



Fire.
During the past year 4,000 miles of main track has been added to the immense railway mileage of the United States, according to the Chicago Railroad Age. This mileage consists nearly altogether of extensions of old roads and the construction of branches and feeders. In addition to this 4,000 miles track-laying is in progress on 500 more. In Pennsylvania 256 miles have been built and this is exceeded by only one other State, that of Washington, whose record is 420 miles.

37 ROADS IN THE RECORD COMBINE.—The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad has sent in its report to the Secretary of International Affairs, which shows that they operate 37 railroads, and of these 14 are directly under its control. The gross earnings for the past fiscal year were \$32,954,316, and a sum of \$18,853,188 was required to operate it.

Archbold's mill at Dundas, Mich., and the elevator adjoining it was totally destroyed. Loss, \$100,000.

The foundry of the Robinson-Rea Manufacturing Company, on the Southside, Pittsburg, was burned Saturday night; loss \$40,000.

The mills of the Neumann-Johnson Company at Sweepville, N. C., manufacturing cotton goods, have been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$100,000; insurance, \$80,000.

The works of the Bayless Paper Company at Binghamton, N. Y., have been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$30,000; insurance, \$30,000.

At Memphis, Tenn., four large business buildings were burned: Matthews Hardware Company, loss, \$70,000; insurance, \$50,000; J. Geddel & Bros., loss, \$15,000; insurance, \$13,000; S. Levy & Co. Truck Company, loss \$15,000; insurance, \$10,000. I. Goldsmith & Bro., cloth, loss, \$40,000; insurance \$80,000; Dean Carroll, paints, loss, \$15,000; insurance \$10,000. Total stocks, \$25,000; total loss, \$158,000; total insurance, \$118,000. The four buildings which were owned by Mrs. Kate Hamilton, valued at \$40,000, and insured for \$20,000, were damaged, \$30,000.

The Allegheny (Md.) Court House at Cumberland was destroyed by fire. A greater part of the records were saved. The building cost \$30,000 and was insured for \$20,000.

Thursday night, fire destroyed the two immense buildings at 933 and 935 Penn avenue, Pittsburg. With accompanying damage to other structures and the destruction of merchandise and personal property, causing a loss of nearly \$300,000. No. 933 was the establishment of P. Duff & Sons, commission merchants, extending through to Fayette street in the rear and including a huge wing, every part of the building being packed full of merchandise. The great headquarters establishment of Cavit, Pollock & Co. was at 935. Both buildings with their contents are total losses.

Disasters, Accidents and Fatalities.
The station house at Brighton, Cal., was destroyed by fire. The remains of Miss E. A. Ayers, the telegraph operator, were found in the ruins. It is evidently a case of murder and arson. Miss Ayers was reported to have had considerable money.

Adrian Fairchild, who had been employed nearly 40 years as a driver by the dock department, New York, was under water ramming a charge of dynamite into a rock. The charge exploded prematurely, and Fairchild was hauled up dead.

Percy Carter, a 17-year-old youth of Good Ground, L. I., while skating fell through the ice and was drowned.

C. F. Johnson, of Toronto, Canada, was blown to atoms at the Hercules Torpedo Company magazine, near Kokomo, Ind.

A lively stable in Cambridge, Mass., was burned. Nineteen horses were roasted alive and Louis Taylor, an employe, had his brains kicked out by some horse he was trying to save.

Arthur Kennedy, 19 years old, and George Freese, 22 years old, were drowned while skating near Sparrow's Point. Mr. William Freese, a brother of George Freese, broke through the ice while attempting to rescue his brother, and was himself rescued with difficulty.

Washington News.
Little Martena Harrison continues to improve, but the White House is still quarantined, and the big placards containing the information that contagion exists within are displayed on the entrances to the private part of the mansion.

Mr. Harrison's Future.—In view of the statement published that President Harrison's health was failing, and that he was likely to break down, Postmaster-General Wainmaker said: "The report that the President was in failing health must have originated with some one with little opportunity to know the truth. I would take him to be now at his very prime. It is not a clever thing to make an invalid out of a man because uncommon griefs are not laid off at the end of 30 days. It is quite likely that Stanford University is seeking him, so are a score of other things, but until his work is completed here, I doubt if he will seriously thing of future occupation."

COMPLETELY STAMPED OUT.—According to the report of Secretary Rusk to the Senate, the work of stamping out pleuro-pneumonia has been carried on as rapidly as was possible and the disease has completely disappeared. The United States is the first of large nations of the world which has been able to completely extirpate it. The time required was only about five years, and the total expenditure a little in excess of \$1,600,000.

Personal.
All hope of the recovery of Lilly Langtry (who is seriously ill at London) has been abandoned by her physicians. She may live a week, a month, or a year, but permanent recovery is out of the question.

Senator Colquhoun's condition is now considered critical by his physicians. He was able ten days ago to walk with some aid about the house, but he is now confined to his bed and unable to rise, one side being

completely paralyzed. His wife lies in an adjoining room paralyzed, her brain being affected. She is not expected to live many days.

Senator Kenna continues critically ill and the gravest apprehensions are still felt. His family physician, Dr. Chilton, is constantly with him.

James G. Blaine, who is quite ill at his home in Washington, is reported as improving.

Crime and Penalties.
Monday night a masked mob overpowered the sheriff at London, Tenn., took Henry Duncan from jail and hanged him to a tree. Duncan was accused of the murder of four persons.

Six prisoners at Atlanta, after locking their keepers in their cells, walked out of jail.

At Albany, N. Y., William H. Shattuck, 29 years old, shot his wife, 19 years old, three times in the head, killing her instantly. He then shot himself in the temple, but is alive and will probably die. Cause: jealousy. At the hospital Shattuck said the shooting of himself was accidental.

Judicial.
At Boston in the Supreme Court a petition was presented from several mercantile holders of the order of the Solid Rock, asking for an injunction against the order. The complainants allege that the liabilities of the order are \$75,000 and the assets but about \$25,000. It is also alleged that it cost \$36,000 to collect \$ 6,000.

The New York Legislature passed the Constitutional Amendment bill.

A bill has been introduced in the New York senate providing that in New York City the wages of day laborers employed by the city shall not be less than \$2 a day, and of other employes not less than 25 cents per hour. Preference shall be given to citizens of that state on such work.

Capital, Labor and Industrial.
The Macungie furnace of the Crane Iron Company, at Macungie, Pa., has been lighted after an idleness of several months.

The boiler-makers at the Brooks locomotive works at Dunkirk, N. Y., struck for higher wages.

Miscellaneous.
At Philadelphia, an insane man caused a scene at the Catholic church of St. Thomas Aquinas Sunday morning by trying to attack the priest at mass. A number of women fainted.

COLORADO'S MINERAL PRODUCT.—The astonishing figures \$41,935,114.23 are the total mineral productions for Colorado for 1892, giving totals of \$2,012,052.92 in copper, \$6,824,783.34 in lead, \$28,161,111.96 in silver and \$5,667,807.42 in gold, as against \$33,548,934 for 1891. The figures do not include the Holden smelter at Leadville, whose estimated output is \$2,000,000.

The Cunard steamer Umbria reached her dock at New York Saturday morning, all well. She was 64 days overdue. A broken shaft caused the delay.

SEVERE COLD IN CANADA.—Exceptionally severe weather is being experienced throughout Canada and in the Northwest, where the thermometer registers 40 degrees below zero. In most places the snow is lying to a depth of 25 inches, and should the cold weather continue there will be a heavy mortality among cattle on the ranches. The thermometer on Friday registered 17 degrees below zero in Montreal.

The Iron Hill Supreme officers Somerby Baker, Glading and Eckersley, each waived a hearing in Philadelphia by consent of District Attorney Graham, and were held in \$5,000 bail each to answer at court. This anticipates the action of the Indiana authorities, and prevents the granting of the requisition papers.

BEYOND OUR BORDERS.
Seven persons were killed and 29 wounded in the recent wreck on the Mexican Southern Railroad.

Cholera continues to spread in the North of France. In the town of Gravelines, near Calais, three deaths and one new case were reported on Wednesday, and three deaths on Thursday. Several streets in which the disease is especially prevalent have been closed by the town authorities.

A battle took place near Guerrero, Mex., between government troops and rebels, in which the latter were defeated. The total loss was 17 killed and 32 wounded.

Hundreds of Austrian villages are snowed under so badly that inhabitants are unable to get out of their houses.

Two trains collided at Kaniza, Austria, killing eight passengers and badly injuring 15 others.

The Mexican authorities have confiscated the estate of Adolph Villareal, valued at \$80,000. In addition, Villareal has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. His crime was the hiring of a person to assassinate D. McKellar, who owned a neighboring ranch.

THE CEREALS IN 1892.
The Wheat Crop Almost Unprecedented. The Corn Crop a Short One.

The wheat crop is slightly above an average one in yield, and in volume has never exceeded in 1891, 1884 and 1882, although the crops of 1889 and 1890 were nearly equalled. The area, estimated, is 38,554,430 acres, product, 515,949,000 bushels; value, \$322,111,881. There has been a considerable enlargement of breadth the past year in several Western States. The rate of yield is 13.4 bushels per acre. The average value per bushel, 62.4c, is the lowest average value ever reported, that of 1884 being 64.5c, and that of 1887 being 68.1c. The average of the crop of 1891 was 83.5c. The weight of measured bushels will be determined later, but it is probable that the aggregate will be equivalent to nearly 500,000,000 commercial bushels.

The corn crop is short, exceeded in quantity seven times in the last 10 years, but slightly larger than in 1883, 1887 and 1890. Its average yield per acre, 23.1 bushels, has been exceeded in 10 years. The breadth, as estimated, is 70,626,038 acres. The production, 1,628,461,000 bushels; value, \$642,146,630; averaging 39.3 cents per bushel.

The estimates for oats are: Area, 27,063,835 acres; product, 661,655,000 bushels; value, \$209,258,611; yield per acre, 24.1 bushels.

To Fly the Stars and Stripes.
The International Navigation Company has settled that the City of New York is to be the first of its handsome twin screw vessels to leave this port flying the American flag.

MANY LEGISLATURES MEET.

Governor Flower, N. Y., Discusses the Rights of Labor.

NEW YORK.
ALBANY.—The Legislature was convened Tuesday at noon, Wm. Sulzer, Democrat, of New York, being made speaker of the house, and Mr. Malby of St. Lawrence county the Republican leader. The governor's message was read in both houses and adjournment was taken for one week.

Touching the Buffalo strike the governor announces the expenditure by the State to have been \$102,947, and then adds: "Employers have the right to strike and peacefully persuade others to join them, and in their earnest efforts to benefit their condition they may always feel sure that public sympathy is with them and against selfish corporations. But every citizen and corporation every employe and employer, must observe and respect the authority of law and government, so long as they keep within the law, the State government will leave them to settle their own disputes. But law must be observed, persons and property must be protected, and the law will be enforced by its own power, and for which the State primarily exists. For the maintenance of these ends every dollar of the State's money, the life and services of every member of the nation and the support of every law-abiding citizen are pledged.

"It should be the aim of the law-making body to see that our laws confer no privileges. It is not right that powers should be granted to corporations to oppress either employer or employe. These are the people who are to be wisely done by legislation to give equal rights to all should be done. But law will not accomplish everything. Corporations will leave their selfish point of view, but law will not accomplish everything. Corporations will leave their selfish point of view, but law will not accomplish everything. Corporations will leave their selfish point of view, but law will not accomplish everything.

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THE FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

Proceedings of the Senate and the House Tuesday.

FOURTEENTH DAY.
SENATE.—The Senate resumed business Wednesday with a fair showing of industry. Some progress was made on the Anti-Opium bill, and Mr. Sherman took occasion to state in view of the subject, although he had some doubts, both as to the constitutional power of Congress in the matter and as to whether the bill, if it became a law, would accomplish what was expected of it. He would vote for it in deference to the wishes of farmers' associations and individual farmers, who believed that with the suppression of demand in the future, which Mr. Sherman characterized as gambling not so far as what took place around the faro table, the price of their products would be governed by the law of supply and demand. An amendment offered by Mr. White, including four among the articles to which the bill was to apply, was agreed to after some discussion.

A joint resolution was reported to amend the constitution extending the right of suffrage to women. It provides that the right of citizenship shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of sex, and that Congress shall have the power to enforce this provision. Senator Vance submitted a minority report, setting forth that the matter in question involves the rights of States and should be left for them to determine.

Senator Chandler, to stop further operations by the Pinkertons, introduced a bill providing that it shall be unlawful for any body of more than 10 or more, any of whom are subject to enrollment as a part of the militia of any State, to assemble, or to bear arms as a military squad, company, battalion, or other military organization, unless they are called for by the civil or military officers lawfully authorized to make such a call. A short executive session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—As was expected, the House met after the holiday recess without a quorum. The measures which were important and of merely local significance were passed. The Senate adjourned.

FIFTEENTH DAY.
SENATE.—The Senate bill concerning testimony in criminal cases or proceedings relating to the interstate commerce laws was passed. It provides that no person shall be excused from testifying on the ground that his money might be seized by the government. The anti-opium bill was then taken up and Mr. Vias addressed the Senate. He opposed the bill because it was unconstitutional. The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—The second general appropriation bill to pass the House this session was the fortification bill, and it went through today without amendment or the slightest delay. It appropriates \$1,735,000.

SIXTEENTH DAY.
SENATE.—Today's session of the Senate was given to discussing the quarantine regulations and its correlative measure, the bill to suspend immigration for one year. Mr. Chandler, of New Hampshire, spoke for about three hours, devoting most of his argument to the last mentioned bill, although the other was really the one that was up for discussion. The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—The session of the House was uneventful. The attendance was small and nothing but private business considered. The discussion of a bill providing for the muster and pay of certain officers and men of the volunteer forces. About 25 private pension bills were passed and the House adjourned.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.
SENATE.—After routine business was disposed of the discussion of the quarantine bill was resumed. The section authorizing the president to suspend immigration being taken up. Discussion of the bill occupied the rest of the session and no vote was reached. The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—The District of Columbia appropriation bill was taken up in the House and considered in committee on the whole, after which the House adjourned.

Three Persons Killed by Gas.
By an explosion of natural gas in the cellar of 1010 Sarah street, South Side, Pittsburg, Saturday morning at 6:30, John Dovey, wife and baby girl were killed, and William Harris and Charles Dovey were severely injured.

The house was a two-story brick. Mr. Harris with his wife and baby, occupied the first floor and John Dovey and his family lived on the second floor. The two women were sisters. Both families burned coal and there were no gas pipes in the house. Mr. Harris went into the cellar with his lamp and the explosion followed. The four Doveys were sleeping on a mattress on the second floor at the time. The walls at the first floor fell out, those at the second fell in, covering the Doveys with debris. Mrs. Harris and child escaped with slight injuries, but Mr. Harris was severely burned.

The house which was owned by Nicholas Maul, is a total wreck. It is thought that the gas followed the water pipes into the cellar from a leak in the street main.

Frozen to Death on His Doorstep.
Mrs. A. M. Olson, residing in Chicago, missed her husband the other night. But that did not surprise her until she awoke next morning and found even the early hours of the morning did not bring him home. Then she investigated and found he had reached the doorstep where a fall had probably stunned him and he was frozen to death.

A WOMAN FROZEN TO DEATH.
Mrs. James Haverslock, of Wellesly, near Boston, Mass., visited a friend on Tuesday night. She started home about 10 o'clock, second day, in covering the Dovesy was killed. The four Doveys were sleeping on a mattress on the second floor at the time. The walls at the first floor fell out, those at the second fell in, covering the Doveys with debris. Mrs. Harris and child escaped with slight injuries, but Mr. Harris was severely burned.

A HUGE NIAGARA ICICLE
Knocks Two Photographers Over a Precipice.—Both Fatally Hurt.

Frank H. Warner and Harry W. Hollowell, two Philadelphia photographers, who were at Niagara Falls to take pictures of the ice bridge, were knocked off the ledge over the Cave of the Winds by an icicle which weighed nearly a ton. The men fell over 100 feet. Both will probably die. H. I. well had both arms broken and his collar bone is smashed beyond repair. Warner is seriously injured.

No Cholera in Arkansas.
At Little Rock, Ark., Dr. Goddings, of the Marine Hospital service, has completed his investigation and forwarded his report to Washington. He failed to find a single cholera germ. The disease was caused by the filthy condition of the penitentiary, which has been thoroughly cleaned out and fumigated.

WEST ONE GULLINGS.

KIRK'S ROAD LAW.

Third Revision of an Act Providing for a State Road Department and Its Operation.

Arthur Kirk has just sent out the third revised edition of his road law, which will be presented to the legislature, probably this month. He invites criticisms to be sent in as soon as they may be considered, with a view to amendments, before the bill is introduced. It is practically the same bill presented by Mr. Kirk two years ago.

Mr. Kirk sets forth at length the reasons why the road should be made only by the State as they are exclusively the property of the commonwealth. When the land of the State was first platted six acres were reserved for every hundred for road purposes, and as a hundred years' experience has proven the counties and townships cannot be depended upon to make either good or uniform roads he thinks it is time for the State to take control of this important feature. Mr. Kirk thinks convicts should be made to work on the roads.

The act itself provides, first for the appointment by the governor, and subsequently at each election for governor, of the election of a State superintendent of roads, to have full control subject to decision of court in all matters pertaining to location and improvement of roads. He shall appoint for each county a county superintendent and he in turn district superintendents, all of whom are held under heavy bonds for performance of their duties. State superintendent's salary is fixed at \$4,000 a year; county superintendents, \$3,000, and district superintendents, \$1,000 a year each.

The expense to be provided for by the issue of \$6,000,000 in bonds each year for ten years, payable in twenty years with interest at 3 per cent. The State treasurer shall semi-annually it also provides for the levying of a poll tax on each male inhabitant of the State of \$1 a year for road purposes exclusively. It also provides for a property tax which shall be levied on a property alike, whether in city, borough or county. But Mr. Kirk argues property in the country will be so enhanced in value in twenty years by good roads that the burden will not be felt.

It has the usual provisions to prohibit superintendents from being interested in any contracts for either work or material. It also provides that any private individual, pipe line, telegraph or telephone company, electric light or power company, or any transportation company desiring to encroach upon any road must file a map and particulars with the district superintendent, who will transmit with information to the county superintendent, who shall pass upon the question and fix the charges for such encroachment.

The bill in detail is lengthy, but the foregoing are the main provisions. There are some good ideas in it and it is now generally admitted that some kind of a road law is a necessity.

HARRITY'S REPORT.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS MADE REGARDING THE BALLOT LAW.

HARRISBURG.—Secretary Harritt has submitted his annual report to Gov. Pattison. It shows that during the last two years 1,038 charters were granted under the act of April 23, 1884, and 79 locomotive and 127 street railway companies were incorporated, besides a great deal of miscellaneous business. The fees for the last twenty months amount to \$71,577.50, which does not include the bonus fees received on the granting of charters. The expense of the department for the same period was \$61,142. From this it appears that the fees more than exceeded the expenditures of the department by the sum of \$10,435.48. In addition to this there has been received from commissions, certified copies and miscellaneous sources the sum of \$12,016.12, which would make the excess of such receipts over the expenditures amount to \$22,452. The total commissions issued were 6,342.

Secretary Harritt refers to the defects in the new ballot law, and makes suggestions for the benefit of the legislature. He thinks that nominations made by nomination papers, which do not have attached thereto the number of signatures as required for the state or district nomination, should not be certified to county commissioners and sheriffs as directed in section 10 of the act. The reason for this is that no authority is given in any part of the act to anyone to determine what is the required percentage of the vote at the previous election in the district from which a nomination paper purports to come. It is suggested that section 4 should be so changed as to set out clearly what portion of the population may or may not be used by parties making nominations by nomination papers. He thinks that the time for filing objections to nomination papers and certificates should be reduced one-half.

Regarding the form of ballot he says: "In justice to the several political parties compelled to make nominations by nomination papers this section should be so amended as to allow their nominations to be arranged on the ballot in the same manner as nominations made by certificates of nominations. Further, he suggests that the manner of marking the ballot by the voter could be simplified by providing that one cross mark opposite the party name or appellation at the head of the list of candidates be considered as a vote for all the candidates of the party."

THE BIG KRUPP CAR.

LARGEST IN THE WORLD, AT LAST COMPLETED AT THE ALTOONA SHOPS.

ALTOONA.—The largest freight car ever built in this country was turned out of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's shops here. It will be used to transport from Sparrow Point, near Baltimore, to Chicago the 124 ton cannon being manufactured at the works of the Krupp Gun Company in Prussia for exhibition at the World's Fair. The car practically consists of two cars, with eight pair of wheels each, joined by an iron bridge, thus presenting the appearance of one long car with 16 pair of wheels.

THE RIGHTS OF MARRIED WOMEN.
In an opinion delivered by Judge Green in the case of the Latrobe Building and Loan Association against Margaret A. Fritz, the Supreme Court has decided that a married woman can now make any kind of a contract in relation to the improvement of her separate estate, which she could make if she were a single woman, including even the giving of a bond. In this case the Court reverses the county court, which had treated as illegal and void a bond given by Mrs. Fritz for the payment of money loaned her by the building association for the improvement of her real estate.

PERSONAL SNOW AND ICE.
CONELLSVILLE.—Not within the memory of the oldest citizen has there been so much ice in the Youghiogheny river as at present. From West Newton almost to Ohiopyle the river is entirely frozen over, a foot in thickness. In the mountain districts travel along the public roads is blocked on account of the snow, which in many cases has drifted to a depth of five and six feet. The farmers report much suffering from their stock.

ALLEGHENY FROZEN OVER AT KITTANNING.
KITTANNING.—The Allegheny river at this point it has been frozen over all week. Ice men are at work cutting the ice, which is five inches thick. This winter is the first time in six years that the river has been frozen over here.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

1st Day.—At noon, Tuesday, Lieut-Governor Waters called the senate to order. Secretary Harritt was then introduced and handed the president the certificates of newly elected members, which were read and the members sworn in.

Senator George Handy Smith placed Senator J. P. S. Gobin in nomination for president pro tem, and Wm. Penn Lloyd nominated Jared C. Brown of York county for the same office on behalf of the Democrats. There were only two members absent, Senator Flint and Senator Brown of Westmoreland. The vote resulted as follows: Gobin 31, Brown 17, Senator Gobin was declared elected.



JARED C. BROWN.

Mr. Gobin made a rather lengthy speech, in which he said the legislature should be made up of a fair class of citizens and he believed it was. "This is a government of the people and we must be successful if we take an interest in the welfare of the people. We must not confer monopolistic legislation, but must legislate for all the people and relieve burdens where we can."

On motion of Senator Penrose, E. W. Smiley was elected chief clerk, and the other officers named by the Republican caucus were also elected. After the Senate had listened to the Governor's message the joint resolution for an adjournment until Thursday of next week was adopted.

In the House, when the members had been formally sworn in Caleb C. Thompson of Warren county was elected speaker over



WALTER E. KITTER.

Walter E. Kitter of Lycoming, the Democratic nominee, by a vote of 135 to 69. After the members had been sworn in it was discovered that both Andrews and Higby had gathered with the crowd and both had taken the oath. Higby arrived first this morning and took possession of the seat assigned to the Crawford county member. Andrews will probably slip into the seat the first time Higby vacates it, and thus the war promises to go on.

Mr. Leeds of Philadelphia nominated Charles Voorhees for chief clerk, and Mr. Wherry nominated E. P. Kearns of Allegheny, on behalf of the Democrats. The roll was called and resulted the same as the speakership. After the officers were sworn in several resolutions were presented relating to rules. The House then met in joint session with the Senate to