

The San Francisco Call

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JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor.

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SPECULATORS AND MERCHANTS.

THE current situation in business this week is briefly this: The merchants are doing well, and the speculators are not. Stocks in Wall street have been tumbling for some days, while from everywhere else except from that little spot in the city of New York come uniform reports of a flourishing and expanding trade.

There were various causes for the decline in the New York stock market. First, the enormous drafts upon the New York banks for funds to move the large crops in the West tightened the money market and led to extensive selling to realize cash; second, the apprehension that this tightness in the money market may not be relieved until the close of the year; third, the general expectation of an unfavorable bank statement at the close of the week; fourth, the persistent contraction of loans by the banks, which have all along been convinced that the floating of gigantic syndicates has been excessive, and that if not checked will lock up immense amounts of money needed in general trade, and thereby cause mischief, and which are now calling a halt in this business; fifth, the voluntary withdrawal from syndicates of the syndicators themselves, who find themselves overloaded with blocks of high-priced stocks that they cannot sell, and who are consequently unloading, mostly at heavy losses, though these losses are largely on paper in the shape of disappointed expectations; and, sixth, the daily raids by powerful bear cliques, who, finding the longs in a pickle and discouraged by the shrinkage in their securities, have helped the market down by continuous sledgehammer blows. Any one of these conditions is sufficient to weaken the stock market; all combined have broken prices badly and demoralized the street.

The situation is not unexpected; the banks discounted it long ago, and most bankers have been surprised that its arrival has been so long deferred; and only the power and prestige of the great syndicates have kept up prices to this late day, because they could not afford to let the market go down until they saw their way to get out with as few bruises as possible. All of which has been foreseen and predicted in this column for months past. It was thought a week ago that the heaviest liquidation was over and that a recovery was about due, but last week's liquidation was on a larger scale than before. At the close, however, the sun struggled through the clouds. The reflux of money from the West began, something like a million dollars being received through express channels during the week, and if this proves the turning of the tide of money eastward, easier funds will shortly result and conditions in Wall street probably show a marked improvement. Meanwhile, as previously observed, merchandise reports are not only cheerful, but brilliant. The retailers all over the country are reporting an exceptionally fine holiday trade, even at this early day, while the wholesalers and jobbers report vigorous opening of the spring demand. Collections are good everywhere, and particularly in the great West and on the Pacific Coast, and a heavy volume of winter goods is moving on previous orders. The railway traffic of the country is on such an immense scale that there are not nearly enough cars and locomotives for the business offered the railway companies, and from all over the country come loud complaints of delayed freights, deferred shipments and in some sections actual inability to ship ordered goods. In California the large fruit packers and handlers are so backed up with orders for dried fruit received last July and August that they are still working on them and unable to attend to new business. All these conditions indicate continued trade activity, while the very large grain crops of the country promise good times for months to come. The iron trade is distinguished by some recession in quotations here and there, but this is ascribed to lack of fuel and the competition of new plants rather than to any diminution in the demand. Lumber, leather, boots and shoes, hardware, furniture, general building materials and most farm staples are exceedingly firm and active. Provisions have been tending downward, owing to large receipts and declining prices for hogs, though cattle and sheep continue firm with light supplies everywhere. Groceries maintain their previous good prices, with a volume of trade which shows no falling off. The bank clearings of the country still exceed \$2,500,000,000 weekly, which is above the normal volume, though there was a slight decrease of .01 per cent last week. The failures were 205, against 213 for the same week last year.

Thus it will be seen that the general trade of the country is still in fine condition, though the speculators and plungers of New York are getting their fingers burned in Wall street.

THE SPEAKERSHIP FIGHT.

CONGRESSMAN Babcock's announcement of his retirement from the contest for the Speakership of the House in the next Congress, coupled as it is with his statement that the President will call an extra session of Congress early next spring, has completely changed the aspect of the fight for the succession to Speaker Henderson. Until his announcement was made it was believed the next Speaker would not be elected for a year to come, and as there were seven candidates in the field the public took a comparatively languid interest in the contest. The situation now is quite different. If an extra session is to be called and the House is to be organized in the spring, the contest for the Speakership becomes a matter of immediate interest, and with Babcock out of the way the fight narrows down to two or three of the leading candidates.

Up to this time the aspirants for the position have been Babcock of Wisconsin, Cannon of Illinois, Dalzell of Pennsylvania, Sherman and Payne of New York, Littlefield of Maine and Burton of Ohio. The grouping of the support supposed to be back of each of the contestants has presented a double division: First, that of the East against the West; and, second, that of the advocates of tariff revision against those who are known as stalwart protectionists. The divisions have not run along the same lines. Some of the Eastern men are revisionists and some are stalwarts. The representatives of the West have been similarly divided. Had Babcock remained in the fight it would doubtless have had nearly the whole of the revision strength had the contest come to an issue on that line. Since he has withdrawn it is not certain that there will be any fight on tariff revision lines. It is said the Wisconsin delegation that was solidly back of Babcock will now support Cannon, but as that gentleman has not declared himself either for or against revision, it appears the support will be given to him mainly because he is a Western man.

Either of the New York candidates would have a good chance of election were the other out of the way. As it is they will split the New York delegation and neither can draw much outside support under such conditions. The Eastern vote will go mainly to Dalzell of Pennsylvania, for according to reports Mr. Littlefield of Maine will have hardly any backing outside of his own State and some from California and Oregon. In fact, Mr. Littlefield's career in the House has been too short as yet to put him in a position to ask the Speakership from a body so conservative as that. Washington reports say he is regarded as a revisionist, but it is evident that fact has not much attraction for Western members since, as we have seen, the Wisconsin revisionists have turned to Cannon.

Burton of Ohio is hardly more than a dark horse. He poses neither as an Eastern man nor a Western man, neither as a revisionist nor a stalwart. His friends assert that should Dalzell, Payne and Sherman find they have no chance of winning they will swing their votes to him, and he will thus have the votes of Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania to start with.

At present Cannon appears to have the best chance of election. There are, however, strong elements of opposition to him. It is reported from Washington that the farmers and the agricultural press are against him because he is believed to be partial to the packing interests and if opportunity offered would undo the oleomargarine law enacted at the last session. The permanent officials of the great departments of the Government oppose him because he has been adverse to liberal appropriations for departmental work. Finally there is a strong lobby in Washington that will fight him on account of his objections to grants of money for improving the city. In fact, Mr. Cannon has made himself so conspicuous as "a watch dog of the treasury" that nearly every one who wishes big appropriations from the next House will oppose his election to the Speakership.

Despite the seeming complexity of the contest among so many candidates the situation is rapidly clearing. In no other respect does the Republican party differ more radically from the Democratic party than in its capacity to organize, harmonize and get to work. Within a comparatively short time the result of the present contest will be known, and there will be no factions surviving it. Whoever may be elected Speaker, President Roosevelt may count upon him to support the administration in carrying through the House every Republican measure designed for the welfare of the country.

The Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia has decided that laws prohibiting the sale of liquor within the district cannot be enforced inside the Capitol, and now Congress will have to keep its Capiteon bar in the basement whether it wishes to or not.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

SOME days ago it was reported that Miss Portia Washington, daughter of Booker T. Washington, had left Wellesley College and gone to Bradford College. Straightway followed report after report concerning the cause of her action. It was announced that she resigned because she could not pass her examinations. It was also said that she left because her presence in the college was distasteful to some of the students and gave rise to animosities and factions that disturbed and perplexed the faculty so that they were glad to get rid of her.

Upon these reports there was much comment. Some critics said that the failure of Miss Washington to pass her examinations is a proof that the negro woman is not yet able to attain a high standard of intellectual culture. Others said the examinations were purposely made adverse to Miss Washington in order to furnish Wellesley College an excuse to get rid of her. There were also many persons who spoke of the affair as a proof of the existence of an illiberal prejudice against the negro among the faculty of Wellesley. In short something of a tempest was raised over the matter and there were demands for an "investigation."

The whole racket was only another case of "much ado about nothing." In all the reports the only true statement was that Miss Washington had left Wellesley and gone to another institution. The rest was fancy and faking. That is made clear by a statement of President Hazzard of Wellesley to the effect that the reports have been so exaggerated as to be injurious.

By way of correcting them the President has written a note to the Boston Transcript saying: "Miss Washington entered Wellesley last autumn as a special student. There are always such students at Wellesley, none of whom ever lodge in college buildings. Last year there were nineteen special students. This means that such a student is not a member of any regular class, but chooses work in several of the

departments of the college, as may best suit her desires. Miss Washington was exactly on the same footing as any other special student in college, and conducted herself in a ladylike and fitting way in every respect. There is absolutely no truth in the statement that her presence was the cause of embarrassment to the authorities at Wellesley. She left entirely of her own accord, having never intended to pursue a regular college course, as the authorities at Wellesley were perfectly aware."

Such are the facts, and now let us hope that the papers that grew so excited over the false reports as to give them flaring head lines and editorial comment will have the goodness to correct them.

We have not paid much attention to the international exposition at Turin, but since it is announced that American photographers received a higher number of prizes than those of any other nation, we may as well recognize that the show was a good thing and well managed.

PUZZLED DOCTORS.

AFTER the autopsy on the body of the New York girl who recently "slept her life away" the doctors are as much puzzled as ever. Indeed, some of them are puzzled much more than ever, for when the unfortunate girl was passing through her long period of twenty-one days of a sleep from which nothing could rouse her they believed she was suffering from some disease of the brain, and satisfied themselves with that explanation. The autopsy has shown no trace of any disease recognizable by the able physicians who were called upon to make it, and now the profession is puzzled to find even an hypothesis upon which to explain the case.

The facts as reported by the press are comparatively simple. The girl was about 15 years old, and when admitted to the hospital weighed 150 pounds. She was plump and pretty. A report of her condition at the time says: "Her face was in graceful, well rounded contour. Her shoulders were beautiful in their curves. She had a full throat, a perfect bust and a dainty, well-turned ankle. In five days she began to change. The rounded shoulders showed angles. The dimpled chin lost its color and its spherical beauty. At the end of eleven days, still sleeping, the sleep of death, Nellie Corcoran began to look like a woman in middle life. On the fifteenth day, after she had been subjected to the most heroic methods to restore her to a normal condition, she looked like a woman of 50."

From that time she changed and faded rapidly. Each succeeding day seemed to add a year to her age, and when she died she looked like a woman of 75. As one authority put it, "She lived sixty years in twenty-one days." Her weight fell to 115 pounds and every line on her face was to all outward seeming a line drawn by age upon the face of a worn-out old woman.

Still the autopsy revealed no trace of disease. The report says: "When the post-mortem examination was made the doctors were badly baffled. Instead of finding a brain burdened with a tumor or shrunken with an abnormal growth they found a brain healthy, well nourished, and, as compared with other brains of similar age, natural and fully developed. Further than this, the examination showed a state of bodily health absolutely incompatible with even the suggestion of disease. From the crown of her head to the sole of her foot Nellie Corcoran was a healthy, natural young woman, without the slightest taint of even the most trivial ailment."

This case is but one of the many which serve to show how little we comprehend the mysteries of life and death. The sleuths of science no more than the sleuths of the law are able to perceive the clues that lie before them or to understand fully what they do perceive. In all professions there are instances that have to be set down as "mysteries" and turned over for curious laymen to guess at until the guessing ceases to be interesting, and this is one of them on the doctors.

THE STATEHOOD BILL.

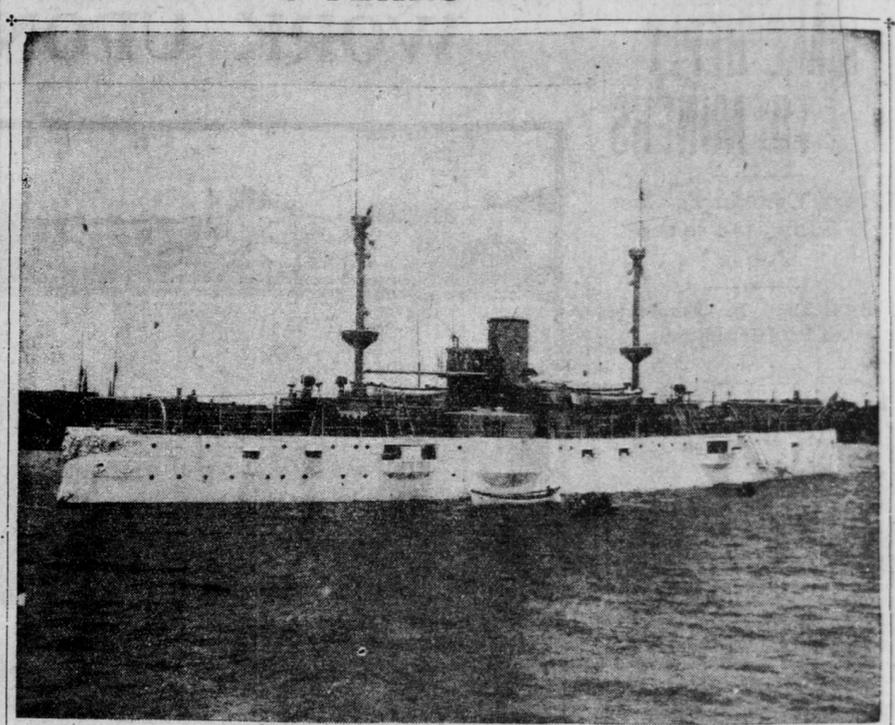
WHEN the omnibus bill for the admission to statehood of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma was set aside at the last session of Congress it was agreed in the Senate that it should be taken up as a special order of business early in December, when Congress meets for the winter session. The bill therefore has the right of way, and it is to be hoped it will not lack sufficient support to assure its prompt passage.

Of course there still remains a good deal of opposition, but it is not so strong nor so ignorant as it was of old. The assertions once so frequent in the Eastern press that Arizona and New Mexico are inhabited mainly by "greasers" unfit for citizenship, and that they will never be anything more than cow pastures or mining camps, are rarely heard now. The ample evidence of the census in its reports on the population, industries and resources of the two Territories has educated the East on that point, and it is now recognized everywhere that Arizona and New Mexico are surely destined to become in the near future among the most important States in the Union. Irrigation will advance them far beyond many of the older States whose people now think of the two Territories as deserts and desolations.

Oklahoma stands on different ground, and there is not near so much opposition to her admission as to that of her sister Territories. It is even probable that if a separate bill for the admission of that Territory were offered it would be passed with but little difficulty. The advocates of the three Territories deemed it best, however, to make a joint fight, and it is not likely the Oklahoma men will at this late day withdraw from support of the omnibus bill. So far as we can learn from Washington reports the prospects for the passage of the bill are bright. The whole of the Greater West is well nigh unanimous in support of the measure, and it is known that the President favors it. It would appear, therefore, that nothing is needed now but a strong and united effort on the part of the friends of the Territories to make immediate success certain.

It will be remembered that the Republican platform adopted at the last national convention declares: "We favor home rule for and the early admission to statehood of the Territories of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma." Admission now will be none too early. Each of the Territories has a strong and thoroughly American population engaged in building up its industries and developing its resources. All experience has proven that Americans work better under State government than under a Territorial government. Each successive State admitted to statehood has sprung forward with swift energy as soon as it was free from Territorial shackles. Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma merit statehood, and when they receive it we may confidently count upon their making good use of it.

BATTLESHIP TEXAS IS AGAIN AFLOAT AFTER TWO YEARS REST AT NORFOLK



UNCLE SAM'S BATTLESHIP TEXAS, WHICH IS AGAIN IN COMMISSION AFTER UNDERGOING REPAIRS AT THE NORFOLK NAVY YARD. THE WARSHIP WAS SENT TO THE YARD TWO YEARS AGO TO BE OVERHAULED AND STRENGTHENED.

THE second-class battleship Texas

was placed in commission at the Norfolk Navy Yard November 3 after a rest and repairs of exactly two years. The ship developed serious structural defects during the battle off Santiago, and a proposition to retire the vessel for good from active service was at one time seriously considered. Officers and crews were reluctant to serve in this hoodoo ship, which has met with more mishaps than any other vessel in the navy, but as the machinery was in perfect condition it was deemed advisable to give the Texas another chance to redeem herself, and requisite repairs and strengthening of decks have been made at a cost of about \$150,000. The Navy Department has reconsidered its intention to sell the five remaining monitors built during the Civil War of 1861-65. So much opposition was made to the sale of the old receiving ship Vermont last April, and likewise to the sale and destruction of the monitors Catskill, Manhattan and Mahopac, that the Secretary of the Navy has concluded to refer to Congress the question of what is to be done with the remaining war relics. The Canonics, Jason, Lehigh, Montauk and Nahant, laid up at League Island, are worthless as vessels of war, but the record of the service which they rendered nearly forty years ago appeals to the patriotic sentiment of many people, and the destruction of the vessels is opposed. A Philadelphia paper suggested about a year ago that a monument to naval heroes be built from turrets of Civil War monitors, and a very striking and artistic design was submitted. The monument consisted of four turrets on a base placed so that their twin fifteen-inch guns pointed to the four cardinal points of the compass. On top of and over the opening between the four turrets a fifth turret was placed, surmounted by an appropriate figure representing a man-of-war's man, and on top of the four turrets other statues were disposed, making the entire monument picturesque and effective. It is possible that Congress may provide the requisite fund to materialize the idea, but the place that League Island should be selected as the site. The weight of the monument would be about 800 tons distributed over a surface approximately eighty feet in diameter, and as League Island is only a mud bank it will not be possible to construct a safe foundation on soil of that nature. The abbreviation of the course at the naval academy from four to three years will, of necessity, require a revision of the studies, yet with the time as fully occupied as it has hitherto been it will not be possible for the student to attain as much theoretical knowledge in three years as during four years. The last year of the course was chiefly devoted to seamanship and naval tactics, astronomy,

navigation, ordnance, gunnery, marine engineering and naval construction, physics, higher mathematics and national law. Many of these studies can now be pursued in a practical way on board ship, while others have to be dropped. It is understood that the study of French in the third year will be discontinued and that of Spanish substituted.

Prince Louis of Battenberg, a real admiral in the British navy, has been assigned as director of the Naval Intelligence Department. His appointment elicited much unfavorable comment, based chiefly on the fact that he was of royal blood and the allegation that it was through favoritism and not through merit that he was placed in charge of that important branch of the admiralty. These strictures were based on prejudice solely for there is probably no officer in the British navy who takes a more lively interest in its affairs and has a better general knowledge of foreign navies than Prince Louis. The intelligence department exists in all navies, more or less especially equipped for its important work. That of Germany leads all others, followed by Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria and Italy. That of the United States lags woefully behind, although it was organized years before such a department was established in other countries, but Congress and the several secretaries of the navy have failed to properly recognize its value, and its chief and staff have not always been selected with due regard to fitness. The present chief, Captain Sigbee, is a notable exception since the late Lieutenant T. B. M. Mason organized the department in 1882, but the staff is entirely inadequate to perform the duties. It consisted last year of only two lieutenants, one assistant engineer and seven civilians, at a total cost of \$18,000 a year. The British Naval Intelligence Department is composed of a rear admiral as chief, three captains, five commanders, five marine officers, one paymaster and ten civilians, at a cost of \$48,000. The functions of the Foreign Intelligence Department cover a wider range than ours, which confines itself to gather information from abroad as to what is being done in navies, and this information is utilized by the department while so much is said about shipping programmes and determining details of construction, armament, armor, etc. It will be recognized that these duties are of great importance, inasmuch as accurate information may result in absolute harm, and while so much is said about the strength of officers for ships, it is also evident that one of the principal adjuncts of the service is suffering for the want of an adequate and intelligent quota of officers.

The British battleship King Edward VII, building at Devonport dockyard is advancing at such a rapid rate as to insure its completion early in 1904 or six months ahead of the original estimate. Revised estimates of the nineteen bat-

tleships and cruisers building by contract for the British navy indicate that they will cost more than first estimated. The excess on eight battleships is \$700,000 collectively and \$850,000 on the eleven cruisers. The ships under construction at the dockyard fare somewhat better, and in one case—the Albemarle—the completed cost will be \$400 less than the estimate.

"Vickers' Sons & Maxim, builders of ships-of-war complete with armor and guns, have posted notices in their shops encouraging employees to suggest ideas to facilitate work. Six suggestions have been acted upon thus far and rewarded with compensations ranging from \$5 to \$50. This system was first introduced in Denny's yard, Dumbarton, about twenty years ago and has given satisfactory results.

The British Admiralty has invited tenders at Barrows for the construction of one or more battleships of 18,000 tons. This is an increase of 1850 tons over the largest ships of that class building, which are named King Edward VII, Dominion and Commonwealth.

German naval authorities are much annoyed over the presence of so many Russian men-of-war in the harbor of Kiel during the summer and autumn. Battleships, training ships, destroyers and other ships are continually coming and going, and the officers are exceedingly inquisitive. They photograph everything and keenly watch German naval evolutions. The German authorities are at a loss how to get rid of these intruders without being discourteous, but on the other hand the trades people in Kiel are doing a good business with these visitors, who spend money freely.

The Russian navy estimates for 1903 amount to \$77,460,000, an increase of about \$2,300,000 over 1902. Of this sum \$22,000,000 in round numbers is set aside for ships and armament, against \$20,300,000 for the same objects during the present year.

A lot of 6-inch armor plates made in England for the Russian battleship Orel, building at St. Petersburg, has been rejected. The plates were tested in Russia, three 6-inch chilled shells weighing 119 pounds, fired at velocities of 2023, 2022 and 2048 foot seconds. The first shell indented the plate to the depth of 2 1/2 inches, the second cracked the plate and started its fastenings and the third shell smashed the plate, destroyed the backing and, passing through the debris, disappeared from sight. It appears from a comparison with the tests made by the United States Navy Department at Indian Head, Maryland, during October that Russian armor plate trials are more severe than in our navy. The American plate tested was one of a lot made for the armored cruisers under construction at the Philadelphia yard, against which three 6-inch shells weighing 190 pounds were fired at a velocity of 1919 feet per second. The indentation was about 2 inches and no further visible damage was done. The test was considered satisfactory and the entire lot accepted.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

AUCTION PITCH—O. P. City. In the game of auction pitch the deal is determined by cutting; the player cutting the highest card deals. Ace is high.

GUARDIAN—E. P. City. To ascertain what a guardian has done in relation to a child placed in his care make application for the record in the court out of which the guardianship papers were issued.

POPULATION—H. E. W. City. The population of San Francisco, according to the census of 1900, was 342,782. According to estimates for the current year 360,000. The Chinese residing in the city are included in the population. The Chinese, according to the census, number 13,854.

INCLINE AND DECLINE—A. C. City. In speaking of an ascending and descending mountain road it is proper to say "He is going up the incline" and "he is coming down the incline," but not to say "He is coming down the decline." Incline as applied to surface describes an ascent or a descent, as in a road or railway. It also means a grade.

THE FIRST STATE HOUSE—Subscriber, City. The first State House in California in which the first Legislature commenced its sessions, December 15, 1849, was located in San Jose, in an adobe building. It was subsequently used as a courthouse of Santa Clara County and was destroyed by fire April 29, 1853.

SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE—C. P. N. San Mateo, Cal. A friend of this department writes that the poem "Sometime, Somewhere," in which occur the lines "Unanswered yet, the prayer your lips have uttered With anxious, longing hearts these many years," was written by Robert Browning and is to be found in a book entitled "The Songs of a Century."

POLITICS OF GOVERNORS—Subscriber, City. The following is the political complexion of the Governors of California since the first election: 1849, no party; 1851, Democrat; 1853, Democrat; 1855, Know Nothing; 1857, Democrat; 1859, Democrat; 1861, Republican; 1863, Union; 1867, Democrat; 1871, Republican; 1875, Democrat; 1879, Republican; 1883, Demo-

PERSONAL MENTION.

J. B. Dennis, a mining man of Mazatlan, is at the Occidental.

T. B. Walker, an extensive lumberman of Minneapolis, is at the Occidental.

G. W. Summerville, a well-known merchant of Wilmamocun, is at the Grand.

W. A. Gett, who was the Democratic nominee for Attorney General, is at the Lick.

M. P. Stein, a dry goods merchant of Stockton, registered at the California yesterday.

J. Levering Jones, an attorney of Philadelphia, who is touring the coast with his family, is at the Palace.

Oscar Robinson, a merchant of Colusa, is here on a short business trip and has made his headquarters at the Grand.

Dr. J. de S. Bettencourt, who has been visiting hospitals in Europe and pursuing special studies in Vienna, will return to this city and resume practice toward the end of December.

crat; 1886, Democrat; 1890, Republican; 1894, Democrat; 1898, Republican; 1902, Republican.

TAMALE—M. H. C. City. The ingredients used in the making of tamales are boiled cornmeal, chicken, tomato sauce seasoned to taste with cayenne pepper, olives and cornhusks. The cornmeal is made up into a moderately stiff paste, rolled thin; the tomatoes are boiled down and strained; two pieces of chicken, two olives and two or three spoonfuls of the sauce are placed in a cornhusk, covered with another, then a layer of cornmeal paste, then one of cornhusks, then another of meal paste and then another of husks. The husks are tied at each end, also in the center and put into a pot to boil for an hour or more.

TERRITORIES—P. C. L. City. The Territories of the United States are, in the order of organization: District of Columbia, 1790; Indian, 1834; New Mexico, 1850; Arizona, 1883; Alaska, 1888; Oklahoma, 1890; and Hawaii, 1900. As to the new possessions, a government was established for Porto Rico by the Fifty-sixth Congress, the Philippines are under a provisional civil government and Guam and Tutuila are under Governors appointed by the President.

A CHANCE TO SMILE.

"China is a great nation, isn't it?" "Certainly not."

"But it has an enormous population." "That has nothing to do with it. A great nation is one that can outline its own foreign policy."—Chicago Post.

"Who is the new arrival?" asked Satan. "He was a beef trust magnate," responded the imp; "shall I put him in the earth that he wouldn't mind it. Put him to work shoveling coal."—Philadelphia Record.

First Lobbyist (in Washington)—That man Smoothing is doing some tall lobbying these days.

First Lobbyist—What's he after?

The moving picture privilege in the Senate chamber.—Judge.

Mistress (to new servant)—There are two things, Mary, about which I am very particular; they are truthfulness and obedience.

Mary—Yes'm, and when you tell me to say you're not in, when a person calls that you don't wish to see, which is it to be, mum-truthfulness or obedience.—The King.

A Well Satisfied Girl—At an old-fashioned revival meeting the minister approached Minnie, who was only ten years old, and urged her to go forward to the "mourner's bench" for prayers, as many of her young friends had done.

"No, thank you," said Minnie, holding back.

"But why?" questioned the minister. "Don't you want to be born again?"

"No," replied Minnie; "I'm afraid I might be born a boy next time!"—Brooklyn Life.

Prunes stuffed with apricots. Townsend's.

Genuine Eyeglasses 20c to 50c at 81 4th, front of Haber, grocery. Try me. *

Townsend's California glace fruit and candies, 50c a pound, in artistic fire-etched boxes. A nice present for Eastern friends. 629 Market st., Palace Hotel building.

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