The Washington Times.

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Circulation Statement.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended August 17, 1901, was as follows:

Sunday, August 11	19,284
Monday, August 12	39,218
Tuesday, August 13	39,143
Wednesday, August 14	38,841
Thursday, August 15	39,364
Friday, August 16	39,075
Saturday, August 17	39,603
Total	254,542
Daily average (Sunday, 19,284, excepted)	39,209

The Momentum of Prosperity.

Speaking of conditions in the West as affected by the recent drought, Mint Director Roberts is quoted as saying that "the country is under such a tremendous momentum of prosperity that neither the injury to corn nor the strikes seem to make any impression on it." There is much force in this suggestion. Mr. Roberts clearly recognizes that the loss on the corn crop, separately considered, is a very serious matter. The individual losers feel it badly, and many localities will receive a hard back-set as a result. But in a broad national sense there are so many other elements which contribute to the sum total of the prosperity existing that the effect of the crop loss is greatly minimized, and is almost imperceptible up to the present time. So of the strikes. Those engaged in them constitute but a small fraction of the nation's working force, and as yet they have not sensibly affected the general situation.

The reason for this is that both the crop injury and the strikes are regarded as merely sporadic and temporary in their nature; it is considered that a short crop of corn is very likely to be followed by a full or bumper crop, and that the strikes will probably soon be settled. Under some circumstances either the drought or the strikes would be a staggering blow at our national prosperity, but just now there are many counteracting influences at work, and of these there is none that operates with greater force than the "momentum" of which Mr. Roberts speaks. This momentum, or onward swing of business, is very largely a matter of confidence, and up to a certain point, confidence is a most valuable adjunct to business. There can be no general and widespread prosperity without general and widespread confidence, for obviously no man is going to put money into a business venture unless he has confidence that it will turn out all right. And this general confidence creates the momentum. It sets business in motion, and like a body projected into space, it will continue to move until something happens to stop it. In business the "something" may consist of a multitude of elements, all working to some extent independently, but at the same time with a distinct bearing upon each other.

When the revival came in 1897, there was a good and substantial basis for it, and it really ought to have come sooner. But the American business world was literally frightened out of its seven senses by the bogie man raised by the moneyed interests, and the prosperity wave only rolled into this country a year or more after it had risen in Europe. It was retarded by an utterly senseless fright deliberately planned, created and prolonged.

The basis being substantial, the prosperity has continued and a vast amount of momentum has been imparted. Business men have been making money, and they are prone to believe that they will continue to do so. They argue, as Mr. Roberts does, that the business is solid and healthy. Therefore, they go on investing, producing, consuming, and buying. Even when the market becomes surcharged on certain lines, they reason that it is a mere case of overproduction on those lines, which will soon regulate itself, and this disposition to explain away and minimize every unfavorable symptom gives a certain momentum to business which generally keeps it going with some vigor for a time in the face of conditions which naturally make for reaction.

The overweening confidence now prevailing is, in part at least, of a political character. That is to say, it has been manufactured by partisan leaders, conspicuous among whom may be mentioned the probable Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1904, the Hon. M. A. Hanna. These people have industriously disseminated the idea that as long as the Republican party remains in power times are bound to be good. Business may remain good for some time. All well wishers of the country should hope so; but if it should be so, it will not be owing exclusively to the Republican party or its policy. No party can guarantee prosperity in defiance of general economic conditions.

It is not necessary to be pessimistic, but it is good business sense to consider things as they are. Momentum cannot be relied upon permanently to sustain the business of the country. The crop loss is an undeniable check on one line; the strikes are a loss on another, and they may easily involve many lines. The clouds are gathering upon the industrial horizon of Europe, and combined with the depression which has appeared are threats of commercial policies which bode us no good. It will be wise for the business community to study industrial conditions, and remember that there are economic laws as inexorable as are those which create and control the tides of the sea—laws as independent of Marcus A. Hanna as the tides were of King Canute.

The Bureau's Cloud of Witnesses.

As was to be expected, the request of Admiral Schley for the list of witnesses by the mouths of whom the Navigation Bureau hopes to support the charges of Sampson, Maclay, and others, has been referred to Judge Advocate Lemly, who is in Canada, and cannot be heard from for a week. That will make a useful delay to which Lemly will probably add if he desires to please his department masters.

In this as in all other matters connected with the Sampson scandal, Messrs. Hackett and Crowninshield are trifling with the public in a way they some time may regret. As the present Administration views it, the American people can be safely ignored except at election time; but occasionally they get thoroughly aroused, and when they do, they have a means to make themselves felt through their members of Congress. There is no sort of question that national sentiment resents and condemns Long, Hackett, and Crowninshield for their indefensible course and conduct in encouraging and promoting the movement to deprive Admiral Schley of the laurels he so worthily won in the sea battle off Santiago, and to hand them over to the man behind the horizon. Since the Court of Enquiry was ordered, their bias and prejudice have been continually on exhibition. The device to hamper Admiral Schley in the preparation of his case by withholding the names of witnesses against him, aside from being a contemptible piece of business intrinsically, has been in violation of established rule, precedent, and practice in the navy. It is an excellent illustration of what Secretary Long is now popularly believed to have meant when he promised that the department would treat the victor of Santiago "fairly and impartially." If the suppression of information concerning witnesses is typical of this fairness and impartiality, the country will be all the more inclined to demand a rigorous investigation by Congress of the Navy Department, and particularly of the Navigation Bureau, next winter. From present indications it is probable that political conditions by that time will make it unsafe for the Administration to resist such a demand.

The South American Embroglio.

Continental European papers are needlessly exciting themselves and their readers about the intention of the Washington Government ultimately to send war vessels to the two sides of the Isthmus of Panama and from those stations to watch events on shore. The incompetent management of the Navy Department has rendered it impossible to get ships on the ground heretofore, but they will begin to put in an appearance some time next week, and after that will come stringing along at intervals.

Our foreign contemporaries are concerned for fear these sinister preparations portend a grandstand Monroe Doctrine play, and they are urging their respective Governments to rush their fleets across to stop the game by overawing the players. German editors see in the situation a menace to the interests of their countrymen in Venezuela, and they may have some reason for such a view. If it happen that Germans hold concessions to work asphaltum deposits in that country, then they have ample cause for uneasiness, and might well ask the protection of their Government; because, should the Andrade rebellion against President Castro and the Liberal rule at Caracas succeed, the Asphalt Trust would be certain to monopolize every square foot of the Bermudez field. But probably there are few if any of the Kaiser's subjects interested in that subject, while German commercial interests generally might suffer as a result of civil war.

It is this apprehension that is causing anxiety in Berlin newspaper offices, and there is reason to believe that it also is causing the Imperial Government to keep an eye on the Washington authorities. On all hands it is recognized that the Administration will make its appearance at the isthmus as the friend and partisan of Colombia. European Cabinets are not uninformed concerning the basis of the friendship. Marroquin, if supported and encouraged to carry out his plans, perhaps would be able to crush liberalism in both Colombia and Venezuela, and, in the latter, to expel Castro and place the asphaltic Andrade in power as dictator. There is no question that such an eventuality would be pleasing to our officials; the doubt is as to whether or not they would venture to take active measures to bring it about. What Europe sees in our attitude is an intention to prevent outside interference with the designs of Marroquin and Andrade. If permitted and helped to press forward with them, these reactionary leaders would undoubtedly plunge the two Republics in war for the next year. If not aided by the United States, the Colombian dictator is likely to be in exile and the Venezuelan rebel in jail before many weeks.

As we remarked above, many of the European papers are looking for an arrogant and irritating application of the Monroe Doctrine to the Isthmian situation. Something of the kind might happen were any foreign Government to encourage Castro in his defence of liberty and free institutions, or Uribe-Uribe in his efforts to restore constitutional government in Colombia. On the other hand, it is quite probable that any power might lend passive or active aid to Marroquin and Andrade, without producing the least sign of displeasure at Washington. No one of the commercial nations would be apt to take such a course. It is the common interest of the civilized Powers to promote the establishment of good order and good government in South America. Castro and Uribe-Uribe represent the elements of intelligence and progress in Venezuela and Colombia, while Andrade and Marroquin are exponents of personal despotism and loot. It does not seem conceivable that these men who are plotting and striving to reduce the people of both Republics to ignorance and a state of serfdom under a medieval tyranny should have any friend among the nations whose ships are or will be gathering at the isthmus—of course, for business reasons, excepting the United States.

The United States and Canada.

A short time ago The Times commented somewhat at length upon the slowness of Australia's growth in population, and offered some suggestions as to the probable cause. But all things considered, the case of Canada is much more remarkable. Australia is in the antipodes, and far removed from the great centres of Caucasian population. Canada abuts the northern boundary of the United States all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific; it is as accessible to immigrants from Europe as is the United States; in soil and climate a broad belt of the Dominion, extending completely across the continent, differs but little from our own tier of northern States. Considering the area available for settlement and its varied resources, it would seem that while the United States was increasing its population to seventy-six millions, Canada should have raised hers to twenty. But she has not. Her total population is only a little more than five millions, while that of the American States abreast of the Canadian frontier is more than thirty millions.

As in the case of Australia, the query naturally presents itself, Why this tremendous difference? The question is not so easily answered as with reference to Australia, although many reasons will occur to those who are measurably familiar with the subject. An answer suggests itself in the fact that the great flood of European immigration has poured mainly into the United States, only a very small part finding its way into British North America. But this is an answer merely in form, for the failure of Canada to get a proportionate share of the immigration to America is of the very substance of the question to be answered.

Probably the climate has had something to do with it. Naturally, emigrants from the warmer countries of Europe have shrunk from the rigor of the Canadian winter, but this is only a very small part of the explanation. The climate of Canada for three hundred miles north of the American line is but little colder than that of northern New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and some other States. Besides, a goodly portion of our immigration has itself come from Scandinavia and northern Germany, where the climate is cold, and to people raised there the Canadian winters would have no terrors. But these emigrants settle in the United States rather than in Canada.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the difference in political constitution has had much to do with the difference in growth. Primarily, the emigrants from Europe have come in quest of homes and fortunes, but other conditions being equal, they have preferred taking their chances in a country which is a nation in the broadest sense, and not a dependency of some other country. In short, the American Republic presented opportunities for the acquiring of homes and fortunes, and it at the same time offered political freedom and potentiality in the highest sense. In the great international affairs of the world, Canada is practically unknown, and the individual Canadian is a political nonentity. The American Republic is now the greatest nation on earth, and the individual American citizen is part and parcel of the Government. The destiny of the Republic was clear from the first, and the great sentimental consideration referred to has been a most important factor in the material growth of the country.

And this should suggest to the Canadians how greatly their interests would be promoted by a union with the United States. Let the American flag be raised over the provinces which now constitute the Dominion, and it is safe to say that the next decade would witness a quadrupling of immigration into the country, and a development of its patent and latent resources that would fill the people now living there with amazement. Many Canadians favor such a union, while others seem to think that they have everything to gain by the cultivation of an anti-American feeling and a display of effusive loyalty to Great Britain. This latter feeling is both narrow and unwise. Commercially there is nothing in common between Canada and Great Britain. The interests of the former are essentially American, and, in a general way, identical with those of the United States.

Custom House Foolishness.

A curious incident occurred at the New York custom house not long ago. A lady returning from Europe had among her jewels a handsome pearl and gold necklace which had been a gift from her husband. She frankly said that she did not know whether it had been purchased abroad or in this country, and, of course, she could not swear that it had ever paid duty. The consequence was that the inspector wanted her to pay sixty per cent of the original cost of the necklace. She then asked the customs official whether she might not send the article to Paris and have the jewels dismounted, so that the stones might come in separately, with a duty of ten per cent; and he has decided to permit this.

The whole business seems rather like a farce, but it is not the first time such things have happened. Some time ago a bicyclist went for a tour on the Continent with a bicycle which was made by an English firm, but which he had bought in this country. When he came back the New York officials taxed him on the wheel, though he swore that it had been taken abroad with him. Of course, in such a case it might easily prove impossible to get any positive evidence that an article made abroad was bought in the United States, and yet there are all kinds of chances of complications of this sort.

The number of smugglers is so great and their cleverness so astonishing, and smuggling, unfortunately, is so generally indulged in by people who ought to know better, that the average customs officer is a cynic. But he also is or should be a man of discretion, and such absurdities as those recorded ought to be impossible.

At present the traveler entering New York Harbor is first required to make affidavit that he or she has nothing dutiable or that dutiable articles are such and such in number and value. Then it is assumed that the affidavit is a perjury, and all wearing apparel and other contents of the trunks are tumbled out on a floor not overclean, in the view of officials, porters, loafers, and other passengers, a performance which is far from being satisfactory to lady passengers of refined ideas. If nothing dutiable is found the ordeal is over, but if the unhappy traveler chances to possess some article of European make, on which there would be a duty had it been purchased abroad by the present owner, the process of inquisition ends in some such farce as the one mentioned above, or in the exasperated American paying duty on something which has been in his possession for years and was carried by him out of the country. The moral seems to be that one ought to go to Europe with nothing but American-made jewelry, bicycles, and other dutiable belongings, so as not to have an extra charge to pay on returning. It ought to be possible to avoid that difficulty, at any rate.

Popular Education in Art.

The "Pittsburg Chronicle" says that when "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was in that town not long ago two street children stopped before a window in which a picture of the Madonna and child was displayed, and one said to the other: "That's Eliza making her escape." Some of the Madonnas recently painted give some excuse for a mistake of this kind, for if it were not for the label they could not be distinguished from any other picture of a mother and child. In a reaction from the exaggerated supernaturalism of the earlier forms of art, some modern painters have pictured the Madonna without any accessories whatever to identify her. The idea of motherhood, not necessarily of supernatural motherhood, dominates the picture.

But this incident proves how completely the imagination of a city child nowadays is possessed by the theatre and by shows of all kinds. Most city children get their education not from books, but from the stage, or from the ideas drilled into them at school by dint of various object lessons, and the stage makes the deeper impression. Mechanical toys replace books as holiday gifts, and the juvenile fiction which is printed is frequently uninstructive. The consequence of it all is that when a child is introduced to some new object, he understands and is interested if he has seen it on the stage, otherwise his imagination frequently fails to kindle.

It is a question whether this haphazard mental training is of much use in after life. Compared with the impression produced by books, that of a play is fleeting and ephemeral. The child goes to see "Little Lord Fauntleroy," and retains a more or less vivid impression of certain scenes. When he reads the book he re-reads it, and comes to be familiar with every word and scene. If he can have but one of the two pleasures, it seems as if it would be wiser to give him the book. The price of it is about the same as that of a seat at a matinee, and the pleasure is far more lasting.

The theatre, as a means of entertainment and education for adults, is valuable. The mind of a grown person can absorb all the points of every act, and enjoy at once the acting, the lines, and the beauty of the scene. To see a great actor's interpretation of Shakespeare is to get new light on the drama. To see a company from the Theatre Francaise in a play by Rostand or Moliere is an experience worth having. But a child's mind is not sufficiently well stored with facts, or strong in the grasp of ideas, to be educated after this fashion. The danger of too much theatre-going for children is that the imagination is fed rather than stimulated. It is precisely the same danger which exists in a nursery full of mechanical toys. If the child is to develop any originality and power of contrivance, it must be given appliances with which to make things, not be provided with them ready made. The boy who has a fret-saw and a box of tools is likely to be cleverer, at the end of five years, than the one who is supplied with toy steam engines and other ingenious and expensive mechanical toys. Children who have books and the dramatic instinct will be found making their own plays, and a semi-occasional attendance at the theatre will stimulate them to further exercise of the imagination. But if they are allowed to go as often as they choose they will, after the human fashion, rest content with being amused, and not try to amuse themselves.

It may be taken for granted that unless Admiral Howison shall deny the language and views attributed to him in the "Boston Record" interview in the most explicit manner, Admiral Schley's counsel will object to his sitting as a member of the Court of Enquiry. Should he equivocate, or fall back upon his reported original statement to the department that he had never expressed an opinion on the merits of the Sampson scandal, it may be difficult to unseat him. It is said that Hackett and Crowninshield are extremely anxious to have him serve.

South African news has been badly on the wane for some little time past, probably owing to an increased rigor in the press and cable censorship. The latest reports inform us that the British have made a rather important prisoner in the person of Commandant Villiers, father-in-law of General Schalk-Burgher. But the war, which is no longer a war, but a sanguinary game of hide and seek, drags along, and nobody can see the end of it all.

Strike developments yesterday on the whole appeared favorable to the strikers, but were not sensational. It was generally believed that there would be trouble at McKeesport before the end of the week, but that statement has been made so often, and nothing has happened, that it may be groundless this time. Nevertheless, the conditions apparently are ripening for a heavy collision between the opposing forces at more places than one. Both sides are strong, determined, and well organized, and neither is likely to stop at anything to gain its ends. Before many days are past the fight probably will be hot enough to produce violent results, and they may be serious. It would be reasonably safe to wager that Mr. McKinley and Mr. Hanna are considerably perturbed. Should Ohio troops be sent to Wellsville, for example, to quell a riot, we can easily imagine that the sensations of those eminent politicians would be painful indeed. They have forgotten the Maine, and remember Homestead.

If England could only get rid of the South African war there is not much doubt that her attention would be quickly turned to Afghanistan, where the Ameer is increasing his army to a hundred thousand men, as he frankly admits in order to be able to resist encroachments upon his territory. He is fully aware that the British Indian Government considers the Afghan Kandahar-Kabul line as necessary to it as a first line of defence, and he is determined that it shall not be occupied without a desperate struggle. Russia is steadily closing in on him from the north, and he realizes the uncomfortable truth that between two great Powers he is in the position of the bone which two dogs are fighting for. As the Ameer puts it himself, the Afghan goat is liable to be eaten by the British lion on one side and by the Russian bear on the other.

PERSONAL.

Friends of George G. Vest in Missouri are quietly launching a boom to return him to the United States Senate despite his announced intention of retiring at the end of his present term.

Gov. Ezra P. Savage, of Nebraska, is locally known as "the man who looks like Buffalo Bill." He is an ex-cowboy and can ride just a little himself.

Gavril Ssolodovnikoff, of Moscow, was known as a miser all his life. By will he leaves 25,000,000 rubles (about $12,500,000) to found high schools for girls, cheap lodging-houses and training schools for workmen.

John K. Cowen, consulting counsel of the Pennsylvania Railroad since its absorption of the Baltimore and Ohio, is a giant physically. He is the son of an Ohio blacksmith and a self-made man.

William A. Anderson, the Democratic nominee for Attorney General in Virgina, is a Confederate veteran, and lost a leg in the battle of Manassas.

Sir Alexander Condie Stephen, who has been for many years British Minister Resident at Dresden, is about to retire from the diplomatic service, and has been appointed a groom-in-waiting to King Edward.

Among those who have been promoted by the French Minister of the Interior to the rank of an officer of the Order of the Legion of Honor is M. Zadoc Khan, the Chief Rabbi of France.

The Peabody (Mass.) Historical Society is to erect a monument in that town to the memory of John Proctor, who was executed for witchcraft in 1692.

FOREIGN TOPICS.

The incongruity offered by the fact that, although France is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, if not the wealthiest in Europe, its Government remains among the poorest, is a subject which is just now agitating certain French political economists, with the probable results that an elaborate plan of fiscal reform will be agitated in the Chambers next winter. The causes of the poverty of the State are obvious to everyone who has given the matter any consideration. Many of the forms of taxation have been in operation for more than a century, while the difference between their returns on paper and the actual revenue has constantly widened. For the six months ended June 30 the revenue was nearly $13,000,000 under what it was for the same period last year, and about $9,000,000 below the estimate. When it is considered that the budget framed in the early part of the year showed a surplus of barely $50,000 on a total of $710,920,000, the seriousness of the decline is understood. In the meantime the hands of the Government are tied, for the national debt and pensions take yearly $250,000,000, the army and navy $200,000,000, so that some $450,000,000 must be provided before a sou can be devoted to education, public works, the furtherance of trade, or other interests of general public importance.

The debt of France is nearly $6,000,000,000 and this stupendous sum will continue to augment, under prevailing conditions, until the middle of the century, when all the railways now operated privately will revert to the State. That the growing debt has never troubled the French people is said to be owing to the constant accumulation of private wealth, but now certain legislators have been aroused to the fact that half a century is a long time to wait, and that the debt will soon grow out of all proportions to the expected returns beginning in 1950. Besides the illusive forms of taxation of ancient date, the customs taxation is believed to be at fault, in principle and mode of administration, while the tariff cripples foreign business and eats into the very core of national wealth; so that unless these barriers be raised, the State, apart from the people, will grow poorer and poorer.

Dr. Michon, the French Deputy who recently died, was one of the features of the "House." Every year, for instance, when the discussion of the subvention to the opera came on he dashed into the tribune and opposed it, proclaiming himself a resolute and uncompromising foe of that fascinating institution, le corps de ballet. This was a standing joke at the Palais Bourbon, but another oddity of Dr. Michon had, as the sequel demonstrated, far-reaching political consequences. He had, for some queer reason or another, which only he could have explained, a weakness for cramming his pockets with sandwiches and cakes at the buffet of the Chamber, for the keeping up of which each member pays so many francs a month, being then allowed to regale himself "at discretion." Now one day M. Clemenceau, noticing the little man engaged on this peculiar operation, amused himself by pulling each sandwich out of Michon's pocket after he had put it in and was stretching out his hand for another. Perceiving that he had got no further in the process, the eccentric physician turned round and saw M. Clemenceau diving into the tail behind him. He never forgave his Radical colleague and voted against him when he came forward as a candidate for the presidency of the House.

In the new British army drill book special attention is directed to the paramount necessity for obtaining the highest possible efficiency in the use of the rifle, and recently officers commanding yeomanry and volunteer units have been directed to report to district inspectors of musketry particulars of any difficulties which they have to meet in regard to range accommodation. This is probably in view of the fact that volunteer infantry will be called upon next year to fire about 50 per cent more rounds than under the present regulations. It is well known that the commander-in-chief attaches more importance to good shooting on the part of all branches of the army than to mere mechanical precision of parade ground movements. A great deal of the time hitherto wasted in barrack-square drill will, in future, be devoted to shooting and training the men in the intelligent use of cover. Volunteers, as well as their comrades in the other branches of the army, will be required to also train in this direction. Hence the necessity that has become urgent for the provision of suitable rifle ranges.

The lingering death of the late Dowager Empress of Germany has had few counterparts in English royal history. Twenty-five per cent of the number that has reigned there since the Conquest met violent deaths. Two, Henry VII and Edward VI, died of consumption. Old age with its complication of physical troubles helped to carry off Victoria, George III, Elizabeth, Henry VI, William IV, Edward III, and Henry III. Three died young, Edward V at fourteen, Edward VI at sixteen, and Henry VI at thirty-three. Queen Anne died comparatively young of apoplexy. Mary's death is said to have been due to sorrow over the loss of English territory in France. Henry VI's and George III's last days were clouded with dementia, and George II's demise was occasioned by the bursting of a blood vessel.

Cardinal Vaughan seems to be in luck so far as relics of ancient saints are concerned. On the completion of the cathedral at Westminster, another interesting article is to be removed to it from the little Church of St. Peter, Marlow, Bucks, where it has been venerated for very many years. This relic is supposed to be the hand of St. James, the Apostle, which is preserved in a crystal casket. It was, according to tradition, brought to England from Germany, in 1133, by the Empress Matilda, as a present for her father, Henry I, who greatly valued it, and the Benedictine Abbey of Reading was founded to provide for it a fitting shrine. There it remained until the Reformation, and it subsequently passed to Dr. Blenkinsop, who died in 1792. Then it was placed in the museum at Reading, and eventually came into the possession of Mr. Scott-Murray, whose family have been associated with Marlow and the neighborhood for many years.

One session of the British Medical Congress devoted a whole sitting to those maladies which arise from dangerous occupations.

Dr. Alexander Scott, of Glasgow, might have withheld his remarks on railway dangers until after the traveling public had finished its holiday trips. He was decidedly disconcerting.

"I think," he said, "that there ought to be one more added to the official list of recognized dangerous occupations. I refer to the neurosis of railway servants." Many accidents—the majority of them, in fact—were the result of the nervous tension of railway employes.

One man who had been a stoker was promoted to the position of engine driver. After a time he went to consult Dr. Scott with regard to dyspepsia. All the remedies were tried and failed. The doctor sent the man to a consulting physician, who also failed. Then the unfortunate fellow went the rounds of all the quacks, and they failed.

It was only after a big railway smash upon which the man was dismissed that he finally got well. He had simply been suffering from nervous tension. He had been well ever since.

Another patient consulted Dr. Scott for headache, malaise, weariness, and insomnia. That man had been brought from the life of a farm laborer in the north of Scotland. There he was always bathed in oxygen and calm. After a time he had become a signalman. The nervous tension broke him down. The manager of the line wrote to Dr. Scott saying he could not understand the man suffering from nervous tension, for only 120 trains passed his box in the eight hours.

"Oh, doctor!" exclaimed another suffering signalman, "I have never entered that box without feeling that I was on the edge of a precipice, and that some day a disaster would occur."

Dr. Scott pointed to the fact that the driver in the Slough accident had suffered from an aberration of mind that led him to run past the danger signal. Yet that man had conveyed along the railway line some 150,000,000 of passengers without a single mistake. He thought it was time the authorities took up the question of the temperament of railway servants.

SALES OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The annual report of L. C. Ferrell, Superintendent of Documents, shows that he had distributed more than a half million volumes during the last fiscal year. Of these all but 33,685 were sent to institutions where the public has access to them at all times. The comparatively small number not so sent were sold. About three-fourths of them were publications of the Department of Agriculture, consisting mostly of bulletins on subjects of interest to the farmer and householder. The records show that the sales of these bulletins increased nearly 50 per cent over the corresponding sales of 1900. Of publications of other departments, 2,458 were sold, as against 10,993 in 1900. For the agricultural publications, however, there was received only $3,220.25, whereas the publications of other departments brought in $6,862.44. The disproportion between the numbers and the returns of the two groups is explained by the fact that the price of agricultural bulletins is, as a rule, only 5 cents, while some of the other publications sell for as much as $1.75 each.

Mr. Ferrell has kept an accurate record of the number of each book sold, and a glance through the list shows readily which were the most popular. The Department of Agriculture devoted considerable time to the investigation of the mosquito, and published two bulletins about this pest. Of the first, 560 copies were sold last year, and of the second 751. Recent discussion in the newspapers has renewed the demand for these pamphlets, and a large number have been sold since the 1st of July.

Notwithstanding the fact that the books on "Diseases of the Horse" and "Diseases of Cattle" were first distributed some years ago, there is still an active market for them. The records show that 499 of the former and 155 of the latter were sold last year. It is explained that the sales would have been much larger, but the editions were exhausted, and the Superintendent of Documents, in order to get those he sent out, was obliged to enter into trades with members of Congress for some of their surplus documents.

A bulletin on "Composition of American Wines" was in considerable demand, and 182 copies were sold. One on the honey bee brought orders for 348 copies. Bulletins relating to food problems seemed popular, as 279 copies of one on the chemistry and economy of food, and 357 of another on the chemical composition of American food-matter, were sold. A treatise on losses in boiling vegetables had 243 buyers, while sixty-seven housekeepers spent 5 cents each for a dissertation on bread and bread-making, and 173 bought copies of a pamphlet on investigations into the digestibility and nutritive value of bread. Food and diet charts to the number of 111 were disposed of. Forestry and horticultural bulletins were in considerable demand, too. Of the "Primer of Forestry," 267 copies were sold; of the "Foresty Nursery," 263; and of the "Spot Disease of the Violet," 118.

The foregoing are the most popular of the publications of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Ferrell has had requests for census reports on Indians, running as far back as 1850. Of the "Official Register," otherwise known as the "blue book," only thirty-four sets were sold last year, whereas before the Civil Service law went into effect thousands of copies were issued. Thirty sets of "Flags of All Nations," handsomely illustrated with colored plates, were sold at $1.75 each. Five hundred copies of the Revised Statues were sold. There was a great demand in 1900 for copies of the Treaty of Peace with Spain, but comparatively little in 1901, as people soon became familiar with its provisions or lost interest in the subject.

The heaviest work of the office of Superintendent of Documents is the distribution of Government publications to "designated depositories." Under the law, every Senator and Representative is allowed to designate one library in his State or district to which copies of all Government documents are to be sent. Last year 529 documents, of an aggregate value of $490, were sent to each. The State library of each State is likewise favored by law, and absorbs the same number of volumes. Then, there are 1,600 scientific institutions scattered through the country, to which copies of the publications of the Geological Survey are sent. In addition to these, 700 other depositories receive surplus documents as they accumulate from time to time. The superintendent is now distributing about 1,500 books a day to the various public institutions on his list.

It is odd that there never has been, until very recently, any attempt to give the general public an intelligent idea of what the Government publishes in the way of bulletins and reports. There has been issued for five years or so a monthly record of oGvernment publications for the benefit of Government employes, members of Congress, and the heads of executive departments and a few libraries, but nothing available for general use. The entire edition is limited by law to 2,000 copies, which does not begin to "go around." About two months ago a publication covering this field made its appearance, under private auspices, and rumor credits it with having already attained to a circulation of some 10,000 copies, with a tendency to increase as fast as the public learns of its existence. Year after year the Government experts are in a larger way putting the results of their observations, which cover nearly every field of practical endeavor, into popular form for use in Government bulletins. These treat of all branches of agriculture and their many highly developed specialties, as well as of manufacturing, mining, commerce, and trade. In the course of a year every citizen of the Republic is liable to be interested in one or more of these bulletins, but hitherto there has been no adequate means of informing him of what was going through the press.

POLITICAL COMMENT.

Bar Harbor, Me., will, during the next week, be the general headquarters of the operating department of the earth. J. Pierpont Morgan is there.—Chicago Record Herald.

When Germany gets her "colonial army" she'll of course have to stir up a colonial war somewhere to try it on. So marches "civilization."—New York World.

A reputation for utter irresponsibility may be an "important advantage" as seen from the point of view occupied by Mr. Shaffer, but in the final roundup it is not likely to be found an asset of much value to the association.—New York Times.

Manana in the Neely case does not mean tomorrow; it is to be translated next month or next year.—New York Mail and Express.

The British iron workers will be pleased to hear that it looks like another week, at least, of the steel strike in America.—Boston Herald.

The Powers all have an anxious eye on Panama, and all are sending cruisers to the isthmus. But as Uncle Sam joined the procession first he will be likely to maintain his place at the head of it.—Boston Globe.

The McKinley Administration is certainly making a record in respect to the Civil Service law. Its appointees have discovered unnumbered ways of "beating" the law, and not one of them has been dismissed or rebuked for his "pernicious activity." And Mr. McKinley solemnly promised that there should be "no backward step."—Indianapolis News.

Tom Platt knew what he was about when he "bottled up" Roosevelt in the Vice Presidency.—Mexican Herald.

Sow a victory and reap a court of enquiry.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

No American with the memory of Farragut and Dewey in mind can read these disclosures without thanking God that Schley and not Sampson was accidentally in command at Santiago when the fight actually took place without wishing that he had been in command in the first instance and without wondering how it comes about that Schley and not Sampson is to be tried next month on charges amounting to cowardice and failure to perform his duty.—Chicago Chronicle.

After a while, perhaps, no one will be allowed to vote unless he can produce a vaccination certificate.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

If the American soldier is the best and most intelligent fighter in the world, should he not dress and act up to the part?—Chicago Tribune.

SOCIETY.

Mr. T. Sanford Beatty, who was so conspicuously identified with the entertainments given by the late Senator Brice during his residence in Washington, and Mrs. Beatty have been guests of Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs at her Newport villa. They returned to New York yesterday.

The marriage of Miss Madeline Gary, the youngest and only unmarried daughter of ex-Postmaster General and Mrs. James A. Gary, to Dr. Andrew Whitridge, son of Mr. John A. Whitridge, of Baltimore, is announced to take place in November and will be an important event of the early season.

Miss Gary is one of seven attractive sisters, all of whom, with one exception, married Baltimore men. She was a favorite in Washington during her father's term as a member of President McKinley's Cabinet, and has been much admired in this city. She is one of the best horsewomen in Maryland, and captured the cup and blue ribbon in the ladies' class at the Elkridge Horse Show last spring.

General Gary's other daughters are Mrs. Harold Randolph, Mrs. Harry Pratt Janes, Mrs. Eugene Levering, jr., Mrs. Francis E. Pegram, Mrs. Van Lear Black, of this city, and Mrs. Robert Taylor, of New York. Mrs. Pegram was married before her father resigned from the Cabinet, and the wedding was attended by a number of guests in Washington official life. Mrs. Black and Mrs. Taylor were both married last fall. At the latter's wedding President McKinley was the guest of honor.

Owing to the state of Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont's health, Mr. Belmont will close his Newport house and take his wife for a few weeks' visit among the bracing hills of the Berkshires. The sea air does not agree with Mrs. Belmont, and for that reason the programme of entertainments which were to have been given at Belcourt have been abandoned.

Judge and Mrs. Alphonso Hart and daughter, Marjorie Hart, have returned from an extended trip through New York and northern Ohio, visiting en route friends in the Catskills and Cleveland and the Pan-American.

W. E. Waters, Mrs. Stanley Searles, Mr. Stanley Searles, Mrs. Thomas Lucas, Sister Darathea, Miss Sadie E. Edwards, Aubrey Page, Lee Jewett Cox, Miss Helen S. Lincohn, M. E. G. Corey, Mrs. F. E. Richards, and Mr. Perkins Moseley are recent arrivals at the Glenmore, Ocean City, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Drew, of New Jersey Avenue, left yesterday morning for Buffalo, Niagara, the Thousand Islands, Montreal, and other places of interest in Canada.

Mr. G. A. Thornton and daughters, Misses Vance and Mattye, left Monday for Old Point Comfort, Va., and Ocean City.

Miss Mary Lee, of Capitol Hill, has returned home, after spending several weeks with a camping party at the Wetumpka club house, Falling Waters, W. Va.

Mrs. C. W. Holl, of North Capitol Street, has gone to Watertown, N. Y., on a visit to relatives, and on her return trip will visit Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

The Pope has recently manifested a preference in regard to ladies' apparel over and above the strict regulation in regard to ladies who are received by him at the Vatican. "A niece of the Pope," says the "Pall Mall Gazette," "was about to be married, and her distinguished relative took so great an interest in her trousseau as to stipulate that the young lady should have only white, blue, or black gowns, adding that these were the three colors most becoming to young girls. 'Grey and brown,' remarked his Holiness, 'are suitable only for old women, and I do not like any other colors.' Possibly the Pope prescribed white because it is the symbol of purity, blue because it is the color dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and black because it is the time-honored hue of dress for outdoor wear in Spain and Italy."

The return of Dr. Martin Garcia Merou to Washington as the Argentine Minister is exceedingly agreeable in high official circles. Dr. Merou served for five years, previous to 1899, as Minister at Washington. He was recalled to undertake the duties of Minister of Agriculture at Buenos Ayres. He is one of the few diplomats of Argentina who are really friendly to American interests, states a writer in the "Chicago Chronicle." This diplomat is a distinguished savant of South America. One shelf of his library is filled with his writings on economic questions. He is the author of standard works in the fields of literature, art, and music, also, and has found time to indite some charming stories, bits of verse, and to compile the biographies of eminent men of his native country. Mme. Merou is a woman of dignified bearing, and during her former residence was one of the most successful hostesses in the diplomatic corps. There are three young daughters, just budding into womanhood. On the whole, Washington society is delighted to welcome the Merous.

OPPOSING AUTHORITIES.

A late departure in the construction of armored vessels is presented by the assertion that the conning tower, a small lookout cabin protected by thick armor for the use of the commanding officer, is not only of no use, but is a positive disadvantage. It is asserted that it is in the way of the turret guns, while the commanding officer can from that protection see very little of the engagement. On the assertion that nearly all the commanding officers both at Manila and Santiago discarded the conning tower and directed their vessels from the bridge, a majority of the Board of Construction has declared in favor of its abolition in future vessels.

Yet the one exception should make the board hesitate before laying rash hands on that refuge. While trivial and light-minded officers like Dewey, Schley, and Clark may have ignored the conning tower, it is asserted to have been dignified by the occupancy of one great hero during the Santiago engagement. A refuge which was resorted to by the famous "Fighting Bob" Evans should surely be sacred against iconoclastic attacks. When that exemplar of dauntlessness has approved the conning tower by his use, how can a mere Board of Construction cast it aside?—Pittsburg Dispatch.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER.

That West Point is the best military school in the world is conceded by all impartial critics. Its methods transform the average raw youth into the honorable, refined, and highly educated officer of our army. He is pre-eminently taught the "habit of command," which, as a rule, he uses without any of the arrogance shown by officers of some of the armies of Europe, notably that of Germany. He is made to realize that he commands men who are as sensitive as they are brave, and who appreciate and respect a character combining generosity, kindness, firmness and, above all else, physical and moral courage. These traits of character are carefully cultivated at West Point, with a result that, besides having the best enlisted personnel, we have in the United States Army, without question or doubt, the best trained and most capable gentlemen as officers.—Army and Navy Journal.

THE PERPETUAL PENSION.

The costliness of the pension establishment shows a steady and rapid growth. The annual average of the appropriations on the pension account in Grant's two Administrations was only about $29,000,000. It had risen to $130,000,000 in Harrison's term, and has stood at about $140,000,000 a year during the McKinley Administration. Predictions that the burden would be lightened when life had run its allotted span among soldiers are doomed to come to naught because of the new war and the peculiar longevity of widows. We may, therefore, reconcile ourselves to the situation and regard the great pension bill as a permanent annual charge in the budget of the Government.—Philadelphia Times.