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BRANCH OFFICES.

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MONDAY'S WEATHER.

Fair.

By the United States Weather Bureau. MINNESOTA—Fair; west to northwest winds. NORTH DAKOTA—Fair; west to northwest winds. SOUTH DAKOTA—Fair; probably colder in western portion; northwesterly winds. MONTANA—Fair; not so cold; variable winds. WISCONSIN—Generally fair; light to fresh westerly winds. IOWA—Fair; north to northwest winds.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES — St. Paul, 22; Duluth, 22; Huron, 22; Bismarck, 18; Williston, 14; Havre, 18; Helena, 4; Edmonton, 26; Battleford, 14; Prince Albert, 12; Calgary, 18; Medicine Hat, 14; Swift Current, 14; Qu'Appelle, 12; Minnedosa, 12; Winnipeg, 6. Buffalo, 32-32; Boston, 30-34; Cheyenne, 24-32; Chicago, 30-34; Cincinnati, 32-36; Montreal, 10-28; New Orleans, 44-46; New York, 32-40; Pittsburg, 30-32.

YESTERDAY'S MEANS—Barometer, 29.84; mean temperature, 18; relative humidity, 74; wind at 8 p. m., northwest; weather, clear; maximum temperature, 26; minimum temperature, 9; daily range, 17; amount of precipitation (rain and melted snow) in last twenty-four hours, 0.

Note—Barometer corrected for temperature and elevation. —P. F. Lyons, Observer.

New York the Financial Center of the World.

During the past two years men of clear foresight and sound judgment have been quietly predicting that before the close of the nineteenth century New York would become the financial center of the world—a distinction which has so long attached to London that it seemed almost like sacrilege to even think of transferring the scepter of that great power to any other locality. For many years the balance of trade between the United States and England has fluctuated, and upon every recovery in favor of this country there has been, apparently, a sort of natural accretion of capital in the American metropolis.

Ever since the close of the War of the Rebellion and the impulse given to the material development of this country in the construction of railroads, the opening of mines, the establishment of manufacturing plants and the like, the surplus capital accumulating in London has been gradually moving in a continuous current toward the United States. The developments west of the Mississippi river represent, in the means by which results have been accomplished, large volumes of capital drawn from London. The current from the English metropolis to that of America has been natural in the tide of the world's progress.

The returns upon these great volumes of invested capital are now becoming more and more rapidly accumulative. These, naturally, gravitate to New York, and with the field for investment here constantly widening, the time seems to be present when the transfer of the world's financial center is to be made and a lodgment found in our own metropolis. Even last year London was a frequent borrower in New York; and this condition of things has continued ever since—not always in strikingly large bulk, but with varying degrees of supply and demand which, constantly enlarging, indicate that a condition of permanency already exists. There is increased confidence on the part of foreign investors in the good judgment, the enterprise, energy and honesty of the manipulators of great undertakings located in our national money center. Hence it has come to pass that the banking institutions of New York are today controlling larger amounts of cash and that more vast undertakings are directed there than in any other place in all the world.

All these facts are practically demonstrated in the records of the New York clearing house for the current year, which show that the transactions there exceed those of London by nearly $2,000,000, while the commerce of New York during the same period exceeds that of London by about $10,000,000.

The fact should be a source of pride to every true and patriotic citizen of the United States, whose industry, integrity and honesty, combined with that of his neighbor, have rendered this accomplishment possible.

"Trade Follows the Flag."

The good people of this country have heard a great deal during the past few months about "trade following the flag." The origin of this taking expression has been erroneously attributed to Mr. McKinley, and it has been worn almost threadbare as a legend upon the banners of the "imperialists." Much force has been given to it, also, through its application to Great Britain in connection with her colonial policy. The United Kingdom of itself comprises a very limited area as compared with the vast colonies controlled by the government of the British crown. It is true that this policy on the part of England has given her a prestige in the world's commerce in the past unequaled by that of any other nation on the globe.

But, coincident with the advent of the war between the United States and Spain, this country finds itself at the head of the exporting nations, including Great Britain herself. The flag of that country is still afloat and more generally than that of any other ensign seen upon the seas.

The United States shipped abroad during the past fiscal year domestic products of the value of $1,210,000,000, while the exports of Great Britain fell somewhat short of this amount, being $1,135,000,000, or $75,000,000 below those of the United States.

These figures, if all signs are correct, indicate the turning of the tide in favor of the American flag rather than of the Union Jack, especially in view of the fact that, while England or Great Britain has experienced a shrinking commerce with the Asiatic countries, the United States is moving forward by leaps and bounds as a competitor for this trade.

It should be borne in mind, however, that this record was practically made before the war with Spain was even contemplated. It follows therefore clearly that it is not an illustration of "trade following the flag," but rather of the flag following the trade. All this, too, exists in spite of the fact that the United States has practically no mercantile marine, while that of Great Britain is almost monopolistic in its capacity. The simple fact is that the United States of America, by reason of the enormous natural resources of the country and the ingenuity of her people, combined with their tremendous energies as producers, has stepped to the front rank without regard to any flag, not even her own, and for the additional reason that the world at large requires and demands her products and will have them, whether she annexes the Hawaiian islands or the Philippines, or not.

Thus the legend "Trade follows the flag" is shown to be nothing more than a clap-trap shibboleth employed by expansionists in an effort to popularize a new and dangerous policy by the employment of an impressive and high sounding phrase. We will have the trade, independently of any scheme of annexation. What the country now requires is the merchant marine to carry her flag.

Millions for Trouble.

The American peace commissioners have played their part; but that does not mean that the senate and the people must, or will, repeat after them, without variation, the lines which they have just prepared.

So far as the Philippine matter is concerned, the indications are that congress (for both houses will have to act on the money stipulation) will not even take its cue from the commissioners. These men have said to Spain: "We will buy of you the Philippines." The probability is increasing that the senate will say: "No, we will not; we do not believe in borrowing trouble, much less in buying it."

And it is not inconceivable that that body should doubt the wisdom of taking trouble as a gift. For not even the most dizzy-headed imperialist believes that the United States can control those islands in a sharp contest with the insurgents.

Without reviewing the increasing opposition in the South and East to the policy of expansion, it is becoming evident that the wave of wisdom now sweeping over the Pacific coast must be alarming to the administration. From an editor in San Francisco, the hotbed of imperialism, come these words: "The American people are now wondering why the American peace commissioners should offer to Spain any number of millions for the Philippines. For the portion conquered from Spain is already ours, and the portion not conquered from her may have to be conquered from the insurgents. Therefore, according to the usual rule of such transactions, if we pay Spain twenty millions for the rest of the Philippines, she ought to give us a good title by delivering goods."

Finally, the trades unions throughout the country are resisting the annexation policy, because of the cheap labor which must come with the new possessions. "The administration fears," says a Western paper, "that Philippine annexation may deprive the Republican party of the votes of organized workingmen."

Altogether, the navigation of the administration ship in and around the reefs and shoals of these tropical islands is becoming difficult and perilous.

Fire and High Buildings.

The recent fire in New York, in which two of the high buildings on Broadway were destroyed, is the first really striking illustration with which the country has been supplied regarding the disadvantages connected with fighting flames at such great altitudes.

New York city and Chicago seem to have set the pace in the development of these high structures; and some interior cities have taken up the fad without any reason therefor.

There is an excuse for high buildings on Manhattan island, because the area is limited, particularly at the lower point, where business transacted in offices requires enormous floor space. But even there the constant ambition to make every new building overtop its predecessor has carried the construction of these monstrosities to dangerous excess. It is absolutely foolish to run a building into the air to the height of 350 feet, as has been done there. The danger of fire breaking out on a floor midway between the pavement and the top of the buildings would render it hopeless for those above to escape. Some of these buildings possess during the day a population of from 2,000 to 3,000 souls. A few years ago an effort was made to check this craze in New York, but for some reason or other failed.

In Western cities, where there is plenty of area on the surface of the earth over which to spread construction, every interest is opposed to concentrating the daily working population in buildings of great height. More buildings, extending over a larger area, are much more advantageous to the local interests. Real estate would be particularly benefited and investments would rest on a much more solid foundation in communities like St. Paul and Minneapolis, for instance, if there should be a limitation to height. Such limitation might be compelled by law, as is the case in Paris, where buildings are not permitted to be higher than twice the width of the street on which they front.

A system of construction like this would add greatly to the improved appearance of a city. It gives the idea of solidity and compactness, whereas the sky line of a city interspersed with great, towering buildings is positively ugly, viewed from a distance. This is particularly true of New York, as viewed from the west side of the Hudson.

Gen. Horace Porter, sitting one day by a window in his office in the Mills building and looking across toward Broadway to the summit of the American Surety building, 325 feet high, remarked that, if the craze for tall structures was not checked pretty soon, New York would come to be known as the city of shot towers. This would seem to be a very correct title, as things have gone on since.

A Little Distress in Cuba.

There are signs of approaching trouble in Cuba. The purposes of the leaders there are very imperfectly understood by this government. Evacuation of the island by the Spanish forces is assured practically before the beginning of the New Year. It is quite certain that the advent of the United States soldiers, as administrators of the future power which must be exercised over Cuba until a government is established there conformatory to the best wishes of the people, will not be acceptable to many of the more spirited representatives of the population. The duty of our government in the treatment of the Cubans is a very delicate one; more delicate indeed than will be involved in our treatment of Porto Rico. The latter island has been absolutely annexed; Cuba stands as a protected colony with the arms of the United States outstretched above it and in defense of any internal or external attack.

The views of the administration in regard to Cuba are not as yet sufficiently concrete to enable anybody to correctly solve results. One thing is certain, however, that unless primarily the United States shall permit Cuba to express some well digested view as to the government the people there prefer, trouble will come to this country, which has gone so far in the direction of assisting the people of that island in the line of securing their liberties.

Gen. Garcia is a humorist. He wants Uncle Sam to pay the Cuban soldiers.

Gen. Lee will be very comfortable on the Havana nest of Capt. Gen. Blanco this winter.

A steamer sank in the Chicago river on Friday. Did somebody dig a hole for her to sink in?

For a big, phlegmatic fellow Gen. Shafter is doing a great deal of talking, but he isn't saying much.

Most of the new citizens of the territory of Hawaii ought to go to schools where Turkish baths are conspicuous.

Private John Goldbrick is dead at Casilda, Cuba. If they put that name on his tombstone nobody will ever touch it.

A tobacco company, with a capital of $75,000,000, has filed articles at Trenton, N. J. Has the cigarette really come to stay?

The Bank of Minnesota has the unusual chance of making a whole lot of people a Christmas present of some of their own money.

Great Britain and Russia profess to be much disturbed as to what to do with China. Why not begin by letting China govern itself?

A fourteen-pound rabbit was killed the other day near Delaware, O. A 200-pound politician has carefully preserved his left hind foot.

Queen Lil comes over to America so often that it might be a saving of money to make her the first delegate to congress from Hawaii. But perhaps her sex is against her.

A widow of thirty-two, with a fortune of $250,000, advertises in a New York paper for a husband. If she could work that ad into the British Court Circular, she wouldn't be a widow long.

Now if somebody with a great head could cut the underpinning of the Philippines and tow the heathen islands over within ten or twelve miles of San Francisco, we might civilize them.

The Chicago newspapers are in a cold sweat. The Chronicle's cat won a big prize at the cat show, and the other papers fear the Chronicle will get a big increase in circulation on that account.

Now that it is all over, let it be understood that the United States bears no ill will toward Columbus for the part he took in the early proceedings which resulted in a war between the United States and Spain.

A correspondent at Slayton telegraphs the following: "Math Nogler was indicted for the murder of J. C. Voelkel in the second degree last August over a keg of beer." Referred to the class in English, St. Paul high school.

Surprises are coming thick and fast these days. An Ohio man has called attention to the fact that Ohio has more than its quota of federal offices. What is the Buckeye quota anyhow? The impression was general that Ohio was entitled to the offices so long as there was one left.

Sextette of Sharp Shots.

Bill—The under dog in a fight gets all the sympathy. Jill — Yes; but, unfortunately, that isn't all he gets.—Yonkers Statesman.

* * *

"He says he loves me for all he's worth." remarked Fangle. "He means for al lshe's worth," added Cumso.—Detroit Free Press.

* * *

"Has your baby cut any teeth yet?" "I should say so. It's cut at least one tooth every night during the last six months."—Cleveland Leader.

* * *

Mrs. Homespun (indignantly) — Here's an article says that in Formosa a wife costs $5." Mr. Homespun (thoughtfully—Well, a good wife is wuth it.—Spare Moments.

* * *

Prospective Tenant—Is this flat fireproof?" Old Tenant—You bet it is, especially in cold weather. You never be afraid of having a fire here in the winter time.—Cleveland Leader.

* * *

Judge—You are condemned to pay 30 marks or to six days' arrest. Tramp—That's 5 marks a day. Pay me at that rate and I'll go to jail for a month.—Fliegende Blatter.

Must Pay a Bonus for Our Trouble.

It may cause some disappointment at home, where there has been an expectation that American trade in the newly acquired territory would be favored, but it is one of the necessities of the new foreign policy upon which we are entering that we must have a foreign ally, and if the open door in the Philippines is the price of the alliance of Great Britain the advantage to be gained is well worth the point to be conceded.—Philadelphia North American.

Burglar Stole Words.

"How did you like my last drama?" asked a writer of a newspaper critic.

"Too realistic, I thought," was the reply.

"Too realistic! What do you mean?" demanded the author.

"Well," said the critic, "it struck me that even the words spoken by the burglar in the second scene were stolen!"

The Same One.

Literary Aspirant—Do you know McClure's have put me on their exchange list?

Miss Gullible—How gorgeous! But I don't quite understand—

"Why, I sent them a story and in a few days they sent me one—same one."

TWIN SOULS.

In God's creation somewhere dwell
  Twin souls which hover o'er around
Until the Father bids them know
  Just where their twin soul may be found.
While unseen powers, with silken threads,
  Will draw and weave their hearts in one,
Till love asserts her right to rule,
  Proclaiming that her victory's won.

They know not how it came around,
  What unseen power planned their fate,
And led them both into one path,
  Until they met at love's own gate,
And entered into love's abode,
  Two souls, united into one,
To closer grow, day after day,
  And find life's joy has just begun.

—Martha Shepard Lippincott.
Moorestown, N. J.

Among the State Editors.

Bear This in Mind.

Aspirants for appointments at the hands of Gov. Lind will do well to remember that he has not a place for every man who asks it. —Wabasha Herald.

After the Awakening.

Mr. Eustis now believes the Democrats could have elected John with half the fuss they made in doing the job. Every one knows it now, William. St. James Journal.

Another "Ad" for Granville S.

Now that the legislature is soon to convene it will be in order for "Old Pease" to make some crazy suggestion about a certain hospital that the people imagine they have to have erected.—Swift County Monitor.

They're Still Feeling Sore.

Nothing is to be gained by the continued abuse of John Lind. The people, irrespective of party, have said that they want him for governor, and he will be judged by the record he makes. The penny whistle partisan bigots who are still pursuing Mr. Lind are in small business.—Martin County Sentinel.

Rosing and Ringdal.

Gov. Lind starts out well. Mr. Rosing will make an ideal private secretary. He is as gracious as a prince, treats everybody with courtesy and consideration, is acquainted with a goodly share of the people of the state, and is, withal, a gentleman of judgment and discrimination. For railway and warehouse commissioner, a better man than P. M. Ringdal could not be found anywhere in the West.—Martin County Sentinel.

The Modern Mecca.

New Ulm is at this time the Mecca of the Democratic politicians of the state and not a day passes but that a number of them are in the city. Mayor-elect Gray, of Minneapolis, has frequent consultations with Mr. Lind, and at times Mr. Rosing, who is to be the next governor's private secretary, is on the ground giving the coming chief executive the benefit of his political experience.—Mankato Review.

Tams Doesn't Get a Call.

William Henry Eustis is still as able and clean a man as when he was nominated by the best element of his party at the St. Paul convention in June, but if it does not fall to him to lead his party in 1900 then the leadership should, and we believe it will, fall upon some man like Eddy, Jacobson, Staples or Heatwole, who stand for the same policies in government and principles in politics as were represented in the person of the Republican candidate for governor this year.—Freeborn County Times.

In the Sweet By and By.

It is probable that the editor of The St. Paul Globe and editors in general of Democratic and Populist papers in the state would now admit, if candid, that they never considered William H. Eustis a dishonest man, or that he profited one cent by his remote connection with the Guaranty Loan matter.

It is to be hoped that some day a better condition will prevail, and that a fair consideration will be given to a candidate's qualifications and that mud slinging will not be the principal feature of an election.—Wells Advocate.

Are Protested Checks Included?

The Lind campaign cost twice as much as the Eustis campaign. Still, judging by results, the higher price turned out to be the cheapest.—Norman County Index.

It May Be Right at That.

The St. Paul Dispatch says Mr. Lind will not leave a Republican in office. If our memory serves us right the Dispatch is not good authority when speaking of Mr. Lind.—Madison Independent Press.

It's a Habit They Have.

Mr. Lind will have a snap in governing the great state of Minnesota. All he will have to do is draw his salary, as the Republican newspapers have made all his appointments, written his message, issued his proclamations, etc.—Alexandria Citizen.

Gov. Lind as Santa Claus.

Gov. Lind will be able to make some very pretty and appropriate Christmas gifts this year—commissionerships, oil inspectorships and the like. Hang up your stockings, boys, but be careful they are clean, for Santa Claus Lind does not like dirt.—Wheelock's Weekly.

Bee in Bede's Bonnet.

J. Adam Bede is a candidate for congress from the Sixth congressional district, and plans to that end are now under way. Stearns county is the first county which is being looked after, and J. Adam is doing the first act in a manner that should entitle him to an encore.—Wright County Times.

It Ought to Have.

Who will be the insurance commissioner is not yet known, and there are those who assert that Elmer E. Dearth, the present incumbent, will be retained in the position. He is a son-in-law of Michael Doran, of St. Paul, and his close relations with the great Democratic chieftain may have some influence in the premises.—Mankato Review.

Crack at a Hoary Abuse.

The political reporters of the Minneapolis Tribune, Minneapolis Journal and St. Paul Pioneer Press are all candidates for legislative appointments. Isn't it about time that Minnesota's dailies paid their reporters enough to entitle them to their undivided services? In Washington their reporters have, in this same way, to attach themselves to congressmen or committees, so that, instead of sending the news, they put in part of the time suppressing what the Minnesota delegation does not care to have made public and the bulk of the rest of their newspaper efforts in telling how much more important some of Minnesota's congressmen are than is Speaker Reed; what Tawney is about to advise the president to do with the Philippines; how Heatwole has astounded the house by a plan to connect their voices with the ventilating pipes; how much more Morris has accomplished than Towne did; how McCleary has refused all sorts of chairmanships; the several princes and emperors who were at Mrs. Davis' last "at home," etc. It is almost worse than Richard Harding Davis' war correspondence. If the papers would only pay at least their "big" reporters enough to entitle them to their services and then insist on having them, they would sell more papers and command more respect.—Alexandria Post-News.

McKinley and Philippines.

Condensed From Harper's Weekly.

The settlement of the Philippine question rests with the senate. The administration has done its part, and its commissioners in Paris have insisted that the archipelago shall be ceded to the United States, we, in turn, agreeing to pay $20,000,000 to Spain for these possessions. A year ago we would not have taken them as a gift. A year ago, practically the whole nation would have resented the suggestion that we should imperil our own institutions and should plunge into the midst of the dangers of war which becloud the Asiatic horizon, because of some fancied duties owing to alien and savage peoples.

The fact that we are to be in danger from this increase in our alien population is to be of no account in the minds and fancies of the politicians. No expansionist has undertaken to answer the real question involved. In other words, the administration is prepared to take the fearful chances. Victory, in its view, has imposed upon us a fearful burden and immense responsibilities, which Mr. McKinley has not only smilingly assumed, but for the bearing of which he has "generously" agreed to pay to Spain $20,000,000 of the money of the taxpayers. This duty that we owe the savages is said to arise from the cruelty of Spanish rule. We are to relieve them from that rule, although it is perfectly well known that not one-tenth of the people of the Philippines, outside of Luzon and perhaps Mindanao, ever felt the weight of Spain's little finger or even knew of her existence. Why is not the administration frank in dealing with the country?

But we are face to face with the treaty. The administration has in this treaty begun the most dangerous assault upon free institutions that has ever been made in the country, more dangerous than the assault of the slave power, because if it succeeds it is likely to be more enduring in its consequences than the earlier attack could have been. That it will not itself succeed eventually will be due to the vitality of democratic institutions, which will struggle against and finally overcome this attempt to transform the republic into an absolute and necessarily an unjust, ruler over alien and unwilling peoples. But the virtue of democratic institutions does not rob this attack upon them of its character. We must depend now upon the senate, and we are sure, from what we know of the real sentiments of the best Republicans in that body, that a treaty containing a provision to assume the Philippines would not be ratified if the vote were taken today. It is to be hoped, in the interest of the whole country, whose domestic problems demand all its attention, and all its political sense and courage, that this attitude of the senate will not change, and to this end we hope that the petitions prepared by the Anti-Imperialist society, of which ex-Secretary of the Treasury George S. Boutwell is president, will be signed by the hundreds of thousands.

What does the "open door" mean? It means that trade with the islands shall be absolutely free, and that the merchants of all countries shall have the same trade privileges in the Philippines as the Americans enjoy. This, however, is absolutely impossible with our present tariff system. If the treaty that is contemplated by the administration be ratified, the Philippines will be part of the United States. The constitution provides that "all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." If there is to be an "open door" maintained in the Philippines, therefore, the protective policy must be abandoned for the whole country. We must have free trade everywhere. We cannot protect the cotton and woolen manufacturers of New England and Georgia, the iron and steel masters of Pennsylvania and Alabama, the sugar growers of Hawaii, Louisiana and Nebraska, the tobacco of Porto Rico, Connecticut and Virginia, and refuse all protection to the Philippines.

While the American and Canadian commissioners are discussing reciprocity in Washington, Mr. McKinley violently slams the door of Porto Rico in the face of the world by declaring that our barbarous navigation laws apply to the island; that between us and it trade must be carried on in American bottoms; that foreign vessels can only touch at one point in the island during a voyage—and all the rest of it. Mr. McKinley and those who agree with him have learned nothing from the colonial histories of the world. They seem not to know that this policy of theirs cost England the United States; that it makes the colonies of France and Germany enormous burdens on the mother country; that it has finally stripped Spain of all her valuable possessions. These navigation laws applied to Porto Rico are especially injurious to Canada and England, and some of our ill-informed English friends are now learning that we are not likely to have at once an enlightened colonial policy, or one that will be of immediate advantage to British commerce.

That Open Door.

On the face of it, President McKinley's proposition to maintain the "open door" policy in the Philippines is perplexing, to say the least. Not only is the wisdom of the policy to be questioned, but there are constitutional objections which, at a first glance, appear to be insurmountable. In the first place the power of the president and the senate, by means of their treaty prerogatives, to enact tariff laws for the Philippine islands or any other territory under the control of the United States, may be doubted. That is a function of congress, not of the president and senate, and while a treaty, aside from the constitution represents the highest law of the land, the treaty-making power must necessarily be subject to the constitution of the United States. It is not clear, therefore, in what relationship the Philippines must stand to the United States to enable the president and senate to exercise a power which the constitution delegates to congress, or for the president or congress or anybody else to establish duties, imports, and excises which shall not be uniform throughout the United States. The fact of the matter is that if the Dingley tariff is good enough for the United States is is good enough for every foot of territory that the United States may acquire. It is nonsense for the president to talk about buying a new farm and keeping the bars down there. He is outside of his authority and is tampering with a dangerous matter. If it is necessary to distort the constitution out of shape in order to acquire a few thousand square miles of wild territory and a few millions of still wilder inhabitants, the United States can spare the Philippines better than they can spare the constitution.—Detroit Tribune (Rep.).

* * *

The adoption of "the open-door policy" by the McKinley administration, as desired by the English, means that the Philippines are not to be made an integral part of the United States. We are to buy of the Spanish the right to appoint governors, customs collectors, postmasters and other civil officers for several millions of people who frankly tell us that they do not admit the Spanish right to sell these privileges. It remains to be seen what the people of the United States will have to say about the matter.—Hartford Times (Dem.).

* * *

If the Philippines comprise the only assets of value we get out of the war, why should we buy them of Spain? If Germany exacted an enormous cash indemnity from France besides taking what provinces she wanted, why should the United States pay a cash indemnity to Spain for a lot of islands of doubtful value to us and for which Spain can not give us a clear title? Which won the late war, the United States or Spain? Which, by the laws of modern war, should pay the cash indemnity?—Cleveland Plaindealer.

New Way for Chess.

It has been reserved for enterprising lovers of chess in Hungary to evolve the most novel variant of the game. This game was played upon a billard table and was called a "drinking" game. It appears that a billiard table was marked off into sixty-four squares and that the pieces were bottles of wine. The king was very suitably represented by a bottle of champagne, the queen by a bottle of Bordeaux, the next three pieces by various kinds of wine, and the pawns by bottles of the ordinary wine of the district. The game was played by four young men, two on each side, and whenever a piece was taken the mover had to empty the bottle of wine thus removed. The game did not last very long; in fact, by the time that the pawns had been advanced the players were lying under the table. So far as it went, it was a noble game and the town of Upper Hungary in which it was played, is proud of the four players.—London News.

Women as Insurance Agents.

An insurance company of Warsaw, Russian Poland, has discharged all the male agents and solicitors, appointing women in their stead, since it appeared that women make much better agents than men. The general public, rather skeptical of the advantages held out by insurance companies, permits itself to be persuaded much easier by intelligent women than by men of the same abilities and education. It is said that, since the change was made, the company has experienced a considerable increase in the amount of new insurance policies written.

Venom in Snakes.

By remembering two simple facts any one can distinguish a poisonous serpent from a harmless one. The venomous reptile invariably possesses a triangularly shaped head and a blunt nose, while his tail is correspondingly blunt and stubby. Any snake that tapers smoothly from the middle of its body to the tip of its nose and to the tip of his tail as well, growing slender in a gradual and regular manner, is absolutely devoid of venom.

Gild Their Lips.

Fashionable Japanese young ladies, when they desire to look attractive, gild their lips.

Dramatic and Musical.

METROPOLITAN.

The Woodward stock company presented "My Uncle From India" at the Metropolitan last evening before a fairly large audience. The play is an adaptation from the German original of William Gillette's "The Private Secretary," and abounds in interesting situations and strong characterizations that were very capably portrayed by the members of the Woodward company last evening. The plot centers in a young scapegrace, who, in seeking to avoid his creditors, finds himself placed in a false position as the tutor of two very flighty young ladies, while the real tutor, whose name he assumed, undergoes a number of vicissitudes that are very laughably shown. One of the most strongly drawn characters is that of Mr. Catterwall, "the uncle from India," whose maxim is that a man who makes a fool of himself in his youth will eventuate into a wise and respected old man. Carl Smith Seerle made a very acceptable uncle. George Salisbury was clever as the tutor, robbed of his name and position, and Hal Davis, as Lothair Catterwall, the scapegrace nephew, did some very good work. Miss Inez McCauley and Edith Pollock made charming ingenues, and Lettie Alden, in the rather overdrawn character of Miss Ashton, a believer in spiritualism, filled a difficult role very capably. The play was well staged.

During the intermissions two especially clever features were introduced. Van Auken Brothers did some of the best triple horizontal bar work ever seen in St. Paul, and were repeatedly encored. Howard and Bland, comedy sketch artists, presented a remarkably bright sketch that was well received.

"My Uncle From India" will be at the Metropolitan during the week, with matinees Wednesday and Saturday.

GRAND.

"Brown's in Town," the attraction at the Grand this week, has been billed by its author, Mark E. Swan, as "an extraordinary farce," in three acts. It would be just as extraordinary in any number of acts, for surely nothing so extraordinary has ever before been produced. It is a series of misunderstandings, cleverly presented, and is relieved by just enough plot to provide continuity. The company is strong in the presentation of the pleasing skit, and the "lady" cook, Belle Davis, carried the house by storm with her negro ballads. The quartette was also well received, being compelled to respond to repeated encores. "Brown's in Town" is a story of the mishaps that befall a young man who has taken unto himself a wife contrary to the wishes of his pere, who is opposed to matrimony on general principles. He has also taken an assumed name and rented a cottage in the country, where his friends find him and make life "pleasant" until finally his father puts in an appearance and adds his mite to the misery of the young Benedict. There are others who have love scrapes of sufficient seriousness to be in about as bad a plight as is "Brown," and the tangle grows until there is but one recourse—confession—and parental forgiveness follows just as the curtain drops on the last act. It is such an extraordinary farce that it must be seen to be appreciated. It is a mirth-provoker, the fun beginning at the beginning and ending at the ending. There is no let-up to it. It is one laugh from start to finish.

The cast is strong. The principals in the domestic drama, Dick Preston (Mark E. Swan) and his wife, Letty (Kathryn Osterman), suffer so naturally that the sympathy of the audience is ever with them. They are ably aided and abetted by Arthur Howard (John Lancaster) and Suzanne Dacre (Anna Belmont), Primrose, the "lady" cook (Belle Davis), Freda von Hollenback (Lottie Williams) and the others of the cast, not omitting the cruel parent (James O. Barrows), who is mentioned last because he is by no means least—and who is an ideal rich father with the trials of a college-bred son in love with his wife to add to his natural choler. The remaining members of the excellent company have less to do, but do it well.

MOZART HALL.

Mozart hall was comfortably filled last night by an audience of 500 people to witness the second performance of "The Beggar Student" in German by the St. Paul Concordia Singing society. The performance of last night was much superior to that of last Sunday, and the good work of Seibert's orchestra assisted the singers, though at times the brass was very bad. Mrs. Freund, in the part of Countess Kowalski, sang and acted in a capable manner, and last night's audience showed their appreciation of her work. The comedy of Miss Enderlin was very much better than in the former production. She was in excellent voice last night.

The duet between Miss Nachtsheim and Al Fritsche, in the second act, called forth a deserved encore. Otto Rohland appeared last night to better advantage than at the former performance, and the work of Gustave Hennenger and his quartette of soldiers was much better than a week ago.

T. W. Wegeman in the part of the jailer and his sextette of "jail birds" made the hit of the evening in their solo and chorus in the second act.

The work of the chorus was excellent, especially so in the drinking chorus and the finales of the first and third acts.

Prof. L. W. Harmsen, the director, expressed himself as highly pleased at the work of the society, and said the performance of last night was the best he had ever seen presented to the public by local talent. "The attacks" last night of the principals, orchestra and chorus were all very good and full of spirit and did not drag, as on the occasion of the former presentation of the opera.

Otto Rohland will entertain the members of the society with a turkey supper at Mozart hall tomorrow evening.

No. 1313 a Good Engine.

Notwithstanding the superstition of railroad engineers the most useful, successful and satisfactory locomotive on the Baltimore & Ohio system is No. 1313. It is one of their ten-wheel locomotives with three seventy-eight drivers, built under contract by the Baldwin company, and is not the best of the lot, but the best on the road for running record and for repairs. It has been constantly in service for nearly nine years, has never had an accident to itself or to any car it has hauled, has been late less times than any other engine in use by the company and has cost almost nothing for repairs. Whole years have passed without having to send this engine to the repair shop, although the other nine engines which were built at the same time, by the same man, and from the same material are laid up frequently. It is also claimed that No. 1313 is the most economical fuel burner on the road.

Too Old for Use.

The wine which was bequeathed by Sir Charles Trevelyan in trust to the late Sir Benjamin Richardson, the destiny of which is to be decided in the law courts, comprise about 144 dozen. It was left to Sir Benjamin for scientific purposes, but nothing has ever been done with it, and it is at present warehoused in London. Some of it is very old and valuable, so old, indeed, that it is said to be no longer of account as a beverage, and it is reported that Sir Charles Trevelyan once refused £3,000 for the contents of his cellar. Among the wine is some port which went down with the Royal George, and was recovered many years ago from the wreck of that ill-fated man-of-war.—London Chronicle.

Over a Mile Underground.

The deepest shaft in Colorado is that of the Geyser mine, at Silver Cliff, which penetrates the rock to a depth of 2,000 feet. But even that is a shallow puncture beside the one which goes down into the depths of the Comstock lode, again active and productive. In that wonderful treasure house, from which over $500,000,000 in value have been taken out, the new explorations are expected to reach a depth of 6,000 feet.

Curzon Stationery.

The stationery employed by Lord and Lady Curzon has already been printed in gold with gold borders—10,000 ball programmes, 5,500 invitation cards, 2,200 dinner invitation cards, 5,500 "at home" cards and 1,390 menu-cards—all, of course, being in preparation for the festivities which will be held at Calcutta and Simla after his lordship enters upon the duties of the Indian viceroyalty.—Chicago Record.

Waterproof Paper Bags.

A Frenchman has just patented a paper bag material impervious to water, the ordinary wrapping being coated with gas tar, and the layer of tar covered with a thin sheet of tissue or similar paper, so that the tar does not come in contact with the contents of the bag.

JOY AMONG JOBBERS

DUE TO THE FACT THAT LOCAL TRADE CODITIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

HOLIDAYS FURNISH STIMULUS

Hardware an Exception in This Respect, Where the Volume Is Dependent Upon the Demand From the Lumbering Camps—Cold Weather Starts a Movement in Heavy Winter Goods.

The good feeling that has prevailed among the jobbers for the past month was more noticeable than ever last week. This was due to the fact that, with but one or two exceptions, business has shown a decided increase. The exceptions are in lines that have little or no connection with holiday trade, and nothing more than steady business is looked for, and a falling off does not bring disappointment.

DRY GOODS.

Business has been very fair during the past week, and handsomely ahead of the corresponding period a year ago. Mail orders have been coming in freely, and merchants are ordering heavy bills of novelties, fancy goods and light dry goods. The continued cold weather has made trade active in heavy winter goods, and the class of supplies used by lumbermen. But for the fact that many merchants are getting ready for the taking of inventories and their annual clearing up, trade would have been quite a little better. At such times it is not policy to have a heavy stock on hand. In harmony with the advance of cotton, a strong feeling in cotton goods prevails, and jobbers are daily receiving advices concerning the market and advanced prices.

HARDWARE.

There has been a decided falling off in this business the past week owing to the approach of the holidays than anything else, as hardware has but little place in the holiday trade. The bulk of the trade is confined to that class of stuff used in the lumber camps and in other lines where heavy hardware is used. Collections have been exceptionally good.

GROCERIES.

The business of the past week has been very satisfactory, and shows a marked improvement over the same week a year ago. There has been a heavy increase in fancy goods sales, and at the same time orders are coming in freely for the staples. Merchants are paying their bills promptly at all points.

HATS, GLOVES, FURS, ETC.

Trade in these lines has been remarkable and the local jobbers have been pushed to the limit in filling mail orders. The volume of business shows a decided increase in all lines and especially in fur goods, which is greater than ever before. This is partly due to the holiday season and partly to the continued cold weather, after it set in so suddenly.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The general shoe trade has been dull during the past week except in heavy wear, for which there has been a very fair demand. The overshoe trade has shown a decided increase and orders in this particular line are coming in rapidly. The inactivity in the finer grades of shoes is, in a measure, due to the holiday season. Collections have been very good.

DRUGS, PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

The drug business has been very active during the past week, as indeed, it has been for the past few months. Orders are coming in large numbers and the quantities wanted shows confidence on the part of the buyers. Collections are far beyond the average at this season of the year. There are few changes in prices, either of advance or decline, but indications all point to an advance as soon as the season opens. The greatest rush just now is in fancy goods and druggists' sundries, and especially in holiday goods of all kinds. Glycerine is low and a good purchase at the present prices. Contracts for early spring supplies of paints and oils are coming in and are in order at this season.

Beau Brummels in the Corn Field.

Is there any reason worthy to be considered which demands, even for the work of the farmer, the uncouth, ugly clothes which are worn in the richest agricultural regions? Would not the farmer feel that life was more worth the living if he wore in the field the heavy russet walking shoes of fashion, with flat heels and wide toes, and a suit of serviceable but becoming corduroys, with the soft and convenient but nevertheless picturesque blue flannel shirt which the late war made famous and characteristic? It would cost little and look well.—Kansas City Star.

Rains From the Southwest.

Most of the rains in the Mississippi valley during the summer come from the southwest, during the winter from the northwest. An east wind is said by meteorologists to signify approaching rain, but the storm cloud does not always come from the direction in which the surface wind is blowing. An eastern rain or snow storm is often very heavy, the largest precipitations of snow sometimes being accompanied by an eastern surface wind, though, of course, the cold wave which congeals the moisture of the atmosphere into snow is primarily from the north.

Sergeant Buzzfuzz Outdone.

Nothing attracts like the mysterious. Nothing satisfies like the incomprehensible. I mention these facts by way of explaining the great satisfaction I saw a gathering of women display one evening recently in the remarks one of their number was making. It was something about genealogy she was saying, and the pith of her discourse was contained in a remark which she repeated three times.

"Descent," said she, "descent is the most hereditary thing in the world."

And all the women applauded so vigorously that you could see at once they knew precisely what she meant.—Washington Post.

Canal System for Germany.

The German canal bill which is to be introduced into the reichstag during the coming session provides for the expenditure of 400,000,000 marks on canals and river improvements, as follows: Midland canal, 192,000,000 marks; Dortmund-Rhine canal, 28,000,000 marks; 50,000,000 marks for watersheds, etc., in the Oder district, 40,000,000 marks for the Berlin-Stettin ship canal and 20,000,000 marks for the improvement of the Weser river. When the scheme is executed it is announced that the main water ways of Prussia will be connected from the eastern extremity of the empire to the harbors of the German ocean.

Never Sleep.

There are several species of fish, reptiles and insects which never sleep during their stay in the world. Among fish it is now positively known that pike, salmon and goldfish never sleep at all. Also that there are several others of the fish family that never sleep more than a few minutes a month. There are dozens of species of flies which never indulge in slumber, and from three to five species of serpents which the naturalists have never yet been able to catch napping.

Gold and Silver Beetles.

The most remarkable gold beetles in the world are found in Central America. The head and wing cases are brilliantly polished with a luster as of gold itself. To sight and touch they have all the seeming of metal. Oddly enough, another species from the same region has the appearance of being wrought in solid silver, freshly burnished. These gold and silver beetles have a market value. They are worth from $25 to $50.

TRUE SOLACE.

When the world and its jangle seems all wrong,
And the road is weary and rough and long,
And the heart grows heavy for lack of song—
    Man has his pipe.

When your friends forsake you, one by one,
And many a task is left undone,
And riches and fame will not be won—
    Man has his pipe.

When the woman says she'll have none of you
And marries the other (they always do!)
And your mind gives way to the devils blue—
    Man has his pipe.

When duns beset you, morning and night,
Though the sums be ever so small and slight,
And your purse strings hang in a dismal plight—
    Man has his pipe.

Oh, the golden weed that soothes you and cheers,
Calms you, dispels all worries and fears!
Woman has naught but her briny tears—
    Man has his pipe.

—Syracuse Evening Herald.