GENERAL NEWS.

June 9 is fixed for the Fitzsimmons-Jeffries fight.

The Missouri legislature has adjourned after a session of 138 days.

The report of the Nicaragua commission is in the president's hands.

The Yukon river is open but navigation is still held in check by ice in the lakes.

Ex-Empress Eugenie, of France, is dead. She was living in London in exile.

Joe Wolcott, colored, knocked out Dick O'Brien in the 14th round in New York.

By a vote of 12 to 9, the Connecticut senate defeated the woman suffrage resolution.

The democrats of Ohio will probably nominate John J. Lentz, congressman, for governor.

Senator Gorman's friends have given up the effort to capture the next democratic national convention.

The Dewey home fund is now $2016. It is growing slowly. Government officials at Washington have it in charge.

A Chicago court has held that bank directors are not liable for the mismanagement of funds by a speculating president.

General Gomez contemplates a trip to Washington to hold an interview with President McKinley concerning disarmament.

Dr. Coyle, of Oakland, Cal., will be supported by Pacific coast delegates to the Presbyterian general assembly for moderator.

Archibshop Ireland is being feasted in Belgium. A few days ago he dined with the royal family, being received by King Leopold.

There are several cases of smallpox in the city hospital at Kansas City and there are eleven other cases at St. George hospital.

Work on the Ohio, to be a sister ship to the Maine and the Missouri, has been begun at the Union iron works in San Francisco.

Miss Viola Hoerlocker, a stenographer is under arrest at Hastings, Neb., charged with sending a box of poisoned candy to Mrs. F. C. Morey.

The Spanish cruiser Reina Mercedes has arrived at Hampton Roads on her way to the Norfolk navy yard where she will be repaired and refitted.

Senator Quay expresses himself as confident he will be given a seat in the senate on the strength of his appointment by Governor Stone.

After 25 rounds of fast and vicious fighting at the Lennox Athletic club Tuesday night, Kid McPartland was given the decision over Spike Sullivan.

The great National stallion stakes, of five furlongs, worth $20,000, was won Saturday at New York by Pupil, His Royal Highness second and Vulcan third. Time, 58¾.

The famous shrine of Nuestra Senore Carido at El Cobre, at Santiago, Cuba, has been robbed of jewels valued at $25,000 and the head of the statue broken off and taken away.

Albert H. Olstead, a member of the defunct banking firm of George P. Bessel & Co., at Hartford, Conn., has filed a petition in bankruptcy. Liabilities, $205,311; assets, $100.

The late Ex-Governor Flower of New York, left the most of his property to his widow and daughter, but gave liberal bequests to other relatives, namesakes and his home church.

The American war vessel Wilmington, which has been on an experiment voyage up the Amazon, succeeded in navigating that river to Yuquitos, Peru, 2100 miles from the mouth.

Charles Hutchinson was shot and killed by his wife during a family quarrel at Arcadia, Indiana. The woman pleads self defense. She is but 26 years of age and Hutchinson is her fifth husband.

Rev. Edward Hale has resigned the pastorate of the South Congregational church of Boston which he has filled for 43 years. He did so because he desired to retire on account of his advanced age.

Nikola Tesla, who is in Colorado Springs, announces he will attempt to send a message from Pike's peak to Paris by wireless telegraphy before leaving. He expects to remain there several months.

Maxwell Somerville has presented to the university of Pennsylavnia his engraved gems, Buddhist temple, East Indian ethnological collection and colored prints of the costumes of France, valued at $600,000.

Charles Reiffel, a civilian employed in the quartermaster's department of Santiago, was convicted of murder by a court-martial and sentenced to death. The president has commuted the sentence to life imprisonment.

A tornado passed over Frath county, Texas, Sunday and destroyed much property, killing one man and wounding 15. At Mount Pleasant, Titus county, a church was totally destroyed just after the congregation had left it.

Two Springfield, Mo., lovers, Ben Wilhilte, and Lulu Ford, agreed to commit suicide. The man killed himself, but the woman fainted when he fired the pistol and when she came to her senses she could not carry out her part of the agreement.

The United States traneport Sheridan arrived at San Francisco Sunday, 26 days from Manila. Among her passengers were General Miller and wife, First Lieutenant Crothwell, First Washington infantry, and 74 discharged and convalescent soldiers.

A match has been made between Kid McCoy and Joe Choynski, by the Colorado Athletic Club, to be pulled off at Denver, as soon as the new prizefight law takes effect, for a purse of $10,000. McCoy has signed articles of agreement, which have been forwarded to Choynski.

Newark, N. J., patent-leather manufacturers have agreed to a combination which will be in effect a national patent-leather trust, as 95 per cent of the patent leather manufactured in the United States is produced in Newark. The capital, it is said, will be between $10,000,000 and $15,000,000.

Rain and hail did much damage to the crops and property in Central Kansas Tuesday night. In Saline county, wheat and other crops for miles were completely destroyed, many buildings were damaged and thousands of window lights were broken. Some cattle and many chickens and birds were killed.

The maneuvers thus far of the British delegates to the peace conference indicate a desire to commit the United States to the principle of arbitration. It has been shown that there is no possibility of accomplishing anything at the conference further than a general conclusion to submit all points in dispute to arbitration.

The war department is not going to spare any pains in making the return voyage of the volunteers pleasant and comfortable. This is not only due to the fact that these volunteers have done great service, but the administration is especially anxious to have them well treated and satisfied with what the government has done in the way of taking care of them on their return. So extra efforts will be made to leave a good impression with the returning soldiers who are going to mingle with the people very largely during the next few months.

Professor Rudolph Virchow, the leader of German liberalism, is reported as saying in connection with the meeting of the peace conference. "Disarmament is in the air. Sooner or later it will be realized by all nations under the law of development. The program of Emperor Nicholas is comprehensive and complicated, but the fact that the powers accepted his call is significant enough.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NEWS.

The grain aphis and the tent caterpillar have made their appearance in Benton county.

The speed program of Oregon state fair provides for 12 races. The purses aggregate $5000.

Pacific coast jobbers are making strenuous efforts to secure a reduction in freight rates on hardware.

Adolph Sutro's Cliff House, Sutro Heights, etc., are to be sold at San Francisco by order of the court.

Lazarus Mathews was found dead in his bed Sunday at Macksburg, near Oregon City. He died from heart's disease.

O. M. Bartlett and a boy, inmates of the asylum for the insane, at Salem, escaped a few days ago and are still at large.

The Washington state law requiring railroads to accept grain for shipment over competing roads was declared invalid.

Daniel Haskell, one of the best known pilots on the Pacific coast died in San Francisco, Tuesday, of a complication of diseases.

Mrs. J. V. W. Montague, sister of Colonel James Jackson, died at her home at Portland, Tuesday, after an illness of two years.

James B. Pennebaker, a pioneer of this state, aged 74, died near Mehama, 26 miles east of Salem, Tuesday. He came to Oregon in 1852.

Dr. Belle and George Howard were captured near Olympia, Wash., Saturday, after a search of over a year. They are wanted for murder at Peoria, Ill.

Congressman W. L. Jones has appointed Charles M. Sweeney of Spokane cadet for West Point. Fred H. Smith of Seattle was named as alternate.

The postoffice at Hood River will be raised from fourth class to a presidential office July 1, with the compensation of the postmaster at $1100 per annum.

John Ryder, charged with rape and incest with his 12 year-old daughter, plead guilty Monday at Colfax, Wash., and was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary.

At Garfield, Eastern Washington, there is serious discussion of the advisability of driving out of the country Japanese coolies at work in that section on the railroads.

Mrs. Barrett, wife of the pastor of the Free Metnodist church, at Salem, fell from a carriage and broke her arm. In attempting to alight, her clothing caught and she fell to the pavement.

Captain Judah Parker, a pioneer of California and also one of the pioneer settlers on Coos bay, died at his home at Parkersburg Sunday night. Captain Parker was born in Essex county, New Jersey, July 17, 1829.

Lieutenant Ralph W. Terrell, company K, Second Oregon volunteers, now serving in the Philippines, has obtained his discharge through the influence of Governor Geer and will return to his home in Salem.

The 14-year-old son of J. Smart of Portland held a match over the bung hole of an empty gasoline barrel and he was picked up with a scalp wound five inches long. The gas in the barrel exploded and the chime struck him on the head. He will recover.

A train on the Ilwaco Railroad and Navigation Company's line broke through the pier at Ilwaco on Monday, and the engine tumbled into the water. Five passengers, with the engineer and fireman were thrown into the water but no one was injured or drowned.

Charles McGee, while intoxicated on the streets of Albany, Linn county, Tuesday, assaulted several bystanders on the street, and afterward, in a drunken frenzy, stabbed himself with a small penknife, inflicting a not dangerous wound in the breast.

Arrangements are being made to send a colony of Whitman, Wash., farmers to Lower California. William Hendryx, who has made three trips to that country, is at the head of the movement, and claims that about 30 families and a number of single men have agreed to go with him.

Attorney General Blackburn has rendered an opinion that the state is not liable for the claim of $800 alleged to be due P. J. Maher and F. J. Reilley for the arrest and conviction of George Jackson and Charles Williams, the two men who robbed an O. R. & N. train in Portland in 1897, as a consequence of which both the latter are serving long sentences in the state penitentiary.

EGGS FOR MARKET.

Some Packed Eggs on the Market Are Unpalatable.

Eggs are frequently found in the market that are very unpalatable, due to their having been packed and held for higher prices.

This unfortunate condition is largely attributable to the fact that most of the eggs have been fertilized, and frequently an embryonic development is started before the eggs are collected; then for lack of proper temperature the embryo dies, and putrefaction takes place through the vital activity of micro organisms, polluting the whole egg in time.

Many methods of packing eggs would be much more successful if there were a certainty of the eggs being fertilized. Sometimes it also occurs that bacteria enter the egg from the hen long before it is laid so that although a preserving method is employed to exclude the air from the shell it does not follow that the egg will keep: because the exclusion of air will not prevent the multiplication of the Anerobic oscilli.

On the other hand, if dry packing is used, unless it is antiseptic, there is certainly danger of germs entering the egg through the pores in the shell.

ONE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

The Emersonian dictum that perseverance is an attribute of greatness may be applied very properly to the career of the successful merchant. Greatness is a relative term; but perseverance is a decisive, concrete word which conveys the idea of a set purpose, a determined effort. The dictum might seem not to hold in the cases in which men "have greatness thrust upon them;" but if we should examine the conditions behind these sudden successes we would be very apt to find that they are also the results of continued effort. In the case of the merchant it is seldom that his success comes at the start with leaps and bounds; but the far-seeing tradesman never fails to keep in view the quality of perseverance in his endeavors to supply the public's wants—and especially in his methods of advertising.

The mine owners in the Coeur d'Alene have resolved "to heartily cooperate with the state authorities of Idaho in preserving order and immediately to start up all the mines. The wages paid at Burke, Gem and Mullan are $2.50 per day for all men working underground. The wages at Wardner are $3.50 per day for miners and $3 for laborers. Three hundred and fifty men are already at work at Wardner and other camps can give immediate work to 1000 men."

Claude Branton, hung two weeks ago at Eugene for the murder of John Linn, left a confession with Rev. E. M. Patterson, which has been made public. Branton confesses to firing the shot that killed John Linn. At the trial he maintained that Courtland Green, his accomplice, fired the shot. Green is serving a life sentence in the penitentiary.

WHAT IMPERIALISM MEANS.

Andrew Carnegie gave the following signed statement to the New York World on imperialism and the political outlook in the United States:

"It gives me pleasure to oblige the World by a statement of the position in which I find the imperialistic question in Europe.

"I have seen many of the most prominent public men now in London who I know have been friends of the American republic when it has needed friends. From highest to lowest without exception they have met me with expressions of deep regret that the republic founded by Washington and his colleagues upon plans so much higher than any other state should have fallen to the level of the military states of Europe.

"Some of these men stood with Bright in his campaign against the imperial party that longed to strike us down. I repeat that without exception these men lament the lapse from true Americanism to this miserable imperialism.

"I have met men of the other class, who struck us when the republic was down. Let me give them credit for the change in their feelings toward America. I know them now to be the foremost advocates of the race alliance; but I also know that if I were a British statesman there is no price I would not pay for alliance with America—no price too high for securing her entrance into the troubled waters of the Far East—because the true desire of English-speaking men is that we should stand together as against men not of our race. Nature made blood thicker than water, and an alliance with the republic is now the keynote of British policy, and wisely so. But not alliance with our present industrial Republic. Our present war lord only makes himself ridiculous in the eyes of these statesmen, with three battleships at his back and only 40,000 soldiers, strutting like a peacock, as vain and just as harmless. No; it is not the present industrial republic that England wishes to have as her ally; it is the republic that England sees America must become if she does not soon reverse her policy in regard to the Philippines.

"We must have a tremendous navy and a huge standing army, for Britain judges truly that into whatever enterprise the republic goes she will not be content very long to play second fiddle. She is now only the cat's-paw of England. She could not maintain her position for a day in Manila if England withdrew her august protection.

"This is the humiliating position. It makes my blood boil as I speak of the recreant president who is the sole cause of it. He it was who changed his mind and demanded the Philippines against the advice and wishes of most of his colleagues. Will the president permit the sacrifice of the lives of our soldiers much longer in a futile effort to conquer 1200 islands that would not stay conquered if beaten?

"Such is the position as viewed from London.

"You ask my personal views of the future. I answer, President McKinley will not be allowed by the managers of the republican party to continue his folly—his crime. I believe he has been already informed by those whose voice he cannot disregard that he must stop and return to American traditions. The country has no stomach for victories over people fighting for the right of self-government.

"Reading between the lines it is seen that he is now veering around. Had he authorized or directed Otis to grant Aguinaldo the conference the latter asked before war broke out all that has happened since would have been unnecessary. Today we see his commission taking every means in its power to get a conference with Aguinaldo. More, they are not standing on forms. General Otis, it is reported, cables that he still wants to push on military operations, to which President Schurman objects. The contrast between Otis and Dewey is significant. Dewey always reports only what he has done. Otis has misled the country several times about what he is going to do. His plan of campaign was given out with a great flourish of trumpets. He was going to corral the enemy. So far he has been a complete failure. He won skirmishes, as everybody expected, but lost the campaign.

"The suppression of news from Manila which our republican president enforces would not be tolerated by monarchial Britons. One suppressed cable at Manila comes via Hong Kong telling us the Nebraska regiment is reduced to 300 men, 160 on the sick list. The season approaches when military operations must cease, and the president no doubt stands aghast at the grave situation. He is now reported as going to call an extra session of congress in a vain effort to relieve himself of responsibility.

"My forecast is that the president will get out of the Philippines and return to American principles, obtaining a shadowy protectorate of some form that will 'save his face,' and that he will then be able to appear before the republican convention as having the Philippine question settled, having given them the same promise of independence he gave Cuba. Our party will then carry the presidential election. If he approached the country with the war in the Philippines unsettled, and the convention were free, it is improbable that he would get even the nomination. The weight would be too great to carry.

"The nomination, however, he has probably already secured. But the election would then be another story. If the democratic party were to drop free silver and come out under the leadership of the World for Americanism—presenting to the people the clean-cut issue between the principles of Washington and those of McKinley—there would be no doubt of the result. Our party would be beaten, and deserve to be.

"There; you have tempted me into prophecy—a dangerous business!

"ANDREW CARNEGIE."

A conference of members of the Anti-Imperialist League was held in Boston Tuesday. The event of the meeting was a strong address delivered by ex-Governor Boutwell, president of the league, in which he upheld the position of Aguinaldo and answered Secretay Long.

Ex-Governor Boutwell began by denying the charge that the anti-imperialistic league organization was engaged in improper dealing with the army in the Philippines, but stated that it was the purpose of the league "to bring the army out of the Philippines by the quiet influence of the American people at home, acting in the channels of intercourse or communication; but, failing in the effort, as fail we may, then we propose to so act as to summon the army from the Philippines by the authority of the votes of the American people and without thought of the consequences to men, to administration, to political parties or to questions of domestic concerns.

"As between Aguinaldo and the president, Aguinaldo is in the right and the president is in the wrong. Aguinaldo can only bring the war to an end by the surrender of all right to self-government in himself and in his people and by the recognition of right in the president to govern and tax 8,000,000 Filipinos in whatever manner shall to him seem expedient."

A set of resolutions was offered, which affirm the political principles of the Declaration of Independence, demand justice to the Filipinos, "whom we made our allies in the war with Spain," and their independence, and denounce the war against them as an act of treachery. The fifth resolution states that the punishment of our criminal aggression against that brave, betrayed and unfortunate people is already evident in the usurpation of illegal powers by the president, in the unjustifiable censorship of the press, and in the threat of prosecution for treason of an eminent and patriotic citizen who was acting strictly witnin his legal rights."

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Many people who have been in the habit of believing that wooden poles must last just as long as moisture and the worms will let them and then be removed, are beginning to think that there may be some way of prolonging the working life of the pole which it is worth while to adopt. One, especially, among a number of suggestions for protecting wooden poles at the surface of the ground from decay, is well spoken of. A terra cotta casing, 24 inches long and from 2 to 3 inches larger in diameter than the pole, is placed so that it projects above the ground line about 2 inches. The space between the pole and casing is filled in with asphalt forming a solid water and air tight casing. This method of protection doubles the life of the pole.

In several English towns, a number of cabs are being supplied with a patent fare-recorder. The apparatus consists of a registering dial, which is fixed on the hansom, outside the right-hand window, and the passenger is able to see at his journey's end the exact legal fare he is called on to pay. It also registers for the information of the driver and the owner the total fares earned in the course of the day, the distance traveled when "on business," and the number of times the vehicle has been hired. A red metal flag, bearing the word "Vacant," displayed above the registering clock, informs the public that the cab is waiting for a "fare," and the instant the vehicle is engaged the driver is supposed to lower the flag, and thus set the recording mechanism in motion. If he failed to do this, he might be able to cheat his employer, but he would run the risk of losing a part of his legal fare, as the passenger is bound to pay only what the clock registers. It is believed that one result of this innovation will be cheaper cab service, and already there is a movement in some cities favoring a 6d fare. These taxameter cabs, as they are called, are quite popular, and greatly in request in London, where the drivers wear a white silk hat as a distinguishing badge, and have very smart and stylish turn-outs, both in regard to horse and vehicle.

A milling journal says, apparently with much satisfaction that the brown-bread craze is slowly but surely dying a natural death. One of the most recent "nails" for its coffin was supplied in the reports from St. Batholomew's hospital, in which there was a communication on the relative digestibility of white and brown bread by Drs. Lauder, Brunton and Tunnicliffe. The authors, while admitting that from a purely chemical point of view the nutritive value of brown bread is greater than that of white, maintain that, regarded physiologically, this is not the case. The mere chemical composition of a food can not be taken as an index of its value; the various constituents must be combined so that they can be readily and easily assimilated. It is now established that although brown bread, on account of its large percentage of mineral matters and fat-forming constituents, is chemically superior to white bread, yet these constituents do not pass so readily into the blood as in the case of white bread; and that, weight for weight, white bread is more nutritious than brown. For growing children, and in cases where there is a deficiency of mineral matter, brown bread may be useful, as it supplies large quantities of the substances required for the formation of bone and tissue. But even in these cases the mineral salts, and especially salts of calcium, can be supplied by other means, and where this is done, white bread is preferable. Ordinary brown bread, or whole-meal bread (distinct from germ and other special-process bread), contains too large a percentage of bran. It may be useful for purely medicinal purposes, but not for every-day eating.

Admiral Melville's scheme for determining the course taken by arctic currents is of great scientific interest. A number of casks are to be set adrift near Herald Island, and valuable hydrographic information relating to the arctic seas and currents is expected from learning the drift they may take. Admiral Melville, after noting the drift of the Jeannette, as well as that of other explorers, believes that the place to put a ship bound for the north pole is through Behring Straits and then to push the ship into the pack as far as possible to the northward and westward. The ship might not drift across the pole, but in all probability it would come out by way of Spitzbergen. At all events, the experiment is about to be tried with the casks, thirty-five of which will be placed on whaling vessels, while fifteen will be carried by the cruiser Bear, which will sail from San Francisco for arctic waters during this month. The casks, each of which has a separate number for the purpose of identification, are strong, conical-shaped floats. Each contains a wood-incased tube or bottle, tightly corked, in which are directions for the finder. These directions, which are printed on specially prepared paper, indestructible by sea water, have spaces for the insection of the name of the finder, vessel, latitude, longitude, number of cask, and other required data. The finder is directed to send the paper to the nearest United States consul at his home port, or forward it direct to the Geographical Society, Philadelphia, United States of America. It will probably be four years after the launching of the casks before they may be looked for between the Spitzbergen and Greenland coasts.

WATER POWER.

It Continues to Be the Best Power Known to Man.

Notwithstanding the advent of steam as a practical soucre of power in the last century, and the enormous development that has taken place in its use, water-power under favorable conditions continues to be the best and cheapest obtainable, and, with the exception of wind, it is the only one in nature ready-made. If it were suggested as a practicable method of raising water to evaporate it first and condense it at a higher level afterward, I am afraid the sanity of the engineer responsible for the suggestion would be questioned, and yet on the great scale of nature this crude though direct method has given us a perennial supply of power greater beyond measure than that contained in all the coal in the world.

Electricity is on a different footing altogether. There is, so far as we know, at present no perennial natural source of electricity which can be drawn upon. One of the most valuable results of the advent of electricity as a means of power-distribution is the impetus it has given, and will continue to give, to the utilization of the great natural falls of water the world over. It is a fact recognized by everybody, that water is a very suitable and an extremely valuable substance for power-purposes. It is, I think, also a generally accepted fact that dynamos can be run by water-power, and that by such means electrical energy may be obtained more cheaply than by any other method. If this is admitted, then it must be profitable to transmit water some distance to the dynamos, in place of using any other power for production of electricity.—E. E. Ellington, in The Engineering Magazine for May.

The empire of Morocco is the most important state that is absolutely without a newspaper.

The receipts of the Albany postoffice have just been $8000 in a year.

THE SIGN OF THE DOLLAR.

Dr. Marcus Baker of Washington City is conducting a painstaking investigation to account finally and definitely for the origin of the familiar dollar sign. This has long been in dispute. All sorts of explanations have been given, the most common of which is that the initials of the United States are crossed. But there have been seven or eight other theories to account for the origin of the dollar sign which are about as good. Dr. Baker, in his researches in the library of the bureau of education, came across an old book, entitled "A Compendium of Federal Arithmetic, Designed for the use of Schools and Especially Calculated for the Meridian of the United States," which was published at Lansingburg, N. Y., in 1797. Its author was Rev. Chauncey Lee of Rutland, Vt. In this book the author sets forth a system of what he calls "characteristics" by which one vertical stroke was to designate the mill, two vertical strokes the cent, these two crossed by one S shape stroke the dime, and for the dollar the sign consisting of the two verticals with the two curved strokes, now so familiar, was proposed.

At that time the people of this country were just emerging from the use of pounds, shillings and pence, where each was separated by a space from the next denomination. It accordingly seemed necessary to Mr. Lee to have an arbitrary mark for each of the denominations of our monetary system. But he soon found that one character, with the decimal point was all that was necessary, and in the latter part of his own book all the elaborate systems of symbols except the one intended to mark the dollar were found to have been dropped. Dr. Baker certainly finds the dollar sign in this old arithmetic, and he does not find it in use at any other date. By the time Adams' arithmetic was published in 1805 the symbol had become well established. He, therefore, regards Mr. Lee as the inventor and believes the sign to have been absolutly arbitrary in its origin. Mr. Baker intends, for further verification, to make a study of the departmental records to see when the dollar sign first appeared in the treasury accounts. He also hopes to make a more thorough search of the old text-books to see if by chance any use of this sign prior to that of Rev. Chauncey Lee can be discovered. Dr. Baker's discoveries seem likely to take all the sentiment out of the matter, but this is common result of modern historical research.

There is confusion in the postoffice department on account of the lack of uniformity observed in the spelling of the names of postoffices. In the bonding division the name of a small postoffice will often be spelled in one way and in the postal guide in another. This is because the fourth assistant postmaster general names the fourth class offices, as they are established, and it is in this class that nearly all the differences occur, while the postal guide is edited in the office of the chief clerk of the department. Between the editor of the guide and the clerks of the fourth assistant's division there is little harmony and hence we have in so many instances two sets of postoffice names. In 1891 President Harrison established a board on geographic names, as it was called, for the purpose of bringing about a uniform usage in the spelling of geographic names in the publications of the government. This board is still in existence and doing excellent work, but its decisions are not respected in the postoffice department. The other departments are generally adhering to the findings of the board, and publishing their maps and charts accordingly, but the postoffice department, in one part of it at least, has seen fit to "hoe its own row." The most notable case of late is that of Puerto Rico. Eight years ago, before there was any thought of annexing that island, the board of geographic names decided without controversy upon this spelling. The postoffice department, without consulting the board, is spelling it Porto Rico.

The work of the board on geographic names has fallen into disfavor in some quarters by reason of a too mechanical interpretation of the principles it has laid down, but it nevertheless serves a useful purpose. One of the principles of the board is that so far as practicable the possessive form of names should be avoided. The apostrophe is a useless adornment in a proper name and in time, by popular consent, sloughs off. The board also recommends the droppings of the final "h" of the termination "burgh." Pittsburg is a good example. The city was chartered in 1816, its name being spelled without the "h" and its official form is still "Pittsburg." The "h" appears to have been added by the postoffice department, and through that action local usage has become divided. A majority of the local newspapers print it without the "h". When the department attempted to cut off the "h" from Newburgh, N. Y., a loud protest was made. All the historic associations of the town were connected with the ampler spelling, and so the department has put back the letter which it had tried to lop off. Another abbreviation recommended is the spelling of "borough" as "boro." This has not occasioned much difficulty as the tendency has already strongly set in favor of the simpler form. In the word "center" usage appeared to be about equally divided between that spelling and "centre" when the board began its investigations. It decided upon the old English spelling in the interests of uniformity, and that may now be said to be official. No one objects to this at the postoffice department.

The discontinuance of hyphens in connecting parts of names was also recommended as well as the dropping of the diacritic characters. Wherever practicable the letters "ch" (courthouse) have been dropped. This practice grew up in the South, where oftentimes a courthouse would be established in the center of a county, with no village about. The postoffice would bear the county name with the world "courthouse" attached. But, meantime, villages have grown up at these courthouses, so that descriptive term is no longer necessary. "Appomattox Court House" is now generally spoken of as Appomattox. It is the same with the words "city" and "town" as parts of names. They have been in many cases dropped. This practice was a useless complication, growing in most cases out of an optimistic spirit on the part of the promoters of the place. Boise City is now Boise. Spokane Falls is simply Spokane, and all along the line the tendency is toward simplicity, uniformity and abbreviation. The board desires to have it distinctly understood that it is not reforming the language, not writing words necessarily as they ought to be written, but rather getting at the consensus of local opinion and weighing those differences in the light of the general tendencies which they see have become very marked.

The board usually meets once a month, but will not meet again this year until October. At each meeting the cases for consideration are presented on cards. Each card contains a list of all the possible spellings of a name and upon one side is the recommendation of the examining committee and its reasons for it. "Toleston," a place near Chicago, was one decided at the last meeting. It was sometimes spelled with two "ls" and sometime without an "e." There seems to be no reason in local tradition for the two "ls" and so the shorter and simpler form was adopted as more in analogy with the language.

MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE.

A decision of the Appellate division of the supreme court, sitting in Brooklyn, N. Y., appears to put an end to the policy of mutual life insurance companies in piling up a large surplus. This court, which stands next to the court of appeals, and whose justices are highly considered, declares that the endowment policy-holders in such a company are entitled to share pro rata in the surplus as declared for each year.

The decision, was in the case of Emil Greef, a policy-holder, against the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. He sued to recover $7,087.38, which he alleged was his share of the Equitable surplus of $43,000,000.

A demurrer was entered to the complaint, on the ground that no policy-holder could sue for himself, but must bring action through the state attorney general. Supreme Court Justice Joseph F. Daly, in Manhattan, sustained the demurrer.

The appeal was sent to Kings County and reversed, judgment being given for Greef, and without leave to defendant insurance company to answer.

The company, which has 400,000 policy-holders, will now take the case to the court of appeals, when, if the decision of the appellate division is sustained, each policy-holder will have the right to claim a share in the company's surplus, in proportion to the amount of his policy and premiums paid by him.

Through their lawyers, W. B. Hornblower and C. B. Alexander, the defendant company contended that the policy-holder must accept the apportionment of the surplus made by the company directors, this being discretionary on their part.

The court holds that the directors have discretion to fix the amount to be devoted to the surplus, but having done so they must distribute it all. In the case at bar they only distributed one-third of it.

The opinion, which was written by Justice Woodward, was concurred in by Justices Cullen and Hatch. Justice W. W. Goodrich dissented and Justice Bartlett did not vote.

In reviewing the case Justice Woodward notes that the plaintiff took but an endowment insurance policy in 1882 to mature in fifteen years or in May, 1897. He then recites the fact that the company was organized under the law of 1853, its charter providing that its business shall be conducted on the mutual plan, each policy-holder to be credited with an equitable share of the net surplus.

The policy of the plaintiff was for $20,000, and contained a clause that the policy shall be entitled to participate in the distribution of the surplus of the company by way of increase to the amount insured.

When the policy became due in 1897 the company paid the face amount, with $3,932 increase. An agreement was entered into that this should not prejudice the plaintiff in his claim that he was entitled to a larger sum.

The court says:

"Plaintiff sues to recover $7,087 38, which he alleges is due under the provision of his contract that he shall participate in the next surplus of the company. He shows that the net surplus in 1896 was $4,277,000 and that the amount of surplus apportioned to him in each of the several years aggregates $3,900. He declares that he has received no portion of the net surplus in 1896. In 1895 he got $328 as his portion of a distribution of surplus amounting to a little over $2,000,000. He says that his share under the 1896 surplus, according to the same principle and methods, should be $7000."

Continuing, Justice Woodward says:

"It is not within reason to suppose that the plaintiff, who was paying $1457 per year for this insurance, with the inducement held out to him that he was to participate in the distribution of the surplus of the society, had any other idea than that he was to participate in the distribution of all of the surplus declared by the defendant; and the waiver, or ratification, which the defendant has inserted in its policies cannot be understood to go to the question of determining what portion of the surplus the society will distribute, but to the principles and methods of distributing the surplus when it has been determined.

"The charter of the company provides that the officers of the company shall cause a balance to be struck of the affairs of the company, which shall exhibit its assets and liabilities, both present and contingent, and also the net surplus, after deducting a sufficient amount to cover all outstanding risks and other obligations. Each policy-holder shall be credited with an equitable share of the said surplus."

"The affairs of the company were to be conducted upon the mutual plan: the stockholders were limited by law to semi-annual dividends of 3½ per cent, and each policy-holder was to be credited with an equitable share of the profits of the company, after the deduction of an amount sufficient to meet all the obligations of the company. This was the understanding which the company had of its duties and obligations in accepting premiums.

"It in effect stipulated with the state, as a condition of its being, that it would place in the hands of its policy-holders a contract embracing these provisions, and it cannot now be heard to say that it has by a mere jugglery of words kept this promise in form only to defeat it in substance."

The court says that the society has a large discretion in determining the amount of the surplus, and goes on:

"This company, organized in 1859, with a capital of $100,000, has a surplus of over $43,000,000, and if this surplus is not divided among those who have paid the premiums, but is to go eventually to the stockholders, the institution is builded upon a false pretense, for it has held out to its policy-holders the promise that this fund should be distributed among them, and it has avoided its taxes to the state upon the proposition that the fund was held 'for the exclusive benefit of the assured.' (Chapter 456 of the Laws of 1857).

"There was a contract between plaintiff and defendant," the opinion concludes, "and the pleadings clearly indicate that the defendant owes the plaintiff an amount equal to that which is claimed."

In dissenting Justice Goodrich says:

"In general, only the directors of any corporation have the power to decide what amount or share of its earnings are to be applied in dividends and I can see no different principle which limits the authority of the directors of this society to decide what part of the net surplus is to be distributed to the policy-holders at any particular period."

Mlle. Rhea, the actress, is dead.

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Father's Right First.

In New Jersey a young couple were secretly married, and the girl returned to her home. A year passed before the husband appeared and claimed her. He was not allowed to see her. He went into court with a suit against her father for alienation of affection. The judge ruled against him, saying: "The father is not only excusable, but has a right to protect his daughter, even after her marriage, against every person who threatens her interest. He has a right to protect her against her husband if he thinks he is not the proper person to take care of her."

Russia and China.

Pekin, May 24.—The Russian minister has notified the Tsung Li Yamen that Russia is unable to accept the Chinese refusal of railroad concessions and that she will send engineers forthwith to survey a line to connect the Russian Manchurian railroad with Pekin.

Riot in Russia.

St. Petersburg, May 25.—Advices from Riga, capital of the province of Livoni, say the military, in suppressing rioting workmen, killed twelve persons and wounded fifty.

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Damage to Crops in Kansas.

Kansas City, Mo., May 24.—Rain and hail did much damage to crops and property in central Kansas last night. In Saline county wheat and other crops for miles were completely destroyed.

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