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Lieut. Gov. Horace White denies the published report that he has appointed the Senate members of a joint committee to report to the next Legislature a plan for a board of control for all State institutions. He says he has appointed no such committee.

Under the terms of F. Marion Crawford's will, his library and his manuscripts go to his son Harold. His son Bertie receives the greater part of the estate, and will devote himself to commerce. The widow has removed to Naples, where she will reside with a married daughter.

After serving eighteen years in the Georgia penitentiary for a murder which he did not commit, James Richardson, a negro, is to be pardoned by Gov. Hoke Smith as the result of the confession of a dying white man. The negro was convicted on flimsy evidence of killing a white man named Smith in Bolton near Atlanta.

Frank G. Wagner, the Milwaukee private detective, who charged that he had seen Lieutenant Senator Stephenson pay money to Democratic members of the Legislature to allow the election of Senator Stephenson by remaining absent, was arrested yesterday on complaint of Matt J. Regan, the Democratic leader, whom he accused of acting as the go-between. Regan charges perjury and Wagner was taken to Madison for trial.

Lord Roberts yesterday celebrated the golden anniversary of his wedding, and so popular is "Bobs," as he universally is called, that the event has assumed something of the character of an imperial festival. Except during the race meetings, the telegraph office at Ascot never has known anything to compare with the rush of messages that arrived all day long from all parts of the empire, congratulating the field marshal. The King and Queen were among the earliest to remember the day, and the English newspapers are full of eulogues of the veteran soldier.

Comptroller Gaus has removed Walter J. Conway, clerk of Auburn, on recommendation of Deputy Comptroller Kelsey. It must be just about two years ago now that Mr. Kelsey himself was facing charges of incompetency in connection with his administration of the office of State superintendent of insurance and was going as a martyr to vindictive persecution. His sufferings at that time do not seem to have softened his heart when he was in the seat of judgment and somebody else was accused.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

The British steamship Veraston has arrived at New York from Kingston, Jamaica, with almost a new crew on board, having left fifteen men in a hospital at Kingston with pernicious malarial fever, contracted while the steamship lay in the Madeira river about 1,500 miles from Para, where the crew, although screened at night with nettings, could not altogether escape the attacks of mosquitoes. When the vessel got to sea, the men were stricken until at one time only three deck officers were fit for duty and the engine room force worked as they were able. One man died at sea, and another died after arrival at Kingston. Fifteen men were sent ashore for treatment, and their places filled with new men.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The monthly statement of imports and exports issued by the Bureau of Statistics now shows imports in April, 1909, \$122,211,068, an increase of \$31,778,231 over the imports of April, 1908; exports, \$125,201,219, a decrease of \$3,156,737 compared with April, 1908. For the 10 months ending with April the imports are \$1,071,247,953, an increase of \$53,055,717 over the corresponding months of last year; exports, \$1,422,295,096, a decrease of \$209,455,592, compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The excess of exports over imports in the 10 months ending with April is \$351,047,143, a decrease of \$262,554,309 when compared with the excess of exports in the corresponding months of last year. Dutiable imports in the 10 months ending with

April, 1909, were valued at \$571,795,482 in the corresponding months of last year, a decrease of \$632,526; imports free of duty in the 10 months ending with April, 1909, \$500,084,996, against \$446,296,754 in the corresponding months of last year, an increase of \$53,688,243. The increase in imports occurs chiefly in materials for use in manufacturing.

TARIFF AND FARMING.

"Agricola," considering a proposition that certain other articles than sugar might be profitably produced in this country, says to the New York Sun:

"A case in point is that of potatoes, of which large quantities are from time to time imported. If our farmers cannot grow sufficient potatoes to supply the domestic market it would seem to be a very unwise policy to impose an annual tax burden of about \$140,000,000 on the sugar consumers of the country in order that some farmers may grow sugar beets instead of potatoes.

"What is the matter with our farmers, anyway? We have great areas of fertile soil, favorable climatic conditions, and intelligent farmers using the best agricultural machinery and implements, yet we are told that the farmer cannot profitably grow crops without the aid of the tariff.

"I have an idea that our agricultural industry was fairly prosperous long before Morrill-McKinsley-Dingley laws helped increase the rainfall or the average duration of sunshine. Is it not possible that even without such inspiring influences grass would grow, cows and sheep would eat it, and that farming would be profitable."

TEACHERS' WAGES.

Mayor McClellan has vetoed the bill equalizing the salaries of women and men teachers in the public schools. In a memorandum the mayor said that the proposed law, because of its mandatory features, would eliminate all discretion in the fixing of salaries, and that expert opinion held that it would add \$6,000,000 a year to the budget despite the assertions made by the supporters of the measure that the added expense would not be more than \$3,000,000 annually.

The mayor pointed out that the bill provided that the increased expenditure should be met by adding four mills to the tax valuation of the city. Four mills on the valuation of last year, according to the auditor of the Board of Education, the mayor said, would amount to \$7,158,190. "The excess amount, which is variously estimated," the mayor added, "is to be kept and retained for the purposes of the growth of the school system. That the system will grow to any excess of amount will undoubtedly follow, as my experience has been that any department which is given more money than it needs can always find a way to spend it."

While the mayor has decided to reject the bill, he announced in his memorandum that because of the agitation which has been raised over the matter he would appoint a commission to go into the whole matter and report back to him, the commission to consist of persons outside of the teachers, the Board of Education or the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

This bill was vetoed last year by both the mayor and the governor—by the latter on the ground that if it should apply at all, it should apply to other cities besides New York. The present bill is quite as objectionable in this respect as was the other.

ORIGIN OF CATTLE DISEASE.

The recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland started from calves used in the propagation of smallpox vaccine virus which had been contaminated with the virus of foot and mouth disease and the contaminated strain of vaccine originally came from a foreign country. These are the conclusions from an investigation made jointly by the bureau of animal industry of the department of Agriculture and the public health and marine hospital service of the Treasury department, a report of which has just been issued. The investigation was conducted by Dr. John H. Mohler, chief of the pathological division of the bureau of animal industry, and Dr. M. J. Rosenau, director of the Hygienic Laboratory of the marine hospital service.

Three separate series of experiments were made by Doctor Mohler and Rosenau. Young cattle and sheep were inoculated with vaccine virus obtained from two wholesale drug firms. Foot and mouth disease was produced in experimental animals by the use of vaccine of the same strain obtained from both sources, while other strains of vaccine tested gave negative results. The disease was also transmitted from one animal to another through several series, in two instances by natural modes of infection.

The investigation also indicates that the outbreaks of foot and mouth

disease in New England in 1902-03 were probably due to contaminated vaccine of Japanese origin. The fact that the infection was present in the vaccine virus of one of the firms for that long period but was not transmitted to outside cattle, was doubtless due to this firm's practice of killing its calves after taking the vaccine virus. On the other hand, the second firm rented their calves and placed them again on the market a short time after the vaccine material was taken. In this way the disease spread from the vaccine stables of the second firm but not from those of the other, although it was the vaccine virus from the latter establishment that infected the former's cattle.

THE LAKE STRIKE.

Something like 15,000 men are involved in the strike on the Great Lakes, which interferes with navigation and threatens a serious interruption of business. It is cheering to hear, however, that there is a prospect of a peaceful settlement of the difficulty.

Secretary Joseph Bishop of the Ohio State Board of Arbitration upon his return to Toledo from Chicago, where he attended a meeting of the arbitration boards of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York and Ohio which he called for the purpose of having steps taken to bring about a settlement of the strike has sent out communications to the officers of the Lake Seamen's Union and the officers of the Lake Carriers' Association inviting them to send representatives to another joint meeting of the boards to be held in Detroit next Tuesday, at which time it is hoped to take such action as will lead to a settlement of the trouble.

Having averted the danger of a coal strike, and other labor interests being in a fairly peaceful condition, it seems as if there ought to be a reasonable way to settle the grievances of the lake men.

RAILROAD OPERATION.

Reports of all accidents on the 23,000 miles of track of the Pennsylvania railroad system show that in 1908 the various lines carried 141,659,543 passengers, and that not a passenger was killed as the result of an accident to a train.

The lines carried 11,344,413 fewer passengers than in 1907, a loss of 7.4 per cent., but the total of passengers injured in train accidents was only 102, a reduction of 452, or 81.6 per cent. from 1907. These figures include every case requiring surgical or medical attention. Only one of every 1,338,819 passengers carried was injured.

The number of passengers traveling a distance of one mile during the year was 3,457,671,462, so that for each passenger carried one mile 38,898,739 were carried in safety to one injured.

Of the subsidiary lines, independently operated, the record of the Long Island railroad is most striking. That line carried in the year 23,242,838 passengers and only seventeen were injured in train accidents. This line has been operated for fifteen years without a fatality to a passenger due to a train wreck.

GEORGE MEREDITH.

George Meredith, the English novelist, died last night at the age of 81 years. He began his career as a writer in 1849, when 21 years old, and ended it in 1900 with a volume of verse.

Meredith got the greater part of his early education in Germany. When he returned to England he studied law for a little time, but did not go far in this direction. His first novel was published the same year in which George Eliot's first novel, Adam Bede, saw the light. When Meredith was about 35 years old he became intimately acquainted with Swinburne and Rossetti, the three living together in the same house in Chelsea. Relations of close friendship were established between the three which lasted as long as the friends themselves lived. Once when Meredith's poems were savagely attacked by a reviewer in the Spectator Swinburne responded with a passionate defense of them. When Swinburne died in April, 1909, Meredith referred to him as "the most spontaneous singer of all our English children."

Meredith was the author of a large number of volumes, some of which dealt humorously with various questions and appealed strongly to the interests of the reading public. Many of his books were modeled upon actual occurrences, and reflected the actualities of life. It was one of his greatest regrets that he had never visited America, for, he said they liked him better in America than in England.

On the question of old age he once said: "People seem to feel it right to congratulate men who live to be 80, though they really should not. What it means when a man lives to be so old is either that he is greedily tenacious of life or else that he is so insignificant that the fates have passed him by. It is a misfortune to live to be 50. A man's life ought to flush up when he is five and sixty. He must stop working then or else do work that is inferior. People will praise it then and write articles about it, but posterity will know bet-

ter and see its weakness. You can't fool posterity. When a man stops working, nature is finished with him and when nature is finished with him he ought to go."

Meredith has been numbered among the advocates of women suffrage, and held that the cause was on its way to be realized.

While Meredith's place in literature is well established as in a grade, not particularly by itself on any special account, he was an agreeable and pleasing author and his death is a loss to the world.

NEW YORK'S "ABANDONED" FARMS.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. "The 12,000 abandoned farms of New York State can be made to grow apples as abundantly as those of Oregon, and better flavored," observed the New York Times the other day in the course of some disparaging remarks on the enterprise of New York State apple growers as compared with those of Oregon.

It was naturally a little irritating to the Democrat and Chronicle as a loyal New York State paper, and particularly as a paper published in the chief fruit-growing section of the State, to see as intelligently a newspaper as the New York Times fall into so egregious a blunder. This subject of abandoned farms was thoroughly threshed out some time ago, in consequence of some rash statements uttered by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, and it was convincingly demonstrated that there are no abandoned farms in this State.

While we were debating just what method we should adopt to rebuke the Times most effectively for reviving this stupid slander against the fair name of this State, one of its own readers took the responsibility off our hands. "It would be interesting to any people to learn how to get definite information about those 12,000 abandoned farms in New York State which your paper mentions today," he says in the course of a letter to the editor. "If they are really abandoned, I promise you that they will be adopted and set to work as soon as they are made known."

The Times at once realized that it had placed itself in an awkward position and set to work laboriously to extricate itself. "Of course there is no such thing in this part of the country, and perhaps in any part of it," replied the editor, "as an abandoned farm in the sense of a farm to which ownership can be gained by the simple process of taking it." Having thus put its correspondent in his proper place, the Times then proceeds to explain the situation in these words:

"There are, however, hundreds of farms in New York and throughout New England whose owners have almost or quite abandoned them as sources of income, either through dislike of rural life or because they lack the skill or energy to make farming pay. In many cases, though by no means so often now as a few years ago, these farms can be bought or hired for much less than their real worth, and a slow invasion of them is taking place."

This is extremely impressive, and the information imparted would be extremely valuable if the Times, instead of begging the question, would answer the inquiry of its correspondent and state exactly where these "almost abandoned" farms are located. Possibly it can be prodded into doing so, if its readers are persistent. We shall be very glad to give them any assistance in our power in that exhilarating sport, because we feel a lively interest in agricultural conditions in this State and are desirous of seeing its reputation for agricultural enterprise vindicated.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S TRIP.

Before he left America the English papers devoted considerable space to Colonel Roosevelt's African trip. Now they only publish from time to time a short paragraph announcing the bag he has made. Public expectation is rather disappointed. Something out of the ordinary was looked for from his trip. It is now seen, however, that he is having the same experience as other gentlemen and even lady tourists, and people know too well how big game shoots are arranged in India and Africa for distinguished, royal, noble and political visitors to regard the results of one of them as being of sporting interest.

Lord Randolph Churchill's description of his bag of eight lions in South Africa some 20 years ago was a joke of England until the end of his life, and the joke will not bear revival. Some little fun however, is being extracted from Mr. Roosevelt's trip. There is some surprise at the report that his bag includes two giraffe.

"In East Africa," says the London Daily News, "licensees are not granted for the killing of these animals. It would seem that either an undesirable exception has been made, or that the report is wrong. It is impossible to contemplate the alternative that Mr. Roosevelt twice hit a giraffe while trying to shoot something else."

But probably the real reason for the difficulty of arousing interest in any African trip, despite the lavish use of the camera, is found in a recent statement of the Cape Town correspondent of the Times, who said:

"Africa is becoming so much like Ploceally that one might travel from Cape Town to Cairo without experiencing any abnormal excitement."

CURRENT TOPICS.

James P. Whittia, father of Willie Whittia, who was kidnapped, will not be a candidate for the Republican nomination of governor of Pennsylvania to succeed Governor Stuart. While the candidacy of Mr. Whittia has never been formally announced it has been known for a year that he was being groomed for the race. Close friends of Whittia admit that because of Kidnaper Boyle's trial Whittia will not seek any more prominence for some time and that he has told those who would push his candidacy that under no conditions must his name be used.

At last "the one responsible man" has been sentenced to jail for a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. Of the five officers of the American Naval Stores Company convicted in the United States Court at Savannah of conspiracy in restraint of trade, three escaped with a fine; but in the cases of the chairman of the board of directors and of the vice president, Judge Sheppard imposed a fine and three months' imprisonment. As Justice Holmes said in his dissenting opinion in the Northern Securities case, the Sherman law is "a criminal statute." Mr. Roosevelt refused to recognize its criminal provisions; but under the Taft administration the country now has proof that the criminal clause of the law can be enforced if the government is willing to enforce it.—New York World.

Henceforth it is to be war to the hilt between Senator Raines and the governor. The Republican boss of the Senate could forgive many things. For instance, when the governor, in his direct nominations bill, made his assault on the integrity of parties, and incidentally upon democratic institutions and this republic of ours, Senator Raines felt constrained to take issue with Mr. Hughes, but he did it gently. He let no personal feeling vitiate the high motives of his campaign. He pulled wires, but he did not call names. He fought hard, but was prepared to give quarter. After all, Governor Hughes might be sincere in his attempt to overthrow our parties, our democratic institutions, and our governments; and a foe who is sincere deserves consideration. But mercy to the governor would be ill bestowed, would be criminal. In fact, when Mr. Hughes, not content with sapping the foundations of the republic, goes on to threaten the integrity of the Asylum for Feeble Minded Women at Newark, in Wayne county, as one of the board of managers of this asylum, the governor has named a man whom Senator Raines has opposed. No sooner was this undesirable citizen appointed than Mr. Raines grew aware of dreadful irregularities in the management of the asylum, and he will now investigate it. Never shall it be said that John Raines to whom feeble interests, feeble corporations, feeble moral issues particularly appeal, will tolerate the least infringement on the rights of the feeble-minded women of Wayne county!—New York Evening Post.

More than a thousand designs have been submitted in the Red Cross competition for the Christmas stamp for this year. The stamp will be sold throughout the country for the benefit of the American National Red Cross in its fight against tuberculosis. Miss Mabel Boardman of the executive committee of the society has procured a room in the Corcoran Art Gallery, New York, and beginning Wednesday, the designs will be on exhibition and will be judged by a committee of artists composed of Frank D. Miller of New York, chairman; C. Y. Turner and Paul Bartlett. There are thirteen prizes to be awarded. Designs have been received from all parts of the country. Several came from Honolulu and two were from Japanese artists. The competition closed Saturday evening. Last year the society made a profit of \$138,000 from the stamps.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

Tim Woodruff and Herbert Parsons are demanding that one of their best heels be appointed as commissioner of immigration at New York. Secretary Nagle of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has, it is said, advised the President that the commissioner of immigration should be "a man of real energy and experience in the department." But Mr. Woodruff was all of that; and really, it would be silly to have removed him, don't you know, unless to make a change.—Albany Argus.

The United States is rapidly growing toward the time when agriculture will not be sufficient to feed its tremendous population. This will lead to greater acreage before the price of foodstuffs will come down. There is no need in a revision of the tariff upward or of the tariff downward per se. Whatever revision is made should be in accordance with the interests of the people and for the preservation of industry. If the time has come now when the tariff on food products works an injury to the consumer, then that tariff should be reduced or removed; but not to the detriment of the American farmer. If he cannot supply the demand then free importation is no injury. The rights of all the people demand peace.—Albany Journal (Rep.)

Explaining.

Lady (to applicant for post of caretaker)—And now, name? Applicant—Mrs. Edges, please, ma'am. Spelt with a h, same as the edges outside!

Only Reaching. Boston Transcript. Very rich—I remember of reading of a very rich man who said he'd sooner be poor.

Mott—Yes, and probably you remember reading somewhere that all men are liars.

NEWS AND COMMENT.

Dr. D. K. Pearson has just made his third gift to Chicago Theological Seminary. It is worth \$100,000.

Tacoma, Wash., business men are considering the establishment of a big paper mill in the city. Some stock has already been subscribed.

Mrs. Collis P. Huntington has given an land at Broadway and One Hundred Fifty-sixth street, New York, valued at about \$250,000, as a site for a new home for the American Geographical Society. The only condition is that the society shall provide a suitable building.

Major Albert E. H. Johnson, who died at Washington on Wednesday, was for a time secretary to Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's secretary of war. He was 82 years old and one of the oldest practicing patent attorneys in the United States.

Physicians attending the annual convention of the Illinois Homeopathic Medical Association at Chicago, this week advocated the cutting out of the tonsils of every one subject to tuberculosis. Dr. Richard H. Street said that 12 per cent. of children examined recently had incipient tuberculosis and that there was complete recovery after their tonsils had been removed.

It took a New York jury forty minutes on Thursday to find a verdict of murder in the first degree against Charles Bowser, a negro. On April 11 Bowser killed a man. His arraignment in the coroner's court, the presentment of the grand jury indictment and the trial occupied in all about a month. The trial itself lasted only two days. Sometimes the New York criminal courts work rapidly.

There are rats and rats. One of the sort which some women wear in their hair is credited with saving the life of Mrs. Richard Frost when she was thrown from an automobile at Jackson, Mich., on Thursday. The machine hit telephone pole and Mrs. Frost struck her head. At the hospital the surgeon said that but for the protection afforded by the "rat" her skull would have been crushed.

Washington has some new poultry regulations which the State of this city thinks will meet the approval of "those householders who object to the maintenance of chicken yards immediately at their doors and beneath their windows, and who find the crowing of roosters an intolerable nuisance." Roosters, it seems, are barred from the national capital, but the rules permit the keeping of hens and pigeons at a distance of 30 feet or more from a dwelling.

Helen W. Ludlow of Hampton Institute, Virginia, sister of Fitz Hugh Ludlow, composer of the Union college hymn, Song to Old Union, has presented the original manuscript of the song to the college. Mr. Ludlow wrote the song in his room in North college to be sung at his class commencement. He did not think it worthy of publication and threw the manuscript into the waste basket. His chum, Samuel McConike, rescued it, but for a long time it was lost. The college librarian finally traced it to Miss Ludlow.

Judge Phillips of the Ohio common pleas court has just given his decision in the case of a Cleveland newspaper charged with libel. The suit was based on criticisms of candidates for the bench. In sustaining the defendant's demurrer and dismissing the suit, the court said: "To say of any man who is a candidate for judge that he is unfit to be a judge is not defamatory. When a man offers himself as a candidate for a public office his fitness for the office he seeks is always regarded as a proper subject for fair comment and criticism."

Chancellor J. R. Day of Syracuse university is enjoying his journey around the world. He hasn't been seasick once. Java he pronounces "the most attractive island in the world—literally a fairy land." March 26 he was in Hongkong and wrote a letter to the Christian Advocate's editor, who's something of a globetrotter himself. "He likes the Chinese," reports Editor Buckley. "He saw merchants in the narrow streets of Canton, the most intensely Chinese city in the empire, who reminded him of the old type of reserved and dignified Boston merchants. He saw more than one hundred thousand men on Canton streets of the stature and apparent intelligence of the British and American soldiers. 'The safety of the world is in Christianizing China and teaching her the spiritual warfare before she learns the uses of physical force.'"

Words used by a minister in offering prayer in court have caused a mistrial in a murder case at Mt. Vernon, Ga. The Rev. Joe McDaniel, a relative of the man for whose murder Jordan Swain was on trial, referred to Swain in his prayer at the opening of the session as a "man whose hands are stained by the blood of his fellowman." The defendant's counsel thought that these words, uttered in the presence of the jury, were improper, and the judge agreed with him.

By the death of Mrs. Christopher J. Magee of Pittsburg, which occurred at her winter home in Rome, Italy, on Monday night, a fund estimated at \$5,000,000 will become available for the construction of a hospital for women in Pittsburg. Mr. Magee, who was a newspaper publisher and famous politician, provided by will that upon the death of his wife his fortune should be used in establishing a hospital in memory of his mother and to be known as the Elizabeth Steel Magee Hospital.

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Observations of the Brethren.

A man insists that his wife must be a good laundress. Why not insist that his laundress shall incidentally become his wife?—New York Tribune.

The Crown Prince of Montenegro is petitioning for increased pay. Says it costs more to live nowadays. Shake, prince, shake.—New York Telegram.

A Cleveland paper says "There are 11,000 poets in Ohio." And there will be more just as soon as the weather gets a few degrees warmer.—Toledo Blade.

Notice about these policemen who let Eunia Goldman speak, but dispersed her audience. There's trying to please both sides for you.—Albany Argus.

The motherly woman who has raised half a dozen children can beat all the divas that ever "dove" at singing lullabies that really lull.—Brooklyn Times.

Crab Snake says he's ready to surrender. We had almost forgotten about Mr. Snake in the rush of tariff bills, new Sultans, quieted kidnapers and bespectacled African heroes.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Send an American to fill an office in a place like Cuba, Porto Rico or the Philippines, and he is invariably horrified by the easiness of the natives to become officeholders or politicians. There is no such trait in the American character.—Springfield Republican.

The Reverse Process. Baltimore American. "Will you have any outtings this summer?" "That will depend on whether I have any linings this spring."

