The Times

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Circulation Statement.

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Sunday, March 17	23,518
Monday, March 18	29,240
Tuesday, March 19	29,297
Wednesday, March 20	29,591
Thursday, March 21	29,743
Friday, March 22	29,669
Saturday, March 23	29,624
Total	201,631
Daily average (Sunday, 23,518, excepted)	29,583

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THE TIMES, in all its editions, Morning, Evening, and Sunday, will be sent to one address for FIFTY CENTS per month. Addresses changed as often as desired.

The Disfranchisement of Ignorance.

The tone of the Northern Republican press in relation to the passage, by the Legislature of Maryland, of a law disfranchising citizens unable to read is altogether partisan, illogical, and inexcusable. The Maryland law is timely, greatly needed, and in every way equal in its operation, equitable, and righteous. It starts a reform which we trust will sweep the country from end to end, and terminate the disgrace of a suffrage in every State of the Union exercised by a greater or less proportion of voters who have not the remotest idea of what they are voting for.

It is the disingenuous policy of our Northern Republican contemporaries to confuse the action of Maryland with that of North Carolina, Mississippi, and Louisiana, which States also have legislated to purge illiteracy from their voting masses, but in an entirely different way. Whatever might be said in criticism of these Commonwealths on ethical or constitutional grounds could not be made to apply to Maryland. That Commonwealth deserves the highest credit and praise for rescuing itself from conditions which have made its elections a mockery of universal suffrage. In its particular case, and that is the gravamen of the Republican resentment, Maryland has not only eliminated ignorance from the free ballot as far as her own inhabitants are concerned, but has taken an effective step in the direction of preventing the hitherto customary importation of temporary political colonists and repeaters from the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, which has been a scandal and an outrage for many years. Few if any of these criminals will be found available under the new law, for only in rare cases can persons with any education be induced to take the risks of detection and punishment involved in such penitentiary offences.

Instead of putting Maryland in the pillory for her just course, the intelligent public opinion of America will honor her, and, before long, follow her wise example. No one is injured by the restrictions imposed. If a citizen does not know how to read, he has only to go and learn. Surely the right to participate in the government of one of the greatest nations on the earth ought to be worth that small effort. And if the disfranchised illiterate is too lazy or too stupid to acquire so small a matter of education, that is sufficient evidence that he is not a fit person to exercise the suffrage. So that settles itself properly and automatically.

It is a shame to think that in many American localities the voice of citizens who know what they are about, and have earnest and enlightened views of affairs, policies, and administration, is neutralized by ignorant and often venal numbers who know nothing and care less concerning the effect of their votes upon the welfare of State or nation. We are not arguing for race or class distinction in the ballot. It matters nothing whether ignorance is represented in persons native born or naturalized—of American, English, Scotch, Irish, German, Scandinavian, Hungarian, Russian, Italian, French, Spanish, or African extraction. The man who cannot read the papers and inform himself personally in regard to public movements, events, and the politics of the day is morally not entitled to be one of the nation's electors and arbiters of its destiny.

New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco, and more places and districts in our component States from the Atlantic to the Pacific than could be remembered in a week, are in crying need of election laws like that of Maryland. The country generally has fallen into an evil habit of belittling the high and sacred right of suffrage. Many of those who ought to be the bulwarks of the nation, ignore their duty, and permit demagogues and bribers to have the political field to themselves. The excuse is that they cannot compete in primaries and ward meetings with organized ignorance under corrupt leadership. But were illiteracy once generally disfranchised, local politics would be a different matter. Then reputable citizens would feel that they had a chance, and would not shirk their responsibilities as, unhappily, they have shirked them in the past.

The results of such a reform throughout the land would be revolutionary. The Republican party would be certain to lose its standing in several States, which of late it has been in the habit of carrying with the help of illiterate voters and imported repeaters. But the effect upon American elections would be excellent and welcome. We can only trust that the day may soon come when not a vote shall be cast for President, Governor, or Representative in Congress which will not be cast by a citizen competent to judge of the cause or candidate receiving his support at the polls.

Obsolete Language.

It is said that while there is a strong movement in Ireland for the revival of the ancient Irish language, it is different in Wales. A poll taken at Cardiff on the question whether children should be taught Welsh in the schools resulted in a majority of 670 against it.

This suggests an interesting train of thought. With the changing conditions of the twentieth century it is becoming more and more evident that ancient languages and dialects are bound to lapse into oblivion, unless preserved in some artificial way. The question is whether it is worth while to try to preserve them.

The English language has practically absorbed many ancient tongues and varieties of patois. It has superseded, in every part of Great Britain, the dialects and languages once spoken by the inhabitants almost exclusively. The Gaelic, the Welsh, and the Irish languages were once commonly spoken in the Highlands, in Wales, and in Ireland, by nobles and by peasants alike. Nowadays there are many natives of these countries who do not understand the speech of their ancestors, and most of the people speak English, whether they know the ancient language of their habitat or not. Cornwall, Devon, Lancashire, and Yorkshire had each a dialect amounting almost to a separate language, in fact, it used to be said that Cornish was so much like Low Dutch that sailors from Holland, shipwrecked on the coast of Cornwall, made themselves understood without difficulty, speaking their native tongue. All these languages and dialects have so nearly passed away that the well-educated native of Great Britain prides himself on having not even an accent.

The same thing has, of course, happened on a much larger scale in this country. Practically all Americans speak that variety of the English language which some of them are fond of calling "United States." The German, the Irishman, the Frenchman, the Spaniard, the Russian, the Pole, the Hungarian, all drop their native speech as soon as possible and acquire the language of their new neighbors. They are forced thereto by commercial necessity. There is no way that they can make a living conveniently if they do not know English. When there is a large settlement of foreigners, all working people, they can get along without English, but the moment a man aspires to be well-to-do and more than ordinarily intelligent, he has to know the common speech of America.

There is no question that English is a most convenient and useful language for every-day life. The object of preserving Gaelic, Irish, and Welsh is purely esthetic. There are quaint, poetic, beautiful, or historic words and phrases in these and other like languages, which express certain things more picturesquely than one can express them in English—to those who understand. It is with these as with the Scotch dialect. To those who thoroughly understand and enjoy the speech of Burns and Scott, Scotch words and phrases are in some ways superior to English. Such words as "bonnie," "sonsie," "eldritch," express somehow or other a meaning which the corresponding English word does not.

The matter is, at all events, too large a one to be handled arbitrarily, or to be much affected by artificial devices. The chances are that it will be settled in the future much as it has been in the past. The English language has gathered from every source words whose usefulness or beauty commended them to writers or speakers. When a word has proved indispensable, it has not been given up, when it was made familiar to the people through some fashion it has remained in the language. Through medieval learning, Latin words were incorporated into all the European languages, by the thousand. Latin was the mother tongue of the educated man. He learned his English, French, or German from his mother or foster-mother; his Latin when the university, which he called his alma mater, gave birth to his intellectual life. It was, therefore, natural that he should in his speech and writing weld the two together.

On the other hand, there are quaint old-fashioned idioms which are floating about in this country today which have come down to us from the English, Scotch, or Irish peasant of the eleventh century; there are foreign-born words which are our heritage from sea-roving ancestors who brought back fragments of Spanish, Hindoo, or Cape Dutch as they brought back loot from seaports. Language is developed after the usual methods of evolution.

The Kaiser's Mysterious Speech.

At the present time Europe appears to be a seething pot full of trouble, and nothing of a violent nature that might happen anywhere on the Continent need cause the world any great degree of surprise. We know something of the conditions in Russia which, in spite of assurances, verbal and otherwise, may be more serious than the outside public is permitted to know. Again, there can be no doubt that Turkey is a hotbed of discontent and semi-revolution, which may become open insurrection at any moment. In Austria-Hungary the death of the aged Emperor, Franz Josef, it is acknowledged, will be the signal for the dissolution of the Empire. Underneath peaceful appearances in France, it is known that dangerous elements of discord are at work, and they may succeed in overthrowing the Government or even the Republic. Stranger things have happened.

We did not, however, dream that revolutionary conditions existed in Germany. The Kaiser's speech to the First Regiment of the Prussian Grenadier Guards on Thursday would appear to justify the belief that all is not as safe and snug in the social structure of the Fatherland as could be desired. The Kaiser said to the men, whose new barracks are near the imperial palace: "You, so to speak, are the bodyguard of the Prussian King, and must be ready, day or night, to stake your lives and spill your blood for your King." His Majesty added:

"If ever trying times should come again, such as those your regiment went through when the spirit of insurrection against the King rose in Berlin, then the bayonets of the Alexander Grenadiers will repel the loudest insurgents."

This language has excited a vast amount of comment both in Germany and other countries, and has given rise to many theories as to its meaning. Some European journals affect to treat it as a mere rhetorical flourish, but rhetorical flourishes are not characteristic of the Kaiser, who, while he may at times have a dramatic way of impressing his views upon his people and mankind generally, is usually found to have substantial grounds for his opinions and utterances. There are critics in Germany who say that the speech was an unnecessary and unjustifiable reflection upon the loyalty of the people of Berlin, but we hardly think that. It is most probable that the Emperor knows what he is talking about, and that he is forewarned of menaces and movements which are not within the ken of those not in the confidence of the Ministers of War and Police. At all events the effect will be to keep the world's eye on Germany for some time to come. No one can tell what may happen as a result of trade depression, the increasing cost of the necessaries of life, and the propaganda of the Socialists and Anarchist organizations.

The Panama Canal scheme has reappeared in a new form. This time the Colombian Government offers to give the United States control of any canal that may be constructed across the Isthmus of Panama, and to lease a strip of territory including the course of the ditch to us in perpetuity. As nothing is said in the offer about the Panama Canal Company, the supposition is that Colombia might expropriate its property and turn it over to our Government, in case Congress should decide against the Nicaragua route. But we do not fancy that there is much in that view of the case. The powers in control of the Administration and Congress will never consent to sacrifice the interests of the Panama syndicate jobbers.

The Funston problem is bothering the President and everybody else connected with the Administration. Mr. McKinley knows that public sentiment today demands that he give the gallant little Kansan a vacant brigadier generalship in the Regular Army. But the War Department—or rather the Adjutant General's Office—is reported to be violently opposed to recognizing him in any way. It is said that no telegram of congratulation has been sent to General MacArthur, and that, in a certain quarter, everything possible is being done to belittle Funston's exploit, and especially its value to the Government. In these circumstances, the Administration is true to its traditions. It waits to see whether national ardor for Funston will quiet down in a few weeks or still continue. Nothing is to be done at present. Aguinaldo's captor will not be rewarded if a way can be found to avoid it.

Our latest news from St. Petersburg yesterday afternoon contained the statement that Russia expects China to sign the Manchurian Convention next Monday or Tuesday. In the mean time Japan is understood to be sounding the Powers to see if she cannot secure alliances in her contemplated movement to check the Russian advance in northern China and Korea. If the convention should be ratified as predicted, next week ought to witness some interesting and sensational developments.

HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES ENDED.

Attorney General Griggs to Leave Washington This Morning.

Attorney General Griggs attended the meeting of the Cabinet yesterday for the last time as a member of the President's board of official advisers. He concluded his affairs at the Department of Justice yesterday afternoon and will leave Washington this morning for his home in Paterson, N. J. He will continue to be Attorney General until Sunday, however, when he finally retires from office. Solicitor General Richards will be acting Attorney General until Mr. Griggs' successor qualifies. It is expected that Mr. Knox will be here in about a week to assume charge of the department.

Upon his return to the Department of Justice, from the Cabinet meeting yesterday, Mr. Griggs was presented with a handsome silver vase by his corps of assistants and the employes of the department. The presentation was made by Solicitor General Richards, who expressed the regret of his associates over the retirement of their chief and wished him every success in his return to the practice of law.

Upon one panel of the vase is the engraved inscription: "Presented to John William Griggs, on his retirement from the office of Attorney General of the United States, March 29, 1901. Qui pro domina justitia sequitur." On the other side is the Attorney General's monogram.

Mr. Griggs replied in an appropriate speech expressing his thanks for the remembrance. He spoke of the loyalty and faithfulness with which each assistant and employe of the department had discharged his duty, and declared his deep regret at parting with so pleasant a company of co-workers.

A. K. M'CLURE RESIGNS.

He Announces His Retirement From the "Philadelphia Times."

PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—Col. Alexander K. McClure, who has been at the head of the editorial department of the "Times" since its organization, announced his retirement today. His valedictory reads:

"With this issue of the 'Times' my connection with the editorial staff of the paper ceases. It is not my wish or purpose to retire from journalistic labors, but under existing conditions the responsible editorial direction of the 'Times' should be in other hands.

"A. K. M'CLURE."

In an editorial Mr. McClure's ability and the value of his services are commended and it is then stated:

"Mr. McClure's retirement makes no change in the general direction of the 'Times.' It gives occasion to repeat distinctly its determined allegiance to the doctrines and policies of the Democratic party and its association to present Republican tendencies and encroachments on the people's rights."

It is said here that Mr. McClure's retirement was due to the fact that those in control desired the expressions of the editorial page to be more openly and uncompromisingly Democratic and that he was not in accord with that policy.

FLAGS FOR PORTO RICO.

Several Hundred Contracted for in Chicago With Rush Orders.

CHICAGO, March 29.—Several hundred American flags have been contracted for in Chicago, with "rush orders" so that on July 4 the red, white and blue may flutter from every schoolhouse in Porto Rico, teaching the lesson of Independence Day in the island.

The plans of the Government are that by the end of the year the flag will be as familiar a sight in towns and villages of the Philippines.

The order of the Government calls for flags of all sizes—small ones that school children can wave, and large flags to float from flagstaffs and building roofs over the head of marching troops and citizens on the day they are learning to celebrate. Each schoolhouse will have a complete outfit of national flags. There will be provided flags for the pupils, a flag to drape above the teacher's desk and a flag to flutter over the schoolhouse yard.

SALT MEN NOT ALARMED.

English Producers Not Afraid of American Competition.

LONDON, March 29.—The Salt Union is not alarmed by the threatened exportation to Great Britain and elsewhere of American salt. The officials say it is difficult to imagine how English prices can be cut by the Americans, because there is an endless natural supply in Cheshire, Worcestershire, and elsewhere.

The English exports to America were 77,000 tons in 1900, most of which was intended for the packing of meats. Freight rates to America are low and many vessels are glad to take salt to make their cargoes, but ships from the United States for England generally find plenty of cargo. It is not necessary for them to take salt as ballast, as, it is stated, the scheme of the American Salt Trust provides.

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.

(From the Philadelphia Record.)

One of two things President McKinley must certainly do. He must either recall his appointment of Civil Service Commissioner Rodenberg or take in his civil service sign.

FRUITS OF COUNTERFEITING.

Biennial House Cleaning of the Secret Service Officials.

The committee appointed by Secretary Gage to examine the stock of counterfeit money and counterfeiting materials and machines confiscated during the past two years by the United States Secret Service under Chief Wilkie has finished its labors and is at present engaged in compiling its report to be made to the Secretary of the Treasury. The committee was appointed to first make a careful inventory of the property in the hands of the Secret Service, and later to destroy all evidences of counterfeiting. The last destruction of counterfeiting implements and spurious coins took place two years ago. The work this year has been on a rather extensive scale, including as it does, the rich haul of materials captured from the well-known trio of counterfeiters Brockway, Ganzer, and Johnson. The list of contraband material includes $81,999 notes of various denominations, 54,647 coins, 894 pairs of metal molds, 123 steel dies, 690 pairs of plaster of paris molds, 182 steel, copper, and zinc plates; several tons of miscellaneous junk, such as advertising matter in the shape of Confederate notes, tools, implements, metal pots, ladles, molds, files, and lathes.

The counterfeit paper money was destroyed in the same manner as redeemed notes—in the Treasury macerator. The advertising matter in imitation of obligations of the United States, called "flash goods," was incinerated in the Treasury furnaces, and the coin, metal pots, tools, and other implements were taken to a foundry, where they were put into a blast furnace and, under the eyes of the Treasury Committee, were reduced to a nondescript mass of composite metal.

Counterfeit coin, as a rule, contains very little silver or gold, making it practically not worth the while to try to save it. Whenever contraband coin is discovered and it is found on examination to contain precious metal, this is taken out and turned over to the Treasury officials. All molds, dies, photographic outfits, and other implements had to go into the furnace.

It is very difficult to estimate how much the country gains by the activity of the Secret Service. The records of an average year show the discovery of about $40,000 in counterfeits, of which $10,000 in round numbers was confiscated by the Government before being passed. The remainder represents the actual measure of success of the counterfeiter. The ultimate loss fell upon banks and other business houses having relations with the sub-treasuries.

THE LOGAN MONUMENT.

Preparations for the Unveiling of the Statue on April 9.

Colonel Bingham, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, who has charge of the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of the Logan statue on April 9, has not yet finally completed all the arrangements for the exercises. It is probable two regiments of the District of Columbia National Guard and a light battery of artillery, of the United States Army, will escort the President from the White House to Iowa Circle. It is not now thought that any other regular troops will be available for the occasion. The patriotic bodies which will be present it is not expected will take part in the parade, but will assemble at the monument.

The ceremonies at the statue will commence at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. General Dodge will preside and will make a brief address at the opening of the exercises. The invocation will be offered by the Rev. Dr. Bristol. Mr. Tucker, a grandson of General Logan, will perform the duty of unveiling the statue. The President will deliver a short address, which will be followed by the oration of the day, delivered by Senator Depew. The ceremonies will close with the benediction.

From 300 to 500 invited guests will be present, and Colonel Bingham has already started to erect an open platform for their convenience, near the monument. The President and Cabinet and the usual officials have been invited, and lists of the family and personal friends of General Logan have been furnished by Mrs. Logan. Delegations will be present from the Society of the Army of the Tennessee and from the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, in both of which armies General Logan served during the civil war. The attendance of members of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Union Veteran Legion will be large.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WEST.

Arrangements Concluded for His Itinerary Through Washington.

Representative Jones of Washington was at the White House yesterday to make concluding arrangements for the President's itinerary through Washington. As now contemplated, the Presidential party will leave Portland, Ore., at 10:30 o'clock on the morning of May 2 and go direct to Olympia, the Washington State capital, where a stop of about thirty minutes will be made.

The distinguished tourists will then go to Tacoma and remain there over night. The next morning the party will take a trip on Puget Sound, stopping at Townsend, Everett, Bellingham Bay, and other points. Seattle will then be visited. On the third day stops will be made en route at Ellensburg, North Yakima, Walla Walla, and Spokane, where the President will spend the night and Sunday.

The following day the trip will be continued across the mountains into Montana.

THE CANCER GERM DISCOVERED

Announcement Made by a Buffalo University Professor.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 29.—At a special meeting of the faculty of the University of Buffalo last night, Prof. H. R. Gaylord announced his discovery that cancer is caused by an animal parasite which has been identified and isolated.

Prof. Gaylord has been investigating the cause of cancer for two years as head of the New York State Pathological Laboratory. He has inoculated animals with cancer germs and cancer afterward developed in the animals and cultures of these organisms have been injected into the abdominal cavities of other animals and were again recovered, having apparently grown in the serum of the animals.

It was the general sentiment of the physicians present that all that remains now is to discover an anti-toxin.

THE THORNTON'S FAST TIME.

More Than 28 Knots an Hour Under Bad Conditions.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 29.—The official standardizing screw trial of the torpedo boat Thornton took place today over the Barren Island course, in Chesapeake Bay. According to requirements, the boat should have attained a speed of 26 knots, but even under the unfavorable conditions of a heavy sea and high northwest wind a maximum of 28.2 knots was reached, with an average of 27.55 knots.

The two hours' official test will take place on Monday. The Thornton is a sister boat to the Stockton and the Shubrick.

The Knox Appointment.

(From the Philadelphia Times.)

It scarcely needed this selection to accentuate the close harmony between the Administration and the trusts. Mr. Hanna has now been taken formally into the great combine, and simultaneously it absorbs the Department of Justice. The Senate was annexed some time ago, and if Mr. Morgan sees anything else in the Government that he wants he will doubtless ask for it, and get it. The campaign fund ought to be easy of replenishment next time.

BRADSTREET'S ON THE WEEK.

A More Cheerful Tone Apparent in General Trade.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

"A rather more cheerful tone is apparent in general trade and the close of the first quarter of the year finds the business world contemplating a total trade for that period in many cases in excess of all preceding periods, while the future, with some few exceptions, is viewed with apparent confidence.

"The advance of the spring season is, of course, partly responsible for the feeling above mentioned, allowing as it does better opportunity for a wider range of operations than was possible in the winter months. First indications as to crop prospects and outlook are, in the main, favorable. Bank clearings are showing steady gains over unprecedentedly large totals a year ago.

"Railway earnings testify to an immense volume of merchandise passing into consumption and, as for some time past, the active demand at advancing prices for iron and steel is regarded as a reliable index of good general trade to come. Building is becoming more active, and promises this spring to be the heaviest for many years past.

"Hence the lumber trades and all lines of builders' hardware note continued or growing activity. Western trade advices are relatively most favorable. Southern trade advices are, of course, dominated by the slump in cotton. Birmingham reports the loss by the cyclone at $250,000, most of which was caused to residential property and the business community is not directly financially affected.

"Savannah reports that a gain of 10 per cent in cotton acreage is expected. Atlanta reports that the smallness of jobbers' stocks of cotton goods is a favorable feature. Fertilizer sales are much smaller and some orders have been cancelled. New Orleans reports special activity, confined almost entirely to hardware.

"Memphis reports an increased acreage in cotton and corn. On the Pacific Coast business is quite good. At New York cotton and woolens are quiet, but silks are in fair demand.

"Despite the feeling that after the long decline in prices a reaction was due, and in face of the apparent disposition on the part of some traders to regard this feeling as alone a reason for a turn upward, spot cotton is ⅛c lower on the week after some fluctuations.

"Cotton goods are weaker and the outlook is for curtailment of production of finished products. Good authorities at the South, however, do not think that any curtailment of cotton acreage from last year's aggregate is probable, although the recent drop will, it is thought, help to discourage planting of some land.

"In line with this are the reports that considerable orders for fertilizers have been canceled, but advices to Bradstreet's this week all indicate a larger acreage than last year, the same sections reaching as high as 10 per cent.

"Failures for the week number 189 as against 231 last week and 178 in this week a year ago. They probably number 895 for the month of March, an increase of 10 per cent over a year ago."

DUN'S REVIEW OF TRADE.

Cotton Goods Still a Weak Point in General Business.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Dun's weekly review of trade tomorrow will say:

"The condition of general business is in most respects satisfactory. The dry goods trade, and particularly the cotton division, is gloomy, with further reductions in prices of staple goods, this week, and demand failing to increase with the shading of quotations; but from every other department of business reports are cheerful, and the outlook for a good spring retail turn-over is encouraging.

"There is little difficulty over collections in any direction, and the mercantile demand for money from numerous quarters is proof of the confidence felt among manufacturers and jobbers. The labor situation is more tranquil. Mining differences in the soft coal region are settled, and sober counsels seem to have prevailed among anthracite miners.

"Railroad earnings in three weeks of March show an increase of 10.2 per cent over last year and 22.3 per cent over 1899. Bank clearings for the week at New York gained 40.4 per cent over 1900 and 22 per cent over 1899, while at leading cities outside New York the gain is 20.9 per cent over last year and 19.7 per cent over 1899.

"Aside from the expected advance in structural shapes there is comparative steadiness in iron and steel. The rise of about $2 per ton in angles, beams, and other similar forms will not materially affect the cost to large consumers, as contracts for much of the year's tonnage had been placed in anticipation of the new rate. After more or less advance every week for two months it is gratifying to find that Bessemer pig remained seven days without alteration. The tone is firm.

"Prices of boots and shoes are well sustained without any quotable changes. Chicago hides again average lower, the weakness being partly attributable to the extremely poor quality of offerings.

"That bottom prices for wool has been reached at last is evidenced by the growing unwillingness of holders to make concessions, the greater activity of dealers, and indications that purchases for speculation are of considerable volume. Transactions show a material gain at the leading markets, while shipments from Boston exceed those of preceding weeks. Efforts to secure even fractional advances in quotations, however, end negotiations, and steadiness is the best that can be said of this staple.

"It was not possible to maintain the small recovery in last week's raw cotton, and subsequent reaction established a new low record for the crop year. While the decline has been severe, mills are not ready to purchase freely, and foreign buying for the month is far below last year's.

"Efforts will be made to prevent the enormous acreage meditated, but unparalleled sales of fertilizers have already occurred. Even granting a large yield, however, there is good reason to hope that the weakness will soon be checked by the better demand which should result from the attractive terms at which spinners can now secure raw material.

"Wheat did not respond to rumors of damage, but found reason for strength in Atlantic exports, including flour, in four weeks, of 11,432,947 bushels, against 6,078,762 in 1900. Stock speculation this week was very active, and the market had a healthy movement.

"Exchange was stronger and a smaller amount of gold was shipped to Europe on a special operation. Foreign commerce at the port of New York continues unsatisfactory. In three weeks exports of merchandise show a loss of $11,537,603, compared with the same time last year, while imports increased $759,916.

"Failures for the week numbered 206 in the United States, against 201 last year, and 29 in Canada, against 33 last year."

BIGGER THAN THE LUCAS.

Another Big Gusher "Brought In" Near Beaumont, Texas.

BEAUMONT, Tex., March 29.—Another big oil well was struck near Beaumont this morning. It is the fourth gusher to be "brought in" in this new field.

The flow of the new oil well is said to exceed that of the original Lucas gusher, which has an output of 70,000 barrels daily.

The latest strike has caused another big rise in land values throughout this section.

After the drill was removed the new well was capped and comparatively little oil was wasted. Another strike is expected daily. The excitement is intense at Beaumont.

There seems to be no longer any doubt that the whole country about Beaumont is underlaid with an inexhaustible reservoir of oil. The oil fever has become contagious in Galveston and the novel spectacle was witnessed today of business men going around with money in their pockets seeking to buy oil shares.

None was on the market and lucky holders of shares received extravagant offers, but refused to take them. Even the women are infected with the craze and are seeking investments in oil stocks.

Spanish Journalists Strike.

MADRID, March 29.—The journalists of Saragossa have struck for higher pay. A similar strike is threatened here.

LATE LEGAL DECISIONS.

Illegally obstructing a public street so as to prevent the customers of a merchant from using the same as a means of access to his store, and continuing the obstruction a sufficient length of time to work injury or damage to the merchant's business, is inflicting upon him a special wrong, holds the Supreme Court of Georgia, in the case of Brunswick and W. R. Co. vs. Hardey (37 S. E. Rep., 889), not shared in by the public at large, for which he is entitled to maintain an action.

A member of a mutual insurance order may, when acting in good faith, holds the Supreme Court of Georgia, in the case of Ancient Order United Workmen vs. Brown (37 S. E. Rep., 880), legally designate as the beneficiary in a certificate of life insurance issued by the order one who has no insurable interest in the life of the member, provided there be at the time the certificate is issued no restriction in the charter, constitution, or laws of the order, or in the statutes of the State, forbidding the right to appoint such a beneficiary.

The mere fact that a minor who is the sole beneficiary of a homestead estate does not live upon the property, and leaves the head of the family to use the proceeds of the same in such a way as he desires for a period of ten years, without calling him to account, does not, holds the Supreme Court of Georgia in the case of Sigman vs. Austin (37 S. E. Rep., 894), cause the homestead estate to terminate and become subject to levy and sale as the property of the head of the family.

Although a bill of lading may provide that the railroad company will not be liable as a common carrier after the freight has reached its destination, the Supreme Court of Alabama, in the case of Tallahassee Falls Manufacturing Co. vs. Western Railway Company (29 So. Rep., 203), holds that public policy requires that the contract be modified so that the responsibility of the carrier shall exist until a reasonable time and opportunity has been allowed the consignee for removing the goods after arrival.

The supreme tribunal of a religious denomination will be enjoined from expelling a member of a local congregation for alleged spiritual offences, holds the Supreme Court of Indiana, in the case of Hatfield vs. De Long (59 N. E. Rep., 483), where it appears that such tribunal has not been organized in conformity with an organic law of the Church.

Where persons take up a residence in a village just a sufficient length of time before election to give them the thirty days' residence required, and leave immediately after the election, the Supreme Court of Illinois, in the case of Sorenson vs. Sorenson (59 N. E. Rep., 555), holds that they are not legal voters. This case was a contest between two brothers over the office of president of the board of village trustees.

In order to constitute "extreme and repeated cruelty" under the statute of divorce in Illinois, the Supreme Court holds, in the case of Maddox vs. Maddox (59 N. E. Rep., 560), that there must be physical violence or acts or threats which may raise a reasonable apprehension of bodily harm. Cruel and heartless neglect by a husband and failure to provide his wife with suitable shelter, clothing, and food, are not sufficient facts under the statute to constitute cruelty. As was said in Fizette vs. Fizette (46 Ill., 329), mere austerity of temper, petulance of manners, rudeness of language, a want of civil attention, occasional sallies of passion, denials of little indulgences, and particular accommodations, and which do not threaten bodily harm, cannot be considered as cruelty in law.

In Massachusetts a person who is injured while riding on the platform of a street car in violation of a notice on the car cannot recover if he intentionally violated the notice, holds the Supreme Court in the case of Sweetland vs. Lynn (59 N. E. Rep., 449). But the court further held that if the employes of the street car company allowed passengers to ride there without objection, and habitually crowded so many persons on the car that some of them were obliged to ride on the front platform, the question whether the company had waived the enforcement of the rule was for the jury to determine.

In the absence of a statute creating an obligation, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, in the case of the case of Patrick vs. Town of Baldwin (85 N. W. Rep., 271), holds that none rests on a municipal corporation to maintain or relieve poor persons, and that a court has no power upon the ground of moral obligations or the equities of any given case to hold such a corporation liable to a private person who may have relieved or supported a poor person. And where the law imposes on a municipality the duty of maintaining poor persons and designates officers therefor to act in its behalf in the performance of such duty, their mere negligence will not operate as an implied request to a private party to supply a needy person's wants, upon which such party can act and hold the municipality liable as upon an implied contract.

Where a person purchases a ticket on a railroad for the sole purpose of having his trunk checked over the road, and not with the intention of traveling on the train, and after his trunk reaches its destination it is stolen while in the baggage room of the railroad, the Supreme Court of Michigan, in the case of Marshall vs. Pontiac and N. R. Co. (85 N. W. Rep., 252), holds that the relation of passenger did not exist, and that the railroad company is not liable except for gross negligence.

One who makes use of the criminal process of the court for the purpose of overcoming the will of another to secure an advantage to himself is not in a position, holds the Supreme Court of Utah, in the case of Corringe vs. Read (63 Pac. Rep., 962), to obtain and hold the fruits of a contract, whether executed or executory, so obtained, on the ground that both parties were in pari delicto, and that in equity the court will leave them where it finds them.

It was recently held by Judge Taynor in the Kings County Special Term of New York that to publish falsely that a person has leprosy is libelous. The defendant contended that the charge was not libelous, since modern medical science no longer regarded leprosy as contagious or infectious, but only hereditary. On this point Judge Taynor said: "It remains a term of slander until the law is changed. To say of one that he went to mass or practiced witchcraft might still be slander if the law had not been changed, even though the progress of enlightenment had revealed to most people that to hear mass was not bad or that there was no such thing as a witch. Besides that, in the charge of leprosy which made the court classify it as slanderous was its tendency to cause one to be shunned and excluded from society, and that still exists."

Macadamizing was held by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, in the case of United Railway, etc., Co. vs. Hayes (48 Atl. Rep., 360), not to be paving within the meaning of a city ordinance referring to the "grading and paving" of certain streets.

More Porto Ricans in Hawaii.

HONOLULU, March 23—(Via San Francisco, March 29).—The steamship Zealandia arrived yesterday from Port Angeles, with 545 Porto Ricans for the sugar plantations. They are the best-looking lot yet received here, and there was little sickness among them.

McAfee, the agent who had charge of them, says it is difficult to get any more Porto Ricans to come to Hawaii, as conditions on the island are improving, and there is great demand for laborers in Cuba and in Ecuador, for railroad building.

Checking Off the Maryland Census.

It was stated at the Census Office yesterday afternoon that the recount or checking off of the enumeration in St. Mary County will be completed early next week. Director Merriam has received no further advices of any additional arrests.

OBITUARY.

Joseph Tharon died on Tuesday from pneumonia at Cannes, France. He was at one time one of the most prominent Frenchmen in New York City. He came to New York in 1853, and entered the commission and importing business. He was one of the founders and the first President of the Xavier Union, which is now the Catholic Club. He served several terms at the head of that organization, and was also one of the organizers of the Xavier Alumni Sodality. The Pope conferred on him the decoration of Commander of the Order of St. Gregory. He was again decorated, five years later, when King George of Greece made him a Commander of the Order of the Saviour in recognition of his services to the Greek colony in New York City.

About 1860 he married a daughter of Samuel S. Ward, who was then the American representative at offices in New York and Boston of the London banking firm of Baring Brothers. She died some years ago. Her mother, whose death occurred in this city recently, was very prominent in Massachusetts society, and was one of the original members of the Brook Farm experiment. She was converted to the Roman Catholic faith a little before their marriage.

The only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thoron is the wife of William C. Endicott, jr., son of the Secretary of War in Mr. Cleveland's first Cabinet. Their son, Ward Thoron, is a lawyer in Washington. Mr. Thoron also leaves one brother, Casimir, who at present is in France. About five years ago Mr. Thoron gave up his apartments in the Catholic Club, which he had made his home since the death of his wife, and went to France. He never returned to this country.

He had spent the declining years of his life in collecting data for a history of the Thoron family, which is one of the oldest in southern France. The manuscript was completed just prior to his death. Mr. Thoron's daughter, Mrs. Endicott, and her husband sailed on Wednesday on the Oceanic to bring the body to this country. The burial will probably be made in Boston, where Mrs. Thoron is buried.

Mrs. Josephine A. Gray, the wife of the Rev. George H. Gray, the pastor of the Vandever Park Methodist Episcopal Church in the Flatbush district, Brooklyn, died on Thursday, at her home 412 East Twenty-eighth Street, New York, from typhoid-pneumonia. She was engaged in evangelistic work to the time of her marriage, thirteen years ago, and she actively assisted her husband in his various ministerial fields. The Vandever Park Church has only been organized about a year. Mrs. Gray was president of its Ladies' Aid Society. She was President of the Maspeth Women's Christian Temperance Union. She had long assisted the late Rev. Job Bass in religious services at Raymond Street jail. The funeral service will be held at the Vandever Park Church this afternoon.

Miss Frances M. Street, granddaughter of Major Andrew Billings, of Revolutionary fame, died yesterday at the home of her brother-in-law, Mr. Benjamin C. Berroll, 16 East Biddle Street, Baltimore. Miss Street was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. She had lived in Baltimore for upward of half a century. One of her brothers, William Street, was the father of Mrs. Levi P. Morton. Another brother, Alfred B. Street, was a well-known poet and a friend of Longfellow. The funeral will take place tomorrow at Mount Calvary Church, Baltimore. The burial will be private.

The Rev. James W. Denton, who died in the New Haven Hospital, at New Haven, on Tuesday, aged eighty-three years, wrote his own obituary notice two years ago and it was made public yesterday. He was born in New Brunswick, N. J. He states that when he was thirteen years old he was instrumental in forming the New York Youths' Temperance Society, of which Bishop Coxe, of western New York, was a member at the time.

After an illness of but three days, Mrs. John R. McPherson, wife of the late Senator from New Jersey, died from pneumonia early yesterday morning at her apartments, 321 Lexington Avenue, New York. Mrs. McPherson, who was Miss Edia J. Gregory, was born in Buffalo in 1841. She was married to John R. McPherson about thirty-five years ago. They had two children—Gregory and Edia.

Charles F. Patrick, one of the most widely known sporting men in the South and West, stepfather of William A. Brady, the fight promoter, died at Nashville, on Thursday night. Mr. Patrick moved to the Pacific Coast from the South in boyhood, but in recent years made his home in Chicago and other Western cities.

A NEW CEREAL TRUST.

Ten Important Western Mills Enter a Combination.

CHICAGO, March 29.—The Great Western Cereal Company, comprising ten of the most important cereal mills in the West, was organized at the Auditorium Hotel last night, after several weeks of consultation between the representatives of the various interests concerned.

The new corporation, which becomes an avowed competitor of the American Cereal Company, will be immediately capitalized at $1,500,000 of 6 per cent twenty-year gold sinking fund bonds and $3,000,000 of stock.

The following companies have agreed to combine their interests: Akron Cereal Company, Akron, Ohio; Muscatine Oatmeal Company, Muscatine, Iowa; R. H.