THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, PUBS.
BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, JAN. 1.

Soc. predicts a Cornell professor, children will quit being born. All the children we know have done so already.

The duke of Abruzzi is to try Alpine climbing. He is determined to get to the top of some of his mountains of difficulty.

England shows its good manners and good sense in not getting excited over those alleged interviews with the German emperor.

Both England and Germany would sleep better on dark nights if they would generate a little more of the spirit of brotherly love.

Mr. Hammerstein says "a theatrical man can't be a pinochle husband." Which would doubtless be interesting information if we could translate it.

Lord Roberts has grown so nervous over the aggressive curl of Emperor William's mustaches that he demands for England an army of 1,000,000 men.

A St. Louis justice became very indignant when a bridegroom offered him a drink after the ceremony. The customary fee will buy several drinks.

Sir Theodore Martin, the doyen of English literature, recently celebrated the ninety-second anniversary of his birthday at his Welsh home, Bryntirlio, Llangollen.

A powder firm in Cologne refused to fill an order from Roumania on account of previous large orders from other Balkan states. Naturally, a Cologne firm would be able at first sight to scent war trouble.

Mr. Rockefeller has just drawn his check in favor of Richmond college, Richmond, Va., for $150,000? Another item added to the cumulative evidence that he really has some other business besides that of making money.

A society in Norway has concluded an agreement to work Dr. de Saval's patents for making metallic zinc out of low-grade ores. At first about 50 tons of metallic zinc and about one ton o metallic lead, as well as a little copper and silver, will be treated each day.

Mrs. Charles Brodie Patterson, a student of longevity, announces that it is possible for a man to live forever. Precisely. Not only "a man," but all men live forever, although they cannot remember this earth, which is rather limited in its standing capacity. Man has to move up to give other fellows a chance here below.

An attempt is making in New York to limit the height of buildings in that city to 350 feet. It is urged that the higher buildings, those of five or six hundred feet, are a menace to the health of the people as well as dangerous in case of fire. In Boston and in Washington a much lower limit has been established by law.

The divorce statistics just published emphasize again the need of a uniform national divorce law as the only means by which the evil can be kept in check. As a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, neither is divorce in the union more difficult than in the state with the most lax laws. There is no use in passing a restrictive law in one state which can be nullified at individual pleasure in another.

Mr. Powderly, after investigation, declares there are few men in the New York "bread line" who want to work. He suggests state farms. Good, as far as it goes. But many of these men would be of no use on any kind of a farm. Some are better adapted to building roads. The plan of Oridido F. Lewis for employment stations is more comprehensive and more practical, thinks the Pittsburg Dispatch.

A British peer advocates temporary confiscation of a car for automobile speeding. The remedy is, in the opinion of the Baltimore American, rather drastic, but it is evident from the increasing number of accidents and the disregard for life and limb manifested by the speed maniacs that something must be done in the way of punitive legislation. The present system of fines is wholly inadequate; in fact, they constitute but the smallest part of the running expenses of motoring, and plainly are so regarded.

The navy department wants a wireless telephone plant established in Washington for its use. If the system is sufficiently practical to be in such demand it will soon be in general use and vocal messages will be floating through the air in every direction. But where is the sound while the message is on its travel? The query suggests the old problem: If a tree falls in the middle of a forest where no man can hear it, is there any noise from the crash?

Wilbur Wright is going after a $15,000 prize in a French aeroplane race next month, although he knows perfectly well how the French aeroplanists hate to lose the money.

What satirist of society has done such a sketch of degenerate aristocracy as is drawn of themselves by the French princelings in the court proceedings for the possession of an American girl's fortune? Is the bauble for which American heiresses barter themselves to titled rakes worth the incumbrance? asks the New York World.

There is a young woman in Connecticut who has an odd quarrel with fate. Her humble avocation in life is that of a domestic, and she has no hurling ambitions to rise above her station, but she cannot keep a job because she is too good-looking. The oddest thing about this odd young woman, says the Baltimore American, is that she is still trying to break into unsuscptible households, and has never given a thought to the musical comedy chorus, where the demand for good looks is greater at present than the supply.

STATE MAY BE HARD UP AGAIN

STATE TREASURY IS GETTING LOW AGAIN BEFORE TAXES COME IN.

THE LOCAL OPTION LAW.

Money Advanced by Railroads Will Be Used Up This Week—Cannot Change Local Option Law.

The last outstanding primary school warrant has been paid by the state treasurer. The warrant should have been paid more than a month ago, but the state had used part of the primary money for general purpose, and was unable to narrow. There remained in the state treasury Saturday a cash balance of about $940,000, but a large part of this sum is money belonging to the creditors of defunct banks and other trust funds, so that there is only about $200,000 of the $750,000 recently advanced by the railroads that may be used for general expenses. This sum will be nearly consumed by the payrolls this week, again leaving the treasury bare.

Quarterly allowances to the state institutions will be due January 1, but the money will not be forthcoming until some weeks later. Taxes have not yet commenced to be received by the state treasurer, although an effort has been made to induce county treasurers to make prompt settlement with the state in order to relieve the situation.

It will be January 15 at the earliest before the receipt of December taxes will begin to bulk an appreciable effect upon the treasury.

The Law Will Stand.

Michigan's new constitution, which goes into effect this week, will not in the least affect the operation of the present local option law. If any counties knock out the saloons next April, as now seems quite likely, the local law will be absolute and will compress to the liquor trough with the "blind pig" route.

That is the assertion of Victor Hawkins, of Jonesville, who was a member of the committee on cities and villages, in the constitutional convention and as such was one of the framers of the very clause in the new basic document under which the liquor interests had hoped to find a hole in the loose board in the sty.

Mr. Hawkins points to the fact that local option is a general law. Sec. 23 of the constitution says:

"Under such general laws (made by the legislature for incorporation of cities and villages) the electors of each city and village shall have power and authority to frame, adopt and amend its charter, and, through its regular constituted authority, to pass all laws and ordinances relating to its municipal concerns, subject to the constitution, and general laws of the state."

Thirty People Injured.

As the result of a switch on the Lake Shore a mile south of Pleasant Lake, Ind., being thrown, probably by "pals" of the postoffice robbers, part of which gang is supposed to have been capured at Hillsdale a day or so ago, 30 persons were injured, one probably fatally, when southbound passenger train No. 414, which left Hillsdale at 10 o'clock Saturday evening, carrying six passenger coaches and a baggage car, plunged into a huge gravel pit, plowing up the ground for 30 feet.

Mr. and Mrs. Summerlot, of Angola, Ind., had just been married and were on their way to Fort Wayne, Ind., to give their relatives a Christmas surprised by the announcement. They were painfully but not seriously hurt.

It was first reported that a broken flange caused the train to take the old siding that was to have gravel put, but an examination by road officials is said to have showed that this was not the case, but that the switch evidently had been intentionally thrown. No blame has thus far attached to any of the railroad employes. Most of those injured were riding in the forward cars.

"Black Hander" Caught.

Charged with sending "Black Hand" letters to Edmonds Brothers, proprietors of an elevator, a man giving the name of Albert Luther, Chicago, was arrested in the Hastings postoffice. The firm received a letter demanding $25 and threatening dire consequences if the same was refused or any attempt made to catch the writer. After notifying the officers a decoy letter was sent through the mail. The officer, concealed near the general delivery window, waited till "A. Lamar" called for a letter and arrested him. He confessed to the officer.

The Mother Died.

Mrs. Ellenworth Perkins, of South Aurelius, died at the University hospital at Ann Arbor and was buried at her old home in Greenville on Christmas day.

Mrs. Perkins was terribly burned, a few weeks ago by her dress catching fire from a heating stove. She was holding her five-weeks' old baby, and to save the child she laid it in the cradle and rushed out of doors. Before help reached her, all of her clothes were burned off. She left a husband and five small children in straitened circumstances.

Judge Stone in the Delta county circuit court has issued an order making permanent the temporary injunction which he issued some time ago restraining the striking employes of the Escanaba Manufacturing Co. and the Trades and Labor council from interfering with the employes of the company who are still at work.

The report of State Salt Inspector Emery shows that there has been a net decrease of 50,707 barrels for the year ending November 30. The total product was 6,247,756 barrels. District No. 6, Wayne county, has a gain of 48,343 barrels.

Some Detroit merchants place the aggregate Christmas business in the retail stores of the city at $2,000,000; others estimate the total expenditure for Christmas gifts at $2,500,000. This larger amount is fixed in order that it might include the many thousands of dollars in money gifts, and thousands expended in avenues outside of the regular retail channels.

Congressman Henry McMorran says that the prevailing sentiment in the capital is that President Roosevelt should not have entered into a controversy with Editor Pulitzer of the New York World.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS.

There are upwards of 50 carloads of hay on sidings at Eaton Rapids awaiting the lifting of the embargo on state hay.

John Winters, 19, is dead from gunshot wounds accidentally inflicted by his brother Charles, while they were hunting near Gull lake a week ago.

The G. A. R. encampment is to be held in Kalamazoo June 22, 23 and 24. About 8,000 members and their friends of the Michigan division are expected.

Mrs. Granger F. Anson, of Bellevue, choked to death while on her way to church Christmas night. She is survived by her husband and three children.

The ore production for the year approximates 26,000,000 tons, including both lake and rail shipments. This output, while only 62 per cent of last year's, is larger than expected.

Two hundred and fifty men have been thrown out of work at the Bay City sugar factory, which closed Saturday night, entailing a loss of $12,000.

While rabbit hunting in a field near Leslie Leo Bosworth met death by the bursting of a gun barrel in the hands of a companion. Bosworth was a farmer and leaves a widow and three children.

Congressman Fordney says he would rather give up his position in congress than vote for the administration's proposed parcels post. He believes it would injure the business of local merchants.

Charles Edmondson, who is being held in Standish to await the outcome of injuries received by Earl Norris by being accidentally shot while hunting, was Tuesday bound over to the circuit court.

Because the council refused to make an appropriation for cleaning the sidewalks, Andrew McAfee, postmaster of Manton village, gets out his horse and shoes plows after each storm and goes all over the village.

The largest carload of dressed poultry to ever leave Eaton county for the eastern markets was shipped last week. It had a total value of a little more than $1,000 and consisted almost exclusively of turkeys.

For the death of his son Charles, aged 14, who was killed a year ago while coasting a ride on a Grand Trunk freight car, a jury awarded William Ward of Port Huron damages $700. He sued for $10,000.

John Corrigan, who came to Saginaw last week and stated that his wife had decamped, taking with her $600 in money found his wife in Detroit, and now married to one Levi Clark. The woman says she is not Corrigan's wife.

The new $2,000 barn of Sheriff Carroll, Kent county, containing $1,000 of produce and farming tools, was mysteriously burned Sunday, while the sheriff was at dinner. He rescued eight horses and two cows from the burning pile.

Arthur Hill, millionaire lumberman and two years ago a senatorial candidate, will leave Saginaw for California, and his friends say he will make up his permanent residence in Los Angeles. Mr. Hill has been in poor health for some time.

Sherwood M. Clemons, self-confessed embezzler and the man who burned down the Grand Trunk depot in Bay City to destroy the books of the company which he kept, to conceal his shortage, has been sentenced to from two to six years at Ionia for arson.

Willard Stearns, for many years one of the most prominent of Michigan newspaper editors of Michigan, died Monday at the family home in Adrian, following a long illness. Mr. Stearns in 1884 was nominated for lieutenant governor on the Prohibition ticket. He was a native of Cayuga Valley, Otsego county, N. Y. His father died about three months before his birth.

Judge Tappan has granted a new trial in the case of Mrs. Anna Kaiser against the Knights of the Modern Maccabees on newly found evidence that her husband, supposed to be dead, is alive. At the first trial, in which Mrs. Kaiser alleged that she became entitled to $1,000 insurance, Samberg was declared legally dead.

Mrs. Alvin Swarthout, who was held up and robbed late Saturday night in Grand Rapids, Sunday identified Thomas Stevens, who is said to be a crook from Toledo, O., as the person who waylaid her. Stevens afterward confessed and took the officers to the Bijou street complex, where he had thrown away the pocketbook.

F. C. Brisbin, a Lansing banker, has discovered his son, Frank, who ran away from the Detroit Medical college and reported to the Hastings postoffice. The firm received a letter demanding $25 and threatening dire consequences if the same was refused or any attempt made to catch the writer. After notifying the officers a decoy letter was sent through the mail. The officer, concealed near the general delivery window, waited till "A. Lamar" called for a letter and arrested him. He confessed to the officer.

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News Notes from Lansing

Interesting Happenings at the State Capital of Michigan.

Lansing.—There has been much discussion about the laws necessary to put the new constitution into effect, but thus far no one except the students of constitutional law and the makers of the constitution have considered just how much work is necessary.

The following resume of the necessary acts shows that the state solons have plenty of work cut out for them:

An act fixing the salary of the clerk of the supreme court and arranging for turning the fees over to the state treasurer.

An act giving probate judges control of juvenile courts.

An act fixing the pay of circuit judges.

An act giving cities of more than 100,000 population right to submit to the electors of the city and county the question of making the city a separate county.

An act providing for the uniform selection of jury commissioners.

An act providing how supervisors may raise a taxing one-tenth of a mill for the support of county buildings.

An act permitting counties to cooperate in building contagious disease hospitals.

An act prohibiting the building of bridges or dams, except with consent of the people concerned.

An act permitting claims rejected by supervisors to be appealed to circuit courts.

An act providing for the referendum on public utility franchises in townships and cities.

An act for the incorporation of cities and villages.

An act providing the machinery under which cities may secure new charters and provide for revision of the former charter.

An act providing for condemning private property for business and economic purposes outside of the boundaries of the municipality.

An act providing for the taking of the public, private and local laws of the state.

An act providing how local officers may make an inventory of the municipal property.

An act providing for the bonding of municipalities for purchasing utilities.

An act providing a referendum on municipal ownership.

An act providing how townships and counties may be combined into districts for the improvement of county roads.

An act making it necessary for any people desiring to operate a telephone, telegraph or electric transmission line to obtain a license from the state.

An act bringing the telephone, telegraph and express companies under the jurisdiction of the state board of assessors for the purpose of taxation.

An act allowing the state to borrow not to exceed $2,000,000 to meet a deficit.

A second act providing for state money, including prohibition against deposits in private banks, in excess of deposit insurance, and requiring the state treasurer to file an order compelling a bank to carry the amount of state money on deposit in that institution.

An act creating a uniform system of accounting for state institutions, for which the legislature will provide the proper officials for overseeing the work.

An act providing for the election of a state board of agriculture to have charge of the Michigan Agricultural college.

An act arranging how nine school districts may provide for the education of its children in another district.

An act giving the legislature powers to the state railroad commission.

An act providing for the opening of private roads for the benefit of farmers.

An act permitting the regents of the University of Michigan to condemn land for university purposes.

An act providing the exact machinery for amending the constitution in the future.

A. O. U. W. Affairs Aired.

The affairs of the grand lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen were discussed by the supreme court in an opinion filed in the matter of the petition of Fred C. Weimann and others for the dissolution of the grand lodge of the order. This petition was filed in Wayne county in August, 1907. Jessie M. Faurot and Eva M. Faurot intervened, being beneficiaries of John M. Faurot. They alleged that members of the order were bound to pay assessments levied against them and thus satisfy their claim. The Faurot petition was dismissed by the Wayne circuit court. This decision was reversed by the supreme court, which held that assessments levied before member forfeited their rights must be paid. It is held that "the association, and therefore its receivers, had the right to collect such assessments by suit and had not the right to collect assessments made after membership had expired."

While reversing the decision of the lower court on this point, the supreme court reserves for determination the question of whether the prayer should be granted.

Bequests Held Valid.

The celebrated Potter will case of Alpena was affirmed by the supreme court and the bequests of Mrs. Ella J. Potter, deceased, to certain charities of the Congregational church are held valid. Two thirds of the estate goes to the heirs of the husband.

Employes Have Real Christmas.

Joy reigned Christmas among the hundreds of state employes who have been without salaries since November 15 as a result of the empty state treasury. Following the action, of the Michigan Central, Pere Marquette and Chicago & Northwestern railways in advancing $750,000 of their taxes to the state the treasury department handed out to the anxious employes their long overdue checks. The amount was approximately $150,000 and enabled many of them to have a Merry Christmas.

Plans to Build Into Coldwater.

The Battle Creek, Coldwater & Southern Railroad Company has been organized with $450,000 capital to build a steam railroad from the two cities named to the title of the company. The distance is 28 miles. Articles of incorporation were filed here. E. F. Pangburn is promoter of the Coldwater railroad. C. E. Flynn of Erie, Pa., is president. Eastern capital, it is claimed, stands ready to finance the line, according to latest reports from the seat of operations.

Revokes $60,000 Contract.

The public lighting commission of Detroit, let a contract recently to the Westinghouse Machine Company for a turbo engine worth about $60,000. That the contract does not stand is the decision of the supreme court. The Allis-Chalmers Company was the lowest bidder for the contract, for which bids were received July 8 last. Later a proposition was submitted to the supreme court by the Westinghouse Machine Company and was accepted by a divided vote and the contract awarded.

Attorney General Bird lent the use of his name to contest the action of the board on behalf of the Allis Chalmers Company, but in the court below the bill filed was dismissed. The supreme court reversing the decision below. The city and county the question of making the city a separate county.

An act providing for the uniform selection of jury commissioners.

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Bird Promises His Aid.

Attorney General Bird is with the members of the constitutional convention in their plans for working with the legislature in framing the laws which must be passed to make the new constitution operative. Henry M. Campbell held a long conference with the attorney general on the matter and Bird expressed his appreciation of the intent of the delegates. Under the constitution the attorney general must draft the laws and submit them to the legislature. They are not obliged to pass them in the form in which they are submitted, but the fact that the legal authority of the state is responsible for the draft will have considerable weight with the members of the legislature.

The sub-committee appointed by the general committee will work with the attorney general in framing the laws. The committee is as follows: Victor M. Gore, Hugh P. Stewart, F. F. Ingram.

Cupid Cuts Ionia County.

Cupid is not holding his own in Ionia county this year, there having been a steady falling off in the marriage license record since 1906 when the high mark of 383 was reached. In 1907 there was a drop to 343, and 1908's record to date showed but 285. Unless there is an unprecedented rush for marriage licenses, the record will fall below that of 1905, which was 324. December, 1906, was the banner matrimonial month of the three years, when 48 licenses were granted, the next highest being June of the same year, with 41. Forty-three were issued in December last year, but there have been but a dozen the present month. The divorce record is also falling off, but 74 cases having been started this year, against 122 a year ago and 114, in 1906. Forty-five divorces have been granted this year, the other 29 pending.

Widow Loses Her Suit.

Charles Kerr was killed by a bursting emery wheel in the factory of the National Fulton Brass Manufacturing Company at Detroit and his wife recovered a judgment of $3,500 against the company.

The supreme court reversed the judgment after the reason that the plaintiff's attorney, in the face of objections, insisted on showing that the defendant company carried liability insurance and would not have to pay the judgment against it, if one was rendered. The supreme court in its decision reads "the plaintiff's attorney a sharp lesson for indulging in practices of the nature described.

Warner, Hemans, Bradley Chat.

Patrons of the Hotel Downey had an opportunity to smile the other morning when Gov. Warner, Lawton T. Hemans and Dr. James B. Bradley were seen together in a corner, earnestly talking. It is the first time Hemans, who was the Democratic candidate for governor, and Gov. Warner have met since election. Both men were cordial and so was Dr. Bradley, who opposed Gov. Warner so bitterly in the primary.

Opposed by Zimmermann.

State Banking Commissioner Zimmermann says that he is pleased to hear that Senator Smith is opposed to the postal depositary bill as it is now framed. Mr. Zimmermann continued: "Chicago has about 351 state banks and six trust companies as against 95 national banks. Under section 12 of the proposed bill, all moneys collected by the postal depositaries would be deposited in the nearest national bank to the exclusion of state banks."

Tuttle Heads Committee.

It is understood that Senator Arthur J. Tuttle of this district, who is the only member of the senate committee on cities and villages returned to the 1909 senate, will be chairman of that committee. It is expected that Detroit will be represented on the committee by Senator Scott. In view of the home rule provisions of the new constitution, this committee will be one of the most important in the legislature, according to latest reports from the seat of operations.

THE ANSWER.

President Keeps Cool and Makes Dignified Reply.

President Roosevelt has completed the draft of his answer to the request of the house of representatives that he give the basis of his assertion "that congressmen themselves do not wish to be investigated by secret service men."

Mr. Roosevelt worked day and night to get the answer ready before Christmas, for he wished to have his desk clear for the holidays. Members of congress who are looking for an explosive document will be disappointed. The president's answer is calm, conservative and even judicial. He names no members of the present house.

The president will convict the members out of their own mouths, that they really feared the secret service would be used to investigate congressmen unless the field of its activities was restricted.

In the answer the record of the debate last May when the appropriation limitation amendment was before the house is used to show that the members themselves were responsible for the belief that the fear of being "looked into" was the reason they wanted the operations of the secret service restricted to the detection of counterfeiting and the protection of the person of the president. In the course of that debate there was plenty of material upon which the president has been able to base his assertion.

In the hearings before the committee prior to the time "the matter reached the floor" the facts were stated, which, it will be contended, bore out the fear theory.

Will Review the Case.

President Roosevelt met the appeal of the labor organizations to prevent the imprisonment of Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, by notifying Attorney General Bonaparte that he desires to go over with him the proceedings in the contempt case.

Pending this conference, there will be no public announcement made by the president. Although the White House does not convey the impression that the court's action was unjust, the president feels that the appeals made to him are of sufficient importance to call for his earnest consideration.

William J. Bryan was chief among nearly a score of men, the majority of whom are leaders in the labor movement of the country, who sent messages "expressive of their cordial sympathy to the convicted trio."

The messages came from every section of the country, and voiced the sentiments of persons in almost every avenue of labor, conveyed the feeling of the court's decision, extend moral and financial support, and in some instances express indignation.

After the Meat Trust.

Despite a multiplicity of rumors it was definitely established Saturday that the present attempts of United States District Attorney Wilkerson, in the investigation now under way before the special federal grand jury in Chicago is to obtain proof of illegal acts on the part of the packers, Morris & Co., and inflict summary punishment, possibly, a prison sentence, upon Edward Morris, president of the firm.

A significant thing in the taking of papers from the files of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway by the special agent of the government was disclosed. The damage claim filed including transcripts, which all the packing houses, were shown to the government's investigator, but it is said, although the federal official connected with the matter refused to say, took those which related directly to Morris & Co.

Gomez Gets Busy.

Passengers from ports in Venezuela report that Acting President Gomez has taken drastic steps to suppress friends and supporters of Castro. In order to check any possibility of a revolution on behalf of the overthrown executive, Gomez is having every prominent sympathizer of Castro placed under arrest. The jails are thus being filled to overflowing with political prisoners.

The leading followers of Castro will be deported as further precaution against a revolutionary outbreak. Advices from Maracaibo, Venezuela, say that those who sympathize with Castro have been discharged and the ranks filled with supporters of Gomez.

THE MARKETS.

Detroit—Cattle: Extra dryfed steers and heifers, $5.35@$5.50; steers and heifers, 1,000 to 1,200, $4.75@$5; steers and heifers, 800 to 1,000, $4.25@$4.75; steers and heifers that are fat, $3@$3.50; common, $2.50@$3; cows, $3.50; good fat cows, $3@$3.25; common cows, $2.50@$2.75; canners, $1.50; choice heavy bulls, $3.50@$3.75; fair to good heavy bulls, $3@$3.25; light bulls, $2@$2.75.

Veal calves—Market steady at last week's close. Best, $4.75@$5.25; others, $3.25@$4.50.

Sheep and lambs—Market strong at Wednesday's prices; best lambs, $5.75 @$6; fair to good lambs, $5@$5.50; light to common lambs, $3.50@$4.50; fair to good sheep, $3@$3.50; culls and common, $2@$3.

Hogs—Market steady with Wednesday. Range of prices, $5.35@$5.45; mixed butchers, $5.25@$5.50; pigs, $5.50@$4; light yorkers, $5@$5.25; roughs, $4@ $4.50; stags, 1-3 off.

Grain, Etc.

Detroit—Wheat: No withdrawals. Stocks are 737,289 bu., compared with 218,574 bu. a year ago. Prices in the Detroit market a year ago were $4.03½ for No. 2 red, $4.05 for No. 2 white, corn and 54½c for No. 2 white oats.

Receipts of coarse grains are light. No withdrawals. Stocks are 368,978 bu. of corn, 170,239 bu. of oats and 74,512 bu. of rye.

Oats are firm and unchanged. Nothing doing.

Rye is steady and trading light.

There is nothing doing in the bean market. May is freely offered and the other deals are not mentioned.

Clover seed is active and steady. Demand is good and offerings fair.

Judge Crane, in probate court, ordered 20 Saginaw boys to pay 10 cents a piece for breaking 171 panes of glass in the Pere Marquette Railroad Co's building. The lads were then marched in a body before the general manager of the company and roundly lectured.

The remains of a Scotch collie that had belonged to the Tonner family, two of whose children were burned to death at Interlochen Saturday, was found in the ruins of the house. The dog was outside when the house was burning, but entered, apparently, to save the babies.

Keen rivalry between a dozen Kalamazoo high school girls as to which can dress the best and exhibit the most costumes is said to have caused many of the poorer girls to leave school. The competition is regarded as much attention that the school board is contemplating intervening.

Charles E. Hughes might have been president of the U. of M. had he not been elected governor of New York, according to a Grand Rapids graduate of the varsity law department. The informant adds that the regents were even in correspondence with Hughes last summer, over his possible acceptance.

PEOPLE, THINGS AND LEGISLATION

THAT SPECIAL TARIFF SESSION AGITATES CONGRESSMEN JUST NOW.

GOMPERS' SENSIBLE VIEW.

Matters of Note and Comment From the National Capital and Other Sources of Information.

If leaders in congress of both political parties are able to bring sufficient influence upon President-elect Taft, the special session to revise the tariff will be called almost immediately after the inauguration, or as short as possible and secure an adjournment before the extremely hot weather. Ordinarily a special session is not called until after some time has elapsed after the adjournment of the regular session to give members of congress an opportunity to go to their home and transact personal business and return to Washington for a long stay.

The Gompers Case.

"If I am forced to go to prison it will demonstrate to the laboring people of America that there is need of an anti-injunction law," said Samuel Gompers.

"There is a real danger in our courts as they are at present constituted of a workingman being robbed of his rights through the operation of the injunction. If it be necessary for me to serve this sentence to demonstrate this more fully, I am willing to suffer.

"I am deeply sensible of the expressions of sympathy I have received from all parts of the United States."

Duty on Lumber.

Members of congress who are anxious that the duty on lumber be retained are admitting that their case is already lost. One of these gentlemen, representing in part one of the big timber states of the far west, said that there had been a count of noses in the house on the subject of the lumber tariff. After going through the list of members on the Republican side of the chamber, only six were found who were willing to place lumber ahead of everything else and block tariff proceedings unless the duty were retained. These include the three members from Washington, the two from Oregon and the one from Idaho. All the others were either in favor of abolishing the duty, or had several schedules in which they were more deeply interested than in lumber.

Going to Panama.

A party of about twenty members of congress left Charleston, S. C., Monday for Panama. These men say they have noted a sentiment among members of both houses of congress in favor of the appointment of a corps of consulting engineers to visit the isthmus during the next a year and report to congress regarding conditions there, with such suggestions from time to time as the work of construction, etc., as to them would seem wise. Congress, they believe, would be glad to have this outside expert information, and the trip is expected to develop some steps toward securing it after the Taft party, which is under the auspices of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce, and makes the trip at the suggestion of the president, will return about January 13.

Mr. Taft's Plans.

Federal officials are greatly interested in reports that Secretary Taft has evolved a comprehensive plan for the regulation of interstate corporations that he will ask congress to put into the form of law. Coordination of the work of the government in regulating corporations engaged in commerce between the states is sought by the president-elect.

According to reports Mr. Taft would have the bureau of corporations exercise jurisdiction over all corporations, including railroads, would make the interstate commerce commission a quasi-judicial body, and create a bureau in the department of justice which would prosecute in the courts cases prepared by the bureau of corporations and argue cases affecting railroads before the interstate commerce commission.

The Pittsburg Graft Cases.

The councilmanic graft case exposures which have startled Pittsburg took on new interest Saturday when it became known that 17 additional councilmen had been indicted for bribery by officers not to attempt to leave the city, for if they did it would mean their immediate arrest. This comes direct from the Pittsburg Federal headquarters, and is taken to mean that these additional councilmen are virtually prisoners within their own city.

A story has been printed that it is the Pennsylvania railroad and the Pittsburg street railways companies that are after the grafters in Pittsburg and that these two corporations are putting up the money, not from a standpoint of morals, but for self-protection. They are said to believe it is cheaper to send a few dozen grafting councilmen to the penitentiary each year the many thousands of dollars which they have been forced to lo to prevent themselves being legislated against.

Thomas F. Ryan, the noted New York financier, has resigned from 31 directorships in banks, industrial and other corporations of New York city for January, 1909, will exceed $210,000,000, an increase of approximately $17,000,000 over the disbursements of January, last year. The increase is generally attributable to the extraordinary amount of securities issued during the year.

The navy year book, prepared by Publisher, clerk to the senate Navy committee, shows the United States navy stands second among those of the great world powers. England, of course, is first. Germany is third and France drops to fourth. The tonnage of Great Britain's warships more than doubles that of the United States.

A boy in an Augusta, Ga., theater was offered President-elect Taft for New Year's eve, but he replied: "Thanks, I have attended only one theatrical performance in 20 years, Uncle Tom's Cabin."