The Washington Times.

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Circulation Statement.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended August 3, 1901, was as follows:

Sunday, July 28	18,965
Monday, July 29	20,718
Tuesday, July 30	33,644
Wednesday, July 31	20,000
Thursday, August 1	20,145
Friday, August 2	20,278
Saturday, August 3	20,108
Total	254,371
Daily average (Sunday, 18,965, excepted)	20,324

War in South America.

If all we hear through the press despatches be true, the revolutionary troubles in Venezuela and Colombia are more serious than hitherto has been supposed. The matter is a complicated one, and is rather hard to analyze at this distance. We can understand the movement headed by General Uribe-Uribe in Colombia, because it appears to be a popular effort to overturn a mediæval despotism, much after the pattern of the dictatorship of Lopez in Paraguay, which was wiped out a quarter of a century ago. But it is said that both the Uribe-Uribe uprising and the insurrection in Venezuela are the result of a plan, of which President Cipriano Castro is the author, to consolidate the States of Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador into a single sovereignty. This the parties in power in the two countries last named oppose. The situation seems to warrant the expectation that there will be formal war between Venezuela and Colombia, and if that should happen the United States cannot be a wholly disinterested spectator.

Already a party of Colombian revolutionists have looted the Panama Railway storehouses of powder, dynamite, and tools. This Government is under treaty obligation to protect that line, and undoubtedly will land marines and bluejackets for that purpose. There is one thing significant and amusing in connection with the Venezuelan outbreak against General Castro's administration. The real head and front of the rebellion is being carefully kept in the background, and this is not strange in view of the fact that General Andrade's identification with the interests of the Asphalt Trust render it inconvenient to have him advertised in the United States as the prime mover in an adventure which, if successful, everybody knows will result in giving the trust an absolute monopoly of the Venezuelan asphalt deposits, without regard to the rights of outside concessionnires. On this account the Administration is credited with a strong desire to see the Castro Government overthrown, its interest in the Asphalt Trust's welfare being a matter of common notoriety.

Affairs in Cuba.

General Maximo Gomez is an able and subtle politician. He may be depended upon always to find out which way the wind of public opinion is blowing, and then blow with it. While on his recent visit to this country he talked glibly and with apparent earnestness about the inevitableness of ultimate Cuban annexation. But no doubt that was for advertising purposes in the United States. Now he finds that annexation is not a popular word to conjure with in Cuba, and so he denies that he thinks the island ought to become a part of the United States.

The foxy old gentleman is right about one thing, however. In a recent statement he said, and said truly, that we Americans are not bothering our heads about the question of annexation, inasmuch as the Platt terms give us all we care for. And they do, although we think it would have been franker and better had they been more explicit, and had informed the Cuban people in clear terms what they might expect. But that is a past matter. This country will garrison the Cuban forts over which the Stars and Stripes will float, it will supervise the foreign relations of the new State, and generally exercise a friendly but firm suzeralnty which in effect will amount to a protectorate, although nobody connected with our Executive or Congress would think of so calling it.

By and by the Cubans probably will think that having the game they might as well have the name, and ask the United States to let them in as a Territory. Statehood they could not hope for. That would give them the right of free trade with other parts of the common country. The Havemeyers would see to it that they did not get that. But as a Territory the full terrors of Dingleyism could be visited upon them, if the Bunsby opinion of Mr. Justice Brown is to stand. Perhaps they may come to prefer Americanization even with that handicap to existence "under two flags."

What Does Chadwick Know?

Admiral Sampson's faithful friend and pet captain, Chadwick, is reported as saying that he has important testimony to give against Admiral Schley before the investigating board. Judging from his past expressions, we have no reason to doubt that this "courtly" and "fair-minded" naval officer will rather strain himself in his effort to diminish the fair fame of the man whom the whole world, outside of a small-sized American naval clique, hails as the real victor of Santiago.

At the same time we find ourselves unconsciously wondering what Chadwick knows about the matter anyway. He was not at Cienfuegos while Schley was there; he was not at Santiago in the preliminary stages of the naval operations at that point; he was not near enough to the battle with Cervera's ships to know anything about the famous "loop," or any other point connected with the engagement. Chadwick was both figuratively and literally in the same boat with Sampson, and both were far enough from the scene of action not only to be secure in their persons, but blissfully ignorant of what was going on beyond the simple fact that a battle was being fought in their absence.

But we need not stop here with Captain Chadwick. If, with a piercing and far-reaching vision unknown to ordinary men he was able to see and know things from afar, and thus become possessed of "important testimony" against Schley, how comes it that Captain Chadwick has kept it to himself all of these years during which the enemies of Schley have moved heaven and earth (so far as their puny efforts would go) to find something tangible against that gallant officer? If Captain Chadwick had personal knowledge of misconduct on Schley's part, anything of a really serious nature, it was his duty to lay it before the department long and long ago.

Since the Battle of Santiago, the President has recommended Schley for promotion to the grade of rear admiral, and the Senate has acted upon the recommendation. Then was the time for Captain Chadwick to come forward with his "important testimony" against Schley, if he had any. And then was the time for the Navy Department to make its showing if it had one to make. If the department had no reason then to offer why Schley should not be promoted, it is reasonable and pertinent to enquire how, when, and where it has learned anything against Schley since that time?

The friends of Admiral Schley, to the number of about seventy-six millions, are not worrying much about anything that Captain Chadwick is likely to say. If he knew anything of importance bearing upon the subject, and knew it when the controversy first arose, he ought to have been court-martialed for not laying it before the proper authorities; if his alleged testimony consists of something that he has picked up since, it is of no value in the case. If Chadwick confines himself to what he actually knows about the Battle of Santiago his testimony will hurt nobody—except, possibly, Sampson.

The Change of Inauguration Day.

The "New York Tribune" puts in a strong and earnest plea for a change of the inaugural date from March 4 to about April 30. It is a pleasure to note this, and The Times earnestly hopes that the press of the entire country will take up the matter, and push it vigorously until the proposed change is made. As the "Tribune" suggests, there is everything to gain and nothing to lose by it. People living elsewhere and who are not in the habit of attending Presidential inaugurations may not appreciate the reasons for the change, but they at least should not object, and it is not likely that many will.

The inaugural ceremonies are essentially out-of-door exercises, and the fourth day of March is a date when we may fairly and reasonably expect some of the worst weather of the entire year. Not only may we expect it, but we frequently get it in the fullest measure. It is not a pleasant spectacle to see the President-elect standing bare-headed in a driving snowstorm or a beating rain while delivering his address. But if it were merely a question of his personal comfort the matter might be arranged. There is, however, no way of taking care of the marching columns and the hundred thousand spectators who line the streets or pack the open space on the east front of the Capitol.

The pageant of inducting into office the Chief Magistrate of the greatest nation on earth should, if possible, be accompanied by every beautiful adjunct that nature can furnish. On or about April 30 Washington is one of the loveliest spots imaginable, with its green leaves and bright flowers, with its trees and shrubbery just putting forth their foliage in freshness and vigor.

But, after all, these are minor points. People will attend the inaugurals no matter what the weather may be, and every stormy inauguration measures its victims by the score, if not by the hundred. A bleak and stormy inauguration day is as destructive of human life as is a good-sized modern battle. Every old resident of Washington can testify to this fact, and if for no other reason the date should be changed as a measure for the protection of the lives and the health of those who attend.

The objections, such as that it will prolong the Presidential term, and extend the short session of Congress a few weeks, are utterly trivial, and ought not to be given a feather's weight against the considerations to be urged in favor of the change. Let the District Committee continue its efforts to secure the desired legislation, and let every Washingtonian aid in any manner that he can. With earnest work it can be accomplished, and when it is done the whole country should rejoice. It will help Washington immensely, add to the beauty and impressiveness of the ceremony itself, operate to the comfort of all who attend or take part, save in the aggregate many thousands of lives, and do no possible harm anywhere.

Mortgaged Nations.

In the July number of "Gunton's Magazine" appears an interesting article by George E. Walsh, on the subject of "Mortgaged Nations." In this article the writer points out that China, Persia, Portugal, Turkey, and various South American countries are so heavily indebted to Europe as virtually to be in pawn and unable to make an independent move of any consequence.

With reference to several of the nations mentioned, this is true, and in itself it may not be a bad thing for the world that such a condition exists. It is not easy to see any independent move that China, Persia, or Turkey is likely to inaugurate that promises much benefit to the civilized portion of mankind. Those countries will never progress of their own independent motion. What we call the "progress of the world" they regard as merely a multitude of barbarous and hideous innovations. They take this position because the masses of their people know nothing and care nothing about progress, while the privileged classes and rulers see in it nothing but a curtailment of their own privileges.

The most serious feature of the situation created by this mortgaging process is found in the antagonisms and rivalries engendered among the European nations themselves. There is at this time scarcely a single question of internal national policy that is likely to embroil any European State in war. The dangers all, or nearly all, lie in questions that are external—which pertain to rights and interests that have been acquired or claimed far away from home and within the geographical boundaries of other countries. Questions of territorial ownership on their own borders may lead to hostilities between Germany and France, and between Italy and Austro-Hungary, but the great issues which threaten the peace of Europe are to be found in China, in the Balkans, and in the countries adjacent to British India.

So far as Turkey is concerned, her indebtedness to Great Britain is only a small part of the so-called "Eastern question," which may light the flames of war at any moment. The Turkish Empire bars the Russian advance to the Southern seas, and serves as a protection to England's great Asiatic dependency. Still, British interests in Turkish bonds are very far from being a matter of unconcern to the British Government. All of these financial considerations enter into the general situation and tend seriously to complicate it. The indebtedness of China has already led to territorial concessions by way of security that may yet culminate in the total dismemberment of the Celestial Empire. What results may flow from the indebtedness of the South American States cannot be foreseen at this time.

It is quite certain, though, that were it not for the very determined assertion of the Monroe Doctrine by the United States, South American debts in Europe might easily be made the excuses for numerous seizures of territory on that continent. The rapid growth of the American Republic in power has even now made any assault by a European nation upon South American territorial integrity a matter of infinite danger to the assailant—a danger which must increase as the American Republic increases in strength. We may hardly look for any such attempt.

In South America the problem is chiefly important as one of economics. Argentina, for example, is so heavily indebted that it takes the whole of her great trade balance to meet the foreign demands against her, and the same is true of Brazil. Both of those nations have great productive capacity, and they may finally work out of debt, but the heavy drafts upon them are a seriously retarding influence. As The Times has repeatedly pointed out, the United States has occupied a similar position. Only a few years ago some very able economists were of the opinion that we never would be able to relieve ourselves of the burden that was weighing us down. But the revival of industry, the advance of prices, and the enormous increase of our export trade have materially changed the situation, and in the absence of setbacks we may now safely anticipate the time when our demands against the rest of the world will equal or exceed the amount of our own obligations.

But it is very doubtful whether such nations as China, Persia, and Turkey will ever be able to liquidate except by giving up territory, and every such concession will render the relations between the great Powers more complex and sensitive. In this aspect of the matter the mortgaging of nations is of the greatest political significance, and may easily lead to consequences that will be most disastrous to some of the creditor nations themselves.

An Object Lesson on Faith.

There was a man in Albion, Michigan, recently, who believed that faith was omnipotent. It is appropriate to use the past tense in this connection, because the man does not live there now. He "passed out," in the language of the cult, some days ago, as the result of an experiment.

From his point of view the experiment was perfectly rational. He had acquired a faith so strong that he believed implicitly in the promise of Paul, so generally ignored by the average believer in Christian Science, "If they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them." For some reason or other, the faith which is proof against microbes and broken bones seems shy of poisons. If about fifty Christian Scientists were publicly to swallow virulent poisons in full view of an audience in Madison Square Garden, or some similar place, in the presence of reputable physicians and druggists who could testify that the drugs were genuine, it would probably result in either a great increase in the number of believers or a total collapse of the movement.

This man, however, believed in the harmlessness of poisons firmly enough to illustrate his belief, and he took twenty-four grains of morphine. The result was encouraging. His stomach had rejected the dose and he still lived. This thing, however, has been known to happen in other cases. If the morphine had staid in his system and done him no harm the miracle would indeed have been a powerful one.

The result of the experiment encouraged him so much that he announced that he was also proof against bullets. He bought a revolver, went out in the front yard, placed the weapon with the muzzle against his temple, and shot himself. At last accounts the victim still believed himself dead.

This event loses some of its sadness when we reflect that if this man had rested content with his morphine experiment he would probably have made some proselytes, and if it had become fashionable among the credulous people in that neighborhood to take strychnine, paris green, and prussic acid, the result would probably have been several deaths instead of one. As it is, the progress of that variety of faith in that particular community has probably been checked.

Artificial Coolness.

It has been suggested that it ought to be as easy to make clubs, hotels, and business offices cool in summer as to freeze pork and beef at the same season by artificial means, and that in the future as much attention will be given to cooling as to warming the dwelling of the civilized human being. The "New York Herald" ventures to state that a hundred years hence it will probably be a matter of surprise that the American of the nineteenth century did not attend to this.

There is, however, some reason to doubt the desirability of such an innovation. Anyone who has gone into a cold storage warehouse, cellar, or some other place artificially cooled, on a broiling July day, has probably been conscious of a feeling of uneasiness which is not present on entering a warm room in December. There seems to be an instinctive perception that it is not altogether safe to try to secure artificial coolness beyond a certain point.

The heat of summer undoubtedly has a beneficial effect on the human frame, when there is no over-exertion or rash exposure to complicate matters. The person who attempts to go through the summer with the same habits and clothing to which he is accustomed in winter and spring is foolish. It was not intended that he should do anything of the kind. The wise course is rather to abstain from violent exertion when not accustomed to it, to keep out of the sun during the hottest part of the day, to dress comfortably and eat sparingly, and, in the words of Mr. Dooley, "L'ave it be hot when it is hot." The electric fan and like devices, which keep the air stirring and thus make it purer, by carrying off the air already poisoned by exhalations from the body, are useful things; and so is a shady, cool, well-ventilated room, in the neighborhood of trees if possible, an exceedingly good thing, but as for cold storage places or rooms cooled by liquid air and such things, the less the human frame has to do with those the better. In passing from a cellar with its cold, though perhaps perfectly dry, atmosphere, to the scorching heat of the sidewalk, there is no possibility of protecting one's self as in going from a warm room into the wind of a January blizzard. Moreover, in the latter case the body is to a certain extent ready to resist evil effects; in the former, the pores are open and the whole system relaxed.

With proper care, one may work nearly if not quite as hard in summer as in winter. It is not necessary to draw a parallel between the inhabitant of a temperate zone in July and August and the denizen of a tropical country. The latter never gets any bracing cold weather to build him up. It is not the heat which makes him indolent and incapable of sustained exertion, but the monotony of it. Change of climate during the year is a good thing; and the American climate gives one enough of it and to spare. Nine-tenths if not ninety-nine one-hundredths of the American people do not take the trouble to evade its changes. They stay where they are winter and summer; and it may be noted that this immense majority is, all things considered, as healthy as the small minority which is able to dodge both heat and cold by continued travel.

After a painful search the Acting Secretary of the Navy has unearthed ex-Secretary Chandler's letter complaining of the statements made in Admiral Evans' book concerning his administration of the Navy Department. Nothing is expected to happen in consequence. Hackett and Crowninshield regard Mr. Chandler as an edition out of print, and as a "blooming civilian." Moreover, they want to keep on the warm side of Evans, because he is to be a witness before the Schley Court of Enquiry. Evans is safe for the present. What might occur should Congress get after him is quite another question. Chandler can wait if he must. He is anything but a forgetful man.

His admirers, as well as those who would like to insert a bolo in his midriff, are becoming aware that Vice President Roosevelt is out West after big game—to wit, delegates to the next Republican National Convention. Senator Thomas C. Platt and other leaders who do not love "Teddy" perhaps are not particularly worried. Kettle Hill and khaki are not as strong cards as they were a couple of years ago; besides which Marcus A. Hanna wants the nomination, and that will settle the matter as far as Roosevelt is concerned.

Senator Stewart of Nevada has joined the ranks of the Hanna Presidential boomers. He is quoted as saying yesterday: "In my opinion Senator Hanna will be nominated. * * * I believe the more the people understand him, the better they will like him." These words will sound strangely in the ears of those who have listened to the peppery punctuated remarks of Senator Stewart in reference to the same individual three or four years ago. But, ignoring that matter, the American people do not need to know anything about Mr. Hanna that they are unaware of now. They are not oblivious of certain things connected with his "election" to the Senate, and their opinion of him as a citizen is rather well and conclusively formed. But Senator Stewart is right in considering him the logical candidate of the Republican party. Were he acceptable on moral or ethical grounds his candidacy would not be logical.

It is reported from Europe that the permanent officials of The Hague Arbitration Tribunal are expected to take the initiative in protesting against the plan of the British Government, exposed by Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, to arm the savage tribes of South Africa and turn them loose on the Boers. Whether the story be true or not, it is reasonably certain that the plan will not be carried into effect without leading to vigorous representations from the Continent, and very possibly intervention. The moral sense of civilized nations will not stand quite everything.

The appointment of Rear Admiral Howison (retired) as the third member of the Schley Court of Enquiry appears to be a good one. It is not understood that he has expressed himself in relation to the Sampson scandal, and his distinguished career in the navy justifies the country in expecting that he will do his duty on the bench, as for years he did on the bridge, without fear or favor.

PERSONAL.

Governor Orman, of Colorado, is a native of Muscatine, Iowa, and went to Colorado as a poor boy in 1869, getting work as a railroad laborer. He rose in the business and has been connected with it for thirty years.

The old Patterson home on Patterson Street, in Lexington, Ky., is to be removed to Dayton, Ohio, by Thomas H. Patterson, a grandson of the founder of Lexington. The home is one of the historic spots which made the Kentucky town famous.

Luke Fields, R. A., who has been honored by the command to paint the official portrait of King Edward, has latterly painted many portraits. His best-known pictures are perhaps "The Village Wedding" and "The Doctor."

Lord Lamington, who has been chosen as the new Governor of Ceylon, gets the blue ribbon of British colonial appointments. The duties are light, the salary is large, and there is a capital residence.

Rev. Mr. Pearson, who holds the office of sheriff of Cumberland County (Portland), Maine, says that since he began his vigorous enforcement of the State prohibitive law he has been offered at least $100,000 in bribes. These were all tendered in the vain hope that he would "let up."

Surgeon Kinyoun, recently of San Francisco and now in charge of the marine hospital at Detroit, has been detailed to visit Japan and China to inspect the work of the Marine Hospital Service with special reference to the plague. Dr. Kinyoun was one of the Marine Hospital experts who was abused by San Franciscans for saying there were plague cases in "Chinatown."

The Rev. A. A. James has just preached his fiftieth anniversary sermon at the Fair Forest Presbyterian Church, in Union County, S. C. People gathered from three counties for the occasion. The church was first built of big logs in the days when there were many Indians in that region—1751. In 1819 a brick edifice was erected.

Mayor A. A. Ames, of Minneapolis, announces himself as a candidate for Congress on the Republican ticket as successor to Loren Fletcher. The latter, however, has not announced his intention of retiring.

Mrs. Andrew Carnegie is a very plain, practical woman, who buys carefully. Thus, while her gowns are fashionable, she wastes no part of her money on Paris dressmakers.

FOREIGN TOPICS.

The activity of all the opposition parties in France would seem to foreshadow an onslaught on the Republic at the elections next May. Recently the whole of the front page of the "Figaro" was occupied by interviews with Prince Victor Napoleon and the Duke of Orleans, and a synthesis of the views of the Imperialist and Royalist leaders, which may be regarded as constituting the electoral programme of the two parties.

It is curious to note that both Prince Victor Napoleon and the Duke of Orleans insist that the qualification of "party" applied to their partisans is incorrect. According to Prince Victor Napoleon, a party necessarily supposes exclusivism. With the plebiscitary doctrine, which offers the same refuge and the same protection to all under the aegis of the national will, exclusivism must not and cannot exist.

The personal declarations of the Duke of Orleans to his interviewer were to the effect that he witnessed with grief the excessive zeal of some of the Royalists. "They do not understand that the white flag is today a Utopia." The Pretender expressed complete approval of all the declarations which had been made to the representative of the "Figaro" by M. Bezine, chief of the Royalist political bureau in Paris. That gentleman had affirmed that the Royalists do not constitute a party in the real signification of the word. They have a higher ambition—that of uniting all Frenchmen on the ground of national right. "Action," he said, "assumes numerous forms. If the occasion presents itself we shall not shrink from any. Remember, we have for chief a prince who said: 'One comes back as one can.'"

The Duke expressed his assent to this declaration by a vigorous movement of the head. For the Royalists the elections furnish the means to affirm to the French nation their conviction that the restoration of the monarchy is the right solution. They will accept coalition with the other parties opposed to the present regime, but in supporting other than Royalist candidates they will not conceal their monarchical principles.

The Austrian Government has sent two cruisers to cruise on the Albanian coast. A demonstration on the part of Austria may be herein discerned, as the Albanian question has lately become rather disquieting.

Montenegro has spread the report that Austria has intentions on Albania which threaten Italian interests there. Owing to the closeness of the relations existing between the Italians and Montenegrin Courts it is only natural that the Italian press should take up a hostile attitude toward Austria, in consequence of which Italy feels obliged also to send ships to those waters.

The direct cause of the decision of the Austrian Government was a speech by Prince Danilo, of Montenegro, the heir-apparent, at a banquet in Cettinje, containing a concealed threat against Austria. He said that Montenegro was insulted and challenged, but, though a small State, was brave, and would know how to defend its interests.

That matters are somewhat acute in the Balkans is shown by the refusal of the Porte, for political reasons, to allow a Greek squadron to enter Turkish waters to visit Smyrna, Salonica, and Athos. For the first time the international policy of a Power in time of peace has forbidden the fleet of another to enter her harbors.

King Edward of England recently passed a week at the Staffordshire estate of the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch, who ten years ago offended the late Czar by contracting a morganatic marriage with Sophie, Countess of Merenberg. The marriage closed his career in Russia. He was reconciled a year or two back to the Russian autocracy in the person of Czar Nicholas, but he has remained a European cosmopolitan, and wanders over the British Isles and the adjacent continent, taking his game wherever he finds it—for he is a mighty sportsman. No one living has done more for the town of Cannes—which, by the way, a lord chancellor of England, Brougham, invented or discovered—than the Grand Duke Michael. There he spends every winter (or what passes on the Riviera for winter), and to be asked to his wife's "at home" is to receive the imprimatur, and be at once in Cannes society, which is nothing if not exclusive. To him the gold club at Cannes owes its foundation, but lawn tennis is his real love, and he is very hard to beat at it. His wife was ennobled by the Grand Duke of Luxemburg as Countess Torby.

It is the opinion of certain London papers that Earl Russell, who was recently sentenced by the House of Lords to "three months' imprisonment as a criminal of the first class," on the charge of bigamy, might have been treated with more leniency had his case been tried in the Assizes. It is pointed out that his case is probably unique among bigamy cases in that the convicted man practiced deception upon no one, and that, according to eminent legal authority, he was free to contract a second marriage. That authority had been mistaken. That was all. Moreover, it is shown that the prosecution recognized the extenuating circumstances in the case, and the summing up, made in a spirit of the utmost sympathy for the prisoner, simply pointed to the fact that the defendant, through mistake, and without injury to anyone, had broken the letter of the law. In the light of these facts, it is deemed in certain quarters that the punishment inflicted is excessive, according to modern ideas of justice, and yet the peers felt impelled to impose it in order to mark their sense of the gravity of the offence per se, and to maintain their own dignity as a high court of justice.

During his detention in Halloway Jail Earl Russell will be obliged to conform to the rules governing the confinement of first-class misdemeanants. Except when taking exercise or attending religious service in the chapel he must remain in the cell allotted for his special usage. He may, however, have the cell furnished at his own expense and have his meals served from outside the jail; the governor, in order to relieve Earl Russell from the "performance of an unaccustomed task or offices," may order one of the remand prisoners to keep the cell in order. Also the prisoner, at the discretion of the visiting committee, may be permitted to wear his own clothes and read such literature as he may desire to provide himself with. He will in no way, certain reports notwithstanding, be required to work; but if he prefers to occupy his time in carrying out some "trade or profession" no bar will be put in his path, if his industrious inclinations are of "a practical nature." The prison regulations, while allowing but one visit a fortnight by not more than three friends, and the despatch and receipt of one letter in the same period, may, if the visiting committee agree, be altered. In these circumstances Earl Russell may interview and communicate with his friends on a practically unlimited scale.

French towns have their share of curious legislation. France's nightmare is the dwindling of her population. Givet, in the Ardennes, has taken this matter seriously to heart. In future for all city offices fathers of families will be preferred to others, and married men generally before bachelors. More than this, large money prizes will be given yearly to the heads of those families who have sent to school regularly the largest number of children.

Paris and Limoges both have laws which the brain workers of many British towns will deeply envy. In Paris no street music is allowed after 9 o'clock in the summer and 6 in winter, while in Limoges bells must not be rung before 6 in winter or 5 on summer mornings.

Vienna has the severest cycling code of any city in Europe. No one may ride a bicycle in the streets without a certificate of proficiency. This applies especially to lady cyclists. Ladies have to mount and dismount from both sides of their wheels, show that they can turn corners, and ride in and out between a number of dummies. All cyclists are photographed by the police, and this photograph is fitted into a little book containing the rules and regulations for cycling in the city. For this book the cyclist must then pay 8d. Besides this, a huge brass number has to be worn conspicuously placed on the handlebar of the machine.

THE NATION'S FIRST TREASURER

A controversy has been in progress for some time among historical specialists as to who was the first Treasurer of the United States. Samuel Meredith is the man whose name stands at the head of the commonly accepted lists, and whose portrait figures on one of the notes issued by the Government. Whether he was actually the first Treasurer of the United States depends upon whether we consider that the United States had any existence in those stages of colonial union which preceded the Constitution. Michael Hillegas, who served during the earlier period and bridged the gulf between, is his rival for the honor. If styles and titles count for anything, the United States and the Treasury and Treasurer thereof antedate considerably the formal launching of the Government as we now know it. The Declaration of Independence, for instance, refers to its framers as the representatives of the "United States of America" in general congress assembled. The preamble of the Articles of Confederation, adopted two years later, refers to their framers as "the delegates of the United States of America, in congress assembled." On September 12, 1788, "the United States in Congress assembled" resolved that the Constitution had been ratified in a manner sufficient for the establishment of the same.

The Treasury Department began its growth as far back as 1775, acting under a variety of titles from that date until the permanent Government was set in operation, when it was merely re-established by law. On July 29, 1775, the Continental Congress resolved that "Michael Hillegas and George Clymer, Esquires, be joint treasurers of the United Colonies;" by the same resolution they were styled Continental Treasurers. On August 6, 1776, Mr. Clymer, having meanwhile been appointed a delegate to the Congress from Pennsylvania, the same body resolved that for the future there be only one Continental Treasurer. On February 17, 1776, the Congress had adopted a resolution for the appointment of a standing committee of five for superintending "the Treasury," and detailing their duties. On April 1, 1776, they had resolved that a Treasury office of accounts be established, and kept in the place where Congress assembled, under the direction and superintendence of the standing committee of "the Treasury." On September 6, 1777, additional compensation was allowed to Mr. Hillegas, "Treasurer of the United States," from the date of Mr. Clymer's resignation as joint treasurer. On September 26, 1778, the offices of Comptroller, Auditor, Treasurer, and two Chambers of Accounts, to consist of three commissioners each, were established. On February 11, 1779, the office of Secretary of the Treasury was created, with a salary of $2,000 a year, but lived only a few months. On July 30 of the same year an ordinance was passed establishing a Board of Treasury of five commissioners, an Auditor General, and six Auditors of the Army, and dropping the Secretary of the Treasury. This ordinance was in turn swept aside on September 11, 1781, and a Superintendent of Finance was authorized, with his assistant secretary and clerks, a Comptroller, a Treasurer, a Register, an Auditor, etc. The Superintendent of Finance was superseded on May 28, 1784, by a Board of Treasury, consisting of three commissioners appointed by Congress.

Mr. Hillegas held office continuously from July 29, 1775, to September 11, 1789, when the commission of Mr. Meredith was issued, the last entry on the original ledger accounts being under the date of August 28, 1789. In the meantime, on the 2d of September, nearly six months after the formal beginning of the Government under the Constitution, an act was passed establishing the Treasury Department as we know it today, with a Secretary of the Treasury, a Comptroller, an Auditor, a Treasurer, and an Assistant to the Secretary. It appears, therefore, that Mr. Hillegas was recognized by the title of Treasurer of the United States, and actually served for half a year after the Constitution had gone into effect. There has been talk of putting his portrait upon some of the paper currency, but Secretary Gage says that he has no knowledge of any serious movement in that direction yet.

It may be of interest to know who and what manner of man this first Treasurer was. He appears to have been born in Philadelphia on April 22, 1729, old style. He was the son of German-born parents, Michael and Margaret Hillegas, whose monuments are still to be seen in one of the old churchyards of Philadelphia. As merchant and sugar refiner, with a considerable interest in the manufacture of iron, he was a man of no small local prominence. He was fond of science and the arts, became a member of the American Philosophic Society, and was a correspondent of Benjamin Franklin. His letters and other remains show him to have been a man of good general education and excellent business training. Success in trade brought him an ample fortune, from which he contributed liberally, by gift and loan, to the support of the army during the struggle for independence. He was one of the commissioners appointed to locate and erect Fort Mifflin. As a member of the Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania, representing Philadelphia from 1755 to 1775, he served on the committee to audit and settle accounts of the general loan office and other public accounts. He was a member of the Committee on Observation for Philadelphia for 1774, and on June 30, 1775, was made Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety. On May 20, 1776, he was appointed Provincial Treasurer. In June, 1780, when the revolution was passing through its darkest hours, he joined, with a number of other public spirited citizens, in organizing the Pennsylvania Bank, which was "to be established for furnishing a supply of provisions for the armies of the United States." Mr. Hillegas' subscription was £1,000.

POLITICAL COMMENT.

With a Carnegie library about to be opened within its municipal limits, San Juan, Porto Rico, ought to be able to recognize itself as at least a budding American town.—New York Tribune.

The German iron workers are hoping that the strike in the United States may enable them to obtain control of markets hitherto held by American mills; and this hope has more foundation than many of Germany's industrial dreams. Remember what the dock strike did to England!—Baltimore Herald.

The high tariff was made for trusts. The trusts are encouraged by the national Administration, and the people of the United States suffer in order that the trusts may extend their trade and multiply their dollars.—Baltimore World.

Lord Kitchener reports that the Boers have killed native scouts in the employ of the British after surrender and announce their intention to shoot all they may catch in future. That is deplorable, but so far as the British are concerned the action of the Boers is justifiable. It was agreed long ago that neither Briton nor Boer should arm the native blacks or employ them as allies. A scout is a combatant and the employment of natives in that capacity by the British is dishonorable. The Boers are within their rights in killing England's hired savages wherever found. It is rough on the Kaffir, but the British have no right to complain.—Philadelphia North American.

Does the Navy Department maintain that "disobedience of orders" and "inability to obey orders" mean the same thing?—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Mayor Tom Reed of New York" comes under the too good to be true class.—Chicago Tribune.

If Mr. Roosevelt had not exterminated all the mountain lions last trip he would not have to hunt coyotes now. Moderation is always wise.—New York World.

It used to be that the ocean was a barrier and a safeguard against the aggressions of an enemy. The United States was safe because it could not be invaded. It is not so now. The ocean has ceased to be a barrier and has become a pathway, an open road leading to our doors.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

In the meantime the witnesses are dying. Captain Carter will have served his short sentence, and after a while the whole gang can gather on Coney Island for a clam bake. Such is law.—Atlanta Constitution.

DENSITY OF POPULATION.

According to the last census there is in the United States, exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii, an average of 26.6 inhabitants to the square mile. In other words, our density of population is far smaller than that of any country of Europe excepting Norway and Sweden. But crowded as Europe is, in comparison with this country, its peoples seem to have abundant elbow room when they are contrasted with the hundreds of millions living in India and China.

Dr. A. Supan, the distinguished geographer and one of the editors of "Herolicerung der Erde," estimates the population of China at over 350,000,000, not including the sparsely peopled regions outside of China proper. China is only about as large as Russia, but it has nearly as many inhabitants as the whole of Europe. New Jersey, with an average of 250.3 inhabitants to the square mile, is the third most densely peopled State in the United States, being surpassed only by Rhode Island and Masachusetts. If one-half of our country were as densely peopled as New Jersey with its big cities and important towns that half of the United States would have just about as large a population as is crowded into China. But China, like all other large countries, has important areas in which the population is comparatively small. If we would know what density of population really means in China we must go to the low, rich plains which, though only a small part of the country, contain nearly a third of the people, or about 110,000,000 souls.

There are only two plains of great importance, the most of China being a mountainous or a very rugged country. One of these plains stretches in a broad belt near the sea from a little south of the Yangtse River to the north of Pekin. It is crossed by the Hoang River, whose terrible floods have sometimes killed millions of people. The other plain, in the low regions of the Yangtse, does not extend far from the river and its larger tributaries, and it is narrow in all parts, for mountains hem it in. On these plains about a third of the people of China gain their living, for the most part by tilling the soil.

If the 76,000,000 inhabitants of the United States lived in the State of Texas and 40,000,000 more people were crowded among them, we should have a parallel in this country of the density of population on the two plains of China. There is nothing like it even in India. No wonder that tillage in China is of the nature of garden culture, that each householder has only two or three acres of ground, that mountains in most parts of the country are terraced and tilled and that East China has been denuded of its timber so that every foot of the soil may be cultivated.

The masses of the people in any country, herded together like the Chinese, would perhaps be as poor as they are. Overpopulation is a dire evil and the Chinese are suffering from it. Where the farmer tills only a garden spot that produces scarcely enough food for his family, he has little to sell and can buy little. Such minute subdivision of the soil as prevails in China would keep any people poor; no matter how highly the commercial aptitude of the Chinese may be developed, their part in trade will always be small in proportion to population as long as they are mostly farmers, each tilling only two or three acres of land.

TRYING THE WRONG MAN.

The country is soon to witness the unprecedented spectacle of a naval officer, successful in one of the greatest of sea fights, on trial for various alleged failures to perform his duty.

Aside from the fact that one maneuvre of the Brooklyn at Santiago has been technically criticised there is no respectable charge in any quarter that Admiral Schley failed in that memorable engagement to do all that was expected of him. He was at the post of duty when the emergency presented itself, he and his ship were in the thickest of the fight from the beginning to the end, and so sweeping was the victory that not a ship and not a man of the enemy escaped.

This is the officer who, to defend himself from the slanderers of the department, has been compelled to demand an enquiry in which he is practically placed on the defensive as a culprit might be.

Concerning their conduct before and after the Battle of Santiago, there are many more reasons why Secretary Long and Admiral Sampson should be on trial than that Admiral Schley should be. He did the business. What did they do?

Under ordinary circumstances a commander-in-chief who absents himself at the time of a great and critical engagement is called to account. Where was Admiral Sampson and what was he doing when the Battle of Santiago was fought? Was he making excuses to General Shafter for his failure to co-operate with the land forces of the United States?

It is clear enough that there ought to be not only naval courts of enquiry, but Congressional committees of investigation relative to these subjects, but it is also clear that the wrong man is on trial now.—Chicago Chronicle.

AN ACCOMMODATING SULTAN.

Obviously the War Department will be reprehensively neglectful of diplomatic form if it fails to take official notice of the courtesy paid by the Sultan of Jolo to Adjutant General Corbin. The Sultan at the time of General Corbin's arrival was engaged in conducting a battle fifteen miles away. A less courteous monarch would have continued the battle to a conclusion, sending word to any possible guests that he was too busy to entertain. The Sultan, however, stopped the battle off-hand, left the enemy, and went to meet his visitor. Apparently, Jolo is the only country wherein warring generals ask and receive permission to interrupt a battle for a few moments while they make a call or perform some other pleasant social duty. But even if the Jolo code makes these little amenities easy, the action of the Sultan is none the less complimentary. He evidently preferred seeing General Corbin to fighting, and for an inhabitant of Jolo this means a great deal. An accommodating Sultan who is willing to suspend a battle or order one up for the benefit of a representative of our Government evidently is entitled to special recognition.—Chicago News.

WANTED, AN EDITOR.

That correspondence between Rear Admiral Kimberly and the Acting Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Hackett, would have been the better for a little editing before it was given out. Neither of them proved his literary skill by saying exactly what he intended to say. How easy, for instance, would it have been to improve the admiral's statement—"Much to my mortification, this is the first department order that I am unable to honor during a naval life of fifty-five years." Literally interpreted, that expresses regret that the writer's inability to honor department orders had not developed earlier and oftener—which, of course, was not his idea. And Secretary Hackett says: "Permit me to express the hope that your health will continue to improve so that, in future, should a less arduous duty be required of you, you may be fully able to respond." Now, really, that wasn't a tactful way of putting it, and the reference to "a less arduous" duty might well have been elided.—New York Times.

WHAT ARE LAWS FOR?

It is a very bad sign when those whose express duty it is to execute the laws of the country discriminate among the laws and enforce them according to their own pleasure. So long as a law is on the statute books it is their solemn and bounden du