

NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1903

The year 1903 will be known as the record year of prosperity in the United States.

Some few crops have not yielded so largely as they did in former years, but the prices received were so much higher that the shortage was more than made up for.

Cotton reached the highest figure at which it has been sold since the war. Beef and leather have been unprecedentedly high. Petroleum and its products advanced in price 25 per cent.

Iron and steel were sold at high prices and the demand was so great that orders could not be filled within a reasonable time, and seaport cities made large purchases abroad because deliveries were so much delayed.

The production of precious metals will probably turn out to be nearly 7 per cent greater than last year.

The rice crop of Texas, a new industry practically, was remarkably large and sold for high figures.

Tremendous discoveries of petroleum on the Pacific coast enabled that part of the country to substitute six million dollars' worth of oil for coal, which was previously imported either from Great Britain or Australia.

The total destruction of the fruit crop in Great Britain and in southern Europe made an unexpected market for American green fruits. More than 70 per cent of all the fruits sold in the London markets today is American. The average increase in the cost of foodstuffs to the consumer in the United States was 16 per cent.

In many cases the labor unions, by force of organization, though frequently not until a long and serious strike had been engaged in, were able to increase the pay of their members, thus greatly enhancing the purchasing power of the plain people, which is the basis of all prosperity in the United States.

In nearly all of the large cities throughout the country the population has increased, and the price of real estate has done more than keep pace with the general march of prosperity.

Under the circumstances, the country has every right to look forward to a continuance of prosperity.

Our granaries are groaning with the products of an abundant harvest. Our savings banks overflow with the reserves of the people. Our scale of expenditure is the highest the world has ever known.

The steel market, that unflinching barometer of the feeling of the gambling element of the country, has recently taken a short, sharp rise.

The area of land which will be plowed and seeded this winter and next spring will exceed the area tilled last year.

It is inevitable that a prosperous harvest brings a greater seed sowing. The greatly increased demand for cattle and horses means more stock. Breeding pastures will be fuller next year than they were ever before.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW.

Momentous Events That Have Signaled the Past Twelve Months.

The all-absorbing topic of January, 1903, was the Venezuelan imbroglio. The active events of that affair belong, of course, to 1902, though as late as Jan. 22 the German ships bombarded the fort of San Carlos, but on Jan. 8 President Castro rested Venezuela's side of the case entirely in the hands of Minister Bowen, who set sail for home Jan. 11. After that the whole matter was thrashed out in Washington, and the interest in the affair remained keen to the very close, because many thought they saw in the warlike action of the allies, especially Germany, a determination to attack not Venezuela so much as Uncle Sam's famous Monroe doctrine. The attempt, if it were really so intended, completely failed, for, though pitted against some of the most astute diplomats of Europe, Minister Bowen persistently upheld the real rights of the weaker country and negotiated terms of settlement favorable to Venezuela without calling the time-honored doctrine into question or dispute.

The Great Coal Strike.

The anthracite coal strike belongs even more to the history of 1902 than does the Venezuelan affair and the deliberations of the arbitration commission attracted even less general interest than their importance justified. The commission entered into the matter most thoroughly and systematically. The last witness was not called until Feb. 5 and the arguments of the opposing counsel consumed the following week. President George F. Baer represented the operators and Clarence Darrow the miners.

After a month's deliberations the commission reported. The miners won a portion of increase in wages and reduction of hours of work demanded before the strike, were granted a better system of measuring their work and a practical, if not a formal, recognition of their union. The decision was a victory for the miners especially as they would willingly have accepted the terms allowed before they began the strike had not the mine operators refused to concede, arbitrate or negotiate.

In Congress.

The second session of the Fifty-seventh congress may be briefly summarized: Provisions were made for an increase in the navy similar to that of former years, a uniform militia bill was passed, as was also a law creating

a general staff in command of the army.

Other important if not interesting legislation was effected, but the "omnibus" statehood bill was lost. Littlefield's bill to regulate corporations never got to a vote in the senate, no tariff concessions were granted to imports to the Philippines.

An act that met with universal approval was the creation of a new department and the addition of a new member to the president's cabinet—the Department of Labor and Commerce. As soon as created, in February, the president's private secretary, George B. Cortelyou, was appointed its secretary. At the same time, and as a part of the new department, a bureau of corporation was established, and James R. Garfield, son of the late president, became its chief.

When congress adjourned, or rather expired, March 3, two questions were unsettled—Cuban reciprocity and the Panama canal, but as the treaties concerning them required only the action of the senate, President Roosevelt summoned the new senate into existence immediately to consider the two measures. The reciprocity treaty was ratified, but the nature of its provisions required action by the house,

French company had received. It was the ratification of this treaty that brought the question to the issue in the senate, and when congress adjourned without action an extra session was called. This session ratified the treaty March 17.

Some Passing Sensations. Besides the affairs of general importance already noted, several events of opening months of the year should be mentioned. On Jan. 15 J. T. Tillman shot and killed Editor N. G. Gonzalez. Gonzalez had attacked Tillman rabidly in his paper and had defeated his nomination for governor. The affair was widely and vehemently discussed, but in October Tillman was acquitted, partly because the fatal attack was not entirely unjustified, and partly because there was evidence to show that Tillman thought Gonzalez was armed and about to attack him.

Disastrous Floods. Little can be said here of the disastrous floods of the year. In March the lower Mississippi rose higher than ever before, and on the 20th of that month passed all records. Cities along the river, especially Memphis, suffered heavily, levees gave way and miles of lowlands were inundated, causing untold damage and great suffering, es-

pecially in the case of the Mississippi.

Eventful August. August was an eventful month. On the 8th Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, long the commanding general of the army, was retired from active service. For seven days Major General R. B. M. Young commanded in his stead, but Aug. 15 the army staff law went into effect and General Young became chief of staff.

The event of Aug. 12 was more significant, for on that day misguided Columbians brewed trouble for themselves. On that day the Colombian senate rejected the Hay-Herran Panama canal treaty, and this unexpected action seemed for the time to put the canal farther away than ever.

Even the chagrin that accompanied the turn of affairs gave place to expectancy when Sir Thomas Lipton arrived with his third challenger for America's cup—Shamrock III.

The boat had been launched in March and even before the defender had taken definite shape news of its wonderful sailing capacity was flashed across the Atlantic. Not a few anticipated that upon this expedition the gallant Irishman would be successful in carrying back the trophy. He was, however, doomed to a crushing defeat.

10th France followed our example. M. Munau-Varilla was hurried to Washington as the minister of the new country, empowered to negotiate a new Panama canal pact. Soon after General Reyes of Colombia entered an earnest protest against the course of the administration, insisting that Uncle Sam keep his hands off the isthmus. This, after the practical breach of faith and the violation of the Columbians in regard to the canal treaty, was too tardy, and Uncle Sam's navy is preparing to protect Panama from threatened invasion. Already an American fleet is upon the Panama coast, and Colombia has reached a point when she confesses a fear of taking any drastic action. A new canal treaty has been signed, and once again the canal seems assured. There may, however, be some blood shed on the isthmus before Colombia finally relinquishes her claim to Panama.

Russia and Japan.

For the last few months the everlasting refrain has been of "war clouds hovering over the far east." A dozen times it has been reported that Japan and Russia had reached a point where war was inevitable. The causes of the breach are vague and indefinite. Briefly, Russia is and always has been

coming year some startling results may be shown.

The Honored Dead.

No review of 1902, even done in such sketchy outline as has been necessary, is complete without a mention of the famous men and women who have passed from the busy scenes of life. Space here allows for only a list of the most celebrated:

- Jan. 5—Sagasta, ex-premier of Spain, Jan. 15—Cardinal Parrochi, Jan. 15—Abram S. Hewitt, New York, Jan. 20—Julian Ralph, inventor, Feb. 26—R. J. Gatling, inventor of the famous gun, March 22—Dean Farrar, British divine, March 27—N. K. Fairbanks, capitalist, March 29—G. F. Swift, capitalist, April 10—W. H. Milburn, the "Blind Chaplain" of the United States senate, April 11—Brigham Young of the Mormon church, April 19—Paul du Chailu, explorer, April 23—Stuart Robson, actor, May 12—R. H. Stoddard, poet, May 16—Sibyl Sanderson, singer, May 24—Paul Blouet ("Max O'Reil"), author, June 11—The Serbian assassination, June 19—Cardinal Vaughan, the Roman Catholic primate of England, July 15—Mrs. J. G. Blaine, July 16—F. M. Arthur, labor leader, July 17—Jas. H. McN. Whistler, artist, July 20—Pope Leo XIII, July 22—General Casius M. Clay, Aug. 22—Lord Salisbury, ex-premier of England, Sept. 20—Sir Michael Henry Herbert, British ambassador to the United States, Oct. 13—Archbishop J. J. Kain of St. Louis, Oct. 28—Mrs. Emma Booth-Tucker, Salvation Army, killed in railway wreck, Nov. 1—Theodor Mommsen, German historian, Nov. 7—Wm. L. Elkins, capitalist, Nov. 13—Andrew H. Green, "Father of Greater New York," killed by an insane negro, Dec. 8—Herbert Spencer, English philosopher and author, Of Course He Might, Collector—Sir, may I present you this little bill? Owen—May you—may you? Ah, my dear sir, never ask my permission again. It is entirely superfluous. I assure you. Why, my dear man, if you had ever seen any one else present a bill to me and seen how little it affected me, you would never have hesitated for a moment. See? I file it away with some of the most valuable papers I possess. And—would you please do me this slight favor—would you please tell your boss that I received you with the utmost courtesy and that I beg him to send one of these every month? And—stay a moment. Please tell him I said always to send you, and that no other collector will please me half so well. Your courtesy, my dear sir, has won my heart, and I assure you that of the nineteen collectors that have been here to-day, you are the only one that has gone away in a good humor. Why, those fellows are so aggravating that if they don't quit acting so rudely I shall positively pay them to get rid of them. Good day.—Ballimore American.

Curse That Was Fulfilled.

A famous Gaelic curse put upon the family of Dalrymple at the time of the massacre of Glencoe, in the 18th century, is recalled by the death of the Earl of Stair, head of the Dalrymple family. The first earl of the line took part in the massacre, and Jean Macdonald, the sole survivor of a large family that perished through the earl's cruelty, delivered a bitter curse upon him, wishing that no succeeding earl should have children. A startling comment on this malediction is that the second, third, fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth earls of Stair all died without issue—a circumstance probably unique in the annals of the peerage. The family of the first earl became entirely extinct in 1840, and the succession passed to the descendants of his next brother, Sir James Dalrymple, from whom came the peer just deceased. Evidently the curse did not pass with the title, for the two earls of the present family had sons.

Signaling Under Water.

There has recently been put in operation at Boston a system of signaling beneath the waves to vessels approaching dangerous shores during foggy weather. The apparatus consists of two receivers, located on either side of the ship below the water line, and connected by wires to the wheel house, where a telephone box is placed. The signals from shore are given by striking a submerged ball at regular intervals. When the observer wishes to ascertain his location he takes the ear piece, and by moving the switch either to the right or left, soon ascertains upon which side the sound is the loudest, and upon that side the bell will be found. The value of a system of this nature is at once apparent when it is borne in mind that fogs frequently obscure the most powerful lights, and that certain atmospheric conditions during stormy weather render fog horns almost, if not quite, valueless.

JANUARY

- 1—First cablegram, U. S. to Hawaii, 2—Sagasta died in Spain, 7—Moses Tenney died, Georgetown, 9—Ex-Gov. Hastings, Penn. died, 14—Duty taken off coal, 15—Tillman shot editor, N. Carolina, 15—Cardinal Parrochi died, Rome, 15—Germans shelled Venezuelan fort, 15—M. de Hlowitz died, Paris, 16—Abram S. Hewitt died, New York, 16—Marooning, Cape Cod to England, 16—Germany sent Sternberg to U. S., 16—Julian Ralph died, New York, 17—Germans shelled Venezuelan fort, 22—Canal treaty with Colombia, 23—Col. Lynch guilty, London, 24—Alaskan boundary treaty, 27—Col. Lynch's sentence commuted, 28—Patrick Inverdy died, New York, 29—Cyrus Cook died, Alton, 29—John D. Long seriously ill, 31—Hobson resigned from navy, 31—Jusserand, new French ambassador.

FEBRUARY

- 1—Eliza Morgan died, Springfield, 2—Daniel E. Lord died, Salem, 2—Elihu S. Lee, Middlebury, Vt., 2—Local option won, Vermont, 5—Rain in N. E. has been dry 50 days, 6—King and queen killed, Serbia, 6—Gen. Alex. McCook died, Ohio, 14—Shamrock III arrived at New York, 14—Karaagevitch king of Serbia, 17—Beliance boat tomast, 18—Geo. Wheaton died, Washington, 18—Africa's lion, the Barbican, 18—Cardinal Vaughan died, London, 21—Mal. J. B. Pond died, New York, 21—U. S. squadron at Kiel, 22—Hooker statue unveiled, Boston, 22—Yale won boat race, New London, 26—Cornell won boat race, Hudson, 27—Lowell mills reopened, 27—U. S. squadron at Portsmouth, Eng.

MARCH

- 1—Gen. W. F. Smith died, Phila., 1—Wm. Scollans died, Brighton, 2—Extra session, U. S. senate, called, 4—Exp. of 57th congress, 5—U. S. senate in extra session, 10—Arthur Pennell killed, Buffalo, 10—Woman suffrage defeated, N. H., 12—Car decreed religious freedom, 13—Maine struck to prohibition, 17—Shamrock III launched, Scotland, 17—Canal treaty ratified by senate, 19—\$100,000 fine at Pepperell, 19—Cuban reciprocity treaty ratified, 19—Senate adjourned sine die, 21—Coal commission report, 21—Very Rev. F. W. Farrar died, London, 26—License law in New Hampshire, 27—N. K. Fairbanks died, Chicago, 28—Lowell mills ordered closed, 29—G. F. Swift died, Chicago.

APRIL

- 1—Roosevelt on western tour, 1—Ellis B. Hayes died, Lynn, 7—Rear Ad. Belknap died, Key West, 9—Northern Securities merger annulled, 10—Chap. W. H. Milburn died, California, 11—Reliance launched, Bristol, 17—Shamrock III dismantled abroad, 23—Kishineff massacre of Jews, 23—W. K. Vanderbilt married, London, 23—China refused Russian demands, 24—Irving M. Scott died, Frisco, 29—King Edward visited the Pope, 29—Russia for open door in far east, 29—Stuart Robson died, New York, 30—Paul du Chailu died, Russia.

MAY

- 1—King Edward welcomed in Paris, 1—Bishop Foster died, Newton, 2—Kaiser visited the Pope, 4—Bishop Hurst died, Washington, 5—Str. Hagway sunk by boat, 5—Russia reconquered, Niu Chwang, 5—Russia left Niu Chwang, 12—R. H. Stoddard died, New York, 14—Corruption inquiry, Beacon Hill, 14—Bryll Anderson died, Paris, 17—Max O'Reil died, Paris, 18—Emergency 10th birthday, 24—\$100,000 fine in Louisiana, N. H., 27—Machen arrested, Washington, 28—Shamrock III sailed for New York.

JUNE

- 1—Lowell mills reopened, 1—Last play at Boston Museum, 2—Forest fire in New England, 2—Roosevelt's western trip ended, 7—Leaves broke at East St. Louis, 8—Rain in N. E. has been dry 50 days, 8—King and queen killed, Serbia, 10—Gen. Alex. McCook died, Ohio, 14—Shamrock III arrived at New York, 14—Karaagevitch king of Serbia, 17—Beliance boat tomast, 18—Geo. Wheaton died, Washington, 18—Africa's lion, the Barbican, 18—Cardinal Vaughan died, London, 21—Mal. J. B. Pond died, New York, 21—U. S. squadron at Kiel, 22—Hooker statue unveiled, Boston, 22—Yale won boat race, New London, 26—Cornell won boat race, Hudson, 27—Lowell mills reopened, 27—U. S. squadron at Portsmouth, Eng.

JULY

- 1—Revolution in Macedonia, 2—Beliance won 3d race; kept cup, 4—U. S. warships at Beirut, 5—Hullam exhibited in United States, 7—Bishop Clark of Rhode Island died, 8—Turkish massacres, Macedonia, 11—Major Dolmar, mil. 2,094, 11—Eustis, Ms. swept by fire, 13—J. S. Adams, Sr. died, Adams, 14—Rear Admiral Cook retired, 15—Sir Thomas Lipton III, Chicago, 17—Chamberlain resigned, London, 20—Prince Albert, mil. 1,57, 20—Henry D. Lloyd died, Illinois, 20—President refused to remove Miller, 20—Sir Michael Herbert died abroad, 30—Car visited Vienna.

AUGUST

- 4—Sarto elected Pope, Pius X, 4—Schwab, steel trust, resigned, 4—Stock market slump, 4—Lt. Gen. Miles retired, 4—Lt. Gen. Young head of army, 8—Britishers lifted tennis bowl, 8—Rear Admiral Melville retired, 9—Pope Pius X crowned, 10—Rear Admiral Remy retired, 11—Colombia rejected canal treaty, 11—Jeffries knocked out Carbett, 14—Irish land bill passed, 14—Trouble in Turkey, 15—Gen. Black head of G. A. R., 15—Sam Parks guilty, New York, 22—Humberts guilty, Paris, 22—Reliance beat Shamrock, 7m. 24, 22—Lord Salisbury died, London, 24—Lord Dillon, mil. 2m. 24, 25—Beliance beat Shamrock, 2m. 19, 27—Reported assassination, Beirut, 28—U. S. ships ordered to Turkey, 28—Joseph Haworth died, Ohio, 28—Vice consul at Beirut alive, 28—Calh. Powers guilty, Kentucky, 29—Hamburg Belle won Futurity.

SEPTEMBER

- 1—Receivers for Zion City, 1—Prof. Bowen, B. U., heresy charges, 1—Panama ratified canal treaty, 1—May Geisel married, 10—Orrin Hickok died, Cleveland, 12—Street railway strike, Chicago, 13—A. H. Green murdered, New York, 14—Dortmouth beat Harvard, football, 14—Princeton beat Yale, football, 15—Canal treaty sent to senate, 15—A. F. of L. against socialism, 15—House passed Cuban bill, 15—Italian ship in London, 23—Chicago street railway strike settled, 23—Pittsington shipped gardiner, 26—Hay landrite captured, Chicago, 26—Julius Levy died, Chicago, 30—Brooklyn Acad. of Music burned.

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so it remained inoperative until the extra session in November.

The Panama Canal. The Panama canal was the burning question, and at the beginning, as at the close of this year, it seemed a certainty. For years the agitation in favor of a canal across the isthmus of Panama had been agitated, and recently with increased interest. Thousands of dollars had been spent surveying the possible routes, and it at last seemed assured that the United States, in conjunction with Great Britain, would undertake the Nicaragua route.

Since the collapse of the De Lessep's Panama scheme a new French company had possession of and had done some work on the Panama canal, but until it became evident that this country was in earnest about Nicaragua the French company refused to sell out at a reasonable price. Then, when competition seemed likely, they surprised American lawmakers by offering their holdings at less than half their former figures. They offered to sell their concessions and everything in sight for \$40,000,000, giving until March 4 for acceptance. Congress hesitated, many favoring the Nicaragua route, and when the time was about to expire President Roosevelt took the responsibility of accepting the proposition, running the risk of defeat in the senate or in Colombia. In the meantime Secretary Hay and Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge d'affaires, signed a treaty by which the United States agreed to pay Colombia a bonus of \$10,000,000 and an annual rental of \$250,000 for such concessions as the

pecially to the poor negroes of the South. The following month and in June the Missouri and its tributaries were flooded, and Topeka, Kansas City, St. Louis and East St. Louis suffered from the rush of waters. The cotton mills in the Carolinas and Georgia were also victims of the raging waters and many other cities, notably Paterson, N. J., were inundated. Heppner, Ore., was practically devastated by a cloudburst.

Passing of Pope Leo.

Late in June came the announcement of the serious illness of Pope Leo XIII. That aged pontiff was 93 years of age on March 7, and on March 3 celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his coronation as pope, thus putting an end to the long-honored tradition that no pontiff would "see the days of Peter"—25 years. Pope Leo's predecessor had reigned 32 years, the longest in history, and the old tradition cannot survive this second breaking of the record. On July 5 the pontiff was regarded as in a critical condition, and in a few days his life was despaired of, but though apparently frail in body, the long years of simple habits had given him a splendid power of resistance to disease, and for more than two weeks he battled with the ravages of plural pneumonia. On July 20, however, he died, and on the following day the chair of Peter was declared vacant by Cardinal Camerlengo Oreglia. The conclave to choose his successor assembled on the last day of the month, and on Aug. 4, after several indecisive ballots, chose Cardinal Sarto, Patriarch of Venice, who was elected. He chose the title

Even the first trial, which resulted in no race, so clearly demonstrated the superiority of the Reliance that interest began to wane at once. The Reliance won three straight races, but before the last race the public in general lost all interest in the contest. Sir Thomas, it is said, believes the effort to be hopeless for many years to come.

On Nov. 3 elections were held in thirteen states, seven of which chose governors. The following governors were re-elected: A. B. Cummings (rep.) of Iowa; J. C. W. Beckham (dem.) of Kentucky; John L. Bates (rep.) of Massachusetts, and L. F. C. Garvin (dem.) of Rhode Island. Edwin Warfield (dem.) was chosen governor of Maryland; J. K. Vardman (rep.) of Mississippi and Myron T. Herrick (rep.) was elected governor of Ohio by a plurality of over 100,000 over Tom L. Johnson. The other elections of national interest resulted in the return of Tammany to power in Greater New York. George B. McClellan (dem.) received a plurality of 60,000 over former fusion Mayor Seth Low. The entire Tammany ticket was elected, and that organization also secures a majority of the board of aldermen.

Republic of Panama.

As in several other instances in 1903 momentous events conspired to occur on the same day, so on Nov. 3 the province of Panama declared her independence of Colombia. The following day a provisional government was established, and Colombian officials and troops were sent to Cartagena.

On the 5th the United States recognized the new republic, and on the

averse to relinquishing her hold on Manchuria. Instead she desires to extend it as far as the European allies will permit. Japan looks upon Korea in the same light and the interests of the two countries conflict. There is no doubt that a rupture between the two powers has been and is dangerously near, but it is also certain that overt hostilities, should they come, will belong to the history of 1904.

It would be improper not to mention the gigantic postoffice frauds unearthed during the present year. It is not possible to so much as outline the many cases brought to light, and here the curious reader is referred to the complete report of Mr. Bristow, made public Nov. 30.

Wireless Telegraphy.

Late last year the sensation of the hour was the Marconi wireless message across the Atlantic. This year nothing so spectacular has been done, but the young inventor, as well as many other scientists, is quietly working upon the problems of wireless telegraphy, and it is certain some progress has been made.

In the realm of scientific discoveries the mysterious metal—radium—afforded a mild sensation, similar to that which greeted the discovery of liquid air and the X-rays in former years.

This mysterious substance, discovered by M. and Mme. Currie of Paris, emits rays of light that penetrate opaque substances, and heat that month after month shows no diminution. Only small quantities of the substance have been secured, too little for general experiment, but during the