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The circulation of The Times for the week ended December 29, 1900, was as follows: Sunday, December 24, 29,480 Monday, December 25, 29,100 Tuesday, December 26, 29,100 Wednesday, December 27, 29,521 Thursday, December 28, 29,521 Friday, December 29, 29,521 Saturday, December 29, 29,521 Total 219,481 Daily average (Sunday, 29,480, excepted), 58,332

The Nineteenth Century. Although the great underlying forces which make for the world's progress take no account of time, and there is no more measuring of events by centuries than there is an up or down in infinite space, yet historians can trace the course of certain movements which seem to be identified with certain eras.

The spirit of nationality, of patriotism, was by its time as far over the world, and Russia, the great, sluggish half-Oriental power of Eastern Europe, felt it. The result of that was twofold—the emancipation of the serfs and the formation of the nihilist party. What the nihilist, the nihilist, the lover of freedom and of individualism, with the emancipated serf remains to be seen. Russia is the unanswerable problem which the nineteenth century hands over to the twentieth.

The Spanish-American war proved the touchstone of American union. It proved that the American spirit was stronger than that of North or South. There were rumblers here and there, but they were the minority. The North honored Schley, Wheeler, and Lee, as Dewey, Sigsbee, and Chaffee were honored in the South. Moreover, the problems which have been forced upon us by this war are of a nature to call out all the wisdom and patriotism of the people. The fight between the trusts and the people, in 1900, showed the growing ability of the democracy to deal with general questions. There has, perhaps, never been a time when seventy-six millions of people have attempted to settle abstract problems of government till the last quarter of the nineteenth century began.

The century began with a struggle far greater in scope and intensity, but of essentially the same nature. It was the re-creating of the map of Europe by the unifying force of Napoleon's colonial policy. The greatest military genius in all history, seen in the light of the present, to have set himself to discover what one man could do to change the course of international affairs in Europe. The result was magnificent, unprecedented, appalling. He had nations by the throat. The fate of nations seemed to hang on the will of one man. Some dim intuition of the real source of his power made him call himself the Man of Destiny. Then it was proved in the history of Europe dependent, not on Napoleon, but on the man who could do, but it was not enough. He alone could not force an artificial unity for which the world was not ready.

With the present power of a colossal mind, however, he had perceived that unity was possible; he had laid hold on the underlying forces which reconcile far-flung interests, and so far as he did this, he was successful. When destiny deserted him—that is, when he attempted the impossible—he failed. On the other side of the world, the Republic which was then in its infancy, the same experiment was under way, with a totally different method. Here we see the thirteen colonies of America, calling themselves the United States, increasing, gathering colony after colony, of French, Spanish, or English extraction, under the flag, which, like the French tricolor, meant liberty, fraternity, equality. Even in the earliest years of the nineteenth century we thus indicated, clearly and strongly, the tendency toward unity, toward breaking down the barriers of separation, which has been characteristic of nearly every great epoch-making movement of the last hundred years. The eighteenth century set up caste lines, separated, defined, laid stress upon small things. Just at the close of it the reaction came, appearing, as such emotional epidemics do, in three or four countries at nearly the same time. In France it came in the revolution; in America it gave birth to the Declaration of Independence; in England, the reaction manifested itself mainly in literature, and the artificial verse of Pope and Dryden was swept away on a wave of romanticism which Scott, Burns, and afterward Byron, were the exponents.

It must be borne in mind that all world-movements are subject to reactionary influence. It would seem that no good thing is suffered to be lost, and that no matter how fierce and complete may have been the revolution, if there is any feature of the old regime which is wise and good, the people will retain it, and drift back to it, till it sometimes seems as if the revolution was in vain. So, after Napoleon, came the swift changes, which found a climax in the luxury and splendor of the Second Empire. Romanticism, chivalry and aristocracy refused to be crushed out; the people of France would have none of a regime which reduced them all to plain "citizens" and clung to their aristocrats as the Highlander sticks to his laird.

The second great war of the nineteenth century was the Crimean war. There was a unifying force in that also. It made England one, uniting Jacobite and Puritan, Scotch and English and Irish, and they never had been quite united before. Moreover, it made plain the fact that there are, broadly speaking, two great forces in Europe, Italy pitted against each other, the one from England and Russia, the other from France and Prussia.

Close after this came our own war between the North and South, and here, beyond doubt, was a trial between two civilizations, for the Northern and Southern States were so more alike in their customs, traditions, and ideals than if they had been separated by the Atlantic Ocean. The whole civilized world was in doubt for a time whether two sections so doubly at

variance, as it seemed, could possibly be made one. If their unity had depended upon any one man, perhaps it could not have been done. No superficial bonds could have held them together. The fact that this was a war of the people, on both sides, was the saving point. The men of both armies were thinking over the problem, albeit from opposite points of view. They had been taught from childhood that it was their business to think, to have opinions, to know why they adhered to one or the other party. Had they been mere peasants, guided by blind prejudice and emotion, there never could have been an American people, but the country must have been divided, first on the question of slavery, and then, perhaps, on other questions. The war of 1860-'65 proved not only that the tendency of the age was toward unity, but that the intelligence of the whole people is the only true basis for that unity.

Meanwhile, in Europe, another unifying process was going on, under Bismarck. He had different material to deal with from that encountered by Lincoln or Napoleon, but he had the German people to mold into one, and his method was suited to their character because he himself was one of them. He made Germany, by arousing the two emotions latent in the German heart—love of the soil, and respect for authority. He became "the man of blood and iron"—simple, straightforward, undeviating, inflexible, a Crusader under the coat of a diplomat.

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should be confessed, there is a tendency to shoddy and imitation. People will read good books—or selected pieces of them—because they think it is the proper thing to do, not because they are genuinely interested. This is bad, as shams always are, but perhaps it is not worse to be interested in imitation literature than in imitation jewelry, and the poor, in mind or purse, are apt to prefer the sham to the real, for a time.

The fact remains, however, that there are at present absolutely no bounds to literary knowledge. The translation from the Veda or the Japanese poet is side by side with the latest English or American novel upon the shelves of the libraries. The writer of dialect stories, who observes and records truly the life of the poorest and most ignorant, is as welcome to the great public as the romantic novelist. Most important of all, there runs through all fiction and history, as well as through the avowedly ethical works of the century, an undercurrent of serious thought. Little is accepted without questioning; conventions are no longer held to be the serious things of life; the age is interested in human life for its own sake, whether it be a beggar or a prince who is the subject of poem or story. In short, humanity is outgrowing its fairy tales and looking at things as they are, not as they might, should, would, or should be if the reader had his wish.

Akin to literary progress is that of ethics, and the Parliament of Religions was as strong a proof as could be adduced of the unifying tendency there. The conviction is steadily growing, in the minds of thinking people, that the old fables of dogma and creed are not worth repairing, that there are a few broad principles, common to all religions, upon which the human mind may rest in its search for God. The customs of a people are the outgrowth of their nature, and of the climatic, political, and social conditions which have helped to shape that nature; their religion is inevitably colored and perhaps deformed by these. This does not prove that the people have no religion, but that the people have a religion, not in vain, and in the New Testament.

"If ye will do my will, ye shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether it be of man." If a people fail to obey the great laws which make for intellectual, moral and religious progress, they will not know of the doctrine, for it will be obscured by conventions and traditions which have grown up through their indolence in selfish desires. The tendency of the nineteenth century has been, most rightly, to sweep away these conventions and search for the truth. There is no need of founding a new religion; it has been said there are too many creeds already. Let us see what is true in the old religions, and try to worship the same God.

The close of the nineteenth century, therefore, leaves the world with fewer separating traditions, conventions, political divisions, and castes, than ever before. By one of the paradoxes which are eternally occurring in the course of human events, the complexity of material things has tended toward simplicity in human life, since each class is more and more necessary to every other class. We need not fear that this simplicity will create a dead level of sameness. In the true democracy, individuality has more room than anywhere else, since each individual is honored for what he is, not for his conformity to the traditions of a class. There is more individuality in this century than in any other, though we are far from the ideal of democratic government, than there can be in any land of aristocratic traditions.

China is a fair example. How much individuality is there in a group of coolies? Undoubtedly there is more than the coolies have room to show. The life of each one has room to develop in all its fullness, when he regards conformity to some one's else ideal as his first duty in life? There will always be some horrid leaders and some followers, some who are instinctive hermits, some who are saints, and some who are criminals; the end to be sought is a system which shall allow such full and natural development of the character of each that he will be of the utmost possible use to the community, and that he will do no harm to himself, and not be regarded in a whole class of his kind. The eighteenth century played the game of artificiality to its end; it left the world ready to accept a new ideal, that of character in place of position. For a hundred years the most advanced thinkers and men of action in Europe and America have been studying this world-lesson. It remains to be seen what the leaders, and the people, of the new century will make of it.

America in 1901. On an occasion like the present one it is proper to "allow a little something for the learning of the court." It is quite unnecessary to recite the details of the history of a century which, beginning with the advent of Thomas Jefferson to the Presidency of the United States, has included great achievements, great disasters, great reforms, most prosperity, compared with much misery, and ends with the establishment of a new economic order, the consequences of which, to the poor, standards, and institutions handed down to us by our fathers, it would be impossible to predict.

It is not our province today to predict. On the first day of the twentieth century, we are in no position to speak of the future, save an experience and the history of mankind may furnish us with grounds for holding that events which inevitably have been produced by causes in the past, will operate in the same way hereafter. It would be commonplace to say that history repeats itself. Almost everybody in America knows that, and calmly goes on, satisfied that the United States is an exception to the rule.

Let us leave pessimism, if pessimism be justified, to future consideration. Rather it is desirable now to recall growth and triumphs which spring from the lap of adversity, and which, during the greater part of the nineteenth century, in America, have fed the lamp of progress and human rights, and kept alive the heartstone fire of political liberty and opportunity for all citizens. In the year of grace 1802, Spain held Florida, France was in possession of the indeterminate Province of Louisiana and of New Orleans, and Spain again had claims to the western part of the Mississippi. That great fever was a bar to our western progress, and its free navigation, even, was not ours. Even our future chance to use New Orleans as a port of deposit was in doubt. Practically, we were shut in between the Atlantic and the Alleghenies, with a hostile Indian country between the greater part of the Union and the Father of Waters, and our hardy western pioneers shut off from the Gulf of Mexico by hostile or obstructive sav-

erignty between them and the open water. What a situation was that! Our statesmen were willing to concede almost anything for the free navigation of the Mississippi and our right to its eastern shore. All we asked in addition was a port near the mouth of the river. Europe may have thought that Napoleon Bonaparte was another special Providence. As First Consul, he had the acumen to recognize the truth that, in his struggle with the British power, policy demanded that he should encourage the commercial and maritime growth of the young Republic, that it might become an economic rival to his enemy. So, when we applied to him to cede us a patch of ground on the lower Mississippi, he quickly decided to give us the whole Province of Louisiana, and we accepted, enabled the United States to become not a segregated state in States of America, but a continental power, in the course of time to become a world power.

Thus, for the second time in our history as a nation, we owed to France the chance to become the State we are at the close of the nineteenth century. On such an occasion as the present we as a people should feel that we are at the confessional. Many things have happened since 1801 to make us feel a sense of exasperation toward France. We were asked to join in the French crusade against Europe in compliance with the Treaty of Alliance which we had made with Louis XVI, to whose personal interference we owed our independence. Justly, the American Congress decided that conditions had so changed that we could not be bound by a convention whose foundation and legitimate objects had been swept away by the course of events. It would have been better if, in recent years, the Senate and our friends, as now, and, for anything we can see will be to the future, had been in compliance with the Treaty of Alliance which we had made with Louis XVI, to whose personal interference we owed our independence. Justly, the American Congress decided that conditions had so changed that we could not be bound by a convention whose foundation and legitimate objects had been swept away by the course of events. It would have been better if, in recent years, the Senate and our friends, as now, and, for anything we can see will be to the future, had been in compliance with the Treaty of Alliance which we had made with Louis XVI, to whose personal interference we owed our independence.

Nevertheless, and although later we had the mortification of seeing Napoleon III take advantage of our civil war to effect a lodgment on our continent, with the unacknowledged intention of establishing in America a new State under French auspices if not control, to be composed of the seceded Southern States and the State of Mexico, it is due to the French people to say that they have ever been our friends, and, for anything we can see will be to the future, had been in compliance with the Treaty of Alliance which we had made with Louis XVI, to whose personal interference we owed our independence. Justly, the American Congress decided that conditions had so changed that we could not be bound by a convention whose foundation and legitimate objects had been swept away by the course of events. It would have been better if, in recent years, the Senate and our friends, as now, and, for anything we can see will be to the future, had been in compliance with the Treaty of Alliance which we had made with Louis XVI, to whose personal interference we owed our independence.

Feelers are being thrown out through Administration organs which go to indicate a serious intention to withdraw our legation guard at Peking if the country will stand it. The Chinese Legation, which has demonstrated the possession of great influence at the State Department during the troubles in China, is pressing for American withdrawal, and Russia would be pleased to have such a precedent established. The Administration excuse will be that the few hundred troops under Chaffee in Peking are needed in the Philippines; but we can hardly credit that. The Taft Commission assured us long ago that within sixty days after Mr. McKinley's re-election there would not be a rebel in arms against this Government in the whole archipelago!

The infant industry of kidnapping has been introduced in the expiring days of the nineteenth century, to become an abuse, perhaps, in the twentieth. Unless it shall be treated as a trust and an octopus at the start it seems likely to thrive, and, if we are not careful, it will have a lobby at the next Congress, demanding the protection to which it is quite as much entitled as some which are engaged in starving the helpless and hopeless people of Porto Rico to death on this, the first day of the year, and of the century.

Lord Kitchener need not feel so lonesome after all! Alejandro has broken through the cord that Fred Grant drew around him at Mount Arayat in Luzon, and is again just as ready to be pursued as the Wet is in South Africa. It is hard luck that both England and we are having with our boys.

No doubt it is true that the failures on the London Stock Exchange, affecting as they do only Australian and other colonial interests, do not necessarily trouble Wall Street. At the same time it is worth considering that any serious liquidation in England, such as may happen in consequence, is quite likely to lead to a general dumping of our securities. That presumption will not conduce to high prices on this side. There is a great deal of McKinley prosperity in America, but it is questionable if it is great enough to stand a possible strain.

Alas! we shall hear nothing more of the "in de steek!" Its tail fin wagged its last wag last midnight. Our Promise to Cuba. In view of the timely consoling purpose of the present demagogic policy of the Administration toward Cuba, the Democratic Congress should promptly and emphatically affirm themselves in favor of keeping our promises to Cuba. This we owe to the Cubans, who have trusted us, and to the rest of the world as an evidence that we are not a nation of second-rate and second-class breakers. The sooner Congress is compelled to declare its position on this subject the sooner will we clear ourselves of the imputation of having interfered between Spain and the rebellious Cubans from motives of contempt and not of humanity.

The Concert of High Tax Devotees. Because the people of the United States have neglected natural resources, and because they produce twice as much as they can consume, and must therefore find a market for their own surplus, the concerted protectionists point to our swelling exports as a proof that the free trade theory is demolished. They are wrong. The same market theory is demolished and free trade vindicated in spite of self-carried barriers. Because of our natural advantages we are comparing our way in foreign markets, and only denying to our own consumers the full share of the benefits of competitive trade.

Hanna and the Senate. It must not be forgotten that the Senate is a very sensitive body. Its conception of dignity may not be very high, but it is very real. The Senate expects that those who ask favors of it shall approach it as suitors, not as persons having a right to demand that a thing shall be done. A Senator is not a Senator if he shall cover with the decencies veil of formality for such cases made and provided, the real political motive that impels his argument. Senator Hanna, a frank, straightforward man, who knows what he wants and asks for it, is a great respecter of senatorial dignity, which he apparently thinks is not "business." He is not sensitive himself, and he does not think much of those who are. That is not his forte, and, consequently, he invokes resistance by the very action that he thinks all seem to commend.

logs, when taken into consideration with the determination of our present ruling element to place the proposed American inter-oceanic canal under British control, while they do not make us "despair of the Republic," do make us feel on the first day of the twentieth century that a revival of American patriotism is necessary to save the liberty and institutions for which our fathers fought in the eighteenth century.

In 1801 we had a Constitution so sacred that the idea of violating its provisions, its mandates, or its prohibitions was supposed impossible to any American. In the last years preceding the epoch beginning with 1801 we have witnessed the defiance of that Constitution by a combination in the popular branch of Congress. We have seen the fundamental law of our land spurned and spat upon by the Executive and the Legislature in the erection of a vassal state in Porto Rico. We have seen executive war made without reference to the constitutional war-making power; and we have seen grinding private monopoly erected upon a people who have all the rights of American citizens to free competition in trade, and to opportunity in the struggle of life.

Yet we do not "despair of the Republic." There are yet left the seeds of the old Yankee spirit which has made for and won liberty in the past. The material advance of our country from its infant state in 1801 to its position as a world power in 1901 is the accomplishment of the American masses. They have not, or a majority of them have not, reaped the reward which for several decades has been increasingly absorbed by the few; but the new century in its course may mark a radical divergence from the current rule. The people of the next generation may, and we hope will, regain something of the industrial—the individual— independence which was theirs in the opening year of the century and the end of its sixth decade.

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RHODE ISLAND'S NEW CAPITOL. Dedication of the Partly Completed Building Today.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 31.—Tomorrow the new Rhode Island State Capitol, familiarly known as the "marble palace," will be formally dedicated, receiving for the first time the Governor and other officials of the State Government and both branches of the Legislature. There will be no formal dedication at this time, because the big structure is not yet completed, and has not been turned over to the architects, McKim, Mead & White, of New York, to the State. The formal exercises, and the State Capitol will be opened from now, when the terrace is finished and the seventeen acres of ground have been graded and beautified.

Ground was broken for the Capitol September 16, 1896, and the cornerstone was laid October 15, 1896. Up to date about \$2,300,000 has been expended on the building and grounds, and the State is authorized on the 6th of last month the expenditure of \$700,000 more to complete the undertaking. The Capitol is 333 feet long and 120 feet wide, and is built with two long wings and a well-proportioned dome towering, with the statue of the "Independent Man" upon it, 235 feet from the ground. It features above its high-grade mark, this dome, like the rest of the building, is of solid blocks of marble, and it is said to be the only one so constructed outside of Italy. It has been said by critics that there is no State capital in the United States of such fine architectural proportions.

The exercises tomorrow will be of general interest in several ways. The meeting of the Legislature, in the new building, marks the abandonment of Newport as a capital of the State, so that hereafter there will not be two capitals. The exercises, except, as some one has facetiously said, "When you write it." There was a time when the Legislature met in all five of the counties, and even now, when the vote is cast every four years, in accordance with law, at Bristol. The constitutional amendment, adopted November 6, provides for annual sessions of the Legislature, and limits this to sixty days, beginning in January, at its previous session. Hereafter there has been a January session in this city. May session, together with the city by the parade and inauguration, at the city by the sea.

Tomorrow Governor Gregory will be escorted to the Capitol at 11 m. by the First Light Infantry. There will be simple exercises in the chamber of the House of Representatives, including an address by Representative John H. Stone, of the Supreme Court. Bishop McVieker will invoke the divine blessing in the Senate, and President Francis, of Brown, in the House. The officers of the Supreme Court, William Sprague, to Rhode Island, and other guests, are present, arrayed for the first time in gowns, and all the ex-Governors of the State, from the War Governor, William Sprague, to Elias Dyer, the last incumbent, have been invited to attend.

CONDITIONS IN THE WEST. Business Transactions Not So Large Last Year as in 1899. CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 31.—The year 1900 was not so favorable for business interests here as that of 1899. Considering the fact, however, that it was a Presidential year, it has been a remarkable one. There has been general prosperity throughout the agricultural regions, and the farmers have been more independent than ever and held their grain back, selling mostly on the advance. The purchasing power of the consuming classes has been the best in years, and the volume of trade has been unusually large. The volume of trade here does not show as large a gain as in 1899. The increase in jobbing sales is \$3,000,000. The increase in retail sales is \$1,200,000,000. Manufacturing in the Chicago district aggregated \$225,000,000.

Bank clearings for the year are the largest on record, \$6,790,245,598, compared with \$6,612,318,600 in 1899. Business on the Chicago Stock Exchange is smaller, notwithstanding the activity in New York. The tendency of the year has been toward a merchandising of grain by the elevator interests, but the business here has made small gains. Receipts of flour and meal for 1900 were 10,000,000 bushels, an increase of 9 per cent. Receipts of grain alone were 307,726,000 bushels, the largest in years, an increase of 4.6 per cent. The shipments of flour and grain were 265,432,000 bushels, an increase of 7.7 per cent. Shipments of grain were 272,265,000 bushels, an increase of 4.6 per cent.

Prospects for 1901 are bright for all kinds of business. Manufacturers are well filled for orders for several months. Jobbers have many orders on hand, and look as a year ago. Prices have had a good decline. Collections are good and failures few.

NEW ENGLAND'S PROSPECTS. Bright Promise at Many Points for the New Year. BOSTON, Dec. 31.—Boston looks forward to an active year during 1901, and with reason. The statistics of clearing-house exchanges, not only in Boston, but throughout New England, show a very healthy volume of business. In so far as stock and bond markets are concerned, this indication of solid improvement might be less valuable were it not for the strong undertone shown in the manufacturing centers. Fall River, Lowell, and Bedford, Lawrence, Lynn, and Brockton send uniformly favorable reports of expected great volume of profitable trade. In Boston, the market for securities has been somewhat narrow up to the present. The market has never yet recovered fully from the upheaval caused by the Globe Bank collapse of a year ago, and it has been hard to start anything like a boom in copper shares, which are about the only specialties left for this city to get up a speculative craze in. In other respects, the situation is clear; there are now no mutterings of trouble, no signs of over-speculation, no insufficiently margined accounts, and the market is in a most encouraging wholesale speculation. Security trading is in a stronger position in Boston than in many years—that much is certain. There is a heavy absorption here of choice investment securities, and steady appreciation in bonds formerly regarded as of second or third rank; also in many stocks.

So far as can be seen, the outlook for general trade in 1901 is most encouraging. There has been no over-production in staple goods, and the demand is all right, with every sign of staying. Business men talk favorably of conditions and outlook, and feel that the comparative immunity from a speculative craze is a decided element of strength, assuring permanence to present wholesome conditions.

EUROPE'S BUSINESS OUTLOOK. The Year 1900 Leaves France in a Strong Financial Position.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—Here in France the old year is closing and the new year opening with a reasonably strong financial position. The most striking feature of all is the continued plethora of money at the Bank of France, where 35,000,000 francs in gold have been received in the past seven weeks, and where the year's total additions to the institution's stock of gold have been no less than 467,000,000. This extraordinary increase in the general soundness of our markets are a result, not altogether of the Exposition, but also of a cause which is likely to endure—namely, the aversion recently displayed by French capital for outside industrial investments, especially Russian, and for the mechanical traction enterprises so popularly before the eyes of the speculative and speculative of immediate returns.

The South African war has lowered the rate for London exchange 24 centimes in a single week, and the rate has not advanced since the Baring crisis. France is not likely to withdraw its large credits from London, which is reassuring for that market. Maligne caution is noticeable in all French operations. The great credits societies entrusted with the chief part of French savings favor only the ultra-secure investments, mainly in bonds with a fixed rate of interest.

The chief worry of Paris is the indifferent prospect of Spanish exterior bonds, over which the many French holders are greatly exercised, particularly since the threats in the Cortes not only to impose a 20 per cent tax, but also to pay coupons in pesetas instead of gold. Yet receipts of the Spanish treasury for the year 1900 show a surplus of 1,000,000,000 pesetas, which had extraordinary resources in the twenty-five millions paid by Germany for the Carlistes.

A strong increase in the customs receipts of Portugal gives new hope to the holders of that nation's debt. The pledged tobacco monopoly is to hold good, in spite of disquieting rumors, for six more years. Italian finances are just now in a period of expansion, but the great credit situation really dangerous for the Germans. Unless the German trouble is soon allayed Germany will be even less able to meet the demands of the United States. The late uncertain condition of the two great Berlin banks, almost producing panic, will leave bad effects for many months to come. There is hope, however, that the agrarian tariff proposals which would have led to economic war with the United States are definitely shelved.

CONNECTICUT LAWMAKING. Forecasts of Measures to Go Before the Legislature. NEW HAVEN, Dec. 31.—No opposition has arisen to the candidacy of John H. Light, of Norwich, for Speaker of the House in the coming Legislature, which meets next Wednesday, and he has already begun to consider the membership of the committees. The Committee on Railroads will be even more important than usual at the coming session on account of the many conflicts between the steam and trolley companies and the promoters of trolley parallels. The prospect has considerably brightened for the steam companies, and the trolley companies are rival and conflicting trolley applicants for several of the most valuable extensions. Only by controlling the Senate does it seem possible to introduce any company can defer the application to extend the Fairfield branch over the gap of 313 feet at Granby North.

In insurance matters bills are expected aiming to harmonize the rights of brokers and agents, to repeal the 80 per cent co-insurance law, and to readjust taxation of the companies. In temperance a "limited license" bill is expected, which would regulate or prohibit Sunday golf, and to change the open season for woodcock, partridge, and quail to the two months between October 15 and December 15, are almost certain to be introduced. Among other general measures will be bills for prison and street railway commissions and for the preservation and care of public records. A committee of the Constitutional Reform Association has already begun the bills of that body, including the one for a constitutional convention.

The terms of Judges Baldwin and Hamowy, of the Superior Court, expire. The only one whose nomination is not doubtful is Judge W. Wheeler, a strong equity judge with an excellent record, but said to be opposed by certain corporations. The political scandals attending the presidential campaign are certain. At least one of the many interior judges of the State is pretty sure to be called to the attention of the General Assembly by a measure changing the method of appointment.

STATE LAW VS. TREATY. Interesting Will Case in the Federal Court of Nebraska. OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 31.—The laws of Nebraska are in open conflict in one particular at least with the treaty between the United States and the Republic of France. In the Federal Court here the American heirs to property are contending against the claims of Frenchmen who profess to be lawful legatees to some Nebraska property.

Several years ago a Frenchman came to the State of Nebraska and settled in Nebraska County. Farming prospered with him, and when he died he left a large estate and personal property to the value of about \$100,000. Several years before his death Louise Bize, a widow sister, with her son, came to her home and stayed in the capacity of housekeeper. At the time of her brother's death she entered into possession of the property and was appointed administratrix. In 1890 she was known except herself and son. Shortly after this letters were received from Louis Buhwaldt, another sister, who claimed to be the widow's daughter, and a claim to a portion of the estate. The case was filed in the United States Circuit Court and was defended by the American sister, who claimed to be the widow's daughter. The Nebraska statute, which cuts off from inheritance natural heirs who are aliens. The treaty between the United States and France provides that residents of one country shall be considered upon the same plane as citizens of the other in all matters relating to inheritance and property rights. The plaintiffs rely upon this treaty, while the attorneys for the defense contend that the treaty is necessarily modified by the laws of the several States, as the matter of the descent of property is one of the functions of government reserved to the States by the fundamental law of the land.