

PRAISE FOR TAFT.

Rev. Vattman Gives It Without Stint.

A REPORT TO BISHOPS.

It Deals with the Status of the Catholic Church

IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

The Chaplain of an Infantry Regiment Who Went to the Philippines Gives His Opinion of Church Affairs in That Part of the World.

Washington, May 2.—Extracts from the report of Father E. J. Vattman, chaplain of the Twenty-ninth United States infantry, to the Catholic bishops assembled in annual convention here last week on the status of the Catholic church in the Philippines, were made public Friday. Father Vattman, with the consent of the war department and under direction of the church authorities, recently made a careful investigation of Catholic interests in the islands. He is unwavering in his praise for Gov. Taft and others of the Philippine commission for their honesty and equality in religious affairs.

He comments on the influence of Aglipay, an insurgent priest in the islands, and expresses the belief that had an American bishop instead of Monsignor Guidi been appointed to Manila the breach would not have been so wide and it would have been closed quickly. Father Vattman regards the present feeling toward the friars as most unfortunate.

"To my mind," says Father Vattman's report, "it is deplorable that certain of our Catholic papers persist in misrepresenting Gov. Taft and his administration. He is a clean and honest man, broad minded and liberal, with no taint of bigotry in his composition. His attitude towards the church and to Catholic interests in general is simply admirable. You may be certain that he thoroughly understands the character and the selfish designs of the renegade Aglipay and that he has a profound knowledge both of the men and of the conditions around him. I repeat, the governor is honest and impartial and we have nothing to fear from him—he can always do the right thing."

"Commissioner Wright, Gov. Taft's able coadjutor, is also fair minded and impartial. He is straightforward in his dealings and there is no evasion or hypocrisy about him. He is an exceptionally good lawyer, an excellent Latin scholar and is well versed in canon law, of which he has made a specialty. His wife is a devout Catholic."

"Judge Smith, another member of the commission, is a Catholic, and surely our interests would be safe in his hands."

Mr. Ferguson, secretary for the Philippines, a former Washingtonian, is another broad minded man with not a taint of bigotry. In fact, the commission itself and all its members are possessed of the right spirit and we Catholics need fear no injustice at their hands.

"As to the Aglipay heresy—for it may be so called—it bodes danger to the faith of the people. Remember there are 10,000,000 Catholics in the Philippines, about as many as there are in the whole United States."

Forest Fires Under Control.

Punxsutawney, Pa., May 2.—The forest fires which have been raging throughout the greater part of McCalmont township and adjoining townships to the north and east, are under control. The loss of property will amount to thousands of dollars. Clark, Kiser & Kipp, whose sawmill is located at Cortez, had almost 3,000,000 feet of logs burned, entailing a loss of \$10,000. The Keystone kindling wood factory, also located at Cortez and operated in conjunction with the sawmill, lost about \$6,000. On Sandy creek several houses and barns were burned and many families narrowly escaped with their lives.

Three Children Cremated.

Baltimore, May 2.—William Hughes, 3 years old; his sister, aged 2 years, and Harriet Gardner, 1 year of age, were incinerated Friday in the home of the father of the first two named, at Lansdowne, a suburb of this city. While the father was at work in a field Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Gardner locked the children in and went to a nearby stream to fish. The house caught fire from some unknown cause and the children were dead before assistance could reach them. A 5-year-old Hughes boy was rescued. All the children were cremated.

A Consul in Trouble.

Solingen, Rhenish Prussia, May 2.—United States Consul Landger was yesterday fined \$7.50 by the judge of a local court for disorderly conduct in the court room, where he was present as a witness. Mr. Landger protested that he was a United States official and could not be fined in that manner; thereupon the judge sentenced him to one day's arrest for continued disorderly behavior.

Death List Totals 64.

Seattle, Wash., May 2.—A special to the Times from Frank, N. W. T., says: The coal mine of the Canadian-American Coal and Coke Co. is not greatly damaged. The death list has been increased by the names of William and John Bobbles, John Lieuma and John Clark, all miners. Two men reported dead are found to be alive. The total death list now numbers 64.

His Top Corner Dies.

Newton, Mass., May 2.—Bishop Randolph S. Foster, of the Methodist Episcopal church, died Friday, aged 83 years. Death was due to apoplexy.

GOOD ROADS CONVENTION.

Necessity for the Construction of Better Highways Is Urgent.

St. Louis, April 29.—The second day's session of the national and international good roads convention opened with a better attendance than on Monday. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, who is president of the national highway commission, made the principal address of the forenoon. Gen. Miles spoke on the subject "Military Roads and a National Highway."

Ex-Gov. Hogg, of Texas, pointed out the necessity for good roads, which, he believed, could be secured only through the aid of the national government.

Sam Hill, brother of President James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway Co., and president of the Washington Good Roads association, told of the vast amount of business that is being done with the Orient through Puget Sound and said the only sure way of building it up and holding it from all competitors was to improve the highways contiguous to water and rail lines.

Col. W. J. Bryan spoke at the afternoon session and received an ovation.

Gen. Roy Stone, chief engineer of the Union Terminal Co., of New York, a pioneer in the movement, presented a strong paper in favor of highway improvement. He took the stand that national aid is essential in securing this end. He told what had been done since 1900 and outlined a detailed plan for extending the work. Gen. Stone closed as follows:

"Good roads are coming, whether by easy ways or hard. Federal aid is in the air, our younger statesmen are eager to promote it and the oldest no longer have the cold shivers when it is mentioned. It has reached the very top. Within this month, a president of the United States has said what no president has dared to breathe in almost a hundred years, that the federal government can and should 'co-operate' in the building of common roads."

GEN. BELL SPEAKS.

He Says Our Army Should Not Be Allowed to Rest Under a Stigma.

Southampton, England, April 29.—Gen. J. Franklin Bell, U. S. A., who is on his way home from the Philippines, was shown the cabled digests of the report of Lieut. Gen. Miles. He said to a representative of the press:

"I must decline to make any comment on the statement further than to remark that all complaints made to Gen. Miles while he was in the Philippines have been investigated by the war department. In the ordinary course of events these reports of investigations probably have been forwarded to Washington."

"When asked if he did not wish to say anything concerning the truth or falsity of the accusations, or of the complaints of occurrences in Batangas province, Luzon, while he was in command there, Gen. Bell replied:

"I would greatly regret to have the American people believe that any American officers or soldiers had been wantonly cruel or inhuman in their treatment of natives. However, I have said in official reports all I care to say on that subject. I do not believe that anything I can say unofficially will change any one's opinion; nothing certainly would make any one who served creditably in the Philippines think that the conduct of the American army has been characterized by cruelty, nor could I change the opinion of any one who wished to believe the contrary."

IS NOT A BAD TRUST.

National Wholesale Druggists' Association Is Held to Be a Legal Combination.

Albany, N. Y., April 29.—The National Wholesale Druggists' association has won by a decision of the court of appeals, its fight over the firm of John D. Parke & Sons, of Cincinnati. The Cincinnati firm are so-called "cut rate druggists" and also manufacturers of proprietary medicines. They brought an action against the Druggists' association (which is an unincorporated concern composed of 125 manufacturers, jobbers and wholesalers of drugs from Maine to California) charging that the latter conspired to prevent the sale of certain drugs to the plaintiff company because they refused to enter the combination. The Parke Co. therefore endeavored to break up the association.

The lower courts held that the association under its peculiar agreements was not a combination in restraint of trade and the court of appeals yesterday affirmed the decision.

WERE TIRED OF LIFE.

Three Residents of Washington Succeeded by the Carbolic Acid Route.

Washington, April 29.—Three persons committed suicide in this city Tuesday. All used carbolic acid as a means of ending life. The three suicides were Leonard H. Mangum, former clerk in the census office; Guy E. Padgett, a real estate and insurance agent; and Mrs. Sadie Plummer, a young woman whose husband keeps a lunch room on Pennsylvania avenue. Mr. Mangum was a native of North Carolina, but lived for many years in Arkansas. It is said that he at one time was wealthy, but lost his money and was compelled to come to this city to seek employment. He lost his position in the census office last July and since then has been unemployed. His body was found beneath a tree in the reservation south of the White House grounds.

Will Strengthen Her Fleet.

Honolulu, April 29.—The British warship Amphion and the torpedo boats Sparrow Hawk and Virago have arrived here from Victoria. The vessels will be convoyed to Hong Kong by the Amphitrite, which is also in the harbor. On the arrival of these vessels in Asiatic waters, the already powerful fleet which Great Britain maintains in the Orient will be greatly strengthened. It is learned from British naval officers that Great Britain contemplates making immense additions to her Asiatic squadron and improving the Asiatic station in many ways.

THREW OUT ROCKS.

Mountain in Town of Frank, N. W. T., in Eruption.

Fifty-six Lives Lost in a Mining Camp—Houses and Buildings Crushed to Pieces by Immense Masses of Rock.

Vancouver, B. C., April 30.—The little town of Frank, situated in the foothills on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, was overwhelmed with disaster about 4:30 o'clock Wednesday morning. What was apparently a volcanic eruption on the top of Turtle Mountain, overlooking the town, scattered an immense quantity of rock and debris over the town, stopping a mine, imprisoning the miners.

The telegraph lines all went down and news is meagre. The entire top of Turtle Mountain was scattered over the sleeping village of Frank. Immense pieces of rock were thrown high in the air and descending crushed in the roofs of houses and stopped up the mouth of the Frank mine. Most of the buildings in the town and many of the houses were crushed like eggshells and their inhabitants instantly killed. The earth was opened by a gigantic fissure, three-quarters of a mile long. The Old Man river, which runs through the town, was completely dammed up and the railroad track was rendered impassable for a distance of two miles.

Frank, N. W. T., May 1.—It is definitely known that 56 people lost their lives here Wednesday by the sliding of the rocky top of Turtle mountain down upon the sleeping village of Frank.

Beside killing 56 people, the slide destroyed the plant of the Canadian-American Coal and Coke Co., did a vast amount of damage to the mine and completely devastated about ten square miles of the finest and most picturesque section of Crow's Nest pass.

Many of the bodies of the dead never will be found. Some cabins are buried under 150 feet of rock. Although organized efforts were made to search for bodies, only 19 so far have been discovered. Most of the corpses were mangled almost beyond recognition.

Simultaneously with the falling of the rocks on Turtle mountain, an immense fissure of the earth opened on the northern side of Turtle mountain. This fissure extended for a distance of three-quarters of a mile and was many feet in width. This yawning chasm still remains open.

The slide from Turtle mountain continued throughout Wednesday night at intervals, depositing millions of tons of limestone on that which had come down before.

EDWARD AT THE VATICAN.

England's King Visits Pope Leo in Rome.

Rome, April 30.—King Edward visited Pope Leo at the Vatican Wednesday afternoon, going direct from the British embassy in a closed carriage. He was accompanied by Col. Lamb, the British military attaché. The carriage bearing the king was followed by another containing members of his majesty's suite.

When the royal party reached the grand staircase leading to the papal apartment, King Edward was greeted by the Marquis Sacchetti, who acted as Prince Ruspoli, the introducer of sovereigns, who is ill; Monsignor Mery Del Val and Prince Antici-Matelli.

King Edward addressed a few words of thanks in return for the royal greetings offered him. The royal party then proceeded between ranks of the Swiss guards, whose halberds gleamed in the sunlight that streamed through the windows. The hum of the busy city alone broke the deep silence that reigned within the Vatican. At the Clementine hall the party was met by the papal master of the chamber, Monsignor Bisleti, who was attended by personages of the secret antechamber. Upon arriving before the private apartment of the pope the guard rendered military honors to the British sovereign.

At the conclusion of this ceremony the door of the pope's apartment was opened and the aged pontiff was revealed standing at the threshold.

King Edward remained with the pontiff for 20 minutes. A bell was then rung and King Edward's suite was admitted and presented to the pope.

A FATAL CRASH.

Three Men Killed and 14 Persons Injured. Two Fatally, in a Collision.

Terre Haute, Ind., April 30.—Three persons were killed, two fatally and a dozen seriously injured, in a wreck in the railroad yards here last night. A westbound Vandalia passenger train struck a switch engine and two cars near the Highland steel mill. The killed:

Clarence Reinhart, Columbus, O.

Nicholas A. Lutz, baggage master.

Unidentified man.

Attached to the train was a special car carrying a party of 27 people from Philadelphia to the national Y. M. C. A. convention at Topeka, Kan. Another car carried the New Jersey delegation to the Louisiana Purchase exposition dedication. None of the members of either party was injured. The killed and injured were in the day coach.

Stuart Robson Dies.

New York, April 30.—Stuart Robson, the veteran comedian, died last night of heart disease at the Hotel Savoy. He was 67 years old and had been on the stage for 51 years. Mr. Robson was taken ill early in March and was obliged to rest completely for two weeks. He resumed his engagement on March 19 and after playing in New York and Brooklyn appeared in various towns in the upper part of this state. A few days ago he was taken ill in Auburn, N. Y., and was then brought to this city. The interment will take place at Colfax, Mass., on Friday.

BIG CROWD THERE.

World's Fair Buildings Dedicated at St. Louis.

Disagreeable Weather Was the Only Drawback—A Grand Military Was a Feature of the Dedication Ceremonies—A Great Day.

St. Louis, May 1.—The buildings of the Louisiana Purchase exposition were formally dedicated to their purpose yesterday with all possible pomp and ceremony. In every way, save one, the exercises were a success and this one circumstance was the weather. It would be difficult to imagine a more disagreeable day. The wind blew fiercely from the west, sending great clouds of dust whirling into the faces of the troops as they marched past the president, and at times so nearly blinding the president that it was well nigh impossible for him to see across the street upon which the troops were marching.

Added to the discomfort of the wind and dust was a temperature which sought for the marrow and generally reached. The ladies, who came in summer dresses to the reviewing stand, suffered keenly and but for the thoughtfulness of officers commanding the guard thrown around the reviewing stand, who provided them with blankets, many of them would have been compelled to leave the place. Both President Roosevelt and ex-President Cleveland remained in the reviewing stand, exposed to the icy wind until the end of the parade, although their faces were blue and their limbs stiffened by the cold.

Conditions in the liberal arts building, where the dedication ceremonies proper were held, were little better. There was no wind, but there were manifold drafts which, added to the dampness inseparable from newly erected buildings, produced a penetrating chill that was uncomfortable to a degree.

Despite this heavy handicap, however, the ceremonies proper were splendidly handled and the program was carried out to the letter. The police work was excellent and the patrolling of avenues by the First Missouri infantry was ably done and all possible consideration shown to the crowd, which numbered about 45,000.

The parade which took place in the morning was somewhat longer in passing before the president than had been expected, and he was 15 minutes behind the scheduled time when he was escorted by the committee into the liberal arts building. In order to arrive even as early as that he was compelled to take his noonday meal under somewhat uncomfortable circumstances.

During the lunch, which he took at the conclusion of the parade, he was shoved helter-skelter by half the people who had been in the grand stand. The food was placed on a rectangular counter and the president, like everybody else, "helped himself."

The important ceremonies in the liberal arts building were handled with all possible dispatch. Early in the exercises word was brought to Senator Carter, the president of the day, that some portions of the hall were becoming dangerously congested and he was asked to avoid delays as far as possible. He did so and from first to last the events of the program succeeded each other rapidly. Of all the speakers, President Roosevelt alone was able to make his voice carry further than 50 feet from the stage. By far the largest part of the assembly could hear nothing.

Thousands of people occupied an immense grand stand near the administration building during the evening to witness the display of fireworks. The display was delayed until the appearance of the president, when a great battery of 15-inch aerial moons was exploded in a salute which was almost deafening. From this beginning for nearly two hours the air was a scintillating screen of flashing colors. The night was made brilliant with varied colored lights, framed in appropriate devices. The spectacle closed with the printing in letters of fire of the words "Farewell Until 1904." The Chinese ambassador was an especially pleased spectator.

The great military parade which was designed to be distinctively the show spectacle of the dedication ceremonies was held in the morning, and it proved to be all that its promoters could wish, and all that the regular army officers who controlled it could hope for. There have been many military parades that revealed more men in line—there may have been some that were as gorgeous to look upon, but it is doubtful if there ever have been any that were more carefully handled or more superbly managed than this one.

An Express Agent Robbed.

Mason City, Ia., May 1.—Agent John Peterson, of the United States Express Co., at Britt, forty miles west of this city, was compelled by two masked and armed men to open the shipping safe in his office yesterday morning and permit the robbers to take a package containing \$10,000. They also secured other packages of money, and after binding and gagging Peterson, they escaped.

Fatal Flames.

Ebensburg, Pa., May 1.—One life was lost and \$10,000 damage done by a fire which broke out at Loretto yesterday. The people of the town gathered quickly, but owing to the limited facilities for fighting the fire, it made rapid headway and the house of Michael Parabagh, where the fire started, was soon consumed. The fire spread to the residence of B. W. Litzinger. After the fire had been gotten under control it was discovered that Michael Pfoff, a brother of Mrs. B. W. Litzinger, was missing and it is generally believed that Mr. Pfoff lost his life.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

Powder Factory Hurlled Into the Air and Nine People Killed.

Hollidaysburg, Pa., May 1.—The plant of the Crescent powder works, located by Pittsburg capitalists and owned on Piney creek, ten miles south of this town, was wrecked by an explosion Thursday. Nine workmen were killed.

The dead: Ross Kennedy, Charles Ross, George Fay, Tony Fabrico, an Arabian; William Lyons, Frank McKiernan, Fisher Lantzer, Frank Straesser, Andrew Gabriellac.

Superintendent Harry Taggart, of Pittsburg, is fatally injured. Near the factory are limestone quarries of the American Wire and Nail Co., where 500 men are employed. These quarries have been deserted and all who lived in the neighborhood hurried to places of safety.

In the magazines and storehouses of the factory are 1,400 blocks of explosives and it is feared the greatest explosions are yet to come. The Piney Creek branch of the Pennsylvania road runs past the factory and because of the danger the railroad company has refused to allow any trains to pass over this branch.

Forteen men and 16 women were employed in the factory which was destroyed. Most of them were brought from Pittsburg. They are regarded as experts in the manufacture of powder. The women managed to escape from the building before the explosion came. All were cut and badly burned. The force of the explosion was so great that it wrecked all buildings in the vicinity and broke window panes in towns five miles away.

The cause of the explosion is a mystery. The nine men killed were blown to pieces. Superintendent Taggart was the only man in the factory who escaped alive.

The buildings caught fire immediately after the explosion. Because of the immense quantity of dynamite stored in the plant the rescuing party dared not approach the fire.

A house owned by William Treese, located near the factory, was wrecked by a second explosion which occurred about an hour after the factory was blown up. The Treese family barely escaped with their lives.

FORESTS ABLAZE.

Losses in Pennsylvania Will Aggregate More Than \$1,000,000.

Bradford, Pa., May 1.—The worst forest fires in the history of this section of Pennsylvania are in progress and a million dollars' worth of property has been destroyed. The forests have been ablaze for the past week, but the fires were kept under control by large gangs of men until Thursday morning, when a stiff southeast gale sprang up and fanned the smoldering embers into a roaring mass of flames.

Watsonville, ten miles south of this city, is reported as being destroyed, and it is feared that a number of lives have been lost. The last word from there was about 2 o'clock. At that time the fire was on all sides of the place and the people were fearful of being burned to death, as there was no avenue of escape.

At Simpson, where the forest is thick and a large number of oil wells are located, the fire was very fierce. On both sides of the railroad the woods over an area of two miles, taking everything in its path. The people of the town were rescued by a special train, being run as far as Davis City and brought to this city. Fires are reported from all sections, and a number of lumber camps and chemical factories are reported as being in ashes.

Punxsutawney, Pa., May 1.—Forest fires have been raging in the vicinity of Cortez, a lumbering town near here, since 11 o'clock Thursday and nearly a thousand persons are fighting the fire.

DYNAMITERS GET BUSY.

The Ottoman Bank at Salonica, European Turkey, Is Attacked.

Salonica, European Turkey, May 1.—The Ottoman bank was destroyed by dynamite yesterday. The Turkish postoffice and other buildings were also attacked, resulting in a panic, during which two men were killed. A detachment of 2,000 additional troops has since arrived here from Smyrna.

The attack on the bank was carried out by two bands of men. One of them attacked the guard on duty at the bank and the other hurled the bombs. It is thought the strong room resisted the explosions. Several of the men who took part in the attack have been arrested.

The destruction of the French steamer Guadalquivir by an explosion while leaving this port Tuesday was evidently caused by a bomb. A Bulgarian has been arrested in connection with the outrage.

In an encounter with Turkish troops on Wednesday at Nevrokop, European Turkey, 18 Bulgarians were killed and 14 were made prisoners. There was also a serious encounter near Djumabaha, where a band of over 100 insurgents was annihilated.

Vienna, May 1.—Telegrams received here from Sofia declare that the Mitylene bank at Salonica also has been burned.

An official telegram reporting the Salonica outrage says that 50 other dynamite explosions occurred in different parts of the city at the same time, and that many persons were killed or wounded.

Jury Convicted Howard.
Frankfort, Ky., May 1.—In the third trial of James Howard for the killing of Gov. William Goebel, over three years ago, the prisoner was found guilty. The jury first reported that it could not agree. Judge Cantrell then sent its members back with instructions to remain until an agreement was reached. A half hour later the jury again reported with a verdict of guilty and fixing the punishment at life imprisonment. The jurors all voted for a verdict of guilty, the disagreement being as to the extent of punishment.

REFUSES TO TALK.

Mr. Truesdale Declines to Answer Questions.

AS TO MINES AND MINING

Lips of the D. L. & W. President are Closed.

THE PROFITS OF RAILWAYS

Mr. Truesdale Differs from Mr. Baer in His Opinion as to What Dividend Railroads Should Earn and Says 4 Per Cent. Is Not Enough.

New York, May 2.—The hearing in the complaint of William R. Hearst against the coal carrying roads of the anthracite region was continued by the inter-state commerce commission Friday and Mr. Shearn, counsel for Mr. Hearst, announced that he desired an adjournment for two weeks that he might prepare for submission to the federal court the questions involved in the refusal of the railroad men to submit to the commission the contracts between themselves and the mining companies, and the books of the coal companies which show the freight rates charged and paid.

William H. Truesdale, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad system, was put on the witness stand. He gave the capitalization of his road at \$28,000,000 and described its routes and terminals and the anthracite lands which feed it. A clause in the company's charter, Mr. Truesdale said, gives it authority to own and operate coal mines. It does own and operate 21 mines. The annual capacity of the collieries he estimates at more than 5,000,000 tons. In 1901 the output was nearly 6,000,000 tons, and 1,500,000 tons were purchased from mines along the company's roads. Constant changes are being made in machinery to increase the product and to reduce the expenses of operation.

On the advice of his counsel Mr. Truesdale declined to answer any questions relating to the mining or sale of coal. He said the regular rates are paid for transportation by its own coal companies, the same rates as are charged for independent coal carried by the company's railroad. "Mr. Baer told us yesterday," Commissioner Yeomans said, "that the Reading Railroad Co. would be satisfied with 4 per cent. on its capital invested; how do you feel about that?"

"A railroad ought to earn more than 4 per cent. There is a large capital invested and the risks are very great."

Mr. Truesdale said he frequently had conferences with Mr. Baer, Mr. Thomas and other men interested in the coal roads and that the coal prices of all were the same to a certain extent. "We have exchanged circulars," he said, "but there is no arrangement between us."

Counsel for the complainant took up the matter of the Temple Coal and Iron Co. agreement. Mr. Truesdale declined to answer any questions as to the formation of the company and the share the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western took in guaranteeing its \$30,000,000 of stocks and bonds. He admitted being a director in the Temple Co.

King Edward in Paris.

Paris, May 2.—King Edward arrived here Friday and was accorded a hearty reception. His majesty's welcome at the Dauphine railroad station by President Loubet and the chief of staff and his drive through the avenues and the Champs Elysees presented a series of brilliant spectacles. Everywhere the populace gave the king an enthusiastic greeting, the demonstrations at the Place de l'Etoile and the Place de la Concorde being tumultuous. King Edward showed the keenest appreciation of French good will. Only scattered shouts of "Fashoda" and "Krugger" were heard and they were lost in the tremendous volume of demonstrative approval.

Scaffold Broke, Three Men Killed.

Pittsburg, May 2.—As a result of the breaking of a scaffold at the Union station Friday three sheet metal workers are dead and two others injured. All of the victims are Philadelphians and were part of a gang of 13 brought here by D. Lupton Sons & Co. The dead: William Nelson Adams (who built the scaffold), Charles Carman, Isador Rosenberg. The cause of the accident will never be known. The scaffold on which the men were working was 75 feet above the tracks of the train shed on which they were working.

Trepani Is Convicted.

New York, May 2.—The jury in the case of Joseph Trepani, charged with grand larceny, after being out about an hour, brought in a verdict of guilty. Trepani was charged with being the leader of the conspiracy to defraud a number of life insurance companies by foisting bogus deaths upon the companies for persons who had been insured. He was remanded until Monday for sentence.

Decrease in Public Debt.

Washington, May 2.—The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business April 30, 1903, the total debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$938,935,418, a decrease as compared with April 1, 1903, of \$668,501.

A Killing Frost.

Cincinnati, May 2.—The Times-Star has received telegrams from all parts of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia reporting that the frosts of Thursday night killed all kinds of fruit and seriously affected some crops.