

EMPEROR WILLIAM uses the largest visiting cards of any member of Europe's royal families. They are of heavy card, six inches long and four inches wide. On the upper line is the single word "Wilhelm," and on the second line are the words "Deutscher Kaiser und Koenig von Prussien."

SOME years ago Boone, Ia., was suffering from an epidemic of typhoid fever. Col. George Waring, who died of yellow fever in New York recently, came west and projected a sanitary system for that town, which is regarded as equal to that of any city of the same size in America. Just when he was commissioned to go to Havana he had about completed arrangements to practically duplicate the Boone system in several other Iowa cities.

A GERMAN dentist, Dr. Herz, proposes to put microbes in our mouths to steal away our pains. His discovery consists in an inoculum prepared from microbes he cultivates for the purpose. When applied in the case of a decayed tooth it stops the pain, but does not destroy the nerve; further, it again fixes the tooth and makes it possible to put in a lasting stopping. He has already treated a number of cases with it, and they have proved most successful.

If a child in Switzerland does not attend school on a particular day the parents gets a notice from the public authority that he is fined so many francs; the second day the fine is increased and by the third day the amount has become a serious one. In case of sickness the pupil is excused, but if there is any suspicion of shaming a doctor is sent. If the suspicion proves to be well founded the parent is required to pay the cost of the doctor's visit.

A SUBSTITUTE for tobacco has been discovered by an eastern chemist. The appearance, odor, taste and effect on the system are all reproduced, it is claimed, and the sham can only be told by a microscopical examination. The one essential difference between the leaf tobacco and the substitute is the absence of nicotine in the latter. The cost of producing the substitute is said to be small, and a promise of the best perfectos of to-day at a price within the reach of all is made.

A COMPANY has been incorporated in Pittsburgh to abolish the razor. Instead of shaving a man, the barber will dab over his face a lather that will remove the bristles. The company has a capital of \$300,000, with which to start business. As soon as it gets its charter it will open a "parlor," where practical demonstrations will be given. Specimen men will sit in a show window on a crowded street and have their beards publicly and painlessly removed by a gentlemanly lecturer.

THE French so ready to use electricity in automobile locomotion, now propose to use the automobile wagons for exploration purposes. M. Felix DuBoise, the explorer, intends to use them in his expedition to the Niger river. A number of his wagons were recently inspected and gave satisfaction. He can transport his automobile wagons to within 250 miles of his objective point on the Niger, and he believes he can cover this distance in a week. The bicycle may also be used in exploration.

MEDICAL men of Plainfield, N. J., are deeply interested in the discovery of a man with two distinct and separate hearts and two breast bones, all of which he can move about at will. The man who is thus generously endowed by nature is William King, colored, who claims to be 100 years old. His home is in New Bedford, Mass., and he has been visiting his cousin, Thomas Martin, the jail warden in that city, for several days. That he has two hearts Dr. M. B. Long, chief of the Muhlenburg hospital staff, says is undeniable.

CURIOUS creeds can be found among the upper classes. Lord Pöllington, eldest son of Lord Mexborough, is a self-confessed Buddhist. The duke of Northumberland and his family, including Lord and Lady Percy, are Irvingites, as are Sir Herbert Maxwell and Lady Frances Balfour, a daughter of the duke of Argyll. Lord and Lady Radnor are credited with being ardent spiritualists. The late Lady Charlemont was a Jewess, not by birth, but by conviction, and Lord Stanley, of Alderly, is said to favor the principles of Mohammed.

EXPERIMENTS with aluminum as a substitute for paper are now under way in France. It is well known that the paper used to-day in the manufacture of books is not durable. It is now possible to roll aluminum into sheets four-thousandths of an inch in thickness, in which form it weighs less than paper. By the adoption of suitable machinery these sheets can be made even thinner still, and can be used for book and writing paper. The metal will not oxidize, is practically fire and water proof and is indestructible by the jaws of worms.

In one of the streets of London there has for some time been carried on an industry peculiar even to that city of curious and crowded occupations, namely, an eelskin leather factory. Here are prepared and manufactured an interesting variety of articles from the skin of the common eel. By means of numerous complicated processes the skins are manipulated until they resemble and would be easily taken for leather, although of a more glutinous and pliable nature. In one specialty this strange substance is cut into long, thin strips and plaited together for whips.

A HEAP OF RUINS.

Destruction by Fire of Famous Baldwin Hotel in San Francisco.

Losses Will Probably Reach Fully One and a Half Million of Dollars.

Two Lives Are Known to Have Been Lost—Eleven Persons Are Still Missing.

A Number of Guests Are Badly Injured by Jumping from the Windows.

Many Instances of Heroism Are Displayed by Brave Rescuers—Story of the Fire.

San Francisco, Nov. 24.—The Baldwin hotel, for almost 30 years one of the principal landmarks of San Francisco, is no more. A fire which broke out in the east end of the building shortly after three o'clock Wednesday morning, supposedly in the property-room of the Baldwin theater, totally destroyed the immense structure, entailing a financial loss of nearly \$1,500,000, besides destroying property that no amount of money or science can replace.

The loss of life so far as reported has been miraculously light, but two deaths having occurred as far as known. The loss of dead and injured and missing, as far as known, is as follows:

The Victims. DEAD—Capt. J. L. White, San Francisco, capitalist; Lewis Myers, Skagway, Alaska, merchant. MISSING—J. M. Leitch, San Francisco, purser steamer City of Sydney; F. Weatherbee and wife, Haverhill, Mass.; Tate Pryor, of St. Louis, racing book writer; F. H. Andrews, cashier cafe; Fred Webster, two chambermaids, John Carter, race track judge; Thomas Berke and wife, assessor, Sacramento county, Cal. INJURED—F. P. Noon, St. Louis, Mo., both ankles broken; George Huber, San Francisco, cut about body; Miss Bridget Mitchell, San Francisco, badly bruised; Fire Marshal Towe, San Francisco, cut about head.

Losses Are Heavy. The financial losses are very far reaching, almost every branch of commercial trade being directly affected. The ground floor of the hotel was divided into a number of large stores and few of their occupants saved anything worth mentioning, the majority reporting total losses. Two of the most handsome cafes in the city were gutted and their stocks destroyed. The Baldwin theater, the fashionable amusement place of this city, was totally destroyed with the rest of the building and the "Secret Service" company, headed by William Gillette, now playing an engagement at the theater, lost all its paraphernalia and accoutrements. Many of the members of the company lost most of their belongings and trunks containing the official papers of the company were destroyed. The flames were confined to the Baldwin structure, but much adjoining property was seriously damaged by water and smoke. The Columbia theater building on Powell street, on the west side of the Baldwin theater, suffered considerably, and the basement of the Columbia theater, another fashionable playhouse, was gutted, and much valuable theatrical apparatus destroyed. The Gay Coney Island company will lose considerably, and Dr. Freeman, manager of the company, who was a guest at the Baldwin, lost a trunk containing valuable papers and \$3,500 in cash.

Crowded with Guests. There were upwards of 300 guests in the hotel when the fire was discovered, and the scenes which followed beggar description. The watchmen, bellboys and other employes of the hotel worked nobly in arousing sleeping residents. It is believed that every person in the building was apprised of the danger within ten minutes after the fire broke out, but rumors are rife that many of those in the east wing, where the flames were discovered, were cut off from escape and lost. How true these rumors are cannot be definitely told for several days yet, as many parts of the building have collapsed, burying anyone who may have been left in the building under the debris.

Heroic Employes. A force of messenger boys employed in an all-night office adjoining the hotel did excellent work in connection with the warning of guests, and several brave rescues are credited to the boys of the messenger service. In conjunction with the employes of the hotel, the police and firemen, they went through the building awakening guests and aiding them to dress and rendering other assistance. The employes of the hotel are highly praised by the guests, and the firemen and police are spoken of in unmeasurably complimentary terms. Half an hour after the first alarm was sounded 112 policemen were on the scene of the conflagration. Many of the guests of the hotel are eastern turmen, many of whom lost all their effects. The hostelry was a favorite stopping place for sporting people, the location being an admirable one, and convenient to all sporting resorts and places of amusement.

Death of Capt. White. Capt. J. L. White, who occupied a room on the fourth floor, was killed while trying to escape by means of a rope which dangled from the fifth floor almost to the street below. The rope had previously done good service, being the means by which five persons escaped from the burning building. The story of the rope is a thrilling one. For eight years Kate Richardson has been an employe of the hotel, occupying a room on the fifth floor. Five years ago Miss Richardson, as a precautionary measure for just such an emergency, procured a lengthy rope long enough to reach from her room to the street. When the alarm was given Miss Richardson, with the assistance of Gusse Johnson, a companion, secured the rope to a piece of heavy furniture and threw the free end out of the window. The two girls were about to make the descent to the pavement when three lady guests rushed into the room and begged to be saved. The two brave girls gave precedence to the guests and then Miss Johnson took her position on the rope and went down hand over hand. Miss Richardson was the last to leave and she had gone down but one story when Capt. White, who occupied a room on that floor, called to her appealingly, begging her not to jump. Miss Richardson stopped and begged the captain to take her place on the line. This he refused to do and only after dint of much persuasion could he induce Miss Richardson to save herself, promising to follow in her wake. Miss Richardson reached terra firma in safety and Capt. White had launched himself in the air when suddenly the rope broke and he fell to the ground below, a distance of nearly 100 feet. The rope, weakened by the intense strain to which it had been subjected and chafed with the contact with the window sills which had become intensely hot, could not stand the strain of Capt. White's weight and broke.

Shock Caused His Death. The other known death was that of Louis Myers, a merchant of Skagway, Alaska, who was in this city on business connected with his Alaska store. Mr. Myers, who was 63 years of age, had been safely rescued, but the shock had been so great that his heart, weakened by fright and old age, could not stand the strain and he died.

The most sanguine hopes are expressed that the loss of life will not be added to, but the indications are that the death roll must increase. The police department is busy computing a list of the guests and checking them off as fast as they are reported safe. Manager Lake, of the hotel, feels certain that all of the employes have been saved, though two chambermaids are missing.

Losses Not Estimated. E. J. Baldwin, proprietor and owner of the hotel, said that he could not figure up his losses for several days yet, but said that the insurance was light in comparison to the loss. Owing to the extremely heavy insurance rates charged by the insurance companies on the building and contents he carried but little protection on his property, and the high rate also prevented tenants on the ground floors from insuring their stock heavily. The insurance on the building may reach \$100,000, and \$50,000 of this is divided among 16 companies, the National of Hartford being the heaviest loser among the companies, \$7,500 being carried with this concern. The insurance on the contents of the building so far as known amounts to \$77,600, and is divided among 23 companies, the National of Hartford being responsible for another \$7,500.

Meets with Favor. Washington, Nov. 24.—Gov. Bloxham's call for a national convention to assemble at Tampa, Fla., February 8, to suggest and formulate plans for organizing the national guard, is receiving favorable support from state executives. The object of the convention will be to aid the government in placing the national guard on the most effective possible footing. The Florida state superintendent of education has extended invitations to superintendents of education in all states, inviting them to this convention, to consider the introduction of a military drill system for public schools of the United States, in the interest of patriotism, subordination and physical development.

Attempted Safe Robbery. St. Louis, Nov. 24.—A special to the Post Dispatch says that an attempt to rob the Lincoln bank, at Ellsberry, Mo., was made Wednesday. The town watchman was tied to a tree by four robbers, who broke into the bank and attempted to enter the safe. It is not known that they got anything, for the officials themselves cannot open the safe, the time lock of which was tampered with.

The Cold Wave. St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 24.—The steady cold continues, going four below early in the day in St. Paul and being but four above seven o'clock Wednesday night. Temperatures generally throughout the northwest were but a very few degrees different from Tuesday night, in most cases being a little higher. No particular suffering has been reported.

Burned to Death. Elkton, Mich., Nov. 24.—Mrs. Thomas Stephens was burned to death and Alex. Ross was fatally burned during a fire in Mrs. Stephens house, caused by the explosion of an oil stove. The two were attempting to remove the stove when their clothing caught fire. Mrs. Stephens' daughter also suffered serious burns.

Goes to Harvard. Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 24.—Capt. Higginson, of the Harvard university crew, announces officially that the Australian oarsman O'Dea, lately coach of the University of Wisconsin crew, had been engaged to teach rowing at Harvard, and will begin his work December 1.

Accept Blanco's Resignation. Madrid, Nov. 24.—The Official Gazette publishes a decree accepting the resignation of Marshal Blanco as captain general of Cuba.

GOOD WORK OF NAVY.

Extracts from the Report of Capt. Crowninshield.

DOCUMENT IS VERY INTERESTING.

One Great Factor in Our Success in the War with Spain Was Our Superior Gunnery—Some Valuable Recommendations.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Far out of the lines of the ordinary annual report of the bureau officers is that of Capt. Crowninshield, chief of the bureau of navigation, navy department, which has just been made public. Not only was the head of this bureau a member of the war or strategy board, as it came to be known, but he was responsible for the execution of the plans formed by that board and for the movement of every ship and the assignment of every officer. Consequently no bureau officer had equal opportunity to know the moving purposes and exact history of the war. The report is absolutely free from personalities; there is no reference whatever to the now happily-ended Sampson-Schley controversy; no criticism of any officer nor any commendation that might be regarded as invidious and discriminating. But the report is confined to the statement of hard facts, with a few important recommendations for the betterment of the naval service.

Beginning of War History. The war history begins with the simple statement of certain precautionary orders that were issued, but even in the absence of comment, attention cannot fail to be attracted to the remarkable foresight exhibited in the preparation of the official orders. They begin with an order dated January 11 last directing the commander of the European stations to retain in service men whose enlistments were about to expire, and those following provide for the successful execution of the European squadron from the danger to which it was exposed upon the outbreak of the war, show how the south Atlantic squadron was brought up to re-en-

FIRMNESS VERSUS STUBBORNNESS.



force Sampson, how the Oregon started on her famous race around South America, how stores and ammunition were forwarded to the squadrons, and finally they wind up with the famous laconic order to Dewey of April 24: "War has commenced between the United States and Spain, proceed at once to the Philippine islands, commence operations at once, particularly against Spanish fleet. You must capture vessels or destroy. Use utmost endeavors." These orders show that four months before Cervera's fleet reached this side our whole north Atlantic fleet was ready for an emergency within striking distance of one of the two points from which attack might come.

Victory Won by Good Gunnery. "The completeness of our naval victories during the war and the almost absolute immunity from injury which our ships and crews enjoyed, naturally led to a general conclusion that our gunnery had much to do with the matter. As a matter of fact all reports bear out this conclusion. In fact it appears that the experience of each combat was that our marksmanship was so far superior that, at a range at which Spanish guns and gunners were ineffective, our guns and gunners were so effective that before the range was or could be reduced, the Spanish ships were either seriously crippled or their crews demoralized."

Importance of Sea Power. Capt. Crowninshield declares that the experience of the war has been another demonstration of the importance to the nation of sea power. He says that from the first the only apprehension felt in this country was on account of the Spanish navy. It was Cervera's ships that were feared—we did not fear the Spanish army would not have feared it "if it had been three times as powerful, unless it had been supported by a navy powerful enough to have formed an efficient convoy and brought it to this coast. On the contrary, the Spanish navy, even without the Spanish army, would have been a menace, though it had consisted of only one first-class cruiser. Until that cruiser had been blockaded, captured or destroyed any unprotected coast on our coast and all of our sea commerce would have been at its mercy, and no army, however efficient, could have protected us from it. It required a navy for this work, and an effective navy."

One Glaring Defect. Touching upon the combined operations of the army and navy, the reported differences which arose between the commanders during the campaign were satisfactorily solved by victory. One glaring defect of the system of joint operations was found, however, in the matter of transporting and conveying troops, and it is recommended to secure smoother handling of such a campaign, the navy be by law charged with the transport service.

Increased Force Recommended. The navigation bureau recommends that congress authorize the increase of the naval force to 20,000 men for general service and 2,500 apprentices, and an argument is made to show absolute necessity of some such increase, unless the reserves on the receiving ships are to be reduced below the danger points; and that was very closely approached during the last war.

Volunteer Officers and Naval Militia. Of the volunteer officers it is said that they rendered valuable service during the war, but that they can never be the equal in professional attainments of their brothers of the regular establishment, for lack of the exhaustive training imparted to the latter. A tribute is paid to the good work of the naval militia, in manning the coast defense stations, and the vessels of the auxiliary naval force and furnishing material for crews for the auxiliary vessels

serving with the regular fleet. But for crews aboard ship in active service they furnish nothing more than material and in the ordinary course most of them would have to be enlisted as landsmen and nothing higher. All had to be thoroughly drilled, and even the officers, with exceptions, were found to be unqualified to act as instructors. Capt. Crowninshield does not wish to be understood as underrating the zeal of these men, but simply desires to point out fatal defects in the system.

Wants National Naval Reserve. He shows that difficulty was experienced in mustering the men in the department having no right to call upon them, and they were not responsible to the navy department, were not subject to orders. Therefore the bureau recommends the passage of the Cummings bill, which provides in substance for appropriations for the naval militia on an entirely different basis. This would provide for the creation of a national naval reserve entirely under the control of the department, recruited from the seafaring classes, who would be compelled to serve in war times under penalty of desertion. The men would be required to report once a year for drill for which they would receive one month's pay.

Medals of Honor. Another recommendation is that the system of rewards by promotion be abolished, and that medals of honor be substituted, so that officers may be rewarded without detriment to others. Finally, the suggestion of the superintendent of the coast signal service, that this should be made a permanent institution is approved, as it will afford a skeleton at small cost, around which a highly-efficient service could be promptly built up upon the outbreak of a war.

LABOR LEGISLATION.

Samuel Gompers Makes Some Suggestions to the President in an Interview.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Mr. Samuel J. Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, accompanied by the secretary of the federation, had an hour's conference with the president Wednesday in regard to legislation in the interest of labor, now pending in congress. Mr. Gompers' purpose was

to secure, if possible, the endorsement of these measures in the president's forthcoming message to congress. The president was deeply interested in Mr. Gompers' remarks, and without indicating what, if any, specific recommendations would be made in his message on these subjects, said that he regarded it the duty of every man, whether in public or private life, to use every effort in his power to improve the condition of the workingman, and to bridge the chasm between him and his employer.

Mr. Gompers favored the eight-hour labor law which limits a day's work to eight hours whether the work is being done directly by the government or by contractors and the bill having for its object the improvement in the condition of American seamen. The bill gives to seamen the right to leave a vessel when she is in safe harbor and abolishes corporal punishment. He also urges the Lodge immigration bill, which limits immigration to persons who can read and write, and the convict labor bill, which prohibits the transportation of the product of convict labor from one state to another.

En Route for Honolulu. Washington, Nov. 24.—The battleships Oregon and Iowa have resumed their long cruise to Honolulu. Capt. Barker, commanding the Oregon, and the senior officer of the expedition, has notified the navy department that his little squadron sailed last Saturday from Rio de Janeiro for Montevideo, where another stop will be made for coal. After leaving that port the ships will head for Punta Arenas, in the Straits of Magellan, almost at the extremity of South America, which will mark the accomplishment of about one-half of their voyage, unless they are ordered at Honolulu to proceed to Manila.

Favors a Discount. Washington, Nov. 24.—The commissioner of internal revenue in his annual report, the principal features of which were made public in July last, recommends that the war revenue law be amended so as to allow a discount of three per cent. to purchasers of \$100 or more, instead of one per cent., as is now provided. Unless such action is taken, the commissioner says, a very large increase in the number of stamp deputies will be necessary. The number of internal revenue stamps issued during the year was 1,442,274,189, of the value of \$192,153,933.

Sentence Commuted. Frankfort, Ky., Nov. 24.—Gov. Bradley has commuted to life imprisonment George A. Portwood, of Lexington, Ky., sentenced to hang November 30 for the murder of Richard Perkins. Portwood comes of a well-known Anderson county family. Gov. Bradley is convinced he is insane.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

Ditching is Finished. The contract let by the State Drainage commission for the completion of the Middle river ditch in Marshall county expired. The commission at its last meeting set Nov. 10 as the date when the work should be completed, and a letter from the contractor to Secretary Lomen states that the work has been executed according to agreement.

The completion of this ditch exhausts the last appropriation of \$50,000 made by the legislature of 1895 for state ditches in the Red river valley, and winds up the work of the commission extending over a period of five years. All told, the state has expended \$180,000 for drainage in the Red river valley. The Great Northern railway, however, assisted in this work, and \$25,000 of this amount was contributed by the railroad company, and expended under the supervision of the state commission.

As a result of this large expenditure the state has secured excellent system of drainage in the valley, which has been worth to the farmers many times its cost. The ditches cover an area of 117 miles and benefit the following counties tributary to the Red River of the North: Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay, Wilkin, Traverse and Grant.

The 18 ditches completed by the commission average in length about eight miles, the longest being the Sand Hill ditch, in Polk county, which is 13 and one-half miles in length.

Can Refuse Drinks. The supreme court decides that saloons do not come within the jurisdiction of the civil rights law, and saloonkeepers can refuse to serve colored men with intoxicating drinks. This action was brought under the civil rights law. The plaintiff, Rohne, is a colored man, residing at Duluth, and at the invitation of a white man, went into the saloon of the defendant, Loomis, and the white man ordered that both be served with beer. The saloonkeeper refused to furnish beer to the colored man, so the suit was brought. The defense set up that under the state law saloons are exempt from the operation of the civil rights bill, and are not obliged to serve colored people. The plaintiff claimed that the general law regulating hotels, restaurants, "or other places of refreshment," does apply to and include saloons.

Bread on the Waters. Wm. H. Pankake, of Maine Prairie, did a kindly act last spring and it now rises up to bless him. Theodore Pauman, a bachelor 48 years old, and in very poor health, came to his house, and Mr. Pankake took him and cared for him. It did not appear probable that he would be very liberally recompensed, but he determined to exercise a certain charity, no matter how he was repaid. The other day Pauman died and was buried. Then his will came to light and was offered for probate. It was found that the dead man had left quite a comfortable estate. He had remembered his brothers and sisters in his native country of Belgium by leaving them his personal property, but to his kind benefactor, Mr. Pankake, he bequeathed his farm of eighty acres in Maine Prairie township.

Killed by a Careless Shot. A shocking tragedy occurred at Woods, seven miles north of Duluth, when Vespasian Smith, 18 years old, son of Frank B. Smith, a well known druggist, was shot through the head and instantly killed by unknown men. Smith and Philip Hamp were out partridge hunting, and they spent the night on a bed of boughs in the woods. About 3 o'clock in the morning Hamp was aroused by a shot and saw two men running. Smith did not stir, and Hamp ran that he was dead, though Hamp ran two miles for a doctor and ambulance. It is supposed that the men fired at the reflection of their headlights on Smith's glasses, or at the eyes of his dog, which was lying near.

Want to Borrow It. Assistant State Dairy Commissioner Lawrence has been requested by Henry E. Alvord, chief of the dairy division of the national agricultural department, to send him at once the apparatus used by the Minnesota dairy inspectors in their field work. The apparatus is contained in a small box and is known as the preliminary test case. By its use adulterations can be detected ninety-nine times in a hundred.

Lots of Spuds. Reports have been received from the various parts of the state indicating that the potato crop will be considerable better than last year. The northern localities have improved considerably and the total crop will probably be 16,000,000 bushels, against 14,000,000 last year. The demand in the eastern markets has fallen off somewhat, and although the shipments continue to be fair to the east and south, the prospects are not particularly bright.

News in Brief. Winona had a successful chrysanthemum show.

As far as heard from, Lind carried 54 counties in the state, and Eustis 28. Gen. C. McC. Reeve is to be given a Christmas present from the Apollo club of Minneapolis, of which he was president before he left for Manila. The club has sent him a fine revolver, finished with a pearl handle.

Capt. H. C. Rubse will establish a town at Red Lake next spring. The site has already been selected. The American Whist league and Northwestern Whist association contests, which will probably be held in Minneapolis or St. Paul this winter, promises to stimulate the interest of all whist lovers in that intellectual game.

The body of an old, gray-haired man was found on the Great Northern tracks near Renneby. The remains were lying across the tracks with head and feet cut off.

St. Paul is organizing an anti-cigarette league.