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The circulation of THE TIMES *for the week ended Saturday, December 18, 1897, was as follows:*

Sunday, December 12	23,400
Monday, December 13	39,795
Tuesday, December 14	39,617
Wednesday, December 15	40,075
Thursday, December 16	39,874
Friday, December 17	39,537
Saturday, December 18	40,175
Total	262,493
Daily average (Sunday, 23,400, excepted)	39,848

Communications intended for publication in The Times should be tersely and plainly written and must in all cases be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. Rejected communications will not be preserved, and only manuscripts of obvious importance will be returned to their authors.

Readers of The Times who may at any time be unable to procure copies of it at any news stand, railroad station or on railroad trains will confer a favor upon the management by sending to this office information of the fact.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1897.

The Real Contrast.

The painful fact has developed within the last few weeks that the amiable and distinguished gentleman who occupies the position of President of the United States cannot find surcease from toil and trouble even in the Christian church, a sanctuary which from time immemorial has been open to all sorts and conditions of men.

Whatever the millions of American people who read the Sunday newspapers, and have made them necessary, may be taught to think of Sunday journalism, there is no question whatever as to what they think of sensational preaching and sensational preachers. In this we believe that the American President and the American people, without regard to age, sex, color, or political belief, are as one.

Checking the Hanna Ledger.

From time to time The Times has shown some interest in the question of Mr. Hanna's ante-election deals and engagements. They have formed a terrible scandal. The trust and monopoly tariff paid off some of these debts, and a desperate effort is being made to settle the larger balance against the Administration through Mr. Gage's scheme of destroying the greenbacks, and securing authority to make a gigantic issue of gold bonds. These things were to be expected, but there ought to be a limit. From that point of view we ask again, and very pertinaciously, when Mr. McKinley is going to get through paying his campaign debts, incurred on his account by his promoters, and assume his place as the head and front of his own Administration?

This is an important as well as a pertinent question, especially for Mr. McKinley. There is not a question that he has the ambition to succeed himself. We are ignorant of the idea that any American President in this generation has lacked it. Possibly he may have entered upon the campaign for his office with an understanding that he was not to interfere with the conduct of the Government nor to place himself in the way of the designs which his "contributory" backing had, and has, upon the American people; but that is hard to believe, and we are not prepared to believe it, notwithstanding evidences and developments which do not appeal pleasantly to the public in that connection.

It is plain, however, that if the Chief Magistrate shall not divorce himself from the growing scandals of his party organizations and shall not purge himself of the suspicion of copartnership with its tendency to foist obnoxious and corrupt individuals upon the country in public office, on account of their aid to secure his nomination in 1896, he will have to face a most sturdy Republican revolt in the Congress before many months.

It is not our present purpose to enter into details. The Administration has had warning enough of what is coming. It is a party and not a national matter, but it will become national when the truth is exposed through a Congressional investigation of the abuse of the appointing power which is alleged against some of the President's most intimate dominating influences.

We desire to ask Mr. McKinley if he thinks his chances for renomination would be increased if it should appear, under investigation, that important offices have been given to people of disreputable or otherwise unfit character in consequence of aid they may have been able to give to his candidacy before the St. Louis convention. It is not supposable that directly he made any pledges in that way. Can he afford to carry out those which, it is charged, were made in his behalf?

There is reason to think that the old leaders of the Republican party—those whom Mr. Hanna kicked into back seats last year—are contemplating a political movement which does not augur well for the President's personal interests. What they intend to do will appear shortly after the reassembling of the Congress. The gossip of the day has it that some of the most flagrant alleged deals of 1896, resulting in malversation of the prerogative of appointment, will be made the basis of a Congressional inquest which, once started, will go to the bottom of the whole matter.

The impendency of such an attack furnishes both occasion and opportunity for Mr. McKinley to strike out and shake his skirts clear of the malign influences that, to the surprise and chagrin of a majority of the people who voted for him, have appeared to surround and completely to have influenced his policies, his methods and his Presidential conduct.

The last day of the current year approaches. What a good time that would be for him to "swear off" from subserviency to all these, and to come out in an entirely new and untried character, as the President and champion of the whole American people!

The Pension Scandal.

The New York Sun, in its edition of December 20, devoted its whole first page to a presentation of the abuses through which the national pension list is made to cover more names by several thousand than there are survivors of the war; and it is well enough known that a good sized army of veterans do not receive or ask for pensions, because they do not need them.

According to the statement published in the Sun, which, it should be borne in mind, is a good Republican paper, the nation is being robbed through the pension system. The rolls show that 976,014 persons are on the rolls, and of these there are 6,405 more "survivors" than it is estimated have survived. Last year 54,072 claimants for pensions were added to the list, and 578,099 are appealing for pensions or increases of pension. Among these claimants the "survivor" element not hitherto pensioned, is stated at 187,500. So, if we may believe the figures, there are nearly 200,000 more "survivors" of the war than were in it, according to census and other Government estimates and statistics.

How these parodoxical things can exist is not plain, although in part comprehensible. There must have been a good deal of perjury, of people claiming disability who were not disabled; of "good politics" and "sound business methods;" and then there are the soldiers' home widows, who, according to the reports of successive commissioners, as innocent maidens hover around the soldiers' homes, entrap the unwary octogenarian veterans and marry them. Once that is done the ladies in question only have to wait for the happy release of their ancient lovers, to be pensioned for life. It would be ungallant to elaborate this phase of the question; but in all respects it is a very serious one. When we reflect that annually we are spending about our internal revenue receipts, or the equivalent of what it costs the German Empire to maintain an army of 750,000 men, on our pension list, it is vitally evident that we should provide against any illegitimate increase of the nation's bounty, and certainly to see that what we are paying out goes to deserving persons.

It cannot be doubted that this matter will have to be investigated, and the rolls purged of many names of those whose services or disabilities do not come within the letter or spirit of the several laws on the subject; but who, without right or merit, have become the stipendiaries of a generous people.

The Honor of the Flag.

A meeting held in New York last week expressed itself in favor of a national law against the use of the American flag for advertising or political purposes, and decided to begin a general campaign of education on the subject.

It is matter for rejoicing that a room full of citizens anywhere in our land have waked themselves thoroughly up on this subject. Of course, individuals here and there have always seen that it was absurd, and undignified, and unpatriotic, to use the emblem of our nation's glory to further the five-cent plans of some picayune advertising man. It is perfectly evident to any thinking person that a flag which, if it means anything, means the highest and most beautiful things in our national character, should be made into a sandwich-board. There is a type of man, of course, who would see nothing improper in asking his father to promenade the streets with an advertisement of superior soap on his collar if the old gentleman were too feeble for active work, but it would strike cultivated people as bad taste. There are a good many schemes which may turn a penny here and there, which are very bad taste, and which help to make certain sections of our large cities purgatory to a person with any feeling for propriety. Some of these things, however, are simple idiocy, and softening of the brain not being a crime before the law, nothing can be done about it. The flag, however, can be rescued from the clutches of such vandals, and secured an appropriate, dignified and poetic position with very little trouble. And this thing should be done.

European Partition of China.

There is amusement as well as interest in reading the comments of the British press upon the occupation of Port Arthur by Russia, which, following logically upon the seizure of Kiao Chou by Germany, is regarded in the United Kingdom with more fear than favor.

Once more we are minded to revert to the cynical statement in the British National Review that "all the beatitudes march hand in hand with English interests." Britain "views with alarm" the wickedness of the continental powers in learning and applying the principles and points of the same old game which she has been playing for centuries, and which, among modern nations, it was her privilege and profit to invent. The London Times deplores the idea that what its country has done at Hong Kong, and other localities too numerous to mention, the German Kaiser should dare to do at Kiao Chou, and the Russian Czar at Port Arthur! As to the latter, it says: "Instead of the Kaiser's mailed fist we have Russia's velvet glove; but the grasp is not less vigorous and unyielding. Great Britain ought now courteously to invite China to extend the same privilege to the British fleet at Chusan."

Why, certainly! Britain has Hong Kong, and a very recent concession of the important islands surrounding it. It is impossible, however, for the British mind to conceive of any situation in which she is not getting more than anyone else. Hence, Britain will at once diplomatize for more China. A few years ago it would have been turned over for the asking, under the operation of that very convincing argument called "force majeure." Possibly it is different now. Japan, Great Britain's only remaining active, though secret, ally, is very angry over the Kiao Chou and Port Arthur incidents, and, with full British backing, would like to make a fuss about them; but the trouble is that Japan will have Prince Henry's mailed fist in her face; not so much as a menace to the Mikado as a hint to Lord Salisbury to keep his hand out of affairs in the China Seas.

The possibility exists that Great Britain will be given some further share in the division of the Mongolian empire, but it will be as an act of grace on the part of the Emperors. If increased British influence in the direction does not happen to accord with the interests of continental Europe, it will not be tolerated. If Russia were not friendly to us, there might be danger to America in such an outcome. Great Britain might seize the Hawaiian Islands by way of compensation. It is not likely, under present conditions, that Russia would tolerate this, but if we do not avail ourselves of our opportunity and annex them, the Czar might be willing to let the Kaiser have them, and there are ominous reports to the effect that he is waiting for an opening to do exactly that thing.

We have not any time to lose. Our position in the Pacific will be gone beyond redemption if our law-makers do not act promptly and patriotically on the Hawaiian treaty.

Won't some one please introduce the Cuban method of dealing with bribe-givers into American legislative assemblies?

What seems to gravel the pro-Spanish press is the fact that Col. Ruiz was not a pacifico. Neither was he an old woman, nor a child, but a soldier, who was shot by order of another soldier, and who no doubt recognized the justness of his sentence.

Senator Allen is right. This is a commercial age—so commercial that the Government seriously thinks of sending regular army officers to South America as military attaches to drum up trade for manufacturers of war materials.

If the President's pastor keeps on in the way he is going, the first thing we know he may be stricken with the idea that there is something wrong about the wholesale outrage and butchery of women, young girls and babies, by the Spaniards in Cuba. Now we wonder if he would say so. It may not be as wicked as printing or reading a Sunday newspaper, but it is a little wicked!

The Boston story that the Kaiser contemplates a descent upon and capture of Hawaii and our Pacific Coast, probably is an extremely bald headed "scare head" sensation, but it points a moral. Nobody can tell what Wilhelm will do next at any time. Therefore it might be just as well to hurry up that annexation. If we are not quick about taking the Hawaiian Islands somebody else will have them. They are in the market and are bound to go.

No doubt the times are out of joint and hard, but it is something rather remarkable that they should be so dislocated and cut of joint that the Government cannot pay a Washington undertaker for the funeral of President Garfield. Considering what it paid with great cheerfulness to hang his assassin, this does look rather small.

Senator Chandler is insistent that Secretary Gage must be stopped in his mad financial career, or the Republican party will be slaughtered at the elections of 1898. Secretary Gage cannot be stopped, because he officially represents the sentiments and influences in control of the Administration; but Senator Chandler is right about the other thing. The American people are only waiting for a chance to get at the Republican party again, at the polls.

A Houston paper says that the convicts of that State are fed on meat, bread, potatoes, and other vegetables, with sweet cakes and pies now and then. The poor but honest laboring man will, on reading this, seriously contemplate walking to Texas and getting himself arrested.

Mr. Wellington's complaint against Gen. Agnus has fallen flat. It followed Mr. Wellington's example.

The people who are wrangling over the origin of the name Welsh rarebit would do well to give their attention to cooking the animal. After eating three or four of their failures, they would be in a position to wrangle with anybody.

A Great Truth Plainly Put.

To the Editor of The Times:

Your correspondent, recognizing the powerful service which an enlightened press can render in a public cause, ventures to invoke the aid of The Times in preventing the scheme, which seems about to be realized, to mar the beauty of this capital city.

There appears a willingness, on the part of the authorities, to abandon the original plan of Washington, made by L'Enfant, and rigidly carried out by Governor Shepherd, of straight, wide streets and avenues, which makes this city the finest in America.

Cost should be a secondary consideration where the improvement of the model city of the country is involved.

As it is, the divergence from right lines in the extension of streets and avenues will reverse the process going on in other growing cities, and render the newer portions of Washington less beautiful than the old.

Not the slightest divergence from the original plan should for a moment be tolerated. This plan cannot be improved.

W. T. SOMERTON.

Democratic New York.

(From the New York World.)

The official figures of the vote of the State on November 2, published Sunday, show:

That the Democratic majority was 60,889, as against Republican majorities of 268,469 last year, of 90,146 in 1895, of 156,108 in 1894.

That Cleveland's majority for governor fifteen years ago excepted, the Democrats got their largest majority in a quarter of a century.

That, the vote of 1889 excepted, the Republicans polled their smallest vote in ten years.

Heard in Chicago.

(From the Chicago Record.)

LOST—In Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, somewhere between the White House and the Capitol, a vigorous foreign policy. Finder will please return same to the State Department.

What Some Editors Should Know.

(From the Atchison Globe.)

Because stuff comes over the telegraph wires, and costs a great deal of money, it is not necessarily news.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Mr. H. H. Hanna, of Indianapolis, monetary commission fame, has prepared a bill to be submitted to Congress. That is to say, Mr. Hanna and the other members of this much-advertised committee of men, who are not "influenced by politics," and whose only desire in life is to benefit mankind in general and the gold standard advocates in particular, have combined their intellects, effected an understanding, and reduced this effort to writing in the form of a bill, which, undoubtedly, if this commission is to be believed, will remove from the country all past, present and future difficulties relative to the currency question.

Like everything else that this commissions has done, the contents of the bill remain a secret, but the bill exists. Of this there is no doubt, for Mr. Hanna says so, and Mr. Hanna would not say so if he were not certain of his facts. Mr. Hanna always states facts. He has a love for facts. Sometimes his friends fail to appreciate them, but that makes no difference to Hanna; he delivers them as seriously as if they were ordered.

This was the case last summer, when Mr. McKinley caused it to be denied that he would send a currency message to the extraordinary session of Congress. As soon as Mr. Hanna heard of this decision he came out with his facts, and declared that the President would send the message. The President read the published interview and sent from the White House a contradiction, reiterating that he would not send the message.

Mr. Hanna, a day later in another interview, denied this, and recited some more facts, concluding that the President would send to Congress the currency measure. Mr. Hanna's facts were all right, although the President's inclinations failed to approve them. Mr. Hanna came to Washington a few days before Congress adjourned, had a conference with Mr. McKinley, left the city and the message went to Congress. Mr. Hanna's facts were all right.

The last edition of facts presented by Mr. Hanna is a letter sent to the House Committee on Banking and Currency to the effect that as soon as the holiday recess is over and the committee is prepared to resume its labors, he will present to it the bill which, will embody the united efforts of the Indianapolis monetary commission, and will ask the committee to struggle with it and all its alleged "facts."

Early next month Congress will honor the memory of three men who were illustrious in their day and whose contributions to the history of this country will endure as long as its history lasts. These men were Thomas H. Benton and Francis P. Blair, of Missouri, and John E. Kenna, of West Virginia. Who and what these famous men were every school boy knows, and their utterances in the halls of Congress have become portions of the literature of the age. Missouri has sent to Statuary Hall in the Capitol statues of Benton and Blair and West Virginia has paid the same tribute to the memory of Kenna. Early in January, with appropriate ceremonies, these statues will be unveiled by the Senators and Representatives, and they will be accorded positions in the galaxy of sculptured statesmen that their eminence entitles them to.

Among the speakers on the occasion of the unveiling of these statues will probably be Mr. M. E. Benton, a grand-nephew of the famous author of "Thirty Years in the Senate." Mr. Benton represents the Fifteenth district of the same State which his distinguished kinsman served so long and faithfully as a publicist. Like the first Benton he is a Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, and unswerving in his loyalty to party. He takes pride in the fact that he is the original offensive partisan, having been the first officeholder removed by Cleveland for activity in politics. He was United States district attorney for the western district of Missouri in 1886, and took the stump for his party's ticket. Cleveland at once relieved him of office, but it aroused such a protest in Missouri that he was reinstated. When Harrison was elected Benton at once sent his resignation to Attorney General Garland, to take effect March 4, 1889, saying he did not care to serve under a Republican Administration.

Mr. Benton was the hero of another incident, which gave him national fame at the time. He prosecuted and sent to the gallows the leaders of what were known in the mountains of southwest Missouri as "Bald-Knobbers." The band was local in Missouri, and resembled the whitecaps of Indiana and other States. In spite of threats of assassination, and without regard to his political future, the district attorney determined to wipe them out and did so. They were prosecuted in the United States court because of the fact that they had directed their enmity toward homesteaders on Government land. Mr. Benton has not yet been heard in Congress, this being his first term, but he is regarded in Missouri as the most convincing stump speaker of his party.

There is a look of sorrow in the eyes of the Capitol guides, and an expression of neglect in their faces that grows more apparent every day. These men, who in the good old days sported three-karat diamonds, drank champagne and held theater boxes by the season, are now members of the growing class of "has beens," and the melancholy that surrounds them would support a dozen first-class funeral directors' establishments. In explanation of the change a veteran said yesterday:

"It's awful. We don't make enough to buy beer with. Prosperity! If this is the kind of prosperity we're to have may heaven help us. Five years ago we would get $5 for showing a party through the building, while to-day if we get 50 cents or $1 we're doing good work. I have often, in the good old times, made $20 and $25 a day for weeks, and champagne was as plenty as water. Now I am glad when I can pay my board and buy a glass of beer."

Immediately after the holiday recess is over, the House is expected to push the naturalization and immigrant bill through and make it a law. It has already been reported to the House, and the committee will insist on its being acted upon.

Members of the Senate are relating a story about Mr. Charles Page Bryan which is said to have been one of the incidents that turned two or three influential Senators against him, and convinced them that Mr. Bryan was not quite the man to send to China as Uncle Sam's representative. It is said that soon after he was appointed by the President, Mr. Bryan called upon Mr. Roosevelt, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and in the course of his conversation, after explaining who and what he was, made a formal request for a battleship to transport him to his new post. Mr. Bryan was not particular as to what ship it was so long as it was a battleship. He was rather piqued at the statement of the Assistant Secretary to the effect that this had never been done before, and he was quite certain no exception could be made in the case of Mr. Bryan, much as Mr. Roosevelt would like personally to oblige him. These Senators say that a man who would make a request of this character is hardly the diplomat to send to a country like China.

The rules of the Senate stipulate that the pages shall be not younger than twelve years, nor more than sixteen. So it happens that there is frequently a changing of faces among these little fellows. At the beginning of the present session seven familiar faces had disappeared, and seven new ones had taken their places. The new ones are: Lewis Barnes, Washington; Roussea Barber, Missouri; Charles Elliott, Iowa; Jessie Finley, Tennessee; Algernon Handy, Virginia; Dorwin Nichols, Illinois, and Dell Sumner, Iowa. The boys who gave way to these are: Jean Crandall, Beattie Perry, Walter Irey, Fred Gantt, Charles Coombs, Arthur Kenna, Fergus Ferris and Robert Squire. These pages are paid $2.50 a day while the Senate is in session. Perry knew that he would go when this session convened, and he sought a means to earn his own livelihood in another channel. When the Senate reconvened his familiar face was seen at the Senate entrance, where he has posted himself as a newsboy, and where he is now making about as much a day as when he was a page on the floor of the Senate.

Senator Thurston will give a big reception on Christmas Day, at his home in Omaha. That will be the anniversary of his wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Thurston having been married twenty-five years ago. Several Senators will go out to the reception. Those who cannot attend have arranged to send their colleague a handsome reminder of the happy occasion.

Senator Allen, of Nebraska, has been in an unusually good humor the past few days. Not that the Senator is not always in that frame of mind, but he has especial occasion for his mood just now. He is a grandfather, and a happier grandfather cannot be found anywhere in the country.

There is trouble brewing for Mr. Brosius, of the Lancaster, Pa., district, chairman of the House committee on civil service reform. Brosius is one of the most ardent advocates of civil service reform in the House, and has prided himself upon the fact that in his district the people are of one mind on that subject, and agree with him thoroughly. Mr. Brosius has been preparing a speech, which will be in answer to the attacks that have been made upon the merit system in the two houses of Congress. When Mr. Brosius makes that speech he will meet with a surprise unless he reads this column of The Times. Those old mischief makers of which Gem. Grosvenor is the head, some time ago sent prepared petitions into the district, putting them into the hands of trusted persons for circulation. Word was received from Lancaster yesterday, and the anti-civil service men were rejoiced to learn that these petitions praying for the repeal of the law had been signed by something like 7,000 Republicans. Lancaster is one of the banner counties in the State, and goes a long way to make up the big Republican majority in Pennsylvania. When Mr. Brosius is brought face to face with this petition there is expected to be some fun in the House.

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON.

Extended to the President by Many Representatives.

The sleet, rain and snow had the effect of providing a big and indiscriminate crowd yesterday at the Executive Mansion. This was largely contributed to by the groups of visitors, among whom there were scores of ladies, who must now have written permission to enter any of the White House rooms except the East Room.

There were enough Senators in sight to hold a session of the Senate. Among those who had talks with the President were Mr. Chandler, Mr. Thurston and Mr. Hawley. Then there were representatives without number.

A delegation of Missourians held the attention of the President for some time with reference to some appointments at St. Louis.

There were several gentlemen in attendance, waiting to be heard in the matter of the District offices. It was stated, however, that these would not be given the Executive attention until after Christmas.

A great many Representatives and Senators merely called to give the President Christmas greetings and to say good-by to the President.

Col. Berry, Member from Kentucky, called with a party of Kentucky ladies. They were received by the President, and afterward made the tour of the Mansion.

Among those who called on matters demanding legislation were ex-Secretary of State Foster, who consulted the President on the question of pelagic sealing; Attorney-General McKenna, on the subject of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, and Representative Johnson, who is opposed to the bill passed by Congress to prevent pelagic sealing.

Senators Gallagher and Chandler asked the President to withhold all New Hampshire appointments until after the recess.

Senator Hanna was the last caller before 4 p. m. He had a long personal talk with the President.

The President is earnestly considering the chances for the ratification of the Hawaiian treaty of annexation. It is said that the disposition of the patronage may affect the result in the Senate.

Reindeer Route to the Klondike.

A cablegram was sent yesterday by the Secretary of War to William Kjellmann, the Government reindeer herdsman, now at Altez, Norway, inquiring how soon 600 reindeer could be shipped to this country for draft purposes in getting provisions to the miners in the Klondike. Secretary Alger has decided to use as far as possible condensed food preparations so as to reduce the weight of the supplies, thus making it easier of transportation. Inquiries are being made as to the price and availability of these condensed goods. The State Department has undertaken to request the Canadian government to pass these stores free of duty. It is thought that the Canadian authorities will acquiesce in the matter. A conference was held yesterday between Secretary Alger and Judge Day in this latter relation.

Superannuated Clerk's Death.

It is said that the death of one of the clerks whose salary was recently reduced at the Treasury was caused by his grief and humiliation. The clerk was a citizen of the District, and one of the younger clerks, an expert, said yesterday that there was no one that could have done the old clerk's work better than it was being done at the time of the reduction. The old man was in a position to care for himself without the salary he received from the Government, but it is reported that he could not fail to regard the reduction as an injustice, and the matter preyed upon his mind, hastening, if not causing, his death.

Investigating Lieut. Stevens.

Lieut. Stevens, of the Navy, appeared before the naval examining board at the navy yard yesterday to contradict allegations made against his moral character. In a recent examination for promotion he failed on account, it is said, of his habits. Lieut. Stevens has appeared before the board on two similar occasions and has been on probation for some time pending the examination, begun yesterday, and which will decide whether he will be dropped from the rolls, or be recommended for promotion.

The Movement of the Ships.

The cruiser Detroit arrived yesterday at Port au Prince, on her arrival the Marblehead leaving that port for Navassa Island to investigate the reported outrages there on American laborers.

The Helena has been dispatched to the Asiatic station. She will also make a trip to the City of Bagdad.

WILL KEEP ALL PROMISES.

Tammany Society Issues a Congratulatory Address.

New York, Dec. 20.—Tammany Hall's general committee met tonight, adopted the call for the primaries, and ordered its publication, and also adopted an address, directed in large part to the 144,000 who voted for Van Wyck in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx.

The people were congratulated on Van Wyck's election as being a triumph of the people against the threatened rule of the aristocracy.

Referring to the platform the address says:

"The Democratic platform expressed the purpose and the hope of a liberty-loving, law-abiding, progressive, cosmopolitan community. Its declarations found response in the hearts of the free and enlightened citizens.

"Its candidates had lived the political truths which it taught, and now at the threshold of their inauguration into office, with a solemn consciousness of the responsibility resting upon them as servants of the people and representatives of Democracy we pledge in their name and in that of our common party to the people of Greater New York, that the government of our city from January 1, 1898, shall be according to every promise and every principle declared in the municipal platform of our party. Waste shall give place to prudence, extravagance to wise liberality, intolerance to liberty, and the alien officeholders to our own residents.

"Thus conducted, our Government shall fully reflect the highest aspirations of our people. American institutions shall be vindicated and the prosperity of our municipality made secure by the application in government of the principles of Democracy."

State legislation in line with the ante-election pledges was promised, and adherence to the platform was demanded by representatives in the municipal assembly.

In conclusion the address says:

"We invite the co-operation of every citizen in the effort which we are certain will be made by the mayor-elect and the citizens whom he may summon to his aid by appointment to official station to give to the greater city an honest, efficient and popular government worthy of the greatest municipality of the Western world."

John C. Sheehan was present at the meeting, but he did not take the conspicuous place which he used to occupy when he was acting leader of the organization.

WEATHER SAGE "BROKE UP."

But He Does'n't Promise That the Bad Weather Will Be Soon.

The weather Sage looked all broke up last night. "Broke up" may not be a phrase peculiar to the best society, but it's just about as good form as dog fights. Yes; the Sage looked all "broke up." He very much resembled the Republican party after the next election. He was pasted over with patent plasters, a life preserver hung around his neck, one foot was stuck into a gum boot and on the other was a skate. He was warming himself over a picture of the power house fire, out now and then when a extra chilly chill made kinks in his backbone he would turn to a map of South America and run his index finger along the line of the equator.

He was refreshing himself with a banquet when The Times man called. Spread before him was a lavish repast of cough drops, hoarhound lozenges, and "celebrated double X's," while there were copious draughts of emulsion of cod liver oil, kerosene and camphor tar and gunpowder, syrup of persimmons, and other delightful beverages alleged to be hostile to colds, coughs, corns, and consumption.

"How did you come here?" demanded the Sage, swallowing a spoonful of nitro-glycerine, and picking his teeth with a parlor match in an effort to get warm.

"Did you swim or did you come in a boat?" insisted the Sage.

"I just got washed up here," said the reporter, keeping himself warm by recalling a few remarks spoken to him by the city editor.

"Good deal of slush tonight," said the reporter.

"I don't read the New York papers," replied the Sage.

"Come now, Sage, thaw out and tell me about the weather."

The arbiter of the seasons cleared a few icicles out of his throat and said:

"The storm in the central Gulf has moved with great rapidity to Lake Erie. A ridge of high pressure extends from the south Atlantic States to the north Pacific coast. The temperature has risen in the lower lake region and in the Atlantic States and remained stationary in all other districts. For the District of Columbia I predict rain, clearing by noon, southerly winds, becoming northwesterly."

Then the Sage froze up.

Dissensions of Coal Men.

Pittsburg, Dec. 20.—The coal miners and operators who held separate meetings tonight, will probably not agree at the joint convention tomorrow. The miners demand a rate for run-of-mine coal equivalent to 75 cents per ton. The operators say they will pay no more, beginning January 1, than 65 cents.

I. B. Potter Indorsed.

New York, Dec. 20.—At the annual meeting of the board of officers of the New York State Division of the L. A. W., tonight, a resolution was passed instructing the delegates to the coming convention to vote for I. B. Potter for president of the L. A. W.

Dunham in Dawson.

Samuel Dunham, who was sent to Alaska by the department of labor to report on conditions there, and about whose safety grave anxiety was felt, has been heard from at Dawson. A letter dated at Dawson, October 15, and sent to a Canadian paper, tells of the arrival of Dunham there. It was feared that he had perished.

Mr. Hanna's Obsequies.

(From the Boston Herald.)

There were no flowers on Hanna's desk but Hanna is not disturbed. His funeral has been indefinitely postponed.

Christmas Gifts.

As some sensible suggestions let us mention

Gold Spectacles and Eyeglasses.

Lenses changed to suit after Christmas without extra charge.

Opera Glasses,

with excellent lenses as low as $3.50.

Kodaks and Cameras.

from $5 up.

McAllister & Feast,

Opticians,

"1311" F St. N. W.

Established in Philadelphia in 1783.

WOODWARD and LOTHROP

10th, 11th and F Sts. N. W.

Open evenings until Xmas.

Practical Xmas Gifts

In Our Fifth Floor Departments.

Our fifth floor China and Housefurnishing Departments are now teeming with practical gift things—the sorts in which utility and beauty are cleverly combined, and at no previous season have the best grades of strictly new and up-to-date goods been offered at such extremely low prices.

Six quick elevators run right up in the heart of our great Housefurnishing Store.

Chinaware Section.

Dinner Sets, English porcelain	$7.50 to $125
Tea Sets, French china	$6.00 to $12.50
Tea Sets, German china	$4.00 to $6.50
Toilet Sets, 127 styles	$1.50 to $15.00
Pudding Sets, French and German China	$1.50 to $6.00
Tete-a-tete Sets, French and German China	65c to $6.00
Chocolate Pots, French and German China	50c to $5.00
Salad Dishes, French and German China	35c to $5.00
Cake Plates, French and German China	25c to $5.00
Celery Dishes, French and German China	25c to $5.00
Cracker Jars, French and German China	35c to $4.00
Sugar and Cream Sets	15c to $5.00
Comb and Brush Trays	50c to $5.00
Fancy Pin Trays	10c to $1.00
Ash Trays	10c to 50c
Bon Bon Boxes	15c to $1.00
Puff Boxes	25c to $1.00
Fancy Cream Pitchers	10c to $1.00
Fancy Sugar Bowls	25c to $1.00
Fancy Tea Plates	$1.75 to $12.00
Bread and Butter Plates	$1.20 to $9.00

Pressed Glass Section.

New Water Sets	$1.00 to $5.50
New Water Tumblers, doz	24c to $6.00
New Wine Glasses, doz	35c to $3.00
New Lemonade Glasses, doz	60c to $5.00
New Punch Bowls	$1.00 to $5.00
New Celery Trays	10c to 25c
New Salad Bowls	10c to 50c
New Vases	5c to 75c
New Water Pitchers	15c to $1.00

Housefurnishing Section.

Brass 5-o'clock Tea Kettles	$1.25 to $8.00
Chafing Dishes, complete	$2.25 to $5.00
Alcohol Flagons (air-tight)	$2.00 to $2.75
Forks for Chafing Dishes	$1.50
French Glass Mirrors	15c to $5.00
Blacking Sets	25c to $1.00
Blacking Boxes	85c to $2.00
Smoking Sets	85c to $5.00
Whisk Brooms	10c to 35c
Drip Coffee Pots	50c to $3.50
Scrap Baskets	25c to $3.00
Clothes Hampers	75c to $4.00
Fancy Baskets	10c to $1.25
Infant Baskets	25c to $5.00

First floor.

At the Wigwam

Quaint Christmas Curios

Ancient Indian Oddities

AND

Strange Things from the West.

During the present week many of the Indian Curios will be offered at reduced prices. All the beautiful Navajo Rugs and Robes have been marked down, and now the

Peculiar Pueblo Pottery

Will share the same fate. Capt. Riggs is determined to sell out, and will offer many of his choicest pieces at

Half Their Original Price.

It is not every day you have the opportunity to purchase the famous work of the Indians—the aboriginal pottery makers of America. Their work is attractive by reason of its oddity. Barbaric associations make it interesting. Its rarity increases its value.

Woodward & Lothrop