

THE RECORD OF 1902.

A Resume of the Important Events of the Year that has Just Ended.

In the year just closed the greatest event was the settlement of the Boer War, followed by the voting of British millions for the rehabilitation of South Africa; the largest international incident was the work of The Hague tribunal in deciding the "Pious Fund" dispute between the United States and Mexico; the most stupendous financial operation was Mr. Morgan's steamship combine, embracing 141 steamers of 1,100,000 tonnage; the most remarkable condition was the continued increase of American prosperity in spite of the unparalleled coal strike, which was in itself a breaker of all previous records.

More prominent and spectacular seemed the American invasion of European industries and markets, but in reality the domestic showing of American progress was the most dazzling in the whole history of the world. We must go far back to find ground for a proper contrast. Our national debt reached in 1865 its maximum of \$2,381,530,214.96; at the end of 1902 it had been reduced to almost \$900,000,000, the figures for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1902, being \$931,070,340, a decrease of more than \$56,000,000 over the year preceding. All other nations increased their debts during the year; our debt came down more than a million dollars a week, and that, too, against the largest expenditures of any Government. During the year the imports increased and the exports decreased, showing a trade-balance loss of nearly two hundred millions, and yet in spite of that there has been during the past two years an increase of over \$1,300,000,000 in deposits in the national banks, while the deposits in savings and State institutions have shown similar growth. Crops, mining, manufactures and transportation interests all reached their highest totals.

In the Governments of the world few changes were made. The royal deaths included Marie Henrietta, Queen of the Belgians; King Albert, of Saxony, and the Sultan of Zanzibar. Edward VII, by the grace of modern surgery, defied superstition and had a coronation. The Marquis of Salisbury resigned the Premiership to his nephew, Arthur J. Balfour, who continues the Government which has been nicknamed "Hotel Cecil," because so many members of the Cecil family are in its snugger berths. After peace came to South

Africa trouble broke forth anew in Ireland. Russia strengthened its hold on Manchuria and pushed its railroad projects. Germany struggled with its new tariff and suffered from industrial depression. France continued its movement against the church orders. Japan advanced. China dallied in the payments of its war indemnities, and Minister Wu was recalled from Washington. The peace of Asia ended the year in better shape than was expected. There were the usual insurrections in South America, with Venezuela as a storm centre, and the troubles are still hovering. In the United States the Republicans suffered a few losses in the November elections, but not enough to destroy their majority in the new House of Representatives, which majority will be about thirty. Cuba began its experience in free government.

Marconi's wireless telegraphy, in the popular sense, was the greatest scientific achievement. The flying machine, despite the best Santos-Dumont and others could do, failed to make a convincing success. Art, music and the drama were all barren of masterpieces. The outpouring of new books was the largest on record, but none of the "best sellers" reached the figures of the previous year. The deaths in art and literature included Emile Zola, Frank R. Stockton, George Alfred Henty, George Douglas Brown, Edward Eggleston, William Allen Butler, Jean de Bloch, Elbridge S. Brooks, Horace E. Scudder, Aubrey de Vere, John Appleton Brown, Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Dunn English, Junius Henry Brown, Francis Bret Harte, Amos J. Cummings, Paul Leicester Ford, Edward Lawrence Godkin, Jean J. Benjamin-Constant, Madame Durand ("Henri Greville"), Dr. George H. Hepworth, Mrs. Hector ("Mrs. Alexander"), J. J. Tissot, Mrs. Elizabeth Stoddard, Thomas Nast, the cartoonist, and last but not least, Frank Norris. Old-time minstrelsy went out in the deaths, very close together, of Billy West, Billy Emerson and Neil Bryant.

The death of the year that elicited the most comment, not only because of the man himself but also because of his will and his bequests to education, was that of Cecil John Rhodes. Other deaths included the Marquis of Dufferin, Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Charles L. Tiffany, Rev. Dr. Newman Hall, Bishop J. A. Latane, Henry G. Marquand, John P. Altgeld, Noah Davis, the Earl of Kimberly, General Wade Hampton, General Elbert L. Viele, J. Sterling Morton, Potter Palmer, Admiral William T. Sampson, Lord Pauncefoot, John Henry Barrows, Dean Hoffman, Bishop Whipple, William Lidderdale (formerly Governor of the Bank of England), John W. Mackay, Cardinal Ledochowski, Dr. Charles Kendall Adams, Chief Rabbi Jacob Joseph, Senator James McMillan, Major J. W. Powell, Rear-Admirals Jouett and Selfridge, Professor Rudolph Virchow, Judge Horace Gray, George Hoadley, John C. Bullitt, Samuel D. Babcock, Herr

Krupp, Theodore F. Seward, originator of the "Don't Worry" clubs, and Thomas B. Reed.

It was a year of magnificent giving. Mr. Carnegie continued his generosity. The colleges received more students and more millions than ever before. The most important educational movements were toward the shortening of the college term and the reopening of the question of co-education. Football flourished: its fatalities for the year were 13 against 6 in 1901; its seriously injured 85 against 75 in 1901. In general sports the year was more interesting than notable.

Doctor Lorenz toured the country and amazed surgeon and layman alike by his marvelous operations in cases of hip disease. Peary returned safely from a new attempt to locate the Pole. Doctor Loeb made new studies of the origin of life.

Many pressing problems were advanced but not settled. Among these is the inter-ocean canal. The need of a more elastic currency has not been met, although generally recognized. The great subway in New York is still under way. The trust question is before Congress. Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona are knocking for admission to Statehood. The elimination of the colored vote in the South is coming before the courts. The churches have thrived, but they have not advanced much toward a union. The Coal Commission is at work on a definite program of peace and arbitration which may do more for the better relations of labor and capital than a half-century of legislation has been able to accomplish.

Finally, the figure that looms most conspicuously on the horizon for the moment is Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, and the nation that looks largest in the affairs of the world is the United States.—Saturday Evening Post.

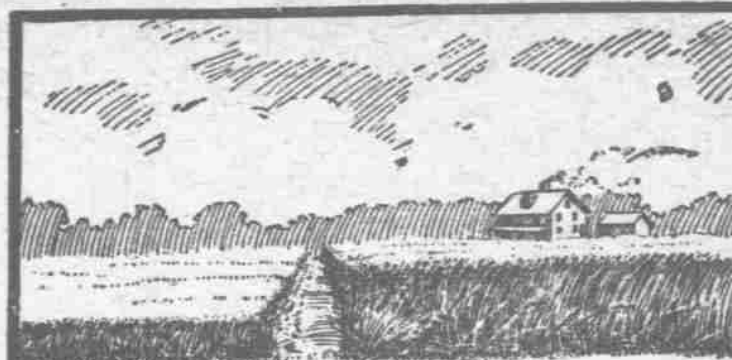
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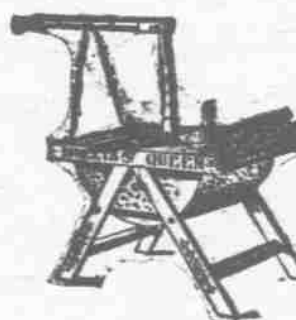
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