

Ambassador Choate a True American.

At a banquet given by the American Society in London last Saturday, Ambassador Choate in his speech said: "I cannot claim or admit that I have become an Englishman. If it is so, I am an Englishman of 17th century with all the modern improvement which go to an American of today."

Referring to the American eagle, he said, the British lion had tried him twice and had found him indigestible.

Mr. Choate struck a serious note in the course of his speech by declaring that all the talk of the Anglo American unity ought to be more than talk and advocated the erection of a statue of Washington in London in the "mutual admiration of both countries."

"It is hard to say," continued the Ambassador, "for which country Washington did most. I also want to see a statue of the great Queen Victoria in Washington. At a critical moment she absolutely saved us from a conflict with Europe."

In this way, he said he hoped that an Anglo-American compact would be sealed. He called the attention of American visitors to the historic association connected with London churches and certain institutions and offered to show them the sights. Senator Depew, following in a humorous vein, suggested the erection of a statue in London to Monroe, and said he felt quite at home in London now, as he found the tariff to be the prevailing topic in Parliament, at the hustings and on the street.

Convicts Tortured.

Gov. Terrell has ordered an investigation of the misdemeanor convict camps of Georgia because of the evidence presented to him that these camps are hotbeds of brutality. The camp to be first investigated is that of Broach Bros. in Oglethorpe county. The governor is his order charges that illegal acts are committed there, including cruel and inhuman whipping, infliction of punishment upon convicts by persons unauthorized by law and failure to provide proper food, clothing, tobacco and sleeping quarters, as required by law. It is alleged that the convicts have almost been cut to pieces by whips, and that they are huddled together at night like brutes. Edward McCrae, a member of the house, runs a convict camp, and he has been charged by a grand jury with holding men in servitude.

Surplus of \$51,000,000.

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Keep says that at the close of the fiscal year, which closed June 30, the national treasury is in excellent shape, with a surplus of \$51,000,000 on hand with which to start the new year. Secretary Shaw estimated twelve months ago that there would be a surplus on June 30 of about \$44,000,000, but the tremendous import business and the heavy internal revenue receipts have tended to swell the government's income beyond the point estimated by the secretary. The expenses of the present year have been considerably more than they were for 1902, and were it not for the fact that the receipts from customs duties have been unexpectedly large, the surplus would have fallen well under the \$50,000,000 mark. There has been a gain in this one item alone of \$30,000,000. The receipts to date from all sources aggregate \$553,519,028, while it has cost to run the government since June 30, 1902, \$503,986,852.

Twin Baby Elephants.

"Lise," the elephant at Bostock's Coney island amphitheater, gave birth to twins Friday. One of them died, but the other is declared to be wonderfully strong.

The twins were the first ever born of an elephant in this county. Harry Tudor, who has charge of "Lise," is an Englishman, and he promptly named the new comer "Shamrock III." and the second one "Reliance." It so happened that "Shamrock III." was the healthy one, while "Reliance" died in an hour.

The body of the dead one was sent to Hart, the taxidermist, with instructions to stuff it as soon as possible.

A Pendleton man has got into print to say that his wife who is seeking a divorce from him carries \$58,000 around in her head either by having her front teeth filled or new ones put in. The brother wants to show that he has been very generous to her. "We don't know but it seems to be a case of a 'strictly' moral man who advertised for a wife in the Eastern States and got none. She was possessed \$160, and a sewing machine and he obtained the \$160, and is now trying to account for it to maintain his high standing in society. A dose of high life would about fit his case.

Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association.

The Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association will be held at Gladstone Park, near Oregon City, July 14th to 25th inclusive. Rate of one and one-third fare on the certificate plan has been made from all points on Oregon Lines. Special attractions have been provided. "Germaine" the magician, with his wonderful productions; R. J. Burdette, the celebrated humorist, will entertain in his usual delightful manner while the lectures of Hon. Champ Clark and Hon. J. P. Dolliver will be an intellectual treat.

Many other attractions will be provided, making the finest entertainment ever given at this Chautauqua.

To Examine the Reserves.

Mortimer Levering, secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association has issued the following letter, which we gladly reproduce:

Through the efforts of this association the department of forestry of the United States has commenced an exhaustive and careful examination of the forest reserves of the Rocky Mountain states and territories, having in view an extension of grazing privileges in such reserves. While the National Wool Growers' Association has always favored the policy of establishing reserves of forest land on water sheds adjacent to the headwaters of principal streams, it has opposed the wholesale reservation of water sheds whether forest lands or not. Owing to the fact that fully 85 per cent of the lands of the Rocky Mountain states can only be used for grazing live stock on the natural grasses, settlers depend largely upon stock raising for subsistence. The wholesale withdrawal of large areas of these lands as forest reserves, without regard to existing conditions, has seriously interfered with the welfare of the resident settlers by depriving them of grazing lands necessary for the existence of their flocks and herds, without which they cannot hope to earn a livelihood.

As an example of the extreme to which the reserve policy has been carried, in Wyoming alone, where stock grazing is the principal industry, the Yellowstone National park, the Shoshone Indian reservation, two military reservations and a large number of forest reserves, have taken away from the use of the settlers fully one-third of the area of the state. In other states conditions are nearly as bad.

It has been the contention of this association that large portions of these forest reserves are in no sense forest lands, and that no good is subserved by depriving the settlers and stockmen of the use of the grazing thereon. By order of the government, Mr. Barrett of the department has already made a careful examination of the new Yellowstone reserve in Wyoming. This examination has proven the truth of the contention of this association, as a large portion of this reserve has already been returned to the public domain and is open for the use of stockmen. Mr. Barrett is now engaged in examining the old Yellowstone reserve.

Mr. W. A. Richards, the new commissioner of the general land office, is giving this matter his personal attention and is at the present time in the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming examining into the conditions. President Roosevelt has also recently taken advantage of his presence in the West to ride through a portion of one of the Wyoming reserves. On Monday, June 1st, the President held a conference with Commissioner Richards at Cheyenne. All reserves will be carefully examined as rapidly as possible. Where practicable, non-forest portions of the reserves will be eliminated and other portions will be opened to grazing by flocks and herds of residents and taxpayers in the vicinity of the reserve.

It is expected that in the establishment of future reserve, only actual forest lands will be included and efforts will be made to accommodate such live stock as belong to settlers and taxpayers now using those lands for grazing purposes.

It is earnestly hoped that this new policy in relation to the forest reserves will greatly relieve the condition of settlers in the vicinity of these reserves.

The officials of the state department assert positively that a close examination of precedent justifies the presentation by the United States of the Jewish petition to Russian government and that no government has a right to object to the presentation of such a petition, nor has the government a right to object if the presentation is declined. This means that the United States will not find ground to quarrel with Russia if the czar refuses to receive the petition now being prepared by the the counsel of B'nai B'rith.

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