HONEST AS A CLASS.

There Are But Few Malingerers Among Government Clerks.

Most of Them, Both Men and Women, Cheerfully Attend to the Duties Which They Are Engaged to Perform,

[Special Washington Letter.] HE proceedings of congress are carefully reported by the most skillful stenographers; most skillful stenographers; fraction. Now, observe the state-and every word uttered in debate is ment: You take all of the departnoted down, type-written, set into ments at Washington, and the avtype and printed in the Congressional Record. These proceedings are accurately published, and copies are preserved in the Congressional library, the library of the senate, the library of the house of representatives and in the library of the department of state. 1842, when efforts were first made to secure accurate and complete reports, the utterances of our statesmen are recorded so that quotations may be made forever; and complete reports will always be made.

The legislative appropriation bill as under consideration recently, and Mr. Hemenway, of Indiana, having charge of the bill, was inter-rupted by Mr. Robinson, of Indiana, with inquiries which led up to an interesting subject. The debate was carefully reported, and it appears in the Congressional Record as fol-

Mr. Robinson-I desire to call the attention of the gentleman to the subject of the sick leave of employes in the departments, a subject to which the committee addresses itself largely in the report. I understand that in the executive departments in Washington the heads of those departments may require not less than seven hours' service of employes and not more than eight hours, and that these employes are granted an annual leave of 30 days with pay, and in addition to that they have 30 days sick leave with pay each year.

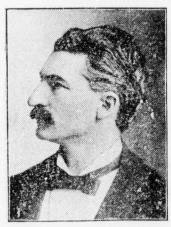
Mr. Hemenway-I want to call the gentleman's attention to this fact, just to correct the statement he The law requires that they shall perform not less than seven hours' service. The head of a department may call upon them to put in 17 hours a day if he is so disposed.

Mr. Robinson-Under the law, can they be required to perform more than eight hours' work?

Mr. Hemenway—Yes.
Mr. Robinson—Now, the gentleman has said that there is no the sick-leave privilege in Washing-

Mr. Hemenway - The gentleman does not want to misquote me. I say that in instances there is abuse of the sick leave in Washington, that in many instances there is abuse of it; but on the whole the result is not

Mr. Robinson-The gentleman does not hold the heads of departments responsible for this, because he says they are doing the best they can der the law. This is only the position in which I desire to place the gentleman. I believe he says that; but the fact nevertheless remains that this abuse exists, and I want to ask him if his committee have considered this branch of the question, that the government employes here in Washington have 60 days' leave of absence with pay, while the employes of the government outside of the city of Washington many of them have no leave of absence at all, while others have but 15 days' leave of absence and none have the sick-leave privileges unless they are connected with



HON. JAMES M. ROBINSON (Representative in Congress 11 Indiana District.) from Twelfth

the executive departments here in the city of Washington. Now, has the gentleman's committee considered the question of reducing the sick leave, or cutting it away altogether, as a privilege granted to the executive employes in Washington? I rather hoped he would do that so there would be some means of equalization of the privileges of vacation all employes throughout the United States.

Mr. Hemenway-I want to call the gentleman's attention to this fact, that there is no law giving to clerks of the departments in Washington 30 days' sick leave. The head of departments may give them that leave if they so desire, but there is hand, the law requires that limited leave be granted for department clerks outside of Washington. In 1890 15 days were given to the clerks and employes in first and secondclass post offices, and to the employee of the bureau of engraving and print ing, which was extended in 1896 to giting division of that bureau.

Mr. Robinson - If the gentleman will pardon me, this is not sick leave, but vacation. In the first place, the printing department in Washington has no sick leave; they get an an-nual vacation of 30 days, but they do not receive a sick leave.

Mr. Hemenway-I call the gentleman's attention to the error he makes—that there is a 30-days' sick leave granted to other employes. The table on page 11 of the report shows that they do not get 30 days' sick leave; that the average sick leave, over and above the 30 days' annual leave, is only three days and a



FAINTED AT HER DESK.

erage sick leave is only a fraction over three days.

This debate was prolonged; but sufficient is here quoted to show the facts, and the animus of Mr. Robinson. Later in the day he announced that he had prepared and would in-troduce a bill cutting off the sick leaves of employes of the govern-ment. His attack upon the clerks has caused a great deal of consternation among the civil service employes of the government. Not less than 75,000 people depend upon government employment for bread and but-

The readers of this column of correspondence have been informed from time to time of the facts showing that government clerks receive larger salaries for less hours of work than any other class of people in our country They who succeed in securing employ-ment in the civil service are exceedingly fortunate. But, while it is true that they are fortunate in their environ-ments, and while it is further true that a majority of them do not realize that they are to be envied, it does not not follow that they are dishonest nor dishonorable. There is no reason why Mr. Robinson, of Indiana, or any other man in congress should attack their integrity and assume that they are a s of malingerers.

There are clerks who absent themselves from their desks and send word that they are sick, when that report is false. There are congressmen whose lives are as crooked as a dog's hind leg. But it is not fair to assume that all of a class are alike dishonorable.
As a general rule when clerks report hemselves indisposed they are telling the truth.

It is customary for the executive departments to permit clerks to have 30 days of sick leave every year, without deducting their pay for absence. This is merely humane. But the integrity of clerks is manifested when Mr. Hemenway publicly reports that so few clerks report themselves sick that in all of the executive departments the average sick leave is "only a fraction over three days." That shows that thousands of clerks never take any sick leave at all, while other thousands take only such leave as they are enti-tled to, on account of impaired health.

The writer knows of five individual cases in which good clerks after having been absent sick for 30 days, were required to resign their positions on account of continued sickness. This come when illness required the expense of medical attendance and medcal skill. In each case the depart ments held-their positions for them and four of the good clerks recovered and were restored within a year. If sick clerk is absent more than a year, the civil rules will not permit restoration to office. One of the clerks referred to above died within a year after losing his place.

There are thousands of ladies in office some of them in delicate health. They have children or parents or other dear ones dependent upon them. They are conscientious and faithful. Many of them go to their desks to work when they have swimming headaches other ailments, and they do not shirk. Not many days ago a young lady fainted at her desk in the office of the auditor of the post office department. is a fragile creature, but bravely performs her duty for the benefit of

While worthy of commendation, that young lady is only one of a class of worthy women, all of whom deserve praise. It is unfair that any censure or shadow of censure should be aimed at them. They are worthy public servants all. And the majority of the men are like unto them for fidelity.

SMITH D. FRY.

Senator Hoar is a joker. On receiving word that a friend who had been

supposed to have appendicitis was suffering, not from that ailment, but from acute indigestion, he remarked: "That is good news. I rejoice that the trou-ble lies in the table of contents rather than in the appendix.

Farm Lands in Alaska. Alaska, it is said, can furnish home steads of 320 acres each to 200,000 fam-

31,000 DEAD

Estimated Loss of Life at St. Pierre, Martinique.

Sixteen Hundred Dead and 4,000 Destitute at St. Vincent.

Mont Pelee Is Still Throwing Out Cinders--American and British Consuls Bodies Identified -- Work of Relief Is Progressing.

New York, May 20 .- The first official estimate of the results of the explosion of Mont Pelce have been announced, says a Fort de France dispatch to the World. This gives 28,000 as the number of people buried in the ruins of St. Pierre. Six thou-sand persons were rescued by steam-ships or fled to places of safety. Three thousand probably were drowned. This is the most complete estimate made so far.

The bodies of Thomas T. Prentiss, American consul, and James Japp, British consul, have been identified, and will be brought here for ship-Both bodies are bruised the fall of lava and stones almost be-yond recognition.

Washington, May 20.—Secretary Hay yesterday received the following cablegram from United States Consul S. A. McAllister at Barbados, W. I., dated May 19: "Sixteen hundred deaths at St. Vincent; 4,000 destitute. Immediate wants supplied.

Immediate wants supplied.

Fort De France, May 21.—Yesterday morning at 5:30 a thick, heavy cloud, lit up by flashes of lightning and the rising sun, rose from Mont Pelee. The people of Fort De France at once became panic-stricken, and in scant attire rushed excitedly through the streets of the town. Stones from the volcano as large as hazel nuts fell in the streets. Many of the in-habitants hurriedly embarked on the habitants hurriedly embarked on the vessels in the harbor, and it was with difficulty that they were eventually reassured. At 7 o'clock, however, the excitement was over and the people became calm.

Washington, May 22.—Adjt. Gen. Corbin has received the following cablegram from Capt. Gallagher, date of 21, who went to Martinique on the Dixie: "Effects of eruption con-fined to north portion of island. St. Pierre and neighboring village totally destroyed. Thirty thousand is a fair estimate of the loss of life in zone of destruction; physical condi-tions normal, but people are panic-stricken. This condition was in-creased by yesterday's eruption, which was quite severe, but did not materially add to desolation. Supplies of all kinds sufficient for eight what emergency demanded and nothing further can be suggested; government and people most grateful. Dixie now discharging part of cargo; will proceed with what remains to St. Vincent."

Paris, May 23 .- The government is Faris, May 23.—The government is considering the possibility of the necessity arising for the evacuation of Fort de France, and of the whole island. The ministers do not believe that any such emergency will arise. but they are taking all the necessary measures to meet it if it does.

Fort de France, May 23.—The correspondent of the Associated Press has had an interview with M. Clerc, a member of the legislature of Martinique, who recently explored the vi-cinity of Mont Pelee, in which he said:

started Friday last for Mont. "I started Friday last for Mont Pelee by the road leading along the coast from Basse Pointe and, ac-companied by M. Tellaine Chancele, chief engineer of the sugar works

"The pond which was situated near Morne La Croix is completely dried up. The rims of the crater have very much changed in appearance and the hear the branch of the crater have the branch of the least the least the branch of the least the the heat where we stood was intense, and the whole aspect of the mountain was terrifying. Stones fell around us, and we picked up large pieces of sulphur, which, however, we spot was charged with electricity, which became so violent that we were obliged to retreat.

"Our descent from the mountain was more difficult than our ascent.

A blinding rain of ashes fell upon us, and the engineer was nearly killed by a large stone which fell near him. We succeeded in reaching Basse Pointe, on our return, after having been four hours on the mountain under most dangerous circumstances.

Fort de France, May 24.—It is re-corted on seemingly reliable authori-y that a new crater is forming at Ajoupa Bouillon, which lies on the side of the mountain opposed to St. Pierre, with its northern face toward the Atlantic. A huge fissure is said to have opened there which is vomiting gases and volcanic matter similar to those thrown out from the crater

The volcano is now throwing off large quantities of ashes.

London, May 24.—A special dispatch from Ponte-a-Pitre, Island of Guadeloupe, dated May 23, says a faint light was observed Thursday night in the direction of the island of Martin-ique, accompanied by detonations, and that fears are entertained of further disasters.

Will Test the Law.

Helena, Mont., May 23.—Life insurance companies operating in Montana have begun a suit to test the constitutionality of the law requiring them to pay personal property tax upon the amount of premiums in excess of cost.

Situation is Improving.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 23.—The United States cruiser Topeka arrived yesterday to protect American interests. The presence of the warship in these waters has had an excellent effect. The situation of afficies is five in The situation of affairs is im-

O'BRIEN TESTIFIES.

He Produces Dum Dum Bullets Before the Committee.

Gen. Crozier Says They Were the Reg-ulation Bullet—No Explosive Bul-lets Have Been Issued Since the Petersburg Convention in 1868.

Washington, May 22.—Corporal O'Brien, formerly of the Twenty-sixth volunteer infantry, was before the senate Philippine committee again yesterday, and produced the alleged "dum dum," or explosive bullets. He said they were not like the ordinary cartridges because they did not have the letters "U. S." on them. Gen. Crozier, chief of ordnance, was

Gen. Crozier, in the course of his 28,000 as the number of people buried in the ruins of St. Pierre. Six thousand persons were rescued by steams from the ordinary regulation cartridges. Asked if they were "dum dum," or explosive bullets, the wit-ness replied in the negative. "They are perfectly normal bullets," he said. regulation Krag-Jorgensen let, he said, often has practically the same effect as a "dum dum," or explosive bullet. This effect was not alway dependent upon distance. He related instances of laceration which had come under his own observation. He also said that no explosive bullets had been issued since the St. Peters-burg convention of 1868. O'Brien then was closely ques-

O'Brien then was closely questioned by Senator Beveridge, who required the witness to go into very minute details respecting his charge that a number of American officers had violated the person of a Spanish woman at the time the town of Igabaras was burned. The witness said that in addition to her husband, there were several servants residing in the house with this woman. He in the house with this woman. had first heard of the woman in the case because of the talk of her exceptional beauty, but that he could not remember whether the husband, when he told him of the crime that had been committed, had given the name of any officers connected with it. The man had stated, however, that there were four of them en-

that there were four of them engaged in the affair.

Questions by the senator brought out the fact that there were then just four American officers in the town of Igabaras. "Consequently," said the senator, "if the statements made by the woman's husband are

made by the woman's husband are true, these four men are guilty of the crime charged." The witness assented to this inference.

Senator Beveridge asked the witness if he had made any report concerning the treatment of the Spanish woman. The witness replied that he had made any report. The had not made such a report, "be-cause," he said, "I knew that if I should have reported the affair I would be dogged, and that my life thereafter would be a hell."

"Why, then, did you volunteer a statement in regard to the matter?"
"I wanted the committee to know the facts as they had come to me, he replied, "and as I am now out of the army and a citizen of the United States, I felt that I would be safe in

States, I felt that I would be sale in reporting the matter."

He went on to say that it made no difference how just the complaint of a man in the army might be the man who made it was sure to be hounded for doing so.

RIOT IN WORKHOUSE.

One Man Killed and Two Others Are Wounded at Canton.

Canton, May 22.—Three men were shot in a riot at the Stark county workhouse Wednesday morning. Guard George Jacob was instantly killed and Guard Homer E. Stone fatally wounded. Stone was shot twice. The shooting was done by Charles Gigante, a prisoner. During the riot, Gigante was fatally shot.

Gigante, a Stark county prisoner, sent up for driving a horse to death, jerked a revolver from the pocket of a new guard named Klotz and at once Immediately the whole crowd of prisoners and officials were

Jacob and wounded Stone. He has made a statement regretting the grief he has caused others, but expressing satisfaction so far as he is concerned. He expects to die. In his statement he says that he was urged to the act by other prisoners and that it was a part of a plot hatched by a number of them. Workhouse of-ficials do not believe this part of his story, partly because none of the pris-oners made a hostile move after the

shot was fired. Poyal Sport.

Madrid, May 22.—The royal bull-fight, which is the most typically Spanish feature of the festivities in connection with the crowning of the king, occurred yesterday in the presence of the king, the queen mother, the royal family, the Spanish nobles and the special envoys. Many ladies and the special envoys. Many ladies were also present. An interesting feature of the bullfight was the revival of the old mediaeval custom un-der which the scions of noble families fought the bulls with lances from horseback. Three bulls were killed in this manner. The most renowned bull fighters in Spain took part in yesterday's fight.

Manufacture of Watches.

Washington, May 22.—A special report of the census bureau on watches and watch cases was issued yesterday, showing a capital of \$22,754,483 invested in the manufacture of watches and watch cases in the 43 watches and watch cases in the 43 establishments reporting for the United States. This does not represent the capital stock of any of the manufacturing corporations. The value of the products is \$14,606,571, involving an outlay of \$553,815 for salaries of officials, clerks, etc.; \$5,511,570 for years, \$889,985 for miscella. wages; \$889,982 for miscellaneous expenses,

BURNED AT STAKE.

Negro Who Assaulted a White Woman

Meets an Awful Fate.
Longview, Tex., May 23.—A man hunt, which had been in progress since last Saturday, ended yesterday in the burning at the stake of Dudley Morgan, a negro, who assaulted Mrs. McKee, wife of a Texas & Pa-cific section foreman, at Lansing, Tex. Great throngs gathered at the Lansing switch and arrangements were made to burn the negro.

The negro was not taken from the train on the side where the crowd was, and when the engineer started to pull out, several Winchesters were leveled at him and others of the train crew. They were told if they moved the train an inch they would be killed. The prisoner was identified by Mrs. McKee and several negroes who would do the train an inch they would be killed. who worked on the section with Morgan. The negro was escorted by about 200 men, armed with Winchesters, to the place of execution. As he was chained to the stake he made a statement in which he implicated another negro named Franklin Heard, saying Heard was to get rart

of the money which was to be stolen.

Morgan confessed to having committed the crime and after he had been securely chained to the rail with his hands and legs free, the mob be-gan to take railroad ties from a fire, already started, and burn out his eyes. They then held the red hot and burning timbers to his neck, and after burning his clothes off, to other parts of his body. The negro screamed in agony.

The negro's head finally dropped and the ties were piled around and over him. In half an hour only the trunk of his body remained.

McKee, the husband of the woman assaulted, applied the match to the faggots.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS. President Roosevelt Meets the Guests

of the Nation-They Visit Washing-

Washington, May 23 .- Surrounded by the members of his cabinet, and by officials high in all the branches of the government, President Roosevelt yesterday received as the guests of the nation, the distinguished Frenchmen sent by President Loubet to take part in the Rochambeau exercises. The arrival in the city of the brilliantly uniformed French army and navy officers, and their escort through Pennsylvania avenue by a troop of United States cavalrymen, gave picturesque interest to the occasion, and to this was added the international significance of an extremely national significance of an extremely cordial exchange of greetings be-tween the representatives of the two nations.

After the president's reception at the White House, the French visitors exchanged calls with members of the cabinet and Lieut. Gen. Miles and Admiral Dewey. In the afternoon they journeyed to

Mount Vernon, where Gen. Brugere, of the French army, placed a laurel wreath on the tomb of Washington and Count de Rochambeau planted a tree taken from the battleground of Yorktown. Last night President Robsevelt had the French party as his guests at dinner at the White

Annapolis, Md., May 24.-The lunch eon given yesterday on board the French battleship Gaulois in honor of President Roosevelt was one of the most memorable incidents of the visit of the distinguished French sol-

diers and sailors to this country.

The president was welcomed by Ambassador Camdon in the name of President Loubet, to which President Roosevelt responded briefly.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Estimated at \$600,000 - One Man Killed.

Buffalo, May 23 .- Fire which start ed about midnight destroyed the trasfer house of the East Buffelo stockyards this morning. The flames spread to the hundreds of cars surrounding the building and a great number of them were destroyed. Some of the cars were empty, but one of Gigante's wounds, it has developed, was self-inflicted in an effort to kill himself after he had killed Jacob and wounded Stone. He has made a statement regretting the grief he has caused others, but expended to the cars were empty, but the most of them contained valuable merchandise. The transfer house was a one-story frame building 1,000 feet in length. Owing to its location and the crowded condition of the tracks in the vicinity, it was nearly an hour before the firemen succeeded in get-ting sufficient water to check the

rapid progress of the flames. William Lester, a switchman, was struck by falling timbers from a partially burned car and sustained juries which resulted in his death be-

ore the arrival of an ambulance The car shops were saved. N 600 cars were destroyed. The loss is roughly estimated at \$600,000.

Meat Riot.

Boston, May 23.—"Kosher meat" disturbances broke out in the west end section of this city yesterday. About 300 Hebrews—men, women and children—assembled in front of a and the stock of meats ruined. The police interfered and arrested two women and one man, who were the ringleaders. A customer, who was the ground. The couple evidently leaving the store with a piece of meat, was assaulted, and a woman apparently had lain on the ground

Town Flooded.

Minneapolis, Minn., May 23.—A special from Conover, Ia., says: The town of Decorah, Ia., has been shut off from communication from other parts for the last 48 hours. The cial from Conover, Ia., says: The town of Decorah, Ia., has been shut parts for the last 4s hours. The storms of Tuesday night flooded the valley from Conover to Decorah, sweeping away railroad bridges, tracks and telegraph poles and flooding the town. Two men drove from Tracks are towns. Two men drove from Tracks are towns. Two men drove from Tracks are towns. Two were described to work and the care towns to Conver yeak tracks. Decorab to Conover yesterday and reported the water ran through the streets, carrying away bridges and some of the smaller houses. They said that two lives had been lost.

100 MEN ENTOMBED.

Gas EXplosion in a British Columbia Mine.

Little Hope Entertained of Rescuing Any of the Unfortunate Men Alive -- Eighteen Bodies Found--Victims Are Foreigners.

Vancouver B. C., May 24 .- One of the most terrible mine disasters in the history of the frequent accidents in British Columbia occurred Thursday night in the Crow's Nest Coal Co.'s mine, at Fernie, B. C. Over 100 men are either dead or imprisoned in the mine, and little hope is enter-tained of rescuing any who may yet be alive. Fernie is 300 miles up country and the limited telegraph facili-ties have not enabled complete details of the disaster to be sent out.

The management has a list of 133 men who are known to have been in the mine, and there were probably others. Of these only 24 are known to be safe. It is feared that few, if any, of the remaining men are now alive.

What caused the explosion has not yet been definitely ascertained. Many of the miners were ignorant forof the miners were ignorant for-eigners and one of the mine shafts was always more or less gaseous. The true cause of the disaster will probably not be positively ascer-tained, for it is doubtful if any man who knows will ever reach the outer air alive, or be able to tell the tale. The explosion took place in No. 2 shaft, being repeated in a few seconds in No. 3 with which it was connected.

From all available sources assistance is being rushed to the scene of the calamity. Already the work of liberation has been begun with such means as are at local command and 18 bodies have been taken from the is bodies have been taken from the mine. The presence of coal damp makes the work of rescue very dangerous and is seriously hindering the efforts of the workers.

These are the outlines of a most These are the outlines of a most heartrending calamity, the only disaster which has occurred in British Columbia exceeding it in magnitude being the death of 157 men in Welling which is proported to the control of th ington mine 18 years ago.

The 18 bodies already recovered were those of men who had been engaged at work not a great distance from the mouth of the tunnel, and the fact that they were overcome would seem to indicate that there is little hope for those further in the mine.

TRADE CONDITIONS.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Bulletin-

Business is Satisfactory.

New York, May 24.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says:

Many minor labor controversies have been settled, but the situation in the anthracite coal region has assumed a more serious aspect. Railway earnings continue satisfactory, roads reporting for two weeks of May show gains of 6.1 per cent. over last year and 18.4 per cent. over 1900.

No change is reported in the iron and steel situation, former conditions merely becoming intensified by the threatened decrease in supplies of fuel and the labor controversies in certain branches of industries.

The railways are seeking rails, rolling stock and other equipment, while contractors require much structural material.

Slight concessions are now obtainsignt concessions are now obtainable in some lines of footwear, although the market as a rule is fairly steady, but dull. Leather is firmly held, especially desirable weights ad-

Print cloths are quiet at last week's

vancing.

Quiet conditions have prevailed in the cereal markets, with only a mod-erate volume of option transactions and fractional changes in quotation. Exports of wheat, including flour, were only 3,863,568 bushels during the past week from all ports of the United States, against 5,225,130 bushels in the corresponding week last year. Small receipts of corn, amounting to only 1,263,188 bushels for the week, against 3,667,642 a year ago, held the spot price at about 70 cents.

Dispatches from correspondents of R. G. Dun & Co. indicate satisfactory R. G. Dun & progress with the new corn crop and material increase in acreage

Failures for the week numbered 192 in the United States against 180 year and 12 in Canada against 22 last year.

Murder and Suicide.

South Bend, Ind., May 24.—John W. Churry, aged 31, a carpenter, shot and his sweetheart, Susanne Keeskemeti, aged 16, Friday morning, and then killed himself with the same revolver. Churry and the girl, with her parents, all apparently in good spirits, sat on the porch until midnight, when the parents retired. meat store, on Brighton street, and threw eggs and decayed fruit at the building. The windows were smashed ter but little thought, however, and About 15 minutes later, the mother went to sleep. At 2 o'clock she awoke and looking out saw the bodies of her daughter and Churry lying on was injured during the stampede of the crowd. Later crowds attacked two meat stores in the North End.