The Times

(MORNING, EVENING, AND SUNDAY.)

THE TIMES COMPANY.

WALTER STILSON HUTCHINS, President.

PUBLICATION OFFICE,
THE HUTCHINS BUILDING.
CORNER TENTH AND D STS NORTHWEST.

Subscription Rates.

BY MAIL—ONE YEAR:

Morning, Evening, and Sunday	$6.00
Morning and Sunday	4.00
Evening and Sunday	4.00
Sunday only	1.00

MONTHLY BY CARRIER:

Morning, Evening, and Sunday	Fifty cents
Morning and Sunday	Thirty-five cents
Evening and Sunday	Thirty-five cents

TELEPHONE NUMBERS.	Editorial Rooms	488
	Business Office	1640
	Circulation Department	263

CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended April 28, 1900, was as follows:

Sunday, April 22	19,718
Monday, April 23	40,244
Tuesday, April 24	40,799
Wednesday, April 25	40,833
Thursday, April 26	41,316
Friday, April 27	40,566
Saturday, April 28	42,328
Total	265,771
Daily average (Sunday, 19,718, excepted)	41,008

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

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1900.

England's Danger.

The "New York Herald" yesterday printed a Washington interview with the Hon. John W. Foster, former Secretary of State, in which that distinguished diplomatist gave expression to some very interesting views of the critical position occupied by Great Britain at this time as a result of her entanglement in South Africa and what at any moment may result from it.

As General Foster sees the situation, the day when the rest of the world will cease to regard the current struggle with official indifference mry be not far distant. Nobody knows what may be going on behind the scenes in the chancelleries of powers who are certainly neither uninterested nor disinterested spectators of current events. The progress made by British arms in subjugating the Transvaal and Free State has been far from encouraging to the idea of an early end to the war. While no European country would perhaps feel disposed to interfere solely upon the ground of humanity, there may be several who might join in a movement of intervention if the prospect in that regard is not speedily improved. War unsettles commercial conditions. It imposes burdens upon neutrals for which no compensation can be made or ordinarily asked. The South African war does something more than this to the detriment of some of England's neighbors. It must tend increasingly to the disquiet of the native tribes all over the Dark Continent, and perhaps end in exciting insurrections in the German, French, and Italian spheres of influence, and possibly to trouble all the way from the Atlantic to Abyssinia.

Moreover, the lesson presented to the savage and semi-civilized world of a small community like the Boers being able to resist the power of a mighty Empire with success is not one to promote peace, and unless Lord Roberts can turn the tide strongly his way the chances are that the hour of intervention will at length arrive. General Foster is doubtless right in his conjecture that diplomatic forces are even now at work and that a British victory will be necessary to prevent their development into direct action within the next few weeks.

The Rich Blessing of Trusts.

Before moving from his palace in New York to his magnificent castle in Scotland, Andrew Carnegie, head of the Steel Trust, gentle friend of the toiler, and general all-around philanthropist, found time to address a farewell message to the nation he loves so well and with such good reason. If he had failed to heal the differences which recently separated him from his old partners, we might never have enjoyed the blessing of the apostolic epistle in question. We may go so far as to say that, if Mr. Frick had carried out his threat to expose the methods, practices, and so on of the Carnegie combination in open court and to explain how its chief, within less than a generation, has been enabled by McKinleyism and Dingleyism to rise from modest competence to the possession of an income of twenty or twenty-five millions a year, the great and good man would have let the fountain of his pen go dry rather than stir up the question of trusts in the public prints. But Frick was placated, though not forgiven. That could not be, for he had more than insinuated that Andrew Carnegie, the immaculate laird of Skibo and one of the oligarchs of America, had tried to bunco him out of his interest in the trust, with force and arms, by devious and sinuous means, and after the manner of wicked men whose goods are green.

Prior to embarking upon the briny deep, Andrew Carnegie confided to the May number of the "Century Magazine" his Epistle to the Americans, of which we have spoken. It is published under the caption of "Popular Illusions About Trusts." Mr. Carnegie thus proceeds to dispel them:

"Every attempt to monopolize the manufacture of any staple article carries within its bosom the seeds of failure. Long before we could legislate with much effect against trusts there would be no necessity for legislation. The past proves this, and the future is to confirm it. There should be nothing but encouragement for these vast aggregations of capital for the manufacture of staple articles. As for the result being an increase of price to the consumer beyond a brief period, there need be no fear. On the contrary, the inevitable result of these aggregations is, finally and permanently, to give to the consumer cheaper articles than would have been otherwise possible to obtain; for capital is stimulated by the high profits of the trust, for a season, to embark against it. The result is very soon a capacity of production beyond the wants of the consumer, and as the new works erected are of the most improved pattern, and capable of producing cheaper than the old works, the vulnerable trusts are compelled to buy and capitalize at two or three times their cost. There is thus no danger ahead to the community from trusts, nor any cause for fear."

This sounds well and is calculated to allay alarm and suspicion. It is comforting to be told that persons like Carnegie, who certainly do attempt to monopolize the manufacture and sale of staple articles, carry within their bosoms the seeds of failure. In his particular case they do not seem to have sprouted. He would add to the sum of knowledge by telling us what he took to prevent their germination. It is difficult for the average poor person to detect in an income of twenty-five millions per annum any large seeds of financial failure or distress.

The next proposition is equally interesting. Mr. Carnegie says that 'Long before we could legislate with much effect against trusts there would be no necessity for legislation." We are in some doubt as to what this phrase means. If its underlying idea is that by the time the people could force legislation by turning the trust legislature out of power the trusts would own the country and people, and that then legislation would be unnecessary because impossible we can quite follow the distinguished writer. We cannot quite agree with him that in the mean time "there should be nothing but encouragement for these vast aggregations of capital." They are undoubtedly unobjectionable to those who control the aggregations. Carnegie, with his stipend of twenty-five millions, and Rockefeller, with his yearly wage of seventy millions or so, would be the last to find fault with the ways of a Providence which has filled their barrels to overflowing and enabled them, with their followers, to buy up a great national party of moral ideas but criminal purposes, its Administration, its majority in Congress—everything connected with the active forces of government but the Supreme Court, upon which even now they are casting a wistful eye.

But the path of glory for Carnegie and his brother plutocrats is lined with the skeletons of worthy business enterprises which they have crushed and exterminated; and there are insane asylums, almshouses, and graveyards full of their victims. Trusts have not grown to be the virtuous and highly commendable "vast aggregations of capital" that the Scotch contributor depicts them without the incidental elimination of thousands of sturdy American merchants, miners, and manufacturers, who have been driven from positions of great usefulness and comparative affluence to become ordinary wage earners with no future hope of bettering their condition. Indeed, that great middle class, composed of intelligent and educated people, neither rich nor poor, which was the mainstay and pride of the nation a generation ago, has been ground into dust under the chariot wheels of the trusts, and practically has disappeared.

Is it sufficient excuse for this result that the prices of some staple commodities have been temporarily lowered in the operation? Will they remain so when the murder of competition has become complete and the fear of punitive legislation has passed away? The Carnegie argument, that trust profits stimulate the investment of capital in competition, is an ancient and bald-headed theory which, as anyone can see, is inapplicable to current conditions. For example, the few people in this world who by combination among themselves could hope to engage in industrial war against the Carnegie trust, are estopped from doing anything of the kind. First, because it would take decades to buy, organize, develop, and set in motion such a collection of mineral properties, mines, iron, steel, and coke plants, and transportation lines on land and water. Second, because the multi-millionaires who alone could accomplish such a work have their hands full with their own concerns already. We may add that none of them would be likely to enter upon a vast competitive struggle in which millions would have to be wasted before the end of it, when, by combinations of an amicable character, the lot could parcel out the good things of the land without collision or friction. Witness the association of the monster railway, oil, tobacco, and other trusts in New York for common financial operations! The Standard Oil bank scandal, in which the Republican Administration has suffered so severely in reputation, has served to direct attention to the real tendency of the trust movement, which in no sense is in the direction of competition. On the contrary, it is seen to be in that of practical if half concealed and unofficial coalition. The magnates of most of the giant trusts now sit together in the directorates of railway systems, banks, and marine transportation companies. They join in huge schemes for the exploitation of new territories, and for gold mining, as in the case of the Cape Nome beach placer steal. They combine for the control of all public facilities. To a great extent the chief proprietors of the richest and most obnoxious trusts constitute a single syndicate for the control and loot of the American people and the American empire. "There is thus," as the pious Carnegie says, "no danger ahead to the community from trusts, nor any cause for fear."

"The great natural laws, being the outgrowth of human nature and human needs, keep on their irresistible course. Competition in all departments of human activity is not to be suppressed. The individual manufacturer who is tempted into the unusually profitable business of the trust will take care of the monopoly question and prevent injury to the nation. The trust, so far as aggregation and enlargement go, is one day to be recognized as a grand step toward cheaper production for the people than could have been obtained by any other mode than the aggregation of capital and establishments. Already the ghosts of numerous departed trusts which aimed at monopolies have marched across the stage of human affairs, each pointing to its fatal wound, inflicted by that great corrective, competition. Like the ghosts of Macbeth's victims, the line promises to stretch longer and longer, and also like those phantoms of the brain, they 'come like shadows, so depart.'

"'The earth hath bubbles as the water hath,
And these are of them.'

"The masses of the people, the toiling millions, are soon to find in this great law of aggregation of capital and of factories another of those beneficent agencies which in their operation tend to bring to the homes of the poor, in greater degree than ever, more and more of the luxuries of the rich, and into their lives more of sweetness and light. The only people who have reason to fear trusts are those who trust them."

We think it safe to pass lightly over all of that part of the peroration which precedes the last sentence. The common people may be impressed or otherwise by the prophecy of St. Andrew—that the trusts and monopolies are shortly to be to the poor agencies for the dissemination of comfort, joy, sweetness, and light! But universal acceptance will surely mark the declaration with which the Carnegian tract closes: "The only people who have reason to fear trusts are those who trust them." Well, the American people, then, supposing them able to control their own Congress, need not fear the trusts, because they do not trust them, and if the chance is ever offered, will see that laws are passed to restrict, regulate, and render them less dangerous than they are seen to be today even in the light of their able defence by the Croesus of Skibo.

The Zoological Park.

Ernest Seton-Thompson, in his recently published article on the National Zoological Park, suggests that the park should be enlarged, and the improvements already planned completed as soon as possible. This suggestion is eminently practical and wise. In this park the people of Washington have at least one place of summer recreation. Children can go there and combine healthful exercise with the study of natural history, for the mere observation of animals, by a quick-witted child, has a certain educational value, though the child could probably learn more if its observation were supplemented by books. Without encouraging the spending of school hours in expeditions to the menagerie it may be said that the park at Rock Creek, with its large and interesting collection of rare animals, must have a certain value to the school-teachers of Washington. They can, when references to wild animals come up in geography or other lessons, ask who among the pupils has observed this, that, or the other characteristic, and the chances are that nine out of ten of the children, when they next visit the Zoo will remember what has been said.

Aside from its educational value, it is a good thing to have so beautiful a park within easy access of Washington, and frequented as a zoological garden always will be, by the intelligent and responsible people of the community. The larger this park is and the more beautiful it is made the greater will be its benefit.

There is room for a much larger collection of animals, and all the space that can be spared on this will be well spent. When we compare the large and beautiful grounds at Bronx Park with the crowded and confined quarters in which most wild animals in capivity are compelled to live it is evident that the Washington park can with comparative ease be made one of the finest in the world. Land can be bought there for a less price in the present time, and there is no reason why the park should not be enlarged and improved till it is the equal of Central Park, Bronx, or any other.

One addition which would prove valuable, from an educational point of view, would be some scores of [illegible] about the habits, ways, and [illegible] of birds and animals in the collection. The little signs giving the name and [illegible] of each specimen are not often much information for the average person, and some of the people who frequent the park would like to study natural history on the spot if they knew how. It might not be of much use to have a library of books on natural history near the park, ostensibly on the grounds, though, as a collection to get possibly from one of the [illegible] of a little pavilion where ladies and children might rest, but it would not be in [illegible] to provide some sort of a table or the use of a [illegible]. A little book giving as much useful information as possible could be compiled without much trouble and sold at the entrance to the park. This scheme would be worth the attention of some of the people in the city who are interested in making scientific studies of the park. When one considers the number of pamphlets, books, papers, and other publications which are comparatively useless, but which flood the market every year under the name of educational works, it seems as if the cost of a small handbook of this character would be hardly worth mentioning in comparison with the profit that there might be in it, financial and educational.

Further information concerning the Ortiz case at St. Paul makes it look as if counsel for the prisoner would be able to get an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States without delay. Ortiz was convicted by a military court in Porto Rico before ratification of the Treaty of Paris. District Judge Lochren decided that at the time of conviction the island was in a state of war and not under the Constitution, which, however, extended over it the instant American sovereignty obtained through the action of the Senate. This had to be, the court said, since Congress has no authority to legislate for any but territory to which the Constitution has extended. It will be observed that "though slightly dilapidated," by the mud thrown at it by the Administration, our old friend Ex Proprio Vigore is still in the ring."

The Senate yesterday did a graceful and sensible thing in arranging to give the officer commanding the Army the rank, pay, and emoluments of a lieutenant general. The large majority by which this provision was added to the Army Reorganization Bill was no doubt partly due to a desire on the part of Senators to show their appreciation of the distinguished character and services of General Miles, but they are doubtless aware that in their action they were at the same time promoting the good of the service. The United States is the only first-class power which does not have at least a full general at the head of its army. The day of our provincialism is past. The reform is in the right line.

"If Mr. Cleveland were to allow his name to be mentioned before the body that assembles at Kansas City on July 4 the reception would be a spectacle worth going miles to behold. The man who should mention it would be fortunate if he escaped alive." New York Commercial Advertiser.

Our New York contemporary is mistaken, we think. Nothing unpleasant would happen. The Cleveland enthusiast would simply be led out and put to rest in a padded cell.

For some reason or other there appears to be opposition in the Army to the establishment of a veterinary corps including officers of high rank. This is strange when we remember that Alger's chief surgeon at the Chattanooga fever camp during the Spanish war was a horse doctor.

Otis.

(From the Philadelphia North American.)

This singular old man contradicts himself in almost every sentence he utters, and makes such a jumble of his story that it is impossible to learn from him what the condition of affairs in Luzon really is. For example, he says Aguinaldo was unwilling to pursue the course planned by the junta at Hongkong, "because it would be dishonorable," and in the next breath he says Aguinaldo is a mediocre man, "with a knack of outwardly appearing honest and honorable."

Columns might be filled with similar examples of General Otis' inability to think straight or to talk even plausibly, but it is not worth while. It is enough that his reign in Manila is "entirely over."

Osman Pasha.

(From the London Mail.)

Like Napoleon, Osman Pasha was always distinguished by the plainness of his uniform. He had a queer habit of always, even in battle, carrying a pencil behind his ear, butt-end foremost. He was taciturn, grave, abrupt, and disdainful of forms of etiquette. He hated all foreigners, especially Germans, Russians, and English. As for war correspondents, he entertained the utmost detestation for them, whence the deeds of his army were never chronicled as they should have been. He had a strange method of dealing with cowards: he would send for them and publicly box their ears.

Schley's Real Enemies.

(From the Philadelphia Times.)

Captain Evans, who was in the early part of the fight and who doubtless did all that his vessel was capable of doing, is a natural babbler, and he supposed he was gratifying the Navy Department by offering public insult to Schley in newspaper interviews, and in a letter of regret to a Sampson dinner in Philadelphia, but outside of Evans, the men who won that fight have been silent. There has been no babbling from Rear Admiral Schley; no babbling from Captain Cook; no babbling from Captain Clark; no babbling from Captain Philip, and no babbling from Commander Wainwright. The men who have babbled to the disgrace of the Navy are the men who were not in the fight, and who have systematically attempted to dibble themselves into it to divide the honors of the heroes of that victory.

The Royal Visit.

(From the London Daily News.)

Last week a friend of mine was sitting in Phoenix Park, when to him appeared a ragged old chap, very gloriously intoxicated. "God save the Queen, sor!" said he to my friend. "Certainly," was the reply. "God save Queen Victoria!" reiterated the old fellow. "By all means. Send her victorious, happy, and glorious!" "That's right, sor! I wish she came to Dublin every year, every month, every day, sor! Think of what she's done for the country; think of all the good she does to people. Why, look at me; here am I, as drunk as hell, and never paid a penny for it!"

POLITICAL NOTES AND GOSSIP.

Awaiting Dewey's Return.—It is generally understood that close upon the heels of his return to Washington from his trip to the West and South Admiral Dewey will issue his long-looked-for statement embodying his political views and intentions. The Admiral is not expected back before the 12th, and it may be two or three days after that date that he will give to the country the promised statement. Judging from a brief interview to which he submitted the day before he left Washington it is presumed that he will define himself as radically opposed to Mr. Bryan on one or two important issues, notably the currency and expansion. It is stated that he prepared a rough draft of his statement before he went away, and that only two or three very intimate friends have been granted the privilege of reading the draft. The reason the address was withheld is said to have been due to the Admiral's desire not to give excuse either to political friends or enemies to harass him with political questions on his trip. Then, too, his fine sense of the proprieties suggested to him the advisability of appearing before the people at this time merely as the hero of Manila, for as such he was invited to make a tour of the West and South, and not as a Presidential candidate. It is hinted as a possible result of his trip that he may conclude to formally withdraw from the Presidential race, and that the forthcoming statement will contain an announcement of this fact, as well as of his political views. There are indications that Admiral Dewey has not been received in the West with that enthusiasm which it was thought the announcement of his candidacy would arouse in that section. All classes of the people out there have treated him as the great hero of the Spanish war, and the various localities he has visited have vied with each other in paying homage to him as such, but there does not appear to have been manifested at any place an overweening anxiety for him to step down from his exalted position as one of the world's most conspicuous military chieftains into the muck and mire of politics. Months before it was known by the people that the Admiral had political ambitions the candidates of both great parties had been selected by them, and these nominations were only awaiting formal ratification by the party conventions. It is believed these palpable facts have been borne in upon the Admiral's mind with a strength that leaves no room for doubt as to their meaning, and that he will sternly refuse longer to listen to the pleadings of those who would force him into politics.

Long a Candidate.—There is the most trustworthy authority for the statement that the Hon. John D. Long is a candidate for second place on the ticket with Mr. McKinley, all recent reports to the contrary notwithstanding. Late Thursday afternoon Secretary Long bluntly informed an eager enquirer that he was "as much a candidate for Vice President now as he ever was." The truth is that Mr. Long has never been a political mendicant. The various offices he has held have come to him without the usual importunate self-seeking of the politician, and without the all-powerful aid of the importuna demanda of rapacious special interests that contribute to campaign funds with the view of controlling appointments and legislation. When the advisability of his nomination was first broached to him, Mr. Long very bluntly informed newspaper interviewers as well as political friends that he did not believe he would add the kind of strength to the ticket which the exigencies of the situation demand. Mr. Long will accept the nomination if the machine bosses offer it to him at Philadelphia, but he will make no pledges to them or their masters as an inducement for them to offer it to him. Convincing evidence of his receptive candidacy is contained in the statement of Senator Lodge that he will present the name of Mr. Long to the Philadelphia Convention as Massachusetts' candidate. What secret anguish the Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge will suffer while preparing a eulogy of the Hon. John D. Long can be appreciated only by those who know how very cordially the eloquent and erudite Senator dislikes the Secretary of the Navy. Senator Lodge will be the permanent Chairman of the National Convention, but this will not prevent his making the speech putting Mr. Long in nomination. Behind the espousal of the Long candidacy by Senator Lodge is an interesting story illustrating the resourcefulness of the Hannaites, which will doubtless come out in due time.

Illinois Republicans.—A wholesale exodus of Illinois Republicans for the Prairie State begun yesterday, and will be continued today and tomorrow, until the ranks of the Illinoisans in this city will be thinner than were the ranks of the Ohio and Indiana Republicans last week. The State Convention meets at Peoria next Tuesday, and a right lively affair it promises to be. There the Tanner and Cullom machines will have a tussle for the mastery that will arouse the interest of the nation and probably make some interesting history. Behind Senator Cullom will stand the full power of the Administration at Washington, but Governor Tanner has built up such a State machine that the Hannaites are said to feel ashamed of their inefficiency as machine architects. National politics will cut a very small figure at Peoria. The Illinois Republicans are understood to be in that happy condition of mind which induces them to care not a rap for the fleshpots at Washington so long as they are assured of a good harvest at home. This may result in disaster to Mr. McKinley in that State in November, but if it does he will have himself to blame for training with the anti-Tanner crowd out there. The hardest fight will be over the gubernatorial nomination. In the recent primaries in Cook County there was a stand-off between the forces of Hanecy, representing the Tanner machine, and of Carter, representing the Cullom-Hanna machine. If the result there had been different, the prospect for a fight at Peoria would not now be so promising. It is generally believed that Senator Cullom will win his fight for endorsement for re-election, which will amount to a nomination. Governor Tanner has made a hard fight on the Senator, but your Uncle Shelby appears to have a little the best of it, due to the fact, perhaps, that the Governor has been confined to his home by sickness nearly ever since the campaign begun.

Quay Still Hopeful.—It seems that the Hon. Matthew Stanley Quay has not abandoned hope of retrieving his fortunes in Pennsylvania, despite the handicap of defeat in the Senate two weeks ago. The fact that the "insurgents" are claiming to have increased their legislative strength from fifty-two in the last Assembly at Harrisburg to seventy-two in the next one has not apparently disheartened Colonel Quay. "That's all right," he is reported to have said, jauntily, to a Senatorial sympathizer a few days ago. "The 'insurgents' are great when it comes to making claims. They may have seventy-two legislative nominees pledged against me now, but when the time comes to vote I will get the votes of forty-four of this seventy-two, and that will elect me. I am not worrying. I understand the other fellows are not worrying much at present, either; but they will have lots to worry them when the Legislature meets."

Information for the Anxious.

(From the New York Sun.)

Regularly every spring there comes the question whether the most shining star in the evening sky is a veritable heavenly body or some lamp sent up by Thomas A. Edison. This year this particular query comes to us first from New Haven, and we reply that the light is, indeed, a star, named Venus, which, being a member of our solar system, is called a planet.

The Indigestion of a Poetess.

(From What To Eat.)

A sweet little bird lying silent and dead,
With sprays of green water-cress tossed on his bed,
Two glasses of tears of the fruit of the vine,
('Tis the grief of the grape puts the rue in the wine);
A table for two, and a rosate light
And an orchestra playing somewhere out of sight.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

CUBAN REGISTRY BOARDS.

Nationals and Republicans Claim Victory in the Elections.

HAVANA, May 4.—The election of boards of registry in all the districts of the island closed at noon today. The election was by petition under the supervision of the supervisors of elections, who were appointed by the ayuntamientos. These supervisors in Havana were recommended by the leaders of the National and Republican parties, twenty-five belonging to the former and fifteen to the latter. Many of those selected refused to serve.

Secretary of State Tamayo therefore issued an order making service compulsory for the reason that in half the districts no others were available who could read and write. The result of the election of the registration boards is unknown yet, but the Nationals and Republicans assert that their candidates were chosen in every ward. The Democratic Union denies this, declaring that its candidates have won in many districts. This party, however, did not make great efforts to win. It is already making excuses, saying that the Spaniards in the lower wards were afraid to vote, fearing they would be boycotted by the Cubans.

Many Spaniards who are small shopkeepers do not wish to make enemies of either party. In some election districts in the country it was found there were not three men sufficiently educated to form election boards, and it was necessary to bring in men from other districts. In some cases districts were merged. As the boards of registry will be election boards also the Nationals and Republicans feel that they have Havana under their thumb. Outside Havana the Democratic Union has not much strength. It is alleged that when the party made an effort to establish a branch in Santa Clara the Veterans' Association used threats to break up the movement.

All the veterans declare that their organization is not of a political character. At the same time all the members are permitted to join the parties in their private capacity. The Havana organization has just issued a circular to the other branches urging the members not to join any party that wishes to postpone in any way the coming of independence. This favors the Nationals and is a blow to the Democratic Union.

COFFEE GROWERS SUFFER.

Great Damage Inflicted by the Colombian Revolution.

NEW YORK, May 4.—A gentleman who arrived here today from Colombia says that the revolution is growing there and is proving very destructive to the coffee growing interests.

"The rebels," he said, "have now in their possession Colon, Cartagena, Bocas del Torro, and David. The Colombian Government was preparing to make war on the insurgents when I left Limon, and I suppose they have done so before now. I do not think anyone knows whence the rebels are coming, but I am sure they are from Nicaragua, as that country generally discharges a lot of riffraff whenever there is any trouble brewing or going on in any of the other Republics.

"General Herrera, who is at the head of the rebels who captured David, is a Nicaraguan, and that seems to be regarded by everyone as conclusive proof that if the truth were known Nicaragua is at the bottom of the whole deal. That notorious renegade, Mora, from Nicaragua, is also, it is generally believed, mixed up in the rumpus. I heard the other day that a warehouse was burned at David or Cartagena in which there were stored nearly 1,000 sacks of fine coffee."

DEATH OF A FORMER SLAVE.

Born in 1799, and Last Sold in New Jersey.

TRENTON, N. J., May 4.—Daniel Hendrickson, aged 101, probably the last of the slaves sold at public auction in New Jersey, was buried from the almshouse this morning. Hendrickson has been a public charge for the past dozen years. He was totally blind in one eye, and for months before his death was helpless.

The old colored man was born in Cranberry, N. J., he said, in June, 1799. In 1812 he was sold at public auction at a slave sale at Cranberry, and in 1819 he was again sold at Princeton.

The old man could not remember where he was sold the last time, but he insisted that he was knocked down to the highest bidder for $312 in 1821. Hendrickson, he said, was his old master's name. He was employed as a free man by Samuel Heath, for whom he worked until making his home at the city almshouse.

The Pathos of the Boer War.

(From the New York Sun.)

Something of the spirit in which the Boers are fighting can be seen from the following story, told by the Australian journalist, Mr. Hales. The conversation took place when he was a prisoner in the hands of the Boers.

"'What do you fellows think of Australians as fighters?'

"I asked the question carelessly, but the answer that I got brought me to my bearings quickly, for then I learned that more than one gallant Australian officer dear to me had fallen, never to rise again, since I had been taken prisoner. The man who spoke was little more than a lad, a pale-faced, slenderly-built son of the veldt. He had tangled curly hair and big, pathetic blue eyes, soft as a girl's, and limbs that lacked the rugged strength of the old Boer stock; but there was that nameless something, that indefinable expression in his face which warranted him a brave man. He carried one arm in a sling, and the bandage round his neck hid a bullet wound.

"'The Australians can fight,' he said simply. 'They wounded me, and—they killed my father.' Perhaps it was the wind sighing through the hospital trees that made the Boer lad's voice grow strangely husky; possibly the same cause filled the blue eyes with unshed tears.

"'It was in fair fight, lad,' I said gently; 'it was the fortune of war.'

"'Yes,' he murmured, 'it was in fair fight, an awful fight—I hope I'll never look upon another like it' 'Damn the fighting,' he broke out fiercely. 'Damn the fighting. I don't hate you Australians. I didn't want to kill any of them. My father had no ill-will to them, nor they to him, yet he is out there—out there between two great kopjes—where the wind always blows cold and dreary at night time.' The laddie shuddered. 'It makes a man doubt the love of the Christ,' he said. 'My father was a good man, a kind man, who never turned the stranger empty-handed from his door; even the Kaffirs on the farm loved him, and now he is lying where no one can weep over his grace. We piled great rocks on his grave. My cousin and I buried him. We had no shovels; we scooped a hole in the hard earth as well as we could, a long shallow hole, and we laid him in it. I took his head and Cousin Gustave carried his feet. We folded his hands on his breast, laid his old rifle by his side, because he had always loved that gun and never used any other when out hunting. Then we pushed the earth in on him gently with our hands, breaking the hard lumps up and crumbling them in our palms so that they should not bruise his poor flesh. He had always been so kind, we could not hurt him, even though we knew he was dead, for he had been gentle to all of us in life; even the cows and oxen at home loved him—and now who will go back and tell mother and little Yacoba that he is dead; that he will come to them no more? Oh, damn the war,' the lad called again in his pain. 'I don't know—only God knows—which side is right or wrong, but I do know that the curse of the Christ will rest on the heads of those who have made this war for ambition's sake or the greed of gold, and the good God will not let the widow and the orphan child go unavenged; blood will yet speak for blood, and it must rest either on the heads of Kruger and Steyn or Chamberlain and Rhodes.'"

A Wise Evasion.

(From the Indianapolis News.)

Governor Allen's inaugural address yesterday ignored the Porto Rican tariff bill entirely. He could not make glittering generalities and bring that in.

BRADSTREET ON THE WEEK.

A Decline in Prices Due to Unsettled Labor Conditions.

NEW YORK, May 4.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

"A further subsidence of demand and of the level of prices is noted in several lines this week, this process being no doubt aided by the unsettling or rather more than usually disturbed conditions in labor circles. The net result is something approaching dullness in many channels of distribution, increased conservatism in the making of ventures, and a disposition to digest business already arranged for before making new engagements.

"That the basic conditions of general business, such as the outlook for the crops, the export demand, and the increased purchasing power of the people at large, have not been much reduced, but, on the contrary, actually improved, seems evident from the advices received this week. Business at wholesale is relatively quieter, as not unusual at this period, but more than ordinarily marked attention is being concentrated upon the retail demand, which, of course, is relied upon as a measure of the progress of actual consumption.

"Decreases far outnumber increases in staple values this week. Butter, after a sensational drop, advanced slightly on smaller receipts. Against this are to be reckoned, however, lower prices for most of the cereals, hog products, groceries, print cloths, and hides and leather. Good crop prospects and the weakness in provisions, charged partly to increased receipts of hogs, but also attributed to bear operations by packers, have exercised a depressing effect upon corn and to a less extent upon wheat.

"The weakness of print cloths is confined as yet to outside manufacturers' quotations, the pool price being maintained unchanged. No effect from this source or from the dullness at wholesale in cotton goods is yet reflected in the market for the raw material, which remains strong, owing partly to the reduced movement of the crop, the April movement being 14 per cent smaller than a year ago, and partly to the expected small surplus to be carried over to next season.

"Following excessive rains in some sections of the South has come a period of good growing weather, which tends to mitigate the damage earlier reported, due to flooding of low lying cotton fields.

"The shoe and leather trade at the East is notably quiet. Restricted supplies of raw sugar have induced a slight marking up of quotations this week, but no change of refined prices is reported.

"The situation in iron and steel is still a mixed one. No diminution of strength of pig iron is reported at such centres as Birmingham and Pittsburg, and predictions are that the ruling price for Bessemer pig will not be shaded during the last half of the year. In finished material less confidence is expressed.

"The first week in May was more than ordinarily prolific in strikes, most of which, however, were confined to the building trades, and reports to Bradstreet's would indicate that, including those idle, voluntarily or otherwise, as a result of the great Chicago building trades tie-up, the number of men on strike during the week was little below 150,000.

"For the week failures number 153, as compared with 182 last week, 164 in this week a year ago, 240 in 1898, 228 in 1897, and 267 in 1896."

DUN'S REVIEW OF TRADE.

Falling Prices Indicate an Adjustment to Normal Demand.

NEW YORK, May 4.—Dun's weekly review of trade tomorrow will say:

"Failure returns for April given today are especially valuable, because they show that there does not exist in the most important branches of business the conditions which threaten disaster. They call attention to one line in which some curtailment had seemed from previous returns to be in progress, and has been hastened by extensive strikes in the building trades.

"In real estate speculations and building a few large failures cover over a third of all the defaulted liabilities of the month, but in no other direction does there appear any indication of unsoundness, or more than an entirely natural and safe increase of commercial credits. In trading the failures were less than in the same month of any previous year, and but for a few builders and contractors would have been in manufacturing also. In most of the large branches of manufacture, and also of trade, failures were smaller than in any other year but one.

"The state of business has been represented to fit, and used to support, several hundred theories already. The simple fact is that some reaction from the abnormal excitement and expansion and rise of prices last year was necessary to continued prosperity. Its duration may, therefore, be expected to depend on the promptness with which production and prices adjust themselves to actual demands.

"The reduction in prices of iron and steel and their products has gone far enough to bring out much new business. Eastern markets are irregular, with growing belief that an output exceeding consumption will reduce prices until the demand again expands.

"The close of the wool year has come without the scarcity which some expected, but with the average of quotations by Coates Brothers reduced in April about one cent. Sales have been small, and yet much in excess of purchases for consumption. The market for goods, excepting the most favored staples, has been so far unsettled and irregular as to give small encouragement for buying wool at current prices.

"Cotton goods has also shown similar weakness in transactions for future delivery, and new business is narrow. Until prospects for the new crop are more settled the pressure of English spinners for supplies tends strongly to hold up prices here, though foreign mill stocks are now heavy.

"The demand for boots and shoes does not compare with last year's, and the opinion grows that stocks of jobbers and retailers are large. The Chicago hide market has been weaker, with larger supplies than were expected.

"April exports of breadstuffs have been large, both wheat and corn surpassing last year's record. The price of wheat closed as it opened, while corn declined 2 cents. All exports from New York in four weeks have been 23.4 per cent, or over $11,000,000 larger than last year. Imports show a small gain.

"Stocks have been weak, largely because of industrials, which have continued to decline, losing 1.30 per share for the week.

"Failures for the week have been 209 in the United States, against 158 last year, and 27 in Canada, against 23 last year."

Political Humor in China.

(From the Chicago Record.)

Here is a situation for a novel. Weng Tung Ho was the tutor of the present Emperor of China from the time he was selected as the heir to the throne, and until the recent coup d'etat was his most confidential and influential adviser. Mr. Weng is a man of great age and until recently none of all the princes of the court received more respect than he. When the Empress Dowager took charge of affairs two years ago she sent him to his former home at Chang-Shu, a small city about forty miles northeast of Soo-Chow, where he has since been living in seclusion. Whether Weng Tung Ho has been communicating with his former pupil, the imprisoned Emperor, or whether the Dowager fears that he may attempt to do so, nobody knows, but a few weeks ago she condemned him to death, and forwarded notice of that fact to him through the governor of Soo-Chow. Weng's rank is so high and his person so venerable that no official of the Empire can be induced to execute the sentence, and he has been requested by the governor of Soo-Chow to execute himself. A military guard has been placed around his residence, so that he cannot escape or be rescued, nor can he communicate with anyone outside except through the officials, and thus the old man was living when the latest mails left China, with the decree of the Empress Dowager in his hands. The news of his suicide was expected daily.

LATE LEGAL DECISIONS.

A statute authorizing compulsory vaccination is held by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, in State vs. Hay (35 S. E. Rep., 459) to be valid and a proper exercise of the police power of the State to legislate for the public welfare, which is inherent in the General Assembly. This question has only recently been raised, and in each case the constitutionality of the statute has been upheld. Morris vs. City of Columbus (30 S. E. Rep., 850; Blue vs. Beach, 56 N. E., 89).

Making mortar beds for the erection of buildings abutting on the streets of a populous city is held by the Court of Appeals of Kentucky in Strauss vs. City of Louisville (55 S. W. Rep., 1,076) not to be a nuisance. The occupancy of the streets for such purpose, said the court, is always temporary, and would seem to be necessary for the erection of buildings by abutting owners. In this case the plaintiff says that while she was passing along the pavement opposite some mortar beds a piece of lime was carelessly thrown therein, and some of the mortar spattered into her eye, causing great suffering. She charged that the mixing of mortar on the sidewalk was a nuisance and menace to the safety of pedestrians, and asked damages for her injuries. But judgment was given against her.

In computing the five days allowed a Governor for the consideration of a bill the Supreme Court of Louisiana, in State vs. Michel (27 So. Rep., 565), holds that he has a "natural" or "astronomical" day and not an artificial day, and that in this sense a day begins at 12 o'clock midnight, and extends through twenty-four hours to the next 12 o'clock midnight.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals in United States vs. Barker (100 Fed. Rep., 34) holds that a postmaster is liable on his bond for the amount of money orders ostensibly issued by him, and which have been paid by the offices on which they were drawn and charged to his account on the books of the department, although in fact his name was forged to such orders, where through his negligence they were delivered in blank to a stranger in violation of the rules of the department, for the faithful observance of which his bond was conditioned.

Where the anchor of a schooner became entangled in an ocean telegraph cable and in order to release it the officers cut the cable the United States District Court for Connecticut (100 Fed. Rep., 115) held that the officers were guilty either of willful injury to the cable, or culpable negligence for which the vessel was liable, for the following reasons: First the statute (25 Stat. C. 17, Sec. 3) provides that a cable shall be cut only when it becomes necessary in order to save life or limb or a vessel. Second, there would have been no difficulty in waiting anchored as they were until morning, and then cutting the anchor when the tug came to take them on their course. Third, it appears from the testimony of the master that they had another anchor on board. Fourth, Article VII of the Treaty of 1884 provides that owners of such cables shall remunerate vessel owners who can prove that they have sacrificed an anchor in order to avoid injuring such cables.

Where it is alleged that the refusal of a bank to pay a depositor's check is malicious and the plaintiff elects to sue for damages, the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, in Davis vs. The Standard National Bank, holds that he may recover damages for the impairment of his credit, for injuries to his feelings, and for mental anxiety; and it was further held that if the bank's refusal to honor checks is intentional and without just cause or excuse, a legal inference of malice arises, although no one connected with the bank had any willful intent to injure the depositor.

The sum of $50, furnished to a mining prospector as a "grub stake," is held by the Supreme Court of California, in Prince et al. vs. Lamb (60 Pac. Rep., 689), not to be an adequate consideration to entitle the one who furnished the stake to share in mining interests valued at $