

FLOOD CONTINUES

Destruction of Paris Goes on Despite all Efforts.

WHOLE CITY IS UNDERMINED

Tributaries of River Above Paris Are Now Stationary and Worst is Thought to Be Past.

Paris, Jan. 29.—After a slow but steady rise of the flood waters all day, the fluvial department at midnight could only issue a statement saying that it was possible the crest of the flood would be reached tomorrow.

The water has begun to fall in all of the tributaries of the Seine above Paris, but the passage through the city is clogged by bridges and an immense accumulation of drift continues tonight. Sailors, firemen and police are busily constructing temporary walls by the light of campfires and torches in an endeavor to keep out the invading floods, while pickets patrol those sections of the city that are plunged in darkness.

The situation in the Place de l'Opera tonight is serious. The entire territory has been roped off as unsafe. It is said also that the new Equitable Life Assurance building is in danger of collapse.

President Fallieres and Premier Briand today drove in automobiles to the flooded suburbs, where distress is greatest, speaking words of comfort to the homeless and encouraging soldiers and others engaged in salvage and rescue work.

Charitable organizations are co-operating with the authorities in throwing open their buildings and in succoring refugees. Several convents and a number of public buildings have been equipped with military cots and bedding and transformed into hospitals. The Red Cross is performing splendid services in distributing food and clothing. Nevertheless, numerous instances are cited of women and children who had refused to leave their homes in the submerged districts, shrieking from their windows for bread.

The number of refugees arriving here is enormous. Charenton alone sending in 38,000, who had got there from Calais and other afflicted points. The family of M. Barthou, ex-minister of public works, whose home in the Avenue d'Antun is surrounded, was taken out on the backs of soldiers and in boats.

A large number of schools are closed and the municipality is considering the advisability of closing all. Practically all of the flooded suburban towns about Paris tonight are without light and several are without water. Their inhabitants are leaving.

The chamber of deputies held a sitting today in the water-besieged Palais Bourbon, believing that an adjournment or a transfer of their activities to Versailles, which had been suggested, would only serve to increase the popular panic. Parliament today voted a bill extending business notes one month.

Communication with England, Holland, Denmark, and Austria and many cities and towns in France is completely cut off. The telephone has been practically abandoned in Paris. New districts are being flooded constantly and the people are vacating blocks of buildings.

Several hospitals where sick refugees were taken are in a dreadful plight, the water having quenched fires in the furnaces.

Four hundred patients were hurriedly removed in ambulances from the Hospital de la Salpêtrière and the Hospital Boucicault. Their rescue was dramatic and timely. The hospital was isolated and a new rush of water threatened to level it. The tireless prefect of police, M. Lepine, summoned ambulances and boats and additional police and soldiers.

Insurance Men Attacked. Louisville, Ky., Jan. 29.—Insurance Commissioner Bell today held a conference with four presidents of life insurance companies that have been losers in the alleged swindling schemes practiced in Louisville by insurance solicitors. As a result, the state of Kentucky may take legal action against the insurance companies for operating in Kentucky without licenses. They are the Indiana National Life Insurance company, and the Commercial Life Insurance company, both of Indianapolis.

Blood Drenches Women. New York, Jan. 29.—While defending an aged man from three men tormentors today, Thomas Graham, partially paralyzed newboy, was stabbed three times by one of the men, in Herald square. Two women in an automobile took the wounded newboy into their machine, and while the car sped to Bellevue hospital they held him on their laps and their rich dresses became saturated with blood. Doctors said the lad would probably die. Two arrests were made and search is being made for the third man.

Speer Would Buy Water. Denver, Jan. 29.—Municipal ownership of the water system of Denver is favored by Mayor Robert W. Speer, in his annual budget submitted to the city council tonight. He recommends the purchase of the Denver Union Water company's plant at an appraised valuation of \$14,400,000. The mayor favors a reduction of the number of saloons in Denver and doubling the saloon license, advocates a municipal asphalt paving plant.

More Capital Poured In. New York, Jan. 29.—The recommendation of directors of the International Harvester company for an increase in the common stock of the company from \$60,000,000 to \$80,000,000 was ratified at a special meeting of the stockholders in Hoboken today. The directors will meet in Chicago Monday and declare the first quarterly installment of the 4 per cent annual dividend.

BOARD SEEKS WAY OUT.

Tariff Settlement with Germany Urged By Chamber of Commerce.

Washington, Jan. 26.—In stormy, the critical turn in the tariff controversy between the United States and Germany, appeals from chambers of commerce and boards of trade of several cities were made to the national board of trade in session here, urging that body to recommend that the American government recede from its position that American beef must be admitted to Germany. Resolutions presented to the national body maintain there can be no advantage in insisting on a German market for American beef, because the consumption is increasing at such a rate as soon to command all the supply. It is pointed out that the Agrarian party, in control of the Reichstag, has stood for the principle that farmers of Germany must supply the beef, and that the imperial government could not admit the American product, if it would.

A commission to settle the dispute is suggested. Many delegates, bringing from their home cities demands for an investigation into the high cost of living, have made that subject foremost. The national body today decided to appoint a special committee of five men to determine the reasons for present prices.

In his opening address to the national board, the president, Frank J. La Lanne, of Philadelphia, suggested the possibility that by getting in touch with the leading bodies of Germany the organization could help the United States department materially. He also pleaded for the immigration of more laborers and house servants.

FLOODS IN FRANCE GET WORSE

Rivers Are Still Rising and Damage is Incalculable.

Paris, Jan. 26.—Floods have brought disaster to a large part of France. The ordinary modest and peaceable Seine is now a raging torrent and rising at the rate of more than half an inch an hour.

The general expectation that the maximum of the flood would be reached tonight has not been realized. The Seine's tributaries are rising steadily and the report tonight is that the Seine will be at least 15 inches higher tomorrow afternoon.

Victims of the flood number more than 100,000 and the monetary loss is incalculable. Thousands of people are hopelessly ruined.

The government has requisitioned army and navy material to house the sufferers and boats for the rescue of the stricken as well as those imprisoned in houses in flood centers on all sides of Paris.

The region of inundation is steadily enlarging, and scores of villages are completely submerged, the people fleeing for their lives and abandoning everything. In many cases soldiers have been obliged to use force in compelling the inhabitants to leave their homes. Hundreds refused to go, clearing for food and water. In Paris the situation is rapidly becoming worse, floods sparing neither rich nor poor.

ROYALTY OFFERED FOR COAL

John E. Ballaine, of Seattle, Makes Proposal for Alaska Fuel.

Washington, Jan. 26.—A new factor appeared today to add intensity to the already excited situation over the Alaska coal lands, on the eve of the beginning of the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation.

John E. Ballaine, of Seattle, said to be the largest property owner in Alaska, made a proposal in writing to the senate committee on territories, of which Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, is chairman, offering to the government a royalty of 50 cents a ton on coal mined for the lease of 5,000 acres of some of the choicest coal lands in Alaska, in the Katalla and Matanuska districts. Such a tonnage royalty would net the government, Mr. Ballaine says, as high as \$2,000,000 a hundred acres.

This proposal contemplates a radical departure from past practices in the government's disposal of the Alaska coal lands, and it comes avowedly to do battle with another proposal embodied in a bill that has been prepared, but not introduced, designed to permit the sale or lease of such lands at a rate of \$10 an acre.

Coast Committee Gets Busy.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The Pacific Coast delegation appointed to secure submarine torpedo boats for the Pacific coast had a conference today with the president and the secretary of the navy. While they elicited no definite promises from either, Secretary Meyer indicated the appreciation of the necessity for submarines along the Pacific coast and gave the impression that if congress could be induced to authorize the building of new submarines the department would interpose no objections.

Ocean Destroys Cemetery. Victoria, B. C., Jan. 26.—Gruesome in the extreme is the ghouliah work that is being done by the waves at Ross Bay cemetery, Victoria's city of the dead, where, owing to utterly inadequate breakwater protection, the sea bombards and undermines the cliff until, after each experience of rough wind or heavy weather, during months past, pedestrians walking along the beaches reached by the city car lines have been picking up such grisly souvenirs as coffin plates and handles, fragments of human bones, etc.

Girl Slaps Big Officer. Philadelphia, Jan. 26.—A six-foot policeman today told a girl what a big man he was doing picket duty to "move on," and she surprised him by slapping him in the face. This started a disturbance, and before it was all over six girl strikers were on their way to a police station charged with creating disorder. Miss Mary McMurtre, a society woman, furnished bail for two of the girls, and the others were discharged.

Already more than 700 different types of soil have been encountered in the 20 states in which soil surveys are being made by the government.

\$500,000,000 TRUST

Preliminary Steps Taken in Big Copper Combine.

BUTTE MINES WILL BE INCLUDED

Corporation Will Control Output of Copper in United States and Influence World's Markets.

New York, Jan. 27.—Preliminary steps were taken today to effect the long-looked for merger of the principal copper producers of the country into one gigantic corporation.

In Wall street another billion-dollar company was frequently mentioned, but the more conservative believed final capitalization would be closer to \$500,000,000.

The Anaconda Copper Mining company of New York announced late today that the board of directors yesterday decided to call a special meeting of stockholders in Anaconda, Mont., on March 23, to pass on a proposal to increase the capital stock from \$30,000,000 to \$150,000,000. The purpose of acquiring the property of other companies located in the Butte district.

The Amalgamated Copper company owns 55 per cent. of the Anaconda stock.

Following the merger of the Butte properties, which include the Amalgamated Copper company and its various holdings—the Anaconda Copper company, Boston & Montana, Butte & Boston, Washoe, Fronton and other subsidiaries—and the North Butte and Butte Coalition, it is expected that the new Anaconda, with its increased capital of \$150,000,000, will merge with the Guggenheim, Haggin and other copper interests.

The corporation thus formed will control not only the copper output of the United States, but will influence the copper market of the world.

The merger of the Butte properties will include the Amalgamated Copper company, Anaconda Copper company, Boston & Montana, Butte & Boston, Washoe, Trenton and other subsidiaries of the Amalgamated company, the North Butte and the Butte Coalition.

In Wall street it is commonly understood that John D. Ryan will head the great copper amalgamation. This amalgamation will include, it is said, the Guggenheim, Haggin and Coleman properties and the Amalgamated Copper interests of J. E. Morgan & Co. will head the consolidation.

The Amalgamated Copper company in a statement says:

"The Anaconda company, because of its size and its location, is regarded as the logical company to become the purchaser of properties of the other companies and the step taken to call a special meeting was the first towards submitting the matter to stockholders of different companies for their consideration."

WOMEN DEPOSITORS HIT.

Receivship is Decided for Mexico Bank—Branches Close.

Mexico City, Jan. 27.—A receivership for the United States Banking company was decided on at a meeting of the directors this afternoon, after the institution had failed to open its doors for business today.

The suspension is a bitter disappointment to scores of depositors who had determined to withdraw their funds and had gathered early to do so. These, among them were many women, crowded to the doors when the notice of the suspension was posted.

Mr. Elasser, vice president of the bank, said that the action of the directors was taken because the bank did not have enough money on hand to reimburse the clearing use for yesterday's business and could not properly receive deposits. He believed that the bank had more than enough assets to pay every legitimate obligation.

Court Flees in Panic.

Washington, Ga., Jan. 27.—Noticing the unusual appearance of the face of Cy Ballard, a negro arraigned before him today on a misdemeanor charge, Judge Wayne asked the county physician to examine him. The physician immediately pronounced it "smallpox." Hardly had the word been spoken, when judge, court officials, spectators, all made for the doors and windows, leaving the negro in complete possession of the court room. An ambulance took him to the jail where he also had sole possession.

Lifesavers Suspended.

Marshfield, Or., Jan. 27.—It is announced that Richard Christianson and J. S. Taylor, two surfmen of the Coos Bay lifesaving crew, have been suspended by Captain Emory, inspector of the district. The men are suspended for 30 days on the charge of having looted boxes which were washed ashore from the Czarina when she was wrecked. The matter was investigated secretly by Captain Emory and the testimony heard by him in private. It is understood that formal charges will be preferred later.

Peers' Victory Assured.

Victoria B. C., Jan. 27.—Lord Northcliffe, in a personal cable message to the Victoria Colonist on the election situation, says: "We have got the small navy, free trade and anti-Canadian party fairly beaten. They are now at the mercy of the Irish vote, despite their bluff about peers and dear food. The people have emphatically endorsed the democratic action of the peers in submitting the budget and tariff for their approval."

Faithful Files 31 Miles.

San Francisco, Jan. 27.—For 31 minutes, while he covered almost 30 miles, Lewis Paulhan, in an exhibition flight that closed the meeting at Tanforan Park, navigated the air this afternoon, a crowd of 30,000 cheering the exploit. The weather was ideal. Throughout the flight Paulhan maintained a height varying between 490 and 1,300 feet.

\$200,000,000 IN DIVIDENDS.

Corporations Report Great Prosperity for Past Six Months.

New York, Jan. 25.—January dividends in stocks of nearly all the great corporations of the country have been reported as the largest on record—\$202,032,602, but if the present prosperity continues the next July dividends will be quite as large, if not larger.

The majority of the large corporations have their transfer offices and financial agencies in New York city and pay the dividends on their stocks and interest on their bonds through them semi-annually, in January and July. A few of them pay quarterly through the same agencies.

The total dividends and interest paid by 150 of the most prominent railroads, traction companies, banks and industrial corporations during this month amount to \$202,032,602, an increase of \$19,776,496 above the semi-annual dividends and interest paid by the same companies in January, 1909.

This total does not include thousands of smaller firms and corporations in New York which undoubtedly paid an equal amount, nor thousands of corporations in other parts of the country, which are just as prosperous and have enjoyed similar profits.

Of the 150 corporations referred to, 22 increased their dividends for January, 16 paid dividends this year for the first time and four reduced their dividends 1 per cent per year, or less, for various reasons.

Few people realize the extent of the country's prosperity. The quarterly dividends which will be due in March next will amount to about \$87,000,000, which is \$12,000,000 in excess of the total of any previous year.

The 150 railroads and other corporations by which these dividends are paid represent about \$40,000,000,000 in securities, bonds and stocks.

WILSON QUOTES "JIM" HILL.

Secretary Says Too Few Folks Are Raising Farm Products.

Washington, Jan. 25.—"Undoubtedly if the farms were raising more meat the price would be reduced," said Secretary Wilson, of the department of agriculture, today in commenting upon the widespread boycott against meat products. "There are not enough people on the farms raising food, and too many people are going to the towns to be fed."

"Three quarters of a million people," said Secretary Wilson, "are coming to the United States annually from abroad. They do not go to the farms, where they might help to raise food for the nation. Farmers cannot get help. The foreigners go to the cities, and they have to be fed. The cities produce nothing to eat, although they do produce something to drink."

"Have you any plan for inducing people to go to the farms, where they may help to raise food?" the secretary was asked.

"Jim Hill says they will go there when they get hungry," said the secretary, after shaking his head in reply to the question.

WAGE ISSUE COMING UP.

Coal Miners to Decide This Week Upon Formal Demands.

Indianapolis, Jan. 25.—The most important question before the bituminous coal miners of the United States—what per cent of increase in wages shall they demand and how far shall they go in engineering the demand—will be decided at the convention of the United Mine Workers of America in this city this week.

The wage scale committee will report, the convention will adopt or amend the committee's report and the demand will be submitted to the mine owners at the joint conference for Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana on February 1. The new wage contract is to be dated April 1.

Conservative union leaders say that the miners probably will demand a 10 per cent increase on some local unions insisting on 20 per cent. One resolution demands 40 per cent.

Big Schooner Is Wreck.

Edgartown, Mass., Jan. 25.—The six-masted schooner Mertie B. Crowley, lies tonight a total wreck on the reefs of Martha's Vineyard island. The Crowley was bound from Baltimore for Skipper Levi Jackson, of the Edgartown fishing smack Fricella, is due the rescue of the 15 persons aboard the schooner—Captain Haskell, Mrs. Haskell and the crew of 13 men. The skipper's wife, like the others, was lashed for ten hours to the rigging of the battered schooner.

Aerial Circuit Next Aim.

Los Angeles, Jan. 25.—A National aviation circuit, somewhat on the order of the big baseball organizations, may be the result of a conference to be held at St. Louis next month between Cortland Field Bishop, president of the Aero Club of America, and representatives of several of the larger eastern cities. Thereafter mere flying machine exhibitions as an attraction will be sent into oblivion and actual contests, machine against machine, starting at the crack of a pistol, will take their place.

Hot Springs Hotel Burns.

Hot Springs, Ark., Jan. 25.—The new Waverly hotel and bath house in this city were totally destroyed by fire early today. Although there were many thrilling escapes, a careful checking of the register shows that one of the 32 occupants is injured. Many lost their baggage, however, and stores were opened this evening, that they might obtain clothing. Property loss is about \$100,000. The amount of insurance could not be learned.

Two Sharp Shocks Felt.

Kingston, St. Vincent, B. W. I., Jan. 25.—Two sharp shocks of earthquake were felt throughout the island at 5:50 this morning. In Kingston the protracted shocks caused a panic, but no damage was done.

Fort de France, Martinique, Jan. 25.

—Earth shocks were felt here this afternoon a few minutes before 4 o'clock. The movement was undulatory and lasted one minute. So far as known there was no damage.

PARIS IS FLOODED

River Seine Overflows, Fills Subways and Bursts Sewers

MANY RESCUERS ARE DROWNED

Streets Torn Up and Buildings Toppling—Scores for Villages and Towns in Ruins.

Paris, Jan. 25.—At 2 o'clock this morning the water, which was rushing through the tunnel under the Quai d'Orsay station burst through the roadway and flooded the streets, including the Rue de Lille, and Rue de Poitiers and the Rue de Bellechasse, on which are many aristocratic residences. The sidewalks are likely to cave in at any time. Those who occupied the houses were awakened and hurried to places of safety.

At 3:30 this morning the flood from the Quai d'Orsay station extended to the Rue de l'Université. It is estimated that the homeless in the outskirts of Paris number at least 5,000.

Four soldiers have been drowned at Villeneuve and three at Alfortville, while engaged in rescue work.

The situation resulting from the floods is fast becoming desperate. The premier and minister of the interior made this declaration tonight. All conditions indicated a further rise of several inches of the River Seine and the cold rain, which still continues, is causing intense suffering among those who have been made homeless. There is little prospect of relief.

M. Millerand, minister of the public works, after a tour of inspection, said that if the rise continued nothing could prevent a deplorable disaster and the flooding of the most populous quarters in Paris. Measures that had been taken, he said, appeared to him to be adequate "for the present, but only for the present."

Paris is threatened with an immediate and complete tie-up. The stoppage of transportation has raised prices of food, which is becoming scarce, and the supply of water in seven arrondissements has been crippled. Authorities assert that drinking water is assured, but there is no water for industrial services, which are practically suspended.

The Red Cross society is organizing aid for the sufferers. Subscriptions have been opened and theaters are arranging benefits. At midnight the water was less than a foot from the arch of the Pont de l'Alma. Other bridges are not in such danger, unless river craft is swept against them. Big sewers in the Place de Havre and near Place de la Madeleine burst today, threatened foundations of houses.

Part of Rue St. Lazare threat to cave in and the whole street had been closed. The subway toward the members of the court, declaring that, were he in power, he would quickly apply such stringent measures as would stamp out the revolution forever. This kind of talk agreeably tickles the extreme reactionaries at the court, who know very well that in case of the death of Nicholas II the heir presumptive being still an infant, Michael would become the regent. During his regency, who knows what the infant heir presumptive might fall ill and die, from diphtheria or some other childish ailment?

"So there is a party at the court that would be highly contented to see Michael in the place of his brother Nicholas. The reigning emperor knows this very well, and constantly trembles for the life of his little son. As a result of this has developed a veritable mania of persecution. Her fears were aroused first over three years ago, by a sudden seizure of her son, which really seemed to be of a suspicious nature. During the last eight months she has suffered from several nervous breakdowns due to this constantly increasing fear."

"Such is the position of affairs at the court. Who can tell what might have been had Azeff continued in his dual role of terrorist and agent provocateur?"

Banquets Eviet Microbes.

Chocolate creams, each one of which is guaranteed to contain at least 10,000 carefully isolated lactic acid or massol bacilli in the highest state of activity, have recently been placed on sale in London stores. They are a British bacteriologist's solution of the problem set by Prof. Metchnikoff, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, who urged the imbibing of sour milk or lactic acid for the arresting of old age, but who omitted to say how the nauseating effects of this substance upon delicate subjects could be avoided.

The blue massol bacillus is not only the foe of the red bacillus—collus communis, or putrefaction microbe—but its undisputed master. The blue army of bacilli, it is urged, have no sooner been liberated in the human system by the swallowing of a bonbon than they begin immediately to declare war on the red army of putrefaction microbes, until at the end of a few weeks at most, by the swallowing of three bonbons daily, the "reds" have been routed.

How He Accounted for It.

"To what do you attribute your unvarying success?" "To being picked early for the village fool. Nobody ever tried to get me to endorse a note or go into a scheme."

Human Forest.

"Everybody has more or less trouble?" "Yes," answered the observant woman. "If a man can't find anything else to worry him he goes to a ball game and gets highly indignant at the umpire."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

A Difficult Task.

The Man—Do you think you could learn to love me, darling? The Darling—I don't know; I might. I learned Greek when I was a girl.—Illustrated Bits

Woman Secures Big Damages.

Denver, Jan. 25.—Miss Jennie Rosen, a young woman of this city, whose leg was broken and who received other injuries when she was struck by a Denver & Rio Grande railroad train, was today awarded a verdict for \$13,224 by a jury in her suit for damages against the railroad.

WOMAN WINS HONOR.

Swedish Author Secures the Nobel Prize of \$40,000 in Literature.

The great honor of securing the Nobel prize in the domain of literature has this year been awarded to a woman, Selma Lagerlof, the distinguished Scandinavian author. When it is known that this prize is a cash gift of \$40,000 and that it is open to international competition the honor becomes the more pronounced. The work which won the prize for Mrs. Lagerlof is "The Wonderful Adventures of Nils," which has been read by hundreds of thousands in Sweden.

The Nobel prizes, for there are five of them, were founded by Alfred B. Nobel, the inventor of dynamite and a distinguished Swedish scientist. He died in 1896, leaving a fortune, estimated at \$9,000,000, for the creation of a fund, the interest of which should yearly be distributed to those who had contributed most during that period to "the good of humanity." One prize is awarded in the domain of physics, a second in chemistry, a third in medicine or physiology, a fourth in literature, to the person who has provided the most excellent work of an idealistic tendency, and a fifth to the person who has contributed most to the abolition of war and the promotion of international peace.

These prizes are awarded by Swedish bodies on December 10 of each year—the date of Mr. Nobel's death. The first awards were made in 1901. The only American who ever received one of these prizes was ex-President Roosevelt, whose efforts in bringing to an end the Russo-Japanese war gained him the peace award in 1906. In literature Rudyard Kipling won the prize in 1907. Mrs. Lagerlof is the only woman under this head to secure the honor; but a woman, Baroness von Suttner, secured the peace prize in 1905, her work dealing with war having so impressed the Czar of Russia as to lead him to call the international peace congress at The Hague.

SECRETS OF RUSSIAN COURT.

Nicholas' Mother Resents His Treatment of Younger Brother.

Writing in McClure's of the emperors that has arisen between the emperor and the dowager empress of Russia, David Sockie says: "Thus Maria Feodrovna gradually transferred her maternal affections from Nicholas II to her younger son, Michael. Her favor toward Michael and her grudge toward Nicholas were perhaps augmented by the exceedingly haughty manner in which Nicholas II went to treat his brother Michael. Though Nicholas II is a narrow autocrat in heart and creed, and though he is not conspicuous for special gifts of intellect or appearance, or for personal charm, he is in many ways superior to his brother, who is actually dull witted and spiteful. The exalted position of Nicholas fills his brother's heart with a jealousy he is not always able to conceal. Michael frequently criticizes the emperor's policy toward the members of the court, declaring that, were he in power, he would quickly apply such stringent measures as would stamp out the revolution forever. This kind of talk agreeably tickles the extreme reactionaries at the court, who know very well that in case of the death of Nicholas II the heir presumptive being still an infant, Michael would become the regent. During his regency, who knows what the infant heir presumptive might fall ill and die, from diphtheria or some other childish ailment?"

TITLES AT HER FEET.

Mrs. Astor's Friends Making Matrimonial Plans for Her.

Until Mrs. Eva Willing Astor really goes to the altar a second time gossip will be busy engaging her now to one man, again to another, for that is the penalty of being young, rich, beautiful and almost free. While it will be several months yet before her interlocutory decree of divorce becomes final and operative, yet her friends have already begun planning for her future in a matrimonial way. Her friend, Mrs. Benjamin Guinness, insists that Lord Curzon of Kedleston will be the man of Mrs. Astor's choice; the talk of London clubs favors Captain Posenborough, second son of Miles Brabazon Posenborough, and several others have been mentioned over fashionable tea tables. Mrs. Astor is preserving a discreet silence, which some construe as eloquent, for she denies nothing, at the same time confirms no more. A marriage with Lord Curzon would be a most desirable alliance from every point of view. In the first place, their ages would be suitable, and his position would insure her the place in British society that she has long coveted. He is a widower with two children. His wife, who died several years ago, was Miss Mary Letler, a daughter of Mrs. Levi Z. Letler. She was a sister of the Countess of Suffolk, Mrs. Colin Campbell, and of Joseph Letler. On the other hand, Capt. Posenborough, who has always been most attentive to her, is much younger than Mrs. Astor, only 28 years of age. He is very handsome and comes of an ancient family.—New York World.

Hot Planets.

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune—the four outer planets—are hotter than the earth. Recent observations at the Lowell observatory, secured in the form of photographs of planetary spectra, show that there is oxygen in the atmospheres of all four, and that in the cases of Uranus and Neptune, hydrogen and perhaps helium are atmospherically present. The outer planets have water vapor as the principal constituent of their atmospheres. They probably consist of a nucleus hot to its surface, veiled in dense, unbroken clouds, floating in an atmosphere largely composed of steam.

Old Favorites

The First Snowfall.

The snow had begun in the gloaming, And busily all the night Had been heaping field and highway With a silence deep and white.

Every pine and fir and hemlock Wore ermine too dear for an earl, And the poorest twig on the elm tree Was ridged inch deep with pearl.

From sheds new-roofed with Carrara Came Chanticleer's muffled crow; The stiff rails were softened to swan's down, And still fluttered down the snow.

I stood and watched by the window The noiseless work of the sky, And the sudden furries of the snow-birds, Like brown leaves whirling by.

I thought of a mound in sweet Auburn Where a little headstone stood; How the flakes were folding it gently As did robins the babes in the wood.

Up spoke our own little Mabel, Saying, "Father, who makes it snow?" And I told her of the good All-father Who cares for us here below.

Again I looked at the snowfall, And thought of the leaden sky That arched o'er our first great sorrow, When that mound was heaped so high.

I remember the gradual patience That fell from that cloudlike snow, Flake by flake, healing and hiding The scar of our deep-plunged woe.

And again to the child I whispered, "The snow that husheth all, Darling, the merciful Father Alone can make it fall."

Then, with eyes that saw not, I kissed her, And she, kissing back, could not know That my kiss was given to her sister Folded close under deepening snow.—James Russell Lowell.

Richmond on the James.

A soldier boy at Richmond, Lay gazing