MINE OPERATORS' PLAN OUTLINED.

WAGE STATEMENT DOUBTED.

Testimony of the Workers All in, and Owners Began Their Fight Before Strike Commission.

The arguments of the coal operators were outlined before the strike commission at Scranton, Pa., after the mine workers had closed their case, December 17. Former Congressman Simon P. Wolverton, counsel for the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron Company, said that the large operators would attempt to prove that the United Mine Workers of America are attempting to form a monopoly of the labor supply needed in mining of coal; that, after the settlement of 1900, there was a concerted effort on the part of the miners to restrict the output in order to prevent the producers from accumulating a stock of coal to meet emergencies, such as floods and strikes; that the rate of wages in the anthracite region is actually higher than that in the soft coal region; that the system by which coal is weighed at present is the only system practicable; and that the miners and laborers do not work eight hours, but ordinarily less than six hours. The independent operators in their statement insist that the miners' union shall not discriminate against or refuse to work with non-union men, and that the wage question must be subjected to an examination of conditions at each colliery. In regard to the wage question, the statement says: "We think the commission, before taking any action looking to an increase of wages, should carefully consider upon whom such increase must fall. Of course, any increase in cost of production ultimately rests upon the consumer. There is no authority to tax one class of the poor in order to contribute to the comfort of another." The attorneys for the miners took exception to the wage statements handed to the commission by the Pennsylvania Coal Company. The alleged unfairness of the wage statement came to the notice of the commission as a result of its inquiry into the child labor question. Several little girls testified that they worked all night in a silk mill in order to help their fathers along, who were employed in the mines and received poor pay. Everett Warren, who represents the Erie Company, which controls the Pennsylvania Coal Company, handed to the commission a memorandum showing that one father last year received about $1,400 for himself and laborers, and that the other father received $1,600 for himself and laborers. The miners placed the two parents on the stand, and they swore that the earnings mentioned was divided among from four to six men. In reply, General Manager W. A. May of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, said: "The company does not keep a record of the individuals in a contract or the number. It only keeps the names of the man in whose name the place is run. It can be possible that in that place there are more men than the company has any cognizance of, but that is entirely outside its province. The company, he said, does not pay the laborer, is only pays the man in whose name the place appears."

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

The coal famine is affecting the government buildings. Some would have to be closed if blizzard weather came, and rigid economy has been ordered.

Secretary Hay has cabled to Ambassador Tower at Berlin to ask the German government to define for this country exactly what it meant by a "peaceful blockade."

Lieutenant Colonel H. J. Foster, commanding the Royal Engineers on the Island of Guernsey, has been appointed military attache to the British embassy at Washington.

The arrangements for the funeral of Mrs. Julia Dent Grant, widow of the former President, will not be made until General Frederick D. Grant, one of her sons, arrives from the West.

While on his way to the White House Postmaster General Payne suffered an attack of acute indigestion. He was taken to his hotel and two physicians were summoned, who afforded him relief.

General Tasker H. Bliss, who was sent to Havana to aid Minister Squires in drafting a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Cuba, has delivered to Secretary Hay the treaty signed in Havana.

The Italian ambassador informed Secretary Hay that Italy had joined Great Britain and Germany in the operations against Venezuela. He requested that Mr. Bowen assume charge of the Italian interests in Venezuela.

The President sent to the Senate the reciprocity treaty recently negotiated between the United States and Cuba. The treaty was received by the Senate in executive session and was referred to the committee on foreign relations without being read.

The State Department has been notified that the French claim is that France should be privileged to come into the combination and divide Venezuela customs receipts or whatever other means of revenue might be selected on even terms with other nations.

The President nominated Lloyd C. Griscom, of Philadelphia, now minister to Persia, to be minister to Japan, and Richmond Pearson, of North Carolina, to be minister to Persia. W. H. Bishop was nominated to succeed Mr. Pearson as consul general at Genoa, Italy.

The state department has received from United States Consul Helmrod at Apia, Samoa, a report that on November 2 last two supposedly extinct craters in the volcano of Manga, Apia, on the Island of Savaii, broke into violent eruptions.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

LVII. CONGRESS.

Three-State Bill.

After the Senate Monday had agreed to the House resolution for a holiday recess from December 20 to January 5, it briefly discussed the bill to reorganize the National Guard. Mr. Pettus, Alabama, moving to strike out the provision for a reserve force of trained soldiers on the ground that it is a direct infringement of States rights. The bill for the admission of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma as States was taken up. Mr. Bate, Tennessee, submitted the report of the minority of the committee on territories, favoring the bill. Mr. Quay, Pennsylvania, said that as the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Nelson) had suddenly and tumultuously withdrawn the substitute, which provides for the admission only of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory as one State, it was his desire to know if Mr. Nelson intended to re-report the substitute. Mr. Nelson said it was his purpose to re-report it. Mr. Dillingham, Vermont, spoke in favor of the substitute.

Rural Free Delivery.

The House Monday passed the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, carrying $500,000, to eradicate the foot and mouth disease among cattle and $500,000 for the rural free delivery service. The Senate bill to provide for a Union railroad station in Washington at a cost of $4,000,000 was passed. The Senate amendments to the miners' strike commission bill were disagreed to and the bill sent to conference.

Ratified Spanish Treaty.

When the bill to admit New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arizona as States was called up in the Senate Tuesday Mr. Dillingham, Vermont, concluded his speech in opposition, and it was agreed that there would be no further discussion until the Senate reassembles on January 5. A joint resolution was adopted appropriating $3,000 for the purchase of a bronze bust of the late President McKinley. Mr. Morgan, Alabama, asked that his resolution fixing the salaries of isthmian canal commissioners at $5,000 a year be referred to the committee on interoceanic canals, which was done. In executive session the Senate ratified the treaty of friendship with Spain.

Bureau Transferred.

The House Tuesday passed the bill transferring from the treasury department to the department of agriculture the power to establish regulations for the suppression of contagious diseases among live stock. Mr. Martin, of South Dakota, introduced a bill making October 1 the anniversary of the discovery of America, a legal public holiday, to be known as Columbus day.

Passed Deficiency Bill.

The Senate Wednesday passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying $139,849,000, which had previously passed the House. An urgent deficiency bill of $1,140,000, including $500,000 to aid in eradicating the foot and mouth disease among cattle, was also passed. Mr. Burrows, Michigan, resigned from the committee on military affairs, so that Mr. Alger might have a committee appointent. Mr. Depew, New York, introduced a bill providing that emergency currency may be supplied by the treasury to any National bank with a capital of not less than $50,000 to the extent of 50 per cent of the bank's capital. The extra capital is to be supplied only in case of a stringency in the money market. Eulogistic addresses were made in memory of the late Mr. Sewell, of New Jersey, and the Senate adjourned to Monday.

Funds for Anti-Trust.

The House Wednesday passed the legislative judicial and executive appropriation bill with an amendment appropriating $500,000 to enable the attorney general to prosecute the violators of the Sherman anti-trust law. The bill to prohibit military and naval bands from competing with civilian bands was defeated by a vote of 50 to 43.

Pure Food Bill.

Representative Dalzell presided over the House Thursday in the absence of Speaker Henderson. A resolution was passed calling upon the secretary of state for the facts regarding the Venezuelan situation and a statement of its effect upon the Monroe doctrine. The bill to reduce the tariff on imports from the Philippines to 25 per cent of the Dingley rates was passed after a motion for free trade with the Philippines had been defeated by a vote of 91 to 122. The pure food bill, to prevent adulteration, misbranding and imitation of foods, beverages, candies, drugs and condiments, was taken up and discussed until the close of the day.

Passes Pure Food Bill.

The House Friday passed the pure food bill by a vote of 72 to 21. It prohibits interstate commerce in any article of food or any drug that is adulterated or misbranded.

Hyndman Bank Closed.

Comptroller of the Currency Ridgley has closed the National bank of South Pennsylvania, Hyndman, Pa., and has appointed Walter R. Mason, bank examiner, receiver. The failure of the bank is said to have been due to losses sustained through loans made to officers and directors.

New Trial for Howard.

The court of appeals at Frankfort, Ky., has granted a new trial to James Howard, who is under a sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of Governor William Goebel.

Guarding Our Rights.

Minister Bowen cables from Caracas that the guns of the allied fleet which bombarded Puerto Cabello were directed entirely at the fortifications and not at the town.

MEN OF MONEY TO STAND TOGETHER

TO MEET EMERGENCIES.

$50,000,000 Pool Has Been Formed to Meet Any Extraordinary Monetary Demand.

A $50,000,000 pool has been formed in Wall street for the purpose of providing enough money to meet the legitimate demands of business between now and January 15 of the new year. The pool is headed by J. P. Morgan. It is distinctly stated that the bankers who arranged the syndicate do not consider that conditions at present demand any extraordinary action on their part. They have canvassed the situation and find that every important house in the street is in a sufficiently strong position to tide over any emergency. They have informally arranged, however, to provide a sum which shall be available if any extraordinary demand arises during a time when the banks are pursuing a conservative course, with a view toward meeting the enormous requirements for January, which will this year approximate $200,000,000. The President of one of the banks which is a member of the syndicate, said: "It merely amounts to an understanding among a number of the strongest financial institutions in Wall street that they may be depended upon to provide a certain sum of money if the situation should demand it. The situation up to this time does not call for any extraordinary action. Nothing more definite has been worked out than that the leading financial institutions of the city are prepared to afford what monetary relief may be necessary to prevent anything like extraordinary high money rates. For instance, in case of any sudden advance in money rates, this syndicate would go into the market and lend money on a scale downward until the call money rate has been fixed at 6 per cent. The members of the pool are: J. P. Morgan & Co., $5,000,000; National Bank of Commerce, $5,000,000; Chase National Bank, $5,000,000; Washington National Bank, $5,000,000; Park National Bank, $5,000,000; First National Bank, $5,000,000; National City Bank, $5,000,000; Corn Exchange Bank, $2,500,000; Chemical Bank, $1,000,000; other city banks, $11,500,000.

WAS INSURED FOR $340,000.

Death of a Louisville Man May Have Been an Accident.

R. C. Whayne, who was found dead at Louisville, Ky., in the vicinity of Jacob Park, with a gunshot wound in his breast, carried life insurance of $340,000, and had applications pending for $50,000 more. Coroner Kelly says the case will require exhaustive investigation. Near Whayne's body, but on the opposite side of a wire fence, was a shotgun with one barrel empty and the other loaded and cocked. His friends and family declare his death was due to an accident, and that the gun was discharged while he was climbing through the fence. There is no suspicion of murder, but he may have committee suicide, as he was a sufferer from rheumatism.

FLEET AT PRACTICE.

Admiral Dewey Preparing His Tars for Great Evolutions.

Admiral Dewey, commanding the battleship fleet, has sailed from San Juan, Porto Rico, for Culebra, to engage the vessels in tactical evolutions. These evolutions are preliminary to the great exercises which are to follow the holidays. The details of blockade problem are announced. The torpedo boats inside of Great Harbor will steal out and attack the battleships lying not less than two miles distant. Judges will be appointed to determine which side is victorious. The value of torpedo boats will thus be demonstrated and the commanders are confident that the prejudice against this type of vessel will be swept away as a result of their behavior.

PARENTS TO BLAME.

Factory Inspector Claims That Perjury Was Committed.

Factory Inspector Campbell at Harrisburg, Pa., has received a report from Deputy Factory Inspector E. W. Bishop, whom he sent to Scranton to ascertain if the girl employes of the silk mill told the truth when they testified before the coal strike commission that they were under 13 years of age, and yet were allowed to work. Mr. Bishop reports that he secured the certificates sworn to by the parents of these girls before the children were allowed to work, and all showed that the parents represented their age to be over the legal limit.

Bloodless Surgery.

Dr. Adolf Lorenz, of Vienna, conducted his second clinic in New York city at the Polyclinic Medical college and hospital. Two young sufferers from congenital hip dislocation were operated on by Dr. Lorenz. One of the children was suffering from dislocation of both hips. The left hip was reduced in four minutes and the dislocation of the right hip in eight minutes.

Looted a Bank of $3,000.

The bank at Clarence, Ill., was robbed of $3,000 by a gang who cut the telegraph and telephone wires to prevent an alarm being sent. Citizens were awakened by the explosion and chased the robbers, but they escaped on a hand car.

Coming Are 9,000 Boers.

Nearly 9,000 Boers, it is said, are preparing to come to America, and will settle in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

First of 65 Carnegie libraries was dedicated in New York Saturday.

Three bandits attempted to hold up Texas bank. Two are dead and one in jail.

Admiral Higginson, with four battleships, will spend holidays at Trinidad, within easy reach of Venezuela trouble zone.

An attorney of Canton, O., sued a barber for $200 damages for an inartistic hair-cut.

The New York board of aldermen voted $250,000 to buy coal for the poor of the city.

Scott Bishop, colored, was lynched at Marbury, Ala., for the murder of Wade Hicks.

Shore connection of Pacific cable was made at San Francisco and salp started for Honolulu.

President Roosevelt will attend the dedication exercises of the St. Louis exposition next April.

United States army and navy officers said to be implicated in smuggling goods to Porto Rico.

Dr. Harper announced Christmas gift of $1,000,000 from John D. Rockefeller to Chicago university.

Five children were killed and their mother badly hurt by explosion of acetylene gas at Port Lee, N. J.

Thomas Tobin was convicted in New York of murder in the first degree for killing James B. Craft.

Interstate commerce commission has started an inquiry into causes of recent increases in freight rates.

Action of Great Britain and Germany in shelling Porto Cabello was inexplicable to Washington officials.

Italy ordered her minister, Signor Riva, to leave Caracas, Venezuela, and go on board the cruiser Giovanni Bausan.

The name of the Rev. J. F. Regis Canevin has gone to the pope for appointment as coadjutor bishop of Pittsburg.

President Roosevelt has signed the commission of A. B. Anderson as United States district judge for Indiana.

The steamer Silvertown, laying the telegraph cable from San Francisco to Honolulu, is making eight knots an hour.

The steamer Marlay foundered during a voyage from Liverpool to Dublin, and it is supposed 16 men were drowned.

Comptroller Ridgely told New York State Bankers' association that the law makes it too difficult to retire bank notes.

The United States government has for the second time used arbitration upon England and Germany in Venezuelan dispute.

Albert Lawrence, a postal clerk, between Buffalo and Pittsburg, was arrested, charged with embezzling 51 letters and held in $2,000 bail.

Imports of raw silk from Japan, valued at $5,000,000, have passed through Ogdensburg, N. Y., coming from San Francisco by way of Canada.

Mathias H. Utzler, pleaded guilty at Hastings, Mich., to murdering Mrs. Robert Garrison and was sentenced to solitary confinement for life.

J. D. O'Haire, one of the locators of the Portland mine at Cripple Creek, Col., has filed a suit at Colorado Springs to recover $3,000,000 from the company.

After undergoing repairs in the Bremerton navy yard the battleship Wisconsin, recently returned from Panama, will follow the Oregon to the Asiatic station.

Louis Stern, a note broker, was arrested in Chicago, Ill., while, it is asserted, he was attempting to dispose of alleged forged commercial paper amounting to $7,500.

The last steamer from New York which will reach Europe before Christmas, the St. Paul, has sailed with $460,615 in money orders payable in 15 European countries.

Colonel John W. Ela, of Philadelphia, delegate to the Civil Service Reform convention and president of the Civil Service Reform league, of Chicago, died in a hospital of paralysis.

Beef packers in suit in Chicago deny that the United States has jurisdiction against them under the interstate commerce law for discrimination in rates or because of a combine.

General Manager G. L. Potter, of the Baltimore and Ohio road, announced the appointment of M. L. Byers, engineer of maintenance of way, as assistant to the general manager.

City Marshal R. W. Coulter and Justice A. E. Musgrave, at Farmington, Ia., were fatally wounded by Geo. Stilwell, a deputy fish commissioner, who was afterward shot to death by a posse.

Russia is pressing China to assent to the establishment of customs and postal services at the principal stations of the Manchurian railroad, these stations to be under Russian supervision and independent of the Chinese maritime customs.

Louise K. Eames, claiming to be the only child of the late Lester H. Eames, of Ottawa, Ill., has asked a Chicago court to nullify an agreement by which she accepted $10,000 to relinquish her claim on his $1,000,000 estate.

Admiral Dewey, in a cablegram received at the Navy Department, dated San Juan, December 11, announces the opening of the fleet maneuvers by the combined squadrons under his command.

Express Messenger Colson was killed and Mail Clerks Kelly and Riggs severely hurt by the fall of a train on the Alabama Great Southern railroad through a trestle 70 miles south of Birmingham, Ala.

The French authorities are convinced that the death of Mrs. Ellen Gore was accidental

THE FLEET NEAR STORM CENTER.

PLAN OF ADMIRAL DEWEY

Fighting Vessels Have Been Assigned to Various Places on the Continent—Plan Approved.

The navy department has contributed the most important developments in the Venezuelan situation in the form of a cablegram from Adiral Dewey announcing the proposed itinerary of the vessels of his fleet during the Christmas holidays. The plan provides for no undue concentration of ships along the Venezuelan coast, and so prudenly and advisedly have its details been drawn up that Secretary Moody cabled to the Admiral the department's approval of his orders. This will set at rest the rumors that the United States contemplates complicating the Venezuelan situation by dispatching a large naval force to La Guaira as an offset to the allied fleet. Admiral Dewey's cablegram, dated San Juan, is to this effect: "Proposed itinerary of vessels for Christmas holidays. "Kearsarge, Alabama, Massachusetts, Iowa, Scorpion, to Trinidad; Illinois, Indiana, Hist, to St. Thomas; Texas to Pointe-a-Pitre; Chicago, Newark, Eagle, to Chicago; San Francisco, Albany, Wasp, to Mayaguez; Cincinnati, Atlanta, Prairie, tugs, torpedo boats, to San Juan; Culgoa, to Mayaguez and San Juan; Olympia, Nashville and Machias, to St. Kitts; Detroit, to Antigua; Mayflower and Vixen, to Puerto Rican waters and vicinity, and Dolphin to Antigua and vicinity." In reply Secretary Moody sent the following cablegram: "Carry out proposed itinerary. Merry Christmas." According to the approved plans, the principal fighting ships of Admiral Dewey's fleet will rendezvous at the Island of Trinidad, right off the coast of Venezuela, and at St. Thomas. Rear Admiral Higginson, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, will have command of the battleship fleet at Trinidad in his flagship Kearsarge, with Rear Admiral Sumner commanding the South Atlantic squadron on his flagship Iowa as second in command. The fleet at St. Thomas, which includes two battleships, will be under the command of Rear Admiral Crowninshield, commanding the European squadron, on his flagship Illinois. The fleet of cruisers and smaller vessels which will anchor at St. Kitts will be in command of Rear Admiral Coghlan, commanding the Caribbean division, on his flagship Olympia. Admiral Dewey will retain the converted cruiser Mayflower as his flagship, and will spend most of the ten days' holiday at San Juan. It is stated at the navy department that the delay in the departure of the battleship Wisconsin from San Francisco for the Puget Sound naval station at Bremerton, Washington, where she is to be fitted out for service on the Asiatic station, was in order to await the arrival of her new commander, Captain R. H. McCalla, who was ordered from Washington for that duty.

BIG STEEL MERGER.

U. S. Steel Corporation Takes Over the Union Company.

The deal merging the Union Steel Company and its recently acquired Sharon Steel Company properties, with the United States Steel Corporation has been concluded. Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the executive committee of the United States Steel Corporation, announced officially that the company had been taken over, and that it would be paid for by a bond issue of $45,000,000, the bonds to be issued against the properties of the new companies and guaranteed by the parent corporation, both for principle and interest.

MURDERED FOR MONEY.

Michigan Farmer's Wife Killed While Alone Laborer Arrested.

Mrs. Robert Garrison, a middle-aged woman, wife of a farmer near Bedford, Barry county, Michigan, was murdered, and John Brantlinger, who has been employed on a neighboring farm to the Garrisons, since last fall, was arrested at Battle Creek, charged with being Mrs. Garrison's murderer. Mr. Garrison, the woman's husband, a short time ago sold his farm for $1,400, and it is supposed that robbery was the primal cause of the murder.

Round House Collapsed.

The roof and supports of the roundhouse in the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's West Philadelphia yards collapsed, burying more than a score of workmen and 31 locomotives. A fire broke out in the ruins but the flames were quickly extinguished. Several of the injured sustained broken limbs, but none were seriously hurt.

Italy Sends Another Warship.

The Italian cruiser Agordat has been ordered to proceed at once for Venezuela.

Limit for Office-Holders.

Senator Scott, of West Virginia, introduced a bill in Congress amending the civil service law to provide that all persons employed in the classified service shall serve six years and shall be eligible to another six-year term only.

To Improve Immigrants.

The manager and executive committee of the Sons of the American Revolution met in New York and plans were marked out for the educational committee in a movement to Americanize the foreign immigrants to this country.

Will Pay in Silver.

Unofficial advices have reached Washington that China intends to pay the next installment of the "Boxer" indemnity in silver.

REVIEW OF TRADE

Orders for Products of the Mills and Factories Run Far Into the Coming Year.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says: Holiday trade has exceeded the most sanguine expectations and retail dealings in all staple lines of merchandise are well maintained, with the better grades of goods in brisk demand. Wholesome conditions prevail in most sections of the country, although in parts of the Southwest the season has fallen behind the average. Even in these cases reports are encouraging for the future. Industrial plants are well employed, orders running far into the future, and labor controversies are rare. The only adverse feature of the season is that supplies of fuel are utterly inadequate, both for household and manufacturing use, and show increasing delay of deliveries. Railway earnings thus far reported for December exceed last year's by 4.2 per cent, and those of 1900 by 10.4 per cent. The largest producer of iron and steel has over 5,280,000 tons of unfilled orders on its books, and work is being pushed as rapidly as supplies of fuel and material will permit. Two events of importance have occurred in relation to the leading manufacturing industry. The United States Steel Corporation has greatly extended its scope by absorbing outside plants and certain desirable railway connections. The other was the announcement of advanced freight rates, to take effect January 1, showing an average increase of about 10 per cent on products of iron and steel. Otherwise the situation is practically unchanged. Supplies of coke do not increase and many furnaces are idle. Contracts for bridge work and track elevators are freely offered by the railways and accepted only on condition that the exact date of delivery shall not be specified. Despite the fact that rail mills are sold close up to the end of next year, new business is offered and urgent buyers are compelled to go abroad. New England producers of boots and shoes are not seeking new business, which comes forward moderately in the form of supplementary orders. Prices firmly held, but no further advance is reported. A reduction in quotations of leading lines of bleached cottons stimulated trading. This division of the textile market is now in good condition. In the woolen goods market there is a fair volume of orders, in many cases exceeding available offerings. Failures for the week numbered 267 in the United States, against 265 last year, and 16 in Canada, compared with 27 a year ago.

Bradstreet's says: Wheat, including flour, exports for the week ending December 18 aggregate 3,256,037 bushels, against 3,761,047 bushels last week, 4,432,832 bushels this week last year, and 4,125,350 bushels in 1900. Wheat exports since July 1 aggregate 123,763,533 bushels, against 140,636,213 bushels last season and 90,131,353 bushels in 1900. Corn exports aggregate 1,526,141 bushels, against 1,301,286 bushels last week, 330,941 bushels last year and 5,465,578 bushels in 1900. For the fiscal year exports are 6,686,327 bushels, against 20,125,909 bushels last season and 90,371,974 bushels in 1900.

CABLE FLASHES.

General Nord, having been acclaimed president of Haiti by the army, took possession of the national palace at Port Au Prince, December 18.

The army under General Alexis Nord has occupied the arsenal and the fortifications at Port Au Prince, Haiti. M. Numa, an adherent of M. Seneque, has been elected president of the Senate.

Advices of a semi-official character have been received that the Colombian army officers at Panama and Colon are steadily but quietly making ready for an invasion of Nicaragua to seize canal routes.

President Castra has given Herbert W. Bowen, United States minister at Caracas, plenary power to effect a settlement on behalf of Venezuela with Great Britain, Germany and Italy.

The Dutch cruiser De Runtjen, which it was purposed to send from The Hague to the West Indies, has been ordered to proceed to Venezuela to protect Dutch interests there.

The German government has not yet replied to President Castro's offer of arbitration in Venezuela, being still in correspondence with the British government on the subject. It is intimated that Germany's reply is not likely to be ready for some days.

General Botha writes from Holland that he, General Dewet and General Delarey propose to visit the United States after they have conferred with Chamberlain in South Africa. He says nobody in the United States is authorized to collect money for the Boers.

The city of Andijan, Russian Turkestan, a community of 20,000 inhabitants, was fatally destroyed by an earthquake. It is not yet known how many lives were lost. Shocks were felt in New Marguelan and the surrounding villages, and the railway at Andijan was destroyed for a considerable distance.

The Belgium claims against Venezuela amount to several million francs. They arise chiefly from the non-payment of interest on Venezuelan government bonds issued as purchase money for the waterworks at Caracas, which was promoted by a Belgian company.

The under foreign secretary, Lord Cranborne, denied in the House of Commons that the British commander was responsible for the sinking of the Venezuelan ships. He said that his majesty's government had been informed that the German commodore found it necessary to sink two ships, but Great Britain was not responsible for this.

The Decadence of France.

At the beginning of the modern era the French nobility resolutely fitted its step to the forward march of the country, and in the struggle against oppression it fought with the same courage and renunciation it had always shown on the field of battle. And when, in 1814, through the downfall of Bonaparte, the French revolution seemed to have spoken its last word, it was to her nobility that stricken France committed the task of upliftment. Every unprejudiced mind must recognize that he two men who then delivered her from the nightmare of invasion were Talleyrand and the Duc de Richelieu, both of the highest lineage. In 1814 as in 1780, the nobility was at the head of every emancipatory movement. It even held the first place in letters, the Chateaubriand, a nobleman, was enlightening the age with rays of his genius, while Lamartine and Musset, noblemen both, were fitting themselves to add theirs to his and to make that union one immense, dazzling splendor. 1902! All is changed! The nobles are nowhere—not in power, not at he head of the army or of any movement, political or intellectual. At the most, they remain shut up in the few chateaux that remain to them where, in their imaginations, they exercise a prestige which no one except a few snobs with a passion for trivialities can perceive the existence of. Nobility is slowly but surely developing into a collection of objects fit for a museum.—Translated from "La Noblesse Francaise," by the Marquis de Castellane.

Scientific Women.

The interesting announcement is made by the Association for Promoting Scientific Research by Women of the offer of a second prize of $1,000 for the best thesis written by a woman on a scientific subject embodying new observations and new conclusions based on independent laboratory research in biological, chemical or physical science. According to the rules of the competition the thesis must be presented to the Executive Committee of the association and must be in the hands of Mrs. Ella H. Richards, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston before January 1, 1905. The award of the prize will be made in April of that year. The theses for the prize of $1,000 which was announced in December, 1900, for research work of a similar character, are due December 31. The award will be announced next April.

Wealthiest Royal Family.

The Russian reigning house has, it is said, greater wealth than that of any other royal family in the world, says the Chicago Chronicle. In Rev. H. N. Hutchison's "Living Rulers of Mankind" it is said that the minimum revenue the Czar derives from the Crown and State domains is estimated at $7,500,000 a year. More than 60 members of the Imperial family not in direct line of succession draw revenues from landed estates set aside for that purpose by the Emperor Paul I. To these estates is given the name of the Imperial appanages. They cover an area of 2,000,000 acres and the total income derived from them is $10,000,000. Before the emancipation of the serfs 800,000 peasants were attached to these vast estates and were in a sense the property of their owners.

THE MARKETS.

PITTSBURG.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

Wheat—No. 2 red	$ 68	70
Rye—No. 2	57	58
Corn—No. 2 yellow, ear	53	53½
No. 2 yellow, shelled	53	54
Mixed ear	66	67
Oats—No. 2 white	37	37½
No. 3 white	35	36
Flour—Winter patent	3 90	4 00
Fancy straight winters	3 90	3 95
Hay—No. 1 timothy	15 50	16 00
Clover No. 1	13 00	13 50
Feed—No. 1 white mid. ton	19 00	19 50
Brown middlings	17 50	18 00
Bran, bulk	16 25	17 25
Straw—Wheat	8 50	9 00
Oat	8 50	9 00

Dairy Products.

Butter—Elgin creamery	$ 31	31½
Ohio creamery	28	29½
Fancy country roll	20	21
Cheese—Ohio, new	13½	14
New York, new	14	14½

Poultry, Etc.

Hens—per lb	$ 09	14
Chickens—dressed	17	18
Eggs—Pa. and Ohio, fresh	26	27

Fruits and Vegetables.

Green Beans—per bus	$3 00	3 25
Potatoes—Fancy, white per bus	60	65
Cabbage—per bbls	75	90
Onions—per barrel	2 10	2 25

BALTIMORE.

Flour—Winter Patent	$3 70	3 80
Wheat—No. 2 red	71	72
Corn—mixed	51	52
Eggs	25	26
Butter—Ohio creamery	28	30

PHILADELPHIA.

Flour—Winter Patent	$3 50	4 00
Wheat—No. 2 red	74	75½
Corn—No. 2 mixed	55	56
Oats—No. 2 white	37	38
Butter—Creamery, extra	29	31
Eggs—Pennsylvania firsts	26	27

NEW YORK.

Flour—Patents	$3 85	4 00
Wheat—No. 2 red	78½	79½
Corn—No. 2	64	65
Oats—No. 2 White	37	38
Butter—Creamery	27	30
Eggs—State and Pennsylvania	28	30

LIVE STOCK.

Central Stock Yards, East Liberty, Pa.

Cattle.

Prime heavy, 1500 to 1600 lbs	$ 5 75	6 00
Prime, 1300 to 1400 lbs	5 60	5 75
Medium, 1200 to 1300 lbs	5 25	5 50
Fat heifers	4 25	5 00
Butcher, 900 to 1000 lbs	3 65	4 00
Common to fair	2 75	3 50
Oxen, common to fat	3 00	4 00
Common to good fat bulls and cows	2 50	4 00
Milch cows, each	20 00	35 00
Extra milch cows, each	1500	5500

Hogs.

Prime heavy hogs	$ 6 30	6 40
Prime medium weights	6 10	6 15
Best heavy yorkers and medium	6 00	6 10
Good to choice packers	6 25	6 30
Good pigs and light yorkers	6 00	6 05
Pigs, common to good	5 90	6 00
Common to fair	6 00	6 25
Roughs	5 85	6 10
Stags	4 50	5 57

Sheep.

Extra, medium wethers	$ 3 90	4 15
Good to choice	3 40	3 75
Medium	2 90	3 25
Common to fair	1 50	2 25

Lambs.

Lambs clipped	3 50	5 50
Lambs, good to choice, clipped	4 75	5 10
Lambs, common to fair	3 00	4 50
Spring Lambs	6 00	6 25

Calves.

Veal, extra	6 00	6 25
Veal, good to choice	5 00	5 50
Veal, common heavy	3 00	4 50
Veal, common to fair	3 50	5 00