DON'T LIKE IDEA OF POPULAR GIFT

President Opposed to the Scheme While Longworth Says It is Great.

OPENING BLACKBURN'S MAIL

Investigation By Inspector Said to Have Shown That Governor Beckham Read It.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30.—There is speculation in society circles in Washington as to how the President is taking the indorsement which his prospective son-in-law, Representative Nicholas Longworth, gave the scheme originated in Nevada, to take up a national tencent collection to make Miss Roosevelt a bridal present. The President very promptly protested against the movement, and somewhat curtly expressed the wish that no such movement would be pressed. His statement, sent out to the press from the White House was characterized by eminent good taste and good sense.

But Mr. Longworth did not take the same view, and is alleged to have told a Cincinnati reporter that the idea was "fine," "great," etc. It is hardly possible that the interview could have escaped the eye of the President or Miss Roosevelt. It would be characteristic of each to give him a "call-down," and to let the public know of its being administered. It is generally admitted that Mr. Longworth's frame of mind, now that the President has repudiated the movement, is not of the most pleasant.

Opening Blackburn's Letters.

The Kentucky senatorial situation has assumed a phase that has not, so far as known, been taken on by any similar contest in the history of the country. Senator Blackburn's charge, filed at the Postoffice Department this week, that his mail had been systematically opened at the Governor's office in Frankfort, was startling enough, but later developments are even more shocking. Kentucklians who have come to Washington in the past few days say that the complaints of Senator Blackburn that his mail is rifled by members of the "organization" which is headed by Governor Beckham, are of long standing.

Now there is another development. A few days ago a postoffice inspector, who had been sent to Kentucky to investigate the charges of Senator Blackburn, wrote a letter to Senator Blackburn, obtained a Courier-Journal envelope, in which he inclosed the letter and addressed it to the senator at Frankfort. The inspector took the same train and reached Frankfort with the letter. It was delivered promptly to Governor Beckham, who opened it, read it, and then forwarded it to Senator Blackburn.

The situation is assuming a serious phase. There is even a possibility of the prosecution of the Governor of Kentucky for violation of the Federal statutes against tampering with the mail of other people. The Governor explains the frequent opening of Senator Blackburn's letters by saying that the resemblance of the two names, "J. C. W. Beckham" and "J. C. S. Blackburn," is responsible. But he does not explain his turning over the opened letters to friends to read before sending them to Senator Blackburn.

It is predicted that the investigation will almost certainly result in the dismissal of the employe of the Frankfort postoffice who is responsible for placing Senator Blackburn's mail in the box of Governor Beckham. But the employe, when discharged, will be likely to make some awkward disclosures, awkward for those who engage him to undertake to get mail in the wrong boxes, if such engagement were made.

The whole affair is deeply deplored by Kentucklians in Washington, with whom it is the exclusive topic of conversation. Whether the charges against Governor Beckham and his suporters be true or not, the fact that such charges are made hurts the reputation of the Bluegrass State. It is expected that the developments of the past few days will go a long way towards electing Senator Blackburn to the Senate again. His election, even after the bitter fight he made against the organization, headed by Governor Beckham, was involved in grave doubt. But these disclosures concerning the tampering with his mail, alleged to have been indulged in by his opponents, are expected to help him very greatly. One of his friends said to The Times-Dispatch correspondent this morning: "Blackburn's re-election is now certain."

Mr. Goode's Reminiscences.

Hon. John Goode will soon have published a volume of reminiscences, on which he has been engaged for some months. The issuance of the book is awaited with interest by those who know Mr. Goode best. He is now one of the three or four surviving members of the Confederate Congress, and has known every public man in the United States worthy of being known, who has appeared on the stage in nearly a half a century. In addition to his service in the Confederate Congress, Mr. Goode's service in the Federal House of Representatives gave him opportunity for observing men large in the public eye in their time.

"I shall never forget the speech made by Mr. Goode in the Forty-sixth Congress, withdrawing a bill to reimburse a kinswoman of Jefferson Davis for depredations committed upon her property by Federal soldiers after the war," said a distinguished man, who is an old resident of Washington to-day. "Congre, of Michigan, who was noted as one of the most intense haters of the South then living, made a most violent, intemperate and venomous speech against the bill. Mr. Goode arose when Congre sat down, and with a dignity which impressed itself ineffaceably upon all who saw him, said:

"'Mr. Speaker, I ask the unanimous consent of the house to withdraw that bill.'

"There were loud cries of 'No' from both sides of the house, but the Virginian was firm.

"'I insist, Mr. Speaker,' he said. 'After such a speech as that to which we have just listened from the gentleman from Michigan, the bread bought with the money I have asked for this woman would turn bitter in her mouth.'

"The bill was withdrawn."

MARRIAGES IN STAUNTON.

Plethora of Licenses to Wed Issued to Christmas Couples.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

STAUNTON, VA., December 30.—One of the most delightful parties of the week was given on Tuesday evening by Miss Marie Bowles, daughter of Professor and Mrs. W. A. Bowles, at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. The large hall was beautifully decorated with college pennants and masses of holly and mistletoe. Dancing was indulged in until a late hour, the merry youngsters being led by Miss May Young, of Louisville, and Miss Lucy Bowles. Late in the evening refreshments were served. There was a large number of invited guests.

Mr. William M. Collins, member of the firm of T. J. Collins and Sons, architects, left here Tuesday for Washington, D. C., where he was married Wednesday at noon to Miss Margaret J. McLaughlin, of this city, who at the time was visiting her sister, Mrs. B. J. Collins. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Machen, at St. Paul's Catholic Church.

One of the prettiest marriages of the week took place at high noon Wednesday, when Miss Rosa Mae Ellinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ellinger, was married to Mr. John T. Alhizer. The ceremony took place at St. John's Church, Augusta county. The bride is one of Augusta county's most handsome young ladies and is very popular. The groom is a young business man of Staunton, where Mr. and Mrs. Alhizer will make their home.

Staunton Lodge, No. 13, A. F. and A. M., held the annual election of officers Wednesday night, it being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist. There was a large number in attendance. The following officers were elected: J. H. Price, master; H. L. Lang, senior warden; F. S. Greathead, junior warden; J. M. Spotts, treasurer; W. B. McChesney, secretary; O. E. Smith, senior deacon; Rudolph Bumgardner, junior deacon.

Miss Louelle Hanger and Mr. Charles E. Pence were married in the Eakleton Hotel parlors Wednesday at 12 o'clock by Rev. S. A. Parker, of the Greenville M. E. Church. The bride wore a handsome gray going-away gown, with hat and gloves to match. Only relatives were present.

Miss Addie Reynolds, daughter of Mr. G. W. Reynolds, and Mr. Preston A. Sensabaugh, were married Wednesday evening at the home of the bride here by Rev. H. T. Heironimus. They will make their home in this city.

Mr. Samuel Spradlin and Miss Mary E. Dickenson were married here Wednesday afternoon by Rev. O. F. Gregory. The groom is sixty years old and the bride twenty-one.

The following licenses have been issued by the circuit clerk: William E. Wine and Miss Lottie Snyder, to be married in Staunton January 3d; David B. Colner and Miss Florida V. Reed, wedded in Augusta county Thursday; George C. Spitler and Mrs. Rose McDaniel, wedded in Staunton Wednesday evening; Claude G. Bryant and Miss Gertie Blackburn, married in Staunton Wednesday; James W. Ingram and Miss Lottie Myrtle, married in Staunton Wednesday; O. G. Hite and Hattie B. Lucas, to take place in county; James A. Smith and Miss Minnie Luck, married at Craigsville, Augusta county, Wednesday; Gordon M. Shumate and Miss Cora L. Johnson were married at Mt. Sidney, Augusta county, Wednesday. Both the bride and the groom are only seventeen years of age. Mr. Charles C. Dinkle and Miss Pearl Rodgers, of Moscow, Augusta county, were married Wednesday by Rev. C. H. Crowell, of this city.

Mrs. Fitzhugh Elder very charmingly entertained the Young Married Ladies' Whist Club at her beautiful home, Esseton, Wednesday evening. The color scheme was green and red, and the decorations were very beautiful. After some time spent in playing whist, refreshments were served. There was an unusually large number present.

Captain John N. Opie, who is being treated at Memorial Hospital, is reported as somewhat improved, and his son, Mr. Thomas Opie, has gone to Richmond and will accompany his father home Sunday.

Mrs. W. Q. Hullihen and Miss Jennie Hullihen went to Washington Friday.

Judge George M. Harrison, of the Supreme Court, returned to his home here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Skinner, who have been spending some time in the county, have returned to Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Woodward have returned to Richmond after a visit to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Woodward.

CHRISTMAS AT RADFORD

(Special to the Times-Dispatch.)

RADFORD, VA., December 30.—Christmas week has passed pleasantly in Radford, and has been marked by a number of entertainments.

The Cotillion Club gave a delightful german Wednesday evening, which was led by Mr. Henry C. Allen, assisted by Miss Laura Ingles; the last half by Mr. Paul Graff, of Roanoke, assisted by Miss Kathleen Cassell. Excellent music was furnished by a Roanoke orchestra, and luncheon was served at midnight from the West End Hotel.

On Monday evening a big party was given at the home of Mr. Andrew Ingles, near Radford. It was an old-fashioned square dance, and cards was also a popular feature of the evening's amusements, as well as "the waltz." Elaborate and delightful refreshments were served.

The home of Mr. James Micou was the scene of another big dance on Tuesday evening, much after the order of the Ingles party.

Misses Anna and Bessie Kenderdine entertained Thursday evening. The guests represented their favorite songs, and the guessing of the titles, with another clever contest, and music by Miss Lyle and Miss Jones, made an interesting programme.

Miss Virginia Eakin gave an enjoyable library party at St. Albans Wednesday afternoon, her twenty guests each representing the title of a book. The prize was won by Miss Louise McElrath.

Misses Idelle and Loula Scott entertained the R. G. G. Club Thursday. The meeting was a very enjoyable one, and each member gave gifts to every other.

Virginia May Lodge of Masons celebrated the anniversary of St. John the Baptist Wednesday evening, by an oyster supper at their hall in East Radford.

Montgomery Castle, No. 161, Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, gave a banquet at the court-house Friday evening.

The churches each had a Christmas entertainment for the children of their Sunday schools, several being elaborate and beautiful. The Baptist and the West End Christian churches gave Christmas cantatas. Central Presbyterian Church had a big Santa Claus house filled with gifts. A pleasant feature of several of the church entertainments were the vocal solos of Miss Alice Jones, who made her first appearance before the public. Miss Jones is a daughter of Mr. E. S. Jones, whose beautiful tenor voice is always heard with pleasure, and the sweet voice of the daughter, created a very favorable impression.

Miss Cleo Miles, of Arkansas, who is attending school at Hollins Institute, is visiting her cousin, Mrs. J. Lewis Ingles.

Miss Pearl Rosenfeld entertained her music class Friday evening of last week.

Mr. James Tyler, of Richmond, spent the Christmas holidays with his parents, ex-Governor and Mrs. Tyler.

Mr. Irving Hall, who is a student at Richmond College, spent the holidays at home.

Mr. C. B. Mount, of Birmingham, spent Christmas day with his sister, Mrs. E. S. Jones.

Ideal Christmas Weather.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

COMORN, VA., December 30.—Christmas will long be remembered by the people of King George. As a rule, the weather was almost ideal—so fine, indeed, that none but invalids were "shut in" from the frolics and festivities long before planned by the young folk, or from the religious services, entertainments and celebrations previously appointed by the church people. Excellent order has been a striking feature of the holidays. Even the usually hilarious classes, sometimes dubbed as "toughs," have been, with but few exceptions, on good behavior all the week. Sunday school Christmas trees, celebrations and treats for the youth have been fine successes at the various churches, and all such entertainments have been very largely attended. And the very poor people of the county have been looked after and provided for most tenderly and generously. The most destitute families and individuals to be found have had at least some of all the "good things" of Christmas carried to their homes. Many hundreds of dollars in money and the necessaries of life have been distributed among the poor of the county during the past week by the "King's Daughters and Sons" and other noble-hearted people.

Mr. Edward L. Hunter, clerk of the courts of King George, has given bond, with the United States Fidelity and Guarantee Company as surety.

Judge T. R. B. Wright, of Tappahannock, will preside over the January term of the King George Court for Judge Mason, who has not sufficiently recovered from his late illness to resume work.

Gunners report that wild ducks and geese are exceedingly scarce and that the few ducks that visit the Rappahannock marshes steer clear of the bait placed by duck shooters.

Messrs. George W. Grigsby, Jr., and Robert Purks, of Igo, are spending a week in the national capital city.

Miss Abbie White, a student at the Fredericksburg College, is spending the holidays at her home, near King George Courthouse.

Mr. Emmerson Purks, of this county, has gone to Charlottesville to visit his grandmother.

Miss Eva P. Taylor, who is teaching in West Virginia, is spending two weeks at "Powhatan," her home, near here.

Miss May Kellis, of Caroline county, is spending the holidays with friends at this place.

Miss Nannie Minor, a student at a Bowling Green school, is with her parents here for the holidays.

Miss May Butler, of Fluvanna, is a guest of kinsfolk here.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Thornton, of Fredericksburg, spent this week with Mr. J. Taylor Thornton and family, at Bell Grove, this county.

GREEN BAY MATTERS

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

GREEN BAY, VA., December 29.—Miss Sallie G. Bidgood, teacher of the public school here, has returned home, after having spent a pleasant Christmas with her family, in Petersburg.

Mr. W. D. Price, manager for the Cable Company, Charlottesville, after spending several days with his mother and brother in the village, left for his home on yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Strader spent several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Jones, returning to their home in Manchester yesterday.

Mr. Robert W. Price, of Petersburg, after visiting his mother, also looking after his business interests here, returned home the early part of theweek.

Mr. F. D. Browne, justice of the peace for this district, lies very ill at his home.

Mrs. Hancock, who recently moved here from Midlothian, is confined to her room with pneumonia.

Mr. W. R. Borum spent Christmas with his relatives near Amelia Courthouse.

Mr. Holland B. Rowlett, of Fredericksburg, who has been on an extended Southern trip, is visiting his sister, Miss Lena Rowlett, in the village.

GLOUCESTER

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

GLOUCESTER C. H., VA., Dec. 30.—The chief event of the week in the social world of Gloucester was a large and elegant old-fashioned dancing party given by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gary in honor of their son, George, on Wednesday night. During the evening a delicious supper was served, and the entertainment ended with the dancing of the Virginia reel.

On Friday afternoon Miss Margaret Arthur Tabb entertained from 3 to 6 in honor of her guest, Miss Elsie Anderson, of Richmond.

On Friday evening Mr. Mahlan A. Benson gave a charming party at "Sunnyside." About fifty of the belles and beaux of the younger set enjoyed the hospitality of their young host, and voted it a most delightful evening.

Messrs. Theodore and Herbert Iasigi and Messrs. Hugus, of Norfolk, are with the Misses Tabb at "Newstead."

Christmas Exercises at Westover

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WESTOVER, VA., Dec. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Harrison entertained the parents and children of Westover Sunday-school and old Battery school at an elaborate luncheon at their new home at "Nestlous" to-day. After luncheon the children of the school, under able leadership of Miss Virginia Walker, rendered a delightful musical programme.

During the last song Rev. John C. Cornick lighted candles on a beautiful Christmas tree, and Mr. G. M. Walker, ably assisted by Miss Sue Ruffin, distributed gifts to all present.

Miss Attala Walker and Miss Sue Ruffin are at home for the holidays. They leave for Farmville Normal on Monday.

Mr. William Sparrow, of Buffalo, N. Y., is guest of Mrs. A. H. Drewry at "Edgewood."

Miss Lillie M. Todd is in Richmond for the holidays. She will resume her duties at old Battery school on Tuesday, January 2d.

Japan and South America.

Consul Brittain, of Kehl, Germany, reports that according to a recent article in a German newspaper the Japanese Government has recently granted a subsidy to a Japanese South American steamship line, which plies between Japan and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The object of this is to increase the imports of wool, flour, and wheat from Argentina, which products are chiefly needed and desired for Japan's army and marines. An English news paper also reports on a similar matter, and remarks: "The scheme, which has been under consideration for sometime, for the immigration of Japanese workmen to Brazil and the creation for that purpose of a direct Japanese steamship service to Santos and Rio de Janeiro is about to be realized. Two special commissioners of the Japanese Government are now examining, on the spot, the proposal of establishing a Japanese bank at Rio de Janeiro." The same English newspaper also reports that "a syndicate of several banks and commercial firms in Bremen has, in connection with the shipping firm Horn, of Schleswig and Lubeck, formed a new steamship company under the name of the Roland Line, to carry on a direct service between Bremen and the west coast of South America. The formal constitution of the new company will take place in the course of this month."

Electric Tramway in Vigo.

Consul Harmony, of Corunna, Spain, writes that a scheme, which is likely to be accepted, has been made by Mr. Emilio Montenegro, of the Bank of Vigo. It comprises five lines of tramway and one side line, altogether about 14 kilometers in length. The trolley system will be adopted. The rails are to be of Bessemer steel, Phoenix type, with automatic switches. Gauge of line, 1.44 meters. Minimum radius of surves not to exceed 16 meters. As regards rolling stock, there will be wanted 39 motor carriages and traction cars to be in constant circulation. Motor carriages to accomidate each 32 and traction cars each 24 persons.

There will be two principle and two auxiliary stations. The electric power 100,000 volts per 200 horsepower, will be furnished by the gas company from the falls of the river Lerez. Telephonic service to be established for the use of the line. The estimated cost is pesetas silver 1,600,000 inclusive. Persons interested may apply for further particulars to Mr. E. Mulder, consular agent at Vigo, from whom I have obtained the information incorporated in this report.

QUERIES AND .....ANSWERS

Colonel Wither's Book.

Will you please state where I can purchase a copy of "The Recollections of an Octogenarian," by ex-Senator R. E. Withers? A SUBSCRIBER.

Write to the author. His address is Wytheville, Va.

Norfolk Hospitals.

Please answer in your query columns the names of the training schools for nurses in Norfolk, Va.? You will greatly oblige A CONSTANT READER.

St. Vincent de Paul Hospital and Norfolk Protestant Hospital.

An Ever Recurring Question.

Can a publishing company force payment for paper sent after expiration of time paid for, having been notified by letter to stop paper at expiration of year for which it was paid? READER.

No.

License Tax.

Please answer in your next Wednesday's paper: Can a person travel from house to house, take orders for a regular household article, thereafter deliver and collect the money for the goods, without license for a manufacturer in Cincinnati or Chicago? A SUBSCRIBER.

Such a canvasser is required to take out a peddler's license.

From Richmond to Chicago.

To settle a dispute, will you please answer in your Query Column whether there is a good wagon road from Richmond to Chicago, Ill., and, if so, please state the larger cities this road passes through, and oblige AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Of course, there are wagon roads of one sort or another between Richmond and Chicago, but no such single road as you indicate.

Children's Home.

Will you please inform me if there is a place in Richmond by the name of Home Society for Girls. I want a white girl for house work, small family; or could I get a girl from the Orphan Asylum about 12 or 14 years old. Good home guaranteed. R. W. H.

Address: Children's Home Society, Richmond, Va.

A Bible Quotation.

Is the following sentence a verse from the Bible: "Cursed is he that carrieth the price of a dog in his pocket." A. B. C.

We suppose you are referring to Deuteronomy xxiii:18, in which it is said "Thou shalt not bring the price of a dog into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow.

Laws Against Mixed Marriages.

What States in the United States permit the intermarriage of the races, black and white? Is this permissible in North Carolina and Virginia? SUBSCRIBER.

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indian Territory, Kentucky, Maryland, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia.

Swanson's Successor.

After Governor-elect Swanson resigns his seat in Congress, willl there be somebody appointed or elected to fill his place, or will it remain vacant until the regular election? C. M. W.

Mr. Swanson has not yet resigned his seat in Congress. The Constitution of the United States provides that "when vacancies happen in the representation from any State, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The Governor's Salary.

What is the salary of the Governor of Virginia? Does he have an extra appropriation for stationery and travel? Please answer and oblige A READER.

The salary of the Governor of Virginia is $5,000 a year, with a contingent fund out of which may be paid all expenses incurred in connection with the State business.

Hogs That Eat Dirt.

Will you kindly let me know in the query column whether there is any remedy to stop hogs from eating dirt? R. C.

Put a box of charcoal in your hog lot, where they can have easy access to it. If you have not the charcoal use bituminous coal.

Pest of Rats.

Please advise me through your columns how to exterminate rats? They are about to destroy my stock of goods. The trouble is I can't get them to eat poison. A SUBSCRIBER.

You might try fumigating your store room with cyanide of potash. This is a deadly poison, and should be used with great care, for one whif of this gas is death to a man or rat.

Registered Letters.

If I register a letter how much money may I put in it, and in case the letter is lost will the Postoffice Department be responsible for it, or is there a limit to sums that the department is repsonsible for; Give me the law on this point. O. P. M.

There is no limit to the amount of money you may register. If the money is lost by accident the government holds itself responsible in amounts not exceeding $25. If the money is lost through fault of an employe of the department, the government holds him and his bondsmen responsible for the entire amount contained in the package.

What is a Trust?

Please answer the following question in your next weekly paper:

What is a trust?

In modern common usage, an organization for the control of several corporations under one management, by the device of a transfer by the stockholders in each corporation of at least a majority of the stock to a central committee or bond of trustees, who issue in return to such stockholders, respectively, certificates showing in effect that, although they have parted with their stock and the consequent voting power, they are still entitled to dividends or to share in the profits.—Century Dictionary.

But the term has a wide significance and applies also to all great corporations which control any branch of industry, as the Tobacco Trust, the Standard Oil Trust, the Steel Trust, and so on.

The Governor's Appointments

Will you please publish in your next weekly issue what offices or appointments come under the jurisdiction of the Governor of this State; also salaries of each?

The Governor appoints members of the Corporation Commission; the salary of each member of the commission is $4,000. The Governor appoints no other salaried officers, except to fill vacancies. He appoints notaries public and the boards of the various public institutions.

Can't Profit By a Mistake.

A purchased a farm from B, paying him $200 cash and making several payments thereafter. Then A decided to pay B all the balance due on the land and take his note in. So A goes to B and asks him how much is the balance due on the note. B looks the note over, makes his calculation, and tells A that it is $40. A pays B the amount and takes his note in; then B goes over the matter to himself and finds that A is due him $50 more on the note. Please tell me can B make A pay him the $50 by law? S. M. W.

B is entitled in law to recover $50, but he must, of course, prove that it is really due, and that he gave A the note under the mistaken idea that it was paid in full.

Text Books.

Will you please answer through your query columns why it is necessary to change the school books every four years, as such an expense is very heavy on the patrons of the school, and it is generally believed to be a money making scheme for the publishers? A SUBSCRIBER.

Now that the most approved textbooks have been adopted for our public schools, we can see no valid reason why there should be a general adoption of text-books again. We have heard that nearly all the members of the State Board of Education are opposed to another general adoption of books. They believe that it would be more economical in the long run, and more conducive to the interests of public education to permit the books now in the hands of the pupils to remain in use so long as the books prove satisfactory, both as to matter and price; and that when a book has served its time it should be dropped and a better one put in its place. There was a general adoption of books in 1898 and another in 1904; so that the two last adoptions were six years apart. The impression that periodical adoptions are advantageous to the publishing houses, and are, therefore, desired by them, is not correct. Surely here in Virginia there is no ground for saying that such a policy has been adopted to make money for publishers.

Virginia's Debt.

Will you please answer the following questions:

1. What is the so-called "Virginia debt"?

2. Name five of the leading educators of the present time in the United States. A SUBSCRIBER.

1. The Virginia debt was contracted largely for the purpose of building the James River Canal and making other internal improvements. When the war ended the State was impoverished and afterwards Virginia was divided, and the State of West Virginia created. The debt amounted to many million dollars, and all sorts of efforts were made to effect a settlement with the bondholders. This was finally done in 1892, and the debt of Virignia proper amounts to $25,537,820. The amount of West Virginia's indebtedness has not yet been lawfully ascertained.

2. We should not like to say who are the "five leading educators of the United States." Five of the leading educators are Charles W. Eliot, president of Harvard; Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton; William R. Harper, president Chicago University; Edwin A. Alderman, president of the University of Virignia; Charles D. McIver, principal of the North Carolina Normal School at Greensboro. The man who has done most for the cause of popular education in Virginia is William H. Ruffner, who is now in retirement.

NEVADA INDIANS KILL DEER IN CALIFORNIA

Let Off With Admonition and Return to Their Haunts.

Reports reached the Fish and Game Commissioners in Sacramento, Cal., that the Indians were slaughterng deer in the mountains of Amador county, and instructed Deputies Harry Warr and James Stott, who were in the mountains near Tallac, to investigate. The deputies watched the Indians laying in their winter's supply of white fish from the lakes around Tahoe, and for two weeks followed them across the mountains into Amador county. They arrested two Indians, one with a doe an dthe other with a deer in their possession, which had been killed by the Indians. Judge Spencer, of Placerville, suspended sentence on the promise tthe Indians would return to Nevada and be good Indians in future. The Indians started on foot on their return, scaling the summit of Sierra Nevada Mountains, a distance of 120 miles, accompanied by Deputy Harry Warr.

President Roosevelt in His Virginia Retreat.

If you were riding that way, and chanced to see this refuge chosen by Theodore Roosevelt as a country place, you would think it the clearing and the home of a settler carving out his humble niche in the wilderness. And if the owner is there, you may see him laying his axe, with sturdy arm, into the butt of a pine which must give way to make way for his vegetable garden. Just woods, and the smell of fir, and the mountain winds, and a roof for shelter, and a joyous solitude—these are what the President sought and found in his clearing, which is dignified among the mountaineers by the name of "Roosevelt's Rest."—The Outing Magazine for January.

What Miss Clark Has.

Miss Clark, one of the high school teachers, has been sick and was compelled to give up teaching during the first part of the week. She has the history department.—Salem (Ore.) Journal.

KEEPING HOUSE FOR A FAMILY OF A THOUSAND

The Hotel Housekeeper Among the Busiest of the Busy Women of a Great City—Just How She Is Making the Holidays Cheerful for People Unable to Go Home for Christmas—Up-to-Date Wrinkles Which Aid in Her Task—Sweeping and Dusting With Compressed Air.

(Special Correspondence of The Times-Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, December 23.—There are within the city's gate at the beginning of the year's great holiday week more sojourners who will have no hearth of their own on which to burn a Yule log than ever a Christmastide has seen here before. Way-weary travelers, wandering business men, whoever they may be and whatever their pursuits, there are thousands who have before them the desolate prospect of spending away from home the season most closely associated with the family fireside. Yet the fate of these unfortunates would once have been much worse than it is in these days when the hotels that are their temporary abiding-places open the doors of a luxurious home to every wayfarer.

Twenty or thirty years ago the idea of passing Christmas in a hotel would have been fraught with horror. American hostelries in those times were refuges sought only when no escape from them could be found. Their discomforts were proverbial, their attractions most conspicuous for their absence. Even Robinson Crusoe would not have envied the habitual American hotel dweller then. To-day no other country in the world offers in its caravansaries for travelers such comfort and luxury, and, more important than these, so much of the quality of home, as ours does.

The science of hotel housekeeping, which has brought about this change, seems to be an American science.

Our cooks are still imported from France, Italy, Germany and the rest of the Continent—even the Orient—are called upon to add their contributions to those of Uncle Sam's broad acres that the hotel's hospitable board may lack nothing the world has to give; from England and its islands come many of the functionaries and servants who make American public houses the best attended that there are. But the American housewife adds to all these the special qualities the inns of no other country have, though to the guest she is the least conspicuous figure in the entire menage.

In the enormous hotels of every big American city, hotels that are regal in their luxury and beauty, the position of housekeeper is a very important one. The household of Windsor Castle does not require more capability in its management than do our democratic "palaces" for any and everybody's entertainment. In fact, so careful is the supervision of every smallest detail in the housekeeper's realm that it would be impossible, probably, for a maid to survive in one of these public establishments such an experience as that of the servant whom Queen Victoria reprimanded by writing the royal cipher in the dust on a polished cabinet each morning for three days until it was discovered by the offender.

An enormous responsibility rests on the shoulders of the hotel housekeeper—responsibility for the health and comfort of 800 or a thousand people and for the reputation of an establishment that represents, in many cases, millions of dollars invested. Take, for example, the woman in charge of the internal economy of such a hostelry as the new Hotel Astor here, typical of great twentieth century houses of its kind.

She has under her supervision nearly 200 servants; to help her in the mere work of administration requires two assistants; the army which she commands includes a corps of men to do cleaning and another of women cleaners, one of parlor maids, one of chamber maids, and one of maids' maids, these latter to look after the rooms of their fellow employes. In the housekeeper's charge are the linen room, the house laundry, and the furniture supply rooms, all the six hundred and odd guests' rooms, 40 or 50 parlors, and the 15 or 20 semi-public dining-rooms. Her servant problem is something that would appall the head of even the most luxurious private establishment.

Every morning, the first thing, she makes a tour of the supply rooms on each floor to see that the maids are all on duty, that everything is in perfect order, and that nothing is lacking to make the day's work go smoothly. This is only a preliminary inspection, however, and must be accomplished with the quickness of a trained eye and experience, for a multitude of duties press upon her thick and fast. If furniture is to be moved anywhere about the house, the housekeeper must be on hand to see that proper care is exercised, and that everything is arranged exactly right. If one of the "state suites" or other specially gorgeous apartments not constantly in use is engaged, she personally superintends its cleaning and the setting right of its furniture and bric-a-brac. She keeps count of the linen issued—many hundreds of pieces a day—the reserve blankets, mattresses, pillows, and so on, and is back and forth in the furniture store-rooms to order the work when an extra bed, or chair, or whatever it may be, is needed.

It is in this—the making of the hotel a perfectly ordered home for every guest—that lies the chief test of her ability, and in this her tact and patience must never be found wanting. Some of her experiences would put a severe strain on the patience of Job's own housekeeper, too, were they not, after all, just the things that make her so important a functionary. Such a hotel as the Astor purposes meeting the slightest whim of any of its guests instantly and "perfectly." Perhaps the electric lights on the dressing table have red shades, and the occupant of the room wants blue or white. Perhaps there is a green curtain over the transom, while black is the only color the temporary monarch can survey without shuddering. The towels are too coarse for one, too soft for another; or the light in the hallway outside her room must be removed so it shall not shine through and disturb my lady's repose. Every request imaginable, some very sensible, others quite unreasonable, must be met promptly, and it is the head housekeeper's duty to see accomplished the somewhat difficult feat of removing the rose leaf under the forty mattresses so a princess may sleep.

Like other housewives, this one in the Astor has her troubles in keeping things in repair. In the linen room there are half a dozen clever seamstresses, who darn the lace curtains when they get torn, make the maids' caps, receive the linen as it comes in from the laundry adjoining, keep a check on it and give it out as it is requisitioned. Every sheet, pillow case and napkin that comes in or goes out is noted in account books, and three times a day a gang of men replenish from the main linen room the supply with which each floor is provided, so the maids need never leave the special part of the house to which they are assigned.

YOUNG MAN WED TO ACCOMMODATE FRIEND

He Was 26; Wife 48; Became Her Husband Simply to Oblige Her.

ST. LOUIS.—Lawyers who returned last night from Kennett, Mo., where they tried a slander suit growing out of litigation over the estate of the late John E. Powell, of New Madrid, Mo., told of a remarkable wedding that was brought out at the trial.

Perry L. Bryant, formerly of St. Louis, but now of Los Angeles, a witness in the case, told on the stand how he married Mrs. Powell, three years ago, purely as a matter of friendship and to accommodate her.

At the time he was 26, while Mrs. Powell was 48. In proof of his disinterestedness he cited the fact that he had never so much as eaten at the same table with his wife, and had moved away to the West soon after the marriage.

Recently Mrs. Powell has died, releasing him from self-sacrificing vows.

RACE SUICIDE.

England's Birth Rate Declining to An Alarming Extent.

England's birth rate is declining. It touched its highest point, since registration began in 1838, in 1876. To-day it is at its lowest. The children of the most prolific mothers—those of 1876—are the moseu nproductive mothers. The reason assigned for the frightful decline is "the decay of the maternal instinct." Only 75 per cent as many little ones see the light now, or remain in it, as saw it thirty years ago. No one factor, however, can account for the entire falling off.

The fact is, there are many causes. Notably among the most prominent is the advanced age at which persons marry, and the fact that a great many never marry. Previous to 1876 the marriage rate was 16 to 17 1-2 per 1,000. To-day it is 15 1-2. The claim made for years by leading economists that population was supposed to vary with the food supply is being doubted. It fails to hold good in England, for at no time in the past was food so cheap or so abundant as it is to-day.

Possibly, says one writer, "rent, the rates and taxes have more to do with the question than has the price of wheat." The fact of the matter is, the question is beyond the best men in the empire. It baffles everybody from the humblest to the highest. In the fight for first place that is on, it means, or may mean, a great deal to England whether her birth rate is small or large. A short crop of little ones in 1905 and in each succeeding year means a short crop of men for the army, navy, mills, shops, farms, ships, factories and collieries of England twenty-five or thirty years hence.—Consular Reports.

Decided Not to Open It.

Caller—"I was thinking about opening a drug store in this neighborhood. Do you think one is needed around here?"

Resident—"Great idea. There's no place within ten blocks where a man can buy stamps or see the city directory."—Brooklyn Eagle.

PIKE'S PEAK DISCOVERY TO BE CELEBRATED

Colonel Springs and Manitou Working to Make a National Event.

With $5,000 which has been donated by Z. G. Simmons, of Kenosha, Wis., as a nucleus, a fund of many thousand dollars will be raised for a grand State centennial celebration of the discovery of Pike's Peak by Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, in November, 1806.

This subscription, which was made recently, heads the list, and efforts will be made to secure many other large contributions, which will make it possible to have the celebraton one that is national in its scope.

Residents of Colorado Springs are requested to extend all the financial aid possible because of the magnitude of the celebration that is planned. Steps are to be taken to interest the War Department and officers of the army, as well as hundreds of Western pioneers, to say nothing of publicists, members of Congress and men of national reputation.

WAX FARM PROFITABLE IN PARTS OF CHINA

While Chinese wax affords an income to hundreds of farmers in the Chien-Chang Valley, where the insects flourish which coat their eggs and cocoons with the pure white wax.

They feed upon the leaves of a plant which grows only in that valley; but if left to remain in their birthplace die before it is time to deposit their eggs.

For that reason a wax farm consists of pots of ground some distance apart, the insects being transported from the valley to the outside farms by porters, who carry thousands at one time upon their backs.

The industry is almost as profitable as the raising of the silkworm, and requires even more care, but the painstaking farmer looks as carefully after his minute charges as the American farmer does after his cattle.

Gets Sugar Away From Home.

Consul Alger, of Tegucigalpa, reports that Honduras produces only about 20 per cent of the sugar needed for home consumption, and that during the year 1903—4 the importation amounted to 823,818 kilos, valued at $40,046 United States currency. Of the quantity named the United States furnished 255,240 kilos, Nicaragua 301,103 kilos, and the remainder was received from Guatemala, Salvador, Germany, and British Honduras, in the order named.

A Bard's Stratagem.

I am a most unlucky bard, I can not sell my verse, the life I lead is very hard, and it is getting worse. Unless I quickly make a hit my finish I can see, and death by starving I'll admit does not appeal to me. And that reminds me of a scheme for getting rid of rhyme that has been tried, but it would seem might work another time. They say that ignorance is bliss, and I a deal might close by fitting up my verse like this and selling it as prose.—Houston Chronicle.

Mr. A. M. Beaupre, minister to Argentina, transmits a translation of the law recently passed by Argentina establishing ports dues, which is on file in the Bureau of Manufactures. The new regulations are prescribed by the act of the National Congress approved October 24th.