## COAL MINERS' DEMANDS ARE ALL REFUSED

Owners Suggest That Agreement Be Extended Three Years.

WILL NOT RECOGNIZE UNION

Ment Move of Miners Is Uncertain But Districts May Be Called In Convention.

Fhiladelphia.-The anthracite coa operators met the committee of hard building here and flatly refused to grant the men any of the demands

grant the men any of the demands they had before them, and at the same time proposed to the mine workers that the present agreement, which expires March 31, be renewed for another term of three years.

This decision, while not unexpected by the mine workers, as they had long ago learned that the operators were against making any concessions, came as a great disappointment to the men when they were officially informed of the stand taken by the companies.

les. The operators declared their un willingness to reopen the eight-hour day question and other questions pass-ed upon by the anthracite strike commission of 1992. They also declared themselves opposed to the mine work-ers' proposition for a one-year agree-

Will Not Recognize Union. Will Not Recognize Union.

They declined to recognize the United Mine Workers of America, chiesly on the ground that it was controlled by bituminous workers. They said they met Mr. Lewis and his committee as representatives of the anthracite mine workers and not as officers of the union. The operators called upon the report of the strike commission to support their refusal to deal with the United Mine Workers.

the demands of the mine workers cision. drafted in Scranton last October and ratified by the national convention in Indinapolis in January, are as fol-

lowe:
"We herewith submit to you and "We herewith submit to you and fer your consideration a copy of the demands formulated at a joint con-rection of districts 1, 7 and 9 of the United Mine Workers, held in Scran-ton, Pa., October 12, 1906."
"First—That an agreement shall be

ton, Pa., October 12, 1906.
"First—That an agreement shall be negotiated between the representatives of the anthractic region, and all disputes arising under the contract shall be adjusted as provided for in

the said agreement.

"Second—The complete recognition of the United Mine Workers of America as a party to negotiated wage contract, and that the 'United Mine Workers of America shall be recognized in our right to provide any method we, may adopt for the collection of revenues, for the organization."

Eight-Hour Day Wanted.

"Third—An eight-hour day, with no reduction in wages.
"Fourth—That' all coal shall be mined and paid for by the ton of 2,000

"Fifth-A definite and more uniform "Fifth—A definite and more uniform rate of wages and prices for all classes of labor at all collieries in the anthracite region, and that all employes paid \$1.50 or less per day shall receive a 10 per cent advance, and all employes paid more than \$1.50 and less than \$2.00 per day shall receive a five per cent advance.

"Sixth—That the system whereby a contract miner has more than one job or employs more than two laborers be abolished.
"Seventh—That the employers has

or employs more than two laborers be abolished.

'Seventh—That the employers be required to issue uniform pay statements, designating the name of the company, the name of the employe, the colliery where employed, the amount of wages and the clas of work performed.

"Eighth—That the contract shall be made for a period of one year."

ing fiscal year, the Chevanau will spend \$1,000,000 in improvements on the entire division, and that the bulk of the work has been already mapped out by the engineering department.

It is learned that considerable double-tracking will be done, mainly on the river division between Steubenville and Bellaire, and between Balineville and Alliance. Additional right-of-way for the construction of the new cut-off between Smith's Fer-Pa, and Homeworth, O., has been Pa., and Homeworth, O., has been sured.

Local Option Defeated.

Local Option Defeated.

Har isburg, Pa.—The House of Representatives disposed finally of the local option question in so far as the session of 1909 is concerned. After listening to arguments for two and one-half bours the members voted the measure down by 137 to 66. In the session of two years ago the local optionists rallied 96 votes for their measure as against 89 opposed to it, but could not get the required 204 votes to pass it.

Triple Tragedy In Maryland. Triple Tragedy In Maryland.

Hagerstown, Md.—In Corbetts Addition, a suburb. Charles Iseninger that and killed his wife and Douglas Mongan and then killed himself with the same pistol. Mongan, also a married man, was, like the murderer, Miving apart from his wife, and had been boarding with Mrs. Iseninger.

Madrid.—Madrid has been visited by an epidemic of typhoid fever. More than 300 cases already have been re-moved to one hospital and there have been many deaths.

STANDARD WINS CASE

Prosecution Failed to Prove a Legal Rate of 18 Cents.

Rate of 18 Cents.

Chicago, The Standard Oil Company of Indiana was found not guilty of accepting rebates from the Chicago & Alton Railroad on shipments of oil from Whiting, Ind., to East St. Louis, Ill. The verdict was returned by a jury in the Federal court on instructions of Judge A. G. Anderson, who averred that he followed the circuit court of appeals' decisions as to the same case and on which verdict Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis assessed a fine of \$29,240,000.

Judge Anderson's decision was not unexpected, as he had told the Government prosecutors that the proof relied on in the first trial was incompetent and that it must be complemented or fail. It was with something of an air of hopelessness that District Attorney Edwin W. Sims and his assistants attempted to show the admissibility of the Illindis classification to prove the existence of a legal rate of 18 cents, which was a vital point in the Government's contention.

Prosecutor Suggests Dismissal.

Prosecutor Suggests Dismissal.

tention.

Prosecutor Suggests Dismissal.

It was after Assistant District Attorney James H. Wilkerson had argued for two hours and in the end admitted that the prosecution could not furnish the further proof deemed necessary by the court for a continuation of the case that Judge Anderson announced his decision.

Mr. Wilkerson said that the Government could proceed no further and suggested dismissal of the case. Attorney John S. Miller, chief coursel in the case for the oil company immediately moved that there be an instructed verdict of not guilty. The court so ordered, and the jury, which had been excluded during the arguments by the attorneys, was called in and charged.

The decision of Judges Grosscup. Baker and Seaman, of the United States circuit court of appeals, reversing Judge Landis, together with the action of the United States supreme court in refusing to review the decision of the court of appeals, was

preme court in refusing to review the decision of the court of appeals, was assigned as authority for today's de-

TARIFF REVISION

German Trade Agreement Is Utilized
To Advance Rates On Certain Imports.

tain Imports.

Washington, D. C.—There will be substantial increases in rates on many items in the new tariff bill, with the avowed purpose of increasing the revenues. This idea has been overlocked for some reason in the attention that has been given to the disclosures regarding reductions in rates and the material changes that are to be found in the bill in dealing with raw materials, and finished manufactured products.

Three items may be mentioned upon which gomparatively slight advances in rates are expected to proluce more than \$7,000,000 annually. Opportunity will also be presented in handling this policy of increasing duties for equalizing conditions with respect to imports from Germany that are asserted by Mr. Fordney and others to have been dislocated by the trade agreement entered into by President Roosevelt's administration with Germany, and which agreement resulted in creased importations of certain lines of German manufactured articles.

There is reason to believe that the new tariff bill will show the imposition of duties upon long staple cotton and cocoa; both are now admitted free. There will also be a slight increase in the duty on toys, large importations of which come each year from Germany.

BALLINGER MAKES CHANGES

Ohican Is Appointed to New Office General Shuffle Is Planned.

the colliery where employed, the amount of wages and the clas of work performed.

"Eighth—That the contract shall be made for a period of one year."

WILL SPEND \$1,000,000

C. & P. Railroad Plans Big Improvements on Entire Division.

Wellsville, O.—Announcement has just been made that during the coming fiscal year, the Cleyeland & Pittsburg, Railroad Company will spend \$1,000,000 in improvements on the entire division, and that the bulk of the contract of the department in succession of Edward M. Dawson of Maryland, who was appointed an assistant attorney of the department. John W. Holcombe and James I. Parker, both of Indiana, were appointed assistant and assistant attorney, respectively, to the secretary. Harold

ed assistant and assistant attorney, respectively, to the secretary. Harold N. Clerk of New York was appointed an electrical engineer in the gological survey at \$3,000 a year, effective March 15.

SINKS AFTER COLLISION

Two Ships Meet in Dense Fog and One Goes Down- Everyone Rescued.

Chatham, Mass.-Blanketed by Chatham, Mass.—Blanketed by a dense fog and proceeding at half speed, the steamers Horatio Hall of the Maine Stemship Company from Portland for New York, and H. F. Dimock of the Metropolitan Line, from New York for Boston, met in the middle of Pollock Rip Slue channel.

nel.

The crash sent the Hall to the bottom within half an hour and caused the Dimock to run ashore six hours later on Cape Cod Beach, where the parsengers and crew of the Hall were landed unharmed.

Nebraska Bars Carnegie Lucre Lincoln, Neb.—In the house the bill to authorize the State versity to accept the Carnegie sion fund for professors was defeated by a vote of 51 to 47. W. J. Bryan appeared before the house committee several weeks ago and opposed the pension fund.

Russian Official Killed. Minsk, Russia.—General Stavinsky, chief of the prison, was killed in the vicinity of the prison by an unknown

NEW MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HOUSE

Seven New Senators Are Republican and Five Democrats.

SOME HAVE ACHIEVED RENOWN Majority Are Lawyers, Some Hav

Governors, of States, One is a Farmer. Washington.—Twelve new members of the senate came into that body

with the session beginning at noon March 4, as follows:

Elihi Root, Republican, of New York, was born February 15, 1845, in Clinton, Oneida county, N. Y. He was graduated from Hamilton College. He served as district attorney under Arthur, was a member of the Alaskan boundary commission; became secretary of war August 1, 1889, and secretary of war August 1, 1889, and secretary of state July 7, 1995. He is a lawyer of great reputation. Theodore E. Burton, Republican, of Ohio, was born in that state December 20; 1851. He was graduated from Oberlin College. He is a lawyer and expert on financial matters.—He had served fourteen years in the house when elected senator to succeed Joseph B. Fordker. March 4, as follows:

served fourteen years in the house when elected senator to succeed Joseph B. Foraker.

William O'Connell Bradley. Republican, of Kentucky, left school to join the Union army when fourteen years old. He is now sixty-one years old. He was prosecuting attorney at twenty-type. When twenty-eight he was caucus nominee of the Republicans for the senate. That was thirty-four years ago, and during the interval he was given four similar tributes. He he/ped to lead the "306" at Chicago, who stood by Grant. He prosecuted the Star Route grafters, and received 106 votes for Vice President when Harriscn was nominated. In 1905 he was elected governor of Kentucky, and was chosen senator by the aid of Democratic votes.

Benjamin F. Shively, of Indiana.

of Democratic votes.

Benjamin F. Shively, of Indiana.
Democrat, was born in that state
March 20, 1857. Originally a school
master, he took up newspaper work.
He served in the Forty-eighth, Fiftyfirst and Fifty-second congresses. In
1896 he was the Democratic candidate
for, governor, but was defeated. Since
leaving congress he has practiced law
at South Bend.
Wesley L. Jones, of Washington

t South Bend.
Wesley L. Jones, of Washington,
as born in Illinois October 9, 1863;
lassified as an "infant" in the sente. He is a lawyer. He has served
our terms in the house of represen-

classified as an "infant" in the senate. He is a lawyer. He has served four terms in the house of representatives.

Martin L. Johnson, Republican, of North Dakota, was born in Wisconsin in 1850. He was graduated from the Iowa State University and is a lawyer. He served in the Fifty-second and fifty-fifth congresses. He received the caucus nomination for senator in 1889, but was defeated on joint ballot by a coalition of Democrats and Republican, of South Dakota, was born in Voiney, Iowa, January 14, 1858. He is a lawyer, and was graduated from the Iowa State University. He was elected governor of South Dakota in 1996. Charles James Hughes, Democrat, of Colorado, was born in Caldwell county, Mo., February 16, 1853. He is reputed to be a millionaire. He is a lawyer, and is considered an expert in mining causes.

George E. Chamberlain, Democrat, of Oregon, was born in Natchez, Miss, fifty-two vears ago. He was graduated from Washington and Lee University. He has served six years as governor of Oregon, and had two years of his last term remaining when chosen senator. He was elected as a Democrat, although the state legislature is overwhelmingly Republican. Edward Durant Smith, of South Carolina, Democrat, will not be fortyone years old until the first of next August. He was graduated from Wofford College. He is a farmer, and has never entered professional life. His only political experience computes four years's service in the South Carolina legislature.

Joseph L. Bristow, Republican, of Kansas, was born on a farm in Kentucky. He is a newspaper publisher, He served as fourth assistant postmaster general under McKinley, and exposed the frauds in the nostal service which sent a number of employes to the penitentiary. He afterward was sent as a special commissioner to investigate conditions in Panama. Duncan Upshaw Fletcher, of Florida, was born in Georgia, and is fifty years, old. He is a wealthy lawyer, He is a wealthy l

Coal Land Suit Settled. Coal Land Suit Settled.
Washington. — A settlement has been effected by the secretary of the interior of the government suit against the Union Pacific Railroad Company involving coal lands in Wyoming estimated as worth \$1,500,000. This land is said to have been acquired by the company through what are known as "dummy" entries.

Kansas Reduces Freight Rates. Topeka, Kan.—The senate passed the maximum freight rate bill, reduc-ing the rates in the state 5 to 15 per-cent. The bill already has been pass

ed by the house. Cyclone in Georgia Cuthbert, Ga.—The Northwestern section of Cuthbert was struck by a cyclone and almost totally destroyed. Many buildings are in ruins. Six negroes have been killed and many have been injured.

Another Anti-Jap Move. Sacramento, Cal.—In lieu of an anti-Japanese statute the senate adopted a resolution calling upon congress to enact an Asiatic exclusion law that would keep Japanese as well as Chinese aliens out of the country.

SAYS ACT IS CONFISCATORY

Abolition of Passes Increases Passer ger Revenue by Less Than One Per Cent.

Kansas City, Mo.—Judge McPherson of the United States district court handed down a decision favoring the railroads in the two-cent fare and

court handed down a decision favoring the railroads in the two-cent fare and maximum rate cases granting the injunction sought against enforcing the Missouri laws.

The contention of the 18 railroads operating in the state that the laws were confiscatory and violated the federal constitution by taking away property without due process of law was sustained.

"The question," said Judge McPherson in his decision, "is whether the traffic wholly within the State of Missouri, generally referred to in the evidence as local traffic, can be carried under the freight rate statute of 1907 and the passenger fare statute of 1907 at such profit as will give a reasonable return after paying expenses upon the investment, or whether such traffic is carried at a loss or less than such reasonable profit.

Rate Is Not Renumerative.

Rate Is Not Renumerative.

than such reasonable profit.

Rate is Not Renumerative.

"The court has reached the conclusion that upon this question the statutory rates fixed by either and both statutes are not remunerative."

In giving the reasons for such conclusions, the decision says: "The unquestioned and undoubted rule is that there is a presumption both of fact and of law in favor of the validity of every legislative enactment. The railway companies have the burden of removing this presumption and showing that the statute clearly, or as some courts say, palpably, and others say, beyond a reasonable doubt, is invalid. In these cases the court has recognized this rule. The authorities upon this question form a long and unbroken line, with the single exception of the maojrity opinion in the Pennsylvania case decided a year ago (68 Atl. Rep. 676). And that one authority is not persuasive.

"My opinion is that a railroad property, properly built and properly managed, should over and above expenses make a return of 6 per cent per annum. And considering all the evidence, the evidence fairly shows that all of these roads were properly and economically built and are being properly and economically managed, and that after paying the expenses for maintenance and operation, there is less than 6 per cent of returns, and as to some of them a deficit, taking the property as above stated within the State of Missouri at its fair valuation.

Valuation of State is the Basis.

"And this is so without reference

Valuation of State Is the Basis. "And this is so without reference to bonds, because in no case do the bonds bear 6 per cent interest. But taking the honds into consideration, there is still not to exceed 3 per cent returns, and in many cases a deficit after considering all debts and credits upon the true valuation for the its, upon the true valuation for the state business. There is no evidence that any of the existing bonds were improperly issued either as to amounts or rates of interest.

BUCKS STOVE CASE

Justice Gould's Sweeping Order Not Wholly Upheld In Higher Court.

Wholly Upheld in Higher Court. Washington.—The American Federation of Labor hereafter may freely refer to the boycott against the Bucks Stove & Range Company of St. Louis, except by inclusion in the "We don't patronize" list.

This, in substance, is the decision handed down by the court of appeals of the District of Columbia in the noted injunction case of the Bucks company against the American Federation of Labor, which has been before the courts of the District of Columbia in various phases for months.

JAPS ARE GOING HOME

Greater Number Returned Than Entered United States In Feb-

tered United States In February, He Claims.

New York.—K. Yamesaki, acting consul general of Japan, announced that the report of the department of foreign affairs of Japan, which has just been cabled to him, shows that during the month of February, 1909, 94 more Japanese returned home than entered the mainland of the United States, and 52 more Japanese returned home than entered Hawaii.

Mr. Yamesaki said that the mode of travel showed that the largest proportion of those Japanese returning home were of the working class.

NAVAL BATTLE

Salvadorean Gunboat Disables Nica raguan Craft.

raguan Craft.

Mexico City.—A private dispatch received here March 12 absolutely confirms the reported naval engagements between the ships of Nicaragua and Salvador.

Three Nicaraguan gunboats, led by the Momotombo, attacked the Salvadorean gunboat Presidente. The latter, by a lucky shot, put the Momotombo out of action almost at the beginning of the engagement.

The three Nicaraguans then withdrew. Later the Momotombo was repaired and went in pursuit of the Presidente. Presidente.

Danish Women Legislators. Copenhagen.—Out of 42 members of the municipal council of Copenhagen, elected, seven are women. Seven per cent of the candidates elected in the province are women.

Labor Leader Is Shot. Roswell, N. M.—Ollie S. Shirley, a labor leader, was shot and killed by W. T. Wells, a wealthy resident of Roswell, as a result of a quarrel over the employment of a non-union man on construction work.

OVER THIRTY KILLED BY A TORNADO

Arkansas Town Is Almost Wiped Out-One Church Left.

GOVERNOR ON THE SPOT

Fourteen of the Victims Are White Bodies of Many Negroes Found Under Wreckage.

Brinkley, Ark. - Thirty or more ives were snuffed out, 60 people were injured, 14 seriously, and property es-

lives were snuffed out, 60 people were injured, 14 seriously, and property estimated to be worth \$1,000,000, was destroyed by the tornado which wrecked this city on the night of March 8.

Of the known dead these 14 are white people: Isaac Reed, Mrs. [saac Reed, Russell Reed, Raymond Reed, Porter Foote, J. L. Starrett, Harry Stovall, Jr., Mrs. Ethel Philips, Mrs. Belle Darden, two children of Mrs. Darden, Charles Frenze, A. M. Hood and an unidentified man.

The tornado lasted only a few minutes, but the destruction was complete. The Roman Catholic church, standing directly in the path of the storm, alone escaped damage. Main street and Cypress avenue, the two principal thoroughfares, are impassable and piled high with wreckage.

Every business house is in ruins and there is hardly a home that has not at least suffered the loss of a roof of wing. The Arlington hotel was totally destroyed. Eighty guests were registered there, but all escaped. The Brinkley hotel, Southern hotel and Kelley hotel were all destroyed without loss of life.

Fire broke out in the wreckage, but strenuous efforts prevented a conflagration.

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gration.

The dead were sent to- Helena, from which point interment will take place.

Governor Donaghey arrived from Little Rock in response to a call from the citizens committee. He says food, clothing and shelter are the things most needed. Hundreds of people are homeless. Three special trains arrived from neighboring towns, bringing relief workers, physicians and nurses.

The Catholic church has been converted into a hospital. The citizens of Helena have offered the use of their homes.

LOWER PRICES FOR TIN

Straight Cut of 25 Cents a Box Has Been Decided On By Independents.

Independent tin plate manufacturers throughout the country on Wednesday of last week put into effect a new price on tin plate which makes duction of 25 cents a box all through The reduction is a severe the list. The reduction is a severe one, but the manufacturers believe that, in view of the reduction of prices in other materials, including tin and sheet bars, the lower rate is merely keeping pace with the general trend of the steel market. Under the new schedule the base price for 100-pound coke tin, standard size, is changed from \$3.65 net, to \$3.40. The list price had been \$3.70, but there was a 5-cent differential from this and the ruling price in the trade.

NEGRO BURNED AT STAKE

Assailant of White Woman Is Roast ed to Death Before Eyes of 1.000 People.

Rockwall, Tex.—After having been identified by Mrs. Arthur McKinney as the negro who attempted a criminal assault upon her, Anderson Ellis was taken from the Rockwall county jail, and secured to an iron stake driven into the earth and was burned to death in the presence of 1,000 persons.

Earlier in the evening, Will Clark, a negro, was shot and killed when his father refused permission to a posse to search his premises on the assumption that Ellis was concealed there.

UNCLE SAM MUST ISSUE BONDS Government's Cash Balance Less Nov Than When Cleveland Acted.

Washington.-The report that Washington.—The report that a a bond issue will soon be necessary to tide-over the government treasury was confirmed by Chairman Tawney of the house of representatives committee on appropriations. He said that while the treasury statement shows an available cash bauance of about \$137,000,000, the amount of money actually available is far short of that amount.

An official of the treasury department said that the working cash bal-

An official of the treasury department said that the working cash balance is about \$65.00,000. The balance was \$84,000.000 when President Cleveland found it necessary to issue

St. Petersburg.—The czar has given audience to the oldest soldier in the world. Andrei Nikolaievitch Schmidt, who is 120 years old and who fought in the Napoleonic wars 100 years ago.

Big Deal in Oklahoma Oil. Tulsa, Okla.—J. W. Crosbie, president of the Central National bank and a prominent oil producer, purchased the holdings of Robert Galbreath in the Glenn Pool, consisting of 1,250 acres with 69 producing wells and about 600,000 barrels of oil in tank-Fifteen Victims of Slide.

Rome.—News was received here that an avalanche had destroyed a house in the village of Pradel, province of Belleuno, Venetia, killing 15 persons.

about 600,000 barrels of oil in and age. The consideration was \$700,000, the deal being the largest in Oklahoma oil properties yet made. Mr. Galbreath, who discovered the Glenn Pool, will confine his attention to holdings in other fields in Tulsa district.

EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS Other Matters May Be Considered Beside the Tariff.

Washington .- When congress meets on the 15th inst. upon the call of President Taft to consider a revision

on the 15th inst. upon the cail of President Taft to consider a revision of the tariff there will be no constitutional restriction upon the nature of business that may be transacted. It is generally conceded that at least two months will be required for the house to conclude consideration of all the schedules involved in this legislation.

The house itself will not receive the bill for some weeks, as the committee on ways and means will require considerable time to report the measure. During this long period the senate will have nothing to do in respect to the tariff, and even after the bill leaves the house it will be in the hands of the committee on finance for some time before the senate actually gets possession of it and the debate begins. Then will begin a long wait by the house until the senate amendments cen be known and conferees appointed to bring about an agreement upon them.

Long Wait for Each House.

Long Wait for Each House.

Long Wait for Each House.

This procedure will result in each house having to remain in session with nothing to do in relation to the tariff covering a period of a couple of months. Three days is the extent of a rescess that may be taken by either body.

In view of the extended period of inactivity that would face each house, should nothing be considered except the tariff, many senators are considering the advisibility of entering upon other legislation which they believe ought to be passed in time to send it over to the house when that body has disposed of its bill and will only have to wait for senate action on the tariff.

Postal savings banks, change of

Postal savings banks, change of date in the anauguration from March 4 until a later day, statehood of New Mexico and Arizona and the thirteenth census are topics likely to be heard

CLAIM A VAST ESTATE

St. Louis People Ask About 600 Acres of Land in New York City.

of Land in New York City.

New York.—Comptroller Metz received from a firm of St. Joseph (Mo.) lawyers a communication requesting information regarding 600 acres of land in this city which the lawyers say was leased to the municipality by their clients 99 years ago. The lease has nearly expired, the attorneys say, and their clients desire to make a distribution of the property. The lawyers, Messrs. Duncan & Utz, write that their clients are descendants of Walter Raleigh Scott, who they declare leased the land to the city.

Central Park is the only municipal property containing 600 acres or more. The land was taken by the city under condemnation in 1852. City officials say that the city did not have 600 acres of park in 1810, or 99 years ago.

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AERONAUT DROWNED

Fell Into Sea While Hundreds Watch

His Efforts to Control Big Bag. San Pedro, Cal.—While hundreds watched his frantic efforts to control a great balloon, which was swiftly bearing him 4,000 feet high out over the Pacific ocean, Lester Elkins, an amateur aeronaut, 20 years old, cut loose his parachute and dropped into the waters of the outer harbor to his death.

the waters of the outer harbor to his death.

Elkins tried desperately to guide the balloon back over the land. The parachute filled after he had fallen a short distance, but it was caught by the wind and carried still further out and fell in the ocean a mile beyond Deadman's island. Elkins came to California a few months ago from San Antonio, Texas.

PURCHASED BY U. S. STEEL CO. Corporation Gets Largest Fresh

Corporation, Gets Largest Fresh Water Island.
Houghton, Mich.—The largest island in fresh water in the world has reverted to American ownership. Isle Royale in Lake Superior, except two small summer resorts, has been purchased by American interests from the English syndicate which owned it for many years. The deal was concluded in London by F. W. Nichols of Houghton and Oscar J. Larson of Duluth, the latter an attorney for the United States Steel Corporation.

Whisky Barrels Scarce. Whisky Barrels Scarce.

St. Louis.—That the growing scarcity of oak timber suitable for barrels threatens the whisky trade of the country was the opinion of W. Palmer Clarkson of St. Louis, president of the National Coopers' association, uttered at the opening of the annual convention of that body here. Mr. Clarkson declared that the price of oak had increased 70 per cent, and as no other wood is equal to it in its effect upon ageing whisky, distillers are facing a grave problem.

Change of Inauguration Date. Change of Inauguration Date.
Washington.—Voicing their hearty approval and co-operation in the movement to secure a change in the inauguration date to the last Thursday in April, the governors of a number of States have accepted the invitation of the national committee on the proposed change to become members of that organization.

INCOME TAX FOR FRANCE

Supercedes a Lot of Vexatious and

Antiquated Imposts. Paris. The Chamber of Deputies passed the income tax bill, 407/to 166.
The bill does away with many of the vexatious and antiquated taxes in France, substituting therefor a graduated income tax. Day laborers are practically exempted. The taxes upon incomes above \$1,000 a year is made progressive up to 4 per cent of the total.