

STORM OF SLEET.

Its Mantle Covers a Large Portion of the Cotton States.

The Losses Are Enormous—Damage at Little Rock, Ark., Estimated at \$100,000—Kentucky Hit Hard—The Storm at Other Places.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 30.—The heaviest losses ever sustained in Little Rock from a like cause are the results of the terrible storm of sleet and cold rain which has prevailed here for the past three days.

The business section of the city is a scene of desolation and business men on every hand are mourning heavy losses that cannot be recovered by insurance. The damage will exceed \$100,000.

The fall of sleet amounted to about five inches. Little Rock is practically shut off from the world. The Western Union lines are all down throughout the state. The Southern Telephone and Telegraph Co. reports a loss of \$25,000. The Little Rock Telephone Co. has not a line operating in the city. Most of its wires are broken and many of its poles are down. Fully 5,000 shade trees were completely demolished.

Lexington, Ky., Jan. 30.—Lexington was in darkness last night and almost every street is blocked with fallen trees, telephone poles and tangled wires. The sleet continued without cessation yesterday and last evening the snapping of trees and poles was like cannonading. The mayor ordered all electric currents, except those supplying street car lines, which are yet open, cut off for safety. Elevators and several small plants had to suspend. Telephone companies have suffered seriously. Beautiful trees, for which the city is noted, are falling by hundreds.

Owensboro, Ky., Jan. 30.—Owensboro is completely buried in sleet. The damage to business interests is estimated at \$75,000. The Cumberland Telephone Co. and Home Telephone Co. wires are broken, blocking the streets. The electric plant is shut down and the gas plant is in bad shape. Business of all kinds is practically suspended.

Paducah, Ky., Jan. 30.—The weather yesterday was the worst in the city's history. Sleet, snow and rain fell steadily. Mayor Reed had all electricity shut off, closing factories, fire alarm currents, street cars and shutting off lights. Telephone wires are down everywhere, poles snapping like straws. No electricity will be turned on until the danger from broken wires shall be over, and as yet there is no relief in sight. It is estimated that the total damage here will reach \$100,000. The damage at Mayfield is \$60,000, with corresponding losses in other adjacent cities.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 30.—This section of the country was yesterday, according to the weather bureau, the meeting point of a high and low area. The former bringing a cold wave and the latter rain, produced unsettled conditions. A drizzling rain gave way last night to a dense fog which interfered with all kinds of wire communication and hampered local street car traffic.

A sleet storm extending from the Ohio river as far south as Memphis and east to Chattanooga, almost paralyzed telegraph wires, while snow in Texas isolated some parts of that state from the outside world.

A BRIBERY SCANDAL.

It Will Be Thoroughly Investigated by the Grand Jury at St. Louis.

St. Louis, Jan. 30.—Yesterday afternoon Judge Wood issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Ellis Wainwright, president of the St. Louis Brewing Co., and a director of the St. Louis and Suburban Co. The warrant was handed to a deputy sheriff for service. He returned to the office of the district attorney several hours later without finding Mr. Wainwright. The arrest could not be made because, it was stated, Mr. Wainwright is now in New York.

Investigation of the Central traction bribery scandal, which was unearthed in 1898, was commenced by the grand jury yesterday under the direction of District Attorney Folk.

Mr. Folk declares that the state will not rest with the Suburban investigation, but will go back to the Central traction scandal of 1898, and the North and South bill. He says the state is confident that bribery was attempted or accomplished in both those instances, and he is prepared to sift the matter to the bottom.

All of the 28 members of last year's house of delegates have been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury. Charles H. Turner, president of the Suburban Co., was before the grand jury for a time yesterday, after which he was closeted with Assistant District Attorney Hancock.

Late in the afternoon it was stated on authority at the Four Courts, that bench warrants, other than that for Wainwright, have been issued.

According to Mr. Folk the \$135,000 in bills locked in two safe deposit boxes for bribery purposes in the Suburban bill affair, cannot be claimed by anybody without the claimant, by that act, showing himself to be guilty of a felony.

Some Printing Statistics.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The census bureau's preliminary report regarding printing and publishing, newspapers and periodicals, in 1900, follows: Number of establishments 15,305, increase 24 per cent.; capital \$192,443,703, increase 52 per cent.; wage earners, average number 94,604, increase 10 per cent.; total wages \$50,333,637, decrease 1 per cent.; miscellaneous expenses \$38,544,637, increase 8 per cent.; cost of materials used \$56,214,904, increase 29 per cent.; value of products \$229,982,569, increase 21 per cent.

RUNAWAY TROLLEY CARS.

They Plunge Down a Steep Hill—Three People Killed, 20 Injured.

Pittsburg, Jan. 30.—Three people killed, two fatally hurt and a score of others more or less injured is the record made by two runaway cars on the Monongahela branch of the Pittsburg Railway Co. last night. The dead: John McFadden, aged 24 years, East McKeesport.

Mary Kinkaid, 19, East McKeesport, passenger on second car. Robert Trush, 29, conductor, Pittsburg.

Injured: Charles Wright, motorman, arms broken, hurt internally, will die. Alex Sanders (colored), both legs broken, hurt internally, will die.

James Frye, motorman, seriously cut and bruised.

Frank Small, East McKeesport, leg broken in two places, badly cut. Thomas Campbell, Wilmerding, teler Farmers' national bank, Pittsburg, cut and bruised all over body.

Comer Davis, Walls Station, cut and bruised. Jacob Smith, Walls Station, seriously cut about head.

A number of others were hurt, but none seriously enough to be taken to the hospital.

The accident happened at the foot of the long hill running into Wilmerding from McKeesport. A car without passengers got beyond control of the motorman and dashed down the hill one and one-fourth miles long at terrific speed. At the bottom it jumped into the Pennsylvania railroad station, carrying away the side of the depot and tearing up the platform.

Charles Wright, the motorman, was so badly hurt that he cannot recover. A large crowd gathered about the wreck and 12 minutes later a second runaway car came tearing down the hill with death dealing force. The second car ran into a carriage containing James Broad and Lizzie Miner, on their way to McKeesport to be married. The carriage was completely wrecked and the driver, Alex Saunders, was fatally hurt. The young couple escaped with comparatively slight injuries and later were married.

The scene at the wreck when the second car was hurled into the crowd was beyond description. A blinding sleet storm prevailed at the time and it is said the two cars "skated" down the hill with brakes tightly set.

THE STEEL TRUST.

Review of Its Operations During Ten Months—Surplus Is \$174,314,000.

New York, Jan. 30.—A preliminary report covering the operations of the United States Steel Corporation since it came into existence ten months ago was made to the stockholders yesterday. It was a forerunner of the more extended resume to be submitted at the annual meeting on February 17, and was designed to familiarize the share owners with the financial status of the company and the trade situation in the market where it buys and sells. The report declared present business and the future outlook, viewed ahead through 1902, to be highly satisfactory.

The report said that great progress had been made in the general plan to harmonize the work of the many plants, to secure perfect co-operation and to effect economy in manufacture, but that the end had not been reached and that the favorable results might still be accomplished. The departments of ore mining, coal mining, coke manufacture and lake transportation, the report stated, have been thoroughly systematized and the managements of manufacturing plants have been brought into closer relationship. Advantage has been taken of the cheapest distribution in the scheme of economies.

The condensed balance sheet for November 30, showed that on that day the accounts receivable aggregated \$45,269,453, the bills receivable \$2,821,463 and the cash on hand \$55,315,527, a grand total of \$103,406,444. In the list of assets in the balance sheet was a credit of inventories amounting to \$95,993,997 and a subjoined tabulation showing that it included ores on hand valued at \$34,776,058, finished products \$15,322,636, manufacturing supplies and miscellaneous stores \$12,170,161, and materials, labor and expense locked up in current uncompleted bridge contracts \$9,268,361.

The current liabilities on November 30, were stated at \$50,269,620, and the surplus of the corporation and the subsidiary companies was placed at \$174,314,229. The cost of the properties owned and operated by the several federated companies was given as \$1,437,494,862.

"The business of the companies," said the report, "had been put on practically a cash basis. The losses actually incurred through bad debts have been very small and little if any loss in the collection of accounts and notes receivable is anticipated."

Gone to the Jury.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 30.—The fate of Jim Howard, the alleged Goebel assassination principal, is now in the hands of the jury. The case was given to the jury last evening.

Faith Curists' Trial Ended.

Hamilton, O., Jan. 30.—The trial of Sylvia and Leota Bishop, faith curists, on the charge of manslaughter, was brought to an end yesterday. The Bishop refused to call a physician to attend their child, which had been burned, and it was alleged that death resulted from failure to employ medical remedies. A demurrer was entered to the state's testimony, on the ground that Ohio law does not require medical aid to be procured for the sick. The court sustained the demurrer and the prisoners were released.

APPEAL OF SCHLEY

Lemly and Hanna Comment Upon It as Submitted to the President.

Reviewers of the Appeal Say the Glory of Victory Belongs to Sampson—Commentators Claim Court of Inquiry Would Not Hear Sampson's Story.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The "comment" of Judge Advocate General Lemly and Solicitor Hanna upon the appeal of Admiral Schley, as submitted to the president by Secretary Long, is less than a third as long as the appeal. The commentators begin with the statement that Admiral Schley and his counsel have shifted their ground. They say the chief features of the case were "the retrograde movement," "disobedience of orders," "inaccurate and misleading official reports," "failure to destroy vessels of the enemy, lying within sight," and "injustice to a brother officer."

The first was that the finest aggregation of American naval vessels under one command was, by Schley's direction, turned about and headed for Key West, more than 700 miles distant, when within 22 miles of Santiago, where the enemy's ships were.

The second was that Schley deliberately disobeyed the secretary's order overtaking him in his retrograde movement.

The third was that Schley's reason, officially given for the retrograde movement and disobedience of orders, i. e., "that the flying squadron was short of coal," was not true.

The fourth was that for three days some of the Spanish fleet lay within reach of the flying squadron, and no sufficient effort was made to destroy them.

The fifth involves the point of honor. The commentators say: "Upon all the above named features, believed by us to be the most important matters into which the court made inquiry, the conduct of Admiral Schley was condemned by that most distinguished tribunal, Admiral Dewey and Rear Admirals Benham and Ramsay united in their opinion upon all of these several points."

The commentators charge that Schley now ignores all these grave matters and bases his appeal upon unimportant features of the case as compared with the grave matters referred to, "upon which there was not, and, in the face of the testimony, could not have any difference of opinion in the court."

The commentators say they recognize the fact that Admiral Schley devoted by far the larger part of his appeal to the question of command, and consequently give that question a proportionate space in their comment. They declare that the question is between Sampson and Schley, both alike interested, and to investigate it fairly both should be heard. Such testimony on this point as came before the court was on Schley's side only, and the doors were closed to Sampson.

As showing Schley's own opinion of who was in command, they quote this passage from his dispatch of July 10, 1898, to the secretary of the navy: "Feel some mortification that the newspaper accounts of July 3 almost entirely to me. Victory was secured by the force under the commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic squadron, and to him the honor is due."

Further, they quote Schley's letter of December 18, 1891, to Secretary Long, justifying the "loop" on the expressed ground that it was made "in the execution of the standing order to close in." It is asked "but if he was then himself in command, how happens it that he was executing the orders of somebody else in command? Before the court of inquiry, every prop raised to support the contention that Schley did anything to achieve the victory by issuing orders as commanding officer of the American fleet was removed. The plain truth was for the first time revealed that Schley did not exercise command on that day over any ship, except to some extent, his own flagship, the Brooklyn."

The commentators declare: "The question is not so much one of possible credit to, but of possible censure of Admiral Schley, in connection with the work of that vessel in the battle of Santiago. The plain truth is that Admiral Schley did not during the battle in any way direct or control the splendid performances of the Gloucester and the three battleships, Indiana, Iowa and Texas. The officers in command of these ships neither received nor obeyed a solitary order from him."

Syndicate Wants to Dig Canal.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—The Chronicle says: A syndicate of Chicago and New York contractors representing a working capital of \$70,000,000 a year is ready to take the contract for building the Nicaraguan canal. Eight of the largest construction firms in the city have made careful estimates of the cost and when congress shall evince a willingness to allow private enterprises to do the work, they will offer their services. In case congress shall not act, however, the interests which have banded together will make no fight for the contract.

Sent to Jail for Contempt.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—Judge Smith yesterday sentenced John F. Bentley, of the printing firm of Bentley, Murray & Co., to 60 days' imprisonment in the county jail for contempt in refusing to bring the books of the firm before the grand jury. The jury was investigating scandals in the business management of the town of South Chicago. The printing firm had the contract to do the town printing. The charge was made that H. H. Fuller, the town collector, had private work done by the firm at the town's expense.

A CENSUS BULLETIN.

It Gives Figures Regarding Manufactures—Number of Plants in 1900 Was 512,585.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The statistics of the manufacturing industries for the United States as shown by the official returns of the twelfth census, were announced in a preliminary report issued Thursday by the census bureau. These figures do not include establishments with a product of less than \$500, government establishments, or penal, eleemosynary, and educational institutions, which were not reported at the eleventh census. The summary, as compared with the figures for 1890, follows:

Number of establishments 512,585, increase 4 per cent.

Capital \$9,853,630,789, increase 21 per cent.

Wage earners, average number 5,316,598, increase 25 per cent.

Official reports, "failure to destroy vessels of the enemy, lying within sight," and "injustice to a brother officer."

Cost of materials used \$7,349,916,030, increase 42 per cent.

Value of products, including custom work and repairing, \$13,019,251,614, increase 39 per cent.

The director of the census has issued a bulletin on the results of an inquiry into the accuracy of the methods of estimating population in vogue, especially in large cities. He points out that the criticisms of the accuracy of the count have mainly rested upon a discrepancy between the census figures and the directory estimate, the vote cast at a recent election, the city's prior rate of growth, or the number of children of school age reported by a state school census. The bulletin says:

"The study has been confined for the most part to the 78 cities having at least 50,000 inhabitants. The per cent. of increase for all these cities taken collectively from 1880 to 1890 was 46.8, and from 1890 to 1900, it was 32.5, there having been a sharp check in the rate of growth of large cities during the last ten years. This shows the impossibility of estimating the population of a city under existing conditions from its rate of growth between the two preceding censuses.

"The city directory often prints its guess of a city's population in the prefatory note. These guesses have been compared with the results of the census and in every case but one in 1890 to 1900 the directory estimate was found too large. In two-thirds of the cases the directory was over 10 per cent. and in nearly one-third it was over 20 per cent. in excess of the census count. As a basis for estimating the population of a city the vote cast is little, if any better. In Albany, Columbia and Dayton there were less than four persons to a vote at the last presidential election; in Fall River there were more than nine persons to each vote, and in Atlanta more than 17.

ESCAPED FROM JAIL.

Two Murderers Overpower the Guards and Take Leave of a Prison—Wife of the Warden is Missing.

Pittsburg, Jan. 31.—Edward and John Biddle, awaiting execution in the county jail for the murder of Grocer Thomas D. Kahney, of Mount Washington, overpowered the guards at 4 o'clock Thursday morning and escaped.

Both prisoners had been provided with saws with which they cut the bars in their cells. The prisoners occupied adjoining cells on the second range.

Shortly before 4 o'clock one of the Biddles called to James McGeary, who had charge of the outside gates, and asked for some cramp medicine, saying his brother was dangerously sick.

McGeary hastened to the cell with the medicine, when John Biddle sprang through the opening in the cell and, seizing the guard around the waist hurled him over the railing to the stone floor beneath, a distance of 16 feet.

Edward Biddle joined his brother, and both, with drawn revolvers, hurried to the first floor, where they met Guard Reynolds and shot him.

There were but three men on duty, and the third was on one of the upper ranges. He was ordered down at the point of revolvers, and the three guards were put in the dungeon.

The keys were taken from Keeper McGeary, and the two prisoners went to the wardrobes where the guards keep their clothing and each put on a new suit. They then unlocked the outside gates and passed out into the street.

The escape has been explained. Warden Peter K. Soffel says his wife is responsible for the furnishing of the revolvers and saws to the Biddles, which enabled them to escape. In her infatuation for Edward Biddle, it is alleged that she left her husband and his four children, and it is supposed is to meet the escaped convicts at a place agreed upon.

The county commissioners have offered a reward of \$5,000 for the recapture of the murderers. The prison board began an investigation and announced upon adjournment that Warden Soffel, at his own request, had been relieved from duty pending the investigation.

Arrest of a Forger.

Peoria, Ill., Jan. 31.—Henry P. Russell, an alleged forger, was arrested here Thursday. When his room was searched a grip full of blank checks on banks all over the country was found, as was a perforating machine and a rubber stamp outfit used to certify checks.

Sentenced to be Electrocutted.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 31.—John D. Cassels was sentenced yesterday to be electrocuted during the week of May 4 for the murder of Mrs. Mary J. Lane, in Longmeadow, February 26, 1901.

GOOD MAN FOR PLACE.

Mr. Philip Watts Appointed Director of Naval Construction at the British Admiralty.

Mr. Watts, F. R. S., who has been appointed to the office of director of British naval construction, in succession to Sir William White, F. R. S., who is retiring on account of ill-health, has been colonel of the First Northumberland volunteer artillery for many years, and our portrait is from a photograph in the uniform of his corps. When difficulties occurred in South Africa, he at once offered a battery, which was accepted by the government, and under the title of the Elswick battery, did splendid service. A second battery was prepared by Mr. Watts, and



PHILIP WATTS, F. R. S. (New Director of Naval Construction at British Admiralty.)

could have been sent out if occasion required it. Mr. Watts is, of course, best known as a naval designer. He was trained in the service, passing through the college of naval architecture with high honors, and became a constructor at the admiralty, under Sir Nathaniel Barnaby. He left the service in 1855, and became naval architect to the distinguished firm of Sir W. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., when Mr. White, as he then was, vacated that post. During his stay at Elswick, he has built whole fleets of ships for more than one navy. In the war between Japan and China his ships fought on both sides in the fight, and those best able to judge have declared that they fulfilled all the conditions for which they were designed in a very high degree. Amongst other nations, Chili possesses many ships of Mr. Watts' design, and so does the Argentine Republic. From the first Mr. Watts' ships have been well shaped and have possessed well-balanced engines of great power; they have had greater speed than most other ships of similar construction and size and they have carried heavier armaments. Mr. Watts is 52 years of age. He is the chairman of the Federation of Shipbuilders in England, a good shot and rider, and a keen, all-round sportsman.

NEW CABINET POST.

Should Congress Create It, William R. Merriam May Be Selected to Fill It.

If the recommendation of President Roosevelt for the addition of one more member of the cabinet, to be known as the secretary of commerce, is adopted by the present congress, the first secretary will probably be the present director of the census, ex-Gov. William R. Merriam, of Minnesota. The probability rests upon the fact that no other name has thus far been prom-



WILLIAM B. MERRIAM. (Suggested for Proposed New Secretaryship of Commerce.)

inently mentioned in connection with the position. A bill for the creation of the department has been introduced by Senator Nelson, of Minnesota. There seems to be no doubt of its passage by both houses of the present congress. Mr. Merriam's work as head of the census bureau has familiarized him with the commercial and industrial conditions of the country, and by reason of this he is peculiarly fit for the discharge of the duties of the proposed department. Mr. Merriam is alert in his business methods, and by his strict integrity he has a personal following which makes him a strong factor in his party. The president, says Leslie's Weekly, is said to be favoring to Mr. Merriam's appointment not because of the latter's equipment for the position, but because such an appointment would strengthen the administration in the northwest.

Poor Country for Wizards.

There are some astrologers in China, but not many, as astrology is a very perilous profession. When one of these so-called prophets predicts an event which does not occur, he loses his head.

Anti-Jewish Legislation.

Bavaria's legislature has passed a bill limiting the number of magistrates in the kingdom who may be Jews.

DESPERATE BATTLE

Between the Biddle Boys and a Posse.

EDWARD BIDDLE DYING.

John Biddle Riddled with Buckshot and in Bad Condition.

MRS. SOFFEL SHOT HERSELF

In the Breast, But Will Recover—The Scene of the Fight was in Butler County, Pa.—They Were Overtaken While Trying to Escape in a Sleigh.

Pittsburg, Feb. 1.—A telegram from Butler at 9:30 p. m. says: Edward Biddle, in jail dying; John Biddle, riddled with buckshot and in a precarious condition; and Mrs. Peter K. Soffel, dying in the hospital with a self-inflicted bullet wound in the breast, is the sequel of the sensational escape of the Biddle brothers from the Allegheny county jail, aided by Mrs. Soffel, the wife of the jail warden, on Thursday morning. The story of the close of the Biddle tragedy, which came at 5:45 Friday afternoon, is a thrilling one.

The scene was a snow-covered road two miles east of Prospect, Butler county, near Mount Chestnut, and the exact place at McClure's barn, where two double team sleighs, filled with eight officers, three of them Pittsburg detectives, John Roach, Albert Swinehart and Charles McGovern, met the two Biddles in a one-horse sleigh, stolen at Perrysville, and at once opened fire on the trio.

The Biddles returned the fire, after jumping out of the sleigh. Mrs. Soffel's wound was through the breast. Edward Biddle was shot in the left arm, in the breast and in one leg. John Biddle was riddled with buckshot in the breast and head.

The Pittsburg officers were met at Butler yesterday afternoon by Deputy Sheriffs Rainey and Hoon, and Officers Frank Holliday and Aaron Thompson, the latter under command of Chief-of-Police Robert Ray, of Butler.

The officers were certain that they were on the right trail. It was only a question of time when they would catch up to the escaping condemned murderers and their guilty companion.

The Biddles and Mrs. Soffel ate dinner at J. J. Stephens', at Mt. Chestnut, five miles east of Butler. They had made a detour of the town of Butler and after going several miles east turned north and then west. The Pittsburg officers, only a few miles in the rear, took the wrong road for about eight miles, but when they found their mistake they made up for lost time by telephoning and telegraphing ahead for fresh horses. They reached Mount Chestnut not less than half an hour after the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel. At this point William Watson, storekeeper, had fresh horses awaiting them, and the chase for life began anew.

The two sleighs with the eight officers aboard, started westward, and met the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel at McClure's barn, two miles from Mount Prospect, the Biddles having learned that they were almost overtaken, and taking what they considered the only chance they had drove eastward and met their doom.

When the detectives got within about 60 yards of the fugitives they opened fire. The Biddles promptly answered with shotgun and revolvers. When Ed Biddle fell and Mrs. Soffel saw that she was about to be captured she fired a bullet into her breast. An examination by physicians shows that she will recover, as the bullet was deflected by her corset and the wound is comparatively slight.

The Pittsburg and other officers were armed with Winchester rifles and revolvers of large calibre.

Ed Biddle got a bullet in the breast which penetrated his right lung and will probably end his life before morning. John Biddle may recover, his wounds though numerous, failing to reach a vital spot. The escape of the officers is miraculous.

After the Biddles fell to the snow-covered ground the officers picked up the apparently lifeless bodies of Mrs. Soffel and the Biddles and came back to Butler, bringing the stolen sleigh, patched up harness and worn-out horse that the trio had tried so strenuously to get away with toward Canada and liberty.

At the jail last night Ed Biddle called for a priest and made the following statement: "I have been accused of a great many serious crimes. I admit that I could have committed many, the opportunities for them having presented themselves. I want to say now that I did not kill Detective Fitzgerald nor did I shoot Thomas Kahney, nor was my brother implicated in the latter affair. Mrs. Soffel aided us in getting out of the county jail, and had it not been for her we would have made our escape to-day. She gave up everything for us and I was bound to back her. I did not shoot her. She shot herself. Oh, father, bless me, and tell me that my sins are forgiven. Although I have been pictured to you as a desperate man, I still have some heart and gratitude for the woman who helped us to escape. She merely did it out of good sympathy for us. I persuaded her to do it. I told her I was guiltless of the crime for which I was about to be executed and she was impressed and yielded to my suggestion. I planned it all."

Bavaria's legislature has passed a bill limiting the number of magistrates in the kingdom who may be Jews.