The Times

(MORNING, EVENING, AND SUNDAY.)

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The circulation of The Times for the week ending January 27, 1900, was as follows:

Sunday, January 21	39,210
Monday, January 22	41,495
Tuesday, January 23	41,722
Wednesday, January 24	42,068
Thursday, January 25	41,920
Friday, January 26	41,716
Saturday, January 27	42,165
Total	291,298
Daily average (Sunday, 39,210, excepted)	41,848

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1900.

The Political Prospect.

The scorn with which Senator Hanna is said to regard Mr. Gage's blunder, in allowing that dynamitic Hepburn letter to get out, is rather amusing when one reflects that the Republican boss has made an even greater political mistake and one quite as dangerous to the future of his party. The impending sacrifice of Gage, and the necessary and inevitable repudiation of his deals with the Standard Oil Trust may be fairly counted upon by the Administration to remove from it at least some of the odium of the Standard Oil bank and custom house transactions. But nothing can save it from the consequences of the obnoxious and nefarious measures of currency juggling which Mr. Hanna and his contributory Wall Street clique have been and are endeavoring to push through Congress.

The menace of this money trust movement to the political fortunes of Mr. McKinley and the ideas and policies he represents is entirely obvious to thinking Republicans. Even the doctrinaires of the organization who are honestly deluded with the belief that the single gold standard would furnish money of redemption sufficient in quantity to make exchanges, preserve the equilibrium of prices, and the equities between debtors and creditors, are distinctly alarmed at a scheme which would in effect wipe out the idea of a metallic currency and place the country on a single basis of bankers' credits. The more intelligent among Republican journals are beginning to warn the party managers that the scheme to impound the greenbacks, thus contracting the circulating medium, three hundred and forty-six millions of dollars to start with, and to retire the silver certificates and silver coinage by redeeming it in gold, thus forcing another contraction of five hundred millions of dollars, will alienate the greenback, bimetallist, and anti-money-trust Republicans of the Central West, and certainly cost half a million votes at the next election.

There is substantial sense in these warnings, and there is not a particle of doubt that they would have to be heeded were it not for the painful truth that the Democratic leaders in Congress, by swimming in the muddy wake of Filipino bolo men like Wellington, Pettigrew, Hale, Mason, and Hoar, are making votes for the Republican candidate of 1900 faster than the alarming scandals of Treasury mismanagement, or worse, and the open conspiracy of Republican leaders with the money trust to corner the circulating medium can possibly drive an equal number away. But for this we should regard the Administration policy and proposed legislation in connection with the currency, as too probably fatal to its hopes next autumn, to contemplate with anything but the most cheerful satisfaction. But when we are forced to observe the present flourishing condition of the Democratic McKinley Second Term Walkover Club, in the Senate and elsewhere, and its apparent determination to corral the patriotism of the country within the enemy's camp, even such a chance as is presented in the intended crime of the Republicans against the money of the people does not appear at all hopeful. As long as the bolo men continue to give Mr. McKinley an excuse for waving the flag they seem anxious to tear down and trample on, the great bulk of the American people will rally around it and around him. Anti-expansion, anti-Americanism, and domestic Filipinoism will result in an awful Democratic butcher's bill in November, if they are not speedily denounced and sternly suppressed.

Significant Sensationalism.

The intermission afforded those who are identified with the Molineux murder trial through the illness of a juror has developed a metropolitan side issue which is more or less mystifying for obvious reasons. A New Jersey chemist, ostensibly for the purpose of proving that orthodox opinion on the deadly character of certain poison crystals, is alleged to have swallowed, in the presence of witnesses, and in a New York hotel, a solution of bromo-seltzer and mercuric cyanide. This draught is said to have represented as nearly as possible that taken by Mrs. Adams, Molineux's alleged victim.

Naturally, the sensational experiment of the New Jersey chemist, which has been elaborately reported, has been followed by a small war of expert opinion, most of those familiar with the nature and action of poisonous chemicals being skeptical as to the contentions of the Jerseyman, and insinuating that if he had swallowed what he claims he did, he would not be alive to participate in the argument that has followed.

Perhaps the most interesting and significant feature of the affair which has been given extraordinary notoriety is its coincidence with the recess in the famous poison hearing. The chemist who drank the mixture does not claim to be actively interested in the defence of Molineux. In fact, the prisoner's counsel denies having any relation with him. Yet it is stated that General Molineux, the father of the accused, declares his willingness to take a dose similar to that prepared by the expert whose veracity has been mildly questioned. And it seems strange that General Molineux would make such an offer unless he had the best assurances from some reliable scientific authority that he could swallow the solution of poison crystals and bromo-seltzer without a fatal result. Besides, the defendant's chief counsel will not deny that he intends calling the chemist who conducted the alleged experiment to testify in behalf of his client.

While such incidents as this cannot, theoretically, have the slightest influence upon the conduct or outcome of a criminal case, they, nevertheless, on occasions, affect public opinion, and the ramifications of such a sentiment are innumerable. The alleged experiment may be forgotten in a few days, or it may excite a conflict of expert views tending to cloud and complicate the general understanding of the case. It may furnish a useful cue to the defence, admitting that the defence knew nothing of the proposed test beforehand, and it may likewise puzzle the prosecuting officials to a considerable extent.

Demonstrations of this character which have an indirect bearing upon the disputes involved in a criminal case and which are deliberately conducted during the progress of the trial outside of the court room and under the direction of those not clothed with authority are certain to arouse suspicion, however unjust and unfounded those suspicions may be. At any rate such experiments appear to be in decidedly bad taste, if not absolutely pernicious or inspired. If there is truth in the contention of the Jersey toxicologist that chemical action following the solution of bromo-seltzer and mercuric cyanide in combination renders the resultant liquid comparatively harmless, or at least not deadly in ordinary doses, the fact might well be demonstrated in the court room and at the proper time. But making a sensation of this alleged scientific fact outside of the halls of justice and in an undignified fashion is in distinctly bad taste.

Chinese as Volapuk.

The idea of a universal language has been discussed at intervals for the last twenty years at least. Now a new scheme has come to light. It is suggested that Chinese be made the universal language.

Naturally, this proposition comes from a native of China—the Chinese Ambassador to England, in fact. He says:

"The Chinese language is a purely symbolic language, an ideographic language; all other languages are phonetic or alphabetical. A symbolic language never changes as long as the idea to be expressed remains the same idea, it is expressed the same way. A work written in Chinese thousands of years ago can be read with ease and certainty. And a symbolic language is a uniting influence."

This may all be true, but it is not likely that Chinese will ever be adopted as the language of the world for several reasons, most of them so extremely plain to the American mind that there is hardly need of noting them. The one which settles the matter without further argument is that all experience shows that no arbitrary arrangement can ever give one language precedence over another as a universal means of communication, nor is any artificial language successful, even when fathered by trained and eminent scholars. It is next to an absolute impossibility to impose an alien tongue on a people who do not want it; and the English-speaking world will never want Chinese. It is too different from our own speech and too difficult to learn. There are probably not half a dozen scholars in the world who know Chinese with anything like absolute thoroughness. The language itself is not spoken in its purity by a very large percentage of the Mongolian race. China is divided into districts and the people of one district can with difficulty understand those of another.

The general course of affairs seems to indicate that in the future English will be the world's language, if there is to be one.

The New York Public Schools.

The bill recently introduced in the State Senate at Albany, amending the truant law of New York, is rather interesting in some of its provisions. It is probable that the general public does not know just how the law actually stands in that State, and why "public school education," about which so much is said, is not more effective.

Compulsory education in New York does not begin until the age of eight, and when a child is twelve years of age he may be taken out of school and employed for the whole year with the exception of eighty days, when he is required to attend school. This arrangement is continued for two years, after which the child is exempt from attendance at school. The proposed amendment forbids the non-attendance of children between the ages of twelve and fourteen, and requires attendance at seven years old instead of eight.

It would be interesting to know how the law of New York compares with that of other States in this respect. There are some States in which no child is required to go to school at all, and men and women may be found unable to read and write, simply because their parents were too poor, too ignorant, or too prejudiced to make any effort for their education. In some cases the State itself is unable to provide school houses and teachers for all the children in outlying districts, without encroaching on the funds appropriated for normal schools and colleges partly supported by public money. In such States the argument is that the tax-paying class ought not to be deprived of the privilege of sending their children to high schools and State normal schools, merely that the children of the non-tax-paying classes may obtain an elementary education. It is argued that education does not lessen crime, and that a man's claims to good citizenship are not greatly affected by the mere fact of his knowing how to read and write. At the other extreme are States in which all children are required to attend school at seven years of age, or even earlier, either by law or by the force of public opinion, and to continue in school until they are fourteen or fifteen years old and have reached the higher grades of the grammar school.

It is not possible to arrive at any definite and unshakable conclusion regarding the benefits of these different systems of education, because they are complicated with so many other forces, social, religious, racial, and educational. In many sections where there is strict legislation regarding the schools, the mass of the population is foreign, and at least half of the children come of fathers and mothers who did not know how to read or write English and whose traditions are more or less anti-American. These children will probably grow up to be fairly good citizens, and some of them may be brilliant scholars, but generally speaking, the average of scholarship will not be as good, nor, perhaps, the social and political standards as high, as among native Americans whose fathers and grandfathers were fairly well educated both as to head and hands. Again, a country in which there is little industrial competition, and all classes of society are reasonably contented, will not have so much political warfare and corruption as one in which discontent, oppression, and a spirit of revolt prevail.

There are, however, two or three points in this proposed amendment which are worth close attention. Here we have a system of public education which is expected to transform the child of an illiterate European peasant, who speaks no language but his own, and is quite ignorant of American institutions, into a good citizen of the Republic. This child, we will say, is sent to school at the age of eight. He does not know how to read; perhaps he cannot speak English. He remains in school for four or five hours a day, in company with from thirty to fifty other children, who divide with him the attention of the teacher. The school term lasts for about eight months of the year, and we will suppose that the teacher is fully equal to her duties, multifarious and exhausting as they are. At the end of four years the child has, under the graded school system, had four different instructors. It is then taken out of school for the whole year, with the exception of less than three months; and at fourteen, ceases to attend school at all, and goes to work among companions with a similar amount of education. That child's equipment for the work of life, so far as book learning goes, consists of less than forty months' of schooling, probably without assistance at home. Is it strange that even after one generation of this "education" so low a standard of morals and mentality is often found? Is it not rather surprising that so much intelligence exists?

Of course, there are many parents who send their children to school long after the law has released them from any obligation in the matter, and there are the well-to-do, who are able to give their boys and girls special training in colleges and universities, as well as the careful home education, which is invaluable. But the fact remains that the very class which public school education should most benefit is the one which does not get it. The child whose father and mother are prejudiced against education, in whose home enlightenment and refinement are despised, is the one who ought, above all others, to find at school the opportunities denied it elsewhere. If such a child is hampered by limited education, as well as by wrong teaching at home, it surely cannot develop into a desirable citizen.

It may be urged that some of the greatest men of our Republic had small chance for study, and that a bright, energetic child will learn under any circumstances. That is quite true, but it should be remembered that many of our pioneers, though they had few books and lived miles from any schoolhouse, came of families which were progressive and intelligent, and in which literary and other ambitions were encouraged. Heredity counts for a great deal, and so does environment; and when the hereditary influences are not what they ought to be, there is all the more reason to take care that the environment shall counteract these. It is not necessary to educate the laborer's child to a very high degree if he shows no aptness for study, but he certainly should be encouraged to learn all that he is capable of learning, that he may be more useful to the community. The son of a criminal need not become a clergyman, but he ought, if possible, to be given the kind of training which will best serve to strengthen the moral impulses in which he is deficient, and he should, above all, be encouraged to believe that he has a chance in the world. At all events, the children of the ignorant and degraded should not be forced to follow in the footsteps of their parents.

Readers of The Times will remember a letter written by General Joubert, the commander-in-chief of the Boer forces to a friend in Berlin, which we printed some weeks ago. It is interesting, in the light of recent British disasters, to recall some of Joubert's predictions. The letter was dated October 27, 1899, and said:

"We depending solely on ourselves, improved our means of defence and tried to keep the English in the dark as to our real preparations.

"With this object in view we gave their disguised spies access to our antiquated guns and artillery, but were very careful to conceal from them our modern artillery. Our calculations proved correct. The English public credited these misleading reports.

"Their cry 'To Pretoria!' is on a level of intelligence with the Parisian cry of 1870 'A Berlin!'

"The scene of the war will cover Natal and Cape Colony, an area of say 700 kilometres. Our own camp is protected by three mountain ranges, and 500 men are amply sufficient for its protection. Our methods of communication are excellent. The outposts have command of and facilities for destroying provisions in case their position becomes untenable.

"A war of defence, of which we need not think for a considerable time, would present far greater advantages than an offensive war. We are at home in the highlands of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

"The British will have to contest every step under inconceivable difficulties, and must be prepared at every moment to fight on two or three fronts.

"Then will begin a guerilla war, which the British will not be able to endure.

"Already we have 50,000 men in the field. So we do not need to calculate upon a rising of the Boers in Cape Colony and Natal. Nevertheless, if the British stir up the natives and employ them to fight us, a rising of the whole of Afrikanderdom is certain."

There is scarcely a line in this which would have to be changed in writing a history of late events in South Africa. It was a wonderful bit of prophecy.

The Russian press gives us a hint of feeling in St. Petersburg on the Chinese situation. The "Roessja," a leading journal, says that the Empress Dowager's coup d'etat does not furnish any occasion for Russian interference or uneasiness, but that it will be necessary to see that control of China's military and naval power does not fall into the hands of America, England, or Germany. As The Times has ventured to predict, there is not a little danger that the accession to power in China of the anti-foreign element may involve serious consequences to our commercial interests. On this account it is satisfactory to know that we have a strong force of war vessels in Asiatic waters. They may be needed.

The Clark case still drags on tediously. It has lost public interest to a great extent, and would have altogether but for the beautiful sociological spectacle it presents. The great Hebrew who remarked in his haste that "all men are liars," had evidently been visiting Montana at senatorial election time, and forgot that there were other geographical localities. The Daly farce comedy company should play out its engagement as soon as possible and trek for home.

To gaze upon the clear eye, the fresh skin, and elastic carriage of President McKinley, few people would guess him to be fifty-seven years of age, which honorable destinction he attained yesterday. But he will not be always youthful if some of the breakback burdens are not taken from his shoulders pretty soon. No one feels more acutely than he must that age rhymes with Gage.

The impression is so strong in London that Lord Roberts has advised the abandonment of Ladysmith, that it would not surprise us to hear today that Sir George White has been notified to make the best terms he can and capitulate. The last chance to succor him appears to have vanished, and further resistance in his position would mean a useless sacrifice of life.

Roberts and the Constitution.

(From the Chicago Times-Herald.)

Today Roberts can stand before the American people and justly claim that the United States Constitution has been violated to deprive him of his seat.

THE BRITISH FAILURE IN NATAL.

It has taken the final report of Buller's staggering disaster and retreat to make the British authorities and public realize the full extent of the sins, negligences, and omissions for which humiliating penance and a horrible butcher's bill must be paid. But the truth at last is apparent even to the densest Briton, and it is as ugly as human incapacity and folly could have made it.

It is nearly incredible that the war preparations incessantly carried on by Kruger and his associates for five years should not have attracted greater attention than they did from the British War Office. It had what was presumed to be a highly effective Intelligence Bureau, with many ornamental officers, all under the direction of a major general. This functionary, as far as known, was supplied with whatever means, facilities, or men he might think he required from time to time. It was supposed in British Army circles that his watchful eye was on Pretoria, Johannesburg, Lourenco Marques, and all the places and ports likely to be prolific of information concerning Boer operations. When the war was forced at last by the Transvaal ultimatum, the Intelligence Bureau was able to make an elaborate report on the condition of the Boer resources in men, animals, provisions, rifles, artillery, and ammunition. Less than one-third of the guns with which Joubert took the field at the outset were accounted for, and the War Office was not apprised that the British forces would have to encounter any siege guns at all. The Intelligence Bureau was in abject ignorance of the fact that any had been imported into South Africa. Again, this important adjunct to the service knew nothing of the splendid Krupps and Creusots bought in Europe by Dr. Leyds. For years the arms factories of Germany and France had been turning out rifles by the thousand every month, and continually shipping them, and all sorts of artillery, as well as train loads of ammunition, by way of Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, to Pretoria. At neither end of this line of terror for England was any efficient espionage practiced, and it is doubtful if any was attempted. The wily old Kruger and his burghers had arsenals, ostensibly of a secret character, prepared expressly for the purpose of showing them to spies. They were filled with inferior and old ordnance of unimportant or obsolete types. The Intelligence Bureau found and reported upon all these, but never developed sense enough to have its suspicions excited by the thousands of tons of "agricultural machinery," "mining machinery," and "structural iron" which moved in a steady stream from the Cape to the Transvaal from January, 1896, to October, 1899. So the British Army took the field blunderingly, armed with short range field artillery, decidedly inferior to the armament of its enemy.

Mistakes were not one, but legion. The War Office in London was not aware that all the Boers would be mounted; had not the remotest conception of their actual numbers; did not faintly realize the necessity for cavalry for scouting purposes; hence sent mounted troops and mounts on the slowest transports. It felt the lordly contempt for "colonials" that Braddock displayed in the Pennsylvania campaign, and that almost every British general officer has expressed since his time. Cape troops, frontier rough riders, and the like were not wanted. There was knowledge at headquarters prior to the beginning of hostilities that the Boers had imported an enormous quantity of barbed wire for defensive purposes. The British officers attached as observers to the American forces in Cuba, had seen how the Spaniards obstructed the front flank and rear approaches to their positions with barbed wire entanglements; also, how our troops went into fight armed with nippers and made short work of the wire. Yet the British Army went to South Africa unprovided with a single nipper, and has very few, if any, instruments for wire cutting to this day.

Unpreparedness was bad enough, and it was not redeemed by strategical ability or sense. The Ladysmith-Dundee-Glencoe line was an untenable one, even if Sir George White had been given twice the force he had for its defence. He never should have made a serious stand north of the Tugela River, and he knew and admitted it. But the Natal authorities begged him to hold Ladysmith, at least to keep the tide of war from overflowing the lower part of the province. He never should have fought at Glencoe or Dundee. Immediately upon Joubert's invasion in force, he should have concentrated and fallen back on the Tugela, and, if defeated there, made a determined retiring fight back to the Mooi. In this way he would have been drawing the Boers farther and farther away from their base, and, if he had made as good a resistance as he has behind the entrenchments and redoubts of Ladysmith, before he could have been forced south of Estcourt, Buller would have been on the Orange Free State veldt threatening Bloemfontein and Joubert's rear, and the latter would have been forced to evacuate Natal before now. What has happened to the eastern field since White allowed himself to be shut up in Ladysmith is a fresh memory and need not be reviewed here. Buller, too, has made grave mistakes. His frontal attack at Colenso was a sad one. That, if any, was the time for him to try the long turn against Joubert's right. His latest movement has involved him in dire disaster and has defeated the object of the campaign. The report of Dundonald's escape is a ray of comfort for him. He will need his cavalry badly during the next week.

Something, however, is to be said for Buller. He went into the Ladysmith relief business notoriously in opposition to his better judgment. He was driven to that course by interference and outcry from home. He believed it better strategy to let White take his chances, and to move into the Free State from the Cape as fast and as powerfully as possible. That is what he should have done. If any success is to crown the British arms in South Africa, that is still what must be done, and the whole work begun de novo. The British campaign in Natal from start to finish has been one dismal series of blunders and failures. From present appearances it only needs one more incident to cap its climax, and that doubtless will come with the fall of Ladysmith in a very few days.

The Waste of Ammunition.

(From Collier's Weekly.)

During the Franco-Prussian war the German artillery fired 240,000 shots, and the infantry 20,000,000. This terrible hail of shot and bullets, sufficient to exterminate a nation, resulted in a loss of 45,000 men to the French. Thus every Frenchman killed involved an expenditure of bullets sufficient to kill a regiment.

The New Day.

(From the London Telegraph.)

An important innovation has just been introduced by the Paris observatory. Hitherto the day had been divided into two equal portions of twelve hours each; now, in the tables published in the "Annuaire des Longitudes," the day begins at midnight, and the hours run from one to twenty-four.

POLITICAL NOTES AND GOSSIP.

Morgan the Leader.—With the accumulating evidences of Senator John T. Morgan's victory in Alabama there is a growing sentiment among the Democratic leaders in Washington that there will be a change of policy as well as of leadership of the minority in the Senate on his return to the Capital. In Senator Morgan's absence a week ago the Senate Democrats held a caucus, and it was reported that under the spur of Colonel Bryan Senator J. K. Jones induced his colleagues to adopt the expansion policy of the Nebraskan, announced through The Times of January 20, which was definite only on the point of opposition to the permanent retention of the Philippines. Senator Morgan has won his fight in Alabama on the square-cut issue of retaining the Philippines as well as all of the other territory acquired from Spain. It is the first time the issue has been clearly submitted to a Democratic constituency for settlement. Senator Morgan staked his whole political future on the fight. Some of his timid friends begged him to modify his position a little as a matter of expediency. This he resolutely refused to do. In every speech he told his people plainly that if they returned him to the Senate he would vote and work for the permanent retention of the Philippines and their utmost utilization for the extension of American commerce in Asia. Also that he would continue his contention for the construction and control of the Nicaragua Canal by this Government. The reaffirmation of the Chicago platform, too, cut a figure in the campaign, but the Philippine question was kept to the front most prominently by both sides. In view of this it is claimed that Senator Morgan's triumph represents the first definite and positive Democratic assertion to hold the party firmly to the principles of expansion enunciated by Jefferson and followed by Jackson and Polk. It is regarded as possible that when Senator Morgan resumes his seat in the Senate the Democratic leadership will pass to him from Senator Jones, and that, consequently, the party's Philippine policy will undergo radical change.

German-American Defection.—The Republican managers, it is said, are beginning to get uneasy over the multiplying threats of revolt from leading German-American members of the party in the West. It is recalled that only a few weeks ago the President, pursuing what he regarded as a timely move, invited the editor of the leading German newspaper at Milwaukee to Washington and had him closeted at the White House the better part of an afternoon while there was poured into the editorial ears by the amiable Mr. McKinley what was alleged to be the as yet unannounced Philippine policy of the Administration. The Milwaukee editor returned home and immediately the policy of his paper became less harsh toward the Administration, though it is not yet exactly to the liking of the Republican managers. And now there comes news from another point in the West indicating that there is an influential German editor at St. Louis who will have to be hailed to the White House to be placated. Dr. Emil Pretorius, than whom, it is stated, there is no stronger or more potent German-American editor in the West, presided at a mass meeting in St. Louis on Sunday, at which there were adopted a set of resolutions scarifying the Administration from most everything it is supposed to favor except the gold standard bill. For more than a quarter of a century Dr. Pretorius has been a Republican wheelhorse in the Mississippi Valley, and it is said that many thousands of German voters in Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Kansas have for years been following his political lead. Dr. Pretorius is described as a very hard man to change after he has marked out his course, and it is stated that as National Committeeman Kerens and other Missouri parts of the party machine have been unable to budge him from his present position their next move will be to entice him to the White House so the hypnotism of Mr. McKinley can be tried on him. If his attitude of stubborn opposition is not soon modified there is said to be cause for the Administration to have much fear of the result of his defection.

Richardson's Rally.—The opinion is being generally expressed that Representative Richardson did much yesterday in his onslaught on the Republicans for defending Secretary Gage's transactions with the Standard Oil group of financiers to redeem himself for the failure he made as the Democratic floor leader when recently he neglected to take advantage of the opportunity afforded to entangle the Republicans over the trick exposed in the matter of franking through the mails a partisan argument in support of the Hanna-Payne ship subsidy scheme. Mr. Richardson yesterday acquitted himself creditably even in the judgment of his most captious critics among the Democrats. He drove home his points with force, and made the Republicans wince under his scathing criticism of the National City Bank affair. He shot peppery questions at every defender of Mr. Gage, and displayed an agility in debate which his critics have heretofore denied that he possessed. Even so sharp and adroit debaters as Messrs. Dalzell and Hopkins went down under his fire.

As to Trusts.—From the headquarters of the Republican managers comes the statement that a grand coup is being prepared on the trust question that will take the wind out of the Democratic sails on that issue. It is said that within the next month or two a bill will be brought forward in the House as an Administration measure, proposing a constitutional amendment, bringing all large corporations and other aggregations of capital directly under Federal control. The claim is made that the bill of Mr. Jenkins of Wisconsin is a forerunner of this concerted party movement, and that it will be used by the majority of the House Judiciary Committee as the foundation for an anti-trust superstructure to be erected by the Administration. On this proposed measure the Administration, it is said, will go before the country for the vindication of its policy of antagonism to "trusts and combinations in restraint of trade." Of course, the proposed constitutional amendment could not be acted upon by the various State legislatures until the Presidential election is over. The proposition, it is recalled, exactly accords with the measure advocated by Mr. Bryan and other Democratic leaders at some of the first anti-trust conferences held last summer, and is diametrically opposed to the position of the Administration, as proclaimed exultantly by Representative Grosvenor at the opening of Congress. At that time Mr. Grosvenor, in an elaborate interview, declared his unalterable opposition to Mr. Bryan's proposition for the Federal Government to take hold of the trusts, and avowed that he would never vote for a bill having this purpose in view. "On this issue I am a better Democrat than Mr. Bryan," proudly boasted Mr. Grosvenor. "Mr. Bryan ignores the most ancient doctrine of the Democracy, that of States' rights, in demanding that the States be deprived of the power to deal with corporations. On this point I am a Democrat."

Governor Barnes Is Safe.—When questioned regarding the status of the fight being made to oust Governor Barnes of Oklahoma Territory, from office on a set of very serious charges, made against the executive, Charles F. Dick employed the polite lingo of diplomacy to reply. "The Barnes incident is closed," said he. It has been known for some time that Messrs. Dick and Grosvenor, acting for Messrs. Hanna, Kerens, Elkins, and other big leaders of the Republican party, had been leading the defence of Governor Barnes at the White House, but it was not generally believed that they could save him. It seems, however, that they have succeeded, with the result that there is a deep and wide split in Oklahoma Republicanism, which Democrats view with hope when reflecting on the possibility of Oklahoma soon having two votes in the Senate. Delegate Flynn, it is said, has discreetly kept out of the quarrel, though he was opposed to Barnes' appointment as governor.

AT THE THEATRES.

National—"The Singing Girl."

Duke Rudolph	Eugene Cowles
Count Otto	Richie Ling
Prince Pumpernickel	Joseph W. Herbert
Anfpassen	Joseph Cawthorn
Stephan	John Slavin
Marie	Lucille Saunders
Elsa	Jennie Hawley
Greta	Alice Nielsen

What a practical astronomer might have called "a brilliant meteorological display" was witnessed by a great number of theatrical observers last night at the National, where Alice Nielsen was seen in Victor Herbert, Stanislaus Stange, and Harry B. Smith's "The Singing Girl." The "display" aforesaid proved more than "brilliant;" it was remarkable, in that it had to do, not with falling stars, but with rising ones. Hardly over a year ago Miss Nielsen, a very shaky, little luminosity, indiscernible to the aged eyes of those operatic antiquities, the Bostonians, came into view at the large end of Washington's critical telescopes. Having had the metaphoric planet pointed out to them, spectators crowded to the Lafayette, where it was on view in "The Fortune Teller," and so enthused at its scintillance that only a return was necessary to universal acknowledgement. Yester-evening a house full of gazers welcomed the reappearance of the star with heartiness that knew few bounds; that conceded a fixed position in the histrionic firmament.

Carefully considering—and with consideration dropping literary pyrotechnics—there is scant reason for wonder at the rapidity with which Miss Nielsen has won her way into the esteem and affection of local amusement lovers. When, yester-evening, the curtain fell on the second act of "The Singing Girl" and left the prima donna seated, like a spoiled and petulant child, in the centre of the stage, one had but to use his eyes to discover the cause of her popularity. The most fanciful could not imagine Jessie Bartlett Davis, or Nella Bergin, or even Camille D'Arville, in such a picture—in any picture that did not include a stalwart tenor, an enraptured smile, and a calcium ray. Miss Nielsen is delightfully unstarlike. She is as piquant and dainty and unaffected as of yore, having grown neither stout nor stupid with success. Pretty in form and feature, sweet of voice and of manner, apparently pleased with the mere pleasure of pleasing, Alice Nielsen is simply the most delicious bit of femininity before the public today. Were her defects doubled and her merits halved, she would remain the favorite that she has come to be.

All of these things being true, there is not much need for laying especial stress on the fact that "The Singing Girl" is an exceedingly satisfactory vehicle for the talents of the woman whom it exploits—or who exploits it. There is not much to Stanislaus Stange's book. The story is not especially clever, and it is not cleverly told. There is a paucity of incident and there are several moments that might prove downright dull did the opera depend upon its libretto alone. But, when the mind starts wandering from mirthless situations and old ideas, the eye is attracted to the beauty of production and producers, and the ear to the charm of music so delightful that he who seeks excuse to cavil must be more than ordinarily stupid himself.

Victor Herbert's score depelopes the same strong features that the composer's admirers have come to expect from him. The melodies which he has evolved are rhythmical and swinging in the extreme, while their lack of monotony is marvelous when one considers the number of works which Mr. Herbert turns out annually. As usual, the accompanying orchestration is fine, there being no apparent limit to the oddity of the effects achieved. Briefly, the score of "The Singing Girl" is unsurpassed—even more musicianly and yet more whistlable than was that of "The Fortune Teller." In order that every important person of the cast may have a fitting entrance song Mr. Herbert has exerted himself especially in his primal act. Eugene Cowles "Love—Bah! Merest Bosh and Folly," Richie Ling's "Who Is My Well Beloved?" Lucille Saunders' "If Only You Were Mine, Dear," Alice Neilsen's "The Singing Girl," and even Joseph Cawthorn's "All in the Cause of Morality" being excellent. A Donizetti-like finale to the scene brought a curtain call yester-evening. Then, "Love is a Tyrant" and a "Good Night" chorus prove gems of the second act, in which Mr. Herbert has chosen to show anew his appreciation of national color with a solo and refrain, "My Siren of the Ballet." "The Song of the Danube" also scored an instantaneous hit, through its grace and quaintness. Were it set to these airs, the reading of the Declaration of Independence would make a pleasing entertainment.

While Miss Neilsen's performance, which has been criticised already, is of most note in the intrepretation, the cast cannot be passed by without being allotted some portion of the praise it deserves. Joseph Cawthorn's dialect continues to provide greater cause for laughter than does any other feature of the presentation, and Mr. Cawthorn himself is as funny as of old. His pronunciation of a sentence well stocked with "R's" can be compared only to the result of a "fire-in-unison" command being given to a cadet company, and last night's audience positively waited for the comedian to light upon such speeches. John Slavin and Joseph W. Herbert work hard to further Mr. Cawthorn's efforts, and with effect. Eugene Cowles' magnificent bass, Richie Ling's robust tenor, and Lucille Saunders' contralto all are heard to advantage, while the trio acts almost as capably as it sings. A large and comely chorus, magnificently garbed, lends variety to the spectacle and volume to the ensemble numbers. As has been said, the settings are appropriate to the several excellencies of what undoubtedly is the most enjoyable operatic performance of the season.

"The Singing Girl" will be given until Saturday, when "The Fortune Teller" is to be revived for a single night.

Columbia—"Why Smith Left Home."

John Smith	Maclyn Arbuckle
General Billetdoux	Fred W. Peters
Count Von Guggenheim	Dan Mason
Major Dumonville	M. R. Snyder
Robert Walton	H. F. Roberts
Mrs. John Smith	Brandon Douglas
Miss Smith	Mrs. E. A. Eberle
Mrs. Billetdoux	Rose Snyder
Rose Walton	Gertrude Roosevelt
Julia	Anita Bridger
Lavinia Daly	Mrs. Annie Yeamans

Belief in the Darwinian theory will be strengthened in anyone who sixteen months ago witnessed the production of George Broadhurst's farce, "Why Smith Left Home," and who sees the same effort presented this week at the Columbia. The evolution of man from an anthropoid ape seems hardly more astonishing than is the development of the witty, keen, and coherent offering now on view from the incoherent jumble of words and situations which were exploited under the identical caption only a short time ago. To take another metaphor, the fire of London and New York criticism evidently has purified the virgin metal in the play, and now it serves as an excellent setting for the several histrionic jewels which it contains.

"Why Smith Left Home" was originally intended as a study of domestic servants, proving the possibility of accidental misunderstanding without prevarication and of connubial felicity despite the interference of relatives. To this end, the almost baseless plot was evolved and thereupon were displayed the various characterizations of the author. In the company now interpreting the piece are some excellent people, who get all there is possible out of the resultant opportunities. Few more evenly balanced casts have been seen in Washington recently. Another Darwinian theory—that of the "survival of the fittest"—has been proven in what changes have been made in the organization, and it is worthy of note that those marked for well-merited sacrifice in the earlier criticism of The Times have been the ones to pay the price of inefficiency.

Looking down the line of the programme there is found little to condemn and much to commend. A tendency to over act—to commend. A tendency to over act—possibly the effort to relieve the part from mechanical movement—is noted in Maclyn Arbuckle, whose performance otherwise is in marked good taste and understanding. Since last she was here, Mrs. Annie Yeamans has built her part up decidedly, and her impersonation has improved accordingly. There is a certain contagion about her as pleasing in humor as it would be disastrous in disease. Her portrayal takes rank with the Mrs. Murphy of Marie Bates. Mrs. E. A. Eberle, an old Broadhurst favorite, is excellent in a trying role, and our own Hans Roberts struggles with an impossible one, being more commendable, however, than was either his American or his English predecessor. But the real surprise of yester-evening was in the discovery of two beautiful women previously unknown to Washington—Brandon Douglas and Anita Bridger. Miss Douglas is much better than Marion Giroux, the original Mrs. Smith, relying upon intelligence rather than upon her beauty to commend her to appreciation. Little Miss Bridger is equally superior to the self-vaunting Dorothy Usner. Of the others Fred Peters is more than good, and Dan Mason is laughable, while Matt and Rose Snyder are noteworthy for well-studied though not for studious interpretations. Two matinees.

Lafayette—"An Earnest Statue-Maker," "The Royalist," and "The Geisha and the Knight."

Of course, no one knew what it all was about. No one was expected to know, although the programmes did bear fairly clear synopsis of the plays presented. But then, no one cared particularly as to the why and wherefore, either. Only the group of Japanese actors, who appeared terribly in earnest in everything they did, even to the slaying of their compatriots, seemed to have an adequate conception of what was transpiring. Last night's assemblage at the Lafayette sat in mute wonderment through the entertainment provided by the self-styled Imperial Company, astonished at some of the work, pleased with many portions of the strange performance, and quite enchanted at the marvelous naturalness of the portrayals.

The programme offered was divided into three sections—Rosina Vokes-like. The first bit, which is entitled "An Earnest Statue-Maker," requires the services of seven Thespians. "An Earnest Statue-Maker" is Japanese for the idea of "Pygmalion and Galatea," and the sketch concerns the love of a sculptor for a dancer, whose beauty he perpetuates with his chisel. During the interpretation of this short piece, four subordinate members of the company attract some attention and win almost as much favor as the principals by the absolute perfection of their posing. In this trifle, Tsusaka is the Zingoro and Sada Yacco is the dancer.

Admirers of melo-drama, romantic works, and of other offerings that engage the services of actors skilled in sword play, relished the second production of the evening, "The Royalist." The presentation concerns the efforts of a faithful follower of the Mikado to protect that dignitary from an evil spirit, in the person of one Hojio, a man with a fighting reputation that would compare quite favorably with that of Mr. Sullivan, the well-known gladiator of the squared circle. The purpose of the comedy is to show that "there are others," and this fact is capitally brought out through the magnificent slaughtering capacity of Takanori, an ardent supporter of the Emperor, impersonated by Otojiro Kawakami. This worthy warrior is possessed of such marvelous powers in the line of putting his foes to utter rout that one might be pardoned for supposing that the Japanese author borrowed the idea of the character from one of Richard Harding Davis' tales.

The concluding sketch, "The Geisha and the Knight," is in two scenes. It introduces Sada Yacco in some really captivating dancing and also serves to show her abilities as an emotional actress. During this dance Sada Yacco—she is an exquisite specimen of Japanese maidenhood, by the way—is accompanied by a native band of two.

As a distinct novelty, the troupe of Japanese players is a treat. Americans who patronize the theatre—and particularly the E. S. Sothern clientele—should witness its work, if only for the purpose of seeing the "star" fight a duel.

Grand—Vaudeville.

Unless the profession of literature be excepted, accomplishment is attempted by the unfit more generally in the art of recitation than in any other. During the course of a lifetime the average man so often is called upon to hear beautiful thoughts spoiled in their voicing—called upon at graduating exercises and at church socials and at steamer concerts—that he loses all idea of discrimination in mentally banning and barring "elocutionists." The injustice of the proceeding is proved this week at the Grand, where Marie Wainwright shows what fine touches and absence of apparent effort may do even with the greatest poems. Miss Wainwright is a most intelligent woman. She reads without straining for effect and without impressing with the fact that she is addressing an audience. Simply, quietly, and charmingly she gives the old favorites; seemingly as the veriest scho