

FOUR PERISHED IN A HOTEL FIRE.

Many of the Guests Have Thrilling Escaper.

A STOVE STARTED THE FIRE.

The Building Was of Wood, and Burned So Rapidly that the Inmates Had to Hustle to Get Out—In Less Than an Hour It Was a Mass of Ruins, and Four Were Buried in the Debris.

St. Mary's, W. Va. (Special).—Four lives were lost in a disaster here Monday. The Commercial Hotel, one of the largest in the town, was burned to the ground and in its ashes lay the bones of four persons.

The fire occurred at 2 o'clock a. m. It is supposed to have started in the kitchen or dining room. It spread with frightful rapidity. The 40 guests in the house were thrown into a panic and literally fought their way out of the hotel, which was a seething furnace by the time those on the second and third floors were awakened.

The entire town turned out to render all possible help. Men and women smashed glass with their hands, and one man was covered with wounds about the arms and face. Several others were burned slightly or wounded. Two or three men leaped from the third story of the building, and one, Wilson Mincar, had a leg and shoulder dislocated in a fall to the pavement.

Owing to the fact that the two main entrances were cut off by the flames the frenzy of the penned-up people was intensified. The four whose lives were lost slept in one corner of the hotel far from a means of egress. Their bodies were beyond recognition.

After the flames grew in intensity several barrels of whiskey in the bar room beneath the hotel exploded and awakened the guests, else many more might have perished. The burning alcohol, though, made the work of rescue more difficult. The hotel was totally destroyed. None of the guests succeeded in saving their clothing.

BANK OFFICIALS DIE TOGETHER.

Charles Brown and E. L. Canby, of the First National Bank of Vancouver.

Vancouver, Wash. (Special).—Charles Brown and E. L. Canby, president and cashier, respectively, of the First National Bank of Vancouver, which was closed Saturday by the Comptroller of the Currency, committed suicide two miles from this city by shooting themselves with revolvers. Their bodies were found lying together in a small clump of bushes. Both used the same weapon, and Canby evidently died first, as the revolver was found in Brown's hand. Each put the muzzle of the revolver in his mouth and blew the top of his head off.

The fact that Brown's bicycle and an umbrella of Canby were found a short distance out of town led to the belief that they had taken their lives. A searching party started out and after several hours' search the bodies were found.

Two Badly Hurt at a Brooklyn Fire.

New York (Special).—A fire on Walton street, in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, caused an estimated loss of about \$50,000. The heaviest losers are the North American Iron Works, \$25,000, and the owner of the building, \$12,000. Felix Barenholz jumped from a window and fractured his skull. John O'Brien, a fireman, fell through an open hatchway and fractured his skull. These men, it is thought, cannot recover.

Many Hurt in Collision.

Elizabeth N. J. (Special).—By a collision between a workman's train on the Long Branch division of the Central Railway of New Jersey and a commuter's train a score of persons were more or less injured, but no one was fatally hurt. The most seriously injured were John Linker, a laborer in the Standard Oil works, and Wm. Ratt, an apprentice in the Wheeler Car works. Both of these men were badly cut and bruised about the head and body.

Fruit Injured in the South.

Atlanta, Ga. (Special).—A special dispatch from Gainesville, Ga., to the Constitution says: "Fruit is believed to be injured in this section by the cold of the past few days. Many of the pear, peach and plum trees have been partially stripped by the strong winds and the ground is covered with buds and blossoms. Snow fell here Monday. The mountain tops north of Gainesville are white with snow—an unusual sight in April."

Pennsylvania Farmer Drowned.

Carlisle, Pa. (Special).—John Stone, a prominent farmer of the lower end of Cumberland county, was drowned in the Fairview dam. While crossing the creek the boat capsized, throwing Mr. Stone and his hired man in the water. Mr. Stone wore an overcoat and hip boots and was unable to reach shore. The hired man escaped. The body was found two hours later.

Jealousy Causes a Double Tragedy.

Milton, Cal. (Special).—John H. Gorman, foreman of a copper mine, shot and instantly killed George B. McCarthy, a prominent young man of Copperopolis, and then blew himself to pieces with giant powder. Jealousy is supposed to have been the cause.

8,000 Chinese in the Field.

Shanghai (By Cable).—Native reports say that General Feng Tse Tsai, commanding in the province of Yun-nan, with 6,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, well armed and disciplined, passed through Chengtu lately, bound for Hsian.

Serious Railroad Wreck.

Philadelphia, Pa. (Special).—A fatal head-on collision occurred on the Plymouth branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad at Tyrol Station, near Conshohocken. John Fallows, engineer of a westbound passenger train, which ran into an eastbound freight train, was instantly killed, and his fireman, Grant Eisle, was seriously injured. The locomotives of both trains were wrecked and many of the cars were shaken up and bruised, but none was seriously injured.

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

Domestic.

The purchase of the Eagle Fire Insurance Company in New York by Vice-President Evans, of the Continental, is regarded as the first step in the formation of an insurance combine.

The arrangements made for President McKinley's Western trip will save him from the strains on his physical endurance and patience to which he was subjected on previous trips.

Cornelius Van Ness, the Newburg (N. Y.) millionaire, and his young wife agreed to give to his niece \$375,000, and they withdrew their suit, which had tied up his estate.

William Schellheimer died in Fredonia, Pa., from injuries received in a railroad accident. Christian Scientists having been called in to attend him instead of surgeons.

John Henry Vaden was arrested in Christianburg, Va., on the charge of poisoning his wife. The doctors are not sure whether she was dead or alive when buried.

Dr. S. C. Burdett extracted two teeth from the jaw of Charles Morris, in Wheeling, while the latter was hypnotized, without his knowledge.

It is feared that the secret of canning crabmeat died with James McMenamin, of Hampton, Va., who died at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Jose Antonio Monagas, secretary of the Venezuelan consulate in New York, was recalled to prevent his marrying a Brooklyn girl.

The grand jury at Buena Vista, Va., has found several indictments against persons accused of making moonshine whiskey.

John Leckrone, a retired farmer, living alone near Orrstown, Pa., was found dead in his house with neck broken.

George F. Stoner was killed in Philadelphia, and his daughter of 19 is held, pending an investigation.

Two decisions made by the Circuit Court in New York upon the tariff law will add \$800,000 annually to the customs receipts of the government.

Longshoremen's Unions Nos. 71 and 108 of Newport News, Va., received notice that their strike had been sanctioned by headquarters.

Capt. R. S. Parks was nominated at Luray, Va., to represent Page and Rappahannock counties in the Constitutional Convention.

Four graduates of Union Seminary were denied admission to the ministry because their views were held to be unorthodox.

Negotiations are in progress for a combine of makers of steamer engines and for manufacturers of mining machinery.

W. S. Yeatman, a disbursing clerk in the Treasury Department, died suddenly at a hotel in New York, Pa.

The Reynolds band of feudists, entrenched at Boone Fork, Ky., was finally induced to surrender.

The chair factory of James O. Clone, at Madison Court House, Va., was destroyed by fire.

Ex-Gov. Charles C. Stockley, of Delaware, died at his home in Georgetown. Lizzie Dodson, the woman burglar, who escaped from the Virginia Penitentiary, was recaptured in Fairfax county after a fight with Deputy Constable Pierpont.

Dan Murphy, the Richmond (Va.) newsboy who had been missing for some time, was found dying from wounds at the Tredegar Works.

Rev. Wayland F. Dunaway was elected to represent Lancaster and Richmond counties in the Virginia Constitutional Convention.

A reported temporary estrangement between the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough appears to have been smoothed over by W. K. Vanderbilt, the wife's father, in Paris, and the Duke and Duchess have returned together to London.

The National Society of Fine Arts, the "New Salon," was opened in Paris. The most remarkable picture exhibited is by Jean Beraud, entitled "Jesus Tied to a Column."

Major Browning was killed and several of the Indian Imperial Service troops wounded in a fight with Chinese Boxers and robbers near Fu Ning.

Lord Kitchener reports that since April 18 the British have taken 80 prisoners, together with quantities of ammunition, horses, cattle and wagons.

It is reported that the Korean government has decided to borrow from France 5,000,000 yen for the purpose of constructing a railroad.

Minister Wu has submitted to his government a memorial embracing a general scheme to bring China up to date.

The Bulgarian pope, Parthenius, was murdered April 2, supposedly by members of the Macedonian Committee.

Natives in New Guinea murdered two missionaries.

The cup challenger Shamrock II, was launched with interesting ceremonies at Dumbarton, Sir Thomas Lipton and all expressing confidence that the yacht would lift the America's cup.

Prince Hohenzollern says that Field Marshal von Waldersee, more than Count von Buelow, advised the Emperor to take an uncompromising attitude toward China.

The Dutch troops at Blangpedir, on the west coast of Achin, routed 500 natives who were trying to surround the place.

M. Delcasse, the French foreign minister, started for St. Petersburg.

Admiral Canevano, of Italy, formerly Italian minister of foreign affairs, says the future of civilization will require European nations to unite against America, Africa and Asia.—The London Spectator says this view corresponds with that of the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister.

The Chinese government has ordered the Chinese troops at Hualu to remove outside the Great Wall. The Franco-German expedition has, accordingly, been abandoned. France will shortly withdraw 10,000 troops.

Financial.

It is said London is largely short of St. Paul.

The Treasury has paid out about \$7,000,000 in bond purchases.

Chicago and Eastern Illinois shares rose nearly to points on Saturday.

It is said \$5,000 has been bid for seats on the New York Stock Exchange.

There has been concentrated buying of Ontario and Western for some time.

The new Stock Exchange building in New York will be 10 stories high and will cost \$1,000,000.

THE WAR RENEWED AGAIN IN MANCHURIA.

Russian Forces Storm Kulo, With Slight Losses.

CHINESE FORCE AGGREGATES 27,000.

Thirteen Men Killed and Four Officers and Eighteen Men Wounded—Russian Forces Advancing Upon Turchausen, Where There Are Massed 12,000 Chinese, Under the "Boxer" General Lutanse.

London (By Cable).—According to a dispatch from St. Petersburg to the Daily Mail, official information has been received that renewed military activity is beginning in Manchuria. Chinese troops are strongly entrenched at three points around Mukden. They are armed with good Mauser rifles and have thirty Krupp guns.

To the eastward of Mukden, near Turchausen there are 12,000 men under the Chief Boxer General Lutanse. To the northwest, near Kulo, there are 6,000 Chinese under the former governor of Mukden. To the eastward, in Mongolia and near the Inshan Mountain, there are 9,000 more under the Chinese General Schu.

Admiral Alexieff has accordingly organized an expedition under General Zerpinsky, consisting of two regiments and five squadrons of Cossacks, 16 guns and a body of volunteers to operate against the three points mentioned. The first movement was successfully carried out in the beginning of April. Kulo, which is 250 kilometres from Mukden, was stormed and the ex-governor of Mukden was taken prisoner. In this action the Russians had 13 men killed and 4 officers and 18 men wounded. The advance towards the Turchausen position was then begun.

AGED HUSBAND A MURDERER.

Holds His Wife and Fires Four Bullets into Her Body.

Jackson, Mich. (Special).—David H. Creech, a capitalist, aged 70 years, and for 50 years a resident of this city, shot his wife on the street, firing four bullets into her head, neck and mouth while he held her fast with his left arm about the waist.

Mrs. Creech was 40 years of age and was married to Creech 12 years ago. Previously she had been his housekeeper.

Three years ago Mrs. Creech began divorce proceedings, and after several futile attempts to live with her husband she was granted a divorce. Tuesday the Supreme Court affirmed the divorce, and the shooting was the result.

Mrs. Creech was arrested, and a second loaded revolver was found on his person. He said he intended to kill himself.

Boers Ambush British.

London (By Cable).—Lord Kitchener reports a British disaster. In a dispatch from Pretoria he says: "I regret to report that a party of the Ninth Lancers were ambushed by the enemy, and Lieutenant McDonald and three men were killed and five wounded."

BIG RAIN AND SNOW STORM CAUSES WIDESPREAD RUIN.

It Sweeps From Cleveland, O., on the North to Atlanta, Ga., on the South—The Heaviest Damage Done in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia.

Pittsburg (Special).—The flood is over. Notwithstanding the fact that in the early day there was every evidence of a renewal of the high water, the announcement can be made authoritatively that there is not the least danger of another rise at this point nor above for the present, but towns on the Ohio river below here are not yet out of danger because of rains in the valley.

Conservative estimates of the total loss in this district is between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

Fifty thousand workers are suffering from enforced idleness.

While there have been greater floods at this point, there was never one that caused so much financial loss and discomfort. This was due to the denser population of the two cities, and to the fact that all the manufacturing plants on the river banks were in active operation, most of them working night and day, until the rising water put out the fires and drove the workers to higher ground.

The damage to the furniture and buildings in Allegheny is estimated at about \$100,000. It will take two months of hot summer weather to thoroughly dry out these houses. In Pittsburg the loss to residences, stores and goods and the cost of cleaning up will amount to about \$250,000.

At Carnegie borough, six miles from Pittsburg, the loss is estimated at \$400,000, of which the Columbia Bridge Works lose \$500,000. The other losses range from \$75 to \$900. The Westinghouse Electric Company had two carloads of finished material for Toronto, Canada, on the tracks near Turtle Creek. They were caught in the flood, and water got into the cars. The loss may reach \$80,000.

Wheeling, W. Va. (Special).—The flood reached its highest stage—41 feet 8 inches—at an early hour Monday morning, and has now begun to fall. All day a large portion of the city was under water and was totally isolated from the world, not a train running in or out of the city.

The Ohio River and Wheeling and Lake Erie roads suffered severe damage from the water, and it will take several weeks to get them in good shape again. Nearly all industrial establishments were compelled to shut down.

Trains Stalled in Snowdrift.

Erie, Pa. (Special).—The snowstorm of Friday night and Saturday and the known here in 60 years, and surpassed the famous blizzard of March, 1888. There is 12 inches of snow on the level, and during Saturday nearly every trolley line in the city was knocked out. Sunday traffic was resumed irregularly. Wires were down and crossed and telephone companies blocked. Saturday night there were two fires from crossed telegraph wires carrying heavy currents into the buildings. Reports from outside the city—west, east and south—show snow three feet deep and great damage to fruit trees from the wet snow.

Ice-Crusted Trains.

New York (Special).—Owing to the heavy storm raging in the West all traffic east of Cleveland has been delayed from 2 to 7 hours. The Grand Central Depot presented a strange appearance as the belated Western trains lumbered in several hours late, with their roofs and steps encrusted with snow and ice. Friends of the long-overdue passengers hung around the depot all day, and rushed to meet the weary passengers every time a train came in.

Dam Bursts in Massachusetts.

Chester, Mass. (Special).—The Flood Hollow Dam, in Middlefield, gave way, letting loose the water in the big reservoir, which rushed with terrific force into the west branch of the Westfield River, sweeping everything before it, and submerging the greater part of this town. No lives were lost, but great damage has been done, the extent of which it is impossible now to estimate.

Wind's Terrific Force.

Chicago (Special).—A high wind, which reached Chicago Saturday, loosed a huge iron water tank from its fastenings on the roof of the Galbraith Building, Madison and Franklin streets, causing it to crash through six floors to the ground, injuring five persons and resulting in a damage to the building estimated at \$50,000.

Killed His Wife and Himself.

Chicago (Special).—J. J. Gillen, an attorney, 25 years old, killed his wife and then fatally shot himself in a hallway at 177 East Lake street. The couple were married only a few months, and soon separated. Shortly after Mrs. Gillen left her husband the latter accused his wife's relatives of drugging her and keeping her as a prisoner. He was arrested for threatening to kill. Mrs. Gillen was the daughter of Cornelius McGuire, a wealthy manufacturer of this city.

A Shipbuilding Comb'ne.

Elizabeth, N. J. (Special).—Calvin B. Orcutt, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding Company, who is 25, his home in Elizabeth, said he had no definite knowledge that a shipbuilding combination would be affected during the coming week. Negotiations, he declared, had been in progress for several months, but for some reason had not culminated in anything tangible. They were still being continued, but he was not aware of the fact that the project had been consummated.

A PHYSICIAN'S BIG BILL.

He Calls It the Utterance of a Man Who Has Yielded to Force.

Pittsburg (Special).—The Dispatch says the estate of the late State Senator Christopher L. Magee has received a bill from Dr. Walter C. Browning, of Philadelphia, for \$100,000 professional services during the illness of Senator Magee. Dr. Browning was in attendance on Senator Magee for 21 months previous to his death, and accompanied him to several places for the recovery of his health. The fee is believed to be one of the largest of its kind ever charged in Pennsylvania or the United States, and has produced widespread comment in professional circles. The bill is understood to be itemized, covers 21 months' treatment, and is charged at the rate of \$80 per month. One charge is \$17,000 for last summer's treatment at Atlantic City and another \$12,000 for accompanying the deceased to Hot Springs, Va.

FAITH CURISTS BARRED.

An Atlanta Court Refuses to Allow Them to Pract'ce There.

Atlanta, Ga. (Special).—Judge Lumpkin, of the Superior Court, denied the application for a charter for "the Atlanta Institute of Christian Science," the effect of his decision being that Christian Scientists cannot practice their treatment of diseases in the State of Georgia without having regularly graduated in medicine or passed an examination before the Medical Examining Board, the same as other physicians.

Judge Lumpkin holds that, according to the decision of a case in the Supreme Court of Nebraska, Christian Science is the practice of medicine, and he further holds that the practice of medicine in Georgia, according to the State law, must be accomplished by persons who are regularly graduated from a medical school.

MANY FILIPINOS BURIED ALIVE.

Priest Prominent in Society That Inaugurated Reign of Terror.

Manila (By Cable).—The trial of the members of the Mando-Ducat secret society, who are charged with burying alive Filipinos who were opposed to the insurrection, and the trial of insurgent agents has elicited the fact that in one locality all the local officers, the parish priest and the president were the chief offenders.

A reign of terror was secretly inaugurated, and persons refusing to contribute to the insurgent cause were buried alive by the direction of the president.

All the details of the conspiracy have been unearthed, many arrests have been made, there is abundant evidence and it is probable that all the ring-leaders will be hanged.

Three Persons Burned.

Seneca Falls, N. Y. (Special).—An old house, the property of Cornelius Holland, supposed to be empty, was discovered in flames. The house was destroyed. In the ruins were found the charred bodies of Patrick Harmon, Alonzo Sanders and Charles Mink. The ruins are being searched for other bodies.

BIG EXPOSITION BUILDINGS GOING UP.

Workmen Are Busy on Charleston's Show Grounds.

FEATURES OF THE ARCHITECTURE.

The "Great Court of Palaces" Is to Surround Sunken Garden—Spanish Renaissance and Colonial Types—The Administration Building, Which Stands at the Entrance of the Grounds, is of Most Attractive Design.

Charleston, S. C. (Special).—Good progress is being made in the construction of the handsome series of buildings of the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition, which will be held in Charleston from December 1, 1901, to June 1, 1902.

The architect of the Exposition is Mr. Bradford L. Gilbert, of New York city. The Exposition grounds are beautifully adapted to the purpose for which they will be used and are situated on the east bank of the Ashley river, about one and one-half miles from the business center of the city of Charleston. The grounds are divided into two main sections, one consisting of the old Washington race course property and the other of the Wagner farm. The architect has adopted the general plan of developing the race course on purely constructive lines and of preserving so far as possible the natural beauties of the Wagner place. For this reason the two sections are known as the Natural Park and the Art Park.

In the latter will stand the great Court of Palaces, consisting of the cotton, commerce and agricultural palaces, connected by colonnades and partly surrounding the sunken garden, with its lake. Avenues of palmetoes have already been planted in this park and the flower beds fashioned. Pergolas with sheltering vines and an old sun dial will also lend attraction to this part of the grounds. Here, too, will stand the auditorium, capable of seating 3,500 people.

The Administration Building stands just at the dividing line of the two parks, and opposite will be the Mining and Forestry Building.

In the Natural Park, which is already adorned with groves of century-old oaks and with a natural lake, in which about twenty States have already signified their intention to be represented.

UNITED STATES NOW PROSPEROUS.

Exports Reach a Total Unheard in Nation's History.

Washington (Special).—The fiscal year 1901 seems likely to exceed any preceding year in its record of exports from the United States.

The March import and export figures, just completed by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, show a total exportation from this country in the nine months ended March, 1901, of \$1,140,170,728, or \$86,540,012 in excess of last year, which held the highest record in the history of our export trade.

The figures for the nine months show a decrease of \$42,292,639 in the imports as compared with those in the corresponding months of the preceding year. Thus the excess of exports over imports in this period is more than \$100,000,000 greater than in the corresponding months of last year and far beyond the figures of any preceding year.

SHORTAGE OF \$81,000.

First National Bank of Vancouver, Wash., Closed by Comptroller.

Washington (Special).—The doors of the First National Bank, Vancouver, Wash., were closed Saturday under instructions from the comptroller of the currency upon recommendation of National Bank Examiner J. W. Maxwell and a report from him that during the course of his examination of the bank he had discovered a shortage of about \$81,000. Examiner Maxwell has been placed in charge as temporary receiver.

The following is a statement of the condition of the bank as shown by its last sworn report to the comptroller of the currency, under date of February 5, 1901: Capital stock, \$50,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$874; circulation, \$12,500; deposits \$230,674; total liabilities, \$303,348; total resources, \$303,348.

Bank Official Accused.

Pittsburg (Special).—A. J. Schroth, a bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Birmingham, this city, has been arrested by United States Marshal Leonard charged with the embezzlement of \$35,000 of the bank's funds. He was released later on furnishing bail in the sum of \$50,000. The defalcation was discovered by National Bank Examiner Slack, who found a number of false entries in the books. Mr. Slack says the bank is in excellent condition and will not be affected.

Wireless Telegraph Company.

Pierre, S. D. (Special).—Articles of incorporation have been filed for the Universal Wireless Telegraph Company with a capital of \$200,000. The incorporators are James N. Huston, Thomas E. Bishop and L. C. Smith. James N. Huston was United States Treasurer during the first two years of President Harrison's administration. He was formerly an Indiana banker, but for several years has been a resident of New York.

Cephas Over Haazed.

Frederick, Md. (Special).—Chas. H. Overs, alias "Cephas" Overs, the colored murderer of Charles McDonald, a young white man, was hanged in the jail yard in this city, the drop falling a few minutes after 12 o'clock. The execution was witnessed by about 150 spectators, nearly all of whom had been given tickets of admission or summoned as deputies by Sheriff Troxell. All details and plans were carried out without the slightest hitch.

Four Children Murdered.

Chartres, France (By Cable).—This town has been horrified by the brutal murder of five children and the attempted murder of their father, a farmer, named Briere, residing in the neighborhood of Chartres. Two tramps entered the farmhouse in the absence of Briere, killed four girls, aged respectively 14, 11, 7 and 4, and a boy 7 years old, with knives and cudgels while they were in bed and apparently asleep. Briere returned while the murderers were robbing the house.

LIVE NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Pensions—Postmasters.

The following pensions were granted: Maryland.—Increase—Saml. Spriggs, Odenton, \$12. Original widows—Mary E. Stottlemeyer, Hancock, \$8. Mexican war—Ellen Garrett, Baltimore, \$8.

Virginia.—Increase—Henry Ford, Stevens City, \$12. War with Spain, original—Thomas J. Jordan, Norfolk, \$27. War with Spain—Susan E. Hardwick, mother, Blacksburg, \$12.

West Virginia.—Additional—Joseph Gardner, Raven Rock, \$12. Renewal—William J. Shreve, Lowman, \$12. Increase—James O. Ellis, Huntington, \$8.

Postmasters appointed: Maryland—John Anderson, vice W. C. Henderson, resigned, Appleton, Cecil county; W. W. Reynolds, vice Dixon Connelly, Jr., resigned, Manor, Baltimore county.

Virginia—J. D. Rorden, vice W. C. Bowman, resigned, Toms Brooks, Shenandoah county.

Has Completed His Work.

Mr. John A. Kasson has severed his official connection with the State Department, where he has been since the beginning of McKinley's administration, engaged as special plenipotentiary to conduct the negotiations which resulted in the drafting of a number of reciprocity treaties and arrangements under the terms of the Dingley Act. Although thus severing his official connection with the State Department, Mr. Kasson holds himself ready to respond to any call of the department for the special information of which he is possessed. Meanwhile the bureau in the State Department which he organized will continue in existence, so that the highly trained expert force may be of service at short notice whenever the Secretary of State decides to resume reciprocity negotiations.

Exchange of Crop Reports.

The Department of Agriculture has under way negotiations for an exchange of cable crop reports with European and other grain raising countries. The arrangement with Hungary has already been completed, and the first bulletin respecting crop conditions in that country will be issued May 10. The reports are to be exchanged monthly, and as soon as received in this country will be given to the public. The proposed system will give official government reports, and it is expected to have a steady effect on the market and to be of value to farmers in deciding upon the planting and marketing of their crops. The grains to be covered by the reports are wheat, corn, oats, barley and rye.

Appointed by the President.

The President just made the following appointments: Interior—Edward B. Moore, of Michigan, to be Assistant Commissioner of Patents.

Navy—Charles O'Neil, to be Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, with the rank of rear admiral, and Luther S. Van Wedekind, to be a surgeon, with the rank of lieutenant.

State—John Barlett, of Oregon, to be a delegate on the part of the United States to the International Conference of American States, to be held at the City of Mexico.

Panama Canal Route.

Secretary Hay has given Dr. Carlos Martinez Silva, the Colombian Minister, to understand that he cannot negotiate a treaty with him for the acquisition by the United States of the Panama canal until Congress determines upon the route. Not even a preliminary agreement, such as was signed with Nicaragua and Costa Rica, will be negotiated.

Nearly 1,000,000 Pensioners.

Commissioner Evans is authority for the statement that there are more pensioners on the roll to-day than ever before. They number 995,006, an excess of about 1500 over the next previous highest number.

Yellow Jack at Port