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tistics to show that water traffic aided in prospering the affairs of the railroads. In the final session the convention elected unanimously Congressman Jos. E. Ransdell, of Louisiana, and Captain J. F. Ellison, of Cincinnati, president and secretary, respectively. Delegates were present from 30 states and from Hawaii and Alaska. The great growth of the organization was shown by the fact that it was found necessary to increase the board of directors from 23 to 32, in order that every geographical section might have representation.

Secretary Ellison stated that there is to be no abatement of the campaign to include in the membership of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress every believer in waterways development in the United States. It was proposed at the meeting, and greeted with applause, that \$50,000 be raised by the members and turned into the organization's treasury in order that interest might be aroused and results accomplished.

The resolutions adopted by the convention again endorsed the platform of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress which stands for an appropriation bill carrying not less than \$50,000,000 a year for the improvement of rivers and harbors. The resolutions presented a complete summary of the work accomplished by the convention. In them was urged "the immediate adoption by the federal government of a wide liberal and comprehensive waterway policy that will provide for the proper improvement, within the next ten years, of the rivers, waterways and harbors of our country, the improvement of which is justified by present and prospective benefits to commerce."

Copies of these resolutions were presented to President Roosevelt, Vice-President Fairbanks and Speaker Cannon by a committee composed of President Ransdell, Secretary Ellison, and the entire strength of the board of directors.

The convention came to a close with a reception at the White House, in the course of which President Roosevelt pointed to the reference in his message to the work of waterways development as evidence of his strong interest in the question. Then he grasped the hands of more than 2,000 members of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, told each he was d-e-lighted, smiled incessantly to the finish—and the fourth annual convention of the organization was at an end.

Holiday Greeting:
 The happy CHRISTMAS time is fast approaching and I take great pleasure in inviting you to inspect my new and well selected line of Diamonds, Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Solid Silver and plated ware, Cut Glass, Umbrellas, and Gold and Silver novelties. I have the largest and finest stock this year to select from that I have ever shown in Astoria. PRICES are RIGHT! QUALITY UNSUR PASSED. Come early and make your selections. I will lay them away until you want them.

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 Old Sherry—Pale, clean, nutty.
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 Muscatel—Very fruity, sweet.

SPARKLING SEC DRY—Fragrant, effervescent.
RED WINES
 Zinfandel—Clean, light table wine.
 Burgundy—Medium bodied, mellow.
 Sparkling Burgundy—Brilliant, pleasant

WHITE WINES
 Riesling—Medium light table wine.
 Sauterne—Natural mellow, pronounced flavor.
 Chateau Yquem—Full bodied Creme of Sauternes.

Grape Juice, Maraschino cherries, fruit and Cognac Brandies, and a full line of Cordials.

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 MUSIC BOOKS STATIONERY

WEATHER.
 Western Oregon and Washington—Partly cloudy; probably occasional rain; westerly winds.
 Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho—Fair.

MURDER, AND SEMI-MURDER.
 Just now the good people of Portland are all agog with excitement over an out-and-out murder, and a case of semi-murder. The former being the case of young Du Puis who was deliberately shot to death in a saloon at midnight on Wednesday; the latter, being the case of wilful public aspersion of the character of a notable and very popular actress. Both cases are bad enough from any point of view, but the unwarranted assault upon the good name of Fritz Scheff, the famous young actress, is the worst of the two.

Never in all her career at home in Europe and throughout the Americas, has one word of derogation ever been heard of this young and brilliant woman and, as an actress, this has been one of her greatest and most valuable assets. Whosoever she has been, wide as has been the scope of public writing in relation to her work and individuality, not a whisper has gone forth to her dishonor, until she reached Portland, and there she fell a victim to the vicious imagination of an irresponsible reporter on the staff of the Journal, and the woman is ill from the effect of the witless, wanton slander.

There is nothing more wretchedly cruel than the public lie. It may be met with prompt and indisputable denial; refuted to the last syllable of its untruth; but the shadow of it, the poison of it, the unescapable tang of its mere utterance, cling for years and cause infinite shame and sorrow. It is semi-murder, in that it does not kill; it stabs and wounds and disfigures, but it leaves the troubled years of life to accentuate its bitterness, its undeservedness; it is cruelty that may never be accounted for, palliated, nor made good. There is absolutely no excuse, nor explanation, to serve the wanton fool who senselessly attacks the name of a pure woman in a public print. Such mistakes are made but once by anyone if the woman has kin or friends.

ELIMINATING THE WEAK.

One of the very best things that can happen to this country is in process, day by day now, and is doing more to re-establish confidence in the financial world than anything else could: That is the eliminating of weak banks and weaker men presumably in charge of the peoples' money. First the banks that could not stand alone have gone to the wall, and their exclusion and settlement once for all, is being followed by the self-immolation of those who were primarily responsible for the conditions precedent. It is infinitely sad that these results must obtain, but it is good for the people at large and the end of it all will be to clarify and strengthen the monetary situation and restore the disturbed balances from one end of the country to the other; indeed, that very process is underway and fast rounding into fact.

Astoria, throughout the whole unpleasant eight weeks has been a rarely successful center. Her banks have been solid and conservative and reasonable in all their relations and have made a deservedly fine showing; there have been no failures of any kind, financial nor mercantile; one of the brightest elements of the situation here being the successful launching of still another banking house right in the very midst of the monetary excitement, an indubitable sign of the solidity and safety of conditions and an extraordinary mani-

festation of public and private confidence. The New York situation is again practically normal; money is easier, and call money rates have dropped steadily as the mists of doubt and danger arose; and this attitude gives tone and color to the whole situation between both coasts.

A MUSICAL WAR.

Some of the great composers of music, poets, writers and actors in this world of ours are very sore because the makers of phonographic records are using their creations broadcast, as they allege, without authority. This is news to the public; since it had always been widely accepted that these people (such as Sousa, for instance), had, voluntarily, sung and played and read and recited into the receiving instruments of the record-concerns, just for the sake of an extended popularity; at least these master-pieces have been advertised in this fashion; and this explosion throws the mantle of doubt over the whole situation. At all events, a war has been declared and the battle-ground is to be in Washington, in the departments next to such businesses.

There is a nice question involved in this uproar, and it is likely to find its way to the top of the confusion of argument, namely, the principle, that when a song is sung to the public, when a book is published and sold to the public, when a speech is made in public, every note and line and word and sentiment, instantly become the property of that public, and can never be recalled, suppressed nor abridged in any way. We have never seen this argument urged that we know of, but good lawyers have maintained it and the abstract principle is one of exact and equitable justice; and if it is to prevail in this contention against the phonographic people, the results will be disastrous to those authors who rely upon the public for the acceptance and commendation of their work.

Weary of the dilatory policy of Wall street the farmers of the west are maturing a plan to import their own gold and move their own crops.

Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup, the new Laxative stimulates, but does not irritate. It is the best Laxative. Guaranteed or your money back. Sold by T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

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Lane's Family Medicine is a tonic-laxative. It does not depress or weaken, but imparts a feeling of buoyancy and strength that is delightful. At all druggists 25c.

Congress will study the currency situation. The man with a theory who wants immediate action is not as safe an adviser as Davy Crockett.

Notice to Our Customers—
 We are pleased to announce that Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds and lung trouble is not affected by the National Pure Food and Drug law as it contains no opiates or other harmful drugs, and we recommend it as a safe remedy for children and adults. Sold by T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

COFFEE
 Good coffee is partly in buying and partly in making; like everything else.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like Schilling's Best; we pay him.

RIVERS AND HARBORS
Fourth Annual Convention Passes Into History.

ROOT AROUSES ENTHUSIASM
 Governors of States, Railroad Magnates and Many Prominent Americans Make Pledge to Help Secure Appropriations For Waterways Development.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13. — Formally opened by Elihu Root, Secretary of State, and brought to a formal close by Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, the fourth annual convention of the National Rivers & Harbors Congress has passed into history as the greatest gathering of its kind ever held in the western hemisphere. More than 2,000 delegates attended it. They came from every section of the nation, and cabinet officers, members of Congress, governors of states and heads of big railroad systems expressed their sympathy with the organization's policy and pledged their support in the effort being made to have an annual appropriation bill of not less than \$50,000,000 passed by the national legislature.

Secretary Root aroused the greatest enthusiasm when he declared the administration was in heartiest accord with the organization and its work. He referred to a remark made by a speaker at the last convention to the effect that the National Rivers & Harbors Congress should go slow in its demand for heavy appropriations, and that it should not attempt to cross a bridge before it came to it. Leaning forward Mr. Root spoke slowly and distinctly, so that his voice was audible in every part of the great hall, in reply to the expression of a year before!

"Some reference was made at your last meeting to not crossing a bridge before you reach it," he said. "Gentleman, we have now reached that bridge!"

Within the first few minutes of his address the Secretary of State coined the phrase that ruled throughout the convention. Almost every speaker made reference to it. In fact, had a stranger wandered into the convention he might have been at a loss to determine immediately whether the orators were discussing waterways or bridge building.

The second day of the session saw six governors of states on the platform, each of whom pledged the enthusiastic support of his state and section to the furtherance of waterways improvement. The six who spoke were Dawson of West Virginia; Glenn of North Carolina; Johnson of Minnesota; Cummins of Iowa; Comer of Alabama and Hoke Smith of Georgia. In addition, former Governor Pardee of California and Lieutenant Governor Davidson of Texas were on the program the same day.

One significant feature of the meeting was the appearance of James J. Hill, head of the Great Northern system, and President Finley of the Southern Railway. These railroad magnates addressed the convention and proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that railroad opposition to waterways development had been entirely removed.

As a matter of fact, the attitude of the railroads now is one of appeal, rather than a menace. Both Mr. Hill and Mr. Finley agreed that unless some auxiliary means of transportation is developed, the commerce of the country will be halted and hard times set in, disastrous to all business enterprise, including their own. They produced sta-

Muscular Pains Cured.
 "During the summer of 1903 I was troubled with muscular pains in the instep of my foot," says Mr. S. Pedlar, of Toronto, Ont. "At times it was so painful I could hardly walk. Chamberlain's Pain Balm was recommended to me, so I tried it and was completely cured by one small bottle. I have since recommended it to several of my friends, all of whom speak highly of it." For sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

DAYS OF DIZZINESS.
 Come to Hundreds of Astoria People.
 There are days of dizziness; Spells of headache, sideache, backache; Sometimes rheumatic pains; Often urinary disorders. All tell you plainly the kidneys are sick. Doan's Kidney Pills cure all kidney ills. Here is proof in Astoria. Mrs. E. Haggblom, corner Ninth and Harrison streets, Astoria, Oregon, says: "For ten years I suffered acutely from kidney trouble which gradually grew more severe until I was on the verge of physical breakdown. I was losing flesh rapidly. My back was so weak and painful and I suffered from such severe dizzy spells that I could hardly get around. At last I was forced to take to my bed and remained there for a long time. My kidneys were irregular in action and the secretions so profuse as to cause me a great deal of suffering. At last I decided to try a good kidney remedy. I procured a box of Doan's Kidney Pills and the results that followed their use were most satisfactory. I continued using them and it was not long before I was completely cured. To have used Doan's Kidney Pills on some occasions since, to keep my kidneys in good order and can conscientiously say I have not had any recurrence of the trouble since Doan's Kidney Pills cured me."

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