



The losses by fire in this country during the present year aggregate \$100,000,000.

POSTMASTER GENERAL JAMES has resigned, to take effect on the last day of this month.

GEN. U. S. GRANT and Mrs. Grant are to be the guests of the President during the month of January.

The wife and daughter of Chief Justice Waite are the leaders in charitable movements at the capital.

A man in Southern Kansas tried the old experiment of melting a bullet out of a gun the other day. He leaves a family.

The paper on which the President's message was written had a heavy black border and was fastened with black tape.

OVER 2,500 bills have already been introduced into Congress, and the States have not yet been all called. This looks like cutting out a good deal of work for the session.

H. H. RIDGEMANER has been unanimously nominated for U. S. Senator, by the Readjuster members of the Virginia Legislature. Like Mahone, he will, when elected, vote against the Bourbon Democracy.

SENATOR SHERMAN has introduced a bill into the Senate for refunding \$300,000,000 of the public debt at three per cent. Many Senators are said to look upon the bill favorably, but Secretary Folger thinks the rate too low.

UNDER the vigorous prosecution of Attorney General Palmer, two of the death rattle insurance companies of this State have given up the ghost—one at Hanover, York county, and the other the "State Capital" at Harrisburg. Both companies were dissolved by order of the Court.

The American Bar Association, now in session at Washington, are considering means to expedite business in the Supreme Court of the United States. The docket of the court is more than three years in arrears, and new cases are continually accumulating.

SENATOR WINDOM has introduced a bill for the division of Dakota and the admission of the Southern half as a State, and Senator Ingalls proposes to admit New Mexico as a State. No doubt that propositions to admit Utah and Washington Territories will be forthcoming during the present session.

It is telegraphed from Washington that ex-Secretary Blaine is lending himself to the work of founding a new party, the Southern part of which is to be composed of the Bourbon Democracy. These that are so anxious to divide and dissolve the Republican party, can take all the stock in this story that they please.

The President has nominated Benjamin Harris Brewster, of Philadelphia, Attorney General of the United States, in place of Wayne MacVeagh, Esq., resigned. Mr. Brewster is one of the ablest lawyers of this State. He was formerly Attorney General of this Commonwealth, and was retained as counsel for the Government in the Star Route cases.

In the investigation at Harrisburg, of the affairs of the State Capital Mutual Relief Association, one of the graveyard insurance companies, it was shown that the directors had, in the ten months of the present year, voted themselves \$32,220. The by-laws provided that a directorship could be disposed of for cash, and could be transmitted to the director's heirs or assigns.

A BILL has been introduced in the Senate by Mr. Edmunds, to provide for defraying the extraordinary expenses incurred in consequence of the assault upon the late President Garfield; it authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in behalf of the late President, provided the aggregate sum advanced paid does not exceed \$100,000.

The success of the Mahone rebellion against Democratic Bourbonism in Virginia, is already being tried in other southern states. Independent movements, looking to a coalition with the Republicans, are being organized in Carolina and Texas. It only requires a few leaders with the brain and pluck of Mahone to effectually break the political despotism that has made a mockery of elections and kept the solid Democracy.

MR. ARTHUR has adopted the following rules for the reception of visitors at the White House: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m., the general public, including members of Congress and other officials; Tuesdays and Fridays (cabinet days), from 10 a. m. to 12 m., senators and representatives only. The President reserves Saturdays and Sundays for himself, and on these days will receive no one. He will hold his first public reception on New Year's Day.

HON. FREDERICK T. FREELINGHUYSEN, of New Jersey, has been nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of State, to succeed Hon. James G. Blaine. The new Secretary served two terms in the U. S. Senate, and is one of the ablest men of the country. He is the nephew of the gentleman who was a candidate for Vice President on the ticket with Henry Clay. Old Whigs will remember the song with the chorus:

"Hurrah! the country's rising For Harry Clay and Fred Freelinghuyzen."

The "Independent" press of this State is now nightly stirred up over a silly story just given circulation by the Philadelphia Times, to the effect that Senator Cameron and some of his friends at Washington have decided to nominate General Beaver for Governor of this State, and that the President has pledged himself to use all his patronage to effect that object.

A LITTLE more than 6,000 miles of new railroad have been constructed in the United States during the present year, which is more than was ever before built in any one season, the nearest approach being in 1872, when 5,932 miles were constructed. The mileage in 1880 was 4,946 miles.

The electric light is the light for villages. It requires for its production no costly plant like gas works, tanks and pipes. The electric light is carried to the point of combustion by wires. Aurora, Illinois, is beautifully lighted by a system of six electric towers made of iron rods and net work, each 150 feet high. These are crowned with electric lamps of 2000 candle power each, or equal to 125 gas jets. The cost complete for each tower and apparatus is about \$1000. One electric tower lamp, fed by soft coal at \$3 per ton, gives a 2000-candle light at 21 cents per hour—a ratio of 21 to 50 compared to a corresponding use of gas-light.

FROM President and Senators, through all grades of writers for the public, down to the omniscient newspaper scribe, the reform of the civil service is just now the theme of consideration. Theorizing is as bountiful as the sunshine; practical, tangible suggestions, appealing to the judgment and the business sense of the community, are as scarce as flies in mid-winter. Political dilettante like George W. Curtis, have filled the public ear with the incessant drone of an ideal civil service, and partisan politicians have deplored the power of patronage, and speculated on possible reform, with a keen eye to party advantage, but with a dull apprehension of the necessities of the situation. Amid all this confusion of ideas, and paucity of thought, on a subject engrossing so much of present public attention, comes—with a refreshing sense of newness and practical ability—from General Green B. Raum, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the first creditable discussion of civil service reform, a recognition of the situation, and recommendations for the establishment of regulations in the interest of reform, within the pale of practical politics, that has yet come under our observation. General Raum has had years of experience as the head of an important bureau in the Treasury Department, which by his administrative ability, business capacity, and skill he has made a model worthy of imitation in all other branches of the public service, and it is evident that he has studied the subject of civil service reform earnestly and carefully. His suggestions are born of a knowledge of the necessities and capacities of our present system, matured by reflection and experience, and should have great weight with his own party and the public.

MR. RAUMEL PUMPELLY, of the Census Department, in his preliminary report on the production of iron ore in the United States in the year ending June 1, 1880, puts the total production of 805 establishments, at 7,061,829 tons, valued at \$20,470,746. These establishments, situated in 135 counties, pay in wages annually \$9,588,117 to 31,668 employees. The amount of working capital is put at \$4,850,763; value of plant, \$8,274,149; total capital employed and invested, \$61,782,287. Of the States producing the most iron Pennsylvania comes first, with a maximum yearly capacity of 3,408,506 tons; Michigan next, with 2,223,265 tons; New York, with 2,149,129 tons; New Jersey, with 1,457,829 tons; Virginia, with 1,404,524 tons. In the product of the census year Michigan stood first and Pennsylvania second.

What the Garfield Monument Fund Committee Want.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 15.—The following statement is made by the Cleveland committee in answer to many inquiries: "The Garfield monument fund committee desire to raise \$250,000 for the purpose of erecting an appropriate monument at the late President's grave. Of this amount over \$51,000 has already been subscribed by the citizens of Cleveland. The state of Ohio (including Cleveland) will raise not less than \$100,000 in all, and \$25,000 in the form of a loan. The committee have received many voluntary contributions in different parts of the country and forwarded to the committee. This one-half of the whole amount asked is practically secured, leaving only \$150,000 to be raised outside of Ohio in order to carry out the plans of the committee."

More of Guitau's Rascality.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—In the Guitau trial to-day Henry M. Collins, an attorney of New York, was sworn after Mr. Bryan. He said he knew Guitau, and thought him a pretty shrewd fellow, but he never noticed the slightest indication of insanity. The evidence of this witness proved exceedingly damaging to the prisoner's claim of having lived an upright Christian life, and Guitau wriggled and expostulated, and vainly attempted to explain the matter. Witness at one time said: "I informed Judge Donahue that I considered Guitau a thief and a scoundrel." Guitau (excitedly) "You did not dare say so to me, would you knock my head down?" At this point one of the jurors complained of feeling unwell, and the court adjourned until to-morrow.

Keep your family well supplied with "Sellers' Cough Syrup." Use it in time; you will avert bronchitis and pulmonary affections. 35 cts.

problem. The message of the President exhibits the same line of thought, and it is to be hoped that Congress will approach the subject, and discuss it in a spirit looking solely to the public good, turning neither to the right nor to the left, and heeding not the jibes or sneers of partisans, or the teachings of men outside of practical politics.

ALL through the south the bourgeois are begging the young men not to desert them, but to stand fast by the grand old democratic party. The young men have stood long enough, and are preparing now to go forward. They have clung to a dead post too long already.

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MR. J. D. MCKEE, chairman of the Pennsylvania State Committee of the Citizens' Republican Association, has issued an address to the Independent Republicans of Pennsylvania, inviting them to send representatives from each county to a state conference, to be held in Philadelphia on Thursday, January 13, to take into consideration the wisdom of placing in nomination proper persons for the offices of governor, secretary of the internal affairs and Supreme Court judges, and such other matters as may come before the conference looking to the overthrow of "boss-rule."

LORELLARD's projected new line of steel American-built first-class passenger steamers, to be exclusively devoted to the passenger trade between New York and Europe, is said now to be an assured fact, all the capital having been subscribed, and it is announced that the ships are to be built on the Delaware River. The latest proposition is to save twelve hours time, making the American port of entry and departure at the east end of Long Island to connect with New York by railway. But if that is advisable, it might perhaps be still better to run a line to Boston, which is nearer to Europe than Long Island. The effort now appears to be to reduce the running time to five days.

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DEBUREAU, Iowa, Dec. 13.—The town of Fayette was thrown into a state of intense excitement on Saturday night by the assassination of a young man named John Heyden, who was shot by a man named Bohner. The two men were rivals for the hand of a young lady, Miss Rosa Schultz, in whose arms Heyden expired. He was shot at 11 o'clock while returning home. Bohner was pursued and captured, with the aid of a pack of hounds. There is strong talk of lynching the murderer.

AN INSANE MAN'S BLOODY CRIME.

HOT SPRING, Ark., Dec. 16.—Pat Langham, a laborer, supposed to be insane, went to the farm house of an old man named Semple, night before last, and murdered him, cutting off his head, and otherwise mutilating the body in a shocking manner. He then fled, and was followed by Mrs. Semple, who was found in the morning some distance from the house. She will probably recover. Langham was brought here, but is not yet arrested.

REMAIND OF VICTORIA'S BAND.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 16.—Chief Arrigatti and thirty of his tribe have been captured by Mexican troops under Francisco Gredino. Orders were given and promptly obeyed to shoot the chief and several backs. Three Indians were killed in making the capture. The Mexican troops are after the remainder, numbering eight bucks and several squaws and papooses. These are the main remnant of Victoria's desperate band, Arrigatti having succeeded Victoria.

A Consignment of Silk Worms for Italy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—A determined effort to misrepresent President Arthur's aims and intentions is being made by certain members of Congress distinguished for their rank in political ideas and methods. The aim of these mischief-makers is to create the impression that now but Senators need apply for favors from the administration. They are not good enough Republicans to await some hostile act on the part of the President before turning their local batteries against him. Democratic and so-called Independent newspapers are being used to create in advance a feeling of enmity on the part of Republicans against the Administration. A great hue and cry has recently been made in certain Pennsylvania newspapers regarding a general meeting of the State, and the name of the President has been unwarrantably dragged into the middle. As he is avowed to have pledged the support of his administration to the State-wide clique in State politics; not only so as giving them the opportunity to meet on the 27th of December, but also to use his position to advance the nomination of Gen. Beaver for Governor. It is, perhaps, needless to deny that the President has ever promised, or agreed, or entered into any understanding of any desire on his part to further the interest of General Beaver or any other man for any position in the gift of the voters of Pennsylvania or any other State. It can be authoritatively said that he has never been approached on the subject and will take no part in the movement on behalf of any candidates for any local office. He believes the people of Pennsylvania competent to nominate and elect their State officers as they see fit without interference on the part of outsiders. So far as appointments to Federal offices are concerned the President's friends think it only fair that criticism should wait until appointments are made before complaining.

WEDDING BELLS AND FUNERAL KNELLS.

GREENSBURG, Pa., December 14.—A daughter of Court Clerk Bell was instantly killed by being run over by the Johnstown accommodation at Latrobe this evening. She had just been married to a Mr. Karns today and was starting on her wedding journey. She was on the platform of the car, and a piece of the skull over the right eye, about two inches square, was entirely detached and lost several feet, the brain and the sound portion of the skull. Sand and pieces of cinder were driven under the scalp and skull. With all this injury the boy got up and picked up his cap and other articles he had with him, bound his head with his handkerchief, and walked a mile and a half to the residence of J. Keller, where he was cared for, and the wound was dressed, and a plate of silver four and a half by two and a half inches put in the place of the portion of the skull taken out.

ATTEMPTED MURDER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 16.—A special from Washington says: The Enterprise coal works, a couple of miles from this place, and owned by V. Harding, one of the trustees of the LeMoyno crematory, was the scene of what was probably intended as a dastardly murder to-day night. About nine o'clock to-day a fire was kindled in the residence of Richard Hurly, who drives the teams into the mines taking effect in Mr. Hurly's arm. The shot shattered a number of panes of glass, and the force of the shot being thus broken, his injuries are not dangerous. When the attempt at assassination was made Mr. Hurly was sitting before a bright fire, his family surrounding him. The whole affair is shrouded in mystery.

A BEAVER MAN SUMMONED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Col. Kirkhill has obtained another writ of the Government in the person of a man named John F. Foster, a commercial traveler from Beaver, Pa. Mr. Foster will testify that before the shooting of President Garfield he was sitting on a bootblack stand in Washington one day when Guitau came up and soon got into conversation. Guitau said, pompously: "My name is Guitau and I have been appointed Consul to Paris." "That is an important office—are you sure you will get it?" "Oh yes," replied Guitau, and added, with half-closed eyes and peculiar expression of countenance: "If I do not get it, I will cause greater excitement here in Washington than there has been since 1865."

SAN FRANCISCO, Nev., 16.—An Austin, Nevada, dispatch says: "About half-past one o'clock this morning a party of masked men forcibly entered the jailer's room in the Court building, overpowered the jailer and forced him to give up the keys to the jail and cell door where Richard Jennings was confined, who, without any resistance, was taken to the street and killed John A. Kattell, an old and respected citizen, the night before. Jennings was then taken out and hanged from a balcony over the front door."

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A Consignment of Silk Worms for Italy.

CHEYENNE, W. T., Dec. 14.—Three cars, containing 250,000 cards of silk-worm eggs, passed eastward today. The total value of the eggs is \$250,000. They came from Japan, and are bound for Milan, Italy. Formerly such shipments were made via India. Four Italian merchants have charge of the freights.

Chief Justice Hunter Believes He is Right.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 16.—Chief Justice Hunter to-day refused to set aside his decision in the case of Cannon, in which he held that the certificate of naturalization held by Cannon, was obtained by fraud and was fraudulently used, and was void on its face. This reaffirms that Cannon is an alien.

Occasional paragraphs in the newspapers have for several years past told of the wanderings of Mrs. Mary Kelley in a vain search for her daughter of the same name, who disappeared from Turville, Va., in 1841. The extraordinary knowledge of Mrs. Kelley, who is now thirteen years old, was not on the other hand, and never met her mother or took up a wandering life, going as far west as Chicago, and through Maryland and the intermediate States, inquiring for Mary Kelley. She finally settled down at Harrisburg, where she received a letter from her brother stating that Mary had written to him, asking for her mother, and stating that she had been married to Frederick Lyon. The daughter has arrived in Harrisburg on a visit to her now happily married mother. She is now a finely developed, handsome married woman, nearly 30 years of age. She says an older girl carried her to run away, and the two went to Cleveland, from which they proceeded to a small town, Berea, about twelve miles from the former city. In Berea Mary was taken into the family of a Minister, and in time returned to her home in Harrisburg, where she attended school regularly, and remaining in the family three years, after which she went to Cleveland, where she was in a store for a year, and when there was married to Frederick Lyon, of Bridgeport, Ct., and lived in Cleveland for a few months, after which Mr. and Mrs. Lyon removed to Chicago, where they remained a year and a half. They then went to New York, leaving that city in a short time for Buffalo, where they remained for a year, where Mr. Lyon opened a confectionery store. It is not necessary to say more than we have written. Mrs. Lyon is a quiet, unassuming woman, who seems now much devoted to her mother whom she wants to take to New York.

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