

THE NEWS.

Domestic

President Clarence Mackay, of the Postal Telegraph Company, declares the corporation of which he is the head will be the last competitor to the Western Union as it is impossible for a new corporation to obtain entrances to commercial centers or obtain rights of way along the high-ways between cities.

The explosion of four boilers in electric light works there Patterson and Passaic, N. J., into darkness, injured nine persons, caused a panic in a theatre and shut down industries.

Tom Taggart, Democratic national committee man of Indiana, was accidentally shot while hunting in Mississippi. He may lose the sight of one eye.

Thomas L. Lewis, of Ohio, was re-elected president of the United Mine Workers of America, over William Green, of Ohio, his only opponent, by 23,597 majority.

Employees of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company will appeal to Governor Stuart to aid them in securing arbitration.

Fifteen men were killed and five injured by premature explosion of nitroglycerine in a tunnel near Fish-kill Landing, N. Y.

Eight of the dressmakers indicted for complicity in the "sleeper trunk" smuggling of millinery, through their counsel, entered pleas of guilty in New York.

A well-to-do barber and his wife and mother-in-law were horribly murdered in their flat, on the East side, the murderers making their escape.

Sensational charges against the State Hospital for the Insane of South Carolina were made in a report by an investigating commission.

George L. Goodwin, for a quarter of a century treasurer of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, died at Sandwich, Mass.

George Westinghouse, president of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, was granted six months' leave of absence.

Anna Fungus, considered one of the Chicago resort and her head carried away by the murderer, six persons are under arrest.

The switchmen of the various railroads entering Chicago and the companies have agreed to arbitration under the Erdman act.

A prison for the coal and metal miners was made at the convention of the United Mineworkers at Indianapolis.

Robbers captured and bound and gagged Chief of Police Brouner, of Mohawk, N. Y., and then robbed the postoffice.

Charles A. Moore retired as president of the American Protective Tariff League at a meeting in New York.

Miss Marlan E. Ferrell, of Ithaca, N. Y., is to travel to the Philippines alone to marry Colonel Lopez.

Mrs. Mary E. Mcintosh, an aged widow, of Rockford, Del., was found murdered in her home.

The University of Missouri will teach its women students how to raise babies.

Capt. A. Schroeder, commander of the Norwegian schooner Alice, together with his wife and daughter and crew of seven men, were drowned when the schooner foundered in a storm in the South sea.

J. M. Fiske & Co. and Lathrop Haskins & Co., members of the New York Stock Exchange, suspended owing to a collapse of a pool in Columbus and Hocking Coal and Iron.

The enemies of President Lewis in the convention of the United Mineworkers succeeded in suspending the salaries of 60 organizers during the session of the convention.

Benjamin Thomas, former president of the Chicago and Western Indiana Railroad, is accused of obtaining part of \$850,000 through a real estate conspiracy.

Senator Jotham P. Alda, president of the New York State Senate, demands an investigation of allegations that he accepted a bribe.

Mrs. Angelo C. Quinlan, a dressmaker, indicted in the "sleeper trunk" smuggling conspiracy, has confessed. She was fined \$500.

The lives lost in the coal mines of Pennsylvania last year numbered 1,045.

Rhode Island has repudiated a gift \$500,000 worth of North Carolina bonds.

Mayor Gaynor, of New York, is in favor of disarming the police.

Foreign

The Chinese government has approved the construction of the Chin-chow-Aquilin Railroad in Manchuria by American capitalists. The work will cost upwards of \$48,000,000.

The Unionists continue to gain steadily in the English parliamentary elections and the indications now are that the Irish will hold the whip hand in the coming session.

Prussian government officials are studying conditions of emigration to the United States at the Baltic ports.

Astronomical observers in Germany report that the new comet is visible there to the naked eye.

Japan has declined the United States proposal for neutralization of the Manchurian railways.

Colonel Roosevelt has killed five members of the rhinoceros family in the Belgian Congo.

Suits brought by the Public School Teachers' Association of Rheims, France, against the bishops who warned Catholic parents that the teaching in the public schools jeopardized the religious belief of their children came to trial.

The French Court dismissed the case growing out of the attempted seizure of lace curtains furnished for the Paris residence of Mrs. Lelshman, wife of the United States Ambassador to Italy.

Returns up to date in the English parliamentary elections show the election of 163 Unionists, 137 Liberals, 29 Laborists and 50 Nationalists.

The representative of an American company is in Jamaica trying to effect the purchase of 2,500,000 banana trees for planting in Mexico.

Japan has notified China that Japan and Russia will decline the American proposal for neutralization of the Manchurian railways.

A number of French villages are submerged by floods.

The committee of the University after completing its investigation of Dr. Cook's records, confirmed the decision that he had not proven his claim to have reached the Pole.

The German government announced that the general tariff rates will be applied to American imports unless a new agreement is reached before February 7.

THE COST OF LIVING IS AT ITS HIGHEST

Some Cold Figures as Submitted by Bradstreet's.

NECESSITIES HAVE GONE WAY UP.

Recent Upward Advances in Prices of Ninety-Six Commodities That Enter Into Daily Consumption Have Made the Wholesale Cost On January 1 Higher Than in the Flush Days Before the 1907 Panic—Figures Submitted.

New York (Special).—Bradstreet's has compiled a record of prices on 96 commodities that enter into daily and direct consumption by the people, and the result shows that the cost of living has now reached an absolutely high record, exceeding even that of March 1, 1907, when prices went soaring in an anticipation of the panic which came in the fall of that year. The figures for December 1 last were below the previous high record of 1907, but the continuous skyward movement of prices in the last month of 1909 had established a new high-water mark by January 1.

The figures compiled by Bradstreet's are known as "Index Numbers." They are based on actual wholesale quotations for each of the commodities in question, which, to make them comprehensive, are averaged over a wide area of markets. When it is said that the index number for January 1, 1910, was \$9,231.0, it means that a man buying at wholesale one pound each of the 96 commodities on that date would have to pay that sum as a total. No attempt is made to compute retail prices because of the wide fluctuations.

The new "number" surpasses the previous high record of March 1, 1907, \$9,205.95 by 25.05 cents. It also measures the advance that would have to be paid that sum as a total. No attempt is made to compute retail prices because of the wide fluctuations. The new "number" surpasses the previous high record of March 1, 1907, \$9,205.95 by 25.05 cents. It also measures the advance that would have to be paid that sum as a total. No attempt is made to compute retail prices because of the wide fluctuations.

A Comparative Table.

The new index number mirrors an increase of 19.5 per cent. over the comparative low point reached on June 1, 1908, but it is only 3.5 per cent. over January 1, 1907, also a time of ascending prices as forerunners of the panic. The index number for January 1, 1908, is 7,732.18, while the rise over the same date in 1905 is 14.2 per cent., and increase of January, 1904, is 15.5 per cent.

Here is a table showing the important swings in the index number on the 96 commodities since January 1, 1892:

High... January 1, 1892...	\$8,138.2
Low... July 1, 1896...	5,791.9
High... February 1, 1900...	8,236.7
Low... July 1, 1901...	7,418.1
High... December 1, 1902...	8,413.3
Low... July 1, 1904...	7,632.8
High... March 1, 1907...	9,129.3
Low... June 1, 1908...	7,732.2
High... January 1, 1910...	9,231.0

The 96 commodities included in the tabulation are divided into 13 general groups as follows: Breadstuffs, livestock, provisions, fruits, hides and leather, textiles, metals, coal and coke, oils, naval stores, building materials, chemicals and drugs and miscellaneous.

Necessities of Life Gone Up.

While all of these enter into the cost of living to a greater or less extent, the higher cost is more pronounced in the necessities of life, which enter more directly into personal consumption. Take these seven groups, embracing 59 commodities:

July 1, 1896...	Mar. 1, 1907...	Jan. 1, 1910...	
Breadstuffs...	\$6,024	\$6,081.7	\$6,105.0
Livestock...	0.1855	0.3315	0.4010
Provisions...	1.3619	2.1049	2.3577
Hides and leather...	0.8250	1.1975	1.2850
Textiles...	1.5799	2.7369	2.7333
Coal and coke...	0.6048	0.6080	0.6069
Oils...	0.2082	0.3428	0.3728

Total... \$4,217.7 \$6,803.3 \$7,261.7

In other words, the man who would buy a pound each of the commodities included in this list would have paid \$4,217.7 on July 1, 1896; \$6,803.3 on March 1, 1907, the former high record date and \$7,261.7 on January 1 of the present year.

Declines in general prices as between the high of 1907 and that of January 1 last have occurred in the item of fruits which is more or less of a luxury, chemicals and drugs, building materials and naval stores.

Explosion Injures Seven Miners.

Uniontown, Pa. (Special).—Seven men, all foreigners, were seriously burned and internally injured when carbonite, which they were thawing on a stove, exploded, demolishing their house. The men were miners and employees of the Pittsburg Coal and Coke Company.

Earthquake Causes Panic.

Kingston (Special).—Two sharp earthquake shocks were felt throughout the island at 2.50 o'clock. In Kingston the protracted tremor caused a panic, but no damage was done.

Port De France, Martinique (Special).—Earth shocks were felt here a few minutes before 3 o'clock. The movement was undulatory and lasted one minute. So far as is known there was no damage.

Harry Thaw A Bankrupt.

Pittsburg, Pa. (Special).—That Harry Kendall Thaw is a bankrupt and that his estate is subject to the United States bankruptcy laws is held by Judge William B. Blair, who has handed down an opinion upon the petition of Roger O'Mara, trustee of Thaw's estate, for leave to sell the bankrupt's real and personal property to his sister, Alice Copley Thaw, at a private sale.

The action on hearing was opposed by New York creditors. Trustee O'Mara may now sell to Alice Copley Thaw her brother's personal property.

No Tax On Masonic Requests.

Des Moines, Iowa (Special).—The Iowa Supreme Court here held that a Masonic Lodge is a charitable organization and is not required to pay the State a collateral inheritance tax on any bequests that might be left to it.

Robbers Capture Police Chief.

Mohawk, N. Y. (Special).—Chief of Police Bronner, of this place, was captured by four burglars while on the street and was taken to a room in the postoffice, where he was bound and gagged.

FORTY-EIGHT REPORTED DEAD AND NINETY-TWO INJURED

Train Falls Into River in Canada--Cars Derailed By a Broken Rail.

North Bay, Ont. (Special).—Death in all its most terrible forms blotted out the lives of at least a score, and perhaps two score people, when four cars of a Canadian Pacific passenger train, on the Soo branch, leaped from the tracks and plunged through the ice-covered surface of the Spanish River.

Some were drowned; others were crushed to death in grinding timbers. Most terrible of all, maimed and injured lay in the wreckage of one of the cars were burned to death.

The train wrecked was known as No. 7, enroute from Montreal to Sault Ste. Marie and Milwaukee. An official statement, given out here, says that it probably was due to a broken rail.

The engine, baggage, express, mail and one second-class car remained on the rails, while one second-class, one first-class, a dining car and a sleeper went down the embankment. The first-class car and diner went into the river. The sleeper and second-class car stopped on the embankment, the second-class car catching fire.

The wreck occurred about 37 miles west of Sudbury, where the tracks cut into the side of a steep hill which is skirted by the river. The forward part of the train passed over the break, where it was in safety. The day coach, which was the fourth from the end of the train, was the first to leave the rails. The train was running at the rate of about 40 miles an hour, and the momentum carried the car down the hill in a terrific plunge. About 25 passengers were in this car, and it is practically certain that none escaped.

GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO PROSECUTE BEEF TRUST

Three Firms Named--Action Against Them in Chicago--Blamed For High Prices.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—The "Beef Trust," so-called, is to be prosecuted by the national government. The Department of Justice evidently believes its existence is a leading factor in maintaining the present high prices of fresh meats.

The contemplated action of the department follows an investigation which has been conducted by its special agents for some months. Initial proceedings will begin before the grand jury at Chicago probably this week, and may contemplate both civil and criminal action.

The firms mentioned in connection with the matter include Swift & Co., Morris & Co. and Armour & Co., all big packing-house concerns, and all of whom, it is said, are interested in the National Packing Company. The three first-named concerns are commonly reported to control the National Corporation for their common benefit.

The aim of the department has been to ascertain the relations between the several firms, individually, and the National Packing Company for the purpose of determining whether they have operated to control the prices of fresh meats, which, according to almost universal complaint, have been going higher and higher. From the fact that proceedings are to be instituted, the inference is that the officials feel satisfied they have a good case.

THE WAR ON HIGH PRICES SPREADING

Boycotts Are On in Many States, East and West.

1,000,000 PERSONS ARE IN THE FIGHT.

Four Principal Cities of Ohio Taking Part in Protest and Citizens Agree to Stop Eating Meat--Bricklayers, of Kansas City, To Abstain For Thirty Days--8,000 Union Laborers of Omaha Take the Pledge--Pittsburg Falling Into Line.

New York (Special).—The boycott on high food prices started in Cleveland one week ago is growing rapidly. Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois, individually, and other cities of the States, are following the crusaders in the West, while in the East Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Delaware are lifting their voices in feeble protest.

Ohio, however, is still the stronghold of the movement. The Cleveland legislature has extended to Canton, where the Central Labor Union has adopted a no-meat resolution, and petitions are being circulated with surprising results—to Columbus, where a strong boycott has been organized; to Toledo, Akron and other cities of the State. The crusade in Ohio has found encouragement in the publicly expressed belief of Governor Harman that a food trust is gobbling excessive profits somewhere between the producer and the consumer. He has called on the legislature to hunt the trust out of the woods and exhibit it to the people.

It is estimated that more than 1,000,000 persons have in a brief week become actively interested in the boycott. Dispatches from Chicago go so far as to say that a boycott soon will be started in that city by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

"The idea of depriving ourselves of meat simply to get the prices down does not appeal to federation people," said Secretary Charles Nockels, "but we propose to adopt the idea as a temporary expedient in order to bring more sharply to the attention of the packers the fact that they do not trifle with the consumers of Chicago. We hope to give the idea such a strong indorsement that it will spread to all parts of the country."

A dispatch from Kansas City says that the experiment of the bricklayers' union in pledging itself to abstain from meat for 30 days was received so favorably on the first days that other labor organizations of that city will follow its example. In more than 100 Kansas City homes families sat down to meatless meals in accordance with the bricklayers' pledge, while the anti-meat movement has spread also to Atchison, Leavenworth, St. Joseph, Topeka and other cities in that part of the country.

FOUR MEN HOLD UP TRAIN.

Get Possession Of Car Said To Contain Thousands.

St. Louis (Special).—A Missouri Pacific train from Kansas City was held up by four masked men between Glencoe and Eureka.

The four men mounted the cab and, after binding the engineer and fireman, detached the mail and express cars.

The four masked men flagged the train one mile east of Eureka and 30 miles from St. Louis with a red lantern. As the train stopped the men showed revolvers into faces of the engineer and fireman. The baggage and mail express cars were detached from the train, and with the robbers in the cab, the engineer was compelled to run with them toward St. Louis. The passengers were not molested.

The baggage and express cars and the locomotive have not been found. Deputy sheriffs and railroad detectives are scouring the line for them.

It is believed that the express safe was blown in some desolate place and the robbers fled, leaving the cars on a branch line.

The place in which the hold-up occurred is sparsely settled and the news of the robbery did not reach St. Louis until after the train was due here.

Conductor E. H. Butts got off the train when it stopped and the robbers fired at him. The locomotive disappeared. Butts walked back to a farmer's house near Eureka and telephoned to St. Louis for help.

ESTRADA'S TERMS ARE REJECTED

Madriz Will Not Recognize Former's Government.

THE PEACE MOVE ENDS ABRUPTLY.

Successor Of Zelaya In Nicaragua Declares Revolutionists' Terms Preposterous, As Their Acceptance Would Illegitimize His Government--Madriz Puts Up A Bluff And Talk About Rushing More Troops Into The Field.

Managua, Nicaragua (Special).—President Madriz announced that General Estrada's reply had served to end abruptly the peace negotiations and that reinforcements had been ordered to the front with the purpose of striking a decisive blow at the insurgent army.

General Estrada's reply was to the President's message inviting the insurgent leader to send peace commissioners to meet representatives of the government at Greytown. The communication, which was signed by Estrada and General Chamorro, stated that they would accept Greytown as a meeting place for peace commissioners provided Madriz would recognize the revolutionists as constituting a provisional government.

President Madriz declared that the insurgent terms were preposterous and their acceptance by him would be tantamount to legitimizing his own government. He added:

"This means an open break in the negotiations for peace and the resumption of military activity. I am sincerely desirous of effecting a reconciliation of all factions. Apparently this is impossible without further bloodshed, and orders have been issued to send more troops to the front."

"All of our energies will be directed now to administering a swift and decisive blow. It will be better to have one severe battle than an endless season of inconclusive skirmishes. The government troops are in fine fettle and not apprehensive of the result of the conflict."

San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua (Special).—Salomon Selva, who appeared as prosecuting attorney before the court-martial that sentenced General Estrada to death, so long as he allied himself with the insurgent cause, and General Medina, who was charged by President Zelaya, with the execution of the sentences, were arraigned in court accused of having convicted the prisoners illegally.

Walsh Goes To Prison.

Chicago (Special).—John R. Walsh, 72 years old, after winning his way from the newsboy rank to the control of millions of dollars in the coal and iron fields, here for the Federal Attorney General and the Department of Justice.

Walsh was arrested at the time of his failure three years ago. The start for prison followed after a denial by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals of his petition for a new trial, on the ground of alleged misconduct by the jurors who found Walsh guilty.

Japan's Note To China.

Peking (Special).—Japan has notified China informally through the Japanese Legation here that Japan and Russia with concerted action will decline the proposals of the United States for the neutralization of the Manchurian railways. Japan charges China, newspapers and coal fields left here for the Federal Attorney General and the Department of Justice.

"Provided, however, that this proclamation should not take effect until after March 31, 1910, but shall be null and void in the event that, at any time prior to the aforesaid date, satisfactory evidence shall be presented to the President that the government of Italy has made such change or changes in its present laws and regulations affecting American commerce in the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy as to discriminate unduly in any way against such commerce and in the future event that a proclamation by the President of such fact, revoking the present proclamation, shall have become effective."

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this 18th day of January, A. D. 1910, in the 60th year of the independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and thirty-fourth."

The proclamation is signed both by the President and by Secretary of State Knox.

Germany's Reply.

Berlin (Special).—The German government cabled to Washington a reply to a memorandum recently received from the United States relating to the tariff on shipments of wheat from two countries. While it does not accept the American wishes in various respects, and especially concerning the importation of meat, the German response is sent in the hope that it will be satisfactory and as all that the German government can do.

AGED WIDOW MURDERED.

Found With Throat Cut And Stomach Terribly Gashed.

Rockford, Ill. (Special).—Mrs. Mary E. McIntosh, an aged widow, who lived as a recluse, was found murdered in her home here. Her throat had been cut and her stomach horribly gashed. The crime does not appear to have been committed for robbery. She was poor and lived in a squalid home.

The murder is almost a counterpart of that of Mrs. Margaret Gripp, a woman of about the same age, who was killed at her home in Winnebago, eight miles west of here, last spring. The perpetrator of that crime was never discovered.

Kansas Sues Meat Packers.

Kansas City (Special).—Attorney General Jackson, of Kansas, began suit in the District Court of Kansas City against the Armour and Swift packing companies. He charged that they are members of a combination illegally to raise prices; that they belong to the Kansas City Produce Exchange and are, therefore, liable under the Kansas law providing a penalty of \$100 a day for such membership.

The President and Mrs. Taft gave a reception at the White House in honor of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

Secretary of War Dickinson decided not to revoke his order detailing Lieutenant Colonel Craighead as engineer secretary of the Lighthouse Board. Colonel Casey was ordered to Baltimore.

At the close of the third day's balloting in the English elections the Unionists were ahead, with 120; Liberals, 98; Laborists, 20, and Nationalists, 28.

President Taft addressed the Conference of Governors, which met yesterday afternoon at the White House.

Imposing honors were accorded at the funeral services over the body of the late Senator Nabuco, the Brazilian ambassador.

The Urgent Deficiency Bill will contain an appropriation to complete the Pulaski Monument.

A PROCLAMATION ON THE TARIFF LAW

The Countries Entitled to the Minimum Rates.

They Are Italy, Great Britain, Russia, Spain, Turkey And Switzerland--Germany Not In The List--A Warning To Italy That It Must Make No Change In Its Regulations Affecting American Commerce--Germany's Reply.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—The President issued his proclamation in which it is declared that under the new tariff law the countries of Italy, Great Britain, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Switzerland are entitled to the minimum rates imposed by the act. The proclamations, which are identical, read as follows:

"A proclamation by the President of the United States of America: Whereas, It is provided in the act of Congress approved August 5, 1909, entitled an act to provide revenue, equalize duties and encourage the industries of the United States and for other purposes."

(The President here quotes the provision of the act referred to) and continues as follows:

"And whereas, satisfactory evidence has been presented to me that the government of Italy imposes no terms or restrictions either in the way of tariff rates or in the way of other regulations charges, exactions or in any other manner, directly or indirectly, upon the importation into or the sale in the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy of any agricultural, manufactured or other products of the United States which unduly discriminate against the United States or the products thereof and that the government of Italy pays no export duty or prohibition upon the exportation of any article to the United States which unduly discriminates against the United States or the products thereof, and the government of Italy accord to the agricultural, manufactured or other products of the United States treatment which is reciprocal and equivalent."

"Now, therefore, I, William Howard Taft, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by the aforesaid act of Congress, do hereby make known and proclaim that from and after March 31, 1910, and so long thereafter as the aforesaid act of Congress is in existence and the government of Italy imposes no terms or restrictions upon the importation or sale in the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy of the products of the United States, which unduly discriminate against the United States, all articles when imported in the United States, or any of its possessions (except the Philippine Islands and the islands of Guam and Tutuila), from the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy shall be admitted under the term of the minimum tariff of the United States as prescribed by section 1 of the Tariff Act of the United States, approved August 5, 1909."

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COMMERCIAL

Weekly Review of Trade and Market Reports.

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

Notwithstanding the seasonal fall in business, general conditions are fully normal, and the volume of trade as measured by bank exchanges and railroad earnings is very heavy. There is a wide diversity of reports from the different trade centers, but even the least satisfactory indicates no fundamental weakness, while the majority of the reports, particularly those farthest removed from the influence of the unsettled conditions in the financial markets, show a healthy condition of affairs. The principal feature of the whole business situation is the sharp contrast between the hesitation prevailing in the security markets and the confidence and activity prevailing in productive enterprises.

An increased demand for pig iron is indicated, with buyers displaying more interest than for several weeks past, and prices show a hardening tendency in some districts.

Trading in cotton goods was restricted to some extent by unsettled conditions in the raw material market, although in the face of a sharp decline in the staple there were large sales of print cloths.

Wholesale Markets.

New York.—Wheat—Spot easy; No. 2 red, 133c. elevator domestic and 1.32 c. a. b. float nominal; No. 1 Northern Duluth, 1.26c and No. 2 hard winter, 1.27c, nominal, t. o. b. float.

Corn