

Russian explorers are endeavoring to extend Russian influence in British India.

Of the 900 languages spoken in the world, there are about 750 into which no portion of the Holy Scriptures has yet been translated.

A bar of aluminum in its natural state is worth about \$5, but when properly treated and made into balance springs for watches its value reaches \$250,000.

In the autograph collection of the late Dr. Raikes, just sold in England, was a full set of signatures of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This brought \$4250.

The latest plan for civilizing Indians is to try to make soldiers of them. It is said that six full companies have been enlisted out West, and seven more companies are to be raised.

Russia is now rapidly constructing the longest railway in the world. It is 4783 miles long, nearly twice the length of the Canadian Pacific, and runs from Minsk, on the eastern side of the Ural range, to Vladivostok, on the Sea of Japan.

The curious fact has just been brought to light in Kentucky, learns the New York Post, that from 1857 to 1860 the State loaned money to individuals.

New Orleans is at last to have a paid fire department, announces the New York Post, the city having been always dependent on a volunteer service.

The Illinois Legislature found it easy enough to pass the law providing that "no person, firm, or corporation shall employ any child under the age of thirteen in any store, shop, factory or manufacturing establishment by the day, or any period of time greater than one day."

Driving a speedy horse is so pleasant and healthful a recreation, says Harper's Weekly, that one is not surprised to learn that Robert Bonner has spent \$600,000 of his ample means in following the advice his physician gave him thirty-five years ago.

According to the Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat the supposition that there is a large immigration from Japan to the United States is without foundation.

The savings banks of the country show a deposit for the last year of \$4 for each of the people of the United States.

Chancellor Snow, of the Kansas State University, announces that there are 250,000 different species of bugs that are enemies of the farmer.

The Government has been for nine years digging and putting together the vast collection of fossils that will occupy fully one-half of the National Museum in Washington.

An English bridegroom has been fined for disorderly conduct during the marriage ceremony. He was very shy and nervous, relates the New York Tribune, and in order to screw his courage up to the sticking point he quietly took out a flask while the clergyman was reading the exhortation and indulged in a nip.

Big figures are reached in official affairs in the city of New York, exclaims the Boston Transcript. The Commissioner of Public Works reports that his expenditures for the last three months were nearly \$1,500,000, and contracts that will require as much more money were made with various parties.

In 1886 there were three electric railways in operation with thirteen cars; in 1886, five with thirty cars; in 1887, seven with eighty-one cars; in 1888, thirty-two with 265 cars; in 1889, 104 with 965 cars; in 1890, 126 with over 2000 cars, and there are now in operation and under contract in this country, England, Germany, Italy, Australia and Japan not less than 325 roads, requiring over 4000 cars and 7000 motors, with 2000 miles of track, making a daily mileage of not less than 400,000 miles, and carrying three quarters of a billion of passengers.

The disposition of the \$230,000 accumulated from the bequest of Benjamin Franklin, continues to be a fruitful topic of discussion in Boston. Instead of applying it to the extinction of the debt incurred in purchasing the land for Franklin Park, it is now thought best by the Park Commissioners to use it in constructing those parts of the Park known as "The Greeting," "The Music Court," and "The Little Folks' Fair."

That there are millions in pecan nuts is the firm belief of F. A. Swinden, of Brownwood, Texas. It appears from an account of his work published in the Atlanta Constitution that, if he realizes his dreams, this source of wealth will ere long place him beyond the reach of acute avarice.

THE SALVATION ARMY OF SEATTLE has made the beneficiary of the will of J. W. Munson, an eccentric old philanthropist, who died on May 3, at Hamilton, and was buried by the Grand Army post at that place. Munson attended the meetings of the salvationalists nearly four years. He leaves \$50,000 to the Salvation Army of that place.

THE COUNTRY'S CROPS.

August Returns to the Department of Agriculture.

Much Will Depend on the Weather of This Month.

The August returns to the statistician of the Department of Agriculture make the condition of corn 90.8; spring wheat, 95.5; spring rye, 86.6; oats, 80.5; barley, 93.8; buckwheat, 97.3; potatoes, 96.5; tobacco, 88.5; hay, 90.9. Corn has fallen off two points during the month, the decline being almost entirely in the States of the Ohio Valley and the Northwest.

The wheat returns relate to spring wheat only, the average for the whole breadth advancing somewhat during the month. The improvement is general except in Washington, where hot winds injured the prospect in some districts. The State returns outside of this State and Wisconsin closely approach the standard for comparison.

The first return for buckwheat is the highest of eight years past, with slight increase in acreage. The condition of potatoes is returned remarkably high, scoring a gain of a point over last month.

The returns make the condition of cotton 88.9 for the whole breadth, practically the same as last month. The improvement during the month has been confined to sections of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas. In other portions of the cotton belt there has been a decline in condition.

THE NATIONAL GAME.

GRIFPIN, of Brooklyn, leads the League in sacrifice hits. In Cincinnati they consider Dickey Johnson the king of outfielders. Both of the Boston clubs are ahead of their expenses so far this season.

BOB BARR, the new pitcher secured by the New York club, comes from the Buffalo Eastern League club. TIM KEFFER, released by the New Yorks, has been signed in price for the Philadelphia team.

THE PITTSBURGH have been victorious sixteen times by one run, and have defeated six times. They have played seven ten-inning games this season and won only one of them. DAHLEN has proven to be another great all-around player. He has been playing Cleveland, left field and short stop for the Chicago.

THE NATION'S CROPS (continued) - Oats have improved two points during the month, and the figures of condition indicate a medium yield per acre. The improvement is general except in Washington, where hot winds injured the prospect in some districts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE RECORD, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION RECORD. Table with columns for team, W, L, Pct., Runs, Hits, Errors, and other statistics.

THE NEWS EPITOMIZED.

Eastern and Middle States.

THERE was a flurry in wheat speculation on the New York Produce Exchange, prices jumping about five cents a bushel and 3,000,000 bushels being traded in.

MYRON ADAMS, of Ashland, Mass., five years old, died of hydrophobia. He had been bitten by a mad dog a month previous.

CAMP DOUGLAS, a Wisconsin town, has been almost destroyed by fire. Loss, \$150,000.

AN express train ran into a freight train near Fort Wayne, Ind. The engineer and fireman of the express were killed, eight freight cars destroyed and the baggage and express cars of the passenger train were ditched.

LATE heavy rains in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and Indiana have saved the corn crop.

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, who, it is said, was the oldest living Odd Fellow in the United States, has just died in Salem, Ore., aged eighty-nine.

UNDER an enormous pressure of wheat an elevator wall at Minneapolis gave way, crushing in an adjoining feed mill. Sixty thousand bushels of wheat were let out.

HERBY HENSON was hanged at St. Louis for killing his wife, and Chris Young at Lexington, Mo., for killing Stephen Ferguson.

R. DUDLEY PRATER, a Memphis capitalist, was lured into meeting a stranger at a hotel, chloroformed and robbed.

MISS CLYDE RAGLAND, daughter of Squire J. E. Ragland, a wealthy farmer of Louisville, Ky., was thrown from a horse, and, her feet, catching in the stirrup, she was kicked to death.

ATORNEY-GENERAL MILLER has directed an investigation to be made of charges of bribery in the treatment of Federal prisoners confined in the Arkansas Penitentiary at Little Rock.

THE PRESIDENT has appointed Charles W. Erdman, of Louisville, as Consul to Colon.

DR. HOLLAND H. FALKNER, of the University of Pennsylvania, has been asked by the Senate Committee on Finance to assume the direction of its coming important investigation into the effect of the McKinley tariff upon wages and the cost of living.

EXCESSIVE rains, famine, typhus fever and dysentery afflict the inhabitants of the Magura District in the Austrian Carpathians.

THE LONDON Chamber of Commerce has issued a circular commending the Chicago Fair to English exhibitors, and advising that high-class goods only be sent.

M. PATEMOTTE, at present French Minister to Morocco, has been appointed to succeed M. Theodore Roustan as Minister to the United States. M. Roustan will go as French Minister to Spain.

THE twelfth international convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations opened in Amsterdam, Holland, on June 30. Delegates were present, 100 of them being Americans.

FOREST fires in the vicinity of Toulon, France, have destroyed more than 3000 acres of woodland.

THE Moscow police have received secret orders which mean the expulsion of every Jew from the district within two months.

DOBOOZYK, the explorer, has telegraphed from De Brazzaville, West Africa, that the

NEWSP CLEANINGS.

TEXAS is exporting wheat. A DECAUR (Ill.) electric car made \$93.45 in a day.

MAIN'S hay crop will reach 1,900,000 tons. SMALLPOX is epidemic at Acapulco, and yellow fever prevails in Vera Cruz.

IN Ontario short-weight bread is confiscated and given to charitable institutions.

MICHIGAN'S corn crop has been blighted in the southwestern section by excessive drought.

GUATEMALA will probably reproduce at the Chicago Fair one of the old palaces in antiquity.

A RAILROAD in the Argentine Republic has one stretch of 21 miles without a curve or bridge.

BERLIN'S Society for the Homeless last year provided shelter for 109,000 men and 15,000 women.

IT costs \$1 per minute to use the new telephone line between London and Paris, a distance of 295 miles.

THREE more boats were running on the Missouri River than at any time during the last ten years, and everyone of them is making money.

A FARMER near Garden City, Kan., attacked a column of grasshoppers with seventy turkeys, and was soon master of the situation.

IT was so hot at San Diego, Cal., during a recent week that some chemicals in a drug store exploded from the high temperature and set fire to the store.

A PUBLIC school law recently passed in New Mexico has caused a great demand for school teachers. The applicants so far have not been above one-third the number required.

GOVERNOR FLEMING, of Florida, publishes a long card to the people giving his reasons for refusing to sign the certificate of election of Senator Call to the United States Senate.

A HOTEL in Hamburg has been built entirely of compressed wood, which, by the pressure to which it is subjected, is rendered as hard as iron, and is absolutely proof against the attacks of fire.

A WOMAN living in Portsmouth, O., was recently attacked and severely injured by an owl. It pounced upon her while she was in the chicken yard and clawed her savagely across arms and shoulders before it could be driven away.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Philadelphia Ledger, who has made a trip through the peach-growing districts of Delaware and the eastern shore of Maryland, states as the result of his observations that the peach crop will prove the largest in Delaware since 1888, and in all of the lower Maryland counties the largest ever known.

THE wheat crop of California this year will equal 30,000,000 centals, which, at an average selling price of \$1.00 per cental, would give \$30,000,000 for the crop, or a gain of \$120,000,000 over last year's yield.

THE United States is estimated to have produced in 1890 6,000,000,000 bushels of wheat, and 800,000,000 bushels of other cereals.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, Death of the Well-Known American Poet at Boston.

James Russell Lowell died a few days ago in Boston, of a complication of liver complaint, aggravated by his age.

This well-known American poet, man of letters and ex-Minister to England and Spain, was born in Cambridge, Mass., on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1819.

HE passed the years 1841 and 1852 in Europe, and in 1854 delivered a course of twelve lectures in Boston to large audiences, his subject being the British poets. In 1855 he was appointed Longfellow's successor to the chair of Belles-Lettres in Harvard College, and in 1857 he became the editor of the Atlantic Monthly.

IN 1877 Lowell was appointed to represent the National Government at the Court of Spain, and in 1880 he was transferred to the Court of St. James. There, socially, he was the greatest favorite who ever represented the United States in England.

A FRIGHTFUL DISASTER.

Fall of an Excursion Barge's Upper Deck.

Fourteen Persons Killed and Forty More Injured.

Four hundred employes of Theodore Kayser's dry goods establishment at 197 Graham avenue, Brooklyn, went on an excursion a few days since to Cold Spring Grove, on Long Island Sound. The steamer Crystal Stream and the barge Republic left the foot of North Fifth street in the morning.

The trip was a merry one, and when the party was landed at the grove every one was in the best of spirits. After spending a few hours in the grove the excursionists made ready to return to Brooklyn at 4 o'clock, just as the barge and steamer drew away from the Cold Spring dock a big squall sprang up.

The barge lay close to the pier head, and was connected by a gang plank to the steamer, which was fast alongside. The last of the excursionists was on board at 8:45 when the pilot gave the word to cast off.

The barge was fast to the pier by three hawsers—one from the bow, one from the stern, and one amidships. The forward and mid-ship hawsers were loose and the bow of the vessel was pointed to midstream when the squall came.

Rain poured in torrents and the sky became black as night. An awning was lowered from the hurricane deck of the barge and fastened to the main deck to keep out the rain. A heavy gust of wind swept across the barge, struck this awning and tore it away.

The scene when the deck fell was indescribable. Above the storm could be heard the screams of the injured and the shrieks of women and children. Many jumped into the foaming water and it is believed that some were drowned.

THIRTEEN persons were killed and forty more seriously injured. Physicians were summoned from near-by places. Then the wounded were carefully carried aboard of the Crystal Stream, which conveyed them to their homes by water.

THE vessel's mother, the Empress of Austria and the ex-Queen of Naples, the Duchess Louise Wilhelmina is one of the oldest royal personages in Europe. She is eighty-three, but vigorous and bright.

MRS. TOM THUMB, who is one of the most popular "freaks" in America, is paid \$500 a week by her managers. She has a handsome home in Bridgeport, Conn., and when not under an engagement lives there in luxury and ease.

NEXT to Phillips Brooks, whose gigantic size is well known, the Bishop of the Episcopal Church who possesses the greatest girth and stature is Bishop Walker, of North Dakota.

PRESIDENT GEORGE B. ROBERTS, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, began as a rodmann. In time he became an agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad, an office in the elaborate organization of the company which generally graduates its incumbent into the Presidency itself.

A CORRESPONDENT who recently visited the Comte de Lesseps, of Suez Canal fame, depicts a touching domestic scene. In one corner by the window on a sofa, a rug over his knees, the old man, erect, bright-eyed as of yore, but pale and weary-looking, faces him, the beautiful and devoted wife in black, and all about the room the most delightful bevy of little folk that one might wish to see.

FATAL TORNADO.

Circus Tent Blown Down—Three Killed and Fifty Injured.

A tornado swept over Ashland, Wis., and the town of Washburne, just across the bay from there, doing an immense amount of damage.

AT Washburne the tent of Williams' circus was blown down, three people being killed and about fifty injured, many of them fatally.

THE largest locomotive in the United States has just been turned out at the Schenectady Locomotive Works of the Michigan Central. It is a compound, and a ten-wheel type. The drivers are six inches in diameter. It weighs sixty-four tons.