ways may prove a terrible blow to the British Empire.

A Literary Hoax.

It is reported that another literary hoax has been perpetrated upon an innocent and long-suffering public. As nothing of the kind has happened since the experience of Louis de Rougemont was revealed a year or two ago, the public was, of course, quite unprepared. The fact is that the proverb about truth being stranger than fiction has been so thoroughly ingrained in people's minds that certain clever story-tellers have taken advantage of it and told fictions, purporting to be true, under the shelter of that time-honored saying. The latest of these literary adventurers is a young man by the name of William Jameson Reid.

Mr. Reid perused a book about Tibet, in which the sufferings of a traveler at the hands of the natives were chronicled, and it evidently occurred to him that he could do almost as well as that himself, if he let his imagination run riot. He had the advantage, of course, of a field practically unknown to the majority of English and American readers. So he wrote another book about Tibet, claiming to have visited places never before seen by Caucasians, and to have had numerous and thrilling adventures. These incidents, loosely strung together, made a lively and picturesque narrative, and there would not be much chance that the average reader or critic would detect its falsity, since the regions described were impenetrable to explorers until a very recent date. And all the time that Mr. Reid was supposed to be having these wild adventures, he was staying in Boston and working on a daily paper. Hereafter no book about Tibet will be accepted as genuine without the endorsement of at least three scientific societies and several men with sections of the alphabet after their names.

But, after all, when one comes to think of it, the young man's duplicity is not so very wonderful from a moral point of view. It is human nature to enjoy the telling of fairy tales to credulous people who believe them. For centuries such tales were told, so cleverly that the story tellers themselves believed them after awhile. Some of the theological and scientific quarrels of bygone days—and of the present, for the matter of that—remind one of the old fairy tale about the man and his wife who quarreled over an imaginary pudding. It is hard to believe in these sober days that men ever went to war and shed each other's blood in large quantities over the question of the government of the unseen world. Not one of those who so zealously fought in defence of one theory or the other about the constitution of heaven had ever been there, nor did they personally know anyone who had. They were convinced that certain human beings were to be allowed to enter, and certain other human beings were to be shut out, and the password was to be the repetition of some particular bit of creed. They did not explain how they knew all this, and, strange to say, nobody seems to have asked. But they fought for it all the same. Later, we have seen people who ostracise others for refusing to admit that the world was made in six days and that all sin was due to the eating of an apple from a forbidden tree. Now we find a small colony of Dutchmen who persistently shut out all enlightening influences from their section of South Africa, for fear they may be led to believe that the world is round and that the Bible was not originally given to mankind in the language of Holland. Compared with belief in their particular form of dogma, justice, civil rights, the lifting up of degraded races, and the maintenance of honest government are as nothing. It is curious, this disposition which many people have, to discard the essential things in life and feed on the husks instead of the kernel.

The literary hoax is a mild form of the bigger hoaxes which have caused many great religious and political movements. Compared with the folly of dogmatizing on matters of which nobody knows anything, the telling of fairy tales about an unknown region of the earth, for the fun of imposing on the credulity of the reading public is a small matter.

The Senate's Rebuke to Gage.

To be entirely fair to the Secretary of the Treasury, we are not quite convinced that the Republican leaders in the Senate really intended a rebuke to him in ignoring his request for an appropriation in the Urgent Deficiency bill to cover the rent he wishes to pay to the Standard Oil Bank for the New York Custom House. When the committee omitted the item in making its report, it doubtless did so in fear of public opinion rather than out of any objection to the general principle of Treasury looting. If any unpleasant feeling toward Mr. Gage can be regarded as involved in the matter, it is only that pain and resentment which coparceners feel when one of their number is publicly seen to have broken the Eleventh Commandment.

Nevertheless the action of the Senate is in form, if not in purpose, a most stinging rebuke to the Secretary. This is true and obvious to such an extent that, if his nature has not lost the last vestige of sensitiveness, it is to be expected that he will accept the snub as an Administration notice to quit, and will quit accordingly. No doubt, to resign at the present time would be extremely embarrassing for Mr. Gage on more accounts than one. He seems to have entertained professional hopes, aims, and ambitions, to which continuance in his present position might be a necessary condition precedent, and it is possible that the whole fabric of his future Castle in Spain would vanish into air if the axe were to fall on his head in advance of his ability to contribute importantly to the accomplishment of certain eventualities.

The Standard Oil Bank deal was such a stupendous and stupid blunder from a political point of view that it is easy to credit the story extant in Washington to the effect that the President has been greatly annoyed in consequence of it, and that this feeling has been strongly accentuated by Mr. Gage's added foolishness in asking Congress to appropriate money with which to pay rent on what is understood to be still Government property. Ultimately, there is not much reason to doubt that the rent will be paid. It is hardly supposable that the dominating party influence behind the deal would tolerate default on the part of an Administration so greatly under obligations to it for material assistance in the past, and so expectant of benefits in the future. But, as a Republican Senator said, the matter is not one of urgency and could better have been left for incorporation in the General Deficiency bill, where it might not have attracted quite so much or so unpleasant attention.

Witnesses at Frankfort.

According to our Frankfort despatches, a special train of eighteen coaches, loaded with Republican mountain militia, rolled into Frankfort yesterday morning. The men detrained in military order, marched to the Statehouse square, stacked arms, and went into camp. The strangest part of the proceeding is that both Governor Taylor and Kentucky's Adjutant General declare that they know nothing about the movement; that they have not nor either of them ordered out any troops; and that this gathering of three organized and armed battalions is nothing more than one of individual peaceable citizens who have been summoned as witnesses before the legislative committees.

No doubt the facts are exactly as stated by the governor and his adjutant general, and it is probable that, to people familiar with Kentucky customs and methods, there is nothing calculated to cause surprise in the accidental meeting of a thousand or twelve hundred "witnesses" at a place where there happens to be standing a special train of eighteen cars. The sight of a great many such "witnesses" dressed in militia uniform elsewhere might occasion comment. In the Blue Grass State, particularly in the Hatfield-McCoy district, which is solidly Republican, probably many citizens have no other than military clothes. That would be natural, as they are always on the warpath.

There are some things connected with this new and interesting development in popular recognition of legal and legislative processes that remind one pleasantly of the opening days of the French Revolution. There is the same cheerful consumption of ardent spirits, the same carelessness about the use of firearms, and the same casual invasion of the capital by armed men. One of the martial "witnesses" with a big gun strapped to his waist is reported as having walked up to Senator Goebel on the floor of the Senate and engaged him in an agreeable conversation which was impertinently interrupted by the sergeant-at-arms. By today it is possible that the whole three battalions of "witnesses" may take a fancy to visit the chamber and run things for a while on their own account.

All this is a great thing for the peace of the mountain regions of Kentucky. While these Republican "witnesses" remain in Frankfort all feuds in Breathitt, Perry, Letcher, Pike, Bell, and Harlan counties will be dormant, for there will be nobody at home to attend to them. It is even likely that until the return of the Republican wanderers, there will not be a single assassination in the whole eastern division. On the other hand the male citizens of the mountains must be in a state of intense happiness. They have not enjoyed such a chance for fun since they used to pot each other from behind their native rocks and trees in the civil war.

While these "witnesses" for Taylor, and concerning whom he is in ignorance, are terrifying the women and children of Frankfort, and defying the courts and Legislature, where, let us ask, are the counter-"witnesses" whom we should expect to see in regiments and brigades, under the command of Field Marshal Chinn? Is this revolution to be one-handled like a demijohn and not two-handled like a carboy? The question ought to suggest a careful inspection of the further returns. It is not possible that the "witnesses" who support the courts and Legislature will permit all this warlike evidence to be produced without doing a little something in the direction of rebuttal! That would be disappointing public expectation in a way that we fear the country might resent.

We would not say a thing to hurt the proper pride of our English cousins at a time when they are prostrated with grief; but, for their own sakes, it really is advisable to suggest that if they would send over here and hire a few American generals, it might improve their luck. Unhappy occurrences have seemed to indicate that the kind of commanders they have been using in South Africa are outclassed by soldiers like de Brialmont, and de Villebois-Mareuil, who are directing Joubert's operations. There are many officers in our army who are as good as either.

Although no reason appears why the case of Roberts should have been treated as a party question, it is interesting to note that not a single Republican voted against the majority resolution to exclude instead of to expel the polygamist member from Utah. This fact may be taken as illustrating the high state of party discipline in the Republican camp, and also the supreme contempt felt for the Constitution in the same lager, when that ancient instrument happens to interfere with the purposes or interests of the organization.

Rumors are afloat which seem to indicate that Mr. Hanna's Ship Sudsidy bill, which is largely in the interests of the Standard Oil Company, will not be pressed at the present session of Congress. There is widespread opposition to it throughout the country, and it is said that knowledge of the fact has caused the Administration to call a halt. It is also asserted that the proposed beneficiaries have been assured that if they give as liberally to the Republican campaign as they were expected to, the bill will be jammed through Congress as soon as it can be brought up after the Presidential election.

Late advices from China convey the assurance that the Empress Dowager, Tsi An, is as completely master of the situation in the Flowery Kingdom as her colleague the Empress Dowager See Hanna, is in this empire. Kwang Su gracefully abdicated, amiably postponing his suicide until after that final act of imperial power. If he had killed himself first it might have made trouble for the old lady. Reports indicate that she may have assisted at both ceremonies.

It seems probable that the majority in Congress will adopt the proposition that our new possessions are the common property of the several States of the Union, and not a part of the United States. We are quite prepared to believe that this will be the subterfuge by which the oppression of Dingleyism will be made possible in American territory treated for purposes of plunder as "foreign parts." If anyone shall say such a thing is impossible, for the Constitution stands in the way, let him remember that the Constitution was brushed aside in the case of Roberts, and will go to the wastebasket every time it gets in the way of a partisan end or a Republican campaign fund.

Journalistic Aid to Science.

(From the New York Sun.)

As a matter of fact, there never was a time when so much useful and scientific information was spread before the public, day after day, as is spread nowadays, and the main agent in disseminating this knowledge, so far as the great mass of readers is concerned, is the newspaper. For several reasons, it is much easier now than formerly for the daily newspaper to make accurate reports of scientific matters. The workers in scientific fields, for example, have largely outlived the old prejudice against popularizing the results of their labors. Many of them are engaged by newspapers to write popular accounts of discoveries they have made or summaries of work done in their fields of investigation. Reports of the best papers read at scientific meetings are often prepared in advance for general reading and supplied to newspapers that wish to print them.

London's Ancient Records.

(From the Newcastle Chronicle.)

The County Council, as the successor of the Metropolitan Board of Works, is custodian of a number of valuable documents bearing upon the local history of the Metropolis. Included in the collection are many volumes of minutes of the Commissioners of Sewers, dating back to the reign of Henry VIII, together with papers and deeds relating to important buildings such as Northumberland House, which formerly stood at Charing Cross. These interesting documents have hitherto been inaccessible to the public but the Council has now decided to publish a selection of them in volume.

Children as Toymakers.

(From the Baltimore American.)

The official report of the government inspector of factories for Coburg-Gotha gives details as to the labor of children under fourteen years engaged in their homes in making buttons, toys, etc. It appears that in this district 5,455 such children are employed. They work from four and one-quarter to six hours per day, and earn in button-making from 2 to 6 cents. In making dolls they earn from 3 to 18 cents, while on toy work they earn from 2 cents to 14 cents per day.

Historic Elms.

(From the New York Tribune.)

Under the shade of the old elms of Craigie House, the home of Alice Longfellow, Washington spent many an hour during the occupation of the house as a headquarters, laying plans which are now matters of history. Later the same trees, grown older and more rugged, gave inspiration to Longfellow while he wrote his world renowned poems.

Russian Wedding Costumes.

(From the Cincinnati Enquirer.)

Russia has still many old and curious marriage customs. One is for the bride and bridegroom to race madly down the aisle as soon as the bridal procession enters the church, because of the belief that whoever places a foot first on the cloth in front of the altar will be master of the household.

A Portable Searchlight.

(From the Chicago Chronicle.)

A French officer has invented an acetylene searchlight which can be carried by one man, and which will illuminate everything within a distance of 100 yards. It is expected to be of great use in searching for the wounded after a battle and in bridge building at night.

French Schools in South America.

(From the Cleveland Plain-Dealer.)

A bill has been introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies to vote 50,000 francs a year for the maintenance of French schools in South Africa. This is for the purpose of fostering and developing French influence in the southern continent, which is threatened by "Teutonic aggression."

POLITICAL NOTES AND GOSSIP.

They Are Not Afraid.—Representatives De Armond of Missouri and Littlefield of Maine express themselves as entirely satisfied with the part they took in the Roberts case. There is a marked similarity in the intellectual equipment and moral fibre of the two men. They met for the first time after they were appointed on the special committee to which the Roberts contest was referred, took the same view of the case from the start, and collaborated together in preparing the minority report. The Missourian was placed at a decided disadvantage in the matter of presenting his argument to the House, in that he was assigned to close the debate for the minority, and the wonderful sweep of Mr. Littlefield's logic in opening the debate for that side left Judge De Armond little to talk about. Nevertheless, he made a speech that touched only on the lesser phases of the principles involved which showed what an unusually close reasoner and high-class lawyer he is. Judge De Armond received the most respectful attention of the House while he was speaking and delivered blows to the timid opposition that made many a one of them wince. He and Mr. Littlefield talk very similarly about the indifference with which they view the possibly disastrous political results of their course. The Missourian said this morning: "I feel that I did my duty and I have very little thought of what the consequences of my action will be in a personal way. I was quite as happy and prosperous before I came to Congress as I am now, and if my constituents should conclude to retire me for what I have done in the Roberts case they would only be exercising their privilege. But I have no fear on this score. My constituency is an intelligent one and thinks for itself, thereby arriving at correct conclusions."

Mr. Littlefield had this to say: "It is of very little consequence to me or my constituents whether or not I am returned to Congress. Therefore I am not bothering about that. I have done what I conceived to be my duty, and that is gratification enough for me." It is being freely predicted by men who have for years watched the marvelous discipline of the Republicans and of their decided objection to a new member individualizing himself at too early a period of his career that Mr. Littlefield will be made to suffer in the House, if not in his district, for having defied the party bosses and leaping at one bound into national fame. If an attempt is made to "discipline" Mr. Littlefield the bosses will find that they have undertaken a hard job, if the popular estimate of his ability is not too high.

Bryan the Master.—Colonel Bryan appears to be sweeping everything before him in the East, and when he returns West it is thought he can no longer refer to the region on this side of the Alleghenies as "the enemy's country." When he arrived in New York he announced that he had brought along a "barrel of oil," and he seems to have poured out large quantities of this wherever he has gone. It is thought that if the apparent harmony he has established in the communities thus far visited is brought about by his presence in New England next week, the plan to send contesting delegations to the convention in his interest from all the States of the East will be abandoned. Only in Maryland does there now seem to be a stubbornly defiant spirit toward the Nebraskan, and if this does not submit to his will before the time arrives for the election of delegates to the National Convention it is believed two sets of delegates will be chosen in order to make it certain that no danger can threaten Colonel Bryan.

Big Day in New Jersey.—The Democrats of New Jersey seem to be preparing to celebrate Washington's Birthday this year on an unusual scale of oratorical magnificence. Nearly every Democratic spellbinder in Congress has received an invitation to make a speech at some point in the State on February 22, and most of the invitations have been accepted. At Trenton the character and achievements of Washington will be glowingly set forth by the Hon. R. C. De Graffenreid of Texas, and as the principal celebration in the State is being planned at Trenton, the "Black Eagle of the Piney Woods" is expected to plume himself for a flight into the ethereal realms.

The Elkins Boom.—Apparently there is a concerted movement all along the line to make the suggestion of Senator Elkins for Vice President something more than a joke. The West Virginian is said to take it very seriously himself and to be not at all averse to the movement. It is stated that he realizes the hopelessness of his campaign for re-election to the Senate this year, and is anxious to round out his public career in the role of heir apparent. That he has strong supporters among his Senatorial colleagues is evidenced by the fact that since the announcement of his candidacy opposition to the fixed programme for a New York man as Mr. McKinley's running mate has sprung up in the Senate, and Mark Hanna is said to be doing all he can to stifle it before it gets beyond the Capitol. The statement of Administration henchmen that the President favors Senator Elkins' nomination does not find much credence. It is generally understood that Mr. McKinley himself engineered the deal by which Cornelius N. Bliss was accepted as a compromise between the warring factions of New York, and if this is true it is not believed the President would willingly surrender his choice for Senator Elkins.

Pension Office Delays.

To the Editor of The Times:

The article in your paper of this evening entitled "Death from Excessive Jog," suggests the enquiry, Why are pensions delayed? Is it owing to lack of clerical help; if so, it seems as if that trouble could be easily remedied. We often read of the great delay, but I have never seen the cause stated. Nearly two years ago the writer's application was favorably considered and approved by the examining board of three surgeons, but no pension has yet been allowed. No doubt there are many similar cases.

NEEDY OLD SOLDIER.

Washington, Jan. 25.

History of the Rubaiyat.

(From the National Magazine.)

It was in 1859—just forty years ago—that Fitzgerald's now celebrated paraphrase of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam made its first appearance in England. It was published anonymously, and is described by Mr. Bernard Quaritch, the well-known London publisher, as "a little, insignificant looking, brown-paper-covered pamphlet." This first edition included only seventy-five quatrains, and of the "little, brown-paper-covered pamphlets" but 250 were printed. Of these Mr. Fitzgerald kept fifty, and gave the remaining 200 to Mr. Quaritch, who sold a considerable number of them for one penny each—for the simple reason that he could get no more. Remembering this fact, it is interesting to note that in 1898 a single copy of this first edition was sold at auction in London for twenty-one guineas. Yet the poem, obscure and unattractive as was the guise in which it first appeared, commanded a certain attention, and it was said that Swinburne and D. G. Rossetti were among its earliest admirers.

A Word for Pugilism.

(From the Kansas City Star.)

A great city like New York needs a variety of amusement. The French ball has become a chestnut. An affair like the Seeley dinner is necessarily limited to a few persons. Grand opera costs too much to afford the means of popular entertainment, and football has its limitations. The one event that can thrill and electrify the nation from New York to San Francisco is a prize fight, and the State of New York deserves credit, at least, for looking this fact squarely in the face and framing its laws accordingly.

Police Operations in St. Paul.

(From the Minneapolis Tribune.)

The St. Paul police force has made another brilliant record for itself. While the footpads and burglars were holding high carnival the other night the brave guardians of the public peace arrested a supposed drunken man and dumped him into a central station cell. From there he was railroaded to the workhouse, where he died, and now it turns out that he was not drunk at all, but was suffering from meningitis.

SEEN AND HEARD AT THE CAPITOL

Former Senator Warner Miller of New York was on the floor of the Senate yesterday for the first time during the present session. After speaking to a number of old acquaintances he seated himself on a sofa, and with his hands clasped in his lap contemplated the scenes in which he once took an active part. Several Senators went over and greeted Mr. Miller, and presently Senator Platt walked past on his way to his seat. Seeing Mr. Miller, he partly stopped, looked hesitatingly toward Mr. Miller, then continued on his way. Neither spoke and both were apparently anxious to avoid doing so. The incident was noticed by a number of Senator Platt's colleagues, and they smiled knowingly at the cut given and returned.

* * *

The desk of Senator Allen was conspicuous Thursday because of the number of books piled upon it, in addition to which there were enough newspaper clippings and public documents to start a library. It was generally understood that Mr. Allen had collected this mass of reference matter in preparation for an attack upon the Administration in general and Secretary Gage in particular, in case objection was raised to the Allen resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for copies of the correspondence between him and the National City Bank, of New York. The resolution was passed, however, without opposition.

* * *

A young lady seated in one of the private galleries of the Senate this morning became so interested in the proceedings that she leaned far over the gallery rail and dropped a small handbag that she was carrying. It struck one of the sofas on the Senate floor and rebounded to a height of about two feet, to the consternation of the clerks and pages who were standing near. The bag was returned to the young lady and no further notice was taken of the incident, though it is safe to say that had it been a man who was so unfortunate as to drop his hat or a package he would have been ejected from the gallery.

THE WRECK OF THE ARDANDHU.

Two Stories of the Collision Related by the Survivors.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The survivors of the wreck of the steamer Ardandhu, sunk off Vineyard Haven last Tuesday while in collision with the steamer Winter, have arrived here on the Pilgrim. Captain Dundas, of the Ardandhu, stayed in Vineyard Haven to confer with the wrecking company. As to the responsibility for the accident no one seems to know anything. There were on the deck of the pilot house at the time the captain, the pilot, Captain Farrell; the second mate, Dowd, who was lost, the man at the wheel, and the lookout. The most interesting story is told by John Earl, the lookout. Most of the men say that at the time the vessels met the captain of the Ardandhu was looking at his charts.

"I was on the lookout during the early morning and saw the Winter coming down on us. It looked to me to be almost a half mile away. After a moment it seemed to me the whistle on the Winter blew one, and I hallooed to the man at the wheel to starboard his helm and——"

"No, you did not call anything of the kind to me," interrupted Mullen. "Yes, I did," insisted the lookout. "I say you did not," declared Mullen.

"As I said," continued the lookout, ignoring the wheel man, "we blew our whistle twice and then we came together. The weather was clear and I do not see how the accident came about. The Winter struck amidship and almost cut us in half. I climbed aboard the Winter. I did not see the second mate after the crash."

Muller's story is as follows:

"It was around 2:30 o'clock in the morning. We were sailing toward Gayhead Light, when the Winter was sighted, about three miles ahead. We were both going along at a good speed, and we did not think there would be any danger of being struck by the Winter, which was about three points off the starboard bow. Although she kept on her course, we supposed that of course she would bear off to port. A few moments later we changed our course a point, and three-quarters north, on account of the light, and kept that until we met the Winter.

"We gave two whistles, and altered our helm to starboard. The Winter answered with one whistle, but so far as I could see, she did not change her course. The pilot yelled, "What is the matter with them!" but we could do nothing. There was so little distance between us that we could not have turned to starboard short enough if the ship had answered her helm immediately, as the Winter bore straight down on us. There was no way out.

"Within two minutes from the time we signaled we came together. That was at 3:45 a. m. There was a crashing sound, and the Ardandhu recoiled with such a lurch that I was slung across the pilot-house. I hung onto the wheel, though, and immediately regained my feet. The Winter's bow reached above our deck about six feet, and the climb was easy, except that the sea made the ships jump about, and a big crack would open up between our deck and her bow with every swell. I think the second mate, whom I missed at the time we struck, must have fallen down there. I don't see how he could have been lost otherwise.."

THE DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

The Profits of South Carolina During Seven Years.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 26.—In support of its claims for existence the State dispensary board has prepared a statement for the legislature, the first ever made, showing the net profits since the establishment of the dispensary system in 1893 to be $1,706,000. The least profits were in nineteen months under Governor Tillman's control, when they were $125,000. The board thinks the profits this year will be $500,000. It has on hand, paid for, a $500,000 stock.

The statement for the year 1899 has been completed. It shows that in the year the amount of profits going to the counties, and cities was $220,492.35. The net profits to the State, which go to the credit of the school fund, are $193,689.49, making the total net profits $414,181.84. The total gross profits for the year were $485,520.79. The total receipts for the year were $1,638,939.26, including the $46,073.24 surplus brought over from last year, the total disbursements were $1,495,818.26, leaving a balance of $141,121 in the State treasury on December 31. The aggregate purchases made during the year were $1,158,681.39.

The discussion in the legislature of the merits of the dispensary law has brought to light a remarkable case from the mountains of Oconee. A widow, said to be 100 years old, was ill. Whisky was prescribed by a physician, and her daughter procured three quarts, and fearing visits from spies, kept it buried in the garden. But the constables were on the track of the whisky. They found it, arrested the daughter, charging her with running a "blind tiger," and she was sent to jail for three months. In the meantime the aged mother, with no one to care for her, died.

Caused No Uneasiness.

(From the Buffalo Inquirer.)

Fussy Old Gentleman (to chance traveling lady companion)—Have you any children, madam?

"Yes, sir; a son."

"Ah, indeed! Does he smoke?"

"No, sir; he has never so much as touched a cigarette."

"So much the better, madam; the use of tobacco is a poisonous habit. Does he frequent the clubs?"

"He has never put his foot in one."

"Allow me to congratulate you. Does he never come home late?"

"Never. He goes to bed directly after dinner."

"A model young man, madam—a model young man. How old is he?"

"Just two months."

IN THE HOTEL CORRIDORS.

George N. Gilson, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Seattle, Wash., is at Willard's for a few days on an Eastern trip.

"I have not a bit of doubt about the matter, when I claim that the country around Seattle is today the most prosperous in the United States," said he today. "Everybody is employed at good wages, and evidences of plenty are upon everything. As an illustration, you can see that the place is growing when I tell you that during the past six months 4,700 new houses were in course of construction in Seattle. Of course, everything is republican out our way, and McKinley will carry the State by a great big majority. The Cape Nome mining fields are opening up new worlds to treasure-seekers, and the rush to the rich sands on the Behring Sea will be enormous in the spring. From present indications, I should say that the increase in gold-seekers will be 4 to 1. No, there are no Vice Presidential candidates out our way. We are too prosperous to bother with politics."

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John R. Lloyd, T. O. Leary, and James B. Anderson, forming a delegation from the Republican organization in Philadelphia, are at the Regent on an errand to Representative McAleer of Pennsylvania.

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John M. Baldwin, General Counsel for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, is at the Shoreham from Council Bluffs for a few days attending to some legal matters affecting his corporation.

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Rev. Samuel H. Virgin, of New York, who was for thirty years pastor of Pilgrim Church in that city, is at the St. James with his family, and will remain here several months. Dr. Virgin has resigned after his long term of service and has been made pastor emeritus. He will leave here for West Chelmsford, Mass., in April.

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"I don't know that the War Department turned out anything very brilliant when the regulation was issued a few days ago requiring all volunteer troops to wear their campaign hats in the Alpine shape," said Frederick D. Wallace, of Boston, Mass., at the National today. "I served through the Spanish-American war in both the Sixth and Ninth Massachusetts Regiments, and know what the campaign hat is. The boys always wear their headgear in some peculiar manner to designate their command, and this, in itself, was useful. Personally, I think that the campaign hat, sliced into an Alpine shape, and mounted on a company of volunteers, gives the men a crushed, low-browed appearance, which is anything but handsome. On the other hand, a regiment wearing the campaign hat dented on four sides to make the crown stand far above the heads of the wearers, gives the body a solid, neat appearance, which counts on dress parade. Besides, the latter mode is comfortable, and allows some air to circulate. I am 'agin' the Alpine, and am sorry the regulation was issued."

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B. A. Eckhart, a member of the Chicago Sanitary Commission, which has in charge the newly completed drainage canal over which there has been much comment, is at the Arlington. Mr. Eckhart is here on a special mission to secure the aid of the Government in completing the deep waterway scheme.

"I am agitating this matter," said he today, "and while we may not get any legislation during the present session, we will manage to interest the entire country in our plans. After completing the drainage canal, in cutting a portion of the deep waterway we have expended about $20,000,000, and believe that the Government ought at least continue the channel from Lockport to the Mississippi. The entire cost will not be more than $23,000,000, and as the entire country will be benefited by the waterway, we only ask what is right. We also want the depth of the Chicago River established at 27 feet instead of 21 feet, as at present. The completion of the canal was a great job and we are greatly pleased with the results."

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William McClure, Secretary of the New York Stock Exchange, is at the Arlington. He is here on a flying trip, and will return today.

* * *

Clinton White, a member of the Boston Harbor Commission, is at the Shoreham. The commissioner is here looking after the interests of the proposed improvements to be made in Boston Harbor. The date for the hearing on the matter has not yet been set by the House Rivers and Harbors Committee, but Mr. White is confident that his mission will meet with success.

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"Now that Philadelphia is gloating over having captured the Republican National Convention, I want to tell you the true story of how St. Louis obtained the convention in 1896, when President McKinley was nominated," said J. O. Breast, the clerk who presides over the blotter at the Arlington, this morning.

"The convention committee had its headquarters in this hotel, and, of course, there were a number of cities after the coveted prize. Well, St. Louis sent a delegation of thirteen men to look after its interests. The party occupied thirteen berths in a sleeper, one of these being No. 13. The train made thirteen stops between St. Louis and Washington, and the thirteenth man to register was assigned to room 13. I remember that there were thirteen letters in his name. This thirteenth man made the thirteenth speech favoring St. Louis, and captured the convention, which went to the Missouri City on the thirteenth ballot of the committee. And yet lots of politicians refuse to sleep in room 13."

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W. W. Cook and C. A. Clafferton, the attorneys for the Commercial Cable Company, are at Chamberlin's from New York. They are here looking after the interests of their company in a case against the Western Union.

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Wilson M. Day, President of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, is at the Shoreham from Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Day will remain here during the balance of the week, and is attending the meeting of the National Board of Trade.

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Lieut. P. Torossi and Lieut. M. Menzilli, of the Italian Navy, are at the Arlington. They intend making a tour of the coal and oil regions, and have been invited to visit the Carnegie armor plate plant.

CURRENT HUMOR.

Suited to His Taste.

(From the Chicago Record.)

"You are too leisurely for this office. I advise you to go into some other business."

"What kind of business?"

"Well, you might hunt a job to unload dynamite."

A Risky Experiment.

(From the Indianapolis Journal.)

Rose—Did you ever faint, Isabel?

Isabel—Only once; and I bumped my head so hard that I never tried it again.

The Blight of a Romance.

(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

"Wot's de matter, Skinny?"

"Liz has trun me over."

"Some other feller?"

"Nop. She says I don't come up to her ideal."

"Wot's dat?"

"I dunno, but it's somethin' in dat book by Murry Crully dat Pete Nickerson let her take—an' I'm going to lick Pete on sight."

Grasping.

(From Fliegende Blatter.)

Bridegroom (handing his bride a brooch with her name set in diamonds)—Here, dear Ida.

Bride (aside)—Oh, dear, why didn't I have some good long name, like Amaliawintha!

Revenge.

(From the Indianapolis Journal.)

Lady—I'll take the first volume of the Browning love letters.

Attendant—That lady going out the door has just taken the first volume.

Lady (much irritated)—She has? Well, give me the second volume; I'll get even with her by keeping it an awfully long time.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

Cincinnati will have an industrial exposition next year.

In proportion to its size Britain has eight times as many miles of railway as the United States.

Ninety people out of every hundred masticate their food with the teeth on the left side of the jaw.

Within a few weeks the Canadians and Australians fighting in South Africa for the British flag will number 5,000.

If the moon looks pale and dim, expect rain; if red, wind; and if her natural color, with a clear sky, fair weather.

There are at the present moment between 800 and 900 commissioned officers in the army who have risen from the ranks.

Queen Victoria always has her new boots worn a few times by one of her dressers, whose foot is the same size as her Majesty's.

A London bankrupt has been ordered to pay a debt to a green grocer at the rate of 5s. per week. It will take him 37 years to do it.

Proper wood and iron houses have been built for the rank and file of the British prisoners at Waterfel, a few miles from Pretoria.

The total catch of seals by Canadian sealing vessels during the past season was 24,344, as compared with a total for the preceding year of 28,552.

The depopulation of Peru is illustrated by the fact that the Valley of Santa, which in the days of the Incas had a population of 700,000, now has only 5,000.

Illinois ranks second to Pennsylvania in the production of coal. It is mined in fifty-two counties of the State, and the output for last year was 22,434,445 tons.

Michigan will endeavor to have a law passed that will allow the use of convicts in the building and repairing of the State highways. Kentucky will have a similar law before its legislature.

The latest device to encourage high-stepping in coach horses is a glass worn like goggles, the crystals being so formed that the ground appears nearer than it is. It is said to work all right.

During the past year 76,189 Italians emigrated to the United States; 53,546 were males and 22,943 females. They carried with them $788,805. Just 1,445 Italians were refused admittance to the United States.

An automobile club has been formed at Bologna, Italy. There is also one at Nice. There are now 2,137 members belonging to the Automobile Club in France. In one week ninety-nine new names were enrolled.

Twenty-six more bodies were cremated last year in Heidelberg than during 1898, when the number was 125. Only twenty of the bodies were from Heidelberg families; the others came from forty-two different places.

The first large vessel that ever traversed the upper waters of the Orinoco River—the British steamship Tresco—has just arrived at this port from Imataca, where she discharged a cargo of iron ore from the Manoa mines.

Baratonga is a little dependency of New Zealand, which has a British resident and a miniature legislature. This little Pacific Parliament has just passed a bill transferring the observance of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

From June 4 to December 4, 236 cases of the plague and 167 deaths are reported to have occurred in Portugal, and of these 235 cases and 166 deaths happened in the Oporto district, which includes the town and the adjoining country.

The Pioneer, the first regular sleeping car built by the Pullmans, has been definitely retired from service. On one other occasion it was retired, but was again pressed into service for the transportation of troops during the war with Spain. It was built about the year 1858 in the shops at Bloomington, Ill., at a cost of $18,000, and made its first trip on the Chicago and Alton Railway. The cost of construction was at that time regarded as extravagant, but the immediate popularity of the accommodations afforded by it created the demand for the present system. The car appears shabby, small, and inconvenient, but the fundamental ideas embodied in the construction of the present luxurious cars seem present to a surprising extent in this prototype of modern cars, so that the name Pioneer appears to have been prophetic.

Among the explanations of the earth's magnetism special interest attaches to the recent one mentioned in Prof. Henry A. Rowland's address, namely, that "the huge gravitational mass" of the earth, rev