

G. F. TURNER, a former Republican, but a supporter of Bryan in the last campaign, has been elected a United States senator from Washington to succeed Squire, Republican.

A TRADE JOURNAL estimates that during the past two years the people of this country paid \$30,000,000 more in toll to the coffers of the Standard Oil Company because of the passage of the notorious pipe line bill, by the Pennsylvania legislature two years ago.

In the Minnesota senate at St. Paul, on Wednesday morning, Senator Stevens introduced a concurrent resolution of condolence with the people of Pennsylvania on the loss of their capital by fire. The resolution was unanimously adopted. Similar action was taken in the house, where a committee to draw up proper resolutions was appointed.

THE corrupt influence of corporations and rich men on our government will not fade from the popular recollection. It is the burning question of the day. The rapid decline in character and responsibility of the legislatures in the large states, such as New York and Pennsylvania, is feeding the flame of discontent. The agitation on this matter will last. We shall have to meet it in 1900.

THE bleak winds of winter never blew over a more gloomy prospect than to-day confronting the thousands of coal miners in the state of Ohio. In the Hocking and Sandy Creek Valleys there are 7,000 miners, and at least 5,000 of these are idle. Those not working are living off those who have employment. It is estimated that the coal miners of that section who are employed make no more than \$15 a month. How they are able to not only live upon this, but assist others, is a mystery that perhaps will never be solved.

AN interesting coincidence has occurred in connection with the use of the Methodist church by the legislature at Harrisburg. Twenty years ago, when the congregation had sold its old building and began to erect the present structure, a long delay was occasioned in laying the foundation, because of quicksands. The house of representatives then offered the use of their hall for the congregation to worship in. Now the favor is returned, and the church has been given to the legislature without any promise whatever of compensation.

A NEBRASKA representative thinks that in addition to seeds congress should furnish every farmer with a certain number of chickens; and he indignantly resents the notion that his proposition is a joke. The Nebraskan gentleman's heat upon the subject is perfectly justifiable. There is quite as much warrant of justice and reason for congressional chickens as for congressional seeds; in fact, bushels of the seeds, which at present are diverted to less honest and deserving ends, might be utilized by the chickens.

A COURAGEOUS investigating committee appointed on the lines of the Smith resolutions, says the Harrisburg Patriot, would supply the public with some useful information touching the past methods of conducting the state treasury. The whole truth about which there are so many and such varied rumors ought to be drawn out once for all and the speculators in state funds held up to perpetual public scorn. It may be too late to give these offenders the penal punishment they have earned, but it is not too late to let the whole truth be made known.

A LONDON dispatch on Wednesday says: In the conflicts between Christians and Mohammedans in the Heraklion district of the island of Crete the village of Galata has been burned and several of the inhabitants killed. Among those killed was Markoulakis Pasha, a Cretan judge. Armed Mussulmans continue to roam over the island, and the Christians have occupied and fortified the important places. Crete is manifestly on the verge of a fresh insurrection. Skirmishes on the plains in the vicinity of Canea are constantly occurring.

THERE is some danger that Speaker Reed is turning a Democrat on the tariff question and is having a great deal to do with the preparation of the coming tariff bill. He opposes the extravagant claims of the McKinleyites and insists that, as the troubles of the country come from a lack of revenue in the new bill, greater attention should be paid to getting revenue than granting protection. He does not favor the McKinley idea of a tariff for protection, with incidental revenue, but rather the Democratic policy of a tariff for revenue, with the assured incident of protection by revenue rates.

THE sort of work in the way of tariff revision that is going on at Washington, against the protests of many American manufacturers, who desire of all things to be let alone, is well described by the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, himself a stiff protectionist. He says the Republicans "are reverting to ideas that are obsolete, and are busy trying to patch up schedules to satisfy this or that special interest. The general good of the country and the cause of protection itself are lost sight of in their infatuated zeal. Not only are they playing into the hands of domestic monopolies, which already exist, but they are leading a ready ear to propositions for the creation of new ones."

AFTER an illness of five months, during which he has been failing gradually, George B. Roberts, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, died Saturday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock at his home at Bala, Montgomery county. His death was not unexpected, as for several weeks he had been kept alive only by the greatest efforts on the part of his physicians.

Mr. Roberts died where he was born, just sixty-four years before, on the colonial farm of his Welsh ancestors in Lower Merion. The old stone house has been added to and the farm has become a well kept country seat, but it remains substantially unchanged, a symbol of the solid stock from which its owner came. He was born on the 15th of January, 1833. He was sent to school in Philadelphia and later to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, then the best if not the only school of civil engineering in the country, and at the age of 18 he entered the service of the Pennsylvania railroad as a rodman in the engineering force then engaged in the construction of the Mountain Division. J. Edgar Thompson, who had begun his professional life in the same way on the public works that preceded the Pennsylvania system, was the director of this great enterprise, and it was about the same time that young Thomas A. Scott came to Mr. Roberts' notice and was appointed station agent at Columbia. Thus Mr. Roberts' connection with the Pennsylvania railroad dates from what may be called the beginning of its actual development. Thompson, Scott and Roberts all became presidents of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

CHAIRMAN MARSHALL of the house appropriations committee, called upon Auditor General Mylin and State Treasurer Haywood for an estimate of revenue for the next two years. The answer he received was far from cheering. All the state can possibly raise is \$16,500,000. The last legislature appropriated \$24,000,000.

Mr. Marshall said under the circumstances private institutions could not expect a cent and the million for the purchase of text books for the public schools would have to be cut off. The state normal schools have taken the hint and will ask for nothing outside of the regular appropriation of \$10,000 apiece. A big slice will also be taken out of the \$5,500,000 appropriation to the public schools.

The legislation for the proposed new asylums for insane and epileptics and the new penitentiary will have a hard road to travel. The cry of economy is no joke this year. The commonwealth is not bankrupt, but is mighty hard up.

CHAIRMAN DINGLEY, of the ways and means committee, is authority for the statement that an extra session of congress is assured for the sole purpose of tinkering with the tariff. "There will," he said "be no general legislation during the extra session, which will be called for the specific purpose of passing a revenue bill. When we meet in March the bill will be ready to present to the house and it will be passed in thirty days and sent to the senate. Nothing else will be done by the house."

"The eyes of the country will be on the senate alone. The house will not consider pension bills nor enter into any general legislation. We will simply remain nominally in session until the senate reaches a conclusion on the revenue bill and then the measure will go into a conference, where it will be perfected in a manner to suit both houses of congress. I do not believe that the senate will force a long session when nothing is under consideration except the tariff bill."

A DISPATCH to the New York Herald from Chicago has this remarkable story: Chicago has 8,000 families who are actually starving to death. It has 10,000 wives, husbands and children begging for bread—begging for a pittance of food to keep body and soul together—huddled into single rooms and freezing in the blizzard that visited the city yesterday. It has a mightier cry for pity than it had at the close of the world's fair. The bureau of associated charities has decided to tell the facts to the people and let the people take the consequences. There was an emergency meeting of affiliated charities, called by the Civic Federation, in the Palmer House on Friday. The appalling distress and suffering were reported, and the men present resolved to appeal to the mayor at once for funds, and to call a mass meeting to devise means to save the unfortunate from death. There was no attempt to conceal the truth.

ALTHOUGH it was considered a matter of doubt, the Republican managers had hopes that some of the silver Republican senators might be persuaded to vote with their old party when the new tariff bill comes up for action at the extra session of congress. They no longer indulge such hopes. They know that not only will the silver Republicans not vote for the tariff bill, but that they will vote against it if their votes can defeat it. This has been fully determined upon since the Republicans resorted to such extraordinary tactics to defeat Senator Dubois, of Idaho, as a punishment for having followed his convictions and the wishes of his constituents by having supported Bryan and silver in the late campaign.

In their weekly Review of Trade R. G. Dunn & Co. says: January has been a month of disappointment, but of real gain. Nearly everybody has promised himself a land of milk and honey after 'New Years' and the slow progress looks like standing still to men of such a state of mind. Moreover, there are multitudes throughout the country who have been taking large ventures in advance or apart from their regular business because they expected a rise in prices. But prices fall as yet to bring them profit. Wheat has declined severely.

Washington Letter.

Washington, January 30th, 1897. The senate did a wise thing when it deferred the amendment offered to the primary appropriation bill appropriating the cost of transportation of the West Point Cadets to and from Washington, in order that they might be allowed to appear in the inauguration day parade. In the first place, spending money for such a purpose is an extravagance at any time and doubly so at this time when, as Senator Stewart pointed out, thousands of our people are in need of the actual necessities of life. It is next place, the military force of the government should not be allowed to take any part in the inauguration of a president. The presence of the U. S. troops no doubt adds to the pleasure of those who view the parade, but all the same they ought not to be there. It is a bad idea, and the precedent of having a variety, which we have been setting in this generation, may some day be taken advantage of by unscrupulous men by bringing enough of them to Washington to forcibly inaugurate some man who has not gone through the formality of being elected by the people. In my humble opinion it would be a wise precaution for congress to pass a bill prohibiting armed troops, whether state or national, from coming inside the congressional limits of Washington on inauguration day. The inauguration of a president is a military function and the military should have nothing whatever to do with it.

That arbitration treaty has not yet been reported to the senate from the committee on foreign relations, notwithstanding the public meetings and showers of telegrams and letters in its behalf. The general impression is that the committee will recommend several amendments, setting forth clearly that it is not to be allowed to interfere with our maintenance of the Monroe doctrine.

The house this week passed the Immigration bill as reported from the conference committee. It was a speech against the Nicaragua Canal bill this week, opening with this dramatic language: "The bill is dead. The speech of Senator Turpie killed it, and Rodriguez has exposed its corpse in the public morgue."

There are about twenty persons implicated, and more arrests will follow. Probst when arrested showed fight, and nearly shot McManus in the thigh.

New York, February 1.—Theodore Von Horn, a cabinet maker, shot his wife, Emily, and her employer, Samuel Schuler, at the latter's residence this afternoon, and then killed himself. Mrs. Von Horn and Schuler were taken to the Presbyterian hospital. Schuler is not seriously hurt. The woman was shot in the neck and left breast.

Delaware City, Del., February 1.—Miss Eva Gardner, a pretty nineteen-year-old girl of this town, lost her life while skating on the canal this afternoon. With a companion, Miss Alice Wingate, Miss Gardner was skating with a crowd, when the two young women left the others and went about 100 yards up the canal. Upon the other side of the canal the two girls were seen to fall. A party of men went after them as soon as possible. A boat was pushed out on the thin ice and the young women, both apparently unconscious, were brought ashore after they had had a fierce battle with the chilly ice and water. A physician was hurriedly summoned, but Miss Gardner was pronounced dead. Miss Wingate was afterwards revived but is suffering from the shock.

Bethlehem, Pa., January 30.—Lieutenant Meigs, of the Bethlehem Iron company's armor plant, has called on St. Petersburg, Russia, that a very successful test of armor plates manufactured here for the Russian government has been made at the Oetha proving grounds. The test was witnessed by many Russian officials, who expressed great satisfaction at the splendid quality of the plates. The plate was one representing 500 tons of side armor for the Russian battleship Rastvorok. It is of Harveyized nickel steel. The result of the test assures the acceptance of side armor plates for the Russian fleet. The Bethlehem company has also received the contract for the manufacture of shafting and engine forgings for two big cruisers for the Japanese government.

Greenville, Pa., February 1.—The farmers about Hadley are excited over what is supposed to be a panther, which has been terrorizing the people of that neighborhood for some time. The animal was first seen about two months ago by a farmer returning home at a late hour. He heard a low growl, and as he approached he heard a low growl and heard something moving through the brush at the roadside. His team had been acting strangely for some minutes before, and were so badly frightened that they ran nearly a mile before he could stop them. Last Saturday morning A. R. Brown missed a young calf, and the footprints of a large animal were discovered in the barnyard and leading to the woods. A searching party is being organized to kill the beast.

Philadelphia, January 31.—United States Cruiser Brooklyn to-day lies utterly helpless because of a narrow ledge of sunken rock in the Delaware river, above Marcus Hook, Pa., on which she struck heavily yesterday afternoon. Her lower double compartments, forward, were completely stove in and it was only by good fortune that the big vessel did not sink. This would undoubtedly have been the result had not her inner compartments successfully withstood the shock. As it was, she pulled clear off the rocks and is now being towed by tug breakers at Marcus Hook, and is protected from the heavy ice bergs in mid river.

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New York, February 8.—The cry of a frightened cat probably saved many lives early this morning, when a disastrous fire broke out in the fashionable Hermitage apartment house at 82 East One hundred and sixteenth street. As it was, the fire produced a terrible carnage. Over 140 persons were asleep in the building when the alarm was given. They rushed madly for the fire escapes and for the roofs. Several women painted and had to be carried out. One man and his wife escaped on a narrow plank over a chasm five feet wide in the roof of an adjoining building. Two invalids, unable to help themselves, had to be carried out by other tenants.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The special correspondent of The Associated Press inquiring into the famine ravaging in this, the largest district of the central province, having a population of 1,500,000, finds the situation very grave. This is the center of the rice-growing industry, which is the only crop grown, and, as it has failed, there is a total cessation of food supplies in the locality, and real famine exists. About 1,300 villages are affected. The relief work has given employment and the means of subsistence to 50,000 persons. The worst part of the district is Dharman, 20 miles from here, where lamentable conditions prevail. Many people are dying of hunger and many others are dying. The staff employed in the work of relieving the sufferers is inadequate to cope with the enormous area. If the work of relief had been properly arranged earlier the mortality would have been less, as the rains are increasing the spread of disease. It will take three or four years to recoup the losses in this district. The poorhouses are a fair criterion of the condition of the people. Besides the professional beggars they are crowded with laborers reduced to the last stage of skeletons. Their bodies are emaciated and the skin is hanging in large folds. Others have swollen stomachs, the sign of acute privation. It is found that the cattlemen and ryots of the fields, usually busy and contented, are unable to do anything and the women are in the same condition. One woman, who was lately confined, has been attacked with rheumatism, caused by exposure, and is paralyzed. Her baby is horrible to look at. Its limbs are about the size of pipe stems and its swollen eyes have a most pitiful look. No provision has been made for these cases. The minimum dose of food is only enough to keep body and soul together, and the sufferer is unable to do anything and the women are in the same condition. It is useless to attempt to send the natives to the hospitals. They prefer to die. Some horrible sights were witnessed. A man with both legs eaten away, was when it was taken to the hospital, nearly as bad. The condition in this district is the worst yet seen. There is urgent need of funds here. The correspondent hears that in the Jalapa district conditions are even worse than here. If seed is not sown the people will be utterly incapable of procuring food, and the conditions next year will be too awful to contemplate. The food supply in this district is scanty and will soon be exhausted.

Best of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report. Royal Baking Powder. ABSOLUTELY PURE.

Wilmington, Del., February 1.—Mrs. Rebecca J. Marr, of No. 602 Orange street, is in mourning over the death of her pet dog, Dottie, which died recently of a mysterious disease. Mrs. Marr took the body of the dog laid out in a handsome walnut casket, lined with white silk and satin, with its head resting on a pillow. The casket stands in the front parlor, and the remains are in a silver plate bearing the inscription, "Dottie. Died January 27, aged 13 years."

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