

BULLETIN OF THE ST. PAUL GLOBE

MONDAY, DEC. 20, 1897.

Weather for Today—Fair and Warmer.

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PAGE 8. Bailey's Circus in London. Big Runs of Trains.

EVENTS TODAY.

Met—Man From Mexico, 8.15. Grand-Black Patch, 8.15.

MOVEMENT OF STEAMSHIPS.

MOVILLE, Dec. 19.—Sailed: Anchora (for Glasgow) New York. HAVRE—Arrived: La Bretagne, New York.

What is on the 93-cent counter this morning.

Just to think that our girls must smuggle in their sealskin sacks.

Now Europe is talking of carving up China and dividing it. What a mess of birds' nests!

Unlike Fitzsimmons and Corbett, McCoy is letting his hands do their own talking.

Hamburg's pictures indicate that some part of that \$50,000 could be profitably used for oats.

Both houses of congress have adjourned until Jan. 5. We ought to have a three weeks' business boom.

The congressional log roller's head will show up all around the horizon immediately after New Year's.

Capt. Anson has arrived home from Europe. This means war next spring in Boston, Baltimore and elsewhere.

The German Rhine wine crop this year is less than one-half an average crop. The Germans will have to get tipsy on plain beer.

Somebody has leaved on Duluth's water mains. The Zenith City has a hard fight to keep from drinking beer and milk exclusively.

How would it do to have Gen. Miles head one of the expeditions to Alaska? Real service in the field, general, is what we want of our soldiers.

New York has an actor who beat his wife so often in the play that he went home and beat her. That wife ought to go armed, especially at home.

The farmer is going to make himself a Christmas present this year of a canceled mortgage. Wheat at a dollar a bushel has made it easy for him.

The leading sleeper of the year has been found. He went to sleep in a New Jersey church, and it took the whole congregation and four policemen to wake him up.

Mr. Charles T. Yerkes has assumed active control of the Chicago Inter Ocean, William Penn Nixon having been named as collector of customs for the district of Chicago.

The relations between De Wolf Hopper and his wife seem to have passed the zero mark going down. Hopper has ordered his wife to ride in a separate car from himself.

A philanthropist died in New York this week who was given up by his physicians sixty years ago. Doctors are not usually that far out of the way with their guesses.

A good many of the Republican editors of Iowa stand with Senator Allison in his dilly-dally policy on the currency because they want him to help them secure a postoffice.

Indiana has done it again. It has ordered the enforcement of a law passed several decades ago which requires that incorrigible pupils shall be paddled or expelled from school.

It is announced from Hamburg that Prince Bismarck is suffering from persistent insomnia and rapidly declining mentally and physically. His attack on the Monroe doctrine is explained.

It is about time for our Republican friends to make a sneak for cover in the Hawaiian business. If we annex the Sandwiches, we shall have to keep a standing army of 10,000 men in Honolulu and vicinity.

The Republicans of the house announce that they are framing a bill to reform the civil service law. Why don't they turn honest for a minute and admit that they are framing a measure to get around the law?

To a man up a tree it looks as if a whole lot of cheap St. Paul Republicans borrowed money of the Minnesota Savings bank when they found they couldn't get it anywhere else. Like the cowards they are, when the bank failed they all ran away, leaving young Mr. Bickel to fight the institution's creditors single-handed.

POLITICS IN EDUCATION

The Other Side of the Project for Establishing a National University.

HOW CONGRESS WOULD CONTROL CIVIL SERVICE COULD BE A FARCE

Under the Best of Considerations the Spoils System Would Make Itself Felt as It Does Now in the Census.

Library of Congress a Notable Example of the Workings of the System. Professors Without "Influence" Would Have No Chance for Appointment.

Special to the Globe.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Whatever may be the merits of the national university project, in behalf of which a convention has just completed a three days' session in this city, it must be acknowledged that at this time in particular certain forces in the political world would naturally tend to discourage its promoters. If the government is to undertake more things, it is especially important to know that it will do them right. Between the spoils system and the merit system the difference in economy and morals is so elemental as to need no comment. And yet so much as we have of the merit system in letter and in spirit is in this session of congress encountering almost a life and death struggle. One of the great political parties, which polled slightly less than 50 per cent of the popular vote at the last election, had an attack upon the merit system as one of the prominent planks of its platform. Nearly seventy-five of the Republican members of the house attended a caucus a few evenings ago to determine upon a plan of "modifying" the existing civil service system. There would be made "pie" to go around. It is very likely that a disagreement between these two sets of enemies of civil service reform—the silver Democrats professing to be unwilling to vote for anything short of the repeal, and the Republican spoilsmen daring to go only to the extent of a modification of the present laws—will result in saving the law as it is for the present congress and administration. But so long as the spoils system comes so near to clutching the offices of the government as its own, it is hardly encouraging to think of putting at its disposal the staff of a great university, all the way from professors in philosophy down to coal shovelers in the furnace room.

Another problem now before congress which discredits the ability of the government to run a university is that of the census. This is a great intellectual and scientific undertaking, not entirely different in scope from the management of a university. A federal census costs every ten years a sum as great as the entire government investment in properties of Harvard university are worth. The United States has apparently reached that stage of progress in government, that it can conduct this work intelligently. It is generally agreed that the bill for the census which is likely finally to prevail will be one putting \$25,000 worth of passage into the hands of every industrial congressman of the party in power who desires to make use of it. At the same time, the best statisticians in the country are united in saying that no intelligent census, worthy the name, can be taken on this basis. There is a perfect agreement that the taxpayers will have to pay several million dollars more, not from a worthless or semi-worthless results. Many conservative persons are asking what guarantee there is that the national university would run more intelligently than the census or other similar undertakings? Of course, a multitude of answers to this question will at once appear. A national university will have no such amount of patronage as a census bureau; it would be managed by a board of trustees or regents, on a life tenure, who would be appointed with as much care as justices of the supreme court. But it has not yet been proved that an increase in machinery eliminates the troublesome characteristics of human nature. There have been unpleasant stories, even to the bench. Somebody will have to make all these appointments, and can it be taken for granted that William J. Bryan for instance, would appoint for regents of the university an entirely safe class of men? If objection is made to comparing the university to the census, how about the library of congress? That is an institution which in its magnificent new home would seem to rise above the dust and smoke of politics, and yet this library is in the hands of a man, Mr. Young, the new head of the library, is an accomplished gentleman, but he is not a librarian, and was not appointed because of any special training for that work. Some of the applicants for positions in the library who have presented the best evidence of special fitness have been frankly told that they could not be considered because they did not have enough political influence; and this at a time when the library is known to be crippled in its force because so very few of its clerical staff have had the necessary preparation for their work. If the United States government would only conduct this great library in such a way as to be a model, the arguments for a national university would be much strengthened.

Many people believe that the advocates of the university have not yet satisfactorily explained how they are going to keep politics out of such an institution. Suppose, for instance, that its department of political economy should take the same view of the money question as the great political economists of the land, and that congress should fall into the hands of the free silverites. The senate is today in that condition, and the next house may be. Would not a free silver congress at once order an "investigation" of the teachings of the university, and make it very unpleasant for self-respecting professors to remain there? The state universities in Kansas and other Western states have suffered tremendously from the inroads of politics, and, unless we are sure that the United States government is to remain in the hands of the conservative and intelligent classes of the country, it is not safe to predict that a national university would not presently suffer from the same evil. The United States sen-

ate, in voting supplies, etc., would have a controlling influence over any university that might be established. It might be interesting to take the list of the trustees of Harvard college or any other great institution for illustration, and place beside them the names of the men who, as United States senators, would be back of the national university. We should have in the latter list Gallinger and Chandler, of New Hampshire; Platt and Murphy, of New York; Quay and Penrose, of Pennsylvania; Gorman and Wellington, of Maryland; Mason and Cullom, of Illinois, and so on.

There are several other considerations. The economic question, in deciding whether to leave the higher

grade of education to private enterprise or commit it to the government, is whether all the people, or only a part of the people, should pay for it. A national university would be paid for by general taxation, while the privately endowed universities are generally supported by the benefactions of the rich. In our country particularly this has been one of the ways in which the possessors of great fortunes have shown their sense of obligation to society by returning to it some part of their accumulations. The supporters of the university are generally drawn from the well-to-do or richer classes of the community. There is an element of unfairness in making all the people pay for the education of a small minority of the richer people in the community.

For the last few days these and other questions have been discussed in Washington till everybody is familiar with them. It is needless to say that there are strong arguments for the national university project, and among its supporters are found some of the ablest and most practical-minded men and women in the country. Perhaps the objections which are now being considered might disappear in operation; but congress and the country will do well to think the thing over fully before setting out on the project.

HORNET'S NEST FOR TAWNEY.

His Civil Pension Bill Stirs Government Clerks to Fury.

Special to the Globe.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Congressman Tawney is the most unpopular man in the executive departments of the national capital; but that makes no difference, because the government clerks have no votes and no voice in political affairs. The Tawney bill entitled an act "to increase the efficiency of the public service by the optional and compulsory retirement of superannuated and disabled government employees" is distasteful to the government clerks. The bill proposes an assessment of 3 per cent per month from the salaries of all government employees

to create a fund for the sustenance of those who are compelled to retire because of age or infirmities. Three per cent a month is 36 per cent per annum, to be taken out of the salaries of the clerks, and naturally they are "hot under the collar" about it. They say that this is the rankest piece of injustice that was ever proposed in congress, and they will exert all of their influence to prevent the passage of the bill; and all of them have more or less political influence. It is provided in

Christmas Goods RUINED.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 19.—A fire started in the basement of the building occupied by Mermod & Jaccard jewelry company, at the corner of Locust street and Broadway, early this morning, and in a short time the five-story building was completely gutted. The total loss will reach \$335,000, fully covered by insurance. The fire had been burning some time before it was discovered at 4:10 o'clock, and at 5 o'clock the south wall and all the floors began falling, making one of the fiercest and quickest fires in the annals of this city. Next to the boiler room in the basement was a room used for packing. It is thought the fire started in the boiler room, communicated to the packing room and shooting up the elevator shaft quickly spread over the building. W. A. Rutledge, the engineer, and his family lived on the fourth floor. They barely escaped with their lives. The firemen dragged them unconscious from their beds and carried them down the fire escape. Five minutes later the floors fell. Several other tenants in the building had narrow escapes, but there were no fatalities.

The Mermod & Jaccard jewelry company was one of the largest in the world, and this being Christmas season, carried an immense stock. One-half of the stock had been placed in the two large vaults and saved, but the rest as well as the building and

its fixtures was totally destroyed. The Model Cloak company, in the northeast corner of the building, was wiped out, sustaining a loss of \$50,000, on which there is an insurance of three-fourths.

Loss of \$335,000 in the Destruction of Mermod & Jaccard's Jewelry House, St. Louis.

The Mermod-Jaccard company occupied but two floors and the basement of the structure. On the fifth floor were the repair shops. A large amount of the repair work had been finished and most of it was saved by the salvage corps. The corps also saved a dozen or more grandfather clocks, ranging in value from \$500 to \$1,800 each, and many old Vienna cases and valuable pieces of pottery. The silverware melted by the heat will be found under the debris of fallen timbers. In the first floor, left out of the vaults, were clocks, silverware, china, art pottery, cut glassware and other articles, all of which will be a total loss. The firm estimates the value of the building, whose losses range from \$500 to \$4,000, partly insured.

The firm carried insurance amounting to \$400,000, which, if the stock in the vaults is found intact, will substantially cover the loss sustained. The building was owned by the estate of the late Luther L. Kennett, but under lease to the Mermod-Jaccard company. The firm estimates the value of the building at \$125,000, upon which was an insurance of \$105,000.

Late tonight the burned out firm decided to continue in business, and tomorrow will take possession of the store and stock of another leading jeweler of this city, which they have bought. The firm that goes out of business is that of A. Kurtzborn & Sons.

JOHN BULL AND THE JAP.

They Look on With Greedy Eyes. Watch Russia and Germany in China.

CZAR'S MOVE TO CHECKMATE.

Occupation of Port Arthur Considered Permanent to Offset German Invasion at Kiao-Chou.

Europe Thoroughly Aroused Over the Oriental Situation—Opinion Expressed That Prince Henry May Have a War With Japan on His Hands When He Arrives—Prince Henry Dines With the Queen.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The correspond-

ent of the Times at Peking says: "China approves of the Russian fleet wintering at Port Arthur, being persuaded that this action is taken in the interest of China and necessitated by the German occupation of Kiao-Chou."

A dispatch to the Times from Shanghai says the occupation of Port Arthur (by Russia) cannot fail to provoke popular indignation in Japan, where public opinion is already excited over the Kiao-Chou affair.

According to a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Shanghai, the high officials of the Chinese court have advised the emperor, in view of further complications, to remove the court to Nanking (the "southern capital"). The dispatch says it is reported there that overtures have been made to England to exercise protection over the Yang-Tse valley and the West river, and that numerous rumors are current regarding the activity of the British squadron in Chinese waters.

The Times, commenting editorially this morning on the situation in China, says: "Instead of the kaiser's mailed fist, we have Russia's velvet glove, but the grasp is not less vigorous and unyielding. Great Britain ought now courteously to invite China to extend the same privileges to the British fleet at Chusan."

Telegrams from all the continental capitals show that Russia's step at Port Arthur is regarded as tantamount to a permanent occupation and a reply to Germany's action. A well-informed St. Petersburg correspondent says there was no agreement between Russia and Germany, and that the latter simply warned Russia when the occupation of Kiao-Chou was already decided upon. The Novoe Vremya pretends that Japan has no cause for complaint,

since China is only giving the same shelter to Russian ships as Japan had hitherto so kindly afforded." This view is not held in Berlin, where the papers are already talking of the possibility of Prince Henry having to shake his mailed fist at Japan, that is supposed to be secretly backed up by England. Some of the Berlin papers express anxiety; but most of them welcome the news from Port Arthur as justifying the German position at Kiao-Chou, if not as actual evidence that Russia and Germany are acting together. Curiously enough Emperor William visited the Russian ambassador on Friday night on his return from Kiel, ostensibly to congratulate him on the name-day of Emperor Nicholas. The visit lasted an hour. There is no doubt now that the emperor and the ambassador discussed Chinese affairs.

The Paris press, without pretending to be deceived by Russia's innocent explanations, are pleased with the action of the ally of France.

The British fleet now in Chinese waters consists of one ironclad, nine cruisers and eighteen smaller men-of-war.

PRINCE HENRY IN ENGLAND.

German Fleet Puts in at Spithead During Fog.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The German cruisers Deutschland and Gefion arrived off Spithead tonight during a heavy fog. Salutes will be exchanged tomorrow. The Deutschland and Gefion left Kiel on Thursday morning last and are bound for Kiao-Chou bay, China, as part of the German cruiser division in those waters. Prince Henry of Prussia, the brother of Emperor William, who is in command of the division, is on board the Deutschland. His flagship, Prince Henry of Prussia, landed at Cuxes and proceeded to Osborne house, where he dined with the queen.

CHANDLER'S It Is Set to Work Again, This Time on Discussion of the Congressional Situation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, has written a letter to the Washington Post in which he says:

"If the secretary of the treasury and his single gold standard associates will cease their demand for impossible currency legislation, congress will pass the necessary appropriation bills, probably take care of Hawaii and Cuba, there will not be a serious party division during the session, and there will be an adjournment in May. Business will revive, the treasury receipts will equal the expenditures, the balance of trade will continue in our favor, and the Republican party will, in November, 1898, elect a majority of the house in the Fifty-sixth congress."

On the other hand, if Secretary Gage continues to press upon congress a bill the object of which he says is, "first, to commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard, and the immediate effect of which is to throw doubts upon the sincerity of the president's declaration in favor of continued efforts to secure bimetallicism, a political turmoil will arise in congress which will split the now united Republicans into fragments, while it will unite and consolidate the now incongruous opposition. It is not feasible to retire the greenbacks. There is more probability that a bill will be sent to the president to increase their amount. It is not possible to secure the passage through either house of a bill making the greenbacks into gold notes, or authorizing bonds payable in gold. The effort to do either thing will probably result in the passage of a bill for the redemption of the greenbacks in silver dollars, and for the payment of all United States bonds in gold or silver coin, in the discretion of the president, who will be commanded to exercise his option for the advantage of the government, and not for the advantage of the creditor.

"With such an uproar in congress as these proceedings will create, with Western congressmen embroiled thereon, with presidential vetoes, as threatened by Secretary Gage, under angry discussion, it will happen that all business enterprises and funds and stocks will be disturbed, prices will fall, insolvencies will increase, and the Republicans will lose the congressional elections in 1898 as disastrously as they did in 1890, and beyond the hope of a favorable reaction in 1900, at which time, therefore, a Bryan Democratic president and congress will be chosen."

Whether we are to have one of these results—political safety—or of these—political destruction—depends entirely upon the course to be pursued by Secretary Gage and those who are pressing him forward, namely, the gold standard league of New York, and the self-constituted national mon-

etary conference. How much Secretary Gage cares for the Republican party is not known. Whether President McKinley, whose good faith toward bimetallicism is coming to the test, will stop his secretary in his insane career, is not known. It is to be hoped he will. But no political situation has been clearer than the present to sound eyes since the Republican party began its career in the forty-two years ago. There are times for all things. There is a time to move and a time to keep still, and now is the time to so keep.

It is simply political suicide for the Republican party in this congress to affirmatively open the discussion of the money question and to bring on yea and nay votes upon currency legislation. We ought to await the progress of international bimetallicism, the advent of business prosperity, and the filling of the treasury by the normal workings soon to be seen of the new tariff law. Shall we wait for these things, or rush on to self-destruction? President McKinley must decide. Will he act for his people, or for his plutocrats? Upon his answer will depend the events of 1898.

—William E. Chandler, December 18, 1897.

Switch Was Frozen.

Collision Was the Result, in Which Six Are Seriously Injured.

PONTIAC, Ill., Dec. 19.—An open switch on the Chicago & Alton railroad was the cause of a collision this afternoon between the St. Louis limited passenger, due here at 1:25 p. m., and a freight train on the sidetrack.

The brakeman whose duty it was to close the switch was unable to move it. The passenger train was approaching. He jumped on the track and signalled for it to stop. The engineer applied the airbrakes and reversed his engine, but it was too late, and the passenger went crashing into the freight.

The seriously injured were: J. C. Busher, of Roswell, Ind., trainman, arm broken and badly lacerated about the head; J. W. Jones, Peoria, engineer, injured internally; John White, Bloomington, fireman injured internally; L. J. Sutton, Chicago, baggage man, slightly bruised; A. G. Haines, Atlanta, Ill., passenger, bruised; Miss Minnie Countryman, of this city, passenger, cut and bruised. J. C. Busher was riding between the baggage car and the tender. The two engines and two freight cars are total wrecks. Damage to other cars can easily be repaired. The baggage and mail car were derailed and had to be left here, the mail and baggage being transferred to another car. The passenger train was delayed about three hours.



A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS.

SECOND COSTLY BLAZE.

Fire at Grand Forks.

Stock of a Large Dry Goods Store Totally Ruined—Loss \$10,000.

Special to the Globe.

GRAND FORKS, N. D., Dec. 19.—Fire broke out tonight in Benner & Beggs' dry goods store, and in an incredibly short time the inflammable stock was almost a total loss either by fire or water. The location has always been considered a bad one for a fire, as it is surrounded by frame and brick veneer buildings. The fire spread as if from an explosion, although the origin can not be determined tonight. H. A.

Stone, jeweler, and M. Stanchfield, clothier, occupied the adjoining store and were considerably damaged by smoke and water. Benner & Beggs' loss will reach \$10,000. The amount of insurance could not be learned. The building is owned by M. L. McCormick, and is one of the oldest in the city. Damage to that is not heavy. The fire department worked under difficulties, as most of the hose was frozen from the recent big fire.

Texas Norther.

Waco, Marshall on the east; Eagle Pass on the west, and some points in the southern part of the Indian territory north, showing that it covers several hundred miles of territory.

The wires work no further than the points and it is thought the destruction has been heavy. Linemen have been ordered from all parts of Texas to repair the damage.

Chicago Scribes Mourn.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—A meeting of the press club of Chicago was held today to arrange for attending the funeral of Washington Heald, who was the club's president. Resolutions eulogistic of the deceased and expressive of regret were adopted and committees appointed to assist in the funeral arrangements.

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