

AN EXCITING CONGRESSIONAL EPISODE.

BY PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON, FORMER DELEGATE TO CONGRESS.

The close of the Forty-second Congress of the United States, nearly twenty-seven years ago, found a condition of affairs and a state of feeling in Washington, which promised little but sorrow and suffering and injustice for the people of Utah at the hands of the law-making and law-enforcing departments of the government. The present society which has come to the State through the efforts of its Representative to obtain the seat to which he has been elected is a reminder, in some respects—though the situation then and the situation now have few points of resemblance—of the passions and bitterness of those days.

I had been elected Delegate to Congress in the fall of 1872 to succeed Hon. William H. Hooper. Gen. George R. Maxwell, who had unsuccessfully contested my predecessor's seat, prepared to contest mine also when the Forty-third Congress should open. He fortified himself with an array of affidavits as to my disloyalty, and the disloyalty of my family relations. Dr. John P. Newman, of course, prominent mention of my family relations. Dr. John P. Newman, the warm friend of President Grant, had returned to the East in an amiable state of mind after his theological trouncing by Elder Orson Pratt. He was at this time chaplain of the Senate. Memorials, telegrams and every agency that the press, the platform and the pulpit could wield, were pouring in to inflame still further the intensity of the feeling against the "Mormon" people. Bills were already pending in both houses of Congress, and others were being formed. Our enemies were full of gloom, for the popular chord of hostility toward us never responded more readily to their touch.

This was the situation when the Forty-second Congress convened in its last session on the first Monday of December, 1872. I accompanied Captain Hooper to the capital that winter, and as Delegate-elect was accorded the courtesy of the floor. I was a daily observer of the course of events, and as I look back over the lapse of years, I find every incident impressed upon my mind with great distinctness.

THE CRUSADE OF 1872.

After the holiday recess the crusade appeared to develop with redoubled violence. From both houses of Congress, from the White House itself, the steady tread of hostility could be detected, drawing every day nearer and nearer and threatening us, if not with extinction, at least with the loss of our liberties as American citizens. It was as though all the forces of the opposition were drilled up to a combined attack, from which there could be for us no escape. The Delegate from Montana was known to be charged with a bitter anti-"Mormon" speech, and on an amendment to the bill for the admission of Colorado he obtained the floor to deliver it. It was fierce and brutal in the extreme, but it was so palatable to the majority that his time was extended twice lest he should omit any part of the abuse which he had in store for the occasion. Next day, replying to the Delegate from Utah, he again took the House by storm. Members gathered around him, cheering his sentences and demanding that he continue after his time expired. Not a voice was raised in protest, and, thus encouraged, he fairly outdid himself in the outpouring of his venom. He put no check upon his imagination; he revealed in false descriptions of affairs in Utah; and he closed with a sensational attack against the "Mormons," which brought from floor and galleries round about applause uncheered by the presiding officer. The Delegate from Utah met with no such extraordinary evidence of sympathy when he rose to reply. His remarks were not listened to; the interest was gone; members scattered to their seats and paid no attention to him except to offer objection when he asked for a few minutes' extension of time in which to complete his address. The poor boon of printing the remarks which he wished to make was at last granted him.

Amid such scenes as this the session slipped along into February. Suddenly the President of the United States made his appearance at the Capitol in the interest of the anti-"Mormon" legislation then pending. He had been waited upon by the violent Delegate from Montana and by others, and he then in turn sought out the judiciary committees of both houses, endeavoring to impress them with the necessity for legislative action on Utah. He was reported to have said that if the 4th of March came and without such action on the part of Congress, he would send framed and inscribed the question by that means. A new bill was forthwith framed and introduced in both houses. There was less than a month remaining of the session, and in order to make sure of catching us, it was felt expedient to have the law-makers grinding away at both ends of the Capitol at once. A since prominent resident of Utah, who was very busy and energetic in pushing these measures, was so greatly delighted with the prospects and so confident of the result that he swore by his Maker they had "got" us this time. Within a day or two, the unusual and extraordinary course of the President in conducting his personal lobby with the judiciary committees, was followed by a special message from him on the same subject. There was no misunderstanding the fact that if the legislative department would but do as he urged, he would lose no time in signing, and would not be lacking in vigor in enforcing, the desired law.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRELINGHUYSEN BILL.

Finally, eight days before the time for adjournment, the Frelinghuysen bill, by which name it had now come to be known, passed the Senate, by a vote of 29 to 10. Four days later it was ready for the action of the House. It was Saturday evening, the 1st of March, and the adjournment had to take place at noon of the following Tuesday. Two or three attempts were made to get to the bill and the Delegate from Montana, flushed with his previous success in arousing the enthusiasm of the House, was again on hand with a speech, the retention of which seemed to be causing him real distress. He was twice recognized by the presiding officer, but neither time, owing to some casual and unpremeditated point, was he allowed to begin. He and his sympathizers—notably my opponent for the seat in the next Congress, as well as the profane Salt Lake aborigine mentioned, were chagrined but not discouraged; later in the evening an opportunity would surely be afforded, and if the bill were once brought up for action, nothing could defeat or even delay its passage. In the meantime a collation had been spread in an adjoining committee room. One of the features being a bowl of a potent beverage which they called punch. The members, many of them, partook freely of this; and before midnight the effects began to be visible in the noise and confusion. From such a body we could expect no calmness of deliberation; one might hardly look for patience enough to listen even to the reading of the proposed legislation. Motions to adjourn and to take a recess were repeatedly made and as regularly voted down, and the bill was likely to come up at that moment. At last, the confusion constantly increasing, Gen. Garfield, who was a religious man, and was shocked at this desecration of the Sabbath, moved to take a recess until Mon-

day. The same motion had been defeated a few minutes before, but this time it was adopted. Our enemies were furious; one of them saying with an oath that we owed our escape to that punch—the chairman of the judiciary committee was so tight that they dared not trust him to call up the bill.

The sense of deliverance from the strain and danger of the past few days made the ensuing Sabbath particularly sweet and peaceful. But with the Monday the peril and the tension became even greater than before. With only about twenty-seven hours left of the session, every member was naturally anxious to get a hearing, or a vote rather, on his special measure. Speaker Blaine finally suggested to the struggling crowd who surged around the front of his desk clamoring for recognition, that business would be facilitated and the work accomplished more expeditiously and intelligently if the calendar were taken up—that is, the bills in their order as they lay upon the speaker's table. This proposition was acquiesced in, and the rules were suspended, and everything was cleared for action. Our enemies were now in the highest feather, for there was the Frelinghuysen bill, low down on the calendar it is true, but nevertheless certain to be reached in a very short time, for gists never went through a hopper faster than did bills, under Mr. Blaine's skillful handling, during those closing hours of the Forty-second Congress. Every little while the Montana Delegate or some other person interested in the passage of the Utah bill, would walk up to the speaker's table and glance over the remaining pile of bills, returning to the floor with a satisfied smile as this particular measure came nearer and nearer to the top of the heap. In truth there seemed no human possibility that its advocates could be much longer denied the gratification which would be theirs when the bill were once reached. Their exultation was uncheered, their expectations all but realized. And yet I had a feeling that in some way deliverance for us would come.

A CRITICAL AND EXCITING DAY.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the House took a recess until 7:30. Still the bill was not reached. The session being resumed, the grind went on and on. Two o'clock of Tuesday morning came, and only two bills were ahead of the Utah bill. Action on these two would probably not occupy five minutes, and then—At this moment the judiciary committee brought up a couple of impeachment cases. Discussion of these consumed an hour, and 3 o'clock arrived. Then the speaker complacently recognized one after another a number of members who had resolutions, bills, etc., on which they wanted action. Half an hour was thus consumed—the advocates of the Utah bill trying in vain during this struggle to press their pet measure upon the attention of the House. But their time would surely come—the calendar was again to be taken up. Faint and exhausted, yet with the feeling that, come what might, we had done our utmost, and that nothing but the power of God could prevent the passage of the odious bill, I left the hall of the House for a walk in the corridor. Upon returning in a few moments I found that a recess had been taken till 9:30 o'clock. My heart was filled with gratitude.

Tuesday, the 4th of March, 1873, at noon of which day the Forty-second Congress was to expire and President Grant was to be inaugurated for his second term of office, was a terribly cold and stormy day. At the hour fixed for the reassembling of the House, comparatively few of the members were present, owing doubtless to the difficulty in getting from their residences or hotels to the Capitol. It was so with Captain Hooper and myself; and we were late in reaching the hall. However, business was going on rapidly, the calendar had been taken up and work upon it was expedited, if anything, by the smallness of the attendance. The two measures ahead of the Frelinghuysen bill were promptly passed. Then it came up. At this moment Mr. Sargent of California arose. He said the bill was one of considerable importance and ought not to be considered until a larger proportion of the members should be present. Not desiring to delay action on other measures on the calendar by demanding a call of the House and waiting for the arrival of a quorum, he suggested that this bill be laid aside informally, to be taken up later when a quorum should be present. Members who were interested in other measures were willing to accede to this—not that they loved Senator Frelinghuysen's bill the less, but their own more. Once laid aside in this manner, the most desperate efforts of its friends were inadequate to the getting of it before the House again. Their zeal abated not, their hopes did not, until the dial indicated the hour of 11:30, when legislation was suspended. The usual addresses and votes of thanks to retiring officers were offered, the customary felicitations were indulged in, and then at high noon the Forty-second Congress was declared adjourned without day.

The Utah bill was dead. Its advocates were almost insane with rage. The swearing man cursed vehemently, the contentant for the next seat wanted to forswear his allegiance to the United States and become a subject of the queen of England, while the Montana Delegate, always ready with charges regardless of their truth, figured out how many thousands of dollars it had cost to buy the speaker and the judiciary committee. I need scarcely say that we did not spend a cent as a bribe or reward to anybody; nor need I, in writing for readers of the same faith as myself, dwell upon the fact that the defeat of this bill was a signal manifestation of the power and goodness of the Lord toward His people.

END OF THE SESSION—DEATH OF THE BILL.

I would be ungenerous, if not unfair, if, after the foregoing allusions to President Grant, I did not record the fact that his feelings toward the people of Utah subsequently underwent a marked change. This was particularly noticeable after his visit to the Territory. Certainly during my service in Congress his treatment of me was as kindly and courteous as I could have desired. He always showed me every consideration. The feelings of the Delegate from Montana were also much modified as time went on, and later he became quite friendly. There are but two instances, in hundreds that might be mentioned, where, as men have come to know the "Mormons" better, they have found that much of their former enmity was altogether without cause or foundation.

Geo. P. Cannon

CHRONOLOGICAL

RECORD, 1899.

(Continued from page nineteen.)

- Sunday schools of the Latter-day Saints, held in Salt Lake City.
- Bishop Edwin Stratford, of Ogden, died.
- President McKinley laid the corner stone of the seven million dollar federal building in Chicago, Ill.
- Charge of unlawful cohabitation filed against President Lorenzo Snow, in Salt Lake City, by C. M. Owen. Case dismissed Oct. 13.
- Ultimatum of the Transvaal republic demands the withdrawal of British troops that threaten the Transvaal border, or in the event of failure, gives notice that such failure will be considered a declaration of war by Great Britain.
- British government notifies the South African Republic that it has no communication to make to the latter government. State of war considered to begin.
- Boer troops cross into Natal, a British colony.
- Storm in western United States interferes with telegraphic communication.
- Fall campaign in the Philippines, against the rebels, opened.
- Earthquake at Ceram, Dutch East Indies, kills 5,000 people.
- Wm. Greenwood, of Beaver, Utah, 70 years old, accidentally drowned in Sevier river, near Riverside, Millard county, Utah.
- Boers capture a British armored train. Minor contests frequent from this date.
- Indians insulted and beaten by soldiers at San Carlos agency, Arizona, and serious trouble threatened but averted by the arrest of the offending soldier.
- Steamer Nutmeg State burned at sea; 8 persons burned to death.
- Don Corey, of the Utah light artillery, who came home with the volunteers, Ill., died at Provo.
- Chicago & Northwestern railway train held up south of Chicago and robbed of a large sum of money.
- Kimberley besieged by the Boers.
- C. M. Owen files affidavit charging Congressman B. H. Roberts with having violated the law by living with a plural wife.
- Yacht Columbia wins first race over the Shamrock.
- T. J. Parker, of Tooele county, Utah, and H. J. Murple, of Kansas, killed in a collision on the Union Pacific railway at Cheyenne, Wyo. Three other persons were injured.
- Boers repulsed in an attack on Mafeking.
- Second of the yacht races awarded to the Columbia.
- James Redford and Oscar Slett met death at Silver City, Utah, and Paul Berta at Mammoth, Utah, by powder explosions in mines.
- Gen. Lawton's command north of Manila, Luzon, starts out to capture the Filipino insurgent capital.
- Battle of Nkpan, Natal, won by the Boers.
- Announcement that the Salt Lake State of Zion, Utah, would be divided into three States of Zion.
- F. N. Snyder, of Ogden, died of exposure near Weiser, Idaho, while out with a surveying party.
- Battle of Glencoe, Natal; British claimed a victory, but were forced to retreat.
- Yacht Columbia won the third race with the yacht Shamrock, this winning the match and retaining the America's cup on the American side of the Atlantic.
- Temporary arrangement of the Alaska-Canada American boundary made between the United States and Great Britain.
- Pullman company at Chicago absorbed the Wagner Car Company.
- Battle of Elandsagte, Natal. Boers defeated, but the British afterwards retired.
- B. F. Cummings, Jr., a pioneer resident of Utah, died at Salt Lake City.
- Collision on Oregon Short Line railway at Farmington, Utah; engineer and fireman injured.
- Collision on Rio Grande Western railway at Colton, Utah; three persons injured.
- President George Q. Cannon seriously ill in New York; recovered and returned home to Salt Lake City shortly afterwards.
- British forces in northern Natal retreated into Ladysmith.
- Battle at Puerto Nacional, Colombia, between government forces and insurgents; latter defeated with a loss of 200 killed.
- President McKinley issued a thanksgiving day proclamation.
- Daniel Frey killed on the Oregon Short Line railway near Fairfield, Utah.
- British public aroused over news from South Africa; Lord Wolseley charged with making British reverses there appear as successes.
- 26th annual conference of the Federation of Women's clubs, held in Salt Lake City.
- Fighting at Kimberley, Boers repulsed.
- Price of coal in Salt Lake City raised to \$5 per ton.
- Best sugar juice pumped twenty-two miles, from Springville to Lehi, Utah.
- Battle of Nicholson's Nek, before Ladysmith, British defeated.
- Apostle M. W. Merrill appointed president of Cache Stakes, Utah.
- Ferryboat Chicago sunk in North river, at New York; several persons drowned.

NOVEMBER.

- Death of ex-Governor A. A. Saunders of Nebraska, once a member of the Utah commission.
- Boers captured Colenso, Natal.
- Five thousand lives lost by tidal wave on island of Ceram, East Indies.
- British government orders out a new army of 25 battalions.
- Prize fight between Thomas Sharkey and Jas. J. Jeffries for the world's championship, Jeffries won.
- Boers captured Norvalspoor, Cape Colony.
- Announcement that the Samoan islands had been divided between Germany and the United States, Great Britain relinquishing all claims thereto.
- Boers capture Stormberg, Cape Colony.
- Election in municipalities in Utah, and in twelve States.
- Battle at Bester's Farm, Natal, resulted favorably to the British.
- United States cruiser Charleston wrecked on the north coast of Luzon, Philippine Islands; all hands saved but the vessel lost.
- Admiral Dewey married.
- Successful process of cooking Utah coal announced in Salt Lake City.
- Bombardment of Ladysmith begun.
- Battle at Porto Cabello, Venezuela; 650 killed and wounded; revolutionists won.
- Kimberley heavily bombarded.
- Major John A. Logan killed in battle at San Jacinto, Luzon.
- Americans take Tarlac, Filipino insurgent capital in Luzon; series of American successes at this time, and flight of Aguinaldo.
- Agitation against railway annoyances in the western part of Salt Lake City.
- Michael McCarty fell 1400 feet to death at the Daly-West mine, Park City, Utah.
- Boers catch an armored train and British force at Chieveley, Natal, Lt. Winston Churchill being among the prisoners.
- Ocean liner Patria burned at sea; all hands saved.
- "Fish" Copper, a Utah seaman on the Olympia while the latter was in Manila bay May 1, 1898, and subsequently arrived at his home in Salt Lake City.
- Gov. Wells of Utah issued a thanksgiving proclamation.
- Filipinos north of San Fernando, Luzon, welcome Americans for the first time since the opening of the campaign. Funston of Kansas in Salt Lake City.
- Marriage of Senator J. M. Thurston of Nebraska.
- Coal miners strike at Sunnyvale, Utah.
- Battle in Colombia between government and insurgent forces; latter defeated; loss on both sides, 3,000.
- Charles Kelley made president of the Boxelder State of Zion, Utah.
- Emperor and empress of Germany visit England.
- Trouble at Fort Ringgold, Rio Grande City, Texas, between colored troops and citizens.
- Death of Garret A. Hobart, Vice President of the United States, at Paterson, N. J.
- Boy named David Shulson killed at Bingham, Utah, by a live wire.
- Boers capture 300 horses valued at \$15,000, at a ranch near Escourt, Natal.
- British defeat derivatives in the Soudan, killing 400.
- Americans defeat insurgents near Holtzhausen, Cape Colony.
- Battle at Belmont, Cape Colony. Boers defeated.
- Capture of Aguinaldo's mother and son, in the Philippines, by Gen. MacArthur.
- Khalifa killed and derivatives defeated in the Soudan by British troops.
- Damage by storm on the west coast of the Gulf of Mexico.
- Battle at Gras Pan, Cape Colony. Boers defeated.
- Battle at Escourt, Natal. Boers retreated.
- Filipino insurgents evacuate Mangarayan, and continue to evade defeats at the hands of the Americans; the rebel army being in scattered bands.
- At a meeting held in Boston on the case of Congressman Roberts of Utah, all the speakers were in favor of his admission to Congress.
- Transport Manauyas, with United States troops on board, arrives at Manila, after a terrible experience at sea.
- Senator Rawlins of Utah makes a statement in Washington on the Roberts case.
- Battle at Modder River, Orange Free State. Boers retreated after the fighting ceased.
- Harpis & Brothers company, New York publishers, went into the hands of a receiver.
- Lippincott & Co.'s big publishing house in Philadelphia destroyed by fire.
- Six persons killed, a twenty hurt in a collision at Paterson, N. J.
- Oscar Ellason, of Salt Lake City, famous sleight-of-hand performer, killed at Dubuque, Australia.
- Derry High School and Salt Lake High School football teams met in contest in Salt Lake City; each side scored 0.

DECEMBER.

- Brigham Young Academy at Provo, Brigham Young College at Logan and Latter-day Saints' College at Salt Lake City, recognized as Church schools by the General Church board of education.
- Death of John I. Blair, prominent as a railway promoter and one of the first board of directors of the Union Pacific, at Blairtown, N. J.
- Lieut. Col. A. A. Brewster, captain in the Twenty-fourth infantry, formerly stationed at Fort Douglas, Utah, suicided while insane, in the Philippines.
- Congress met in Washington. Objection raised to the swearing in of B. H. Roberts, representative-elect from Utah.
- Six persons killed and several injured in a collision on the D. & R. G. railway near Salda, Cal.
- Samuel Pulver killed and three others injured by an explosion in the Dragon Iron mine, Silver City, Utah.
- Many Cape Colony Dutch rise against Great Britain.
- Message of President McKinley read in Congress.
- House of Representatives refused to permit B. H. Roberts of Utah to be sworn as a member.
- Utah Art Institute opened in Salt Lake City.
- Parliament press protests against the proposed Jeffries-Corbett prize fight at Paris during the exhibition of 1899.
- Dick Alexander, a negro murderer, burned at the stake at Mayville, Ky.
- Smallpox at Spanish Fork, Utah.
- Death of Apostle Franklin Dewey Richards, president of the Twelve Apostles, died at Ogden, Utah.
- Oregon Short Line branch railway to St. Anthony, Idaho, opened.
- B. H. Roberts, congressman-elect from Utah, issues an address to the American people.
- First meeting of the congressional committee to investigate the charges against Congressman-elect B. H. Roberts.
- British win a battle outside of Ladysmith, Natal.
- Rear guard of Aguinaldo, the Filipino insurgent leader, defeated, and Gen. Planz, the American, killed. Aguinaldo escapes in disguise.
- Thirty-two men killed by fire pump explosion in a coal mine at Carbonado, State of Washington.
- Sunday school jubilee held in most of the Latter-day Saints' Sunday schools.
- British under Gen. Gatacre defeated at Stormberg, Cape Colony.
- Death of Prof. George Matthews, of the University of Utah, in California.
- Battle of Magersfontein, Orange Free State. British army under Gen. Methuen defeated in two days' fight.
- Funeral of Apostle F. D. Richards at Ogden, Utah.
- Gen. Otis announces from Manila that organized rebellion in northern Luzon no longer exists.
- Earthquake in northern and central Utah.
- Smallpox in Salt Lake City—case of a mild type. Aspiration for compulsory vaccination of school children.
- First examination of witnesses in the B. H. Roberts case, at Washington, D. C.
- Commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the death of President George Washington.
- British army, under Gen. Buller, defeated at Tuxela river, Natal.
- Excitement in London over the London stock exchange.
- Salt Palace in Salt Lake City ordered sold.
- John Smith, convicted of endeavoring to assassinate President McKinley, D. C., commits suicide in jail in Salt Lake City.
- Resolution introduced in Congress to recognize the Boer republic as belligerents, and condemning some of the British methods of warfare.
- Death of Lieut. T. H. Brumby, Admiral Dewey's flag officer in the battle in Manila bay.
- Heavy snowstorm does damage in Ogden, Utah.
- Jubilee celebration in many Latter-day Saint Sunday schools, including Salt Lake county.
- George Choules drank carbolic acid, obtained from a drug store in mistake for gin and died.
- Failure of the Produce Exchange Trust Company in New York; liabilities \$11,649,600.
- Excitement in New York stock market; call money reaches 150 per cent interest.
- Secretary of the treasury relieves the New York money market by an offer of thirty to forty millions for deposit in various banks.
- Fighting reported between French and Chinese forces on the borders of Tonquin.
- Protest in Salt Lake City against compulsory vaccination of school children.
- Gen. H. W. Lawton killed at San Mateo, Philippines.
- Eight persons convicted and six others acquitted by jury in tenement house fires in New York.
- Erie Scrymgeour fell 500 feet down a shaft at Bingham canyon, Utah.

HIGH WATER MARK IN OUR PROSPERITY

This has been a year of marvelous material prosperity in the United States, says the New York Herald. We have raised a year's supply of food for our own population and for 600,000 persons besides. From the bosom of bountiful mother earth directly in metals and growing crops, and indirectly in the cattle of a thousand hills, have come products valued at \$7,500,000,000, or more than \$100 for each inhabitant.

Truly our cornucopia is now overflowing. Last year it was filled almost to the brim, but 1899 has added 10 per cent and established a new high water mark. If we compare this new mark with that reached in 1893, we find a marvelous increase of 21 per cent.

King Corn leads this procession of prosperity with 2,300,000,000 bushels, the greatest crop ever raised, though nearly approached in 1896. Its value of \$500,000,000 is more than that of all the gold mined in the world during the year—nearly three times over.

Wheat, the staff of life in this land, and rapidly becoming so in other countries, is in the great annual procession with 532,100,000 bushels. Then there is the immense oat crop of 800,000,000 bushels, barley 65,000,000, rye 25,000,000 and potatoes 225,000,000 bushels. We must add 55,000,000 tons of hay, 11,200,000 bales of cotton, 300,000,000 pounds of wool, 600,000,000 pounds of tobacco, and we have the principal annual crop product of 93,000,000 acres of farm land.

This immense crop is the product of the labor of about 26,000,000 persons, and we will realize the amount of labor necessary if we will consider our wheat crop of 532,100,000 bushels. This crop means that at least 93,000,000 acres of land was ploughed, harrowed, sown, harvested and threshed. The ploughing represents the work of one man for 13,000,000 days. Add to this about 6,000,000 days for harvesting, 2,000,000 for ploughing, 4,500,000 for harvesting and handling, and you have the work of one man for 25,000,000 working days, or 81,000 years, in raising our wheat crop of 1899.

100 YEARS OF BUSINESS.

It is difficult to compress within so small a space as is available, anything like an adequate statement of the chief landmarks in the history of commerce in the last century, says Bradstreet's commercial agency. A volume would be more to the purpose. Commerce being concerned mainly with the distribution and exchange of commodities, a powerful, perhaps the most powerful, share in its development must naturally be attributed to the application of steam to transportation, both by land and water. This constituted the first great step in the process, which has since gone on at a progressive rate, bringing distant localities into connection with each other, and it was one without which the later steps in the development and extension of means of communication generally would seem to have been impossible. The utilization of the same force in the manufacture of goods, and the effects of the relaxation by different governments of the restrictive policy in trade relations, of which the most extreme expression is found in the adoption of free trade by Great Britain, but which is exemplified also in treaties of commerce, of which the reciprocity, or at the least, reductions of duty, constitute a growing feature.

Another very powerful impetus was communicated during the century by the discoveries of gold in California and Australia, which, by greatly increasing the supplies of the world's standard money metal, imparted increased confidence to the banking community, and by attracting population to the gold fields added new acquisitions to the world's sources of production. The utilization of electricity as a means of communication, at first within national boundaries, but finally across the once dividing ocean, has been another mighty force in extending and stimulating the operations of commerce. Time and distance have long been annihilated by the telegraph, and today even that means of communication has been found tardy by a generalization which makes its contracts over the telephone. The construction by Russia of the great trans-Siberian railway, which taps all northern Asia; the opening up of China and Japan to commerce with the rest of the world, a process in which the United States was a pioneer nearly half a century ago, and the successive discoveries leading up to the exploitation of Africa, have all opened new fields for the extension of commerce, in which the expansion of the United States prepares the way for this country to be a leading participant. Finally, among the great influences powerfully promoting commerce must be mentioned the growth and safeguarding of credit, which economizes the use of the machinery of exchange, thus quickening both the producing and consuming powers of society, and which finds no locality in civilization too remote for the exercise of its beneficent agencies.

INTERESTING FACTS.

A medical expert contends that out of 1,000 girls studying the piano before the age of twelve about 600 are afflicted with nervous troubles in later life.

Canaries, in the mating season, seem to vie with each other in the production of brilliant melody, and it is admitted that the female birds always select the best singers for their mates.

The origin of the saying "as clean as a whistle" is accredited to the "whistle tankard" of olden times, in which the whistle came into play when the tankard was emptied, or "cleared out," to announce to the waiter that more liquor was required.

The cowardliness of sharks is well known among men who have been much to sea in southern waters, infested by man-eaters. The fiercest shark will get out of the seaway in a very great hurry if the swimmer, noticing its approach, sets up a noisy squashing. The shark is in deadly fear of any sort of living thing that splashes in the water.

The most beautiful and costly fishes in the world come from China, and the rarest and most expensive of all the brush tail gold fish. Specimens of these have sold for as high as \$700 each, and in Europe the price ranges from \$250 to \$500. The brush tail goldfish is so small that a five shilling piece will cover it, and probably there is no living thing of its size and weight that is worth so much money.

THE SEWING MACHINE.

Of course, in the larger sense of the word "machine" the original sewing machine was the needle. For thousands of years, the needle was the only instrument, might say for millions of years, the needle remained the only known implement for all the various uses implied in the generic term "sewing." The human fingers were the only known motive power for setting it to work.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, Thomas Saint patented a clumsy and archaic device for applying mechanical force to the needle. Equally clumsy devices followed in France and in this country.

But it was not until September 10, 1846, that the sewing machine proper, the beautiful and efficient instrument which has revolutionized the entire art of needlework in home and factory, was patented by Elias Howe, an American. Since then some seven thousand patents have been granted for various improvements and modifications upon the original idea. Yet that idea still remains the nucleus of them all.