

All London is talking of a new and his circus. His levees and hotel have been thronged, and Buffalo Bill is entirely forgotten.

English statistics give a notable decrease in their convict population during the last twenty years. The total number of convicts under sentence of penal servitude was 6405 in July; twenty years ago it was 11,600.

Neil W. Price, author of several popular songs, including "Stick to Your Mother, Tom," and "A Boy's Best Friend is His Mother," has died at Chattanooga, Tenn., in the most abrupt poverty, from the opium habit.

Africa requires 2,000,000 blankets to supply the native population alone. Besides this there is a demand for woollen clothing for the ever-increasing white population. This has to be imported, although the Cape wool is of the best quality in the world.

The magisterial tariff in England for kissing ladies against their will is constantly increasing. The operation formerly cost about five dollars; but the price of kisses has nearly doubled of late, and a tailor who chased a lady creditor round a table and kissed her at the end of the chase was recently mulcted in ten dollars, including costs.

Thomas Lamb, a United States prisoner received at the Omaha Penitentiary from Texas in January, 1889, on an eighteen months' sentence for smuggling, has been pardoned by the President. Lamb, who is an Englishman by birth, is the owner of an enormous tract of land in Mexico, where his wife and four children live, which is said to be valued at \$1,000,000, and yet he attempted to increase his wealth by resorting to crime.

The translation of leading documents from English into Spanish is quite an important business in St. Louis. There is also much correspondence relating to mines that must be translated. A firm recently received a letter ordering supplies, in which the two languages were strangely mixed. One of the items called for a certain number of "Monqua Ritches." It took some time for the clerk to guess that monkey wrenches were wanted, but his guess was correct.

It is said that never in the past twenty years has the United States been so poorly represented abroad by a navy as at present. The old wooden ships have been disappearing at a rapid rate during the last year or so. The loss of the Trenton and the Vandalia at Samoa was a bitter blow. All the foreign stations are now held only in a vague and shadowy way. There is but one American war ship in European waters, a condition of affairs which has not occurred before since 1820.

The average citizen of the United States knows very little about the management of affairs in the sister republic of Mexico. Every little while a bit of news creeps into the papers which causes us to modify our views. Thus we are accustomed to think of our continent being free from the old-world vice of maintaining armies composed of men forced into service in time of peace, but it seems that the system prevails in Mexico. Her army, small as it is, is made up in part of forced recruits. A number of these the other day, while under the charge of an escort, mutinied, severely wounded a lieutenant and killed a sergeant. The mutineers were subsequently arrested and sent to the City of Mexico, to be shot for their crime. Something must be radically wrong in Mexico, observes the San Francisco Chronicle, or she would not be compelled to resort to force to keep up her small army.

Miss Kate Drexel, the Philadelphia heiress to over \$5,000,000, who was admitted as a postulate into the severe orders of the Sisters of Mercy, has now taken the white veil, her first six months' probation having ended. This step is a new one toward the black veil, which, about three years hence, will separate her from the world for life. "It would be a mistake," says the New York Sun, "to attribute to undue influences the disposition Miss Drexel is making of herself and her millions. It is simply the natural development of the life she has led since her infancy. Her father was a deeply religious man. So was her mother, a Miss Longstreth, who died when Kate was only two years old, but found time to sow in her mind the seeds of a mysticism which was carefully cultivated since by her stepmother, a Miss Bouvier, whose family was of the strictest religious habits such as are still to be found in highly cultivated French families nowadays. Sister Drexel will devote her life to the education of Indian and colored girls, and a few years from now will probably be heard from as the Superioress of a useful branch of her order in the West."

The very newest thing in drop-a-nickel machines in New York city sells two-cent stamps for a nickel. The stamps are separated by a bit of wax paper to prevent them from sticking.

The salmon fisheries of British Columbia have been a source of great wealth to the province this year. The bark Tithares sailed for London recently from Victoria with 51,422 cases of salmon, valued at \$300,000.

The longest distance over which telephoning can be maintained is uncertain; 750 miles is a common daily occurrence, but two gentlemen quite recently carried on a protracted conversation between Charleston, S. C., and Omaha, a distance of about 1500 miles.

Dr. Symes Thompson, in recent lectures in London on "Hereditry," pointed out the route taken in the inheritance of consumption. The disease follows the sex of the first sufferer. Thus, if the mother is of a phthisical habit, the daughters are likely to inherit the tendency to phthisis in a much more pronounced form than the sons.

A Brooklyn girl, who is an heiress, but whose property is in care of a trust company, applied to the President for money with which to buy a sealskin sacque. He refused, on the ground that it was a luxury. The girl then applied to the Supreme Court through a lawyer for permission and it was granted, and in less than two hours the young lady was wearing the best one she could find.

Manchester, England, is having a great ship canal constructed by a company who employ 12,000 men at the work, and in several years that busy manufacturing city will become a seaport. The effect of this upon Liverpool is discussed in England, and that port will doubtless feel the competition of Manchester. But Liverpool is busy with securing an abundant water supply from Wales. These new waterworks will include a wonderful aqueduct tunnel under the river Mersey, and the estimate of the total cost is \$8,500,000.

Either missionary work or exploration in New Guinea is dangerous work, as the greater part of the natives are savages who do not scruple to murder any white, if they can do so without risk. The British Government, in every instance, sends out a gunboat, and the villages of the treacherous natives are shelled and burned, but this is about all that can be done. It will take many years to inoculate even the seacoast with civilization, but from recent explorations there is more promise of the speedy settlement of the highlands of the interior, which are healthy, and which may be reached by the great rivers.

The rabbit problem still confronts the agriculturists of Australia. The American farmer knows no pests like the rabbit pest as it exists in that country. From a few English rabbits, imported some years ago, the breed has increased until vast expanses of the country are literally overrun with them. Apparently incredible stories are told of the number and ravages of Australian rabbits, but they are no exaggeration of the facts. The Parliament of the colonies always keeps the rabbit issue on hand as one of the standing orders of business, but it has never found a remedy. Some time ago it offered a prize of \$25,000 to any one that would suggest an effective exterminator. M. Pasteur, the French scientist, responded with a plan by which the animals were to be inoculated with a fatal infectious and contagious disease. But after two years of experimenting this has failed, and the Government has just withdrawn its offer.

It has often been charged that the people of the United States, proud of the commanding position of their country in the western hemisphere, and conscious of their overshadowing strength, have been unfriendly, bigoted, and contemptuous in their attitude toward the weaker nations to the southward. If this was ever true, the Leavenworth Times declares, it is true no longer. The universal and hearty interest shown in the Pan-American Congress, and the cordial welcome everywhere extended to the delegates from the Spanish-American countries and the Empire of Brazil demonstrate the desire of the American people for more intimate relations with their neighbors between the Rio Grande and Cape Horn. Intelligent Americans understand now that there are other nations this side of the Atlantic which not only possess abundant natural resources, but energetic and progressive citizens, and that the Argentine Republic, Chili, and Brazil, for example, are making almost as rapid progress in many respects as the United States. If the fruits of the Congress at Washington fall short of reasonable expectations, it will not be on account of any lack of good-will on the part of the American public toward the other nations presented.

## GREAT FIRE IN BOSTON.

### A Fearful Conflagration in the Heart of the City.

#### Nearly Two Acres of Valuable Property Burned.

Just as Boston was awakening to the most essentially Puritan of all fast days there came from the old city through the storm the ringing of bells, not in thanksgiving, but in warning, heralding to the business men in all parts of the town that flames were raging in the midst of the most valuable commercial district of Boston and that some of the terrors of 1872 were again before them. For nearly four hours they saw costly buildings and merchandise go up in flame and smoke, they saw structures that have been erected in comparatively recent years, with every improvement and safeguard against fire, splinter and crash together as though they were of the most inconsequential material; and it was only after this long light of the flames, who were made leaders by the fearful odds against them, and after reinforcements had come from more than a score of the adjoining towns, that the fire was controlled.

The fire started at Bedford and Kingston streets, a solidly built six-story granite building, owned by Jordan, Marsh & Co., the great dry goods house, and occupied in part by them and in part by Brown, Durrell & Co., wholesale dealers in notions, and the Woonsocket Rubber Company. It was regarded as a thoroughly fire-proof. Not very long after 8 o'clock A. M. a letter carrier saw a glare in the upper part of the building and a fire started. The flames burst through the shutters and sashes of the structure and sent the debris about his ears. There was no time for hesitancy, but it seems that there was some, for the alarm from the fire-alarm box nearly opposite the burning building was not rung in for several minutes after the discovery of the fire. It was raining as hard as Boston has experienced in many years, there was a very high wind blowing, and everything was favorable for a rapid extension of the blaze. Great buildings were all about, jammed with valuable merchandise. The flames, which it was subsequently ascertained, started in the elevator shaft, had full opportunity to obtain a powerful draft, and in almost as short a time as it requires to write it the interior of the building was a mass of flames. The human hand which could stop the progress of the flames northward through the party walls of the adjoining building of the Shoe and Leather Exchange, and which were making this structure dangerous to the surrounding property as the first one proved to be.

Meanwhile a few engines had arrived, but for some reason the firemen did not seem to appreciate the enormity of the danger. They first sent in an alarm for assistance but it was inadequate at the beginning of the conflagration. The firemen were aroused. Thus the fire had a headway of quite half an hour before a force of firemen which would have been adequate at the beginning of the conflagration arrived on duty. The high wind fanned the flames and forced them across Bedford street, a distance of not more than seventy feet, where they were dammed by the corner building and forced to withdraw across the Kings and along Bedford street to Chauncy, where the fire was stopped for a time in the store of Farley, Harvey & Co., the upper stories of which were burned. Three stores along Chauncy street were also destroyed. On the south side of Bedford street the flames leaped across Kingston street from the furnace that still raged in Brown, Durrell & Co.'s building to the big sandstone structure owned by F. L. Ames and occupied by Taylor Brothers, completely destroying it.

It was not long before steamers from Waltham, Cambridge, Malden, Melrose, Lawrence and Haverhill arrived, and some time after the Providence fire engines, which were sent in with an engine from Waltham, arrived in its quota, and it was with full appreciation of the pathos of it all that the engine from Lynn arrived. There was a cheer which went up when the boys and their engines went to work, though they had scarcely had time to recover from the great calamity which had visited their own city. But the effect of their pluckiness was contagious. Men who had not done more than their share up to this time bent their backs, and with a whoop and a hurrah which meant all things save defeat, the firemen, many of them badly scorched, went at the flames again with a will, and assisted by the storm, made further progress. Up to this time the number of available men was too small to surround the district and to fight the flames from all quarters. The heat from the flames, too, was more than it was possible for human flesh to withstand, so that the labor for the salvation of property was continued with the flames always in the van and the firemen in their rear endeavoring to quench them from the most unlikely point.

The scene in Bedford street at 11 o'clock was appalling. Bricks from fallen walls covered the street to a depth of five feet, and two helpless engines and a water tower which had fallen victims to the great avalanche of stone and brick mutely told of the terrible struggle which had taken place to stop the progress of destruction. At that hour the fire had supreme possession of many massive buildings, and the large freestone block occupying the north west corner of Kingston and Bedford streets was in an extremely dangerous condition. The firemen worked in and around it at momentary risk of being engulfed beneath the tottering walls of its upper story. At 1 o'clock the fire was confined to the upper stories of the two large stone buildings at the corner of Bedford and Chauncy streets, occupied, one by Farley, Harvey & Co., and the other by Smith, Hogg & Gardner. At times it burned out for a moment, but under the well-directed streams of the streams was soon subdued. The fire was then completely under control.

A careful estimate of the area burned over before the fire was under control places the number of square feet at 75,000, or about one and three-quarters acres. Seventy buildings were burned, most of them being mammoth wholesale business houses of stone and brick, fortified by every known modern appliance for the prevention of loss by fire. The aggregate loss is variously estimated at from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000.

The scene of the fire was identical with that of the conflagration of 1872, when the total losses were \$75,000,000. The alarm was rung out, too, from the same box, No. 32.

During the fire fourteen firemen were knocked down in Kingston street by fragments of a broken wall, but all escaped serious injury. About a dozen firemen and soldiers were sent to the hospitals suffering from lacerations, bruises and broken limbs.

## FATAL GAS EXPLOSION.

### Two Children Killed and Three Adults Fatally Injured.

An explosion of natural gas occurred at 10 o'clock A. M., at the residence of Scott Hawthorne, in the western part of Dayton, Ohio. The house, which was a two-story brick structure, was blown to atoms. Two children were killed, and Mr. Hawthorne, his wife and father received probably fatal injuries. They were taken to a hospital.

A man belonging to the Bombay Lancers ran amuck in the camp of the regiment at Bombay, India, and killed Commandant Heyland and two other officers.

## THE NEWS EPITOMIZED.

**Eastern and Middle States.**  
WELLINGTON HART and R. A. Smith, well-known old farmers, were drowned near Woonsocket, R. I.

**PRINCETON** defeated Yale by a score of 10 to 9, winning the intercollegiate football association championship.

**JACOB H. HALDEMAN**, ex-Minister to Sweden, has died at Harrisburg, Penn., in his sixty-ninth year.

**FIFTY-NINE** persons comprising the crew and passengers of the steamer Santiago, burned in mid-ocean, arrived at New York on the American ship A. J. Fuller. They had been compelled to abandon the steamer in four boats, which were picked up next day by the ship.

## THE NEWS EPITOMIZED.

**Western and Southern States.**  
The large three-masted schooner Germania, of Bremen, from Stettin to New York, went ashore off West End Long Key, near Key West, and was wrecked. The life saving crew went to her assistance, but she broke up in the surf. The mate and three of the crew were saved. Captain Windthorst, the eight sailors and the cook were drowned. The captain's head to have been drunk. The schooner was very old. The bodies of four of the lost sailors were washed ashore near Sandy Hook.

**THE** three-months-old daughter of W. A. Reybun at Atglen, Penn., was found dead in bed with the family cat on the child's mouth and nose. Death was caused by suffocation.

**AT** Anacosta, Montana, J. F. Holditz was shot and killed by his son, who afterward committed suicide.

**LYMAN R. CASEY**, of Jamestown, has been elected as the second United States Senator for North Dakota.

**THE** Territorial Asylum at Blackfoot, Idaho, has been destroyed by fire. Fifty-seven out of sixty-five inmates were rescued, while eight persons were killed. The loss is estimated at \$30,000.

**REV. W. LITTLE**, of Elizabethton, Tenn., shot and fatally wounded Daniel Hyde, a well-known young man of that place, for betraying the minister's daughter.

**IT** is announced that the Afro-American League's Convention, called to meet at Nashville January 15 next, will meet instead at Chicago, the date remaining the same.

**THE** National Silver Convention met in St. Louis; General A. J. Warner, of Ohio, was chosen President.

**ON** a train at Tallis, Ark., a conflict occurred between colored passengers and the white train crew, and one colored man was killed and several others fatally wounded.

**AT** Houghton, Mich., an explosion in a drift in the Huron mine killed two Finnish miners. Alexander Steinhack, one of them, had the top of his head blown off, yet he lived for his partner, and would die if his partner was killed.

**THE** North Pacific sailing fleet arrived at San Francisco. The catch was the poorest in ten years.

**SCHOOL** TRUSTEE J. W. WILLIAMS entered the High School at Petersburg, Va., and before the pupils horseshipped the head teacher for whipping his ten-year-old boy with a rawhide.

**WARRANTS** were issued for the arrest of M. C. and G. V. Fredericksen, of Chicago, and W. F. Biggood, their bookkeeper, charged with obtaining about \$1,000,000 by fraudulent land transactions.

**ROBERT** RUSSELL and Michael Foy were found guilty of robbery at Chicago, and a jury fixed their punishment at "imprisonment in the penitentiary for the term of their natural lives." This is the first conviction in Illinois under the recent "Habitual Criminal Act."

**DR. W. R. WARREN**, a well-known physician of Atlanta, Ga., aged sixty years, fell down stairs at his home and sustained injuries which caused his death.

**A** DISASTROUS wreck has occurred at Crede, Ohio. The train was thrown from the track by a washout. The engineer and two brakemen were killed.

**PATRICK** MCGLOTH, sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Denver, Col., for grand larceny, made a partial confession that he was one of four men selected to throw bombs at the Haymarket riot, Chicago.

**NINE** men were arrested at Berwin, Indian Territory, on suspicion of having robbed the Santa Fe train.

**A** BOILER exploded on John Bridg's farm near Auburn, Kan., instantly killing Bridg and fatally wounding William Carr and Charles Webb.

**JOHN** MCGOFF and John Carroll, a nine-year-old lad, were drowned in the Ohio River at Benwood, West Va. McGoff drove his team into the river to wash the wagon, but he got beyond his depth, and the team with the wagon and occupants were swept away.

## Washington.

**PRESIDENT** HARRISON has appointed Frank Hitchcock, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois.

**ALBERT C. RIDGWAY**, of Illinois, has been appointed confidential clerk to the Commission of Pensions, to succeed Miss Ada Tanner, resigned.

**SECRETARY** TRACY has made arrangements by which the Navy will be furnished with the brown prismatic powder for large guns and the new smokeless powder for smaller arms.

**SUPPLEMENTARY** PORTER, of the Census Office, has appointed T. H. Wins, special agent for the collection of statistics for the eleventh census relative to pauperism and crime.

**THE** President has appointed Otis H. Russell Postmaster at Richmond, Va.

**THE** International Marine Conference adopted an amendment that sailing vessels under way shall keep out of the way of sailing vessels or boats engaged in fishing.

**THE** Pension Commissioner has issued an order that great care must be exercised in the reject of applications for pensions, and that all letters rejecting claims must be signed by the Commissioner.

**MEDICAL** DIRECTOR FRANCIS M. GUNNELL, until recently Surgeon-General of the Navy, will be placed on the retired list.

## Foreign.

**A** DISPATCH from Constantinople states that the steamship India, with 500 Mohammedan pilgrims on board, had been sunk in the Aegean Sea, and that of all on board only the Captain and two passengers survive.

## MESSRS. KENDLER, the famous bankers of Vienna, have failed, with liabilities of 2,500,000 florins.

**ABOUT** 7000 dockmen and lightermen went on a strike at Bristol, England, causing the trade of the port to be paralyzed.

**M. CORVILLAN**, the proprietor of the Antwerp Cartridge Factory, which exploded last September, and engineer M. Delaunay, have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment, the former for four years and six months, and the latter to one year and six months.

**AN** explosion took place in a colliery at Bochum, Germany, by which fourteen persons were killed and four injured.

## LATER NEWS.

**AT** the Merrimack County Farm, in North Bozacaen, N. H., a woman named Bennett seized a slight, delicate woman from Chester, Sarah C. Wood, carried her to a bath-room, threw her into a tub, held her down, and, turning on the cold water, finally drowned her.

**AT** the investigation of the wreck of the Germania at Long Branch, N. J., one of the rescued seamen swore that in his opinion the vessel was purposely lost.

**ONE** Italian laborer was killed and another fatally injured by a bank of earth caving in on them at Brookline, Mass.

**LATER** reports put the number of buildings burned in Lynn, Mass., at 330, and the losses at about \$1,300,000.

**AT** least eight persons were killed and twenty injured by a cyclone in Beaufort County, N. C.

**FOUR** little girls, children of Hugh Dunn, of Elliottsville, W. Va., found a keg of powder in an abandoned shaft. In some way they exploded it and were blown to atoms. Their mother lost her reason when told of the fate of her children.

**EIGHTEEN** men and boys, suspected of complicity in the Olcott lynching at Preston, Wis., were arrested and let go on bail. Six of the lynchers left the State. Four boys in jail have made a confession.

**JUDGE** R. B. TRIPPE, of Atlanta, Ga., committed suicide by blowing out his brains. He was thirty-five years of age, and had been Judge of the City Court of Cartersville, and was afterward Assistant United States District-Attorney.

**PROFESSOR** GILBERT MOTIER LEVETTE, of Indianapolis, Ind., killed himself by blowing his head off with a shot gun. He was a fine chemist and at one time occupied the office of State Geologist.

**EX-DISTRICT-ATTORNEY** J. C. MCKENNY, of Milwaukee, Wis., was found lying unconscious on Broadway in that city. He had been badly beaten, and his skull appeared to be fractured.

**A** NUMBER of alliéés were dispersed in the Cronin murder trial at Chicago. A detective swore he found Dr. Cronin's knives on Coughlin, one of the accused, when he arrested him. State's Attorney Longenecker began his address to the jury.

**A** PLOT to assassinate Premier Tisza, of Hungary, was discovered and frustrated.

**MARTIN** PARQUER TUPPER, the poet, died at his home in London, aged seventy-nine years.

**THE** draft of an Irish Land bill has been submitted to a committee of the English Cabinet by Secretary Balfour and Lord Ashbourne.

**W. H. HARVEY**, who in March last murdered his wife and two daughters, was hanged at Guelph, Ontario. The execution was one of the worst pieces of bungling that was ever witnessed, the man being tortured to death.

**FRANCE** has recognized the Brazilian Republic; the old flag has been redopted by the new Government.

**THE** New York World's Fair guarantee fund of \$5,000,000 has been completed.

**CHARLES** H. TURNER, the young lieutenant of New York city, has been elected to Congress in the Sixth Congressional District.

**C. S. KING**, editor of the Daily Union, of Ogden, Utah, was shot on the street by ex-Deputy United States Marshal Egan, on account of the publication of an article reflecting upon the character of Egan's wife.

**THE** steamship Gaelic, which arrived at San Francisco from China and Japan, brought news that the American ship Chesborough was wrecked by running on the rocks off Shi-chi-Ri-Ilanar, nineteen of the crew being drowned.

**BY** the fall of some heavy timbers at the Salisbury mine, at Ishpeming, Mich., two miners were killed.

**THE** State's Attorney in the Cronin murder case completed the opening argument for the prosecution at Chicago.

**THE** annual report of General Hepburn, Solicitor of the Treasury, shows that during the last fiscal year 4866 suits were instituted, of which twenty-nine were for the recovery of \$96,515 from defaulting public officers.

**P. D. ARMOUR**, the big Chicago pork packer, testified before the Senate Committee on the dressed-beef monopoly.

**THE** steamer Alagos arrived at St. Vincent, Cape de Verd Islands, with the exiled Emperor of Brazil, Dom Pedro, on board.

**TWENTY** persons were killed and one hundred wounded by the fall of a theatre gallery in Japan.

## NEWSY GLEANINGS.

**THREE** French papers in Montreal recently declared in favor of a Canadian republic.

**THREE** HUNDRED Boulangerists will soon visit General Boulanger on the Island of Jersey.

**ACCORDING** to the Propaganda in Rome there are 218,000,000 Roman Catholics in the world.

**THE** youngest officer in Queen Victoria's service is a Second Lieutenant of exactly eighteen.

**THE** newspapers of Italy are raising subscriptions to erect a monument to Columbus on American soil.

**DURING** the last two years the Italian army has increased by 30,000 men, 300 field guns and 6000 cavalry.

**THERE** are 16,310 newspapers and periodicals in this country—a gain of 800 in twelve months, and of 7196 in ten years.

**THE** Russian Government has voted 75,000,000 roubles to be expended on the navy, at the rate of 15,000,000 roubles a year.

**NINETY-ONE** social Democrats have been on trial at Eberfeld, Germany, for belonging to a secret society. Among them are four deputies.

**THERE** is to be an international exhibition of postage stamps held in Vienna next year in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of their introduction.

**THE** Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Switzerland has resolved to banish cats from the Republic on the ground that they are killing off the birds.

## THE POSTOFFICES.

### Postmaster General Wanamaker's Annual Report.

### The Work of the Department for the Last Year.

The first annual report of Postmaster-General Wanamaker has been submitted to the President. At the outset complaint is made that the Postmaster-General and the First Assistant Postmaster-General are seriously hampered by a mass of technical and routine duties which interfere with the proper performance of more important work. After showing that the other assistants are all equally busy, he recommends the creation of the office of a Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, to be in direct charge of the great divisions of the railway mail, the foreign mail, the money-order office, the registry and supplies divisions, and the dealer letter office. He also recommends that a new office be made, to be known as General Secretary, who is to see that the details of the administration are carried out. He thinks that for a man of proper executive ability a salary of \$10,000 a year would not be too large. These two new officers, he thinks, would enable the head of the Department to render better service.

Referring to his correspondence with the Telegraph Company, Mr. Wanamaker says: "I confess to a disappointment in that the negotiations with the Western Union Telegraph Company did not lead to a scheme which I hoped to submit to this report for your approval, whereby the people at large could have the benefit of telegraphic service at popular rates."

I respectfully ask that such legislation be enacted as is necessary to empower the Postmaster-General to enter into contracts with responsible parties for a term not exceeding five years, on conditions favorable to the Government, for the purpose of establishing a Limited Post and Telegraph Service.

On the subject of Sunday mails Mr. Wanamaker says: "I shall make use of all proper means tending toward the minimizing of postoffice work upon Sunday, because I believe that the Government should, as far as possible, make requirements which will prohibit its employees from the enjoyment of a day of rest."

In touching upon the subject of penny postage the report says: "One-cent postage is an easy possibility of the near future. It must come as a matter of course. If introduced to-morrow the revenue on letter postage by probably \$15,000,000. We are not ready for it, but the present deficiency exists. When the blessing of penny postage comes it should not require a tax in some other form to make up its cost. Moreover, it would seem to be wiser first to improve the facilities rather than to reduce the postage while the service still remains conspicuously imperfect."

As to postal savings banks, the Postmaster-General suggests that they be established at 10,000 of the fourth-class offices for the convenience of the people wanting a place to deposit their money, but expresses no opinion on the suggestion that the Government pay interest to depositors. The report refers to the pressing need for the erection of a departmental building at Washington and urges that this be done.

In referring to the propositions to improve the carrying of merchandise in the mails, the report says: "We are not prepared to consider the third and fourth class matter or to undertake the service of a full parcels post for the following reasons: First, almost all the post-office buildings are overcrowded and space could not be found in them to accommodate an enlarged package business; second, the P. O. cars are all insufficient for the present mail business, the Department being obliged to forward almost two-thirds of the postal cards and envelopes by freight in order to afford requisite relief for mail matter; third, the readjustment of transportation and star route contracts would first be necessary to provide proper remuneration for carrying the additional mail; fourth, the exact profit or loss on fourth-class business now being done by the Department should be ascertained before any enlargement takes place."

**LIFE-SAVING SERVICE.**  
Many People Rescued and Much Property Saved in a Year.

General Superintendent Kimball, of the Life-Saving Service, in his annual report says that at the close of the last fiscal year the establishment embraced 235 stations, 172 being on the Atlantic, 45 on the lakes, 7 on the Pacific and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Ky.

The work of the crews during the year is summarized as follows: Number of disasters, 528; value of property involved, \$6,415,773; value of property saved, \$5,054,440; value of property lost, \$1,361,333; number of persons involved, 3436; number of persons lost, 42; number of persons rescued, 787; days of sorrow afforded, 10,300; number of vessels totally lost, 68; number of vessels otherwise saved, 46; that is, worked off when stranded, repaired when damaged, piloted out of danger, etc., 310; number of vessels warned from danger by signals of distress, 217; number of persons rescued who had fallen from wharves, piers, etc., 24.

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