

# CRUSHES HOPE OF LIBERTY

## Czar Declares Agitation for a Constitution Useless.

### Likely Fan Flames of Revolution.

Neither will he favor convocation of a National Assembly—Considers action of the President of Zemstvo Presumptuous and Tactless—Determined Not to Yield the Principle of Autocracy.

St. Petersburg (By Cable).—Emperor Nicholas formally notified the country that the agitation for a constitution and the convocation of a national assembly is useless. Such is the construction placed upon the indorsement written in his own hand on the resolutions telegraphed by the Chernigov Zemstvo December 20 begging him in most loyal manner to convolve legally elected members of the zemstvos to present a program of reforms for his consideration. The Emperor wrote on the dispatch: "I consider the action of the president to be presumptuous and tactless. Questions of state administration are of no concern to the zemstvos, whose functions and rights are clearly defined by the law."

The indorsement is printed in the Official Messenger, dashing the hopes of the extremists. It did not come as a great surprise. The Emperor from the beginning, although he has shown himself favorably disposed toward a more liberal regime and in entire sympathy with some of the zemstvo demands, had resolved not to yield the principle of autocracy.

Upon this point it is understood all his advisers, including Interior Minister Sviatopolk-Mirsky, agreed, but the character of the agitation which followed the meeting of the presidents of the zemstvos and the municipal councilors, coupled with the recent demonstrations at St. Petersburg, Moscow and elsewhere, probably served to strengthen the hands of the reactionists and convinced the Emperor of the imperative necessity for a plain-spoken announcement of the sovereign's position on the main point.

The reactionists undoubtedly regard the Emperor's action as a distinct victory for them. Nevertheless, the conferences over the reform measures which will be taken are still in progress at Tsarskoe Selo and will shortly be published. What the immediate effect of the imperial rebuke administered to the Chernigov zemstvo will be is problematical. It may also serve to fan the flames and be used by the revolutionary organizations to increase the agitation, and in turn compel its repression.

A correspondent was impressed by a person competent to speak that too much importance should not be attached to the Emperor's announcement, which is believed he wrote in a moment of ill humor because the Chernigov zemstvo telegraphed direct to him instead of through the Minister of the Interior. The informant pointed out that the official portion of the paper, arguing therefrom that the publication was secured by a person who was interested in the effect that would be produced. While any idea of a constitution or of the convocation of a national assembly has been rejected, the informant positively declared the Emperor had no intention of receding from his position to grant certain measures in the direction of liberty.

### LYNCHER SENT TO PENITENTIARY.

#### Long Terms Imposed on Whittappers Who Killed Colored Men.

Brook Haven, Miss. (Special).—In the Circuit Court here David Pospay was convicted of manslaughter for the killing of Ben Bayless, a negro. The defendant claimed that the killing was justifiable, as he declared he found the negro stealing corn. The jury was out less than an hour. After the usual motion for a new trial which was overruled, Judge Wilkinson sentenced Pospay to 25 years in the penitentiary.

Judge Wilkinson passed sentence on other men as follows: Oscar Franklin, life imprisonment for the murder of Eli Hilson, a negro; Will Franklin, D. W. Smith, Elias Smith, R. L. Smith and Albert Gill, each 30 years in the penitentiary for manslaughter for the killing of Henry List, a negro. These two killings were the whitcap cases which aroused the indignation of the citizens and caused the formation of the Law and Order League.

San Poney, pleaded guilty to two charges of whitcapping, and was convicted of highway robbery, and sentenced to 10 years on each of the robbery charge and five years on each of the whitcapping charges, a total of 20 years.

### Jury Under a Cloud.

New York (Special).—On the charge that they had decided a criminal case by the toss of a coin 12 jurymen were summoned to Judge Higgins in Jersey City. The charge is that in discussing the case of a man named Eckoff, against whom a serious complaint had been made by a young woman, the jurymen tossed a coin. If it fell "heads up" Eckoff was to be convicted. It did fall "heads up" and a verdict of guilty was returned. Eckoff's attorney asked for a reversal of the verdict and the story of the coin-tossing was told in court.

### Insects Destroying Hickory.

Chicago (Special).—Increasing scarcity of hickory wood in the United States alarmed the manufacturers of wooden vehicles to such an extent that at a meeting here of over 200 representatives of these manufacturers the advisability of taking the matter before Congress was discussed. Hickory trees have recently been attacked by an insect, which, it is said, is fast destroying that class of timber.

### Hay Memorial Chapel Burned.

St. Louis, Mo. (Special).—The Hay Memorial Chapel, given to Westminster School by Secretary Hay, was burned. The loss, estimated at \$12,500, is only partly covered by insurance. The fire is supposed to have started from a defect in the furnace. The chapel was built and dedicated in 1902.

### Ex-Senator Shop Burned.

Boise, Idaho (Special).—George T. Shoup, former United States senator from Idaho, died at his home here. Mr. Shoup was in his sixty-eighth year.

# NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

## Domestic.

Judge Grosscup, in the United States Court in Chicago, refused to order a sale of the street car companies controlled by the Union Traction Company and ordered that company to pay the money required under their agreement. The county grand jury, in Cleveland, O., returned indictments against both Dr. and Mrs. Chadwick on the charge of forging the name of Andrew Carnegie to a note for \$5,000,000 in May, 1902.

Countess Maria Francesca O'Reilly de Camara has sued General Brooke in New York for \$250,000 because he abolished the office of high sheriff of Havana.

Mrs. Thomas E. Barnes was blown to pieces in Detroit by the explosion, in some way, of a cartridge which had been sent to her as a souvenir.

A hearing was begun by a special board, representing the local board of steamboat inspectors, into the wreck of the Glen Island.

The jury in the Court of General Sessions in New York acquitted Clara Adler of the charge of murdering her babe, Frank Schlieman and Elizabeth Rubin, involved in a counterfeiting charge, were married in the Bronx.

The body of Bertha Dolbeer was sustained by a grand jury in the Superior Court in San Francisco.

One man was killed and four injured in a wreck on the Atlantic Coast Line near Montgomery, Ala.

District Attorney Jerome says the New York police force is more corrupt than it ever was.

In Chicago Dr. L. C. H. E. Ziegler sued the estate of Mrs. Harriet E. McKeever for \$126,000.

Four foreigners were smothered in a mine at Garfield.

A 100-ton floating derrick broke adrift in the navy yard basin, in New York harbor, and crashed into the stern of the battleship Texas, smashing several plates.

Mrs. Mary Britt, aged 27, married eight months ago, committed suicide at her home, in Germantown, Philadelphia, by shooting herself in the abdomen.

Fire in the Exchange Building, in East Liverpool, O., owned by W. L. and C. C. Thompson, in the heart of the city, caused an estimated loss of \$70,000.

John R. McFee, a Chicago lawyer, was sent to the penitentiary for forgery. The money he secured in this way he spent in betting on races.

Mrs. John Johnson, the wife of a laborer, and their two sons lost their lives in a fire which destroyed their home in Bangor, Me.

Calvin S. Porter, a wholesale confectioner of Buffalo, N. Y., committed suicide by stabbing himself five times with a knife.

Henry Berkhart committed suicide in Chicago while a constable was waiting to arrest him on a charge of embezzlement.

Fire destroyed business property to the value of \$225,000 in Columbus, O. Five firemen were injured by an explosion.

Charles Summerfield fell 125 feet from the central span of the Williamsburg Bridge into the East River.

The scarcity of water is causing serious embarrassment to industries in the neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

## Foreign.

While sensational English newspapers charge the Russian government with seeking by underhand methods to secure false statements from English fishermen in favor of the Russian contention concerning the North Sea affair, Russian officials deny that any agent has been endeavoring to secure any statements.

# MINE FIRED UNDER FORT

## Japanese Secure More Positions at Port Arthur.

### FOR AN ATTACK UPON THE CITY.

General Nogi's Forces Occupy the North Fort of East Kekewan Mountain and Push Between Liaoi Mountain and the Russian Headquarters—Admiral Togo's Report.

The Japanese are closing in for what promises to be the final attack upon the fortress at Port Arthur. Sunday they fired a big mine under the north fort of East Kekewan Mountain, and soon afterward occupied it with a large force, after a terrific infantry charge.

The attack upon Sunshu Mountain Fort continues, and General Nogi's forces have seized a position near 203-Meter Hill, with a view to assaulting the new town of Port Arthur.

All the Russian warships at Port Arthur have been entirely disabled or sunk, excepting six destroyers. According to Admiral Togo's report, one Japanese torpedo boat was lost and another disabled in the recent attacks upon the Russian ships. Thirteen Japanese were killed and 17 wounded.

Commander Yezzo, of the flotilla of Japanese torpedo boats, sacrificed his life to torpedo the battleship Sevastopol. Through a snowstorm at night he fired two torpedoes, when a shell from the Sevastopol cut him in two.

The Russian and Japanese armies have assumed positions below Mukden similar to those they held before the battle of Liaoyang, and it is believed when winter breaks the next great battle will be fought under conditions like those at Liaoyang.

### Blow Up Portion of Port Arthur.

Tokio (By Cable).—The Japanese fired an immense mine under portions of the north fort of East Kekewan Mountain at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The infantry immediately afterward charged and occupied the fort with a heavy force.

It is reported that the Japanese have seized a strong position about a thousand yards southeast of 203-Meter Hill, preparatory to assaulting the new town and pushing between Liaoi Mountain and the Russian headquarters at Port Arthur.

The fighting against Sunshu Mountain continues.

The following report of the capture was telegraphed from General Nogi's headquarters today:

"At 2:15 o'clock on the afternoon of December 18 part of our army blew up the parapets of the north fort of East Kekewan Mountain and then charged. A fierce battle with hand grenades ensued.

"Owing to the stubborn resistance of the enemy with his machine guns our operations were temporarily suspended.

"Subsequently at 7 o'clock in the evening General Semeianin, commanding the supports, advanced into the casemates, and, encouraging his men, threw his supports into the fighting line in a last brave charge.

"At 11:50 at night we completely occupied the fort and immediately engaged in the construction of defensive works. Our occupation became firmly assured today.

"Before retiring the enemy exploded four mines in the neighborhood of the neck of the fort. We captured five machine-guns, as well as plenty of ammunition. The enemy left 40 or 50 dead. Our casualties have not been investigated, but they are not heavy."

### LAWYER SENT TO PRISON.

#### Squandered Money Secured by Forgery in Betting on Races.

Chicago (Special).—John R. McFee, a lawyer, once in good standing in Chicago, was sentenced to the penitentiary on one of several charges of forgery. McFee is alleged to have secured nearly \$40,000 by forgery. Much of the money was squandered in extravagant indulgence and on the race-tracks. Even while his trial was in progress the grand jury was hearing further charges of forgery against McFee.

The heaviest loser of McFee's alleged forgeries was Mrs. Anderson, victimized to the extent of \$13,500. The others were chiefly Chicago banks. McFee was captured in Louisville two weeks ago.

An odd incident in connection with the case in court was the appearance of William S. Young, an aged lawyer, in behalf of McFee. Young was public guardian in Cook county during Governor Altgeld's administration, and as such was convicted of embezzling the funds of his wards. McFee at that time was Young's lawyer, as Young today was lawyer for McFee.

### Crew of Seven Believed Lost.

Nantucket, Mass. (Special).—The crew of the schooner Richard S. Leaming, driven ashore on Long Shoal last Sunday, is believed to have been lost. Both of the schooner's boats were found aboard her. It is supposed that the crew took to the rigging, and when it was carried away they fell with it into the ocean.

### France May Gain Cody.

Denver, Col. (Special).—Col. W. F. Cody ("Buffalo Bill") will sail for France in February with his Wild West Show. If he can dispose of his suit for divorce and arrange his other interests in Wyoming before that time he will not return. Colonel Cody is not as rugged as he was and has lived out much of his span, hence he is tired of strenuous things and is disposed to spend the remainder of his life quietly amid congenial surroundings.

### A New Comet Discovered.

Cambridge, Mass. (Special).—A cablegram was received at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor Kreutz, an astronomer at the Kiel Observatory, stating that a faint comet was discovered on Saturday night by Professor Giacobini at the Nice Observatory. The new comet was observed in right ascension 16 hours 14 minutes 40 seconds and declination plus 47 degrees 28 minutes. Its daily motion, the cablegram stated, is worth following.

# LIVE WASHINGTON AFFAIRS.

## Congress Takes a Holiday.

Congress adjourned Wednesday until January 4, 1903. The session of the Senate lasted only four minutes. The attendance was small and no business except the receipt of a number of nominations from the President was attempted.

The House was in session a little more than half an hour. The time was occupied chiefly in discussion of the Senate's committee report on the inauguration of the new President, and certain public buildings and reservations, including the use of the Pension Building for the inaugural ball.

Mr. Morrill explained that the resolution was exactly as it came from that body, and said that after consultation with the members of the District of Columbia Committee, and in view of the very evident desire of the House that the inaugural ball shall be held in the Pension Building, it had been decided to accept the Senate's resolution in its entirety.

Mr. Williams (Miss) offered an amendment requiring the inaugural committee to give bond to insure the repairs of all damage done to public buildings and hotels.

Mr. Underwood (Ala.) opposed consideration of the resolution at this time, when, he said, a quorum of the House was not present, and called attention to the promise made four years ago that the people of Washington would construct a place for holding inaugural balls.

Asked by Mr. Mann (Ill.) why the committee had "switched" from the Congressional Library, then to the Capitol and now to the Pension Building, Mr. Morrill repeated his statement that it was because of the evident disposition of the House to hold the inaugural ball in the Pension Building.

The resolution was criticized by Mr. Marshall because he said it permitted the charging of excessive prices for cabs and carriages, and he thought there should be a quorum present to consider that and other features of the bill. He objected to a motion for unanimous consent to take the resolution up, and it accordingly goes over until after the holidays.

The House then, at 12:30 o'clock, adjourned until January 4, 1903.

### A \$100,000,000 Deficit.

According to the latest expert estimate of Government expenditure on a reasonably economic basis and of receipts from the present revenue laws the deficit for the fiscal year 1903 is likely to amount to \$100,000,000.

The Government has been running behind on a monthly average for this fiscal year of \$5,185,450.33, and even if the expenses are not augmented by the passage of the necessary river and harbor bill and a public buildings bill, and if the expenses of the navy are not increased, the continuance of this rate of deficiency would result in a deficit amounting to \$62,225,000.00, or \$20,000,000 greater than the deficit of the year 1902. But the Government is committed to river and harbor improvements and the erection of necessary public buildings, as well as to an increase in the navy. If reasonable allowance of \$25,000,000 for river and harbor improvements, \$10,000,000 for public buildings, and \$25,000,000 increase in the navy bill be made, it will bring the deficit up to the \$100,000,000 mark.

On the most economical basis of appropriations this small provision for river and harbor and public buildings and very small increase in the naval bill can hardly be avoided. Assuming that the Administration will "stand pat" on its military and naval policy, there can be no cut in the provision of either of these establishments, and besides the needs of the postal system are growing.

During five months of this fiscal year the expenditures have exceeded the revenues by about \$26,000,000. This is \$24,000,000 worse than it was last year. This is partly due to the fact that all the money received from public lands is now diverted from the ordinary miscellaneous revenues of the Government, being devoted under a new provision of law to the irrigation fund. But in addition to this is the fact that the receipts from customs during the five months of this fiscal year are \$1,704,913.15 less than for the corresponding period of the year before, indicating that the revenue from customs is on the down grade.

### Rural Mail Service.

Representative Henry, of Connecticut, introduced a bill "to secure the full use of the United States rural mail equipment and to place the rural service on a paying basis."

The bill provides "that within the limits of the respective rural routes served by post wagons parcels of mail matter shall be collected and delivered, house to house, by the carriers in weight up to 200 pounds and in dimensions up to a barrel—no parcel, however, to be more than six feet in length."

The bill specifies that the rates on parcels shall be 1 cent for eight ounces or less, 2 cents for a pound, 5 cents for 1 lb. 11 ounces, 10 cents for a half bushel, 30 pounds; 15 cents for a bushel, 20 cents for a half barrel and 25 cents for a barrel.

### Es-Gov. J. P. Eagle Dead.

Little Rock, Ark. (Special).—Ex-Gov. James P. Eagle died here after an illness of three weeks. Governor Eagle had been president of the Arkansas State Baptist Convention for 21 years. At the last meeting he declined re-election. He was also president of the Southern Baptist Convention. After retiring from office he devoted his time to his plantation and to church work.

### San Juan's Mayor Insects.

New York (Special).—Manuel Egozcue, Mayor of San Juan, Porto Rico, who just arrived here, has come for medical treatment. His mind gave way after his re-election a month ago, following his removal for alleged malfeasance in office. After Mayor Egozcue was removed from office a year ago on charges of destroying the city's water receipts to cover up alleged extensive embezzlements he was acquitted by a jury after a three days' trial.

### To Cut Tobacco Acquire.

Richmond, Va. (Special).—It is announced that the tobacco acreage in Virginia and North Carolina will be curtailed by half, if need be, to secure good prices and to aid in the fight against the American Tobacco Company. There was used at South Boston of the executive committee of the Interstate Tobacco Growers' Protective Association of Virginia and North Carolina, which has 10,000 or 12,000 members. The farmers were called on to reduce their acreage in favor of home supplies.

# WALL CRUSHES HOTEL

## Eight Persons Killed and Several Injured.

### INNMATES HAD NO INTIMATION.

One Man Had a Premonition of Danger and Left the Hotel—A Woman Found Unharmed in Her Bed, With Which She Had Been Carried From the Second Floor to the Basement.

Minneapolis, Minn. (Special).—The side wall of the O. H. Peck Building, on South Fifth street, which was left standing by the great fire of last Tuesday night, toppled over in a high gale on the Crocker Hotel, a three-story structure adjoining. The tons of brick and mortar crashed completely down through the flimsily constructed building, carrying floors and all into a mass of debris in the basement. There was no warning of the disaster and the 24 persons who were sleeping in the various apartments were caught in the crushed structure. Eight of them were killed.

Some of those injured were in the Belmont Hotel, adjoining the Crocker, and were hurt by the debris that was forced through the wall separating the two buildings.

The persons in the Crocker Hotel who escaped without injury were Mrs. W. J. Crocker, wife of the proprietor, Hannah Crocker, her 15-year-old daughter; Will Crocker, her 8-year-old son; Baby Williams, 4 months old, her granddaughter; and Mrs. May Ritchie.

A passerby who heard the crash promptly turned in a fire alarm, and the department arrived in time to check an incipient blaze in the wreck. The fire men and policemen at once turned their attention to rescuing those still alive and recovering the dead.

This work was carried on under great difficulty, because of the darkness and a fear that more of the wall might fall. Mrs. Anna McNeives had a remarkable escape. She was in bed on the second floor when the crash came. The firemen took her out of her bed in the basement. The debris had arched over her in such a way as to preserve her entirely from injury. W. J. Crocker, the proprietor, was found pinned beneath a radiator, and was taken out in a fainting condition. He was nervous and Mrs. Carrie Boyce, who was on the second floor, was one of the first ones taken out, and was little injured. Jennie Murphy was on the third floor, directly under the wall that fell, but escaped with slight injuries.

Responsibility for the accident will be the subject of thorough investigation. J. G. Houghton, city building inspector, had made an inspection of the standing walls the day before, but had given no orders concerning them. He had earlier ordered the demolition of the other parts of walls that seemed likely to fall.

The total loss is \$16,000; fully insured.

U. L. Smith's premonition of trouble saved his life. He roomed in the Crocker building. He was nervous and could not sleep. Twice he arose, dressed and went outside to see what the wind was doing. The second time he told a policeman he thought the wall unsafe. The officer laughed at the idea, but his laughter had not ceased before the wall fell.

### CAPTURED ON BRITISH SHIPS.

#### Russians Carried Valuable Charts and Documents.

Tokio (By Cable).—The British steamer King Arthur was captured while attempting to leave Port Arthur by the Japanese guardship Asagiri. It is understood that the King Arthur took supplies to Port Arthur. She had on board Russian naval officers, who were attempting to join the Russian second Pacific squadron. The King Arthur was taken to Sasebo for trial.

The Japanese protected cruiser Tanshin seized the British steamer Nigretia, belonging to Allan & Co., Leith, Scotland, bound for Vladivostok, off Ulsan, Korea, yesterday. An examination of the Nigretia's cargo showed she had a large quantity of contraband of war on board. She was sent to Sasebo for trial before the prize court.

It is reported that the Nigretia had on board officers and men of the Russian torpedo-boat destroyers who had escaped from internment at Shanghai and were attempting to regain the Russian lines.

Shanghai (By Cable).—There appears to be no doubt that the commander of the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Crozer, who has been interned here since his vessel arrived after the battle between the Russian and Japanese fleets off Port Arthur, on August 10, took passage on the steamer Nigretia, bound for Vladivostok. The commander carried valuable charts and documents.

# THE KEYSTONE STATE

## Latest News of Pennsylvania Told in Short Order.

A jury in court at Media awarded \$10,000 damages to Edward N. Delahunt and Margaret L. Delahunt, aged 9 and 12 years, respectively, in a suit against the United Telephone and Telegraph Company. Thomas Delahunt, the father of the children, was killed by a shock of electricity received through one of the telephones of the company on April 9, 1902, at his greenhouse in Chester. The telephone in question, with hundreds of others, had been out of order by reason of the big sleet storm of February 22, 1902, and on the evening in question the bell rang and Mr. Delahunt took down the receiver and received a shock which caused his death. The telephone wire had become crossed with an electric light wire. A previous jury gave the children \$15,000, but the Court granted a new trial. The case was tried by Judge Robert Ralston, of Philadelphia.

Former State Senator William Henry Sutton produced testimony before a jury of view, which will assess damages due from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the taking of one and three-fifths acres of land from the rear of Mr. Sutton's homestead at Haverford Station, Lower Merion Township. The land was taken for the purpose of laying an additional track. Several witnesses testified that Mr. Sutton was damaged to the extent of \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Following the example set by Governor Pennypacker, the Board of Pardons has taken to filing reasons why it refuses to recommend executive clemency. Under the Constitution the Board of Pardons must file reasons for recommending a pardon, but there is nothing to counsel the filing of reasons for refusing clemency. The board filed reasons, however, for refusing a recommendation of a commutation of the death sentences of Mrs. Kate Edwards and Samuel Greason, of Berks County. The statement declares that all the evidence in the trial showed conclusively that the murder of the woman's husband was premeditated. Higher courts have passed on the verdict and sustained it, and all the testimony confirms that both Mrs. Edwards and Greason are guilty.

Judges Weiss and Kunkel heard argument in the Dauphin County Court in the quo warranto proceedings against the Monongahela Bridge Company to show by what authority it exercises the privileges of a corporation. This case involves the right of the city of Pittsburgh to collect toll from the Pittsburgh Railway Company for crossing the Smithfield Street Bridge in that city and has been pending for four years. The court reserved its decision.

A conference between Secretary of Agriculture Critchfield, Pure Food Commissioner Warren and the agents, chemists and attorneys of the Pure Food Department will be held for the purpose of arranging a pure food bill, which will embrace the best features of laws now in existence. If possible the bill will be so drawn that manufacturers who adulterate food and drink can be reached.

Lilley & Wilson, attorneys for Charles Johnson, who was convicted at Toward for the murder of Mrs. Maggie Benjamin Johnson, his sister-in-law, and Annie Benjamin filed twelve reasons for a new trial. The jail officials found on Johnson's person a letter addressed to a sister, in which he asks her to procure ludanum, secrete it in a package of smoking tobacco and send to him. Other letters of a similar tenor have been intercepted. Johnson denied that he had any idea of such a scheme, but said he wanted to use the drug to produce sleep.

Judge A. S. Swartz, at Norristown, defined the rights of labor unions, when he sentenced Charles McVaine, of Philadelphia, to three months in jail, he having been convicted of riot in participating in an attack of union steel structural workers on non-union workmen at Abram's Station last October. McVaine had been acquitted of assault and battery on Levi Hopkins, one of the non-union men. On a motion for a new trial, counsel for the accused man contended that the fact of this acquittal should regulate the idea that he had not participated in a riot. Judge Swartz, in overruling this contention, said: "The Court held that while McVaine might not have actually assaulted any one, he might have been present to urge violence, perhaps the reverse; but his being present to merely stop workmen from working was in itself an unlawful act, and he would be guilty of riot."

The jury in the case of Charles Johnson at Toward, accused of killing his sister-in-law and niece, returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, after seventeen minutes' deliberation. The jury took two ballots, standing for first degree and two for second degree on the first ballot. The rendering of this verdict terminated one of the hardest fought criminal trials in the history of Bradford county, and resulted in the first verdict of first degree murder since December 11, 1874, when Albert Brown was convicted of the murder of Cora Greenleaf. Brown was hanged July 1, 1875.

### LABOR WORLD.

There are almost 18,000 organized workers in Norway.

There are almost 570,000 clerks and copyists in the United States.

Mills in the English cotton industry are again running on full time.

Mattressmakers' unions belong to the Upholsterers' International, the American Federation of Labor convention decided.

Building Laborers' International will meet in annual convention at Minneapolis, Minn., in January.

Advances have been made toward co-operation by the A. F. of L. and the Western Federation of Miners.

There have been strikes in Germany on a large scale among the brass workers, cabinetmakers and bricklayers.

Membership in the American Federation of Labor has increased from 40,000 in 1881 to 1,672,300 at the present time.

A resolution asking for more and better parks in the great cities was passed at the recent convention of the A. F. of L.

There is a boat in a canal north of London which is entirely "manned" by women. The last English census reported several hundred women doing the work in the canal.

The Italian Ambassador at Washington is investigating the practicability of dispersing city Italians into rural communities. He aims to co-operate with Southern industries seeking reliable white labor.

There are in this country nearly 2,000,000 children working for wages. About one-fifth of all the children in the land between the ages of 10 and 15 years are at work.

Miners in Scotland have agreed to accept the terms of the conciliation board as to wages. The board laid down a broad one, and will probably avert disputes for some time to come.

The 60,000 members of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers are taking a referendum vote on the proposition of holding a general convention of the organization in 1903.

# COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says:

Manufacturing activity steadily increases, testifying the confidence in heavy demand next year and trading branches of business report reasonable conditions. Holiday goods sell more freely than staples, but all classes of merchandise are going into larger consumption, while it is the exception when there is a complaint regarding the erratic collections. The proportion of idle machinery is growing smaller and the number of unemployed less, few labor disputes outside of Fall River.

Low water at some points still provides the most serious drawback to full operation of capacity. Iron and steel plants are gaining steadily, footwear forwardings are running close to the large figures of last year, and irregular raw material supply the only serious element of uncertainty in the textile industries. Farm staples are returning large profits to producers, and foreign trade returns for November showed a very small loss in exports, considering the abnormal hurries last year.

Far from meeting with the setback that many traders anticipated, the iron and steel industry has gone steadily forward. There is no evidence of inflation in the present situation, fuel shortage increasing the cost of production, while orders covering all the product of some furnaces for the first quarter of next year testify to the faith of consumers. This forward business is the best feature of the market.

Failures for the week numbered 275 in the United States, against 283 last year, and 25 in Canada, compared with 20 a year ago.

Bradstreet's says: Wheat, including flour, exports for the week ending December 15, aggregate 1,444,800 bushels, against 1,130,399 last week, 31,353,035 this week last year, 3,256,017 in 1902 and 4,322,812 in 1901.

Corn—Exports for the week aggregate week, 637,827 a year ago, 1,526,141 in week, 6,027 a year ago, 1,526,141 in 1902 and 3,309,411 in 1901.