

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Winston Churchill, the war correspondent, is mentioned as a candidate for Parliament, to succeed the Duke of Argyll. The representatives of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria and Italy, in view of the steps taken by the United States government in regard to the claims growing out of the Armenian massacres, have asked their governments for instructions as to their respective claims. Ambassador White discredits the reported action of the German Chancellor in forbidding the North German Lloyd Steamship Company landing in Germany, Dutch or Belgian ports fresh news of dairy products. The latest note of the United States government to Turkey is in the nature of an ultimatum, and demands immediate payment of the indemnity, without, however, fixing a time limit. The Prince of Wales, in a public letter, acknowledges the sympathy and congratulations from all parts of the world on his recent escape from assassination. Two thousand buildings were destroyed, seven lives lost and seven thousand people made homeless by the conflagration that swept Hull and Ottawa, Canada. The budget committee of the German Reichstag eliminated from the naval bill the provision for an increase in the foreign service fleet. The Høring cabinet resigned in Denmark, and King Christian appointed another, with H. de Scholsted as premier. Twenty Mussulmans, sympathizers with the Young Turk party, were arrested in Constantinople. In the Belgian Chamber of Deputies Socialist members attacked King Leopold as being involved in the India Rubber scandals and the Congo Free State atrocities. Six persons were killed and forty injured by a bridge that had been condemned fall for upon them on the Exposition grounds in Paris. The disaster cast a gloom over the crowds at the Exposition, and the Exposition authorities were severely criticized for allowing an unfinished structure to jeopardize the lives of visitors. The coal famine in Germany has not yet been relieved. The German sugar syndicate has entered into a five years' agreement.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The National Society of Colonial Dames elected officers and selected Mrs. William Reed, of Baltimore, as their delegate at the unveiling of the statue to Washington. The Senate by a vote of 52 to 3, decided that Nathan B. Scott was entitled to a seat in the Senate. The Alaskan Civil Code bill was further considered. The German ambassador said it was impossible for Prince Hohenzollern to have issued an order forbidding the importation of American meats. Senator Mason introduced a resolution requesting the President to withdraw forces from Cuba and turn the government of the island over to the natives. The Industrial Commission submitted its report to Congress on the question of employment of convicts in competition with free labor. Perfecto Lacosta has accepted the office of Secretary of Agriculture in the cabinet of the Governor General of Cuba, a vacant by the resignation of General Rivera. Congressman Dooliver, of Iowa, declared his views regarding the proposed annexation of Porto Rico and the proposed treaty that Postmaster General Smith was his candidate. The House adopted the Foraker bill temporarily continuing the present officials in Porto Rico and placing restrictions on the granting of franchises. The bill was passed between Attorney Robertson and Witness Sinclair while the latter was testifying before the House Committee on the Cour d'Alene riots, and the members of the committee had a hard time to keep the two men from fighting. In reply to the Senate resolution, Secretary Gage sent a statement showing that over one hundred and eighty-three millions were derived from the war revenue act. The Assistant Secretary of the navy, Frank W. Hackett, was inducted into office. The House ordered a bill to be reported to commit the Spanish war claims to the Court of Claims. In the Senate a vote was taken on a resolution of sympathy for the Boers, but no quorum appeared. The President is considering candidates for official position under the new law for Hawaii.

MOTHER'S FRIGHTFUL DEED.

With Babe in Her Arms She Jumped in Front of an Express. Millington, Mich. (Special).—Mrs. James Simmons, who lived near Otter Lake, deliberately jumped in front of a Michigan Central express train, with her 2-year-old child in her arms. Both were terribly mangled, dying almost instantly. Mrs. Simmons' mind had been unbalanced for several months, but her mania had not been considered dangerous.

Died After Taking Headache Medicine. Keyser, W. Va. (Special).—Mrs. Bert Pow, wife of the West Virginia Central Railway agent and operator at Fairfax, near Thomas, W. Va., suffered with a headache all day. In the evening she went to Thomas, secured a dose of medicine at a drug store, and returning home, drank it. She died an hour later.

FIELD OF LABOR.

France has 100,000 union railroaders. Uncle Sam is first in copper production. New York has 9,000 union cloak makers. San Antonio hasn't a non-union printing shop. Chicago building trades claim 50,000 unionists. All Frisco carpenters have been granted \$3.50 a day. Mine drivers at Clinton, Ind., struck for \$2.35 a day. Unorganized Toledo Polish laborers struck for \$2 a day. Chicago brewery teamsters have been conceded the nine-hour day. Frisco woodworkers want the eight-hour day on August 1, next. New York cloth spongers demand \$24 a week and Saturday half holiday. It will require over 50,000 men to take the next United States census. The entertainment of royalty costs British society each year fully \$10,000,000. Monon railway employes have started a school of instruction at Bloomington. A Toledo dealer was fined \$50 for unauthorized use of the cigarmaker's label. Missouri is not classed as a cotton State, but the produced \$3,120 bales last year for packing. The co-operative societies in England and Wales paid during the last quarter \$7,663,830 as dividends. Paris is exhibiting the biggest wine cask in the world, forty-five feet high, with its top used as a dancing pavilion. A Philadelphia advertisement: "What do you get when you buy a \$4 hat at other stores?—stuck. Same here, \$3.50." The bill to tax department stores in Massachusetts was killed last week in the State senate. Good—National Labor Tribune. The wages of Toledo painters and decorators are \$2.25 for a nine-hour day, and the union has asked that the hours be reduced to eight on September 1, with no reduction in pay.

TORNADO ON A TEAR.

A DOZEN OF THEM GO ROARING THROUGH KANSAS.

PERSONS REPORTED KILLED

Eight of the Dreaded Funnel-shaped Clouds Develop Within a Radius of Twenty Miles—Farms, Granaries and Windmills Scattered Like Chaff—A Storm in Nebraska.

Kansas City, Mo., (Special).—No less than a dozen tornadoes of more or less severity are reported to have occurred in Saline, Ellsworth and Barton counties, in Central Kansas, which join each other, at Ellsworth, Barton county, three persons are reported killed. Other storms are reported near Ellsworth and Kanopolis, in Ellsworth county, and near Throopville, in Saline county.

Near Kanopolis eight distinct funnel-shaped clouds developed within a radius of twenty miles, four of them large ones, and two of which are known to have traveled over the country a space of twenty-five miles. One of the storms tore down all of the outbuildings, granaries and windmills on the Waite farm, three miles north of Kanopolis, and another tore down the house and barn of a farmer near Ellsworth.

Brookville reports six tornadoes traversed the country in as many different directions from that town without touching it. In no instance are details reported. The destruction wrought has probably been, off the railroads at inaccessible points. A Times special from Ellsworth, Kan., says: At 5.30 P. M., a tornado visited Logan township. It formed a few miles south of Ellsworth and passed over the west portion of the city. At the Cheyenne Bottoms, six persons are reported killed. The destruction wrought has probably been, off the railroads at inaccessible points.

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CRUSHED IN THEIR HOUSES.

The Wind's Haven in Nebraska—A Church and Other Houses Destroyed.

Omaha, Neb. (Special).—A severe storm swept over Wisconsin. It was a gale, accompanied by heavy rain and hail. In the northern part of the town one house was blown down, the occupants escaping. A Presbyterian church was destroyed and many barns and outbuildings demolished. In the country along the path of the storm several farmhouses were blown to pieces and a number of people injured. So far as is known no one was killed. At present it is impossible to get a list of the sufferers or the extent of their injuries, but it is known that the family of A. Tower was caught in the house when it was crushed, and all were seriously injured. H. A. Bourne was caught in the wreck of his home and badly hurt.

A special to the Bee from Beaver City, Neb., gives further details of the Wisconsin tornado. Many farmhouses were destroyed. The hailstones were as large as baseballs, and were driven through roofs. The timber appeared after the bombardment, and took a westerly course. It was funnel-shaped, and did damage over a wide area. Farmers west and north of Wisconsin were the greatest sufferers. Many people fled to their cellars. A. Tower's large house was destroyed. Two of his children and daughter were seriously injured, though not fatally. Houses and barns of H. H. Farris, H. H. Corbett and H. A. Bourne were destroyed. The latter was seriously injured.

A daughter of L. E. McFarland was in a summer house which was lifted and carried some distance without serious injury to her. Five cows were carried a quarter of a mile. The residence of Rev. Lyvine was destroyed. His wife and children were carried forty feet and not seriously injured. Much livestock was killed by the storm, and the damage to crops and fruit trees was great. The amount of damage has not been estimated.

DEMAND FOR EXPLANATION.

Reported Outrage by British Naval Officer—Investigation Instituted. London, (By Cable).—It has been learned that United States Ambassador Choate has asked Lord Salisbury for explanations as to the alleged case of international right in the case of the American ship Sea Witch, which, according to the statement of her commander, Captain Howe, was boarded by the British war-ship Wasp within the three-mile limit of Portuguese territory in East Africa.

The American ship Sea Witch left Waller's December 3, and arrived at Delagoa Bay February 12. She sailed March 2 for Port Natal (Durban), and arrived there March 9. The American ambassador's communication to the British premier hardly amounts to a protest, and serious complications are not likely to ensue. The case, as transmitted by Secretary Hay to London, consists of the captain's allegation that while the Sea Witch was off Delagoa Bay he signalled to the Wasp, which was patrolling, and the Wasp sent a boat to her. The captain of the Sea Witch complains that the visit resembled a war-like boarding party, and that his manifest was examined against his will, when palpably within neutral waters. If the latter statement is true, a serious offense would be committed by the Wasp, which will call for an ample apology from Great Britain. But it is pointed out that the fact that the Sea Witch signalled the Wasp before the warship noticed her invests the case with a curious uncertainty. Apparently, both Mr. Choate and Lord Salisbury are inclined to believe that there is some mistake, perhaps on both sides. The premier has referred the matter to the admiralty, which has no record of the occurrence, but has called to South Africa for the Wasp's version of the affair, and it is possible that some time may elapse before the British reply is ready.

HUGE STRAWBERRY TRAFFIC.

Fifteen Thousand Pickers Engaged in One Field in North Carolina. Raleigh, N. C., (Special).—During the week the shipments of strawberries from points on the Atlantic Coast Lines between Wilmington and Goldsboro will be in thousands. Special trains of express cars will haul the berries. There are thousands of acres ready, and it is said that 15,000 pickers will be at work. Berries are abundant and fine. Prices thus far are satisfactory.

A Farmer Found Dead. Charleston, W. Va. (Special).—William Strickland, a farmer on Galbe Ford, of Big Sandy River, left his home Saturday on a hunting trip in the mountains, he failed to return at the proper time and his family set persons in search of him. His dead body was found in the woods, half a mile from his residence, with a bullet hole in his right side. The gun was found some distance from the body. His death is believed to have been accidental and after the shot he started for home, but died on the way.

General Wheaton reported the capture of Senator Paterson, formerly president of the Filipino cabinet.

SLAIN BY FILIPINOS.

Twenty Men of 43d Regiment Shot at Catabig—Only Ten of Them Escaped.

REMAINS OF VICTIMS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE BY WILLING HANDS—DISTRESSING SCENES AT THE MOUTH OF THE SHAFT—SOME FEW BODIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED—DEATHS OF CATASTROPHE.

Manila, (By Cable).—The American garrison of Catabig, Island of Samar, consisting of 20 men belonging to the Forty-third Regiment, has been attacked by rebels. Twenty of the Americans were killed. The remainder were rescued. The Americans were quartered in the Catabig Church, which the enemy, numbering several hundred men, surrounded and fired at for three days longer, the enemy attacking the building on all sides at once. The Americans continued firing from the windows and doors of the church and did great execution among the Filipinos. It is estimated that over 300 of the latter were killed, many dead bodies being removed from the scene of the fighting. After five days' resistance by the Americans a lieutenant and eight men arrived from Lozon and engaged the besiegers, who thereupon retired. The fortunate arrival of these reinforcements prevented the annihilation of the American force entrenched in the church, who had repeatedly declined to surrender when ordered to do so by the Filipinos. The 10 survivors were without food, had little ammunition and were physically exhausted when relieved.

This fight has encouraged the Filipinos, who are now acting in an aggressive manner and threatening that section of the coast, particularly the town of Catabig, where the garrison will probably be withdrawn to Lozon. The removal of bodies began at once and every diligence was used to get the bodies of the slain out of the mine. Many hundreds of men have freely volunteered their services, and as fast as one set of clothes was worn out they were replaced. While the stench of smoke and powder is sickening, resembling much that of a dissecting room, there are brave-hearted and brawny men who have been continually at work since the moment of the explosion. As soon as the bodies in the mine, which are the coal company at Salt Lake City and also the railroad company were notified of the disaster, and though the number of dead was reported lower than it really is it would appear that everything by them that lies in their power has been done.

The explosion is attributed to the blowing up of a number of kegs of blasting powder. The explosion is attributed to the blowing up of a number of kegs of blasting powder. The explosion is attributed to the blowing up of a number of kegs of blasting powder.

IS AGUINALDO DEAD?

Belief Growing That Filipino Leader Was Killed. Manila, (By Cable).—General Funston has discovered a rebel warehouse near Cabanatuan, province of New Ecija, containing all the archives of the Malolos government. Aguinaldo's correspondence up to the time of his flight, and much valuable historical matter.

Belief is growing that Aguinaldo was killed by the Igorots. There is no proof that he has been alive since Maj. Peyton C. March, of the Thirty-third Regiment, abandoned the chase after the Filipino leader in the Benquet Mountains, although an insurgent officer who recently surrendered to General Young, says that the insurgent general holds this belief.

BOERS FIRM.

Gen. Roberts Said to Be Preparing a Big General Advance. London, Eng., (By Cable).—Lord Roberts is said to be steadily maturing his plans for a general advance. It is estimated that fully 30,000 British troops are now centered at Tloaba N'chu, where the Boer forces are said to number between 4,000 and 8,000 men.

President Kruger has issued a proclamation to British residents in Pretoria and the Witwatersrand gold fields, warning them to get out of the country within 36 hours from noon of April 30. Gen. Jan Hamilton's division reached Houtnek from Tloaba N'chu after a full day's fighting, securing the railroad between the two towns.

A dispatch from Ladysmith says there is renewed activity among the Boers on that side of the Drakensberg Mountains. A French steamer is reported as arriving at Lozenz Marquet with 10,000 bags of sugar and 10,000 bags of coffee, consigned to a syndicate which is buying for the Pretoria Government.

General Poles-Carew's division and Stevenson's brigade, with seventy captured twenty-five rifles, all in winter clothing, left Bloemfontein. The immediate objective of Lord Roberts is to establish a line of British posts from one frontier of the Free State to the other, to prevent Boer raids southward.

KILLED IN STREET FIGHT.

Philadelphia, Pa., (Special).—During a street fight Hugh Callahan, aged 29 years, was shot in the forehead by David McGovern, aged 31 years. He died at a hospital an hour after his admission. McGovern was arrested and committed for trial.

BULLET HOLE IN HIS SKULL.

Wheeling, W. Va., (Special).—The body of Patrick Sweeney, 39 years of age, unmarried, was found lying at the foot of Fifth street, Wheeling, on Friday afternoon, or fifteen hours before. Beside the body was one empty beer bottle and three full ones. No trace of violence was to be found and the only wound was a bullet hole in the skull. The murder is a complete mystery.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

The Baroness de Rothschild has given, during the past month, 20,000 francs to Parisian hospitals. Mayor Weaver, of Louisville, Ky., has been recently injured in health by the recent typhoid epidemic, and is unable to do his work. It is feared in Paris that the serious illness of Edmond Rostand may result in permanent insanity, if the patient does not die. The Dowager Empress of China has ordered the Chinese Minister to France to have 500 large photographs of the Paris Exposition buildings taken for her.

Hammond Lamont, professor of English at Brown University, has resigned from that position and will become managing editor of the New York Evening Post. There is thought to be two Presidents—one to do the duties and one to do the "band-aiding." Such at least is the opinion of Jerry Smith, an old negro servant at the White House.

Gen. John B. Gordon, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, who is on a lecturing tour through Texas, attended a revival in Gatesville, Coryell county, the other day, preached a sermon and "converted" 40 persons. "America's Grand Old Man" is the title bestowed on Senator Hoar by the Richmond Times, a Democratic newspaper.

Mayor Carter Harrison, of Chicago, recently received a letter containing a twenty cent stamp and a request that a copy of the city directory be sent to the writer by return mail. August Belmont is treasurer of a fund for the erection of a monument in Mount Morris Park, New York City, to commemorate the transactions of Baron and Baroness de Hirsch.

Ex-Queen Liliuokalani is reported to be greatly disappointed over the failure of her pension claim, and says that after her departure for Honolulu she will never again set foot in the United States. Governor Wells, of Utah, is an ardent student of experimental chemistry and spends much of his leisure time in his laboratory. George McLean Harper, who has been elected Holmes Professor of Belles Lettres in Princeton, began writing as a reporter.

General Funston is described as really a patriotic hero. He was not a fighting man, but he is a man of great character. Joseph Chamberlain has changed his plans for the American trip which he planned for next autumn and has postponed it indefinitely. Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale is delivering his course of lectures on "Reminiscences of Emerson's Home, Lowell and Longfellow" in Indianapolis and the West.

TWO HUNDRED DEAD.

FERTILE EXPLOSION OF POWDER IN UTAH COAL MINE.

137 BODIES RECOVERED.

Remains of Victims Brought to the Surface by Willing Hands—Distressing Scenes at the Mouth of the Shaft—Some Few Bodies Have Been Identified—Deaths of Catastrophe. Salt Lake, Utah, (Special).—A special from Schofield, Utah, says: The English language cannot describe the appalling disaster which occurred here on 10.25 A. M., by an explosion in Mine No. 4 of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company, and by which certainly 300 men and upward have lost their lives. So far 137 bodies have been recovered, and the work of rescue is still proceeding and will continue until all the bodies are brought to the surface.

There are willing hands at work, and as fast as bodies are reached they are brought down to the boarding-houses and other company buildings, where they are dressed and prepared for the coroner's inquest. These buildings are numerous, and in each are from 10 to 35 bodies. When a corpse is brought out it is usually carried from the mouth of each tunnel at the respective entrances to the place of deposit. Here there is a corps of men from four to ten in number, with sponges, hot and cold water in tubs and other receptacles. The clothing is first removed, the soot, smoke and powder brans washed from their faces, the bodies prepared and laid out in long robes, where they are identified by a tag with name and address attached to await identification by relatives or friends.

The removal of bodies began at once and every diligence was used to get the bodies of the slain out of the mine. Many hundreds of men have freely volunteered their services, and as fast as one set of clothes was worn out they were replaced. While the stench of smoke and powder is sickening, resembling much that of a dissecting room, there are brave-hearted and brawny men who have been continually at work since the moment of the explosion. As soon as the bodies in the mine, which are the coal company at Salt Lake City and also the railroad company were notified of the disaster, and though the number of dead was reported lower than it really is it would appear that everything by them that lies in their power has been done.

LONG LIST OF MINE VICTIMS

Two Hundred and Twenty-five Bodies Brought to Surface in New Mine Recovered. Schofield, Utah, (Special).—225 bodies have been removed from the mines. Of the new bodies thirteen came from Tunnel No. 4. Nearly all are in a frightful condition. Six more bodies were taken from No. 4 mine, two of them mangled beyond recognition.

State Coal Mine Inspector Thomas, who is acquainted with all the workings in the mine, says, to the best of his belief, there are twelve more bodies in the mine buried under caves and broken timbers. The recovery of James Gathernum's body makes the list of three brothers taken from the ill-fated mine. If any man is to blame for the accident it will never be known, for no man who can tell the story has come out of the mine alive. Many old coal miners, familiar with these mines, state that they have always been regarded as the safest mines in the state. These men also say that the company's policy has always been to spare no expense in order to keep the mines in a thoroughly safe condition. At the coal company's store everything is being given out free of charge, that the families of the dead are in immediate need of aid, and the store is being kept open day and night.

The fund amounts to \$7,800, and contributions in the shape of money and provisions are being received from many places in and out of the state. There are not enough coffins in the camp to bury the dead, and, to add horror to the situation, the bodies are rapidly decomposing, and it has been suggested that cremation may have to be resorted to. There are five bodies which have not yet been buried, but a joint committee of Old Fellows and English of Pythias spent the day among the dead, identifying members of their orders. They found about twenty of each order among the dead.

ANOTHER TOWN GONE.

Fourth One to be Destroyed as the Result of Forest Fires. Menominee, Mich., (Special).—The town of Arnold has been wiped out by the forest fire. The fund amounts to \$7,800, and contributions in the shape of money and provisions are being received from many places in and out of the state. There are not enough coffins in the camp to bury the dead, and, to add horror to the situation, the bodies are rapidly decomposing, and it has been suggested that cremation may have to be resorted to. There are five bodies which have not yet been buried, but a joint committee of Old Fellows and English of Pythias spent the day among the dead, identifying members of their orders. They found about twenty of each order among the dead.

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THE NEWS.

Tornadoes destroyed farming property and caused the loss of several lives in Central Kansas. A wind and hail storm did considerable damage in Nebraska. At Wilsonville the Presbyterian church and other buildings were destroyed. A number of people were injured by the blowing down of farmhouses in the country districts. Fire destroyed the Mallory Line pier, New York, and several barges moored near it. There were many narrow escapes of people who were forced to leap into the water. One child was drowned. The property loss is estimated at \$1,000,000.

The North Atlantic Squadron, Admiral Farquhar commanding, has arrived in Hampton Roads. The squadron assisted in the installation of Governor Allen, of Porto Rico, and the entire cruise was much enjoyed. The United States army transport Buford has arrived in quarantine at New York, having on board the body of Mrs. General Willson. The remains will be taken to Wilmington, Del., for burial.

There was a plot laid at the Fifth District Republican Convention in Dadesville, Ga., in which a brother of the deputy revenue collector was fatally shot and the postmaster arrested. Plans are being formed for the establishment of a new shipbuilding plant in Boston to equal in size any shipyard in the United States.

The converter and Millet mills of the Illinois Steel Company, at Joliet, Ill., have closed down, involving 2,500 men out of work. Mrs. Carolyn Ahrens, a singer in the choir of the Church of the Holy Redeemer, in New York, committed suicide. Susie A. Morris, fourteen years of age, admitted having set fire to her uncle's house in Providence, R. I.

The Opera House at Lexington, Va., was destroyed by fire. Loss \$9,000; insurance \$3,500. The prosecuting authorities in New York York have found that the woman whose body was exhumed, after a quiet burial, and whose name is not divulged, died from a criminal operation.

Frances Wilson, a chorus girl of Anna Held's "Papa's Wife" company, was held in \$800 bail in Philadelphia for stealing jewelry and money from Comedian Bigelow's wife. Burglars dynamited the postoffice at Franklin, Southampton county, Va., and got away with a large quantity of stamps and considerable cash. Henry W. Flagler, the Standard Oil magnate, was before the New York court to relieve him as committee of the person of his wife.

Two hundred bodies have been removed from the Utah mine. The total number of victims will probably be three hundred. The North Carolina Pine Association, in session in Norfolk, decided to reduce the output and maintain the prices. The Pittsburg coal operators conceded the twenty per cent. increase in wages demanded by the day laborers.

Charles Offutt, of Capon Bridge, Va., was seriously hurt by a tree that fell upon him. Miss Emma Stetz was shot and killed by Mrs. Albert Holtz in Chicago. Chairman Manly, of the sub-committee of the Senate National Committee, thinks that Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith may be the nominee for vice president. It is said that Senator Wolcott will be temporary chairman of the National Convention, and Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, permanent chairman.

The British steamer Virginia, Captain Charles Samuels, from Dalquity, Cuba, for Baltimore, with a cargo of iron ore, was wrecked off Cape Hatteras. Six men were drowned. Benjamin Douglas, a native of Baltimore, who founded a mercantile agency and was noted Hebrew scholar, died in Santa Barbara, Cal., aged eighty-four years.

A statue to the Confederate dead was unveiled in Lynchburg. Senator Daniel delivered the oration. Four persons lost their lives in fires in different parts of New York. Massachusetts Republicans have declared for McKinley and Long.

In reply to Cruz suit the United States Government has taken the position. The strike situation in Philadelphia is no nearer a solution. It is estimated that 300 were killed in the Utah mine disaster. Changing of the wind saved several villages from forest fires in Michigan. Fires in the vicinity of Bloomburg, Pa., continue to grow in volume.

The Chicago celebration in honor of Admiral Dewey practically came to a close with an excursion by the Admiral and members of the general celebration committee down the Chicago drainage canal as far as the controlling gates. Local fair. An amendment offered to Army Appropriation bill in the Senate by Mr. Berry to exclude trusts from competition in furnishing supplies for the army was defeated 29 to 18. Free rural delivery was started in the country around Gettysburg, Pa.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Chicago. The feature of the exercises was the contest of the provisional lay delegates to secure equal recognition. Thousands of men allied with the building trades in Northern cities have quit work because of refusal of contractors to yield to demands for eight-hour day and for more wages.

Mrs. Francis Seaberg committed suicide at Hanover, Pa. Miss Helen Ripley Bonedier, daughter of Elias C. Bonedier, was married to Thomas Hastings, of New York, at Greenwich, Ct. An amendment offered to Army Appropriation bill in the Senate by Mr. Berry to exclude trusts from competition in furnishing supplies for the army was defeated 29 to 18. Free rural delivery was started in the country around Gettysburg, Pa.

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KEYSTONE STATE.

LATEST NEWS GLEANED FROM VARIOUS PARTS.

FIRE DESTROYS 8 HOUSES.

Flames Cause a Loss of \$12,000 at Womelsdorf, Berk's County—Started at Separate Points—Blaze Which Threatened Town With Destruction Attributed to Incendiarism—Leg Cut Off by a Circular Saw. The borough of Womelsdorf, was visited by a fire that destroyed eight dwelling houses on the north side of Franklin Street, between Front and Second, containing a loss of over twelve thousand dollars. The fire was first discovered in the two-story frame house of Thomas Capp, and almost simultaneously flames issued from the windows of the unoccupied houses nearly two hundred feet away, belonging to the estate of John Stough. The intermediate houses soon caught fire, and with eight houses burning at one time, and a high wind prevailing, the destruction of the whole eastern portion of the town was threatened. The fire department of Reading, Sinking Spring, Robocoma and Myerstown were called on for assistance. Men were sent to the Womelsdorf fire, worked nobly and succeeded in getting the fire under control after two hours of hard effort. Most of the furniture was removed from the burning houses, with the exception of that in Thomas Capp's dwelling, which, with its contents, was completely destroyed. His loss is \$2,000. The next two houses, occupied by Samuel Sehn and John Mounz, were owned by Frank Farry, of Shamokin, whose loss is \$3,000. The next houses, occupied by Mrs. Christina Bechtel, was owned by John Matthew, whose loss is \$1,500. The remaining four houses belonged to the estate of John Stough, and the loss to the estate is \$4,500. Three of them were occupied by Isaac Miller, George Sebenek and Frank Bundy, respectively, while the fourth has been vacant since the first of April.

The large brick house adjoining the last mentioned was owned by John N. Levy, and occupied by Edward Schenck, who was also there, but was saved without having been much damaged. The occupants of the several houses lost in personal effects from \$100 to \$200. The origin of the fire is unknown. As two houses so far separated were discovered on fire at the same time, incendiarism is suspected.

FIFTY YEARS A MAJORITATE.—Ben