The Times

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Circulation Statement.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended November 24, 1900, was as follows:

Sunday, November 18	19,618
Monday, November 19	39,151
Tuesday, November 20	39,099
Wednesday, November 21	39,316
Thursday, November 22	39,078
Friday, November 23	39,224
Saturday, November 24	39,431
Total	235,547
Daily average (Sunday, 19,618, excepted)	39,321

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Big Bills and Prosperity.

Probably the public is not generally aware of the fact that when Congress is about to assemble there is always a strong demand for bank notes of large denominations. In ordinary years the bales and packages which are sent to or obtained in Washington and hived until needed in handy safe deposit vaults do not contain many bills representing more than five hundred or one thousand dollars apiece. It is a pleasant commentary upon the bright prospects for a lively and wide-open legislative season that the present demand for big notes is almost entirely confined to the five and ten thousand dollar denominations, the five hundreds and thousands being only required for convenience in making change.

Whether this phenomenon has, or has not, anything to do with the determination of business interests to slaughter the Nicaragua Canal project, to loot the Treasury of ninety million dollars of subsidy money, to unload the Panama Canal scheme on the United States, or to buy off some of the war taxes, we are unable to say. But it is regarded as a matter of course that every man whose voice, influence, or vote can be utilized in promotion of all or any of the various jobs and steals which are to be considered by Congress during the next three months need not hesitate to contract ahead for a new country place, a schooner yacht, and a trip around the world while they are building.

The game of legislation next winter is to be without a limit. It will be one at which only the banker can lose. The players are bound to win. Wily old professionals, such as head committees and use young members to pull their chestnuts out of the fire for them, may try to convince their juniors that there is nothing in this or that bill; that it is a party measure and must be accepted and voted for without question—and so on. It is a common thing with these ancients to dispose of their particular flocks in advance, to drive them whither the leaders list, and the latter monopolize the increment. At the approaching session especially the young members need to keep a weather eye out for such tricks. Each vote will be so valuable to the backers and representatives of many schemes that no Senator or Member should allow his action upon any given bill or resolution to be dictated by boss or caucus until he has enjoyed an opportunity to hear all the oral, written, printed, or engraved arguments that the beneficiaries or their lobbyists have to offer.

If there are to be combinations in respect of important questions of public policy or private loot, the combining ought to start with individuals and groups, acting for their own interests, and not with the rounding-up and branding of so many head of Congressmen by avaricious managers. It is true that where that can be done the lobby would rather deal with a job lot of statesmen than with single individuals. In addition to this consideration, an organized clique of a dozen or twenty can usually make better terms per capita than a single person could secure. The risk, too, of the negotiation is much less in the case of the larger unit. It must appear strange to foreigners who visit Washington and study our institutions that the commercialism connected with our politics, which is perfectly well known and recognized as among "sound business methods," is yet frowned on by the letter of the law, so that there is a smug pretence that bribery and corruption in one form or another are not a part and an honored part of our legislative system.

There is a possibility that even some Representatives—we will not say Senators—are among those who do not know why certain public men grow rich on a salary of five thousand and family expenses of fifty thousand dollars a year. If there be such innocents, they should reflect that they may themselves have contributed to that prosperity by furnishing the votes for which their party bosses got the reward. Indeed, there has been altogether too much of that sort of thing. The few have become millionaires, while the many have had hard work to find themselves a railway pass ahead at the end of their term. This time there can be absolutely no excuse for such indifference to individual interest. Each and every man able to promote a good cause should see its attendant angels for himself, and, after listening dispassionately to what they have to say, decide whether his conscience will allow him to play poker or the stock market, or accept a valuable present for his mother-in-law.

There must be something wrong with people who will not pick up money in the street when it is fairly fired at their feet. A huge sum in the aggregate has been appropriated by the several syndicates and combinations anxious to pass or to defeat bills at the coming session. The subscribers will be disappointed if it is not well distributed. After the lobby gets hold of it, no amount large or small is apt to find its way back to where it came from originally. Therefore, the class for whose comfort and gratification it has been provided might as well insist upon their rights. As we have had occasion to remark before, the winter of 1900-1901 in Washington promises to be the most golden and gaudy in the annals of Congress.

The Canal.

A few days ago, when it was announced that the Walker Commission would report in favor of the Nicaragua Canal route and ignore the De Lesseps ditch, it looked very much as if the Panama combination had received a knockout blow. The reason given for the failure of the Commission to consider the exploded French scheme was that the officials of the Panama Company had declined to make a proposition of definite character.

Since the proposed action of the Commission became known there has been an encouraging amount of hurrying to and fro between Wall Street and the White House and much and intelligent pressure has been brought to bear in the proper quarter to secure an executive injunction which should compel Admiral Walker and his colleagues to reopen the case and give Panama a pleasant send-off. M. Maurice Hutin is the funeral director-general of the De Lesseps remains, and he has been more than energetic in attempting to stem the tide that sets so strongly against his procession. He has succeeded to the extent that consideration of the Panama project—now controlled by close friends of the Administration—has been written into the report of the Commission. M. Hutin is to have a heart-to-heart talk with Secretary Hay today, and if the former can demonstrate ability to make a deal satisfactory to Lord Pauncefote and Lord Salisbury, perhaps something active may be done for him when Congress meets.

We must not forget that the failure of the Panama scheme, complicated by the monumental rascality which marked every step of the enterprise, renders it an unsafe thing for anybody to touch, unless he have the unlimited resources of a great Government at his command. But, given that, there is probably far more easy money in it for the manipulators and contractors than there would be in the Nicaragua Canal. There are all sorts of outstanding securities, loans, and other debts of various kinds of the Panama concern. It has pretended assets and alleged work completed. Among these jungles it need not be difficult for a syndicate, properly supported by the nation, to make away with a great many millions, in buying up stock and bonds—doubtless now deposited somewhere under option—in getting paid a second time for work already done, and in handling the old junk now hanging to the neck of the corpse. The men who have taken over the old cadaver are of the kind who know their business, and their clinch on the Administration and Congress. Theirs is one of the campaign debts which must be paid if possible. Not that they are setting about its collection in a niggardly spirit. They understand that a job with so many cool millions in it, to be squeezed out without effort, is not to be pushed through Congress on any fifteen-cent lunch and thank-you basis. They are prepared to astonish the natives with their ideas of convincing eloquence and boundless hospitality. All they ask is that the Administration shall put the screws on and help them. Expense is no object, but results are.

We do not see how Mr. McKinley can well avoid assisting Mr. Hanna's friends in this matter. They have been to some trouble to pick up the right to buy the old ditch at a small price, after disposing of it at a large one, and it is not to be denied that some public characters are very anxious to see the difference made. The Panama syndicate, as we understand, is not especially wild to build the canal, or any canal; but would be cheerfully willing to undertake the spending of the hundred and fifty millions which, it is estimated, it would take to construct an isthmian waterway. The chance should be extended to these enterprising gentlemen. Their plans were well advertised to the country before the election, and, apparently, approved by the people at the polls. Their second-hand ditch, therefore, was an issue and a winning one, of course. The President would hardly be showing due deference to the means and men that elected him, were he to turn the refrigerated shoulder upon the Panama jobbers. That they will have a hard time to pull through, even with the whole power of the Executive behind them, we can readily believe, but that with it and a benevolent willingness to divide their prosperity with the deserving, they are at all in danger of failing, we are disposed to deny. Panama canals come very high, and particularly so this year, but they may be had if one is willing to produce the necessary arguments in green and gold.

New Methods in Christian Science.

The performances of Mrs. Eddy, mother of Christian Science, have been many and varied, and some of them do not exactly bear out her theory that there is nothing really material, and that all things are possible to the unassisted spirit. It has been observed, for example, that when she wants satin tea jackets she is obliged to call for them through the columns of the organ of the cult, instead of having them specially created through prayer; and it was demonstrated a year or two ago that so far from removing mountains by faith she went to law over a little strip of obnoxious hilly ground which she wanted leveled. But hitherto she has, at least, depended upon faith for her influence over the public, and her books have gained whatever popularity they may have through the fact that to some people their contents are interesting. It seems, however, that new methods for spreading the ideas of Christian Science have been adopted.

Some time ago there was a convention of Christian Scientists, at which Mrs. Eddy spoke. The glowing and enthusiastic accounts of her address which appeared in the local paper aroused suspicions in the minds of certain knowing ones. They had long been acquainted with the paper in question, and argued that before such a report went in on that subject, either the editor must have gone suddenly insane, or the business office must have received pay for a piece of advertising. They did not believe in the hypothesis of the lunacy of the editor, and upon making judicious enquiries in the newspaper world, they discovered that the other theory was the correct one. The report had been printed and paid for as an advertisement.

The public will now consider this incident in all its bearings upon Christian Science. If no material means are needed to effect the cure of any sort of disease, why could not the powerful mind of Mrs. Eddy have so influenced the minds of the reporter and editor of that paper that they would have accepted her at her own valuation and given a glowing and lengthy report of her address? Was the demon of incredulity in the breast of that reporter more powerful and difficult to dislodge than the germs of cancer or smallpox? Was the dislike of the editor for Christian Science more potent than broken bones to resist the mighty power of that faith? Finally, could not the faith which can remove mountains, as its disciples are fond of saying, and persuade people they are not suffering from diphtheritic or dyspeptic affections, when they are—could not this faith counteract the effect produced upon the mind of the public by a report of those proceedings which might be too brief, or otherwise unfavorable? Apparently not.

The agency which seemed to be needed in this case was not faith, but greenbacks. Perhaps, in some occult way, it may be proved that a dollar bill is less material and more suited to the uses of a truly spiritual science than a dose of quinine, but the average mind will see but little difference in the degree of spirituality possessed by the two. Somehow or other, however, money is the one thing which the "healer" regards as essential to his or her existence. The rest of the world can get along without medicines, surgeons, hospitals, or food, if necessary; but money the healer must have and use.

Senators and Members of Congress are respectfully requested to think twice before making any invidious remarks in regard to the Weylering of South Africa by the British Government. There is small doubt that a storm of indignation is brewing in Europe, but this country must have nothing to do with it. The reason is obvious. Recently there has been much sniping at American troops in the Philippines. The practice had to be tolerated before the Presidential election, because resort to Kitchener methods might have exerted a bad political effect. But now that the country has endorsed the Philippine war, the natural and just presumption is that it will also approve of the now contemplated policy of devastation and extermination, which, as everybody knows, is the proper one in the case of the Filipinos. At the same time, while we are following it with vigor and religious fidelity, it would perhaps be indelicate on our part to indulge in reflections upon Great Britain for doing the same thing.

People acquainted with the superhuman modesty of Mr. Hanna will not be surprised to learn that he has formally declined the nomination for the Presidency in 1904, tendered him by the M. A. Hanna Republican Club of Cleveland, Ohio. In spurning the diadem thus offered, the distinguished Senator suggested that he was getting old and would like to retire, like Cincinnatus, to Cincinnati at the end of his present term in the Senate. Mr. Gallagher, who presented the resolutions, assured Mr. Hanna that he was regarded by his admiring party not as a Cincinnatus with hayseed in his hair, but as the great Republican Hercules with the club. This was considered a neat and appropriate joke on the Hanna methods of reaching results and preserving harmony, and was much appreciated by those present. The uncrowned kingship, with unlimited control of whatever is going, evidently is a good enough thing for Marcus Aurelius—that is, for the present.

In order to emphasize the reasons for national thanksgiving, the eve of Thanksgiving Day was selected for the final closing of the great Rogers Locomotive Works, in Paterson, New Jersey. Their aged proprietor is tired of the business, at which he has worked for sixty years. It has been paying splendidly, but he wants a holiday, and so fifteen hundred of the most skillful mechanics in America must shoulder their empty dinner pails and go out in the world to hunt work elsewhere. It seems hard; but such things must often happen under prevailing industrial conditions.

It is known, of course, that our commander in China has never been given the authority, conferred by other nations upon their generals, to execute the miscreants who tortured and butchered American citizens, including women and children, in a military manner. The German commanders are under no such disadvantage, and it is agreeable to see that they sometimes exercise their privilege in a generous and hospitable manner. One of our Pekin despatches yesterday announced that "Mr. Ament, of the American Board of Missions, has delivered two Chinamen to the Germans for execution as Boxers." That was the correct and pious thing to do, and we trust that Mr. Ament will secure the heads of the decapitated Celestials and have them stuffed for use as ornaments in the rooms of the society in New York.

A Voice in the Wilderness.

(From the New York Times.)

Senator Hale of Maine with the experience of years to guide him, utters a prompt cry of warning to his party to "go slow" in the use of the power conferred on it in the recent elections.

If the party wishes to retain its tenure, he says, it must "reduce taxation, stop extravagant expenditures, cut down appropriations." He is right, but we doubt if he expects that his voice will be heeded, though he will surely raise it in the Senate on all proper occasions. He is accustomed to crying aloud in that wilderness. And he knows that after the enforced abstinence from extravagance which preceded the campaign the appetites of the members of each House will be sharper than ever. There is one man, and one man only, who can really stem the tide of which Senator Hale is in fear. That is the President. His pen is his sceptre, and if he dares to use it in veto of reckless expenditure, its sway will be absolute. We do not venture to assume that he will do so.

But There Is No Chance.

(From the Chicago Tribune.)

Beyond a doubt Germany would be pleased to acquire territory in this hemisphere if it were not for the attitude of the United States on the subject. Germany is in the mood for expansion, and it would probably like to have a foothold here. Great Britain, France, and Holland have colonies in South America, and there are British, Dutch, French, and Danish Islands in the West Indies. But the conditions under which these colonies were acquired have passed away. There is now no American territory that is not ruled by a civilized Government. Detached islands would be of no particular value, and there are no tracts on the mainland of either continent which Germany could dominate, unless it be in southeastern Brazil, where many Germans have settled. But this could not be placed under German rule without a war with Brazil and offence to the United States. The Kaiser's Government undoubtedly sees the situation in its true light and has no desire for American territory under existing circumstances.

No Possible Excuse.

(From the Philadelphia Times.)

General Egan cannot now be dismissed as he should have been, because of the blunder of the President, but to entertain the question of his restoration to the head of his Department involves a degree of disrespect to the army and the nation that the President cannot afford to offer.

Stupid Voting in Indiana.

(From the Indianapolis News.)

The official vote of the State shows that people go on voting for the first name on the ticket, supposing, doubtless, that they are thereby voting the full ticket. There is no other way to account for the fact that the first elector at large on every ticket received a considerable percentage more votes than the other electors on that ticket, or any of the State officers.

One of Platt's Plots.

(From the Kansas City Times.)

The story that Senator Hanna, in his salad days, wrote poetry is evidently an invention of Tom Platt, who is thus early trying to head off that Presidential nomination for 1904 which has started out from Cleveland, Ohio.

CULLOM YIELDS TO PRESSURE.

No Longer Aspires to Head the Foreign Relations Committee.

An interesting story regarding Senator Cullom's crushed ambition to be made Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee has just leaked out. Intimate friends of the Illinoisan know that for years he has coveted the Foreign Relations chairmanship and that he made a struggle for it when the last rearrangement of committees was made in the Senate. When Senator Davis' death was seen to be inevitable, it is said, Senator Cullom took up with a number of his friends in the Senate the subject of his succeeding to the chairmanship so long held by the Minnesotan. Senator Cullom was fully aware that Senator Frye did not want the place, and as the Maine statesman was the only one who ranked him he naturally felt that his chances of securing the prize were of the first class. But this hope was short lived.

Wednesday morning Senator Cullom was visited by the "representatives," commonly known as the lobbyists, of two powerful railroads. A colloquy to this effect ensued:

"Senator, we have called to tell you that you must not take the chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee," said the railroad men.

"Must is a strong word for gentlemen of your station to use to a member of the Senate," replied Senator Cullom, hotly.

"That may be, but we want to warn you that it will be better for you to forego your ambition in that direction, at least for the present."

This only increased Senator Cullom's wrath. He paced the floor in silence for a moment, and, then, as if about to order the lobbyists from his room, he enquired:

"What do you mean by this insolence, anyway?"

"If you should go to the head of Foreign Affairs you would have to resign the chairmanship of the Committee on Interstate Commerce, would you not?"

Senator Cullom admitted that he would.

"Now," said the railroad representatives, "that man Chandler of New Hampshire is second on the Interstate Commerce Committee, and if you should leave the chairmanship all h—— could not keep him out of it, provided, of course, he secures re-election to the Senate."

This, it is related, set Senator Cullom to thinking in somewhat calmer mood.

"Then, the point is," he suggested tentatively, "that Chandler would not make a good chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee."

"Exactly," came the response.

Forthwith Senator Cullom's name was withdrawn from the list of applicants for the important post made vacant by the death of Senator Cushman Kellogg Davis.

The point of the story is in the application of it. It is conceded on all hands that if Senator Chandler gets back to the Senate over the protest of the Boston and Maine Railroad, and its vast allied interests, he will feel in no good humor toward railroads in general. The Interstate Commerce Committee deals with nearly all measures in the Senate that have a bearing upon the railroads. If Senator Chandler should get at the head of the committee the railroads would either have to prepare for a peck of fresh troubles, or bills affecting their interests would have to be referred to some other committee. Obviously, therefore, the easiest way out of the threatened difficulty is for no change to be made at the head of the Interstate Commerce Committee. This proposition carries with it the re-election of Senator Cullom, because if the Legislature at Springfield should reject him this winter and the Legislature at Concord should re-elect Senator Chandler the very danger the railroads are trying to avert would be upon them in full force. The inference also is plain that the Boston and Maine is not the only railroad in the country interested in Senator Chandler's defeat. It is suspected, therefore, that there are now at work in New Hampshire against the recalcitrant Chandler influences of which the people and the members-elect of the Legislature are not aware. Per contra, it is not impossible that there are at work in Illinois at this moment influences which the Tannerites cannot well overcome in their wicked fight on Senator Cullom.

TO REFORM CUBAN LAWS.

Several Changes Advised by the Secretary of Justice.

HAVANA, Nov. 29.—Senor Gener, Secretary of Justice, has presented to Governor General Wood the report of his department for the year ending June 30, 1900. Among other things the report says that the radical change of conditions in Cuba caused by the abolition of Spanish sovereignty necessitated changes in the laws, as these had their very roots in the existence of Spanish sovereignty in Cuba. The laws which were excellent during the former regime became very defective on the cessation of that regime.

Among the principal changes mentioned are the marriage laws, the laws for punishing the bribery of officials, providing for persons turning state's evidence, permitting persons over a certain age to marry without the consent of parents, establishing correctional courts, and for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Senor Gener declares that the political regime in Cuba cannot avoid making essential judicial reforms, as the laws must be made to harmonize with the new order of things. The theory that a definite government must be established before reforms can be made does not hold good, as there was no date fixed for the establishment of such a government. Changes were imperative, owing to the pressing causes brought about by the change in conditions. These changes in the laws have not curtailed the initiative or absolute prerogative of the future government.

Besides, owing to the non-existence of a definite Cuban Government, to which the intervening Power could hand over the administration of the island, the United States are bound to make reforms to prevent the country falling into anarchy. The closeness of the relations now existing between Cuba and the United States are likely to become closer, and this will impel Cuba to progress in legal matters. To new forms of life belong new forms of law.

General Wood and his family returned to Havana today.

Cuban Gratitude.

(From the Chicago Chronicle.)

The gratitude of the Cuban patriot may be measured by the circumstance that the constitutional convention now sitting in Havana has rejected resolutions expressing regret at the departure of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee from the island. It is quite safe to say that as Consul General at Havana General Lee did more to secure American intervention than all the greasy, malodorous "juntas" that made nuisances of themselves in Washington and New York. That the Cubans fail to appreciate it is merely another proof—though none was really needed—that the natives of the ever-faithful isle are a lacking in gratitude as they are in bravery and common honesty.

Our Sister Republics.

(From the Indianapolis Press.)

In order to do away with their continual wars, the Latin-American Republics have agreed almost unanimously on compulsory arbitration. Chile alone objects. The other nations threaten to whip Chile into line. It seems that the average Latin nation must fight over something, even if it is arbitration. General Harrison showed a keen insight into the character of these American peoples when he said, in effect, that they give their allegiance to men rather than to constitutions.

The Surplus Must Dissolve.

(From the Indianapolis News.)

The indications are that a River and Harbor bill of gorgeous proportions is to be pressed this winter. Of course, there is a large amount of work that ought to be done on rivers and harbors by the Government, but the bill always carries vast amounts for the improvement of impossible streams, which are a sheer waste of the public funds.

Justice, Not Revenge.

(From the Boston Journal.)

Whatever may be thought of the wisdom or unwisdom of insisting on the execution of Prince Tuan and other Chinese ringleaders, it is unjust to describe such a demand as a demand for "revenge." It is a demand for simple justice, for these men were guilty of the most atrocious crimes, and their lives should be forfeit.

REDUCTION OF WAR TAXES.

House Bill to Be Radically Changed by the Senate Committee.

Although the Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee have completed the preparation of a revenue bill, to be submitted to the full committee tomorrow, limiting the reduction of the present War Revenue act to about $30,000,000, it is frankly admitted by some of them that the measure will be radically changed by the Senate Finance Committee.

On the day of his arrival in Washington, more than a week ago, Senator Aldrich, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that, in his opinion, the contemplated revenue reduction should be made all at one time, and that this reduction should be a sweeping one. He explained that frequent revenue or tariff tinkering was objectionable to the business interests and a serious embarrassment to commercial prosperity. He expressed his views on the proposed revenue legislation by saying: "We ought not to take two bites at a cherry when one will do." In other words, he believes that such radical reductions in the present war revenues should be made as will make it unnecessary to enact further legislation for the next three or four years.

Senator Aldrich and Senator Platt, who occupy second and third places, respectively, on the committee, hold substantially the same views. It is expected that these Senators will have an informal conference today and determine upon some uniform course of action.

TRIAL OF THE STOCKTON.

The Torpedo Boat Not Up to Contract Speed.

Capt. J. S. Hemphill, United States Navy, President of the board appointed to conduct the official trial of the torpedo boat Stockton over the Barren Island course in Chesapeake Bay, reported to the Navy Department yesterday that the vessel had made approximately 25 3-4 knots, thus failing to fulfill the contract requirement of 26 knots. No action on the failure will be taken by the Department until there has been a consultation with the William R. Trigg Company, of Richmond, Va., the builders of the vessel. Captain Hemphill's despatch follows:

"Annapolis, Md.—Stockton made approximately 25 3-4 knots for two consecutive hours. Vessel's displacement at time of trial about 200 tons. Performance of machinery generally satisfactory. Starboard engine counters broke down forty minutes after trial began. Speed computed from readings of port counters checked by speed over measured mile course. Stockton sailed for Richmond. Contractor reserves all rights pending conference with Department."

CENTENNIAL RAILROAD RATES.

The Trunk Line Association Reconsiders Its Former Decision.

Regarding the matter of reduced railroad fares during the time of the National Capital Centennial Celebration, the situation is more favorable, in the opinion of the Citizens' Committee, than it was a few days ago. John B. Wight last Tuesday went to New York to argue before the Trunk Line Association a reduction of the fare to one rate for those who wished to come to this city to attend the celebration. As a result of this conference, a letter was received at headquarters yesday from William Fleming, Secretary of the Trunk Line Association, in which he says:

"The passenger committee, at its meeting yesterday, reconsidered its previous action and referred the application for reduced fares to the lines immediately interested."

John B. Wight, Chairman of the Committee on Parade and Decorations, has received a letter from George H. Harries saying that the Adjutants General of the various States, who were to hold their regular annual meeting in this city on December 12, have postponed the same until the day following in order to be present at the ceremonies on December 12, with the Governors of their respective States.

A copy of a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, expressing sympathy with the movement to celebrate the Centennial, was received at headquarters yesterday.

Col. M. M. Parker, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reports the following subscriptions: Wayne MacVeagh, $25; Gibson Bros., $10; John J. Hemphill, $10; E. G. Siggers, $5; John C. S. Burger, $5; Emmons S. Smith, $5; Dr. J. H. N. Waring, $5; H. L. Prince, $2.

There will be a meeting of the Citizens' Committee at headquarters this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Young America at School.

(From the New York World.)

There are about 17,000,000 pupils attending schools, elementary and higher, public and private, in the United States. These figures are today doubtless rather below the actual school enrollment, because, while they are the latest given out by the United States Commissioner of Education, they are eighteen months old.

Of these 17,000,000, the common schools, elementary and secondary, had an enrollment in June, 1899, of over 15,000,000. That is to say, a clean one-fifth of the entire population of the United States is either learning or teaching in its common schools.

This is a fact of supreme importance. It explains and differentiates America. Free schools, a free press, and free religion constitute at once the strength and the glory of the Republic.

Compare this immense and immensely significant American fact—15,000,000 pupils in our common schools—with the following European facts of correlative interest, which we take from the latest official returns of the countries named:

	School Enrollment.
Great Britain and Ireland	5,078,040
France	5,535,125
German Empire	7,925,000
Austria	3,423,681
Hungary	1,858,215
Russia	3,779,818
Italy	2,580,000

These figures show the total number of children in attendance at the European schools that correspond most nearly to our American public primary and grammar schools. And they are no doubt to some extent, particularly as to Russia, based on incomplete returns supplemented by expert estimates.

Taking them as they stand, as the best obtainable, what a revelation of American leadership in the education of the people! The United Kingdom and France put together have fewer pupils by 4,000,000 in their common schools than there are in the common schools of these United States. Add the total common school enrollment of Great Britain and Ireland to that of all France and all the States in the German Confederation, and there appears a grand total of 19,138,765 pupils. And the pupils of the common schools of America alone are four-fifths of that huge aggregate. In other words, with a combined population of 130,000,000, using round figures, the three greatest, wealthiest, and most intelligent nations of Europe—the British, the French, and the German—show a total combined common school attendance that is but 20 per cent in excess of that of the United States alone.

Fifteen millions of pupils in the common schools of America today, and two millions more in our private schools, colleges, and universities! For such a nation to be dreaming of "world power" moulded by soldiers is grotesque. It is already the greatest of world powers by virtue of its schools.

Feeling Comment on the "Journal" Scoop.

(From the New York World.)

Mr. Eugene Zimmerman makes an ideal dowager duke.

IN THE HOTEL CORRIDORS.

Edward K. Jones, a prominent attorney of New York, is at the Arlington from Manhattan on a visit to Secretary Root, who is a close personal friend. Mr. Jones has a wide reputation as an authority on international law and in admiralty cases. He is mentioned as a very probable successor to Attorney General Griggs and it is said that Mr. McKinley, in an interview, received him very favorably. Mr. Jones has never been very prominent in politics, but is high in the estimation of political leaders. Among other cases in which he represented the Government were the admiralty suits growing out of the late war and the prize cases over seizures. He also was prominent as the Government attorney in the case against Charles F. W. Neely, the Cuban postoffice defaulter.

* * *

"The lynching and burning at the stake of Preston Porter, the negro murderer of Louise Frost, at Limon, Col., recently reminds me of a similar occurrence which happened at Belton, Tex., a few years ago," remarked Henry W. Blair, of that State, at the Metropolitan last night. "The natures of the two crimes were very different, but the punishment was fully as revolting.

"The difficulty grew out of the operations of a band of horse thieves who carried on their business in the neighborhood of Belton for a period extending over several years. There was not a lynching, but there was something far worse, in point of cold-blooded fury on the part of an enraged mob.

"Nine prisoners confined in the county jail at Belton were murdered in their cells one night. As a matter of fact, I guess it was the best thing the mob could have done for the benefit of that part of the Lone Star State.

"For a long time a gang of horse thieves had been running cattle and horses from Bell County into adjoining ones. The gang was well organized. The crimes were known to have been committed by its members, but proof of their guilt could not be obtained, and for a number of years, during which time the farmers and planters bore their losses with patience, cattle and horses were stolen with impunity. The crime could not be laid at the door of any single man, though the belief was common that certain well known parties were directly responsible.

"The plans of the horse thieves were well laid. The crowd operating near Belton would steal a bunch of valuable cattle or 'run' a number of horses and carry them into the next county. There the animals would be taken in charge by another gang, under the same leadership, who would 'run' the horses or cattle into the next county, where a third gang would take charge of them.

"In this manner the horses and cattle would be carried across the Louisiana line and sold at a handsome profit. The difficulty in apprehending any of the thieves was the fact that after having been on a raid the men implicated would invariably show up at their homes the next morning without a sign of ever having been out of their back yards for a month. There were absolutely no means whereby the crimes could be brought home to the guilty parties.

"At last, however, several members of the gang were caught redhanded in their cattle-lifting deals and were locked up securely in jail. Eight of them were under lock and key, and the farmers were contented to let the law take its course.

"About that time a man who had been suspected of belonging to the gang, but whose connection with it could not be proved, killed his wife in cold blood. He was a brutal fellow, was known to have treated his children badly, and there was considerable feeling against him in the community. It was generally believed that he killed his wife because she remonstrated with him about his evil ways. At any rate, he brained her one night with an axe, and the whole surrounding country was aroused.

"The man was arrested by the sheriff and taken to the county jail.

"Shortly after dark the mob began to form. The word was passed that the fellow would be lynched that night, and a large and determined crowd turned out to punish the brute. Feeling was also high on account of his supposed connection with the gang of horse thieves.

"The mob swelled to a crowd of several hundred. At dark it marched down to the jail and demanded the keys of the jailer. He could not offer any resistance, and they were turned over to the leaders of the crowd. The mob swarmed into the building, and pretty soon located the cell of the wife murderer. The jailer supposed that the murderer would be the only one molested, but the crowd held other views. The eight cattle thieves were in the same part of the building. They were a badly frightened lot of men.

"The mob burst the doors of the cages and dragged the cattle stealers out into the corridor. The wife murderer was the first one shot. They threw his body to one side and started in on the others.

"There was a crazy 'trusty' in the jail at the time. He held a flaming lantern while the mob dragged first one and then another cattle thief from his hiding place and shot him. All the time the bloody work was going on by the one flickering light the insane 'trusty' screamed, 'Kill 'em, kill 'em!' in an idiotic way that was dramatic in the extreme. The crowd did 'kill 'em.' Every one of the nine men was shot or stabbed to death with a bowie. I witnessed the sight, though I took no part in it. It was a scene I shall never forget.

"Nothing was ever done about it. Public sympathy was with the mob, for the horse thieves had been costing the people of that part of the country thousands of dollars a year."

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Miss Phelps, of Cleveland, Ohio, who is Senator Hanna's niece, is registered at the Arlington, and yesterday leased the old Hobart mansion for the season. Senator Hanna will arrive in the city on Monday, when the house has been renovated.

All Called Taku.

(From the London Chronicle.)

"What's in a name?" At Taku the other day two British destroyers, the Fame and the Whiting, captured four Chinese destroyers. One each was given to France, Germany, and Russia. These have now been renamed. The French one is called Taku—"in honor of a glorious epoch in the French marine." The Russian one is called Taku—"to commemorate a great Russian naval victory." The German one bears the name Taku—"in never-to-be-forgotten memory of this all convincing proof that Germany's future is on the seas," and, finally, Taku is the name of the one kept by the British navy, because "it's as handy a name as any other, and there's a gap at 'Ta' in the signal book."

Ghouls of Law Courts.

(From the Buffalo Commercial.)

The ghoulish lawyers who hung around the victims of an accident like so many hyenas over a new-made grave are not to be shamed into decency by indignant bar associations. The surest and most effectual remedy against suits brought by such lawyers against corporations for damages or to break a will or upon some trumped up libel suit against newspapers is to have courts refuse to entertain any such suits unless ample bonds are given by the plaintiffs to pay all costs and indemnity the defendants in the event of the suits being unsuccessful.

Immigration From Southern Europe.

(From a New York Letter.)

There is a frightful rush at the barge office. So many shiploads of immigrants are being unloaded every day that the inspectors have the headache trying to keep the statistics. If the boom continues there will be more immigrants received during the current fiscal year than at any time since 1892, over 450,000 being registered. The present increase comes from Southern Europe, especially Italy. A railroad official says the immigrant traffic on Western lines is double what it was a year ago. There is less tendency to herd in the large cities.

Otherwise Engaged.

(From the Philadelphia Ledger.)

President Kruger's mission in Europe is now said to be to stir up the moral sentiment of the world to induce Great Britain to be lenient with the Boers. But the moral sentiment of the leading nations is so much occupied with their own affairs in China, Africa, the Philippines, and elsewhere that it does not seem as if they could spare enough to exert much pressure in his behalf.

A YEAR'S WORK REVIEWED.

Secretary Wilson Submits Annual Report of His Department.

James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, yesterday submitted his annual report to the President for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1900.

Mr. Wilson emphasizes the manner in which this Department differs from others. He says its appropriations should be regarded as an investment, for the reason that it makes direct returns therefor by adding to the wealth of the country, thus adding yearly largely to the profits of the farmers and others as the result of its investigations. He instances as money-saving or money-making agencies the Weather Bureau; the meat inspection; the pathological investigations of plants; the services of the Entomologist; the services of the Department on behalf of the sugar and tea industries, of the orange industry, which owes its beginning and its preservation to this Department, of the tobacco industry, and others.

Important extensions of the Weather Bureau work have been made during the past year. Its efforts were specially directed to investigate methods of electrical communication without wires, with a view to establishing wireless electrical communication between vessels at sea and exposed points on our lake and sea coast. New appliances have been devised and receivers constructed more delicate than any heretofore made. Already messages have been successfully transmitted and received over sixty miles of land presenting a rough and irregular surface, and it is believed that the efficiency thus indicated would operate successfully over several hundred miles of water.

Special storm forecasts for the North Atlantic will be undertaken shortly through the use of reports received from the West Indies, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the Azores, and Portugal, the new cable system connecting Lisbon with New York via the Azores making this possible. Much stress is laid upon the continued improvement of the forecast service and the value of its warnings. He points out that, notwithstanding the great number of craft plying the Gulf of Mexico at the time of the Galveston storm the warnings were so timely that there was no disaster upon the open waters.

The number of abattoirs and packing houses receiving the benefit of inspection was 148 in 45 localities, as against 138 in 41 localities the preceding year. The total antemortem inspections of cattle aggregated 53,087,994; animals rejected, subject to postmortem, at abattoirs, 5,958; and in stock yards, 153,561. The total post-mortem inspections were 34,737,613, and the total carcasses condemned, 61,906. In the microscopic inspection of pork 999,554 carcasses were examined. Of these but 19,448, or 1.95 per cent, were found to contain living trichinae. The total cost of inspection was but a few dollars over $700,000. Of vessels inspected by officers of the bureau, 862 received clearances. Of the cattle shipped across the Atlantic, the loss amounted to but .24 per cent; of sheep, .71 per cent, and of horses, 2.55 per cent. It is interesting to note the great increase in the number of horses exported. Of these, over 29,000 were landed from American ports at London, Liverpool, and Glasgow.

Experimental shipments of dairy products are still continued, and shipments of butter have been extended to Cuba and Porto Rico. The department is seeking to obtain information useful to butter exporters in canning butter and producing butter especially adapted to shipment to warm countries. Some countries sending butter to these markets show a disposition to adapt their products to the needs of those countries, which is an example our producers must follow if they are to compete successfully with them. The Secretary earnestly recommends an inspection of dairy products designed for export.

Elaborate work in the investigation of food adulteration has been continued. Over 500 samples of preserved meats of all kinds, purchased in open market, have been examined. The meat of the horse has been examined for the discovery of a method whereby it may be detected when sold under another name. Very little of it seems to be sold in the United States, whether under its own name or any other name. Active co-operation has been had with other bodies, notably the Pure Food Congress, in an effort to secure legislation on the subject of food adulterations. National legislation on the subject is urged as essential to supplement and make efficient the work done in the several States. The sugar beet work has been prosecuted with vigor and intelligence. Foreign food products introduced into this country have been the subject of careful study. The results are confidential and are used for the information of the authorities of this country controlling imported food products. Co-operation of the Chief Chemist has been invited in several other directions and always cheerfully extended. So, also, there has been co-operation with the other divisions of the Department where chemical work has been necessary.

The Secretary reviews at considerable length the work of the experiment stations first established in this country twenty-five years ago. Until 1887, the date of the Hatch act, stations had been established in only fourteen States. Under this act the enterprise was extended to cover the entire country, and the great success which, on the whole, has attended the establishment of the stations in all the States and Territories is very remarkable. Including the $720,000 received from the National Government, the total revenues of the stations during the year amounted to $1,200,000. The stations now employ nearly 700 persons, and in 1899 their publications aggregated 445 reports and bulletins