

NEWS ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

Congress Convenes.

Washington, Jan. 4.—A lowering of the bars in favor of fermented, malt or fruit beverages at army post exchanges and on army transports, but permitting "no distilled nor ardent spirits to be sold," is provided by a bill introduced in the house by Representative Parker, chairman of the judiciary committee.

The measure provides that the favored beverage may be sold, under proper regulations, by enlisted men or other persons authorized.

The increased cost of living was the subject of a concurrent resolution offered in the House today by Representative Hull, of Tennessee. It provides for a joint committee of the house and senate to investigate and report what remedies may be effected through legislation.

Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, has ordered a sweeping inquiry of the same nature.

"I realize," said Secretary Wilson, "that we have undertaken a big contract, but we can carry it out. We have the men and we have the money."

A bill making sweeping changes in the interstate commerce laws for the regulation of railroads was introduced today in the House by Representative Mann of Illinois, chairman of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

Representative Hawley today introduced his bill granting to the State of Oregon the right to make lies in sections, equal in acre and value, to all school lands embraced in forest reserves.

Late today after a conference with Senators Aldrich and Root and Attorney-General Wickham, President Taft decided to revert to his original plan of combining his views as to amendments to the interstate commerce and anti-trust laws in one message, which he will send to congress Thursday noon.

An aggregate of \$4,344,000 of repairs to naval vessels is provided in estimates the secretary of the navy today submitted to the house. The recent legislation required recommendations for authorization where repairs are to exceed \$200,000.

Wednesday, January 5.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Senator Nelson, chairman of the public lands committee, today introduced a bill proposing radical changes in the methods of disposing of public lands. The bill authorizes the secretary of the interior to withdraw from settlement public lands for water power, forestry or irrigation purposes, the order of withdrawal to remain in force until revoked by congress.

It directs the secretary to classify public lands into eight classes, agricultural, irrigable, dry farming, timber, coal, mineral, national forests and water power, and water power, and provides disposition of each class as follows: Agricultural, by homesteading only; irrigable, by operation only of national reclamation and Carey acts; dry farming, by 820-acre homestead act; timber lands shall not be sold, but timber they contain shall be sold to highest bidders and proceeds divided between states and national reclamation fund; mineral lands shall be opened to prospecting and purchase practically as at present; coal lands shall not be sold and coal, asphaltum and phosphate they contain shall be disposed of by lease; forest lands shall be retained in national forests; power lands shall not be sold, but shall be leased for periods determined by the interior department.

Characterizing Representative Mann's white slave bill as drastic and revolutionary, three Democratic members of the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce, led by Representative Richardson, of Alabama, today filed in the house the minority report on that measure, which was favorably acted upon by that committee before the holiday recess.

President Sends Special Message.

Washington, Jan. 5.—President Taft's promised message on the subjects of rate regulation and the control of the so-called "trusts" was transmitted to congress today. It follows closely the line of the president's speeches in the past. It suggests the creation of a court of commerce, with power to review the acts of the interstate commerce commission, with some changes in the power and jurisdiction of the commission itself, and the enactment of a federal incorporation act, as a means for permitting those combinations which exist legitimately to continue to do business.

Patrick Henry's Body to be Moved.

Richmond, Jan. 5.—It has practically been determined to move the body of Patrick Henry from Red Hill, Charlottesville county, to this city for reburial in the churchyard of the old St. John's church in which Henry made his famous revolutionary speech. The present grave is in the rear of the old Henry house at Red Hill, unmarked except by a small slab. A bill is to be presented to the Virginia legislature in January appropriating funds for a monument.

Trust Cases Coming Up.

Washington, Jan. 4.—This week will be marked by the resumption of two Federal actions against corporations. The hearing on the "tobacco trust" case will be taken up by the United States Supreme court. At the same time the resumption of testimony designed to compel a disjuncture of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific systems. The railroad case will be heard in New York.

CONSOLIDATE REPUBLICS

Minister Barrett Says This Will Be Outcome of Trouble.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Consolidation of the five Central American republics into one government is the plan the State department is working on, according to information from an authoritative source tonight. In the immediate future only such steps as will bring about the commercial development of the countries, their establishment on a sound financial basis and the stimulation of an enterprise between the republics, are contemplated.

The first note of the new program was sounded by John Barrett, director of the bureau of American republics. In his recent Toledo speech, Barrett declared that eventually the United States of Central America would be an accomplished fact.

On the heels of this announcement came the declaration of Senor Cresol, the special agent of Mexico, who said on leaving Washington:

"The United States and Mexico will continue cooperating to bring about peace in Central America and to give solid substance to the Washington convention of 1907 and to develop a feeling of high respect to the international court at Carthage."

It is positively stated that the relations of the United States and Mexico have not been strained in the slightest by the Nicaraguan episode.

It is the conviction of the present administration that the influential element of the republics can be won over by giving a staple basis of commerce.

The removal of Zelaya means the elimination of the troublemaker of Central America. It is necessary to the success of the plan to eliminate all traces of Zelayanism, for the reason if Zelaya shows any disposition to compromise with Zelayanism, his chances for recognition from the United States are small.

FOREIGN TRADE \$1,475,000,000

Imports of Raw Materials Lead—Exports of Cotton Show Big

Washington, Jan. 5.—The foreign commerce of the United States in the year 1909 will exceed in value that of any earlier year, with a single exception. The imports will be larger than in any previous year, while the exports will fall slightly below those of 1906 and 1907.

The above is an estimate of the year's trade based on official figures for 11 months as presented by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. Assuming that the twelfth month, December, shows figures of imports and exports approximately equal to those of the immediately preceding month, November, the imports will aggregate about \$1,475,000,000, and the exports about \$1,750,000,000, of which approximately \$25,000,000 consists of foreign merchandise exported, and the remainder, \$1,725,000,000, domestic products.

Imports free of duty will be larger than in any earlier year in the history of our commerce and will aggregate approximately \$700,000,000, against a little over \$500,000,000 in 1908 and \$636,000,000 in 1907, the high record year prior to 1909. Dutiable imports will amount to about \$780,000,000, and will be larger than any preceding year, except possibly in 1907, when the total was \$787,000,000. This estimated total of \$1,475,000,000 of imports in the year exceeds by over \$50,000,000 the highest import record of any earlier year, that of 1907.

Of this \$1,475,000,000 of imports, about \$525,000,000 is raw material for use in manufacturing and \$290,000,000 partially manufactured material for further use in manufacturing, making the total value of manufacturers' materials imported nearly \$800,000,000, or more than half the entire imports of the year.

Taft Makes Nominations.

Washington, Jan. 7.—President Taft today sent to the senate nominations for justices of the new court of customs appeals created under the provisions of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill:

Judge Alfred C. Cox, of Utica, N. Y., is made presiding judge, with the following as the justices: William H. Hunt, of Montana; General James F. Smith, of San Francisco; former governor general of the Philippines, and O. M. Barber, of Vermont.

At the same time President Taft sent in the name of Marion De Vries, of San Francisco, as the new chairman of the board of general appraisers of customs at New York.

Museum for Roosevelt Trophies

Washington, Jan. 6.—After having been in course of construction for four years, the new national museum in this city will be opened to the public by the middle of February. One section of the mammoth building has been practically completed. It is in this building that the Roosevelt collection of African mammals will be exhibited. It will take a year, however, to mount enough of these trophies to make a fair exhibition.

Changes in Commerce Law.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Representative Mann has introduced in the house a bill that would make sweeping changes in the interstate commerce law for the regulation of railroads. It is in accordance with the administration bill, but it does not create an interstate commerce court. It provides for the establishment of a bureau of transportation in the department of commerce and labor, to hear complaints.

COLD UNFARMED.

Chicago, Jan. 7.—What was looked upon as an exciting weather drama, when the present stressful cold was in process of sweeping eastward from the Rockies and from Medicine Hat to the Atlantic seaboard, is fast assuming an aspect of dire tragedy. The situation is full of dire possibilities of exposure and suffering. Already the blight of the severe cold has been felt in many Western cities.

Fifty or more persons, a score of whom are in hospitals with injuries that may prove fatal, were the victims of accidents in Washington today as a result of the sleet and snow which converted the city's sidewalks and thoroughfares into sheets of ice.

In many parts of Iowa the fuel situation is so grave as to call for the official attention of Governor Carroll. Confiscation of fuel is becoming general.

Here in Chicago there is only a two days' supply of coal available for quick use. Today there was widespread suffering in the city. Chicago is also threatened with the cutting off of its water supply, due to ice floes clogging the cribs in the lake.

In the far Northwest and on the ranges of Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming hundreds of cattle have perished of exposure, starvation and lack of water.

For the first time in the memory of most persons living, the Mississippi River is frozen from bank to bank from St. Louis to a point 90 miles below that city. By tomorrow morning it is predicted one might skate on the river from St. Paul to Memphis. Cincinnati reports that ice gorges have caused a loss of \$40,000, and that a wave of high water and ice is coming down the river, carrying destruction in its path.

STRENUOUS LIFE TELLS.

Thirty-five Pittsburg Captains of Industry Die This Winter.

Pittsburg, Jan. 7.—The strenuous life of Pittsburgers in their desire to amass millions as quickly as possible is thinning the ranks of the big captains of industry and depleting the swell clubs which house the millionaires. Heart disease has recently taken very prominent men, all worth millions, including:

Frank B. Smith, president of the Crucible Steel company of America.

James W. Friend, vice-president of Pressed Steel Car company.

William Clark Magee, who made millions in coke.

William Metcalf, president of the Braeburn Steel company.

John Caldwell, treasurer of the great Westinghouse Electrical & Airbrake works, who died at his desk.

James W. Brown, ex-congressman and millionaire steel magnate, died at a hunting club, where he had gone to recuperate.

Simon O'Donnell, vice-president and general manager of the Union Stock Yards company.

Albert B. Baxter, broker, oil and gas magnate.

John P. Ober, owner of vast business interests.

George L. Fisher, president of the Fisher Foundry & Machine company.

Twenty-five other men have died suddenly this winter, their wealth ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Heart disease was the cause in nearly every case.

WILL OF 21 WORDS LEFT.

Vast Estate of \$4,000,000 Disposed of by George McNear.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—The will of the late George W. McNear, the millionaire millowner, who died here last week, has been filed for probate. The will consists of only twenty-one words.

By the terms of the instrument his widow, Mrs. Amanda McNear, is bequeathed his estate, amounting to \$4,000,000, and made sole executrix without bonds.

No mention was made in the will for the six children of McNear, who are Mrs. A. Bowles, John A. McNear, Fred W. McNear, George W. McNear, Jr., Seward McNear and S. Elizabeth McNear, as the late millionaire put absolute trust in the ability of his wife to carry out an adjustment of his estate equitable to all.

Taft Coming West Again.

Washington, Jan. 7.—President Taft is still looking forward to a trip to Alaska late in the coming spring. He plans to go to the far northwestern territory immediately after the adjournment of congress. In announcing to a committee of New York congressmen today that he could not definitely accept their invitation to visit New York on May 30, the President said he might be on his way to Alaska at that time, or that congress might be in its closing days. In the latter event, he would not care to leave Washington.

Fire Destroys Palace.

Athens, Jan. 7.—The royal palace at Tatoi caught fire at 10 o'clock tonight when the royal family were gathered around a Christmas tree. The flames spread rapidly rising to a great height, and soon the right wing of the palace was practically destroyed. The fire is believed to have been due to illuminations on the tree.

The royal family escaped. So far as is known no one was injured. The king, who was not in the palace at the time, hastened home in a motor car.

Bourne Would Help Settlers.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Senator Jonathan Bourne introduced a bill calling for \$250,000 for relief of Sherman county settlers who lost their claims because the court decided that their lands belonged to The Dallas Military Wagon Road company. Senator Bourne's bill bases all claims by settlers on T. B. Neuhayes' valuation of each tract and improvements made in 1904.

New York Recognizes Peary.

New York, Jan. 7.—Hailing him as the discoverer of the North Pole, the chamber of commerce today elected R. E. Peary as honorary member.

The Redemption of David Corson

By CHARLES FREDERIC GOSS

Copyright, 1909, by The Brown-Merrill Company. All Rights Reserved.

CHAPTER XVI.—(Continued.)

With a swift, instinctive movement both of them turned away. Each read in the other's face consciousness of the impossibility of discussing these experiences through which they had come to be what they were. Such men guard the real history of their lives and the real emotions of their hearts as jealously as the combinations of their cards.

The old, ironical smile lighted up Mantel's features, and he said:

"We seem to have a violent antipathy to this low, Davy, and skate away from it as soon as it begins to crack a little beneath our feet."

"Yes," said his friend, shrugging his shoulders, "it is not pleasant to fall through the crust of friendship. There is a sub-element in every life a too sudden plunge into which might result in a fatal chill. We had all better keep on the surface. I am frank enough to say that the less any one knows about my past, the better I shall be satisfied."

"I wish that I could keep my own self from invading that realm as easily as I can keep other? Why is it that no man has ever yet been able to let the dead past bury its dead? It seems a reasonable demand."

"He is a poor serton—this old man, the Past. I have watched him at his work, and he is powerless to dig his own grave, however many others he may have excavated."

"The Present seems as hopeless as the Past. I wonder if the future will help enough new events over old ones to hide them from view?"

"Let a shadow bury the sun! Let a wave bury the sea," answered David, bitterly.

Mantel dropped his eyes in silence. For the first time since David had known him, his fine face gave some genuine revelation of the emotions of his soul. Great tears gathered in his eyes, and his lips trembled. In a moment, he arose, took his hat, laid his hand gently upon the arm of his friend, and said, "David, my dear fellow, we are skating on that thin ice again. We shall fall through it—"

Several minutes passed in silence, while he stood reflecting on the doctor's misery, his own new happiness and the opportunities and duties which the adventure had opened and imposed.

"Do you know where we are? I was so absorbed that I didn't notice our route at all."

"Yes," Mantel answered, "I have marked every turn of the way."

"Could you find the place again?"

"Without the slightest difficulty."

"Be sure, for if you wish to help me, as I think you do, you will have to come often. I have made my plans in the few moments in which I have been standing here, and am determined to devote my life, if need be, to this poor creature whom I have so wronged. I must get him out of this filthy hole into some cheerful place. I will atone for the past if I can! Atone! What a word that is! With what stunning force its meaning dawns upon me! How many times I have heard and uttered it without comprehension. But somehow I now see in it a revelation of the sweetest possibility of life. Oh! I am changed man; I will make atonement! Come, let us go. I am anxious to begin. But no, I must proceed with caution. How do I know that this is his permanent home? He may be only lodging for the night, and when you come to-morrow, he may be gone! Go in, Mantel, and make sure that we shall find him here to-morrow. Go, and while you find out all you can about him, I will begin to search for such a place as I want to put him in. We will part for the present; but when we meet to-night we shall have much to talk about. I will tell you the whole of this long and bitter story. I am so happy, Mantel. You can't understand! I have something to live for now. I will work, oh, you do not know how I will work to make this atonement. What a word it is! It is music to my ears. Atonement!"

And so in the lexicon of human experience he had at last discovered the meaning of one of the great words of our language. After all, experience is the only exhaustive dictionary, and the definitions it contains are the only ones which really burn themselves in to the mind or fully interpret the significances of life.

to the streets to cry out at the top of my voice—I am not a murderer!"

Terrified at his violence, Mantel pushed him farther back into the doorway; but he sprang out again as if his very life depended upon the sight of the great white face.

"Be quiet!" Mantel cried, seizing his arm with an iron grip.

"Look at this hand, Mantel! I have not looked at it myself for more than three years without seeing spots of blood on it! And now it looks as white as snow to me!"

"You are in danger of being overheard, and if you are not careful, in a moment more we shall be in the hands of the police!"

"No matter if I am," cried David, "I am not beside myself, and rapturously embracing my friend. Nothing could give me more pleasure than a trial for my crime, for my victim would be my witness! He is not dead. He is out there in the street. Mantel, you don't know what happiness it is to be alive! A mountain has been taken from my shoulders. I no longer have any secret! I will tell you the whole story of my life, now."

"Not now; but later on, when we are alone."

David had now grown more quiet, and they stood patiently waiting for the time to come when the old beggar should leave his post and retire to his home, if home he had. At last he received his signal for departure.

A shadow fell from the roof of the tall building opposite, upon the pupil of an eye which perhaps felt the darkness it could not see. The building was his old. Like millions of his fellow creatures, he measured life by advancing shadows.

He arose, and in his man and movements there was a certain majesty. Placing his hat upon his storm-beaten head, he folded the camp-chair under his arm, took the leading string in his hand and followed the little dog, who began picking his way with fine care through the surging crowd.

Behind him at a little distance walked the two gamblers, pursuing him like a double shadow. A bloodhound could not have been more eager than David was. He trembled if an omnibus cut off his view for a single instant, and shuddered if the beggar turned a corner.

Unconscious of all this, the dog and his master wended their way homeward. They crawled slowly and quietly across a street over which thundered an endless procession of vehicles; they moved like snails through the surf of the ocean of life. Arriving at length at the door of a wretched tenement house, the blind man and his dog entered.

As he noted the squalor of the place, David murmured to himself, "Poor old man! How low he has fallen!"

Several minutes passed in silence, while he stood reflecting on the doctor's misery, his own new happiness and the opportunities and duties which the adventure had opened and imposed.

"Do you know where we are? I was so absorbed that I didn't notice our route at all."

"Yes," Mantel answered, "I have marked every turn of the way."

"Could you find the place again?"

"Without the slightest difficulty."

"Be sure, for if you wish to help me, as I think you do, you will have to come often. I have made my plans in the few moments in which I have been standing here, and am determined to devote my life, if need be, to this poor creature whom I have so wronged. I must get him out of this filthy hole into some cheerful place. I will atone for the past if I can! Atone! What a word that is! With what stunning force its meaning dawns upon me! How many times I have heard and uttered it without comprehension. But somehow I now see in it a revelation of the sweetest possibility of life. Oh! I am changed man; I will make atonement! Come, let us go. I am anxious to begin. But no, I must proceed with caution. How do I know that this is his permanent home? He may be only lodging for the night, and when you come to-morrow, he may be gone! Go in, Mantel, and make sure that we shall find him here to-morrow. Go, and while you find out all you can about him, I will begin to search for such a place as I want to put him in. We will part for the present; but when we meet to-night we shall have much to talk about. I will tell you the whole of this long and bitter story. I am so happy, Mantel. You can't understand! I have something to live for now. I will work, oh, you do not know how I will work to make this atonement. What a word it is! It is music to my ears. Atonement!"

And so in the lexicon of human experience he had at last discovered the meaning of one of the great words of our language. After all, experience is the only exhaustive dictionary, and the definitions it contains are the only ones which really burn themselves in to the mind or fully interpret the significances of life.

CHAPTER XVII.

The next few weeks were passed in devoted efforts to make the blind man comfortable and happy. David sought and found a place to work, and after reserving enough of his wages to supply the few necessities of his daily life, dedicated the rest to the purchase of comforts for the poor invalid.

Mantel acted as his almoner, and by his delicate tact and gentle manners persuaded the proud and revengeful old man to accept the mysterious charity. The moment the strain of perpetual beggary was taken from

him, the physical ruin which the terrible blow of the stone, the subsequent illness, and the ensuing poverty and wretchedness had wrought, became manifest. He experienced a sudden relapse, and began to sink into an ominous decline.

Even had he not known the secret of his sorrow, it would have soon become plain to his acute and watchful nurse that some hidden trouble was gnawing at his heart, for he was taciturn, abstracted and sometimes morose. He manifested no curiosity as to the benefactor upon whose charity he was living, but received the alms bestowed by that unknown hand uncollected, uncomprehended and unobserved.

His mind, aroused by the conversation of his untiring nurse, to the realities of the present existence, would sink back by a sort of irresistible gravity into the realm of memory. There, in the impenetrable privacy of his soul, he brooded over his wrongs and counted his prospects of righting them, as a miser reckons his coins.

The blow struck by David had stunned the doctor, but had not killed him. He lay in the road until a slave, passing that way, picked him up and carried him to a neighboring plantation, where he fell into the hands of people who in the truest sense of the word were good Samaritans. Their hospitality was tested to the utmost, for he lay for weeks in a stupor, and when he recovered consciousness his reason had undergone a strange eclipse. For a long time he could not recall a single event in his history and when at last some of the most prominent began to re-present themselves to his view it was vaguely and slowly, as mountains and hills break through a morning mist. This was not the only result of the blow which his rival had struck him; it had left him totally blind.

Not until many weeks had passed did Mantel succeed in really engaging his patient in anything like a conversation, and even after he had begun to thaw a little under these tactful ministrations of love, whenever the past was even hinted at the old man relapsed instantly into silence.

Mantel might have been discouraged had he not determined at all hazards to enter into the secrets of this life, and to pave the way for the forgiveness of his friend. He therefore persisted in his efforts, and one bright day when the invalid was feeling unusually strong ventured to press home his inquiries.

"I cannot help thinking," he said, "that you could soon be reasonably well again if you did not brood so much. I fear there is some trouble gnawing at your heart."

"There is," he was answered, feebly. "Have you wronged some one, then, and are these thoughts which vex you feelings of remorse and guilt?"

"Wronged some one!" the sick man fairly roared, gripping the arms of his chair and gasping for breath in the excitement which the question brought on. "Not I! I have been wronged! No one has ever wronged me. I have nourished vipers in my bosom and been stung by them. I have sown love and reaped hate. I have been robbed, deceived and betrayed! My wife is gone! My health is gone! My sight is gone! He has skinned me like a sheep! My heart has turned to a hammer which knocks at my ribs and cries revenge! It chokes me!"

He gasped, grew purple in the face and clutched at his collar as if about to strangle. After a while the paroxysm passed away, and Mantel determined once more to try and assuage this implacable hatred.

(To be continued.)

He wanted an Equal Chance.

The "sporting person," once a familiar figure in English society, has all but disappeared, in consequence of the religious revivals and reforms of the last century and a half. A hundred years ago, however, he still existed, says a writer in "Tit-Bits," and one of the type presided over a little seaside parish in Lincolnshire.

The place was a favorite landing place for woodcock at the time of their annual immigration, and the parson used to tell off a native to let him know as soon as the birds began to arrive.

On Sunday he was preaching to his congregation, and had just reached the second head of his discourse, when the church door was cautiously opened and a head appeared followed by a beckoning finger. The parson either did not see, or he would not heed the intruder, who then gave a loud cough.

The preacher stopped in his preaching in the middle of a sentence and excitedly asked: "What is it, John?"

"Cocks is coom," replied John.

The parson hurriedly closed his sermon case. "Shut the door and lock it!" he cried to the clerk. "Keep the people in church till I've got my surplus off. Let's all have a fair chance."

Method.

"What makes you keep on asking me if the razor hurts?" asked the man who was being shaved. "I've said 'yes' three times and it hasn't made any difference."

"No," answered the barber, "I was merely trying my razors out to see which of 'em wants honing."—Washington Star.

Still Worse.

"Died in poverty!" cried the philosopher scornfully.

"Died in poverty, did he, and you expect me to sympathize? What is there in dying in poverty? I've got to live in it!"—The Sporting Times.

The Cost of a Fad.

"Do you know her well?"

"To the contrary, I've never known her well a single day since she learned it was fashionable to be operated on."—St. Louis Star.

The Man of the Hour.

"What is a food expert?"

"Any man who can make his washtub enough for the family table."—Philadelphia Ledger.