THE BOERS ARE REPORTED BEATEN.

RUMOR UNCONFIRMED.

Londoners Full of Confidence—Everyone Takes Heart at the News from the Front Although Not Crediting All.

The war office had nothing to communicate to the public Sunday. It may be taken for granted that the rumor of General Brabant's victory at Wepener is premature. With the remainder of his force he left Aliwal North Saturday for Rouxville, and there has scarcely been time for an engagement.

There is practically no fresh news. All the Boemfontein dispatches, however, breathe a confident tone. There seems to be a heavy demand on the railway, for so large an army leaves the populace bare of everything save the absolute necessities of life.

The fact that the censors allowed Winston Churchill's dispatch on the subject of remounts to pass speaks volumes for the condition of that question and concerning the prospect of any immediate advance toward Pretoria. The utmost Lord Roberts will be able to do for some time will be clearing the Boers from the southern part of the Free State.

The dispatches announce the approach of winter. The first pinch of frost has been felt at Bloemfontein, where considerable rain has fallen.

Telegrams from Cape Town Sunday, say: "An unconfirmed report is in circulation here that Gen. Brabant has inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Boers at Wepener, capturing guns and taking prisoners."

A dispatch from Pretoria by way of Delagoa bay, says: It is officially announced that a battle has been fought south of Brandfort, in which 600 British troops were killed and wounded and 800 taken prisoners.

Lord Roberts is declared to be finding great difficulty, owing to scarcity of water.

The enemy are making a general attempt to discover a strategic opening. Their numbers are unknown to us, but are anywhere between 3,000 to 6,000. They are moving cautiously. Remounts are arriving, but the Argentine animals are little liked by the cavalry. Among the valuable documents discovered belonging to Messrs. Steyn and Fischer is some correspondence proving that the fall of Ladysmith was to be the signal for a general Dutch rising.

Trustworthy refugees asserts that the Boers recently obtained at least thirty pieces of artillery, some of large caliber, which were brought overland as machinery from a West African port. Eight of these guns were dispatched to the Free State a week ago. The Boer officials openly boast that they have succeeded in smuggling ammunition through Portuguese territory.

In the course of the Dempsey trial, State Engineer Munnick admitted under pressure that, acting under instructions from State Secretary Reitz, of the Transvaal, he had bored holes in 25 mines.

Heavy fighting was continued at Wepener Tuesday. Three Boer commandos are attacking the town. The fighting was severe and lasted all day long. The Boers received a check. The casualties were rather heavy on both sides. Another commando is advancing toward Wepener from DeWetsdorp.

MACRUM SAYS IT'S A LIE.

Ex-Consul's Reply to Hay's Statement Regarding Tampered Mail.

Charles E. Macrum, of East Liverpool, O., ex-consul to Pretoria, when seen Wednesday morning regarding the statement that Consul Adelbert Hay has failed to find any evidence of the consular mail being tampered with during Mr. Macrum's stay at Pretoria, said:

"While I do not take much stock in newspaper reports, this is such a palpable perversion of the truth that it is impossible to allow the matter to pass unnoticed, as it seems to have come from the state department. This statement is on a parallel with the malicious misrepresentation which came from the same department before I reached this country. If proofs of all my charges are not on file at the consulate in Pretoria it is because they have been willfully abstracted therefrom. In short, I want to say that the statement published is a lie, nothing more or less. I have been slandered and maligned until I have become tired of it."

ONE MAN KILLED.

Five Others Were Injured by an Explosion of Natural Gas in Indiana.

High pressure and a piece of alleged defective pipe in the mains of the Chicago Pipe Line Company, at a point four miles southeast of Logansport, Ind., were the cause of a terrific explosion Sunday, in which Michael Ellison, Jr., was instantly killed and five other men received injuries from which it is doubtful if some will recover.

Twelve men were in a trench repairing a leak in a 10-inch main from which the gas had been transferred to an eight-inch main near it. The men were around a "T" in the eight-inch main, and Ellison was stooping over it when the explosion occurred, and he was thrown 150 feet away, and instantly killed.

The "T" weighs 1,000 pounds, and it was carried a distance of 50 feet, taking off the top of George Nelson's hat and a small bunch of his hair, otherwise not injuring him.

New Creed Called For.

The Presbytery of Nassau, in session at Northport, Long Island, unanimously adopted the following resolution: "That it is the prayer of the Presbytery of Nassau that the general assembly formulate a short and simple creed that would be acceptable to the church."

The resolution as introduced was stronger, but was modified in the interest of harmony. Rev. C. O. Gray, who offered the resolution, said it meant to set aside the present creed as an heirloom and to make a new creed that would be more precise. Thereupon Mr. Gray was elected delegate to the general assembly, with the understanding that he would present his views to that body.

Blown Up by a Dewey Gun.

A large cannon captured by Admiral Dewey at Manila and loaned by the government to the citizens of Clarksburg, who have it on exhibition in the park, was loaded to the muzzle with a heavy charge of powder and fired at Madam Dowd's resort near the Baltimore & Ohio depot about 1 o'clock Wednesday morning. The building and the contents were totally wrecked. The inmates escaped with slight injuries.

Mammoth Real Estate Deal.

A syndicate headed by O. A. Robertson and Frank O'Meara, of St. Paul, and F. E. Kennaston, of Minneapolis, has purchased all the Northern Pacific lands in Minnesota, approximately 530,000 acres. The deal was the largest ever made in Minnesota, and with the exception of the Weyerhaeuser Washington pine land deal, probably the largest ever made in the United States. The price paid is said to have been about $1,900,000.

Burglar's Easter Haul.

Burglars Sunday night dug through the nine-inch brick wall of the vault of St. Simon's church at Toronto, O., with crowbars and picks and stole $1,175, the Easter offering. The church is situated on the brow of a ravine and the cracksmen worked three hours unobserved.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

The shah of Persia is en route to Russia.

United State Senator Chilton is very ill at Tyler, Tex.

Three hundred miners are on strike at Knoxville, Tenn.

Telegraphers on the Southern railway are out on a strike.

Phya Prasiddhi, the new minister from Siam, arrived in Washington Friday.

Two hundred and fifty thousand persons visited the Paris exposition Sunday.

There have been 111 cases of bubonic plague and 38 deaths at Sydney, Australia.

Bryan Democrats decided to welcome Admiral Dewey into the ranks of their party.

Stephen Crane, the novelist, is said to be dying at his home in Sussex, England.

During the winter there were 30 deaths from typhoid fever at Nome, out of 300 cases.

Snow has damaged planted crops and delayed railroad traffic in all parts of Colorado.

John R. Reese, president of the United Mine Workers, of Iowa, is ill with smallpox at Albia, Ia.

Andrew Carnegie in an interview said that all young men should marry "common sense women."

Joseph Stringer choked his wife to death at Bakerville, Tenn., and blew his own head off with a gun.

A company of Pittsburg and other capitalists has been formed to cultivate coffee and rubber in Mexico.

In New York 5,000 cigarmakers are on strike for a raise in wages and a general strike is threatened.

The President has nominated John P. V. Gridley, of Erie, Pa., to be second lieutenant in the marine corps.

At Alexander, Ark., Mrs. T. H. Holland shot and killed William Cook, who she claimed had defamed her character.

Owing to the good offices of American missionaries the revolution in the Cameroons, Africa, is said to be dying out.

The sealing steamer Terra Nova, with 37,000 seals, and the Walrus, with 12,000 seals, have returned from the ice fields.

While setting fire to a pile of brush near Wilkesbarre Mrs. Michael Fox's clothes ignited and she was burned to death.

Prof. E. Benjamin Andrews, of Chicago, will probably decline the office of chancellor of the University of Nebraska.

The authorities of British Columbia have decided to repeal the law excluding aliens from mining privileges in the province.

The Democratic State convention of North Carolina nominated Charles B. Aycock for governor and elected Bryan delegates.

David Zimmerman and James Moffitt were killed and Oscar Zimmerman badly injured by a boiler explosion at Sylvester, Mich.

Augustus Young shot, but did not fatally wound, Kate Van Clooster, at Murpheysboro, Ill., and blew out his own brains.

Rufus Wright, a Chicago millionaire, was shot and perhaps fatally wounded by Mrs. Louisa Lottridge, who says it was accidental.

John C. Farrar, teller of the Waterbury (Vt.) National bank, is missing and there is a defalcation of $25,000 of the bank's funds.

The St. Louis Sunday School Union is arranging to have 10,000 Sunday school children sing for Admiral Dewey at his reception in May.

George W. Hull, the Rhode Island millionaire arrested in New York on a perjury charge, has been admitted to bail in the sum of $10,000.

Five hundred miners employed at the Mt. Pleasant colliery, near Scranton, Pa., went on a strike. The miners are dissatisfied with the wages.

The custom house receipts at Havana for the first three months of 1900 were $3,126,000, being $777,000 more than for the same months in 1899.

Miss Nellie Lewis, of Colorado Springs, secured a verdict of $90,000 for breach of promise against Henry Strong, a rich mine owner of Cripple Creek.

Thomas Blaney, a bartender, was arrested in New York, having in his possession $10,000 worth of beer tax stamps, supposed to have been stolen in Washington.

Capt. Goldman, with 30 men of the Thirty-second regiment, was attacked by insurgents Friday, near Orion, and two men were killed before they could retire.

Prof. E. Benjamin Andrews, formerly president of Brown university, and now superintendent of the Chicago public schools, has been chosen chancellor of University of Nebraska.

Secretary Alger says he is sorry for Dewey and considers that his head has been turned by praise. He predicts for him in his presidential asperations a melancholy disappointment.

At Omaha, Neb., the sheriff learned that a mob intended to raid the jail to lynch James Corney, charged with assaulting Kate Vavra. The prisoner was taken for safety to Lincoln.

It is rumored that a consolidation will be effected of the National Steel Company, American Tin Plate Company and the American Steel Hoop Company, with a capital of $140,000,000.

President Kruger is reported to be at Kroonstad. In an interview Mrs. Kruger said that she prayed for an end of war, but that the Boers will never relinquish their independence.

Rev. Dr. H. W. Bennett, of Anderson, Ind., is to be put forward for a bishopric in the M. E. Church. He once had a charge at Akron, O. Dr. Bennett for several years practiced law.

Stephen Monoghan, a war veteran, believed to be poor, died at Shamokin Wednesday and when his papers were examined it was found he owned government bonds to the amount of $30,000.

At Indianapolis, Ind., a colored man, riding a bicycle, fired a revolver into a crowd of boys that teased him and escaped. Clarence Vort was wounded in the hip and George Golden in the thigh.

For over 40 days Mrs. Ollie Reimer, an inmate of the Mercer County, Pa., Insane hospital, has subsisted entirely on milk injected into her stomach through a rubber tube. She is trying to starve herself to death.

The Mollicans, of southeast Russia, numbering 10,000, are said to be only waiting the czar's permission to follow the Donkhobors to Canada. Tolstoi had advised the Donkhobors not to leave Canada for California.

The United States Glucose Company, the National Starch Company and the United States Starch Company are to combine as the National Starch Company, with $9,500,000 capital stock and $4,000,000 in 5 per cent. bonds.

The State convention of the League of Democratic Club of Ohio opened in Columbus Wednesday, and although the sentiment is said to be for Bryan, President Buchtel referred only indirectly to the Nebraskan and ignored silver entirely.

One hundred thousand acres of hardwood land and 60 miles of operating railroad in the upper Michigan peninsula passed into the hands of Chicago capitalists Saturday, the purchase being made from Cleveland and New York parties, comprising the Munising Land Company and the Munising Railroad Company.

TRACK OF DESOLATION IN KANSAS.

FIERCE TORNADO.

Two Fatalities Reported—Many Others Said to Be Injured—Farm Houses Blown Down—Telegraph Wires Are Disabled.

A storm approaching a tornado in proportion is reported from near Winfield, between Wichita, Kas., and Newton, and in the vicinity west of Clearwater. Two deaths are reported and four people are said to have been injured by over-turned houses. Wires are down and names and particulars are unobtainable.

At Putnam, it is said, several houses were blown down and four people seriously injured. Word was brought by passengers on the southbound Santa Fe passenger train that two persons were killed.

The telephone and telegraph wires were rendered useless by the wind and all attempts to reach Putnam, Newton, or affected points, have proved futile. West of Clearwater it is reported that a strip of country five miles long was swept by a storm at 6 o'clock Sunday night, and several farm houses, barns and other outbuildings blown down. No casualties are reported from there.

The fact that indefinite scraps of information are all that can be secured gives cause for alarm that the storm is much more serious than is generally admitted. At a small settlement several miles west of Freemont, in Sumner county, it is said all of the houses were wrecked with loss of life.

The storm area, so far as can be learned, extends over about ten counties near and at the southern line of the State. The cyclonic disturbance seems to have followed the course of the Arkansas river.

ONE GREAT POOR HOUSE.

No Doctors Within Reach of the Poverty-Stricken Population of Puerto Rico.

The startling fact was recently made public that in many districts of Puerto Rico where the population reaches thousands there is no resident physician. For instance, Wayuya, a town of 1,500, must depend on the simplest remedies in the case of illness, as there is no physician within call. At Utuado the death rate is 8 per cent. annually, and this town is a day's ride from Ponce through the mountains.

It appears that physicians have been sent to these districts, but they refuse to remain, largely because no town is able to support one. As a result of this condition of things the order providing a physician for every 500 people is now very difficult of enforcement, because the towns reply that there is no fund to pay for such service.

This island is one vast poorhouse and there are opportunities for charity at every step. Were $10,000 to be expended immediately for medicine and medical aid it would possibly save the lives of 3,000 people. At one time the government considered the feasibility of assigning a physician to each town at an aggregate cost of $80,000 per year, but the funds for such an outlay are not available.

WAR LOSSES.

Washington Authorities Try to Make a Comparison of Two Campaigns.

The war department has prepared a statement comparing the mortality figures in the Spanish-American war with those of the first six months of the South African war, the purpose being to show that the casualties suffered by the American troops at the time of their occurrence (which are regarded in some quarters as excessive, and are the basis of much criticism) were actually very much less in number proportionately than those suffered by the British army up to date.

As to the British showing from October 11 to April 7, 309 officers and 3,944 men were killed in action, or by accident, wounds and disease, and 288 officers and 4,934 men were invalided home. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 officers and men are sick and wounded in the hospitals.

During the war with Spain the American army lost, by death, 107 officers and 2,803 men. They were wounded 113 officers and 1,464 men. Only 12 per cent. of the American death rate resulted from wounds or occurred in battle, while the corresponding rate for the British army was 63.13 per cent.

A BIG STRIKE BEGUN.

Five Thousand Maryland Miners Lay Down Their Picks.

Five thousand miners of the Georges creek, Md., region struck Wednesday night and began what promises to be a protracted struggle for an increase of wages and incidentally the recognition by the operators of the United Mine Workers of America.

The operators assert that they will not endeavor to work the mines, but will let them remain idle until the men get tired of inactivity and return to work of their own volition. On the other hand the miners claim that they are prepared to continue the contest indefinitely.

The general strike of the miners of the Georges creek coal region will seriously affect the manufacturers and plants of all kinds that use bituminous coal produced in that region. There is comparatively a small supply on hand, and it is thought that a couple of weeks idleness at the mines will cause a material increase in the price, if not cause a partial famine of that class of fuel.

Chicago Millionaire Shot.

Rufus Wright, the millionaire manufacturer of rubber tires, was shot Saturday during a scuffle for possession of a revolver in the apartments of Mrs. Louise Lottridge, at the Leland hotel, Chicago, Ill., and died Sunday from the effects of the wound. The body of the millionaire is now at undertaking rooms, where an inquest will be held. It is the opinion of the police that the coroner's investigation will mark the close of the sensational case. A statement by the deceased to Chief of Detectives Colleran, that the shooting was accidental, will, it is believed, clear Mrs. Lottridge of all responsibility.

Italians Riot.

At a speak-easy at mine No. 31 of the Berwind-White Coal Company, near Windber, Somerset county, Pa., a riot occurred shortly before midnight Sunday in which three men were killed, one being shot and two stabbed to death, and another man was so badly stabbed that his recovery is doubtful. One Italian is supposed to have done the killing. He is said to have fled toward Pittsburg, and the police are on the lookout for him.

Got Rich and Went Crazy.

Julius Koster, a bricklayer of New York, who recently inherited $300,000 from his brother's estate in Germany, was found dead swinging from a rope in an empty water tank on the roof of his house. Koster recently caught one of his fingers in a hook while fishing and blood poisoning resulted. He was still weak in mind and body and the sudden change from poverty to riches left his mind permanently affected.

Boers Reach St. Helena.

The Niobe and the Milwaukee have arrived at St. Helena with the Boer prisoners. Their health is good, with the exception of four cases of measles, necessitating the Milwaukee being quarantined. The prisoners are quiet and well behaved. The governor has been notified of the desire of the authorities that the prisoners be treated with every courtesy and consideration.

BUILDING COLLAPSED.

Three Killed and Five Injured in the Ruins of a Large Business House—Narrow Escapes.

The four-story brick warehouse of the Armstrong-McKelvy Lead and Oil Company, at Wood street and Second avenue, Pittsburg, collapsed Thursday morning at 9:45 o'clock. Three persons were crushed to death and four were injured. Many others employed in the doomed structure had thrilling adventures before they were saved. The building, which was a relic of the first half of the century, was a complete wreck and entailed a loss of about $15,000. It was owned by T. M. Armstrong, president of the Armstrong Cork Company, whose illness was greatly increased by the shock the disaster gave him, and the estate of the late John H. McKelvy. The entire contents of the building, containing between $30,000 and $40,000 worth of paints, oils and colors, were destroyed. They are believed to be covered by insurance placed in New York by the National Lead Company, on a fire and water risk. A searching investigation will be instituted by Coroner Jesse M. McGeary to place the responsibility for the awful disaster. The cause is shrouded in mystery, but is believed to have been due to some neglect. Coroner McGeary declared that only a superficial examination has been made and no one had suggested that any criminal neglect was at the bottom of the catastrophe, but he declared that every fact would be brought out at the inquest, which he set for next Tuesday morning. An expert examination will be made in the meantime.

SCALDED A SCORE.

Battery of Boilers in the Riverside Iron Works Explode—Loss may be $125,000.

About 8 o'clock Friday morning a battery of two boilers, each 50 feet long, between the blast furnace and steel plant of the Riverside iron works, at Wheeling, W. Va., exploded with terrific force from a cause which has not yet been definitely fixed. The engine house of the steel plant and a wall of the blast furnace were destroyed and 20 men working in the vicinity were more or less seriously injured. The accident caused an immediate suspension of work in the various departments of the big plant, located near the boiler. Flying ore, falling missiles and escaping steam caused the injuries to the employes.

One Pole was blown through the air 60 feet and fell beside a workman who, in describing the incident, says he thought the man fell from the clouds. Singularly enough, the laborer who was blown up was not fatally injured. Several of the victims will probably die.

The pecuniary damage will exceed $25,000, and if the metal in the blast furnace chills there will be an additional loss of over $100,000.

A PRIEST MOBBED.

Mexicans Demanded Costumes for Passion Play in Vain, Then Grew Angry.

The new order of the Archbishop of Mexico regarding the Passion Play, customary on Good Friday, was observed in the Valley of Mexico, although the masses resented the prohibition of the spectacle which has been a feature of Holy Week for centuries, originating with the clergy when they were Christianizing the Indians.

But at Yautepec, in the State of Morelos, the people assembled at the parish priest's home, demanding that he distribute, as usual, the costumes for the Passion Play. This he refused to do. It is reported that he was driven out of town, the people declaring that they would not stand such a priest, and must be allowed their ancient customs.

British Losses 23,000.

The British war office has issued a return of the total British casualties up to April 7, as follows:

Killed in action, 211 officers and 1,960 men. Died of wounds, 48 officers and 465 men. Missing and prisoners, 168 officers and 3,722 men. Died of disease, 47 officers and 1,485 men. Accidental deaths, three officers and 34 men. Repatriated invalids, 288 officers and 4,934 men. Total, 13,365, exclusive of the sick and wounded now in hospital.

To the war office returns of casualties must be added the losses of the last week and the wounded, aggregating about 10,000 men, making a grand total of upwards of 23,000 officers and men put out of action.

Left for Cape Nome.

A party, including a number of Pittsburgers, left on Monday for the Cape Nome gold fields, taking along a huge dredge, named the "Iron City," which was shipped in sections. The machine is to dig up dirt and gravel at the rate of a ton a minute. The prospectors represent the Alaskan Gold Dredging and Mining Company, of Pittsburg, Pa., which has a capital of $35,000. Among those going are C. O. Johnson, general manager of the company; Dr. J. C. Irwin, John Dale Porte, McClelland Leonard, of Pittsburg, and John H. Todd, William H. Rankin, of Uniontown, and John C. Bakewell, of Brownsville.

Murdered by Tramps.

Shortly before midnight Sunday two tramps with white handkerchiefs tied over their faces stopped at the house of two sisters, Kate and Johanna Sullivan, living four miles west of West Toledo, Ohio, knocked at the door, and as Johanna opened the door one of the men struck her across the head with a club, knocking her down. Kate sprang to the assistance of her sister, when a second tramp felled her with an axe helve.

The women were bound and gagged and the house robbed. Johanna died in a short time, and Kate is a raving maniac as the result of her injuries. The tramps escaped with $200 in money.

Cuban Teachers Welcome.

Supt. Frye, of the Cuban schools, has telegraphed to Gen. Wood, military governor of Cuba, that the president and fellows of Harvard have voted to guarantee $70,000 to welcome 1,450 Cuban teachers. This action on the part of the university places the success of the enterprise beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Mr. Frye now goes to Washington to complete arrangements with Secretary Root for the transportation of the party. Five or six of the largest army transports will be needed to bring the Cuban teachers to Boston. Plans are being made to take the Cuban party to New York, Chicago and Washington.

British Were Avenged.

The steamer Rio Jun Maru, which arrived at Victoria, B. C., Sunday, from the Orient, brings the story that a party of British government surveyors engaged on the work of defining the Burmese boundary had a collision with a large body of Chinese laborers, who sometime ago waylaid and murdered Consul Lytton, Major Kyttle and Mr. Sutherland, of the former boundary party. This time the Chinese were completely routed, 80 being killed and many injured.

Will Stand by Taylor.

The Republican State committee Tuesday issued a call for a State convention to meet at Louisville, Ky., May 17. It is settled that Gov. Taylor, ex-Gov. Bradley, Senator Deboe and W. A. Gaines will be the delegates-at-large to the Philadelphia convention. If the Republicans are defeated before the United States supreme court in the contest for State offices, they will renominate Gov. Taylor for the November election.

NOTHING BELOW A DOLLAR A BUSHEL

TRUST OF FARMERS.

To Raise the Price of Wheat—Scheme Manipulated in the United States and Switzerland being Advocated.

"All the farmers of the world in a sort of international trust to restrict the production of wheat and raise prices" is the plan which it is hoped to carry into effect at the International Agricultural Conference in Paris, July 9-16.

It is proposed to ask the farmers of the world to reduce their wheat output by 20 per cent., and not to sell a bushel for less than a dollar. J. Hanley, of St. Paul, executive agent of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, the National Cotton Growers' Association, the Farmers' Federation of the Mississippi Valley and the National Grain Growers' Association, is the chief promoter of the International Agricultural Trust in America. Prof. G. Ruhland, of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, is the chief promoter of the plan in Europe.

The idea was conceived by these two men independently. Mr. Hanley has been interested in many "hold-your-wheat" schemes, and is prominently associated with the farmers' elevator and various co-operative undertakings. He has long believed that if the farmers would only come to an understanding as to limiting production and agree to sell only when their price could be obtained they could easily master the situation.

INDIA'S SAD STATE.

Distress Exists at Present Over an Area of 300,000 Square Miles—Aid Asked for 3,500,000 People.

The State department has made public one of the reports upon which it based its statement relative to the famine in India. This report is from Consul Fee at Bombay, who says that, notwithstanding the season of acute distress has hardly commenced, the returns far exceed those during the initial stages of the famine three years ago. It then affected only 1,000,000 persons; now the figure is 3,500,000 and the daily expenditure is placed at $84,000. The famine area covers 300,000 square miles, with a population of 40,000,000, and there is a further area of about 145,000 square miles, with a population of 21,000,000, in which more or less distress prevails and where relief has been or will be given. The consul says that the applications for relief are overtaxing the state authorities and are increasing at an appalling rate, the number of applicants at the relief works during the last week in January advancing 250,000 and bringing up the total to 3,500,000, with the most trying period still two months distant.

Lands Revert to the Crown.

Akron stockholders of the Vermillion Mining Company, incorporated in Ontario, Canada, with $360,000 capital and holding 3,000 acres of mining property in the Sudbury district, have been notified by the Canadian government that their charter has been declared forfeited and that the lands revert to the crown.

The Vermillion Company was organized by Akron men, but the directors of the Canadian Copper Company and Anglo-American Iron Company secured a controlling interest, and the Akron men recently brought suit against them for $1,000,000 damages, alleging that the interests of the Vermillion Company were neglected.

Scathing Criticism on War.

The London Leader says: "The reports from Boer as well as from British sources of our reverses near the Bloemfontein railway are truly lamentable. They show a distinct lack of care and leading. In the face of surprise we seem utterly without resources except reliance on pluck. That is a safe card in the play, but a costly one.

"'Lions led by asses,' was an old description of the British army, but we thought we had learned something of late years in the commissioned ranks. What light does this war throw upon that possibility?"

Bubonic Plague in Havana.

A report on bubonic conditions in Hawaii up to March 31 has been received by the marine hospital service from Surgeon Carmichael, stationed at Honolulu. The total cases to date number 70, of which 60 died, 9 recovered and one is in the hospital. Of those who died 32 were Chinese, 8 Japanese, 16 Hawaiians and 4 whites.

The active part of the disease, the surgeon says, seems to have passed, and if a crusade against the rats is carried on in conjunction with other sanitary measures the surgeon hopes for a speedy cessation of the present plague.

Royal Gift to Belgium.

In the Chamber of Deputies Wednesday a communication from King Leopold was read presenting all his real estate to the nation on the occasion of his 65th birthday, which was April 9. He pointed out the necessity for open spaces and gardens near growing cities, for the benefit of hygiene and artistic effects, and expressed the hope that these naturally adorned spaces would not be allowed to deteriorate. A bill has been introduced to accept the offer.

Col. Hays Leaves the Army.

Lieut. Col. Webb C. Hayes, of the Thirty-first infantry, son of the late President Hayes, has been honorably discharged from the army at his own request. He has been serving in the Philippines with Col. Pettit, but is now on his way to San Francisco. It is assumed that he does not care to devote his time to the guerrilla warfare into which the operations in the Philippines have degenerated.

Booth Gets $200,000.

The birthday of William Booth, commander of the Salvation army, who was born at Nottingham, England, April 10, 1829, was signalized Tuesday by the receipt of hundreds of congratulatory messages from all parts of the world and the presentation of a purse of $200,000, as the result of the collections made during the self-denial week of the army just concluded.

CABLE FLASHES.

Mgr. Francisco Marchetti will succeed Mgr. Sgaretti on the apostolic delegation to the United States.

A patrol of the royal Irish regiment and Lord Rosslyn were captured by the Boers near Bloemfontein.

The opening of the Paris exposition is an augury of peace among the European nations for a time at least.

Austrians in Berlin are preparing to give a fine reception to the emperor of Austria on the occasion of his visit there May 5.

A consistory will be held Friday in Rome for the appointment of new bishops to the United States, including one at Columbus, O.

The Tahitian government has accepted the Oceanic Steamship Company's proposition for a steam service from San Francisco to Tahiti.

In the German town of Grunewald, Janeicke, who professed to be a magician, murdered Louise Bergner by inducing her to drink a potation containing strychnine.

It is rumored in St. Petersburg that on the Russian Easter the czar will issue a manifesto calling on England to stop the war and threatening to occupy Herat. The czar on his visit to Moscow for the first time dispensed with his bodyguard of soldiers.

DR. TALMAGE'S SUNDAY SERMON.

A GOSPEL MESSAGE.

Subject: The Resurrection of Christ—The Season of Spiritual Gladness and Refreshment—Victory Over Death and the Grave—The Mission of Flowers.

[Copyright 1900.]

WASHINGTON, D. C.—This sermon of Dr Talmage rings all the bells of gladness, especially appropriate at this season, when all Christendom is celebrating Christ's resurrection; text, John xix., 41, "In the garden a new supulcher."

Looking around the churches this morning, seeing flowers in wreaths and flowers in stars and flowers in crosses and flowers in crowns, billows of beauty, conflagration of beauty, you feel as if you stood in a small heaven.

You say these flowers will fade. Yes, but perhaps you may see them again. They may be immortal. The fragrance of the flower may be the spirit of the flower; the body of the flower dying on earth; its spirit may appear in better worlds. I do not say it will be so. I say it may be so. The ancestors of those tuberoses and camellias and japonicas and jasmines and heliotropes were born in paradise. These apostles of beauty came down in the regular line of apostolic succession. Their ancestors during the flood, underground, afterward appeared.

The world started with Eden; it will end with Eden. Heaven is called a paradise of God. Paradise means flowers. While theological geniuses in this day are trying to blot out everything material from their idea of heaven, and, so far as I can tell, their future state is to be a floating around somewhere between the Great Bear and Cassiopeia, I should not be surprised if at last I can pick up a daisy on the everlasting hills and hear it say; "I am one of the glorified flowers of earth. Don't you remember me? I worshiped with you on Easter morning in 1900."

My text introduces us into a garden. It is a manor in the suburbs of Jerusalem owned by a wealthy gentleman of the name of Joseph. He belonged to the court of seventy who had condemned Christ, but he had voted in the negative, or, being a timid man, had absented himself when the vote was to be taken. At great expense he laid out the garden. It being a hot climate, I suppose there were trees broad branched, and there were paths winding under these trees, and here and there were waters dripping down over the rocks into fish ponds, and there were vines and flowers blooming from the wall, and all around the beauties of kiosk and arboriculture. After the fatigues of the Jerusalem courtroom, how refreshing to come into this suburban retreat, botanical and pomological!

Wandering in the garden, I behold some rocks which have on them the mark of the sculptor's chisel. I come nearer, and I find there is a subterranean recess. I come down the marble steps, and I come to a portico, over which there is an architrave, by the chisel cut into representations of fruits and flowers. I enter the portico. On either side there are rooms—two or four or six rooms of rock, the walls of these rooms having niches, each niche large enough to hold a dead body. Here is one room that is especially wealthy of sculpture.

The fact is that Joseph realizes he cannot always walk this garden, and he has provided this place for his last slumber. Oh, what a beautiful spot in which to wait for the coming of the resurrection! Mark well this tomb, for it is to be the most celebrated tomb in all the ages. Catacombs of Egypt, tomb of Napoleon, Mahal Taj of India, nothing compared with it. Christ has just been murdered, and His body will be thrown to the dogs and the ravens, like other crucified bodies, unless there be prompt and efficient hindrance. Joseph, the owner of this mausoleum in the rocks, begs for the body of Christ. He washes the poor, mutilated frame from the dust and blood, shrouds it and perfumes it.

I think that regular embalmment was omitted. When in olden time a body was to be embalmed, the priest, with some pretension of medical skill, would point out the place between the ribs where the incision must be made, and then the operator, having made the incision, ran lest he be slain for a violation of the dead. Then the other priests would come with salt of niter and cassia and wine of palm tree and complete the embalmment. But I think this embalmment of the body of Christ was omitted. It would have raised another contention and another riot.

The funeral hastens on. Present, I think, Joseph, the owner of the mausoleum; Nicodemus, the wealthy man who had brought the spices, and the two Marys. No organ dirge, no plumes, no catafalque. Heavy burden for two men as they carry Christ's body down the marble stairs and into the portico and lift the dead weight to the level of the niche in the rock and push the body of Christ into the only pleasant resting place it ever had. Coming forth from the portico, they close the door of rock against the recess.

The government, afraid that the disciples may steal the body of Christ and play resurrection, order the seal of the sanhedrin to be put upon the door of the tomb, the violation of that seal, like the violation of the seal of the Government of the United States or Great Britain, to be followed with great punishment. A company of soldiers from the tower of Antonia is detailed to stand guard.

At the door of the mausoleum a fight takes places which decides the question for all graveyards and cemeteries. Sword of lightning against sword of steel. Angel against military. No seal of letter was ever more easily broken than that seal of the sanhedrin on the door of the tomb. The dead body in the niche in the rock begins to move in its shroud of fine linen, slides down upon the pavement, moves out of the portico, appears in the doorway, advances into the open air, comes up the marble steps. Having left His mortuary attire behind Him, He comes forth in workman's garb, as I take it, from the fact that the women mistook Him for the gardener.

That day the grave received such shattering it can never be rebuilt. All the trowels of earthly masonry can never mend it. Forever and forever it is a broken tomb. Death, taking side with the military in that fight, received a terrible cut from the angel's spear of flame, so that he himself shall go down after awhile under it. The king of terrors retiring before the King of grace! The Lord is risen! Let earth and heaven keep Easter to-day! Hosanna!

Some things strike my observation while standing in this garden with a new sepulcher. And, first, post mortem honors in contrast with ante mortem ignominies. If they could have afforded Christ such a costly sepulcher, why could not they have given Him an earthly residence? Will they give this piece of marble to a dead Christ instead of a soft pillow for the living Jesus? If they had expended half the value of that tomb to make Christ comfortable, it would not have been so sad a story. He asked bread; they gave Him a stone.

Christ, like most of the world's benefactors, was appreciated better after He was dead. Westminster Abbey and monumental Greenwood are the world's attempt to atone by honors to the dead for wrongs to the living. Poet's corner in Westminster Abbey attempts to pay for the sufferings of Grub street.

Go through that Poet's corner in Westminister abbey. There is Handel, the great musician, from whose music you hear today; but while I look at his statue I cannot help but think of the discords with which his fellow musicians tried to destroy him. There is the tomb of John Dryden, a beautiful monument; but I cannot help but think at seventy years of age he wrote of his being oppressed in fortune and of the contract that he had just made for a thousand verses at sixpence a line. And there, too, you find the monument of Samuel Butler, the author of "Hudibras;" but while I look at his monument in Poet's corner I cannot but ask myself where he died. In a garret. There I see the costly tablet in the Poet's corner—the costly tablet to one of whom the celebrated Waller wrote: "The old blind schoolmaster, John Milton, has just issued a tedious poem on the fall of man. If the length of it be no virtue, it has none." There is a beautiful monument to Sheridan. Poor Sheridan! If he could have only discounted that monument for a mutton chop!

Oh, you unfilial children, do not give your parents so much tombstone, but a few more blankets—less funeral and more bedroom! If five per cent. of the money we now spend on Burns's banquets could have been expended in making the living Scotch poet comfortable, he would not have been harried with the drudgery of an exciseman. Horace Greeley, outrageously abused while living, when dead is followed toward Greenwood by the President of the United States and the leading men of the army and navy. Massachusetts tries to atone at the grave of Charles Sumner for the ignominious resolutions with which her Legislature denounced the living Senator. Do you think that the tomb at Springfield can pay for Booth's bullet?

Oh, do justice to the living! All the justice you do them you must do this side the gates of the Necropolis. They cannot wake up to count the number of carriages at the obsequies or to notice the polish of the Aberdeen granite or to read epitaphal commemoration. Gentleman's mausoleum in the suburbs of Jerusalem cannot pay for Bethlehem manger and Calvarean cross and Pilate's ruffian judiciary. Post mortem honors cannot atone for ante-mortem ignominies.

Again, standing in this garden of the sepulcher, I am impressed with the fact that floral and arborescent decorations are appropriate for the place of the dead. We are glad that among flowers and sculptural adornments Christ spent the short time of His inhumation.

I cannot understand what I sometimes see in the newspapers where the obsequies are announced and the friends say in connection with it, "Send no flowers." Rather, if the means allow—I say if the means allow—strew the casket with flowers, the hearse with flowers, the grave with flowers. Put them on the brow—it will suggest coronation; in their hand—it will mean victory.

Christ was buried in a garden. Flowers mean resurrection. Death is sad enough anyhow. Let conservatory and arboretum contribute to its alleviation. The harebell will ring the victory; the passion flower will express the sympathy; the daffodil will kindle its lamp and illume the darkness. The cluster of asters will be the constellation. Your little child loved flowers when she was living. Put them in her hand now that she can go forth no more and pluck them for herself. On sunshiny days take a fresh garland and put it over the still heart.

Brooklyn has no grander glory than its Greenwood, nor Boston than its Mount Auburn, nor Philadelphia than its Laurel Hill, nor Cincinnati than its Spring Grove, nor San Francisco than its Lone Mountain. But what shall we say to those country graveyards with the vines broken down and the slab aslant and the mound caved in and the grass a pasture ground for the sexton's cattle? Indeed, were your father and mother of so little worth that you cannot afford to take care of their ashes? Some day turn out all hands and straighten the slab and bank up the mound and cut away the weeds and plant the shrubs and flowers.

Some day you will want to lie down to your last slumber. You cannot expect any respect for your bones if you have no deference for the bones of your ancestry. Do you think these relics are of no importance? You will see of how much importance they are in the day when the archangel takes out his trumpet. Turn all your cemeteries into gardens.

Again, standing in this garden of the new sepulcher, I am impressed with the dignity of private and unpretending obsequies.

Joseph was mourner, sexton, liveryman—had entire charge of everything. Only four people at the burial of the King of the Universe! Oh, let this be consolatory to those who through lack of means or through lack of acquaintance have but little demonstration of grief at the graves of their loved ones. Long line of glittering equipage, two rows of silver handles, casket of richest wood, pallbearers gloved and scarfed, are not necessary. It there be six at the grave, Christ looks down from heaven and remembers that is two more than were at His obsequies.

Not recognizing this idea, how many small properties are scattered and widowhood and orphanage go forth into cold charity! The departed left a small property, which would have been enough to keep the family together until they could take care of themselves, but the funeral expenses absorbed everything. That went for crape which ought to have gone for bread. A man of moderate means can hardly afford to die in any of our great cities. By all means, do honor to the departed, but do not consider funeral pageant as necessary. No one was ever more lovingly and tenderly put away to sepulcher than Christ our Lord, but there were only four people in the procession.

Again, standing in this garden with a new sepulcher, I am impressed with the fact that you cannot keep the dead down.

Seal of sanhedrin, company of soldiers from the tower of Antonia, floor of rock, roof of rock, walls of rock, door of rock, cannot keep Christ in the crypts. Come out and come up He must. Come out and come up He did. Prefiguration. First fruits of them that slept. Just as certainly as we go down into the dust, just so certainly we will come up again. Though all the granite of the mountains were piled on us we will rise. Though buried amid the corals of the deepest cavern of the Atlantic Ocean, we will come to the surface.

With these eyes we may not look into the face of the noonday sun, but we shall have stronger vision, because the tamest thing in the land to which we go will be brighter than the sun. We shall have bodies with the speed of the lightning. Our bodies improved, energized, swiftened, clarified—mortality, immortality. The door of the grave taken off its hinges and flung flat into the dust.

Oh, my brethren, death and the grave are not so much as they used to be; for while wandering in this garden with the new sepulcher I find that the vines and flowers of the garden have completely covered up the tomb. Instead of one garden there are four gardens, opening into each other—garden of Eden, garden of the world's sepulcher, garden of the earth's regeneration, garden of heaven. Four gardens. Bloom, O earth! Bloom, O heaven! Oh, my friends, wake up to gladness on this Easter morning! This day, if I interpret it right, means joy—it means peace with heaven, and it means peace with all the world.

Oh, bring more flowers! Wreathe them around the brazen throat of the cannon; plant them in the desert, that it may blossom like the rose; braid them into the mane of the returned war charger. No more red dahlias of human blood. Give us white lilies of peace. All around the earth strew Easter flowers. And soon the rough voyage of the church militant will be ended, and she will sail up the heavenly harbor, scarred with many a conflict, but the flags of triumph floating from her topgallants. All heaven will come out to greet her into port, and with a long reverberating shout of welcome will say: "There she comes up the bay, the glorious old ship Zion! After tempestuous voyage she drops anchor within the veil."

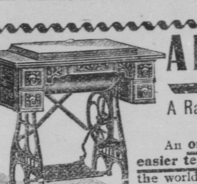
Judge Baker's Opinion of Saloons.

Recently Judge Baker, of the Federa Court, Indianapolis, in passing sentence upon a young man named Beeming for assisting in the robbery of a postoffice, said "It is an unpleasant thing to send an intelligent young man like you to the penitentiary. It is a sorry thing that so many young men do not realize until it is too late that the saloon leads to prison. I doubt if there is one man out of fifty that I am called upon to send to prison that does not begin his career by frequenting saloons and gambling places. If the young men of the country would study the prison records of the various penitentiaries it would be to them a stronger sermon than all the temperance lecturers could ever deliver. When you get out of prison there will be little hope for you unless you right about face—turn your face from the saloons. I think I will send you to the workhouse. Maybe the memory of your dead father and mother, and the prayers of your good mother, offered for you in your childhood, may yet make a man of you."

Beeming was then fined $10 and sent to the Marion County workhouse for six months.

Sometime We Shall Know God.

We shall all turn to God—not because He has driven us, not because He has tempted us, but just because we want to; because we realize a great need only God can supply. The sometime may not come until in the silence of old age we hear His voice, the sound of which we have been drowning with our own cries. It may come of a sudden, in the midst of our activities, when above our commanding there comes another command and we pause to ask, "What is it, Lord?" All our indifference, pride, conceit, swept away in an instant by some unforeseen event. At once, conscious of the instability of our former dependence we turn to Him who changeth not, and are surprised to know that the new dependence instead of humiliating and depressing, brings exaltation and exhilaration, and the one predominating feeling is that of regret because we did not come before.



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KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

PENSIONS GRANTED.

Oil Discovery in Fayette County Creates Excitement—New Railroad for Westmoreland County—Aged Man Suicides.

Pensions granted last week—Cyrus K. Baxter, Tarentum, $6; W. D. Blacka, Dunbar, $6 to $8; Catherine Myer, Fairview, $8; David M. Mason, Mt. Union, $12 to $14; William Eberhart, Scottdale, $6 to $8; Mary A. Weavver, Latrobe, $8; David W. Fagan, Penn Station, $8; John Eckel, Johnstown, $8; Lebbeus P. Bash, New Alexandria, $12 to $14; John C. Shaffer, Oak Ridge Station, $6 to $8; George W. Coleman, Clarion, $6 to $8; John L. Leads, Etna, Allegheny, $8 to $10; William D. Thompson, Sharpsburg, $6 to $8; Lucy R. Gilfillian, Turtle Creek, $8; Mary Betty, Pittsburg, $8; Col. Chill W. Hazzard, Monongahela City, $75.

Cerebro spinal meningitis is epidemic in the vicinity of Idlewild. The first death was that of Joseph Shipley, Saturday night. A few hours later Harry Shaffer, a companion and fellow workman, died after a brief illness with the same disease. A sister of young Shaffer contracted the disease and is now lying at the point of death. The disease has also made its appearance in Latrobe, Joseph Allen, a twelve-year-old boy, dying Tuesday night, after a short illness.

The people of Salt Lick township, Fayette county, are wrough up over the discovery of oil in that mountainous region. For some time the citizens have from time to time found oil on the swamp lands and on still waters, but it remained for Adam Bunbard to make the discovery which resulted in the excitement. Two days ago he found a pool literally covered with about a foot of pure oil. He put it into several tin cans and took it home. In the presence of several he lighted the fluid with a match and it burned like pure carbon oil. Now the people have sent several samples of the oil to chemists for analysis, and the field will probably be the scene of several tests.

Definite arrangements have been completed for the erection of a soldiers' monument in Center county. A permanent organization was effected with ex-Governor James A. Beaver as president, and all of the necessary committees were appointed. The opinion is dominant that not less than $25,000 will be necessary to erect a suitable shaft. Of this amount $15,000 will be devoted to a soldiers' and sailors' monument and $10,000 to the Curtin memorial. A total of about $13,000 has already been pledged.

A railroad extending from Donohue to New Alexandria, Westmoreland county, a distance of seven or eight miles, is to be built. A recent purchase of 2,500 acres of coal land near New Alexandria by James Gallagher, representing an unknown syndicate, was the first step in the direction of giving the old town the advantage of railroad facilities. A corps of Altoona engineers directed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, is now at work on the survey.

Russell Bros.' No. 5 oil well, on their farm near Plummer, Crawford county, is doing 150 barrels a day. The territory was very prolific in the early days. This latest strike is causing considerable activity in the surrounding territory.

This evening Hon. Simon Harrold, of Beaver Falls, states that he had withdrawn from the race for the nomination for Assembly on the Republican ticket. Mr. Harrold was a member of the last Legislature and voted for M. S. Quay for United States senator.

There is considerable excitement in Bedford county over the discovery of iron ore 60 per cent. pure. Leases for 20 years have been obtained on the land. The Riddleburg Iron Company will build a railroad to connect the Baltimore & Ohio railroad at Orleans, this county, and will use the Pennsylvania product rather than the Michigan as heretofore.

The American Plate Mirror Company was chartered at Harrisburg on Saturday, with a capital of $50,000,000. The new combine is looked upon as the beginning of a determined move on the part of American plate glass men to wrest the trade in this country for plate mirrors from foreign manufacturers.

On the McCray farm at Concord, Erie county, Monday, the men were boiling maple syrup. McCray's 10-year-old son took a pail and started on a run for the house. He stumbled, the entire contents pouring over the child's body, burning him terribly. It is doubtful if he lives.

Mrs. Rose Dorsey, colored, whose age is reliably attested to be 111 years, died Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. H. Hermings, in Pittsburg. The old lady retained all her senses up to within half an hour of her death.

A scarcity of labor is reported in Northern Alabama, where new industries are springing into being rapidly. Wages are higher than ever before in that locality.