

MATCH APPLIED TO GIRL'S CORPSE

Soaked With Oil and Stood Up in Open Fireplace.

HER BODY BURIED LIKE A TORCH.

Young Stenographer Slain By a Strangler.

Ruth Wheeler Went To Accept Offer of Employment and Never Returned.—Chaired Torso in Gunny Sack On Fire-Escape Leads to Discovery of Crime—Albert Walter, Who Lured Girls To His Apartments, Under Arrest—New Paint Hides Crime.

New York (Special).—The body of Ruth Wheeler, the 16-year-old stenographer, who was lured from her widowed mother by a decoy offer of employment, was found huddled in a gunny sack on the fire-escape outside the apartment of Albert Walter, the man charged with her abduction. She had been strangled with a short end of a three-eighths-inch rope, hacked with a knife, burned beyond recognition in an open fireplace and thrust carelessly out of doors like so much rubbish.

Identification was only possible by shreds of clothing and fragments of jewelry, but there was abundant evidence of how the murder had been done. Around the neck were the charred fibers of manila burnt into the flesh. The apartment reeked with the odor of kerosene. There were oil stains in front of the newly painted fireboard that hid an open grate. Fully dressed, the girl's clothing and hair had been saturated with kerosene, the fireboard had been removed and the body thrust up the chimney standing. When the match was touched to her she burned like a torch.

Probably the murderer had hoped for an opportunity to remove the body under cover of night, but when the girl's disappearance raised such an uproar and he began to suspect he was shadowed, he had packed and fled in terror.

Lured From Her Home. A neighbor living on the same floor of an adjoining house had noticed the lumpy bundle outside his window and, thinking it refuse, had poked it out the fire-escape into the back yard with a broomhandle. The bundle moved obstinately and fell with a crash. His curiosity more than his suspicions aroused, the neighbor hurried downstairs for the janitor to investigate. When the two men cut the strings that bound the sacking there rolled out before them the full horror of an atrocious murder. Both fled for the police.

Ruth Wheeler was the youngest of three sisters bred by their mother, a dressmaker, to self-support. Both the older and the younger sisters were stenographers and she had graduated from a business college, eager for employment and proud of her diploma. An employment agency for graduates is conducted by the college and Ruth called there often to look for a situation. Thursday morning she left home on her usual errand and never returned.

The girl had been carefully brought up. She was never on the streets at night and her failure to come home for 24 hours without explanation meant more than a caprice. The next morning her sisters, Pearl and Adelaide, in serious concern, went to the college and learned that the following postcard had been turned over to her: "Dear Madam: Please call in reference to position as stenographer at residence of the secretary. (Signed) "122 East 107 Street."

Straus To Meet Roosevelt. Washington, D. C. (Special).—Oscar Straus, United States ambassador to Constantinople, left that city March 8 on the Scorpion, of the Navy, for Cairo, Egypt, where he is to have a long conference with ex-President Roosevelt. It was learned that Mr. Straus' trip was in answer to a cable message from Colonel Roosevelt requesting the conference. In some quarters the visit is regarded with significance. Mr. Straus was secretary of commerce and labor in the last four years of the Roosevelt administration, was always close to Mr. Roosevelt and is likewise a warm friend of President Taft.

As Guest of Emperor William. Berlin (Special).—It was learned from an official source that Colonel Roosevelt will arrive in Berlin on April 12. He will be the personal guest of the Emperor for four days, during which he will stop at the royal palace. The statement that Colonel Roosevelt will arrive here on April 12 and go to the emperor's palace is not quite understood. At the American Embassy it is not known whether the ex-President will arrive previous to that date, but it has been generally understood that he would arrive here on April 9, and would spend a couple of days with Ambassador Hill before going to the palace.

ABOUT TO KILL FOUR CHILDREN

Crazed Father Caught As He Was Raising Ax.

Pole Had Led His Offspring To An Isolated Spot—One Child Stood With Crucifix in Hand Waiting For Weapon To Descend When Police Sprang On Parent—Maniac Fights Desperately.

Hartford, Ct. (Special).—An insane father was prevented from butchering his four little children, on the banks of the Connecticut River, by the timely arrival of the police. When located back of the bushes, his four boys were partly undressed and were lined in a row, the maniac father standing over them with the uplifted axe. A boy of four was to have been the first victim. The child was standing beneath the shining blade with a crucifix in one hand, calmly awaiting its fate. The other, under orders of the madman, were terrified spectators. The father was then taken to the police station and locked in a padded cell. He is a Pole—Valente Chongle. He had been dispossessed by his landlord and the occurrence made him desperate. Chongle was heard to tell his children to prepare for their death, his original plan being to throw them into the river. Later he changed his mind and decided to murder them first and then make away with their bodies in the swollen stream.

Like sheep, he led the quartet, whose ages range from two to seven years, to the isolated spot, where he was traced. The officers who prevented the wholesale killing, said that their hearts failed them as they beheld the terrifying scene. Fearing that the madman would crush the skull of the boy he had before him should his presence be detected, they crept up from behind and overpowered Chongle, who fought desperately. The maniac fought the right of the officers to interfere with his plans for making away with his children, claiming that as their father he had a right to do with them as he pleased.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS. President Nominates A Number Of Secretaries. Washington, D. C. (Special).—The President sent to the Senate the following nominations in the diplomatic service: To Be Secretaries at Legations—Richard C. Bundy, of Ohio, at Montevideo; Charles B. Curtis, of New York city, at Christiania; Richard O. Marsh, of Illinois, at Panama; Arthur Orr, of Evanston, Ill., at Athens; Charles D. White, of Sumner, N. J., at Havana.

To Be Secretaries of Legations—Richard general, Thomas E. Dabney, of St. Louis, Mo., at Mexico City; Perry Belmont, of New York, at Berlin; Sheldon L. Crosby, of New York, at London; William Walker Smith, of Ohio, at Constantinople, and William Spencer, of Pennsylvania, at St. Petersburg.

A GIRL'S HEROIC DEED. Snatched Three-Year-Old Niece From In Front of Train. Fairmount, Ind. (Special).—Running into the face of death, Nettie Caskey, 15 years old, snatched her three-year-old niece, Marie, from the Pennsylvania Railroad. Both children rolled down the bank as the train dashed by. Nettie had seen the baby trotting toward the approaching train and pursued her almost to the oncoming engine's pilot before she caught her in her arms and leaped aside.

Engineer George Jardine was so upset by the incident that he could not continue his run further than this city.

Daniel Still Improves. Dayton, Fla. (Special).—United States Senator John W. Daniel continued to show improvement, pulse, temperature and respiration being nearly normal. If the present gain continues, it is expected to remove him from his home in Virginia within two weeks. Doctor Chownitz declared that Senator Daniel's faculties have been nearer normal than at any time for two weeks.

Tillman Rapidly Improving. Atlanta (Special).—United States Senator B. R. Tillman, of South Carolina, is rapidly regaining his health. Saturday, for the first time since his recent illness, the Senator, who is taking the rest cure at a sanatorium, took a short walk. He walked about a block from the sanatorium and back and was little fatigued with the exercise.

Body Buried 30 Years Robbed. Forest Hill, La. (Special).—The most unusual robbery in the history of this section of Louisiana was perpetrated, when the body of E. D. Gainer was exhumed and gold teeth, a diamond ring, gold watch and cuff buttons were taken. The body was sealed in a tomb here more than 30 years ago.

RIVERS OF LAVA FROM MT. ETNA

The Earth Trembling for Miles Around Volcano.

TWELVE NEW CRATERS ARE OPEN.

Panic-Stricken People Praying for Protection.

The Meteorological Station On The Mountain Side Destroyed And Several Villages In Danger From Fiery Streams Flowing Toward Them—Through Heavy Clouds Of Smoke Great Flashes Of Flame Come From The Craters—A Terrifying Spectacle.

PREVIOUS GREAT ERUPTIONS. 1169—Catania and 15,000 inhabitants destroyed. 1527—Two villages destroyed. 1669—Catania and 20,000 inhabitants destroyed. 1693—Large number of people killed. 1852—Great damage done to the surrounding country. 1879 and 1886—Great damage to property. 1892—Eruption lasted six months. Little damage done, ashes falling within the crater.

Catania, Sicily (Special).—Mount Etna, whose eruptions in the past have wrought great destruction, is again in a violent state of activity. Pronounced movement within the crater and steadily increasing in volume. Fears are entertained as to the results, if the eruption continues in its present violent form. From Catania a correspondent motored in the direction of the mountains. Passing the village of Macalucia, 12 miles in a direct line from the crater, a thick curtain of smoke was encountered, which entirely concealed Etna. At Nicolosi, 10 miles from the crater, the entire population had gathered in a square to watch the volcano, which appeared as a black phantom above. Now and then it was illuminated with flashes of light, appearing almost red. Higher up the rain of cinders became thicker and extended like a veil across the mountain.

Like Sounds Of Battle. A deep roaring was heard and detonations like the sound of artillery followed one another in quick succession, while the earth shook up and down.

One of the guides cried: "An earthquake," and could scarcely be induced to continue. The hot cinders covered the ground like a thick carpet, rendering walking difficult. A peasant was encountered coming down. He said: "The fire is rushing down, burning everything. The lava is like a red hot river."

Proceeding a little further along, four colossal columns of black smoke could be observed. Occasionally they were cut by flashes of fire, presenting an awe-inspiring spectacle. Then the wind opened the clouds for a moment and a wide strip of fire could be seen in the distance, advancing with monstrous contortions. He felt like a torrent from Mount Capriolo, spreading out in the valley below.

Houses Enveloped. The lava flow had already reached the vineyards above San Leonardo, seven miles from the crater, and had buried a large number of peasants' houses. It came in several streams and united in one great mass about 20 feet in height and 1,500 feet wide. Its velocity was estimated at 3 to 4 feet a minute, varying according to the conditions of the ground. This mighty wall of lava was today not more than five miles from Polipasso and Nicolosi.

The meteorological station on the mountain side has been destroyed and the village of Borrello is in serious danger. The populace, terror-stricken, are flying from their homes. The earth shocks have reached about 50 in number, but are in a continuous vibration and trembling for many miles around. Everywhere the villagers are carrying images in procession and imploring mercy. Twelve new craters have been opened up.

Help For Sufferers. Help for the people of the devastated region is being organized here. A detachment of soldiers and large number of engineers and doctors have gone forward. The prefect of Catania, returning from the scene this evening, said: "I have witnessed a spectacle of desolation and ruin which only those who saw the eruption of Vesuvius in 1669 can imagine. The present eruption can be compared to no other."

To Vote On City Ownership. Detroit (Special).—Petitions bearing the signatures of 18,759 voters, were submitted to the Common Council calling for a popular vote on the question of municipal ownership of the street railway system. Under the law 14,309 names were necessary to require the Council to submit the question to a vote.

Fire Follows Throats. Morganfield, Ky. (Special).—Fire supposed to have been of incendiary origin destroyed business property here to the value of \$200,000. Among the buildings burned are the Green River department store, where the blaze started; the Masonic Temple, the Opera House, the new Baptist Church and parsonage and the Bank of Union County. The department store managers say they had received several threatening letters lately from the Black Hand.

Big Four Men Want Raise. Cincinnati (Special).—A committee of the Big Four Railway conductors and another of trainmen called on General Manager J. Q. Van Winkle and submitted requests for changes in working rules and a new scale of wages. The scales are almost identical with those submitted by employees of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern to the officials of that road and rejected by them. Mr. Van Winkle informed the committee he would consider the matter and give them his answer in a day or two.

GRAFTER WORKED GAME FROM JAIL

Dined An Insurance Man in Sing Sing.

President Seward, Of The Fidelity And Casualty Co. Of New York. Testifies He Went To The Prison. Where A Man Named Brown Said "Big Tim" Sullivan, The Tammany Chief, Would Kill Bill At Albany For \$10,000.

New York (Special).—The name of Senator Timothy D. Sullivan, familiarly known as "Big Tim," figured briefly in the first insurance inquiry, but for the most part, as at previous sessions, William Hotchkiss, the state superintendent of insurance, kept on sweeping cobwebs off alleged shady transactions at Albany in years gone by.

Sullivan's name, which gave a tinge of modernity to the investigation, was brought in when George F. Seward, president of the Fidelity and Casualty Company, who testified that a representative of "Big Tim" offered in 1891 or 1892, to "put off" a bill objectionable to the company for a consideration of \$10,000. Sullivan, who came to New York from Albany, apparently does not like the charge seriously. Seward's testimony, he said, was mere hearsay and does not concern him. The bill became a law in 1892.

Were Eager For Money. Mr. Seward spoke of the old days when, if he went to Albany and tried to speak to members of the Assembly to advocate a bill, some of them would say, "Is there any money in it?" "Can you give me any specific time at which you were approached?" "Yes, I think it was about the time the casualty bill was before the House. A legislator met—"

"Who was he?" asked Mr. Hotchkiss. "His name was Goldberg, and I believe he was from Buffalo. He met me in the capitol building. 'What are you up here for?' he asked. I told him. He replied: 'I think there's money in that bill and I propose to have some.'"

"For years," said Mr. Seward, "the insurance and casualty companies have been harassed in every part of the country by insurance departments and by 'strike bills' and by bills introduced by legislators who were not well informed."

Mr. Seward told of an attempt to force him to pay \$10,000 for killing a bill adversely affecting casualty companies. The administration railroad bill largely amended was ordered favorably reported by the House Committee on Interstate Commerce.

The Senate struck out the provision in the Appropriation Bill for a man to keep the baths in the Senate office building. The Pension Bill, carrying appropriations aggregating about \$156,000,000, was passed by the House.

In a speech in the Senate, Mr. Owens urged the establishment of public health. Secretary Dickinson promulgated new rules to govern hazing at West Point.

Major General J. Franklin Bell, chief of staff of the Army, was badly injured, and Mrs. Herbert J. Slocum, wife of Major Slocum, of the Seventh Cavalry, was almost instantly killed in a collision of their automobile with a trolley car on the Tenallytown road.

Secretary Meyer returned to Washington from a week's visit to Aiken and Charleston, much improved in health. While in Charleston the Secretary had an inspection of the new naval drydock.

Hullinger temporarily withdrew \$6,659 acres of public lands from all forms of disposition in aid of proposed legislation affecting the disposal of water-power sites on the public domain. Hearings will be given during the week of April 11 on the proposed legislation to remove the tax on alcohol and margarine under a decision of the House Committee on Agriculture.

The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was reported to the Senate. It carries \$34,034,357, net increase of \$195,662 over the bill as it passed the House.

A large delegation representing interests along the Canadian border called on Secretary Knox and appealed to him to avert a tariff war with Canada. Bill to simplify the laws governing the equipment of motor boats were introduced in both houses of Congress. Sworn statements were filed by President Gompers, of the Federation of Labor, to substantiate his charges against the United States Steel Corporation.

TWELVE PEOPLE DEAD IN FURNITURE FIRE RUINS

Girls at Factory Windows Fall Back Into Flames.

ONE WOMAN LEAPS TO THE GROUND.

Hero Loses Life in Attempt at Rescues.

Benzine Explosion Spreads Flames Through Fish Furniture Co. Factory. In Chicago, Trapping Employes On Upper Floors—Rescuers Unable To Ascend The Stairways—Tottering Walls Halt Search For The Lost—Find Dead Clamped In Each Other's Arm.

Chicago (Special).—Search of the wreckage for the remaining bodies of those who lost their lives in the Fish Furniture Company fire here was discontinued, owing to danger from tottering walls, but not until after 12 of the dead had been recovered and 11 of these identified.

While earlier estimates placed the number of victims trapped on the fourth and fifth floors of the building as high as 20, later and more thorough investigation indicates that there were but 16. Two of the men, however, which leaves but two more to be accounted for.

Leo Stoeckel, a clerk of the Fish Company, who, by accident, is said to have started the fire, told his story to Fire Attorney Frank Hogan this afternoon. Although Stoeckel is admittedly more unfortunate than culpable, Attorney Hogan says he will bring some charge against the young man to insure his attendance at the inquest.

Stoeckel was brought before the fire attorney with his hand, which had been burned swathed in bandages. He appeared heart-broken. "About 8.45 o'clock A. M.," Stoeckel said, "Mr. Mitchell, who is a member of the firm, gave me three pocket cigar lighters and told me to go to the finishing room, on the fifth floor, and give them to the men and citizens who rushed into the building. I had filled two of the lighters out of the five-gallon can and was working on the third when there was an explosion.

"A sheet of flame almost blinded me. I did not fully regain my senses until I had reached the street. The lighters contained a contrivance to make a spark, but whether I ignited one of them or not I don't know. I either dropped the can of benzine when the flame shot up in front of me or it was blown out of my hand."

Ten women and girls, it is said, were at work on the sixth floor when the explosion occurred. The spread of the flames was almost instantaneous, and when the girls rushed to the stairs they found escape cut off. They next turned to the front of the building, smashing in the windows. Horrified spectators in the street saw one of the girls step to the window ledge and heard her scream for help. Then she jumped. Falling on the awning over the front entrance of the store, she lay unconscious until Dr. Wm. J. Kinsey, crawling out on the canopy, lifted her up. She was taken at once to St. Luke's Hospital, only a few blocks away, but died soon afterward. Dr. Kinsey suffered slight burns.

Later it was learned the girl's name was Emma Lichtenstein. She was 20 years old and was employed as a filing clerk. Death was due to internal injuries received in her fall.

Soon after Miss Lichtenstein's desperate leap a crash as of the floors falling came, and the faces at the window disappeared. Dr. Kinsey graphically described his experience, as follows: "I was nearby when the fire started, and when I reached the scene the sight fairly made my hair stand on end. The floors of the building were a mass of flames. Smoke in great clouds was rolling out of the windows. I cried 'Something must be done! Something must be done!' But, like many others, there I was, so stricken by the sight of the faces half revealed in the sixth-story windows that I could not scarcely move. The girls were shouting, 'For God's sake, send us help!' and others were crying for the firemen to raise the ladders. I tried to get up the front stairs, but at the third floor a gust of flame burnt me about the face and hands, and the next thing I knew I was in the street again. I began the cries of the poor girls trapped in the upper story came to my ears, and I saw one of the girls throw up her hands and plunge out of the window.

"Her body crashed against the canopy over the front end of the store. Scarcely knowing what I did, I ran up the stairway to the first floor, crawled out of the window and then carried her down a ladder which a fireman had raised."

NEW MAIL TAKING DEVICE. Post Office Department Approves Iowa Man's Invention. Washington, D. C. (Special).—By a device invented by an Iowa man and approved by the Postmaster General, mail will be taken upon moving trains and delivered at many places, where fast trains do not stop. The adoption of the device marks an important step in the movement to equip all railroad lines with it.

HERO FAILED TO SAVE WIFE. Detroit (Special).—Despite the fact that John Jackson, of Port Huron, had been awarded a Carnegie medal for having saved 14 lives, he was unable to rescue his own wife from drowning in the Black River. The woman had been ill for two weeks and during the nurse's absence from the room, ran to the river and jumped in. Jackson followed and succeeded in grasping his wife by the wrist, but could not retain his hold. The water was 20 feet deep.

To Simplify Motor Boat Laws. Washington, D. C. (Special).—Bills to simplify the laws governing the equipment of motor boats were introduced in both houses of Congress. The bills follow recommendations made at the Detroit conference of motor boat associations in January, and the recent conference of motor boat builders at New York.

Bricks and building blocks of fair quality are made in several of the smaller English cities by mixing the residue from garbage incineration furnaces with quicklime and water.

BATTLE WITH MAD MAN ON A B. & O. TRAIN

Conductor and Porter of Royal Blue Limited Dead.

J. H. Betha, Who Boarded B. & O. Train in Baltimore, Kills Conductor O. E. Wellman And Porter Samuel Williams Soon After Crossing The Susquehanna—Defies Police And Firemen Of Wilmington, Del., In A Two Hours' Battle For Possession Of Train.

Wilmington, Del. (Special).—In a battle on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's Royal Limited, northbound, which began between Newark, Del., and Wilmington at 5 o'clock and ended at the Delaware Avenue Station here, three men, including the conductor, were killed, two were seriously injured and others were grazed by bullets.

The tragedy was an outcome of a quarrel between Betha, a passenger who boarded the train at Washington and Williams, the porter in the buffet smoking car Mercury, Betha, who had been drinking, shot the porter through the heart, killing him instantly. Conductor Wellman heard the shot, and, running back, confronted with a passenger, who still held the smoking weapon. Although the negro was dead, Betha fired a second shot, the bullet entering the victim's stomach. Then, without a word, he turned and shot Wellman, who fell dead. The bullet struck the porter through the right arm, which he had thrown up to protect himself, and into his heart.

Barricades Himself In. The passengers, in a mad rush to safety, ran back into the car in the rear, while Betha rushed into a compartment of the car, barricaded himself in and threatened to kill the first man who approached. By this time the train reached the station here at 5.17 o'clock and a hurry call was sent to the police station. Police Captain Kane and Evans, Sergeant Kelleher and a squad of patrolmen, reinforced by the Baltimore city force of trainmen and citizens, rushed to the scene. Betha was called upon to surrender, but he only opened the door of his fortress for enough to poke an automatic revolver through the chink and begin to fire. Chief of Police Blair, who had also reached the scene of hostilities, dodged just as a bullet whizzed by his head.

The South Carolina man must have had at least 100 cartridges, for he held the posse of several hundred men at bay for half an hour. The train from 5.17 o'clock until 6.35, and travel over the road was stopped. Every now and then the police opened fire at the car until all of the windows were riddled. After an hour the police say they would have been unable to enter from cover, and a call was sent to the Water Witch Fire Company, near by, for its engine. The apparatus responded on the run. A high pressure hose was attached to a water plug, and with the firemen behind a barricade of boards and trucks, a stream was played upon the window of the compartment in which Betha was.

Betha fired a fusillade at the firemen, the police all the while calling upon him to surrender. In a few minutes he dropped his war, he staggered to the platform, and again the police shouted to him to hold up his hands. Without a word and with an air of bravado, he leveled his automatic revolver at the police and several shots rang out in quick succession.

Murderer Himself Shot Down. Just as the fired last shot Police Captain Evans, who had secured a shotgun, fired. A load of shot struck the murderer in the face, but still he continued to blaze away. Patrolman Boughman then fired with a pistol, and the bullet struck Betha in the right arm. He drew his fire again, but Sergeant Kelleher fired and at the same time sprang upon the man. Several other policemen started to shoot, but the crowd yelled "Don't kill him!" The shotgun and the bullets from the policemen's revolvers had already done their work, however, for just as Betha was taken hold of by the police he fell dead into the arms of one of them.

Two Women In A Duel. Nashville, Tenn. (Special).—News reached here of a duel between two women at Kingston, Tenn., Sunday night. Just after church services, Rosa Cowen and Nellie Taylor quarreled over the affairs of a man. Both drew knives. When others attempted to prevent the women from fighting, it is said, the man about whom the altercation started interfered, and with leveled revolver ordered the women to be allowed to fight it out. The duel continued until the throat of both had been cut and Rosa Cowen lay dead. Nellie Taylor is not expected to live.

Trouble In Santo Domingo. Washington, D. C. (Special).—The Navy Department ordered the gunboat Paducah, now at Havana, to proceed to Santo Domingo. The situation there is politically disturbed, and it is deemed wise to have an American warship present in case the trouble becomes more acute.

Mother Of Sixteen War Veterans. Moundsville, W. Va. (Special).—Mrs. Sarah Brandon, aged 109, of this city, holds the United States record for the number of her largest number of Civil War soldiers. No less than 16 of her boys served in the battles of that war, 14 on the Union side and two with the Confederates, while her total family was 23. Her 23 children are also the parents of large families. The oldest, Hiram, is 89 years old, while the youngest, Evan Brandon, is 72 years.

Messenger Steals \$20,000. New York (Special).—A trusted messenger boy who is said to have recently robbed the Carnegie Trust Company of between \$20,000 and \$30,000 and then eloped with a Jersey City girl is being brought back to New York by detectives. The girl is with him. The couple, it is asserted, went South and finally to Los Angeles, where detectives trapped them. Robert Smith, second vice president of the company, said today: "I will discuss the matter until I have talked with the president. I may have something to say later."

COMMERCIAL

Weekly Review of Trade and Market Reports.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: In spite of number of abnormal, puzzling and disturbing developments the volume of business is large and steadily expanding as the spring season opens and weather conditions improve. The expansion noted in iron and steel continues chiefly in finished materials. There are intimations that the volume of new business in these lines has been exaggerated, but it is evident nevertheless that a very considerable tonnage is being placed, and inquiries now pending afford much encouragement.

The railroads are re-equipping old equipment, and activity in the structural division is a prominent feature of the situation. It is estimated that buying from the latter source is at the rate of 100,000 tons monthly in the more important contracts in finished materials. It suggests that there is sharp competition among fabricating mills.

Bradstreet's says: Trade irregularity is still manifest, but reports as a whole show a still further improvement, due to the advance of the spring season. Improvement in weather, and coincidentally in trade reports, is most manifest in the agricultural sections of the West, Northwest and Southwest, while the reports from the East and parts of the South show the development of spring business retarded by the lingering of winter. However, the unsettled labor outlook in many lines of industry, the effect of high prices as limiting demand or, as in the case of cotton goods, inducing curtailment of production, and the tendency to await judicial decisions in several important cases are all laid stress upon. On balance, there is little disposition to deny that trade is considerably better than a year ago, a period also of waiting trade, and far in excess of this time two years ago, but the rate of progress is slower than sanguine expectations had led to expect.

Wholesale Markets. New York.—Wheat—Spot unsettled; No. 4 red, 126 1/4 c. f. r. and nominal f. o. b. afloat; No. 1 Northern Duluth, 125 1/2 opening navigation; No. 2 hard winter, steamer, 65 1/2 c. and No. 4, 43 1/2 c. both elevator export basis; export No. 2, 65 c. f. o. b. afloat; No. 2 elevator, 65 c. export basis.

Oats—Spot steady; mixed, 26 1/2 c. 32 lbs. nominal; natural white, 26 3/4 c. 32 lbs. nominal; clipped white, 34 3/4 c. 1 1/2 c. 54.

Philadelphia.—Wheat quiet; contract grade, March, 121 1/2 c.; corn—Dull and 1/2 c. lower; March and April, 65 1/2 c. 66 c. Oats—Dull, 5 1/2 c. lower; No. 2 white natural, 5 1/2 c. Butter—Steady; extra Western creamery, 34 3/4 c.; do. nearby prime, 35.

Eggs—Quiet but steady; Pennsylvania and other nearby firsts, free cases, 23 c. at mark; do., current receipts, in returnable cases, 22 c. at mark; Western firsts, free cases, 23 c. at mark; do., current receipts, free cases, 22 c. at mark.

Cheese—Firm; New York full cream, 17 1/2 c.; do., fair to good, 16 3/4 c. Live Poultry—Firm; fowls, 18 1/2 c.; old roosters, 17 1/2 c.; chickens, 14 1/2 c.; ducks, 17 1/2 c.; geese, 14 1/2 c.

Baltimore.—Wheat—Receipts, 5, 134 bushels, including 2,523 Southern; shipments from elevators, 5,974; stock in elevators, 666,974. Several hundred bushels of Southern sold at 1.12 and 1.17 per bu. by sample.

The market for Southern opened quiet; No. 2 red spot, 12 1/2 c.; May 1, 20 c. In the absence of business prices were more or less nominal and so far the market eased off. Setting prices were: No. 2 red Western, 12 1/2 c.; No. 2, 12 1/2 c.; No. 3 red, 11 1/2 c.; steamer No. 2 red, 11 1/2 c.; steamer No. 2 red Western, 11 1/4 c.

Corn—Spot, 64 3/4 c.; April, 65 1/4 c.; May, 67 3/4 c. Oats—No. 2, as to weight, 5 1/2 c. white; No. 3, as to weight, 5 1/2 c.; No. 4, as to weight, 4 7/8 c. Mixed—No. 2, 49 1/2 c.; No. 3, 48 1/2 c. Hay—Quote per ton: No. 1 timothy, \$21.50; No. 2, \$20.00; No. 3, \$19.50; choice clover mixed, \$21.00; No. 1 clover mixed, \$20.50; No. 2 clover mixed, \$19.00; No. 2 clover, \$20.50; No. 2 clover, \$18.00; No. 10.

Butter.—The market is unchanged as regards supply and demand for desirable stock about equal to the offerings. We quote, per lb.: Creamery, fancy, 32 @ 32 1/2 c.; creamery, choice, 30 @ 31; creamery, good, 28 @ 29; creamery, imitation, 21 @ 22; creamery, prints, 20 @ 21.

Maryland, Pennsylvania and nearby firsts, 21 c.; Western firsts, 21; West Virginia firsts, 21; Southern firsts, 20; gulena eggs, 11; duck eggs, 32. Live Poultry—Quote, per lb.: Chickens, old hens, heavy, 17 1/2 c.; do., young, 16 1/2 c.; ducks, good to choice, 20 @ 21; do., winter, 2 lbs. and under, 23 @ 25; do., young, rough and stagsy, 15 @ 16; ducks, large, 18 @ 20; do., small, 17; do., Muscovy and mongrel, 16 @ 17.

Live Stock. Chicago.—Cattle—Market 10 higher; choice, \$9.10 @ 8.65; cows, \$7.75 @ 6.50; heifers, \$4 @ 6.75; bulls, \$5.25 @ 6.25; calves, \$6 @ 10.50; stockers and feeders, \$4.40 @ 6. Hogs—Market steady to 5c. higher; choice heavy, \$10.75 @ 10.85; butchers, \$10.70 @ 10.80; light mixed, \$10.50 @ 10.60; choice light, \$10.60 @ 10.70; packing, \$10.65 @ 10.75; pigs, \$10.25 @ 10.50; bulk of sales, \$9.65 @ 10.75. Pittsburgh, Pa.—Cattle—Supply light; choice, \$7.75 @ 7.90; prime, \$7.60 @ 7.90. Sheep—Supply light; prime, \$8.25 @ 8.50; culls and common, \$3.50 @ 5.50; lambs, \$7.90 @ 10. Veal calves, \$10 @ 10.50. Hogs—Receipts light; prime heavies and mediums, \$11.10; heavy Yorkers, \$11.05 @ 11.10; light Yorkers, \$10.90 @ 11; pigs, \$10.75 @ 10.90; rough, \$10 @ 10.50.