

ADVANCE OF JAPANESE FORCES.

Mikado's Army Going Ahead With Great Rapidity in Direction of Liaoyang--Russians Are Retreating--Kuroki Cuts the Railroad.

Liaoyang. (By Cable).—The Russians retired from Anshanshan Saturday after a fight which commenced on the morning of August 26 and continued in a desultory manner all day and night.

Arrangements for a battle had been completed by the night time, when the order to retire was given on account of the situation to the East.

The order was received with disappointment by the troops. The retreat was made in an orderly manner.

The plain between Anshanshan and Haicheng was covered with Japanese troops, who burned the bridge and shelled the railway station after the Russian retreat.

The Russian losses amounted to 300.

The Japanese are advancing with great rapidity.

After 3 o'clock Friday the Japanese succeeded in commanding Kaofengshik from Paoshankan, where their advance first began on August 23, and also from their position at Liaungshishan on the east, in such a way as to force the Russian center and right flank, compelling the evacuation of Anshanshan today. The Japanese south front therefore is several miles nearer Liaoyang.

At 3:30 o'clock Japanese shells from a concealed battery in the vicinity of Paoshankan began falling in the road west of Kaofengshik, leading to Liaoyang, thus threatening to sever communication to the west. The Russians still controlled the road to the north.

The Japanese fire ceased in the evening, but commenced again in the morning upon the Kaofengshik position, but as the Russians did not seem the Japanese apparently suspended their operations to reconnoitre, while the Russians fell back to a more favorable position.

The gradual withdrawal of the Russians before the Japanese advance the Russians consider as increasing the security of their position, as it is freely acknowledged that the Japanese are able to beat them in detail in the mountains. The Russians generally praise ability and valor of the Japanese.

Mukden Railroad Cut.

Tokyo. (By Cable).—The general staff maintained silence throughout Sunday concerning the fighting in the vicinity of Liaoyang. It is reported that General Kuroki has seized and cut the railroad south of Mukden, thus separating the Russian forces and cutting Liaoyang off from a direct line of retreat, but confirmation of this report cannot be obtained.

The fighting reported occurring east and southeast of Liaoyang is regarded here as preliminary to a larger contest in the immediate vicinity of Liaoyang.

It is expected that Generals Kuroki, Oku and Modzu will press forward speedily.

Reinforcements at Dalny.

Chefu. (By Cable).—Seven hundred Chinese who went to Port Dalny in the hope of sharing with the Japanese in the business boom there, returned to Chefu and report that the Japanese are monopolizing all opportunities at the port.

These Chinese say that twenty transports, bearing 22,000 troops to reinforce the besiegers of Port Arthur, have arrived at Port Dalny during the past fortnight.

DROWNED WHILE FISHING.

Five, and Perhaps Six, Lives Lost in Vicinity of Skowhegan, Maine.

Skowhegan, Me. (Special).—At least five and perhaps six persons have lost their lives during the past two days while fishing in the southern part of Somerset county. Four were drowned at Hayden Lake, about six miles from here, while the bodies of two others were discovered in a pond at Mayfield, twenty-five miles to the north.

The two accidents at Hayden Lake occurred Sunday afternoon. Prevost and Bolger were fishing, when the former attempted to put on his rubber coat and overturned the little boat. Bolger managed to swim ashore, but Prevost was unable to extricate himself from his coat and was drowned. While the search was being made for his body another boat was discovered floating bottom up, and soon the bodies of Newell and Weymouth were found.

Bolger stated that he noticed three men in the boat. The third man is not accounted for.

Samsenoff Is Alive.

St. Petersburg. (By Cable).—It is reported that Samsenoff, the assassin of M. von Plehve, has been sentenced to death and that the sentence is now before the Emperor. The reports which have been circulated about Samsenoff having escaped and also that he was dead are declared to be false.

No Luxury on Board.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Luxury will be sacrificed for formality in the new armored cruisers authorized by the last Congress, and the plans now in preparation in the Bureau of Construction and Repair show important changes in the interior arrangements of these vessels. The water-tight subdivisions will be made complete, and there will be no piercing of bulkheads by ventilating pipes or other openings.

Troublesome Port Question.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—It is learned that the American minister to Panama, John Barrett, acting under instructions from the state department has assured the Panamanian government that the United States will do nothing in its interpretation of the treaty regarding the troublesome port question which is in any way in contempt with the honor and true interests of both countries, and that it will not adopt any permanent policy as to the main issue involved in the port matter without conferring with the Panamanian authorities.

NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

Domestic.

The Edward Hines Lumber Company, of Chicago, has purchased a timber tract of 50,000 acres in Mississippi. The sum involved is \$1,000,000.

In New York a second indictment was found charging Philip Weinsheimer, president of the Building Trades Alliance, with extortion.

A. A. White, of Baltimore, was among the speakers at the Convention of the National Association of Master Bakers, in St. Louis.

Judge Julian Bennett, of Watertown, S. D., who weighed 400 pounds and who was known as the largest judge in America, is dead.

Alfred Davis, one of the oldest life guards at Atlantic City, was drowned while attempting to secure a bath, who was rescued.

George J. Sicard, a former law partner of ex-President Grover Cleveland, is dead at Buffalo, aged 66 years.

Four children were drowned in the Brazos River, near Acton, Tex., by the capsizing of a boat.

Comptroller Edward M. Groat, whose gubernatorial aspirations have been nurtured by Senator Patrick H. McCarren, of Brooklyn, came out in the open as a candidate for the nomination for governor of New York.

Mr. Robert B. Armstrong, assistant secretary of the Treasury, addressed the second annual Convention of the American Institute of Bank Clerks, in session on the World's Fair grounds.

Philip Weinsheimer president of the Building Trades Alliance of New York under indictment on the charge of extortion, pleaded not guilty. He was released on \$2,000 bonds.

Legal proceedings are pending against 28 prominent citizens of Cripple Creek, Col., who are accused of conspiracy and assault to kill in the deportation cases.

The United Garmentworkers, at their session in Buffalo, took up the case of Henry White, former general secretary, against whom charges have been preferred by the American Institute of Bank Clerks.

At Youngstown, O., pickets are guarding the upper mill of the American Steel Hoop Company. Strike-breakers are, however, being admitted.

Rev. Henry Baas, of London, England, died suddenly at the Inside Inn, Wash. D. C.

The National Association of Master Bakers is holding its annual convention in St. Louis.

The Connecticut tobacco crop is said to be the largest for many years.

Thirty-five people were injured in a trolley wreck near Rochester. A train of two cars collided with a single car on the Rochester and Eastern Railway.

A petition has been mailed to President Roosevelt asking him to intervene in behalf of the men deported from the Cripple Creek district.

Salvatore Bisato was shot to death by Carlo Rossari in New York because he disclosed to the police the secrets of the Black Hand society.

Another fruitless effort has been made by the Western railroads to bring about an adjustment of the sugar-rate complications.

Two strikes affecting 9,000 men were declared against the plant of the Republic Iron and Steel Company, Pittsburgh.

The cotton firm of H. F. Page & Co., of New Orleans, failed and caused much excitement on the exchange.

Four masked men held up the paymaster of the O'Rourke Construction Company near Paterson, N. J.

Carlisle McKinley, associate editor of the Christian News and Courier, died after a long illness.

Harry E. Poyler, assistant city solicitor of Cleveland, O., was stabbed by his father-in-law.

The National Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists is in session at Northville, Kan.

The Texas prohibitionists nominated W. D. Jackson for governor and a full state ticket.

John Redmond, the Irish leader, arrived in New York on the White Star liner Teutonic.

The German-American Bank of Sidney, O., has been placed in the hands of a receiver.

The westward movement of currency to the West for crop-moving purposes has begun.

Fire destroyed five four-story tenement houses in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Plans have been completed for an expedition to Egypt by several Princeton professors.

Mr. Florence Maybrick left New York for Ellenville, in the Catskill Mountains.

Fire in the glue factory of Armour & Co., Chicago, caused a loss of \$100,000.

Foreign.

Unless the French dock laborers and mariners' demand for an eight-hour day is granted by Monday the mariners at all French ports will be ordered to strike.

The czar has presented a costly jeweled pectoral cross to Father John of Cronstadt, upon whose advice he and the czar went to Saroff to canonize St. Serafim.

The statue of Frederick the Great to be presented to the United States by Emperor William has been sent to Hamburg, to be shipped to Washington.

For the first time in nine years Mme. Galski, the famous singer, took part in the Wagnerian festival at Munich.

OIL GUSHERS AFIRE

The Flames Originated From a Friction Spark.

LOSS ESTIMATED AT OVER \$200,000.

The Conflagration Spread to Other Wells—Four Tanks, Each With a Capacity of 1,200 Barrels, Caught and Burned—Large Lakes of Oil Masses of Flames—Employees Joined in Fighting the Fire.

Crowley, La. (Special).—The biggest fire in the history of the mammoth oil fields is raging. Morse Well No. 8 came in, a boiling gusher, pouring out a volume of oil at the rate of 10,000 barrels a day.

The fire caught from a spark emanating from friction, and rapidly spread to other wells. Four oil tanks, each of which had a capacity of 1,200 barrels, caught and burned. Two were full of oil and two were empty. Four standard rigs, the property of the Morse Company, were also destroyed.

During the afternoon the fire was confined to the Morse wells Nos. 7 and 8. Large lakes of oil, which had formed when the Morse No. 8 came in caught fire.

A meeting of the employees of the other wells was held, the wells were shut down and the forces joined in fighting the flames.

The lines of steam pipes have been laid to the burning wells, and more are being prepared. The oil being burned is worth \$400 an hour, and the loss will amount to \$200,000. The fire cannot spread farther.

Petroleum at Antwerp on Fire.

Antwerp, Belgium. (By Cable).—The oil tanks at Hoboken, three miles from here, containing about 26,500,000 gallons of petroleum, are ablaze, together with all the sheds, wagons and paraphernalia.

The fire started at the Russian Company's tanks, through the ignition of escaping gas, and the flames quickly spread to the Standard Oil Company's tanks. A high wind fanned the fire. Troops assisted the firemen to localize the conflagration.

The firemen said nothing could be done except to allow the fire to burn itself out. The estimates of the losses run into millions of francs.

The Standard Oil's nine tanks contained 60,000 barrels of oil. They are a total loss, but were insured for \$240,000.

One Russian oil firm lost 120,000 barrels, insured for \$180,000.

Although a strong gale was blowing toward the Scheldt, the quays were not endangered. The lying near Hoboken left their wharves.

It is reported that four workmen are missing, and it is feared that they lost their lives in the flames.

Seven Reported Lost.

London. (By Cable).—A dispatch to a news agency from Antwerp says that seven workmen perished in the oil fire at Hoboken, and that only two out of forty tanks escaped. The loss is estimated at \$1,250,000.

TORNADO STRIKES PICNIC PARTY.

Four Persons Killed and Several Hurt—Property Damaged.

Jamestown, N. Y. (Special).—Four persons lost their lives and several others were injured in a tornado that swept through Chautauque county.

Parkhurst's Grove, where the Stockton town picnic was being held, was directly in the path of the storm. Five thousand people were on the grounds when a terrible windstorm swept through the place.

The storm came up suddenly. Trees in the grove were struck by lightning, many of them were blown down and the rain fell in torrents. The people who took refuge under the trees, at the first sight of the storm, were caught by the falling branches and injured. Many horses were killed in the same manner. Some of the animals stampeded, trampling upon the injured people lying upon the ground.

Some of the buildings in the vicinity were blown down and others were unroofed. Hundreds of forest and fruit trees were torn up, and corn and oat fields were laid waste, entailing a loss of thousands of dollars.

At the assembly grounds, at Chautauque, the tent was uprooted, and a portion of the fence around the grounds was demolished. The men's clubhouse was badly damaged.

MINDANAO BANDITS.

Several Towns Looted and a Whole Family Kidnapped.

Mamila. (Special).—A detail of native constabulary has been ambushed on the Island of Leyte by a superior force of bandits. Capt. H. Barrett, of the constabulary, was killed in the fighting.

There has been trouble in the Province of Misamis, Island of Mindanao, where bandits have looted several towns. The native authorities were defied and Pablo Mercado and his family, including his wife and children, were accused of being too friendly with the Americans. Three Chinese stores were burned. Four natives were murdered, three of them being buried alive. Colonel Harbord, of the constabulary, is now on the trail of the bandits.

Lieutenant Thornton, of the constabulary, has met death by drowning near Dagupan, Island of Luzon.

Body Scattered for Miles.

Lancaster, Pa. (Special).—Mark J. Moran was killed on the Pennsylvania railroad. Parts of his body were scattered from Gap to Christiansa, a distance of nearly three miles. From papers found in his coat it was learned that he was a member of the Eagles lodge at Lancaster, and that he was a member of the miners' union at Cripple Creek, Col. It is not known whether he fell from a train or was walking on the tracks.

A Singular Tragedy.

Kings Tree, N. C. (Special).—A coroner's jury found Harry Hardy not guilty of murder of his deafmute brother, whom he struck with his fist, in order to knock him from the track to avoid a fast-approaching train on the Atlantic Coast Line. The deafmute was drunk and refused to respond to his brother's warning, but foolishly tried to make signals to the engineer to stop. Harry struck him a violent blow in the face, and the mander-in-chief of the North American and West Indian agents.

JAPAN WARNS THE POWERS.

Russia Must Disarm Her Warships at Shanghai.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Japan has addressed a note to the powers informing them that unless Russia forthwith disarms her warships in Shanghai, Japan will be forced to take whatever steps she deems necessary to protect her interests.

Mr. Takahira, the Japanese minister, called at the state department and left with Mr. Adee, the active secretary of state, the communication of the Tokyo government.

Japan Is Determined.

Mr. Takahira said: "While Japan sincerely hopes that the reported intention of Russia to disarm the Askold and Grozovoi at Shanghai will promptly be executed, my government has felt that it was advisable to inform the powers what must necessarily be its attitude in the event that the disarmament of the Russian ships is delayed. The conditions at Shanghai are peculiar because of the many international interests there, and my government is desirous of giving these interests every consideration."

"Will it be necessary to send a Japanese squadron into Shanghai and take away the Russian ships, as was done with the Ryeshitani at Chefoo?" the minister was asked.

My government has not indicated its attitude on this point," the minister replied, "but steps will be necessary if the Russian ships are not immediately disarmed. But it should be remembered that the Ryeshitani was not completely disarmed when seized by the Japanese, and under the circumstances her presence in Chefoo was exceedingly disadvantageous to Japan for military reasons."

In Conference With Adee.

When the minister called at the state department he spent some time in conference with Acting Secretary Adee, but further than to receive the communication Mr. Adee was careful not to disclose the attitude of this government, although the minister was assured that the continuation of Chinese neutrality was earnestly hoped for by the United States.

The minister told Mr. Adee that Japan had been informed by China that the Russian ships would be disarmed, but as far as the legation here knew, no official date for this action had been named.

It is understood that a similar note to that presented by Mr. Takahira was also delivered at the various foreign offices by Japan's diplomatic representatives.

The statement is definitely made here that Japan is sincerely desirous that China's neutrality shall be maintained. The Japanese government, however, feels that China fails to insist upon the immediate disarmament of the Russian ships at Shanghai; her neutrality will have been violated and in a manner so dangerous to Japan's own military interests that Japan will be forced to take such measures as will effectively remove from the stage of activity the Russian ships which have sought refuge in Shanghai.

Trouble May Be Avoided.

In state department circles the opinion is expressed that the Russian ships will soon be disarmed and both at the state and navy departments advice has been received that the incident is regarded in Shanghai as practically closed. It was suggested that the effect of Japan's note probably would be to strengthen the determination of the Chinese officials to maintain the neutrality of the Peking government, not only at Shanghai, but at other points where an attempt may be made to violate it.

Millions in Japanese Gold.

Toyko. (By Cable).—Following an inspection made by government engineers, the government has issued a proclamation making complete preparation to develop gold fields recently discovered in the Province of Iwate.

The engineers estimate that these fields will yield gold to the value of \$500,000,000, and they are now preparing to start mining operations. It is estimated that the annual yield of the mines will be \$15,000,000.

World's Fair Attendance.

St. Louis, Mo. (Special).—The attendance at the World's Fair last week was more than 125,000 in excess of any one week since the exposition opened. Saturday attendance, 152,698, was the largest for any single day since the opening day, with the exception of the Fourth of July, when 172,140 persons passed through the gates. The average daily attendance for last week was 132,245.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS.

Further legal action against Thomas E. Waggaman, treasurer of the Catholic University, against whom bankruptcy proceedings recently were instituted to prevent his making of a preferred creditor, was taken when a number of citizens of Maryland filed suit in equity asking for the appointment of a receiver for certain of his property.

A federal interstate Commerce Commission has received complaint from the Media Coal Company, with offices at Fairmont, W. Va., that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company is discriminating in handling of freight, to the coal company's disadvantage.

The Postoffice Department has devised a plan by which it is expected railroad companies will be made responsible for lost mail pouches.

The Civil Service Commission has addressed a letter to the heads of all the departments warning them against the demanding or payment of political assessments and partisan activity of officeholders.

Shipments of currency for moving crops show improved conditions as compared with last year.

Capt. William Swift will probably be assigned to the command of the battleship Maine.

The annual report of Pension Commissioner Ware was made public.

Patrick Galvan has been appointed chief assistant in the engineer's department of the Panama Canal Commission.

The Insular Bureau of the War Department is much pleased with the reports from the Philippines as to the successful change made in the currency system of the islands when the old Mexican dollars and Spanish coin were superseded by the new Philippine peso.

A chemical laboratory for the examination of imported foods will be located in Appraisers' Stores Building of the Treasury Department of Agriculture.

RELIEF TO THE OPPRESSED

The Czar of Russia Grant's Some Concessions.

DUE TO SON'S CHRISTENING.

Lengthy Manifesto Issued in St. Petersburg—Entire Abolition of Corporal Punishment and Its Curtailment in Army and Navy—Fines Imposed Upon the Jewish Communes Are Remitted.

St. Petersburg. (By Cable).—The Czar issued a lengthy manifesto on the occasion of the christening of the heir to the throne. It is introduced by the following message to the people:

"By the will of God, we the Czar and autocrat of all the Russians, Czar of Poland, Grand Duke of Finland, etc., announce to our faithful subjects that on this, the day of the christening of our son and heir, the Grand Duke Alexis Nicolaevitch, following the promptings of our heart, we turn to our great family of the empire, and with the deepest and most heartfelt pleasure, even amidst these times of national struggle and difficulty, bestow upon them some gifts of our royal favor for their greater enjoyment in their daily lives."

"The various benefits bestowed on many classes are then enumerated at length. One of the most important provisions relates to the entire abolition of corporal punishment among the rural classes and its curtailment in the army and navy."

"The manifesto remits land purchase arrears, which affects one of the largest classes of the population throughout the empire, and its benefits are also extended to estates in Poland."

"The general provisions of the manifesto include an all-around reduction in sentences for common law offenses, a general amnesty for political offenses, except in cases of murder and the education of the children of officers and soldiers who have been victims of the war, as well as assistance for such families as need it, whose bread-winners have fallen in the service of their country."

"The sum of \$1,500,000 is set apart from the state fund for the benefit of landless people of Finland."

"All fines imposed on villages, towns or communes of Finland for failure to elect representatives or to serve on the military recruiting boards during the years 1902 and 1903 are remitted. Permission is granted to Finns who have left their country without the sanction of the authorities to return within a year. Those returning, who are liable to military service, must immediately present themselves for service, but Finns who have evaded military service will not be punished provided they present themselves within three months of the birth of the heir to the throne."

Certain classes of offenses, excluding theft, violent robbery and embezzlement, are pardoned, and the governor general of Finland is directed to consider what steps can be taken to alleviate the lot of those forbidden to reside in Finland."

Fines imposed upon the Jewish communes in the cases of Jews avoiding military service are remitted. Persons arrested for offenses punishable by fines, imprisonment or confinement in a fortress without loss of civil rights and who were still awaiting sentence at the time of the birth of the heir to the throne are pardoned.

Political prisoners who have distinguished themselves by good conduct may on the interposition of the minister of justice obtain the restitution of their civil rights at the expiration of their sentences."

"Persons guilty of political offenses committed within the last 15 years who have remained unidentified will no longer be subject to prosecution, while political offenders who are now fugitives abroad may apply to the minister of the interior for permission to return to Russia."

The manifesto concludes: "Given at Peterhof on this, the eleventh day of August, 1904. (Signed) 'Nicholas.'"

The date of the manifesto—August 11—is the old, or Julian, style, coinciding with August 24 of the new, or Gregorian, style.

PEACE CONFERENCE.

President May Be Authorized to Summon Such a Body.

St. Louis, Mo. (Special).—One of the proposals that will be made by the American group before the interparliamentary conference, which will be held in the Hall of Congress at the World's Fair next month, is that the President of the United States be authorized to call a general peace conference sometime next year. It is not the intention of the American group to have the conference along the lines of that at The Hague. The wish to establish a system of arbitration among the countries of the world which will bring about a reduction of the armaments of the powers.

Another proposition, that during times of war private property on the high seas which is not contraband be declared exempt from seizure, will be made at the St. Louis conference.

Senator Campbell Renominated.

Berkeley Springs, W. Va. (Special).—The democratic senatorial convention for the Fifteenth senatorial district met at the courthouse in this place and nominated Senator William Campbell of Charles Town, to succeed himself in the State Senate.

Stabbed by Father-in-Law.

Cleveland, O. (Special).—Harry F. Payer assistant city solicitor, was stabbed in the neck by Thomas Graves, his father-in-law, in the Arcade building, following a quarrel between the two men. Payer's wound is said to be serious. Graves was promptly placed under arrest. It seems that Payer had acted as attorney for Mrs. Graves in a suit for divorce. The quarrel is said to have been relative to the divorce proceedings.

Beaten by Wife's Friends.

Richmond, Va. (Special).—At midnight on June 16 J. D. Reece, who lived in Lunenburg county, was taken from his bed by masked men, beaten and ordered to leave the county. He did so, but returned three days later and died, presumably from his injuries. Now five white men and a negro have been arrested and are being held for the grand jury. It is alleged that the affair was due to a dispute between Reece and his wife, and that the whipping was administered by friends of the woman.

REVIEW

Drouth Prevailing in West.

By Rainier.

Washington, D. C. (Spec).—The weekly crop report just issued by the Weather Bureau is as follows: "The drought prevailing in portions of the central valleys in the previous week has been relieved by abundant rains, but drought continues in Central and Western Tennessee, and is beginning to be felt in the Middle Gulf States and over a considerable part of Texas. The Central and Northern Rocky Mountain districts and the North Pacific Coast regions are also suffering from drought, the prevalence of forest fires being reported from Idaho and Montana. The latter part of the week was too cool in the lake region and unreasonably low temperatures occurred in the Northern Rocky Mountain districts and upper Missouri Valley on the 21st and 22nd, but elsewhere east of the Rocky Mountains the temperature has been favorable."

"The principal corn states have experienced a week of favorable conditions, abundant rains having fallen throughout the corn belt, except in portions of Ohio and Nebraska. Corn has made satisfactory progress in the states of the Missouri Valley, and is generally improved in the Central Mississippi and Ohio Valleys, although a considerable part of the crop in the Ohio Valley has been injured beyond recovery. In the Middle Atlantic States and lower Missouri Valley early corn is now practically mature."

"Spring wheat harvest is generally finished, except in North Dakota and Northern Minnesota where rust is continuing to cause great injury. Rains in North Dakota, in the latter part of the week interrupted harvesting. Harvesting is also nearly finished on the North Pacific Coast."

"The general outlook for cotton is somewhat improved as compared with the conditions reported the previous week, although shedding continues in every state, and rust is prevalent in the Central and Eastern districts. The unfavorable effects of shedding and rust, however, are less pronounced, than were reported last week."

"In Texas, the weather conditions were favorable, but the crop continued to deteriorate as a result of rust and shedding, and damage by insects. In this state injury by boll worms is decreasing, but the boll weevils continue to do considerable damage in the Central, Eastern and coast divisions, having caused entire absence of bloom in many localities. Picking is quite general in Texas, except in the Northern portion, and is in progress in the Southern portions of the Central and Eastern districts of the cotton belt."

"In the middle Atlantic States and New England tobacco has made favorable progress, cutting being well advanced. While the crop has been shortened by drought in the Ohio Valley, late rains have improved the outlook in that section. Tobacco is making good growth in Wisconsin, but is short in general progress, and is well advanced in some places."

"The reports respecting potatoes indicate that a good crop is generally promised in the more important potato producing states."

"Throughout the Central valleys and Middle Atlantic States the soil is in fine conditions for fall plowing, which work is in general progress, and is well advanced in some places."

MILLIONS PAID FOR PENSIONS.

Annual Report of Commissioner Ware Just Made Public.

Washington. (Special).—The annual report of Pension Commissioner Ware covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904, was made public by the acting secretary of the interior. The report shows that during the year the cost of maintaining the pension system of the government had been \$144,712,787. The appropriation for this purpose was \$146,410,266, leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,707,508. During the year 47,374 persons were added to the pension rolls—326 by special act of Congress and the balance by the pension bureau.