

THE NEWS.

A fire in a hosiery factory in Reading caused a loss of \$250,000. The girls employed were thrown into a panic, and a number were hurt by jumping. Two bodies were taken from the ruins.

The large store of A. G. Rutherford, at Lenore, Va., was destroyed by fire, with all its contents.

Harrison H. Keller dropped dead near Payne's Chapel, Va., while butchering hogs. Dr. H. Baxter Wilson, who was surgeon of Roosevelt's Rough Riders, was sent to the Chester Asylum for Insane Criminals, in Chicago.

Representative D. Judson Hammond, of the Michigan legislature, pleaded not guilty to the charge of soliciting a bribe.

Papers were read before the National Reform Association in New York on Bible in the schools and our new possessions.

Chaplain David H. Shields, U. S. A., was tried by court-martial in San Francisco on charges of drunkenness.

A general strike of miners in Pennsylvania is threatened, if the trouble at the Nanticoke mines is not settled.

In the joint Democratic caucus in Richmond Senator Martin was nominated to succeed himself in the Senate.

Three men were killed and two seriously injured by the explosion of powder mills, near Sunnyside, Pa.

The Landis Tool Company, of Waynesboro, voted to increase the capital stock from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Rev. George Peterson, of Rome, Ga., was killed by a train at Pender, Del.

New Hampshire mills have increased wages of operatives ten per cent.

The broom-comb combine has increased the price to \$200 per ton.

Edward Burns was arrested in Madison Square Garden, N. Y., on the charge of having murdered Herbert B. Fellows at Scarsdale, N. Y. According to the police, he admitted having killed the man.

Dick Coleman, the negro murderer of Mrs. Lashbrook, was taken from the officers at Maysville, Ky., by a mob of one thousand men, and burned at the stake. The mob was led by Mrs. Lashbrook's husband.

John F. Ellis was accidentally shot and killed by his brother, James Ellis, while hunting turkeys in King George county, Va.

Harry Hamburger was arrested in Detroit on suspicion of having murdered John M. Heindel.

The bituminous miners of Central and Northern Pennsylvania have asked for an advance.

James McConnell, editor of the Philadelphia Evening Star, died in that city, aged fifty-five.

General John B. Gordon is in favor of suppressing the insurgents in the Philippines.

An American company will build electric railroads in Honolulu.

Hiram Sharp killed his wife and mother-in-law in Littonia, Ga.

Earthquake shocks were felt in South Dakota.

The Kentucky State Election Board completed the official canvass of the returns, which show a plurality for Taylor, the Republican candidate for governor. There will now be a fight as to whether the Board has the right to go behind the returns and hear the cases of eleven contested counties.

The trial of Mrs. Marie Butterfield Sanderson, on the charge of attempting to murder her aged husband by feeding him pound-d glass, was begun at Marshall, Michigan.

James D. Spurr, aged seventy-two, died at Winchester, Va., and George W. Copp, aged seventy-four, died at Fisher's Hill, Va.

The American Book Company will have charge of certain school books published by Harper Bros.

It is proposed to apply to the Virginia legislature for a charter for a new railroad near Norfolk.

The Newport News and Norfolk Transportation Company was chartered at Newport News.

A move will be made throughout New England to advance wages in the cotton mill.

Postmaster H. B. Fellows, at Scarsdale, N. Y., was shot and killed by an assassin.

The Pullman and Wagner Palace Car Companies have been consolidated.

William Carpenter was seriously injured in a tannery at Paw Paw, W. Va.

United States Senator Hayward died at Nebraska City, aged fifty-nine.

Joseph Shanouts was seriously hurt at Winchester by a wild horse.

The torpedo boat Dalley was launched at Morris Heights, N. Y.

The bank at Cornell, Ill., was robbed of \$8,000.

Admiral Dewey has rented a pew in St. John's Episcopal Church, and has become a trustee of the Episcopal temple on the Tenallytown road.

Arrangements have been completed for the removal of the dead of the Battleship Maine from Cuba to the National Cemetery in Washington.

The Postoffice Department officials have decided that female clerks must resign from the service after marriage.

There was an immense throng at the Capitol to witness the opening of Congress, the Roberts case being the leading attraction. As the Mormon member stepped up to take the oath, his eligibility was challenged and he was ordered to stand aside. General Henderson was elected speaker, and the Reed rules were adopted.

A memorial was presented to the United States Senate asking for an investigation of the means employed by Senator Clarke, of Montana, to secure his seat, the memorialists charging that he paid in bribery \$500,000, besides other unknown sums.

The United States Supreme Court held that the government has the right to appropriate money to an eleemosynary institution conducted by Roman Catholics or by any other sect.

In the United States Senate the credentials of Senator Quay were referred to the committee, and appropriate resolutions were adopted on the death of Vice President Hobart.

The New York Health Board will not allow the coffee from the steamer Taylor to be brought to the city.

The actual trial of Boland Molineux, for the murder of Mrs. Kate C. Adams, was begun in New York, the day being largely taken up with the opening address of Assistant District Attorney Osborne.

Fifty-one counties out of 119 in Kentucky were canvassed by the state board, and showed a total of 74,764 for Goebel and 68,970 for Taylor.

Six passengers were killed and others seriously injured in a wreck on the Denver and Rio Grande.

Four additional indictments were found in Philadelphia against the Investors' Trust.

The ironmolders in Pittsburg and Allegheny, Pa., have practically won their strike.

THE MESSAGE.

President McKinley's Review of National Affairs Laid Before Congress.

MUST HOLD PHILIPPINES

Declares For Gold Standard and Recommends Congressional Restriction of Trusts.

Independence For Cuba When the People Are Ready—A Territorial Organization For Porto Rico—Treaty Rights of Aliens—Pacific Cable Needed—Partition of Samoa—Our Army at Manila—Neutrality in the Transvaal War Reaffirmed—This Country at Peace With Foreign Nations—Pan-American Exhibition and South American Republics.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special).—President McKinley's message, delivered to the Fifty-sixth Congress on the second day of the session, declares emphatically for the retention of the Philippines, the upholding of the gold standard and the building of the Nicaragua Canal. He denounces trusts, but points out that legislation to curb them is hard to devise.

On the subject of the Philippines the President declares that our retirement would lead to a contest among foreign governments, no one of which would permit any of the others to occupy the islands without a struggle, and that the result would inevitably be to plunge the Philippines into anarchy and war. A protectorate is also impossible, he announces, as we would have to protect the inhabitants from one another as well as from foreign powers with whom they might become involved.

Regarding Cuba the President states that the United States is pledged to give the island its liberty when the inhabitants have shown their capability for self-government, and "this pledge is solemnly reaffirmed."

Main Points of the Message. Governments modeled to a great extent on those now in operation in our Territories are recommended for Porto Rico, Hawaii and Alaska.

The main points of the message are as follows: To the Senate and House of Representatives: At the threshold of your deliberations you are called to mourn with your countrymen the death of Vice-President Hobart, who passed from this life on the morning of November 21st last. His great soul now rests in eternal peace. His private life was pure and elevated, while his public career was ever distinguished by large capacity, stainless integrity, and exalted motives. He has been removed from the high office which he honored and dignified, but his lofty character, his devotion to duty, his honesty of purpose, and noble virtues remain with us as a priceless legacy and example.

The Fifty-sixth Congress convenes in its first regular session with the country in a condition of unusual prosperity, of universal good will among the people at home, and in relations of peace and friendship with every government of the world. Our foreign commerce has shown great increase in volume and value. The combined imports and exports for the year are the largest ever shown by a single year in all our history.

The President then quotes figures from the annual reports of his Cabinet officers which bear him out in the above statement.

New Banking Act. The President finds that under the rapid development in the industries of the country the national banking act is not a sufficient avenue through which useful additions to the circulation can be made. He therefore asks Congress to take up this matter with the view of ascertaining whether or not such reasonable modifications can be made as will render the act's service in the particulars referred to more responsive to the people's needs. He urges that national banks be authorized to organize with a capital of \$25,000.

For Gold Standard. President McKinley then proceeds to discuss the standard of money, and says: I urgently recommend that you support the existing gold standard and to maintain the parity in value of the coins of the two metals (gold and silver) and the equal power of every dollar at all times in the market and in the payment of debts, the Secretary of the Treasury be given additional power and charged with the duty to sell United States bonds and to employ other effective means as may be necessary to those ends.

The financial transactions of the Government are conducted upon a gold basis. We receive gold when we sell United States bonds and use gold for their payment. We are maintaining the parity of all the money issued or coined by authority of the Government. We are doing these things with the means at hand.

Supply of Gold. Happily, at the present time we are not compelled to resort to loans to supply gold. It has been done in the past, however, and may have to be done in the future. It behooves us, therefore, to provide at once the best means to meet the emergency when it arises, and the best means are those which are the most certain and economical.

In this connection I repeat my former recommendations that a portion of the gold holdings shall be placed in a trust fund from which greenbacks shall be redeemed upon presentation, but when once redeemed shall not thereafter be paid out except for gold.

The Subject of Trusts. After an urgent appeal to Congress to pass some legislation which shall lift the American merchant marine from its present state of decadence, President McKinley turns his attention to the subject of trusts and devotes a great deal of attention to it. He says: Combinations of capital organized into trusts to control the conditions of trade among our citizens, to stifle competition, limit production and determine the prices of products used and consumed by the people, are justly provoking public discussion, and should early claim the attention of Congress.

It is universally conceded that combinations which engross or control the market of any particular kind of merchandise or commodity necessary to the general community by suppressing natural and ordinary competition, whereby prices are unduly enhanced to the general consumer, are obnoxious, not only to the common law, but also to the public welfare.

There must be a remedy for the evils involved in such organizations. If the pres-

ent law can be extended to more certainly control or check these monopolies or trusts, it should be done without delay. Whatever power the Congress possesses over this subject, it should be promptly ascertained and asserted.

Foreign Affairs. Following the trust question the President takes up foreign relations, first reviewing the status of several disputed territories and conditions in the Chinese Empire, and then moving toward a successful settlement.

He finds that the Isthmian Canal Commission is making good progress in carrying on its duties in Panama, and in connection with a view to establishing a canal between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and he asks Congress to help in the work.

Next the Paris Exposition is touched on, and concerning our relations continue to be most cordial.

Mr. McKinley contends that our system of the inspection of food products for export is of the best, and he hopes that the German Government will come to realize this, and suggests that Congress authorize an invitation to Germany in connection with the pending reciprocity negotiations for a joint commission of scientific experts and practical men of affairs to conduct a searching investigation of food products in both countries.

The President hopes that the disputed question regarding the Alaskan Canadian boundary will soon be satisfactorily settled.

Neutral in the Boer-British War. Touching on the war between Great Britain and the Boers, the President says: It is the policy of this Government to maintain a strict attitude of neutrality in the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and the Boer States of Africa. We have been faithful to the precept of avoiding entangling alliances.

Power should be given to Federal courts the President thinks, to punish lynch crimes against aliens.

He next touches on the fact that Japan will soon be brought into telegraphic relation with this country, and also urges the necessity of a cable to Manila.

Cuba and Samoa. President McKinley reviews at some length the Samoan troubles, and says that he will soon submit to the convention entered into between the United States, Germany and England for its action, and then takes up the subject of the condition of Cuba and Porto Rico since the treaty of peace with Spain was signed.

He distinctly says that the pledge, as proclaimed in the joint resolution adopted by Congress on April 19, 1898, by which the United States disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over Cuba, except for the pacification thereof and the determination of the future of the island, is to give the government, and to the island, to its people, is of the highest honorable obligation and must be sacredly kept.

Diplomatic Relations With Spain. Following the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace the two Governments acceded to the terms of the treaty, Spain sending to Washington the Duke of Aros, an eminent diplomatist, while the United States transferred to Madrid Hon. John A. Foster, its Minister at Brussels. In addition to his consular representation in the United States, the Spanish Government has appointed consuls for Cuba, who have been provisionally recognized during the military administration of the affairs of that island.

The President recommends appropriate legislation in order to carry into execution Article VII of the Treaty of Peace with Spain, by which the United States agreed to the payment of certain claims for indemnity of its citizens against Spain.

Claims Against Turkey. The United States Minister to Turkey continues, under instructions, to press for money payment in satisfaction of the just claims for injuries suffered by American citizens in the disorders of several years past and for wrongs done to some of the Sultan's authorities. Some of the United States citizens are still at liberty. This Government is hopeful of a general agreement in this regard.

The Venezuelan revolution is then dealt with, and the recognition of Castro acknowledged.

Reviewing the increase of trade brought about by the efforts of the State Department to keep in touch with the Government of the Latin-American republics in general, and in this connection referring to the Pan-American Exposition, to be held on the Niagara frontier in New York in the year 1901.

Monroe Doctrine Guarded. President McKinley expresses satisfaction over the peace which has been secured in the Hague, and hopes for beneficial results from the permanent tribunal for arbitration established by it. He calls attention to the fact that in signing the convention which created the representative of the United States carefully guarded the historic position of this country against the Monroe doctrine.

In a brief reference to the number of men conscripted in the United States in this country and Manila, the President says: I cannot withhold from officers and men who have distinguished themselves by their soldierly conduct in trying and effective ways, willing sacrifices for their country and the integrity and ability with which they have performed unusual and difficult duties in connection with the war, my warmest commendations.

The message then goes into an extended review of the postal service, not only in the United States, but the recently acquired colonies. It also calls the attention of Congress to the report of the Secretary of the Navy concerning armor-plate for vessels now under contract and building, and repeats the latter's request that legislation be enacted to make contracts early in the year for armor of the best quality that can be obtained in this country for the Maine, Ohio and Missouri, and that the provision of the act of March 3, 1899, limiting the price of armor to \$300 per ton be removed.

Must Keep Philippines. The next subject taken up is the insurrection in the Philippines. He reiterates that everything possible was done to assure the success of the good intentions of the United States, and that the rebel leader was ever promised independence, and declares that no course was left but to suppress this rising.

War in the Philippines. President McKinley recites how the Philippine Islands came to the United States by the terms of the treaty with Spain, and says that he has every reason to believe that the transfer of sovereignty was in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the great mass of the Filipino people.

He says that no opportunity was lost of assuring the people of the island of our ardent desire for their welfare and of the intention of this Government to do everything possible to advance their interests. He reviews the appointment of the Philippine Commissioners and then says: But before their arrival at Manila the sinister ambition of a few leaders of the Philippines had created a situation full of embarrassment for us and most grievous in its consequences to themselves.

No sooner had our army captured Manila, says the President, than the Filipino forces began to assume an attitude of sus-

plcion and hostility, which the utmost efforts of our officers and troops were unable to disarm or modify. Their kindness and forbearance were taken as a proof of cowardice.

The aggressions of the Filipinos continually increased until finally, just before the time set by the Senate of the United States for the ratification of the treaty, an attack, evidently prepared in advance, was made all along the American line, which resulted in a terribly destructive and sanguinary repulse of the insurgents.

A Massacre Plot. President McKinley then quotes from the insurgent proclamation, which contemplated the massacre of the Americans in Manila, and says: "It is our duty for barbarous intent it is unequalled in modern times."

He then quotes as follows from the report of the commission sent to the Philippines to investigate the following words: "It is not to be conceived that any American would have sanctioned the surrender of Manila to the insurgents, or that any American would have allowed the friendly Filipinos to ourselves and our flag demanded that force should be met by force."

The President then says: The course the rebels have pursued has been most flagrant. The rebellion must be put down. Civil government cannot be thoroughly established until order is restored. With a devotion and gallantry worthy of its most brilliant history, the army, ably and loyally assisted by the navy, has carried on this unwelcome but most righteous campaign with richly deserved success.

The noble self-sacrifice with which our soldiers and sailors whose term of service had expired refused to avail themselves of their right to return home as long as they were needed at the front, forms one of the brightest pages in our annals.

Although their operations have been somewhat interrupted and checked by a rainy season of unusual violence and duration, they have gained ground steadily in every direction and their forward confidence to a speedy completion of their task.

Mr. McKinley then tells of the establishment of a government in the island of Samar, and says: "If we accept them as a sovereign people, we give to Congress the principal features of the constitution under which its affairs are now being carried on provisionally."

He next touches on the accession of the United States to the rights of Spain over the Sulu Islands, and says that the archipelago is to be placed under the protection of the United States, and that the usual market value is not to be deemed in any way to authorize or give the consent of the United States to the existence of slavery in the Sulu Archipelago.

Whatever the future of the Philippines may be, there is no course open to us now except the prosecution of the war until the insurgents are reduced to submission. The question is one of the opinion that there has been no time since the destruction of the Spanish squadron by Admiral Dewey when it was possible to withdraw our forces from the islands with honor to ourselves or with safety to the inhabitants.

The future government of the Philippines rests with the Congress of the United States. Few graver responsibilities have been placed upon us. If we accept them in a spirit worthy of our race and our traditions, a great opportunity comes with them. The islands lie under the shelter of our flag. They are ours by every title of right. They cannot be given up without dishonor. If we desert them we leave them at once to anarchy and finally to barbarism. We fling then, a golden apple of discord, among rival powers, no one of which could permit another to seize them unopposed.

The suggestion has been made that we could renounce our authority over the islands, giving them independence, and retain a protectorate over them. This proposal will not be found. I am sure, worthy of your serious attention. Such an arrangement would involve at the outset a complete loss of faith. It would give us no power to control them. It would charge us with the task of protecting them against each other, and defending them against foreign powers with which they propose to quarrel. In short, it would take from the Congress of the United States the power of declaring war, and vest that tremendous prerogative in the Tagal leader of the hour.

The President does not deem it desirable to recommend at this time the specific and final form of government for the island, leaving that to Congress when peace is fully restored.

He believes that reconstruction should not begin by the establishment of one central civil government, with its seat at Manila, but rather first establishing municipal governments and then provincial governments and central governments at last to follow.

Concerning Hawaii, President McKinley says it is important that an act should be passed to amend the laws of the judicial district and providing for the appointment of a judge and other officers.

About Alaska. He then calls attention to the necessity for immediate legislative relief in the territory of Alaska, the population having increased so rapidly that more ample facilities for local self-government are needed. He also recommends that legislation to the same end be had with reference to Porto Rico.

Mr. McKinley repeats in his message the words he used in his inaugural address concerning lynchings in the United States. He calls upon the people of the country to faithfully uphold the right of trial by jury.

On the subject of the civil service the President says that the amendments promulgated by the executive order of May 29, 1899, to the order of May 6, 1896, were made when it became evident to the heads of departments that the amendments were necessary to an efficient and harmonious administration of the departments. He claims that the results obtained show that the public service has improved and that the civil service system has relieved many of its objections and features.

Anniversary of Washington's Death. In conclusion, the President says: The 14th of December will be the One Hundredth Anniversary of the death of Washington. For a hundred years the Republic has had the priceless advantage of the lofty standard of character and conduct which he bequeathed to the American people. It is an inheritance which, instead of wasting continually, increases and enriches. We may justly hope that in the years to come the benign influence of the Father of his Country may be even more potent for good than in the century which is drawing to a close. I have been glad to learn that in many parts of the country the people will fittingly observe this historic anniversary.

Presented to this Congress are great opportunities. With them come great responsibilities. The power conferred to us increases the weight of our obligations to the people, and we must be profoundly sensible of them as we contemplate the new and grave problems which confront us. Aiming only at the public good, we can not err. A right interpretation of the people's will and of duty can not fail to insure wise measures for the welfare of the islands which have come under the authority of the United States, and inure to the common interest and lasting honor of our country. Never has this Nation had more abundant cause than during the past year for thankfulness to God for manifold blessings and mercies, for which we make reverent acknowledgment.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY. EXECUTIVE MANSION, December 5, 1899.

56TH CONGRESS.

THROGS IN BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ROBERTS IS CHALLENGED.

An Impressive Scene in the Chamber as the Utah Member, Isolated From All the Others, Came Forward and Stood Up Supported in All That Throng to Hear Himself Denounced.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—On the House side of the Capitol the men literally were "not in it." Such masses of women, moving in every direction and converging at the Capitol were certainly never seen before. Two hours in advance of the meeting, corridors and stairways on all of the three floors were packed and jammed with the struggling mass of femininity.

The House galleries on all four sides, relieved only by the broad expanse of the press gallery, were filled, seats and steps, so thick that it was hard to get in and hard to get out.

The diplomatic and executive galleries of the House were barren of occupants until within a few minutes of noon. The privilege of the grand galleries is so exclusive that the favored ones had no occasion to come until it suited their own convenience.

On the floor the crash was not less, but there the men had the advantage, except that hundreds of women got in and remained until the rigorous application of the rule as to the floor excluded them.

In the galleries the women were constantly jumping up and peering over each other's shoulders in the search for Roberts, the star performer of the day. They did not care to have any other person pointed out to them. Roberts was the man they wanted, and they were not satisfied until he came in. Mr. Roberts made his appearance about a quarter past 11 o'clock. As he passed through the lobby in the rear of the Speaker's chair his eye fell upon the great stacks of petitions against him, which were piled 10 feet high and 10 feet wide, coming, as is understood, from every State in the Union.

The Speaker, having taken the oath of office, proceeded to complete the organization of the House by swearing in the members, which, according to custom, was done by calling the States in alphabetical order. An understanding having been previously reached between the leaders on both sides as to the disposition of the Roberts case, there was no particular interest on that subject on the floor, but the galleries were a spectacle.

They contained themselves with ill-concealed impatience, all anxious to reach Utah, when the grand performance of the day was expected. Utah is pretty far down on the list. When it was at last reached the clerk called Brigham H. Roberts. Twenty or thirty members are usually sworn in in one batch, to save time. The clerk did not proceed, however, but made a pause, which increased the dramatic effect.

Mr. Roberts had been bending forward in his seat for some few minutes, with his hand to his ear. Instantly, upon hearing his name, he rose from the sixth row back, where he was seated, and walked slowly, but with very erect mien, down the aisle. Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, who had been deputed to take charge, was quickly on his feet, and sang out, in a clear, shrill tone: "Mr. Speaker, I object to the oath being administered to the gentleman from Utah." At the sound of his voice Roberts stopped abruptly, just as he was about to step to the area in front of the Speaker. He stood at the end of the row, his hand resting on the desk on either side of him, and steadily, without flinching, looked into the face of Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor stated his objections, concluding with the statement that he spoke for 7,000,000 American men and women, represented on the floor by petition. Mr. McLean, of Arkansas, speaking for the Democratic side, seconded Mr. Taylor, amid tremendous applause.

A committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Cannon (Republican, of Illinois), Payne (Republican, of New York), and Richardson (Democrat, of Tennessee), were appointed to join a similar committee from the Senate to wait on the President and inform him that Congress was in session and ready to receive any communication he might have to make.

The opening session of the Senate lasted only 30 minutes and was confined to the swearing in of new and re-elected Senators, the reception of protests against the seating of Senator Quay, and the charges of bribery in connection with the election of Senator Clark, of Montana.

The contrast between the animated scene on the floor of the House and that on the floor of the Senate was most marked. A few Senators appeared in various parts of the committee rooms—the majority remained in the lobbies and halls.

The custom of sending flowers to the Senators still prevails to some extent, although there were not so many emblems this year as last.

When the gavel fell, at 12 o'clock, with Senator Frye, president pro tem, in the chair, all the members of the Senate were present, except Senators Butler, Caffery, Deboe, McBride and Mallory. Ex-Senator Quay, knowing that an objection would be made to his being sworn in, was not present, and his case was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections on motion of Senator Cockrell.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Joseph Chamberlain has worn a monocle since boyhood.

The late Vice-President Hobart was born in 1844 and died in 1899, at the age of 55.

Mrs. Arthur Eliot Fish is the originator of the scheme for furnishing the poor of New York with fuel at a nominal rate.

Ex-Senator John M. Palmer, at the age of 83 years, is in Washington gathering material for his forthcoming book of recollections.

Duluth has been added to the list of cities receiving from Mr. Carnegie gifts for the erection of free public libraries. The sum is \$50,000.

Miss Adelaide Sergeant, the novelist, has joined the Church of Rome. She was once, and brought up a Methodist.

He is rumored in New York that the health of William M. Evarts is very bad, and that his physical condition is rapidly growing alarm.

The Duchess of Sutherland frequently attends meetings of Socialists women in company with Miss Margaret MacMillan, a Socialistic lecturer.

Herr Von Volmar, the leader of the Bavarian Socialists, is the son of one of the oldest families in America from the British aristocracy. He entered the army at the age of 15.

Miss Mayne Jester, a niece of Buffalo Bill, is said to be the only female press agent on the road. She left the newspaper business to go into this new field.

GIRLS IN A DEATH TRAP.

Panic-Stricken in a Blazing Hosiery Factory—One Buried to Death.

Reading, Pa. (Special).—One of the most appalling fires that has ever visited this city occurred, when the extensive hosiery mill of Noble & Hunt Company took fire, destroying the plant, causing the death of one, and injuring about sixty other employes of the company. The separated parts of a badly burned corpse were recovered from the ruins, and were subsequently found to be the remains of Miss Louisa Clay, aged forty-eight years.

Of the fifty-seven persons who were injured, thirty were seriously hurt.

The hosiery building was a large four-story structure, and nearly six hundred persons were employed, most of them being women and girls. The fire was discovered about eleven o'clock, and in a few moments the girls were panic-stricken. They made a dash for the fire escape and the stairs, but found that the latter means of escape could not carry all of them down at the same time.

Several hundred of the girls then made a rush for the windows and appealed to those in the street to save them. Ladders were brought into use, and many girls were taken from the burning building safely. Most of them, however, jumped and were seriously injured. For a few minutes from every window on the second and third floors girls leaped one after the other. Some lodged in the arms of those below, but many struck the ground. They were picked up and rapidly removed to hospitals or their homes.

Many of the girls who escaped by the stairways and fire escapes were badly burned, but none of them was, it is believed, seriously injured. It is not known how Miss Clay met her fate, but it is believed that she fainted, and was then burned to death. The fire traveled with great rapidity owing to the inflammable stock in the building. By those who saw the progress of the fire it is considered miraculous that there was such a small loss of life.

There is much criticism among the employes because of the fact that the screens in the windows, except those at the fire escapes, were securely nailed to the window sills. The girls had to break the screens before they could get out to leap to the ground. Some of the employes say that the doors were locked, as a rule, after the employes were in the building.

The fire was caused by the explosion of gasoline in the singing room. The loss is estimated at about \$275,000, on which there is an insurance of \$150,000.

KILLED IN POWDER MILL.

Three Men Meet Death, and Two are Seriously Injured.

Pottstown, Pa. (Special).—The powder works of James S. Miller, near Sunnyside, were completely wrecked by explosion and three men were killed and several others injured.

There were two explosions, the first occurring in the glazing house. The other explosion followed within thirty seconds, and the entire five buildings, which comprised the works, were demolished. Baer and Schragger were in the glazing house when the explosion occurred, and Schneck was at work in the mixing house. Their bodies were horribly mangled. Sch