

THE NEWS.

Mr. Montalm Oldham, clerk of Accomac (Va.) County Court, committed suicide by shooting himself at his home, at Accomac Courthouse. Mr. Oldham was about fifty-five years old and had been clerk of Accomac county for twenty years.

The bill to permit persons holding diplomas from reputable medical colleges to practice without taking a state board examination was adversely reported in the Virginia House of Delegates.

The Book Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at its session in Chicago, fixed the salaries of the effective bishops at \$4,700; missionary bishops \$4,500.

Surrogate Fitzgerald, in New York, decided that the Vanderbilt five-million trust fund is not exempt from the inheritance tax.

C. B. Markle & Co., anthracite coal mine operators, have increased the wages of their 1,800 employes five per cent.

Mrs. Thomas McKean, of Philadelphia, has given \$25,000 to the University of Pennsylvania.

Suit was filed in the Circuit Court in Frankfort, Ky., by Governor Taylor to enjoin Beckham and Castleman from exercising the functions of the respective offices they claim.

Judge Taft, in the federal court sitting in Cincinnati, decided that he had no original jurisdiction, but that the case might be carried to the Supreme Court on writ of error.

Floods did considerable damage both in New England and the South. Towns in Vermont, Massachusetts, and along the Chattahoochee River, in Georgia, were flooded.

At Charleston, W. Va., Louis Stewart, aged nineteen, shot and killed his father, who was about to assault the boy's mother.

The anti-trust conference at Chicago adopted a plan of organization, elected officers and adjourned.

Major Austin Layden, a well-known hotel proprietor and inventor, died suddenly in Atlanta.

Twenty-five out of the twenty-nine steel sheet mills have combined.

Henry C. Robinson, ex-mayor of Hartford, Ct., died at his home.

William F. Parker, a young North Carolinian, killed himself at Norfolk.

Arthur H. Kemp killed himself at Macon, Ga.

Henry Clay Frick filed a bill in equity in the Court of Allegheny County, Pa., against Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Steel Company praying for a decree that the "pre-nuptial transfer of his interests in the company was and is null and void, and that he is still the owner of such interests."

It is feared the steamer Gate City may be lost. Life-savers think the cargo can be secured.

Dr. Lorenzo Holmes, formerly of the Rush Medical College, died in Chicago.

Carver B. Cline, a theatrical man, died in New York.

Floods have caused some damage in Georgia.

A resolution was offered in the Kentucky Democratic legislature at Louisville calling upon Governor Taylor to surrender the executive offices to J. C. W. Beckham, "the lawful governor."

News was received in Philadelphia of the death of Mrs. Simon and Mrs. Beck, the missionaries, at Monrovia, Liberia.

Governor Roosevelt has issued a public statement declaring that he will not accept a nomination for the vice presidency.

William Steinhilber, former chess champion, was placed in the Manhattan State Hospital for the Insane, on Ward's Island.

The ball bond of Theodore F. Taylor, the absconding deputy clerk of Henrico county, Va., was forfeited.

Rev. E. L. Goodwin, of Charleston, S. C., accepted a call to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, in Richmond.

Maria Smith and her six children were burned to death in their home at Stony Creek, Sussex county, Va.

The steamer Henry M. Stanley struck the Kentucky pier of the Southern Railway bridge and sank.

Jacob Shireff was arrested in Richmond for opening letters addressed to Miss Annie Eskins.

Ella Leabolt was instantly killed by a fall of slate at a quarry at Stratford, Pa.

The New York Presbytery has declined to try Rev. Dr. McGeiff for heresy.

FINANCIAL BILL.

CURRENCY MEASURE PASSES SENATE BY VOTE OF 46 TO 29.

TWO AMENDMENTS CARRY.

Ten Sections of the New Bill.—The Dollar of 25 Grains, Nine-Tenths Fine, Shall Be the Standard of Value of the United States, and All Money to Be Held at Parity With It.

Washington, (Special).—The Senate substitute for the House currency bill was passed by the Senate by the decisive majority of 46 to 29. Prior to the final passage of the bill amendments were considered under the 10-minute rule. Only two of these amendments were adopted, viz., one offered by the Finance Committee keeping the door open to international bimetalism and one by Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, providing for national banks with \$25,000 capital in towns of not more than \$4,000 inhabitants.

The bill as passed consists of 10 sections. It provides that the dollar of 25-8-19 grains of gold nine-tenths fine shall be the standard unit of value, and that all forms of United States money shall be maintained at a parity with it, and that Treasury notes and greenbacks shall be redeemable in gold.

The Secretary of the Treasury is to set apart a fund of \$150,000,000 in gold for the redemption of these notes, and to maintain this fund at a figure not below \$100,000,000 he is empowered to sell bonds of the United States bearing interest at not exceeding 3 per cent.

It shall also be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, as fast as standard silver dollars are coined, to retire an equal amount of treasury notes and to issue silver certificates against the silver so coined. Under certain provisions, too, gold certificates shall be issued against the gold held in the Treasury. No United States notes or Treasury notes shall be issued in denominations of less than \$10 and no silver certificates in denominations of more than \$10.

The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized to refund the bonded debt of the United States in 30-year bonds bearing 2 per cent. interest, the principal and interest of these bonds to be paid in gold. The 2 per cent. bonds shall be issued at not less than par. Any national bank, by depositing with the United States bonds of this country, shall be permitted to issue circulating notes to the face value of the bonds deposited, no bank being allowed to issue circulating notes in excess of the amount of the paid-in capital stock of the bank.

REPLY TO MACRUM.—Statement That His Mail Was Opened Discredited.—No Unnecessary Delays.

Washington, (Special).—While State Department officials were averse to discussing the published statement of Ex-Congressman Macrum, it was authoritatively stated that a search of the records failed to show that Mr. Macrum had ever reported to the department that his official mail was being regularly tampered with by the British authorities.

It was said that he did, in a general way, report that both official and private mail intended for American citizens did not reach him punctually, and asked that protest be made on account of this rather arbitrary proceeding on the part of the postal authorities.

The department investigated the matter and learned that no unnecessary delay existed, and does not credit the statement that any correspondence, official or otherwise, was opened, inspected and delayed by British authorities.

Mr. Macrum stated that his vice-consul, Mr. Van Ameringen, closed up his business, took the oath of allegiance to the republic and went to the front as a burgher. The records show that when Mr. Ameringen applied for appointment as vice-consul at Pretoria he stated that he was born in Holland; that his legal residence was at Pretoria, and that he was a naturalized citizen of the South African Republic. This application was dated Pretoria, November 12, 1898.

TORTURED BY FILIPINOS.—Three Straggling Massachusetts Soldiers Maltreated and Killed.

Boston, (Special).—A despatch to the Globe from Hilo says: Three Massachusetts soldiers of the Twenty-sixth Regiment, U. S. V., have been tortured to death by insurgents.

The men were Dennis Hayes, Wm. Dugan and Michael Tracy, privates of Company F, and Captain William M. Tuberty. They remained behind the column at Balingay last November to get a tuba, and refused to accompany the corporal sent by Captain Tuberty to bring them along. They were captured by the insurgents hanging on the rear of the column, and were cruelly tortured and murdered by the rebels in the public plaza at Balingay, the action being countenanced by the Spanish priest.

The padre has since left his parish for the mountains.

When the men remained behind they had with them their full equipment of arms and ammunition, which was captured.

REMEMBERED THE MAINE.—Second Anniversary of Loss of Warship Observed at Havana.

Havana, (Special).—The second anniversary of the destruction of the United States battleship Maine in this harbor was suitably observed here.

At 9 o'clock several hundred Americans boarded launches and tugs and went to the wreck of the Maine, over which the United States flag was flying at half mast.

Every available piece of wreckage above the water was banked with laurels, and from the searchlight platform short prayers were offered by Dr. Metcalf, of the Episcopal Church, and Father Jones, of the Catholic Church.

At the Church of Moreed the municipality arranged for imposing memorial services, which were attended by Governor General Wood, officers representing the departments, the civil officials and the secretaries.

AGAINST CIVIL SERVICE.—Bill Affecting Diplomatic and Consular Service is Dead.

Washington, (Special).—The plan for a reorganization of the diplomatic and consular service on a civil service basis, which has been embodied in several bills and has attracted widespread attention, was a special order of business before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and on a tie vote of 7 to 7 was defeated and then permanently disposed of by being tabled.

The committee acted favorably on the bill for the appointment of a woman delegate to the unveiling of the Lafayette statue at Paris.

MOLINEUX GUILTY.

Jury Brings in a Verdict of Murder in the First Degree—Scene in the Courtroom.

New York, (Special).—Roland Burnham Molineux is guilty. By a verdict of 12 of his peers, rendered in his presence in the Court of General Sessions, he was convicted of murder in the first degree.

The splendid nerve that has characterized his conduct since the day of his arrest—more than a year ago—did not desert him in his gravest need.

Erect, with his head tilted back, every muscle in his body tense, Molineux stood to hear his fate.

"Gentlemen of the jury, what is your verdict?" said the low, soft voice of Recorder Goft.

"We find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree," came the first answer.

Molineux's slight frame lifted for a back, his eyes opened wider, his head and his body stiffened.

Through the crowded courtroom passed a shudder. Women moaned.

"Silence!" thundered a court officer. Then, as the individual poll of the jury was begun, from out on the street came the tolling of a clock striking slowly the hour of 11. Each juror answered to his name in a firm voice, acquiescing in the verdict.

Molineux still stood facing, in back, each of the 12 life-judges, his head erect, his eyes blazing, his attitude one of defiance. Until that roll was ended—and to the spectators it seemed interminable—did the convicted murderer relax.

When the last question had been asked he took his seat and turned to his lawyer with a smile of confidence and bitter irony. At his side, the sublimed figure of fatherly devotion that could be fatal, sat the lawyer Molineux. When the crushing verdict came that destroyed at once his pride and hope, the withered hand of the old soldier was raised to the dim eyes as if to hide from them the hideous sight of 12 men sitting in judgment before him.

Slowly the hand fell, the eyes rested once on his son's face, then closed, and thus remained until the agony was less acute.

When Molineux left the courtroom his step was not less firm, his bearing no less saintly than when he entered. He was followed by every eye in that crowded court.

SHOT FROM AMBUSH.—Murderer Fatally Wounded a Detective and Is Himself Killed.

Ronoke, Va., (Special).—Detective Thomas L. Peits, of the Baldwin Detective Agency, of Ronoke, was shot and fatally wounded by William Lee, a murderer, who escaped jail at McDowell Court House, W. Va., several days ago.

Lee had been sentenced to hang. Peits was hit on his trail, and was accompanied by E. M. Baldwin, of Bluefield, W. Va., a brother of Detective Baldwin, when Lee ambushed them and shot Peits through the body, the ball entering directly under the heart. The Norfolk and Western Railroad Company has despatched its best surgeons to the relief of the wounded man, but a late telegram says Peits himself realizes that he will die. When Peits was shot from his horse, Bob Baldwin jumped down, and, with a pistol, shot and killed the murderer.

OUR TREATY WITH ITALY.—Germans Think United States is Exerting Pressure Upon Germany.

Berlin, (By Cable).—The Italian treaty with the United States is attracting much attention and is interpreted unfavorably by the central bureau for the preparation of commercial treaties in Berlin, says that the articles upon which the United States government is making reductions, like toys, aniline dyes, iron ores and cement, are specifically German export articles, and that the United States is apparently endeavoring to bring indirect pressure upon Germany in the pending negotiations.

Probably Fatal Shooting.—Norton, W. Va., (Special).—In this place Friday evening, a dispute arose between John Wampler and Sam Ware, land agents for the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company, and William Jenkins, a prominent lawyer, over a law contest between them. The contest was renewed and so bitter became the feeling that shooting ensued, resulting in Jenkins being fatally wounded in the breast, and Ware was shot in the hip. The physicians believe that Jenkins can live only a short time. Wampler and Ware are under arrest.

Headless Body Found.—New Orleans, La., (Special).—The headless body of a white man was found floating in the new basin. The body was covered with wounds, and there is every indication that a murder has been committed. Marks on the body indicate that it was that of William Wallard, an employe of the Lumber Company, who has been missing since Saturday night last. Wallard's hat was found on the banks of the basin Sunday morning.

Fire in Brooklyn Navy Yard.—New York, (Special).—Building No. 7 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, occupied by the electrical equipment department, was destroyed by fire. The loss is \$100,000, equally divided between the building and machinery. A large quantity of valuable records were saved. Admiral Philip Mitchell took charge of the forces that fought the flames and received several cuts about the face from broken glass.

New "Jim Crow" Law.—Columbia, S. C., (Special).—The Legislature has adopted changes in its "Jim Crow" law, which provides separate coaches for the white and colored races. Instead of having separate compartments in one coach and first and second-class coaches, with different fares, as at present, the new law provides for one coach for each race at a uniform rate of fare—three cents a mile. The law goes into effect in 60 days.

A Brakeman Killed.—Alexandria, Va., (Special).—Charles M. McLeary, 25 years of age, employed as a brakeman on the Southern Railroad, was mangled between two freight cars in the Southern yard here and instantly killed. He was married.

Exports Fall Off \$10,000,000.—Washington, (Special).—The monthly statement of exports, issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, shows that there were exported in January breadstuffs to the value of \$17,541,249; provisions, \$11,558,340; cotton, \$27,104,291; minerals, \$6,339,185. The total exports for the month were \$64,322,526, as compared with \$74,729,762 for January, 1899.

Four Men Seriously Injured.—Durham, N. C., (Special).—The boiler at the power house of the Durham Electric Light Company exploded, wrecking the building and seriously injuring four men.

NAMED FOR ACTION.

WORK EXPECTED OF THE NEW PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

DUTIES OF THE NEW BODY.

President McKinley Carefully Selecting Men of Character and Standing—Their Duties Will Be to Organize Municipal Government in the Islands and Supervise Their Work.

Washington, (Special).—The only reference in the Cabinet meeting Tuesday to a matter of public interest was to the new Philippine Commission. Inasmuch as the commission will not leave this country for six weeks or two months President McKinley has been in no hurry to complete the membership. He has been carefully seeking men of national standing and unquestioned character. The duties of the commission will be of the highest importance. In Administration circles the new commission is regarded as one of the most important ever created. It differs a great deal from the original Philippine Commission. That body, which will soon be defunct, was of an advisory nature. It was to look the ground over, confer with the Philippine leaders and report to the President and country what was advisable. Its all intents and purposes this has been done.

Not for Advice, But Action.—The new commission has been created not for advice, but for action. Its duty will be to organize municipal governments here, there and everywhere, set them going and supervise their work till they are able to stand firmly by themselves. Groups of municipalities will then be gathered under provincial governments, and the provinces in turn will be gathered under a central authority, at the head of which will be a governor-general. The establishment of such a system on a sound footing will be the task of the new commission.

The Southern member the President has been seeking has not been selected. Senator McLaughlin was most prominently mentioned at one time, but it has never been known whether he would accept. Senator Lindsay was also mentioned. His term expires in March, 1901, and the seat after that is already filled by the election of Ex-Senator Blackburn, but it is not now believed that Senator Lindsay will take a place, or that it will be offered to him by the President.

A Coming Declaration.—It is said that the President will soon declare the insurrection in the Philippines at an end, so far as organized rebellion is concerned. Whether he will issue a proclamation to that effect is not known. The effect of his action will be the same, however. It will be to put Aguinaldo and a few insurgents now harassing the American forces on the basis of outlaws and bandits, to be treated as such now or at any future time they may be captured or encountered. This will change the future offensive operations of the American troops from a military to a police character. The army will be broken into detachments and scattered throughout the islands to give protection and confidence to the people.

It is too far off to determine how many troops will be withdrawn from the islands, but there will be a number, and the withdrawals will increase with time.

Aguinaldo to Continue the Struggle.—It is recognized in Administration circles that Aguinaldo will try to continue a desultory struggle until next November, with the hope that this may change the Presidential election. When the President proclaims that peace exists in the islands and that all people must submit their controversies to the courts or be punished accordingly, it is argued that the few insurgents will speedily give in. Murder and arson will be punished as they deserve. So will all other crimes, and the Filipinos who continue to intimidate and murder natives will be treated as bandits and fought accordingly. No rales of about the hotel lobby last Monday, and at night ate a hearty supper and went to bed at an early hour. A milkman passing the hotel about five o'clock A. M., saw the body of a man lying on the sidewalk. The clothing was saturated with rain, and blood had flowed in great quantity from a terrible break in the skull at the right temple.

The speculation about the manner of death led to the conjecture that the man may have been seized by a fit of temporary insanity from the pain of the rheumatism and have jumped out of the window in the night, or that he had been a somnambulist and had walked out of the window and clambered over the fire-escape.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.—Aubrey Thomas De Vere is the oldest living English poet.

Representative Mitchell May, of the Sixth New York district, has the reputation of being the best-dressed man in Congress.

Lord Palmerley, Lord Rosebery's eldest son, has just passed the Sandhurst examination. He is 19th out of 29 for the Cavalry and Foot Guards.

Senator Hanna's rheumatic leg is again giving him some trouble, and for the last few days he has been walking with the aid of a cane.

Senator Deteridge carries his papers in a handsome black leather portfolio bearing his name, in silver lettering, the gift of some of his constituents.

Here is an enthusiastic New Yorker's appreciation of Paderevski: "Why, there's only one pianist in the world; all the rest of them are merely hired help."

Joseph Quincy, Ex-Mayor of Boston, announces that he will shortly marry Mrs. William B. Taylor, widow of the late headmaster of Adams Academy at Quincy.

Colonel Baden-Powell is a great admirer of Sir Frederick Carrington, who has just been commissioned a Major-General to lead guerrillas in the South African War.

MACRUM SPEAKS OUT.

Says British Wouldn't Let Him Tell Pretoria Situation—Hamillated by the Censor.

Washington, (Special).—Charles E. Macrum, formerly United States Consul at Pretoria, who has heretofore declined to state the reasons which caused him to leave his post soon after the South African war broke out, made public the following signed statement:

"The situation in Pretoria was such that, first, as an official, I could not remain there while my Government at home was apparently in the dark as to the exact conditions in South Africa; secondly, as a man and a citizen of the United States I could not remain in Pretoria, sacrificing my own self-respect and that of the people of Pretoria while the Government at home continued to leave me in the position of a British Consul and not an American Consul.

"I want to say right here that there was no one single request made of me through the Department of State looking to the care of British interests in Pretoria which I did not fulfill and report upon according to my orders. On the other hand, American interests in South Africa were in that condition which demanded that the Department of State should be cognizant of them.

"I issued the statement received from the State Department that Americans must remain neutral. In the face of this Americans were continually going to the front and taking up arms in the cause of the Boers. I could not help but know that many of these were citizens of the United States. I also knew that many of them, in utter despair at the apparent attitude of our own government, were taking the oath of allegiance to the Transvaal Republic.

"When affairs had reached that state that my vice-consul, Mr. Van Ameringen, closed up his business, took the oath of allegiance to the Republic, and went to the front as a burgher, I thought the time had come when I should make a report of these conditions.

"It was over four weeks from the time the war opened before I received a single mail dispatch from my Government or a personal letter. The mail for the Transvaal had all been stopped at Cape Town by order of the High Commissioner.

"When this mail was finally forwarded to me, after Colonel Stowers, the United States Consul-General at Cape Town, had secured its release, I had the humiliation as the representative of the American Government of sitting in my office in Pretoria and looking upon envelopes bearing the official seal of the American Government opened and officially sealed with a sticker, notifying me that the contents had been read by the censor at Durban.

"The cable service for the Transvaal was absolutely cut off. I was privately informed by the Belgian and German Consuls at Pretoria that their official cables in code to their Governments had been refused by the censor.

"I filed one cable in the interest of an American in Pretoria, which was refused absolutely by the censor in Durban. This cable I sent to the fiancée of Mr. Nelson, an American business man in Pretoria. She was on her way back to South Africa from Buffalo, N. Y., when the war broke out. According to a letter which Mr. Nelson received just before the war commenced she was buying her trousseau in Europe. The cable requested her to come by the East Coast. When I informed Mr. Nelson that the cable had not been sent his brother took the oath of allegiance to the Republic and went to the front.

"But these are simply minor details. The misrepresentations which had been going on before the war and after it opened were of such a serious nature and would require such detailed explanation that on November 6 I filed a cable to the department in code, stating that I wished leave of absence in order to visit the States.

"I set forth in this cable that my vice-consul had enlisted in the Boer Army; that a Mr. Atterbury, an American whom I had known very favorably for more than a year, could take charge of the office until my return. In reply to this dispatch, which was forwarded without any delay, I received from the department a reply advising me that my presence at Pretoria was important to public interests.

"On the 8th I telegraphed again, acknowledging the receipt of the cable and advising the department that the situation was not critical; that Mr. Atterbury was competent; that my presence in America was important. No reply was received and I wired again on the 11th, stating that no reply had been received and again urged a favorable reply. No reply was received to this.

"On November 18 I again filed a cable, stating that three of my cables had been unanswered and that a substitute was being sent to the department. To this I received a reply immediately, which was a reiteration of the reply to my first cable.

"I left Pretoria the night of December 16. I went straight to Paris and notified the department of my presence there while waiting for the American Line boat to sail for New York. I arrived in Washington on Monday, February 5, and reported to Assistant Secretary Hill, of the State Department, who officially informed me that Secretary Hay's son had been appointed in my place and that he was on his way to Pretoria.

A FAMILY ASPHYXIATED.—Dead Bodies of a Man and His Wife and Babe Found in Their Home.

Chicago, (Special).—Martin Jordan, an engineer, his wife, Mary, and their five-month-old boy were asphyxiated by gas, in their home, at Forty-third street and Stewart avenue. A leak in a gas pipe in the basement deluged the house with gas. The leak was so large that when workmen from the gas company attempted to close it one of them was overcome by the fumes and revived with difficulty.

Statue of Lincoln.—Washington, (Special).—Representative Lorimer (R.), introduced a bill for the erection in Washington of a statue of Lincoln and appropriating \$200,000 for that purpose.

Mr. Vandiver, of Missouri, introduced a bill prohibiting corporations, trusts, etc., from contributing to campaign funds or from influencing or intimidating employes.

Maj.-Gen. Sir W. Gustavus Nicholson, who has been ordered to join Lord Roberts in South Africa, is one of Bob's old followers.

OUR NEW POSSESSIONS.—The Filipino insurgents in Albay province, Luzon, have burned a large part of the town of Albay by shooting burning arrows into it. Nearly all of the large towns in that province are deserted.

The plague continues in Manila, there being eight cases among the Chinese and the natives last week. Two officers of the Thirty-sixth Volunteer Infantry have died of small pox.

Cuban newspapers advise Samuel Compers to return to the United States, and accuse him of fomenting disturbances.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Emperor William, in a conference with the British ambassador at Berlin, is reported to have expressed sympathy with Great Britain and to have touched upon the feasibility of friendly intervention.

Herr Biecher, Radical leader in the Reichstag, in opposing the German Naval Bill, insinuated that the British seizure of German ships were brought about opportunistly to secure support for the bill.

Disaffected over the news of the division of the Samoan Islands, Matafafa men attacked the homes of the Malietoaes, routed them out and set fire to the buildings.

Count Esterhazy is said to be willing to stand trial on the charge of having the famous paper in his possession, if a safe conduct is given to him against other proceedings.

Edmond E. Guier, said to be an American naval officer, was arrested in London on the charge of stealing two bills of acceptance.

Soldiers fired on riotous miners in Martinique, killing nine of them.

The first reading of the German naval bill took place in the Reichstag. Admiral Tirpitz, in advocating the bill, said that it would be dangerous for Germany to get into a war in which her army could not be used at the outset unless she had a greater navy.

It was stated on the part of the government in the British House of Commons that in the Nicaragua Canal management there had been no question of compensation.

Twenty thousand pounds sterling, mysteriously stolen from Paris Bank in London a year ago, was mysteriously returned.

A peace meeting that was to be held at Northampton, England, was prevented by a row and Letchers, who was to make the speech, was hit in the head with a chair.

There are now reported to be sixty thousand influenza victims at Munich, Germany.

George Faber, Unionist, was elected to the House of Commons from York, to succeed Rear Admiral Beresford, appointed to command the second division of the British Mediterranean fleet.

A leading German Foreign Office official says that Germany's political interests are not affected by the Nicaragua Canal agreement.

Count Almonax, in the French Senate, made an attack upon the Spanish general's conduct in the war with the United States.

A German government official says that Germany will not join a movement to reopen the Egyptian question.

John Redmond has been chosen chairman of the United Irish Nationalist party.

An official of the French Foreign Office says that France will be greatly satisfied by the ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote convention bearing upon the Nicaragua Canal.

Bobel, the Socialist leader in the Reichstag, opposed the Naval Bill and declared that in the case Great Britain would always be ahead of Germany.

The Norwegian bark Premier was sunk at sea in a collision with the German steamer St. Elberg.

NEW CABINET OFFICER.—Secretary of Mines and Mining Provided for in Bill Before House.

Washington, (Special).—A new Cabinet officer, to be known as the Secretary of Mines and Mining, is provided in the bill favorably acted on by the House Committee on Mines and Mining.

The bill creates an executive department which shall have entire charge of affairs relating to mines, including the Geological Survey. The proposed Secretary of Mines is to have the same rank and salary of other Cabinet officers, and an assistant secretary is given the same standing as the First Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The other mining measure favorably acted on establishes mining experiment stations in each of the mining States, similar to agricultural experiment stations, and provides for the appointment of a government geologist at \$3,500 a year, and an assayer at \$2,500 in the several mining States. These officers are to furnish assays, issue public bulletins and conduct explorations of mining regions.

KILLED A BURGLAR.—Farmer Caught Him in the Act, but Meant Only to Maim Him.

Lobanov, Pa., (Special).—David S. Long, a farmer of South Lebanon township, shot and instantly killed John Becker, of Midway, Long's family in the act of robbing the house. Long gave himself up, and was released on \$1,000 bail. Long saw the man as he was about jumping from a window. Long says he aimed low, in order to maim the burglar, but as he pulled the trigger the man leaped from the window, and the entire charge entered the intruder's back. He died almost instantly. Shortly afterward he was identified by neighbors as John Becker, aged twenty-eight years, and employed at Midway as a laborer.

BULLLET'S LATEST EXPLANATION.—Reports to Roberts Why He Could Not Hold Vail Krantz.

London, (By Cable).—The War Office has received the following despatch from Field Marshal Lord Roberts, dated from the Modder River, Sunday, February 11: "I have received a telegram from Buller as follows, dated Friday, February 9: "It was necessary after seizing Vail Krantz to entrench it as the pivot of further operations. But I found, after trying two days, that owing to the nature of the ground, this was impracticable. It was also exposed to the fire of heavy guns in positions from which our artillery was dominated. It is essential to troops advancing on Ladysmith by Harding or Mengers Drift to hold Vail Krantz securely, and, accordingly, we are not pressing the advance by those roads, and I find we cannot make it secure."

ROBBED BY MASKED MEN.—Aunt of Mrs. President McKinley Has a Bad Fight.