The Somerset Herald.

EDWARD SCULL, Editor and Proprietor

WEDNESDAY..... February 9, 1887.

If we get into a mess with Canada, those surplus millions will come handy.

According to the Treasurer's report the State cash box contains $1,774,260.90, and the debt is nearly sponged out.

The President took another whack at the pensioners on Saturday last, by sending to the House his vetoes of six pension bills.

The recent soft snap has filled the streams and rivers, and floods are raging in the Ohio river and its tributaries, threatening great destruction.

The gossips at Washington assert that the position of Secretary of the Treasury made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Manning will be offered to Hon. George H. Pendleton.

Governor Foraker of Ohio has tired of politics, and has notified his Republican friends that he will not again be a candidate, but will return to his law practice as soon as his term expires.

Protectionists who have heretofore cast their influence against the success of the Republican party, will please observe that the prohibitory amendment did not receive a single Democratic vote in the Senate.

Mr. Reagan of Texas, at present a member of Congress was last week elected United States Senator over Maxey the present incumbent. Reagan is a man of ability and was Postmaster General under the Confederacy.

The resignation of Mr. Manning, as Secretary of the Treasury, and of Mr. Jordan, United States Treasurer, are both in the hands of the President. It is thought that the retirement of Mr. Manning will lead to an entire re-cast of the Cabinet.

The Senate has passed the bill to refund to the States the money collected under the direct war tax levied in 1861. Under this bill, if the President approves it, this State will get within a few dollars of two millions. The whole amount called for is twenty millions.

Mr. Randall and his free trade brethren have failed to agree on a compromise for the reduction of the tariff, and it appears to be settled that "revenue reform" is shelved for this session. There will not be many wet eyes among the business men of the country over this result.

Speaker Carlisle is given as authority for the statement, that if this Congress fails to take action for the reduction of the tariff, the President will call the new Congress together in extra session in May, or perhaps not until September; but that an extra session is certain to be called.

The President has signed the Inter-State Commerce bill and it is now the law. The bill provides for the appointment of five Commissioners, at a salary of $7,500 each, to supervise and enforce its provisions, and in selecting them Mr. Cleveland is likely to have a regular circus. The name of the applicants, is legion.

On Wednesday last David Turpie, (Dem.) was declared elected United States Senator by the Indiana Legislature. The Republicans protested against his alleged election, and afterwards met in joint convention and cast their ballots for General Ben Harrison, thus making a case for contest, to be decided by the United States Senate.

Senator Ryan last week presented a compensation amendment, which was referred to the Committee on Constitutional Reform, and will doubtless be favorably reported, and finally adopted by both the Senate and House, and be submitted to a vote of the people with the prohibitory amendment. It will require to be voted on separately.

The Committee of Ways and Means of the House have reported favorably the Brooks High License bill, with an amendment. The amendment makes the license tax in cities of first and second class $400; third, fourth and fifth class, $300; of boroughs of 20,000 inhabitants, $400, and all other, $300. Wholesale liquor dealers, $250 for sales over $25,000.

Miss Nina Van Zant, who last week was married by proxy to Spies one of the Chicago bomb throwers, who is now in prison under sentence to be hung, must have been mighty hard up for a husband. We expect to hear before he is hung, Spies will give a proxy to some other fellow, to act as Nina's husband. Why not? If he can marry by proxy he can transfer by proxy.

We observe that the ultra Democratic newspapers that have been making months at the President for not turning all Republicans out of office, are now virtuously indignant over the alleged fact that Governor Beaver has made his appointments exclusively from his own party. What a difference it makes as to whose ox is gored! "Turn the rascals out," Governor!!

The Republicans made a mistake in attempting to railroad the prohibitory amendment through the House on Friday last. They attempted to suspend the rules, and call up the bill out of order. This required a two-thirds vote, which they failed to get, and therefore the motion failed. There is no doubt of the passage of the measure when it can be regularly reached in order.

Judge Kelley has a revenue measure ready to introduce in the House so soon as the Speaker will give him the floor. It is a simple little bill repealing the internal revenue tax on tobacco, and those who deal in it. This would reduce the revenue over forty thousand dollars per year, and we feel quite curious to see how the loud-mouthed reformers, who are howling over our surplus, will vote on it.

The Democratic nominees for Mayor and other city officers in Philadelphia, having all declined to make the race the leaders of that moribund party have nominated ex-Sheriff Keim, an Independent Republican, for Mayor with the hope of dividing the Republican vote. The *Record*, the leading Democratic paper of the city, sensibly suggests that they all vote for Fitler the Republican candidate and make his election unanimous.

The District Attorney of Luzerne county has given notice that he will commence criminal proceedings against thirty-six Democrats and twenty-three Republicans, delegates to the last County Convention, for accepting bribes to vote for the nomination of certain candidates. Honest men every where will commend this action. Rogues must be taught that bribery and fraud cannot be indulged in at nominating conventions or primary elections.

The strong vote in the Senate, 29 to 2, by which the prohibitory amendment was passed, means that Republican Senators implicitly carried out their pledges to the people, and that such an amendment will be submitted. It does not necessarily imply that the sentiments of either the Senators or the people whom they represent, stand in that ratio on the liquor question. The vote simply indicates that the Republicans were sincere in making a pledge to submit the question to the people.

About seventy men, who wanted an increase of two and a-half cents an hour in their wages, caused the protracted strike now in force in and around New York, by which trade and traffic is demoralized, and probably more than seventy-five thousand men, who were getting good wages, are in enforced idleness during mid-winter. Millions of dollars, that would have otherwise gone into the pockets of laboring men, will go elsewhere, and privation, if not want, will follow in many a household. Arbitration should have settled this trouble before it began.

Secretary Manning suggests heroic treatment of the Canadian trouble. His proposition is to suspend all intercourse with the flagitious Kann's. He would have the President prohibit by proclamation, the entrance of any Canadian vessel into any port of the United States, and also in his discretion to prohibit the importation of any wares or manufactures and also any cars, locomotives &c. In short to totally prohibit all business intercourse between the two countries. This is a display of backbone, that will be cordially endorsed by the universal yankee nation.

If, instead of appointing fossil politicians as Commissioners under the Inter-State Commerce law, the President will select a couple of the best lawyers he can lay his hands on to do the legal steering, and then pick out three of the brightest practical, thoroughly versed, railroad men that he can induce to accept the positions, he will have a commission that will do him credit, and at the same time do their allotted work in a thoroughly business way. But if he selects mere theorists, who have not made a study of practical railroading, or have not had training in that line, he will make a botch of it. There are but few, born railroad men. They must be educated to their business.

During the last campaign the Republicans took square ground in favor of submitting a prohibitory amendment to the Constitution to a vote of the people, and the Democrats took square ground against it. Last week when the amendment was put upon its passage in the senate, the Democratic Senators filed a protest, alledging, among other things, that discussion of the question had become a "mockery," and that freedom of judgment by the "dictation of a caucus," and therefore they refused to vote. Evidently these Senators had persuaded themselves that Republican pledges, like those of the Democrats, are only made to be broken, and when they were shown the contrary, they got mad and sulked.

Judging from the way Democratic Senators protested, and sulked, and refused to vote, it might be inferred that they thought prohibition imminent, and that their grog was going to be stopped off "right away directly." In point of fact, that calamity cannot arrive, even if every thing sails along smoothly, until the year, Anno Domini, 1891. The amendment proposition must pass both Houses at this session; in 1888 there will be no session of the Legislature; in 1889 it must again be passed by both Houses, and may be submitted to a vote of the people in the fall of that year. If it carries, then it becomes part and parcel of the Constitution; but then necessary laws must be passed to carry it into effect, and as there will be no session of the Legislature in 1890, it will devolve upon the Legislature of 1891 to make the Amendment operative, and until that is done our thirsty and protesting Democratic friends may hush their fears, and continue to warble,

> We are na fou', we're no that fou',
> But just a drappie in our e'e;
> The cock may craw, the day may daw,
> But aye we'll taste the barley bree.

One thing is certain, there have been the most villainous frauds perpetrated on the ballot box in New Jersey, or an outrageous and flagrant perjury has been committed. The election of one Turley, now sitting as a Democratic member of the House, is contested by Haines a Republican, and a committee of the House is investigating the matter. A Philadelphia locksmith has testified before this committee that he was paid ten dollars for picking the locks of the ballot box of one district and furnishing keys with which to re-lock it, the Democrats being thereby enabled to change the ballots. He told the whole story in detail and it is alleged that it will be corroborated by other testimony. Of course the testimony is denounced as false by the Democrats, and it is alledged that the witness was bribed to swear falsely. The election of a United States Senator is dependent upon the determination of which of the claimants is entitled to the seat. But apart from this, is the fact also to be determined, which of the political parties implicated, has been guilty of a shameful crime. We hope the investigation will be thorough and the guilt fixed upon the proper scoundrel.

A Jilted Girl Chloroforms Herself.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—A dispatch from Elkhart, Ind., gives an account of the suicide of Miss Aolseh Hoffman, daughter of a wealthy farmer of Goschen, under peculiar circumstances. She was jilted by a young man to whom she was engaged, and this so depressed her she made away with herself at her father's town residence. It appears that after receiving an invitation to attend her rival's wedding, Miss Hoffman went to town, purchased a quantity of chloroform and bromide of potassium, and had them returned to her room, where she deliberately made preparations for her death. After making a very careful toilet and writing two letters—one to a sister and favorite aunt—she lay down upon the bed, taking three handkerchiefs, all of which she had saturated with the chloroform, placed them upon her face, and then drew a hood down over her head. A physician gave it as his opinion that she had been dead about thirty hours when discovered. The letters stated that disappointment in love was the cause of the suicide.

He Knew Where He Was Going.

Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 1.—Dr. Mott Alexander committed suicide this afternoon by taking five grains of morphine. He was one of the leading physicians of Knoxville, but had recently been dissipated. He left a note saying: "I die with malice toward none. I go to hell. Tell my son to go to heaven." Dr. Alexander was a member of the Board of Examining Surgeons of the Pension Department.

Bound, Gagged and Robed.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 2.—At Nashville, Holems county, last night, four masked burglars entered the house of Frederick Stonebrook, bound Stonebrook and his wife and ransacked the house. They secured quite a sum of money. Mr. and Mrs. Stonebrook were found by neighors this morning and released.

THE PROHIBITION WAVE.

SWEEPS THROUGH THE SENATE

The Republican Caucus Amendment Passed Second Reading —Rutan's Plan of Compensation.

Harrisburg, Feb. 1.—The joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors was reached on the Senate calendar to-day. Mr. Schnatterly promptly offered the following amendment to the measure:

And any person, firm company, corporation or association whose property, whether real, personal or mixed is either destroyed, depreciated, damaged or made valueless by the adoption of this article shall have the right to sue the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for whatever loss has been sustained, and the action against the Commonwealth for damages shall be tried in the mode and manner now provided by law for the recovery of damages where lands are taken by any railroad company in the construction or operation of the road.

Mr. Schnatterly said the courts had repeatedly decided that private property could not be taken without proper compensation, and ascribed the demand for prohibition to a wave of fanaticism which was sweeping over the land.

Mr. Rutan desired to amend Schnatterly's amendment by making a provision for a separate vote on compensation, which Schnatterly maintained could not be done. Mr Rutan finally submitted his proposition as separate from the prohibitory amendment. It is as follows:

Compensation shall be made out of the public Treasury to all owners or lessees of real estate lawfully occupied and used continuously from April 1, 1887, until the final adoption of an amendment proposed to the Constitution of the Commonwealth which prohibits the manufacture, sale or keeping for sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage, so far as said real estate shall be injured by the adoption of said prohibitory amendment. And the General Assembly shall provide by law for a true and just valuation of the loss sustained and for the payment of the same.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Constitutional Reform, and the Senate adjourned until 8 o'clock P. M.

At the night session of the Senate the consideration of the prohibitory amendment was resumed. Messrs. Schnatterly and Hemminger spoke against and Cooper for it. The latter stated that the measure was a party one and those supporting it were not exercising their personal judgment as much as sustaining the Republican platform.

Mr. Schnatterly's amendment providing compensation was defeated without a call of the yeas and nays.

Mr. Hemminger offered an amendment, which was defeated by a vote of 14 yeas to 26 nays, making the act to apply only to liquor "manufactured for sale."

The prohibitory amendment was then passed second reading without modification—yeas 30, nays 12. Betts of Clearfield, and McAlarey of Huntingdon, Democrats voted with 28 Republicans in the affirmative. Reyburn, Republican, of Philadelphia, voted with 11 Democrats in the negative. Rutan, Steele and Newmyer voted for the bill and Upperman was absent.

The Caucus Resolution Passed Finally by the Senate.

Harrisburg, Feb. 3.—The Senate to-day passed finally the Prohibition Amendment resolution. Mr. McFarlane called it up out of order and the friends of measure were unable to obtain the necessary two-thirds vote for its consideration.

Mr. Cooper came to the rescue by offering a resolution, which was adopted, providing that hereafter the Senate adjourn on motion, instead of at the regular time. Under this motion the Senate could remain in session until midnight or the middle of next week, if the majority so willed. It was certain there would be no adjournment until the Prohibition resolution was reached and disposed of, and the Democratic Senators, getting this through their hair, threw up their hands and consented to its immediate consideration.

Mr. Wolverton presented a protest signed by all the Democratic Senators, against the bill. The paper set forth that the bill did not take its rise in committee room or in either branch of the Legislature, but in a party caucus, discussion of the measure being thus cut off and its passage as thus prepared being a foregone conclusion. The protest contained the proceedings of the Republican caucus, the correspondence which preceded it, and press comments on the caucus and its action. It declared against caucus legislation as the result of party intrigue and concluded by stating that Democratic Senators would refuse to take part in its consideration and would throw the responsibility on the Republicans.

The yeas and nays were then called on final passage and resulted—Yeas, 29; nays, 2, Messrs. Reyburn and Upperman, and the bill passed. The Democrats did not vote. Mr. Keifer, Republican, was in his seat but did not vote. Mr. McAteer, Democrat, when his name was called, said the effect of the legislation would be to drive capital out of the State. In reply to a remark by Mr. McAteer, Messrs. Cooper and Newmyer intimated that the signing of the protest submitted savored of party dictation.

The resolution will be taken up in the House next week. Its progress there will not be quite so rapid as it was in the Senate, but no time will be lost and the measure will be passed finally and seized by the Governor before the session is out.

Attempt To Rob A Post-Office.

Jersey City, N. J., Feb. 2.—A bold but unsuccessful attempt was made by seven masked men to rob the safe in the Jersey City Post Office. The burglars were concealed in the building and surprised the night watchman, John W. Stringham, who fired three shots at them, wounding one of the men in the arm. Stringham was then overpowered and blindfolded, and bound hand and foot, after which the burglars carried him to the top floor, where the janitor, John Nixon, his wife and child reside. These people were also bound, and two of the masked men stood guard over them.

The safe is built in a wall. The combination was broken and three attempts were made to blow the safe open with powder, but were unsuccessful. Two of the explosions were very loud. About two square feet of the wall in the rear of the safe was torn down. The burglars worked from 11 o'clock last night until 4 o'clock this morning, but the safe resisted their efforts. They carried off a large quantity of mail matter.

Divorce Not Favored In His Church.

Louisville, Feb. 1.—Michael McCoy, a grocer, of this city, has been excommunicated from St. Patrick's Catholic Church, owing to his marriage with Miss Emma Long, after having secured a divorce from his wife. On the night of his nuptials with Miss Long the neighbors and his former church associates surrounded the house and threatened him with violence until quelled by the police. In reading McCoy out of the church Father Lawler denounced him and the marriage and declared that he would not tender the man his services though he were upon his dying bed. He also forebade any of the members of his church to speak to or in any way recognize McCoy.

Mother And Daughter Hang Themselves.

Reading, Feb. 1.—At a farmhouse near East Hanover, Lebanon County, yesterday, Rebecca Buck, age thirty-five, was found hanging in the attic dead. The young woman had been melancholy of late, but the cause for her taking her life is not known. The deed preyed on the mind of her mother, Mrs. Sarah Buck, age seventy-two, to such an extent that a few hours later she hanged herself in exactly the same place where her daughter's body had been found.

Prohibition in Alabama.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 4.—The Alabama Senate to-day passed a joint resolution providing for an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquors in Alabama, to be submitted to a vote at the election next year.

RAILWAY HORROR IN VERMONT.

Many Persons Mangled and Burned —Fifty Lives Reported Lost— A Broken Rail Causes the Disaster.

Springfield, Mass., February 5.—The night express train for Montreal, which left here at 8:45 o'clock last night, ran off the bridge at Woodstock, Vt., two miles north of White River junction, about one o'clock this morning, and the sleeping and passenger cars and bridge were entirely burned. The exact number of killed and wounded has not been learned. Some place the number at sixteen killed, while others say thirty or forty lost their lives, and that a large number were injured.

The train consisted of one sleeping car and a passenger coach from here; one Chicago sleeping car, connected at White River junction; one Boston car, one mail car from Boston, another passenger coach, one baggage and one express car.

Ten Bodies Taken From the Wreck.

The train was running at a high rate of speed when it ran off the bridge. The shrieks and groans of the injured and dying were heartrending in the extreme. The wildest excitement prevails. It is impossible to give the number of the dead. Already ten bodies have been taken from the wreck and it is known that thirty persons were injured. Physicians have been sent to the scene and everything is being done for the care of the injured.

Terrible Loss of Life.

Boston, February 5.—A dispatch from Bradford, Vt., to the Associated Press says: The night express, which left White River Junction bound for Montreal, filled with passengers from Boston and New York for the carnival, was wrecked at the first crossing of the White River. A rail broke, and the engine, one baggage car, two passenger coaches and two sleeping cars plunged over the bridge, 60 feet into the river. Before the engineer or any one could get to the wreck the cars had caught on fire and burned. The bridge also burned and inside of twenty minutes all were destroyed. It is estimated that fifty persons were killed. Henry Taxbury, of West Randolph, Vt., a well-known lecturer, is among those killed.

Word has been received here that Edward F. Dillion, of Springfield, Vt., was killed. He was a member of the Sophomore Class at Dartmouth, and pitcher for the University nine. A. B. Vesse, a classmate, was with him, but escaped uninjured.

A dispatch from Concord, N. H., says: The reports of the accident on the Woodstock bridge at West Hartford, Vt., are of a very indefinite character, owing, probably, to the distance of the scene of the wreck from a place whence direct communication could be had. All reports agree, however, that the accident is a terrible one. At first it was reported that fifty persons had been killed, and, in fact, this statement has not as yet been refuted. The last report that came direct from White River Junction says that ten bodies have already been taken from the wreck and that a number of injured passengers are being taken to the nearest places of shelter.

Details of the Disaster.

Concord, N. H., February 5.—The express train that left Boston at 7 o'clock last night met with a terrible accident near Woodstock, on the Central Vermont Railroad, at about 2:30 this morning. The train started from this city on time, but was detained at White River junction, so it was about an hour and a half late when it left there. It consisted of a locomotive, baggage car, postal car, two passenger coaches and two sleeping cars was running at the usual rate of speed. When about 200 yards south of the end of the deck bridge near the old Windsor station a broken rail was struck. The locomotive, baggage car and postal car broke away from the rest of the train, passing over the bridge in safety. The rest of the train was thrown from the rails and continued on the roadbed until it came near the end of the bridge, but there it ran over the abutment and all of the cars fell into the White River, some fifty feet below. The gorge at this point is frightful, and when the cars went down there was a terrible crash.

As soon as possible the detached part of the train was stopped and ran back to the scene of the disaster. The screams of the injured were heartrending. Assistance also came from the people living in the vicinity and everything was done to rescue and relieve the injured. Soon after help arrived it was discovered that fire had started in the first passenger coach and soon the entire train was ablaze, thus adding a new horror to the dreadful catastrophe. Those present were powerless to stop the fire, and devoted themselves entirely to attempting to rescue those imprisoned in the wreck. The rescuers met another and unexpected obstacle in the heat, which had become so intense that they were obliged to relinquish their efforts to save the the sufferers and compelled to retreat to a place of safety for themselves and to become unwilling and horror-stricken witness of the awful holocaust. In addition to this and to add to the terrors and suffering of the passengers, the weather was intensely cold, and the heroic rescuers were hindered thereby in their work. No water could be obtained with which to check or extinguish the flames. The ice was several inches thick on the river and there were no appliances at hand to raise it.

Ira A. Chase, of Bristol, was at White River Junction when the news of the disaster was received. He went to the wreck on a special train. His story of the accident is as follows: The train left White River Junction late, and the accident is thought to have occurred about 2:15 a. m. A broken rail was discovered some 200 feet this side of the bridge, but wether this caused the accident or a wheel first broken is in doubt. The locomotive and baggage and mail cars crossed the bridge in safety. Two passenger coaches, the Boston sleeping car "Pilgrim" and the springfield sleeper "St. Albans," went off the bridge at the end on the right hand side and apparently turned bottomside up in the fall. Men living near by stated that when they got to the scene there was no fire except in the forward car, but the flames soon spread to the other cars and then to the bridge. All were consumed. Twenty-six persons, so far as known, were taken out alive from the cars which burned, these are understood to be Mr. Wesson, pistol manufacturer, of Springfield, and Ed. Brockelbanks, a brakeman, but they died soon after.

The two passenger coaches were well filled and every berth in the Boston sleeping car was occupied and twelve in one from Springfield, making the total number of passengers in the wrecked cars about eighty. This will probably make the number of dead between fifty and sixty. The bridge was between thirty and forty feet above the water, which was covered with thick ice making it probable that death resulted from crushing and burning rather than from drowning. Several were penned up in the wreck who might have been rescued alive but for the flames. Brakeman Parker, who was on the forward end of the first passenger car, felt the jar and saved his life by jumping. He quickly secured a conveyance and carried the news to White River Junction.

She Voted and Escaped Trial.

Alfred Centre, N. Y., Feb. 4.—Mrs. Lucy Sweet Barber, who swore in her vote here at the election last fall, has been discharged from arrest a Wellsville by United States Commissioner Wilkes Angel. The commissioner gives the woman suffragist her freedom on the ground that the state courts having jurisdiction of the matter charged, they must be resorted to. Daniel N. Lockwood, United States District Attorney for the northern district of New York, concurs with Mr. Angel in his decision.

Mrs. Barber is about 50 years old and is a prominent member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in this county. She voted for the State and local nominees of the Prohibition party when she cast her ballot last November. Her case has excited a great deal of interest, and hundreds of letters have reached her from all parts of the country congratulating her on having voted, and offering her assistance in the legal difficulties that might arise out of her unique action.

Furious Storms in the Northwest.

Chicago, February 1.—A dispatch from Fort Shaw, Montana, says: "A heavy blizzard yesterday prevailed at Fort Assinaboine and north from there to the Canadian line. Sunday the temperature ranging from 13 to 25 degrees below zero. The snow was piled in drifts by the high wind to the height of eight feet in places. Reliable reports say that stockmen have suffered heavier losses than have been known for eight or ten years. The storm through this section was very severe, the mercury marking 29 to 35 degrees below zero. Six to eleven inches of snow fell on a level. The losses are heavy, but not as heavy as they would have been had the cattle not been in good condition before the storm set in. The roads are impassable. The stage from Choteau is reported lost. A relief party of four is searching for it."

Devil's Lake, Dak., Feb. 1.—Mrs. Edward Walker, living nine miles north of here, perished in attempting to go to a neighbor's house during Saturday's blizzard, which prevented her husband's return from town. He found her body half buried in the snow, one-third of a mile from the neighbor's house.

Stock Falls, Dak., Feb. 1.—The severest cold wave of this winter is being experienced. The temperature fell to 20 degrees below zero Sunday night and nearly reached 30 last night. Snow on the lines of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, Chicago St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, and Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern has caused an almost complete blockade. Some eight trains on the Omaha road have been stalled in the snow since Saturday night.

St. Paul, Feb. 1.—*The Evening Dispatch's* Bismarck (Dak.) dispatch reports another blizzard raging in that section. The wind is blowing seventy-five miles an hour. Trains are all delayed. In St. Paul the weather has moderated greatly since morning. At 7 a. m. the mercury was 30 degrees below zero.

Burning their Fences.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 4.—A Helena, Montana, special says: The Indian Commissioners who arrived at Choteau last Friday night from the Blackfoot Agency, after a hard struggle through the blizzard, have been snow-bound at Choteau ever since with the thermometer 40 degrees below zero. There is such a scarcity of wood in Choteau that the fences and unoccupied houses will be burned if the the storm continues. Six to eight thousand cattle strung along the Teton river are suffering greatly for food. A Fort Benton special reports a foul famine, with the citizens burning fences and outhouses. They have not enough, flour and coal oil to last a fortnight. A Maple Creek, N. W. T., telegram reports a deplorable situation there. The missing Chateau cowb reached Sun river last night. Sixty dead cattle found in a Glendive herd.

A special from Fargo, Dak., says: Each blizzard seems more severe and terrible than its predecessor. The storm between Jamestown and Fargo has been worse than any in the history of the country. The thermometer ranged between 25 and 30 degrees below zero all day Thursday, and east and west of this point terrific blizzards are raging. The train from the East, with four engines, was unable to make its way through the snow drifts, and numerous settlers are reported to have been lost on the prairie. A man near Sirus wandered about on the prairie Wednesday night, having been lost while attempting to go from his claim to town, a distance of four miles, and when found he was buried in a snow drift in which he sought shelter. His limbs were frozen so badly that amputation will be necessary, and it is thought he cannot recover.

Our Coast Defenses.

Washington, Feb. 5.—In the U. S Senate to-day, the sundry civil bill was passed. During the debate on the bill Mr. Allison, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, made a statement as to the probable receipts and expenditures of the Government for the next fiscal year. He showed by figures that there would be a very small surplus, if any. Mr. Platt took up the question of coast defences, and argued that Congress would be derelict to its clearest and most imperative duties if it adjourned without making liberal appropriations for fortifications, guns and ships. Mr. Teller also argued that steps should be taken for the defense of our coasts and frontiers. He contrasted our naval weakness with the strength in this respect of other countries, and said, in conclusion: We have gone on in this way a great many years. We were at the absolute mercy of any people who might choose to assail us. Ships fortifications, guns, could not be made in a day. A hundred million dollars was stored in the Treasury of San Francisco and a single ironclad could compel the authorities to surrender it or suffer the destruction of the city. Yet Congress set on from day to day, and considered whether the tax might not be taken off sugar or tobacco, or the internal taxes be repealed. It was the duty of the Legislative branch of the Government to take immediate steps to prevent national disgrace. The people believe guns and ships and fortifications ought to be built, and he called attention to the fact that 95 per cent. of the expenditures would go to American laborers.

Taxation of Land.

Harrisburg, Feb. 3.—A joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Constitutional Reform was held to-day to hear an argument by Kemper Breock, of Philadelphia, in behalf of a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the taxation of land on the specific principle instead of the ad valorem method. The resolution was introduced at Mr. Brock's request by Senator Penrose and Representative Scott, of Philadelphia. He argued that the true solution of the land problem is to be made private property in land universal by means of laws promoting distribution; by abolishing taxation on improvements and making area the basis of taxation, subject, of course, to such classification as may be suggested by the effect of location upon value. The proposed amendment authorizes the exemption of homestead lots in cities and boroughs and of homestead farms in townships within a certain maximum area. Mr. Brock argued that this feature would avoid the danger of a surplus revenue invoiced in Henry George's idea of State ownership; it would facilitate the acquisition and ownership of small holdings of land, promote individualism and give a large majority of citizens that inducement to the performance of duties of citizenship which comes from having a stake in the material welfare of the community.

32nd ANNUAL STATEMENT

—OF THE—

SOMERSET COUNTY

Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

For the Year Ending December 31, 1886.

—oo—

To balance in Treasury as per last report, December 31, 1885	$ 8 66
To cash received on new policies issued during 1886	225 12
To cash received on renewals during '86	768 41
To cash received on assessments 8 and 9 collected during 1886	1350 88
Total	$2353 07

DISBURSEMENTS.

No 1 Paid Israel J. Schrock in full for barn	$1000 00
No 2 paid Andreas Eisenline for damage by fire	7 00
No 3 paid Casper Jacob for damage by fire	3 85
No 4 Paid Wm Snyder damage by fire	8 25
No 5 costs in Dew case Sept. and Dec. Terms	201 45
No 6 Herald office for printing blanks &c	86 25
No 7 paid C J Miller extra services	21 00
No 8 expenses in adjusting loss of Jacob Palmer	5 00
No 9 postage, stationery, broom &c for office	26 25
No 10 office rent and fuel for 1 year	25 00
No 11 salary of Secretary and Treasurer for 1 year	400 00 — 1785 13
Balance in treasury	$ 127 94
Cash premiums in hands of agents for collection	400 00
Assessments outstanding in course of collection	300 00
Premium notes liable to assessments	34324 00
Total	35429 04

The old Board of Directors and officers were continued for the ensuing year. By order of the Board, JNO. Hicks,
Office of Somerset Co Ins. Co, Secretary.
feb8-3t Somerset, Feb. 1st.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

—OF THE—

Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment of Somerset County, Penn'a, for the Year Ending 2d January, 1887.

Cyrus C. Schrock, Treasurer of the Somerset County Poor House in account with Somerset County Penn'a, for the year ending January 2d, 1887.

RECEIPTS.

			DR.
1	To am't rec'd from	Alex. Launtz for an old cooking stove	$ 2 00
2	" " "	Daniel Shaffer for an old cooking stove	6 00
3	" " "	Moses Friedline, Committee of Hannah Boucher (an inmate)	4 67
4	" " "	J. J. Horner & Bro. balance to Patrick Braitlin (an inmate)	27 56
5	" " "	L. Lilly, Steward Cambria Co., for main. and burial of John Butts	14 88
6	" " "	Joseph L. Miller for main. of Mary Miller at Harrisburg Hospital	25 00
7	" " "	Joseph Auman for rent of Hannah Boucher farm 11 months	25 00
8	" " "	J. L. W. Seibert for main. of Alice J. Seibert at Harrisburg Hospital	26 00
9	" " "	Same for examination fee for same (Drs. Kimmell and Lowther)	10 00
10	" " "	Same Justices fees for warrant for said Alice J. Seibert	1 00
11	" " "	Pearson Miller for 34 old sheep and 15 lambs sold	83 00
12	" " "	Same for 2 cows sold	48 00
13	" " "	Hiram Knable, committee for Theodore Knable	17 45
14	" " "	A. G. Morrow for main. of Nancy Johnson	12 20
15	" " "	F. Brant on Judgment of Magdalena Miller (an inmate)	40 78
16	" " "	Samuel Fox for hides	10 50
17	" " "	Daniel Snyder on article for binding out of Daniel K. Will	50 00
18	" " "	Samuel W. Glessner on article for binding out of Frank Bennett, jun.	25 00
19	" " "	D.J. Brubaker, Guardian of Irvin Swartzendruber (an inmate)	15 00
20	" " "	A. J. Schell for sheep pelts	50
21	" " "	R. F. Snyder, Esqr., from fines imposed for profane swearing	3 33
22	" " "	Joseph L. Miller for main. of Mary Miller at Harrisburg Hospital	52 00
23	" " "	A. J. Schell for calf hide	75
24	" " "	Philip Walker for timber of tree on H. Boucher farm	1 70
25	" " "	Valentine Blough for extra funeral expenses for R. Lichtenberger	3 00
26	" " "	A. J. Schell for beef hides and sheep pelts	35 50
27	" " "	S. Ullom Meyer on article for the binding of Maggie Nicklow	40 00
28	" " "	Somerset Co. per order No.—of 1887 interest on Musselman fund	30 00
29	" " "	Same " " " " to balance account	1074 91
			$7683 73

EXPENDITURES.

For Expenses, &c., Unpaid for the Year 1885.

			CR.	
1	By am't paid on orders of 1885 for Out Door relief		$ 86 00	
2	" " " "	" Justices fees	2 00	
3	" " " "	" Constable fees	9 58	
4	" " " "	" 1886 " Treasurer's salary, bal. of 1885	21 12	—118 70
	For Out Door Expenses—1886.			
5	By am't p'd for Out Door relief		728 18	
6	" " "	Trav. expenses for Out Door Paupers	68 20	
7	" " "	Attendance " " "	28 00	
8	" " "	Justices fees " " "	4 25	
9	" " "	Coffins " " "	40 00	
10	" " "	Funeral Ex. " " "	43 66	
11	" " "	Medical services " " "	101 45	
12	" " "	Rent " " "	12 00	—1066 74
	For Maintenance in other Institutions, &c.			
13	" "	Children in private families	477 43	
14	" "	In Harrisburg Hospital	451 73	
15	" "	In Dixmont	328 25	—1257 38
	For Expenses of Poor House Proper.			
16	By	Provisions, &c., wheat, flour, chop and bran	$500 56	
17	" "	Meat	237 68	
18	" "	Sugar and molasses	121 55	
19	" "	Coffee	157 16	
20	" "	Applebutter	107 60	
21	" "	Vegetables	12 31	
22	" "	Salt	7 10	
23	" "	Rice	7 50	
24	" "	Vinegar	1 80	
25	" "	Bacon	30 58	
26	" "	Eggs	7 20	
27	" "	Other groceries	95 91	—1384 44
28		Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats and Caps		235 78
29		Shoes and leather		114 97
30		Tobacco		106 59
31		Drugs and Medicines		71 73
32		Constables fees		109 74
33		Justices "		25 80
34		Conveying inmates		87 25
35		Carding and Weaving		9 76
36		Tinware		14 74
37		Tinkering		4 70
38		Hardware		43 21
39		Repairing clock		2 50
40		Clocks		4 59
41		Stationery		6 14
42		Postage and box rent		9 00
43		Printing & advertising Commercial annual st'm't	$ 70 50	
44	" "	" John S. Shaffer (blanks)	4 00	
45	" "	Herald (annual statement)	105 00	
46	" "	" (reports)	25 00	
47	" "	Democrat (annual statem't)	104 50	
48	" "	Times (annual statement)	92 00	
49	" "	" (blanks)	10 00	—411 00
50		Medical examinations, &c		28 00
51		Stoves and pipes		2 50
52		Brooms		11 70
53		Soap and lye		11 66
54		Fire insurance		63 00
55		Affidavits to accounts and reports		4 50
56		Coal		195 10
57		Coal-Oil		12 55
58		Coffins for Inmates		57 00
59		Traveling expenses for inmates		50 28 — 5008 21
	For Farm Expenses.			
60	By	Farming implements	$ 8 78	
61	" "	Fertilizers, Lime	$151 52	
62	" "	" Ashes	2 50	
63	" "	" Phosphate and bone	84 00 —	238 02
64		Seeds and plants		31 26
65		Grain		16 00
66		12 head of sheep		56 00
67		11 shoats		24 50
68		Service of Ram		2 00
69		Farm labor, contract of 1886		50 00
70	" " "	" 1886		3 50
71		Blacksmithing		34 95
72		Wagon making		5 45 — 442 56
	For Permanent Improvements and Repairs.			
73	By	Plastering and white washing		67 95
74	"	Painting		113 15
75	"	Carpenter work		7 82
76	"	Mason		2 50
77	"	Spouting		4 40
78	"	Lumber		54 60
79	"	Paints and oils		103 45
80	"	Hardware		5 00 — 359 87
	For Extraordinary Expenses.			
81	By	Clothes wringer		4 00
82	"	Horse and buggy hire		6 00
83	"	Clerk at former settlement		10 00
84	"	Collection fees (Minor & Core)		19 00
85	"	Wit