CHALLENGES FITZSIMMONS

William A. Brady, for Corbett, Issues a Formal Defi.

SAYS BOB CANNOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT

Promises to Make It Interesting for the Champion if He Will Consent to Another Trial.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—William A. Brady, manager of James J. Corbett, tonight sent to the Associated press the following challenge of Robert Fitzsimmons, champion pugilist of the world:

James J. Corbett, dissatisfied with the result of his late contest with you at Carson City, and not believing that you are his superior, either as a boxer or a fighter, and being of the opinion that the majority of the American public shares his belief that he can defeat you if ever you are man enough to grant him a return battle on equal conditions, has deposited $500 as a first deposit to bind a match for $10,000 a side, the person or persons offering the largest inducements to have the management of the contest.

As you have said today that your wife has withdrawn her objections to you again entering the ring, there is no reason why the arrangement should not be speedily consummated; for you, in my presence, at Carson City, gave Corbett your word of honor that if you ever entered the ring again you would give him the first chance.

It is useless for you to attempt to deceive the public and try to boom your private interests by attempting to force Corbett to meet some second or third rate boxer before he shall be entitled to your notice. He will not agree to meet Maher, Sharkey or anyone else. He claims the chance that he gave you, the right to win back the title of champion.

He clearly proved himself in your class on March 17 last, and it was only by the greatest kind of a fluke that you are now titled champion, and I do not believe that you will ever forget until your dying day the beating that he gave you then, and if he ever secures the opportunity to face you in a twenty-four-foot ring, I will guarantee you that he will prove conclusively and beyond a question of a doubt whether or not he is in your class.

WILLIAM A. BRADY.

Dan Stuart, who managed the Fitzsimmons-Maher and Fitzsimmons-Corbett bouts successfully, said today that he would leave for the west next week and hoped that he would secure the signatures of both Fitzsimmons and Corbett to articles of agreement for a ring contest which he proposes to bring off next summer, probably in the state of Nevada. He said that as matters stand now he does not anticipate any trouble in getting Corbett to sign and he is equally hopeful of gaining the consent of Fitzsimmons to meet the big Californian in the ring once more. Just what the amount of the purse which he would offer would be Mr. Stuart refused to say.

Mr. Stuart would like to have the contest take place not earlier than next July and said that he would like to arrange a meeting between Kid McCoy and Choynski, or some other good middleweight, to take place in the same week as the Corbett-Fitzsimmons contest. If he can succeed in making arrangements for both contests, Stuart said he would offer excellent inducements for the winner of both these bouts to meet six months later, so that in the event of McCoy and Fitzsimmons meeting they could settle the differences as to their respective prowess within the year 1898.

Mr. Stuart expects to be in Chicago by the latter end of next week and said it would be no fault of his if the big fellows did not come to an agreement.

HARVARD PLAYERS IN THE LEAD.

Third Series in Intercollegiate Chess Tournament.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The openings and pairings in the third round of the intercollegiate chess tournament, which was begun at the Columbia Grammar school in this city today, resulted as follows: Meyer (Columbia) and Dana (Princeton), king's bishop gambit; Cook (Yale) and Hewins (Harvard), queen's gambit declined; Seward (Columbia) and Murdoch (Yale), ruy lopez; Young (Princeton) and Southard (Harvard), irregular.

Meyer succeeded in breaking up his adversary's position in good style and won in a finely played game after forty-seven moves.

The game played on the second board remained even for a great number of moves and it came to an end game, in which black seemed to have a slight advantage. This proved to be not good enough to win and so the players agreed to a draw after forty-seven moves.

In the third game Seward managed to win the queen for rook and bishop, but later on in the game he practically lost this material advantage.

Young played a fine defense against Southard, holding his own very well in the opening and part of the middle game. Then, however, he ventured upon a combination which would have lost him a piece. He did not turn up for the evening's play and so Southard was declared the winner after twenty-nine moves.

The game left unfinished yesterday between Mercer and Cook was adjudicated a draw today.

Following is the record of the tournament:

	Won.	Lost.
Columbia	2½	2½
Harvard	2½	1½
Yale	2½	2½
Princeton	1½	4½

Second Trial Begins.

LIBERTY, Mo., Dec. 29.—The taking of testimony in the second trial of William Foley, charged with the murder of his mother and sister, in November, 1896, was actively begun here this morning. The court room was crowded with spectators, many women being among them.

A LITTLE SUFFERER

Face, Hands and Arms Covered With Scrofulous Humors—How a Cure Was Effected.

"When five years old my little boy had scrofula on his face, hands and arms. It was worst on his chin, although the sores on his cheeks and hands were very bad. It appeared in the form of red pimples which would fester, break open and run and then scab over. After disappearing they would break out again. They caused intense itching and the little sufferer had to be watched continually to keep him from scratching the sores. We became greatly alarmed at his condition. My wife's mother had had scrofula and the only medicine which had helped her was Hood's Sarsaparilla. We decided to give it to our boy and we noted an improvement in his case very soon. After giving him four bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla the humor had all been driven out of his blood and it has never since returned." WILLIAM BARTZ, 416 South Williams St., South Bend, Indiana.

You can buy Hood's Sarsaparilla of all druggists. Be sure to get only Hood's.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25 cents.

EVENTS ON THE RUNNING TRACKS.

Failure of Favorites to Win Breaks the Talent.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29.—The Crescent City handicap for 3-year-olds and upward at a mile and an eighth, and valued at $3,000, was the feature of today's racing. Requital, the Futurity winner, with J. J. McCafferty up, was carded to start, and this added interest to the race, but the horse was far from fit, and with a lifeless ride finished in the ruck. Octave was the only winning favorite and one talent went broke on the day. The weather was fine, the track good and the attendance large. Results:

First race, selling, six furlongs: Lucky Monday won, Amateur second, Real third. Time: 1:17¾.

Second race, selling, six furlongs: Octave won, Tom Simmons second, Al Lone third. Time: 1:16¾.

Third race, the Crescent City handicap, one and an eighth mile: Macy won, Judge Steadman second, Dr. Sheppard third. Time: 1:57¼.

Fourth race, selling, one and one-half miles: Evanatius won, Nannie L's Sister second, Scharina third. Time: 2:37¼.

Fifth race, seven and one-half furlongs: Llewanna won, Rushfields second, Mollie third. Time: 1:40.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Weather clear, track fast, at Ingleside today.

First race, selling, seven furlongs: Olive won, Argentina second, Pat Murphy third. Time: 1:29½.

Second race, purse, six furlongs: Libertine won, May W second, Highland Ball third. Time: 1:14½.

Third race, selling, one mile: Myth won, Bernardillo second, Charles Reiff third. Time: 1:42.

Fourth race, hurdle handicap, one and an eighth miles: Snowdown won, Captain Rees second, Gold Dust third. Time: 2:03¾.

Fifth race, one mile, Cracker stakes: Count of Flanders won, Torsida second, Eddie Jones third. Time: 1:41.

ARTHUR CHASE IS ALSO A SKATER.

Makes Match with Earl Reynolds, the American Champion.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—W. T. Walton, manager of Arthur A. Chase, the English middle-distance cyclist, and Earl Reynolds today signed articles of agreement for a series of ice skating races between Chase and Reynolds. The series, it is announced, will be for a purse of $500, and a side stake of $500. The first race will in all probability be held at Silver Lake, S. I., where the national championships were held last year, or in New York City; the second at Buffalo or Toronto and the third at Montreal, all early in the new year. The men each deposited $250 forfeit.

Reynolds was the winner of the national championship of America last year. Chase holds a number of European skating records.

Midnight Contest with Gloves.

WELLSTON, O., Dec. 29.—Between 1 o'clock and daylight this morning James Fogarty and George Haines fought twenty rounds with gloves. The contest was spirited and as honors were about even the referee declared the fight a draw.

Deaths of a Day.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—M. Carvelho, director of the Opera Comique, is dead. Leon Carvaill, otherwise Leon Carvelho, was born in 1825. While engaged as singer at the Opera Comique, Paris, in 1853, he married Mile Miolan, one of the most distinguished artists of that theater. He became director of the Opera Comique in 1867. His management was marked by a great catastrophe—the great fire of May 25, 1885, when about 131 persons lost their lives.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Charles Mannings Foster, a well known banker and broker, died at his home in this city last night, aged 44 years. With Henry Clews he founded, twenty years ago, the firm of Henry Clews & Co. He maintained his membership in that firm until his death, and he was for many years the firm's active Stock exchange member.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 29.—Thomas W. Seymour, founder of the benevolent order of Knights and Ladies of Honor, and grand secretary for the state of Missouri, died at his home at Maplewood, St. Louis county, today, as the result of a paralytic stroke. He was born in Ireland in 1820, and came to this country when 3 years of age. Later Mr. Seymour moved to St. Louis, and in 1877 he founded Initial lodge No. 1 of the order which is now known all over the country.

WAHOO, NEB., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Death has again visited the home of Mr. H. Hanson, sr., of this city. A few weeks ago his wife was taken, now his only daughter, Miss Hattie, died of bronchial pneumonia yesterday evening at 4 o'clock. Miss Hanson was 22 years old has lived all of her life in Saunders county, was an honored officer of Purity chapter, Order of Rebeccas, of this city.

MISSOURI VALLEY, Ia., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Mrs. F. M. Miles, wife of the foreman of the Elkhorn shops at this place, died Tuesday evening.

HUMBOLDT, Neb., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Christian Rist, sr., a prominent German farmer who has resided in this county since an early day, died this morning at his home, seven miles southwest of this city, of dropsy. The deceased was one of the most wealthy and influential Germans of this vicinity.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 29.—William James Linton, an engraver, poet and political writer, died in this city today, aged 85 years. He was born in London. During the 40s he was one of the leaders in the Chartist movement in England, editing papers, speaking and writing constantly in favor of reforms. He was intimately associated with Mazzini, Garibaldi, Louis Blanc and other European republicans, these men making his home theirs when taking refuge in England.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Charles Addison Miller of the banking and brokerage firm of Miller & Doubleday died today, aged 60 years.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 29.—Mrs. Woolsey G. Sterling is dead, aged 82 years. She was a prominent abolitionist and her home at Bridgeport was a station on the "underground railroad." She founded the first sanitary society for soldiers during the civil war.

LEXINGTON, Mo., Dec. 29.—William W. Lambora, aged 78, is dead here. He was born in Wilmington, Del., in 1819. He was initiated as a Mason in Cincinnati, O., fifty years ago, and has been a member in good standing ever since. He was also an Odd Fellow. He was buried here today, the two lodges conducting the services.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Colonel William H. Lowdermilk died here today, aged 55 years. He was born in Cumberland, Md., and was educated at Louisville, Ky. He enlisted in a Kentucky regiment at the outbreak of the late war and later became an officer on General Hazen's staff. He was captured at Stone River, and after eight months in Libby prison was exchanged, and served in the battles of Shiloh and Chickamaugua. After the war he edited a newspaper at Cumberland, Md., and was postmaster. In 1878 he came to Washington and built up a book business.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Sallie Pendleton Faulkner Pierce, widow of Charles H. Pierce of New York and sister of Senator Faulkner of West Virginia, died here yesterday.

Searching for a Father.

A 14-year-old girl giving the name of Nellie Harding arrived at the Union depot yesterday from a small town in Illinois. She said she was looking for her father, Oscar O. Harding, an employe of a South Omaha packing house, but that the parent had failed to put in an appearance. The girl was most disconsolate until she told her troubles to Chief Fleming of the depot police, who prevailed upon a good natured Union Pacific conductor to take the girl to South Omaha. Upon arrival there she was turned over to the police, who will try to locate the missing father.

...THE BEE Voting Contest FOR... Queen of the Ice Carnival

MY CHOICE FOR QUEEN POLARIS IS _____

Ballot Boxes located at Millard Hotel, Bee Bldg, King Pharmacy, 27th and Leavenworth sts.; Chas. A. Tracy's, 15th and Douglas; Shrader's Drug Store, North 24th and Seward sts.

NORRIS & LOVE, Carnival Managers.

DEC. 30 This ballot must be deposited within 3 days from date. Coupons may be mailed within two days to Carnival Dep't., Bee Office, Omaha.

SENDING OUT RARE SEEDS

Agricultural Department Changes Its Policy of Distribution.

COMMON KINDS WILL NOT BE FURNISHED

Government Exposition Board Objects to the Change in Disposition of Funds—Proposed Interior Department Display.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Members of congress will shortly send in their constituencies the usual quota of seeds allowed by the government for distribution. Instead of sending seeds that are of no earthly good, Secretary Wilson has decided to circulate seeds that are rare and unusual, not raised to any great extent in this country. One of the new varieties of seeds to be given a trial is botanically known as "Visca Villosa," commonly called hairy vetch, Russian vetch, or sand vetch, and is considered by authorities to be the best soiling crop that can be raised. It possesses more nutritive value than any other forage plant and can be raised in almost any soil. Visca villosa originally came from western Asia, but owing to its expensiveness and that so much had to be used in sowing, it never came into popular use until lately. Tais villosa is generally sowed any time from the middle of April until the middle of May for summer crop and from the middle of August to September for the winter crop. The yield of an acre sowed with villosa will run anywhere from a ton and a half to four tons. It is stated at the Department of Agriculture that visca villosa flourishes best on the dry prairies of the west and along the Gulf of Mexico, and that sheep thrive better on it than on any other forage plant.

Since the passage of the joint resolution setting aside $12,500 additional for the government building at Omaha next year, the members of the government board have felt in anything but a friendly spirit toward the members of the Nebraska delegation having the resolution in charge, and do not hesitate to say that the additional space thus provided will work, not to the betterment, but to the detriment of the government show.

Prof. F. W. Clarke, the representative of the interior department for the Transmississippi exposition, speaking of the new turn of affairs, said: "The board does not feel that it can go ahead in the matter of arranging exhibits until congress has taken some amendatory action. We find now that the appropriation for show purposes has been decreased and that the floor space has been increased so that we are compelled to wait further action of congress, which we hope will be taken after the holidays. As far as our own exhibit is concerned, I will do all in my power to make it a complete success."

PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT.

The Interior department will be represented by four of its bureaus—Bureau of Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the patent office and United States Geological survey. The Bureau of Education exhibit will be mainly pictorial in character, showing numerous wing panels and cabinets of pictures and statistical tables illustrating the work of education in this country. Some large statistical charts will be mounted on rollers. Wash drawings illustrating the methods of school punishment and water color sketches showing the evolution of the modern school house from the most primitive forms will be shown. As this bureau has charge of the educational work in Alaska space will be given for an extensive exhibit, and various Alaskan objects of aboriginal art will be used in decoration. Besides this there will be a large collection of Alaskan water colors.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will make a very interesting exhibit of its work in the Indian schools. Several large show cases will be filled with articles of handicraft, such as carpenter and blacksmith work and all the useful trades taught in the many Indian schools throughout the country. There will also be many maps exhibited by the general land office.

The patent office will as usual show models of American inventions. The models will occupy several large show cases and will be classified in groups, each showing the influence of the patent office in the development of some particular class of industry. In these cases will be found agricultural machinery, metal working tools, typewriters, textile machines, wood working machines, guns, measuring instruments and machines for working clay, for excavating and for many other trades.

The United States Geological survey will exhibit minerals, fossils in rocks in considerable variety, with a series of maps and geological models. All the wall space which will be alloted to the survey will be covered with geologic and topographic maps, together with framed illustrations of the publications of the bureau. Several large photographic transparencies will doubtless be placed in the windows, which will illustrate American scenery. It is the intention of the survey to give a great edal of attention to the National Yellowstone park, and it is the belief of the survey that it will be a most interesting exhibit.

RECIPROCITY FOR PINE LUMBER.

Argentine Declines to Make an Advance in Duty.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The lumber and other interests which might be affected by reciprocity treaties are watching closely, through their representatives here, all that concerns their special interests. The principal representative of the lumbermen is Theophilus Tunis, chairman of the executive committee of the National Lumbermens' association. He has had several interviews with Mr. Kasson, who is in charge of reciprocity negotiations for the State department and has received the following letter from him announcing the success of efforts to prevent Argentine striking a blow at American pine:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Mr. Theophilus Tunis,—Sir: It may gratify you to know that an official cable from Mr. Buchanan, our energetic minister at Buenos Ayres, informs us that the Argentine Chamber of Deputies has declined the government's proposition for the increase of duty on yellow pine, leaving the present rates in force. He awaits the further action of the other chambers. Respectfully, etc.

JOHN A. KASSON,
Special Commissioner Plenipotentiary.

Mr. Tunis has also been informed that a cable from our minister at Rio de Janeiro announces that the Brazilian government will remove the discriminating exactions against our ship owners which should result in the resumption of our flour trade with that port. He is of the opinion that the discriminating clauses of the Dingley bill caused these decisions of Brazil and Argentine.

Greene Favors Civil Service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Representative Greene of the Sixth Nebraska district has been alloted time on January 5 to speak upon the question of civil service. Mr. Greene stated today that he was in favor of civil service reform as now practiced by the government, believing that it had done a great deal for the betterment of the service of the government, and was a decided advance over the spoils system in vogue before its adoption.

Pensions for Western Veterans.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—The following patents were granted today:

Nebraska—Charley Davison, Stanton, draft equalizer; Charles E. Harrison, Nebraska City, oil reservoir for car journals.

Iowa—Frank W. Jacob, Plymouth, apparatus for hoisting and conveying bowlders; Olin H. Round, G. A. Sammis, C. Kern, Lemars, switch stand.

South Dakota—Aaron M. Carlson, Pierre, sled runner.

Trying to Check Hog Cholera.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Dr. Salmon, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Agricultural department, has called for a report from the inspectors who have been making investigations in Page county, Iowa, of hog cholera, for the purpose of enabling the department to devise means to stamp out this dreaded disease. Dr. Salmon will also receive a supplementary report from the special agent who was detailed to make an investigation of the character of the disease with the statement of the experimental station at Lincoln, Neb. The reports are expected to contain some valuable information, and it is the hope of the department officials that methods will be adopted based on recommendations in the reports that will eliminate hog cholera, or at least lessen its progress and dissemination. Secretary Wilson estimates that the loss of hogs from cholera amounts to $15,000,000 annually in the states of Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

CHINESE EMPEROR SOUNDS ALARM.

Gloomy Forebodings Due to Coming Eclipse of the Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The State department has just received a copy, through United States Minister Denby, of the recent curious decree issued by the emperor of China to fend off the wrath of providence as indicated in the eclipse predicted for New Year's day. The document is pronounced by experts to be a masterful exhibition of typical Chinese statesmanship, in view of the existing critical condition of affairs in the celestial empire. The decree reads as follows:

According to the Chun Chun (spring and autumn annals) it has been stated that an eclipse of the sun on the first day of the year betokens an impending calamity. Hence the sovereign of every dynasty which has preceded us has always made it a point whenever an eclipse of the sun is prognosticated to undergo self-abasement and humble himself before heaven in order to avert the wrath from above.

In the case of our own imperial dynasty, for instance, during the reigns of their majesties Kang Hsi and Chien Lung (1662-1794) there were observed two eclipses of the sun, which fell on a New Year's day; and now, according to the Board of Astronomy, the first day of the fourteenth year of our reign (January 22, 1898) there will yet be another eclipse of the sun.

We are filled with forebodings at this news and hasten to seek within ourselves for sins which may have thus brought the wrath of high heaven upon the land. We further command that the ceremonies of congratulation, usually held on New Year's day in the Taiho throne hall, be curtailed, and only ordinary obeisances be made, the places being changed to the Chien Tsing throne hall, instead of the Taiho throne hall. The banquet usually given to the imperial clansmen on New Year's day must also be stopped, and when the eclipse occurs let all members of the court wear sober garments and assemble in the inner palace before the altar set up to heaven to pray for forbearance and mercy to the country at large.

This is so far as shall concern ourselves to show our desire to propitiate high heaven, but as her majesty, the empress dowager, is an elder and senior, it is but right that the full ceremonies be observed in paying the court's obeisances on New Year's day to her majesty. Let all the yamens concerned take note."

CHEMISTS MEET IN CONVENTION.

National Society Holding Its Sixteenth Annual Session.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The sixteenth annual meeting of the American Chemical society was called to order at the Columbian university in this city today. The society is composed of some of the most prominent chemists and scientists in the United States and also includes in its membership many distinguished foreigners. The total membership is over 1,100, of whom about ninety were present at the session today. President Whitman of Columbian university made the address of welcome, which was responded to by Charles B. Dudley, chemist of the Pennsylvania railroad, who is the president of the society. The remainder of the morning session was occupied in the reading and discussion of scientific papers. Prof. Howe and Campbell of Washington and Missouri universities presented a paper on "Some New Cyanides and the Double Ferro-Cyanide of Dorium and Potassium," and Prof. Venable one on "The Atomic Weight of Zirconium." The afternoon was devoted to sightseeing.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows: President, Charles E. Monroe, Washington; secretary, Albert C. Hale, Brooklyn, N. Y.; treasurer, Charles F. McKenna; librarian, F. E. Dodge, New York. Councilors: F. W. Clarke, Washington, D. C.; A. A. Noyes, Boston; G. F. Barker, Philadelphia; W. L. Dudley, Nashville, Tenn. Directors: A. B. Prescott, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Charles F. Chandler, New York; Peter T. Austin, New York; Charles B. Dudley, Altoona, Pa.

ADMIRAL SELFRIDGE TO RETIRE.

He Will Be Succeeded by Commodore Howell.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The necessary orders were given at the Navy department for changes in command caused by the approaching retirement of Admiral Selfridge, at present commanding the European station.

The admiral is detached from his command at Genoa on February 2, and with his staff, consisting of Lieutenant J. J. Hunker and Lieutenant Russell, is ordered home. Commodore Howell is detached from the command of the League Island navy yard January 13, and ordered to sail on the Werra from New York for Genoa, where he will relieve Admiral Selfridge of the command of the European station on February 2, and hoist his flag. Lieutenant J. J. Knapp will be his flag lieutenant and Ensign Chandler his secretary.

OPENS PORTS TO FOREIGN TRADE.

Corea Accedes to the Desires of the Business World.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Horace Allen, consul general of the United States at Seoul, Corea, has informed the State depaitment that the Corean government on October 1 last opened two ports to foreign trade. The first is Mokpo, in the southern part of the peninsula, and has a very rich agricultural back country. It is expected to become an important port of export, and also will be a valuable distributing center for the richest part of Corea. The second port is Chenampo, at the head of navigation on the Ta Tong river, and will be the port of entry for the northern capital, Pengyang. This northern country is rich in minerals and is the center of the gold mining industry now being exploited by an American syndicate. The opening of these ports has long been desired by business men. Japan has already appointed consuls to these ports.

Government Board Interested.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Members of the government board who are greatly interested in the bill correcting certain administrative features of the Omaha Exposition, stated today that it was deemed best not to have a meeting of the board until after it was ascertained what congress would do with the bill. Should, however, congress move slowly in the matter, the board will meet and reapportion the space and money along the lines made necessary by the increased appropriation for the Government building and the decreased appropriation for the exhibit.

Place for an Editor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—The president has decided to appoint O. Bierarendall of Sioux Falls, editor of the South Dakota Echo, the only Scandinavian organ in the state, as consul at Beyrut, Syria. The place pays $2,400 a year. Mr. Bierarendall was an applicant for one of the consulates at Sweden.

Secretary Alger Recovering.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Secretary Alger was much better this morning. He suffered from a depressing fever yesterday, but this entirely disappeared during last night and this morning he was able to arise from his bed and transact some business at his house.

Raising Embargo on Tobacco.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Assistant Secretary Howell today received a telegram from McFarland at Tampa, Fla., stating that he was advised that the embargo on the exportation of tobacco from Havana, Cuba, would be raised within the next twenty-four hours.

Examining Surgeons.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—The commissioner of pensions today appointed Dr. E. B. Smiley on the board of examining surgeons at Mitchell, S. D., and Dr. W. C. Leon at Leon, Ia.

Pertaining to Postoffices.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Michael Larkowski has been appointed postmaster at Farwell, Seward county, Neb., vice Jacob Small, removed.

Daily Treasury Statement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Today's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, $245,360,028; gold reserve, $160,542,995.

GOMPERS TAKES UP HIS PEN

Writes a Reply to Exceptions Taken by Secretary Gage.

DEFENDS THE FREE COINAGE OF SILVER

Seek Nothing but Disaster Following in the Wake of the Gold Standard in National Finances.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has replied in an open letter to Secretary Gage's recent letter taking exceptions to the resolutions passed by the Federation with reference to the Gage financial bill. Mr. Gompers says in part:

You take exception both to the position which our organization has taken upon your bill, as well as the language employed. Even if you are justified in the one, you certainly misapprehend the other. I submit that you will seek in vain for a single denunciatory word, either in regard to your motives, your plan, or your bill. We say also that denunciation is not argument, but to declare our position and the statement of a fact in regard to a most important and far-reaching measure, affecting the changing of the financial system of our country, can by no means be construed as denunciation.

Those resolutions declare against your plan for more thoroughly committing our country to the gold standard, a plan for destroying our greenback currency and substituting banknotes, a plan in fact for weakening the control of the national government over that most important of all measures, the measure of values, and strengthening the banks, a plan, aiming at what you call "currency reform," and which we call "blank monopoly."

That you should take offense at these resolution I regret, for the right to express disapproval of the acts of their servants is one of the rights held sacred by the American people, and one you will freely accord. We do not charge you with "ignorance, relative or absolute," or allege any "evil purpose" or a "perversity of motive" on your part, as implied in your letter, nor upon rereading the resolutions will you find them either condemnatory or denunciatory, as you say they are. The resolutions are declaratory of the views of the American Federation of Labor, and are entirely impersonal, for of all men in public life we have the greatest respect for your probity and integrity.

OPPOSED TO GAGE'S PLAN.

The wage earners of America, represented in the American Federation of Labor, believe that the position taken in regard to the retirement of the greenbacks is antagonistic to their interests, and they are opposed to your plan for more thoroughly committing this country of ours to the gold standard.

You ask what evils have resulted from our adherence to the gold standard. I answer that the evils are those that have grown and ever must grow from a dishonest measure of values, a measure of values that interferes with the just distribution of wealth; that deprives some men of a part of their earnings that is rightly theirs, and confers it upon others who have earned it not. Any measure of values that thus forces an unjust distribution of the products of labor, that deprives the producer of the fruits of his toil, cuts down wages and profits, thereby destroys the incentive to enterprise, leads to industrial stagnation, forced in idleness, distress and public suffering.

The products of labor are divided into three general shares. One share goes as interest and rents to the money lender and landlord, to capitalists who do not productively use their own capital—who seek to avoid the risks of production. A second share goes as wages to wage earners. The interest charged and rent are to a great degree fixed, and profits and wages are subject to great fluctuations. This being so, it is clear that anything that reduces the total money value of the products of labor must increase the share of the money lender and creditor, though nominally fixed, and decrease the share to be divided among employer and wage earners. It is equally clear that to increase the value of money must decrease the value of the products of labor, and therefore enrich the creditor at the expense of the debtor.

GOLD STANDARD AN INJURY.

Now, if our adherence to the gold standard has caused money to grow dearer, you must admit that the gold standard has done injury to our people, brought distress to wage earners and employers, and discouraged enterprise. Our adherence to the gold standard has caused money to grow in value, and, of course, forced the things measured in money to fall in price.

However, it is not alone to the cheapening of the labor cost of production, but also to an actual appreciation of gold that the fall in prices since 1872 has been in great part due. And this appreciation has grown out of the demonetization of silver, which has increased the demands for gold. This is a question that every producer can answer. Has the fall in prices curtailed my earnings? If the fall in the prices has been due only to general improved methods of production, a lessening in the true cost of production, he has suffered no loss from such fall. Moreover, the fall in prices since 1873, common to all gold-using countries—a fall in prices of 20 per cent—has not grown out of improvement in machinery exclusively; that the labor cost of production has not been increased by one-fifth in these past years, and that therefore the cause of this fall in prices must lie in what, if not in dearer money, and was due primarily to an appreciation in gold.

Changes in the value of money have largely influenced the movements of prices during the last half century, and were great factors in the price movements during one long period. During the quarter of a century following the gold discoveries in California there was much progress in the line of invention, much introducing of labor-saving machinery, much cheapening in the labor cost of production. This, on your theory, should have caused steady fall in prices. But what happened? The outpourings of gold cheapened gold to a greater degree than commodities were cheapened and the result was that prices were in general 30 per cent higher at the end of this period than at the beginning. Then what happened? We, along with many other nations, closed our mints to silver. We increased the demand for gold with the result that gold went up in value and prices of commodities down. You must abandon the advocacy of gold monometallism, unless you can show that the demonetization of silver and the doubling of the demand for gold resultant therefrom, has not caused gold to grow dearer and prices lower, to the great injury of all producers of wealth. You should at least show that the perpetuation of the gold standard will not result in making money dearer and human flesh cheaper.

And now just one word as to the second resolution to which you take exception. This resolution declares, and you admit it, that the purpose of your currency bill is to cause the retirement of our national greenback currency and all government paper money and the substitution of bank notes. This you hold to be desirable. Why? Would it not give the banks the power to regulate our foreign exchanges, the power to check gold exports by contraction, and by screwing down accommodation to merchants so as to force them to throw their products on the market at prices at which our foreign creditors would rather take such products than our gold? Would it not thus relieve the treasury of the burden of providing for gold redemptions, and make the banks supreme? This we hold to be undesirable. It would make the banks guardian over our volume of money and so of our measure of values; it would enable the banks working in the interest of the speculators to cause movements in prices with great certainty, enable them to depress prices by contracting the currency and raise prices by expanding the same. It would make the banks the masters and man the slave, and would enrich the few and impoverish the multitude.

In the statement you recently made before the house committee on banking and currency in support of your bill you say, and repeat this truism, "that the less the government owes the less it will have to pay." Yet your plan involves the proposition of the retirement of our national paper currency and greenbacks upon which we pay no interest at all, and the issuance of bonds in its stead in the sum of $300,000,000, which we shall owe, and upon which we shall be required to pay interest. The inconsistency of your statements and your plan seems glaring!

We oppose your currency bill because, as has been well said, "it is a bill to provide for the abdication of the soverign powers of the government to the banks, for strengthening the hands of the speculative cliques, enriching the few and impoverishing the many."

South Omaha's Public Building.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Supervising Architect Taylor stated today that he hoped to have blue prints ready for inviting bids for the erection of the South Omaha public building by the 1st of January or shortly thereafter. He said the Denver public building was first upon the list and would be followed by South Omaha. As the building will be advertised in its entirety, it is thought that, if anything like a reliable contractor succeeds in getting the work, by next fall at least the building will be ready for occupancy. At least that is the desire of the supervising architect's office and the principal wish of Congressman Mercer.

SIFTON VISITS THE DEPARTMENT.

Will Probably Discuss Klondike Relief Matters Today

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn today presented Mr. Clifford Sifton, the Canadian minister of the interior, to the president. Mr. McKinley greeted Mr. Sifton with cordiality, but did not discuss with him in any manner the objects of his visit.

Later Mr. Sifton took luncheon at the British embassy. After the luncheon, accompanied by Mr. Meiklejohn, he called upon Attorney General McKenna and Secretary of the Treasury Gage. The visits wee simply out of courtesy, but in the course of Mr. Sifton's visit to both these cabinet officers the question of getting supplies into the Klondike was discussed.

Mr. Sifton, in a general way, expressed the opinion that the Canadian government would be glad to render any aid in its power to this government in getting a relief expedition into the Klondike, but expressed the opinion to President McKinley and Secretary Gage that there was not likely to be great suffering among the miners in the vicinity of Dawson City for lack of food. This opinion he expressed on the information in the possession of the Canadian government. He did think, however, that there might be severe suffering on account of the excessive cold, as a large proportion of those who rushed into the mining region last summer were unacclimated.

Moreover, Mr. Sifton is not sanguine that a relief expedition, such as this government contemplates, could get through. The Canadian government, with all the facilities in its possession, has not yet been able to get in twenty-five tons of provisions, dispatched some time ago. He pictured in a gloomy way the immense difficulties in driving reindeer through the narrow defiles and passes over the snow and ice.

Mr. Sifton, in his talk with Secretary Gage, also referred briefly to the question of duties on miner's supplies, but nothing significant was said on either side, so far as could be learned.

Mr. Sifton expected to have a conference with Secretary of War Alger this afternoon, but was unable to do so on account of the latter's physical condition. It is barely possible, though not probable, that General Alger will be able to have the conference tomorrow forenoon. Otherwise Mr. Sifton and Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn will have a conference on the situation tomorrow afternoon. This, however, has not been finally settled. If Secretary Bliss returns in time tomorrow, three will also be a conference between him and the Canadian minister. The latter is also expected to discuss the question further with Secretary Gage.

Mr. Sifton contemplated leaving here for Ottawa tomorrow, but tonight stated he expected to remain until Saturday. He has been through the passes in the Alaskan country, though not in the winter season, and he says he does not think the snowfall would level up the passes for the transportation purposes that have been suggested. Mounted police of the Canadian government have been taking in relief supplies via Skagway, it has been stated in the course of the conferences on the subject, and they are building caches for preservation of the goods about seventy-five or 100 miles apart.

E. S. Rosenfeld, general manager of the company controlling the newly devised snow and ice engines, today submitted a proposition to the secretary of war for the transportation of 150 tons of government supplies from the head of Lynn canal to Dawson City at 25 cents per pound of weight. All arms, accoutrements and rations of the army detachment, not exceeding fifty tons, are to be carried free both ways. The scheme contemplates sending the trains over one of these three routes: The Dalton route from Haines Mission, the Chilkoot route from Taiya, or the White Pass from Skagway.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, sent an official communication today to the secretary of state, announcing that the British government will permit the detachment of the United States army accompanying the government relief expedition to cross British territory in making the trip. The detachment will be accompanied by a representative of the Canadian government as an escort while passing over British soil.

BRIEFS IN VENEZUELAN DISPUTE.

Will Be Presented to Arbitration Court in February.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The briefs in the British-Venezuela arbitration case are expected to be ready by the middle of February and the preliminary work of the arbitration court will then begin. The Venezuelan government has named Dr. Rejas, a prominent lawyer and diplomat, lately resident in Paris, as its agent before the court. With him will be associated eminent counsel, whose names have not yet been announced. The members of the court, Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Brewer for Venezuela and Lord Herschel and Sir Richard Henn Collins for Great Britain, with Dr. Martens of St. Petersburg as umpire, will not assemble until the latter part of next summer. It had been intended to hold the court at Paris, but the sessions may be held at London, St. Petersburg or some other convenient point. In the meantime the briefs will be forwarded to the president of the court and thence distributed to the individual members. It is thought that the case will not be closed and a decision reached before the end of the coming year.

After a Consulate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—L. B. Bailey, who for several years was secretary to Representative Pickler, is still in Washington. It is learned today that Mr. Bailey is very anxious for a Canadian consulate. He wanted to go to Winnipeg, but that place being filled, he is willing to take anything that may be left with sufficient salary attached.

Aged Woman Buried.

MILAN, Mo., Dec. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs. Elizabeth Ellidge of Breckenridge, aged 83, was buried today, leaving 139 decendants—twelve children, thirty-seven grandchildren, forty great grandchildren and fifty great great grandchildren.

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