

A very cold, chilly wind came up on the 24th, and the passengers found themselves in want of warm garments; in his own phrase, 'there was a general overhauling of baggage for warm clothing.' Then the next day became exceedingly hot, and on that day the first case of cholera appeared. It has been found that on board the ship 'New York' there was an immigrant who had clothing belonging to an individual who had died in Germany of cholera. During the day of intense cold some articles of clothing were taken from the chest and were worn by several of the passengers, and these passengers were the first taken on the ship. The two ships go on their voyage. One arrives in the harbor of New York on December 1st, six days after the outbreak, having lost seven of her passengers; the other goes into the Mississippi River and up to New Orleans, having lost several passengers, reaching the city December 11th. On the arrival of the vessel at New York, on December 2nd, eleven cholera patients were sent to the quarantine hospital. The 'Swanton' reached the city of New Orleans on December 11th, and the day of her arrival one cholera case was sent to the hospital. Two days after her arrival the first case in the city was announced. This was also an emigrant from the 'Swanton.' This was followed by a rapid increase of the disease until the following June, in which month it culminated in more than 2500 deaths."

### NURSERIES OF CRIMES.

THE Denver papers are quite exercised over a statement by a local clergyman named Dean Hart. This gentleman asserts that the public schools are responsible for the large increase of crime during the past decade or two, and also for the multiplication of saloons. His theory is that in the absence of moral and religious teaching in the schools the children grow up virtually criminal, inasmuch as no training has been given them in the practice of restraining appetites, passions and evil tendencies.

In reply to the clergymen the Denver *News* contends that the increase in crime is due to unrestricted immigration. The census statistics show to some extent the ratio of crime between alien and native born persons. The figures when handled in a certain way make a showing unfavorable to the foreign element, but when handled in another way the contrary is exhibited. For instance, North Dakota has a rate of foreign population of 80,449 to 100,000 natives. In 1896 it had a rate of 192 paupers and 856 convicts to each million, but its assessed value increased during the decade 797 per cent. This shows that where the foreign element most abounds, wealth increases more rapidly. The wealth of South Dakota increased 1,040 per cent. in ten years, of Montana, 471 per cent., and so on in other States where aliens most abound.

The question as to what causes and is causing the large increase of crime in this country is a timely and appropriate one. Foreign immigration may be a source of crime, but it must be acknowledged that this does not meet the issue. It was shown in a recent magazine article that of 25,000 penal voters in Connecticut fully 67 per cent. were of the pure American stock. The writer, an American himself, admitted the accuracy of his figures with a sigh for

the degeneracy of the Puritan. Corrupt voting is as much a crime as sheep stealing, and the situation in Connecticut is instructive in a discussion of this kind. Of course other statistics prove conclusively that a very large proportion of the worst criminals in this country are educated so far as book learning may be considered education. That the lack of moral and religious training in our public school system is one cause of the increase of crime is coming to be acknowledged by the most thoughtful people of the age.

### BREWERY DEVELOPMENTS.

CHICAGO is once more to the front in a scheme which will surprise the opponents of the liquor traffic in this country. The big breweries of that city have instituted a fund of \$6,000,000 to be used exclusively in the purchase of real estate for saloon purposes. In European cities the plan projected here is nothing new. It simply means the ownership and control of saloons, or at least enough of them to give the breweries the power to dictate terms. Under present arrangements competition enters largely into the trade. The saloonkeeper buys of the brewer who gives the most favorable terms. This begets competition, and beer wars are often the result. At one time a war of this kind became so fierce that beer was sold to the saloons at \$2 per barrel.

Under the new scheme the breweries organize themselves into a sort of trust. Property available for saloon purposes will be purchased, and saloons established thereon. They will then be rented to tenants who must accept the conditions of the brewery combine. Saloons already established will be bought and placed on the same basis as those owned by the brewers. In this manner, it is contemplated to obtain control of the retail liquor trade in a few years.

From a political point of view the operation of this scheme will place municipal governments virtually in the hands of the brewery syndicate. Chicago has 7,000 saloons; with one-half of these wielded as one, their influence as a factor in city politics can well be estimated. The poorest place in any city can always command from three to five votes, hence the power of 7,000 resorts of this kind must be powerful.

### TRANSCONTINENTAL ASSOCIATION.

SPEAKING of the probable dissolution of the Transcontinental Association, the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* says that the Great Northern and Canadian Pacific have given notice of withdrawal, and that the end of the association can not be delayed much longer.

The dissolution means the abandonment of the subsidy paid to Pacific Mail steamers to maintain rates between the Atlantic and Pacific ports. It means the entrance of the Canadian Pacific into competition with American transcontinental lines. It also means a scramble for the Asiatic trade between San Francisco, Portland, Tacoma and Vancouver. It means a general reorganization, in

all probability, of the rate making for transcontinental business, and the overthrow of the control which the Southern Pacific company has for so long maintained for its own advantage."

The fight for the Asiatic trade will be between the northern systems, comprising the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern and the Canadian Pacific, and the southern systems, comprising the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe. The battle will be fiercely contested, but the *Press* thinks the northern systems will triumph, because they traverse a fertile belt of country, and can draw a more local business, whereas the southern systems traverse deserts or arid lands, and depend almost entirely on through traffic.

### A NATION'S SYMPATHY.

THE whole nation will sympathize with President Benjamin Harrison in the affliction which has overtaken him. In the serious illness of his beloved wife. Just at this juncture, when he needs all the physical and mental strength of his nature to meet the political contest that is at hand, he is weakened by the sufferings of his other self and the dread of her passing away from his presence and his life.

Mrs. Harrison is known to the people of the United States as a loving wife and mother, a lady of culture, a shining light in the home circle. Not as a dashing, brilliant leader in "society," but an exemplary matron and housewife whose influence is peaceful and maternal. Every indication points to her departure from this world's trials and joys, and the cloud of the coming bereavement hovers over and weighs down the soul of the nation's Chief, calling for the deep commiseration of the multitude. Party and class and personal differences all fade in the approach of his impending sorrow, and the country waits with apprehension for the end tidings expected. We sympathize with the President in his hour of trial.

### THE EPIDEMIC SPREADING.

THE plague is spreading. Late information is to the effect that more cases have occurred.

The malady has appeared in Brooklyn, while two cases having strong symptoms of cholera have developed in New Haven, Conn. It is almost certain that, providing shipping companies continue to bring emigrants from infected ports, President Harrison will issue a proclamation that will put a stop to the business. Attorney-General Miller advises him that he has the necessary power, under the law, to take this step.

Chicago is expecting a visit from the plague, and the ... paring for it. Had it not been for the prospect of the introduction and spread of the cholera epidemic many of the large cities would have continued in their filthy condition. In some parts of New York and Chicago the air has been, for years, disgustingly noisome; now the authorities are hastening themselves to improve the condition by removing the causes of offensive disease-breeding vapors.