

OUR ALBANY LETTER.

A GREAT SCHEME OF RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

A School Book War is On—Increase of Life Insurance Rates—The G. A. R. Decreasing in Members But Not in Influence.

The work of improving the Hudson River so as to give a twelve foot channel to Troy, which is as far as Albany can be 400 feet wide, is now in progress, and improved dredging machines are in constant operation scooping up the sand from the bottom of the river and depositing it in scows to be towed away and deposited behind the dykes.



On the Hudson between Albany and Troy, dredged with heavy steel, is elevated by the machinery and then allowed to drop into the water. It strikes the rock at the bottom and as the constant dropping of the rain wears the solid rock away, so the constant dropping of this hammer pulverizes the rock.

A life insurance company with many millions at risk, and doing what is known as an "assessment business," has just notified its members of an increase of the assessment rates.



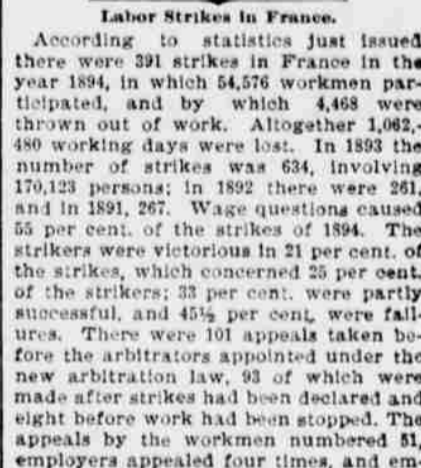
The grip has been getting in its deadly work during the past few years, and all the life insurance companies are feeling the influence of this increased death rates.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

POPULIST POLITICS OF INTEREST TO POLITICIANS.

The Views of Senator Peffer—Decline of Silver Agitation—Another Washington Tragedy—Secret Service Detectives Discover a Noted Gang of Counterfeiters.

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Revival of the Curfew.

A revival of the curfew custom, which was originated in England by William the Conqueror, is noted in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

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Samples of corn of a giant species have been obtained from Peru by the Department of Agriculture. The grains are four times the size of those of ordinary maize.

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