

1908 IN HISTORY

A Brief but Comprehensive Review of the Important Events and Tendencies of the Year Past For Busy Readers Who Want to Be Well Informed.

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Despite the Depression, Republicans Retain Control.

Looking now calmly and dispassionately back across the field of conflict which shaped the American presidential campaign of 1908, one incontestable conclusion forces itself on the open mind. It is that a majority of the people became convinced in one way or another that it is "better to hear the evils that they have than to try to give the trust regulating policies of President Roosevelt a longer and fairer trial in the hands of his favorite adviser, William Howard Taft. How the people became so minded is a question to which no answer can be found to suit all kinds of persons. The salient facts can, however, be recounted briefly and with historical impartiality.

On Jan. 31 was issued the challenge of the dominant personality and official of the party in power which was to determine in many ways the plans of battle of the different parties for the capture of the American electorate—namely, the message of President Roosevelt to congress advocating his program of radical legislation.

On June 16 at Chicago the Republicans got together. They cheered forty minutes when Chairman Lodge eulogized the president and seated all the Taft contestants. The thoroughness of this operation caused it to be described as the administration "steam roller," of which Frank H. Hitchcock was the engineer. The only fight was on the court injunction plank. Samuel Gompers, head of the A. F. of L., and other leaders of organized labor, confronted with numerous court decisions unfavorable to their methods and facing lower wages or lack of work for many workers, had decided to fight in the open for the party whose labor plank suited them best. Despite the warnings of the Gompers "cabinet" before the platform committee the plank finally adopted at Chicago was not to their liking. Van Cleave, Cannon, Crane and other Republican leaders insisted upon upholding the integrity of the courts, but asserting that the rules of injunction procedure be "more accurately defined by statute" and that no injunction should issue without due notice "except where irreparable injury would result from delay." William H. Taft of Ohio was nominated for president on the first ballot and James S. Sherman of New York for vice president.

On July 7 at Denver the national convention of the Democratic party assembled with the knowledge that an overwhelming majority of its delegates were pledged to the nomination of William J. Bryan of Nebraska. The big thing broke all records for continuous cheering when the blind Oklahoma statesman, G.ore, eulogized the Nebraskan, the demonstration lasting eighty-seven minutes. Bryan was nominated on the first ballot, although the names of Johnson and Gray were presented. John W. Kern of Indiana, with the approval of Bryan, was named for second place.

As in the Republican convention, the main contest had to do with the wording of the injunction or labor plank of the platform. Gompers was present and gave his assent to the plank finally agreed upon. While asserting that "courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberty," he demanded a modification of the injunction law so as to provide for a trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt. It declared against trusting labor organizations as illegal combinations in restraint of trade, favored the eight hour day and promised a general employers' liability law.

Bryan at once induced his executive committee to say that it would reject all corporate gifts, would limit individual donations to \$10,000 and would publish on Oct. 15 and daily thereafter the names of givers of \$100 and upward. The final total published after election was \$620,644 from 75,000 contributors. Although the Republican convention had rejected a publicity plank, Taft and his managers decided to work under the New York law and publish names and amounts of contributors after the election. Their funds totaled \$1,055,518.

Frank H. Hitchcock, who had engineered the Taft canvass, was chosen chairman of the Republican national committee, and George R. Sheldon was made treasurer. The Democrats elected Norman E. Mack, the Buffalo newspaper proprietor, as their national chairman and Governor Haskell of Oklahoma as holder of the purse. When Treasurer Haskell resigned, his place

was filled by Herman Ridder, editor of the New York Staats-Zeitung.

July 28, at Cincinnati, Taft delivered his speech of acceptance. He frankly accepted the role of "one too" by defending the Roosevelt policies in their entirety and explaining that his work, if elected, would be to carry on those reforms in detail.

Aug. 12, at Lincoln, Neb., Bryan was notified of his nomination and sounded the keynote of his campaign in the question, "Shall the people rule?" In subsequent speeches he gave great prominence to the bank guaranty plan, to the popular election of senators and to campaign publicity before election. He made a special bid for the labor vote on the injunction plank. He would destroy all trusts controlling over 50 per cent of an industry.

Regarding the depression as the beginning of the breakdown of the capitalist system and claiming the army of idle workers as their asset, the Socialists of America went into the campaign with better weapons than ever before. On May 10 the Socialist convention met at Chicago. For the first time the Socialists of America affirmed their position on specific questions of policy. The convention nominated on the first ballot unanimously Eugene V. Debs for president and Benjamin Hanford for vice president, the same ticket put up by the Socialists in 1904.

The prohibitionists, conscious of the great strides their cause had made on the local option issue in many states, nominated Eugene W. Chaffin of Illinois and Aaron S. Watkins of Ohio July 15 at Columbus, O., on a platform containing many radical proposals besides that against the sale or manufacture of intoxicants.

On July 28 at Chicago the first national convention of the Independence party, outgrowth of the league organized by Editor Hearst, named Thomas L. Hisgen of Massachusetts and John Temple Graves of Georgia on a platform containing most of the radical ideas of the Democrats and some more radical. Opposition to Bryan was its keynote.

The People's party April 3 at St. Louis again named Thomas E. Watson of Georgia as its standard bearer along with S. W. Williams of Indiana, although it did not put a ticket up in all of the states.

On Sept. 15, at Columbus, O., Hearst stirred up the hitherto calm current of the campaign by reading into his speech the first batch of a series of letters which had been stolen from the files of the Standard Oil company and which threw a sinister light on the activities of various public men, notably Foraker, Bailey, MacLaurin, Sibley, certain Pennsylvania judges and Governor Stone, who was urged to expel them. Most of the letters were written by Vice President Archbold of the trust and contained divers certificates of deposit for large sums of money. At the same time Hearst repeated the story of the alleged attempt to bribe former Attorney General Monnett of Ohio wherein Haskell, the Democratic treasurer, was made to figure. As governor of Oklahoma Haskell also was accused of protecting a legal branch of the Standard. Foraker at once withdrew from the campaign, and the president issued a hot statement condemning the Ohioan and gave out an old letter showing how Taft had refused to deal with Foraker; then compared this course to that of Bryan and Haskell. Bryan replied, demanding a hearing for Haskell, and then ensued a bitter verbal duel on personal and party issues. Haskell resigned, but protesting innocence, as did also Du Pont, the powder trust head, from the chairmanship of the Republican speakers' bureau. Both the president and Taft took the ground that publishing names of contributors before election would be to invite unfair and partisan criticism of candidates.

Gompers appealed to all unions in the A. F. of L. to give moral and financial support to Bryan. Speaker Cannon was the special target of the Gompers battery, and "Cannonism" became a national issue, many candidates for congress being pledged against Cannon as the next speaker.

On Nov. 3 the voters of the nation had their say. The extent of the Republican victory can be best remembered by the statement that Taft carried every state that Roosevelt did in 1904 except Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada. Furthermore, Taft invaded the south solid with small pluralities in Maryland and Missouri and large gains in other southern states. The popular vote stood: Taft, 7,657,679; Bryan, 6,293,182; Debs, 447,851; Chaffin, 141,252; Hisgen, 83,198; Watson, 33,871; Gilhaus (Socialist-Labor), 15,421; total, 14,852,239. The total vote in 1904 was 13,510,708. Several states in the Taft column elected Democratic governors—Harrison in Ohio, Marshall in Indiana and Johnson in Minnesota. Taft invaded the Democratic stronghold of New York city. The Republican majority in congress was reduced to 47, the total being 219 and the Democratic 172. The senate's Republican complexion was unchanged.

The early months of the long session of congress were devoted chiefly to the Republican wrangle over the terms of a currency bill. The Aldrich relief measure finally went through the senate March 28 despite the all night filibuster of La Follette, to precipitate when the railroad bond feature had been cut out. La Follette named an oligarchy of fourteen wealthy men who, he said, actually ruled the nation. The Vreeland bill, in which clearing house associations were made the channel of the new currency issue, was passed by the house, and then a compromise between that and the Aldrich measure was adopted for a joint rich bill, with provision for permanent commission to report on permanent reforms, was adopted by both branches and signed by the president.

Under the president's prodding the

sterling liability bill was advanced by the majority and passed unanimously in both houses. This holds interstate carriers liable for injuries to employees and abolishes the rule barring compensation when the negligence of a fellow employee can be proved. The Democratic filibuster was met by a gag rule and daily recess until the majority had accomplished its purpose. This included provision for two new battleships instead of the four urged by the president, higher pay for army officers and privates and a liability law to protect employees in the service of the government. The house failed to pass the anti-injunction and anti-trust amendment to the Sherman law desired by the president in the interest of labor. "In God We Trust" was restored to the gold coins. The total appropriations of the session reached the record figure of \$1,804,000,894.

Congress reassembled Dec. 7 and received the final Roosevelt message, in which executive control of legalized trusts was advocated and judges were urged to heed the will of legislators according to present day standards. A bitter controversy arose over one passage which intimated that congress had confined the secret service to the treasury department because members did not want to be investigated. The senate moved an investigation of the secret service, and the house demanded proof of the president's assertions.

Uncle Sam insists Upon Carrying a Big Stick. The administration's foreign policy has exemplified well this year a favorite saying of the president, "Speak softly, but carry a big stick." This nation has preserved good feeling toward other nations, but at the same time has sent its battleship fleet to the antipodes and devoted much thought and money to navy and army betterments.

March 11 at Magdalena bay the fleet ended its voyage around the Horn, in command of Evans, and was widely welcomed all along the coast to San Francisco. Evans then gave up the command to Sperry, and on July 7 the fleet sailed from San Francisco on its record breaking naval practice cruise, visiting Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China and the Philippines before the year's end.

The war department changed heads July 1. Luke E. Wright succeeding Taft.

On May 5 the state department concluded a five year arbitration treaty with Japan. On Nov. 30 notes were signed containing an agreement with Japan for concert of action in maintaining the status quo in the orient, a virtual alliance.

The treasury in January had a deficit of \$10,000,000, which grew to \$90,000,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

The postoffice department, by order of the president, ruled that papers in foreign languages must submit translations and authorized postmasters to exclude papers containing incitement to murder, arson and treason. In May the parcel limit to England was raised to eleven pounds, and Oct. 1 the postal rate to that country was lowered to 2 cents, later the same to Germany.

On Aug. 14 the president appointed a commission, headed by Professor L. H. Bailey of Cornell, to gather data looking to betterment of farm life.

May 13 to 15 at the White House the first conference of state governors and noted men met the president to discuss the conservation of national resources, the conference making a new element of national unity. This body reassembled Dec. 8 and approved a great scheme of waterways by a bond issue.

Old World Rulers Had a Nerve Racking Year.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The government of King Edward began the year with a program of radical legislation, including old age pensions, frankly intended as a sop to socialism, which showed signs of rapid growth along with the increase of the vast army of the unemployed. Asquith took the reins April 5, when Premier Bannerman retired on account of continued illness. Asquith carried through the age pension bill July 20, the plan of which is \$25 a week to all over seventy years of age whose income is under \$150 a year, to take effect Jan. 1, 1909. The Asquith government encountered a bolterous campaign for woman suffrage, the suffragettes organizing huge parades and rushes on the parliament to attract attention, many women choosing prison terms rather than give bonds to keep the peace. Alarm over the signs of coming revolt throughout India has increased, with numerous acts of violence against Britishers. CANADA felt the effects of the American depression in decreased exports and in a halt in her industrial development. The general elections Oct. 26 sustained the Laurier government. A great historical pageant marked the tercentenary of Quebec, the Prince of Wales attending.

GERMANY.—The German people will remember the year 1908 as marking the end of their Kaiser's absolute, personal rule and the beginning of ministerial responsibility to the Reichstag. This revolution through the power of public opinion voiced in the radical press and in parliamentary action of nearly all parties came to a head in October, the occasion of the outburst being an authorized interview in the London Telegraph in which the Kaiser told of his refusal to join a secret coalition against England during the Boer war and of sending war plans to the queen. It was like the last straw. The Reichstag called

Von Bulow to account, and William made concessions.

TURKEY.—The leaven of democracy showed signs of working even in the European stronghold of autocratic Islam. The sultan of Turkey saw his army turning from him under the influence of the Young Turk party and his powerless, he put into effect the hitherto dead letter constitution of 1876 and called into being a national parliament at Constantinople. This body met amid rejoicing Dec. 17.

THE BALKANS.—On Oct. 5 the whole status of southeastern Europe as fixed by the treaty of Berlin (1878) was suddenly altered. Bulgaria proclaimed its independence, with Prince Ferdinand as its czar and at the same time by concerted arrangement Austria announced to the powers that she proposed to annex completely the former Turkish provinces of Herzegovina and Bosnia, while the Turkish island of Crete moved toward a union with Greece. War seemed unavoidable then, and the clouds still lower in the diplomatic sky as a gloomy omen of what the new year may have in store. The prompt action of the powers on motion of Russia in agreeing to hold a conference to readjust the balance in the Balkans, the opening of negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey and the military impotence of Serbia and Montenegro combined to prevent an immediate outbreak. Later Turkey began a boycott of Austrian goods, and all the Balkan states prepared for war.

PORTUGAL.—The ferment of Republicanism in the Portuguese monarchy after long restraint found vent in the assassination of King Carlos and Crown Prince Luis Feb. 1 while they were riding in the streets of Lisbon. The younger son, Manuel, who was slightly wounded, succeeded to the throne, and the hated Premier Franco fled the country. Subsequent elections showed the Conservatives still in a large majority.

MOROCCO.—On Aug. 24 the oft repeated story of the defeat of Sultan Abdul Aziz by the forces of the pretender, Mulai Hafid, proved to be true, and the latter demanded recognition of the powers as the sultan. That was where the German emperor made a peck of trouble by recognizing Hafid without consulting the nations in the Algeiras conference. France firmly opposed, Spain seconded, and the Kaiser "came down." Then they all bowed to Hafid together.

PERSIA.—The Radical first parliament at Teheran under the constitution granted in 1907 was wiped out of existence in a bloody battle with the Shah's soldiers June 23-4000 persons being killed in the streets, the parliament buildings battered down and some of the Radical leaders executed. The revolutionists captured and held Tabriz.

JAPAN.—The Japanese government gave the American fleet a wonderful reception, the mikado and the president exchanging most cordial greetings.

CHINA.—On Nov. 13 Empress Kwang Seu and the dowager empress, who had been for a generation the real ruler of China, died. Pu Yi, the infant son of Prince Chun, had been designated as heir to the throne, and the regency was seized by Prince Chun.

CENTRAL AMERICA hovered on the verge of war, but finally the issues were laid before the new Central American court of justice, which was set up May 26 at Cartago, Costa Rica, with all the states represented.

VENEZUELA added Holland to the list of her "don't speak" neighbors by expelling the Dutch minister for some indiscretion, and the Dutch were hot for coercion. They began war Dec. 13 by capturing the Venezuelan coast guard ship, *Alix*. Sleeper, the American minister, finally broke off relations and quit the country owing to the failure of the Castro government responding to the overtures from Washington as to a settlement of claims. The Venezuelan minister later was recalled from Washington. President Castro sailed for Europe the last of November.

CUBA rose to her new opportunity with orderly elections in December. Jose Miguel Gomez, the Liberal leader, being chosen president.

HAITI was torn by two revolts, that led by Juneau and Firmin in January being crushed, but the second, under Antoine Simon, resulting in the bloodless capture of Port au Prince and the fall of the Nord Alexis government Dec. 2. As the forces of Simon approached the capital the officers of Alexis deserted and the people turned against him, so that he was barely able to escape with his life on board a French warship. Simon took possession of the city and on Dec. 17 was elected president by the Haitian congress.

Rays of Hope Follow Year of Business Distress.

Everything is relative. While business conditions in this country are still far from what they were two years ago, the end of 1908 presents an encouraging outlook in comparison to that which capital and labor faced last January. Then 328,000 freight cars were idle, thousands of mills and factories were closed, at least 2,000,000 wage earners were unemployed, other millions worked on part time or at reduced wages, goods on hand could not be sold at a profit, railroad and industrial stocks were battered in price almost beyond recognition, and at high rates of interest little money could be secured from hiding. Fear possessed the business community on the eve of a presidential campaign in which both the old parties were considering radical measures for scaring off the bogey of socialism. Processions of the unemployed marched in the larger cities and gave authorities a case of nerves. A large number of strikes resulted

from wage reductions, but few were successful.

The railroads were between the devil of reduced traffic and the deep sea of a threatened general strike. Their only apparent relief, if they hoped to pay salaries and dividends, was to raise freight rates. Here they met the opposition of the shippers backed by the preliminary investigation of the interstate commerce commission. The Southwestern association did advance rates in July, and some southern lines reduced wages, while nearly all lines held off men. In December came the general announcement of a 10 per cent increase to take effect Jan. 1, 1909.

E. H. Harriman in March took full possession of the Georgia Central, which with a new connecting link gave him a coast continent system.

On April 28 Cleveland's three cent fare municipal street railway system went into effect, but hardly was it started when a bitter strike was called to enforce a former contract for wage increase. Riots and car dynamiting tied up the lines for weeks, but the city finally won. A deficit the first two months gave way later to a surplus, but the public, dissatisfied with the service, voted in the Oct. 2 referendum against the municipal franchise, and a few weeks later the company was thrown into a receivership.

Secretary Wilson reported the value of all crops to the farmer to be \$7,772,000,000, a new record, corn heading the list with 2,643,000,000 bushels.

Jan. 9 New York celebrated the completion and operation of its first East river tunnel and of its first Hudson river tunnel from Hoboken Feb. 25. Philadelphia's \$20,000,000 Market street subway was opened July 30.

The ocean speed record was lowered repeatedly by the big British turbines, the Lusitania finally doing the best western trip in 4 days 15 minutes.

Regulation of Trusts and Pursuit of Grafters.

The American smile of 1907 when Judge Landis fined the oil trust \$25,240,000 for taking Alton rebates certainly came off July 22 last, when Judge Grosscup and associates of the court of appeals at Chicago reversed Landis on the assumption that the fine was excessive and not based on good law. What the chief hunter of the big octopus had to say of that particular turn in the case had not been touched and he would "regard it as a gross miscarriage of justice if through any technicalities the quarry should escape. The president at once had the motion for a rehearing made. This was denied, and the famous case goes up on appeal to the supreme court.

But in the meantime the government pack was in full cry along other paths, the chief of which led toward the dissolution of the Standard Oil company.

Sept. 10 at Philadelphia Judge Gray and associates on the circuit bench sustained the right of railroads to own and operate coal mines, holding the commodity clause of the Hepburn bill to be despotic and confiscatory.

Federal suits were also started against the Harriman railroad trust, and against the powder trust, while numerous fines were imposed on railroads and other corporations under the Elkins law for rebating. On March 23 the supreme court, 8 to 1, invalidated the Minnesota and North Carolina rate laws, holding that federal courts had the right to review and to stay execution to protect stockholders. The Alabama rate law was held up by the circuit court pending investigation of reasonableness of rates. Pennsylvania two cent rate law was invalidated by the state supreme court. On Nov. 31 the United States supreme court ruled that the order of the Virginia railroad commission fixing a two cent passenger rate was subject to review and must be tried before the highest state court before seeking federal intervention. In December the circuit court of appeals enjoined the tobacco trust from continuing interstate traffic.

Early in January the supreme court knocked out the employers' liability law because it was not confined to interstate corporations. On Jan. 25 it ruled that membership in a union might justify dismissal of interstate railroad employees. On Feb. 3 in the famous *Dunbury* hatters' boycott case it decided unanimously that the boycott as a method of fighting capital illegal when declared against goods in interstate traffic. President Gompers and other A. F. of L. officials were enjoined from publishing an "unfair list."

On March 9 the California supreme court vacated the conviction of former Mayor Schmitz, and he was freed on heavy bail covering other charges after having been confined ten months. When in November his pal, Boss Ruess, was brought to trial the desperation of the graft forces showed itself in the act of one discredited saloon man, Hans, who shot Heney in court. Though Heney was seriously injured, he recovered to continue the fight with increased public sympathy. Ruess was convicted Dec. 11 and faced a prison term. Four of Pennsylvania's capital grafters were convicted in February and sentenced Dec. 18 to two years in prison and \$500 fine each.

On Nov. 6 at New York Charles W. Morse, the millionaire whose illegal banking practices were believed to have started the financial panic of 1907, was brought to stern justice with conviction and a fifteen year sentence. At the same time sentence for his banking associate, President Curtis of the Bank of North America, was suspended.

Pittsburg was shocked by a series of banking explosions and defalcations, two of which stand out as colossal crimes. On March 23 Henry Reiber, teller, and John Young, auditor of the Farmers' Deposit National

bank, were arrested for the misuse of over a million of the bank funds. In June they were sentenced to ten years each. On May 7 William Montgomery, cashier of the Allegheny National bank, was accused of \$1,550,000, including some state funds. He was sentenced to fifteen years in prison.

Kentucky's notorious Night Riders made additional raids in spite of the troops sent out to check them, and on Oct. 20 a band of dispossessed squatters on Reelfoot lake, Tennessee, kidnaped Captain Rankin and Colonel Taylor of Trenton. They hung the former, but the latter escaped by swimming the lake. Troops were called out, and many arrests were made.

The most serious race riots of the year occurred at Springfield, Ill., Aug. 14 and 15, when a wild mob killed nine persons, injured eighty and burned houses occupied by negroes. Troops were called out and the leaders brought to justice.

The last of the Idaho cases against miners' officials ended with the acquittal of George A. Pettibone in January. Harry Orchard, the confessed murderer of Governor Steunenburg, whose testimony implicated the miners, received a death sentence, which later was commuted to a life term.

Caleb Powers, four times tried in eight years for the murder of Governor Goebel, was pardoned by Governor Willson of Kentucky.

Science, Sociology, Religion and Other Data.

Continuous mechanical flight as a human feat has been publicly demonstrated to the satisfaction of the world by the two American aviators, Wilbur and Orville Wright, giving assurance of new military weapons and promise of practical commercial applications. Having finished their secret trials at Kill Devil hill, North Carolina, last May and having received patent protection here and abroad, the Wrights made public the details of their work. Wilbur then took one machine to Le Mans, France, and Orville another to Fort Myer, Va., for official trials in September. Orville scored first, making a record flight of 1 hour 14 minutes 20 seconds prior to the fatal trial of Sept. 27, when the aeroplane, carrying the inventor and Lieutenant Selfridge, fell with a broken propeller, killing Selfridge and breaking several of Wright's bones. Later Wilbur sailed the air alone 1 hour and 31 minutes and on Oct. 10 took alone one man for 1 hour 9 minutes 45 seconds, winning \$100,000 for the invention from a French syndicate. Farman and Delagrange also made successful aeroplane flights in France, the former winning the Arch-Deacon prize for the first circular mile, while the tetrahedron machine of Bell and Baldwin at Hammondsport, N. Y., was flown short distances.

Count Zeppelin of Germany again led the world in the dirigible balloon field, although his series of flights culminated Aug. 1 in the burning of his huge rigid gas airship at Mayence, where he had paused in a storm for repairs after a continuous journey of 251 miles in 11 hours. With popular aid he built another ship, in which he made more flights in November, winning the Kaiser's praise and selling his invention to the government.

The dirigible balloon built by Thomas W. Baldwin on official trial at Fort Myer, Va., in August attained a speed of 10.16 miles an hour on a two hour trip and was bought by the war department for \$3,000.

Both the pan-Anglican conference and the Lambeth conference at London went on record for socialism. The Methodist general conference at Baltimore took advanced ground for industrial reforms and prohibition, but refused to change the code of discipline. The Episcopal diocese of New York made a working arrangement with organized labor. On the other hand, the American Catholic society sharply condemned socialism. The first assembling of the Catholic hosts in this country took place in Chicago in November, the occasion being the celebration of the transfer of the United States from a mission country to a country with an independent national church.

Signs of a coming unification of all churches were seen first in the warm interchanges between the Methodist Episcopal conference at Baltimore and the Methodist Protestant conference at Pittsburgh, in the union motions between the latter and the Congregational and United Brethren, in the union favored by the Presbyterian general conference at Kansas City with the Reformed church and finally in the first meeting of the great federal council of the Churches of Christ in America at Philadelphia in December. This council also took advanced ground for practical social reforms.

American athletes won a majority of the events in the Olympic games at London in July. John Hayes being the Marathon winner. In November he was beaten by Dorando in Madison Square Garden, New York, and on Dec. 15 at the same place Dorando was beaten by Longboat, the Canadian Indian. The baseball leaders were the Chicago Cubs and the Detroit.

Famous persons who died in 1908 were: Charles Emory Smith, Edmund C. Stedman, Edward A. McDonald, August Wilhelm, Louise de la Ramee (Ouida), Redfield Proctor, Seneca from Vermont; William Pinckney Whyte, senator from Maryland; William B. Allison, senator from Iowa; Francis Coppee, Henry C. Potter, Murat Halsted, Joel Chandler Harris, Bronson Howard, Ira D. Sankey, Daniel Colt Gilman, Charles Elliot Norton, Donald G. Mitchell, Grover Cleveland, Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Victorien Sardou.

SPRINGFIELD WILL HAVE NEW BRICK BLOCK

The News has it from good authority that activity in building lines will commence in the early spring and that before the season closes there will be completed three fine new brick store buildings. Already plans are being drawn for two of the structures which will be similar to the new I. O. O. F. building. We also learn from the building contractors that several fine residences will be constructed this year and from the present outlook, there will be more building done in Springfield this year than in the past two years.

Sidney L. Ashworth and Miss Alice Male were married Wednesday evening at the home of Finley Male, in Springfield, Rev. Harbit of the M. E. church officiating. The family and a few immediate friends were present. Both bride and groom are well known here and many join in congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. Ashworth will remain in Springfield.

J. A. Roberts and Harry M. Stewart now men of leisure, Mr. Roberts having severed his connection at the flour mill after a faithful performance of head miller for the past thirteen years and Mr. Stewart is no longer connected with the firm of Henderson & Co. Both gentlemen are undecided as to what they will do but will remain in Springfield for sometime at least and we hope permanently.

Ira Bidwell, the young man who met with the accident at the mill two weeks ago, thereby losing his right arm, will return home from the hospital the first of next week.—News.

BOOTH'S DOGS TREE AN IMMENSE COUGAR

Animal Measured Nearly Ten Feet in Length—Had Been Killing Many Sheep

(Guard Special Service.) Rosburg, Or., Jan. 2.—The R. A. Booth pack of dogs "freed" a sheep Thursday near "Frost" twenty-five miles east of here, which has been one of the worst pests in the memory of Douglas county hunters. When the animal was killed, he measured fully ten feet in length. Shortly before the dogs were set upon the trail the cat had killed fourteen sheep, one after the other, making a total of twenty-three in less than a week. A number of local dogs had been started after the animal, but all failed. Besides the sheep killing the beast committed other depredations that cost the farmers in the neighborhood considerable loss.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS IN EFFECT IN ENGLAND

London, Jan. 1.—Old age pensions which for a quarter of a century has been a subject of lively debate in the British parliament and heated discussion in the public press, became an accomplished fact today with the coming into effect of the measure forced through the last session of parliament by the liberal government. With the exception of the Irish home rule bill no measure that has been in parliament in recent years has attracted more attention than has the old-age pension bill.

The law, in effect, provides that beginning with this date every person in Great Britain over seventy years of age, who is not a lunatic, and has not been convicted of crime, and whose income does not exceed a sum amounting to \$130 a year, is entitled to a pension of five shillings a week from the public treasury. In cases where husband and wife or several other members of the same family living together apply the pension is slightly reduced. Nobody is to be allowed a pension who has "habitually refused to work," and "all who have been brought into a position to apply for a pension through his or her willful acts of misbehavior," are debarred.

Mr. Asquith, the author of the bill, has estimated that in the United Kingdom there are 1,246,000 persons of seventy years of age and over and that out of this total there are 572,000 people eligible for pensions. The cost to the country is estimated will be not less than thirty million dollars this year.

PRESIDENT HELPS ORPHANS.

Hundreds of orphans have been helped by the President of the Industrial and Orphan's Home at Macon, Ga., who writes: "We have used Electric Bitters in this institution for several years. It has proved a most excellent medicine for Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles. We regard it as one of the best family medicines on earth." It invigorates the vital organs, purifies the blood, aids digestion, creates appetite, to strengthen and build up thin, pale, weak children or run-down people. It has no equal. Best for female complaints. Only 50c at W. A. Kuykendall's.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion that the new heavyweight champion has arrived at a most favorable time for Messrs. Johnson and Fitzpatrick. Jeffries, Corbett, Fitzsimmons and Sharkey have retired.