NEW ENGLAND grangers are disinclined to affiliate with the Western Farmers' Alliance movement.

THE Maine Legislature on Wednesday passed a law providing for the adoption of the Australian system.

HON. LUCIUS ROBINSON, ex-Governor of New York, died at his home in Elmira, of pneumonia, in the eightieth year of his age, last Monday.

THE exports of merchandise from all United States ports during the month of February aggregated in value $74,592,870 and the imports $63,926,775.

THE Canadian farmers are uniting under the name of the Ontario Farmers' Union. The movement is similar to that of the Farmers' Alliance in the United States.

EX-SENATOR BLAIR has accepted the Chinese mission and has arranged to sail from San Francisco for the "Flowery Kingdom" on the 1st of May. He has already received his instructions from the Secretary of State.

GOVERNOR PATTISON on Tuesday sent to the Senate the following nominations: Robert S. Patterson, to be harbor master, Philadelphia; Henry Leffman, port physician, and Edwin M. Huber, of Berks, to be lazaretto physician.

THE bills introduced in the Legislature at Harrisburg, on Tuesday to organize and define the congressional districts provides for thirty districts. It is estimated that sixteen of them are Republican, ten Democratic and four doubtful.

THE Keystone National Bank in Philadelphia, closed its door on Friday by order of the Comptroller of the Currency. Its reserve was below the limit. It is supposed to be solvent. Over $800,000 of Philadelphia and $150,000 of the State funds are locked by its suspension.

THE amendment to the Brook License Law, reducing the fees in cities of the third-class from $500 to $300, and providing that bondsmen may be secured anywhere in the county, was indefinitely postponed in the Senate on Wednesday to a vote of 23 yeas to 22 nays. This ends the bill for this session.

GENERAL JOSEPH E. JOHNSON, one of the six full generals of the Southern Confederacy and last, save General Beauregard, died at his residence in Washington, on Saturday night. The deceased was 74 years of age and his death is supposed to have resulted from a cold taken while acting as a pall bearer at the funeral of General Sherman.

DR. JAMES P. WICKERSHAM, ex-state Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Minister to Denmark under President Arthur, died at Lancaster, on Wednesday morning from heart failure, superinduced by the grip aged sixty-six years. Dr. Wickersham was one of the originators and President of the National and State Educational Associations, and one of the most prominent educators in the country.

THE statement of business of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company on all lines east of Pittsburg and Erie for February, 1891, as compared with the same month in 1890, shows a decrease in net earnings of $86,162. The two months of 1891, as compared with the same period of 1890, shows an increase in net earnings of $55,011. All lines west of Pittsburg and Erie for the two months of 1891, as compared with the same period of 1890, show a decrease in net earnings of $125,977.

It is two years ago, says the Pittsburg Post, that Benjamin Harrison became President of the United States. Everything seemed to be bright before him, but now is it now? The working majority he carried into Congress has disappeared; he has made thousands of enemies in his own party; the leaders are wide apart on important issues; McKinleyism has gotten in its deadly work. Mr. Harrison seems to have his renomination sure enough by reducing to a minimum the chances of electing a Republican.

EX-CONGRESSMAN FELTON (Rep.) was on Thursday of last week elected nominated the late Senator Hearst in the United States Senate by the California Legislature. Senator-elect Felton was born in New York fifty-eight years ago and went to California when he was 17 years of age. He engaged in mining and mercantile pursuits and entered politics as a Democrat. He afterward became a Republican and was elected to the assembly for four years. He declined renomination at last, may soon put, was sent to Congress from the Fifth district. He also held the position of United States Sub-Treasurer of San Francisco.

In Decatur, Alabama, while the city court was in session one day last week the proceedings were interrupted in a novel manner. A trial was being held to compel the Judge of the Probate Court to issue license authorizing the sale of whiskey in the town of Falkville, where a law present obtains prohibiting the sale within three miles of the town. Both sides were largely represented legally and the court room was crowded. One of the Prohibition leaders, opposing the issuance of the license, in attempting to hang up his overcoat in view of the court, accidentally let fall from one of his pockets a flask, which struck the floor with a crash. The court unable to restore order, took a recess of fifteen minutes.

SPECULATION says the Philadelphia Record, are playing the crop shortage for all that it is worth as a lever to advance prices for grain. Values of wheat are now 25 cents per bushel higher than they were a year ago, and corn and oats prices are more than double the under rates then prevailing. The bulk of last year's heavy exports of corn was sold on the Atlantic seaboard on a basis of west equivalent to 36 cents per bushel. The market to-day is at 76 cents. Oats that sold at 25 cents per bushel last year will now command 61 cents. These prices go far to compensate the grain-producing sections for the deficiency of yield; yet consumers the world over are feeling the effect of the advance not only in the values of breadstuffs, but in the higher cost of provisions (of which grain is the feeding basis), as well as in the security and high cost of dairy products that have resulted from the lessened supply of feeding crops and the enforced marketing of cattle.

It would seem that values now ruling in the grain markets are dangerously high, even under existing supply conditions; but the speculators are in control, and the markets are extremely sensitive to bullish influences. Reports of damage to the Continental wheat crops are helping the upward tendency of values in this country.

A PITTSBURG dispatch of Tuesday says: The grip has become a generally dangerous disease. The death rate has increased to a great extent and this month will break the record by the alarming increase of 50 per cent. Closing at noon 723 deaths have occurred in Pittsburg and Allegheny in twenty-four days of this month. Thirty-eight deaths have been reported within the last twenty-four hours. The direct cause given on the certificates are grip, influenza, pneumonia, typhoid fever and diphtheria. From the last named disease one death per day has occurred within the past three weeks at the Home of the Friendless alone. In the two cities there were fifty-one funerals on last Sunday, and there were not one-half enough hearses to go around.

Respectable covered wagons are in use and carriages are daily at a premium. In one large clothing house twenty-three clerks are laid off with the influenza, which is daily growing more serious and now numbers nearly 5,000 victims in the city and suburbs. Physicians are overworked and some have as high as forty to sixty cases of grip alone. It is estimated that over 1,000 people are suffering with grip in towns along the Fort Wayne road.

Among the speculation claims rushed through the last Congress, says the Philadelphia Record, was one appropriating to the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations $2,901,000 in payment of an illegal tribe, and the other $2,292,000 in payment of an alleged tribal claim that have convened, it is tolerably safe to assume that $2,901,000 has been saved to the Treasury; and that one chop-fallen lobby will do its best to make life burdensome to the Secretary if it shall succeed in even once making itself together and getting its jaws into proper opposition.

At the Republican conference in this city, says the Indianapolis Sentinel, Mr. W. J. Brush, of Crawfordsville, a very prominent member of the grand old party, frankly declared that Indiana was carried for Harrison in 1888 with boodle. His assertion was not challenged by any of the hundred or more Republicans who heard it. Mr. Brush also declared that unless some method could be derived of overturning or evading the new election law the Republicans would have no chance of carrying the State in 1892. This was very plain talk, but everybody who heard it realized that it was true, and no one seems to have ventured a suggestion that Indiana might possibly go Republican at an honest election. It's a grand old party, isn't it?

In 1862 an Iowa man, says the New York Herald, on his way to join his regiment stepped off a log while crossing a stream and caught cold. He never saw the regiment and never did any service. But he got a pension of four dollars a month, was rented and got six, then eight, then 24, and at last, by hocus pocus deception and collusion, $50. His business partner was examining surgeon, and that is where the hocus pocus process came in. This is what the Republicans call showing gratitude for the veterans who fought for the flag! And on just such rogues hundreds of thousands of dollars are wasted. In the meantime the poor fellows who faced death get $8 per month, and have to divy with the pension sharks at Washington.

It seems funny that 222 places for selling intoxicating liquors can be licensed in Cambria county without a wail from the Herald or a growl from the Tribune. This year they are as mute as oysters. Heretofore there was an annual protest against turning the county over to the liquor element, by these worthy organs of the g. o. p., but now they appear to be contented. A Prohibitionist would not have the courage this year to affirm that there are too many licenses granted! Consistency thou art a jewel!

The National Association of Democratic Clubs has issued a circular letter addressed to Democratic clubs throughout the United States inviting them to appropriately celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, on Thursday, the second day of April.

Washington, D. C. March 20, 1891. Mr. Blaine made such a bad break in the injudicious and undiplomatic language he used in the Baron Fava, the Italian minister, stampeded him into sending to Governor Nichols, of Louisiana, in regard to the unfortunate lynching bee at New Orleans that on soon as he realized his error, he took to his room and it was given out that he was unwell, and he has been invisible to callers ever since. Members of the diplomatic corps say that Mr. Blaine's telegram will give the Italian government all the ground it needs to demand a heavy indemnity if it can be proven that any of the men killed were its subjects. But demanding and getting are two things. No Democratic Congress is likely to pass an appropriation to pay indemnity for the killing of a lot of thugs and murderers who had made murder their chief occupation, even if they were killed outside of the law. But it is not believed that the Italian government will desire to take any further action when it is fully informed of the "Mafia's" acts which led up to the massacre, as it has had some experience with the "Mafia".

I was told to-day by an eminent Republican, who is friendly to neither Harrison nor Blaine that the deluge of Harrison talk which has recently emanated from Republican Senators and Representatives in the columns of Republican newspapers in all sections of the country is the direct result of a bargain between Harrison and Blaine, whereby the latter agrees to give the former a chance to get himself renominated if he can, and the former agrees that in the event of its becoming impossible for him to win the nomination he will withdraw in favor of Mr. Blaine. I cannot even vouch for the truthfulness of this story, but circumstantial evidence is strongly in its favor. It is not at all probable however that Mr. Blaine to grant so favorable a bargain, if there was any probability of the election of the Republican nominee.

Representatives Springer and Spinola, who have been dangerously ill in this city are both convalescing.

General Joseph E. Johnson, whose erect figure has been familiar in Washington for some years is a very sick man, and owing to his extreme age—nearly 85—his physicians haven't much hope of his recovering. He was a pall bearer at the funeral of the late General Sherman and at that time was in good health, but a few days afterward he contracted a cold which resulted in his present illness, which is aggravated by a heart trouble from which he has suffered more or less for years. The administration has struck a dangerous snag in the negotiations for reciprocity with Cuba. The Spanish minister will hear of nothing that does not include the free admission of Cuban tobacco, which is a concession that is beyond the power of Mr. Blaine to grant. Not having any confidence in the ability of General E. Burd Grubb of New Jersey, the present minister to Spain, who is ignorant of the Spanish language and without diplomatic experience, ex-Minister J. W. Foster has been sent to Spain with the ultimation of Mr. Harrison, in the shape of a threat to retain the present duty on Cuban sugar if reciprocity is not agreed to by the Spanish government. The outcome of this matter is looked forward to with considerable interest, as the sugar schedule of the tariff law will go into effect April 1, and Cuban sugar will be admitted free just the same as sugar from Brazil and other countries, unless Mr. Harrison shall take advantage of the power conferred upon him by the tariff act and order the present duty continued.

Although it has been nearly three weeks since Congress adjourned it is still impossible to get a correct idea of all the pernicious legislation enacted into law or of the exact amount of money carried by the appropriations tacked away in corners of bills of all sorts. Every day something is discovered showing a new and unexpected appropriation or a new piece of unexplainable botch legislation. Secretary Noble has discovered what he considers a $3,000,000 steal in connection with one of the Indian bills, and he says the money shall never be paid if it is in his power to prevent it, but owing to the fact that several prominent Republicans are to get a big slice of the money in the shape of attorney's fees it is doubtful whether any remonstrance on the part of Mr. Noble will prevent the steal being consumated.

It is not believed that Mr. Harrison proposes taking any action upon the congressional reports of the investigation of either the Civil Service Commission or the Pension office, notwithstanding the public verdict against Raum, of the Pension office, and Lyman, of the Civil Service Commission.

The two Indiana "H's", Harrison and Hudson have it is said, been friends and that all offered resignation has again been withdrawn.   M.

PHILADELPHIA, March 19.—Recent revelations at Mercer, Pa., disclose the fact that the State of Pennsylvania has been robbed of more than $1,000,000 in the management of the Soldiers' Orphans' schools. The illegal profits of one of ten big schools amounted to $270,000, and this school was one of three that were controlled by a syndicate headed by ex-State Senator George W. Wright, of Mercer, Pa.

The fortunes accumulated by eight men through pinching the orphans and fleecing the State are alleged to be roundly, as follows: George W. Wright $500,000; John T. Gordon, $255,000; S. B. Thompson, $65,000; James L. Paul, $60,000; Mayor Moore (Whitehall), $125,000; Professor Sweet, $65,000; the Rev. A. F. Walters (Uniontown), $30,000; total, $1,095,000. All of the gains appropriated by these men were acquired in direct violation of the law, without contract of any kind.

A considerable part of this sum may be recovered, as the pensions here named have retained $850,000 of their profits. The statue of limitation does not work against the commonwealth. The methods to be employed is very simple, and has been repeatedly done at Harrisburg. The auditor general requests the account and makes a new settlement. Then the commonwealth proceeds in the courts to obtain the moneys that have been illegally taken from it for traffic in orphan misery.

During the past thirty-six hours one of the most severe snow storms of the winter has been raging in Kansas.

If the report is true that comes from St. Petersburg by way of Berlin, the great disaster which the German Emperor has feared ever since his accession to the throne has befallen him. All Wilhelm's feverish activity, all his visits to his brother monarchs, all his extraordinary attempts at "pacification," all proposals for disarmament, can but be so much constrained struggle to avert the danger which is now said to have taken definite shape in a formal alliance between France and Russia. The greatest possible solidarity of the Dreibund would hardly console him for this misfortune.

The news that the Czar has consented to a treaty with the Republic needs official confirmation. Although the diplomats of both countries have been pressing the matter upon him since 1887, it was not regarded as likely that he would approve their plans while France held out against some form of legitimacy. It is not impossible, however, that Wilhelm's own absurdities have been the very annoyance which turned his uncle to a declared ally of German's hereditary enemy.

War scares will of course be rife for a while after these reports, and undoubtedly their effect will be to excite Paris greatly. But the most interesting and immediate question is: What will Wilhelm do? Here is a situation from which, with all his self-confidence, he could not feel himself strong enough alone to pluck the flower safely. Cupid is already in disgrace. There must be a second alliance—either Waldersee or Bismarck.

Bismarck thinks it will be Bismarck. The straws which within the last few weeks have been declared indications of a reconciliation now possess a curious significance. The chance of the ex-Chancellor's return to office has, if he been amazingly magnified, and if the man who once humbled France were to be forced again upon the young Emperor by France's growing power it would strangely complete one of the most magnificent romances of history.—Philadelphia Times.

Half a million gallons of Cuban molasses in bulk arrived at Philadelphia on Sunday night on the British oil-tank steamship Circassian Prince, from Havana. This bulletin may herald a new era in the ways and means of transportation, for never before was an oil-tank vessel utilized for this purpose. The duty having been removed from raw sugar under the McKinley bill, the molasses-boilers that refined the raw product in Philadelphia were compelled to adopt some cheaper way of getting their product from the West Indies, and the use of the tank carrier is the result. It is only a venture," said an importer yesterday. "The thing will have to be thoroughly tried before it can be called a success."

A New York broker took a contract in the early part of the year to land in the United States several million gallons within a certain time. To fulfill his contract two steamers were chartered as well as several sailing vessels. The cargo was pumped on board from lighters in Havana and it will be discharged by pumping here into tanks built at the boiling establishments to receive it. The fact that the vessels have carried petroleum in previous voyages does not injure the contents, but reduces its heavy body to thinner consistency and keeps the treacle from sticking to the tanks. The grangers were at a loss at first to know how to gauge the sirup, but the importers will hold it in bond until they, when both sugar and molasses will be free. The freight paid the Circassian Prince is said to be 2 cents per gallon.

Dispatches were submitted to the legislature on Saturday which showed that although the British government determined months ago to introduce a coercion law into parliament and privately notified Governor O'Brien to that effect, they instructed him not to inform the Newfoundland government of the intention until the bill was formally introduced in the House of lords. The knowledge of this fact has set the people wild. In the legislature party lines have been made on both sides of the House, denouncing the "cowardly and treacherous conduct of the British government."

Delegates will be appointed to immediately proceed to London and formally protest, not only against the enactment of the coercion law but also the reference of the fisheries question to arbitration without the whole question to be referred. The delegates, however, did not expect to accomplish anything; and in the event the legislature will pass resolutions setting forth that by the neglect and ill treatment of a century England has forfeited all claims to further allegiance. A formal appeal will then be made to the United States for protection and for admission as a State of the republic.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 28.—Great excitement exists in Newfoundland over the action of the imperial government in refering only one feature of the fisheries troubles with France to arbitration, and the attempted passage of an act through the British parliament to coerce Newfoundland into carrying out the motion viewed.

DeKALB, Bowie Co., Tex., March 25.—William Watts, a farm hand on the plantation of J. M. Winston, about fifteen miles from this place, told his wife on raising yesterday morning that she only had a short time to live and recommended that she make peace with the Almighty. He declared that he had made up his mind to kill her, and that as soon as he was dressed he would carry out his murderous intention. The woman, knowing the desperate character of her husband, decided that her only hope for life lay in adopting desperate means herself. She accordingly went to the wood pile, and possessing herself of the ax, stole cautiously into the house, and while her husband was tying his shoe crept up behind him and split his head in twain, killing him instantly. She was arrested and held to bail for trial.

Of the 3,700 miners that struck at Irwin last May all but twenty-nine are back at work again. The strike was never declared by the United Mine Worker's officers, but the men themselves determined to go back.

—The Bell telephone patent soon expires in England. In the United States it runs until 1895, 17 years from the time the patent was granted.

—The wheel plank on earth is on exhibition in Humboldt, Cal. It is 16 feet in width. It will be seen at the Humboldt exhibits at the World's Fair.

—A huge icicle fell from the eaves on the north side of the Chamber of Commerce building in St. Paul on Saturday afternoon just as a young woman turned into 86th street. The mass fractured her skull, and she died in ten minutes.

—A Hillsboro, O., special says that Wm. M. Moore a wealthy farmer and stock breeder living near New Vienna, was shot and killed on Monday morning by his son Oscar, who claims that he acted in self-defense. The son has been arrested.

—These children were left alone in a room at Danville, N. J., one day last week, while their mother was away. The fire pulled out a live coal which set the carpet on fire. The flames communicated to a bed on which an infant was lying, burning it to death.

—Gold while in circulation is handled less than any other medium. It is usually kept in vaults of banks for demand rarely made, and for this reason the loss is very slight in but one-half of 1 per cent. in 20 years. In a $20 gold piece, the standard weight of which is 516 grains, the Government allowance for loss by abrasion is 2.58 grains.

—Mr. and Mrs. David Stickle, of Morris township, Green county, will celebrate the sixty-fourth anniversary of their marriage in a few days. Mr. Stickle is ninety-one years of age and his wife eighty-three. They were both born in Bethlehem township, Washington county, and moved to their present home in 1840. Mr. Stickle's health is good, and he frequently cuts cord-wood and splits rails for his neighbors.

—Isaac Buford, a farmer, attempted to cross Valley creek, near Birmingham, Ala., in a wagon in which were his wife and three children. The creek was much swollen and the wagon and team were washed down stream. The three children were drowned, the youngest being washed from its mother's arms. Buford succeeded in reaching his wife, after she had released her hold on the limb, in a vain effort to save her baby.

—A Gainesville, Tex., girl has probably the longest hair in the world. It is 10 feet 6 inches long. The present growth is of the past seven years, as in 1884 her head was shaved during a spell of brain fever. It is necessary to her health to cut out large quantities of hair every few months, and this she has a ready sale for from some large wig manufactory in the East, which pays her well for it, as its fineness and silky gloss is exceptional, being of a much admired red-gold tint.

—The tide of revolution is bringing the human race to a strange pass. Certain celebrated scientists now allege that the coming race is to be a hairless and toothless one. This may cause some anxiety in reference to the children of our grand-children, for perchance they might be one of the elect. The natural deduction that to be made is that the coming race will not be a strikingly handsome one. It is, however, a positive fact that bald heads and toothless gums are decidedly on the increase.

—Anthon Schusky last Thursday attempted to convey from the Lackawanna avenue bridge at Scranton, Pa., into the river. He was arrested and placed in the station house, where he became insane, and finally demolished his cell. He was handcuffed, but while in that position on Monday morning managed to reach his cell, and, entering the room softly he stole the keys from the tailor, who was indulging in a nap. As a consequence of the escape, Spencer robbed the sleeping man of every valuable he had, including his watch. Spencer then released his fellow prisoners, and the quartette ran for their lives. They stole a fine black horse and wagon from Josiah Jordan, whose house is on the outskirts of Dunbarton, and drove to Trenton, where they were captured in a pawn shop.

—The fact that Easter falls on a very early date this year (March 29), has caused a "friend of the facts and figures" to recollect some curious statistics. In 1845 he says Easter fell on March 23, and will only once again this century, namely, in 1884, fall on so early a date. In the following centuries it will occur only once, in the same date—namely, in 1964, 1734, and 1886; and will only happen once in the next century, namely, 1943.

—N. P. Tobin, an old and highly respected citizen and proprietor of a large tailoring establishment at Franklin, Pa., was murdered in his house on Saturday night. The building was robbed and fired and his body partially burned. Tobin was alone in the house, Mrs. Tobin and her two children having left on Saturday evening with a friend to spend Sunday at Waterloo, six miles from the city, where Mr. Tobin was to have joined them on Sunday and attend a meeting at the Methodist church. He was a man of great physical strength, and it is thought that there were several assailants in order to have overpowered him. Two years ago a sensation was caused by the finding of the dead body of Mr. Tobin's daughter, Mary, in the waters of Long Island Sound, near Clifton, and it is generally believed that she was murdered, but the mystery surrounding her death has never been cleared away.

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