

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The boiler in the Caro wooden works, at Caro, Michigan, exploded on the morning of the 14th, killing one man and severely injuring four others.

A train on the Santa Fe Railway reached Fountain, Colorado, on the morning of the 14th, and had been standing but a few minutes when a freight train, the brakes of which had got loose, ran down from a side track, and a collision occurred.

The river at Muscatine, Iowa, on the 15th, reached a height of 17 feet 5 inches above low water mark, one inch higher than ever before. The levees protecting Muscatine Island were in danger and teams and men were telegraphed for to prevent breaks.

A Northern Pacific freight train was wrecked near Superior, Wisconsin, the afternoon of the 15th. An engine and ten freight cars were wrecked, and a large quantity of grain was ruined.

A despatch from Kalega Springs, Indian Territory, says that on the 10th John Smith and Mrs. Allen eloped. Mr. Allen gave chase and when he overtook the couple shot them both dead.

A gang of burglars and thieves have been operating of late in Wilkesbarre and other parts of the Wyoming Valley.

Frank May, working at a saw mill near Port Republic, West Virginia, was on the 12th, caught by the saw, which cut off his left leg at the thigh, entered his side and cut his bowels, liver and lungs and forced the heart from the left to the right side.

A "regular January blizzard" raged on the 14th at Marquette, Michigan, but the snow melted as fast as it fell. Snow also fell on the morning of the 14th at Gladstone, Grand Haven, East Tawas and Alpena, and cold weather prevailed in the fruit belt.

The Democratic State Convention of New York, was held on the 15th, in New York City. Frederick R. Condit was chosen Chairman. Alfred C. Chapin, Edward Cooper, George Raines and Roswell P. Flower were chosen delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

The Portage Iron Works, at Duncansville, Pennsylvania, were closed on the 15th, for an indefinite period, and the employees, numbering 200, were discharged. The other mills of the firm will probably be closed in a day or two, when 700 men will be thrown out of employment.

A Hungarian named Pokatzky was arrested at Penn Haven Junction, near Mauch Chunk, on the 15th, for having murdered two Hungarian women near New Philadelphia a few days ago.

Thomas Rowan, aged 48, head man at the South Wilkesbarre shaft of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company, was leaning against a gate placed around the shaft to guard the opening, at a late hour on the evening of the 15th.

At Fountain Green, Illinois, Ida M., the six months' wife of Sias M. Wright, was found hanging in a smoke house by her husband on the evening of the 15th, on his return from a four days' absence from home.

William Hughes, 35 years of age, a minor, employed at Blackman mine at Wilkesbarre, Penna., was loading a cartridge on the 15th, when his lamp fell into a keg of powder, causing an explosion which killed him.

The Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Pennsylvania met on the 15th, in Allentown. The reports show that the number of new members initiated during the past year was 7094.

The New York Republican State Convention met on the 15th in Buffalo. Edmund L. Pitts, of Orleans, was made permanent chairman. Resolutions were adopted approving the action of the Republicans in opposing the Mills Tariff bill.

expended for relief and working expenses was \$695,635.

The Great Council of Pennsylvania, Improved Order of Red Men, met in York, Penna., on the 15th, Great Senior Sagamore Thomas D. Tanner occupying the Great Sachem Stump, owing to the illness of that officer.

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evening of the 13th, almost destroyed the small fruit in Adams County, Illinois. The vines are also seriously injured. Tomato plants and early potatoes are killed.

There are now five bad breaks in the Say levee, and all of the Say bottoms in Illinois, from opposite Louisiana, Missouri, to Hannibal, in the State are inundated.

Professor McCaskey and seven pupils of the Boys' High School at Lancaster, Penna., went botanizing on the afternoon of the 17th.

A train on the Shore Line which left Boston on the evening of the 18th for New York was derailed on the Norwalk drawbridge.

By an explosion of dynamite at the Palmer mine near Negaunee, Michigan, on the 18th, Frederick Hamburg and Charles Sunberg were killed.

It is stated that the flood which now prevails along the Mississippi river has only been equaled by that of 1851. Thousands of acres of farming land along the river, Illinois, are under water.

The Pension Appropriation bill was passed by some amendments. After an executive session a number of bills were taken from the calendar and passed.

In the House, on the 14th, Mr. Mills from the Committee on Rules, reported a resolution providing that the general debate on the Tariff bill shall close on the 19th.

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Thomas Jones shot his wife in the head, in Danlap, Iowa, on the evening of the 17th, and then fatally wounded himself. The woman may recover.

Information from the tobacco-growing counties of western North Carolina is to the effect that two-thirds or more of the young plants were killed by recent frosts.

50th CONGRESS.—First Session.

SENATE.

In the United States Senate on the 14th, bills were introduced and referred, by Mr. Spooner (by request), for the issue of 2 per cent, 50-year bonds in both halves, to provide, in certain cases, for the regulation of railroad companies chartered by the United States.

In the U. S. Senate on the 15th, the Finance Committee was authorized to sit during the sessions of the Senate, "to take testimony, collect information and employ a stenographer."

In the U. S. Senate on the 16th, Mr. Edmunds offered a resolution to amend the rules, which was referred so as to make it the duty of the presiding officer of the Senate, whenever any general legislation appears in a general appropriation bill coming from the House.

In the U. S. Senate on the 17th, the House bill for the allotment of lands in severalty to the United Peoraa and Miami in the Indian Territory was reported and placed on the calendar.

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In the House, on the 15th, the tariff debate was continued in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Butterworth, of Ohio, speaking against the Mills bill.

In the House, on the 16th, a bill was passed appropriating \$200,000 for a branch home for volunteer disabled soldiers in Grant county, Indiana.

In the House, on the 17th, the conference report on the Cincinnati Exposition bill was agreed to. The Tariff debate was resumed in Committee of the Whole.

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BETROTHAL TOKENS.

What It Costs to Announce an Engagement in Precious Stones.

Cupid is notoriously a favorite with jewelers, and no wonder. From the days when the heart's affection feels the need of an outward symbol, to the time for wedding gifts, lovers pay constant tribute to the dealers in gold and silver and precious stones.

Among the solitaires, the diamond reigns supreme and is properly regarded by love-sick swains as the most precious gift to a very precious object. Its preciousness lies not merely in its great cost, but also in its unrivaled brilliancy, that has made it a perennial object of admiration.

Next after diamonds in the scale of popularity comes the gleaming white pearl. They are lower priced than diamonds, one of a grain weight costing \$10 or \$15. A grain is equivalent to about one-quarter of a karat.

Opals are cut in carbuncle shape and may be used as solitaires or in combination with smaller diamonds. In price they are even lower than pearls, but vary greatly in quality.

Six and a Half Tons of Diamonds. Surely even Sindbad the Sailor never ventured to compute his diamonds by the ton. Six and a half tons of diamonds, valued at about \$40,000,000, are reported to have been extracted from four African mines alone in the course of the last few years.

Wait until the ground is dry and warm before attempting to put the garden seeds in. A wet soil is cold, and the seeds may decay for lack of warmth to germinate them.

A NIGHT WITH THE FLAMES.

How a Husband and Wife Saved Their Homestead.

Some thrilling particulars of fighting forest fire has just transpired; the story referring to a husband and wife whose home and all their possessions were surrounded by flames and threatened with destruction.

There is but one way that it can be saved, and that is to back-fire, said the husband. "I think I can carry the fire half-way round the place."

The fearful task was commenced from a given point, one going in one direction and the other in the opposite direction. It was about 10 o'clock when they started out, and the night was very dark.

The Country Editor.

There is an idea in the minds of many who ought to know better that the "country editor" stands on the lowest platform, and that he who is employed in any capacity, no matter how humble, on a metropolitan journal is his superior.

The city paper cannot give, and does not pretend to give, the local news that its country readers must have; but the good country paper does give a fair epitome of the world's news.

Book and Publisher.

There are tricks in all trades, but I do not think an author, who has a first class publisher, often suffers from them and if his book has in it anything which touches the pulse of the people it is sure to sell more or less and make itself felt in time.