

This Date in History—March 16.

- 465—The Roman Emperor Valentinian assassinated.
- 1284—Alexander III, of Scotland died; born 1241, king 1249.
- 1750—Caroline Lucretia Herschel, astronomer, born; died 1834.
- 1751—James Madison, fourth president, born in Port Conway, Va.; Napoleon IV, died 1836.
- 1822—Walter Quinton Gresham, soldier and jurist, born near Laneville, Warren county, Ind.; died May 28, 1885.
- 1856—Napoleon Eugene Louis Jean Joseph, son of Napoleon III., born in Paris; killed in Zululand June 1, 1879. The imperial prince, after the fall of his father, resided in England. He asked leave to accompany the army to Zululand. He was killed while out on a reconnaissance.
- 1858—Senator Lazare Hippolyte Carnot, French statesman, died in Paris; born 1801.
- 1885—Rev. Dr. John W. Broadus, president of the Baptist Theological seminary at Louisville, died in that city; born 1814.
- 1900—General Sir William S. A. Lockhart, commander of the British forces in India, died at Calcutta; born 1841.



This Date in History—March 17.

- 180—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, last of the "five good emperors" of Rome, died; born 121; emperor 161.
- 1640—Philip Massinger, dramatic poet, died in London; born 1584.
- 1777—Roger Brooke Taney, long chief justice of the United States, born in Calvert county, Md.; died 1864.
- 1891—Prince Napoleon Joseph Charles Paul Jerome Bonaparte died in Rome; born 1822; son of ex-King Jerome. Prince Jerome was one of the ablest of the second generation of Bonapartes. He closely resembled Napoleon I.
- 1894—Jules Francois Camille Ferry, French statesman, died in Paris; born 1832.
- 1895—Blanche K. Bruce, one of the most distinguished colored men of the nation, died in Washington; born 1841.

UP TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

W. J. Bryan, in the last issue of his paper, "The Commoner," suggests that it is within the power of President Roosevelt to assist in securing the election of senators by direct vote of the people. Mr. Bryan pointedly says that he has a right to urge, by a message to congress, the enactment of any measure which he regards as important. The house of representatives—a republican house—has without opposition passed a resolution submitting a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by direct vote of the people. This is the second time that a republican house has passed such a resolution, and two democratic houses have done the same.

There is no doubt that the resolution represents an almost unanimous demand on the part of the people. Does the president sympathize with this demand? If so, he has it in his power to aid in securing the reform. Will he do so? If he will send a message to the senate setting forth the reasons—and they are many—for the election of United States senators by popular vote, he will so focus attention upon the subject as to insure immediate consideration of the resolution, and consideration means passage, for even those senators who look to the corporations to secure their re-election will not stand out against an overwhelming sentiment. The president has given thought and attention to questions of far less importance; will he remain silent on this great issue when he has such a splendid opportunity to give approval to a righteous demand?

Possibly a few postal cards written to the president, urging him to recommend the submission of such an amendment would have a helpful influence.

It is quite surprising that President Roosevelt does not grasp the opportunity to carry out the peoples' will in this connection. In neglecting to do this he is ranging himself on the side of the dull and stupid senate that hesitates to put its fate in the hands of the people.

The question is not only up to the United States senate, but it is up to President Roosevelt, and if he does not act upon Mr. Bryan's suggestion and write a message that will wake up the senate to its duty he deserves to be put in the same category with it, as antagonistic to the idea of electing senators by direct vote. Mr. Roosevelt surely does not wish to be so classed.

THE COST OF LIVING.

Authorities report that the cost of living at the beginning of this year was greater by 40 per cent than it was five years ago. It was 16 per cent less than it was at the close of

the Civil War. The farmers have profited most by the increase, as farm products have risen 90 per cent and meats 30 per cent. Wages have also gone up so the increase is not felt much by the laboring class. It has fallen heaviest on the small business man and salaried classes, clerks and the like whose income has remained stationary.

In short, the burden of high prices has struck those the most who are the least able to stand it. The profit from the increase in prices has largely gone into the pockets already well filled. The higher capitalization of everything is gradually pulling down the great mass of consumers, who will meet the extra burden by decreasing consumption, thereby having effect on production. Industry and enterprise can only for a time pay returns upon the present capitalization of all the forms and implements of trade and transportation.

The lower rates of interest of the last three or four years have had something to do with extending the term of prosperity and the increase in the production of gold all over the world, which has largely been turned into a circulating medium, has had further to do with it. But the heavy increase in capitalization values will more than absorb the increased volume of gold in time and, when it does, we may expect to witness a fall in prices, now out of proportion to the average wage scale.

The fact is, the man who has a dollar now-a-days finds that it is not as valuable, or as dear a dollar, as it was five years ago, and that it will purchase of the necessities about two-thirds only of what the same coin would when times were considered "tight." In truth, the gold dollar has become "a cheap dollar" and labor, all forms of it, finds itself not particularly benefited by the change.

MARCONI SYSTEM TELEGRAPH.

The scientific cynics have had their lesson again! A few weeks ago when Marconi's transatlantic triumph was announced, at first they refused to believe it; then they conditioned a somewhat ungracious acceptance of the fact upon Mr. Marconi's personal reputation for veracity and levelheadedness. After he sailed for Europe they began to spread further doubts and seemed glad to welcome every suggestion that failure awaited him, because he could not keep his messages secret. In a leading scientific journal Professor W. S. Franklin printed this statement, which may have seemed very formidable in the semi-darkness then prevailing, but which looks extremely wan and weak in the daylight which the experiments of Mr. Marconi during his trip in the Philadelphia have just poured upon the whole subject. This is what Professor Franklin said:

"An attempt to substitute the Marconi system for existing cables would lead to a state of affairs closely analogous to the confused din in the stock exchange, where each person makes more noise than the rest. This analogy enables one to appreciate the limitation of wireless telegraphy. In the one case we have the electrical waves, in the other case sound waves, spreading in all directions from each sending station, and we must remember that Marconi's receiver is far inferior to the human ear in its ability to analyze a complicated system of waves falling upon it, or, in other words, to respond selectively to certain types of waves."

The ink has been dry upon this statement of the learned professor only about a fortnight, and I asked Mr. Marconi:

"How about conflict of waves? Some of your critics say you cannot have several instruments working in the same field."

"If they were properly tuned to different frequencies," he replied, "two instruments could work side by side without interference."

"And that applies to both senders and receivers?"

"It does."

"Then there is no confusion to be feared?"

"No, none whatever."

"Supposing there was an overlapping of one instrument's tune upon another?"

"But not otherwise?"

"No."

"And you can, with certainty, so tune your instruments that there is no interference and overlapping?"

"Yes."

"Is the secrecy just as great as in a message sent by wire?"

"Yes."

The Marconi receiver is a very different kind of an ear from that supposed by Professor Franklin. Instead of possessing less selective capacity, it is endowed with a more exclusive capacity of that kind. In fact it hears only its own note. Just as

we cannot hear sounds as shrill as to be audible only to an insect, so one Marconi receiver may be utterly irresponsible to electric waves that set another receiver setting beside it, into instant sympathetic vibration. A lot of Marconi transmitters and receivers, working at the same time, would, if I correctly understand the inventor, resemble a roomful of brokers whose voices were so pitched and syntoned that each individual would hear only the words that were spoken in his particular key and would be deaf to all others.

Another interesting point concerns the possibility of directing the waves by means of reflectors, as a parabolic mirror directs a beam of light. This can be done, Mr. Marconi says, only over distances so short that the curvature of the earth's surface does not conceal one station from another. As soon as the electric waves are collected by the reflector and sent away in a straight line they no longer follow the curvature of the earth, and if, in consequence of the existence of the latter, they are brought into contact with the earth's surface they will be reflected off into space. In consequence of this fact for long distances, like oceanic telegraphy, Mr. Marconi allows the electric vibrations to spread in every direction from the transmitting apparatus, and depends upon the proper tuning of the instrument to secure secrecy and non-interference.

The reader will recall that during the wonderful experiments on the voyage of the Philadelphia code words were received and read on the steamer sent from Poldhu in England up to a distance of 1,551 miles, but that beyond that distance no complete words were received, but only signs representing the letter "S," and these continued to come until the distance of the receiving ship from the sending station was almost 2,100 miles. Then the delicate ticking ceased to be audible.

I asked Mr. Marconi why the words failed to carry as far as the single signals, and he replied that the signal for the letter "S" was the easiest of all to transmit, and constantly it was heard after the energy employed had ceased to be sufficient to transmit the signals representing complete words.

As to the exact amount of electric energy needed to send the messages 2,100 miles, Mr. Marconi did not care to make any definite statement.

"Is it an amount within easy reach?" I asked.

"Oh yes," he replied.

"Then there would be no difficulty in a ship—any ship, a sailing vessel, for instance—carrying an apparatus powerful enough to send messages thousands of miles?"

"No, there would be no difficulty."

"As far as developing the necessary energy is concerned there would be no trouble in Captain Bernier's taking, as I hear he proposes to do, a wireless telegraph transmitter on his proposed trip to the north pole."

"No, the energy required could be easily developed."

"How about land lines? I asked him next. "When you have established your transatlantic system will you attack the problem of sending messages long distances over land?"

"Yes," he replied.

"And you believe there is no insuperable difficulty?"

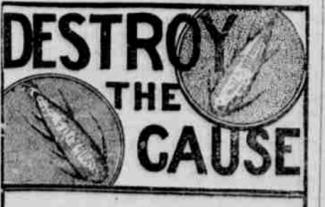
"I believe there is no difficulty at all. It only requires more force for the same distance than over the sea. It is perfectly practicable."

"And the force required is easily attainable?"

"I believe it is."

I asked Mr. Marconi about the speed of transmission by wireless telegraphy.

"Twenty-two words a minute," he replied. "That, of course, is the record on relatively short lines. But I see no reason why we should not send practically just as fast on oceanic lines. In the experiments on the Philadelphia no attempt was made to attain speed. That is not our object, and no preparations for such a test



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SSS and OLD PEOPLE

Bad Circulation is the cause of most of the ills that come with old age. With advancing years there is a decline of strength and vigor—the machinery of the body moves with less speed and accuracy. Because of the weak and irregular action of the heart the blood moves more slowly, becomes impure and loses much of its life-sustaining properties, and muscles, tissues and nerves literally starve for lack of nourishment. A sluggish and polluted circulation is followed by a long train of bodily ailments. Cold feet, chilly sensations up and down the spine, poor appetite and digestion, soreness of the muscles, rheumatic pains, hard and fissured skin, face sores, chronic running ulcers on the lower limbs and other parts of the body—these and many other diseases peculiar to old people are due to a lack of healthy blood and imperfect circulation. Restoration to health must come through the building up and purification of the blood, thus adding strength and tone to the vital organs and quick, healthy action to the circulation.

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were made. But there is no difficulty about speed."

The experiments made during the voyage which ended a few days ago, must rank in importance with those conducted in Newfoundland, because they have removed the doubt of the practicability of transoceanic wireless telegraphy and cannot but convince even that type of scientific mind which never recognized truth by intuition, because imagination never lifts it high enough, but which must always have its nose rubbed against a fact before perceiving what it means.—Garrett P. Serviss, in New York Journal.

Marie and Her Red Raglan.

Marie wears a raglan, oh dear me! Marie in her raglan is a sight to see! For the way that Marie wears it and the way she twists and bends Makes it hard to tell just where the raglan starts—and Marie ends.

Marie wouldn't wear a coffee sack, of that I am sure, Marie likes to be in style, and Marie is demure, Yet Marie doesn't hesitate to amble up the street Looking like a bale of hay that's grow a pair of feet, And sometimes when you see her you take another peep, She looks so much as if she were a-walking in her sleep.

—JOHNNY.



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