

REPORTS from the West continue to come in announcing serious injury to the wheat crop.

OVER 200 German immigrants arrived in Pittsburgh over the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Saturday afternoon.

THE fruit crop promises well. All but the peach crop, and that you know is always a dismal failure about this time of the year.

THE Brewers' and Dealers' Journal says, concerning Philadelphia: "There are in this city about one thousand licensed, and over five thousand unlicensed places for selling liquor."

THE Senate has received the tariff bill and has referred it to the Committee on Finance. If the bill is as long in the Senate as it was in the House, Congress will be in session all summer.

STANLEY, the African explorer, regards the young Emperor of Germany as one of the wide-awake men of the times whose purposes are well defined and whose plans in their achievement are of the best that could be made.

DELEGATES to the number of 350, representing the engineers, firemen, conductors, brakemen and switchmen, met in Indianapolis yesterday to consider measures for a federation of the different unions. The scheme was adopted and will be submitted to the engineers' convention in the fall for ratification.

THE Salt Lake Herald says that one marked result of Mormon rule is that that city of 50,000 people has no debt and has the lowest tax rate of any city in the United States—five mills a year. The rest of the country might take some lessons in municipal financing from the Salt Lake people, while the latter would profit by adopting the marital views of the former.

SOME people are kicking against the inquisitorial nature of many of the census inquiries. There is now no time to amend the matter and the best thing the American citizen can do is to make up his mind to answer them and avoid trouble to himself and to others. That the statistics called for will be useful there can be no doubt, although it is likely that some points the information received will hardly be taken as a true representation of things concerning which inquiries are made.

OUT of the 2,000,000 inhabitants of Norway as many as 20,000 emigrate to the United every year. The cause seems to be, not that the country is too poor to support the population, but that an aristocratic class has been built up which obtains its stamp of nobility from the universities, and in its selfish exclusiveness cares nothing for the needs of the artisans, the tradesmen or the agriculturists. Says the Philadelphia Record: "Such a draining of the bone and sinew of a nation is a false economic policy. It is just as true to day as it ever was that—a bold peasantry, their country's pride When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

A FUNNY incident connected with the censorship of the press lately occurred at Constantinople. A Greek benevolent society in publishing its report, put on its title page a quotation from Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. Soon a police officer swooped down upon the office where it was printed, and demanded of the editor information of who this Paul was who was writing letters to Galata, a suburb of Constantinople, as he had orders to procure copies of these letters and bring Paul himself to headquarters. In vain the editor explained that Paul could not be brought to headquarters, for he was dead. The officer retorted that his orders were to bring Paul, and if he could not bring Paul to bring the editor. His protest that Paul had been in heaven eighteen hundred years was of no avail; the editor was taken to headquarters and thrown into prison. Finally the Greek Patriarch interceded, presented the bureau of censorship with a copy of Paul's letter, and at last succeeded in convincing the astute officials that the letter was not addressed to the people of Galata, but to a province of the ancient Roman Empire, whereupon the unfortunate editor was liberated from duress vile.

In the advocacy of his land loan bureau Senator Stanford, in speaking in Senate on Friday last, said: "The principal of the Government loaning money upon property is completely established in its present advance of ninety per cent upon Government bonds. The tremendous results of energizing this ninety per cent and putting it into activity are apparent to all. Equally valuable will be the energizing of the latent forces of real estate. The bill confines its provisions for loans to agricultural lands, but in time they will probably be extended to some other kinds of property and even to municipalities with proper restrictions." The bill is on a level with the proposition to establish store-houses for surplus agricultural products and issuing certificates to a certain value of the same in that is getting away from the business of the Government. The country has witnessed the "tremendous results of energizing" the ninety per cent by the national banks. While getting interest on \$100,000, the banks have the use of \$90,000 of it. That would be enough to energize mostly any branch of business, but where would such a scheme stop were its extension to be commenced?

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

The Rain—The Craze for the Flag—Capital and Labor—The Condition of Many Workers.

OAKDALE, STANILAUS, CO., CAL., May 19, 1890.

To the Editor of the Johnstown Democrat. On the 7th inst., we had a great rain that extended throughout all central California, a rain that completely saturated the ground the fall being 1.35 of an inch. This made the gardens worth double, and the wheat crop worth one-third more than what they were the day before, but it was death to the hay. Hay here is made of barley or wheat, cut when it is yet green, and rain spoils it very easily. There was a big loss in hay, and in cherries and strawberries in the gardens.

Since the rain we have had very warm weather for May, but it is cooler to-day. The Signal Service is a total failure in this State. The officials do not pretend to tell the condition of the weather, except twenty-four hours ahead, and then they miss half-time.

There is nothing said in this State about census taking, matters being kept very close, but there is no doubt but that the plans are well matured and the deputies appointed. It will be a fat take for the party in power, which the Democratic party might and should have had if President Cleveland had not put out too much paper.

The craze in this State is raising the U. S. colors on the various school houses in the different counties. It looks like patriotism until one considers who is at the head of it, then it dwindles down to very small dimensions. Not one out of ten that make the biggest noise, would risk his life in defense of the country if it were imperilled. It reminds one of the cry of loyalty during the war. Loyalty, draft, and substitute were the three things most noticeable then.

We may need patriots soon, if the difficulties between capital and labor grows to greater dimensions. Where these difficulties will end, time can only develop. The old world as well as the new is shaken to the centre. Men of capital can buy legislation, and the laborer will be oppressed in proportion to the ability of the capitalist, which is becoming greater every day, but there is a limit to endurance.

There are hundreds of thousands of men, women and children now in the United States who cannot tell where tomorrow's grub will come from, or where they will earn the next dime. From the poor sewing girl to the sun-burned laborer the veil of poverty goes up, while millionaires are increasing by the thousand. There must be something wrong in our system of political economy that produces this state of things. How these wealthy people can feast on fat things and glitter in jewelry, when they know that the money that bought them has been extorted from the poor without conscientious remorse is a mystery to those who are not initiated. But such is the case. Why do people who are overburdened with wealth grasp for more? This, to me, is stranger than fiction.

Yours, S. B. McCORMICK.

THE BIG STORM.

A Regular Hurricane Added to the Heavy Rain Does Much Damage Near Baker's Furnace on Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon just preceding the heavy rain a destructive wind storm passed over a portion of East Wheatfield township, Indiana county, doing much damage. It was somewhat in the nature of a cyclone, and first struck on the farm of Benjamin Stutsman, near Baker's Furnace, and taking a northerly course swept over a section about forty rods wide and a mile or so in length, and doing much damage. Part of Mr. Stutsman's barn was unroofed and a large shed completely demolished, heavy timbers being carried quite a distance. A number of children and young people who were in the barn at the time miraculously escaped unhurt. All the fruit trees on Mr. Stutsman's farm were uprooted, and the adjoining farm of Harvey Finley fared nearly as badly. Fences and trees were torn down all along the path of the storm and at Mr. Shryock's on the old pike near Armagh considerable damage was also done.

TWO MEN HORRIBLY MANGLED.

Fifty Pounds of Dynamite Explode During a Fire Caused by Lightning.

MANFIELD, O., May 27.—A powerful rain storm passed over this place Saturday night, accompanied with lightning and thunder. Lightning struck the John Charles block in Lucas, six miles east of this city, about 3 o'clock in the morning. The block took fire from the stroke, and was entirely consumed, together with two dwellings adjoining. There is no fire apparatus in the city, and the citizens turned out with buckets, but could do nothing toward extinguishing the fire. When they saw this their efforts were directed toward saving the contents of the building. While removing the goods about fifty pounds of dynamite, which was kept in the store, exploded with disastrous effect. The bodies of John Smith, and Jeremiah Jones were horribly mangled and mutilated beyond recognition. About twenty-five persons in all were more or less injured. The seriously injured are: Joseph Hanna, badly cut on forehead and limbs; F. Russel, severe cut over left eye; John Gallagher, leg severely bruised by falling from a ladder; F. Myers, badly hurt by flying bricks.

Of the remaining persons injured none are considered seriously hurt. Physicians were quickly summoned, who attended the injured. The report of the explosion was heard five miles distant, and the shock was so great that nearly all the windows in the village were broken.

A YEAR AFTER THE FLOOD.

HOW A NEW CITY OF JOHNSTOWN IS RISING FROM THE RUINS.

A Million Dollars Put Into Permanent Improvements Since That Fatal 31st of May—Town Lots Are Higher Than They Were Before the Flood, Money Is Not Scarce, the Mills Are Running, Pay Days Have Taken the Place of Charity, and the Community Is Regaining Its Prosperity.

The Pittsburgh Times, of Saturday, contained the following, written by Mr. George H. Welshons, "St. Geo," a correspondent of that paper, who was in this city on Friday:

In a week it will be a year since the flood.

The grass is green and lush in the mountain-bound hollow where the lake crouched for its deadly leap, and green over thousands of little hillocks on the hills hereabout, that would not be there but for that day. The forgetful grass has covered both. The stream which burst restraint, and with the gathered force of sixteen million tons of water, holding in its grasp a hundred thousand tons of stone and iron, sprang down the valley, has shrunk again to a slender thing that giggles among the stones and would not float a washtub half a mile without stranding. It frets itself in ineffectual froth at every barrow load of cinders that disputes the way where it played pitch and toss with sixty-ton steam engines. The sunshine barely finds it out with searching at the foot of the rock-bound hills, whose summits it challenged with its flood. Its ripples break in silver dimples round a hundred jagged spikes of iron and ends of wire that thrust themselves up from the creek bed. A boy of ten would not stoop to jerk a stone across it, and in the streets of Johnstown every other woman you meet wears black.

JOHN FULTON'S PROMISE.

The town is building up again. We have heard it before, and were glad to have cause for anything but tears for Johnstown. The millions poured in from the open hand of the world relieved the instant suffering. The liberal credits given to those who had the heart to open stores again did much more to set the people on their feet. Much was lost, but some was left—enough for seed. The causes which had made this the center of a rich community of 30,000 people were not destroyed. On the second Sunday after the water had been pouring through their works, John Fulton, speaking for the Cambria Iron Company, made a speech at a prayer meeting over in the camp of the Fourteenth Regiment. Prayers were said there, and the hymns they sung and sobbed needed no printed lines to prompt them, but nothing that was said or sung that day brought so much brightness to the faces of those gathered there as this declaration of the manager of the mill: "We still stand by Cambria, men. The works will be built bigger than ever. You shall have work and wages. We have worked together heretofore and prospered; we have been swept into the wreck together, and with God's help and good courage, men, we will pull through it together."

HOW IT WAS KEPT.

The men were put to work at once clearing up the wreck of the mill and patching up machinery that was worth mending. New machinery took the place of those that had been destroyed. Occupation conquered despair. Work brought relief from suffering. Pay day took the place of charity. The first gathering of the men after the flood was like the roll-call of an army after a great battle. Yet no battle that ever was fought cost so large a proportion of slain. Not one-third of the great industrial army on the rolls of the Cambria Iron Company and the Gautier Steel Works answered "here" when their names were called. The promise Mr. Fulton made that Sunday has been kept. The output of the Cambria Iron Works for the last six months has been greater than that of the same period of last year, and the employment of labor has been proportionate. The Gautier Steel Works, operated by the same company, has been rebuilt and will be enlarged. The contract is let for an additional building to be called "The New Gautier," 1,600 by 400 feet. An addition is being built to the company store at a cost of \$35,000. Payday has been as constant as it was before the flood. Save to those for whom those who earned wages have done their last turn, the chief resource of the community has not failed.

REBUILDING THE TOWN.

The rebuilding of what we carelessly call the material part of a town has gone on rapidly. Not less than a million dollars has been spent, by the best estimate of builders whom I have seen, in permanent rebuilding and repairing in the last year. One brick business block, occupied by stores, offices, etc., has been put up that cost \$36,000. Another, a four story brick, cost \$22,000. The new library, the gift of Andrew Carnegie, is under contract at \$65,000. The firm of Hoover, Hughes & Co. kindly furnish me the following statement from their books:

WORK DONE IN THE LAST YEAR.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. 1 block, \$22,000; 1 block, 15,000; 1 dwelling, 5,000; 3 dwellings, \$4,000, 12,000; 1 dwelling, 3,000; 2 buildings at \$2,500, 5,000; 2 buildings, \$2,000, 4,000; 2 buildings at \$1,500, 3,000; 1 building, 1,200; 2 buildings, \$1,000, 2,000; 50 temporary storerooms, 22,500; 8 storerooms, \$500, 4,000; 16 houses, \$500, 8,000.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. 455 average, \$400, 182,000; 307 average, \$300, 92,100; Bridges in aggregate, 10,000.

IN COURSE OF ERECTION AND UNDER CONTRACT.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Library building, \$65,000; Cambria store, 35,000; 1 business block, 10,000; 1 business block, 8,000; 1 building, 5,000; 1 building, 4,000; 1 building, 3,000; 1 building, 2,250; 1 building, 2,000; 3 buildings, \$1,500, 4,500; 2 buildings, 2,000; 1 building, 850; 1 building, 350.

\$141,750

One would suppose that where so many millions of value had been destroyed money would be scarce. The natural expectations would be to find a good deal of paper in the foundations of the new town. It is not so. There is undoubtedly a good deal of credit under many of the business houses, but it is good credit. The business of Johnstown is largely in the hands of men who were in business here before the flood. Those who were successful then, it is fair to assume, will succeed again with fair treatment and a little time. There has been a general disposition to accord them these, and they are prospering. The permanent rebuilding has not been done on credit. The invariable answers of contractors to an inquiry concerning this is that those who are building are paying cash for their improvements. Few ask for long credits. Men build within their means or wait. Many are building double dwelling houses, half for a home, half to rent. The new houses are in many cases better than those which stood in the same sites before, though the large number of cheap frame houses would probably bring the average lower.

THE FLAT TO BE FILLED UP.

There is a noticeable falling off in the demands on contractors just now. The people are housed. The rush to get any sort of a roof that they could spread a bed and a kitchen table under is over. People have time to think. Houses that held one family before are large enough to hold two or three, and the people are enduring some discomfort, and are taking their time about rebuilding.

To look from the train passing through Johnstown gives a false notion. The part of the town most plainly in view seems but little changed in the last six months. Temporary shanties and two-story store-rooms built of unpainted boards still fill up the heart of the city. The reason of this is that the property owners there are waiting for the re-grading of the flat. The level of the ground is to be raised, beginning with a lift of ten feet at the point where the streams come together above the fatal stone bridge and running out to nothing at Market street, five blocks up. The filling is to be taken, so far as may be, from the bed of the river, thus getting a double benefit of additional safety. As soon as this grading is done new and substantial buildings will cover this ground.

THE LOST TOWN OF WOODVALE.

Looking out of the right-hand windows as the train goes east from Johnstown, one sees a waste of sand. There Woodvale stood, with its 3,300 people. This was the town that caught the first full plunge of the flood after it had boiled through the twisting gorges of the hills and a mile of straight way before it. The town lay in the flat, scarcely above the natural level of river. The avalanche had time to gather speed, to arm itself with trunks of trees, and masses of masonry. It had seized more than a score of locomotives at Conemaugh. It had torn up forests by the acre, snatched 500 cars from the rails, ripped rails, ties and ballast from the earth, tore off even the earth itself down to the rocks, like flesh from the bones. Weakened with the ruin it had made, the mountain of water, whirling over and over as it flung back and forth from hill to hill, in its thirsting course down the crooked valley, with the motion of a bullet fired out of a rifle, hurled itself through Woodvale.

The expression is weak. It did not go through Woodvale. It came and in instant rushed in, and there was no Woodvale. The flood seized the town, tore it from the ground, mangled it for a moment in its frothing jaws, added the Gautier Steel Works to it, and flung it through Johnstown against the bill and the stone bridge beyond. Not the houses alone were taken. Their very foundations and the soil they stood on were ripped off, down to the level of the cellar floors. A plough-share going through the fragile nest of a community of bumble bees never made ruin more complete.

RECLAIMING FLOODED LAND.

When the flood had gone, and the waters had gone back to their natural channel, they left a new soil. A deposit of sand, several feet thick, covers the site of the town. One may drive over it at random. The remains of one street have been discovered, but there is nothing to indicate where the others were. No grass grows out of the sand. It is a dead waste, its flat surface broken here and there by pieces of wreck, a set of truck wheels, a boiler, or a jagged fragment of machinery sticking up. The flood dug the surface down until it is not safe to build upon until a dike or levee is made to keep the water out. A few weeks ago, in an ordinary flood, it was covered four feet deep, and a tannery, reconstructed since the flood, floated off. The Cambria Iron Company is about to build a railroad bridge, by which they can ship slag and cinder to the place where the fill is required, and expect thereby to reclaim the

town site. The river channel has also been widened fifteen feet for a considerable distance. The excavation from the bed of the stream to fill in the lower part of the town will also improve the channel, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is deepening the waterways under the arches of the stone bridge. By the time this work is finished Johnstown, which now includes what used to be the boroughs of Conemaugh, Woodvale, Johnstown, Moxham, Prospect, Millville and Cambria, will be free from the danger of flood. Of these sections of the new city, Moxham has been created since the flood. It had a name and perhaps a score of houses last year. Now it has a population of over a thousand. The building elsewhere is general, save in the low-lying sections indicated before. From the hillside the valley shows red and yellow with new brick and new lumber. The bank statements show abundance of money. Real estate is held (and sold) higher than before the flood. The last vestige of the great raft of wreck above the bridge is cleared away, and a circus has pitched its gaudy tent to-day in the sand-flat down by the Point.

Where the ring is and the painted clown is cracking his jokes to-night, could not have been far from the center of the whirl-pool in which thousands were churned to death a year ago. The fetid smell that comes up out of the ground whenever it is stirred mingles with the scent of the sawdust.

The brass band opens the show with a crash of music, and the telegraph, like a discordant death-tick in the wall, protests, with this reminder, that tragedy has first claim to the ground.

THE MECHANICS' LIEN LAW.

How the Recent Decision Will Benefit Poor and Honest Contractors.

The State Supreme Court recently decided in two separate cases that a subcontractor engaged in the erection of a building has no lien against the building if the contract between the owner and principal contractor provides that the building shall be delivered free of liens. All contracts contain that proviso, but heretofore it was not supposed that it affected sub-contractors and material men, who are not parties to the contract and whose lien is given to them by statute an extraordinary remedy.

This interpretation of the law practically wipes out the mechanics' lien law, which has been in operation since 1806, and makes all people who work on or furnish material for a new building look to the principal contractor alone for their money. Its effects will be far-reaching, and the parties interested in it have not yet grasped its full meaning. The general opinion thus far is very much in favor of the decision as tending to freeze out all dishonest contractors and raising such transactions to a higher level. When the bricklayers, plasterers, masons, painters, lumber dealers and others find, however, that they will not have the slightest claim against a building on which they are working, a different story will be told.

Builders and contractors who deal directly with the owners will be benefited by the decision, and are very well satisfied with it. A well-known builder said the new interpretation would not only benefit builders, but it would be fair to owners who have heretofore been compelled in some cases to pay twice for the same work. "I, in all the years I have been in business," said he, "I have never had to enter a lien against a building. The law has its good points, but it has been a grievous abuse. A dishonest contractor could easily keep all the money skimp his work and refuse to pay the sub-contractors. Liens were filed against the owner, and rather than have a blur on his title he paid for large part of the work a second time. Principal contractors are now required to enter heavy security but the new ruling will relieve them of that. Honest and reliable contractors will be benefited by the decision, but dishonest and tricky ones will be driven out of business."

Among lawyers the decision has been generally accepted as good law, and the opinion is generally expressed that there should be no lien law whatever. As the new interpretation puts it the mechanics will suffer in some particulars and be benefited in others.

Under the old ruling a dishonest contractor could underbid all competitors, do part of the work, draw about half the money and then refuse to pay the men. With the fear of a lien hanging over his property, the owner was compelled to pay the men, although he had already paid the contractor. Poor and honest builders were the men who would be mostly benefited by the new rule.

LEECHBURG'S ORIGINAL PACKAGE.

A Car Load Sold in an Hour and a Half—The Agent Will Be Sued and in Turn Intends to Sue for Damages.

LEECHBURG, Pa., May 26.—At 5 o'clock Saturday a car load of beer was delivered to Mr. Silverman, at his place, and he immediately began to dispose of it in the original packages. By 6:30 o'clock all but seven kegs were disposed of. Suit will be brought against Silverman for violation of the Brooks law. He says he will give bail or go to jail, and then, if it is decided that his business is legal, will sue for damages. The seven kegs that were not sold here were taken to Apollo, where they were quickly disposed of. The better class of people here and at Apollo bitterly denounce the brewing company and their agent, and will fight the matter in the Courts.

Six divorces were granted at Lancaster Saturday. This is an unusual number for that staid community.

THE CENSUS TAKEN.

The Questions the People Will Soon be Called Upon to Answer.

On Monday next the Census Enumerators will be let loose upon the country. In cities the work is to be completed in two weeks, and in other districts four weeks will be allowed.

The questions are as follows:

- 1. Give Christian name in full, and initial of middle name, surname.
2. Whether a soldier, sailor or marine during the Civil War (United States of Confederate) or widow of such person.
3. Relationship to head of family.
4. Whether white or black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese or Indian.
5. Sex.
6. Age at nearest birthday. If under one year give age in months.
7. Whether single, married, widowed or divorced.
8. Whether married during the census year (June 1, 1889, to May 31, 1890.)
9. Mother of how many children, and number of these children living.
10. Place of birth.
11. Place of birth of father.
12. Place of birth of mother.
13. Number of years in the United States.
14. Whether naturalized.
15. Whether naturalization papers have been taken out.
16. Profession, trade or occupation.
17. Months unemployed during the census year (June 1, 1889, to May 31, 1890.)
18. Attendance at school (in months) during the census year (June 1, 1889, to May 31, 1890.)
19. Able to read.
20. Able to write.
21. Able to speak English. If not, language or dialect spoken.
22. Whether suffering from acute or chronic disease, with name of disease and length of time afflicted.
23. Whether defective in mind, sight, hearing, or speech, or whether crippled, maimed, or deformed, and name of defect.
24. Whether a prisoner, convict, homeless child or pauper.
25. Is the home you live in hired or is it owned by the head or a member of the family?
26. If owned by head or member of family, is the home free from mortgage incumbrance?
27. If the head of family is a farmer, is the farm which he cultivates hired, or is it owned by him or by a member of his family?
28. If owned by head or member of family, is the farm free from mortgage incumbrance?
29. If the home or farm is owned by head or member of family, and mortgaged, give the postoffice address of owner.

We print the questions that our readers may prepare to answer as they meet them, and thus save the Enumerators much time. As to the last eight, there has been much discussion in the various newspapers, some which think they inquire into private matters to an extent to which the Government has no right to go. However that may be, it is not the fault of the Enumerator. He is obliged by his duty to ask the questions.

Commenting on these special questions, the New York World, both seriously and half humorously remarks:

"The last six questions have been added to the usual list by Superintendent Robert P. Porter, and are expected to cause trouble. A refusal to answer means arrest and \$100 fine. It may mean a contest in the higher courts, too. Well-known lawyers have already expressed the belief that some of the searching queries are of a character that render their legality doubtful. It is not hard to imagine a woman with a physical defect who would throw hot water on a census taker before she would confess to a club foot or any other little deformity which art and long practice has enabled her to conceal. Family skeletons will be dragged from closets in very truth if a man may tell a census taker, who may be his neighbor, that he spent a year in jail some where a long time ago, or that the house which he is maintaining in elegant style is mortgaged to the top neck. Must glass eyes be removed from sightless orbs or waxen noses lifted or false taken out to make a holiday in the face of the census-taker? It seems so."

Appreciating the importance of statistics sought for the Lancaster Advertiser thoughtfully says: "In the no sensible man or woman can object to the questions asked. Correct answers most of them will prove important. It will be well to know something about the increase of the deaf, dumb, blind, etc. The crease of mutes through inter-marriage is something startling. There are eminent men who predict that the coming man will be bald and toothless. Statistics may show that a good many of coming race will be sightless if married with the blind continues. These things are not so terrible that they frighten anybody; so do not kick an enumerator, answer him as truthfully as you know how, and you soon and easily get rid of a temporary occupation of your time."

Philadelphia has now the third largest Young Men's Christian Association in the world, London being the first and New York second. There are nine branches of the association in Philadelphia, two of which were organized during the year. At the thirty-fifth anniversary, which recently celebrated, the report of Treasurer showed receipts to amount of \$16,778, and expenditures \$6,300.