

Statistics Prepared by the Clerk of the General Assembly Showing Growth of Communicants.

The official figures for the Presbyterian church in the United States have just been prepared by the stated clerk of the general assembly, Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts. The following shows the growth in communicants year by year since 1894: 1894, 40,908; 1895, 36,907; 1896, 20,802; 1897, 17,195; 1898, 14,966; 1899, 8,030. The number of baptisms also shows a decrease. In 1894 there were 56,263, while in the last year they were 32,680.

Last year and this there appear the totals of dismissed and dropped, out these do not appear for previous years. The number of those exceeds 50,000 a year. They do not affect the baptisms, nor can they affect the number annually received on confession of faith. The latter were in 1894, 74,826; and in 1899, 48,259.

Of ordained ministers living by the church there are 7,312. The net increase in church membership last year was 8,030. The average number of converts by each minister is 1.09.

A year and a half ago a forward movement was inaugurated, which had for its object the adding of 500,000 new Sunday school scholars by January, 1901. The time is a little more than half passed. The scholars in Presbyterian Sunday schools for three years numbered as follows: In 1897, 1,024,462; in 1898, 1,034,164; and in 1899, 1,029,299.

There are 7,657 Presbyterian churches. A net growth of 8,000 members would give each church 1.06 new members.

The income of the board of Home Missions was \$1,095,311, a part of it due to special effort to pay off the debt, but it still shows more than on any preceding year. The total for all purposes was \$13,777,719.

LIVES THOUGH SHOT IN BRAIN

Kansas Soldier, Given Up for Dead, Returns from Manila After Remarkable Recovery.

Word was received at Leavenworth, Kan., the other day of the recovery of a Kansas soldier who had been shot through the brain and was given up by his relatives as dead. The soldier is Frank I. Sample, company C, Twentieth Kansas volunteers, who was wounded at the battle of San Fernando in the Philippines. He is not 20 years old yet, and his home is with his aunt, Mrs. Ora Thompson.

After the battle of San Fernando Sample was reported as shot through the head and fatally wounded, and relatives heard nothing more of him until his aunt received a letter in the boy's own handwriting from a San Francisco hospital.

The young soldier tells of his wound and of the sensation on being shot and while undergoing an operation to remove the ball from his brain. He states that he went into the battle of San Fernando with his company, and was hit with a bullet that entered back and a little above the left ear, passing through his brain, so that the point of the bullet lodged in the skull on the other side. He learned afterwards that he was not picked up for 24 hours. He was finally taken to the Manila hospital, and was in an unconscious condition for 15 days, when he was operated on and the bullet and part of his brain removed. He was finally placed on the hospital ship Relief and was landed in San Francisco a few days ago.

WINS IN TAX CONTEST.

An Assessment of \$639,275 Is Cut Down More Than Half by Judge Barnard.

Justice Barnard, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., has granted the application of John D. Rockefeller for a reduction of more than \$350,000 on his Mount Pleasant assessment of 1897. In that year Mr. Rockefeller was assessed \$639,275 for 27 tracts of land in Mount Pleasant township. Judge Barnard, in his decision, orders this valuation to be reduced to \$289,432.50. Mr. Rockefeller's lawyer received the decision and filed it in the Westchester county clerk's office in White Plains. In his decision Judge Barnard says the property of Mr. Rockefeller was assessed in 1894 at \$141,950, in 1895 at \$159,770, in 1896 at \$274,400, in 1897 at \$639,275.

"The testimony of the witnesses," he says, "as to the value of the property varied from \$313,000 to \$735,000."

After calling attention to the increase of 70 per cent. in 1896 he states: "In that year it was proven there was a great disturbance in the board of assessors by the election of a new man. Proof is given tending to show that he promised to violate his duty to act fairly, and to act unjustly in relation to the relator, and the referee has found the promise to be true."

SCIENTIFIC CROQUET.

National Association Kevotes Laws Game by Changing Its Name to That of Roque.

The National Croquet association at a special meeting held at Norwich, Conn., voted to change the name croquet to roque. The members say that the game they play is unlike the game played by the general public. They have been unable to arouse interest in this sport because those not initiated are averse to being connected with a game so apparently simple. After years of vain effort to elevate the game the members decided to "adopt for the scientific game that we play a name that will distinguish it in the public mind from all other games and give it a standard of its own."

Fried wasp soup is considered a great delicacy in China.

SCHOOLS AT MANILA.

Free Education Established by the United States Government.

English Language to Be Taught One Hour Each Day and Is to Be Compulsory—Long List of Holidays.

An interesting description of the school system established in Manila by the United States military authorities is given in a communication received at the state department from Charles Denby, acting president of the Philippine commission appointed by President McKinley. Under date of Manila, July 1, he forwards a copy of a printed circular issued by the provost marshal general, providing for the reopening of the public schools in Manila.

"It will be seen," he says, "that the teaching of the English language is compulsory. Under the Spanish government a small fee was charged for tuition, but now it is to be entirely free. The question of whether books shall be furnished free of cost is being considered by the military authorities. It is probable that parents who are able to pay for books will be required to do so, but the poor will not be charged therefor."

The circular is dated Manila, June 28, 1899, and is signed by Col. Williston, provost marshal general. It is printed in English, Spanish and Tagal and provides in part as follows:

"Public schools will be reopened Monday, July 3, for the school year of nine months' duration. Regular attendance at some school of all children between the ages of six and twelve years will be required. One hour's instruction per day in all public schools shall be devoted to teaching the English language. Schools will be open every day except Thursdays, Sundays and legal holidays, of which there are 16. These holidays are a queer mixture of what might be called the church and state.

The list caused some merriment at the state department. It is as follows: January 1, Circumcision; January 6, Three Kings day; February 2, Purification; February 22, Washington's birthday; Holy week, two days; May 11, Ascension day; May 30, Decoration day; June 1, Corpus Christi; July 4, Independence; August 15, Assumption; September 4, Labor day; November 1, All Saints; Thanksgiving day; November 30, St. Andrew's day; December 8, La Purisma Conception; December 25, Christmas.

AMERICAN HORSES.

Making Inroads into Markets of Germany—Causing Some Concern in That Country.

American horses as well as manufactures are making inroads upon the German markets and are giving the subjects of Emperor William some concern. Consul Winter, at Annaberg, in dealing with the importation of horses into Germany, sends an article from the Hamburger Nachrichten, which says: "Importations from America have caused the horse raisers of Holstein to suffer much of late. A stock company has just been formed in Berlin for the express purpose of importing horses from the United States. The Americans have succeeded in breeding a horse which compares favorably in every way with the Holstein animal, especially in those points so highly prized in a work-horse—namely: broad hips and large build generally.

"The best markets for Holstein horses has always been the provinces of Saxony, Thuringia and Brunswick. The demand is created by the large sugar factories. This market has been decreasing of late, owing to American horses being purchased in Berlin.

"A few days ago this Berlin company shipped a drove of 80 through Hamburg en route for Milan, Italy, where they are to be used on the tramways.

"Almost every week a long freight train filled with American horses leaves the Berliner Bahnhof for various parts of Germany. In spite of expensive freight and a tariff of \$7 per head the Americans have built up a respectable competition in the German market."

PIERCE FIGHT WITH MAD DOG.

Thrilling Adventure of Frank Stephens, a Baggage-man—Kills the Animal.

Frank Stephens, a baggage-man on the Chicago & Alton limited, had a battle with a mad dog in his baggage car late the other afternoon. The dog was put on the train at Chicago and tied with a small rope at the front of the car. It was to go to St. Louis. When the train reached Brighton, 12 miles north of Alton, Ill., Stephens, who was sitting midway in the car reading, was startled by the appearance of the dog, which had broken its rope and was advancing upon him with fierce barks and frothing at the mouth. The baggage-man realized that the dog was mad. He sprang to his feet and raised the chair and threw it at the face of the dog as it bounded toward him. The chair sent the dog rolling, and when it had recovered for a second attack Stephens was high up on a pile of trunks and hurling at his assailant whatever his hands could get. He finally succeeded in hitting the dog with a trunk and rolling it far enough away to enable him to get a brace of pistols which hung in the car. Armed with these, the baggage-man assumed the offensive and killed the animal.

The English Methodists intend to celebrate the advent of the twentieth century by raising a million-guinea fund for their church and are likely to succeed, as 700,000 guineas have been subscribed already.

NEED HELP GREATLY.

Gen. and Mrs. Henry Plead for Best of Aid for Porto Ricans.

Are Anxious to Become Americans—Can Be Won by Affection and Sympathy—Education Needed First of All.

Mrs. Guy V. Henry, wife of Gen. Henry, United States army, who was with her husband in Porto Rico during the time that he served as military governor of that island, addressed a large meeting of downtown business men of New York city the other night.

"Business is at a standstill in that island," said Mrs. Henry, "and the people are very poor. The sugar mills have no one in them except half a dozen people. The women are poor and idle. There is no work for them to do. There are many women in Porto Rico who were supported by pensions from the Spanish government. That has been taken away from them and there is much poverty in Porto Rico.

"The question now is: 'What shall we do with our new colonies?' Send them, I say, our very best. Let us not look to Great Britain to see what she has done in India. Let us send the very best of everything that we can give—the best of every profession, the best of everything in a commercial sense. I want to say to you that we must do this at once; that it can be done by putting our shoulders to the wheel, the same as the aid society did down in San Juan.

"I have been told that I must not say they are starving in Porto Rico, but you may find out that before I get through. When Gen. Henry and I went to the capital of Porto Rico, San Juan, we found that there was desperate need for help there, and we decided to start an aid society. We sent our appeals to the army and navy men and women down there. In response to our appeals some 20 or 30 women assembled for the purpose of organizing a relief or aid society.

Mrs. Henry then went on to tell how this aid society had raised money, bought goods and made clothes, and relieved the distress of the people as far as its resources would allow.

Gen. Henry supplemented his wife's address by the brief statement that the great need of the Porto Ricans was education and the opportunity to help themselves. They wanted to become Americans, he said, but they did not want to be Americanized. They were willing to be governed by the laws of this country, but they did not want to be overrun by carpet-baggers. The people of Porto Rico could be won by affection and sympathy, and they were looking to this country eagerly for the means of improving their condition.

DEATH OF VINEGAR DRINKER.

Excessive Indulgence of His Appetite Causes a Fatal Case of Nephritis.

Christ Schurman is dead at the St. Clair county farm, St. Louis, a victim of his appetite for vinegar, which he drank as other men drink beer or whisky. Schurman lived at the county farm 10 years. He contracted the habit shortly after being admitted. He had been a regular user of intoxicants. At the farm he could not obtain the stimulants he had been accustomed to. He sought for a substitute. In the cellar store room he found the vinegar barrels and drank greedily. The stuff produced a sort of mild intoxication. The superintendent could not imagine how Schurman got anything to drink.

After that at intervals his condition showed that he had been drinking large quantities of something, but it could not be discovered where he got it. He was employed in the kitchen and was known to the other inmates as "Kitchen John." He had free access to the cellar, where the vinegar was kept.

Finally one day he was caught draining a measure of vinegar and the mystery was explained. After that he was watched, but he was so useful in the kitchen that his services could not well be dispensed with and in spite of all vigilance he occasionally got on a vinegar drink. When he could not get to the vinegar barrel he would drain the vinegar casks. His indulgence brought on nephritis, which caused his death.

DRIVEN INSANE BY A DREAM.

Missouri Woman Has a Vision of Her Husband Being Ground to Pieces.

Mrs. John Williams, of Sedalia, Mo., has become mentally deranged and is in a critical condition as a result of a dream. In her sleep, she declared, she saw her husband's train wrecked and himself ground to pieces. So realistic was her vision that she awoke with a scream. Mrs. Williams and her husband, who is a brakeman, are both believers of Christian science, and after exhausting all the endeavors of the local believers in her behalf a message was sent to St. Louis, and she is being treated by the absent method. She continues to grow steadily worse. Williams was badly injured in a wreck in 1886 and he claims that after months of suffering he was permanently cured by a Kansas City healer.

Another Triumph of Surgery. Surgery has successfully achieved the feat of restoring lost memory and speech. A blow on the skull from a falling piece of timber rendered Eugene Brazeo, of Geneva, N. Y., partly paralyzed on the right side, as well as causing the trouble mentioned. An operation revealed rupture of one of the blood vessels of the brain. The removal of over half a pint of blood effected an entire recovery of the patient.

Too Many for One Man to Leg. There are 2,750 hangers.

MAKE EXCELLENT SOLDIERS.

Success Attends the Experiment of Enlisting Porto Ricans in the American Army.

Success has attended the experiment of enlisting Porto Ricans in the American army. A battalion of the natives of Uncle Sam's new possession in the West Indies has been organized, and Lieut. Briand, the battalion adjutant, has written to Maj. Johnson, of the adjutant general's office, speaking in the highest terms of the personnel of the battalion.

Lieut. Briand says the Porto Rican soldiers are an excellent lot of men, respectful to their superiors, obedient, and have shown a willingness to learn their duties. They take great pride in being soldiers of the United States army, and are always clean and neat in appearance. They are easy to handle, and learn quickly. Drunkenness is almost unknown among them.

Lieut. Briand, who has had 15 years' experience in the army, says the Porto Rican soldiers when officered by Americans will be a valuable addition to the army.

The battalion is commanded by Maj. L. P. Davidson, and the other officers are Capt. Maginnis, Latrobe and Page; First Lieuts. Ord, Hamilton, Briand and Raymond; Second Lieuts. Cooper and Nadal.

These officers take great pride in the organization, and hope to be able to place it on an equal footing as to fighting qualities with American troops. The success which has attended the organization of the battalion and the favorable reports received indicate more Porto Ricans will be enlisted to supply the places of the battalions which will be withdrawn from Porto Rico in pursuance with the plan of adopting the British system of maintaining one battalion of each regiment at home and two on the foreign service.

AMERICAN TRADE IN AFRICA.

The Products of the United States Are Found Everywhere in the Transvaal.

The critical condition of affairs in South Africa gives special interest to a report from Consul General Howe, at Cape Town, to the state department, giving details of a trip he has made to Pretoria and Johannesburg in the Transvaal, to the Kimberley diamond mines and through the Orange Free State. His report is most gratifying in showing that American goods are in use on every hand, the railroads, mines, farms and homes being equipped with American products. He says also that American citizens hold many of the leading positions. The consul says a merchant at Durban said to him:

"I recently ordered five tons of hoop iron of an English manufacturer. After the order had gone forward one of your American salesmen came along and made me a price ten dollars per ton less, and I gave him an order for five tons and tried to have the English order canceled, but the English house refused, and in their reply stated that 'no one could make and guarantee a first-class article at the price named and a treat would prove it.' When the iron arrived I tested both and the American was several per cent. the best."

SHOWS TREMENDOUS POWER.

Experiment with a Dynamite Shell at Sandy Hook—Would Sink a Battleship.

At the Sandy Hook proving grounds an experiment was made with a dynamite shell which tended to prove that if it had struck a battleship the latter would have been sunk. The shell, made from about 900 pounds of cast steel, and carrying a bursting charge of 12 1/2 pounds of explosive gelatine, was fired from an ordinary 12-inch rifle at a piece of Harveyized steel 12 inches thick and specially treated, placed 200 yards away at an angle of 45 degrees to the line of fire. Behind it was a thick backing of oak, and behind the oak was a small mountain of sand, the whole calculated to be stronger than a battleship's side. The steel target was blown clear of the oak backing, and 17 feet to one side. The most destructive explosive was used in the shell. It was composed of 88 per cent. of nitroglycerin, 8 per cent. of gunotton as an absorbent, and 4 per cent. of camphor. It is estimated to be 25 per cent. more powerful than No. 1 dynamite.

RICH ORE STRIKE.

Mining Experts Enthusiastic Over a Find in the Ibez Group at Leadville, Col.

A rich strike was made the other afternoon on the M. N. fraction between the Archer and Glen Gary consolidations, and adjoining the Uncle Sam claim of the Ibez group, at Leadville, Col., which has 30 miles of workings and \$50,000,000 in sight.

At a depth of 545 feet the shaft has cut a good chute of high grade of iron sulphide ore, carrying 35 ounces of silver, a high percentage of iron excess and 7-100 in gold. Mining experts say this is one of the large ore chutes from the Ibez and that it will produce millions of dollars.

The mine was located in 1890, and since that time it has been worked on a cooperative plan by comparatively poor men, all local business men. These large mineral deposits have been extending north, and only recently big strikes were made in the Little Bob and the Reindeer, and the supply seems to be inexhaustible.

BROAD IN ITS SCOPE.

Coming National Export Exposition at Philadelphia.

Will Show a Grand Object Lesson to Merchants and Manufacturers—Plenty of Features to Furnish Amusement.

Since it is apparent that the United States is rapidly becoming the main factor in the commerce of the world, and doors are opening in every direction and in all quarters of the globe to receive its products, it is of prime importance to its merchants and manufacturers that they lose no chance to acquire that higher commercial education which will impart a clear and accurate knowledge of the demands of foreign markets, the impediments in the way of American goods and the competition to be met with their introduction into those markets.

The National Export exposition at Philadelphia will afford an object lesson the like of which has never been known in this country.

The \$50,000 appropriated by congress for the purchase in foreign countries of samples of merchandise "of the character in favor and demand therein, together with necessary business data concerning said samples, to be displayed at said exposition for the instruction and benefit of American manufacturers and thereby laying the foundation of a great system of national commercial education," was a unique expression of legislative wisdom.

The fact should not be overlooked that the management of the National Export exposition is providing in ample way for the amusement and entertainment of visitors, and it is expected that its achievements in that direction will meet with the highest favor.

The musical feature will be especially unique. The national airs of all countries will be rendered by native bands of those countries. Marvellous, classical and inspiring music will mark the exposition—a musical event of the highest importance, exceptional in this particular, as well as in its other features.

Other sources of entertainment and public instruction will be found in exhibitions of wireless telegraphy and in a series of novel and highly interesting experiments and scientific feats. The exposition will prove one of great originality in all respects, and the amusement loving public will find it has been catered to in ways wholly unexpected with attractions that will delight and fascinate.

PROSPERITY TO CONTINUE.

Prediction of a London Paper as to the Outlook for American Farmers and Manufacturers.

The London Statist, under the caption: "American prosperity," says: "There will be very large exports of wheat to meet the demands of western Europe. American farmers are disposing of their crops rapidly and at tolerably good prices; they will be able to purchase from the east and Europe as fully as they have been doing this year. The United States has made great progress of late years in manufacturing and trading, but it is still an essentially agricultural country and its prosperity depends mainly on the harvests. Therefore, fair wheat and good harvests of other productions mean the continuance of the well-being of the farmers, who are the backbone and life-blood of the country." The Statist then adds: "Under the circumstances it is reasonably certain that railroad traffic returns and foreign orders for locomotives, steel, etc., will continue to increase."

The tenor of the article prophecies an increase of the present prosperity of the United States.

FINDS A MUMMY IN ALASKA.

Discovery by Prof. Harlan H. Smith, Representing the National Museum of New York.

Harlan H. Smith, who represents the National museum of New York, has been on the coast for three months, endeavoring to make a collection of Indian relics. He arrived at Vancouver, B. C., the other afternoon from the Harrison Bay district, where he made the strangest find of all—a well-preserved mummy, which he says may be over 1,000 years old.

He came across a stone bearing a hieroglyphic inscription, and it did not take him long to ascertain that this was the door of a hermetically sealed case. The case had been cut out of rock. The body which he found within was preserved in just the same manner as in Egyptian mummy. Prof. Smith said: "The preparation of the body was the work of experts. A slight lifting of the woven wrappings caused the emanation of the penetrating smell that is always noticeable when Egyptian wrappings are first removed. The face and hands were black and hard and dry."

The body was evidently that of a chief. It will be forwarded to New York.

What a Compliment Cost La Fayette. At Lamarque's funeral in Paris the crowd took to Gen. La Fayette's horses as the famous soldier was returning home from the service and drew his carriage to his hotel with many evidences of enthusiastic love and admiration. The scene was a striking one, and a friend in referring to it some weeks afterward said: "You must have been very much pleased." La Fayette looked at him for a moment in silence and then said with a whimsical smile: "Yes, I was very much pleased—very much pleased, indeed. But I never saw anything more of my horses, my dear friend!"

STRANGE TALE OF DYING MAN.

He Had Concealed His Identity for Forty Long Years—Found His Wife Married Again.

The death of Leonard B. Bleeker, aged 72 years, which recently occurred at Yates Center, Kan., has revealed a case of self-sacrifice seldom heard of outside the domain of fiction. Three years ago Bleeker came to this county peddling a few cheap articles and, too old and weary to proceed farther, a kind-hearted farmer took him in and cared for him until he died. To the family which befriended him he told the story of his life, reserving for the grave the specific names of persons and localities.

He stated that in 1861 he left a wife and five children in Michigan and answered the first call for volunteers. The fortunes of war were against him and for months he lay a prisoner in Andersonville prison. For some reason he was led to believe that a certain other batch of prisoners would soon be exchanged. Among them was a dying man and the two comrades exchanged names and military designations. The soldier died and the death was reported as that of Leonard B. Bleeker and is so recorded in the war department. The real Bleeker was released after a time, rejoined his regiment and served until the close of the war without communicating with his family. Then he went back, and found his wife married to another man. He ascertained that his children were well cared for and then left the community without revealing his identity. Throughout his life he carefully guarded his secret and since coming to Kansas was often urged to apply for a pension, but stoutly refused. Even when near death he would not reveal the location of his former home or permit anyone to communicate with his old associates. He was a man of more than ordinary education and the truth of his story or the possession of a noble purpose in his long sacrifice cannot be doubted.

GREAT RAILROAD BUSINESS.

Official Statistics Prepared by the Interstate Commerce Commission Show Many Things.

Official statistics prepared by the interstate commerce commission show that on June 30, 1899, the single track railway mileage of the United States was 156,396 miles, an increase of 1,965 over the previous year. There were 2,047 corporations, which controlled 36,234 locomotives, 33,595 passenger, and 1,244,826 freight cars. The number of employees was 874,553, or 474 for every 100 miles of road. The capitalization of this great railway interest was \$10,818,554,031, or ten times the funded debt of the United States government. The railroads during the year ended June 30, 1899, carried the enormous number of 501,066,681 passengers, or seven times the entire population of the country. At the same time the roads hauled 579,006,307 tons of freight, equal to the displacement of about 75,000 battleships. The gross earnings of the railroads for the fiscal year were \$1,247,225,621, or three times Uncle Sam's receipts for the same time. The net earnings were \$29,332,345, or enough to pay the ordinary expenses of the government.

Yet there is another side to the picture. The railroads killed 6,559 and injured 49,822. More than one-fourth of the killed and three-fourths of the injured were employes of the roads. The figures show that of the half billion passengers carried only 221 were killed and 2,945 injured. The statistics prove that the chances of a passenger being killed on a railroad are only 1 to 2,297,270, while only one in 170,141 sustains a statistical chance of being injured. Looked at in another light an average passenger ought to travel 602,670 miles before he would be killed, although, as this is based on averages, he might lose his life between Randolph and Park row.

INTERESTED IN BIBLE.

Emperor of China Manifesting Great Pleasure Over His Stories—Prays to Our God.

Rev. T. J. N. Gattrell, who for ten years has been a colporteur of the American Bible society in northern China, has returned to the United States. In his last report of the society he says: "Ever since the presentation copy of the New Testament went to the dowager empress our depository has been visited almost daily by officials of the court. They say the emperor observes 'Worship day' (Sunday), and that he frequently goes to a lonely place to pray to 'Tien Chu' (God), and that when he is thus engaged no one dares disturb him. Some time ago he purchased through our agency a large number of scientific and Scriptural books, and we hear he is delighted with some of the stories of the patriarchs, and particularly with an illustrated life of Christ, which he has ordered to be bound in velvet and to be put in a convenient place in the library. He has applied to our store for copies of books treating of the differences between the Catholic and Protestant churches."

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

The Paris Therapeutical society has arrived at the following conclusion as to sanitarium treatment: Considered from a disciplinary, hygienic and dietetic point of view, it is the best for tuberculosis which has yet been practiced. The best sanitarium is one where climatic advantages can be superadded. The municipal authorities of health resorts should further the erection of sanitariums for the tuberculosis. Phthisical patients should not be admitted into the wards of a general hospital, and sanitariums where poor people can be treated gratuitously should be provided in the vicinity of all large towns.