BOATS BATTLE AT SEA

Japanese and Russians Each Lose a

Vessel. HOT FIGHT NEAR PORT ARTHUR.

Six Russian Torpedo Boats in the Engagement-They Were Probably Making an Attempt to Give the Japs the Slip-Five Russian Torpedo Boats Return to Port Arthur Harbor.

London, (By Cable).-The advices from Port Arthur through Russian sources of the engagement outside the years. harbor between Russian torpedo boats and Japanese warships, supposedly torpedo boats or destroyers, in which a Russian torpedo-boat destroyer and a Japanese torpedo boat! were sunk, seem to bear out the opinion of experts here that the Russian situation at Port Arthur is becoming desperate.

The continued Japanese attacks are having the intended effect upon the town and the fortifications. Viceroy Alexieff, in his report to the Czar, while stating that "the results of the tombardment were insignificant," admits that people in the town were killed and wounded by the exploding shells.

'Admiral Markaroff, who has just assumed command of the Russian flect at Port Arthur, is apparently making neaut, O. bold attempts to enable some of his vessels, including torpedo boats, to escape.

Cabling from Yinkow a correspongunboats at Niuechwang have received orders to leave immediately the cruelty. river opens. At Liao Yang there are now 12,000 troops working night and day on the fortifications. A great fortified camp is being formed south delphia. of the town; it extends three miles in every direction.

The Russian force on the Yalu River now amounts to 20,000 men. As an example of the terrible power of the Japanese "Shimose" powder a likely to prove a total wreck. correspondent of the Standard, at Tokio, relates that a Russian sailor who brought to New York 1,800 Russians Vandine's fate, and not that of Marx, combatants to anything in the nature of was hurt in the naval fight off Chemulpo, and who has been brought to Matsuyama, Japan, has 160 wounds.

London, (By Cable).-The Daily Telegraph publishes a dispatch from Tokio. dated March 7 and saying:

"It is reported that the Japanese fleet engaged the Russian Vladivostok squadment is not announced, but it is believed set the steamer on fire. the Russian ships were destroyed or captured."

Captain Reitzenstein's Vladivostok prominent citizens. squadron is carefully guarded by the military authorities, but there is a strong in New York with a number of promiimpression here that when the seven Japanese warships appeared off the harbor Sunday and Monday the Russian squadron was outside, perhaps down the

it is considered certain that the Japanese rest of the world. in that case will lie on and off Vladivostok to prevent the return of the Russians, giving battle if they are caught in the open sea. All the harbors along the coast in which the Russians might seek refuge are frozen and the squadron must eventually be forced to return to Vladivostok for coal.

Although the Japanese squadron is superior in numbers and guns, consisting of a battleship and four armored cruisers, two of which are believed to be the Idzumo and the Yakumo, and two unarmored cruisers, the four armored cruisers Gromboi. Rurik and Bogatyr, are among the finest vessels in the Rossian Navv. constituting as sister ships a homogeneous fighting unit, and experts here are not certain that they could not take the measure of Rear Admiral Uriu's ships.

A naval service organ here argues lengthily that the present Japanese naval candy, was released from custody. disposition presages a movement on a large scale in the Sea of Japan and the States Shipbuilding Company were sold paper accounts for all the Japanese ships at auction. except the battleship Yashima and the Armored cruiser Tokiwa, one first-class protected cruiser and five second-class, reckoning the battleships Fuji and Shikishima, the armored cruisers Iwate and Asama and the protected cruiser Takashiho as being injured.

CROPS IN FARMERS' HANDS.

on March I.

Washington, D. C., (Special).- The March report of the Bureau of Statistics St. Petersburg for the Far East to of the Department of Agriculture shows take command of the Russian milithe amount of wheat remaining in farm. tary forces, bade farewell to the Czar, ers' hands on March 1 to have been about and was presented with a sacred pic-132,600,000 bushels, or 20.8 per cent. of ture by the Municipal Council. last year's crop, as compared with 24.5 The United States government will per cent. of the crop of 1902 on hand on sustain the action of Captain Sawyer, March 1, 1903, and 23.2 per cent. of the gunboat Helena, in protesting

mated at about 839,000,000 bushels, or wang harbor. 37.4 per cent of last year's crop, against 41.6 per cent. of the crop of 1202 on hand of the intentions of the Japanese on March 1, 1903, and 29.2 per cent. of commanders in Manchuria the Russian the crop on hand on March 1, 1902.

Of oats there are reported to be about be detained there. 273,700,000 bushels, or 34.9 per cent. of last year's crop, still in farmers' hands, as compared with 36.9 per cent. of the crop of 1902 on hand on March 1, 1903, and 30.6 per cent. of the crop of 1901 on hand on March 1, 1902.

Bakers' Trust Was Soon Killed.

Bakers' Trust, organized in this city, ply to the Japanese bombardment. lasted just a day and a half. For to the ships that were damaged in several weeks the dealers have been the engagement at Port Arthur. engaged in organizing to raise the The trials of the rioters and murprice of bread, and on Monday of derers at Kishineff were concluded. this week the new scale on all One man was sentenced to 20 years for the murder of a Jewish couple.

Emperor William left Berlin for a trip of six or seven weeks' duration, them, and on Tuesday the combine dissolved.

One man was sentenced to 20 years and ammunition on the field. The insurgents, however, were reported to have been in possession of the Town of Azua. The United States ship Topeka touched at San Domingo March guring which he will visit other monarchs.

THE KISHENEFF MASSACRE.

Prisoner Sentenced to Twenty Years For the Murder of Jewish Couple.

Kisheneff (By Cable).-The trial of prisoners charged with participation April is closed. After a fortnight's deliberation the court gave judgment in the case of Busneke and 53 others, of whom 18 were charged with homicide during the anti-Jewish rioting and 40 with creating disorders. Rusneke and Bodijan were found guilty of the murder of a Jewish couple named Forrarji.

Rusneke was sentenced to four years' imprionment and Bodijan to 20

were each condemned to a year's imprisonment, and three others to four Thirty-six of the accused months. were discharged.

Two damage suits were not considered and 64 were disallowed. The damage suits were all brought by Jews.

The final judgment will be announced formally April 25.

NEWS IN SHORT ORDER

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

Domestic.

One man was cremated and another seriously burned in a fire that destroyed the ferry steamer Shenango while frozen fast in the ice off Con-

Miss Mary Wyker, of Erwinna, Pa., who was shot by Paul Weaver because ants. she rejected him, died from the injuries received.

Col. William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) dent says the British and American entered suit in Denver, Col., against plea of guilty and begged for mercy, his wife for divorce, on the ground of Burglars blew open the see in the

Pennsylvania Railroad Station at pleaded in the case of Vandine. Haverford, on the suburb's of Phila-Mark Dunn was hanged at St. Jos

eph, Mo., for the murder of Alfred er was also present. Neither woman Fenton, a farmer, at Rushville, Mo. The cable-ship Scotia went ashore

The steamer Graf Waldersee who fled to escape military service. The Auditorium Theatre in Chicago decision. was allowed to reopen, having been pronounced safe from fire.

John White, chief attorney of the Modern Woodmen, is dead at his Was Frozen First in Ice Off Conneaut, Ohioome, in Rock Island, Ill. The British steamer Cape Corrientes arrived at New York after having rescued

the crew of a dismasted bark in midron at sea. The result of the engage- ocean and suffered an explosion which Seventy-five Carbondale (Mo.) citizens

attempted to take a negro from the jail at Murphysboro. The sheriff frustrated St. Petersburg.-The whereabouts of the plan, however, and arrested four Secretary of War Taft had a cenference | neer John Morrell.

steamer Koenigin Luise. Japanese definitely ascertained that fact, to a series of snowstorms, has cut off finally succeeded in working her way civil, military and naval—are expected before them a schedule of work to be

burg, Pa., and four men were burned to was too far out to be reached by the

Philipe Busan-Varilla, who recently United States, sailed from New York to

The Interstate Commerce Commission has issued an order directing a number of railroads to file the names and loca-

tions of all terminal connecting roads. Dr. Andrew S. Draper, president of under Captain Reitzenstein, the Rossia, the University of Illinois, was elected commissioner of education of New York.

The new board of directors of the American Ice Company elected Wesley M. Oler, of Baltimore, president. Mrs. Sherman Lye, accused of mail-

ing to Rena Nelson a box of poisoned A number of securities of the United

the Baroness von Sternburg, died at Epwanda, Cal.

Lieutenant Commander Cutler, in charge of the Porto Rico Lighthouse Service, was arrested on the charge of false imprisonment.

Between 700 and 800 delegates to the The Quantity of Wheat, Corn and Oats Held tion at Jerusalem sailed from New York.

Foreign.

General Kuropatkin, about to leave

crop of 1901 on hand on March 1, 1902. | against the sinking by the Russians The corn in farmers' hands is esti- of junks at the entrance of Niuch-

> corps which has arrived at Harbin will The Russians are engaged in build-

ready constructed on the left bank of

Japanese officials at Tokio believe that lack of ammunition was the rea-Newburgh, N. Y., (Special). - A son that Vladivostok forts did not re-At Nagaski repairs are being made

HANGING FOR BANDITS

Penalty for Murder at Chicago Car Barn Riots.

in the massacre of Jews here last ONE OTHER YET TO BE TRIED.

Jury Agrees on a Verdict After Deliberating for a Day and a Night-The Condemned Men Hear Their Fate Stolidly-Emil Roeski, Who Participated in Some of Their Crimes To Be Tried Separately.

Chicago, (Special). - Hanging for all was the verdict of the jury in the first murder case against the so-called Fifteen persons accused of rioting "car-barn bandits," Harvey Vandine, Peter Neidermeier and Gustav Marx, who attempted notoriety by a desperate all-day battle that started in a 'dugout" near Liverpool, Ind., where the trio had taken refuge after a series of remarkable crimes, including the murder of two employes of the Chicago City Railway at one of the contpany's barns in this city, the motive in each instance being robery.

Emil Boeski, who was with the bandits in the dugout, and who participated in many of their crimes, is to be tried separately, not having been implicated directly in the particular murder for which his associates were first arraigned.

The verdict of the jury was delayed somewhat on account of a temporary division of opinion as to making the punishment alike for all the defend-

A confession on the part of Marx led to the discovery of the hiding place of the other bandits. Marx entered a while the other bandits attempted to brazen out a plea of innocence. Epilepsy, the result of heredity, was also

The bandits heard their doom stolidly. The mother of Vandine was in the court room. Niedermeier's moth-The mother of made any out-cry. Marx did not appear. She was said to on Spanish Rocks, near Guam, and is be at home in a state bordering on with the smallest possible loss to those

that caused the delay in arriving at a an injury or slight by outsiders. Too and, unfortunately, nothing will avail

BIG FERRY STEAMER BURNED.

Firemen Perished.

Conneaut, Ohio, (Special) .-- A large car ferry steamer, Shenango No. 1, there must not be added any avoidable owned by the Marquette and Bessemer Dock and Navigation Company, was destroyed by fire off this port, resulting in the death of Fireman nation in friendly foreign lands; but in a Chas. McCarter of Cheboygan, Mich., and the probably fatal injury of Engi-

nent railroad men and financiers with her kind on the great lakes, valued be peculiarly careful not only of the and about Broad Street Station, this city, reference to his railraod schemes in the at \$350,000, and had a carrying capa- rights, but of the susceptibilities of its and \$13,500,000 will be spent upon world city of 26 cars. The fire is supposed neighbors; and nowadays all of the na- as laid out in the annual report. The Grand Duke of Oldenburg, who to have resulted from an explosion of tions of the world are neighbors one to to Port Stanley early in January, but no less than private, intercourse. a big sea fight is probably imminent and California from communication with the book into the Conneaut Breakwater, so to carry themselves, both in act and in done. The actual amount needed to where she has remained frozen in by A man while lighting his pipe set fire the ice ever since. When the fire to gasoline in a car or the way to Harris- was discovered, it was found that she local fire department.

Engineer Morrell was the only resigned as Panama minister to the member of the crew awake when the flames broke out. Finding that the fire was beyond control, he hastily aroused the others on board, and all escaped except the fireman, McCarter. Upon discovering that McCarter was still in the hold of the vessel Morrell returned to awaken him. He was caught by the flames, and before ne could be rescued was so badly burned that he will probably die. Me Carter's body was consumed by the flames.

HEAVY LOSS TO MINERS.

Geological Survey's View of the Big Anthracite Strike.

Washington, D. C., (Special). - The report of Edward W. Parker on the pro-Charles Edward Langham, father of duction of coal in 1902, about to be issued by the United States Geological Survey, gives a review of labor troubles during that year and their effect upon the coal production. The report says:

"The troubles in the anthra lite district resulted in a decrease of nearly 40 per cent. in production to the operators, as compared with 1901. Approximately 145,000 men were idle for 98 working days, and the public was put to greater inconvenience and annoyance for want of fuel than had ever been known before in the history of the country. It is estimated that the total number of working days lost by this strike was 14,210,000 which, at an average of \$2.50 a day. meant a loss of about \$35,000,000 in

'The strikes in West Virginia were organized for the purpose of compelling the operators to recognize the union The strikers carried their point in the Kanawha river, but in the New river district the strike failed of its purpose. The time lost in West Virginia in 1902 was 1,362,054 days, or nearly twice as much as that lost by strikes in all the United States in 1901. The estimated loss of tonnage for the State caused by the strike was about 4,500,000 tons, although, on account of increased activity in other portions of the State, there was no actual decrease in output as compared with 1901.

No Peace at Santo Domingo.

Washington, (Special).-Very much belated cablegrams from United States Minister Powell, just received at the State Department, report a big battle across the river from San Domingo, March 4, in which the insurgents were worsted and fled, leaving their guns

WOMEN'S TERRIBLE FALL.

Drops Seven Stories in a New York Office Bullding.

New York (Special).-Miss Bessie Lazare, a stenographer, aged 23, was mortally injured by falling seven stories - from the eleventh to the fourth floor - in the building at 15 Dev street.

Her piercing screams as she shot down the main light shaft of the building created a panic among the tenants. She had been sitting on a window sill and lost her balance as she turned to talk to someone in the room. Her fall was broken at the fourth floor by

a wire netting over a skylight. She was taken to the Hudson Street Hospital unconscious, suffering from a fractured skull and internal injuries. Miss Lazare lived in Brooklyn and was employed by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

LIVE WASHINGTON AFFAIRS

No American Slave Dealers in the Philippines.

U. S. Officials Must Be Discreet.

President Roosevelt, after a conference with Secretary of State Hay, issued the following executive order respecting the observance of the proclamation recently promulgated declaring the neutrality of the United States between Russia and Japan, the two combatant nations in the Far Eastern war now in progress:

"All officials of the government-civil, military and naval—are hereby directed not only to observe the President's proclamation of neutrality in the pending war between Russia and Japan, but also to abstain from either action or speech which can legitimately cause irritation to either of the combatants. The government of the United States represents the people of the United States n t only in the sincerity with which it is endeavoring to keep the scales of neutrality exact and even, but in the sincerity with which it deplores the breaking out of the present war, and hopes that it will end at the earliest possible moment and Contrary to the general belief, it was and inflames the susceptibilities of the often combatants make conflicting claims as to the duties and obligations of neu- letting." trals, so that even when discharging these duties and obligations with scrupu lous care it is difficult to avoid giving offecse to one or the other party. To such unavoidable causes of offense, due to the performance of national duty, causes. It is always unfortunate to bring Old World antipathies and jealousies into our life, or by speech or conduct to excite anger and resentment toward our government employe, whose official position makes him in some sense the repre- 1904 to aggregate at least \$20,500,000. sentative of the people, the mischief of The boat was one of the largest of strong and self-confident nation should and enlarging of the track facilities in

to the people of any foreign and friendly power-and with all mankind we are now in friendshi

THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Use of American Ships.

The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries authorized a favorable report on a House bill providing that all supplies for the use of the army and navy of the United States shipped out of the United States shall be transported either in ships belonging to the Government or in ships of American

The bill is to go into effect 30 days after its passage. A provision incorporated by the Senate in a bill of the ousy, which led him to make a murdersame nature passed by that body was added to the House bill as an amendment, to the effect that should the freight rates charged be extortionate the President may suspend the operation of the and later used the same weapon on himact and open the competition to the vessels of other countries.

Hon. George W. Croft.

As the result of blood poisoning, caused by a splinter in his hand, Hon. George William Croft, representative in Congress from the Second district of South Carolina, died at his boarding place, Sixth street Northeast. The immediate cause of death was given as heart exhaustion.

Several operations had been performed in the hope of saving Mr. Croft's life, but without avail. He received the injury nearly two months ago, but the blood poisoning did not develop for some ti ne afterward.

Salaries of Canal Board.

President Roosevelt has fixed the salaries of the Isthmian Canal Commission ers at \$12,000 a year and in addition thereto \$15 a day while they are on the

The Senate, in executive session, confirmed the nomination of Henry B. Richardson, of Louisiana, as member of the Mississippi River Commission.

Has No American Wife.

So much currency has been obtained in the press by a story that the Emperor of Korea had married an American woman named Emily Brown that United States Minister Allen, at Scoul, has been obliged to print identical replies to a number of women correspondents denying the truth of the story.

Congressional and Departments.

The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries authorized a favorable reprot on a House bill providing and Navy shall be transported either in ships belonging to the government or in ships of American register.

the Isthmian Canal Commissioners at

U. S. AS PEACEMAKER

Suggestions That This Country Act With France.

HOW IT IS VIEWED IN PARIS.

The Idea of a Prominent American Railroad Man That France and United States, Be-Belligerents, Are Best Qualified to initfate a Peace Movement.

Paris, (By Cable). - The informa! States act jointly as peacemakers in the Far Eastern war has been made within the last week, and although the officials consider that any peace overtures would be futile at the present stage of the conflict, yet the suggestion leads to the belief in high quarters that France and the United States will become the eventual peacemakers. The suggestion came from one of the most prominent American railroad men, who probably has the largest railroad dealings with Russia of

any American. During a recent visit here he called at the American Embassy and other official quarters. In the course of his visit he strongly urged that France and the United States, by reason o their international friendship toward the two belligerents, were specially qualified to initiate a peace movement The American believed Russia would gladly avail herself of the opportuni ty even now, and that international in

uence would favorbly incline Japan The suggestion was entirely unofficial and informal, but none the less i was expected that it would prove a germ for official action. However, no such official action is likely at the present time, as it is the accepted riew of the French and American authorities that neither of the belligerents would listen to any peace over-

As one of the highest officials summed up the situation "The suggestion is worthy of consideration as showing that the republics are well qualified to become the engaged. Such a war inevitably increases eventual peacemakers, but certainly such a movement would be untimely now, for both parties are in hot blood. until there has been some blood-

PENNSYLVANIA WILL SPEND \$20,500,000.

Big Expenditures for Improvements East of Pittsburg. Philadelphia, Pa., (Special).-Not including the money to be spent on the for improvements east of Pittsburg in

coast, co-operating with the Russian land came to see Niagrar Fa'l under winter oil in the engine-room. The vessel atforce near the mouth of the Tumen conditions, arrived at New York on the tempted to make the trip from here self-restraint should mark international, time to time. The directors, who were erection of Denny Memorial Hall, rein session about an bour considering the

> new improvements is \$18,500,000. At meetings of the directors of the Pennsylvania company and of the Pan Handle company, Effington B. Morris was elected a director to succeed L. F. Loree.

JEALOUSY CAUSES DOUBLE TRAGEDY. Young School Teacher Dying and Her Assail-

ant Dead By His Own and Frenchtown, N. J., (Special).-Miss Mary Wyker, a pretty young school teacher of this place, is dying, and Paul Weaver, an 18-year-old youth, is dead, as the result of the latter's insane jealous attack on the girl and then, when he was pursued by a posse of his neighbors and former friends, take his own life.

Weaver used a revolver on the girl self, also noosing a rope about his neck to make sure that death would be his

The attack on Miss Wyker was made as she was going from her professional duties at the Union school to her boarding house, the home of Hugh Furness. He fired three times and two of the bullets found their mark, inflicting wounds that are likely to end in the

young woman's death. Early in the morning the mother of the young man found his dead body hanging from a noose tied to a rafter in a feedom on the homestead farm. He had adjusted the rope while standing on some boxes and then shot himself in the

SAVED TRAIN; LOST HIS LIFE. Killed in Freventing a Wreck on the California

Limited.

Albuquerque, N. M., (Special).-In a successful effort to save the Santa Fe's patch, is one of the best-known Presfast California Limited from being field, having been stationed in Persia wrecked, Jesus Salamandin, a section foreman at Curbero, was run over and killed.

Salamandin was riding on his railroad. motor when he heard the limited coming around a curve just ahead. He stopped his car and could easily have escaped, but the car, if left on the track, would

have wrecked the train. He succeeded in getting it off the track just as the train reached him, but was of horses and wagon. Glass plate in unable to get out of the way himself.

\$100,000 For Murder. Winchester, Ky., (Special) Mrs. Ara-

bella Marcum, for herself and children, filed suit in the Circuit Court against that all supplies for the use of the Army Jas. Hargis, Alexander Hargis, Edward Callahan and B. F. French for \$100,000 damages. She alleges in her petition that the defendants entered into a con-President Roosevelt fixed the salary of spiracy with Curtis Jett and Thomas White to murder her husband, the late of Azua. The United States ship Topeka touched at San Domingo March peka touched at San Domingo March tanamo for Pensacola te engage in target White are now in jail in Louisville.

EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES.

A Seven-Months' Period That Breaks All Records.

Washington, (Special). - United States exports of manufactures in January, 1904, and in the seven months ended with January, 1904, show a larger total than ever before in the same months of the year. For the month of January they cause of Their Friendship Toward the amounted to \$38,213,352, while the highest January record on any former occa-sion was that of 1900, when they were \$35,586,940

For the seven months ended with January they amount to \$250,214,936, and the suggestion that France and the United highest record for that seven-months' period in any preceding year was that ended with January, 1901, when the total was \$239,564,064. Thus the total for January is \$2,500,000 in excess of any preceding January, and for the seven months ending with January is about \$11,000,000 more than in any preceding seven months ended with January. These figures are shown by an analysis of the January exports, just prepared by tha Department of Commerce and Labor, through its bureau of statistics.

President Invited to Preside.

Washington, (Special). - President Roosevelt has been invited to preside at a great popular meeting in the interest of home missions, to be held at Buffalo next May, during the sessions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, The invitation was extended by the Rev. S. V. Holmes, pastor of the Westminister Church, in Buffalo, through Representative Alexander, of that city. The President, who presided at a similar meeting in New York some years ago, did not give a definite response to the invitation, indicating that he would do so at a later date. His acceptance is regarded as doubtful, however, as he has felt obliged to decline invitation of all kinds for this year.

Shot By His Planymate.

Waynesboro, Pa., (Special).-Gerald Middower, 11 years old, son of J. A. Middower, was shot in the head at his home here by Robert Frantz, aged 12 The lads were playmates. They went to Frantz's home, where the latter took a revolver from the drawer of his brother's bureau and playfully pointed it at young Middower's head and shouted: "Hold up your hands!" The boys were standing only a few feet apart. The pistol was discharged and the bullet entered Middower's mouth, splitting the tongue, and lodged in the back part of his head, inflicting a serious, perhaps fatal

A Double Tragedy.

New York, (Special).-Robert Gray, a painter, and his wife Lizzie were New York tunnel and terminal the Penn- found dead in their apartments here sylvania Railroad Company, through the the woman in bed with her skyl board of directors, approved expenditures crushed in and her husband in the bathroom, having apparently committed suicide by gas asphyxiation. The Of this sum \$5,000,000 will be spent case is supposed to be one of murder

\$10,000 For Denny Mcmorial Hall.

meeting of the citizens of Carlisle was The additional \$2,000,000 is needed for held and \$10,000 was raised for the cently burned. Rev. Miles O. Noll, of Carlisle, presided. Addresses were made by President Reed, John W. Welzel. Rev. G. M. Diffenderfer and deed, as to give no cause of just offense finish the work in hand and to begin Gen. Horatio C. King, of Brooklyn. Congressman Olmsted sent his check or \$500. During the coming week

Ate Wife and Child. Duluth, Minn., (Special).-Gustave Brandon, who has been cruising between Tower and Koochiching, has arrived here on his way to Minneapolis, and confirms a report of alleged cannibalism on the Nett Lake reservation. Brandon was near Pelicarz Lake when he was told that an Indian had killed and eaten his wife and child. He says his information is un ably authentic. He was told that the Indian during a drunken spree killed both his wife and child, and later devoured parts of th ir bodies to avert starvation.

\$24,137,611 Less Earned:

New York, (Special).-The second annual report of the United States Steel Corporation, dated March 1, has just been issued. The statement is a voluminous one. Net earnings for the year, after deducting expenditures for maintenance and interest on bonds and fixed charges of subsidiary companies, were \$100,171,152, compared with \$133.308.763 in 1902, a decrease of \$24.137.611. The balance of net earnfor 1903 was \$83,675,786, as against \$108,534,374 in 1902.

American Missionary Killed.

Urumia, Persia, (By Cable)-News has reached here that Dr. Labori (Labaree?) an American missionary, has been killed on the road to Khoi.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Labarce, who is probably referred to in the above disovterian missionaries in the Asiatic since 1860.

Explosion at Torpedo Plant.

Knightstown, Ind., (Special).-The plant of the Knightstown Torpedo-Company, two miles from town, was destroyed by an explosion of nitro-glycerine. Stephen Clark, an employe, was blown to pieces, as were a team this city was broken.

FINANCIAL.

The weekly statement of the Imperial Bank of Germany shows a decrease of 43,500,000 marks in cash.

It is reported in railroad circles that the Union Pacific, Illinois Central and Chicago & Alton will be merged unless the Northern Securities decision is abso-

utely against the compan It is understood that Union Pacific gross earnings for February will show an ncrease of over \$500,000 and that Southern Pacific earnings will show a gross increase of over \$800,000.