

COMMERCIAL.

THE CONDITION OF BUSINESS.

Dun Finds Room for Hope Despite Weather and Rate Wars.

H. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The new year opens with no important change in business prospects. A hopeful feeling everywhere prevails, and at the same time the nature and extent of retarding influences are more clearly recognized.

In spite of these influences reports of the condition of business are generally favorable. The growth of manufacturing at many Western points is a notable feature, and especially in the gas regions, and at points in Northern Illinois and Iowa.

The annual statement of failures, showing that 19,679 firms, or a trifle more than one in one hundred, went into bankruptcy in 1888, is on the whole especially encouraging.

A \$2,000,000 SCHEME.

A Big Grant of Land Purchased from the Brazilian Government.

One of the biggest land deals on record has been consummated with the Brazilian Government by New York, Pittsburg and Washington capitalists. The principal object of the promoters of the scheme is to open up valuable diamond and gold fields in far western Brazil.

Governor Ames' Message.

Governor Ames in his annual message to the Legislature of Massachusetts advises the early submission to the people of the proposition a referendum and advocates the prohibition of the penalties for violation of the liquor laws.

West Virginia Election Cases.

Already 218 witnesses and others have been summoned to appear before the United States Court on January 10 in Parkersburg, W. Va., in the trial of cases of alleged illegal voting, bribery and intimidation at the recent election.

Earthquake in Costa Rica.

San Jose, Costa Rica, was the scene on the night of December 30 and the morning of December 31 of a series of earthquake shocks of great severity. The shocks are believed to have originated in the volcano of Poas, six leagues distant from the town.

WRECKED RAILROADS.

Sixty-Five Millions in the Soap Last Year and the Present Outlook Gloomy.

The Railway Age says: "While the past year was not a favorable one for the railways generally in respect to earnings or maintenance of rates, it makes a much less discouraging showing than many of its predecessors in the number of roads and capital involved in such cases."

During the past thirteen years 423 railway companies with \$3,779 million in lines—more than one-third of the entire mileage of the country to-day—had presented in securities almost \$2,545,000,000, over 50 per cent. of the present railway capital—have been seized by the courts for the benefit of their creditors and sold at auction.

FIVE MEN KILLED.

A Mill Boiler Explodes With Appalling Results.

A terrible accident took place at New Hope, Mercer county, W. Va., on Saturday last. The farmers of the neighborhood had congregated at W. Carter's steam gristmill to obtain their usual supply of flour.

Joseph E. French, Thomas Carter, Levi Shields and John Wimmer were instantly killed. Ed Shields was horribly scalded and shortly afterward died. Wade Shufflerberger was badly burned about the face and body, but will probably recover.

RAN OFF WITH THE HIRED MAN.

Laura Moser Goes Away With a 275-Pound German.

Henry Moser, of Cumra township, is one of the wealthiest farmers in Berks county. Philip Kemp, aged about 30 and weighing 275 pounds, has been his hired man for the past two years. The family observed on several occasions that Kemp was rather attentive to the farmer's 16-year-old daughter Laura.

A PLUCKY SHERIFF.

He Rescues a Prisoner From a Masked Mob After He Had Been Twice Strung Up.

Last Thursday, Deputy Sheriff J. A. Moore arrested Jack O'Brien, at Garland, Texas, where two stores had been robbed. Part of the stolen goods were found in O'Brien's possession.

Trapped to Wait for Death.

At Newark, Ohio, a Baltimore and Ohio Yardman, F. B. Isaacs, of Baltimore, caught his foot in a frog in the yard, and before he could extricate himself, he was run over by the cars and so fearfully mangled that he died in half an hour. He was a new man.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

CLEANED FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Main Facts Related Without Unnecessary Words.

General Managers of all the railroad lines in the territory of the Western States Passenger Association have agreed to form an association for the maintenance of rates and for the conduct of the passenger business in conformity with the Interstate Commerce law.

The Governor of Maine recommends that the Legislature memorialize Congress asking that Representatives in Congress and Presidential electors shall be chosen on the second Tuesday of October, beginning with the year 1892.

Governor Luce, of Michigan, in his inaugural message recommends the passage of a local option law, believing that the time was ripe for it.

A boiler in the hoop factory of Colonel John Ashford, at Clinton, N. C., exploded, instantly killing Colonel Ashford's two sons and a negro, and fatally injuring Colonel Ashford himself.

A powder and dynamite magazine, at Inman, Tenn., was blown up, by a lightning discharge, but no one hurt. The forces of the explosion were 15 miles away.

E. O. Wallace received 44 of the 67 votes of the Republican caucus for the Senate from Colorado, and his nomination was made unanimous. James M. Miller, of Detroit, was unanimously nominated to succeed Senator Palmer, of Michigan, and Wm. P. Frye was unanimously re-nominated to another term in the Senate from Maine.

Judge Mayer, a jurist of Elk county, Pa., refuses to recognize ignominious as the so-called characteristic in a jurymen, and has gone so far as to set a juryman as the condition of the latter that he did not take or read even a county newspaper.

Theson of a New York millionaire, while ret in a dregs became so deeply interested in the highly important study of cock-fighting that he wanted to take the birds to bed with him or sleep in the hen house.

The Supreme Court is irrecoverably three years behind with its work. The only hope is that Congress will do something to relieve it. Otherwise the court will drift farther and farther behind.

The Chicago Anarchists have won a small victory in the courts. The Master-in-Chancery has decided that the Arriester Band has a right to hold its meetings, though he declined to recommend an injunction restraining the police from interfering with those meetings.

The company which insured the life of Haggerty, said to have been killed in the oil region when the 1,300 pounds of dynamite went off, refused to pay the policy because it is a trace of Haggerty can be found; but A. R. Richmond, of Meadville, who is something of a scientist as well as a lawyer, propounds the theory that the heat generated by the tremendous explosion was so great as to instantly consume every stick of Haggerty's body.

Elders H. Harris and Berrion, of the Church of Latter Day Saints, have baptized John Lloyd, of Rochester, as a member of their church.

A wholesale liquor establishment at Burlington, N. C., was raided yesterday and 200 barrels of whisky and 100 cases of wine seized by the sheriff. This is an important move for the enforcement of the prohibitory law. Many liquor dealers will probably leave the State.

An action has been instituted against the Northern Pacific Railroad Company in the U. S. District Court at St. Paul, which involves between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. The road has been trespassing upon Government land for a number of years, causing Government timber land and causing a great loss to it.

Russia has placed a flotilla of war vessels on the Vistula river.

Mr. Mackenzie, the agent of the British East African Company, on New Year's Day presented hundreds of slaves with papers giving them their freedom. His action has created much rejoicing and enthusiasm.

The large flouring mill, owned by George H. Dykeman, of Shippensburg, together with several hundred barrels of flour and new machinery, totally destroyed by fire Saturday night. It was set on fire in the second story by some unknown villain. Loss estimated at \$12,000, no insurance.

Jacob Bird, two years ago sent to the penitentiary in Minnesota for life for murder, has just been pardoned, his innocence of the crime having been established. The prisoner's brother, on his death bed, confessed the murder for which his brother has been suffering undeserved punishment.

A. T. Lewis, late Master Workman of District Assembly 33, Knights of Labor, has issued a special reply to Grand Master Workman Powderly, in which he makes a personal attack on Mr. Powderly's official course. Lewis is now Secretary of the National Progressive Union of Mine Laborers.

Benjamin E. Hopkins, late assistant cashier of the defunct Fidelity National Bank, died yesterday at his residence in Cincinnati. He was pardoned by the President December 20, but the paper did not reach the Columbus Penitentiary until Friday morning, January 4. Mr. Hopkins reached home that evening and after a joyful meeting with his family seemed to be exhausted by the excitement and visitors were excited. He never fully rallied, and died surrounded by members of his family.

A horrible tragedy has just come to light in South Carolina. Four negroes beguiled a negro named Frazer into a boat on Broad river, and when they were about the middle, attacked him and rifled his pockets. A struggle followed, the boat upset and the murderers and their victim were drowned.

A Boy Crushed to Death.

An 8-year-old boy, H. A. Gittings, was instantly killed on the Fort Wayne road at Jack's Run, Pa., Sunday. He, with some relatives, while returning from church services, was standing on the western track watching a freight passing on the eastern track, when the passenger train going west came along, and before he could get out of the way he was run over and killed.

INDIANS BITE THE DUST.

A Fight to the Death Between Gros Ventres or River Crows.

A courier from Sweet Grass Hills brings news of a fight that occurred on Wednesday last between a quartette of Gros Ventres and River Crow Indians. The struggle occurred about sundown on January 2, on the banks of Cottonwood creek in the foot hills, three of the reds being killed outright and the fourth so seriously slashed that he died on Friday night.

It appears that for several months Spotted Dog, a Gros Ventre brave, had been paying frequent visits to a River Crow squaw in spite of warnings from her brother, named Willow, to keep away. Wednesday Spotted Dog set out with a companion on a hunting expedition up Cottonwood creek. The couple were followed by Willow and a young half-breed named Joe Hanks, and when at but 30 miles from the Crow camp, Willow and the half-breed caught up with Spotted Dog and his companion and commanded them to halt.

An altercation ensued which resulted in a challenge from Spotted Dog to have it out then and there. The challenge was accepted, and, depositing their guns and blankets on the bank of the creek, the gladiators drew their knives and squared away for the fight. Spotted Dog and Willow were pitted against each other, and at the first lunge Willow buried his knife in the muscles of his antagonist's right arm, disabling it. The fight lasted half an hour, and at its conclusion Spotted Dog, Willow and the half-breed, Hanks, were dead or dying, and the surviving Gros Ventre, bleeding from several wounds, was barely able to mount his pony and ride to the camp, where he made known the result of the battle and subsequently died of his wounds.

The affair has created a great deal of bad feeling between the Indians, and further trouble is feared. Several of the Gros Ventres have gone to Plegan and purchased large quantities of ammunition, and it is surmised that they mean to avenge the death of Spotted Dog. Agent Allen has taken precautions to prevent any of the Blackfeet leaving this agency, and word will be sent to Agent Lincoln, at the Gros Ventre Agency, to adopt similar measures to prevent a conflict.

A LEAGUE OF BOY-ROBBERS.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Its Victim for \$100,000.

A systematic scheme of robbery from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has just come to light through the arrest in Altoona, Pa., of William, Thomas and Lewis Shope, Ernest Johnson and Charles Kelly. Wholesale arrests have been made all along the line.

Detective John Reeves, of Cleveland, O., discovered the robberies by uncovering two tons of brass design work in that city and Altoona. Investigation brought to light that robberies have been going on for a year past, and that an estimate says that the stealings will amount to a round hundred thousand dollars.

It has been revealed that a regular system of robbery of brass from the cars existed all along the line, with a number of stations at Philadelphia, Altoona and Cleveland. Organized bands of boys did the stealing, sold the brass to agents at 3 cents a pound, and they resold it to Moses Silverman, a junk dealer at Cleveland, at 7 cents a pound. Silverman is the head of the conspiracy and he and his agents have become rich through it.

The mode of operation, as told by Charles Kelly, the head of the Altoona gang, who is 16 years old, and who has turned State's evidence, is that each gang which watched, while the other broke off the brasses with picks and levers and made away with the plunder. The 'journalers' were taken off sometimes, causing serious wrecks. More than 600 pounds of brass was stolen at one time from the company's shop, in Altoona, before the eyes of the employes.

Beam and Walters, two men who have not yet been arrested, were the agents in Altoona and Walters alone had thirty boys working under him. Some of the boys became so expert as to be transferred to a larger field of operations.

DAKOTA SETTLERS STARVING.

Extreme Suffering and Privation Among Seventy Families of Norwegians.

A letter from Rev. C. W. Riehes, of Park River, Dak., conveys the first authentic information of extreme suffering and privation among the Norwegian settlers in Western Washington county. Men with relief report that they found about seventy families in about as destitute circumstances as it is possible for human beings to be and still exist. Many were found with bare feet and clothing to cover their nakedness, and that of the thinnest material. Shoes were almost unknown. These farmers have lived on their little capital until nothing remained. Most of them have been living on a kind of porridge, made by cooking frozen green wheat and oats, stuff not fit to feed a hog. One family had not seen any flour for six weeks. Nearly all were entirely out of flour. The people have been dividing with each other their potatoes until now they are gone, too.

The Secret Out.

Prof. Henry C. Friend's carefully guarded secret process for refining crude sugar, which was the basis of the Electric Sugar Refining Company, has been exposed. It was discovered by a Brooklyn dress-maker, Mrs. H. M. Baillie, who was employed by the Friends during the "experimental" stage of the great swindle, and who heard the family discuss the "secret" through an open register immediately after a \$5,000 demonstration. It consisted of washing the raw material through the water pipes and then admitting the would-be investors to inspect the result of the Professor's little machine, which was always loaded with the refined article.

Twenty Vessels Lost.

The loss of Philadelphia commerce during the past year has been very disastrous both to life and property. Eleven vessels, either bound to or from Philadelphia, or owned in that city, having gone to the bottom of the ocean with 118 lives, while 9 more were wrecked, but fortunately without loss of life. The property swallowed up with these twenty vessels was valued at \$50,000.

BEAUTIES OF THE ECLIPSE.

They Are Seen From Many Points—Fine Effects in Light and Shades.

During the eclipse of the sun Prof. Davidson of Howard Observatory, discovered 1,700 comets near the sun. A drawing of the telescopic appearance of the corona near the south pole of the sun was obtained by J. A. Brashear, of Allegheny, Pa. The corona was similar in general appearance to those of 1860 and 1878. A striking characteristic of the corona was two forked wings of light polar rays well defined.

At Cloverdale, just previous to the totality the cirrus clouds were all tinged with the most brilliant colors of the rainbow. Early in the eclipse Venus appeared and Mercury and other planets were plainly in view.

At San Jose the Normal School observing party saw Venus plainly with a naked eye, but the corona and prominences were rendered invisible by floating clouds. Among the incidents of the phenomena observed was the effect of the eclipse upon the images of the sun, formed where the light shot through apertures.

Prof. W. W. Thoburn, of the University of the Pacific, made some observations, assisted by Prof. A. H. Briggs. During the quarter of the eclipse the sky was obscured by clouds, but from that on was comparatively clear. At the moment of greatest obscuration the sun was almost hidden, except a very thin crescent on the southern edge. Mountains of the moon were clearly seen lined against the sun, Venus and Mars in conjunction were easily distinguished by the naked eye.

Decline in Stock Speculation.

The decline in stock speculation is one of the most striking features of the year, so far as the business world is concerned. The record of the year's transactions at the Stock Exchange as compiled by Mr. Burns, of the Secretary's office, tells the story of the depression in Wall street as no more words can tell it. During 1888 the sales of stocks at the Exchange aggregated only 62,841,150 shares. This may be considered a large number, and it is, taken by itself, but when placed side by side with the record of last year, 85,821,027 shares, the falling off in business is seen to be 23,979,877 shares, a loss in commission to the active brokers of the Exchange of upwards of \$6,500,000. Since 1881 the decline in stock speculation has been continuous and very great. In that year the sales of stock aggregated 117,678,987 shares, or nearly double what they were this year. In 1886 the sales had fallen off to 163,932,804 shares.

DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

Two Young Men Blown Into Pieces Too Small to Recognize.

A horrible accident occurred two miles from Sunnyside, Pa. Two young men, Erb and Schoeber were literally blown to atoms by an explosion of a half bucket of dynamite. They were employed at James Miller's dynamite factory, and at the time were at work in Swamp Creek, near the factory, mixing the ingredients of dynamite. It is supposed that in mixing the stuff the proper proportions were not observed, and as a result the explosion ensued. The men were blown to pieces and fragments of flesh were scattered over a wide area. None of the pieces of flesh picked up were of sufficient size to show to which body they belonged. None of the factory built buildings were injured, though the shock was felt in houses two miles from the scene.

A Big Fraud.

The Electrical Sugar Refining Company has collapsed with a crash and the method of refining raw sugar by electricity has been proved to be a fraud. The shares of the Electric Company were quoted Friday at \$1 per share. On Monday they sold at 25¢. The capital stock of the company consists of 10,000 shares of a par value of \$20. Only about 5,000 shares, however, have been floated upon the confiding public and nearly all of these are held abroad. The alleged process was announced as a wonderful discovery in 1882, Prof. Henry C. Friend claiming to be the inventor. He said he would save \$6 per ton in refining raw sugar and would produce finer sugar than any process hitherto known. At a meeting of prominent citizens of New York City he pretended to explain his process.

Chief Arthur to Resign.

Chief Engineer Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, intends resigning his office at the expiration of his present term, which will be some time next spring. The reason is given that the present policy of Brotherhood, especially as regards the management of the Burlington strike, is not and has not been in accord with his views.

New Goods

Having just returned from the goods we take this method to see it and notice the GREATLY at which we are offering it. Y line of

The Grand Jury of Allegheny county found a true bill of three counts against Superintendent Starr, of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, for conspiracy in connection with the accident at the grade crossing in Allegheny, upwards of a year ago, which resulted in the death of Miss Harriett Weyman and Mr. J. M. Culp.

Robbed Their Grandfather.

Two sons of Milton Meyer, of Philadelphia, aged respectively 18 and 16 years, visited John Weller, their grandfather, at Schimsville, Lehigh county, Pa. After leaving for home, Weller found that he had been robbed of nearly \$70. The boys were pursued, caught and confessed to the theft, and are now in Allentown jail.

New Oil Field in Ohio.

A new oil well producing 100 barrels the first 24 hours, is reported struck on the Thos Rowland farm, in Pleasant county, W. Va. It is the best well struck in that district, and reports say that a large number of new leases are being taken.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Extreme cold prevails in the Ekaterinburg district of Southeastern Russia. It is estimated that 175 persons have been frozen to death. The Black, Caspian and Aral seas are frozen over. Railroad disasters on account of cold and snow are reported from other places of the Caucasus.

100 to 1500
2.25 to 10.00
1.50 to 3.75
3.50 upward
3.00
1.00 to 5.00
20c up
15c up
15c up
15c up
15c up

wear from is and Boys Caps from 5c up Hats " 15c up Mufflers, Handkerchiefs, very cheap and fine quality. Buck-skin, Cloth and Kid mber goods, large stock of and Holiday goods of every Will positively not be un- for past favors, I would re-solicit a continuance of pa-

Reliable Clothing House

LEBURGH, PA. and Summer. 18 to show you an immense variety of reasonable selections, Groceries, an elegant line of Comb Ladies' Cloth, Satines, of Wash Dress Goods, Century Cloth, White Dress, Line of Cassimere and Embroideries. Mass Groceries ROS., Selinsgrove

Stylish a Well Made Clothing

Merchant Tailoring business with the people of Snyder county, er, Selinsgrove, Pa. stock of

Timothy	1.00
Blue grass	1.00
Milk	1.50
WHEAT—No. 1 red	1.46
" " "	1.44
CORN—No. 2 yellow ear,	40
Mixed ear,	37
Oats—New No. 2 white,	29
RYE—New No. 2 Ohio and Pa.	50
FLOUR—Fancy winter pats,	6.50
Fancy spring pats,	5.50
Clear wither	5.50
Rye Flour,	3.75
HAY—New Timothy,	15.50
Loose, from wagons	23.00
MIDDINGS—White,	29.50
Bran,	15.25
Clay Feed,	19.00
BALTIMORE,	97
Wheat—No. 2 red,	97
Rye	67
Corn	40
Oats—Western	29
Butter	18
Eggs	20
Pork	16.00
HAY—Western	16.00
CINCINNATI,	97
Wheat—No. 2 red,	97
Rye	67
Corn	40
Oats	27
Eggs	16
Pork	15
Butter	18
PHILADELPHIA,	475
Flour—Family	475
Wheat—No. 2, Red	39
Corn—No. 2, Mixed	29
Oats—Ungraded White	39
Rye—No. 2	39
Butter—Creamery Extra	23
Cheese—N. Y. Full Cream	15

LIVE-STOCK MARKETS

CATTLE. There was little or no trading, the exception of shipping out through signments. SHEEP AND LAMBS. The supply Monday was only fair, steady at full prices. We quote at 40¢ for prime to extra; 3½ to 4¢ for fair and 2½ to 3¢ for common; lambs, 4½¢ as to quality. HOGS. Market dull and lower, with some loss over unsold; sold at 40¢ and light hogs continue to sell more rapidly than heavy weights.