

Lieutenant Hobson has declined the offer of \$10,000 for ten lectures. Another evidence of the man's inherent bravery.

With thermometers in fireproofs registering 200 degrees, it must require more courage to stay below and keep a ship moving than to stand on deck to be shot at. Remember the firemen.

Assuming that the combined circulations of all the leading Chicago newspapers amount to 1,000,000 copies a day, the increase of one cent in the price all around costs the citizens of the Windy city no less than \$3,650,000 a year.

In view of the assertion recently made by the Spanish newspapers to the effect that "there are no colleges in America" it is interesting to know that we have 430 universities and colleges, 8472 professors and teachers therein, and 124,684 students.

It was significant of the trend of English feeling that at the Fourth of July celebration at Constantinople the Americans resident along the Bosphorus were taken to the Princes Islands, where Minister Angell was residing, in the British Embassy dispatchboat. There were present, also, a large number of English officials (all wearing American colors), and even Admiral Woods Pasha, of the Turkish navy. It was a graceful courtesy, which we may be sure the Americans appreciated.

The Frankfurter Zeitung, a leading German paper, reviewing the war and the role Germany has played, regrets the attacks of the German press on the United States, and arrives at the conclusion that Germany has behaved in a "thoroughly injudicious manner." It says: "Two German vessels at Manila would have sufficed amply, and in the future we hope the foreign office will take into its own hands the settling of all incidents in connection with Germany's foreign policy, including those relating to the navy."

A Pennsylvania commission, charged with the difficult task of devising some means whereby convict labor can be utilized without interfering with union labor, has found, after two years of inquiry, nothing better, under existing statute restrictions, than the New York plan of utilizing such labor in the making of supplies for state institutions. The members of the commission approve of the European plan of making army stores and equipments in the prisons. That plan, of course, is not applicable in this country, where ordinarily there is no such demand for war material, but Pennsylvania is supporting 30,000 insane in its various hospitals, and it is believed that the furnishing of supplies for that indigent army would keep all the prison inmates in the state busy.

The authorities of Portland, Ore., believe that they have solved the problem of economical street sprinkling, and the explanation of the way they do it is a revelation of how that far Western city is gridironed with street railways. There are at least thirty miles of track within the city, as the contract for sprinkling covers that amount of highway on which rails are laid. Each mile of the thirty is to be sprinkled once daily, Sundays excepted, the work to be done by the street railroad company with a motor sprinkling cart. The city furnishes the water, and the railroad company distributes it for \$400 a month. Not counting the cost of the water, the expense is about \$13 per mile per month. That is certainly less than it would cost the city to do the work through its street department. The cost per city lot of fifty feet frontage is about seven cents a month.

The New York Tribune says:—Amid all the talk about German interests at Manila, it is well to bear in mind that there are only four German trading-houses in that city, that there is no direct line of vessels between Germany and the Philippines, and that no cargoes are ever sent from either country to the other. The amount of German trade must therefore be small. It could not well be large. The chief products of the islands are sugar, hemp and copra. Evidently no sugar could be sent to Germany, which is a sugar-exporting country. The hemp goes to all parts of the world, but chiefly by way of Great Britain. The copra is practically all taken by Great Britain and France. The tobacco, now a minor product, goes chiefly to Spain, or did before Admiral Dewey interfered with the trade. It is one thing to protect existing interests. It is another and very different thing to try to establish new interests.

THE RED CROSS.

They too have heard the drum-beat,
They follow the bugle's call,
These who are swift with pity
On the field where brave men fall.

When the battle-thunder is silent,
And the echoing boom dies,
They haste to the plain red sodden
With the blood of sacrifice.

The flag that floats above them
Is marked with a crimson sign,
Pledge of a great compassion,
And the rifted heart divine.

That once for man's redemption
Knew such a complete loss,
These to the field of valor
Bring love's immortal cross.

And so they follow the bugle,
And heed the drum-beat's call,
But their errand is one of pity—
They succor the men who fall.
—Harper's Bazar.

THE YELLOW GOD.

BY LEAVENWORTH MACRAE.

Tom Jenkins ran his hand through the gold that lay heaped on the floor of the shack. "Seems to me, Billy," he said, slowly, "that hopin' to find it is better 'n findin' it."

Dull gleams of light from a smoky lantern fell athwart the face of the old miner, rugged, homely, deep-furrowed by time and hardships, and offering a marked contrast, indeed, to the handsome, patrician features of Billy Bailey, his junior partner.

"Findin', Billy, means quittin'. It's an end to the wants an' privations I've known for nigh twenty years. But, somehow, I've come to like these still ole mountains, an' the singin' of the pines, an' the river. They've grown like friends, an' I'm never lonesome among 'em. Listen! you can hear 'em now. Maybe it's the last time they'll ever sing for me."

"We're goin' back to civilization," continued Tom, unheeding the other's lack of sympathy with his reminiscence mood, "an' that means separation. I know you like me, Billy. A feller couldn't want a better pardner than you've been for the two year I've known you. But with yer eddication, an' yer young blood, an' yer ambitions, you ain't my kind in civilization. We can't be the same down there. I couldn't expect it. But I think a powerful deal of you, Billy."

"Oh, come, Tom," broke in his companion, impatiently, "you're in the dumps tonight. Take a walk and brace up. Should think you'd look on the bright side of things now. We've worked and starved in these cursed wilds for gold, until at last we've got it. Think of the city's ten thousand pleasures that this stake can buy for us. There's no life in these solitudes. It's there in the crowded streets, and it can be ours when we've got such a god—the god of gold—to see us through."

Billy laughed gloatingly in anticipation. Then once more he fixed his eyes with a glittering intensity on the yellow heap, which meant for him all that life can mean to a selfish, love-lack nature.

"But it ain't fer me," persisted Tom. "I'm past them things. If it wa'n't for the hope of findin' the old woman down there in Frisco an' makin' her comfortable, I'd stay. I don't care for the gold after all. I've found it, an' my hungerin' fer it's satisfied."

Billy made no answer. He had long since become resigned to the diversity of their tastes, and tonight he was in no mood for argument. He got out some materials, and began to repair a rent in his coat. Tom rose presently, and dumped the nuggets into a gunny-sack. Then he arranged his blankets for the night.

"Put it away safe, Billy," he said, jocularly, "we're already on the edge of civilization, an' must learn to be pertickler."

"Til look after it, never fear," said the other, shortly, "good-night."

Billy finished his task, but his mind was still busy with thoughts of the future. He rose and stepped out into the night. At his feet the turbulent river rushed blackly along, its foam-crests gleaming like dull silver in the clear starlight. Behind him towered in silent majesty the rugged, wooded mountains. The air was heavy with the breath of the pines. But Billy saw none of the beauty of the night. The mountains awakened memories of hardships and hopelessness; the river was only a highway to civilization. He lit his pipe, and began to pace up and down the shelving shore.

There was none of the stuff of which heroes are made in Billy Bailey's composition. Had the fates seen fit to continue their kindly beginning, he would probably have developed into one of the horde of whitened sepulchres that so largely make up what the world is pleased to term the respectable of humanity—those who observe the conventions to the letter, indulge every desire with a studied care that wins the approval of men, and dying are respectfully buried and speedily forgotten. On the contrary, fate had preferred giving Billy a chance to prove his mettle. His college career cut short by the mauling away of his father's fortune, he awoke one morning to find himself face to face with the world, his wits his only capital. He remembered tonight his struggles to maintain his social position; the slights heaped upon him by erstwhile boon companions; the gradual sinking away of hope, until, with starvation staring him in the face, he had shipped in a vessel bound "round the Horn." On his lips were angry phrases for the friends who had failed him; in his heart a resolve some day to retaliate. He recalled his hardships on the Western frontier, his final falling in with old Tom Jenkins, and the hopeless search for gold until a week ago, when the gravel of a dried-up mountain stream unexpectedly yielded them

their little fortune and ended for him the wretched existence in these solitudes. His future course was plain. Mercilessly he would engage in the war for wealth. His heart must know but one love—the love of gold.

And the stake! It was not so much after all. If he only had Tom's share, too! The thought startled him, and he looked furtively about as though already under surveillance. Well, why not? The old man cared nothing for gold—he had said as much. Why not begin the task of wealth-gathering tonight, and double his fortune by a single coup? The skiff was all ready for the morrow's journey down the river. He could easily reach North Fork by daylight, and miles of distance would lie between him and Tom before the latter could make the trip across the almost impassable mountain trail. He weakened for a moment as he thought of Tom's almost motherly solicitude—of how throughout their wanderings the big-hearted miner had borne the brunt of the struggle. Even when the treasure was discovered the old man's first words were: "I'm glad for your sake, Billy." Then he asked himself if he, too, was growing sentimental, and tonight, of all nights, on the very eve of battle.

He walked back to the house. Tom was fast asleep. The flickering light of the lantern fell against the corner where he lay, his powerful form half swathed in the tattered blankets, his brawny arms thrown above his head. The face, from which sleep seemed to have smoothed away the deep furrows, mirrored the rugged honesty of his heart. But the touching picture meant nothing to Billy, who watched the sleeper for an instant, and then proceeded to put his cowardly scheme into effect. It was but the work of a few minutes to gather together the things necessary for the short journey down the river, and to secure the treasure for safe transportation. There was a look of cunning triumph on his face as he completed his preparations. He was thinking of the surprise awaiting Tom, who had been "fool enough to believe in human friendship."

He made a cautious step toward the door of the shack, when a slight noise, real or fancied, caused him to glance back over his shoulder. The next instant the bag of gold crashed to the floor, while Billy sank on his knees as though felled by a blow. Tom was sitting bolt upright in bed, his revolver leveled at Billy's head.

The two gazed at each other in utter silence. Billy's eyes, fixed with the penetration born of despair, scanned the old man's face, and read there reproach and pity, rather than a thirst for swift revenge. This somewhat reassured him, and he rose to his feet.

"Well," he said, bluntly, "what do you intend to do?"

"So," said Tom, with a long breath, "I wuz mistook in you, after all. To think that I give you my friendship an' you wa'n't worth it. What be I going to do? What do men usually do when a pardner turns thief?"

"You wouldn't shoot me, Tom?"

"Why not? Men's been killed fer less 'n this an' the world wuz well red of 'em."

Then it did mean death.

As Billy realized this his face turned ashen pale, while a palsying terror struck through him, rending his bravado mask and revealing him as the pitiable dastard he was. He cowered before the old man, pleading hysterically.

"Oh, spare me, spare me, Tom. You said you cared nothing for gold, while I—I was mad with love of it. It is my god—my heaven—my everything. But take it, take it all—only give me my life—Tom—I—I—can't—die."

"Git up," commanded the other, coldly, "don't make me despise you worse'n I do. What would you do if you wuz in my place? Shoot, wouldn't you? You'd kill me now if you had the chance."

"But think, Tom, what life means to me; I'm young and—"

"Think what friendship meant to me, Billy, I'm old."

In the momentary silence that followed, the pines and the river could be heard singing their old, old song, unheeding of the strife of mortals for a scrap of the treasure they guarded. Tom heard the song, and his bitterness seemed to go out with the weird melody. The hand that held the weapon dropped listlessly to his side.

"I'll spar yer life," he said hoarsely; "you kin go."

Billy stood a moment as though he had not heard.

"Yer free. Go!" said Tom.

The boy glanced from the old man to the bag of gold, and then turned slowly toward the doorway.

"You better take yer pile now," said Tom, quietly, "as I reckon you won't be comin' back."

"Do you mean it?" gasped Billy.

"Certainly; half'a yorn, ain't it? There's only one thief in this camp, an'—it ain't me."

Tom proceeded to open the bag, and roughly divided the contents.

"You can take the boat, that goes with your half. As fer me," he added, in a voice that wavered in spite of himself, "I'll do what I'd a done if you'd a robbed me. I'll stay awhile longer with the mountains an' the river. They're uncertain sometimes, an' sometimes dangerous, but most-wise they're better'n men."

Billy vaguely appreciated the nature of the man with whom he was dealing, yet he felt that such nobleness required some acknowledgment. He sprang forward, and tried to grasp the old man's hand.

"No, no—not that!" cried Tom, fiercely. "Don't touch me. The gold is yours. Take it and go. But go quickly, Billy—fer I'm only human."—San Francisco Argonaut.

The value of a ton of pure gold is \$600,000,000.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Fall or Spring Plowing.
According to Nebraska experiments early fall or summer plowing gave better yields of corn than spring breaking. When the plowing was done very late in autumn there was no appreciable difference.

Pruning Fruit Trees.
Summer pruning tends to form fruit buds while trimming in the spring produces wood growth. Trim each year, but only enough to cut out cross branches and water sprouts. A tree can sometimes be induced to bear yearly by removing half of the fruit buds and permitting it to bear a half crop only each season. It is, however, usually more practicable to allow nature to take its course and let the trees bear each alternate year. Let each tree assume its individual shape and do not try to have all look alike.

Sawdust on the Farm.
In many sections sawdust can be purchased at a price that makes it valuable in farm operations. It should not be used on light or sandy soils, but on clay land or on land inclined to be wet it will loosen up the soil as well as enrich it. In the stock barn, and especially with cows, sawdust is valuable for bedding, readily absorbing the liquid manure and retaining it, so that the effect is plainly visible when the sawdust is applied to the soil as a fertilizer. As a summer mulch for strawberry plants sawdust is equal to anything used for that purpose. It is too heavy for a winter mulch except between the rows, but it may be used in connection with some coarser material like leaves or straw, and will be valuable. It must be remembered that the value of sawdust as a fertilizer is but nominal and its chief value, in its application to the soil, is after it has been used in the stable as an absorbent for the liquid manures so often lost through carelessness.

Clover and Timothy Together.
This system of work fitted our circumstances, with clover-timothy hay and with barn room to accommodate it. We never tried to raise clover alone, and do not reciprocate the sentiment of those who belittle the excellent qualities of this grass. The two suit each other so well that it seems like criticising Mother Nature to divorce them. Sown together these two plants fully occupy the ground as they grow side by side, the timothy filling spots left vacant by the trifolium, or deserted by it later when its biennial mission is ended. And when it comes to harvesting the crop timothy acts as a go-between or nurse in helping to cure the clover which is difficult to handle separately. Except to those who can control plenty of help, haymaking cannot be prosecuted under ideal conditions, so far as preserving all the crop at that stage when the chemist informs us the green crop contains the most available nutritive qualities. While haymaking usually begins when the crop is at or near its best, the later cut hay may have passed to the stage where it is less digestible, and this is one of the unavoidable losses which must be met philosophically.—Farm, Stock and Home.

Feeding the Dairy Cow.
When properly fed a dairy cow will neither gain nor lose in live weight, and under such conditions will produce the maximum quantity of milk which her physical conformation permits, and that milk will have its maximum quality, i. e., there will be a maximum epithelial growth.

The food which produces such results is an ideal milk ration, and the nearest approach to it which man possesses is a good pasture. The moment artificial feeding begins the conditions are altered. If an excess of nutriment is given the tendency to fatten will gradually outstrip the tendency for milk production. If a deficiency of nutriment be given the body suffers first, subsequently the quality of the milk, and, lastly, the quantity. These results will be most marked when there is simultaneously an abundant supply of water. If now the food be changed there will be a corresponding change in the quantity and quality of the milk, but it will not be immediate. Experiments have been made for me under the latter conditions. The result was that the animals first utilized the food to replenish their emaciated bodies. The milk remained practically unaffected for from four to six weeks. Then the food told. This fact emphasizes one source of error in feeding experiments—they are not conducted on a sufficiently long period.—Professor F. J. Lloyd before the British Dairy Farmers' Association.

Manure and Fertilizers.
A ton of manure with ten pounds of nitrogen, twelve pounds of potash and six pounds of phosphoric acid in it, is worth more to you in the end for farm crops, as a rule, although, perhaps, not so immediately available, than the same number of pounds of these ingredients in any fertilizer on earth. This is because the manure furnishes vegetable matter to decay in the soil and has a beneficial bacterial effect, neither of which you get from commercial fertilizers.

Now, here is the substance of the whole matter, and every honorable agricultural paper or institute worker or fertilizer man will agree with it heartily. We want you to save all your manure, and not let part of it go to waste and then buy back the same ingredients you lost. We want you to grow clover, cow-peas, etc., and

get nitrogen practically free, instead of buying it. We want you to buy feed and get fertility for your land.

Lastly, if you haven't enough, as you find by actual experiment, then purchase what you need.

When you buy fertilizers again let it be after you have learned how to figure them. If figures on the bag say 2 to 3 per cent. of nitrogen it means 2 per cent. only. That is all the law requires. The "3" is put on to deceive you, so an agent can call it 2 1-2 per cent. on an average. Two per cent. means, of course, two pounds in 100 or 40 in a ton. Figure this at 14 cents. Then figure the phosphoric acid that is available, soluble and reverted, at 5 1-2 cents. Next the potash at 5 cents; then add 20 per cent. for mixing and you will have a fair idea of what the fertilizer is worth, or rather, what you should pay for it. Do not let any interested party fool you into thinking that a ton of wheat straw will not be worth more to you in the end, properly used on your farm, than \$2 worth of any fertilizer you can buy. Where quick action is wanted, of course, you can get a fertilizer that will do better than the straw, but in the long run you will lose by selling straw at \$2 and buying fertilizers with the money. I would not sell it at \$4 a ton. The vegetable matter that the straw adds to the soil is too valuable.

—T. B. Terry in Practical Farmer.

Forcing Tomatoes in Winter.
Seed for the crop was sown September fifteen in 2 1-2 inch flats filled with loam and sand in proportion of four to one. [Professors Mason and Hall, Bulletin 70, Kansas experiment station.] In three weeks plants were taken from the flats and set in 2 1-2 inch pots. These were twice repotted and finally on December 10 were set in benches. All the vines were trained on a trellis and after the branches were established pruning consisted in cutting out weak foliage and occasionally thinning the more vigorous plants. When the plants were small the watering was done by means of a sprinkler, but after they were set in the bench the ground was watered twice a week with a heavy spray from the hose. Later the soil was soaked heavily every eighth day by flooding. After each wetting, when the soil became dry it was cultivated lightly and leveled off. Toward the end of the season no cultivation was given.

The vines made a vigorous growth from the time they were set in the bench and a considerable quantity of the foliage had to be removed to prevent shutting out the light. The fruit season was ended about June 12. This need not be done, for as the tomato is a continuous bloomer, it could be kept bearing so long as the vines can be cared for and the fruit disposed of. The fruit was smaller than that grown out of doors, but still quite fair-sized, many of the tomatoes being three inches in diameter. They were uniformly smooth and in good condition. By February 24 all varieties but one gave from one to three ripe fruit. The yield from the rows placed nearest the glass was the least, giving 103 against 106 pounds from the front row or that further from the glass. The time from the planting of the seed until the ripening of the first fruit is 23 weeks. About half this time the plants grew in flats and took up little room. The crop was allowed to bear 3 1-2 months. Winter tomatoes were a novelty to most people, and at first they were bought slowly, but as the people became more familiar with them they sold readily.

In tests made at the Geneva (N.Y.) station in forcing tomatoes it was found that plants trained to single stems are more profitable than three-stem plants for winter tomatoes, the fruits on the single stems are heavier and greater in number, so that the total yield per square foot of bench is decidedly larger. It was also found that the amount of fruit ripening during the first six weeks of fruiting is much greater for the single plants. Very little difference was found in the yield of plants grown in pots from those grown in benches in the single-stem tomatoes, but with the three-stem system using the pots seemed to be a decided advantage.—American Agriculturist.

Farm and Garden Notes.
Underfed or overfed hens are poor layers.
Do not expect eggs from over-crowded flocks.
It is not desirable to keep begonias entirely in the shade. They should have, if possible, the morning sun.
Unless the soil about the heliotrope is kept loose, the plant will not do its best. It should be showered often.
To prevent worms from attacking the roots of tea roses, scatter wood ashes over the ground at a short distance from the stalks.
Subsoiling has the advantage of loosening the hard pan below the surface. It may be injurious on some soils to turn the subsoil up, but it can do no harm to pulverize it.
The interior walls of the silo should be as smooth as possible and then there must be no cross rods or projections of any kind as these prevent complete packing and consequent rotting.
Gentle heat and moisture cause fresh seeds to germinate, during which process they require darkness. When sprouted introduce to the light by degrees, and keep constantly watered but not wet.
Oats contain more protein than corn and less starch, but oats contain fully as much oil (or fat) as corn, about 4 per cent, but the proportion of oil is too small to render either grain unfit for horses. It is the starch in the corn that produces fat on an animal.

THE MARKETS.

PITTSBURGH.	
Grain, Flour and Feed.	
WHEAT—No. 1 red.....	63 00
No. 2 red.....	62 00
CORN—No. 2 yellow, ear.....	38 35
No. 2 yellow, shelled.....	34 35
Mixed ear.....	36 35
OATS—No. 2 white.....	26 25
No. 3 white.....	24 25
RYE—No. 1.....	49 60
Flour—Winter patents.....	4 45 4 50
Fancy straight winter.....	4 40 4 45
High flour—Old new.....	3 00 3 05
HAY—No. 1 timothy.....	7 50 8 00
Clover, No. 1.....	7 50 8 00
FEED—No. 1 white mid., ton.....	17 50 18 00
Brown middlings.....	14 50 15 00
Brass meal.....	11 00 11 50
8 TAW—Wheat.....	5 30 5 50
Out.....	5 00 5 25
SEEDS—Clover, 60 lbs.....	2 50 3 00
Timothy, prime.....	1 30 1 50
Dairy Products.	
BUTTER—Elgin creamery.....	20 00 21 00
Ohio creamery.....	18 15 19 00
Fancy country roll.....	18 15 19 00
CHEESE—Old new.....	8 00 8 50
New York, new.....	8 00 8 50
Fruits and Vegetables.	
BEANS—Green, 7 bu.....	50 00 55 00
POTATOES—White, 7 bu.....	1 20 1 75
CABBAGE—Per bb.....	50 00 60 00
ONIONS—Choice yellow, 7 bu.....	40 00 50 00
Poultry, Etc.	
CHICKENS—Per pair, small.....	50 00 60 00
TURKEYS—Per lb.....	14 15 15 00
EGGS—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	13 14 14 00
CINCINNATI.	
Flour.....	3 10 3 35
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	60 67
RYE—No. 2.....	45 00
CORN—Mixed.....	30 81
OATS.....	21 22
EGGS.....	12 12
BUTTER—Ohio creamery.....	12 12
PHILADELPHIA.	
Flour.....	3 75 4 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	68 69
CORN—No. 2 mixed.....	34 35
OATS—No. 2 white.....	29 30
BUTTER—Creamery, extra.....	19 00
EGGS—Pennsylvania fresh.....	16 00
NEW YORK.	
Flour—Patents.....	4 50 5 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	66 75
CORN—No. 2.....	36 37
OATS—White Western.....	30 00
BUTTER—Creamery.....	18 00
EGGS—State of Penn.....	15 00
LIVE STOCK.	
Central Stock Yards, East Liberty, Pa.	
CATTLE.	
Prime, 1200 to 1400 lbs.....	5 10 5 15
Good, 1200 to 1500 lbs.....	4 90 5 00
Tidy, 1000 to 1150 lbs.....	4 75 4 90
Fair light steers, 900 to 1000 lbs	4 25 4 40
Common, 700 to 900 lbs.....	3 70 4 10
HOGS.	
Medium.....	4 12 4 15
Heavy.....	4 10 4 12
Roughs and stags.....	3 40 3 65
SHEEP.	
Prime, 95 to 105 lbs.....	4 40 4 50
Good, 85 to 95 lbs.....	3 80 3 85
Fair, 70 to 85 lbs.....	3 30 3 50
Common.....	3 25 3 30
Spring lambs.....	4 25 4 70

TRADE REVIEW.

The Largest Wheat Crop Will be Harvested—Demand for Iron Produces a Rise in Price.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade reports as follows for last week: The smallest failures ever recorded in any month for five years were those of August. No other month since the monthly reports in any country commenced by Dun's review exclusively has shown defaulted liabilities as small within \$1,000,000 and the ratio of such defaults to solvent business, represented by exchanges through all clearing houses only \$106,700 in \$100,000, is smaller by 25.5 per cent than in any previous month. The clearings having been the largest ever known in August, and 23.6 per cent larger than in 1892.

The enormous volume of business in a month, usually one of the most inactive of the year, demands attention. Postponement during the month of war of some contracts and purchases which have now come forward explains part of the increase and the strong absorption of securities explains part, but there has also been a great decline in the average of prices for all commodities, so that it takes a much larger volume of business in tons or bushels to make up transactions amounting to a million more than in 1892. It is therefore strictly true that business is larger than in the very best of all past years, and yet there is every prospect of much further increase.

There is no room to doubt that the wheat crop, even though it may fall a shade below some estimates, will prove the largest ever harvested, and although the Bureau estimates Europe's crop at 232,000,000 bushels more than the last, that would be only about an average yield, while other evidence is less favorable. Foreign buying has been strong, so that Atlantic exports for the week have been 3,328,878 bushels, against 5,534,735 bushels last year, and Pacific exports, 458,881 bushels, against 258,651 bushels last year. But receipts at the West are increasing, and the price has dropped 5 cents for spot, though the September option is 5c lower for the week.

The improvement in the iron industry has not only continued, but becomes more impressive because, after enormous buying of materials has satisfied the needs of great consumers for months to come, the demand for products is so great that both materials and products are gradually advancing in price. Bessemer pig has risen to \$19.55 at Pittsburgh, local coke at Chicago and anthracite foundry at the East are strong, and also bars and plates advance a shade, with most structural and plate mills filled with orders for months to come, and 25,000 tons rails sold at Chicago for delivery next year. The advance in tin plates, in spite of production far greater than was thought possible not long ago, is evidence that the consumption of steel in that branch will be heavy. The wire mill works also report a better demand, and the output of Connellsville coke has started up, gaining 10,000 tons for the week.

The woolen mills have rather better orders this week, but not enough as yet to warrant running nearly full force, with the price of wool held at the West much above eastern markets, and by the markets about 1 cent higher than the mills are bidding. In cotton manufacture there is better demand with a sixteenth rise in print cloth, though brown sheetings are a shade lower, the demand for other goods being still fairly strong.

Failures for the week have been 171 in the United States, against 191 last year, and 22 in Canada, against 25 last year.

Insurgents Seizing Islands.
Several squadrons of Philippine insurgent troops have invaded the southern islands, with the view of seizing everything possible prior to the settlement of the peace conditions. General Rios, the Spanish commander, with a flotilla of gunboats, is active energetically.