

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

FIFTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

In the senate, on the 29th, Mr. Lodge, chairman of the Philippines committee, reported the Philippines tariff bill, and gave notice that he would call it on the 31st. Mr. Lawrence, of the minority, offered a substitute. The bill for the establishment of a department of commerce was under consideration most of the day. Developing strong opposition to many of its provisions. In the house, general debate on the urgent deficiency bill occupied most of the session, an item in the bill for the appropriation of \$200,000 for military post at Manila precipitating a general debate.

In the senate, on the 21st, the Philippines tariff bill was under consideration for three hours. The measure was reported by the committee on the 19th. Mr. Lawrence (Utah) delivered a vigorous speech in support of the bill. The bill was under discussion in the house on the 20th. The bill was under discussion in the house on the 20th. The bill was under discussion in the house on the 20th.

DEATH IN A COAL MINE.

Twenty-One Miners Killed and Eight Seriously Injured by a Dust Explosion.

Oskaloosa, Ia., Jan. 25.—The Lost Creek coal mine was the scene, yesterday, of a terrible disaster, which cost the lives of 21 miners. Eight others were seriously injured. The bodies of the dead men were recovered from the mine and lie in an improvised morgue near the scene of their death. The injured are under the care of surgeons in a temporary hospital, equipped near the mine.

The Lost Creek mine is ten miles southeast of Oskaloosa, and three miles north of Eddyville. The explosion occurred at the noon hour, and was what is known as a dust explosion. The miners had just fired their usual noon shots, one of which proved to be a fizzle, the powder flame lighting the gas and causing the explosion.

Smoke and debris were blown out of the mine in a column two hundred feet high. A part of the top works was torn away and the fans and cages were wrecked. This made the work of rescue very slow, and it was three o'clock before rescuers started to enter the mine. The explosion occurred in the east entry, where the explosion occurred. The men of the rescue party fought their way into the mine, where a shocking sight met their gaze. The dead and injured were terribly buried and mutilated. Many of them almost beyond recognition. Beyond where the bodies lay the fire was burning fiercely, and for a time it was feared that the workings would be wholly destroyed and the bodies incinerated. Finally, however, the flames were subdued, but not until several of the rescue party had succumbed to the fumes. The bodies were then collected and carried to the top of the shaft.

At the time of the explosion more than one hundred men were in the mine, but all except those who were in the east entry escaped with only slight injury.

Property damage will be about \$10,000.

It was nearly six o'clock last evening when the last of the dead was taken out, and the scenes of anguish among the families of the victims were most pitiful. Nearly all of the men were married and leave families in poor circumstances. The mine is owned by the Lost Creek Fuel Co. of this city, and has been in operation about one year.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

Annual Report of the Interstate Commerce Commission to the Congress.

PREVIOUS DECLARATIONS ARE RENEWED

The Feature of the Report is the Almost Sensational Statement of the Relations Existing Between the Railroads and Comparatively Few Big Shippers.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The annual report of the interstate commerce commission, which was transmitted to congress, Thursday, renews the declaration made in previous reports that in its present condition the act to regulate commerce can not be enforced. As to remedial legislation, the commission renews the statement made in its previous annual report, that it "has little to suggest and nothing new to propose."

The feature of the report is the almost sensational statement of the relations existing between the railroads and comparatively few heavy shippers. Referring to the commission's recent investigations into the amount of packing house products and of grain and grain products, the report says:

"The facts herein developed are of such a character that they should not be contemplated with indifference. That the leading traffic officials of many of the United States railroads, who occupy high positions and are charged with the most important duties, should deliberately violate the statute law of the land, and in some cases agree with each other to do so; that it should be thought by them necessary to destroy vouchers and to so manipulate their books as to obliterate evidence of the transactions; that hundreds of thousands of dollars should be paid in unlawful rebates and kickbacks to packing houses; that the business of railroad transportation should to such an extent be conducted in open disregard of laws, must be surprising and offensive to all right-minded persons. Equally startling, at least, is the fact that the owners of these rebates, and the names of these names are known throughout the commercial world, should seemingly be eager to augment their profits by the receipt of amounts of these rebates which they receive in plain defiance of a federal statute."

That there are palliating circumstances under which such a course might be commended is not unimplied, and the opinion is expressed that existing laws should be so amended as to give shippers who desire to observe them the means without risk of sacrificing their property.

The application of the remedy, the report says, is fully protected. In view of these great considerations, the bill, when formed, and are now forming, by which the commission is authorized to investigate the present theory of this law is greatly relieved upon the subject of rebates and facilities, will be largely eliminated, some method should be provided by which the government should be able to control over railway rates and operations which courts without number have asserted and are now asserting. The commission is authorized to investigate the present theory of this law is greatly relieved upon the subject of rebates and facilities, will be largely eliminated, some method should be provided by which the government should be able to control over railway rates and operations which courts without number have asserted and are now asserting.

DUTIES AND TRIALS.

Sermon of Dr. Talmage for Persons of All Ages.

Wholesome Advice to Those in the Twenties as Well as Those Who Have Reached the Allocated Three Score and Ten.

(Copyright, 1902, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y.) Washington.

From an unusual standpoint Dr. Talmage in this discourse looks at the duties and trials which belong to the different decades of human life; text, Psalms 90:10: "The days of our years are threescore years and ten."

The seventieth milestone of life is here planted as at the end of the journey. A few who have got all astray, never reach it. The oldest person of modern times expired at 169 years. A Greek of the name of Straverville lived to 132 years. An Englishman of the name of Thomas Parr lived 152 years. Before the time of Moses people lived 150 years, and if you go far enough back they lived 900 years. Well, that was necessary, because the story of the world must come down by tradition, and it needed long life safely to transmit the news of the past. If the generations had been short lived, the story would so often have changed that it might have got all astray. But after Moses began to write it down and parchment told it from century to century it was not necessary that people live so long in order to authenticate the events of the past. If in our time people lived only 25 years, that would not affect our history, since it is put in print and is no longer dependent on tradition. Whatever your age, I will to-day directly address you, and I shall speak to those who are in the twenties, the thirties, the forties, the fifties, the sixties, and to those who are in the seventies and beyond.

First, then, I accost those of you who are in the twenties. You are full of expectation. You are ambitious—that is, if you amount to anything—for some kind of success, commercial or mechanical or professional or literary or agricultural or social or moral. If I find someone in the twenties without any sort of ambition, I feel like saying: "My friend, you have got on the wrong planet. This is not the world for you. You are going to be in the way. Have you made your choice of a poorhouse? You will never be able to pay for your cradle. Who is going to settle for your board? There is a mistake about the fact that you were born at all."

But, supposing you have ambition, let me say to all the twenties, expect everything through divine manipulation, and then you will get all you want and something better. Are you looking for wealth? Well, remember that God controls the money markets, the harvests, the droughts, the caterpillars, the mechanical or professional storms, the land, the sea, and you will get wealth. Perhaps not that which is stored up in the banks, in safe deposits, in United States securities, in houses and lands, but your clothing and board and shelter, and that is what you need. Depend on the Lord for your life. Depend on the Lord for your life.

SELECTING HIS PRESENTS.

Prince Henry Landing Himself Up With Sovereign to Leave in America.

Berlin, Jan. 24.—Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia selected at the court jeweler's, Wednesday morning, about fifty presents for Americans with whom he will come especially in contact during his visit to the United States.

The presents include several gold and silver boxes set with diamonds; they have the emperor's monogram, encircled with diamonds, enamelled on the lids; beautiful silver cups with "Hohenzollern" enamelled on them; gold and silver cigarette cases, on which his majesty's autograph is traced. There were also compasses, encased in gold and silver boxes with "Hohenzollern" enamelled on them, besides larger and more valuable gifts. A number of cuff links, brooches and scarfpins, with the initial "H" in diamonds, are also included among the presents. The latter are intended for less important persons.

Official secrecy is maintained as to what the emperor and Prince Henry will present to the president, Rear-Admiral Robley D. Evans and Miss Alice Roosevelt, though it is well known that his majesty will send Miss Roosevelt a jeweled bracelet, and Prince Henry will probably offer the president a fine hunting gun with interchangeable shot and rifle barrels, and its accompanying equipment.

TREASURE IN THE PANTRY.

What Was Found Among Broken Dishes and Battered Tinware in a Dead Spinner's Pantry.

Crawfordsville, Ind., Jan. 24.—Relative of America Stripe, an aged spinner, who died this week, have, since her death, uncovered a rich treasure in her kitchen pantry. In an old tin canister, surrounded by broken dishes and battered tinware, they found gold and bank notes to the value of \$2,000.

There were Mexican gold coins bearing dates in the 50s and looking as bright as the day they came from the mint. There were also a great roll of shiplaster money, of denominations ranging from ten to fifty cents. It is believed that the money was hidden away during the war.

THE MASONS DOING GRANDLY.

The Masonic Fraternity Did Fair to Take the Lead in McKinley Memorial Subscriptions.

Canton, O., Jan. 24.—The Masonic committee of the McKinley National Memorial association, which is carrying on the work of canvassing the Masonic lodges of the entire country, from its office in Canton, is attracting considerable attention among the trustees of the national association. At the meeting of the trustees of the McKinley National Memorial association, held in Cleveland, it was given out that the contributions from the lodges in the state alone would amount to \$15,000 and \$15,000.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The commissioners of the District of Columbia yesterday issued a statement inviting yesterday people to observe in appropriate way the fifty-ninth anniversary of the birth of the late President McKinley, January 29. This action was taken at the suggestion of ex-Secretary of State Day, who is the president of the McKinley Memorial association, and of Gov. Nash of Ohio.

M'KINLEY'S BIRTHDAY.

The Proper Observance of its Anniversary Urged by the McKinley Memorial Association.

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FATAL WRECK AT OMAHA.

One Trainman Killed and Six Others Injured in Freight Wreck at Omaha, Nebraska.

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 25.—One trainman was killed and six others injured in a freight wreck in the Burlington yards in this city early Friday morning.

The dead: W. L. Stewart, yard foreman.

Injured: Frank Brogan, freight conductor, Lincoln; arm crushed and internal injuries; serious.

H. N. Olsen, arms and back sprained; internal injuries.

G. W. Mack, foot crushed, body badly bruised.

Three other trainmen received bruises and other minor injuries.

All of the injured men were taken to Lincoln.

MYSTERY OF PETER OLSON.

The Man Whom James Mather Accuses to Have Murdered, at Muskegon, Mich., in 1875.

Niles, Mich., Jan. 25.—The Elkhart (Ind.) police have received a letter which throws light on the Mather murder mystery. Mrs. C. G. Carey, of Albion, Mich., writes that she has just discovered that Peter Olson, whom James Mather claims he murdered at Muskegon, Mich., in 1875, was her brother, who left the family home in Bergen, Norway, in the spring of that year. When the vessel, on which he sailed as a seaman, returned in the fall of 1875, the captain said Olson had taken passage with an English carrier for America.

Mrs. Carey says she has been in this country 18 years. The first she heard of the probable fate of her brother or anything of his whereabouts, was when she recently read published accounts of Mather's confession. Mather is willing to return to Muskegon, but doctors at the Langfellow asylum say he has parias and will get worse. Mather is worth \$25,000. He claimed his conscience forced him to confess.

Search for the Lost British Cruiser.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Capt. Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service, yesterday sent telegraphic instructions to the cutter McCulloch, now at San Francisco, to join in the search for the lost British cruiser Condor. The McCulloch's orders are to "sail well out and as far north as the mouth of the Columbia river," North of that point the cutter Grant is making the search.

Has Sailed for Colon.

Washington, Jan. 25.—In conformity with the order of the navy department, the gunboat Marietta, Lieutenant-Commander Wm. R. Rush in command, has sailed from Culebra island for Colon to look after American interests on the isthmus.

Cause and Treatment of Cancer.

New York, Jan. 25.—According to the Tribune's London representative a movement is on foot, initiated by the medical profession, for the purpose of investigating the cause and treatment of cancer.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

King Victor Emanuel Has Conferred the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus upon William Marconi.

A dispatch from Toulon says that the French battleship Charlemagne is still fitting out at that port, and quotes the French authorities as saying that the vessel is not going to Monaco.

Mrs. McKinley has objected to the use of "Hotel McKinley" as the name for a new hotel in Canton, O. It had been officially announced by a company of Cantonians that a \$150,000 structure would be so named.

John B. Meserve, former treasurer of the state of Nebraska, has been indicted by the grand jury in Douglas county on the charge of embezzlement of money belonging to the state school fund.

The Cereal Sugar Co., of Peoria, Ill., has, through an old German vinegar maker, discovered a process whereby one gallon of hydroal, a by-product in the refining of sugar, can be made to yield one gallon of excellent acetic spirits and about three gallons of good vinegar.

George Steward, aged 19, convicted, on the testimony of his father, at Leavenworth, Kas., on the 23d, of stealing \$17, retained, upon being sentenced to 60 days in jail, by denouncing his father as the murderer of Alfred Cummings, a civil war veteran, in his little home near the soldiers' home.

Jacob Spawr, of Lexington, Ill., on the 24th, completed a century of existence, 76 years of which have been spent in McLean county. He was born in Pennsylvania, January 24, 1826. Numerous friends called to congratulate "Uncle Jakey."

The artist-correspondent of the London Graphic who has been following the case of Miss Stone, the captive American missionary, telegraphed from Dioumali Bala, Salonica, on the 23d, that the captives were in Bulgaria, eight hours distant from the frontier.

Judge Peter S. Grosscup and John M. Clark have been appointed by Judge Talty, at Chicago, as the trustees of the fund, now amounting to nearly \$150,000, and left by John Crearer for the erection of a statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Crazy Snake, by his chief lieutenant, has issued a proclamation to all Creek citizens, commanding them to meet at Hickory Grounds square, on Saturday, February 1, where and when it is proposed to hold a council under articles of the treaty of 1832.

Mrs. Angelina Anderson was bound and gagged, on the 24th, in broad daylight in her room in Wichita, Kas., and robbed of \$1,000 worth of diamonds and \$1,000 in money. She went to Wichita a few months ago and married an 18-year-old livery stable boy who was taking care of her horse and is now sending him to college. The woman is said to be from Racine, Wis.

The Lost Creek coal mine near Oskaloosa, Ia., was the scene of a terrible disaster, on the 24th, which cost the lives of 21 miners. Eight others were seriously injured. At the time of the explosion more than one hundred men were in the mines, but all except those who were in the east entry escaped with only slight injuries.

On the 24th R. G. Dun & Co., of New York, reported: "Failures for the week numbered 301 in the United States, against 296 last year, and 28 in Canada, against 46 last year."

thought all that was necessary for

suggests was to put on your shoulder the sign of physician or dentist or attorney or broker or agent and you would have plenty of business. How many hours you sat and waited for business, and waited in vain, three persons only know—God, your wife and yourself. In commercial life you have not had the promotion and the increase in salary you anticipated, or the place you expected to occupy in the firm has not been vacated. The produce of the farm with which you expected to support yourself and those depending on you and to pay the interest on the mortgage has been far less than you anticipated, or the prices were down, or special expenses for sickness made drafts on your resources that you could not have expected. In some respects the hardest decade of life is the thirties, because the results are generally far less than you anticipated. It is very rare indeed that a young man does as did the young man one Sunday night when he came to me and said: "I have been so marvelously prospered since I came to this country that I feel as a matter of gratitude that I ought to dedicate myself to God." Ninety per cent of the poetry of life has been knocked out of you since you came into the thirties. Men in the different professions and occupations say that you were rising, and they must put an esplanade on you or you might somehow stand in the way. They think you must be suppressed. From 20 to 40 is an especially hard time for young doctors, young lawyers, young merchants, young farmers, young mechanics, young ministers. The struggle of the thirties is for honest and helpful and remunerative recognition. But few old people know how to treat young people without patronizing them on the one hand or snubbing them on the other. Oh, the thirties! Joseph stood before Pharaoh at 30; David was 30 years old when he began to reign; the height of Solomon's empire was 30 cubits; Christ entered upon his active ministry at 30 years of age; Judas sold him for 30 pieces of silver. Oh, the thirties! What a word suggestive of triumph or disaster!

Your decade is the one that will probably afford the greatest opportunity for victory, because there is the greatest necessity for struggle. Read the world's history and know what are the thirties for good or bad. Alexander the Great closed his career at 32; Frederick the Great made Europe tremble with his armies at 35; Cortes conquered Mexico at 30; Grant fought Shiloh and Donelson at 35; Raphael died at 37; Luther was the hero of the reformation at 35; Sir Philip Sidney got through by 32. The greatest deeds for God and against Him were done within the thirties, and your greatest battles are now and between the time when you cease expressing your struggle by putting first a figure 2 and the time when you will cease expressing it by putting first a figure 3. As it is the greatest time of the struggle, I advise you, in God's name and by God's grace, make it the greatest achievement of your life. My prayer is for all those in the tremendous crisis of the thirties. The fact is that by the way you decide the present decade of your history you decide all the following decades.

Next I accost the forties. Yours is the decade of discovery. I do not mean the discovery of the outside, but the discovery of yourself. No man knows himself until he is 40. He overestimates or underestimates himself. By that time he has learned what he can do or what he cannot do. He thought he had commercial genius enough to become a millionaire, but he is satisfied to make a comfortable living. He thought he had rhetorical power that would bring him into the United States senate; now he is content if he can successfully argue a common case before a petit jury. He thought he had medical skill that would make him a Mott or a Grosse or a Willard Parker or a Sims; now he finds his sphere is that of a family physician, prescribing for the ordinary ailments that afflict our race. He was sailing on in a fog and could not take a reckoning, but now it clears up enough to allow him to find out his real latitude and longitude. He has been climbing, but now he has got to the top of the hill, and he takes a long breath. He is half way through the journey, at least, and he is in a position to look backward or forward. He has more good sense than he ever had. He knows human nature, for he has been cheated often enough to see the bad side of it, and he has met so many gracious and kindly and splendid souls he also knows the good side of it. Now, calm yourself. Thank God for the past and deliberately set your compass for another voyage. You have had enough of this world; you have blown enough soap bubbles; you have seen the unsatisfying nature of all earthly things. Open a new chapter with God and the world. This decade of the forties ought to eclipse all its predecessors and outgrowd in usefulness and in happiness.

My sermon next accosts the fifties. How queer it looks when in writing your age you make the first of the two figures a 5. This is the decade which shows what the other decades have been. If a young man has sown wild oats and the seed has lived, you arrange your home life; you fix your habits. Lord God Almighty, for Jesus Christ's sake, have mercy on all the men and women in the twenties! Next I accost those in the thirties. You are at an age when you find what a tough thing it is to get recognized and established in your occupation or profession. Ten years ago you

My sermon next accosts the sixties.

The beginning of that decade is more startling than any other. In his chronological journey the man rides rather smoothly over the time of his advent, and there is some relative a year older and another relative a year younger, and, sure enough, the fact is established beyond all dispute. Sixty! Now your great danger is the temptation to fold up your faculties and quit. You will feel a tendency to reminiscence of the work of your youth. The prime time of your life, because of all the experience you have had. You have committed enough mistakes in life to make you wise above your juniors. Now, under the accumulated light of your past experimenting, go to work and do it right. The time of your life, because of all the experience you have had. You have committed enough mistakes in life to make you wise above your juniors. Now, under the accumulated light of your past experimenting, go to work and do it right. The time of your life, because of all the experience you have had. You have committed enough mistakes in life to make you wise above your juniors. Now, under the accumulated light of your past experimenting, go to work and do it right.

My subject next accosts those in the seventies and beyond.

My subject next accosts those in the seventies and beyond. My word to them is congratulation. You have got nearly if not quite through. You have safely crossed the sea of life and are about to enter the harbor of old age. John Gettysburg and the war is over—here and there a skirmish with the remaining sin of your own heart and the sin of the world, but I guess you are about done. There may be some work for you yet on a small or large scale. Bismarck, of Germany, vigorous in his eighties, died at 80 years of age. John Wesley, stirring great audiences at 85. William C. Bryant, without spectacles, reading in my house "Thanatopsis" at 83 years of age. Christian men and women in all departments serving God after becoming septuagenarians and octogenarians and nonagenarians prove that there are possibilities of work for the aged, but I think you who are passing the seventies are near being through.

But the most of you will never reach the eighties or the seventies or the sixties or into the forties here, one far beyond the average of human life. Amid the uncertainties take God through Jesus Christ as your present and eternal safety. The longest life is only a small fragment of the great eternity. We will all of us soon be there.

Eternity, how vast it rolls! Count the vast value of your souls. Beware and count the awful cost. What they have gained whose souls are