

THE NEWS

The old capitol building at Atlanta was damaged by fire about \$100,000, covered by insurance.

Whitecaps in Michigan have made several attempts to kill the Rev. W. A. Wetcher, a Baptist minister in Niles, Mich.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has been incorporated at York, Pa. The object is to harness the Conowingo Falls, on the Susquehanna River.

Superintendent Stump says that from November 1 to December 8, 1894, the exodus from this country of passengers by steamer was 25,544, and the arrivals during November, by steamer, were 12,886.

The American Federation of Labor, in Denver defeated by a vote of 1,173 to 735 the proposed political platform.

The Southern Railway Company had a conference in Washington with the chiefs of the various railway trainmen's unions.

The employees of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad main shops in Lima, O., have demanded an increase in working hours.

Three masked men entered the home of G. J. Erickson, an aged glove manufacturer, in Rockford, Ill., and after binding him, went through the house.

MAY DISPLACE COAL

Diagrams of a Device for Burning Petroleum to Generate Steam.

United States Consul Richman, at St. Gall, Switzerland, has transmitted to the State Department, Washington, diagrams and a detailed description of a new device for burning petroleum to generate steam.

The results obtained were strikingly successful, and in the opinion of experts indicate the displacement of coal as steam-producing fuel wherever petroleum can be procured.

A despatch from Minister Denby, of Peking, says there is no truth in the report recently printed in some American papers that Yoh-Na-La, the young wife of the Emperor of China, had committed suicide.

FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SENATE.

FIFTEENTH DAY.—Fourteen speeches in connection with the presentation to the United States by the State of New Hampshire of the marble statue of General John Stark and Daniel Webster, were delivered in the United States Senate.

SIXTEENTH DAY.—The United States Senate was not in session to-day.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.—A number of the senators have already gone home to spend the holidays, and when that body convened to-day there was a small attendance.

SIXTEENTH DAY.—In the House the Currency bill was discussed all day.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.—The feature of the debate in the House of Representatives on the Currency bill was the brilliant speech of Mr. Bryan, of Nebraska, who held the attention of the members at the end of a listless session for over two hours.

WORK AND WORKERS.

The Portsmouth Company's mill at South Berwick, Maine, has resumed operations after a shut down of six weeks.

The Directors of the American Railway Union met in Chicago and decided to remove the headquarters of the organization to Indianapolis.

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The receipts from customs so far this month amount to \$9,157,551; from internal revenue, \$8,240,150; miscellaneous, \$1,171,182, making a total of \$18,568,883.

DEFICIT INCREASING.

National Expenses the Past Month Exceed Receipts by \$3,771,501.

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Four Masked Robbers Relieve Travelers of Valuables.

When the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul passenger train from South Dakota came into Sioux City, Ia., four robbers went into one of the coaches some distance from the depot.

Just keep still, we are looking for a bundle," one of them said, as they went through the first man's pockets.

THE INCOME TAX.

Constitutionality of the Law to be Tested—2 Cases Before the District Court.

A despatch from Washington, says: The first steps have been taken in the District Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the income-tax law.

Mr. Moore's complaint in detail set out his case under six heads and his prayers under four. He represents that he is a shareholder in different corporations which have net earnings, from which they pay dividends to him and other stockholders.

No exemption is made in the act from taxation of the incomes of corporations within the United States, of which there are many, which, although carried on for profit, are created, owned and operated by the several States as government instruments in the promotion of the police and other public functions, which corporations are not subject to taxation by the United States.

The case will probably be brought up for trial in the Equity Court, before either Judge Cox or Judge Hagner, early in January.

The judicial regulations of the District prevent the case from being appealed to the District Supreme Court, and in event of an adverse decision in the Court of Equity the petition will take the case direct to the District Court of Appeals, and from there it will without a doubt reach the United States Supreme Court though probably not within a year.

CHINESE HAVE ENOUGH.

The Celestial Government Appoints Two Commissioners.

Minister Denby cabled the State Department that the Chinese Government has appointed two peace commissioners, Chang Yin Huan and Shao, who will proceed at once on their mission from Peking to the Japanese capital.

Chang Yin Huan is at present a member of the Tsung Li Yamen, or Chinese Imperial Council. He was a few years ago Chinese Minister to Washington, and has the reputation of being thoroughly skilled in the diplomacy peculiar to Oriental countries.

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THE NEWS CONFIRMED.

THE NEWS.—The Chinese Government has finally decided to send two envoys to Japan in order to treat for peace and an imperial decree sanctioning the appointment of Chang Yin Huan and Shao for this purpose has been issued.

DISASTERS AND CASUALTIES.

The Denver Times building was damaged by fire to the extent of \$50,000.

ALPHONSO SMITH and William Hillon were killed at Jeffersonville, Indiana, by the premature explosion of a bomb.

A boiler in Russell Bros.' box factory, at West Bay (City, Michigan, exploded, and John Calcutt, George Pfund, Albert Hahn, John B. Baun and Al Haverback were killed, and three others were injured. One boy is missing.

WILLIAM A. PRELLE, of Indianapolis, ex-Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Indiana, was found dead in a bath tub at the Visitors' Home of St. Mary's Institute, in Terre Haute.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

The Day Observed in an Old-Fashioned Way by the President and Cabinet.

The President and the members of the Cabinet celebrated Christmas in an old-fashioned way, making it essentially a family affair.

As usual the President remembered all the employees in the House. Every one got a fat turkey and to his personal servants the President gave substantial gifts of money.

The only guests at the White House were Mrs. Cleveland's mother, Mrs. Perrine, and the dinner was strictly limited to the family.

CABLE SPARKS.

Diamond-cutters of Amsterdam have gone on a strike and are riotous.

Earthquake shocks in Hungary caused damage to buildings, but no one was killed.

King Humbert is said to be considerably exercised over the police situation in Italy.

The committee of the Quebec city council has reported in favor of the application for permission to erect a monument to the American General Montgomery, in that city.

The Swiss Council of state has granted the concession asked for to build a railroad up the Jungfrau mountain.

The council of the Russian empire has sanctioned an increase in the cotton import duty, probably at the instance of the cotton-growers of Turkestan, who have complained of the competition of American-grown cotton.

The first Japanese army that is in the vicinity of Moukden is making little headway owing to the roughness of the country.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Senator Welcott, of Colorado, and Representative Clark, of Missouri, are men of one kidney, each having had one of those organs removed.

Rev. W. S. Langford, secretary of the Board of Missions of the Episcopal Church, boasts a striking resemblance to Bishop Potter, for whom he is often mistaken.

Kirk Hackett, of Surgeon, etc., has nine strapping sons who have formed themselves into a base ball club, open to accept challenges from any family team in the country.

Dr. Townsend has just finished his excavations in the prehistoric necropolis of the Island of Amorcia, and the results are of great importance for the study of the Mycenaean and pre-Mycenaean or island age.

Harry C. Duval, Dr. Depew's lieutenant, relaxes from the burden of knowing all the secrets of the New York Central by taking pictures. He is an adept with the camera and could easily become a professional photographer.

Rudyard Kipling, after sending his first two or three stories to nearly every publisher in England, finally sold them for \$15.

John Jacob Astor modestly responds to the new salutation of "Colonel" which military distinction has come to him with his appointment as an aide on Governor-elect Morton's personal staff.

A BOY'S AWFUL REVENGE.

Discharged a Shot Gun Into a Crowded School Room, Fatally Wounding Four.

Near Brundige, Ala., Wilton Bowden, 18 years old, fired a shot gun through a window in Pea River school house.

Four pupils were fatally wounded—Mary Bryant, aged 14, who received twenty-eight shots in the lungs; Lillian Bryant, aged 10, shot in the eyes and neck; Willie Black, aged 10, wounded in the neck and head, and Fore man Bowden, brother of the boy who did the shooting, wounded in the breast.

Bowden claims the shooting was accidental, but friends of Mary Bryant say it was premeditated because her father refused to allow Bowden to visit his girl.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

Epitome of News Gleaned From Various Parts of the State.

At the reservoir, near Elmhurst, Frank Eucelo, a laborer employed by the gas and water company, sustained internal injuries and his left hand was blown off and his right hand and arm badly lacerated by the premature explosion of a dynamite cartridge.

John Jackson, a man 60 years of age, employed in the D. & H. mfrs., at Jersey, was found dead in the mine. Deceased had been suffering for several months with neuralgia of the stomach, but he had been able to attend to his work.

William Harvey was run over by an Erie coal train and killed at Carbondale. He had just been released from the Danville Insane Asylum, and it is the general belief that he wandered from home and killed himself.

Mrs. R. H. Vandewater, of Bellwood, was burned to death by the explosion of a gas-line stove. When found by neighbors all her clothing had been consumed off and her body was very badly burned.

The Polish residents of Reading have started a project to erect a large hall for social purposes. It is to be called Kosciusko Hall.

Clearfield county has recorded 150 applications for liquor licenses. Of these Dubois has filed twenty-two.

Six families in the little town of Japan in Luzerne county, were made homeless by fire.

William H. Snyder, after a long absence returned to West Chester to find that his wife had been divorced.

The Schuylkill County Auditor, at Pottsville, continued his investigation into the charges made against the county almshouse. In saving her husband from being snoot, Mrs. Robert Johnson, of Pottsville, received a bullet from the pistol of Daniel Herron.

The annual meeting of the State Board of Associated Health Authorities will be held in Harrisburg, January 30 and 31.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has at last secured an entrance to Scranton over the tracks of the Delaware & Hudson Company.

John Harwood and Daniel Ennange confessed to setting on fire the railroad station at Lake Junction on the Erie Railroad.

August Brich, 18 years old, was found dead in a box car on the Allegheny Valley Railroad, at Thirty-sixth street, Pittsburg. Two of his companions, Edgar Wood and Charles Cavanaugh, were arrested. They had been drinking and according to the story told by the men arrested Brich became so drunk that they placed him in the car to sober up.

Disappointed in a love affair Miss May Wilson, a young lady of Johns own, attempted suicide by shooting herself in the head with a revolver. She cannot live. The would-be suicide is a native of Philadelphia.

She engaged board on the Bedford Pike and at frequent intervals met the man she loved. A few weeks ago they had a quarrel, which resulted in their separation. She expected a Christmas present, however, and when it failed to arrive she attempted to take her own life. Miss Wilson is about 23 years of age.

A despatch from Erie states that the leaders of the gang of masked burglars who bound and robbed David and Sarah Slocum of \$10,000 have been captured.

President De Armit declared at Pittsburg that there would be bloodshed and anarchy if the miners' wage difficulty was not settled.

The directors of the Pennsylvania Investment Company met at Reading and submitted a plan to protect the company.

The finishing touches have been put on the new Senate and House halls at Harrisburg in preparation for the coming session of the Legislature.

Fires visited Watsonstown and destroyed half a block of stores and caused a loss of about \$30,000. Insurance, \$20,000.

Policeman Gallagher, of Wilkes-Barre, accidentally and fatally shot a man named Brown, whom he was trying to arrest.

DISTRESS IN NEBRASKA.

Farmers Fled, Leaving Their Implements in the Fields.

A blight of appalling proportions has fallen on Nebraska, and a correspondent says that Perkins county is the most desolate county he ever saw. There are no rivers or creeks or a sign of anything that would give moisture or produce hair. But little stock could be seen, though what was there was in good condition. A few deserted shot huts and frame houses were seen, and there were signs here and there that some habitations had been taken down and removed with the good goods of their owners when they left.

Farm implements were seen in the fields and at a distance substantial granaries stood just as their owners had left them. County Clerk Wilcox said "not less than 600 families representing about 2,000 people are in destitute condition. This is about three-fourths of the county's population. We are facing the most desperate situation in our history."

"The suffering here," says the correspondent, "is the most general of any county I have yet visited. The people who are destitute will not survive unless succored soon."

President Nelson, of the Nebraska State Relief Commission secured a carefully prepared report of the number of destitute families in the different counties where there were crop failures as follows: Custer County, 250 families; Chase, 225; Dundy, 120; Hitchcock, 200; Red Willow, 100; Hayes, 200; Frontier, 40; Furnas, 100; Lincoln, 70; Dawson, 45; Keith, 200; Deuel, 4; Cherry, 4; McPherson, 40; Blaine, 20; Boyd, 250; Holt, 30; Antelope, 30; Kearney, 25; Knox, 25. Contributions are coming in, but not as fast as they should. The commission has carefully gone over the field and none but the deserving are to be assisted.

120 REBELS BURNED.

Brazilian Troops Set Fire to a Hospital at San Gabriel.

A house at San Gabriel, used as a hospital was burned, and advice received Montevideo report by Brazilian troops. More than 120 rebels perished.

Several who tried to escape were forced back into the flames by bayonets. Over 300 soldiers, it is reported, have deserted near Cruz Alta and have gone over to the rebels.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The first sailing vessel to be lighted by electricity is said to have been the Spanish bark La Viguesa, a bulk-oil and general-cargo carrier.

A VIBRATING helmet for the cure of nervous headaches has been invented by a French physician. It is constructed of strips of steel, put in vibration by a small electro-motor, which makes 600 turns a minute.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK, addressing the Social Congress at Paris recently, said that in London since 1870 the number of children in English schools had increased from 1,500,000 to 5,000,000, and that in the same time the number of persons in prison had fallen from 12,000 to 5,000.

A FROG farm with about a million head of stock is carried on successfully by a man in Contra, Costa county, Cal. He started ranching in frogs a few months ago with a herd of about 2,000 frogs, and is already making lots of money.

According to Stewart Culin, the Curator of the Museum of Archaeology of the University of Pennsylvania, football originated with those beginners of everything, the Chinese.

Mr. Culin is making an exhaustive study of games, ancient and modern, and has a curious and ancient drawing showing a personage in the dress of a Prime Minister playing football with a Kuge, or noble, and two of their chamberlains.

The time is somewhere in the tenth or eleventh century, but long before then the game was cultivated as an exercise suitable for the training of soldiers.

The question having been raised whether Maxim's flying machine, supposing its propelling mechanism to break down, would fall to the earth edgeways, after the manner of a boy's kite, the inventor has explained that it would not.

Kites, he says, as commonly made by boys in the United States, are very crude in construction; they have to be provided with a tail, and will often pitch headlong to the ground with very great force.

In the opinion of leading electricians one of the next great steps forward in electrical development will be the doing away with wires for the transmission of electricity.

Our present methods for the transmission of electric energy are held to belong to a primitive stage of the science. All the paraphernalia of wires, poles, etc., that are now necessary are regarded as crude, clumsy and wasteful, belonging to a period of development corresponding to that in the growth of a child where it cannot walk without support.

In a recent address to the Royal Photographic Society, Sir Henry Trueman-Wood summed up very concisely the various services which photography had rendered to science. First comes its association with the telescope and the spectroscopy, which has placed modern astronomy on a new basis, and its work as a recorder of scientific observations.

The microscopist has been enabled to study the form and nature of clouds, and the shape and character of the lightning flash. The zoologist has been enabled to trace the real character of animal motion. The microscopist has for a long time relied upon the camera as the only accurate means of producing the forms of organisms too small for the eye to see; while the physicist has by photographic methods been enabled to investigate phenomena in which changes occur too rapidly for the eye to detect.

Photography is also extensively used in anthropology, geology, geography and archaeology; and it has other applications in the remark that "whenever the observer of natural phenomena requires to make an accurate record of his observations, photography applies the method."