

# The Roupell Mystery

By Austyn Granville

## CHAPTER XIV.

The vicomte de Valier was seated alone in his private room in the office of the Mutual Credit and Trust Company. It was a luxuriously furnished apartment. The chairs were deep, roomy and soft. They seemed made on purpose to lull one into feelings of security. It was about ten o'clock in the morning. The vicomte's private secretary had just retired loaded down with papers and instructions. His employer sat at the table, a pile of documents on either side, and before him a single sheet, upon which an astonishing array of figures appeared.

Minute after minute passed, and still the calculations went on. At last he threw down his pencil, and walked over to the window. Partly concealed by the curtains, he looked out on the throng of people which passed up and down the street. But he hardly noticed anybody. He was really lost in his reflections.

He had, indeed, good reason to be thoughtful. A gigantic scheme, the floating of which would insure him very large returns, had that very morning been put by him before a syndicate of capitalists. It was no less a one than the consolidation of the docking interests of a great French seaport. The plan was to bring all the owners together and form a trust on what is known as the American plan, and then raise the dock tolls. With the existing keen competition and the low charges resulting therefrom, that property at present yielded but a small return for the capital invested.

The idea was a brilliant one. It would net the Mutual Credit and Trust Company, if successful, three million francs, and the Mutual Credit and Trust Company virtually meant the vicomte de Valier. He had already enlisted considerable financial aid in support of the scheme. He was that morning expecting an addition to his forces in the person of M. D'Auburon, the friend of that very useful M. Chabot, who had introduced him to the vicomte but a few days previously.

To tell this young man a big block of shares in the new enterprise, would, the vicomte thought, not be a very difficult task. He had entertained him at his house only an evening or two ago. The splendor of that occasion could not have failed to properly impress him.

Then his wife, the vicomtesse, had so ably seconded his efforts to make D'Auburon feel that he was in good hands. She had talked glibly of their country place, a magnificent establishment on the outskirts of the famous forest of Fontainebleau, of woodland rides, of moonlit waters, and the felicitous of rural life far away from the roar and din of Paris. Those marvelous eyes of hers had looked into his very soul and enthralled his senses.

De Valier smiled as he thought how few who had come within their influence had gotten away unscathed. A knock at the door aroused him.

"Come in," he cried out, and Jules Chabot entered the room.

"Where is your friend D'Auburon?" was de Valier's first question.

M. Chabot did not immediately reply. He sank into a chair. He seemed anxious and worried, and out of sorts.

"What on earth's the matter with you? You're not ill, are you?" ejaculated the banker.

"It's my nerves, I think. They're not so strong as they used to be."

"You haven't been yourself for some time, ever since that ugly affair at Villeneuve," remarked de Valier, sympathetically.

Chabot shuddered, and hid his face in his hands as if to shut out some horrible sight.

"Don't speak of it," he almost whispered, so faint was his voice. "Yes, it was enough to upset anybody."

"It was a peculiar hardship on you, Jules, just as you were on the point of succeeding as you say with—let me see, what's her name—Mademoiselle Emily, wasn't it?"

"Let's change the subject. I came to tell you something about D'Auburon. I have discovered, on inquiry, that he is even better fixed than I expected. How big a block of stock had you put apart for him in the United Dock Company?"

"A thousand shares I thought would be ample. You know Colbert-Remplin brings us a large following, and there are Bonaparte and the rest. Still, some subscribers will doubtless fail us at the last moment. Why do you ask?"

"It is not enough. He has some very wealthy friends. Only last night he was speaking of one, who, he says, follows his lead implicitly. He is a Swiss. He pays periodical visits to Paris, and it is said invests very largely in anything that strikes his fancy."

"That's not bad news. What is this Swiss name?"

"He did not tell me," replied Chabot. "He simply said if he thought well enough of the venture to put his own money in, that he would advise his friend to do likewise, if we needed additional capital. What are shares to him?"

"Par—of course. It is easier to sell at par than at fifteen francs on the one hundred. The one inspires confidence in a scheme, the other simply excites suspicion. In fact, I'm not sure but we will put some premium on these Dock Company shares. A little premium always makes them more attractive."

"But there are seven millions of water in it."

"A proof concern like this dock trust will stand a good deal of water," replied the financier. "After all, what does it matter? All these people will have a chance to sell out at a profit when we declare our first quarterly dividend. Those whom we want to make use of in the future can be given a hint when to unload their holdings."

"But ultimately the loss falls on somebody."

"And that somebody is the public who cares for us—well—about as much as we care for them."

M. Chabot remained closeted with the banker for nearly an hour, settling the remaining details of the dock scheme. A printed draft of the prospectus had to be gone over; the first directors of the company had to be chosen, care being taken to place upon the board the names of

such capitalists as would inspire the public with confidence.

"Let me see," said the banker, running his eyes rapidly over a list which he held in his hand. "We have Liquelet, Bousent, of Bousent; the elder Paltois—he is good; and Max Ramont says he is with us in case we get to an issue. The remainder of the board must be given to the dock people. They will, of course, expect some representation."

"To be sure," acquiesced Chabot, "but we must contrive to have with us only those who are open to arguments."

"Yes, that is it, my friend; open to arguments," echoed the vicomte.

"Of your usually persuasive kind," added Chabot. "Every man has his price, to be sure, nowadays."

"And always did have. In these times, commercial enterprises, my dear fellow, assume proportions of which our ancestors never dreamed. They were just as dishonest then, if you call manipulation dishonesty, which I candidly confess I do—but their ideas were smaller. Hence the difference. Besides," he added, laying his hand impressively upon the other's sleeve, "this thing must go through. I think you, above all others, are aware of the necessity. The fact is, my dear Chabot, there have been many heavy pulls on the Mutual Credit bank lately. One cannot offer eight per cent on special deposits and always be sure of making more by using the depositors' money. Then there was the dividend on the Ardennes Charcoal and Peat Company. You know it was never earned; but we decided that it would be best to pay one."

"Well, the consequence was you placed the bonds at par, didn't you?"

"At par to the public, of course, but Herr Goldstein's commission took the gilt of the gingerbread. However, he took them all at eighty-five. I could not have placed them to such good advantage."

"The interest comes due on the sixteenth. I suppose it is useless to cross that bridge until we come to it."

"Before the sixteenth this dock company will be floated. The bank's profit on that will more than meet the interest of the Charcoal and Peat Company bonds."

"And if it isn't floated?" hazarded Chabot.

"If it isn't floated the inevitable crash will begin, or it can be averted in another way, my dear Chabot, about which I cannot talk at present. But we will not anticipate evil. Come, you must accompany me to the Bourse this morning. I have a heavy deal pending, and shall need your assistance."

As the vicomte de Valier and Jules Chabot left the office of the Mutual Credit and Trust Company a small-sized man issued from a cafe on the opposite side of the street and walked in an apparently careless and preoccupied manner in the same direction. He followed them until they turned into a broker's office. Presently they came forth again, and in company with a third person continued to walk in the direction of the Bourse.

This third person was Herr Max Goldstein, one of the shrewdest dealers in securities in the whole of Paris. He was the broker to whom the vicomte had entrusted the sale of the first mortgage bonds of the Ardennes Charcoal and Peat Company. He was a heavy, thickset fellow, with little, cunning eyes, which had been set together as closely as nature would allow; had not an enormous nose grown between them, he would perhaps have had only one large eye in the center. He had a habit of cocking up his head when in conversation, and of listening with his mouth wide open. He had commenced life in Berlin as a bootblack with a second-hand outfit. At the conclusion of the first day's work he had accumulated enough to buy the best outfit in the city. In a week he had concluded that open air work was not to his liking, and took his business off the street into a basement, where he thrived apace.

Then the brilliant idea struck him of buying and selling theater tickets at cut rates. From this he gravitated into lotteries; from lotteries into small curbsone speculations. Hardly able to write his own name, the trading instinct was so strongly developed in him that in ten years he had accumulated a very considerable fortune.

Why Herr Goldstein had not continued his uninterrupted career of prosperity in Berlin was a mystery to his friends in Paris. As he seemed to have plenty of money, however, none of them had ever dreamed of inquiring why he preferred the French to the German capital as a base for his financial operations. After all, was it any of their business?

Herr Goldstein was about forty-five years of age, but looked considerably older. Constant fighting with all sorts and conditions of men had left deep furrows across his forehead. Ladies said that without doubt he was a very unprepossessing man. He seemed to have some extraordinary influence with the vicomte, and people were lost in conjecture as to what that could be.

The small followed de Valier, M. Chabot and Herr Goldstein to the very entrance of the Bourse. Unable to obtain admission to the floor, he had recourse to the gallery. It was nearly empty. An old lady and a young couple from the country, evidently on their honeymoon trip, were its sole occupants. He sat in the gallery for upward of an hour, his gaze constantly on the floor of the exchange, where the vicomte, the broker ever at his elbow, moved restlessly from group to group, manipulating his deals.

When Herr Goldstein left the Bourse twenty minutes later unaccompanied by his companions, the small man tapped him on the elbow. The broker started violently; the creases in his face grew stronger; a perceptible flush overspread his features.

"Galliard!" he gasped. "I'm glad to see you!"

"As good a hand at a lie as ever, ain't you, Kaufman?" sneered the small man. "Hush, don't breathe that name here," whispered the broker, looking around him nervously. "That belongs to the past. Come with me. Come to my office, where

we can be alone. How long have you been in Paris?"

"About six months."

"During which time—"

"During which time I have been working—for whom do you think?"

"I don't know. You have got into business, perhaps for yourself—or you would, if you had sufficient capital. If a good friend—if I, for instance, showed you how you could make some money it would suit you, would it not?"

"No, I have a pretty good berth, thank you."

"It is a perfect gold mine for you; if you will only hold your tongue."

The small man only smiled significantly. The two walked on side by side until the broker's office was reached.

"Come in," said the broker, in a coaxing voice, "and tell me what you want."

The small man passed in through the open door and went into the broker's office.

"See that under no circumstances am I disturbed," was the instruction Herr Max gave to his clerk. "I have important business with this gentleman."

Four o'clock came, and Herr Goldstein came out and sent the clerk home. It was an hour earlier than usual, but the clerk was glad to get away. He lived in a small flat and had a wife and four children to support. He could take his time now and walk home instead of paying for a seat in an omnibus. The hours went by. It was past midnight when the two men came out of the inner office and into the street.

"I live on the other side. Student quarters," said Goldstein. "Come with me, I'll put you up for the night. We must cross by the Pont Neuf."

"You must make it fifty thousand."

"That's cheap enough. Old friends shouldn't be hard on each other."

A fearful expression came over the other's face as they neared the bridge. Fifty thousand francs. An enormous sum. And if he paid it—what then? He had but this fellow's word that he would keep silence.

They stopped for a moment in the center of the bridge and set down unsteadily on one of the embrasures. It was two o'clock. The lights flashed along the river. Behind and in front of them arose the dull roar of Paris which ceases not by night nor by day. Looking over the low parapet they could see the dark waters of the river as they swirled below.

"You will make it fifty thousand, will you not?" urged the small man.

He uttered no cry as the hand of the broker closed upon his throat with an iron grasp; but for a moment or two he struggled desperately as he realized the other's purpose. But the broker seemed to have become suddenly sober. The small man was like a child in his terrible clutches. He raised him to the top of the low parapet and whispered hoarsely:

"I will send you where you won't need the money."

Then he flung the blackmailer from him with the force of a catapult. The waters received the detective and closed over his head. He had not time to utter a cry.

The broker passed quickly from the bridge and, plunging into a narrow street which diverged from the main thoroughfare, soon gained his apartments. Arrived there, he threw himself, dressed as he was, upon the sofa, and slept soundly till daylight.

Three days passed; some workmen on a brick barge drew from the black and slimy river the body of a man which bore upon its throat the marks of fingers. At the morgue Victor Lablanche, the prefect of police, recognized in the murdered man the detective he had put on the track of M. Chabot.

"Poor fellow!" he exclaimed, as he examined the finger marks at his throat. "A tiger must have seized him. He was first strangled and then thrown into the river."

And the sole clue he had was this: The murderer must have had enormous hands.

(To be continued.)

### Story of Sojourner Truth.

The late Theodore Tilton, who boasted that he had never had a pipe, cigar or cigarette in his mouth, used to declare that the most inveterate smoker he ever knew was Sojourner Truth, the famous freedwoman reformer and lecturer. He was wont to tell how one day, when the venerable dame, then about 90 years old, was on a visit to his house, she sat smoking her pipe by the chimney corner, when George W. Bungay, the author of several eloquent anti-tobacco tracts, called to see her.

"Aunt Sojourner," he said, "I reverse your character, but I deplore your smoking, for it will keep you forever out of heaven."

"Lawkes, honey, how so?" she asked.

"Because, Anny," he rejoined, "you know that, according to the Good Book, nothing entereth there that defileth. Now, how do you expect to get into heaven with your breath defiled by tobacco?"

"Lawkes, honey," answered the old negress, "when I go to heaven I 'spect to leave my breff behind me!"

**Too Exception.**

"Remember, brothers," shouted the orator of the strenuous life, "I haven't any use for mollycoddlers."

The very old gentleman who was sitting in the last row removed his pipe and retorted.

"Wal, by heck, mister, even if you haven't any use for Molly Coddles you needn't stand thar and talk behind her back, seein' that she is not present to defend herself."

**Cause for Thanks.**

Church—"There's one thing to be said in favor of the phonograph."

Gotham—"I'd just like to know what it is?"

"Well, they haven't succeeded in making a record reproducing all the noise one hears on the Fourth of July."—Yonkers Statesman.

**Just Possible.**

Her—What is meant by "going from bad to worse?"

Him—Getting a divorce and marrying again, I believe.

## GRAIN CROPS SHORT, BUT WORTH FAR MORE

### Government Final Estimate Shows Great Decline in Cereal Production.

### PRICES MAKE FARMERS HAPPY.

### They Will Get Half a Billion of Dollars More This Year than Last.

The government report shows a shortage of 785,987,000 bushels in total crops as compared with the crops of 1906, which were the largest ever raised in this country, and a shortage of 377,287,000 bushels as compared with the yields of 1905, which were also very large.

The chief shortage is in the corn crop, with 335,000,000 bushels, oats with 211,000,000 bushels and wheat with 101,000,000 bushels.

There is something of an offset to the big losses in the feeding grains in the increase of 6,431,000 tons of hay as compared to that of 1906, and of 3,045,388 tons as compared to the crop of 1905.

Prominent features of the final revision of its crop estimates for the year by the Department of Agriculture were the increases made in the reports of area seeded to spring wheat, corn and oats. In each of these particulars as well as in the estimated weight of spring wheat and oats the official re-

### CROPS OF UNITED STATES FOR THREE YEARS.

	1907, bu.	1906, bu.	1905, bu.
Winter wheat	408,442,000	402,888,004	428,462,824
Spring wheat	224,645,000	242,372,006	264,516,035
Total wheat	633,087,000	735,260,070	692,978,859
Corn	2,592,320,000	2,927,416,091	2,707,993,546
Oats	754,443,000	964,904,522	953,216,177
Rye	31,596,000	33,374,833	27,616,042
Barley	153,317,000	178,916,484	136,651,628
Buckwheat	14,290,000	14,641,937	14,535,095
Flaxseed	25,851,000	25,576,146	28,477,754
Potatoes	297,942,000	308,038,382	290,741,281
Total	5,137,903,000	5,923,890,235	5,515,189,888
Hay, tons	63,577,000	57,145,959	60,531,615

ports ran more or less counter to the general impressions of speculators. In a few instances, such as the weight of oats, the figures given were at variance with all the experiences of the trade for the year to date.

### Figures of the Report.

The report gave final estimates of acreage, production and value of farm crops, showing winter wheat acreage to be 28,132,000, production 408,442,000 bushels and value per bushel 88.2 cents.

Spring wheat acreage was 17,079,000, production 224,645,000 bushels and value 86 cents.

Corn acreage was 99,931,000, production 2,592,320,000 bushels and value 51.7 cents.

Oats acreage was 31,837,000, production 754,443,000 bushels and value 44.3 cents.

It was announced that the total value of the farm crops for 1907 was \$3,404,000,000, an increase of \$428,000,000 for 1906.

The farm value on Dec. 1 of the four crops already mentioned follows: Corn, \$1,340,446,000; winter wheat, \$361,217,000; spring wheat, \$193,220,000; oats, \$334,568,000.

The comparative prices for the grain crops for the past three years follow:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Wheat	81.7	66.7	74.8	92.4
Corn	51.7	39.9	41.2	44.1
Oats	44.3	31.7	29.1	31.8
Rye	73.1	58.9	60.7	68.8
Barley	44.3	41.5	40.8	42.0
Buckwheat	69.8	59.0	58.7	62.2
Flax	95.6	101.8	95.0	99.3
Potatoes	61.7	51.1	61.7	43.3
Hay	\$11.68	\$10.37	\$8.52	\$8.72

### Aeroplane's Circular Flight.

Henry Farman has continued his marvelous flights at Paris with his famous aeroplane, built by the Voisin brothers on the general plan of the Chanute soarer. Before a great and wildly enthusiastic throng of people he repeatedly maneuvered his machine one kilometer in a complete circle, returning to the point of departure. This was regarded as a demonstration of practical aerial flight by machines heavier than air or without the aid of gas bags. The machine first rolled slowly along the ground on its two pneumatic tires; then, as the speed increased from the action of the propellers, the big winged thing shot off into the air at a gentle angle, all the time Mr. Farman steering with apparent ease and confidence and keeping an even keel and a steady course to the turning point and back. The machine resembles a huge dragon fly, with upper and lower sets of wings attached to a light frame carrying motor, machinery and operator.

### INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS.

President B. F. Winchell of the Rock Island at Guthrie, Okla., and his road would accept the 2-cent fare provision of the Oklahoma constitution.

Gov. Vardaman of Mississippi was prevailed upon to take a ride in Baldwin's airship at Jackson, Miss. Ten feet above the ground was the limit and the trip was very short.

William E. Shiebler, the telegraph operator who received the first message over the Atlantic cable sent to President Buchanan by Queen Victoria died in Brooklyn, N. Y. He also received the message from the front announcing the fall of Richmond at the close of the Civil War.

## UNCLE SAM A CAPITALIST.

### As a Shipbuilder Outranks All Others in the United States.

The United States government maintains nine navy yards, representing a capitalization of more than \$60,000,000 and employing nearly 15,000 men, including officers. The total wages paid in the navy yards of the government is approximately \$10,000,000 annually, the cost of materials used being about \$7,000,000 annually and the value of the products, depending upon the number of vessels built, runs well up into the millions every year. In 1905 the output of the government yards was over \$17,000,000.

As a shipbuilder the government outranks all other ship owners in the United States. In 1904 the government launched 170,000 tons of battle ships of more than 1,000 tons burden each. While only 3.7 per cent of all vessels launched that year were the property of the nation, these vessels constituted 27.7 per cent of the total tonnage launched that year. These same vessels represented also more than half the value of all vessels over five tons launched, the contract value of the government ships being \$30,513,000. Despite its own facilities for building and repairing warships, only one government yard has been used in recent years for turning out a modern up-to-date battle ship.

All told, the government owns fifteen dry docks where vessels of the navy undergo most of their repairs. All but two of these are located on the Atlantic coast. Another dock is being completed on Puget sound, giving three on the Pacific coast. In addition to the naval dry docks there are thirty-eight in the United States owned by private corporations or individuals. In time of war the navy should find no trouble in taking care of its smaller vessels, but the big battle ships would

have long distances to travel on either coast, in event of injury, before finding adequate docking facilities.

## HALF A MILLION A DAY.

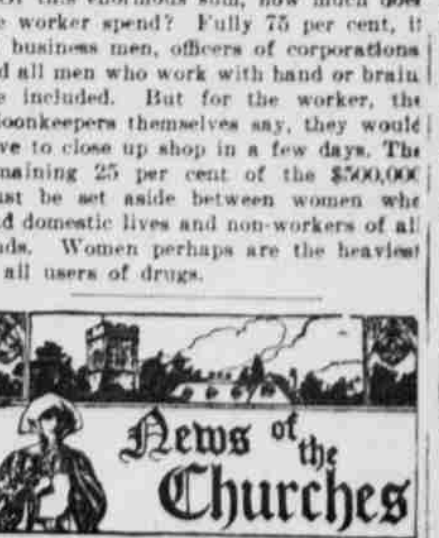
### That Is the Amount Which Chicago Puts Into Stimulants.

Chicago's consumption of stimulants is amazing, according to a correspondent. The money spent in saloons alone total up between \$120,000,000 and \$130,000,000 annually. At least \$10,000,000 more is spent for stimulating drugs in the 900 drug stores in the city.

If tobacco can be classed as a stimulant it may be said that there are between 35,000 and 40,000 places in the city where cigars and tobacco are sold. Probably \$100,000 per day is not an exaggerated estimate for Chicago's smoking bill.

At the lowest estimate, taking alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and all manner of drugs into account, it is impossible to figure that Chicago spends less than \$500,000 per day on stimulants of various kinds, and the chances are the amount is considerably higher.

Of this enormous sum, how much does the worker spend? Fully 75 per cent, it is believed, goes to the owners of saloons and all men who work with hand or brain are included. But for the worker, the saloonkeepers themselves say, they would have to close up shop in a few days. The remaining 25 per cent of the \$500,000 must be set aside between women who lead domestic lives and non-workers of all kinds. Women perhaps are the heaviest of all users of drugs.



The Universalist general convention at Philadelphia listened with approval to the plea for closer fellowship between their denomination and the Unitarian, made by Rev. Lewis G. Wilson, secretary of the American Unitarian Association.

The Evangelical general conference, at its recent session at Milwaukee, took a decisive step toward the union of the Evangelical church and the United Evangelical church, adopting the report of the committee on revision, which recommended the appointment of a commission from each church to arrange details of the union. It was also decided to open negotiations with other Protestant churches, including the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Congregationalists, with a view to a federation on all lines of church work into which denominational differences do not enter.

Under the direction of Rev. Hugh Birkhead and his associates of St. George's Episcopal church, New York, a club has been started on lines similar to that maintained by Emmanuel church, Boston, and Christ Presbyterian church of New York, namely, its membership made up entirely of persons having incipient tuberculosis. Each member promises to care for his health, to give up all work, stop worrying, live an outdoor life and obey all the rules of the club. All are supplied with a tent attachment to be fastened to the window sills so that they may sleep with their heads in the open air. Weekly meetings are held, when all tell of their progress.

## THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1492—Columbus discovered the island now called San Domingo and Haiti.
- 1512—The British admiralty office established by Henry VIII.
- 1680—Penn. colonists met at Chester to organize the territory.
- 1754—Prussians defeated the Austrians and Saxons at battle of Lissa.
- 1775—American force appeared before Quebec.
- 1777—New Jersey's first newspaper sued at Burlington.
- 1780—Gen. Nathaniel Greene assumed command of the Southern army.
- 1783—Washington took leave of the officers of the army.
- 1787—Delaware, the first State, ratified the constitution.
- 1790—Washington delivered his last address to Congress.
- 1804—Napoleon I. crowned in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris.
- 1810—Mauritius taken by the English.
- 1814—Gen. Jackson took command of American forces at New Orleans.
- 1829—Suttee, the Hindu rite of burning a widow on the funeral pyre of her husband, abolished in India.
- 1838—French evacuated Vera Cruz.
- 1850—Gen. Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, arrived in New York.
- 1855—Railway communication opened between Hamilton and Toronto, Ontario.
- 1859—John Brown executed.... Premises of Queensland, Australia, established.
- 1861—Secretary of the Treasury Chase recommended a rearrangement of the national banking system.
- 1863—Gen. Longstreet raised the siege of Knoxville.
- 1865—United States protested against the French occupation of Mexico.
- 1866—Great reform demonstrations in London trades unions.
- 1868—Disraeli ministry resigned and Gladstone became premier.
- 1873—Serious riots at Vicksburg, Miss.
- 1875—President Grant recommended non-sectarian and compulsory election in his message to Congress.
- 1876—Daniel H. Chamberlain sworn in as Governor of South Carolina.... Several hundred lives lost in the burning of the Brooklyn theater.
- 1881—Electric street lights introduced at Philadelphia.
- 1882—Royal Courts of Justice opened at Queen Victoria.
- 1886—Panic on the Stock Exchange at San Francisco.
- 1888—Henry M. Stanley arrived at Zanzibar on his return from an exploring expedition to central Africa.... John J. Ingalls introduced the Chicago World's Fair bill in Congress.
- 1891—Great damage by forest fire in California.
- 1893—Senate called upon President Cleveland for all correspondence in the Hawaiian matter.
- 1894—U. S. Treasury reserve reached its highest mark in years, standing at \$111,142,000.
- 1896—Defeat of the Cuban insurgents and death of the rebel leader, Maceo.
- 1897—German marines took possession of Kiao Chan, China.
- 1905—Massacre of Jews at Kiev, Russia.



Members of the Railroad Conductors' Order and of the Brotherhood of Trainmen are working together in formulating demands which they expect to make at a vote on the proposition to ask for a raise in wages is now in progress. The movement involves 75,000 employes of sixty-five different lines east of the Mississippi. Besides increase in pay, reductions in the rules of service are to be demanded.

In the Federal District Court at Los Angeles Judge Welborn imposed a fine of \$330,000 upon the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad upon its conviction and Santa Fe granted rebates to the last July for granting rebates to the Grand Canyon Line and Cement Company of Arizona. The judge said that the company had been assessed \$1,250,000. The company had asserted that the alleged rebates were paid on account of damaged goods.

A reduction in force extending through all departments of the Burlington railroad has been ordered, which will amount to 10,000 before the end of December. At the same time, working hours have been cut from nine to eight.

The series of locomotive speed tests conducted by the Pennsylvania Railroad at Clayton, N. J., ended Wednesday when electric engine No. 628, owned by the New Haven road, attained a speed of a little over ninety-two miles an hour. This was, however, still short of the record of ninety-nine miles made by a steam locomotive last week.