The number of converts to Christianity in China has been greater within the last eight years than during the preceding thirty years.

Announcements of the opening of new mills in southern centres are becoming more and more frequent, as industry recovers from the depressive effects of the past few years.

Three thousand head of mixed sheep sold in Menard county, Texas, a few days since for \$7500, \$2.50 a head. Four years since, or less, these sheep would have brought possibly 75 cents, if a purchaser could have been found.

The search for whiskey in the hull of the Arabia, sunk in the Missouri river, near Parkville, over forty years ago, has been abandoned, with complete loss of capital invested in the venture. This is not the first failure that whiskey can be credited with.

The aggregate bonded debt of the cities of the United States is over \$800,000,000; that of the cities of England, \$1,025,000, and that of the cities of France, \$640,000,000, In the last seventeen years the increase in the debt of American cities was \$116,000,000, and of those of England \$565,000,000.

A gang of thieves organized to prev upon thieves has been discovered in Paris. Their plan was to watch for shoplifters in the department stores like the Louvre and the Bon Marche, to follow them home, and then enter under pretence of being police inspectors to search the apartments for stolen goods, which they carried off, with no fear of complaint being made.

The advantage of drawing boards of health to the service of the public schools has been abundantly proved by results in Boston and New York, where competent medical inspection of schools has been secured through the combination. The health commissioner of St. Louis, authorized to report on the sauitary condition of the schools of that city, has disclosed an alarming array of unsanitary and even pestilential evils. It seems almost incredible that a city whose schools were but a few years ago the pride of the West, should suffer the neglect indicated by this report.

The parliament of the United Kingdom is the largest representative body in the world. In the House of Lords there are 553 persons entitled to voteand in the House of Commons there are 670 members. France in its Corps Legislatif has 300 senators and 584 deputies. Italy has a varying number of senators and 508 deputies. Japan has 300 peers and 300 representatives. Germany, in its Bundesrath, or Senate, has .fifty-eight members, but its Reichstag has 397 members. Spain's Cortes has 431 members. Canada has a Senate of eighty members and a House of Commons of 215 members,

A writer in the New York Independent discusses at some length why the United States is so unpopular with Europeans. Beginning with France, the writer says: "For years there has been a large American colony in Paris, but its members find it difficult to get any entree into French society. French ideals differ from ours as much as they do from the English. Besides, the natural sympathy of France is with its neighbor, Spain, which has a large colony in Paris; and Spanish bonds are held in France which would be almost worthless if Cuba were to secure independence. The French believe what the Spaniards tell them, that the United States is hungering to annex Cuba. We need not argue the ill-will of Germany; it is too plain to be missed. It is caused partly by the operation of our tariff and partly by the loss to the United States of so many German citizens and possible soldiers. But still more the cause is in that which is seen all through Europe, the growth and prosperity of this country, the development of its manufactures and commerce, which excite general apprebension. What Germany feels is what the Austrian premier, Goluchowski, startled us by proclaiming that the twentieth century must see the union of Europe against America to shut out American products and influence. The yellow peril, from China. is not so much feared as the American peril. This apprehension affects all Europe, though just now more clearly meed in Germany and Austria. it Italy feels it as well, although she has her special grievance in the New Orleans lynching case. Of the great powers there remain Russia, which s no public opinion and Great Bride, the mother country, remains our

PROSPECT OF WAR NOT SO CERTAIN.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

Spain Makes Concessions Which the Presi dent Presents to Congress in His Cuban Message.

Although it was expected that the present week would open with decisive action on the part of this government toward Spain, indications now are that there will be another delay.

Spain has apparently yielded to the European Powers, and granted an armistice to the Cuban insurgents. Should the Cubans recognize this cessation of hostilities, then the United States must keep hand off Cuba in order to observe the neutrality laws. It is not likely, though, that the Cubans will yield, and the original plans of the government will not be altered.

After a cabinet meeting Sunday night, one of the members said:

"Our meeting to-night was for the final reading of the message which will be sent to congress. It is a strong state paper and will contain a review of the conditions existing in Cuba for years past. The president will ask that he be given authority to use the army and navy to bring about peace in the island of Cuba, and to insure there a stable government. An argument is made against the recognition of independence of the insurgents for the reason of Cuba, and to insure there a stable government. An argument is made against the recognition of independence of the insurgents for the reason that there is lacking the essential features of an independent people. There is a quotation from one of the former presidents, who argued against the recognition of the Texans when in rebellion against the Mexican movement, and from the opinions expressed by

and from the opinions expressed by President Cleveland and Secretary Olney during the last administration is opposition to a recognition of inde-

"There was but one addition made to the message, and that was in relation to the dispatch presented to the state department by Minister Polo de Bernabe and containing the information that the queen regent had granted au-thority to Capt.-Gen. Blanco to issue an armistice, the terms and conditions of which would be left to his judgment. This was the first communication the state department has had with the Spanish minister since a week from last Friday. So far as I am aware there has been no suggestion made to the in-surgents by this government with a view to their considering the proposi-tion for an armistice authorized by the Spanish government. This government has never had anything to do with the gentlemen composing the Cuban junta in New York. I do not think the ar-mistice dies will have the least effect on any action that may be contemplat-

on any action that may be contemplated in congress."

The Spanish government, through its minister at Washington, Senor Polo de Barnabe, Monday, delivered an important official document to the state department stating that the armistice which the queen regent of Spain had commanded Gen, Blanco to proclaim was without conditions. of Spain had commanded Gen. Blanco to proclaim was without conditions, that her majesty's government had granted liberal institutions to the island of Cuba which the coming Cuban parliament would develop, recalling the condolence and sympathy expressed by the queen regent and her government on the disaster of the Maine and the horror this disaster had occasioned, and appealing to the courtesy and sense of justice of the United States government to enlighten public opinion upon the attitude of Spain. The hote alias reports an offer of the Spain. hots also reports an offer of the Span-ish government to subject the Maine question to experts designated by the maritime powers of the world.

VICTORY IS NIGH.

With Liberty Almost Within Their Grasp

Cubans Want No Armistice.

Mr. Quesada, the diplomatic representative of the Cuban insurgents in Washington, was seen this afternoon by a reporter in regard to the constantly reiterated report that the Queen Regent might issue an armistice procelamation.

proclamation.
"It is useless for us," said Mr. Quesada, "to reiterate again for the thousand it is to reiterate again for the thousandth time that we will not accept an armistice and give up the advantages we naturally possess in the rainy season. We understand perfectly that Spain seeks only delay. We will have nothing but an independence. As a matter of fact an armistice is a suspension of hostilities to be arranged by the opposing Generals General Blanco and General Gomez would have to agree to an armistice. Does anyone think that General Gomez would suspend hostilities just as we are about to win the great boon for which our peo-ple have fought and struggled so long?"

M'KINLEY TO THE POPE.

American Prejudice Would Not Permit of Papel Interference.

The pope received Tuesday morning a telegram from President McKinley, which, while declining the intervention of his holiness between the United States and Spain, also contains what is virtually a declaration of the president's nolley.

wirtually a declaration of the presi-dent's policy.

Mr. McKinley says he is extremely sensible of the initiative taken by the pontiff, but that it is impossible for him to overcome the prejudice, even though unjust, which is entertained by a ma-jority of the American people against the vatican's intervention in political

he vatican's intervention in political iffairs. The dispatch adds that President Mc-Kinley is opposed to war now, as he has been in the past, and will still do all that is possible to avoid recourse to such a lamentable expedient, which is considered by him as unworthy of a

For and Against McKinley.

For and Against McKinley.

President Dwight, of Yale, sent the following telegram to President McKinley the other day:

"After conference with the members of the several faculties here. I feel authorized respectfully to assure you that Yale university regards with cordial satisfaction the efforts which you are making to settle our difficulties with Spain without a resort to war, and on terms just and honorable to both nations.

"Timothy Dwight.

President of Yale University."

While President Dwight's telegram was being sent over the wires, a crowd of men in New Haven were burning President McKinley in effigy.

A Tale From the Klondike During a storm the steamer City of Columbia, bound for Klondike, was compelled to seek refuge at Harbor Island near the entrance of the Pacific some weeks ago. The cannibals on the island made desperate efforts to secure thirteen widows on board the ship, but were finally dispersed.

Steamer Secured in the Orient
The United States officials at Hongons have purchased the British teamer Zastro. The Zastro is of 1,042 ma gross register. She is briganishe sweet, 513 feet 7 inches long, having feet 8 inches beam, and draws If feet inches of water.

TELEGRAMS TERSELY TOLD.

Minister Woodford's family have left Madrid for Paris.

The war scare has raised the price of wheat at Odessa.

Margaret Mather, the actress, died at Charleston, W. Va., last week. Pinkerton detectives are watching the Spanish consulate at New York.

Consul Lee has cabled his wife that there is no violence to fear at Havana. The remains of Frances E. Willard were cremated at Chicago last Satur-

The new Utica, N. Y., academy was almost entirely destroyed by fire. Loss, \$75,000.

A conference of Methodists in New York decided in favor of war to save

The wife of Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court died Sunday night. A gun exploded at Morro castle Havana, last week, killing sever

Spaniards.
M. J. Coleman, a lineman, fell from the top of a Pittsburg building Monday and was killed.

Municipal reform candidates won in Chicago and Milwaukee at last Tues-

day's election.

In a race riot at Columbia, S. C., last Wednesday, four negroes and four whites were wounded.

In an election riot at Brownsville, Tex., two men were killed and one lynched last Tuesday. Cuban engagements against Spaniards continue daily with small success to either side.

The Morgan line steamship, Algiers, refused to carry 366 mules from New Orleans to Havana for Spain.

Six persons have died in New York city within the last ten days of what is known as ptomaine poisoning.

Dr. Forrest, of Los. Angeles, Cal.
was arrested at Chicago accused of
swindling to the amount of \$159,000.

Large quantities of supplies belong-ing to the Cuban insurgents were de-stroyed by Gen. Pando a few days ago. It is said that Spanish vessels are prowling on the trail of steamers ply-ing between the United States and Eng-

A Chicago court has decided that ma nufacturers have a right to color but terine or oleomargarine in imitation o butter.

The American flag is being insulted in the streets of Madrid, the government doing nothing to suppress

Six more of the Spaniards who con templated an invasion into Texas case of war have been arrested Nuevo Laredo, Mex.

Receivers have been appointed for Joshua Baker & Co., of Boston, Attach-ments for \$120,000 have been issued against Joshua Baker. Sanchez and Haya, Spanish cigar manufacturers, last Saturday dis-

manufacturers, last Saturday dis-charged 150 American and Cuban cl-gar makers at Tampa, Fia. Competition prevents Massachussetts cotton mill owners from paying higher wages, and if operatives will not accept the mills must remain idle.

The new American schooner Nomaid 450 tons, Captain Alsop, which salled from Shanghai December 7 for Tacoma is believed to have foundered.

The will of Charles B. Wright, former president of the Northern Facific railroad company, left £50,000 to Anna Wright seminary, at Tacoma, Wash.

The falling roof of a burning residence pinloned Mrs. Carr and her two children, and they were burned to death at Bowling Green, O., the other day.

The overhead trailer retox for which

The overhead trolley patent for which the Westinghouse and General Electric Companies have been contending was declared void at New York a few days

Harry Harris, colored, developeu case of small-pox at White Rock, S. C. A mob visited the place, drove out the negro and burned the house last Mon-

day.

Fire destroyed the Piazza Opera
House, Pitts drug store, Piazza harness
factory and buggy warehouse, at
Vicksburg, Miss., the other day. Loss

The Maine disaster has caused the insanity of Anton Lorenz of Chicago. He imagines that he is commissioned to blow up Spanish vessels and avenge The employes of the Ponomah cot-

ton mills of Taffville, Conn., went out on strike, to the number of 1,100 the other day. A 10 per cent reduction in wages was the cause. The Spanish steamer Barcelons sailed from New Orleans the other day

for Genca via Havana, having on board 600 mules, 25 horses, cattle, poultry and other supplies for the Spanish Govern-ment in Cuba.

D. J. Mackaye, the ex-millionaire rail-road king, has gone to work as a fac-tory employe at Anderson, Ind. He found employment with the Anderson Paper company and has been given a position in the office.

The steamship Mascotte arrived at Tampa Sunday afternoon from Havana bringing her full capacity of passengers Capt. Hanlon says that Americans are leaving Cuba as fast as the transporta-tion facilities will permit.

tion facilities will permit.

The other night Mary Brady, of New York, a servant girl, brought home paims biessed at a neighboring church, arranged them with decorative effect in a bath tub, jumped in and turning on the hot water boiled herself to death.

Seventeen judgments aggregating \$377,819 were filed in the county clerk's office at New York in connection with the failure of J. Stettheimer & Co., and Stettheimer & Bettman, bankers and oil producers of this city.

The total liabilities of the several firms, it is stated, exceeded \$1,000,000.

Siam Must Pay. The award of Sir Nicholas Hannan, as arbitrator in the Cheek case, rendered recently orders Siam to pay the Cheek estate an indemnity of 700,000 taels. This is a brilliant victory for United States Minister Earrett, and a successful conclusion to efforts of four years' duration. The award interprets a grave question of international law, and that Siam loses by a fair test is no discredit to her.

Fours for the Italians

The Rome correspondent of the London Daily Chronicle says:

"The Government is anxious for peace on account of the half million of Italian emigrants in the United States States, whose Spanish sympathies would tend, in the event of war, to bring them into dangerous conflict with the American people."

Finding Evidence.

Spain's official connection with the destruction of the Maine is in a fair way of being finally determined. The authorities are conducting a quiet investigation based upon evidence furnished by J. P. Gibbons, an electrical and mining engineer of England. Gibbons

GOLD SEEKERS CRUSHED TO DEATH.

SIXTY KILLED.

An Avalanche on the Chilkoot Pass Ends Forever the Fortunes of Searchers for Wealth.

At about noon Friday on the Chil-koot trail, Alasks, between the Scales and Stone House, at least il men met death and a large number of others were injured more or less seriously in a

were injured more or less seriously in a snowslide.

The dead were crushed under an avalanche of snow and ice, which came down from the mountain side upon the left-hand side of the trail, midway between the Scales and Stone House.

The known dead are: Gus Sebarth, Scattle; Steve Stevenson, Seattle; — Ritchie, residence unknown; Tom Collins, Fortland, Ore; C. P. Harrison, Seattle; — Garnson, residence unknown; one woman, name unknown; Ed Atwood, New York; — Durber, Seattle; C. Beck, Sanford, Fla.; L. Widelein, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Ryan, Baitimore, Md.; John Morgan, Emporia, Kan.; — Grimes, Sacramento, Cal., who has a brother in business at Dyea.

Cal., who has a brother in business at Dyea.

Two of the seriously injured are Walter Chappey, of New York, and John C. Murphy, of Dixon, Dakota.

Fully 50 people were overtaken by the slide and are either buried in the snow or scattered along the borders of the avalanche in a more or less injured condition. The point at which the accident occurred is about five miles above Sheep Camp. A blinding snowstorm was raging all day upon the summit. As a consequence many of those in the vicinity were making no attempt to leave. Sebarth. Sprague and Stevenson, of Seattle, were traveling together as partners, and were found side by side in bed.

Thousands of people were encamped

Ing together as partners, and were found side by side in bed.

Thousands of people were encamped in the vicinity of the accident at the time and were soon upon the scene, rendering such assistance as was possible. All day Saturday and Sunday a southerly storm, with rain, wind and snow, prevailed in this vicinity, and it is believed the softening of the snow on the mountain side was the cause of the avalanche.

It swept directly across the trail, which, notwithstanding that the weather was unsuitable for travel, was thronged with wayfares. The last vestige of the trail in that vicinity was wiped out of existence, and where it

thronged with wayfares. The last vestige of the trail in that vicinity was
wiped out of existence, and where it
lay is now a mountain of snow and ice,
under which are many dead bodies that
cannot be recovered for days to come.
People were digging up their goods
when the slide occurred, at noon.

Later details received from Alaska
increase the horrors of the avalanche
in the Chilkoot pass instead of lessening it. Sixty-nine dead bodies have
thus far been recovered, and the names
of 150 missing have been reported as
unaccounted for. It is barely possible
that some of these had succeeded in
crossing the pass before the avalanche
occurred. A conservative estimate is
that between 75 and 100 persons were
killed.

A Startling Statoment.

As Startling Statement.

All the electric lights in Havana were extinguished the moment the Maine was blown up. Consul Lee believes the electric current turned into the mine was so strong that it was useless for lighting purp-ses. This may prove a strong argument showing that the Maine was destroyed by design.

A Fond Settled. Henry and Ernest Howard, brothers, and James Murr were killed by John and Joe McGhee, father and son, and Thomas Howard received fatal wounds at Knoxville, Tenn. The McGhees, heavily armed, fled, and have not been captured. A family feud caused it.

THE COMING CONFLICT.

The pope is pleading with the United States for delay. The government has ordered 60 miles of torpedo cable.

The pope is pleased because of the armistice, and predicts peace. The United States has purchased three torpedo boats in Italy.

Forty submarine mines were planted in Hayana harbor last week. National Guard of New 13,000 strong, is ready for action.

In event of war the Pennsylvania National Guard will be sent to Cuba at The cruiser Diogenes recently purchased in England, has been renamed the Topeka.

Submarine mines are being placed in all the narbors along the Atlanti

coast.
The Spanish cruisers, Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo have arrived at

Porto Rico.

The tattered flag of the wrecked Maine has been granted to Capt. Sigsbee as a relic. The swiftest tug at New Orleans, the Robert W. Wilmot, has been purchased

by the government. The United States has purchased the

cruiser Diogenes from the Thames Iron Works at London. Cipher dispatches from Havana to Washington are prohibited by the processor unless first translated.

The British steamer Nanshan has been purchased by the United States and will be used as a coaling vessel. The Chicago Board of Trade presented the naval reserves of that city with \$1,000 last week with which to buy uni-

The government may be compelled to offer \$200 and \$400 in bounties in order to secure the services of able-bodied

That the United States seize Cuba and hold her as indemnity for the Maine, a suggestion made to McKinley a fe days ago.

Ten thousand canvas uniforms, designed especially for the climate of Cuba, have been ordered for the United States army.

Secretary Sherman says there is no such thing as party division now in congress. Democrats and Republicans are all Americans, and they are stand-ing together.

The Westinghouse Electrical Com-pany of Pittsburg is to receive a bonus of \$25,000 from the government if it completes a \$692,700 contract within a specified time.

The Ohio Senate has passed the bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for National and State defense. The Seventeenth infantry, U. S. A., has been ordered to move from here at once. The whaleback steamer Christopher Columbus, which during the World's Fair at Chicago carried 7,500 people on one trip may be engaged to carry troops to Key West as soon as war is declared.

An order for 60,000 blouses, besides a number of shirts, drawers, etc.; has seen received at the quartermaster's lepot in Jeffersonville, Ind. One hunged and fifty extra seamstreases have

LEE LEAVES HAVANA.

Oeneral Blanco Refused to Say Farewell the Courageous American.

Saturday afternoon Consul General Lee, accompanied by his staff, boarded the Dispatch boat Fern, and Consuls Springer and Barker went on board later. The Machina wharf, where they embarked, was crowded with curious persons, but no discourtesy was shown the officials. At 5:3 the American vessels began leaving.

The steamer Evelyn followed with about 5 passengers, and after her came the Olivette with 247 passengers, among whom were Miss Chara Barton and the other representatives of the Red Cross Society who have been engaged in relief work in the island.

The Olivette was followed by the Bache with 19 passengers, and last of all came the Fern, having on board Consul General Lee, Consul Springer and Barker, Consular Clerks Fosca, Delz and Drain.

As the Fern rounded to, headed for the open sea, she passed near the Maine wreck. The group had been laughing and talking, expressing their satisfaction at leaving Havana. With one accord, each man doffed his hat in salute to the brave dead, while silence fell on all several minutes.

Gen. Lee being on board the Fern, made that boat a target for redoublied hisses, groans, catcalls and whistles from the crowds on shore.

"Get out, Yankee swine," was among the mildest expressions used. This seemed to strike every one on board as ludicrous. Vice Consul Springer, who had been on the island 30 years, waved his hand to a particularly abusive group, saying in tones loud enough for all to hear, "Wait, wait, my friends, we shall all be back soon."

There was one pretty incident. On the Cabanas shore, a British steamer was unloading at her wharf. As the Fern passed the Union Jack was dipped, while the English crew gave a hearty cheer. It is needless to say that the compliment was returned with all possible gusto.

Saturday morning Consul General Lee, accompanied by British Consul Gollan, called on General Blanco to bid Saturday afternoon Consul General Lee, accompanied by his staff, boarded

possible gusto.
Saturday morning Consul General
Lee, accompanied by British Consul
Gollan, called on General Blanco to bid
him good-by. The governor general
was very busy and could not receive
General Lee.

General Lee.
Gen. Lee arrived at Tampa, Fla.,
Sunday and left immediately for
Washington.

PLOTTED AGAINST LEE.

Men Charged With the Attempt Now in

Havana is guarded more closely than ever, the Arolas Battallon being posted around the limits of Vidano, the swell

around the limits of Vidano, the swell suburb of the city.

Within the last few days a number of Cubans have been arrested and are now confined in the Cuban forfress charged with various offenses. Some say the prisoners have been engaged in a plot to assassinate United States Consul General Lee, and others assert that they have been acting as soles for

that they have been acting as spies for the United States Government. There is no doubt that the Spanish Government is more alarmed than it has ever been before and is taking every precaution. There are reasons to believe that there was a plot to kill believe that there was a plot to kill General Lee, and that it was allowed to come to a head by the Spanish de-tectives in order that they might get credit for defeating it.

EUROPE WOULD PROTEST.

Neither Spain Nor the United States Will

Engage in Privateering. Spain and the United States are only two great powers which do not prohibit privateering. A treaty to which every European nation except Spain is signatory provides that lot-ters of marque shall not be issued in a war, authorizing private armed ves-sels to attack the merchant ships of an

reasons advanced for this The reasons advanced for this at-titude were considered good and suf-ficient by the civilized powers which made the treaty. It was urged that the margin between a privateer and a pirate was too casily abolished. If business should be duil in the priv-ateer's legitimate line the tempataton ateer's legitimate line the temptation to strike the merchant ships of a neu-tral nation might be too strong to be

While there is no treaty stipulation to prevent either Spain or the United States from sending out privateers, it is not believed at Washington that either nation would be permitted by the great powers to resort to this method of war-

The United States, of course, would not countenance privateering, and it is said in official circles that if Spain attempted it the warships of Europe would take concerted action to mak her amenable in fact to the treat; which she refused in terms. The privateers, after due notice given, would be destroyed as pirates by the warships of

It has been suggested in congression-It has been suggested in congressional circles that a portion of the American merchantmen might be floated under the flag of Great Britain. This might be done in the case of vessels engaged in deep sea trading. The drawback is that ship owners could not bring their vessels back into American registry after peace was declared without an act of congress. In the case of vessels engaged in the coastwise trade the plan is absolutely impracticable. Vessels engaged in the coastwise trade the plan is absolutely impracticable. The law prohibits ships of a foreign nation from engaging in coastwise trade. It is the only vestige of protection left for the American merchant marine, and the New Englanders cling to it tenaciously. If it were proposed to suspend the law for this purpose the suppersion would let in a borde of forsuspension would let in a horde of for-eign ships which would immediately drive our schooners from the trade. The navy department does not antici-

pate damage to the ice and coal trade of the coasters. They will proceed as usual. Only vessels sailing to gulf ports will be in danger.

Predicts a Lengthy War.

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper of Lonion recently published an interview don recently published an interview with Colonel John Hay, the American Ambassador, whose remarks are of the most discreet character. The paper also publishes an interview with Count de Rascon, the Spatish ambassador, who is reported to have said:

"The responsibility rests with President McKinley. If he makes war there will be a war which will last five or six years or forever, and will ruin both Spain and the United States. We shall avail our-

United States. We shall avail our-selves of letters of marque. The Maine

CAPITAL GLEANINGS

Minister Woodford has been ordered Consul Lee will not leave Havana un-th the last American is safe.

The New York Life Insurance Com-pany is willing to loan the government \$10,000,000.

Postal clerks are awaiting a decision as to whether their situations will be held for them in case they should go to war.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

GLOOMY OUTLOOK.

Frosts Have Destroyed the Fruit Grop Throughout the State.

Secretary Edge, of the Agricultural Department, speaks in the most gloomy manner on the outlook for fruit in this State this years. He says that the frosts and snows of the past few days, added to the freezing weather, have almost destroyed the peaches and that the buds have been frosen black where they had developed at all. He has had reports from a number of his correspondents and all have the same story to tell of black frosts and rulnation of the fruit crop. Even the strawberries are frozen, and are almost a total loss. The Secretary thinks that there may be a few peaches in places where the hills formed a protection, but this is the case in only a few counties, and the crop will be woofully short. From the South Mountains, where it was supposed the trees would be protected, come reports that the blight is over everything and from the Juniata and Cumberland valleys there is no encouragement. A bulletin will be prepared when the major. leys there is no encouragement. A bul-letin will be prepared when the major-ity of the correspondents are heard from.

letin will be prepared when the majority of the correspondents are heard from.

The following pensions were granted last week: Horace B. Smith, Gallatin, Potter, 36; W. W. Searman, Leota, Butler, 36; George Shingledecker, Siverly, Venango, 36; John E. Shively, Fayetteville, Franklin, 36; Nehemiah Campbell, Gallitzin, 36; Thomas W. Douglass, Punxsutawney, 38; George Payton, Kendail Creek, McKean, 38; John N. Coleman, Clarksburg, 36; W. H. Cowen, Frankfort Springs, Beaver, 324 to 35; Joseph Scrayer, Fossilville, Bedford, 310 to 312; Wesley V. Tate, Kipple, Bialr, 312 to 317; Cyrus Thomas, Greensburg, 38 to 310; Joseph Fisher, Deckers Point, Indiana, 36; Jane F. Cowan, Frankfort Springs, Beaver, 312; Sarah Cumberledge, Brave, Greene, 312; Elizabeth M. Haskins, Coudersport, 38; Margaret D. Patterson, Alexandria, Huntingdon, 38; Ellzabeth G. Simpson, Eitta, Kittanning, 312; Washington R. Christy, Rosston, Armstrong, 36; John M. Detwiler, Waterside, Bedford, 36; William T. Foley, Allegheny, 35; George P. Bell, Puritan, Cambria, 36; David Shenefelt, Huntingdon, 36; Henry T. Kulp, Braddock, 36; Samuel H. Williamson, Bellwood, 38 to 312; Peter R. Reitz, Hathville, Jefferson, 38 to 316; Ell R. Booth, Burlington, Bradford, 12 to 317; Robert Craig, Soldiers' home, Erie, 38 to 310; Luther Reed, Sweden Valley, Potter, 330 to 350; James Grace, Centertown, Mercer, 36 to 38; Mary A. Riley, Altoona, 38; Rachel Duer, Murayaville, Westmoreland, 38,

David B. Landis, president of the Conestoga National Bank, one of the most prominent citizens of Lancaster, was shot and killed Thursday morning by Ralph W. Wireback, who occupied a house owned by Landis on a conspicuous residence thoroughtare, Mr. Landis had served notice on Wireback to quit the premises April 1. Wireback said he had a lease which allowed him to stay, and this morning a couple of constables went to Landis to evict the recalcitrant tenant. Wireback had fortified the house in an ingenious manner, locking himself in a third-story room, where he had stacked the doors and

back shot and killed Landis.

William Dearolph, employed in the Watsonville pool by the South Penn Oil Company, of Oil City, was on the top of a 74-foot derrick a few days ago when a line which he was pulling parted at a splice and he lost his balance, falling to the ground and landing on his feet. One foot and leg was driven into the ground to the knee, but the other foot struck a root and stayed above the ground. The only mark he carries is a pair of black eyes, where they struck his knees when the concussion of the fall doubled him up.

The vote on the question of bonding

The vote on the question of bonding the city of Meadville to enable councils to purchase the plant of the Meadville water company carried recently. The plant will cost \$200,000. The decisions of Justice Dean in this and the Beaver Falls case prevented the city from building its own plant.

Mrs. James Colbert, wife of a coal miner living near Harrisville, has been suffering from typhoid fever, and last Friday morning, while delirious, escaped from the house. Monday morning she was found in an abandoned out-building, two miles away, unconscious, and almost dead from exposure.

scious, and almost dead from exposure. Benjamin and James Mitchell, brothers, living at Larimer, were killed near the big raliroad cut west of Irwin last Tuesday. They started for home early and an bur later their bodies were found side by side in the ditch alongside the track.

William Phenniecie, of Lucyville, employed as a policeman, was lodged in Jall, at Washington the other day, by Conctable Tobin of Ruscoe on a commitment issued by Squire William McKenna charging him with killing Robert Hughes.

Robert Hughes. The sheriff has sold the Macungle

Iron Company's furnace, six houses and the property, consisting of 56 acres at Allentown, to Emma Audenried, or Philadelphia, for \$10,000. The property is subject to a mortgage for \$17,000.

An offer has been made to the Gov-ernment by John H. Barnes, of Pitts-burg, to take submarine photographs of the sunken war ship Maine, by an apparatus of his own invention. A trolley car which jumped the track at Watsontown, Northumberland coun-ty, fatally crushed William Magga, who was standing on the front plat-form, against a pole.

Search is being made throughout the eastern part of the State for James Blank, a 17-year-old, who disappeared from his home at Bethlehem on Febru-

A. J. McKean, who has been connected with the First National bank, Mercer, Pa., since 1874, has been chosen its president to succeed William Logan, deceased.

By the blowing out of a cylinder in an engine, James Gougan, a pump run-ner in a mine at Nanticoke, Luserne county, sustained injuries from which

Amos W. Stauffer, a veteran res at Petersburg, Lancaster County, cently coughed up a builet, with the he was wounded in the shoulder in Operations will be resum
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een leased by an English sy:
Professor James E. Keeles
gheny, has accepted the positions of the Lick Observations of the Lick Observations of the Lick Observations California.