

LAST HOURS OF EX-SPEAKER REED.

DIED IN WASHINGTON.

Illness Took Sudden Fatal Turn. President Paid His Tribute—Interment at Portland, Me.

Thomas Brackett Reed, former speaker of the House of Representatives, died at the Arlington hotel at 12:10 o'clock Sunday morning, December 7, of pneumonia. At his bedside when he passed away were Mrs. Reed, their daughter, Catherine, and Drs. Goodnow, MacDonald, Gardner and Bishop. Mr. Reed became unconscious about 5 o'clock in the evening, and although saline injections and oxygen were steadily administered he never revived. His kidneys refused to operate early in the morning, and it was said that he had for some time been suffering from Bright's disease. His mind was active, and during the early part of the day he conversed rationally with persons in the room, frequently making some joke about his condition. Later his mental faculties wandered, and he talked of scenes and events of his boyhood, of his service in the navy during the civil war, and of the notable conflicts he had participated in in the House. While he was dying the Gridiron club was holding a banquet in the hotel. Shortly before midnight the fact that there was no hope for him was announced. First assistant Postmaster General Wynne, president of the club, and Major John M. Carson spoke a few words in praise of him, and while the diners were drinking a final toast to him he died. Mr. Reed reached Washington Sunday, October 30, having come to attend to some matters in the United States supreme court. He was at the capitol Monday visiting with friends and former associates in Congress, and witnessed the convening of the second session of the Fifty-seventh Congress. Apparently he was enjoying good health, but later in the day he called on Dr. F. A. Gardner and complained of gastric distress. The following day his physician compelled him to remain in bed, while a diagnosis was made of his condition. Mr. Reed was strongly averse to staying in bed, but a rise in temperature made it imperative that he remain quiet. Symptoms of appendicitis appeared, though his condition was not considered as alarming. A trained nurse remained with him throughout Tuesday night, and the patient showed signs of improvement. On Thursday the physicians announced that the appendicitis symptoms were abating, but that kidney trouble had developed, giving a more serious aspect to the case. The remains, accompanied by the family and friends, were removed to Portland, Me., for interment. During the entire day there was a stream of sympathetic callers at the Arlington hotel, where the body of Mr. Reed lay awaiting removal to the railroad station. They included President and Mrs. Roosevelt, members of the cabinet and of the Senate and House of Representatives and of the diplomatic corps.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

Prince Henry of Prussia has become a candidate for the German ambassadorship at Washington. Opponents of omnibus statehood bill, seeing themselves beaten, have appealed to the President to veto the measure. Secretary of the Navy Moody ordered Admiral Higginson not to use sailors in digging ditches in disease-breeding swamps. Charles Henry Butler, an attorney at law of New York city, was appointed reporter of the decisions of the supreme court to the United States. Secretary Moody ordered Paymaster John C. Sullivan before the retiring board for examination to determine his capability for further active duty.

RESERVED FOR THE MEN.

Postmaster General Payne Does Not Approve of Women Carriers. It has recently been brought to the attention of Postmaster General Payne that about 25 women are holding positions as carriers in the rural free delivery service, and a call has been made upon Superintendent Machen, of that branch, for information about them. An investigation will be made to learn whether they are performing their duties in a satisfactory manner. The appointments were made without knowledge of the sex of the appointees. Mr. Payne is said to be opposed to the appointment of women to such service.

WILL HAVE TIME TO REPENT.

Philadelphia "Jekyll and Hyde" Gets a 15-Year Sentence. George Dickinson, alias Wescott, the burglar who was arrested about 10 days ago in Philadelphia, and was discovered by detectives to be a robber by night and a business man by day, was tried and convicted and sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary. Yet police accused Dickinson of nearly 50 robberies, but could secure legal evidence in but 25 cases. Nearly \$16,000 worth of Dickinson's loot was recovered by the police.

CLIMAX IN VACCINATION.

Gas City, Ind., School Officers Exclude 300 Children. The climax in the vaccination agitation was reached at Gas City, Ind., when over 300 children were excluded from the schools for not presenting certificates of vaccination. Of this number nearly one-half had been vaccinated, but had neglected to obtain proof. The anti-vaccinationists declare they will attempt to send their children to school, and if they are not admitted legal proceedings will be brought.

WILL GET MORE MONEY.

Salaries of Railroad Telegraphers Have Been Increased. The committee representing the telegraph operators employed on the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh railroad, in conference with the railroad officials in regard to a new wage scale, has successfully accomplished its purpose. It is stated that increases varying from 5 to 20 per cent, dating from November 1, will be made, bringing the salaries up to the standard paid by other railroads.

RESTRAINS LABOR UNION.

Supreme Court Justice Wesley O. Howard, at Schoenectady, N. Y., granted an injunction restraining Painters' Union No. 62, of that city, from in any way treating William Potter as not a member of the union. Potter was expelled from the union because he is a member of the mill, and such action served as a private during the Hudson Valley strike.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

LVII. CONGRESS.

President's Message.

Little was done in either branch of Congress Tuesday beyond the reception of the President's message. In the Senate ex-Secretary of War Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, was sworn in as successor of the late Senator McMillan. One hour and fifteen minutes were consumed in reading the message. The resignation of Rev. W. H. Milburn, the blind chaplain of the Senate, was read, but not acted upon.

New Members.

The House was in session an hour and 40 minutes Tuesday. The President's message was listened to with attention by members without regard to party. Gordon Russell, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of R. C. De Graffenreid, of Texas, and Edward Swann, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Amos J. Cummings, of New York, took the oath.

Statehood Bill.

In the Senate Wednesday Mr. Nelson, Minnesota, reported a substitute for the bill passed by the House at the last session for the admission of Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico as States, which drops New Mexico and Arizona and provides for the admission of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory as a State under the name of Oklahoma. Mr. Penrose, Pennsylvania, called up the bill restricting immigration, when an adjournment was taken in respect to the memories of Representatives De Graffenreid and Shepherd.

\$50,000 for Commission.

The House Wednesday passed the bill appropriating \$50,000 for the expense of the anthracite coal strike commission. W. A. Smith, Michigan, offered a resolution requesting the Secretary of State to inform the House of the circumstances of the killing of W. A. Fitzgerald by Godfrey Hunter, Jr., in Guatemala City.

Executive Session.

The Senate Thursday in executive session confirmed Hon. Oliver Wendell Holmes to succeed the late Chief Justice Gray as a member of the United States supreme court, and Henry L. West to be commissioner of the District of Columbia. Routine business occupied the attention of the House Thursday, confined principally to members looking after bills pertaining to their respective districts.

Pension Bill Passed.

The House on Saturday passed the pension appropriation bill for the year ending June 30, 1904, amounting to \$139,000,000. Mr. Payne, New York, introduced a resolution for a holiday adjournment from December 29 to January 5. Representative Acheson introduced a bill to extend the free delivery mail service to towns of 5,000 population.

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FOURTEEN PERSONS DIE BY SMOKE.

HOTEL DEATH TRAP.

Thirteen Victims in a Chicago Fire Found Suffocated in Beds After Blaze Is Extinguished.

Fourteen men met death by suffocation Thursday morning in a fire which occurred at 6 o'clock in the Lincoln hotel, 178 Madison street, Chicago, Ill. Thirteen were found while lying in their beds. One was taken from the building before life was extinct, but died in the ambulance on the way to the nearest hospital. The dead are I. C. Yocum, fire insurance agent, Davenport, Ia.; Samuel Yocum, son of I. C. Yocum; A. B. Coon's lawyer, Marengo, Ill.; F. L. Ewing, mail clerk, Marietta, O.; E. F. Boswell, clerk, Waukegan, Ill.; C. M. machine dealer, Waukegan, Ill.; H. K. Woods, Lebanon, Ind.; Edward Toner, printer, Milwaukee; F. W. Corey, 29 years of age, railway postal clerk, Bayceus, O.; Ward Lowe, railway postal clerk, Sochlersville, Wis.; M. M. Hardy, traveling salesman, Janesville, Wis.; C. P. Cowan, collector on the Wabash railroad, St. Louis; George R. Graves, printer, Chicago; unidentified man, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 165 pounds; 45 years of age; thin brown hair and mustache. The following were injured: J. S. Allison, Richmond Center, Wis., cut about the hands; Edward Davenport, Chicago, injured internally by jumping from fourth-story to roof of adjoining building; W. G. Thomas, Cedar Rapids, Ia., badly cut and burned; William M. Snyder, Loom City, Ia., bruised by falling downstairs; Mrs. June Shepherd, Chicago, back strained, arms and hands cut and bruised; Robert C. Hamilton, Lebanon, Ind., hands cut; Cliff Ward, Battle Creek, Mich., cut about head and hands lacerated; Frederick G. Baker, Nashville, Mich., feet burned; Irwin Westerland, Chicago, feet burned; Olof Oldorf, Chicago, hands lacerated. Night Clerk Weber discovered the smoke pouring through the halls shortly before 5 o'clock and did his best to alarm the guests, but the smoke was so dense and increased in volume so rapidly that he was unable to arouse only a small number and they were unable to avoid suffocation. The guests came pouring down the one stairway in all stages of undress and several leaped from the windows of the second-story to the sidewalk below, and escaped without serious injury. A number of men, turned back by the smoke in hallways, which prevented them from finding the stairs, swung down on the ropes placed in the front of the building by the workmen creating the fire escape. The firemen saved many lives by carrying people down the ladders from the windows. The smoke on the inside of the building was so thick and so pungent that the firemen were unable to do more than take the people from the windows. Those who were not able to reach the windows in a few minutes after the fire broke out were suffocated in torture. A portion of the third and second floors were burned and the blaze was extinguished within 40 minutes after the first alarm. All the dead had rooms on the third and fourth floors. F. A. Smith, proprietor of the hotel, said: "Our 70 rooms were all filled and I should judge that we had about 125 to 150 guests. Chief Masham, of the fire department, said that in some ways it was the worst fire that he had ever attended. The building was one of the worst firetraps I have ever seen. The coroner's jury, after viewing the ruins, adjourned until December 12."

BARNS ON PENNSY STOCK.

Governor Yates, of Illinois, issued Quarantine. Governor Yates, of Illinois, has issued a proclamation prohibiting the importation into the state of cattle and sheep from the states of Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island; also from adjoining states of New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Cattle from the first four states are believed to be infected with the "foot and mouth disease."

TRAIN'S FEARFUL PLUNGE.

Freight Goes Down a Mountain Side While Rounding a Curve. A frightful freight wreck occurred on the West Virginia Central railroad at Big Run, a small place on the Blackwater grade near Thomas, W. Va., resulting in the death of the engineer, John Jankey, and the serious injury of a brakeman, A. Wolf. The locomotive and 21 loaded cars jumped the track and plunged over the steep mountain side while rounding a sharp curve. The balance of the crew miraculously escaped being seriously injured.

No Coal in Freezing Omaha.

The cold wave caused intense suffering among the poorer and even the fairly well to do classes at Omaha, Neb., on account of the lack of coal. The coal firms were swamped with orders. There was no anthracite to be had. Two Omaha schools and a large number of schools throughout the state were compelled to close. The wooden sidewalks and fences are disappearing at a wholesale rate.

Lead Merger Completed.

The merger of the lead manufacturing concerns of the United States is practically completed. Under the new plan the National Lead Company, which has a capital of \$30,000,000, will become the holding and operating company. Its capital is to be increased to \$50,000,000. The merger puts the National Lead Company in absolute control of all the manufacturers of lead in the country.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

The entire country was swept by a blizzard December 4 and 5.

The bank at Bridger, Mont., was robbed by three masked men of \$2,000.

United States Minister Buck died suddenly while duck hunting in Japan.

Twelve men are missing as result of explosion on tank steamer at San Francisco.

Captain Evan P. Howell was elected mayor of Atlanta, Ga., without opposition.

Commissioner Durham, of Pennsylvania, will start crusade against child insurance.

The Ohio Valley stove manufacturer decided to increase the price of stoves 5 per cent.

Snow, sleet and rain fell in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan and Texas December 3.

The yacht Shamrock III, the American cup challenger, had a narrow escape from fire.

Pennsylvania railroad has improved Boston ocean terminal by large purchase of real estate.

The Ohio miners will demand an increase of 20 cents a ton in the scale for pick-mined coal.

The Pickering Manufacturing Company of Lowell, Mass., has failed, with liabilities of \$300,000.

Germany and Great Britain sent warships in haste to Venezuela to demand payment of claims.

The grand jury in New York indicted former Police Captain Daniel C. Moynahan for bribery.

Miners testified before the strike commission that it is impossible to save money from their wages.

Naval war game in the Caribbean between two fleets of the United States navy began December 4.

James Sullivan and Mr. De Kibbs were killed in a snowdrift at the Cornucopia mine at Baker City, Ore.

Thomas Naat, the famous cartoonist, United States consul general at Guayaquil, Ecuador, died of yellow fever.

Frank C. Andrews, the Detroit bank wrecker, has donned prison garb and is making shirts in Jackson penitentiary.

The Williams knitting mills, one of the largest in Western North Carolina, located at Shelby, was destroyed by fire.

Sir Liang Chen, new Chinese minister to the United States, will marry Miss Yu, daughter of China's minister to France.

The call for the National convention of United Mine Workers to meet at Indianapolis, Ind., on January 19, has been issued.

James Rochelle Tyler, 64 years old, a grandson of President Tyler, died at the Confederate Soldiers home at Richmond, Va.

Ex-Senator Flinn, of Pennsylvania, and other capitalists reached agreement with Cape May council concerning proposed improvements.

Prof. H. V. Hilprecht was presented by the University of Pennsylvania with the Lucy Wharton Drexel medal for excavations at Nippur.

Employees of the Shamokin division of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company have been notified of an increase in wages of about 10 per cent.

Horace E. Killig, 45 years old, superintendent of the Germantown (Pa.) crematory, was blown to atoms by an explosion of dynamite he was carrying.

The Minnesota supreme court decided in favor of Russell Sage in the suit of George C. Glover to force Sage to surrender a quarter section of land in Swift county.

George W. Streeter, who made a fight for filled-in land on the lake front at Chicago, Ill., was found guilty of manslaughter and sent to the penitentiary.

The Pacific Coast limited on the Rio Grande Western railroad ran into a rock slide near Grand Junction, Col., killing Fireman C. W. Beedle and injuring Engineer John Cummins and Mail Clerk Benson, but no passengers.

The Indiana Company, capital \$1,000,000, with \$500,000 paid in, filed papers of incorporation in New Jersey to construct railways and electric light plants in Indiana.

General Deschamps sailed from San Juan de Porto Rico for New York, where he expects to foment another rebellion against the government of Santo Domingo.

GOLD IN INDIANAPOLIS STREETS.

UNTOLD TREASURE.

Western Man Discovers Wealth in Sand From Sewer Trench—It Pays at Surface.

Throughout the city of Indianapolis, Ind., Friday there were 100 men washing gold out of gravel taken from the streets. The greatest excitement prevailed in some sections of the city, owing to the discovery of gold deposits in gravel pits and in sand thrown from various street excavations. The whole excitement was due to the statement made public in the morning by R. T. Royce, a western gold prospector. Royce came to the city to visit relatives, and his attention was attracted to the character of the sand and gravel being thrown from a sewer excavation. He secured some of it and found bright yellow flour-like flakes, which the state geologist pronounced to be gold. "Young men will live to see Indiana the greatest gold placer mining state in the union," Royce declared, "the greatest not in the largest wealth in dollars in each cubic yard of dirt, but the greatest productive area and in the total amount of gold production. I have just panned the finest gold in the world out of the dirt of an Indianapolis street." Royce further asserts that the men throwing the dirt out of the ditch where he made his first washing are throwing out gold in every cubic yard of sand excavated. The "color" he washed, he said, would indicate that the dirt will run from 15 cents a cubic yard on the surface to 50 cents a cubic yard further down. His announcement created a sensation in various sections of the city, and laboring men could be seen at various points panning the dirt in search of the flour-like gold which Royce declared to be found in deposit that will run 99 1/2 per cent pure.

AGAINST EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Supreme Court of Ohio Decides That It Is Unconstitutional. The supreme court at Columbus, O., handed down a decision in the case of the city of Cleveland vs. Clement Bros., in which it declared the contested eight-hour labor law unconstitutional. The case was carried up to the supreme court by the city. It had led sewer contracts to Clement Bros. and stipulated that the eight-hour law should be respected under penalty of \$10 for each violation. The city attempted to hold out \$100 in fines in settling with the contractors. The latter sued and secured judgment in the lower court. The city contested the decision and has now lost in the highest court. The court followed a decision previously made.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATOR'S IDEA.

A Plan to Take the Spice Out of Courting. In the House of Delegates at Richmond, Va., Dr. W. B. Ware, practicing physician, introduced a bill to make promiscuous kissing a misdemeanor. Practically all Dr. Ware will say of his bill is that while it ought to pass, he has no idea that it will be adopted. The act reads as follows: "It shall be unlawful for any person to kiss another unless he can prove by his family physician that he has not any contagious or infectious diseases. Any person violating the provisions shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than \$1 nor more than \$5 for each offense."

MUNCIE GLASS PLANT CLOSES.

Transfer 400 Employees to Its Factories at Other Places. The American Window Glass Company's plant at Muncie, Ind., has shut down indefinitely and 400 workmen will be transferred to concerns owned by the company in other states. The local officers of the company make no statement except that for the present it has been found impracticable to operate the Muncie factory.

Beer Combine Outwaded.

The court of appeals at Kansas City, Mo., decided that the combination of brewers in that city is a trust, such as is expressly forbidden by the statutes of Missouri, and that any man who owes a brewer in the combine need not pay his bill, and the brewer cannot collect the debt, even in the courts.

Mail Lost or Stolen.

A mail sack, containing \$14,000 in drafts and checks from the internal revenue office, and \$9,000 in bank checks and drafts, besides registered letters, was stolen or lost between the Danville, Ky., postoffice and the Cincinnati mail train.

Maryland Tax Law Upheld.

Justice White, of the United States supreme court, affirmed the right of the state of Maryland to tax the gross receipts of the Northern Central Railway Company, which claimed exemption under old charters.

Gusher in Canada.

Canada has one of the largest natural oil wells in America. The boring has been completed and 40 barrels an hour are yielded by the new gusher, which is situated in Raleigh township, ten miles from Chatham.

Combine in Screws.

Developments at Providence, R. I., indicate that the American Screw Company is seeking to absorb all the available independent screw manufacturing concerns in New England.

Martha Washington Stamps.

The postoffice department has begun to issue the stamps bearing the Martha Washington portrait.

OFFICIALS MUST EXPLAIN.

In Interstate Commerce Commission Will Look Into Recent Increase in Freight Tariffs.

The increase in freight rates, which are shortly to be applied on the roads running from the Mississippi river and points beyond to the East and South, is being investigated by the Interstate commerce commission, which has fixed December 16, next, as the date for a hearing to be held at the offices of the commission in Washington, D. C. The commission has issued an order requiring the attendance of the chief traffic officials or other representatives qualified to give information of the following: Michigan Central Railroad Company, Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway Company, Erie Railroad Company, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway Company, Wabash Railroad Company, Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Railway Company, New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Company, Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Southern Railway Company, Norfolk & Western Railway Company and Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company. The commission has adopted the following order: "Whereas, it appears from schedule on file with the commission that rates upon grain and grain products, dressed meats and provisions from the Mississippi river to New York and points governed by the New York rate are to be materially advanced in the near future; and, whereas, it appears probable that other advances are to be made which will materially increase the general cost of transportation; therefore, it is ordered that a proceeding of inquiry and investigation be instituted as to the occasion for and propriety of such advances. Following a similar action by the Michigan Central, the Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville railroad has filed with the commission the required advance notice of an increase of 5 cents to be imposed on dressed meats shipped from Chicago to New York, making the rate 45 cents per 100 pounds, and abolishing the export rate of 25 cents on provisions, making a flat rate of 30 cents on provisions. The commission also has been given official notice that the proportional rates on wheat and flour from Kansas City, St. Joseph, Atchison, Leavenworth, and other lower Missouri river points, which rates apply on business from points beyond, have been advanced 2 cents to Chicago, from Ohio river points such as Cincinnati, Louisville, Evansville, New Albany and Cairo, to Charleston, Atlanta, Brunswick and the South Atlantic coast generally, an increase is to be made of 4 cents on grain and flour, when shipped in sacks, and of 7 cents a barrel or 3 1/2 cents per 100 pounds when shipped in barrels.

CABLE FLASHES.

The majority group in the Reichstag, Germany, have determined to pass a tariff bill before Christmas. Ten persons were burned to death at Bochum, Prussia, as the result of a fire which broke out in a bakery. The British cruiser Good Hope, having on board Colonial Secretary Chamberlain and party, bound for South Africa, arrived at Port Said, Egypt. First Secretary Dodge has been gazetted as charge d'affaires of the United States embassy at Berlin, Germany, and had his first interview with the foreign office officials. An announcement was made at Philadelphia of the proposed formation of a large combination in the rubber industry to be known as the International Rubber Company, with a capital stock of \$25,000,000. The chamber of deputies of France ratified an additional monetary convention between France, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland, authorizing each country to issue additional silver coins to the value of \$3,500,000,000. The short line for the New cable to Honolulu and the Philippines was laid at San Francisco by the cable ship Silverton. On December 12 the Silverton will begin laying the cable to Honolulu, and it is expected that the Hawaiian capital will exchange greetings with Washington on Christmas day. After an embittered political and personal debate the Reichstag at Berlin, Germany, declared by 193 to 45 votes that Baron von Kardorff's motion to vote on the tariff bill as a whole was admissible unless the rule. The Socialists abstained from voting.

The Russian Grand Duke Paul Alexandovitch, an uncle of the Czar, has been dismissed by Emperor William of Germany from the honorary colonelcy of a cuirassier regiment stationed at Brandenburg because of his recent marriage to the Baroness Pistolkoff.

The decline in the price of gold at London, England, has been viewed with considerable satisfaction in financial circles, as it indicates a slackening in the demand from various quarters of the world, militating against the likelihood of gold exports or a rise in the bank rate.

The severe weather throughout Austria-Hungary has curtailed the supply of milk and vegetables to Vienna owing to the roads being impassable from snow. Many accidents have occurred. It is reported from Bucharest that the Danube is frozen over for a considerable distance.

Premier Sprigg met with a very hostile reception from his constituents at East London, East Africa. His speech was constantly interrupted by hisses and cries of "Judas."

The disapproval of the premier's attitude was so marked that no vote of confidence in his policy was proposed.

Emperor William, addressing a deputation of workmen at Breslau, made a bitter anti-socialist speech.

THE MARKETS.

PITTSBURGH.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Wheat, Corn, Oats, Flour, etc.

Butter-Eggs-Creamery Products.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Butter, Eggs, Creamery products.

Poultry, Etc.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Hens, Chickens, Ducks, etc.

Fruits and Vegetables.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Green Beans, Potatoes, Cabbages, etc.

BALTIMORE.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Flour, Wheat, Corn, etc.

PHILADELPHIA.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Flour, Wheat, Corn, etc.

NEW YORK.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Flour, Wheat, Corn, etc.

LIVE STOCK.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

Business Active Despite Natural Obstructions and Bad Weather. Coke Continues Scarce. R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review says: Aside from the interruption to retail trade in winter goods at many points by unseasonable weather, business activity continues in excess of previous years, and it is probable that all the postponed trade will be made up now that low temperatures have become general. While the warmest November on record at the east affected sales of clothing, it helped to restore the fuel equilibrium. Manufacturing plants are well engaged, and an evidence of the successful season is found in much larger fall dividends. Higher prices for dairy and garden products account for the rise during November, but it is particularly gratifying to the consumer that the present level is nearly 10 per cent lower than at the corresponding date last year. This change is also in food-stuffs, where the cost of living was abnormally expanded by short crops in 1901. Cotton mills have light stocks and the demand, although quiet, is sufficient to prevent accumulation of goods in first hands. A further advance in raw wool gives a better value to the finished product, but selling prices are without alteration. New orders for spring shoes are still coming forward, although the bulk of the season's contracts have been closed at New England shops. Irregularity is reported in the iron and steel market, most departments having much business, while a few are seeking new orders and seem disposed to make slight concessions. Stability is naturally most conspicuous in those divisions, where it has been possible to prevent inflation, while in cases of extreme pressure and high premiums for early delivery, the imports that have been attracted hither have a demoralizing influence. In view of the scarcity of coke, it is not easy for domestic producers to meet this foreign competition, and when any material reduction is made it may be found that foreign concerns will also cut prices. As it is well known that much business is held back by high prices, there is no prospect of dullness. Farm products are remarkably well sustained considering the liberal quantities moving in the market. Statistics for November show a marked decrease of failures during November, disclosed no weakness in the industrial structure. On the contrary, there is every evidence of strength. Business failures in the United States for the week ending Thursday, December 4, number 185, as against 182 last week and 237 in this week last year.

Bradstreet's says: Wheat, including flour, exports for the week ending December 4 aggregate 5,704,000 bushels, against 4,179,685 bushels last week, 4,604,846 bushels in this week last year and 3,432,159 bushels in 1900. Wheat exports since July 1 aggregate 116,748,449 bushels, against 123,423,572 bushels last season, and 81,222,426 bushels in 1900. Corn exports aggregate 1,151,053 bushels, against 255,174 bushels last week, 372,844 bushels last year, and 5,771,277 bushels in 1900.