

REVIEW OF TRADE.

THE MONEY MARKET STRAINED.

A Confident Feeling Prevails, But There is Need of Caution.

Dun's Weekly Review of Trade says: The new year opens with a most confident feeling prevalent in all parts of the country, and yet with some features which suggest especial caution. The money markets are strained at the East, close at Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit, and closer than before at Kansas City and Omaha, but at other Western points fairly supplied, the heavy disbursements for interest and dividends, estimated at \$4,000,000 at New York alone, nearly 6 per cent more than last year, will doubtless give present relief. Reports from other centers of trade all show that unseasonably warm weather is having a depressing influence, but in other respects are generally encouraging.

Iron and other mills temporarily are closed for repairs. Chicago foots up transactions in 1899 amounting to \$1,177,000,000, against \$1,125,000,000 in 1898, a gain of 4.6 per cent; in cured meats the gain has been 100 percent, and in dressed beef, lard and cheese large gains; but flour receipts are smaller, with an increase in grain. The dry goods trade was fully up to the previous year, with easy collections. St. Louis notes the largest holiday trade on record, and receipts of grain and produce limited only by the transporting power of the railroads. At Milwaukee there is uneasiness as to the near future, and the weather causes slow collections and similar fears at Detroit. At Kansas City and Omaha business is fair for the season. The chief industries are on the whole unusually prosperous. A fuller statement of cotton-mills dividends for 1899 indicates that they were larger than in any previous year of specie prices. The leather trade has become heated, and consumption of boots and shoes is prodigious. But over-production pushes prices too low for healthy profits.

The iron trade pauses at this season, but prices are firm at previous quotations. A combination of glass producers has raised the price of window glass higher than for the past five years and expected to make business profitable. Copper is selling at \$14.25 for lake for increasing consumption. The woolen business is still the cloud in the sky. Stocks carried over at the chief cities price to be 22,000,000 pounds more than a year ago, and sales at Boston for 1899 were 184,000,000 pounds, against 160,000,000 for the previous year, a decrease of nearly 20 percent. Producers markets have been dull. The decline in prices of all commodities, from Jan. 1 to Jan. 1 was about 4 1/2 percent, and the range is now a little lower than in any previous January for thirty years. The average for 18 1/2 years was 4.92 percent below that of 1888. The stock market has been weakened by monetary pressure for the past two weeks, but the average price is \$9 per share higher than a year ago. The Treasury has put out only \$100,000,000 more than it has taken in the past week, the large disbursements for the new year having not been felt yet, but the available surplus has been reduced \$1,000,000 for the month of December, indicating a large addition to circulation. Foreign trade continues heavy, exports for five years at New York falling only 1.5 percent below those of the previous year, which indicates an excess of twenty millions or more in exports over imports for December. The fallures in 1899 numbered 10,781 in the United States, or 1 in every 95 firms, and 1,777 in Canada, or 1 in every 30 firms. The aggregate liabilities were \$4,784,237 in the United States, against \$4,482,037 in 1898, and \$4,714,234 in Canada, against \$4,481,000. The business failures during the last seven days number 324.

AN ANGRY FATHER.

A Medical Student Elopes With a Seventeen-Year-Old Girl.

Percy Wood, a medical student of Ann Arbor, Mich., eloped with Alice Haines, of Gallegos, Ill.

Wood formerly attended school here and boarded at Haines', and for a long time regarded his suit with favor, and refused when Wood asked her consent to the marriage, a year ago.

The young man visited during the holidays at Haines' home. Wednesday afternoon he bade them farewell, saying he was going to Florida. He then went to the County Clerk's office and procured a marriage certificate. Early in the night Alice slipped out of the house, met a hack and her lover at an appointed spot, and was whisked away to the house of the Rev. A. E. Colton.

After they were married the couple left for Ann Arbor. The bride's father was greatly incensed, and the father threatens to have Wood arrested for perjury in certifying that the girl is of age, whereas she is only 17.

BLACK TONGUE FEVER.

Four of a Family Carried Off by It—Their House Burned to Prevent Its Spread.

An epidemic which is said to be the black tongue fever is raging in West Virginia. It was first discovered in the family of Thomas Burns, and four of the family died of the disease in one week. The people of that community are greatly alarmed, and parties have been sent from Morgantown with clothing and provisions for the remainder of the family, with orders from the authorities to remove them and burn the house to prevent the disease from spreading.

Another Sad Tragedy.

At Youngstown, O., Mrs. Charles Edmonds made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide by taking morphine. Mrs. Edmonds is the woman who was assaulted a short time ago by her own father, John C. McCreery. Edmonds administered such a dose leading to McCreery that he died, and is now awaiting trial on the charge of murder.

MISS EUTERION, of Cleveland, stuck a hat-pin into her head accidentally while putting on her hat. A swelling was soon noticeable, and afterward a fungus growth came on the spot as large as her fist. This has to be cut away every two months, and it is feared fatal results will eventually follow.

AN OUTLAW RESCUED.

Taken From Jail By Masked Desperadoes.

Willie Wallace, the notorious outlaw of Harris county, Georgia, was rescued from jail in Hamilton by a large number of masked men.

The party rode into town on a full gallop and hastily threw out guards on every road leading into Hamilton. Ten horsemen were posted around the residence of Sheriff Kimbrough. The men first tried to pry off the large iron bar which fastened the front door of the jail, but failed in the effort, and then they broke the lock. After getting the front door open, they soon broke the locks to the iron cage, and Wallace stepped out to join his friends. They then rode off. When the men first started to work they were heard by two negroes, who at once told a number of white men, and as soon as possible they went to the jail to find the party gone. The rescuers also took with them a negro who was in jail, named Dan Tatum. It is supposed that Tatum must have recognized some of the men. If this is so there is no doubt that he was killed, for it was a desperate crowd which has been the cause of many negro killings in the county during the past few months. Sheriff Kimbrough has organized a posse to scour the country for the men. Wallace was the head of the band which terrorized the negroes last summer. Of one murder he is known to be personally guilty, while many others are ascribed to him.

29 BOYS SUFFOCATED.

They Were Asleep in the Upper Stories of a London School.

The paupers school in Forest Gate, a connection of the White chapel unions, in London was burned early Wednesday morning, and twenty-six boys who were asleep in the upper stories were suffocated before they could be rescued. Fifty-eight others were rescued by the attacks of the institution and members of the fire brigade admitted the most intense excitement, and at great risk. Two of the matrons effected their escape by sliding down a water pipe. They reached the ground uninjured. Some of the boys, embarrassed by the example set by the matrons, escaped in the same manner. The superintendent of the school exhibited great bravery and repeatedly dashed through the flames, returning each time with the almost inimitable form of some youngster. The school contained in all six hundred pupils. When the flames had been smothered the twenty-six dead bodies were removed to the main hall of the institution, where the profuse Christmas decorations still depended from the ceiling and walls. The fire originated from an overheated stove. The girls' wing of the school containing 250 inmates was not touched by the flames. The boys retired in the highest spirits in anticipation of promised presents to be given them New Year's day. A New Year's fete was also to be held that day.

PUT TO FLIGHT.

An Exciting Drush with Redskins in New Mexico.

Alcides from San Juan county, Santa Fe, N. M., states that on Sunday, as John and Dick Cox and Jack Smith were riding across the Mesa they were fired upon by a band of Navajo Indians.

On Monday the men, accompanied by Henry Wood and six others, returned to the place and were again fired upon by the Indians. About 10 shots were exchanged and one Indian was killed. The Indians fired from ambush on the second day and forced the cowboys to retreat.

The trouble grew out of the fact that the Cox brothers found an Indian in possession of a freshly butchered steer, and when accused of killing the animal he threatened it, but replied with abusive language, and as the party turned to leave fired a shot after them. Much feeling is manifested toward the Indian Agent for allowing his wards of the reservation, and further serious trouble is anticipated.

THE EIGHT-HOUR CAMPAIGN.

Chicago Labor Organizations Beginning to Move. A Vote To Be Taken.

With the present week the various Chicago trade organizations that are affiliated with the National Federation of Trades will inaugurate an active but secret campaign in the interests of the eight-hour day. Among the trades that will go into the movement are the brick-layers, carpenters, engineers and other railroad employes, woodworkers and stock yards employes. Secret circulars, outlining the plan of campaign have been received from President Gompers. One paragraph suggests that the sense of the electors be taken on the question, and it has already been decided to take a vote on the eight-hour day at the municipal election to be held in Cook county next April.

POISONED THE FAMILY.

The Finnish Work of a Young West Virginian.

Ed Church, son of Woolford Church, a farmer living near Huntington, W. Va., became angry at his father, went to Guyandotte and purchased a box of Rough on Rats, which he put in the flour. The whole family, except the boy were poisoned from eating biscuits. A 3 year-old girl is dead, and the father and two other children are dangerously ill. Young Church has fled. He is 17 years old.

Indians Scare Off Canal Workers.

Sixty Pueblo Indians, armed and in full war paint, rode up to the engineers at work on the main canal of the Rio Grande Irrigation and Colonization Company, in Benavillo county, and demanded that the work cease, as the proposed system of irrigation would drain and seriously injure the lands and waters over which the Indians exercise rights. The engineers suspended work and came to consult the authorities. They say the hills are full of armed Indians ready to begin hostilities if resisted.

The Non-Partisan W. C. T. U.

The provisional committee of the non-Partisan Woman's Christian Temperance Union composed of Mrs. Ellen J. Finney, Cleveland, O.; Mrs. Harry White, Indiana, Pa.; Mrs. Ellen M. Watson, Pittsburgh, and others has issued a call for a national meeting at Music hall, Cleveland, on January 22, for the purpose of organizing a national association.

A WHITE STUDENT HAZED.

Trouble in a Colored University—Four Students Arrested.

Clark University, the leading colored institution of Atlanta, Ga., is torn up by a question of social equality. B. J. Underhill, a young white man, is the cause of the trouble which resulted in a hating several nights ago. The police have made four arrests and one of the hazers now occupies a cell in jail, charged with carrying concealed weapons. The other three students were charged with minor offenses and were discharged on recommendation of the University officials.

Underhill is 19 years old, and the grandson of the matron of the girl's dormitory. His home is in the North, but he came South for his health. Since his arrival on the campus he has occupied quarters in the girl's dormitory, although he holds no professional position in the University and this is the cause of the feeling against him. Delegation after delegation of colored students visited President Hickman and requested a change of Underhill's quarters. These requests were refused on the ground that the boy was a consumptive. More than this, Underhill has strong ideas on the race question and refuses to associate with his fellow students.

Matters grew from bad to worse and on Christmas night came the demolition. That night a festival was held in a hall, next to an empty music-room. During the exercises Underhill, with one of the white teachers, went into the music room. Several colored students followed him. Underhill requested them to return to the hall. Words followed and Underhill said the music-room had been set apart for the white people.

The next morning a number of colored students asked President Hickman to remove Underhill. He refused, and on the night of the 31st the windows of the dormitory were broken, pistols fired into the rooms and a small riot ensued. The matter was placed in the hands of the police and arrests made. The excitement continues and further trouble is expected.

IT WENT TO THEIR HEADS.

A Religious Revival With More Menial Than Spiritual Results.

The vicinity of High Prairie, ten miles from Leavenworth, Kan., has lately been the scene of a religious revival that has greatly excited the people of that community. In some instances persons have gone crazy with enthusiasm. Word was received of two cases of insanity, and the insane persons came near losing their lives. During the revival about two weeks ago, a brother and sister, Frank and Minnie Board, became so enthusiastic and excited over religion that they lost their reason. They were living alone and no one noticed their condition.

Thursday evening a couple of persons passing Boland's house noticed smoke issuing from it. On gaining entrance they found a well kindled fire on the floor of one of the rooms, with brother and sister in almost nude condition singing religious songs and dancing around it, seemingly getting ready for cremation. The fire was finally put out and the brother and sister overpowered. When questioned about the fire, Minnie replied that the Lord had made the fire, and they would not put it out. Late Saturday afternoon they were placed in the jail, where they will remain until a method of treatment for their case has been decided upon.

CRUELTY TO INSANE WOMEN.

Horrible Developments of an Illinois Alma House—Reformatory Legislation Proposed.

The reports of the horrible treatment of insane women in the DuPage county, Ill., almshouse are declared in an official statement to Governor Fair to be well founded. The statement is signed by Dr. F. H. Wines and Rev. C. Truesdell, both members of the State board of charities. The women were covered with filth, naked, and ate of the reeking floor. When bathed at all it was by male attendants, and at night the women's cells were left unlocked, exposing them to the dangers of criminal assault by men about the place. The two women thus treated were incurable and to this fact and the ignorance and carelessness of the keeper, the report attributes the disgrace. Both women have been removed to the State asylum, and the report recommends legislation to give the State board of charities jurisdiction over the county authorities in such cases. One of the women was insane when a dozen years ago, she arrived from Germany. A law is recommended to the legislature giving the State board power to return such patients to the place from which they came.

ONLY MILK AND COFFEE.

Punch Not Allowed at a Banquet Given to Judge Brewer.

At a banquet given to Judge Brewer by leading citizens of Leavenworth in honor of his elevation to the Supreme Court in the United States, the committee of arrangements for the banquet had prepared to provide its guests with milk punch. In some way this fact reached the ears of the police commissioners, and the proprietors of the hotel were warned by Commissioner Love that if any liquors were served they would be arrested on such information. The banquet committee gave orders to pay no heed to this threat. Commissioners Love and Abornethy heard of this and declared that if the punch was served the police would certainly enter the place during the banquet and confiscate the liquors. Rather than have any disturbance, the committee consented to forego the punch, and the only beverages at the feast were tea, coffee and milk.

A Blockade Raised.

One of the worst snow blockades ever known on the Sierra Nevada mountains has been raised by the railroad company's forces and rotary snow plow. The first of the released west bound trains is expected to arrive at Sacramento some time to-night, and the others will follow soon as possible.

Turner Released.

At Mitchell, S. D., Dexter Turner, the alleged insurance swindler who was arrested last Thursday was discharged. He stoutly denies that he made any misrepresentation in his business as agent of the Citizens Life Insurance Company.

WASHINGTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE RECEPTIONS.

The Brilliant Scenes at the Executive Mansion.

A fine drizzle filtered from the clouds this New Year's morning, and by 10 o'clock it had changed to a heavy rain. At the Executive Mansion, where the President and the ladies of the Cabinet were to receive those in official and social life, the cold, pure whiteness of the exterior of the mansion was in direct contrast with the scene within. There everything was warmth and brightness. Smiles twinkled in and about the great chandeliers and depended from the tops of tall mirrors and windows. The East Room, where most of the callers assembled, was the only one of the four public reception rooms that secured its light from the sun. Great spreading palms and plants were standing in every nook and corner, while the mantels were banked with gardens of hyacinths, azaleas, ferns and other plants.

In the Blue Room, where the President and his party stood, the central chandelier and the side lights were shaded with unique effect and brought out strongly the changing colors of the various tints of blue. The three windows in the back of the room were almost hidden by masses of green. As in the East Room, smilax, palms and rubber trees predominated. Red-flowered poinsettias and pink azaleas peeped out from among their green cousins. Under the mantelpieces ferns, hyacinths and ice plants were banked.

In the Red Room, where the Diplomatic Corps assembled, and in the Green Room, the decorations were much the same. Shortly after 11 o'clock the Diplomatic Corps, the members of the International American Congress and those of the Marine Conference, and the members of the Venezuelan Claims Commission had assembled in the Red Room waiting to be received.

At a signal from President Wilson, the Marine Band in the corridor struck up "Hail to the Chief," and those assembled in the corridor outside the Blue Room saw the Presidential party descending the main staircase.

Leaving on the arm of the President was Mrs. McKee, who took the place of her mother. Mrs. Harrison decided not to take part in the reception on account of the recent death of her sister, Mrs. Scott-Lord. Mrs. McKee wore a Martha Washington dress of white armor silk, princess back and train. Following after the President and Mrs. McKee came the Vice President and Mrs. Morton. Then came Secretary Blaine with Mrs. Stephen Ekins, and after them the other members of the Cabinet.

When the Blue Room was reached the President and Mrs. McKee took their places at the head of the receiving line, which was composed of Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Windom, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Wanamaker, Mrs. Tracy, Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Risk, and a number of invited guests, among whom were Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Platt, Mrs. Quay, Mrs. Cockrell, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Carlisle, Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Butterworth, the Misses Blaine, Miss Wanamaker, the Misses Halstead, Miss Risk and Miss Maude Grover.

After the receiving party had taken their places the reception proper began. The members of the Diplomatic Corps, headed by Ladies, filed through the Blue Room a dinto the East Room. The uniforms of most of the members of the corps shone with renewed brilliancy under the glare of the gas. Following them came the members of the International American Conference. The International Marine Conference came on the heels of the Pan-Americans. The resplendent naval uniforms attracted considerable comment from the lookers-on. The members of the Venezuelan Claims Commission completed this segment of the program.

The Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the United States Supreme Court and other dignitaries were then announced. Chief Justice Fuller shook hands cordially with the President and the others. After the Judiciary came a number of Senators and Representatives. They did not attract much attention on account of the plainness of their dress. By this time the East Room was well armed with diplomats, Congressmen and others, and the numbers were increased by the arrival of representatives of the Army and Navy.

With the passing of the Marine Corps, the crowd in the East Room began to thin out.

At noon the Regents and the Secretary of the Smithsonian institution, the Civil Service Commissioner, the Interstate Commerce Commission and other department officers were announced. Only 15 minutes was taken up in receiving these.

Following came the veterans of the Mexican war, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Loyal Legion and the members of the Oldest Inhabitants Association or the District of Columbia. They were disposed of in 20 minutes and at 12:45 the general reception of citizens began. The crowd was unusually small on account of the rain, and at 1:30 o'clock, 40 minutes before the time set for the close of the reception, the President shook hands with the last comer.

PLOT TO MURDER THE CZAR.

Startling Discoveries Made By Russian Police.

The Nihilist leader Pierra has been arrested at Warsaw. On his person and at his lodgings the police found pamphlets and letters involving a number of officers of the Imperial Guard in what is believed to be a desperate Nihilist plot against the life of the Czar.

It is stated that the arrest of Pierra has been productive of disclosures far more startling than any of the alarming revelations which have come to the police within the last few days, appalling as they have been. From the letters and documents found concealed in his clothing the most damning evidence is obtained against many persons high in Imperial favor and authority, contemplating not the assassination of the Czar alone, but the murder of the entire reigning family as well.

Already many of the conspirators have been taken into custody, and those still at large are under espionage or being tracked by relentless police officials to the end of their lodgment in prison, whence they will almost certainly go to their death.

Several of the implicated persons were apprehended while attempting to leave the country.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

The Commission Recommends Some Extension of the Present Law.

The third annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, submitted to Congress, is a voluminous document. In regard to the effect of the operations of the law upon the earnings of railroads the report says: "As a whole there has been considerable increase in railroad earnings and that during the year, since the last report of the Commission every month has shown a marked, though not the same, increase over the corresponding month in the preceding year. The lowest rate of increase upon a given number of roads in any month was nearly 44 per cent, and the highest was over 12 per cent, being the largest since the extraordinary rate of earnings in the year 1897."

The following recommendations looking to the amendment of the law were made:

First—An amendment to the first section, so as to correct some ambiguities of language and make more definite and certain the transportation, both interstate and international, intended to be the subject of the provisions of the act.

Second—An amendment to the third section, relating to the routing and interchange of traffic between carriers, as to better provide for through traffic at through rates over connecting lines.

Third—An amendment to the twelfth section, relating to the attendance of witnesses and the taking of testimony by deposition.

Fourth—An amendment to the twenty-second section, allowing the free transportation of persons injured in railroad accidents and the families of railroad employes.

New sections suggested are:

First—A prohibition of the payment of commissions by one railroad company to the ticket agents of another company for passenger transportation.

Second—The abolition of ticket brokerage, by requiring ticket sellers to be duly authorized by a railroad company which assumes responsibility for his acts.

Third—The requirement that mileage shall be paid for cars used belonging to private companies or individuals.

Fourth—The extension of the law, to make it apply to common carriers by water routes.

INDUCTED INTO OFFICE.

Justice Brewer Takes His Seat on the Supreme Bench.

David J. Brewer, the new Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, assumed the duties of his office Monday.

The court reassembled at noon, Chief Justice Fuller presiding. The new Associate Justice followed the Justices in, accompanied by Justice Strong, retired. He was attired in the black robe of office, and took a seat at the clerk's desk while the Marshal opened the court.

The Chief Justice then arose, announced that the commission of the new Associate Justice was in the clerk's hands, and called upon the clerk to read it. The reading over, the new Associate Justice arose, and standing at the clerk's desk, read aloud the oath of office. At the end the clerk said, "So help you God," and Judge Brewer bowed his acknowledgments.

The Marshal, Mr. Wright then escorted Justice Brewer to his seat on the extreme left of the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices bowing to him as he passed. The regular business of the court was then taken up, a number of decisions being read.

Influenza Spreading.

The influenza is decreasing in Paris.

Secretary Windom is confined to the house with an attack of influenza.

A canvass of 20 public schools of Boston, having a total of 9,389 pupils, shows that over 1,919 are absent—mostly on account of la grippe.

It is estimated that there are no less than 3,000 cases of influenza in Reading, Pa., and reports are coming in of the extensive prevalence of the disease in the surrounding country districts.

The number of cases of influenza reported in London are constantly increasing. A large number of the nurses in the hospitals, doctors and clergymen are prostrated with the disease. The epidemic continues to spread among the police.

La grippe is creating a profound sensation in the Mohawk Valley. At Amsterdam there are 2,000 cases, among the sufferers being the three principal physicians. At Fort Plain 500 persons are ill from the disease, including Dr. Burnett. At Canajoharie there are 300 sufferers, including United States Commissioner Van Steubenburgh and Henry B. Jor, the latter being seriously ill. Several hundred cases have been reported at Fonda, Fultonville and St. Johnsville, and one death has occurred at Tribes Hill.

MANY NATIVES SLAIN.

Maj. Wissmann Again Defeats the African Insurgents.

Another engagement has taken place between the insurgent natives and the forces commanded by Maj. Wissmann. After severe fighting Maj. Wissmann succeeded in capturing Bwinjiner's fortified position near Sadiam. Many of the natives were killed, and 15 Germans were wounded. When the natives were driven from their position they left behind them rifles and ammunition of all kinds. Co. Evan Smith, British Consul here, presented to the Sultan an autograph letter from Queen Victoria. The Sultan thereupon ordered that a royal salute be fired in honor of the Queen.

Four Men Killed.

The mail train west-bound on the P. R. R. killed two men at Tyrone, one of them being the train dispatcher. The other has not been identified. They were walking on the track when struck. At Beus Creek, about 12 miles east of Johnstown, Pa., the train also struck and instantly killed two men, supposed to be Hungarians in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad. They stepped in front of the engine and were terribly mangled. The train was stopped, the bodies taken aboard and brought to Johnstown, where they lay awaiting identification. Two miles farther down the road from Johnstown, the train struck an omnibus which runs between Johnstown and Morrellville and almost killed a woman.

LATE NEWS CONDENSED.

The Pan-American Congress Re-assembled at Washington Thursday.

The condition of Lord Salisbury, the British Premier, is greatly improved. New men will take the place of the strikers on the Makey system of railroads in Indiana.

A German, name unknown, has been arrested at Chicago charged with the horrible butchery of Max Mantwill.

Barnwell, S. C., is quiet. The citizens of Blackville and Bamberg, who helped to protect the town have gone home. There is no cause for alarm.

There is a movement on foot in London to banish Millionaire Blair from the Pelican Club because of the part he took in the Smith-Slavin fight.

James Slocum, an ex-member of the Wilkesbarre, Pa., ball club, brutally murdered his wife at New York, branding her with a hatchet. The murderer was incarcerated.

William Rogers, a Pennsylvania Railroad engineer, on trial at Lancaster, Pa., for criminal negligence in causing the death of John Ryan, a conductor, was acquitted. Rogers's train ran into Ryan's while Rogers was asleep on his engine, having been on duty 24 hours.

The American squadron of evolution has returned to Gibraltar from Tangiers.

The strike on the Mackey Railroad system in Indiana was settled. There were concessions on both sides.

"Max O'Rell," the noted French satirist and humorist, who is to deliver a series of lectures in this country, has arrived in New York.

Several Delaware capitalists have organized a company with \$1,250,000 capital, paid in, to build an industrial city at Mount, Ala., with Preston Lea, of Washington, D. C., President.

The Angus Smith system of elevators, "A" and "C," located on the Southern Railway, wauke, have been sold to an English syndicate for more than a million dollars. Their storing capacity is 2,000,000 bushels.

The Baltimore clothing manufacturers have acceded to the demand of the Garment Cutters and Trimmers' Local Assembly for a reduction of working time from ten to nine hours a day, the per diem wages remaining unchanged.

The murder of Mrs. John Kniffen at Trenton, N. J., is still a mystery. Max P. Cell, who also claimed to have been formed by burglars, is now suspected of having killed Mrs. Kniffen. The claims of Miss Purcell and Dr. Kniffen are being investigated.

Boston, Mass., has ordered a bronze statue of Farragut, and will pay \$100,000 for it.

Cattle dead of disease have lain in the water-trunk in Reading, Pa., and the people have typhoid fever epidemic.

At 100 years of age Charles King, of Weymouth, Mass., gathered about him his descendants for a reunion.

The sheet-metal of the Brooke Iron Company at Birdsboro, Pa., is closed against strikers, who demand 3 cents per day increase.

The Massachusetts Legislature named on the first, H. H. Sprague as President of the senate, and W. F. Barrett the new Speaker.

A C-VETED MONOPOLY.

The Alaska Commercial Company Will Have Lively Competition.

The Alaska Commercial Company will have lively competition in bids for the seal monopoly.

Besides the newly organized North American Commercial Company, B. J. Blaney, better known as "Lucky" Blaney, is to be in the field in connection with seal capitalists.

When asked about the rumor that he had been sold to the Government, Mr. Baldwin said: "I am trying to get a company to bid against the Alaska Commercial Company, which will attempt to secure the privileges of capturing seals in Behring Sea. We have not yet permanently organized, however, and I prefer to give any names until we have done so. Several of those I expect to join are now in town. Probably nothing will be decided early next week."

Another company, the North American Commercial, has been formed, and its objects are stated to be "to hunt and kill kinds of fur-bearing animals and to obtain contracts and licenses from the Government." The company has a capital of \$2,000,000, and its directors include Ed. Travis, with \$200,000, which he has made in mining and the express business, and Mathias Meyer, Albert Miller and Isaac Leibels, all interested in furs and all capitalists.

The combination is powerful, and it is believed has backing at Washington, which will give them success in their fight with the monopoly that has controlled the seal fisheries for so many years.

A Palace Burned.

The royal palace at Laeken, a suburb of Brussels, caught fire New Year's afternoon. Princess Clementine, the daughter of the king, had a narrow escape from being killed, but her governess perished. The royal art collection from painting to the king's private rooms, but at 10 P. M. the palace had the appearance of a huge furnace, and there came from it huge crashes and volcanic bursts of steam and sparks as portions of timber, stone and other masses of debris fell into the fire. The heat was so great as to totally prevent any small fire brigade, which at last came, from doing but little. The queen's apartments have suffered most. Much plate has been saved, but the valuable pictures, the tapestries and the great library are irretrievably lost.

A Steel Plant Sold.

The firm of Hoopes Bros. & Partridge, steel manufacturers, have sold their real estate to the American Wheel Company of Chicago, for \$310,000. The plant is one of the best equipped in the country, and the sale is in accordance with an agreement which has been maturing for a year or more. The firm has united with some four of the steel companies in various parts of the United States in forming a combine known as the "American Wheel Company of Chicago."