

A CANADIAN bride introduced recently a new feature in wedding ceremonies. She appeared in church with her pet canary fastened to her shoulder by a golden chain, and the moment the organ sounded the bird burst into song.

A CONNECTICUT man is pushing a scheme to find the pensions, giving at once to each pensioner cash or negotiable bonds of the government equal to the total amount he would receive during a term of years based on life insurance expectancy.

In answering the petition of employes resisting a reduction of over 11 per cent. in wages, the cotton mill operators of the Fall River district frankly say that they can not compete with the southern mills and that the reduction will be ordered.

THE latest notable portrait painted by John S. Sargent, the American painter, who is a member of the Royal Academy, is of Miss Daisy Leiter, formerly of Chicago, and is intended for the academy of 1899. Miss Leiter is a sister of the famous beauty who was married not long ago to Hon. George Curzon.

THE queen, who the other day commanded a cinematograph exhibition at Windsor Castle, is, it is announced, going to speak into a phonograph, in order that her words and accents may be preserved for a curious posterity. When the royal message has been received into it the phonograph will, it is said, be carried to the British museum, and there kept in safe custody.

TYPEWRITTEN manuscripts are still barred out of the house of commons. For copying quill pens are used and the paper employed is the same as that manufactured for the departments of the government centuries ago. The communications made by our government to those of foreign countries are in longhand, although if Mr. Blaine had lived there would have been a change, as he was making arrangements to introduce the typewriter.

RABBITS are spreading diphtheria, the doctors say, throughout the central part of Iowa. Some time ago it was noticed that hundreds of the bunnies were dying of a disease which the doctors pronounced almost identical with diphtheria in the human family. Soon after the epidemic commenced among the rabbits diphtheria began to be noticed among the families in the locality. The conclusion was reached that the germs were conveyed by the Iowa animals.

FRENCH engineers are constructing a peculiar bridge over the Seine at Rouen. On each bank of the river miniature Eiffel towers, 175 feet high, have been erected. From these heavy steel cables will support a track bed, which is to be suspended 100 feet above the surface of the water. Moving platforms on wheels are to be run backward and forward over the track bed on rails, and from them will hang huge chains, to which will be attached monster swinging carriages.

CAPT. WILLIAM OLDHAM, of Nottingham, England, has announced his intention of crossing the Atlantic alone in the tiniest craft in which the voyage has ever been undertaken. The little vessel, which has been built of steel, under the directions of the adventurous mariner, is only 8 feet 3 inches long, with a 2 feet 2 inch beam, and a depth of 8 feet 6 inches. She is to be propelled by a double-bladed screw, and for the driving of this an arrangement has been introduced similar to that used in working a bicycle.

CONSUL GENERAL GOODNOW, at Shanghai, warns Americans who are desirous of going to China to work on railroads there to keep away. There are only two railroads in operation, with a total mileage of 298 1/2 miles. They employ only 77 foreigners, of whom four are engineers, managers and division superintendents. The operatives are practically all Chinese, and a foreigner can not compete with them. The highest salaried natives are the telegraph operators, at \$40 per month. Engineers get \$20 to \$30 and train hands and trackmen \$6 to \$10 per month.

CHATELAIN watches may be said to lead in the present procession this year. Some of them really beat the band, so encrusted with diamonds are they, while others are content to wear a coat of enamel, or will be ornamented by a few precious stones just to add a bit of sparkle to the passing hours. There is a new wrinkle regarding the location of these tiny time-keepers, of which their future possessors should take note. Madame must not longer wear her watch on the left side, but fasten it like a shirt stud in her tailor-made blouse. Verbum sap.

It is interesting to others than statisticians to know that the hairs of our head are numbered. Certain scientific men have laboriously calculated the number of hairs on a square inch of heads of different colors, and by estimating the total area covered have arrived at aggregate numbers, which may be taken as fairly correct. To show the well intentioned accuracy of these calculations a head of fair hair consists of 143,000 hairs. Dark hair is coarser and only totals 105,000; while those who boast a poll of red must be content with a total of 99,200.

IT PRESENTS ITS PLAN.

Main Points in the Report of the Monetary Commission.

Presents What It Considers to Be Defects in Our Present Currency System, and Suggests How It May Be Reformed.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The following is an abstract of the report of the monetary commission appointed under authority of the convention of business men held in Indianapolis last January which has just been made public:

It retains practically unchanged the existing metallic money. The existing gold standard on which business has been done since 1879 is, of course, maintained, on the ground that industrial interests demand certainty as to what the standard shall be. For the steady employment of labor, factories and mines must be constantly operated, and constant operation, the adjustment of business men, is impossible so long as there is uncertainty as to the standard on which prices of goods and orders are based. And to this end, it is urged that the United States should remove all uncertainties as to the meaning of "coin" in its obligations, thereby saving the taxpayer by the ability to borrow at a lower rate of interest.

Place for Silver.
No attempt is made to remove the existing silver dollar, nor to change their legal-tender quality; on the contrary, a place is provided for them in the circulation by forbidding the issue of any paper money other than silver certificates in denominations below ten dollars. The silver currency, which will be in the hands of the people, must be kept on a parity with gold, as is now provided by law, and this should be done by requiring the treasury to give gold for a silver dollar on demand. Consequently, when it is known that a silver dollar can be exchanged for gold and will circulate freely (in the form of certificates), and our metallic money, without being diminished, will be unified on a certain basis. And, as all this silver currency will be needed to meet the demands for large change (when other paper below ten dollars is retired), it will not be presented for redemption at the treasury, and it will create no strain on the gold reserves. But no more silver dollars should be coined.

Reserve Too Slender.
The commission contends that the ten different kinds of money now in use create an anomalous and confusing situation. Moreover, the whole fabric rests on too slender a reserve of gold. It is urged that the demand obligations of the government should not be used as money, because they may be, and have been, presented for gold to the injury of the nation's credit. This causes grave doubts as to the standard on which the business operations of the country rest. Everything which, by experience, creates uncertainty and hurts trade, hinders prosperity and should be removed. Hence the fiscal affairs of the treasury relating to the receipt and disbursement of public revenues should be entirely separated from the monetary functions dealing with the exchange and redemption of the currency. By establishing a separate division of issue and redemption in the treasury, it will be possible to take away funds set apart for the protection of our monetary system and use them for current expenditures.

Fraught with Danger.
Above all, it is regarded as dangerous to maintain the present practice of using government demand obligations as money. Our fathers never made anything full legal-tender money except gold and silver; but in the stress of civil war, confused fiscal and monetary functions of the state, forms of debt due on demand were used as money not as the result of deliberation but of emergency conditions. They were issued exactly because there were no resources in the treasury; and so they depreciated, drove out gold, finished a fluctuating standard, increased the national debt enormously, caused a change in prices whenever the credit of the paper standard fluctuated, reduced the purchasing power of wages, and by causing unexpected changes in the level of prices gave rise to extraordinary speculation, increased the severity of commercial crises, and placed the small producer at a disadvantage with the large operator. For 17 years (1862-1879) the government paper was a falsified promise, and our standard was based on this lie. Trade and industry became speculative. Men of large wealth took care of themselves; but men of small means should be protected from the evils arising from such uncertainty of the standard.

If the demand obligations of the government are used as money, reserves must always be kept on hand to redeem them. They are not therefore a long-term investment; and the expense of keeping up these reserves has made the paper money a very great burden to the taxpayer by an increase of the public debt. These gold reserves are necessary, unless the government permits its notes to go to protest. The mere credit of the United States behind its notes is too vague a thing, its power to tax is too remote, to provide cash on hand for instant use. So far as expense is concerned, this debt could have been more easily borne by changing it into low interest-bearing bonds.

Should Be Withdrawn.
For these and other reasons the commission strongly urge the government to withdraw its demand obligations now used as money, decline to provide gold for exporters, and put the burden and expense of maintaining a redeemable paper circulation upon the banks. In order to meet the demand obligations, the present reserves of gold in the treasury furnish a beginning to be set aside in the division of issue and redemption, and to meet possible contingencies the secretary of the treasury is authorized to sell bonds whenever the reserves need replenishment. In this way, or from surplus revenue, the demand obligations (that is, United States notes and treasury notes of 1890) can be gradually removed, and the cost to the country reduced, while this process will also give the inestimable advantage of ceasing to use demand debts as money, of simplifying our currency, and of adding to confidence in the certainty of our standard. By the plan of the commission, government paper is withdrawn in the first five years only as fast as the banking currency expands, so that contraction cannot possibly take place; if United States notes are canceled their place will be taken by the gold paid out for them, or by the expansion of bank notes (under the new system proposed); and in the following five years all the remaining United States notes are to be retired.

Bank Note Is Lauded.
The demand obligations of the United States were put forth solely because there were no funds in the treasury to redeem them. The notes were only evidence that property had been received and used for services or supplies of public buildings

(no longer available assets). The government by the nature of the operation did not retain, as the notes went out, anything which to redeem its demand issues. They were not a money based on property; they were only a debt. On the other hand, a bank note is never issued (fraud, of course, excluded) except for a consideration in negotiable property of equal or greater value. The bank note becomes forth as the result of a business transaction, and is based on the active property of the country which is passing between producers and consumers. This property is always negotiable and always equal to the duty of meeting the note liability. Bank notes are as sound as the business transactions of the country. The currency of the country, moreover, should increase, the transactions of the country increase; hence the rigid unchanging issues of the government make them an inelastic part of the circulation, while by the very process of their issue bank notes alone can be automatically adjusted to the changing transactions of the business community.

The Commissioners' Plan.
In view of the scarcity of United States bonds they cannot long be regarded as a basis for circulation. Moreover, any bond security of a higher character yields a low rate of interest; and in time of stringency, when borrowers need loans and the market rate of interest is high, there is no inducement to buy these bonds to increase circulation. Hence, under the present system, when more money would be most needed, it is least profitable to issue them. While providing for a partial use of bonds for securing notes (25 per cent. of the capital) the commission proposed that notes beyond this should be issued on all, instead of a part of, the resources of a bank; and after ten years that no special bond security should be required. Banks may issue notes up to 50 per cent. of their capital without restraint; for issues beyond 50 per cent. and up to 80 per cent. they pay a tax of two per cent.; for those beyond 80 per cent. and up to 100 per cent. they pay a tax of six per cent. These notes would be a prior lien upon all the resources of the bank, and, in addition, upon the stockholders' liability. Moreover, all banks issuing notes contribute five per cent. of their circulation as a permanent guaranty fund. For daily redemptions, banks should keep a five per cent. redemption fund in the hands of the comptroller of the currency. Banks of \$25,000 capital may be established in places of 4,000 inhabitants; and branches of banks are also permitted.

Safe and Uniform Currency.
It is apparent that the security to the noteholder under the proposed plan is greater than usually supposed. If notes should be issued by all national banks to the amount of 80 per cent. of their present capital, the security in the form of total assets (omitting consideration of stockholders' liability or a guaranty fund) is more than seven dollars to one dollar. In the 4,276 banks outside the reserve cities, the protection would be \$8.10 to one dollar of notes. The greatest number of failures of banks occurred in 1893; and yet the notes of these failed banks which did not realize at least 80 per cent. of their capital out of their resources formed only one-eighth of one per cent. of the proposed circulation. The 80 per cent. of the capital of all national banks is issued in notes upon the proposed plan, since the beginning of the national banking system in 1863, an assessment upon the banks annually of only one-fortieth of one per cent. would have been necessary. Moreover, instead of a tax on circulation of a fixed one-eighth of one per cent. on capital and surplus is proposed to cover the expenses of the system. Such a plan in general would furnish a safe, elastic, uniform and expanding currency based on a fixed and certain standard.

Keeping Out the Dark.
Sunnyslocks used to have an insatiable desire to look at choo-choo cars, and whenever his papa could do so he would take the little boy down to the track to see the trains rush past. One day a naughty fireman shoveled a lot of coal into the furnace of a passing locomotive, and the wind blew a big, black cloud of smoke over toward Sunnyslocks, and some of it got into his eyes. After that he would press his face against his papa's cheek whenever an engine rushed along, because he didn't like the black smoke. But as yet Sunnyslocks doesn't seem to have a very thorough understanding of the nature and composition of smoke. The other night, when he was being carried up stairs to bed, he pressed his face against his papa's cheek; as he did whenever he saw an engine. "Why are you doing that?" he was asked. "I must keep my eyes shut so the dark won't get in them," said Sunnyslocks.—Cleveland Leader.

Banting's System.
The late Princess Mary of Teck became in her middle life, enormously stout, and tried many means to reduce her flesh. Having heard much of Banting, she sent for him. She was surprised to see that he was still extremely bulky, and after a few civil preparatory remarks, she said: "But your system has not made you very thin, Mr. Banting?" "Allow me, madam," said Banting—and proceeding to unbutton his coat, he disclosed a large wire structure over which the garment fitted. Inside was the real Banting, incased in another coat. "This, madam," said he, pointing with pardonable satisfaction to his cage, "was my size before I commenced dieting." He then nimbly disembarrassed himself of his framework, and stood before the royal lady exhibiting his elegant figure!—San Francisco Argonaut.

The Clerk's Notice.
In a small village in Gloucestershire the clergyman was out visiting, but was expected back to preach on the Sunday. Early on Sunday morning, however, the parish clerk received a message from the clergyman to say he would not be able to preach, as he was going to "officiate" for another clergyman. As the service time drew near the clerk rang the bell, and when the time was up and the people were assembled, he went into the pulpit and addressed them thus: "This is to give notice that the parson will not be able to preach here to-day, as he is gone 'a-fishing' along with another parson."—London Spare Moments.

MORE BAD BILLS FOUND.

Withdrawal from Circulation of \$100 Silver Certificates.

The Entire Issue of \$20,000,000 Is Called In by Secretary Gage—A Thorough Investigation Being Made of the Counterfeit.

Washington, Jan. 5.—United States Treasurer Roberts has sent the following telegram to all assistant treasurers: "Discovery of dangerous counterfeits compels retirement of all \$100 silver certificates. Forward all such notes to this office for destruction. Be cautious in receiving denomination and kind mentioned." Another of these counterfeits was on Tuesday discovered in a package received from Chicago. So far as known the only cities in which they have appeared are Chicago, St. Louis and Philadelphia.

Of the certificates to be recalled there are about \$26,000,000 outstanding. They will be exchanged for silver certificates of smaller denominations and the plates destroyed. As soon as new plates can be engraved a new series will be issued. It is quite possible that thousands of the notes are in circulation. It is believed at the treasury that the work was done by some one who was trained years ago in the government service. Engravers at the bureau of printing and engraving in this city nowadays do not prepare a whole plate, but only a small section of one, and so do not get the trapping that the former workmen used to get. The present counterfeit is an earnest and careful workman and shows a wonderful ability to copy details. Since Brockway is in jail and his partner, Smith, is dying of paresis, the latter's son is the only man who is thought capable of doing the work. He is now in New York on bail, waiting trial for making the notes that Brockway is in jail for passing.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—Chief Hazen, of the United States secret service, arrived here Tuesday and began his investigation of the counterfeiting of \$100 silver certificates, which was discovered Monday. Accompanied by Superintendent McManus, of the local branch of the service, he visited the treasury and examined one of the counterfeiters in the possession of Treasurer Bigler. Tuesday morning another of the counterfeit notes was found in one of the banks, making in all six of the notes that have been found in this city in the past two weeks. As late as Monday afternoon one of the counterfeit notes was received at the custom house. The finding of the sixth note has stirred the cashiers and other banking officials here, and an industrious search is going on to bring to light all the notes of that character with a view of learning to what extent the counterfeiting is prevalent. Neither Chief Hazen nor Superintendent McManus would discuss their investigation. During the day Mr. McManus visited a number of financial institutions and exhibited the counterfeit.

KNOWS WHAT TO DO.

Durrant Rehearses Programme for His Coming Execution.
San Quentin, Cal., Jan. 5.—Theodore Durrant has rehearsed the scene of his own death. At his own request, made absolutely without emotion, he has been told every incident that will mark the last minutes of the last hours of life.

From the moment that he awakens next Friday morning until Warden Hale gives the signal to spring the gallows trap, Theodore Durrant knows what is expected of him.

The condemned man has made the following requests concerning his execution:

First, That the rope used to hang him shall be destroyed immediately after his death, so that no person can say that he holds a piece of it as a memento.

Second, That none of the spectators shall be allowed to gaze upon his features after he is executed.

Third, That no autopsy shall be held after death, and that no physician be allowed to examine his body.

Fourth, That after he is pronounced dead his remains shall be delivered to his parents as soon as possible.

HAD NO TROUBLE.

Law Extending Jurisdiction of Courts Over Indian Territory Takes Effect.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Telegrams received at the interior department indicate that the law of congress extending the jurisdiction of the federal courts of the Indian territory over the five civilized tribes has become operative, apparently without particular friction. The latest information received by the secretary from the territory came to hand in a dispatch from Agent Wisdom at the Union agency, who says that thus far the law has gone into effect without material friction and that, in his belief, the better elements of Indians are satisfied to pass under the full jurisdiction of the United States.

TO WED HIS STENOGRAPHER.

Hon. Ignatius Donnelly Will Marry a Twenty-Year-Old Girl.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 5.—The announcement was made Tuesday that Hon. Ignatius Donnelly, the well-known populist leader, famous also as author of many popular books, and upholder of the Baconian authorship of Shakespeare's works, will in six weeks marry Miss Marian Hansen, who has been stenographer in the office of his newspaper. "The sage of Nifniger," as Mr. Donnelly is called, is now 66 years old, and Miss Hansen is 20.

HELD UP A TRAIN.

Two Thieves Do a Bold Piece of Work in Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 5.—After about three months of inactivity, Kansas City's train robbers scored another brilliant achievement Tuesday night. This time the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf road is the sufferer. The company's Port Arthur express, which left the company's depot here at 6:40 Tuesday night, was robbed before it had passed beyond the city limits. Two men, whom no one but the express messenger seems to have seen, climbed into the express car as the train left the depot. They overpowered the messenger, bound and gagged him, and rifled the car before the train came to a stop. When the train slowed up at a railroad crossing, known as Air Line Junction, near the southern limits of the city, they climbed out of the car and disappeared. Nothing was known of the robbery until a negro train porter entered the car and found the helpless express messenger.

After the train had been stopped and released the express messenger it was found that the robbers had rifled the local safe, taking from it everything of value. They had made no effort to disturb the through safe, which is protected by a time lock. From Air Line Junction a telegraphic report of the robbery was sent to the city and the train proceeded south. The Wells-Fargo company controls the express business on the Pittsburg & Gulf road. At the express company's office here C. R. Teas, the local manager, stated that there was not much of value in the local safe, and that \$200 or \$300 would probably cover the company's loss. In police circles, however, the impression is that the robbers secured several thousand dollars in money and jewelry.

The report received at the express company's office here states that the robbers entered the express car as the train was passing Kyrads, having forced the rear door with a jimmy. E. N. Hyde, of Kansas City, was the express messenger. Upon turning from his work he looked into the barrel of a six-shooter. The messenger offered no resistance, though he was well armed, and after the robbers had bound him one of the two stood guard over him while the other rifled the safe. The robbers are described as smooth-faced young men, and the fact that both were extremely nervous while in the express car is taken as evidence that they are new recruits to Kansas City's force of train robbers. At 7:10 o'clock a special train was sent to the scene of the robbery with a force of policemen and marshals, and these men are now scouring the country along the river banks in search of the robbers. Though this robbery is the first that has occurred on the Pittsburg & Gulf line, it is the sixth crime of the kind perpetrated in Kansas City within 15 months. There have been several arrests of alleged train robbers during this period, but there has not been a single conviction.

MRS. FASSETT DEAD.

Artist of National Prominence Suddenly Called in Washington.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Mrs. Adeline M. Fassett, an artist of national prominence, dropped dead on the street Tuesday evening. Mrs. Fassett's specialty was portraiture, and her most noted work was "The Electoral College," now among the paintings hung in the capitol. It represents the tribunal which decided the Hayes-Tilden contest. Each one of more than 100 faces in this distinguished gathering is a miniature portrait, and it is considered the greatest curiosity of art in possession of this government. Mrs. Fassett also painted a portrait of President Garfield and of many of the members of the supreme court.

A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

Proposed Plan Makes Fraudulent Pensioners Tremble.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Since the agitation concerning the publication of the list of pensioners has commenced, Commissioner Evans has received several letters from pensioners requesting a cancellation of their pensions. One pensioner in Michigan enclosed his certificate and stated his desire to have the same recalled, as he was not entitled to the government's bounty. He added he would endeavor to return all the money drawn since 1895, when the pension was granted.

TRAGEDY IN NEBRASKA.

Man and Wife Murdered by an Unknown Assassin.

Fairbury, Neb., Jan. 5.—George Baker and his wife, who live about three miles west of here, were murdered Tuesday morning. They were found lying dead in the dining-room of their home. Each had received a charge of birdshot in the head. The shot had been fired through a window as the couple sat at breakfast. There is no clue to the murderer.

Married an Heiress.

New York, Jan. 5.—Miss Margaret Van Cortlandt Ogden, of this city, was married Tuesday to Frank McNutt, of Richmond, Ind. Mr. McNutt was secretary of legation at Madrid when A. Louden Snowden was United States minister to Spain and later held a like position at Rome when Gov. A. G. Porter, of Indiana, represented this government at the Italian capital. The bride is an orphan and possessed of a fortune estimated at \$1,000,000.

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