

Commission at Chicago, which would make a valuable appendix to his invaluable book on "The Railroad Problem." He was asked by the Commission to explain how it happened that his road secured nearly all the grain traffic in the territory reached, and that his many competitors received so small a share. His general freight agent had been asked the same question, and had replied evasively. President Stickney answered it with characteristic boldness. His road, he said, had organized a grain-buying company, and shipped the grain purchased by this company at its own convenience instead of the convenience of the grain-dealers. By taking its own time for shipments, his road could carry grain for the farmers far more cheaply than his competitors in the pool. His competitors, he said, did not carry grain for the farmers, but gave cut rates to the larger dealers that forced all the traffic into their hands. Addressing the attorneys of the other roads, he said:

"Here is the trouble: I have been acquainted with this Northwestern country for thirty-five years. In all that time there has never been a year that the corn crop was moved until after the corn was in the hands of the dealers who had the rate. Once the farmer is compelled to sell his grain, then you fellows cut the rate for the dealer. There is in Kansas this year 240,000,000 bushels of corn. Not over 25,000,000 bushels has been moved so far this year. The farmer, the small dealer, has not the rate. He is compelled to sell, and then you fellows make the rate for the purchasers, and the corn moves. . . . You charge the Kansas and Nebraska farmer thirteen cents to haul his grain 200 miles. You charge the grain-dealer six cents to haul that same grain twice as far to Chicago. I tell you it is that kind of business that is making anarchists west of the Missouri River."

Whether or not the Chicago Great Western has a legal right to organize a grain-buying company is but one of the legal questions the Commission is asked to consider. The whole object of the present investigation, President Stickney charged, was to force his road to join a pool organized by his competitors in direct violation of law. The Inter-State Commerce Commission, organized to prevent pools, was being made their agent. Altogether, the charges of pooling, secret rate-cutting, and other illegal operations brought by railroad officials and admitted by them in this investigation would furnish texts for any number of sermons and editorials on obedience to law in high places.

The Anti-Bar-Room Bill, which is the chief issue between the two parties in Georgia at the State election this year, is a prohibitory measure. It establishes in every county which so votes a "public liquor-store," but these liquor-stores, unlike the dispensaries in South Carolina, are not permitted to sell liquor to be drunk as a beverage. The agents at these stores are to be salaried officials, and are required to keep lists of all persons to whom they sell liquor, and the amount of these sales. These lists must be examined by the grand jury at each term of the Superior Court for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of the act have been faithfully complied with. The public liquor-store is not to transact any other business, or be connected with any store transacting other business; it is to have no characteristic of a bar-room; it is to be simply a public office where liquor is to be sold for other than beverage purposes, and where no liquor may be drunk for any purpose. Manufacturers of liquor within the State are required to sell exclusively to these public agencies, and all other liquor-stores are declared nuisances, which may be restrained by injunction. The measure has the support of the Populists, and of a large part of the church members among the Democrats. In the coming election, however, party lines, as usual, are likely to be followed, regardless of convictions upon the moral issue presented.

The result seems to depend upon the negro vote. The Republicans have no ticket in the field.

Li Hung Chang certainly cannot complain of lack of warmth in his welcome to this country. He has been greeted by the President and Secretary Olney, saluted by our men-of-war, dined ceremoniously and informally, interviewed (so far as he would permit) by the press, while his doings have in the relation occupied vast space in our daily papers, which have doubtless rejoiced mightily at so piquant a sensation for the summer season. Here, as in Europe, Earl Li (as it seems to be etiquette to call him) has conducted himself with dignity and urbanity, and has confirmed the belief that he is a man of force and skill, a diplomatist and leader of men. His thirst for information seems to be boundless, and his ingenuous questions are sometimes a little embarrassing. Those who read the account given by Colonel Frederick D. Grant in *The Outlook* last week of the forming of the friendship between General Grant and Li Hung Chang will be especially interested in the reports of the latter's visit to General Grant's tomb. As in his similar visit to the statue of General Gordon in London, Earl Li bent with reverence before the tomb of the great American, placed a wreath upon the sarcophagus, and in a few well-chosen words spoke of his affection and respect for one of the few really great men he had known. Another distinguished foreign visitor arrived in New York last week—M. Ribot, the French statesman who has twice been at the head of the French Ministry, and than whom there is no abler man among the Moderate Republicans. He comes solely for health and travel, and evidently desires to avoid publicity. Still another visitor of note will soon be here. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the English Secretary for the Colonies, also announces that his visit is solely for personal reasons, but it is hoped that he may have an opportunity of talking over the Venezuelan question with Mr. Olney.

The failure of the great New York dry-goods store of Hilton, Hughes & Co., successors to A. T. Stewart, throws 1,700 people out of employment. When one thinks of the suddenness of the blow and the number of families dependent on these wage-earners, the failure assumes the aspect of a great calamity, and reminds us of the closeness with which in our modern industrial conditions the interests of employer and employed are bound up together. The ultimate cause of the failure was undoubtedly the movement of retail trade away from the situation of the great store, yet when it was built in 1866 many doubted the wisdom of erecting so enormous a building so far up-town. For many years "Stewart's" was one of the sights of the metropolis, and there the astute merchant made far the greater part of his enormous fortune; in one year (1875) a business of over twelve millions of dollars was transacted. Since Mr. Stewart's death the firm has been several times changed in its composition. Judge Hilton retired some three years ago, and his son, Alfred B. Hilton, has for the last year been sole proprietor. The credit of the firm has been strained for some time, but has been so far sustained by Judge Hilton's aid as an indorser. Every effort has been made to popularize the trade and to enter into successful competition with rivals, but in vain. The liabilities are put at about \$2,000,000; the assets are probably considerably less than half of this amount.

The Massachusetts census for 1895 shows an increased proportion of naturalized voters. From 1875 to 1885 the proportion of naturalized to the whole number of voters

increased from 19.73 per cent. to 22.31 per cent., and during the succeeding decade to 24.62 per cent. The distribution of naturalized voters is somewhat uneven, the extremes in this respect being Dukes and Bristol Counties, the former being almost destitute of such voters, while the latter has nearly fifty per cent. In Boston the naturalized voters constitute 32.57 per cent. of the whole number, but in some of the manufacturing cities the proportion is even larger. The total voting population of the State is 560,802. The total number of males of twenty years of age and over is 771,706, and of these 160,610 are aliens. The increase of the naturalized voters may be viewed as a cause of congratulation or alarm according to their average of moral character and intelligence. This touches one of our gravest problems, one in which the weighing of votes is of far more importance than counting them. The test is loyal and patriotic American citizenship, and the fitness to exercise its political privileges.

The appointment of a supervisor of the kindergartens in the public schools of this city will soon be made, and The Outlook desires to emphasize again the necessity of putting an expert in that position. It is very important that the kindergarten instruction in the city schools should be of the highest grade, and it will be impossible to secure such instruction uniformly unless the general overseer of the kindergartens is thoroughly grounded in the Froebelian principles and thoroughly conversant with the best kindergarten methods. To put any person, however capable in other directions, but who lacks this specific training, in charge of these schools would be treating the kindergarten with gross unfairness, and the children who will come under kindergarten instruction with gross injustice. It would involve, moreover, a flagrant violation of the law which ought to govern all appointments in our schools; for such appointments ought to be based in every case, not only on character, but on expert knowledge and training. If the level of teaching in this country is to be raised, it must be done by treating teachers on a professional basis, advancing them as recognition of skill and competency, and giving the foremost places to those who have justified their right to claim and hold them. In kindergarten circles the position of supervisor of the kindergartens in the city schools is recognized as one of the leading positions in the profession. To give it to a person who has had neither expert knowledge nor special training would discourage all just ambitions and bring reproach on the cause of education. The matter becomes, therefore, one of wide interest, and The Outlook refuses to believe that the Board of Education will expose itself to the just censure of the country by violating a fundamental principle of educational reform.

Commissioner Carroll D. Wright has issued a statistical report on convict labor in the United States. The total number of convicts in our various penal institutions has risen from 41,887 in 1885 to 54,244 in 1895, and the number engaged in productive labor has increased during the same period from 30,853 to 38,415. The total value of goods produced or worked on in the United States in all the State prisons and penitentiaries was \$19,042,472 in 1895—a decrease. In 1885 the total value of the product of convict labor was \$28,753,999, and the wages paid for convict labor in that year aggregated \$3,512,970; at the present time the total value of convict labor does not exceed \$2,500,000. The decline is made clearer by an enumeration of the States in whose penal institutions it has taken place. These are Arizona, Arkansas, Califor-

nia, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia. In the remaining States there was an increase.

When massacres take place in the wilds of Armenia, it is not surprising that it is hard to get full reports of what has happened. But surely it should not be difficult to learn the truth about events in Constantinople itself. Yet the accounts of the troubles there last week are confused and conflicting. It is asserted that a large band of Armenian revolutionists seized the Ottoman Bank, disarmed the gendarmes and porters in charge, fortified the building, and declared that they would destroy it by dynamite if reforms in the treatment of Armenia and Armenians were not granted by the Porte. The reports assert further that these revolutionists promptly surrendered on promise of safe-conduct, and were quickly "shipped to a foreign port." Simultaneously, it is stated, revolutionists made demonstrations in other parts of the city. What followed this revolutionary outbreak was precisely what might be expected. Hundreds of Armenians—one account says 2,000—were killed in all parts of Constantinople. Reports say that the Powers have sent a joint note to the Sultan protesting against the slaughter. We have become so used to these feeble protests from time to time, and to the Sultan's reply that he is doing his best to preserve order, that we expect no practical outcome. Until the Powers lay the hand of force upon the Sultan, revolutionary plots or alleged plots will continue to be found and to afford an excuse for further atrocities. It is possible that a change of policy on the part of Russia may follow the death of Prince Lobanoff-Rostovsky, who was responsible for his country's refusal to join in coercing the Sultan. Meanwhile our own Government is said to be at last upon the point of actively urging the demands for indemnity for the destruction of mission property at Marash and Harpoot. These demands have so far met with no response from the Porte, and the Sultan has refused permission for a United States gunboat to pass the Dardanelles, though this privilege has been granted to other Powers. The Bancroft—a small and far from formidable vessel—is now being fitted out, and her destination is supposed to be Turkey. Exactly what she is to do there does not appear. Another and larger vessel may accompany her. So far, this country can be proud of only one thing in its relations with the Armenian question—the prompt and extensive relief it has, by private contributions, furnished to the wretched sufferers. Miss Clara Barton, of the Red Cross Association, who is now in England, has sent out four expeditions which have visited hundreds of villages and furnished relief to many thousands of people in the form of tools, seed, cattle, looms, and other aids to self-support, besides the direct relief of food and clothing. Our own readers have aided in this good work to the extent of over \$7,500. This has been only one of several agencies through which Americans have helped to relieve the terrible distress. The need continues; the coming winter will be a hard one for the Armenians, many thousands of whom are without shelter or food.

From the international standpoint the recent events in Zanzibar are interesting mainly as they affect the slave trade. This has been carried on almost openly, though nominally it has been strictly forbidden. As Great Britain has a protectorate over Zanzibar under its agreement as to