JAPS GO TO MEXICO.

Cactus Republic to Be Flooded with Coolie Workmen.

Company Formed for the Purpose Will Employ Peonage System—Send Many Men to Other Countries.

An enterprise which bids fair to revolutionize the labor question of the entire Mexican republic is now being started in the City of Mexico, and in the course of a few weeks the immigration of Japanese workmen will commence, says a Fort Worth (Tex.) exchange. This is the statement made in this city by a gentleman who had recently been in the republic.

A representative of the Transoceanic Emigration company, of Tokio, Japan, the largest concern of its kind in the world, has been in the City of Mexico perfecting plans for the immigration of Japanese to Mexico.

The Transoceanic Emigration company is composed exclusively of Japanese, and according to the laws of Japan no other company, not composed of natives of the island, can take workmen from that country. This part of the Japanese law is stringently enforced. The object of the company is to bring Japanese laborers into Mexico for the purpose of furnishing the plantations and industries with a class of labor that is said cannot be rivaled in any resepect.

Speaking of the matter, the gentleman said: "These laborers will be brought to the republic and the conditions are such that the laborer will have to remain with the employer for a period of four years, or a length of time designated in the contract entered into with the Japanese company and the person desiring the labor. Each man brought to Mexico or brought to any part of the world in this manner is bonded by two bondsmen in Japan, and if he deserts and fails to fulfill the contract the bondsmen in Japan are held responsible. But the emigration company replaces the loss and another man is furnished, with the same bondsmen. As a guarantee, the company has deposited with the Japanese government $200,000 for the fulfillment of its contract. This makes it almost an enterprise of the Japanese government.

The local agents in Mexico are already receiving letters daily from all over the republic, stating that plantation owners would use some 100 employes, while there is demand in other places for fully 1,000 Japanese. Visits are now being made to different sections of the republic in an effort to ascertain the feeling among the plantation owners as to employing this class of labor, and it is expected that in two more weeks the agents of the company in the republic will be able to determine to what extent this matter will be carried on.

"The laborers will be brought to Mexico and the cost of their examination and transportation to Mexico will be paid by the person who contracts for the labor. After their arrival, the employer takes charge of them and pays them for their work, and he then has them for the time contracted. In this manner the plantation owners can have labor they can depend upon. As it is now, the plantation workmen leave their employer just at the critical time, when the crop is to be harvested.

"Japanese laborers are industrious, ambitious and reliable. They are sturdy men, and their labor has made the Hawaiian islands. Eighty thousand laborers have been sent from Japan to Hawaii, and the business their presence there has opened up is enormous.

"This company I speak of has also landed a great number of Japanese laborers in California, and their work there is also said to be satisfactory."

The gentleman said that in the course of time the Transoceanic Emigration company will install a line of steamers between Japan and some port in Mexico, possibly Fort Stilwell or Salina Cruz. This will be done when the business has increased to justify it. "The trade which will be opened up betwen Japan and Mexico when this line of steamers is inaugurated is at first beyond comprehension," he said. "When thousands of Japanese laborers are eventually located in Mexico they must have Japanese supplies, and this will be the beginning of trade and traffic.

"The company which will bring these people to Mexico has at present a contract for furnishing 250,000 laborers to one country in South America alone. Another contract calls for 20,000 annually for ten years. This latter contract is in South Africa.

"It is the intention to advocate the immigration of the wives of these laborers into Mexico also. This will have a tendency toward making the laborers more satisfied with their surroundings. The length of working days for these men will be from ten to 12 hours. They will have their holidays and feast days just as they are accustomed to in their native country."

Cunning Process Server.

The credit man of a large department store recently told me of a shrewd trick played by one of his process servers. It may be old to others, but it was new to me. A debtor had tried to hide by changing his residence and leaving a false address with the janitor at the old place. The process server, having vainly searched for him at the false address, went back to the store, made a large package of excelsior, wrapped it in bright red paper addressed it to the debtor at his old place, and mailed it in the branch postoffice. Then he waited near the carrier's door until a postman came out with the readily recognized package. The rest was easy, for, of course, the debtor had given his right address to the post office people, and the package was too big for the postman to conceal. The process server merely followed the package and found his man.—Brooklyn Eagle.

TUBERCULOSIS IN HENS.

Fowls on California Ranches Reported to Be Afflicted with Lung Disease.

Now that his experiments with diseased fowls in California have demonstrated the fact that tuberculosis is one of the most widely prevalent diseases in the poultry ranches of the state, Dr. Archibald R. Ward, veterinarian of the University of California agriculture depart, is pursuing investigations to discover whether there is any relationship between this and bovine or human tuberculosis, says the San Francisco Chronicle. Furthermore, the consideration of the possible significance of fowl tuberculosis has awakened the desire to know whether or not the deadly organisms are present in the egg. Both these points are vitally important, and the animal industries department in conjunction with the recently established poultry experiment station, will make a careful study of the cases that are brought to their attention.

Dr. Ward, although just commenced on these investigations, has this to say on the second point: "It appears to be true that hens badly infected do not lay. In the 30 post-mortems of tuberculosis hens that have come under the writer's observation but one hen contained an egg. The thorough cooking to which poultry is subjected renders rather remote the possible danger of human infection by ingestion. Careful observation to determine if newly hatched chicks suffer from tuberculosis will throw light on the question of tubercle bacilli in eggs."

Owing to the fact that tuberculosis in fowls seldom kills a sufficient number of birds at one time to excite fear, its existence in a flock has come to be regarded as a matter of course and has attracted little attention from the owners. Under the conditions obtaining in the poultry industry in California, Dr. Ward says that all the individuals of an infected flock must be regarded as possible sources of danger of healthy birds. Taking advantage of the experience in the control of tuberculosis in cattle, he says that it will be easy to raise a flock of healthy chickens, provided they are kept constantly from contact with diseased birds or from land recently contaminated with tuberculous fowls. Since the life of a fowl is so short, he predicts that such a procedure would result in the eradication of the disease in three or four years.

LAKE LIGHTS ITSELF.

Remarkable Property of the Ice on Kansas Body of Water Accidentally Discovered.

Lake Doniphan, in Kansas, provides about the most remarkable skating that is to be had in the country. No torchlights or lamps of any kind have to be used at night, the ice providing all the illumination necessary, states the Chicago Inter Ocean.

This remarkable property of the ice was discovered entirely by accident. A little boy was skating on the lake, when he fell. A box of parlor matches which he carried in his pocket was ignited and he found himself a hissing flame of gas. The boy, thoroughly frightened, immediately gave the alarm that the lake was on fire, and the villagers turned out in a hurry. By the time they arrived at the lake, however, the flame which the boy had started had disappeared, and the investigators were inclined to discredit the lad's account of his experience.

After some trouble, however, they succeeded in finding the place where the boy had fallen, and in the vicinity they discovered several white spots in the ice. These were punctured and a match applied. The result was exactly as the boy had described.

Similar spots appeared all over the lake and many were opened and ignited. The illumination was kept up until after dark, when the effect was more startling than it had been in the day time. Skating was not interfered with to any great extent, because only the white spots which appeared around the edge of the lake were opened. The flames shot up fully a foot and looked for all the world like those which come from a gaspipe when the burner tip has been removed. The smaller the hole the longer the illumination lasted.

The theory advanced for the seeming phenomenon is that the marsh gas which is generated by the decomposition of vegetable matter, and which is always found in newly formed lakes, escapes without attracting attention under ordinary circumstances, but that when the water freezes the gas becomes imprisoned and issues forth only when the ice is opened. The gas has no smell and does not seem to resemble the ordinary illuminating gas, although the light it gives is in every respect as good.

Science of the Mind.

Much interest and apparently some envy have been aroused in England by the extraordinary growth of the teaching of psychology in American universities. Dr. C. S. Myers recently read a paper on this subject at Cambridge in which he remarked that in America the fact is becoming recognized that a man of culture should know something not only of the works, but also of the working of the human mind. Among the experiments for students that are now provided for in laboratories are those relating to color vision, to nerve reaction-time, to hearing, taste and smelling, to tactile sensibility, and so on. At Harvard a half-year's course is offered on the mental life of animals, and elsewhere animal intelligence plays a considerable part in these studies.—Youth's Companion.

Naturally Hot.

"It's no wonder you had a hot box," said the young man who was watching the engineer removing the brass boxing from the superheated axle.

"Why?" grunted the engineer.

"Because it's a yellow journal."—Houston Post.

INSANITY OF INDIANS

Enforced Civilization Said to Be the Principal Cause.

National Hospital for Demented Redmen at Canton, S. D., Issues First Report on Its Patients.

At the close of the first year's existence of the National Hospital for Insane Indians the first data ever collected about Indian insanity indicate that forced civilization is responsible for much of it, says a Canton (S. D.) report. In its first year half the capacity of the hospital has been taken up. In a few months the last room will have been taken, and additions will be necessary. But there will still be at large many Indians hopelessly insane, and it is believed that the ratio of insanity will undoubtedly continue to grow.

Supt. O. S. Gifford and Dr. J. F. Turner, assistant superintendent and physician of the hospital, agree that the chief cause of insanity among Indians is despondency. Just as with whites, brooding over troubles and disappointment undermines the Indian mind quicker than anything else. This is manifested in different ways, but most of these manifestations would have been improbable or impossible in the former wild life of the Indian. That brooding should follow when the Indians cannot have the employment of hunting or making visits at a distance and are even prohibited from indulging in their native dances is natural.

One of the consequences of the self-centering of the life of the Indian has been a growth in domestic difficulties. Many of the Indian insane have reached their condition because of worrying over family affairs. The same unrest and discontent have been marked on the reservations of South Dakota, where divorce has in the last ten years become popular with the Indians. Among those who cannot put aside their domestic troubles by appealing to the divorce court insanity is found.

For example, a full blooded Sioux Indian became insane because jealous of his wife and was brought here. He had become prosperous by utilizing his land allotment and selling cattle, and was worth in the neighborhood of $5,000.

His prosperity had attracted the attention of other Indians, and one of these had won the affections of his squaw, and the husband had brooded over this until his mind became unsettled.

A succession of misfortunes sent a full-blooded Pima Indian of Arizona to this hospital. He had had seven children. One by one every one of the children had died. One day his squaw was lost, and when he found her she was dead. The Indian could not forget his sorrows, for he had no wars to fight and no game to kill. He brooded until he became insane.

There are now 34 insane Indians in the hospital, which is the only institution of its kind in the world, having been completed a year ago. Supt. Gifford has no doubt that all the 50 rooms will be taken up within another year.

"It is difficult to find Indians who are insane," said Supt. Gifford. "At first we could not find more than a half dozen in the entire United States. But we are beginning to hear from them now from the remotest districts.

"As far as I have been able to learn, Indian tribes never made provision to care for their insane. The most that was provided was a casual sort of care given by relatives. But the attentions of Indian relatives are not worth much and the result has been that often they have passed their insane along to other tribes.

"It is a peculiar fact that Indians will desert unfortunates. Take, for example, the case of the great chief, Red Cloud. He is living in a hut on the Pine Ridge reservation, deserted by all save his wife, who can contribute nothing to his support. The old chief is afflicted with a distressing ailment, but not one of his relatives save his wife will have a thing to do with him.

"Our treatment is simple. We allow the Indians to follow their own likes and dislikes, so far as can safely be done. We encourage the Indians to find employment, as it takes their minds off their troubles. We even allow them to indulge in native dances, if they are not dangerously exciting, as we think the normal habits of the Indian are most apt to bring him back to the possession of his faculties."

Sail-Skating on the Hudson.

One of the most exhilarating and healthful sports in which man has ever indulged, and which is very popular on the upper Hudson in mid-winter, is sail skating. With a pair of shining steel runners securely attached to one's shoes, and a sail to furl and unfurl at the skater's pleasure one is equipped to defy the two-minute trotter and the Empire State Express, as he literally flies over the ice at a record-annihilating speed. It is great sport, and another point in its favor is that it can be enjoyed on any lake or stream where skating is possible.—From "In the Trail of the Traveler," in Four-Track News.

German Wares in England.

The most serious menace to the British industry is the German invasion of the English markets. This has been growing of recent years, and is now a serious factor in the situation. Woolen cloths and clothing "made in Germany" are on sale in nearly every important town in the kingdom, and the qualities, style and prices are such as to astonish English makers and tailors.

California Fruit in Manila.

California fruit will soon be eaten all over the globe. An experimental shipment was recently made to the Philippines, and, although the transit occupied five weeks, the fruit arrived in fine condition, and as Australian apples have been selling in Manilla for from ten to 25 cents apiece, its advent was hailed with delight.

FOR THE LAST MEMBER.

Bottle of Port Wine Treasured by a Club with But Few Remaining Members.

A young man of Covington Ind., in 1847 read in a Cincinnati newspaper of a social club which had been formed years before that date. The last surviving member of the club had broken the bottle of whisky that had been on the banquet table at every anniversary of the first meeting.

The incident, says the New York Herald, impressed the reader and he formed a similar club. The membership was 20 and the club was called the Raging Tads. Instead of whisky, a bottle of port wine was put on the table, and this was to be broken by the last member. Thanksgiving evening was the fifty-sixth anniversary of the Raging Tads. Two of the four survivors met there, with the bottle between them.

Col. McMannoney, who will be 80 years old in March, and Lewis Hetfield, who is now 80 years old, were the partakers of the feast. Bob Brown, 83 years old, lives in Nebraska, and Harvey Johnson, of the same age, in Illinois. They were unable to attend.

The Covington men are hale and hearty, but were much affected by the smallness of their numbers. Mr. Hetfield said:

"I don't want to be the last. It will be a sad, a very sad occasion, the opening of that old bottle.

"I wouldn't open that bottle for anything," said Col. McMannoney.

The bottle is cared for as if it were of priceless value. From one Thanksgiving to the next it is stored in the vault of the Covington Banking company, where it will not have to remain many years before its seal is broken by the last of the Raging Tads.

NEW WAY TO RAISE BABIES.

Eminently Successful Method Has Been Devised by Hospital Managers.

Hospital methods are adopted more each year in the private treatment of babies—the methods, that is to say, of the superior modern hospital conducted under the best medical supervision. The cradle is doomed and all its rocking memories, says Collier's Weekly. The child lies upon its bed and is not picked up and carried about the room even when it yells. Visitors and relatives are no longer encouraged to pound it in the ribs, pinch its chin or transfer microbes to its lips. This strictness is laughed at by ribald outsiders and resented by critics of the old regime, which, like every other fossil, is attributed to nature, no doubt, with justtice, but without relevance.

Actually, this intelligent treatment of infancy is doing much to check nervousness in our children, to protect them from bad habits and needless exactions and to make them self-reliant. Babyhood, indeed, is the best conducted age at present. When the child grows older it meets undoubted loss in the substitution of nurse's for mother's care, a tendency encouraged by the new activities of women and by city life. At the beginning, however, in the first weeks and months of his existence, when change and development are more rapid than at any other period, the human being has never had such decent treatment as it is the happy fashion to bestow upon him now. He is treated for his own welfare instead of for the amusement of his friends.

MINISTER EVENED MATTERS

Assessed Cheap Man for Pew Rent Who Tried to Evade the Wedding Fee.

"Cheap men always get it in the neck good and hard," observed the big watchman who keeps nightly vigil in the dark and gloomy corridors of the city hall's seventh floor, says the Philadelphia Telegraph.

Filling up his old briar and getting it in working order, he continued, as he struck a match: "No, sir, it never pays to be cheap. Now, here's a friend of mine, a watchman in the building, who illustrates the point to a big T. Billie is his name, and he decided to get married just a short time ago.

"He led his lady up to the altar, and they were duly made man and wife by the minister. Well, sir, they went down the aisle arm in arm, Billie quite forgetting to pay the minister his little recompense. This was all O. K. from Billie's viewpoint, and he had in mind applying the $5 or $10 that usually goes to the man of the Word to the expenses of the honeymoon. The minister didn't say a word, but on Billie's return a special assessment was levied on him for pew rent. The assessment was to the tune of $15, and as nobody else was on the game Billie had funny thoughts. He is sorry now that he didn't cough up to the parson. No, sir,'" repeated the watchman, emphatically, "cheapness don't pay."

No Other Pictures.

Whistler's amusing personal conceit was charmingly displayed on one occasion when A. G. Plowden, a London police magistrate, attended a private view at the Grosvenor gallery. "Almost the first friend I met," he says, "was Whistler, and he very good-naturedly took me up to a full-length portrait which he was exhibiting of Lady Archibald Campbell. After I had done my best to express my humble appreciation of a beautiful picture, I asked him if there were any other pictures which he would advise me to look at. 'Other pictures,' said Whistler, in a tone of horror; 'other pictures! There are no other pictures! You are through!'"

Not Much to Say.

He—Well, there's this much about it, I always say what I think.

She (sweetly)—Is that all?—Philadelphia Press.

MAKING OF PAPER.

Hand Presses Supplanted by Improved Machinery.

Modern Methods Devised Which Keep Down Prices—Interesting Details of the Latest Processes.

Most of the paper now used throughout the country—and it amounts to millions of tons a year—is now made of wood, which has been reduced to a pulp. Formerly rags were alone considered suitable for such a purpose. Of late years, says a trade journal, improved methods in machinery and the great change in the character of materials used have had an important bearing upon the printing art. In the earliest mills established in this country the raw fiber, after being prepared in the beating machine, was formed into a sheet in a mold or wire sieve which was dipped from the pulp vat by hand, the water drained off and the pulp left in a wet sheet in the mold. The sheets so made were turned out upon a felt press and then dried by exposing to the air in single sheets. Such mills were small and the output was limited. Strictly handmade paper to-day is a rarity, although it exists. By the aid of the Fourdrinier machine the transformation of the fluid to stock or finished paper is made an automatic operation. The pulp is screened from the vat over an apron to a moving endless wire cloth made of closely woven fine brass wire and supported by a series of small metal rolls set close together, yet without touching each other.

In this way an extra surface of the wire cloth is maintained, and by preserving an unvarying flow of the pulp and a constant forward motion of the wire cloth the thickness of the layer of pulp deposited was kept uniform. By lateral motion of the supporting rolls the fibers are caused to interlace in various directions and give greater transverse strength to the texture. As the pulp is carried along on the wire cloth much of the water drains through, leaving the fiber on the meshes. This first drying is usually hastened by various devices, and the moist web is carried between the rolls which are covered with woolen felt, and then taken from the wire cloth on endless woolen felts which pass it between rolls and then to dryers. These are large metal cylinders heated by steam. The paper has now acquired considerable strength.

The water has been evaporated and the heated cylinders complete the drying process. The paper is then given a smooth surface by the calendar rolls, which are smooth-faced, heavy metal rollers. Finally the finished paper is reeled off in rolls and cut into sheets of the desired size. A large paper mill will make 250 tons of finished paper a day.

The most modern machinery turns out a continuous web of finished paper at the rate of 500 feet a minute. The raw material of wood pulp is spruce and poplar, and in smaller quantities various other woods are employed. Wood pulp has to a great extent superseded the use of rags and entirely so in the manufacture of newspaper. The blocks of wood are pressed hydraulically against the edge of a rapidly revolving grindstone and by attrition reduced to a mushy consistency.

There is also a chemical process of making wood pulp which is largely used. The merchantable shape of the fiber differs somewhat. Ground wood pulp is ordinarily sold in folded sheets only partially dry and is, therefore, under common conditions, only suitable for use near the locality of its manufacture, its weight being so increased by the water as to preclude the profitable transportation of such a low-priced product. There are 763 paper-making plants in the United States and the total output is $167,507,712, giving employment to 64,386 persons. The total cost of the materials used was $70,539,236, in 1900. The total value of the products was $127,326,162 and the total power required for running the plants was 764,847 horsepower.

Recalls Feudal Days.

At Rochford, Essex, England, the whisper court is a strange observance held annually under the superintendence of the steward of the manor. The business of the court is carried out at midnight in the open air; the absence of a tenant is punishable by a fine of double his rent for each hour he fails to be in attendance. No artificial light except a firebrand is permitted and the proceedings are recorded by means of one of the embers of the brand. The roll of 11 tenants is then called over and answered to in a whisper, and then they kneel down and swear allegiance. Very many years ago the lord of the manor, after an absence from his estate, was returning home by night. On the way he accidentally heard some of his discontented tenantry plotting his assassination. Thus warned, he returned home by an unexpected route. Then he ordered that each year his tenants should assemble at the same time to do him homage around a post which he erected on the spot where the plotters met.

French Tutor's Odd "Ad."

Clyde Fitch, the playwright, collects in scrapbooks specimens of the errors foreigners make in dealing with strange tongues. One of Mr. Fitch's scrapbooks is devoted to French-English—the sort of English that Frenchmen sometimes use. An addition was made to this volume the other day. It was a French tutor's advertisement clipped from a London newspaper, and it ran:

"A young Paris man shall desire to show his tongue to classes of English gentlemen. Address," etc.

DECREASING RAPIDLY.

Birth Rate of the Bay State Has Fallen Off Very Noticeably in the Last Few Years.

Massachusetts is facing the alarming fact that while there was a big increase in the number of marriages in 1902, the birth rate has fallen off so noticeably that Sweden and France are now the only countries where fewer children are born per 1,000 of the inhabitants than in the Bay state. The news is found in the sixty-first annual report of "Births, Marriages and Deaths in Massachusetts," edited by Dr. Francis S. Harris, one of the medical examiners in Suffolk county. Dr. Harris says:

"The birth rate for 1902 is the lowest since 1879, and a decrease of 49 per cent. from the previous year. Doubtless economic conditions of the population have an influential effect on the number of births by increasing or decreasing the number of marriages, but to what extent it is difficult to determine. In the number of births the children of the foreign born mother are largely in excess over the native.

"The average birth rate for 1849-58 was 56.70 per cent. for native-born living births and 40.04 for foreign, the average of 1859-69, the native, 46.06 and 46.89 foreign; the average of 1869-73 was 40.54 for the native and 48.48 for foreign; 1874-78, average 40.52 for native and 45.30 for foreign, average 1879-83, 41.68 for native and 41.32 for foreign. In 1890 the percentage of native-born was 34.82 foreign-born, 44.10, and in 1900 the percentage was 31.45 for native, 49.30 for foreign-born.

"The number of marriages registered in Massachusetts in 1902 was 25,685, which was 794 more than in 1901 and 1,343 more than in 1900, and greater than in any year since the beginning of registration. The number of persons married for each 1,000 of the estimated population was 17.48, so that the number of marriages to each 1,000 was 8.74. The marriage rate, as calculated from the estimated population, was 0.11 less than the average rate for the decade 1893-1902, but the number of persons married was greater than in any year since 1850."

Some singular facts are brought out in the report. In the town of New Ashfield there was neither a marriage, birth nor death. On Gosnold, a Martha's Vineyard town, nearly equaled this record, having neither a marriage nor a death, but it did have one birth. In Gay Head there was one marriage, one birth and no deaths. Seven sets of triplets were born, aggregating 14 boys and seven girls. Four bridegrooms out of the 25,685 married over 80 years of age. Three women became brides at between 75 and 80. Seven girls married at the age of 14 and 29 at the age of 15. The youngest boy married was 15 years old.

SHOP BY TELEPHONE.

Advertisements in Newspapers Furnish Buyers with Prices and Other Information.

Business by telephone is now more of an item in all the great department stores and dry goods houses and, in fact, in all lines of trade, than the small-order business. Especially at the holiday season the telephone is as much an indispensable adjunct in the placing of orders as is the salesman. Many are the people now as well as women, who do not care to engage in the jostle and bustle of the crowds during the holidays, who prefer to do their transactions over the telephone.

This does not apply to the very rich alone. People of the most modest fortune who have a telephone in their homes send in their orders in preference to making personal calls. At this time the suburban district telephone exchanges reveal an enormous number of calls with the leading retail houses of the city.

Every big dry goods house to-day is obliged to have its own private house exchange in order that the customer many miles away may be put in direct communication with the buyer in any particular line of goods or with the clerk at any counter so that there may be the most explicit directions as to any purchase, avoiding annoyances both to the house and to the customer.

The use of the telephone in this way shows how newspaper advertising is bringing more business all the time to retail stores. Of course, the people who send in their orders do so because they have seen in their newspaper's advertising columns mention of this or that bargain. They do not need to go to the store to look over the counters or in the shop windows. By reading the advertising columns the customer knows what to buy and where to order it.

An Immune.

They are telling a story down in south Missouri of a "cub" reporter in Springfield whose head was slightly turned by "newspaper perquisites." The new reporter found that by simply saying "I'm a newspaper reporter" he could generally gain free admittance to theaters and other places. He became so used to getting things free this way, the story goes, that when the contribution box came his way in church last Sunday he looked up at the man passing it and, with a wave of his hand, said: "I'm a newspaper reporter." It is a wonder he didn't take a quarter or so.—Kansas City Star.

A Synonym.

"Being a printer, Mr. Dash," said the hotel proprietor, "maybe you can advise me. I want to get a sign painted: 'Writing Room Free to Our Patrons,' or something like that."

"I don't like 'patrons,'" said Mr. Dash.

"No. Maybe that doesn't sound just right. What would you suggest?"

"'Victims.'"—Philadelphia Public Ledger.