

WITH THE SOLONS IN THE HALLS ON CONGRESS AT NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Measures That Receive Attention in Both the House and the Senate and the Casual Incidents as They Develop in Both Branches.

Washington, Feb. 17.—During the entire session today the senate had under consideration the bill establishing a Permanent census office. It was not completed, but an agreement was reached to take it up again immediately after the executive session that is to be held Monday next for the consideration of the Danish treaty.

The great contest of the day, of course, was over the transfer to the classified service of the employes of the census office who will be retained in the Permanent establishment. It involved the entire civil service question, and the debate covered much of the ground that heretofore had been gone over in congressional debates.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Former United States Senator Thurston of Nebraska made an argument before the senate committee on immigration today against the proposed Chinese exclusion bill. He said the regulation of Chinese immigration should be left to diplomatic negotiation in order to prevent irritation which is already such as to affect the Chinese legation in United States, possibly the Chinese court itself. He contended that the Chinese government would be willing to co-operate with the United States in meeting our desires, and said it is far preferable to approach the solution of the problem in that way, in view of the fact that we are now asking of China more than ever before while we are in position to give less.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Panama canal protocol, which has been in course of preparation for several weeks at the hands of Dr. Slive, Colombian minister here; Senor Herran, first secretary of the legation, and F. Mutis-Duran, special reporter of the department of Panama, now stands completed in all essential respects, the protocol has been prepared in the Spanish language, and Senor Herran will undertake the translation into English, so it is probable that it will not be turned over to Admiral Walker, chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission, before next Thursday. The protocol consists of about 25 articles, and is quite a lengthy document.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Senator Beveridge, today denied the report sent from Indianapolis that President Roosevelt recently, in the senator's presence, asked D. M. Parry of Indiana, how he would like to be on the ticket with the president as the vice-presidential candidate in 1904. Senator Beveridge tonight received a telegram from Mr. Parry stating that the Indianapolis story regarding his visit to the president was without foundation.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Secretary of the Navy Long today received by express from Chicago, a box containing a wreath of red roses and Lillies of the Valley, on which was placed a card with the following inscribed message: "Kindly take this to Arlington Cemetery, and place it on the mound of the Maine dead."

Secretary Long directed that the flowers be turned over to the quartermaster's department of the army, so that the wishes of the unknown donor will be complied with.

INVESTIGATING A LAND SALE.

Iowa Bidders Allege Unfairness in the Deal for Fort Stevenson Reservation.

Bismarck, N. D., Feb. 18.—Before the officials of the Bismarck land office today inquiry was begun into the sale of the Fort Stevenson reservation, in October last, to L. C. Black of Cincinnati for \$80,000. E. E. Secor of Buffalo Centre, Ia., C. M. Johnson and Borger Halum of Richland, Ia., and others were among the bidders, but they were outbid by Black. After the sale affidavits were filed to the effect that there was collusion to prevent their bidding, and that an agreement was made whereby Secor was to have his choice of lands in the reservation at 10 percent advance on the purchase price, and that Johnson and Holium received \$150 each. The charges are denied by Black. The land office officials state that the sale was conducted with openness and fairness.

Supposed Irish Plans.

London, Feb. 17.—The Paris correspondent of the Chronicle believes there is some truth in the rumor that the Irish revolutionary committee has been started in Paris by an Irish-American just returned from South Africa for the purpose of aiding the Boers' cause by a reign of dynamite and terror.

Mine Promoter Fails.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 17.—Michael Shaughnessy, a mine promoter, has filed a petition in bankruptcy. His liabilities are \$167,000 and assets \$25,000. He attributes his failure partly to the suspension of the City Saving bank of Detroit.

Whisky War is On.

Pooria, Ill., Feb. 17.—The price of distilled spirits was today cut to \$1.25. Both the trust and independent houses admit that it is the beginning of a war.

Young Roosevelt Recovering.

Groton, Mass., Feb. 17.—The progress of the resident's son in his convalescence from the recent attack of pneumonia continues most favorable.



Paris letter: The advent of spring in the Riviera calls into immediate requirement new styles for outdoor wear, at least.

A pretty novelty gown, charming for its simplicity, seen in one of the leading ateliers, and of which we give an illustration, is of cadet blue satin-finished cloth. The bolero waist is made with three little capes, finished by a small ruching of taffetas of the same shade of blue as the cloth. The overskirt is trimmed with ruchings of the taffetas, and falls over a box-pleated underskirt.

Another gown which we also illustrate is of almond green foulard. The waist is of solid green taffetas, a corset plaited, with bolero of cream lace, laced together with narrow black velvet ribbon. The overskirt is of figured foulard, laced together and finished off by velvet ribbons and the underskirt is accordion-plaited. The hat worn with this costume is of white French straw, trimmed with a single big pink rose and black velvet ribbon.

A very chic gown is in blue and red polka dotted silk, trimmed with cream guipure. It has a high belt and long coat tails of blue silk.

Bodices are very elaborate, with bold braided effects done on cloth in contrast with the material, the color in one case being of mandarin yellow for a blue foundation, and the other green for a black. A new spring gown of black and white silk is gored and corded and arranged so that the stripes are placed in zigzag fashion.

A very pretty creation for a petite figure is a gown having a black trained skirt of veiling with a jacket of soft, silky taffetas, turned back with revers of old white brocade, flowered with white roses.

The smartest new mourning gown I have yet seen is made of the new fabric, christina, which has a very silky surface, in different designs in either small or large patterns. A gown made of this is in princess style with a new effect in panelling on the skirt of crape, bordered with braid. The bodice has scalloped revers with a folded crepe centre above the waist and bell sleeves reaching to the elbow.

The stock collar and undersleeves are both of crepe, the collar having a turn-over of white lisse and the latter being arranged in soft folds to give a graceful and mobile appearance to the arm.

A new black and white flowered foulard model is designed with a shirred hip yoke, the skirt being gored to flare at the hem, where the trimming is finished with narrow rows of alternate black and white velvet ribbon. The belt is quite narrow, the bodice above being shirred, the collar band and yoke being tucked chiffon. The white chiffon beehive is edged with two rows of irregularly shaped black chantilly lace insertion which are caught together by short bands of black velvet ribbon. The sleeves have a shirred effect at the top, falling to the elbow in a graceful puff over the long, close-fitting sleeve of tucked chiffon.

A pretty instance of the new slashed effect in skirts of a tobacco brown cloth over white lace. Over the white taffeta foundation skirt is a circular skirt of white lace, covering which is a circular cloth skirt cut out so as to give the

effect of being made of vertical horizontal bands stitched on. The vertical bands are made at the hem and the cross-movement well up the skirt so that is conspicuous below. The bodice is made in the same material as the skirt, with narrow cloth bands trimming a collar.

A skirt innovation in taffeta with killed pleats all the way tucked at edge, very narrow, but widening toward the bodice is trimmed with wide insertions, picked out with silver thread and palleto tassels of silk of self color and silver cord complete the new effect.

The Renaissance of the pleated skirt are already in two dresses, just being in Worth; the kilt was tucked near the edge of the skirt in other the pleats being loose several inches above the hem.

Last week I mentioned the use of embroidery in lingerie, and now the use of it in other directions is being touched in some form with needlework. All the new pieces of the embroiderer are being played, each succeeding novel some new form of this decorative most cosmopolitan effects presented in the class of embroidery of some kind produced for women's wear.

Even the brocade silks and chine are woven in embroidery, a novelty in the latter material, white, with bouquets of color or large design, scattered rather wide distances.

The medieval idea noticed in some of the extreme new styles is enhanced by the medley of designs in the spring fabrics. They suggest the idea of revised and compel one to be very discerning in making selections. One of the attractive ideas seen in foulards of flowers in various colors and white ground. These materials have the approval of quite a number of dressers. The border effects produced by the use of embroidery, stamped and woven designs and bands of contrasting hemstitched on, afford opportunities for

Women of moderate means who see in the present and forthright opportunity for unlimited choice have decided upon adopting a scheme for the season. They wish to dominate all they wear, and such a plan serves to materially increase the expense of keeping up a wardrobe. This may be done, even with the new fabrics, by selecting designs in shades of one color with conspicuous contrasts, such as green for the leaves.

John W. Gates, among a variety of superstitions worries over the apprehension that the figure is dangerous if too familiar to her self, John Drake, who is himself a millionnaire, passed a couple of days ago. A dozen messengers before Mr. Gates arose, at his door, one after another, each delivering a communication in which the fateful nine had conspired. Somehow the penman's millilarity, Gates guessed, on the bulletin board in the hotel corridor later appeared this: "To John Drake: So long you're broke. Have your request for a \$5 loan. Nein."

Spring hat of fine leghorn trimmed with large cream silk rose and reseed green velvet.



ABOUT OLD BABYLON

FAMOUS METROPOLIS OF THE ANCIENT ORIENTAL WORLD.

Palace of the King's Edifice in Which Belshazzar Held His Fatal Banquet.

Tradition, the last flicker of the lamp of history, has lingered long over the vast heaps of debris and decay that form the grave mounds of "great Babylon," the metropolis of the ancient Oriental world. For centuries these monumental tumuli have defied the efforts of thousands of brick hunters, and strings of donkeys and camels have borne away the inscribed bricks of Nebuchadnezzar and his successors to build the houses and caravanserais of Hillah and other towns. The harvest of inscribed records obtained has been small, and most of these have found their way into the hands of native dealers. The work of exploration upon the site was manifestly one requiring time and money, as well as systematic direction. This work has at last been undertaken by an expedition organized by the German Oriental society, under the direction of the able architect, Dr. Robert Koldowey, and a staff of Assyriologists, among whom have been Drs. Dehtsch, Hilprecht, and Weisbach, and results of the greatest importance have been obtained.

Nebuchadnezzar's Palace.

The work was commenced upon the great mound known as the "Kasr" or "palace," a tradition which the researchers have confirmed, for here has been found the great royal residence of Nebuchadnezzar the Great (B. C. 604-561) and his successors—a building which was justly described by its royal builder as the "palace upon which gaze the eyes of all nations." This vast edifice upon which all the wealth of the Orient was lavished—gold, silver, and precious stones, cedar of Lebanon, and other precious woods were used without stint—the ruins of such royal edifices must be worthy of exploration. The most important discovery made as yet is that of the royal banqueting hall or throneroom, a vast chamber 120 feet long and 60 broad, and which had once been richly decorated with painted stucco, as described by the prophet Ezekiel. At the end was a raised dais, on which was placed the "King's table," and in the center was a recess or alcove, where his throne had stood. The researchers have proved that this was the palace in which Alexander died (B. C. 323), and there is every reason to believe that it was in this room the drunken orgie took place in which his friend was slain, and the grief-stricken king lingered to leave his hard-won and widespread conquests to be scrambled among his generals. Other great feasts may be associated with this stately chamber—the triumphal feasts of Nebuchadnezzar after his victories in Egypt, and his execution of divine wrath upon Jerusalem, and the destruction of the Temple (B. C. 586).

There is every just reason to suppose that it was in this chamber the fatal last banquet of Belshazzar was held, when the corridors leading to it echoed to the tread of the advancing soldiers of Gobyraz, the general of Cyrus, and on that night (Tammuz 16, B. C. 538) the first of empires fell.

That night they slew him on his father's throne. He was unnoticed and the hand unknown. Crownless and scepterless Belshazzar lay. A robe of purple round a form of clay.

Surely this is a room rich in historic associations, which it needs but little imagination to fill with all the riches and the beauty of the barbaric East, to scent with the perfume of flowers and fragrant incense, to fill with music and joyous laughter, and yet for long centuries it has lain buried beneath its debris, "unsought, unknown, untold."

Leaving this chamber and passing without the palace ruins still more interesting discoveries await us. On the east side of the palace were found the remains of a stone-paved roadway. The terrace was about 80 feet wide, and has been excavated for a distance of some 420 feet, and the direction being ascertained, the termination being found near the southeast corner of the mound, making a total length of about 1,400 feet, or over a quarter of a mile. It may well be compared with our Parliament street, for at one end was the royal palace, like that of Westminster, and the sides were flanked by royal residences, temples, and government buildings. Below, on the west, were the royal grounds, and beyond those the "great river Euphrates." The whole length was paved with blocks of breccia of a reddish color, no doubt originally laid in some design, but now displaced. The limestone blocks are the largest, being about a yard square and a foot in thickness. These massive blocks were laid on a brick foundation and cemented with bitumen. Fortunately these ancient flags are worn by the feet of many men, and marked by the wheels of the "chariots that have jostled in the street."

The Processional Street.

But there are no silent stones, for their surface tells an ancient story, for each is inscribed, the larger with the words, "I am Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, son of Nebpaleasar, King of Babylon. The highway of Babylon for the procession of the great Lord Merodach, with blocks of stone, the product of the mountains (limestone), I paved the street. May the Lord Merodach with everlasting life endow me." The smaller inscription, and give us the Babylonian name of breccia (tur mina banda). This processional street of Babylon we know already from the inscriptions, and the identification of its site is most important. It was the Via-Sacra of Babylon, and its Applan way, rich with religious and historic memories. Fuller details as to

this holy way are found in the India house inscription of Nebuchadnezzar, the king who made it. Here he says, "Albur Sabu (the Rising Way), the highway, the procession street of the God Merodach, the great Lord, with blocks of breccia and limestone Albur-Sabu from the Noble Gate as far as the Temple of Istar, who throws down her opponents, I made beautiful. With the works which my father did I formed it and paved also the roadway of Istar "who throws down her enemies." The excavations have revealed the remains of the Temple of Istar, called "the Supreme Goddess"—that is the "Warlike Istar, the lady of battles and the archness of the gods," to be situated about one-third of the way from the end of the Processional street.—London News.

THE COWBOY'S JOYOUS LIFE.

His Happiest Moment When a Train-load of Tenderfeet is in Town.

There is joy in the hearts of the cowboys who are gathered for the winter in the little cow towns along the line of the Great Northern railway in Northern-Montana. The railway company has announced its indignation at the actions of the boys, and they are gleeful in consequence. To stir up the wrath of a great railway corporation is a luxury not often given to the boys who punch cows.

The management of the railway takes exception to the habit the boys have formed of letting off revolvers, with apparent recklessness, during the passage of passenger trains through the town. It is an amusement dear to the soul of the cowboy. Just now he has more money than he has at any other time of the year, and also has more ammunition. The presence of a passenger train at the station, with its load of curious outlanders, moves him to show off his badness. He whoops and yells and fires his revolver until the train has pulled away; then he relapses into his everyday self, satisfied that he has scared the passengers to a frazzle. But Mr. Hill says this is reprehensible, and must stop. Will it stop? Well!

After all, the boys do not do any great amount of damage. They enjoy their innocent little amusement of shooting holes in the sky and trying to impress the tenderfeet passengers. The boys have simply carried into manhood that very human juvenile desire to show off, and when they let out a fusillade of shots and a series of yells calculated to straighten out the kinks in a sleeping-car porter's hair, they are only trying to put some color and romance into their very unromantic and practical lives. The only harm in the passengers' eyes is that the boys just think what a lot the experience gives the passengers can't they send home their lurid letters and in the wild and woolly! What delicious thrills of excitement and terror can be felt in those few moments at the cow town depot! Why, it's a slice of real life drama, better than a bushel of Hamlin Garland's stories. It is an open question whether the passengers secretly do not like the thing, for all the protests they may make to the railway people. But it will be interesting to observe the attempts to stop the cowboys.—Anaconda (Mont.) Standard.

HIS FIRST LAW CASE.

A Client Who Evinced Too High a Degree of Gratitude.

Washington Post: When Henry C. Smith of Michigan started to practice law he had as his first client a negro, and he won the case. The hearing was before a local magistrate, and his charge was stealing a ring. As his client had employment on a farm outside the town where Smith first hung up his shingle, the young lawyer is said to have taken the precaution of hiring a carriage and riding out to the farmer, where he secured promise of the negro's wages for a few days as his retainer.

"I made an eloquent plea," said Mr. Smith in recounting the proceedings of that case. "I did not fail to ring the changes on the down-trodden race, and all that sort of thing with the result that my client went free. Still, I had a sort of lingering suspicion that the verdict was certainly all my man deserved, and when the case was over I wanted to be rid of him. He continued to haunt my office.

"Why don't you go out and chase around with the boys?" I said finally, in some impatience.

"Deed, boss, I thought yo' fee war too small, an' I want yer to accept this 'ere ring."

"And the negro produced from his jeans the ring which he had been supposed to have stolen."

But Mr. Smith refused to accept the proffer of stolen goods and applied himself to the prosecution of other cases, which have gained him an eminent reputation with the legal profession in Michigan.

Twelve Corots, 11 Troyons, six Millets and five Missonniers will shortly be added to the marvelous collection in the Louvre. They formed a part of the gallery belonging to the late M. Thery, who, when dying, asked to be surrounded by the masterpieces which had been the joy and crown of his life. M. Thery was such a conscientious and fervent collector, these works have long been reckoned as among the finest of the 1830 school, and his bequest has aroused great enthusiasm in Paris circles.

William M. Ramsey of California has just purchased Westover, the famous country seat along the James river, whose history is well traced to 200 years. He will restore the estate to its colonial magnificence, but will not mar its colonial architecture.

NEWS OF ILLINOIS.

ALL SORTS OF THINGS CAUGHT FROM THE WIRES.

General Happenings Throughout the State Prepared for Perusal by Busy Readers.

At Chicago in a pitched battle early last Tuesday evening upon the land along the north shore claimed by Captain Streeter, as the District of Lake Michigan, one man sacrificed his life for the principles of his employers. Pistol and rifle shots echoed on the evening air and desperate men crept over the uneven ground, weapons in hand and murderous resolve in their hearts. John S. Kirk, watchman for Henry M. Cooper, who represents the interests of the Lake Shore drive claimants to the property held by George Streeter, was shot through the head and died a few hours later at the Passavant hospital. Mr. Cooper is at his home suffering from a badly bruised shoulder, and five men are under arrest at the East Chicago avenue station in connection with the shooting.

Successful Telephone Test.

Railroads throughout the country have been awaiting with interest the result of the Illinois Central's experiments in sending telephone messages over telegraph wires as an auxiliary service, designed for emergency cases. The first test, conducted last week between Kankakee and Kempton, a small station 26 miles from Kankakee, on the Southwestern branch of the Illinois Central, was successful. A telephone instrument was carried in the engine cab for the experiments. At a number of stops made between Kankakee and Kempton a wire was strung between the engine and the telegraph line, and telephone communication established with the office of the train dispatcher at Kankakee. The tests were entirely successful in each instance, the telephoning over the telegraph wires not interfering with telegraph messages sent simultaneously. Eventually all Illinois Central trains will be supplied with telephonic equipment, the instruments to be placed in the baggage cars of passenger trains and in the engine cabs or cabooses of freight trains.

Identified as Frank McKinney.

Frank King, the printer-burglar, in the Kankakee county jail for a series of burglaries committed while he held a job as make-up on a Kankakee paper, has been identified as Frank McKinney, an escaped prisoner of the Jeffersonville (Ind.) reformatory. He was sent there for burglary by the Vanderburg circuit court Dec. 17, 1897, his sentence being not less than two or more than 14 years. In 1900 he was paroled. He disappeared from Evansville, where he had been placed at work, and is believed to have committed several burglaries in various parts of Indiana before he turned up in Kankakee. McKinney will be sent back to Jeffersonville to serve the remainder of his 14 years' sentence, or about 11 years.

Safelowers Steal \$3,000.

The Salline county bank at Stone Fort, 14 miles south of Harrisburg, was entered by burglars, the safe blown open and the contents, \$3,000 in currency, carried away. Bloodhounds from Harrisburg were taken to the scene, but after following a trail for about four miles they lost it. In their haste to get away the burglars left a number of tools in the bank. Many citizens were awakened by the explosion, but the discovery of the robbery was not known until the opening of the bank in the morning.

Illinois in Brief.

Fearing the effects of a surgical operation, Deputy Clerk William Crawford shot himself through the head, dying instantly. He had been a city and county official for many terms, and was prominent in central Illinois politics.

Roy McCowan, indicted for the murder of Mrs. Belle Richards at Carterville, Ill., 12 months ago, is on trial before the circuit court at Marion. The woman was an invited guest at the house of the defendant, and was shot to death at the dinner table.

Three times kidnaped within a year and twice found by his mother in the record of Lawrence Countryman, 6 years old, who figured in a sensational episode in Chicago last July. The third disappearance came last week in St. Joseph, Mich., and it is believed that the boy has been taken to Chicago again.

Thieves entered the residence of W. B. Leeds, president of the Rock Island railroad, and carried off several hundred dollars' worth of silver. Before looting the place the burglars helped themselves to wine and the best the larder afforded, the servants in the morning finding several empty bottles and other remains of the feast the thieves had enjoyed in the dining room while the family slept.

William Williams was shot through the heart by Ules Brannan at the home of the former in Pone Hollow, the headquarters of the colored population of Bloomington. There have been several encounters in that locality of late, in which revolvers figured, and in which several victims were seriously wounded. Two factions of the negroes have been at loggerheads for several weeks, and frequent fights have resulted. The shooting occurred after a verbal encounter at a drinking bout. Brannan fled and has not been apprehended. The murderer has been mixed up in a number of recent affrays. Williams leaves a wife and several children.