

It is said that 750,000 Americans belong to the criminal class.

Michigan is to adopt the Massachusetts reading and writing qualifications for voters.

Owing to the unusual activity in potato planting the price of fertilizer has advanced fifty per cent.

Tippling is the latest British institution to be threatened. The Prince of Wales has declared that he will put it down.

A Boston church has decided to hold services at 8.30 a. m. during the summer, so that the congregation can spend the rest of the day at pleasure resorts.

If the experiments now in progress succeed, the Detroit Free Press figures that paper stockings sized with potato starch and tallow will be put on the market and sold at three cents a pair.

The New Orleans Picayune says: "The feeling in Georgia is so strong against women's suffrage that the State convention of the W. C. T. U. adjourned without discussing the subject, though it was on the programme."

Rev. Mr. Fairbanks, an American missionary in India, attributes a large part of his success to the use of a bicycle. Not only is he enabled to cover a more extensive territory with it, but the natural curiosity of the natives brings large crowds to see "a horse that needs neither grass nor grain."

Gypsies in France have hitherto managed to avoid being numbered and traced. They roam through the country in bands, and as long as they did no serious harm were let alone by the police. Now the gendarmes have orders to take a census of these nomads and to see that those who are not French are registered like other foreigners.

Every Paris school has its "canteen," where free meals are given to the children who cannot pay, while those who are better off pay in part or in full, states the New Orleans Picayune. Each child brings his clean napkin, his little bottle of vin ordinaire, and sometimes fruit or a bit of cheese for dessert. The cooking is usually done by the janitor, and the meals are served at little tables in the play room. The cost of the portions, generally stews of meat and vegetables, is about two cents for each child.

To the thoughtful stranger within our gates, observes the New York Press, the exodus of Americans, indicated by the cabin lists of the great steamship companies, amounts almost to a depopulation of certain quarters of our city. He is tempted to figure a little on the subject. Over 3000 persons leave this city for foreign shores every week, and each goes with, say, \$1000 to spend in having a good time. He thinks this estimate is within bounds. If so, the steamship companies and Europe get out of us every week \$3,000,000. There is one thing certain. If you are worrying about poverty and hard times just go down to the piers of the leading lines and look at the crowds going abroad. You will forget then that there was ever a thought of distress or depression. There is a story going around that a man may go to Europe, remain two weeks in London and Paris, and return safe and sound for \$260. It may be possible, but precious few get off under \$1000, if they see anything of life in the Old World.

The New York Tribune announces that New Jersey has successfully pointed the way in the matter of road betterment, and the work is to be carried much further immediately. Hudson and Bergen Counties have done considerable. Union County has done more. Camden and Burlington have shown a like commendable spirit. Now Morris County is giving an earnest of its purpose to keep up other progressive counties. About 100 miles of road in that county are to be improved this season, and it is estimated that 2000 men will be kept at work for several months. Not only are these roads to be macadamized, but the grades are to be improved, a four per cent grade (that is, a rise of not more than four feet in 100 feet) having been adopted. Much heavier loads can thus be carried by the farmers and all others engaged in transportation, while for pleasure driving and bicycling Morris County bids fair to become a paradise. The entire work is under competent engineering direction. Morris County just now is furnishing a valuable object-lesson to all who are interested in road reform.

Georgia is the only State in the Union that owns a railroad.

It is probable that in a very few years it will be a common thing to sell electricity in jars, like milk.

Friends of the late Professor Dana, of Yale College, say that he considered himself a great philanthropist because he didn't play the flute when he could.

The concerns in this country that have made the biggest successes have been large advertisers in dull times. By that means they kept their sales up to the average when others were losing money.

It is estimated, in the New York Advertiser, that of the total sum raised for the support of the Protestant churches of this country over one-third is now procured by the efforts or labors of women.

Olive Thorne Miller is trying to understand the language of birds and is giving much attention to the study. The parrot and peacock, the Chicago Record alleges, come nearest to her idea of the average politician as he discovers himself in his strident talk.

Governor Brown, of Maryland, announced that he would address a communication to the Governors of the various States of the Union requesting their co-operation in the collection of funds to erect a suitable monument to the memory of Francis Scott Key, the composer of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Large numbers of Newfoundlanders are leaving that province and are coming to the United States owing to the recent crisis there. Over one thousand persons, including tradesmen and fishermen, have already arrived. A great many young girls have come to this country to become domestics, and, according to the New York Mail and Express, they are intelligent and thrifty and make good servants. In many of the big cities there are quite good sized Newfoundland colonies.

New ways of dying are being brought to light every day, musing the Washington Star. A Chicago man had just written a letter, and after the usual fashion, moistened the flap of the envelope with his tongue. The sharp edge cut his tongue and it bled. He paid no attention to the wound, but in a day or two he was stricken with blood poisoning and died. It is thought that there was something in the mucilage with which the flap was coated that poisoned the tongue; and now comes the natural question if there may not be some substance used in the manufacture of this mucilage that is of a poisonous nature. If so, some remedy should lie against the maker of the substance that is brought into such immediate contact with people every day and hour. There is a field for scientific investigation here.

Of the highest importance is the reform now about to be instituted in the criminal procedure of France, announces the New York Tribune. The chief blot upon the latter hitherto has been the so-called "inquiry" by the judge d'instruction, which enabled any citizen to be arrested, imprisoned in secret and questioned day by day for a period extending over months, by a magistrate whose every effort is directed to extorting damaging admissions from the prisoner. This examination invariably takes place in private, and until the inquiry is at an end and the judge has decided whether the defendant is to be indicted or released, he is not allowed to see his counsel or to consult his friends, while his house is searched, his papers are seized and his family is placed under police surveillance. According to the bill brought forward by ex-Premier Constans in the Senate and endorsed by the Government, all defendants are henceforth to be brought before the judge d'instruction within twenty-four hours after their arrest, and their examination, instead of taking place tete-a-tete with the magistrate, is to be held in open court and in the presence of the prisoner's lawyer, the prisoner being free at all times to communicate with his legal advisers. This, it is expected, will have the effect of putting a stop to all abuses in the shape of arbitrary arrests and long detentions of innocent persons on the strength of mere anonymous denunciations prompted by personal animus and sentiments of revenge. It is strange that more than 100 years should have passed since the fall of the Bastille before steps have been undertaken for the abolition of methods that can only be considered as an anachronism survival of that tyrannical institution.

DEATH IN THE EXPLOSION

White Men and Chinese Blown to Atoms by Nitro-Glycerine.

FOURTEEN INSTANTLY KILLED.

Tanks Weighing a Ton Scurry Through the Air, and Big Trees Are Blown a Half Mile Away--Picking Up the Fragments of the Bodies Far and Near--A Tragedy at Pinole, Cal.

The nitro-glycerine house of the California Powder Works, at Pinole, Cal., blew up, killing five white men and wounding two others. Nine Chinese were killed and three others injured.

Where the glycerine house stood is now a heap of rubbish surrounding a great hole blown into the ground by the force of the explosion. All buildings surrounding the one where the explosion occurred and distant from it from 100 to 200 yards are more or less damaged. Every person about the mills was thrown down by the force of the explosion, and many more injuries are reported.

How the explosion occurred is a mystery. Three years ago there was a similar explosion, but it was not attended by such loss of life. Seventy-five Chinese and one hundred white men were employed at the works. The loss is estimated at \$250,000.

It is believed that a Chinese dropped a can of nitro-glycerine and that the concussion from this explosion caused the general blow-up. Hugs trees were thrown half a mile into the air. Nitro-glycerine tanks weighing a ton each are five hundred yards distant from the scene.

Trees, houses and other parts of bodies were picked up a mile away. The first explosion was followed by the general one with not a second interval. The nitro-glycerine house first went up, then the mixing house and storehouse and ammonium department.

The nitro-glycerine house, of which not a vestige remains was a three-story structure, 200 by fifty feet. It contained 8000 pounds of nitro-glycerine and 2000 pounds of Hercules powder.

The names of the white employees killed are: O. C. Jones, Pinole, married; Harry Minugh, married, with family at Oakland; David Dean, Jr., Pinole; Charles Venegas, married, with family at Pinole.

Mr. Taylor was foreman of the mixing house. The bodies of Jones and Harry Minugh are recognizable, although in a mutilated condition. Their faces and the upper parts of their bodies only are intact. Their legs and arms are either gone or crushed into a shapeless mass. The other white men were blown into bits, as were also the Chinese.

Bags of flesh were gathered into gunny sacks and taken to the boarding house, where the few remains that could be found were saved for burial.

FRANCE YIELDS. She Has Transferred Ex-Consul Waller's Case to Civil Jurisdiction.

The French Government, according to the demand of the United States, has transferred the case of Ex-Consul John L. Waller to ordinary or civil jurisdiction. This action apparently nullifies the sentence of twenty years' confinement which was imposed on Waller by a French military court in Madagascar, and in which he was sentenced to life by the civil judges.

At Nanticoke, Penn., George and Arthur Watkins, aged five and eight years, respectively, were burned to death.

Ex-Recorder Smyth was installed as Grand Sachem of the Tammany Society in New York City.

The Confederate monument was unveiled at Raleigh, N. C., by Stonewall Jackson's grandchild.

The United States cruiser Columbia started from the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Navy Yard on her trip to Kiel.

Secretary Carlisle made a speech in Covington, Ky., opposing the free and unlimited export of silver and favoring the gold standard.

The American General Assembly adopted the anti-trust report of the Senate Committee in favor of church control of securities by a vote of 422 to 28.

Charles Meister, a teamster at Grant's Pass, Oregon, threw his wife into a pool of water and held her head under until she was drowned.

Wheat advanced sixteen points and caused great excitement on the Produce Exchange in Chicago and New York City. Crawford and Valentine, one of the largest firms of grain brokers in Chicago, assigned. They were short on wheat. Stevens & Co., commission brokers in New York City, failed.

At Athens, Ga., a daughter was born to Mr. Hake Smith, wife of the Secretary of the Interior, where Mrs. Smith is spending the summer.

Ex-President Benjamin Harrison was the principal guest of honor at the semi-centennial celebration of the New Jersey Historical Society at Newark, and was presented with a gold medal as the centennial President of the United States.

Dr. Robert Russell Booth, of New York, was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly at Pittsburg, Penn., on the first ballot.

THE NEWS EPITOMIZED

Washington Items.

Secretary Herbert approved the unanimous recommendation of the Naval Small Arms Board that the new Lee rifle be adopted as the service weapon.

Frank P. Hastings presented to the State Department his credentials, as Hawaiian Charge d'Affaires, succeeding Lorin M. Thurston.

Henry P. Tharber, the President's Private Secretary, left Washington for Buzzard's Bay, Mass., to make arrangements for the visit of the President's family and his own family during the summer.

Congressman William Cogswell, of Massachusetts, is dead, after a long illness in Washington. He was born in Bradford, Mass., August 23, 1838.

The Board of Naval Bureau Chiefs decided to build the two new battleships with double storied turrets, to place thirteen-inch guns in the lower turrets and eight-inch guns in the upper turrets.

The Congressional Commission appointed to investigate the condition of the surviving victims of the Ford's Theatre disaster of June 9, 1893, met at the Capitol. The commission has over a hundred cases to investigate. In four cases the sufferers are insane.

The Secretary of the Interior made a requisition on the Secretary of the Treasury for \$10,140,000 for the payment of pensions.

Colonel Jackson D. Bingham, Assistant Quartermaster-General, was placed on the retired list of the United States Army, having reached the age of sixty-four years.

The President signed the proclamations declaring the Yankton Sioux reservation in South Dakota and the Siletty reservation in Oregon open to settlement at noon July 21.

Domestic. RECORD OF THE LEAGUE CLUBS.

Clubs. Won. Lost. et. Clubs. Won. Lost. et. Boston. 11 8. Baltimore. 10 9. 520

A dynamic explosion occurred on the farm of William Pyle, six miles south of Elkton, Md. Pyle and several workmen were killed.

Evidence was presented to the Grand Jury with a view to indicting the projectors of the largest of the largest spirit stores in New York City for selling spurious silverware.

The overdue French line steamer La Gasconne arrived at New York with the piston-head of her intermediate cylinder broken.

Eight thousand union brickmakers of Chicago went on strike.

Twenty shopmates saw sixteen-year-old Rachel Radus caught in the machinery and whirled to her death in the bindery in New York City where she worked, and many fainted at the sight.

The dedicatory exercises of the \$1,000,000 Old Fellows Temple were held in Philadelphia.

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MADE HOMELESS BY FIRE

Seventy-five Acres of Buildings Destroyed in St. Albans, Vt.

FIVE HUNDRED SHELTERLESS.

The Flames Stated in a Lumber Yard and Laid Waste the Business Part of the Town--Nearly 150 Buildings Burned--A Large Area in Ruins--The New Government Building Gutted.

More than 500 persons were made homeless at St. Albans, Vt., as a result of the \$750,000 fire that started at 3 o'clock p. m. and burned fiercely till after 6, razing in that time forty business houses, the new Government building, which was nearly finished, and 100 tenement houses.

There was a high wind blowing from the south when the flames were first seen at 3 o'clock in the lumber yard owned by W. B. Fonda.

Six streets in the business part of the place were swept clean of buildings, and a space covering seventy-five acres was made a tangled ruin. In less than twenty-five minutes after the first alarm was given fire burst out in as many as fifteen places, buildings catching so fast and burning so quickly that the firemen were practically helpless. Help was sent for to Burlington and Swanton, but it was almost six o'clock when the out-of-town firemen arrived. By that time the thickly settled part of the city had been laid waste, and there was little difficulty in protecting the rest of the city.

LIKE THE SIAMESE TWINS.

A Pair of Remarkable New York Girls Born With a Connecting Link.

A remarkable pair of twins, joined together by a ligament of flesh and bone that runs from the upper part of the pelvis to the base of the spine, was born the other day to Mrs. J. Koehler, the wife of a caterer, who lives in East Forty-second street, New York.



BABES WITH A CONNECTING LINK.

The Koehler twins, as they are known, were born at midnight exactly. Mrs. Koehler was much agitated when she learned of the connecting link between her babies, but the physician reassured her by saying that it was only a ligament that can be cut away as soon as the little ones are strong enough to submit to the operation. But there is now no doubt, affirms the New York World, that the cutting of the ligament would be fatal.

Both children are girls and brunettes. They weigh sixteen pounds together, one tipping the scales at seven pounds and a half and the other at six pounds and a half. Each has a perfectly formed and healthy body. The connecting band holds the children facing partly away from each other, but is so elastic that they can be laid flat upon their backs without apparent discomfort, and may even be turned so as to partly face each other.

They act alike and simultaneously in all their motions. When one cries so does the other. Still the doctors claim that they are capable of individual action. The mother is a young German woman about thirty years old. She has another child, a girl about a year and a half old, who is perfectly formed.

The peculiar manner in which her last-born are joined together is a novelty in medical science. Instead of being merely a mass of tissue or flesh, the connection seems to reach inward to the bone. The Siamese twins were joined by a band of tissue in a direct line from side to side, and in two other similar cases the subjects were fastened back to back. In the present case the children have the free use of their arms and legs, and are able by twisting their bodies slightly to look at each other.

The twins are joined nearer the lower end of the sacrum, and the connecting part covers nearly the entire surface of the coccyx. The sacrum is the lowest bone of the spine, and usually consists of five vertebrae, and the coccyx is the end of the vertebrae in man and tailless monkeys, and is usually the hardest in the human anatomy.

Dr. Granben, President of the County Medical Society, and many other eminent physicians, and a number of surgeons have journeyed again and again to the Koehler residence to examine the wonderful twins. It is their unanimous opinion that the case of these twins is the most remarkable on record.

EARTHQUAKES IN ITALY.

Three Thousand Houses Damaged and Several People Killed in Florence.

The population of Florence, Italy, was thrown into a state of panic by a series of earthquakes that did much damage there and in other places. People who were in their houses when the first shock came ran terror-stricken into the streets, and their cries could be heard throughout the city. The shocks were so violent that houses swayed like ships in a sea-way, and in a number of cases roofs fell in, injuring many persons who had not sought safety in flight. The wildest scenes were at the theatres, where performances were going on as usual. No respect was shown for the women, weak or aged, and in the rush for the exits many were badly hurt.

At Grassano, a suburb of Florence, the shocks were very violent. The extent of the earth movement was judged from the fact that a loaded omnibus was overturned. Twelve residents of Grassano were hurt.

After the first severe shocks there were repeated lighter ones. The seismic disturbance was felt at Lucca, Pontedera, and generally throughout Tuscany. The centre of the movement was at Florence. Around Florence a number of houses were destroyed and four persons were killed.

At Lappaggi, a village near Grassano, no less than forty houses were thrown from their foundations and completely wrecked. The body of a young mother with her infant clasped to her breast was found. She had evidently attempted to flee, but, together with her child, was crushed to death beneath the falling walls of her home.

Great damage was done in Florence. An investigation was made by the municipal authorities, who estimated that 3000 houses were damaged. The Cathedral (La Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore), an imposing example of Italian Gothic architecture and probably the most remarkable building of its kind in Europe, was somewhat damaged.

The seismic manifestation of this night was the most violent that Florence has known since 1445, the earthquake of 1730, which is historical in the annals of the city, having been slighter.

THE MARKETS.

Late Wholesale Prices of Country Produce Quoted in New York.

21. Decreased receipts and a generally good demand caused a satisfactory trade during the week just completed. The average price for surplus milk at the milk receiving stations was \$1.17 per can of 40 quarts.

Receipts of the week, fluid milk, galley, 200 to prime, 1,512,672 Condensed milk, gal., 14,949 Cream, gals., 41,129

BUTTER. Penn.-Fresh, extras, 17 1/2 @ 17 1/2 Firsts, 15 @ 16 1/2 Thirds to seconds, 11 @ 14 State-Panry, 12 @ 16 1/4 Seconds to firsts, 12 @ 15 Western Im. Creamery, 8 @ 13 Western Dairy, 7 @ 10 Factory, fresh, 7 @ 10

CHEESE. State-Fullcream, white, fancy, 6 1/2 @ 6 1/2 Full cream, good to prime, 5 1/2 @ 5 1/2 State Factory-Part skims, common to prime, 1 1/2 @ 1 1/2 Part skims, choice, 3 1/2 @ 3 Full skims, 1 @ 1

EGGS. State & Penn.-Fresh, 15 @ 15 Jersey-Fancy, 14 @ 15 1/2 Western-Prime to choice, 14 @ 14 1/2 Duck eggs, 12 @ 12 Goose eggs, 12 @ 12

BEANS AND PEAS. Beans-Marrow, 1894, choice, 2 1/2 @ 2 1/2 Medium, 1894, choice, 1 85 @ 1 85 Pea, 1894, choice, 1 85 @ 2 00 Red kidney, 1894, choice, 1 85 @ 1 85 White kidney, 1894, choice, 2 30 @ 2 35 Black turtle soup, 1894, 1 60 @ 1 65 Lima, Cal., 1894, 50 lbs., 2 95 @ 3 00 Green peas, 1894, 1 95 @ 1 95

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES-FRESH. Cranberries, Cape Cod, 10 @ 10 Jersey, 7 @ 7 Apples, greenings, 5 @ 5 Baldwin, 3 50 @ 4 50 Golden Russet, 2 50 @ 3 00 Grapes, Del., 1 @ 1 Catawba, 7 @ 7 Strawberries, Norfolk, 7 @ 10 Md., prime, 11 @ 12

HOPS. State-1894, choice, 8 1/2 @ 9 1894, common to fair, 4 @ 6 Pacific Coast, choice, 8 @ 8 Good to prime, 6 1/2 @ 8 Old odds, 2 @ 3

HAY AND STRAW. Hay-Prime, 100 lb., 60 @ 60 Clover mixed, 60 @ 65 Straw-Long ryegrass, 50 @ 65 Out, 41 @ 45

LIVE POULTRY. Fowls, 7 @ 11 1/2 Spring chickens, 7 @ 12 Hockers, old, 7 @ 7 Turkeys, 7 @ 10 Ducks, 7 @ 10 Geese, 7 @ 11 Pigeons, 7 @ 12

DRESSED POULTRY. Turkeys, 7 @ 12 Chickens, Phila. broilers, 8 @ 43 Capons, Phila., 7 @ 10 Western, 7 @ 10 Fowls, 7 @ 10 1/2 Ducks, 7 @ 12 Geese, 7 @ 8 Squal, 7 @ 7

GRAIN, ETC. Flour-City Patents, 4 40 @ 4 40 Spring Patents, 3 75 @ 4 15 Wheat, No. 2 Red, 1 10 @ 1 10 July, 1 10 @ 1 10 Corn-No. 2, 59 @ 59 1/2 Corn-No. 2 White, 58 @ 57 1/2 Track, White, 58 @ 57 Malt-Western, 38 @ 42 Barley-Ungraded Western, 38 @ 42 Scobs-Timothy, 7 @ 100 5 00 @ 5 00 Clover, 7 50 @ 7 50 Lard-City steady, 10 @ 6 1/4

LIVE STOCK. Beeves, city dressed, 7 1/2 @ 9 Milk cows, com. to good, 4 @ 5 Calves, city dressed, 6 1/2 @ 8 1/2 Country dressed, 6 @ 8 1/2 Sheep, 7 @ 8 1/2 Lambs, 7 @ 8 1/2 Hogs-Live, 7 @ 8 1/2 Dressed, 5 @ 7 1/2

"KEEP OFF THE GRASS" NO MORE. Park Commissioner Robert B. Roosevelt has ordered that most of the "Keep Off the Grass" signs in Central Park, New York City, be removed, and that children be allowed to roam at will over the turf. Many protests against this change were made, but Mr. Roosevelt claimed that since the people paid for the parks they should have a free use of them.

Falling Off in Coal Production. The United States Geological Survey has issued a report on the production of coal in 1894, compiled by Statistician E. W. Parker. The total product was 170,864,083 tons of 2000 pounds, valued at \$186,154,604, a decrease for the year of 11,493,659 short tons.

Newly Gleaming. New York State has now thirty-seven cities. The Cherokee Indians may move to Mexico. England is watching America's silver content.

French troops in Madagascar are suffering from fever. California summer-resort tourists are being held up by bandits. The Chicago Woman's Club has decided to admit colored women.

The Rothschilds are reported to be buying gold direct from the mines. Chile and Bolivia have concluded an offensive and defensive alliance. In Brooklyn, N. Y., the trolley record is 109 killed and more than 500 maimed.

The silver convention, in session in Salt Lake, Utah, formed the Bimetallist Union. The strawberry crop of Southern Illinois is probably one-third blasted by the late frosts. The first colored Catholic church in the South has been dedicated at New Orleans, La. Considerable damage has been done to wheat in Indiana and Illinois by the Russian fly.

The receipts from the new Baltic Canal are figured at nearly \$1,000,000 annually, half profit. A committee of the British House of Commons reported against the right of Peers to sit in that body. United States Secret Service officers have discovered an extensive fur-smuggling conspiracy in Canada.

Capital, anticipating Japanese rule, is going extensively into sugar refineries on the Island of Formosa. Bicycles are apt to become a regular part of a policeman's outfit in future. Two Chicago (Ill.) policemen demonstrated their practicality by capturing an escaped murderer after a chase of a mile.