The Times

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Circulation Statement.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended February 23, 1901, was as follows:

Sunday, February 17	23,118
Monday, February 18	39,196
Tuesday, February 19	39,448
Wednesday, February 20	39,292
Thursday, February 21	39,563
Friday, February 22	38,728
Saturday, February 23	39,680
Total	259,025
Daily average (Sunday, 23,118, excepted)	39,317

The Nicaragua Canal.

Every true American is in sympathy with Senator Morgan in his brave fight to force a vote on the Nicaragua Canal bill at this session of Congress. All the force, influence, patronage, and lobbying power of the Administration are arrayed against the measure. Just why, it may be difficult to understand, but the real reasons no doubt are that certain Republican leaders are interested in the Panama Canal job, while others are under deep obligations to the transcontinental railway interests, which are bent, as they always have been, upon defeating an American waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. For the old and exploded de Lesseps ditch these anti-canal people do not care a sou. They are too well informed not to feel certain that it could never be successfully completed, no matter at what cost. Therefore they are willing enough that a Panama Canal bill shall be passed, and as much public money dropped into the bottomless French hole as Congress may be induced to provide.

The Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, hung up in London to prevent embarrassment to Lord Salisbury's friend and "personal asset" in Washington, is still being used to obstruct action. The excuse that it would be discourteous to Great Britain to pass the Hepburn-Morgan bill, or to say anything derogatory of the Clayton-Bulwer Convention, while the Hay-Pauncefote matter is pending, is rapidly wearing out, and, if it were not, its character as a transparent subterfuge is too apparent to justify the slightest further attention to it.

There are millions in the Panama scheme for its political and financial promoters, and almost an endless amount of money for whom it may concern behind the fight of the transcontinental railway corporations. There is nothing but national common sense, patriotism and high necessity behind the Nicaragua Canal bill.

The Case of Colonel May.

The persecution of Colonel May, of the First District Regiment, has ended, as nearly everybody in the community expected it would, in the return of that popular and efficient officer to his command after a seven months' suspension. It will be recalled that, nearly a year ago, Brigadier General Harries, commanding the District militia, arbitrarily ordered Colonel May before a board composed of officers his junior in rank, for the purpose of having him examined concerning his fitness for his rank and command. Colonel May refused to be examined under such conditions and was promptly suspended.

The Judge Advocate General has decided that Harries was without authority to order such an inquisition, and that Colonel May was right in refusing to place himself at its mercy. The findings and the action of the Secretary of War in the case would be a severe rebuke to most people, though we do not fancy that they will much perturb the amazing Mr. Harries, or even convey a hint to him that a self-respecting man in his position would be bound to tender his resignation at once.

It is not probable that he will think of doing such a thing; but his inability to recognize the fact that he is essentially de trop in the service should not be allowed to interfere with its good, harmony, and discipline. If Harries will not resign, it is open to Mr. Root to resort to the course the militia brigadier recommended in connection with Colonel May, that is, to order his honorable discharge. There never will be peace or effective work in the National Guard of this city while Harries is permitted to tease and worry it.

Comfort in Farm Life.

A professor in Cornell University has been discussing in print the question whether a farm can be made to pay. He thinks it can, but with some mental reservations on the subject of what it means to have the farm "pay." He says of one of his early experiences with his farm:

"Half of country life is in the living. It is in the point of view. It is in the way in which we look at things. Thoreau rejoiced when it rained, because he knew that his beans were happy. One day my man was agitated because the woodchucks were eating the beans. He would go to town at once and buy a gun. I asked him how many beans the woodchucks would probably destroy. He thought from one-eighth to one-quarter of an acre. Now, one-quarter of an acre of field beans should bring me a net cash return of three or four dollars. I told him that he could not buy a gun for that money. If he had a gun he would waste more time killing the woodchucks than the beans would be worth. But the worst part of it would be that he would kill the woodchucks, and at daylight morning after morning I had watched the animals as they stole from the bushes, sniffed the soft morning air, and nibbled the crisp young leaves. Many a time I had spent twice four dollars for much less entertainment. My neighbor thought that I ought to cut out the briers in the fence corner. I told him that I liked to see the briers there. He remarked that some folks are fools. I replied that it is fun to be a fool."

There is a good deal of common sense in this. The reason why many people dislike farming is that they want to get their pleasure somewhere else and make the farm pay for it, which it will seldom do. The people who really take comfort in this business are the thorough-going countrymen, who feel stifled if they have to live in a city, and would rather mow a field than keep books. It is very difficult to make a farm pay the cost of living, and also supply enough surplus to provide for all kinds of city wants and whims.

Another reason why many people find life in the country unpleasant is hinted at in the anecdote quoted above. There is really no need of cutting off all the fun of life on a farm from some fancied need of economy. Some farmers insist on trimming off all the briers in the fence corners, destroying all the woodchucks and rabbits, eradicating all the weeds, and reducing their premises generally to a cross between a market garden and a city lawn. This keeps them in a worried and excited state of mind all the time, because nature has a lively and permanent dislike to absolute tidiness, and her cohorts of weeds and grasses and her regiments of small beasts, birds, and insects, are enough to keep any wide-awake farmer busy for eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. Farmers of this type are in much the same predicament as a housekeeper who regards a single fly as a cause of serious worry, and believes that the fading of carpets is an evidence of lack of housewifely skill.

We have all seen those delightfully picturesque old places, nestled in some hollow or perched on some hill-slope, where everything seems to have been in the same place for generations, where the red squirrels scamper over the stone walls and the cinnamon roses and golden-rod make the waste places beautiful; where there is no furniture too good for tired people to use, and no floor too finely carpeted for children's feet to tread; and most of us have thought that if one wanted to live in the country, such would be the place in which to do it. Yet on these farms one does not always find the best apples and vegetables, or the most profitable meadow; the greater part of their crop has been for generations the simple home comfort which their inhabitants got out of them. This intangible harvest does not appear in the census returns, nor is it represented in any bank account; but it has gone to the making of character, and that, after all, is the most valuable crop grown in this country.

Sampson.

It now remains to be seen whether Congress will unite with the Navigation Bureau ring in the latter's wild desire to make that haughty son of the soil, Sampson, a vice admiral. We do not think it will, but all things seem possible in these days of violations of the Constitution and laws by people sworn to support both, and of national rule by trusts and monopolies. But, in any event, the truth remains that a man who thinks as contemptuously of fellow citizens originally his social superiors as Sampson does on that account alone should be refused promotion, if he had not outraged every American sense of justice and decency in other ways.

In objecting to the idea of advancing any warrant officer in the navy to its lowest commissioned grade of ensign, no matter how worthy or accomplished the aspirant may be, Rear Admiral Sampson brands as unfit for the company of gentlemen such ornaments of the service as Rear Admirals O'Neil, Hichborn, and Melville, all of whom, like Farragut and many others of his time, came up to the quarter deck from the ranks of the people, and without the "natural advantage," as Sampson calls it, of an education at Annapolis. That training must, indeed, be severe and effective when it can take raw young farm laborers and, in four years, lick them into so fine a social form that ever afterward they are too blue-blooded and lordly to brook the acquaintance of ministers', lawyers', and bankers' sons who have chanced to get into the service and win its highest honors without first having their vulgar plebeianism knocked out of them in the Naval Academy.

As one of our contemporaries remarked yesterday, in taking the position that none but gentlemen bred—it did not insist upon gentlemen born—are fit to wear epaulets, and join in the exalted social swim of the wardroom and the steerage, Sampson refutes himself. He is the best evidence in the world that, given the opportunity, which does not come to many, an American lad with a little schooling can aspire to a rear admiral's pennant, although his elevation to the naval aristocracy may be directly from menial service. He is also conclusive evidence that the polishing and ennobling course at Annapolis may not invariably cure the deficiencies of heredity, or do what Solomon was sure never could be done, namely, to "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

There is no reason for doubting that there are plenty of warrant officers in the navy today who are Sampson's professional equals and his superiors in every other respect. Gunner Morgan, for example, had he been in command of the New York, hardly would have permitted such lax discipline on board as to permit one of our torpedo boats to bump him in the middle of the night at sea; a blunder which nearly led to the blowing up of the flagship, through its being mistaken for a Spanish cruiser. We do not believe that Admiral Hichborn, when he was a ship's carpenter, would have wasted his ammunition against the old stone forts and Christopher Columbus guns of San Juan, or on the batteries of Santiago Harbor. Whether any of these graduates from the hawsehole would have made way with the tell-tale Merrimac, and thus remove the foundation for a despicable scandal, is another matter. We do not think any of them would have consented to such a service, even if they had known that it would be counted to them for righteousness, and as a title to the honors earned by others.

It will be remembered that The Times has always expressed the opinion that there was something wrong about Sampson. Friends who, heretofore, have not agreed with us on this point will now be convinced that our suspicion was right. He can safely be left to the verdict of public opinion, and it would be well for Congress and the President not to ignore it.

The Woman Hamlet.

There seems to be a sort of craze of late among actresses for the playing of male characters. The most illustrious example, of course, is Bernhardt's Hamlet. That a woman should play Hamlet is about as contrary to the ordinary laws of art as it would be for a man to play Lady Macbeth, and only the great reputation of the actress in question made such an innovation tolerable at all.

People who do not think much about the art of acting may ask why, if she can look the part, a woman should not play the melancholy Dane, or any other orthodox masculine role. They overlook the fact that appearance is not by any means everything in this business. The actor's great power is his personality, and the character of this power, naturally, depends largely upon sex. A man playing a woman's part, or a woman playing a man's part, must be equally unpleasing. The only possible role in which such a transformation would be acceptable is such a one as in "L'Aiglon," in which the character to be portrayed is a boy, of that indeterminate age at which the boy and girl have much in common and can be good comrades.

The art of acting is one which depends so completely upon the innate qualities and traditions of the actor that such freak impersonations as have been more or less common in recent years are anything but pleasing. Actors and actresses have insisted on trying, in order to show their talent, roles entirely out of their line, and the result has not been delightful. As a rule, any part having a distinctive character is best acted by the person who has most in common with that character. Most classic roles have more than one phase, so that many different conceptions may be possible, and each be equally true to life. Two actresses, both more or less suited to the part of Lady Macbeth, but of widely differing temperaments, may give two very unlike renderings of the character, and the critic not be able to say that one is better than the other. The same is true of several other Shakespearean roles. The genius of that dramatist was so great and so comprehensive that his heroes and heroines are types which include many sub-types. There is, however, no possibility that "Hamlet" includes a feminine type, or anything like it. If the Prince of Denmark had been born a woman, with the same temperament that he had, he would not have acted in the same way; not at all.

The woman artist, in any line of work, need not consider herself inferior to the man if she does her best; but if she is simply trying to do the same work which a man would do, as well as a man would do it, she is likely to fail. Her forte is in tasks which the man cannot do at all. George Eliot was great as a character novelist, but she would not have been able to do much with a novel of adventure in the style of Captain Marryat; not because her genius was less than his, but because it was not of the kind requisite for his sort of story. Thus, Bernhardt in feminine parts is the equal of any actor who ever lived, but her Hamlet is no more valuable than M. Coquelin's Roxane would be.

The various organizations of reforming sisters have been leaving Mr. McKinley alone for some little time—perhaps ever since his re-election. Still, he is the same amiable but erring brother that he was last summer when they were denouncing him as a wine bibber and an associate of Republican and other sinners. It is now proper that they should be informed of a purpose formed by the President, quite as bold and bad as the practice of having wine at state dinners in the White House. He actually contemplates going to a worldly ball, given in his honor on the evening of Inauguration Day. There will be dancing, and he will countenance if he does not shake a foot in it. This, if we understand aright, is another flagrant violation of the Methodist discipline, which demands attention at the hands of every quilting bee and old ladies' tea party in the Union. Mr. McKinley should beware. The first thing he knows, he will wake up some fine day to find himself regarded by his fiercer female subjects in the lurid light of a "joint."

We are pleased to think that the excellent police arrangements formulated by Major Sylvester for the inauguration season will prove effective in preventing the disorders, thefts, pocket-picking, and housebreaking which a large gathering of crooks from all parts of the country on such occasions is apt to render probable. Citizens and strangers alike need to assist the police by looking out for themselves to a reasonable extent. There are some extremely tough looking customers to be met with in the streets even now; and the careless exposure of purses and jeweled scarfpins is to be deprecated.

Judging from our reports from Havana, the intelligent class of Cubans is impressed by the declaration in the proposed Platt amendment to the Army Appropriation bill, defining something of the basis upon which our future relations with the island must be placed. Probably, when public opinion among them has had time to conform itself to the inevitable, these matters will be susceptible of amicable settlement, without much difficulty. The Cubans must learn before long that the forces of the United States are not to be withdrawn from their territory until the reasonable demands of this Government have been fully conceded.

The wave of reform which took its rise so suddenly and splendidly in Kansas a few weeks ago is spreading and including subjects other than prohibition, just as we predicted it would. In New York Monday the Woman's National Sabbath Alliance declared itself strongly against the soul-destroying and sickening vice of eating ice cream on Sunday. Making love on the first day of the week—which the alliance calls the Sabbath without historical warrant—was also denounced as all seven of the deadly sins. It is pleasant to learn that the good work against these lamentable social evils has been inaugurated by this new breed of reformers, the important sodality of which has heretofore escaped national attention. There is hope that before long they may see the way clear to smashing Sunday ice cream "joints," and Sunday lovers with the same hatchet.

The lynching habit, after a brilliant run in Colorado and Kansas, has appeared in Indiana, where an enthusiastic crowd of citizens in the Republican stronghold of Terre Haute yesterday took a negro from jail and hanged him to a tree. The prevalence of lynching in Republican communities of late makes us fear that the very considerable campaign debt which Mr. Hanna owes to the colored population of Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia, for their assistance in carrying doubtful States or localities, is in considerable danger of being ignored.

A London salvager named Parker wants to raise the Maine, and place the hulk on shore to be used as a Spanish war museum. The idea is not a bad one. As a monument to the genius of unparalleled treachery the Maine might still do an excellent service to the world. Mr. Parker should also try to obtain permission to raise the Merrimac, and to exhibit her as an illustration of how public money was squandered on condemned junks and tanks during the latest unpleasantness. Perhaps then the American people could better understand the reasons why there is such feverish eagerness on the part of the Administration to reward Sampson.

Schley's Idea vs. Sampson's.
(From the Philadelphia Times.)

When Schley had won the greatest naval victory of the world's history at Santiago in the absence of Sampson, he publicly declared that the victory was due "to the men behind the guns," and a private on his vessel, who performed a feat of uncommon valor, after several officers had failed to extract a lodged cartridge in a gun that was much needed in action, was promptly recommended for promotion, without enquiring the gentleness of his birth, and it was as promptly given by the Government.

Cold-Blooded Greed.
(From the Baltimore Sun.)

Somebody must fill positions vacated even under such pathetic circumstances as those which attended the death of Consul Wildman; but let the man at least have his funeral before inaugurating the fight for his official effects. The "beach combers" and wreckers who crowded down to the shore when they heard of the Rio's wreck showed even less heartlessness in their desire for plunder than the political "beach combers" at Washington who rushed to the State Department after the dead man's official shoes almost as soon as the breath had left his body.

Millionaire Philanthropy.
(From the Kansas City Star.)

It is the way of the world that the Carnegies and the Rockefellers, who give of their abundance without appreciably diminishing their inexhaustible store, receive more praise and glory than the great army of humble philanthropists who daily deny themselves that they may help their fellow-man.

Republicans and Trusts.
(From the Chicago Chronicle.)

The truth is that the Republicans do not mean to legislate against trusts. They passed an anti-Trust bill in the House to serve as a Morgan until after election. No doubt they purposely made it unconstitutional so that if the Senate should conclude to join in the Morgan business the enactment would prove innocuous.

SAMPSON'S CHANCES SLIM.

His Letter Believed to Have Removed Probability of Promotion.

Regret is expressed in naval circles over the publication of Rear Admiral Sampson's views about the promotion of warrant officers to commissioned grades in the navy at the very time when his chances for securing the coveted vice admiralcy were good. There is an apparent general endorsement by navy men stationed in Washington of the views which he expressed. The regret is born of the feeling that Sampson's cause has been injured by his own action in maintaining that from the standpoint of refinement and social polish a man who has served as a common sailor cannot attain that high standard of what is called "address" which is associated with "an officer and a gentleman."

Sampson's enemies have not lost the opportunity afforded them by his endorsement of Gunner Morgan's application to take the examination for a commission. They are crying "snob" and saying that Sampson, the son of a poor workingman, seeks to draw lines of social distinction between American citizens and places himself and the commissioned officers of the navy in the aristocratic class. That this has appealed to many of the people's representatives in Congress there can be no doubt, and even Sampson's friends among them admit that the chances of passing the measure creating the grade of vice admiral for the benefit of Sampson and Schley have been materially lessened.

Some of his friends go so far as to say that any attempt to secure legislation in his behalf would be useless. Congress has always been friendly to the enlisted men of the army and navy, and any reflection on the private soldier or the bluejacket is resented. There are a great many Congressmen who believe that the average army or navy officer is a snob with an exaggerated idea of his own importance, and there has been much talk of that sort since Sampson's letter about Gunner Morgan's case was published. At any rate the feeling against Sampson has been intensified and has extended to Senators and Representatives who have not heretofore been greatly concerned in the controversy over the respective claims of Sampson and Schley to the credit of conducting the naval campaign in the West Indies, which resulted in the destruction of Admiral Cervera's squadron.

One of Sampson's friends in the Senate expressed the opinion yesterday that the feeling in Congress against the admiral on account of his letter about promoting enlisted men was too great to be readily overcome. He said that there would be no legislation at this session in behalf of Sampson and Schley, but the reward nominations of the Santiago captains and the junior officers of Sampson's fleet recommended for advancement would be confirmed by the Senate before the session ends. This Senator remarked that Sampson's opinion in Morgan's case was one of those things which men think but deem it wise not to talk about.

A great many naval officers yesterday said that it would be useless to try to explain to the country just what Sampson meant by his reference to the official and social distinctions observed in the naval service. They maintained that Sampson expressed a correct view of the proposition to promote enlisted men to commissioned grades but did so very awkwardly. It was necessary, they said, for a man to live on board a man-of-war to understand that able as "Jack Tar" may be in some ways, he cannot, even after rising to a warrant grade and serving in it for several years, overcome the effect of early association in the forecastle and acquire that "something" which would make the men have confidence in and respect him, and his brother officers feel that he had attained the high standard which the navy is supposed to maintain. The fact that the General Board of the Navy endorsed Secretary Long's suggestion about promoting warrant officers is regarded by naval officers as no criterion of the sentiment in the service. Some of the officers yesterday expressed the conviction that the members of the board merely wanted to accommodate the Secretary, and that few, if any of them, really favored the promotion scheme.

Considerable feeling is expressed in naval circles over the addition to the clause authorizing the promotion of warrant officers of a provision for the promotion of warrant machinists to commissions. Naval officers regard this as the first step toward the revival of a separate Corps of Engineers, with a revival of the controversy over their status with regard to line officers. Since the establishment of the Engineer Corps its members and those of the line have waged a bitter fight, which has tended to injure the efficiency of the personnel, and it has been found necessary to effect a compromise by abolishing the distinction in rank and transferring all engineers to the line.

This was done in the reorganization act of March 3, 1899. Since then the warrant machinists, a grade created by the act, have been entrusted largely with running the machinery of warships, although this has given rise to much dissatisfaction to Rear Admiral Mellville, a former engineer, but now in the line, and Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering. He maintains that the reorganization act contemplated keeping commissioned officers in charge of the machinery, but that officers trained as engineers are being assigned to line duties exclusively.

When Secretary Long proposed that Congress provide for the promotion of warrant officers to commissioned grades, a delegation of warrant machinists waited on him with a petition that their grade be included in those from which promotions might be made. The Secretary denied the petition on the ground that the grade of warrant machinist was new, and he believed that the experiment of promoting other warrant officers should be tried before extending its scope. Then the warrant machinists went to Congress and succeeded in having their grade included in the amendment for the promotion of warrant officers now pending.

THE LOUISIANA BOUNDARY.

A Commission Appointed to Confer With Mississippi Men.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—The Louisiana commission to settle the water boundary line between Louisiana and Mississippi met here today, with Albert Estepinal, district attorney, as president. Governor Longino, of Mississippi, has appointed a similar commission, with Senator Bowers as president.

The two bodies will meet in a few days and try to reach an agreement as to the boundaries. If they find this impossible the matter will have to be submitted to the United States court.

Mississippi claims that the boundary extends in a straight line from the mouth of Pearl River, which separates the two States, to Pass a l'Outre, at the mouth of the Mississippi. This contention annexes one-third of Plaquemines Parish, including all the oyster beds east of the Mississippi River, together with some fifteen hundred fishermen and swampers, who heretofore voted in Louisiana and believed themselves citizens of that State.

The oyster beds are the most valuable portion of the territory, furnishing nearly all the oysters eaten in the Mississippi Valley. Acting on the claim of the State of Mississippi, the oyster dredgers of that State have taken possession of the beds and are now taking thousands of barrels of oysters from them daily. The situation has been very strained for some time, threatening a war between the fishermen of the two States, and it is to prevent this war that the commissions were appointed by Governors Heard and Longino.

The Louisiana commission asserts that the boundary line follows the main channel through Mississippi Sound, and at the meeting today maps were produced showing that the territory claimed by Mississippi has always been under Louisiana jurisdiction and regarded as a part of Louisiana.

Conflicting Expert Testimony.
(From the Indianapolis Sentinel.)

Much attention is being attracted by a decision of Judge Fursman of the New York supreme court excluding expert testimony as to handwriting. There has been a great deal of dissatisfaction throughout the country with so-called expert testimony of all sorts. Important cases have shown such extraordinary conflicts of testimony by physicians, handwriting experts and others that the value of such testimony is gravely doubted, and it is more than probable that the lead made by Judge Fursman may be followed by other courts until expert testimony will be largely restricted if not entirely abolished.

New Name for an Old Infamy.
(From the New York World.)

The new name for a combination of corporations is "a community of interest." This is stronger than "a gentlemen's agreement" and less offensive than "trust." But a monopoly by any other name is just as malodorous. And "a community of interest," used to describe a combine of coal companies, railroads or steel mills, really means a conspiracy to abolish competition.

THE NEW STAR WANING.

Comments on Its Fading Brilliancy at the Naval Observatory.

Dr. Anderson's new star, discovered on February 21 at Edinburg, and which attained such remarkable brilliancy, is rapidly fading, and in the opinion of the astronomers at the Naval Observatory it will become invisible within ten days or two weeks.

Although discovered simultaneously at various places throughout the world, it was not noticed at the Naval Observatory until brought to the attention of the experts there through the discovery by Mr. Farquhar, of the Patent Office, who located it with the naked eye at or about the time of its discovery by Dr. Anderson.

The star flamed into light suddenly, and died out as suddenly as it had appeared. According to Prof. S. G. Brown, of the Observatory, its life will be a short one, though he admitted last night that the new star may continue to be visible for a year or more.

"In 1866 a new star appeared, not so bright, however, as this one, which remained visible for nine days," said Prof. Brown. "Other stars of this class, seen in 1572 and 1604, reached a magnitude many times brighter than this one while they lasted. It will probably be found on the photographic plates taken during last year. The work of photographing the heavens has been portioned out among the various observatories, and that part in which is located Nova Persei, as the new star will probably be called, will be thoroughly studied. If the star attained a brilliancy of the thirteenth or fourteenth magnitude, photographs will no doubt have been taken of it.

"This star was certainly not visible as late as the 19th of February, photographs of that region in which it is situated showing that there were no stars above the magnitude of 10.5. On Friday night," added Prof. Brown, "the star was nearly as bright as Capella, which is of the first, or highest, degree of magnitude. On Saturday night it was equal in brilliancy, but on Sunday night it diminished, growing gradually fainter by Monday. By tomorrow night it will be fainter than the stars adjacent in Perseus."

At the Observatory the brightness and position of the new star have been carefully estimated and measured. In color the star as seen here was decidedly white on Friday night, being particularly noticeable for its marked brilliancy. By Monday it was observed that the color had changed so that it had fallen below the brilliancy of Capella in the color scale. A tinge of reddishness was also observed. This change in color indicates its decadence.

Prof. Brown laughed at the idea that the recently discovered star is the Star of Bethlehem of biblical times. It is simply a fixed star, thousands of millions of miles away, which has in passing through a cloud of meteoric matter set its surface into violent incandescence.

At the Lick Observatory in California the first opportunity for securing observations of the new star occurred Sunday forenoon. The star was easily found in full sunlight with a 12-inch telescope. At 11 a. m. it was fully half a magnitude brighter than the first magnitude star Capella with which it was compared. At 7 p. m it was fully half a magnitude fainter than Capella, a decline of a whole magnitude since noon. Its brightness continued to decrease throughout the evening.

PLANS OF THE BANANA TRUST.

A Meeting to Consider Improvements to the Cuban Properties.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—Several of the officials of the United States Fruit Company, or Banana Trust, gathered here today to consider what should be done with the properties recently acquired by the company in eastern Cuba. They include immense banana plantations and the six towns of Banes, Embarcadero, Pueblo Nreo, Los Angeles, Flores, and Macabi, besides the great Boston sugar estate with 8,233 acres in cane and 2,000 acres more being prepared for planting.

The pay roll of the sugar estate exceeds $70,000 a month and the entire property was purchased for the sum of $1,400,000. Grinding has just been begun on the place. The company expects to spend $20,000,000 in developing this and other properties it expects to acquire in eastern Cuba.

Among the lands for the control of which the United States Fruit Company is negotiating for, are those in the neighborhood of the Bay of Nipe, where the United States Government will probably place one of its coaling stations.

TO HAVE GOVERNORS ATTEND.

Planning to Have Those of the South Here on March 4.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—The Southern Industrial Association, with headquarters here, has undertaken the work of getting all the Southern Governors to attend the inauguration of President McKinley in a body, with their several staffs. The suggestion was made at a dinner here during the carnival and the Industrial Association undertook the work of inviting the Governors.

So far three have agreed to the proposition, Govs. W. W. Heard of Louisiana, A. D. Candler of Georgia, and Longino of Mississippi. Gov. W. J. Jennings of Florida announces that he cannot attend because of the meeting of the Florida Legislature, and Gov. J. C. W. Beckham of Kentucky is still in doubt whether he can attend the Presidential inauguration or not.

The other Southern Governors have not yet been heard from.

MINERS MAKE DEMANDS.

Grievances and Requests Submitted by the Nottingham Colliery Men.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Feb. 26.—The mine workers employed at the Nottingham colliery of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company, at Plymouth, have forestalled in a way the convention at Hazleton by issuing a series of demands and requests, and submitting them to the company. There are eight grievances and the remedies desired, and five requests, three of which are for an increase in wages.

The company has given no answer yet to the statement. While the grievances are purely local, there are many of them that apply to other mines. It is expected that other local unions at other collieries will do the same thing. The action, it is understood, is independent, and not on any understanding with the Executive Board of the union, but it is important as indicating which way the wind blows, and tells what the men expect when the wage schedule is revised on the 1st of April.

Intolerable Methods.
(From the Kansas City Times.)

If the Kansas prohibitionists cannot control the liquor evil, if they cannot remove the pernicious influence of the saloons with the legal weapons placed in their hands, they are not justified in resorting to practices which lead to worse evils than the one they seek to destroy. They should put up their hatchets and let the practical, common sense voters of the State elect men to office who will repeal the hypocritical and moribund law, passed by the insincere and pharisaic Republican party.

Mild by Comparison.
(From the Omaha World-Herald.)

Now, why in the name of reason should Roosevelt be angry because of the wild and weird stories of his hunting trip sent out by the "string fiends!" Not a single one of these stories can compare in coloring to those penned by Roosevelt himself when he wrote "Alone in Cuba," or whatever the title of his Cuban book may be. Not one of the press stories contains as much of slaughter, blood, stabbing, shooting, killing, and skinning as any single chapter of "Alone in Cuba," especially the one wherein is set forth with extreme minuteness of detail the shooting in the back of the unarmed and fleeing Spaniard who fell a victim to the unerring aim of the man who whipped Spain.

TENNESSEE TROOPS RETURN.

Met in New Orleans by a Committee From Nashville.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—The returned veterans of the Thirty-seventh United States Volunteers, formerly the First Tennessee Volunteers, arrived here today from Manila by way of San Francisco, and were met by a committee from Nashville, who will escort them to Tennessee, where a grand reception will be given for them. The party of veterans is led by B. F. Cheatham, said to be the youngest colonel in the United States Army, who is accompanied by most of the officers of the disbanded regiment and a large number of the enlisted men.

The First Tennessee, it is stated, was the only Southern regiment in the Philippines. When their time expired the men enlisted in a body in the new Thirty-seventh United States Volunteers. The regiment is said to be the earliest in the service, having received travel money as inducement to re-enlist in the Philippines. The money was deposited with the quartermaster, and each soldier brings home several hundred dollars in gold.

"The Tennessee boys have not a kick to make," said Colonel Cheatham. "There was never an army in the world so well fed as the American Army in the Philippines. We had plenty of food and good food. The beef came to us from both Chicago and Australia frozen in refrigerators, and was fine. There was no partiality, and the regiment was not hampered with restrictions or orders."

Colonel Cheatham thinks Aguinaldo is still alive, but that conditions have wonderfully improved of late, and that the recent order to deport Filipino prisoners has had a good effect.

IN BEHALF OF M'KENZIE.

An Application for His Release Made to the Supreme Court.

Application was made yesterday to the Supreme Court for the release of Alexander Mckenzie, upon a writ of habeas corpus, and for a writ of certiorari to bring up the charges against him for review by that court. The application was made by Messrs. J. M. Wilson, ex-Representative Geary of California, and C. A. Severance, of St. Paul, Minn., partner of the late Senator Davis. McKenzie was appointed a receiver of certain mining properties in Alaska by Judge Noyes, of the Nome district, and when ousted by a writ of supersedeas, refused to turn over to the parties in interest certain gold dust accumulated while under his control. For this he was taken before Judge Morrow, in California, and sent to jail for six months for contempt of court. He seeks release on the ground that the proceedings in Judge Morrow's court were without authority of law.

THE CEREAL TRUST.

A Prospectus Issued by the New Western Combine.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—The prospectus of the Great Western Cereal Company, organized by O. C. Barber, has been issued. The capitalization will consist of $1,500,000 6 per cent twenty-year sinking fund gold bonds and $3,000,000 of stock. It is announced that the company will have $1,250,000 working capital.

The ten companies in the combination are announced to have a capacity of 6,000 barrels per day, which is stated to be 50 per cent of the cereal output of the country. In the opinion of the promoters the net earnings of the companies will aggregate $500,000 a year. After deducting the bond interest, $90,000, there will be left $410,000 for the sinking fund and dividends on the stock.

Among the directors will be O. C. Barber, Edwin Gould, J. Morton, H. L. Little, L. C. Miles, F. P. Sawyer, H. R. Heath, H. B. Steward, D. Oliver, jr., G. W. Brown, W. A. Dugan, Dr. S. G. Stein, and J. W. Heywood.

PICTURES OF THE CABINET.

The President and His Advisers Pose for Photographers.

Photographers besieged the White House yesterday to obtain pictures of what will be practically the last business meeting of the Cabinet as at present constituted. There will be a meeting on Friday, but it will be devoted largely to the consideration of inaugural matters, and all of the members may not be present at one time.

Attorney General Griggs will leave the Cabinet shortly after the beginning of President McKinley's second term and in consequence there was a rush yesterday to get pictures of the members in a group. Half an hour of the Cabinet's time was occupied with several sittings, for which appointments had been previously made.

TO REWARD LETTER CARRIERS.

Steps Taken to Promote Efficiency of Registration Service.

The Postoffice Department has sent notices to postmasters asking for a report as soon as practicable after July 1, of the names and numbers of three letter carriers in their offices who will have registered the greatest number of articles in their routes during the period from January 1 last to July 1, together with the number of articles registered by each.

This step has been taken by Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden to promote the efficiency of this service. The question of how the department will recognize the services of the most active carriers has not been determined, but it is proposed to reward in some way the men who have shown themselves most interested.

BERNIER'S TRIP TO THE POLE.

The Canadian Navigator Looking for a Scientific Companion.

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 26.—Captain Bernier, the French Canadian navigator, who arrived here today, has practically completed arrangements to start on a trip via Alaska to the North Pole in May. He is looking here for a likely young scientific man to accompany him.

Bernier will sail along the coast of Siberia, taking the natural course of the waters, and about the middle of September he hopes to be within two hundred miles of the pole. He said today:

"Nansen, you know, went within 230 miles of it, and since then the Duke of Abruzzi cut that distance down by nineteen miles. There is only one way, and that is nature's way, to float in. Peary and Captain Sverdrup, who are fighting the course of nature in Greenland, will never get there.

"Poor Andre is dead. He could not be alive. He was not provisioned. I will carry provisions for four years. I will leave provisions along the route in hollow stakes."

MOLINEUX'S ATTORNEYS ACT.

They Serve Notice for a Resettlement of the Case on Appeal.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Weeks & Battle, attorneys for Roland Molineux, have served notice on the District Attorney that they will apply to Recorder Goff tomorrow for a resettlement of the case on appeal. The lawyers desire to have certain evidence presented to the Court of Appeals. This evidence was excluded by Recorder Goff out of the settlement.

Should the recorder refuse to grant the resettlement, the attorneys will appeal to the Court of Appeals at once, including the excised testimony in their affidavit. They say they will thus be placed before the Court of Appeals as they desire.

Clerk Welsh, of the General Sessions, says that the printing of the settlement of the case on appeal will not be completed for several weeks.

Murders in New York.
(From the Brooklyn Eagle.)

It is difficult to convict men of murder in this city. And it should be. But that difficulty encourages crime. Indeed, three-fourths of the murderers here not only escape arrest, but are not even suspected. The police succeed in getting trace of the men guilty of only one murder in four, and in getting evidence enough to convict a much smaller proportion. Indeed, so far as immunity from punishment is concerned, murder is a much safer crime than bank robbery, for instance.

Object Lessons.
(From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

After a struggle of several weeks the Oregon Legislature has succeeded in electing a Senator. There are still three deadlocks, and two include both Senators. These failures are educating the people on the subject of electing United States Senators by popular vote.

MR. VANDERLIP'S SUCCESSOR.

Milton Ailes and W. D. Totten Mentioned for the Vacancy.

The resignation of Frank A. Vanderlip, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, was announced at the department shortly after noon yesterday. Mr. Vanderlip's resignation takes effect not later than March 8, next.

Mr. Vanderlip quits the Government service to accept the offer of a large Western corporation as its president, which he has held under consideration for several months. Mr. Vanderlip, before entering upon the duties of his new office, has decided to visit Europe, in order to make a study of financial and industrial affairs in England and on the Continent.

The Assistant Secretary's resignation has caused genuine regret in the Treasury Department, where his devotion to the interests of the Government was highly appreciated. In speaking of his retirement, Secreary Gage said yesterday afternoon:

"I am sorry, indeed, to have Mr. Vanderlip leave us. He has been an able and exceedingly valuable assistant to me. I realize, however, that at his age, for he is still a young man, it is to his advantage to engage in the wider opportunities which his abilities can command in financial and industrial fields. He deserves the success which is sure to come to him, and, much as I should like to have him stay during the remainder of my administration, I also feel that he is doing himself justice by entering into wider activities."

Mr. Vanderlip entered the public service simultaneously with Secretary Gage, coming to Washington as the Secretary's private secretary. He demonstrated executive ability of a high order which won him an Assistant Secretary's commission, having been appointed to that office in July, 1897, upon the expiration of the term of the late Scott Wike. Mr. Vanderlip was conspicuously successful in the management of the details of the war loan of 1898, and of the recent refunding operations under the new financial law.

It is generally believed that Milton Ailes, the private secretary to Secretary Gage, will be Mr. Vanderlip's successor. There is said to be another aspirant for the office in the person of W. D. Totten, of Michigan, a member of the Legislature, and a prominent attorney of that State, who it is said can muster the entire support of the Michigan Congressional delegation in his behalf.

A GREAT RUSH OF RECRUITS.

Enlistments Pouring in Under the New Army Law.

General Shafter has telegraphed the War Department that the organization of the first provisional squadron of recruits under the new army law has been completed at the Presidio of San Francisco. It consists of 161 officers and enlisted men. The officers are Captain Pitcher, First Cavalry, commanding; Lieutenants Winans and Conrad, Third Cavalry, and Pershing, Fourth Cavalry.

The War Department yesterday issued this statement:

"Recruiting under the new law is progressing in the most satisfactory manner. The enlistments for the week ending Saturday, February 23, reached over 698, being an increase of 184 over the week before. All the requirements of fitness heretofore required for enlistment in the Regular Army have been maintained.

"The department is now assured of the speedy enlistment of sufficient first-class men to fill the new army to the maximum. Three battalions of infantry, 600 men each, and one squadron of cavalry, have already been completed since the 2d of February. Many of the enlistments are from men already having had service.

ACQUITTAL FOR M'CORMICK.

Chief Boatswain Dran, However, Convicted by the Court-Martial.

The court-martial which met at Pensacola for the trial of Junior Lieut. Benjamin B. McCormick, commanding the tug Potomac, and Chief Boatswain Francis A. Dran, late commander of coal barge No. 2, on charges growing out of the loss of the coal barge at sea on December 30, 1900, acquitted Lieutenant McCormick of neglect of duty. It convicted Mr. Dran of that charge, also finding him guilty of culpable inefficiency in the performance of duty. Mr. Dran was sentenced to suspension from duty for eight months, and the action of the court in his case and that of Lieutenant McCormick was approved by the Secretary of the Navy yesterday. The specific allegation against Lieutenant McCormick was that he did not send assistance to the coal barge. Chief Boatswain Dran was accused of having abandoned the coal barge.

THE GEORGETOWN DEBATE.

Increase of the Army the Subject of an Able Discussion.

A large and representative audience assembled in Gaston Hall of the Georgetown College last night, the occasion being the third public debate of the Georgetown University School of Law Debating Society. The subject of debate was: "Resolved, That the standing army of the United States should be one hundred thousand men." The affirmative of the question was sustained by Daniel J. Slattery and Charles Denegre of Louisiana, while the negative was defended by Thomas H. Tatum of South Carolina and Albert R. Denu of Wisconsin. The judges were Hilary A. Herbert of Alabama, Martin A. Knapp of New York, and William M. Springer of Illinois.

Mr. Slattery was the first speaker of the affirmative and in his argument he reviewed the early history of this country and compared its territory, wealth, interests, and population with the present status of the United States. He stated that increased interests necessitate increased vigilance and protection, and argued that an increase of the army does not undermine the foundation upon which this Republic was built. He also argued that we need an increased standing army to protect our national honor and interests in China, Cuba, Philippines, Porto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska, the seacoast, the frontier, and for internal needs. Mr. Slattery said there would not have been so much mismanagement in the camps and most all departments of the army during the Spanish war if there had been more trained soldiers to take charge of affairs. The speaker quoted from a letter of George Washington, in which he advocated an army of 50,000 or 100,000 trained soldiers in preference to volunteers.

Thomas H. Tatum was introduced as the first speaker on the negative side of the question and he argued that it did not follow that the stronger and more powerful a nation grew the stronger its army should be. Mr. Tatum spoke against maintaining an army in China for the purpose of partitioning China. The speaker contended that during the war with Spain the inadequacy was with the leaders, the officers, the trained soldiers, and not with the volunteers.

The second speaker on the affirmative side was Charles Denegre, who argued that the idea of settling disputes by tribunals of arbitration was theory and idle dreams.

He said that the disputes of nations will be continued to be settled by war just as disputes between private parties will be continued to be settled by courts. The speaker argued that the judgment of men who have grown grey in the service should count for something in the matter; that the experts of the War Department were in favor of the increase. He said that the verdict of the people at the last November election endorsed the sentiment underlying the increase of the army so as to enable the Government to properly protect its interests and honor.

Albert R. Denu closed the argument for the negative with a splendid and very forcible speech, in which he reviewed the contentions of the affirmative, disputing the same effectively.

Charles Denegre was granted five minutes in rebuttal of the negative argument.

The judges immediately retired and returned in about twenty minutes, with the verdict in favor of the negative, qualifying it, however, by saying that the question was unfortunately worded, making it very difficult to defend it.

The following are the officers of the society: Thomas D. Flynn, President; Edward F. Walsh, Vice President; Daniel T. Masterson, Secretary; James A. Watson, Treasurer; Livingston J. Cullen, Sergeant-at-Arms. Reception Committee—Henry V. Kane, Wisconsin, Chairman; Stuart McNamara, James A. Toomey, James A. O'Shea, New York; F. Soring Perry, Richard J. Jones, Pennsylvania; James A. Kathman, Louisiana; Joseph L. McAleer, Pennsylvania; John J. Finnegan, Washington; L. K. Eaton, Wisconsin; Daniel S. Masterson, Pennsylvania; Franz H. Ridgeway, George M. Brady, Maryland; Aloysius H. Twibill, Pennsylvania; William Livingston Browning, Maryland.