Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:15—Seven Days.
BELASCO—8:15—Is Matrimony a Failure?
BIJOU—8:15—The Lottery Man.
BROADWAY—8:15—The Jolly Bachelors.
CARNEGIE HALL—8:15—Concert.
CASINO—8:15—The Chocolate Soldier.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—8:30—The Affinity.
CRITERION—8:20—The Bachelor's Baby.
DALY'S—8:15—The King of Cadonia.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:15—The Mollusc.
GAIETY—8:15—The Fortune Hunter.
GARDEN—8:15—The Little Town of Bethlehem.
GARRICK—8:15—Your Humble Servant.
GLOBE—8:15—The Old Town.
HACKETT—2:15—8:15—Prince of Bohemia.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2:15—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—Old Dutch.
HIPPODROME—2—8—A Trip to Japan; Inside the Earth; the Ballet of Jewels.
HUDSON—8:15—A Lucky Star.
IRVING PLACE—8:15—Die Foersler Christ'l.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—The Dollar Princess.
LIBERTY—8—The Arcadians.
LYCEUM—2:20—8:30—Penelope.
LYRIC—8:15—The City.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—11 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Wearing Apparel Show.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE—8:30—The Passing of the Third Floor Back.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Madama Butterfly.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—The Barrier
NEW THEATRE—2—Czaar und Zimmermann—8:30—The Nigger.
NEW YORK—8:15—The Man Who Owns Broadway.
SAVOY—2:15—8:15—The Faith Healer.
STUYVESANT—2:15—8:15—The Lily.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—Ice Skating.
WEBER'S—8:15—Mr. Butties.
WEST END—8:15—The Belle of Brittany.

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New-York Tribune.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1910.

This newspaper is owned and published by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation; office and principal place of business, Tribune Building, No. 154 Nassau street, New York; Ogden Mills, president; Ogden M. Reid, secretary; James M. Barrett, treasurer. The address of the officers is the office of this newspaper.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The District of Columbia appropriation bill was passed. House: A bill to abolish the Lighthouse Board was passed and the Mann "white slave" bill was discussed.

FOREIGN.—A special dispatch from London said that while the Unionists have gained forty-five seats the government will probably have a majority of more than one hundred in the next House of Commons. Heavy storms in France and Switzerland have brought about floods which caused great damage to property. The French Minister of Public Instruction, M. Doumergue, replied in the Chamber of Deputies in Paris to the attacks which had been made by Catholic Deputies on the government's system of education. Ambassador Rockhill conferred with Foreign Minister Islowsky on the neutralization of the Manchurian railroads. The Palace of Cheragan, in Constantinople, where parliament sits, was destroyed by fire; it cost $16,000,000.

DOMESTIC.—The governors in conference in Washington discussed state control of public utilities. The convention of the National Civic Federation adjourned after adopting resolutions favoring uniform laws. Governor Hughes addressed a convention of life insurance officials in Washington. The Southern health conference was organized at Atlanta to fight the hookworm disease. Louis Paulhan made several spectacular flights with passengers at the aviation meet at Los Angeles. Seventeen Carnegie hero medals were awarded at Pittsburg. Entering a general denial of the published accusation of Senator Benn Conger, of Tompkins, that while Republican leader of the Assembly he received money for aiding in the defeat of legislation before that body, Senator Jotham P. Allds, temporary president of the Senate, asked for a legislative investigation to ascertain the facts in the matter.

CITY.—Stocks were weak. An investigation by the Stock Exchange, it was announced, will follow the failure of two houses that went to the wall during a 63-point decline in Columbus and Hocking Coal and Iron stock. Borough President Steers of Brooklyn dismissed six hundred employes from the departments under his charge. Commissioner Edwards wrote to Mayor Gaynor explaining his dismissal of Deputy Murphy of Brooklyn. An affidavit setting forth bribery was made to Mayor Gaynor and resulted in the dismissal of Deputy Tax Commisioner McGowan of Brooklyn. Counsel for Richard Harding Davis said that Davis and his wife had been living apart, but that no court proceedings had been begun. The president of the Western Union testified before the legislative commision that he favors governmental control. Assurance was given that Police Commisioner Baker would be retained. The Bar Association adopted most of the recommendations of its special committee on simplification of procedure. Former Lieutenant Governor Chanler said in court that he was ashamed of having paid money for his Presidential boom.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for today: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 41 degrees; lowest, 34.

FORESTS AND RAINFALL.

Professor Willis L. Moore has made a valuable report on the relation between forests and rainfall. He vigorously attacks the antiquated doctrine that removal of the former diminishes the latter. That the one is entirely independent of the other is a conclusion to which the chief of the Weather Bureau has been led by an elaborate study of the subject. His opinion is shared by practically all meteorologists who have taken the trouble to look into the matter. Professor Cleveland Abbe, the first weather forecaster of the federal government and a member of many scientific societies, has done excellent work in showing the fallacy of the old notion. So has Professor W. J. Humphreys, of Johns Hopkins University, and it cannot be doubted that meteorologists are much better qualified than others to speak authoritatively on the causes of rainfall.

Instances are on record of lessened precipitation after a particular area has been cleared, but the inference that one thing is the effect of the other is upset if observation is continued for a sufficiently long period. No other meteorological phenomenon is so variable as rainfall, and any one who studies the figures for too short an interval is likely to be deceived. One of several striking illustrations of the wisdom of avoiding haste in forming opinions about it was recently afforded by a report of Dr. Woeikoff, the Russian meteorologist, on the changes of level of the Sea of Aral. That body of water has no visible outlet and takes the drainage of a considerable territory in Asia. From about 1845 to 1880 there was an almost continuous shrinkage in its area, due to the excess of evaporation over rainfall. For the last thirty years the sea has been spreading and rising, so that islands and peninsulas which were charted in 1845 have now been submerged.

Moreover, modern meteorologists attribute drouths and excessive rain, as well as prolonged departures from the normal temperatures of a region, to eccentricities in the distribution of atmospheric pressure. In turn, the eccentricities of air pressure are traced back to the interchange of atmosphere between the equatorial and polar regions, the routes and intensity of the great currents undergoing more or less modification from time to time. That is what Professor Moore undoubtedly means when he says that the causes of climatic change are general, not local. To assume that a patch of woods can either check or accelerate the wholesale circulation of the atmosphere is now deemed quite as absurd as the belief that rain can be induced by bombarding the skies.

MR. SHONTS'S TROUBLES.

No doubt the rest of the strap-hangers will sympathize with Mr. Shonts in his troubles incident to riding in his own subway. To be driven by the crowd from an express train into a local, only to find the latter so jammed that it was impossible to get out at his station, was enough to justify the strongest language on the part of Mr. Shonts. Still, we think that sympathy will be tempered by the thought that Mr. Shonts himself was largely to blame for the conditions which caused his discomfort.

New subways were not needed for a certain measure of relief from the present wellnigh intolerable overcrowding in the present one. An extension of the station platforms, for example, will alone increase the subway's capacity 25 per cent. Mr. Shonts promises that relief a year from now—when the traffic will have increased about 25 per cent and the crowding under the new conditions will be just about what it is to-day. Those platforms ought to have been lengthened long ago. The idea was certainly proposed to the Interborough Rapid Transit Company as early as 1906, when it was rejected as "an operating monstrosity." That was before Mr. Shonts's time, to be sure, but since he became president there has been no haste to increase the subway's capacity in this very simple and obvious way. The subject was repeatedly taken up with Mr. Shonts by the Public Service Commission, which has borne witness to his unwillingness until recently to make such an increase in facilities. If early in President Shonts's term he had moved vigorously for an extension of the subway platforms, he would have ridden home the other night in comparative comfort.

The zeal of the Interborough for the relief of its patrons is tempered by other considerations. Not only was the extension of the subway platforms so long postponed that an addition of 25 per cent to the facilities will be already outgrown when it is provided, but it will be remembered that only a few months ago Mr. Shonts, who now talks of unlimited backing, was protesting that he could raise money to build only a two-track subway, which by the time it was completed would be so far outgrown as to be as badly crowded on the day it was opened as the present subway is now. If the public had allowed Mr. Shonts to do that he might have the same harrowing experience in an overcrowded subway in 1915 that he has just had in 1910.

THE TARIFF PROCLAMATIONS.

The tariff proclamations issued on Tuesday by President Taft discredit the foolish forecasts of those who argued industriously last summer that the maximum schedule of the Payne law was intended to apply—and would apply—to the great bulk of our imports from foreign countries. The Tribune dismissed such forecasts as fanciful because it could not interpret a demand for a fair exchange of commercial courtesies as a challenge to an international tariff war, and felt that other countries would see that it was as much to their advantage as it is to ours to pursue the policy of just and equal treatment. There are some countries which desire to make trade arrangements to suit themselves alone and to exact favors which they are unwilling to return. Such demands have compelled the United States in self-defence to adopt the dual schedule system. But the normal American policy remains what it has always been—that of offering our market to all nations opening their markets to us as freely as they do to our commercial rivals. We have always been confident that most foreign countries would prefer to deal with us on the natural "most favored nation" basis, and the proclamations just issued give a substantial assurance that friendly relations with the great majority of our customers abroad will remain undisturbed.

The arrangements so far completed cover only European trade. The United Kingdom, Italy, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey have manifested their intention not to discriminate against American products. They take together more than half of our exports to Europe. In the fiscal year 1908-'09 our total sales to European countries amounted in value to $1,146,755,321. Sales to the five countries named were as follows: United Kingdom, $514,627,365; Italy, $58,509,598; Russia (European), $15,633,175; Spain, $19,679,003; Switzerland, $750,736—a total of $609,199,877. From present indications the only countries in Europe likely to hold out for a one-sided bargain—which would commit the United States to admitting their products here on terms more favorable than they grant our products—are Germany and France. Germany bought from us in 1908-'09 goods valued at $235,324,140 and France goods valued at $108,764,262—a total of $344,088,402. Canada excepted, there seems to be outside of Europe no disposition on the part of any nation or semi-independent sovereignty to discriminate against us in exchanges. Our sales in the foreign market in 1908-'09 amounted to $1,613,011,104. Only a little over one-fifth of this commerce is now seriously threatened by tariff disagreements and discriminations, and the prospect is that Germany and France, finding themselves in an isolated minority, will soon abandon their discriminatory programme.

In that event the United States will have won a signal victory in the cause of equity in international trade relations. The principle for which it stands is unassailable. It simply insists on "the square deal." If Germany and France want to enjoy the tariff favors which we grant to the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and other friendly nations they should be prepared to treat us as courteously as the other countries do. The maximum-minimum tariff plan enables us automatically to promote reciprocity and discourage hostility. A temporary derangement in trade with countries which prefer hostility to reciprocity would be compensated for many times over by a successful demonstration of the fact that the United States intends to conduct its foreign commerce on the basis of equity for all and malice toward none.

NO "MALICIOUS MORALIST."

We hope a failure on our part to admire the Hon. Benn Conger in his latest manifestations will not be construed as admiration for the Hon. Jotham P. Allds, but if the accuser at Albany continues to talk in his present vein he will speedily become contemptible.

Senator Conger has made the gravest possible charge of corruption against a fellow Senator, yet he is saying: "I want "you to specify with as much emphasis "as possible that Senator Jotham P. "Allds and I are good friends." Is he the good friend of and does he value the friendship of a man declared by him to be a corruptionist? "I am sorry," he says, "I tell you I am sorry." And again: "It never entered my head that the "words would find their way into the "newspapers." He made his charge against Senator Allds with the full understanding that it was in a "secret conference." Moreover, "the whole thing "doesn't amount to a great deal, and, "further, it occurred eight or nine years "years ago when 'Jo' Allds and I were in "the Assembly together. We knew each "other very well. We were on committees together. Why, that matter be-"tween us was a mere flea bite in com-"parison with what was being done in "Albany at that time"!

In a word, bribery is nothing. It is proper to talk of the corruption of a fellow member among friends, but there is no duty resting upon one who knows of it to make it public. Conger is sorry, and Allds, as his old friend, ought to overlook his indiscretion because he did not mean any harm.

This is pitiful. It is unnecessary for the Senator to protest that he is not a "malicious moralist." The public can see from his utterances that he is not actuated by malice, or by morality either.

ANTI-OPIUM PROGRESS.

There appears to be abundant room for encouragement in the Chinese anti-opium campaign, to the promotion of which a year ago, under the lead of the United States, the powers of the world devoted an international congress at Shanghai. Reports are by no means complete, and the lack of an efficient general government causes much diversity of action and results in the different provinces of the empire, but it is certain that marked progress is being made in the suppression of the drug habit and of the cultivation of poppies for the manufacture of opium.

In Peking itself it is authoritatively estimated that among the people three-tenths have given up opium smoking, and among the officials eight-tenths have done so. Unfortunately many persons have taken to using "anti-opium pills," some of them doubtless in good faith, supposing that the things will help them to abandon the drug habit, and others taking them as an acceptable substitute for the pipe. But just as various "anti-alcoholic" nostrums in this country have consisted chiefly of bad whiskey, these pills are composed chiefly of opium, so that the evil of taking them is scarcely less than that which they falsely pretend to cure. Despite this, however, the gain has been great, and it is proceeding at a steadily increasing pace.

The attitude of the government is reassuring. Last year two additional imperial edicts against opium were issued in forcible terms, and it was made plain that with the increase of governmental authority under the constitutional system there will be an increase of official pressure against the opium habit. The provincial governments also strengthened their efforts against the evil, and expressed themselves in various cases as in favor of more stringent measures than any which have yet been adopted. The opinion seems to be gaining ground that the only effective means of suppressing the opium habit is that of prohibiting the cultivation of poppies altogether. In several provinces, indeed, such prohibition has been essayed, and although it is not entirely successful it has resulted in a far greater diminution of the evil than has been effected elsewhere. Most encouraging of all, perhaps, is the assurance that popular sentiment is heartily sustaining the government in this campaign and is making it increasingly disreputable for men to indulge in the vice.

THE ROMAN EXHIBITION OF 1911.

Some account was given in the art columns of The Tribune a fortnight ago of the great exhibition which is to be opened in Rome in 1911. In that year the people of Italy will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of their principal city as the capital of a new and united state. They will exhibit in a series of buildings especially constructed for the purpose a great mass of objects illustrating their historic past, and much space, of course, will be given to art. A permanent edifice will shelter the native productions in painting and sculpture, that building being erected on an excellent site between the Papa Giulio Museum and the Borghese Gardens, and near at hand, amid these appropriate surroundings, a number of structures of a temporary character will house the works of foreign artists. The sum of $40,000 has been set apart by the government for prizes which are to be offered for international competition. In short, Italy is proposing to do all that could be expected of her in the creation of an impressive artistic scheme. She has invited the nations to co-operate, and most of them have accepted, promptly making the appropriations necessary for the building of their pavilions. It was reported yesterday, however, by our Washington correspondent that America's share in the enterprise still remains undetermined. The news is as regrettable as it is surprising.

From the Washington dispatch just mentioned it appears that Senator Newlands has received from Mr. A. D. F. Hamlin, professor of architecture in Columbia University, a letter stating that there is astonishment in Europe over our neglect of the communication made by the Italian government more than a year ago inviting the United States to take part in the exhibition. It is added that the authorities in Italy have even shown their interest in our possible participation by extending to February 15 the period in which space may be reserved. Senator Newlands has declared that he will try to secure Congressional action in time, but the last day is less than a month distant, and it is to be hoped that his efforts may everywhere be instantly supported. There are several reasons why we should be represented at Rome. There is, to begin with, the question of international good will. Furthermore, the occasion clearly promises to be one uniting all the schools of European art in a full demonstration of their resources. It is scarcely fitting that at such a time nothing should be done to show the great progress made in American architecture, painting and sculpture. With all due modesty, it may nevertheless be asserted that in these matters we are abundantly qualified to compete with the artists of the world, and to fail to do so would be an unpardonable omission. At the present moment a private individual, Mr. Hugo Reisinger, is getting together a number of American paintings to exhibit in Berlin, as a return for the compliment shown us in the German exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum. It ought not to be left to unofficial intervention of this sort to enforce the claims of American art before the world at Rome in 1911.

The opportunity is ripe, too, for the courteous recognition of an unpayable artistic debt which we owe to Italy. That she has offered a second home to certain of our painters and sculptors is not to be forgotten, though we have in recent years substituted new ideals for those which drew so many Americans to Rome about the middle of the last century. Moreover, Italy remains to this day an inexhaustible wellspring of inspiration, at which many an artist who has received his training elsewhere is only too glad to drink. How many painters, formed in the studios of Paris, have hastened to stimulate their imaginative powers, to broaden their taste and to exercise their gifts amid the lovely scenery and the unnumbered monuments of the South! Of what immense value has Venice alone been to them! But we may ignore all this; we may ignore the incessant reaction of Italy upon the artistic temperament at large, and still confess to an immeasurable obligation which incidentally touches our most "practical" interests. The regeneration of American architecture has disclosed at countless points the influence of the old Italian masters.

The establishment of the American Academy at Rome, to which that distinguished architect, the late Charles F. McKim, contributed so much, was very far from marking the beginning of a new movement. It was, rather, the ratification of one which had been going on for years, the gathering up of threads of influence, the crystallization of a tradition. Many of our architects had been wont to make use of Italian ideas. One of the guild who had employed them with peculiar effectiveness saw the desirability of making them more than ever part and parcel of our artistic education. Hence the academy in question, which is at once the assurance of a systematization of our Italian studies in the future and a monument to what we have gained from them in the past. Survey American architecture all over the country, and repeatedly the merits of balance and refinement encountered will prove traceable to the influence of the beautiful buildings of the Italian Renaissance. Are considerations like these too fine drawn to commend themselves to the American legislator? We think not. The remodelling of the tariff on art is a conclusive enough instance of our readiness to pay tribute to the things of the mind, and it is not conceivable that a question of expense, perhaps $100,000, will be allowed to stand in the way of our making a worthy appearance in the Roman exhibition.

If Mr. Shonts had a very uncomfortable time riding in the subway, his company, at any rate, has a very comfortable surplus for the last year—$2,000,000 greater than in 1908.

Mr. Rayner's Democracy is shown by deeds as well as by words. In the interminable and vexing tariff debate he stood steadfast for those principles which Maryland Democrats still regard as the foundation stones of Democracy.—Baltimore Sun.

This must be interesting news to Mr. Rayner's colleague, the Hon. John Walter Smith, who in the "interminable and vexing" struggle in the Senate stood steadfast for a set of principles materially different from Mr. Rayner's. As a neo-Randallite and Baileyite Mr. Smith uses foundation stones which Mr. Rayner rejects. Yet he is generally recognized as a far more potent arbiter of what constitutes Democracy in the State of Maryland.

Mayor Gaynor's letter to Street Cleaning Commissioner Edwards deserves to go into the complete letter writer. As an example of wise moderation it is unsurpassed. While another might have torn his hair and given vent to sonorous indignation, the Mayor is only filled with tender solicitude lest some of the city's employes may freeze to death from mere inactivity.

Not to exult in disaster, there really does seem to be a touch of poetic justice in having a horse run into and smash an automobile.

At public dinners the "kind words" follow the meat and drink. At the Tammany table this year that humane order has been reversed. After a Barmecide feast of uplift a few solids in the shape of offices are coming the way of the dazed diners, who are now hardly strong enough to endure such unfamiliar nourishment.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Mayor Gaynor's orders as to the treatment of citizens by New York policemen reminds a metropolitan reporter of a remark made to him by an upstate police captain not long ago. "Why," said that knight of the club, "if we tried to work the tricks on our citizens up here that your cops do down in the big city we'd all be hanging by the neck over the bridge. Yes, sir, up here the people know their rights. And in New York, apparently, they don't. Well, I'm glad to hold my job, small pay and all. I'm a bigger man in this town than your precinct captains are in New York, and the only enemies I've got are the good-for-nothings that I lock up. And that's worth more than money."

DeMono—Why did Cogger give up those long trips in his airship?

Biplane—Why, he went to sleep one trip, thought he was in his automobile and tried to crawl under it.—Chicago News.

The 25th anniversary of the opening of the Empire Theatre of Calcutta was celebrated in the beautifully decorated playhouse, "The King of Cadonia" being the stage attraction. The most remarkable feature of the occasion was the display of jewels on the stage, exceeding anything ever before attempted in that line in Calcutta. The precious stones were lent for the occasion by a jewelry concern, and a special detachment of forty policemen was on guard while the jewels were in use. The officers escorted the messengers who returned them to the owner's vault after the performance was over. The actor who played the part of the king wore a diadem which hundreds of years before had belonged to an Indian prince, and the soprano wore strings of pearls, bracelets of emeralds and an antique tiara which were valued at $200,000.

THE SNOW MAN.

You've seen the snow man in the yard?
How stiff and white he stands!
He is a monstrous, lifeless hulk,
Built up with childish hands.
He serves a purpose, in a way,
And yet how short his life;
He either melts some later day,
Or tumbles in the strife.

Don't be a snow man in the yard,
A useless hulk of white;
Don't be so full of nothingness
You can't put up a fight.
Don't be a front yard ornament,
Though pleasing to the eye;
The snow man melts and runs away,
And leaves no memory!

—Boston Herald.

Fire alarms are no respecters of the personal convenience of the firemen, as was shown yesterday afternoon, when the hook and ladder company in Fulton street was summoned to a downtown blaze. As the truck shot out of the fire house one of the firemen had a heavy lather on his face, save for a small strip on the left side. He had started to shave, he said, in telling of it when the truck returned, and had given himself only one scrape when the alarm rang, so down the pole he slid, lather and all. "But that's nothing," he added, "lots of the other fellows get caught that way, too."

Poet—Didn't you like the verses I wrote yesterday?

Editor—No—they would offend our readers.

Poet—Sir, those lines are immortal!

Editor—Don't fool yourself—I "killed" 'em myself.—Cleveland Leader.

MISS PECK AND MT. HUASCARAN

Mrs. Workman Submits Brief in the Peak Scaling Controversy.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: After her ascent of the lower north peak of Mount Huascaran, in Peru, in 1908, Miss A. Peck wrote in "Harper's Magazine" and in other periodicals and papers the following: "It may be regarded as certain that Huascaran is above 23,000 feet, hence higher than Aconcagua, 22,900 feet, and the loftiest mountain known on this hemisphere. If, as seems probable, the height is 24,000 feet, I have the honor of breaking the world's record for men as well as women."

Knowing from her own statement that Miss Peck made no instrumental observations above 19,600 feet on Huascaran, and believing, furthermore, Aconcagua to be the highest mountain of the Andes, I decided to test the truth of these assertions by sending expert European engineers to make a detailed, up-to-date triangulation of the two summits of Mount Huascaran. The only previous known measurement of this mountain was made many years ago, and is said to have given a height of 22,180 feet for the south, or higher, summit.

Professor Fr. Schrader, who a few years ago made the most authentic measurement yet made of Aconcagua, and M. Henri Vallat, both well known French scientists and heads of the Société Générale d'Etudes et de Travaux Topographique, of Paris, undertook to assist me in getting up the expedition, and gave the matter their close personal attention. M. de Larminat, expert engineer, who has carried out successfully important survey work for the above society, was selected as chief of the mission. In July, 1909, accompanied by two other competent French topographers, he started for Peru.

Favored by good weather conditions and assisted as to transport by the Peruvian government, they executed a careful and detailed survey from the sea to Yungay, and by actual measurement established the heights of four stations in the Black Cordillera, from each of which they triangulated the two peaks of Huascaran, so that Huascaran now stands as one of the most accurately measured high Andean mountains.

The results are: Height of north peak, climbed by Miss Peck, 21,812 feet; of south peak, still unclimbed, 22,187 feet. These figures may vary by a few feet, but not many, when the calculations are finally gone over by M. Vallat for verification. Mount Aconcagua, nearly 22,900 feet, still remains, as I predicted, and as Sir Martin Conway and other Andean explorers have always maintained, the highest peak of South America.

Miss Peck's highest ascent, up to date, therefore, stands, north summit Huascaran, 21,812 feet, instead of 24,000 feet, as she has estimated it, and she has not the "honor of breaking the world's record" either for men or women, for my two highest ascents, respectively 22,568 and 23,000 feet, debar her from that honor in the case of women, while a number of men have made ascents exceeding her highest.

FANNY BULLOCK WORKMAN.

Algiers, Jan. 7, 1910.

COMMERCIAL NEEDS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The commercial supremacy of the State of New York requires the lowest possible transportation charges over her waterways, her steam roads, her electric roads, her highways.

Man follows the payroll. The state which intelligently draws within her borders the greatest number of industries having payrolls employing skilled labor will have the largest population and the most diversified product in manufacturing. This will provide the largest home market, and will also provide large taxable assets for educational and governmental purposes.

New York State, with the exception of its two terminal cities, Buffalo and New York, and a strip of land thirty miles wide with the Erie Canal in the centre of it from Buffalo to Albany, is a strictly agricultural state. Take these two cities and this narrow area out of New York's fifty thousand square miles of area, and it would be difficult to find anything in the United States that is more truly agricultural or more poorly developed.

WILLIAM PIERREPONT WHITE.

Utica, N. Y., Jan. 17, 1910.

IN BEHALF OF CHILDREN.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Over thirteen years ago ex-Mayor Hewitt, chairman of an advisory committee appointed by Mayor Strong to report to him as to the need of small parks and playgrounds, wrote that "in the original plan of New York the children of New York seem to have been forgotten."

And he might have truthfully added that in the years that have elapsed since then these neglected wards of the public have been continuously ignored and overlooked.

Latterly too much stress has been laid upon the intellectual wants of the rising generation, to the exclusion of its physical welfare.

To my thinking, on every block where there is a Carnegie Library there should be a small park, wherein, amid inviting surrpundings, children can safely indulge in amusements natural to their age and so essential to their health.

In my belief, the very first duty imposed upon our municipal authorities is to provide breathing spaces in the 10th Ward and in the southeasterly portion of the 14th Ward of Manhattan Borough.

In this congested, crowded section of the city, the most densely populated district in the civilized world, are to be found scores of unsanitary tenements, which flank both sides of the narrow thoroughfares, whose atmosphere is poisoned by smoke and foul odors from innumerable factories and furnaces. There every square foot in front of old rookeries, built over half a century ago, is occupied by pedlers' carts and venders' wagons, while lines of trolley cars monopolize the roadbed itself.

Surely in places like this children should be vouchsafed reservations for their especial use and benefit with as little delay as possible. SIDWELL S. RANDALL.

The Bronx, Jan. 18, 1910.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 19.—The President and Representative Dwight, the Republican whip of the House, discussed at length today the fight against Messrs. James and Rainey as members of the House committee to investigate the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

The Attorney General and Senator Owen discussed the Oklahoma lands dispute with the President.

Senator Smoot and Representative Howell urged the President to appoint John P. Meakin, of Salt Lake City, a chaplain in the army.

General Louis Wagner, Captain J. Richards Boyle and Alexander McDowell, composing a commission in charge of the preparations for celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 2 and 3, 1913, urged the President to ask Congress to co-operate in making the celebration a success.

The President was invited to attend the celebration at Tampa, Fla., February 12 to 26, of the work on the isthmian canal. This celebration was made possible by a joint resolution of Congress passed several years ago. Mr. Taft was compelled to decline.

David Heineman of Detroit, president of the League of American Municipalities, accompanied by Mayor Mahool of Baltimore, invited the President to attend the meeting of the league, to be held in St. Paul next August, and which is to be attended by almost one thousand mayors. The President was unable to give a definite answer.

Rabbi J. Leonard Levy, of the Rodolph Shalom Temple, at Pittsburg, called at the executive offices this morning with an engrossed copy of the speech made in Pittsburg by the President last May. He asked the President to sign it and dedicate it to his congregation. Mr. Taft consented, and also presented the rabbi with a signed photograph of himself.

Senator Stone called on the President in the interest of Captain Wickham, of the 13th Infantry, who is under charges, and has been court martialled.

The President's callers included Senator Warner, ex-Senator Long, of Kansas; ex-Representative Wadsworth, of New York, and Perry S. Heath.

The President and Captain Butt went for a ride and walk this afternoon.

The President entertained at dinner tonight the governors who are in conference here and a number of others. Mrs. Charles Anderson, sister of Mrs. Taft, presided at the table. The table decorations were Enchantress carnations and maidenhair ferns.

THE CABINET.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 19.—Mrs. MacVeagh, Mrs. Dickinson, Mrs. Wickersham and Mrs. Meyer held their regular Wednesday afternoon receptions, and the official and social world in general paid its respects.

Assisting Mrs. MacVeagh were Mrs. Wirt Dexter, of Boston, and Mrs. A. A. Mason. Mrs. John M. Clark and Mrs. Conger, of Chicago.

Mrs. Dickinson had with her Mrs. Lurton, Mrs. E. W. Cole, of Tennessee; Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, Mrs. William H. Fox, Mrs. Samuel Spencer, Mrs. W. J. Calhoun, of Chicago; her house guest, Miss Temple, and a number of young women.

With Mrs. Wickersham were Mrs. Lloyd W. Bowers, Mrs. Gordon Cumming, Miss Maury and others.

Mrs. Ballinger had assisting her Mrs. Henry Sherman Boutell, Mrs. George P. Lawrence, Mrs. Fremont Smith, Mrs. Hopkin, Mrs. Lawler, Miss Casey and Miss Gafney and Miss Todd, of Washington.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 19.—The German Ambassador and Countess von Bernstorff entertained at dinner to-night Senator Kean, Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson, Colonel and Mrs. McCawley, ex-Ambassador and Mrs. Henry White, the Third Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Chandler Hale, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Story, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, of Cincinnati; Miss Elizabeth Kean, Countess Luise Alexandra von Bernstorff, Mr. Tailhand, French third secretary, and Mr. Horstmann, German attaché.

The German military attaché and Frau von Livonius entertained a dinner party to-night in compliment to the Austrian Ambassador and Baroness Hengelmüller. Their other guests were Colonel and Mrs. Robert K. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Crowninshield, Baroness Elizabeth de Bode, Mrs. W. W. Wotherspoon, Mrs. Wolcott Gilbert, Miss Pangborne, Dr. Julian Cabell, Major Squire and Commander Retzmann, German naval attaché.

The British military attaché and the Hon. Mrs. Bernard James and her sister, the Hon. Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, returned to Washington to-day from a ten days' visit to friends in Oglethorpe, Ga. Mrs. James's sister will remain with her for the rest of the winter.

Major and Frau von Livonius have as their house guest Miss Pangborne, of Baltimore, who accompanied them to the Bachelors' Cotillon to-night.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 19.—The Bachelors' german engaged the attention of several hundred people in society to-night, this being the second of the three dances given each winter. Countess von Bernstorff received the guests, assisted by the officers and committee, including Gist Blair, Colonel Montgomery Macomb, Frederick H. Brooke, Franklin Ellis, Lieutenant Commander Cleland Davis, James Mandeville Carlisle, William Hitt, Captain Sherwood A. Cheney and Nathan Wyeth. The color obtaining in the decorations and favors was yellow, the flower figure being particularly clever and artistic. The other favors were for the women, wands, handkerchief and glove cases and lamp shades, and for the men, tieholders, canes, notebooks and dower pieces. The Marine Band furnished the music, and the guests included the Cabinet members and their wives, diplomats and a large contingent from resident society.

Mrs. John Hays Hammond entertained at luncheon to-day for Mrs. Sidney A. Cheman. Her other guests were Mrs. Dickinson, Mme. de Lagercrantz, Countess de Chambrun, Mrs. Charles Anderson, of Cincinnati; Mrs. Gardner Williams, Mrs. Henry Cleveland Perkins, Mrs. James M. Johnston, Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth, Mrs. McGowan, Mrs. Samuel Spencer, Mrs. Joseph C. Audenreid, Mrs. Richardson Clover, Mrs. Beekman Winthrop, Mrs. Morgan Williams and Mrs. Archibald Hopkins.

Mr. and Mrs. Edson Bradley entertained at dinner to-night, preceding the Bachelors' german, the British second secretary and Mrs. Esmond Ovey, Miss Ovey, Baroness Elizabeth Rosen, Lieutenant and Mrs. U. S. Grant, Captain and Mrs. Summerall, Mrs. Roscoe C. Bulmer, Miss Constance Hoyt, Miss Dorr, Miss Gladys Hinckley, Miss Eudora Clover, Miss Mary Southerland, Signor Centaro, Italian second secretary; Mr. Skybak, Norwegian secretary, Captain Robert L. Howze, W. P. Bingham, Major Hoston and Lieutenant Commander Butler.

Among the hosts entertaining dinner parties previous to the Bachelors' german were Mrs. F. B. Moran, Mr. and Mrs. A. Garrison McClintock, Mrs. James F. Barbour and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Noyes.

Among the box holders for the performance given at the Columbia Theatre to-night by the students of Georgetown University for the benefit of the Christ Child Society were the Italian Ambassador and Baroness Mayor des Planches, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cleveland Perkins, Mrs. D. P. McCartney, Miss Alice Riggs and Mrs. William Manning Irwin, while in the audience were many persons from official and resident society.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Miss Marie de Zaldo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic de Zaldo, was married yesterday afternoon in St. Leo's Church, in East 28th street, to Ricardo M. de Acosta, son of Mrs. Ricardo de Acosta and a brother of Mrs. Philip M. Lydig, Mrs. Grant Root and Mrs. A. Robeson Sargent, of Brookline, Mass. The bride was in a gown of white satin and lace, with which she wore a tulle veil, fastened with orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of white roses. Her attendants were her two sisters, Miss Mercedes and Miss Alice de Zaldo, and Miss Mercedes de Acosta, a sister of the bridegroom. They wore gowns of white chiffon and lace and brown hats, trimmed with net, and carried bouquets of yellow roses. Vance S. Manson was the best man, and the ushers included John de Zaldo, Henry J. de Acosta, Robert S. Manning, Townsend Burden, jr., Emmet Harris, Thomas B. Clarke, jr., and Alexander Keogh. Monsignor Lavelle performed the ceremony, which was followed by a reception for relatives and intimate friends at the home of the bride's parents, in West 47th street.

Miss Ada Phipps gave a theatre party last night for her debutante niece, Miss Alice Gouverneur Kortright. The guests were taken to see Lew Fields in "Old Dutch," and afterward to Sherry's for supper. In the party were Miss Katherine G. Chapin, Miss Jean Roosevelt, Miss Jeanne King, Miss Ursula Brown, Miss Katharine H. Tilford, Miss Dorothy Hyde, Miss Lillian Endicott, Miss Joan Tuckerman, Miss M. Civilise Alexandre, Miss Frances Burr, William Baylis, jr., Albert L. Hoffman, Marshall R. Kernochan, John Dix, George Henry Warren, jr., Walter G. Oakman, jr., Moses Taylor Pyne, jr., T. Chesley Richardson, jr., and Louis Noel. Miss Phipps and Miss Kortright will leave town for Florida in about a fortnight.