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FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1904.

An Arbiter on Arbitration.

A Gross Misinterpretation of the Argument.

Carroll D. Wright, a member of the Anthracite Strike Commission, is represented in dispatches from Indianapolis as having "condemned arbitration" in a public lecture. A brief synopsis of what he said fails to bear out the bold assertion. He defined arbitration as "interference of the public in the relations of employer and employe," and maintained the right of society to interfere when disputes between labor and capital affect the general welfare.

Arbitration is the least offensive form of interference, and it can be made the most effective. Its partial failure in the case of the anthracite strike was due to the perversity and bad faith of the Coal Trust, which sullenly submitted to public interference for the time being because it dared not resist, and then set to work to revenge itself on the public and on the miners for their refusal to recognize exploiters of special privilege as "trustees of Providence" and lords of the earth. The miners not only admitted the right of the public to interfere, but solicited interference and pledged themselves to abide by the result.

The general tenor of Mr. Wright's argument is indicated in this extract from his lecture:

> Arbitration is not the true solution of labor difficulties. While I am favorable to this system of adjustment of industrial contentions between the employer and the employe, I cannot see in this method a system that will solve the enormous problem.

Nobody who has any conception of the nature of the economic problems involved in industrial contentions will see in that statement anything to quarrel with. Arbitration is a palliative of acute disorder, not a cure for organic disease of the social system. It provides for temporary adjustment of vexatious difficulties, keeps the peace and prevents unnecessary, foolish injury to society, and therefore to oppose arbitration of industrial disputes is to act as an enemy to the general welfare.

Nevertheless it is obvious that the problem of equitable distribution of labor's products is not touched by arbitration. Arbitrators are powerless to readjust the economic system, to abolish special privilege, to remove obstructions to the operation of the natural law of supply and demand. But to say that is not to condemn arbitration as a means of reducing the friction in society's machinery. Increasing the wages of coal miners does not destroy monopoly of the accessible coal supply, but it improves the living conditions of thousands of men, and therefore is beneficial to society.

It is worthy of note that the gross misinterpretation of Carroll D. Wright's argument appears in the organ of the Coal Trust, which hates and fears arbitration and denies the right of the public to exercise any control over the holders of special privilege.

Rice as a Food in War.

Japan Buys Large Quantities of This Foodstuff in Burmah.

The fact that Japan has been buying large quantities of rice in Burmah is regarded as significant, as it is supposed that in the event of war this cereal will form a large part of the food of Japanese soldiers. We of the Occident can hardly appreciate the value of rice to the Asiatic races as a foodstuff. Many of the natives of India literally live on it, and it is said that at the time of the recent famine, when starving natives were offered grain to relieve their hunger, they refused to eat the strange food, and exchanged quantities of it for a few handfuls of inferior rice. The failure of the rice crop caused the famine, for they understood the preparation of no other food. Perhaps this is not so strange. If the people of this country were suddenly deprived of wheat and vegetables and meat, how many of them would find it easy to live on rice and fish, as the Chinese do?

The Japanese, Chinese, and Hindus have certainly tested the value of rice. To them it is the staff of life. They seem to thrive on it in a way that is incomprehensible to the beef-eating Englishman. The little wiry Japanese laborers perform an amount of work which would wear out the average American, and do it on a diet of rice and fish. A Hindu lawyer, on being asked if meat-fed people were not stronger, even in the tropics, than those who live on vegetable foods, replied quietly: "In the north of India it is very cold, and the climbing of mountains is very hard. The pork-eating Englishman comes to that country to hunt, and has to hire the rice-eating native to carry him on his back over the mountains!"

If war should come, there will be some interesting demonstrations of the value of rice as rations for soldiers. We shall see how the Japanese rice compares with the black bread of Russia.

Discipline in the Schools.

The Self-Control of Children When Accustomed to Fire Drill.

A good deal was said just after the Iroquois Theater fire about the fact that the audience was composed mainly of women and children, and some pains was taken in certain quarters to create the impression that nothing could have prevented loss of life from a panic in such an audience. There is nothing more sinister in the whole affair than the attempts made to minimize the responsibility of the owners and managers of the theater for their criminal negligence, and put the blame on the victims of the fire and the panic. These attempts have been abandoned since it has been discovered that the skylights were fastened down, the asbestos curtain was of poor quality, and the doors mostly locked, one leading into a blind gallery. Any sort of an audience would hardly keep its self-control with a sheet of flame and smoke pouring into the theater, and the doors locked.

As a matter of fact, however, an audience of women and children is not so much more susceptible to panic than an audience of men, and it is susceptible of control if the right methods are used. A striking illustration of the value of discipline, coolness, and drill came to light in No. 43 of the New York public schools this week. There were 2,200 children in the building. Incendiary fires had occurred often enough of late to unsettle the children's minds, and make them liable to panic, but all attempts to catch the guilty persons had failed. Then came the news of the Iroquois horror, which will undoubtedly affect the self-control of both children and grown people for some time to come. A fire broke out in the girls' cloakroom, and discovered by a teacher and a monitor. The teacher ran to the cloak room and smothered the fire with some cloaks; meanwhile the children were left to themselves, and could smell the smoke. It made them uneasy, but they stayed where they were. The principal, arriving on the scene, suggested that this would be a good time for a fire drill, and the signals were struck. The children marched into the street in perfect order, and the building was emptied in two minutes. The fire drill has its place in the routine of all New York schools, and occasionally false alarms are given to keep the children in practice and increase their coolness in time of real danger. Usually they do not know until they reach the street whether the alarm is real or not, but in this case they did, for the smoke was in evidence. If that building, full of children, could be cleared quietly without disorder in two minutes, with no restraint save habit and a corps of women teachers, when the children knew there was fire, it is folly to regard an audience of women and children as so peculiarly susceptible to panic that nothing can stop them when they get frightened. If, in the face of this story, anybody has the effrontery to say that unreasonable fear on the part of an audience, threatened by flames, smoke, and falling pieces of a cheap concrete roof, caused the loss of life in Chicago, it will be well for him to go to some pathologist and have his logical faculties examined. They must be out of order.

The Princess and the Hat.

Conflict Between Royal Prerogatives and Theater Rules in Nice.

A princess went into a theater in Nice wearing a large picture hat. The rules of the theater require that everyone shall remove the hat at the beginning of the performance. An usher requested the princess to comply with the rules. She refused. He insisted. She flew into a rage and out of the theater. Nice is smiling.

With all due respect for the prerogatives of royalty in countries where that institution exists, our sympathies are entirely with the usher. The princess' hat may not have obstructed the view of anyone, and probably did not, as she sat in a box, but it violated a rule founded on principle, the principle of consideration for others. As a princess, she should have considered this, and removed her hat, as an example of obedience to reasonable law. As she did not do this, it was quite right that there should be trouble.

A police officer once had occasion to put into the patrol wagon a dame of some alley notoriety, and she scratched his face and made other demonstrations of disapproval. Emerging from the melee, the long-suffering man said: "A lady that ain't a lady and don't behave like a lady don't deserve to be treated as a lady." These sentiments should command the approval of every thinking man, however chivalrous. In like manner, it may be said that a princess who does not behave like a princess does not deserve to be treated like a princess.

The very existence of royal families is based on respect for tradition and law. What is it that prevents the people of Europe today from following the example of France in the Revolution, and of Servia in recent years? What, but the conviction that existing laws are better than anarchy. A princess should, above all, show respect for the power of law which keeps her where she is. When she sets the example of defiance, others will follow, and she will presently be reduced to the unenviable position of a princess who is not a princess and is not treated like a princess. Fallen royalty is very pretty and picturesque on the stage and in novels, but in real life it is more comfortable to be one of the hoi polloi.

The princess should, therefore, take her medicine like a good little girl, and the next time she goes to the theater remove her hat, thereby causing all the other women in the theater to do the same, and earning the heartfelt gratitude of the men who sit behind them and all the people who believe with Hamlet that the play's the thing. It is worth considering that this happened in Nice, where royalty is supposed to be worshiped. Could it have happened in this country? Would the American usher have had the audacity to suggest to a real live princess that there are reasons for obeying a rule, even if nobody is hurt by its infraction? It is to be feared that he would not.

Perry Heath says he can be found in Salt Lake any time. Glad news; he needs some sort of a preservative.

Mr. Takahira gently informs us that his countrymen are called the Yankees of the East by American writers, the Frenchmen of the East by Frenchmen, and the Englishmen of the East by Englishmen. The upshot of it all seems to be that the world at large thinks the Japanese are good fellows.

Senator Dubois says that you could not bind the Democratic party in the Senate to the Ten Commandments. What does he think the Ten Commandments are for—to use in politics?

Man's inalienable right to make a monkey of himself is one of the hereditary privileges older than Adam.

A man writes to the "New York Herald" suggesting that we sell the Philippines to Japan as a way of getting rid of them. Japan, however, has not come asking for them, and Uncle Sam is not peddling islands just at present.

Emperor William has been compiling a collection of popular songs, and the question now arises, will a German musician who plays them atrociously be liable to the penalties of lese majesty?

In cases of indigestion resulting from harmony dinners, blame does not necessarily attach to the chef.

In reading of that roll of $145 which was kicked around the floor of the postoffice, the faces of many postoffice employes took on a sort of hungry look.

If the feet in Alfred Austin's poem are any indication of the gait of his muse, she must be a centipede.

It is announced by an all-seeing New York paper that Russia desires to absorb Japan. If she does she will have to absorb an opiate immediately afterward.

Nineteen hundred and three is to go down in history as the hoodoo year for theaters. It certainly seems as if everything that could happen to them has happened.

If Frau Wagner should pick up an American magazine and see an advertisement of "Parsifal Breakfast Food," it is probable that she would die and come over to haunt Conried.

Lebaudy, the "Emperor of Sahara," has taken to baked beans. Has he reflected on what would happen if he should want to indulge his taste in the middle of the Sahara?

There cannot be a really bad theatrical fire, any more than there can be a bad railway wreck—in the opinion of the man who owns the property.

The report that coal in large quantities has been shipped from Norfolk to the Orient sounds as if our fleet, in case of trouble, would not have to stop twenty minutes for breakfast unless hungry.

New York is said to have been stunned by "Parsifal." There is every evidence of some sort of mental shock in the critiques.

CONGRESS DECLARES WAR ON COTTON BOLL WEEVIL

Little Pest, Which Has Cost Industry $100,000,000 in Recent Years, Now Threatens Total Destruction to Crops—Crossing Rio Grande River in 1892, Enemy's Advance Has Been One Triumphal Procession.

The Mexican cotton boll weevil, the little insect which, unless checked, threatens within a few years to totally destroy the cotton crop of the United States, has at last attracted the serious consideration of Congress.

Congress is likely to appropriate $250,000, to be immediately available for its extermination, or at least for the work of conducting experiments which will ascertain what can be done to rid the country of this little pest. This sum is to be taken from the appropriation of $500,000 made last year for the use of the Agricultural Department to exterminate the foot and mouth disease among New England cattle, and which has not all been expended. The House regarded the matter as urgent, and so the Committee on Appropriations reported a bill to make the money available at once. It is probable that the Senate will also give the matter immediate consideration.

The Texas members of the House have been the ones most interested in legislation for the extermination of the pest, for its ravages have with one or two isolated exceptions been confined to that State. A conservative estimate of the value of the cotton destroyed in Texas by the boll weevil in the past two seasons is $30,000,000, while the cotton industries dependent upon the growth of cotton have suffered in a corresponding degree, so that the Secretary of Agriculture declares it is safe to say the total loss to the cotton industry by reason of the weevil is not less than $100,000,000 in recent years.

The territory affected by the pest, although confined to Texas, comprises about 32 per cent of the total acreage of the country, an acreage which in 1900 produced 37 per cent of the cotton crop of the world. The rapid manner in which the weevil propagates and spreads threatens the entire cotton crop of the country unless it can be stopped.

The weevil is a tropical insect native to Mexico, Central America, and Cuba, and breeds only in the cotton plant. It damaged cotton plantations in Mexico to such a serious extent that cotton cultivation was abandoned in portions of that country prior to 1890. About 1892 it crossed the Rio Grande River in Cameron county, Tex., and began to destroy the cotton crop in the vicinity of Brownsville in said county. The division of entomology of the Department of Agriculture began investigating the insect in 1894. An expert of the department was sent to the locality and his report, published in 1895, was the first account of the life history of the insect and the damage being wrought by it. When it had been carried across the grazing region between Brownsville and Alice, in Nueces county, in cotton taken to the gins, the insect for the first time entered the region of practically continuous cotton cultivation.

In 1895 it had spread as far north as San Antonio, in Bexar county, and as far east as Wharton county. In 1896 it reached the portion of Texas where cotton was prominent as a crop, and invaded Fayette, Washington, Burleson, Lee, Bastrop, and Travis counties. In 1898 favorable climatic conditions increased the territor affected to a great extent. Scientific investigations were conducted by the division of entomology during these years from the ordinary appropriations of the division. Remedial recommendations were made which it was believed would tend to diminish the devastation of the cotton crop by this pest.

Congress in the session of 1900—1901 appropriated $3,500 for an especial study of the insect. In 1902 $20,000 was appropriated for the same purpose; in 1903, $30,000. The insect multiplied and spread in spite of all efforts on the part of the department and of the Texas planters, and it is now found in about 100 counties in the Texas cotton belt. In 1893 it was damaging the cotton crop in six of the extreme southern counties. By 1895 seventeen additional counties had been invaded. By 1901 thirty additional counties were damaged, and in 1903 the weevil was to be found in destructive numbers in twenty-four additional counties.

Isolated cases of infestation are known to have occurred at twenty-one different points to the north of the counties included under the year 1903. The work of the division of entomology, based upon an exact and extended investigation of the life history and habits of the insect, has proven that it cannot be successfully handled by any insecticide application as yet discovered. No practical mechanical means for its destruction have been devised; no efficient parasitic or predatory natural enemies have been found. It is without doubt the most difficult insect to control which exists within the territory of the United States.

The division of entomology, however, has devised a cultural method, based upon its previous extended investigations of the habits and life history of the insect, which will enable Texas planters to grow cotton, it is confidently believed, without loss, and in the year 1903 a few demonstration farms were carried on, under the Congressional appropriation, which have indicated a measure of relief.

MR. WILLIAMS FAVORS NEW YORK CANDIDATE

Illinois Man Thinks Democratic Nominee Should Be Strong Where Roosevelt Is Weakest.

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Representative James R. Williams, of Carmi, Ill., on whom both wings of the Illinois Democracy have united as their candidate for President, is in Chicago to meet the local party leaders. In a talk on national politics he said that his party desired to select its Presidential nominee from a State like New York, where, in his opinion, President Roosevelt is weakest.

"The Presidential situation, so far as the Democrats are concerned, seems to have simmered down to finding a candidate who can carry States like New York, where President Roosevelt is the weakest," said Mr. Williams. "It is but natural that the party should canvass many Presidential possibilities, but when all is said and done the consensus of opinion seems to be that the man to be nominated should be able to gain where Roosevelt is confronted with the most trouble. I believe the Democrats have a good chance to win this year."

GENEROUS GIFT TO TOWN.

STROUDSBURG, Penn., Jan. 8.—At the close of a public reception given by the residents of Shawnee, a summer resort village, to C. C. Worthington, the New York pump manufacturer, in honor of his fiftieth birthday, it was announced by Mr. Worthington that he will give the town a public hall, theater, and library.

HARVARD CORPORATION RETRENCHES IN PEW RENT

University Ceases to Hire Sittings in the Cambridge Churches for the Use of Students.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 8.—Something of a stir has been made in religious circles here by the decision of Harvard to discontinue the practice it has pursued for several years of hiring pews in some of the old Cambridge churches for the use of students of the university. This action was taken by vote of the president and fellows making up the corporation, and notices have been mailed to the half dozen churches affected.

The receipt of these notices in some cases has been the occasion for general denunciation of the act of the university. It is asserted by some churchmen that by pursuing his policy of economy President Eliot has taken a step too far, and has made a serious mistake in sacrificing religion to money considerations. They say the act will reflect upon the university and will injure it.

The university authorities say there are good reasons for the action of the corporation. The notification was sent to the First Church, Unitarian, of which President Eliot is a member; the First Church, Congregational; Christ Church, Protestant Episcopal; the old Cambridge Baptist Church; the Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church, and St. Paul's Church, Catholic.

Last year the university paid $1,831.50 for sittings in these churches, but not over 100 students attended them regularly.

PALMA'S VETO WILL KILL HAVANA LOTTERY

Necessary Majority of Sixteen Votes in Cuban Senate Cannot Be Mustered for the Bill.

HAVANA, Jan. 8.—President Palma's message vetoing the lottery bill was read in the senate yesterday. The President says he always considered a state lottery an abominable institution, and he quotes a number of persons in support of his opinion.

He adds that Senator Moru, who fathered the present bill, described the Havana lottery in 1891 as social gangrene. Senor Palma then enters on a general consideration of the harm that would be done to society by a lottery establishment.

The administration senators wanted to discuss the message, but Senor Sanguilly opposed such action on the ground that the message had been sent purposely to surprise the senate, the President knowing that there were not sixteen members available to pass the bill over his veto.

He spoke sarcastically of the message, and declared that Senor Palma in the revolution had availed himself of a lottery in Key West to raise funds for a revolution.

Senor Frias said there would never be sixteen senators to vote for a lottery.

It was finally decided to summon the senators who are absent from Havana to vote on the question. It is necessary for two-thirds of the senate, or sixteen members, to support the bill in order to pass it over the veto.

Congress will adjourn Monday.

DEMOCRATIC EYES WILL CENTER ON COMMITTEE MEETING NEXT TUESDAY

New York, Chicago, and Baltimore Will Present Claims for National Convention. Probable That Gotham Will Be Selected in Deference to Tammany's Wishes.

Democrats are looking forward with much interest to the meeting of the Democratic National Committee, which is to be held here next Tuesday. The purpose of calling the committee together is, of course, to determine the time and place for holding the next national convention of the party.

Usually that is a matter which is of little importance or interest to anyone except the people of those cities which seek the honor of putting up money for the purpose of entertaining the delegates who are to assemble and decide what the party principles are to be and who are to be its candidates. The date is usually a matter of convenience to the city which captures the prize. Formerly the opinion prevailed, to a large extent, that the national convention had a good influence for the party holding it, upon the city and State in which the gathering took place. Four years ago, however, both parties disregarded this opinion, for the Republicans met in Philadelphia, in a State which is unswervingly Republican, while the Democrats assembled in Kansas City, in a State almost as reliably Democratic, so that no advantage politically was gained from the place of meeting.

This year, however, the matter of determining the convention city will be more or less of a political question. Chicago, New York, and Baltimore are in the race. Up to a short time ago the belief among Democrats generally prevailed that Chicago would be the best place for holding the national assemblage, by reason of its accessibility, its railroad facilities, and hotel and hall accommodations, as well as the willingness of the Windy City Democrats to place a bonus in the hands of the committee for campaign purposes. Since the Republicans decided to meet there and the report has been spread that hotel rates have been quadrupled, Chicago stock has gone down in the Democratic market.

But that is not the chief reason. The predominating sentiment among Democrats throughout the country is, and it has been steadily growing for several months, that if the party is to have any chance of winning this year, it must look to New York for guidance, and perhaps for its candidate. Looking to New York means looking to Tammany, for unquestionably that organization will control the State's delegates, and through them dictate, to a large extent, to the convention.

The selection of New York as a convention city would be in line with the concession to Tammany and would forecast the predominance of Eastern influence in all the work of the convention. Some of the friends of Mr. Bryan desire to prevent this, and hence will favor the choice of Chicago. Should Baltimore be determined upon, it would doubtless give great impetus to the Gorman boom, although his friends do not believe that his interests would suffer by holding the convention in New York, where he ranks in strength with any of the suggested candidates from that State.

It rests largely with Tammany to say whether it will support Gorman, or Parker, or some other New York State man, for the individual who has the indorsement of the wigwam will have a long lead over all the others in the race. This fact is becoming more and more apparent to Democrats throughout the country, and is a condition which they have created by reason of their willingness, as frequently expressed, to allow New York to have its say in naming the party's standard-bearer.

The coming together of Democrats from all sections of the country, and with all shades of party views for an exchange of opinions upon Democratic prospects will in a measure tend to clear up the clouded situation which exists with regard to both candidates and issues. While, of course, the members of the national committee have nothing to do with the selection of candidates or the adoption of a platform, their opinions will in some measure express the feelings of the rank and file of Democracy throughout the country and give a vague outline of future action.

Each national committeeman is supposed to be well versed in regard to conditions in his own State and to be in close touch with the views of the party within his own territory. Democrats have not had an opportunity for such a general exchange of ideas since the last national campaign, and hence the forthcoming meeting will be of greater importance than the mere matter of selecting a place and fixing a date for the convention would indicate.

M'CARDY TO SUCCEED CAPT. H. A. CASTLE

The Treasury Department has announced the appointment of John J. McCardy, of St. Paul, Minn., as Auditor for the Postoffice Department, to succeed Capt. Henry A. Castle, of Minnesota, who resigned a short time ago.

Captain Castle will remain in Washington for the present, and will represent the interests of a postal invention here.

MOUNT COLIMA IN ERUPTION.

GUADALAJARA, Mex., Jan. 8.—Violent eruptions of Mount Colima volcano have alarmed the inhabitants of the adjacent country. Many of the people have left their homes. The most terrorizing feature of the eruption is the earthquake shocks of unusual severity.

BYE-ELECTION RESULTS IN LIBERAL VICTORY

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The bye-election for member of parliament from the Ashburton division of Devonshire has resulted in a sweeping Liberal victory.

The Liberal candidate, Mr. Eve, was elected by a majority of 1,476, which is double that of his predecessor, the Right Hon. C. Seale-Hayne, also a Liberal.

TYPHOID EPIDEMIC IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, Quebec, Jan. 8.—There are approximately 1,000 cases of typhoid fever in Montreal and the half dozen smaller municipalities which join it on three sides. This alarming total is being added to rapidly, despite the vigorous precautions adopted a week ago to forestall the spread of the disease.

FREE-HAND COMMENT ON MEN AND MANNERS

Reasons Advanced for Employing Idle Men to Clean Ice From Slippery Roadways and Sidewalks.

When you have to take a transfer on an antiquated line,
Folding up the spicy Times in the middle of your ride,
While you wait with all your bundles in a cold and windy shed,
And the frost is hanging pendant in the whiskers of your pride,
And the rheumatiz is counting one by one your vertebrae,
Then's the time to be an optimist—look on the sunny side!
If there is any.

When you're strolling down the Avenue, your tile upon your head,
With the sweet thing clinging to you that you hope to make your bride
And you whisper: "Hold me tighter and I'll never let you fall"——
Should she snuggle to you closer, how your bosom swells with pride!
Then, should you sit down suddenly upon the icy pave,
That's the time to be an optimist—look on the sunny side.
But there isn't any.

* * *

If a complete list were made up of the injuries that people have sustained within the past few days from slipping and falling on the ice, it would be found that many of these have been of a serious nature, while the number of only painful accidents has been much greater. We read, for instance, of a fractured skull, of a wrenched hip, of broken limbs, of ruptured veins, of broken noses, and of lacerations and bruises too numerous to mention. The question arises, was it not the duty of the authorities to put a gang of men at work immediately breaking up the ice upon the pavements, and getting them in shape so that they would not have been a menace to life and limb? All that has been done in this direction, so far as anybody can see, has been the result of private enterprise. Citizens have strewn ashes, sawdust, or fine shavings along the streets before their residences or places of business, making walking safer for whole blocks, but there have remained many slippery spaces over which it has been difficult for anyone to pass and maintain his equilibrium. There are always so many men without work in a cold snap, and actually suffering for a few dollars to buy fuel and food for their families, it really looks as though there should have been no difficulty in getting together a gang to clear up the pavements immediately, and as though it should have been done.

* * *

The lecturers announced for the course to be given to teachers in the Central High School this winter seem to have been well chosen. They include the president of Wellesley College, Commissioner of Labor Carroll D. Wright, and E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the university of Nebraska. The last mentioned, especially, can be depended on to say something interesting and pertinent. Indeed, Mr. Andrews has the faculty of making remarks, on any and all occasions, that attract general attention and keep his name before the public. His faculty for pregnant utterances closely resembles that of that other uncurbed Westerner, Col. W. J. Bryan. Mr. Andrews is one of those men who have ideas of their own. He is noted for his independence of thought and his fearless manner of expression. Though not more original than Prof. Triggs, of Chicago, who holds Rockefeller to be a greater genius than Shakespeare, his inspirations come with greater frequency. It was he, for instance, who took issue recently with President Roosevelt on the subject of race suicide, maintaining that quality rather than quantity is what the nation needs in the make-up of its prospective citizenship. As superintendent of the schools of Chicago, he was a trifle too aggressive, and was something of a thorn in the side of the board. As chancellor of the University of Nebraska he seems to have found a pinnacle from which he can fulminate without endangering the heads of his associates.

* * *

The bad boy is figuring entirely too frequently in the annals of our police courts. Only a day or two ago a gang of juvenile thieves was brought to book by the police, one of whom was sent to the Reform School, the others being fined. Luckily we have not yet emulated Chicago in the matter of boy murderers, but boy thieves are bad enough. This matter of juvenile criminals is one that demands a more radical cure than the fining now and then of a youthful delinquent.

* * *

The wreck on the Rock Island Railroad, near Topeka, in which seventeen people lost their lives, seems to have been due to the engineer's failure to obey orders. He had received instructions to wait at a certain station for the passing of a stock train, but passed on at a high rate of speed, mistaking a freight on a siding for the train which he had been told to look out for. Had he waited, as ordered, and an accident had occurred, his skirts would have been free from blame. There is a salutary lesson in this for subordinates and employes generally.

* * *

What a nuisance it must have been for Santa Claus to come away back from his palace at the North Pole to superintend the Christmas festivities held on Wednesday evening at the Russian embassy! His complaints, however, if he makes any, will not be echoed by those little boys and girls who have had two Christmases instead of one. It seems strange to us in this country that Russia, or, more generally speaking, the Eastern church, should still adhere to the Old Style calendar. The reason is largely founded in popular prejudice, the same feeling that caused Great Britain and various states of Europe to resist for many years the introduction of the new reckoning. People who actually believe that they are celebrating the date of Christ's birth are not easily induced to accept another date, which would have no significance to them. Moreover, in the so-called "Orthodox" church, there is strong distrust of anything of Catholic origin, and deep prejudice against it. The Russian and Greek peasantry, for example, believe that they are members of the true church, whose dates, festivals and ceremonials are historically descended from the early Christian congregations, and to ask them to observe a new date for Christmas might shake their belief in more vital matters.

* * *

It is not strange that the gallant performance of Leo Loeb, whose wild ride at Manitou, Col., saved the lives of 2,000 people by warning them that a dam had burst, should appeal to such a man as Mr. Roosevelt, who is himself a courageous man, and an equestrian of no mean prowess. Loeb fell from his horse and was seriously injured, but remounted and continued his ride. He is now in a hospital at Chicago, but as soon as he regains his health, will take a position offered him by the President.

* * *

In commenting on the Chicago theater horror we called attention to the fact that any great catastrophe usually calls out the best and the worst in human nature. The Rock Island train wreck furnishes examples in the cases of the crippled medical student who worked so heroically to aid the injured, and the being who refused to vacate his berth for the benefit of one or more of the victims.