

JAPAN FIGHTS RUSSIA

Muscovites Startled by the Sudden and Successful Movements of the Mikado's War Vessels Against Their Fleet.

RUSSIAN SQUADRON CRIPPLED IN FIRST ENGAGEMENTS

RUSSIAN TRANSPORT BLOWN UP.

Mine Accidentally Struck by Ship. Captain, Three Officers and Ninety Men Killed.

BRITISH STEAMER FIRED UPON.

A report has been received at St. Petersburg from Viceoy Alexieff, saying that the Russian torpedo transport Yenisei has been blown up as the result of accidentally striking a mine in the harbor at Port Arthur. The Yenisei sank and Capt. Stepanoff, three officers and 91 men were lost.

The Yenisei was built at the Baltic works in 1899. She was of 2,500 tons displacement and could make 16 knots. Her armament consisted of five 12-pounder and six 3-pounder quick-firing guns.

The British steamer Fu Ping, when leaving Port Arthur, was fired upon by Russians. Three Chinese members of the crew were wounded. The Russians afterward apologized for firing on the vessel. The Fu Ping, upon its arrival at Wei Hai Wei filed a protest with the British commissioner.

The American consul has reported to United States Minister Conner that the Russian authorities have refused to allow the American steamer Pleiades to leave Port Arthur. The Pleiades sailed from Seattle on February 2, with a cargo of flour.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister at London, has received a dispatch from Tokyo announcing that on February 11 two Japanese merchant steamers, the Nakanoura Maru and Zensho Maru while on their way from Sakahata to Otaru, on the island of Hokkaido, were surrounded and shelled by four Russian warships, presumably the Vladivostok squadron, off the coast of Herushii (Okushiri).

The Nakanoura Maru was sunk, but the Zensho Maru escaped and arrived safely at Pukuyama Island of Hokkaido.

The British government has information which leads it to believe that Japan is likely to take possession of Port Arthur a week from now. In the best informed Japanese circles here it is privately thought that the war will be over by July. Those British officials who are cognizant of the extraordinary thoroughness with which Japan prepared for war are inclined to share the Japanese view regarding the duration of the struggle.

The Associated Press understands that the Japanese troops are advancing rapidly toward the Yalu river. There, it is expected, they will meet and engage the Russian forces. The Japanese declare that the numbers of the Russian troops are greatly exaggerated.

UNCLE SAM SPEAKS A WORD.

Secretary Hay Awa Powers to Preserve Chinese Neutrality.

As soon as the State Department was informed that hostilities had broken out Secretary Hay sent a note to all the Powers inviting their adhesion to a program outlined by him. The chief feature of the program is to compel China to preserve strict neutrality. At the same time he took occasion to reaffirm the strict neutrality of July 3, 1899, that our chief concern in the Far East is the preservation of the territorial and governmental entity of the Chinese Empire. The circular asks the Government to pledge themselves to make such representations at Peking as will, to them, seem best calculated to cause China to preserve strict neutrality.

Report of Russian Victory.

Private telegrams received at Vladivostok, report the complete rout of the Japanese by the Russians on the Yalu river. These advices also claim that Chemulpo, Korea has been occupied by Russian soldiers and marines.

Welsh Coal for Russia.

Orders have been received at Cardiff, suspending all shipments of coal for the Russian government and cancelling the chartering in its behalf.

FOURTEEN KILLED.

Engineer Falls to Obey Orders. More Than Twenty Hurt.

Fourteen persons were killed and more than a score injured in a collision between two passenger trains on the Canadian Pacific near Sand Point Tuesday. The trains were the eastbound and westbound "Soo" specials. Both trains were under orders to stop at Sand Point and pass.

An official statement given out by the Canadian Pacific placed the responsibility for the wreck upon the crew of the westbound train. Conductor Kidd, of that train, this evening admitted that his engineer had orders to stop at Sand Point, but failed to obey them.

Investigation to Be Thorough.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections agreed that the hearing of the charges against Senator Reed Smoot would begin March 1. Chairman Burrows was given unlimited power to summon witnesses and to appoint a sub-committee to go to Utah to take testimony, if necessary. The witnesses to be summoned before the committee are for the most part members of the Mormon church, among them being children alleged to be the offspring of polygamous marriages contracted since the manifesto of 1890.

NEUTRALITY ASSURED.

No Aid to Either of Belligerent Nations Can Be Given.

The proclamation declaring the United States neutral in the war between Russia and Japan was issued by the president on the 11th. The document was prepared by Secretary Hay. The Russian request that the United States remain neutral was made on the 10th, while that of Japan was delivered to Secretary Hay on the 11th, together with a formal notice of Japan's declaration of war.

Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador to the United States, and Minister Takahira, Japan's representative in Washington, met face to face for the first time in many weeks, in the waiting room of Secretary Hay's office at the state department shortly after noon Wednesday.

Mr. Takahira had called to deliver to Secretary Hay Japan's formal notice that a state of war existed. As he came out of Mr. Hay's office he almost brushed the garments of the Russian ambassador, who was standing near the door awaiting his turn to enter. The two diplomats surveyed each other gravely for an instant and then both bowed, slowly, formally and very low, without uttering a sound.

THE MIKADO'S PLEA.

Formal Declaration of Hostilities at Tokyo Gives Japan's Reason for the Clash.

WANTON DELAYS ARE CLAIMED.

The following is the text of the imperial rescript declaring war against Russia, which was issued in Japan yesterday:

We, by the grace of heaven, emperor of Japan, seated on the throne occupied by the same dynasty since time immemorial, hereby make proclamation to all our loyal and brave subjects as follows:

We hereby declare war against Russia, and we command our army and navy to carry on hostilities against her, in obedience to their duty, with all their strength, and we also command all our competent authorities to make every effort, in pursuance of their duties, to attain the national aim with all the means within the limits of the law of nations.

We have always deemed it essential in international relations, and have made it our constant aim, to promote the pacific progress of our empire in civilization, to strengthen our friendly ties with other states and to establish a state of things which would maintain enduring peace in the far east, and assure the future security of our dominion without injury to the rights or interests of other powers. Our competent authorities have also performed their duties in obedience to our will, so that our relations with all the powers had been steadily growing in cordiality.

It was thus entirely against our expectation that we have unhappily come to open hostilities against Russia. The integrity of Korea is a matter of the gravest concern to our traditional and friendly relations with that country, and the separate existence of Korea is essential to the safety of our realm. Nevertheless Russia, in disregard of her solemn treaty pledges to China and her repeated assurance to other powers, is still in occupation of Manchuria and is bent on final annexation.

And, since the absorption of Manchuria by Russia would render impossible to maintain the integrity of China and would, in addition, compel the abandonment of all hope of peace in the far east, we were determined in those circumstances, to settle the question by negotiations and to secure thereby permanent peace. With that object in view, our competent authorities by our order made proposals to Russia, and frequent conferences were held during the last six months.

Russia, however, never met such proposals in a spirit of conciliation, but by wanton delays put off a settlement of the serious questions, and by obstinately advocating peace on one hand, while on the other extending her naval and military preparations, sought to accomplish her own selfish designs. We cannot in the least admit that Russia had from the first any serious or genuine desire for peace. She rejected the proposals of our government. The safety of Korea was in danger and the interests of our empire were menaced. The guarantees for the future which we failed to secure by peaceful negotiations can now only be obtained by an appeal to arms.

It is our earnest wish that by the loyalty and valor of our faithful subjects peace may soon be permanently restored and the glory of our empire preserved.

Aid for Baltimore.

At the session of the Maryland Legislature Tuesday the question of relief for the city of Baltimore was taken up and a joint resolution adopted providing for the appointment of a joint committee of Senators and delegates to meet Mayor McLane and the Citizens Committee of Baltimore for consultation with a view of ascertaining just what assistance is needed.

A bill was introduced in the House by Representative Emrich, Illinois, appropriating \$1,000,000 for the relief of sufferers from the Baltimore fire. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Dies at Age of 102.

Philip Keller, a wealthy retired manufacturer, of Dayton, O., who celebrated the one hundred and second anniversary of his birth a few months ago, died on the 9th. He came to Dayton from Maryland in 1832. He drank six cups of coffee daily all his life and was an inveterate user of tobacco.

P. R. R. Borrows \$50,000,000.

That part of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company which operates the lines west of Pittsburgh has borrowed \$50,000,000. It will get the money from Kuhn, Loeb & Co. of New York on April 1, and will issue notes which are guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company proper. It is an 18-months loan at the rate of 4 1/2 per cent a year. The purpose of the loan is said to be the building of additional tracks, both passenger and freight, on the Pennsylvania lines between New York and Chicago.

MASAMPHO SEIZED.

Port Will Be Fortified and Used as a Military Base.

Japan seized Masampho Sunday and dispatched a heavy force there. She will fortify the port and establish a naval and military base.

Masampho is on the southeast coast of Korea, about 100 miles from Seoul, the capital. It fronts on the narrowest part of the strait of Korea, which leads from the Yellow sea into the sea of Japan. Thus commanding the strait, it, in conjunction with the naval station at Hiroshima, almost exactly opposite on the Japanese coast, enables Japan to close the southern entrance to the inland and western side of the empire.

GZAR DECLARES WAR.

Supreme Manifest Commanding an Armed Response to Japanese Challenge at Port Arthur.

APPEALS TO LOYAL SUBJECTS.

The Official Messenger of St. Petersburg contains the following "supreme manifest":

"By the grace of God, we, Nicholas II, emperor and autocrat of all the Russias, etc., make known to all our loyal subjects:

"In our solicitude for the maintenance of peace, which is dear to our hearts, we made every exertion to maintain tranquility in the Far East. In these peaceful aims we signified assent to the proposals of the Japanese government to revise agreements regarding Korean affairs existing between the two governments. However, the negotiations begun on this subject were not brought to a conclusion, and Japan, without waiting the receipt of the last responsive proposals of our government, declared the negotiations broken off and diplomatic relations with Russia dissolved.

"Without advising us of the fact that the breach of such relations would itself mean an opening of warlike operations, the Japanese government gave orders to its torpedo boats to attack our squadron standing in the outer harbor of the fortress of Port Arthur. Upon receiving reports from the viceroys in the Far East about this, we immediately commanded him to answer the Japanese challenge with armed force.

"Making known this our decision we, with unshaken faith in the help of the Almighty and with a firm expectation of and reliance upon the unanimous willingness of all our loyal subjects to stand with us in defense of the fatherland, ask God's blessing upon our steadfast land and naval forces.

"Given at St. Petersburg, January 27, 1904, A. D. (new calendar), February 9, 1904, and in the tenth year of our reign. Written in full by the hand of

"His Imperial Majesty,

"NICHOLAS."

TROUBLE IN LUZON.

Cavalry Scouts and Constabulary Sent to Vigan.

A revolt of the constabulary at Vigan has developed into a small uprising against the American and loyal Filipino. Two American priests, Fathers McClosky and Kirt, have been fired upon, but no casualties are reported. The telegraph wires leading to the disturbed district have been cut. Ricarte, one of the former Filipino leaders, is believed to be at the head of the movement.

Seventeen of the constabulary deserted, taking with them 30 rifles, 5,000 rounds of ammunition, and \$700 obtained by looting the commissary department. The number of fugitives has since been augmented by a party of 80 escaping from the same quarter.

Fatal Hotel Fire.

The Cliff Springs hotel, located at the west end of the bridge over the Allegheny river at Kittanning, Pa., was destroyed by fire and two men lost their lives in the flames. The dead men are Aaron Davis, of Pittsburgh, married and leaves a family; Richard Dany, of Pittsburgh, married and leaves a family.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

The senate passed the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill without debate.

It is reported that hundreds of persons have been killed by a volcanic eruption in the island of Java.

George A. Rose, cashier of the Cleveland Produce Exchange Bank, who embezzled \$187,000 of the bank funds, was sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary.

The Rev. William L. McEwan, D. D., pastor of the Third Presbyterian church, Fifth and South Negley avenues, Pittsburgh, was unanimously elected president of the Central university of Danville, Ky., at a meeting of the trustees at Lexington, Ky.

The Controller of the Currency announces the closing of the doors of the Equitable National Bank, of New York city, and the appointment of National Bank Examiner Ridgeley as temporary receiver.

Burglars entered the postoffice at Orleans, Ind., and blew the safe to atoms, shattering the plate glass windows of the building and securing \$400 in money and stamps. One piece of the safe was blown through two walls.

Paul Misk, convicted of murdering Charles O'Brien in a dispute over 35 cents, was executed at Hartford, Conn.

The Norwegian Parliament has passed a bill, almost unanimously, authorizing women to act as attorneys, solicitors and barristers in the lower as well as in the higher courts, on the same conditions as men.

Rear Admiral O'Neil, chief of the bureau of ordinance has ordered that two new 8-inch guns which have just been completed at the Washington navy yard be placed on the battleship Iowa in place of those which burst last Friday while at target practice.

GREAT FIRE IN BALTIMORE

Business District Devastated To Extent of 150 Acres.

2500 BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

Fire Department Aided by Other Cities Fought the Flames More Than 30 Hours.

LOSS ESTIMATED \$125,000,000.

Fire which broke out a few minutes before 11 o'clock Sunday morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co., Baltimore, raged continuously with unrestrained fury, for more than 28 hours, destroying the entire wholesale, retail and business section of the city to the extent of about 140 acres in area.

The fire department, although aided by engines from Washington and the surrounding counties and suburbs, was utterly powerless to make any effective resistance to the consuming element, though for hours as many as 400 streams of water were thrown into the flames.

Chief Horton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings that threatened points and thus prevent, as far as possible a further spread of the flames. In pursuance of this plan a number of buildings on South Charles street between German and Lombard streets were blown up.

The district swept by the great seething wave of fire embraces 75 blocks and nearly 2,500 buildings. Conservative estimates place the loss as exceeding \$200,000,000. The burned blackened ruins are now under military guard.

The burned district is within the territory bounded on the west by Liberty street, on the north by Lexington street, on the east by Jones falls and street, on the south by the basin. Within this district were the big structures on Fayette, G. Lombard, Charles, Balderson, Elliot, Hollingsworth and Chesapeake streets. Passing southeast along the Basin the following large blocks were destroyed: McClores, Pattersons, Smith, Frederick, Long and Union. Small thoroughfares which do not extend as far north as Lexington street, and which were in the path of the flames, are Commerce, Frederick and Mill streets.

Every daily English newspaper in the city has lost its plant. The plant of the Daily Record, a legal and real estate paper, at the corner of Fayette and St. Paul streets, went first. The Herald building, of modern construction, on the opposite corner, was vacated at 7:20 p. m. The force of the fire of burning extra until forced out by the police. It was intended to dynamite the structure, to stay the flames, but the building was burned before this could be done.

The Baltimore News building, on Baltimore and Grant streets, burned between 9 and 10 o'clock. All the records and valuable papers were saved. The last, or fourth extra, was ready to go to press when the police cleared the building.

The Baltimore American, nearly was burned at 1 o'clock, and an hour later the Baltimore Sun building was in flames. The Sun sent a staff of men to Washington at midnight, and through the courtesy of the Evening Star, in that city, and by almost superhuman work, was able to issue its paper at the usual hour this morning. The Herald and News are using the plant of the Washington Post.

Terrific Explosions.

The people were first notified of the conflagration by a terrific explosion which occurred some minutes after 11 o'clock, Sunday morning. A sharp splitting roar went up with reverberating thunder. This was followed by a peculiar whistling noise like that made by a shrill wind. The churches in the central portion of the city were filled with worshippers, many of whom became frightened, and, while no panics ensued, hundreds of men and women left their seats and went outside to see what had happened. In a few moments the streets and pavements all over the city were crowded with excited people. Another deafening crash occurred and dense volumes of cinders and smoke shot up over the central section of the city, and in a huge brown column moved rapidly toward the northwest. Borne on the strong southeast wind, the column of smoke, blazing cinders and even pieces of tin roofing spread over the center of the city and a rain of cinders fell, compelling pedestrians to dodge red hot pieces of wood.

A tremendous explosion of about 150 barrels of whisky stored in the upper floors of 24 Hanover street hurled tons of burning matter across the street on to the roofs of the buildings opposite which the firemen were drenching with water in a vain hope to make Hanover street the eastern boundary line of the conflagration. The flames quivered for a few moments under the water, but soon ate into the buildings on the east side.

Two more explosions followed and thousands of people hurried to the scene of the fire. Of all the spectators, comparatively few saw the fire itself. They could not get within half a block of it. Even the policemen guarding the approaches to the fire had to repeatedly shift their positions to escape falling cinders. Pieces of tin six by eight feet square were lifted into the air by the terrific heat, sailed upward like paper kites, and, when they reached a point beyond the zone of the most intense heat, fell into the street.

Twenty-five thousand men and women are out of employment. The insurance companies have to meet the greatest losses they have encountered since the Chicago fire. It is expected that 11 local fire insurance companies will fail. Many of the New York, the New England, with the Western and foreign companies, will be extremely hard hit.

There are hundreds of ruined merchants. It will take years to restore the city.

Royce was elected president of Columbia on February 2. Gonzalez Valencia was elected vice president.

A FAVORABLE OUTLOOK.

In Restoring Baltimore There Will Be Great Activity in Building Trades.

R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: War, fire and cotton were the adverse factors of the week, yet the country stood the shocks remarkably well and there are numerous encouraging symptoms. To a large degree the outbreak of hostilities in the Orient and the collapse of the cotton boom had been discounted, and the disastrous loss of the conflagration was offset very largely by the stimulus it will give to many industries, notably structural steel.

In restoring Baltimore there will be great activity in the building trades, while large stocks of goods must be replaced and orders filled by jobbers and manufacturers elsewhere.

Actual business is still restricted in the iron and steel industry, but there is more confidence in the future, and the extensive starting of plants by the leading producer suggests that foreign markets will be entered more aggressively than ever before. Structural steel prospects have greatly improved because of the Baltimore fire, as it is certain that an enormous tonnage will be required to restore the ruined buildings. As to pig iron no improvement is seen. Minor metals have developed irregularity, but hard coal is in good demand.

New England shoe shops are still fully occupied on spring lines and fall samples, but fewer additional orders for spring delivery have appeared during the past week.

Failures this week in the United States are 228, against 246 last week, 302 the preceding week and 230 the corresponding week last year. Failures in Canada number 25, against 29 last week, 28 the preceding week and 20 last year.

IRON TRADE IRREGULAR.

Sales in Finished Product Larger in Pittsburg and Chicago.

Of the business outlook Bradstreet's says: The Baltimore disaster and the beginning of hostilities in the far east, though affecting the speculative market to some extent, have as yet had no notable results on trade outside of sections immediately concerned. The iron trade is irregular. Pig iron sales are not large and prices display case, despite talk of large transactions in the Central West. Western trade in finished products is reported larger at Chicago and Pittsburg. Wire goods, plates, bars and structural note improvement and the pipe business is better situated than a year ago. Steel billets are reported being shaded through the exchange of scrap and pig iron therefor. Other metals are dull, but copper is rather firmer, while lead is strong. Wheat, including flour, exports for five days ending February 10, aggregate 1,746,253 bushels, against 2,694,226 bushels last year, 2,556,439 bushels this week last year, 3,175,451 bushels in 1902 and 4,814,878 bushels in 1901.

KRUGER PAYS THE PENALTY.

Declared on Gallows Liquor Caused All His Troubles.

Charles E. Kruger, the slayer of Constable Henry P. Blier, was executed in Greensburg, Pa., on the 12th. The condemned man displayed nerve, and after being led to the scaffold by Sheriff John M. Treshler and Deputy Daniel Doncaster he passed half way up the several steps of the gallows, and turning to the small audience, in a clear voice, he said: "Gentlemen: During my time on earth I have been a terrible sinner and all my troubles I can place to the excessive use of liquor. I can not care for God until I get into this trouble. He has power and strength to save me, and I want all here to lead a Christian life. I hope to meet you all in heaven, where I am going now. Goodby to all."

Kruger was hanged for the murder of Constable Harry Blier, of Greensburg, who went to arrest him on a trifling charge. He was sentenced to death, but confessed to several crimes among which was the murder of Treasurer John Biever at New Castle, Pa. This was not believed. The Governor respited him and his mental condition was investigated. He was declared sane and the Governor then withdrew from further interference and the law took its course.

\$5,000 Damages Asked.

Seward S. Saltsman, of Salineville, O., has filed suit in court here against John Barnhill asking for \$5,000 for alleged alienation of his wife's affections.

The men are brothers-in-law, and the suit is said to be the result of family differences. Saltsman and his wife have separated and he has also brought suit for divorce.

Killed at a Crossing.

Four persons were killed at the Southern railway crossing at Waterloo Postoffice, Va. The killed were Bernard Brown, his wife and child, and William Stokes. The party was returning from Washington in a wagon, which was struck by an engine.

Worried by Students.

Dr. Charles N. Haskins, an instructor in Sheffield scientific school of Yale university, who recently was harassed by the freshmen who plugged the keyhole to prevent his opening the recitation room, has resigned, owing to broken health and nervousness.

Shell Carried Fifteen Miles.

One of the officers of the battleship Missouri which has been engaged in target practice off the Chesapeake capes came to the navy department with a remarkable statement. He said that one of the 12-inch guns being elevated 17 degrees fell a shell which the strongest glass could not follow to the end of its flight. Later a passing steamer reported that the shot had struck the sea within 300 yards of her. The steamer was distant from the Missouri just 15 miles.

TWENTY-SEVEN SHARKS.

Brought on One Hook, When Deep Sea Fishing Was Good.

"Did you ever hear of catching twenty-seven sharks with one hook?" asked Bo'san L. W. Ecott of the British bark Antigua, recently. The bark Captain Brady lies at the foot of Richards street, Brooklyn.

"I never heard tell of such a thing until fair and full winds left us on the homeward way from Buenos Ayres, just above the equator. The ship hadn't been becalmed in the tropics more'n fifteen minutes when along came an ordinary sized shark nosing around."

"Word was passed up forrard, and a chunk of pork as big as my head was baited on a hook and cast astern. The shark took right hold and we hauled it alongside and aboard."

"It was a peculiar kind of shark that didn't have no teeth whatever, and its tail, which had two flukes to it, was about half as long as its body."

"Well, we cut open the shark to see if we could find any curios inside. There were no curios, nor nothing of that sort. All there was in that shark that we could find was twenty-six little sharks, so that made twenty-seven sharks all told caught with one hook."

"The little ones were about six inches long, all alive, and all were toothless and having white stomachs."

"I wanted the cook to make a shark stew, for young shark is tender and good eatin', but the other hands wouldn't listen to it, so we threw 'em all overboard and the cook put another bit of beef in soak."—New York World.

WISE WORDS.

The process of repentance is bitter, but its fruits are sweet.

A changed life and a changed mind are both essential parts of true repentance.

You cannot start the fire of feud without getting the smoke in your own eyes.

An instantaneous perfection would be as valueless as an instantaneous education.

A man is diligent to cultivate his corn, but expects his character to grow without.

No girl can be prudent of her time who is not prudent in the choice of her company.

Don't keep any company in your heart that you have to apologize to yourself for.

One thorn of experience is worth a whole wilderness of warning.—James Russell Lowell.

There is more danger in the underground currents of desire than in the over-head winds of temptation.

When we look on the world as our own plum we are almost sure to find that we have eaten it too green.

Civility is a charm that attracts the love of all men, and too much is better than to show too little.—Answers.

Where Skulls Are in Demand.

In the northern Shan States, on the border of Burma, is a tribe called the Wild Was. These people propitiate with human skulls the demons whom they worship. Outside every village in their country there are many posts, all in one line, decked with human skulls. A niche is cut in the back of each post, with a ledge on which the skull can rest and grin through a hole in front of it. Every village has a dozen and some as many as a hundred of these head posts. Fresh skulls are in special request at harvest time and are purchased for large sums, those of distinguished visitors being particularly desired. So, as Mr. Scott, the British superintendent of the States, remarked some years ago: "The Was States are, therefore, no place for missionaries or globe trotters."

The Research Assistants.

There is one feature in the work of the Carnegie Institution, which is of widespread importance, and that is the selection of twenty-five "research assistants," to each of whom is given a sum of \$1000 or \$1200. These "research assistants" are for the most part young persons who have already been well trained and are prepared to prosecute definite lines of investigation under the guidance of older, higher qualified leaders. These men are not allowed to be "assistants" in the ordinary use of that word, nor to engage in instruction.

United Ages Mark 480 Years.

Six Shaffer brothers, sons of John Shaffer, of Highland County, Ohio, were photographed in a group at Hillsborough, Ohio, a short time ago. The oldest is eighty-six years of age, and the youngest seventy-four. Their united ages amount to 480 years. Their father's children numbered thirteen, and the children of these six brothers number, respectively, eleven, eight, nine, thirteen, twelve and five, giving the list in the order of the fathers' ages.

The Growth of London.

During the nineteenth century London grew from a city of 500,000 people to one of 6,500,000—that is, increased eight fold. New York increased from 60,000 to 3,500,000—nearly sixty fold. London is now increasing seventeen per cent in a decade, and New York thirty-five per cent, or twice as fast. If this rate should hold good for thirty years more New York would have over 15,000,000 population and be 1,000,000 ahead of London.

A Long Weather Cycle.

A long weather cycle of about thirty-five years seems to appear in the British Isles. From records of ninety years, Mr. Douglas Archibald concludes that a dry period has just passed, and that the years 1903 to about 1920 will show more than an average rainfall and low barometer, and two bushels per acre deficiency in wheat yield.