

THE NEWS.

Fire at Ionia, Mich., destroyed the Webster block, causing a loss of \$75,000; insurance, \$35,000.

Wheeler & Co.'s ship yard, at Bay City, Mich., shut down, throwing 700 men out of work, as a result of the riveters refusing to accept a 7 per cent. reduction in wages.

A. Blackley, of Covington, Ga., a traveling salesman, shot himself in the left breast in a New York hotel. He left a note saying that he was about to end his life because of unrequited affection.

John Morris, said to be a notorious green goods man, was arrested in a hotel at Port Chester, N. Y. Morris is accused by Anthony Comstock, who claims that he made arrangements with Morris to buy \$13,000 worth of green goods for \$1,000.

In the house in West Hoboken, N. J., formerly occupied by William E. Brockway, the forger, now serving out a ten-years' sentence, there were found 650 \$100 counterfeit bank notes of the Bank of Montreal. The bills, which were printed only on one side, had been concealed beneath the floor of the attic.

The unusual phenomenon of a bright meteor in broad daylight was observed at Lark Observatory by E. F. Coddington. It was seen shortly after 1 o'clock p. m. at an elevation of about eight degrees above the horizon. It increased in brightness along its course and disappeared suddenly in a clear sky without any explosion being heard.

As the result of an investigation at the Western Theological Seminary, of Allegheny City, Pa., three students were expelled and seven others suspended for unmaterial conduct. Another student was recalled from Princeton for further investigation. The names of the offending students have been withheld from the public. The exact charges are also unknown.

A fire destroyed a large portion of Rensselaer, Cal. Loss, \$100,000.

The cable from Halifax to Turks Island has been laid, and it soon will be completed to Jamaica.

D. M. Hough & Co., shoe manufacturers, of Rochester, N. Y., have made an assignment. Liabilities, \$38,000; assets, estimated to be \$48,000.

Kate Clark, the common law wife of Edward Clark, a grain scooper, of Buffalo, N. Y., was beaten to death with a chair. Clark has disappeared.

Gov. Broxham, of Florida, has invited the Governors of the Southern and Western States to attend a congress to be held in Tampa, in February, for the purpose of promoting trade between those States.

At Albany, N. Y., Senator Ellsworth introduced a bill which combines the features of his anti-carbon bill of the last session with provisions of wider scope touching the responsibilities of newspaper publishers and editors.

Kate Forsythe, the well-known American actress, died in London.

The Ohio and Pennsylvania coal operators in the Interstate Operators and Miners' Conference cannot agree on the nine-cent differential.

The Japanese cruiser was launched at the Cramps shipyard in Philadelphia.

Floods in Kentucky did considerable damage, and five lives were lost.

Knox College has conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer.

The Bakers' Union has begun a war against the American Biscuit Company, and incidentally against all employers of non-union bakers.

George Clark, of Belleville, N. J., was sentenced to twenty years in State's prison at hard labor for the murder of his wife, Mary, M. J. Daugherty, of Pittsburg, Pa., a traveling salesman, hanged himself with his handkerchief in a cell of the city prison at Zanesville. He had been placed in prison two hours before, suffering with delirium tremens.

Luke Usher, President of the National Bank of Potsdam, N. Y., charged with embezzling funds of the bank, was arraigned before the United States Court and pleaded not guilty, and the trial was put over until the March term.

Three men were seriously and two fatal burned as the result of a boiler explosion in the Fernelite Distillery at Logan and Lampson streets, Louisville, Ky. The fatally injured are John Kenney and Phil Kerr. Charles Dickson, Will Watson, and John Thompson were badly scalded, but will recover.

In Des Moines, Ia., Judge Bishop, of the Polk District Court, has declared the special municipal lighting election invalid and the contract entered into with McCaskey & Holcomb Company illegal.

DEATH COMPACT.

John Matthews Killed Family and Himself.

NEW YORK TRAGEDY.

Apparently the Parents Discouraged by Misfortunes Decided to Die Together and Resolved to Take Their Children with Them—Had Been in Business and Failed.

A despatch from New York, says—John Matthews, a retail grocer, some time between Saturday and Monday morning murdered his wife and their two children, a boy 10 years old and a girl twelve, by hacking them to death with a hatchet. He then committed suicide by shooting himself in the head. Before dying it is believed that he turned the gas on with the intent that asphyxiation should complete the avowed task. The crime was committed in a small bedroom in the rear of the store kept by Matthews. The wife and her two children met death while asleep. It is supposed that Matthews had become despondent from pecuniary difficulties.

The tragedy was discovered through the odor of escaping gas, which prompted a milkman making his rounds to call a policeman. Upon the floor of the sleeping room the officer found the corpse of Matthews. In his hand was a revolver and there was a bullet hole just above his mouth.

There were two beds in the room. On one of these beds lay Matthews' wife. On the other bed the two children lay, side by side. The blood stains made the little room look like a slaughter house.

That the murders and suicide were premeditated was evident. Matthews had washed until his wife and children were asleep. Then taking the hatchet he hacked his wife and at once attacked his children.

Matthews had been in the dry goods business and had failed. A few months ago he opened the grocery store and had met with little success. His wife, a pretty little woman, had recently undergone a severe operation. These misfortunes evidently had prompted Matthews to write this letter which was found open and unaddressed:—

"No healthy man or woman can commit suicide from poverty or business reverses. He is so healthy that he hopes and actively is boiling rampant within him. My wonder is that suicide is not more common. It seems to me a wonderful provision of nature that a man need not live when life is burdensome."

Wife Agreed to Die.

Another letter, apparently written later, was as follows:—

"It is a terrible thing I have to do to keep my word. I promised that all shall go with me, and delay is no good. If I could only have died alone. I love my wife and two children. I told them I didn't want to go in any business, that my mind was gone, and I guess that my nerve is all that is left. For five years we have talked the thing over. I always wanted to go in a boat and accidentally capsize. I knew that otherwise I would have a hard time of it."

From a letter left by Mrs. Matthews to a friend it was gathered that she was a party to a suicide agreement. She wrote as follows: "Herman is going to die, and I am going with him and we are going to take our darling with us." From other letters the impression was gained that Mrs. Matthews had even urged her husband to kill his family and that from time to time he had put off the execution of their plans.

Mrs. Matthews left instructions as to the clothes in which the dead children should be buried, and signified the place of interment for the entire family as Highland, N. Y., where she was born and lived during her girlhood. Matthews was 35 years old. His bank books showed that he had a balance of about \$900.

CABLE SPARKS.

The Rome correspondent of the London Chronicle quotes from an article published in Rome and alleged to be inspired from the Vatican, advocating the establishment of an Italian republic.

Police precautions have been redoubled in the vicinity of the United States legation and the residence of United States Minister Woodford in Madrid.

The English and Scotch engineers have announced that they are willing to arbitrate the question of hours of labor. The demand for eight hours a day is the principal contention in the great strike.

Two filibustering expeditions have recently landed in Cuba and the rebels have met and escorted them inland.

Sir James Westland, the finance minister of the British cabinet, introduced a bill providing for the issue of currency notes in India against gold.

Sir Tatton Sykes testified that Lady Sykes' first forgery of his name was for £10,000 twelve years ago.

The Rev. C. H. Dodson, whose non duplume was Lewis Carroll, the author of "Alice in Wonderland," died in England.

Senator Tabarrini, president of the Italian Council of State, is dead.

A British steamer brought a report to Paris in which the Arabians coast that she saw a German warship in a disabled condition.

The insurgents have destroyed large quantities of tobacco plants growing under protection of Spanish forts in Cuba.

Disorder is ended at Havana, but the peaceful citizens look for further outbreaks. The Washington officials will keep war vessels ready for possible attacks on Americans.

C. P. Villiers, the veteran member of the English Parliament, is seriously ill.

It is reported that the British engineers will give up their big fight for an eight-hour day and will end the strike.

Great popular feeling has been roused at Paris by Zola's attack on the army. Student mobs paraded the street, but were dispersed by police.

The Pope's declaration in favor of a republic in Italy is thought to portend great danger to the Government.

Official reports from Havana announce that all is quiet there.

Saor Rubledo, in Madrid, spoke of the riots in Havana as an argument against the Government's autonomy scheme.

Charles Pelham Villiers, the father of the House of Commons, is dead.

Legal Meaning of Intimidation.

HIS FIRST RECEPTION.

President McKinley Greets a Brilliant Gathering at the White House.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says:—The lower rooms of the White House were brilliantly lighted Wednesday night and filled with flowers, which mingled their bright colors with the green of garlands and tropical plants, while from the conservatory, at the west of the mansion, came the familiar strains of the Marine Band. The occasion was the first official reception at the White House of the present administration.

There were several changes or innovations at the reception. The invitations were limited. The Marine Band was stationed in the conservatory, instead of in the outer hallway. In the outer corridor racks were erected for coats and wraps, and these were covered with red plush curtains. Instead of the guests being forced into the smaller rooms at the west of the entrance, to dispose of their wraps as in former years they passed from the hallway into the corridor, and then to the Red Parlor, prepared to greet President and Mrs. McKinley.

As the New Year reception was omitted this year, the members of the diplomatic corps were asked at 8.15 o'clock, and they arrived with their customary punctuality and were shown into the State dining room, where they were received by President McKinley, Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Hobart and the ladies of the cabinet. Secretary of State Sherman made the presentations to the President and Mrs. McKinley.

The floral decorations were very effective. The east room was especially beautiful. The window recesses at the north and south were filled with palms, and above the mirrors were crotons of various shades and varieties, with a draping of smilax over the mirrors. The window recess at the large window at the east was filled with towering palms and tropical plants. The mirror rests at the east and west were banked with red and white roses, the border of red poinsettia leaves, with ferns. Upon each of the mirrors was a circular design of red and white roses. About the pillars were garlands of smilax, studded with pink carnations, and the three crystal chandeliers and the electric lights in the ceiling were festooned with smilax.

In the Blue Parlor, where the presidential party received, the floral decorations were also very fine. Over head, radiating from the top of the centre chandelier, was a canopy of smilax, studded thickly with hundreds of tiny, star-like, red, white and blue electric lights. The smilax draped over the mirrors was also filled with the red white and blue stars.

REFORM IN CIVIL SERVICE.

Commissioner Harlow Suggests a Longer Working Day.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says:—Civil Service Commissioner John B. Harlow was before the Senate civil-service investigating committee Wednesday. Under the patronage system, he said, a large number of States and Territories had not received a just allotment of appointments, while others had more than they were entitled to on the basis of population, but that, he explained, is not true under the present merit system.

He said if all the government employes in Washington were required to work the full seven hours a day, as required by law, it would mean a gain of 4,500 extra hours a day, with a saving approximately of over \$500,000 a year for clerk hire. At present the great bulk of employes work six and a half hours. The gain outside of Washington would not be in this proportion.

Commissioner Harlow believed that many millions of dollars would be saved if the departments were managed like the average business house or corporation. He would have the entrance salary of employes much lower than now, and an entirely different classification than at present. Those engaged on routine work receive from 25 to 50 per cent. more salary than employes of private establishments performing similar work. In some cases the difference is even greater.

"The nearer the government approaches to the eight-hour law for employes," he asserted, "except where great mental exertion is required, the less reason will people in private employment have for being dissatisfied with their own condition."

Chief Examiner Servon, of the commission, testified that up to date 300,290 people had been examined and 32,557 appointed to office, not including reinstatements. The entire expense of the examination was \$2.74 each, and cost of examining and certifying these appointments to office was \$11.75 each.

CASHER CALLED THE TURN.

Bold Attempt to Rob a Portland Bank Thwarted.

A bold attempt was made to hold up the Citizens' Bank at Portland, Ore., on the east side about 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon, but owing to the courage and thoughtfulness of the cashier, W. Lambert, the robber was put to flight without securing a cent.

The bank had just closed for the day, and Mr. Lambert, the manager, with his assistants, was preparing to put the money in the vault when a masked man entered the front door, which is probably ten feet from the counter. In his right hand he held a revolver, while with his left he was apparently holding his mask close to his face. Pointing a stack of bills on the counter behind the cashier, the robber demanded that Cashier Lambert hand them out. Lambert started to pick up the money, but at the same time secured a revolver from the drawer. As soon as the robber saw that he was confronted with a revolver he turned and fled, but before he reached the street Cashier Lambert fired a shot at him, which passed through his clothing.

Dozens of people were on the street and a large crowd was attracted by the shooting, but the fleeing robber soon secured his horse, which was tied only a block away, and mounting it, was soon out of sight.

Pittsburg Improvements Completed.

The improvements that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad have had under way at Pittsburg for the past 15 months have been completed with the exception of a small amount of paving between the tracks, which will be done in the spring.

The line now has splendid terminals at that point and sufficient trackage to handle the vast amount of business with not only economy but with celerity. The changes cost in the neighborhood of \$450,000, and consist of a new yard at Glenwood (one of Pittsburg's suburbs), a double track trestle nearly two miles in length, the changing of the line of road leading into the passenger station and the building of new freight yards near that point.

Big Fire in East Grand Forks.

East Grand Forks, N. D., has suffered another severe fire. An elevator and the bridge approach are in ruins, a number of store buildings burned, and the east end of the bridge is badly damaged. The loss will reach \$125,000; insurance, \$100,000.

MASSO GIVES UP ARMS.

Brother of Cuban President Surrenders to Spain.

IN TRUE MILITARY FORM.

Important Accession to the Cause of Autonomy from the Insurgent Banks—One Hundred and Ten Rebels Lay Down Their Arms—Surrender Carried Out in a Dignified Manner.

A cablegram from Havana says:—The Spanish authorities report that the insurgent forces under his command, Lieut. Col. Augustino and Ferns, and Jose Carmona, Hernandez, Majs. Feliciano Quesada, Saturnino Leon, and Victoriano Gomez, with six other officers and 110 privates, well armed and well supplied with ammunition, have surrendered at Fomento to the Spanish General, Aguirre and Senor Marcos Garcia, Governor of Santa Clara Province.

The insurgents are said to have formed in line, and delivered up their arms according to the ordinance, shouting "Long live Spain," "Long live the Queen Regent," "Long live Spanish Cuba," and "Long live autonomy."

Gen. Juan Maso Parra is a brother of Senor Bartolome Maso, President of the Cuban Republic.

During the last ten days the insurgents are said to have lost 115 killed and 84 taken prisoners, with 242 Remington rifles. In addition to those who surrendered with Gen. Juan Maso Parra, according to the Spanish authorities, fifty other armed men have surrendered, among them two Lieutenant Colonels and three other officers. The Spanish troops, on the other hand, are said to have lost 12 killed and 93 wounded.

The Spanish Minister at Washington received a cablegram from Gen. Blanco confirming the preceding dispatch and giving the details as they are stated. Gen. Blanco says the form of presentation was of such a dignified character as will serve as a model for others to follow. The cable continues: "The rank of Juan Maso, his close family connection with Bartolome Maso, President of the so-called Cuban Republic, and the formal and military character of the capitulation give unusual importance to the act."

THE ADMINISTRATION POLICY.

Autonomy Will Be Given a Fair Trial, but the Ships are Ready.

Regarding the present policy of the administration as to Cuba it can be said that it is felt that the same material conditions prevail that existed when the President sent his last message to Congress. At the time it was stated that the plan of autonomy having been inaugurated it was the purpose of the executive branch to give proper time for the plan to be tried. The administration is said to entertain the same sentiments today. The autonomous plan was inaugurated only three weeks ago, namely, on January 1, when the autonomous Cabinet took office, so that it is felt that there has not been adequate time up to the present moment to form any fair judgment as to the merits of the plan as a means of ameliorating conditions on the island. The recent occurrences at Havana are looked upon as affording evidence of discontent with the plan, but whether this will be sufficient to overcome the plan itself is not looked upon as established with any degree of certainty or even approximations.

In the meantime, while closely observing the progress of the autonomous plan, the administration has adopted every precaution to guard against any sudden emergency, such as an uprising that will threaten American interests. This is not expected to occur, but if it should come the naval vessels of the United States are so disposed as to be in the harbor of Havana within six hours of any crisis which would imperil American interests.

In order that there may be no delay should an emergency arise it is said that Consul General Lee has been empowered to make direct requests to the commanders of the warships so that the vessels could start on receipt of word from him, without the delays incident to having his requests pass through the official routine at Washington. To a great extent the intelligent judgment of Gen. Lee is relied upon as to determining if an emergency requires the presence of American vessels. This, however, applies solely to the transit of a critical nature, and has no connection with the general question of intervention for the purpose of bringing the war to a close. Such a step is not under immediate consideration, for, as already stated, it is predicted on the failure of the plan of autonomy, which result, it is said, the administration does not regard as established by the evidence at hand up to the present time.

LATE INVENTIONS.

An English firm is manufacturing a lock which has the keyhole set in the edge of the outer door knob to draw the bolt, which prevents the knob from turning.

A handy attachment for children's slates is a piece of metal having a roughened or file-like surface to sharpen pencils, the device being fastened on the frame by two screws.

Stenographers will appreciate a newly designed notebook which has a hinged arm attached to the cover to form an easel support and raise the book into a nearly vertical position.

To prevent accidents from persons falling into elevator or mine shafts a woman net is hung on each side of the cage, with cross-partitions at short distances to catch the falling person.

A new can-opener has a pair of shear blades set at right angles with the handles to be inserted in an opening in the can made by driving the punch at the end of one handle into the tin.

A recently designed plumb bob has a spring reel mounted in its upper portion to carry the supporting cord, which passes out through a hole in the top set on a line with the point of the bob.

Spring bicycle frames are being made with telescopic tubes inclosing air cushions which receive the force of the jar from rough roads, the cushions being inflated the same as pneumatic tires.

To light the fire in a stove at any desired time an absorbent roller is set at the top of an inclined surface, to be ignited and rolled under the fire box when set in motion by the clock mechanism.

Two Southern men have designed a motor for use in churning which consists of a framework carrying a shaft, having a wind-wheel at one end and a crank at the other, which operates the dasher.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

The torpedo boats Cushing and Ericsson have sailed from Key West for Tampa, Fla., to be present there during the fishery congress about to be held.

Commander W. M. Fogler has been transferred from the Eleventh Lighthouse District, at Detroit, to the Third District, at Staten Island, relieving Commander E. S. Snow, who is placed on waiting orders. Lieutenant-Commander Duncan Kennedy will take charge of the Eleventh Lighthouse District, where he has acted as assistant to Commander Fogler.

The President has withdrawn the nomination of Passed Assistant Postmasters Edwin B. Webster and George W. Simpson to be paymasters in the Navy.

The State Department has ordered George H. Murphy, one of the clerks of the Consular Bureau here, to go at once to Colon and take charge of the consulate there made vacant by the death of Consul Ashby.

Senator Frye was authorized by the Senate Committee on Commerce to report the bill recently introduced by himself providing for the construction of eight new revenue cutter vessels to take the place of old vessels, which have grown to be unnecessary.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads took up the Foraker bill for the buying in of the Kansas Pacific by the Government, but after a short discussion deferred action until Saturday, pending the action of the Senate on the measure.

Representative Dorr, of West Virginia, has introduced a bill extending the general pension act of June 27, 1890, to soldiers who served under the authority of the Government of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri.

Another unsuccessful attempt was made by Senator Carter to fix a time for a vote upon the census bill.

The House Committee on Appropriations has non-concurred in all the important Senate amendments to the urgent deficiency bill.

A special committee from the Philadelphia City Council, headed by Penrose E. McClain and re-informed by the Philadelphia delegation in the House, appeared before the House Committee on Naval Affairs to argue in favor of an appropriation for the League Island Navy station and dry dock.

MINERS WILL SHARE.

They Are to Get Some of the Profits Made by the New Coal "Combine."

A despatch from New York says: An interesting element in the new bituminous coal commission planned by J. Pierpont Morgan, which just came to light, is a profit-sharing plan, in which the miners, numbering about 200,000, will be allowed to co-operate.

It is in the power of these men by good or bad conduct, to save or lose millions of dollars annually to the companies, and it is proposed to enlist the miners so that they will see that it is to their personal interest to co-operate in the new arrangement. According to Mr. Morgan's plan, the price of soft coal is to be restored to a higher basis, and the miners will be promised a proportional raise in their wages, depending upon the amount the price is advanced and as often as it is raised.

Just what proportion the men are to get has not been fixed. They will be asked to vote upon the question, and will probably suspend work for a week or ten days in order to take up the issue in their respective assemblies.

Except in West Virginia the miners are well organized. During the recent strike it was largely due to the lack of organization in that State that it was found impossible to stop the entire soft coal industry, and every market in the East is filled with West Virginia coal.

The national miners' organization in West Virginia is at work getting as many men to join the organization as possible, in order to further the great "combine." In Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois the men are working to aid the "combine."

There is to be a uniform scale governing each of the different districts, and the differences among the districts will be adjusted by a general interstate organization, which will meet in Chicago this week, and will include representatives of all the local organizations. This general organization will regulate the prices which are to rule outside of the territory of each district.

Meanwhile the local coal companies are being organized on the plan that has been adopted by the Ohio central selling agency company. In the Pittsburg district, where there has been the greatest friction, seventy per cent. of the operators have signed the agreement, including the New York and Cleveland Gas Coal Company. In several of the districts bituminous coal rates have already been advanced from twenty to twenty-five cents a ton in anticipation of the adoption of a uniform arrangement.

COLUMBUS, O.—The United Mine-Workers of America have decided to ask an advance of ten cents a ton on next year's contracts for pit-mining, also three-fifths of the pit-mining price for machine mining in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania, and four-fifths in Indiana and other low coal districts. The convention decided that screws ought to be abolished, all coal to be weighed unscanned.

FAMILY BOUND AND GAGGED.

Robbers Cook Breakfast While Mother, Daughter and Three Sons Are Helpless.

Five masked men entered the home of Mrs. Anna Gratz, two miles east of Beaver Dam, Ohio, and at the point of a pistol bound and gagged Mrs. Gratz, her daughter, her three sons, aged from ten to eighteen years, and two farm hands, John Hauenstein and Adolph Pollett.

Leaving one of their number to guard the victims, the remaining four robbers looted the house, securing about \$50 in money, two gold watches and some jewelry. After this they went to the kitchen, cooked themselves a breakfast and departed, leaving the family still bound.

About an hour later one of the family succeeded in getting free and gave the alarm. No trace of the robbers can be found.

LEPROSY INVESTIGATION.

Surgeon-General Wyman Says There are Many Cases in America.

Senator Gallinger, from the Senate Committee on Public Health, reported favorably to the Senate a bill authorizing an investigation of leprosy in the United States, and in doing so presented a letter in support of it from the Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service.

The Surgeon-General expresses the opinion that there are many more cases of leprosy in the United States than are actually known.

Maia Murder Brought to Light.

A Mafia murder was revealed in New Orleans by the finding of a trunk in the open street in the rear of the city, which contained the body of an Italian with the head almost cut from the body.

SHOT BY A MILLIONAIRE.

Dr. Simmons, of St. Louis, Shot a Man Who Attacked His Daughter.

Dr. Charles F. Simmons, a reputed millionaire, and president of the Simmons Patent Medicine Company, shot Emil Davidson, bookkeeper for the St. Louis Trust Company, at the corner of Cardinal avenue and Olive street. Dr. Simmons, who is an elderly man, met Davidson on the street. Passers-by heard angry words and the next instant Simmons drew a revolver and fired five times, each shot taking effect. Davidson dropped to the sidewalk. He is badly wounded but will recover.

Simmons was arrested. He told Captain Boyd that the man he shot had attacked his daughter and that in shooting Davidson he had avenged the wrong done his daughter. This is Dr. Simmons' third deadly affray. Several years ago he stabbed his brother-in-law in Mississippi. Three years ago he stabbed his bookkeeper, named McBrain.

WAR ON SANDY FORK.

Eight Men Killed, Four Wounded and the Trouble is Not Ended.

A special from Hyden, Ky., says that a fight on Sandy Fork, Leslie County, continued all day Saturday. Eight men were reported killed, as follows: John Williams, Tom Wilson, Bob Colewell, Tom Shelton, Peter Dorough, Mack Paine, Elias Howard, and Abel Coombs, all colored; Jim Martin and Lew Gosson were seriously wounded.

The extraordinary bloodletting began on Wednesday, when a party of negroes, who were playing cards at what is called a "blind tiger," got into a dispute concerning the way the game was progressing. Drunkenness added to the brutality of the fight that followed. Four men were killed then, and subsequently the fighting was renewed by friends on both sides.

A RAILROAD WITHOUT CAPITAL.

Texas Farmers Are Building It By Doing the Work Themselves.

Residents of Texas, Southern Kansas, Northern Oklahoma and the Indian Territory are anxious to have a shorter railway line to St. Louis. They have constructed twelve miles of track from Henrietta, Texas, without one cent of working capital.

Stock was issued to a number of farmers and merchants, who paid for it by work upon the roadbed. The farmers in many instances worked themselves, while the merchants hired teamsters to take their places.

When completed the road, as planned, is to extend from Henrietta, Texas, through Oklahoma, the Indian Territory and Kansas to St. Louis.

TUNNEL TIMBERS ABLAZE.

Sparks From a Locomotive Cause a Unique Fire and a Fatal Accident.

An accident took place at the Fairview tunnel, about nine miles west of Williams, Ariz., in which one man was killed and another was probably fatally injured. A number of others had almost miraculous escapes.

Sparks from a locomotive ignited the timbers in the roof of the tunnel. A solid mass of rock and burning timbers came down upon the men who were fighting the fire. Roadmaster Lyons and Foreman Matthews were caught under the mass. Lyons died in a few minutes and it is not believed that Matthews will recover.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Miss Marion Hanson, the bride of Ignatius Donnelly, was born in Eldwood near Christiania, Norway, in 1877. Her father was once wealthy.

The Rev. Dr. Edgar M. Smith, president of the Vermont Methodist Seminary, has been elected to the presidency of the Illinois Wesleyan University, at Bloomington.

Miss Thurburgh Emery, one of the oldest persons in Maine, remembers Lafayette's visit clearly, and was one of the girls who scattered flowers before him in Portsmouth.

Miss Mary Rachel Dobson, a daughter of Austin Dobson, is one of the most active workers in the university settlement for women in Bombay, India. Their work is principally among the Parsies.

William Blake, who died in Pomona, Cal., the other day, was a Lieutenant under Fremont on his first expedition to the Pacific Coast. One of the experiences he was most proud of relating in recent years, was his participation in the feat of planting the first flag on Pike's Peak, in Colorado.