

YELLOW FEVER SPREADING

Many New Cases and a Number of Deaths Reported.

VICTIMS OF THE POORER CLASS

State Board of Health Issues Quarantine Against the City of New Orleans.

The following report of the progress of yellow fever in New Orleans is, up to 6 p. m., July 28: New cases, 21; total cases to date, 237; deaths since July 12, 47; new centers, 8; total centers, 35.

The official report of progress of the disease shows that the entire quarter above Canal street was free from a single new case and that the fever was only spreading in the poorer habitations of the downtown quarter.

The health authorities continue to hold that the plague remains an Italian infection, all but two of the last 26 cases reported being those of Italians. Almost without exception the victims have been of the poorest classes, many not long residents of the United States and unaccustomed.

For several years the planters of Louisiana have been replacing negroes with Italian labor. Many of the immigrants have remained in New Orleans and it was among these that the fever first appeared and to that lack of acclimation and the inadequacy of their treatment has been largely due the heavy mortality that has characterized the present visitation.

The Louisiana State Board of Health finally ordered a quarantine of the State against New Orleans. That action became necessary to protect all points in the State from being quarantined against by Alabama, Texas and Mississippi. Three parishes and one town in another parish were granted communication with New Orleans.

Havana Holds Steamship.

Acting Surgeon General Glennan of the public health and marine hospital service was informed by Surgeon White, who represents that service at New Orleans, that there had been a death from yellow fever in that city outside the district in which previous deaths had occurred. Dr. White also notified Dr. Glennan that detention camps would be established at Kenner, Avondale, Wayland and Slidell, on the railroads near New Orleans. The camps will be supplied with stores from the government repository at Fontainebleau, Miss.

Governor Jelks of Alabama issued an amendment to his quarantine proclamation whereby the state of Alabama also quarantines against all places on the Louisville & Nashville railroad between New Orleans and the Alabama state line.

The steamer Excelsior of the Southern Pacific Morgan line, which arrived at Havana from New Orleans, brought 27 passengers. They were all ordered to be detained in quarantine for five days. Only immunes are permitted to visit the ship, which will be unladen by immunes.

MITCHELL SENTENCED.

Convicted Senator Fined \$1,000 and Given Six Months' Penalty.

United States Senator Mitchell, convicted of using his office of United States Senator to further the law practice of the firm of Mitchell & Tanner, of Portland, Ore., was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1,000 and to six months' penal servitude.

Pending a review of the case by the Supreme Court of the United States execution of the sentence will be deferred. Meantime, Mitchell will be placed under bail to the amount of \$2,000.

In pronouncing sentence Judge De Haven said: "In reaching a conclusion in this case I have given consideration to the age of the defendant, which may be taken into account in mitigation of punishment, and the further fact that he is forever hereafter disqualified from holding any office."

MAN DROPS FROM SKY.

Trainmen Are Startled by Sudden Appearance of Aeronaut.

Trainmen on a westbound Rock Island freight train were surprised to see a man drop from the sky onto the train, which was moving at the rate of 20 miles an hour. The stranger was assisted in his flight by a parachute.

He proved to be Claude Woods, an aeronaut who had made a balloon ascension in Muscatine, Ia. After he cut loose from the balloon the parachute was over the Rock Island track, on which a freight train was running.

Woods descended gently and was not even shaken up by his adventure. He left the train at the first stop and returned here.

Boycott Reaps Results.

The boycott of American goods in China as a result of the Chinese protest against the exclusion act is developing rapidly. Work at the Standard Oil Company's new premises at Canton has been stopped, a boycott committee having ordered the workmen off the building.

Secretary Hay's Estate.

The will of the late John Hay, Secretary of State, was filed for probate in Washington, D. C. The bulk of the estate, which is said to be worth considerably over \$2,000,000, goes to his widow, Clara Stone Hay, during her life, then to be divided among the children, Helen Hay Whitney, Alice Hay Wadsworth, and Clarence Hay, or their heirs.

Fifteen persons were injured, some of them seriously, by the crash of trolley cars at Portsmouth, N. H.

DUN'S WEEKLY SUMMARY

Resumption at Steel Mills Reflects Confidence in the Future—Improvement Over a Year Ago.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says:

Commercial tendencies are still in the direction of improvement, although progress is hampered by some inflation of prices for the raw materials of textile and footwear industries. Confidence expands as the crops are secured each day putting a large quantity of grain beyond danger, and making sensational rumors of loss less effective. Evidence of faith in the future are increasing, more disposition being shown to provide for requirements beyond immediate consumption.

The industrial situation is in striking contrast to conditions prevailing a year ago, when there was much idleness, both on account of quiet trade and labor controversies. Complete returns now available for the leading apartments indicate that the first half of 1905 made a better comparison with the corresponding six months of last year, which naturally increases optimism regarding business during the second half.

Foreign commerce at New York for the last week was almost identical with the results in 1904. Traffic interests begin to feel the pressure of crops, but facilities have proved ample thus far, and railway earnings in July were 9.0 per cent larger than in the same time last year. Resumption of work at several steel plants testifies to the brevity of the midsummer period of dullness. Confidence in the future is so general in this industry that it would be most surprising if expected activity failed to materialize. Prices are readily maintained.

Failures of the week number 214 in the United States against 220 last year, and 27 in Canada, compared with 18 a year ago.

EQUITABLE IN COURT

Suit Brought to Have Company Put in Receiver's Hands.

In the form of an amended complaint to a bill filed last April, suit was begun July 27 in the United States Circuit Court for the Southern New York district to throw the entire \$421,000,000 assets of the Equitable Life Assurance Society into the hands of receivers.

More than 40 policyholders in the Equitable, representing a dozen different States, are included as complainants in the suit which is based in part upon the allegation that the society has no funds with which to meet its enormous losses and is insolvent.

With J. Wilcox Brown of Maryland as complainant, papers were filed last April to compel a distribution of the \$421,000,000 surplus of the society, and for the appointment of receivers for the surplus fund. Since the filing of that bill permission was obtained to file an amended complaint, and 44 other policyholders have intervened.

In the amended bill there are incorporated many citations from the Frick and Hendricks reports. The bill alleges that the society has been guilty of mismanagement in syndicate transactions; that "unreasonable and excessive" salaries have been paid, and that "large sums of money, ranging from \$20,000 to \$37,000,000, belonging to the said assurance funds of the society, were allowed by it to remain until invested on deposit in banks and trust companies, without adequate interest, in many of which banks and trust companies the said officers and directors of the society or many of them were large stockholders for the purpose of securing pecuniary benefit to such officers and directors individually, and such undue and unreasonable cash balances existed since at least the year 1900."

Vesuvius Torpedoes Herself.

The dynamite cruiser Vesuvius torpedoed herself near Newport, R. I. The torpedo instead of making for the mark made a circle under the water and came back and struck the vessel on the port quarter. The torpedo was fitted with a practice head, otherwise the vessel would have been destroyed.

WONDERS OF WIRELESS

Naval System Picked Up Messages 1,100 Miles at Sea.

Lieutenant Kaiser, who had charge of the wireless apparatus on board the cruiser Brooklyn on the trip to France and return, has made a report to Rear Admiral Massey, chief of the bureau of equipment, on the tests which were made to determine at what distance wireless messages may be received aboard ship from shore stations.

The lieutenant reported that the longest distance at which wireless messages were read during the day-time was 540 sea miles, and at night 1,100 sea miles, while a wireless signal was heard at a distance of 1,750 sea miles. The messages received at a distance of 1,100 miles could doubtless have been heard at a still greater distance.

Nijni Novgorod Deserted.

The annual fair at Nijni Novgorod opened July 28 with the customary ceremonies, but the town was almost empty. A majority of the shops have been shut, largely owing to the disturbed state of the country.

Gunboat Bennington Refloated.

The gunboat Bennington is again afloat on an even keel and will be towed to the Mare Island navy yard at San Francisco to be thoroughly examined and repaired. Divers are making an examination of the Bennington's hull.

It is rumored that the naval court has resolved to recommend to Congress the reconstruction of the Chilean navy, to begin with the building in Great Britain of four ironclads of 12,000 tons each.

MIDVALE PLATE IS TESTED

Withstands Severest Trial at the Indian Head Proving Ground.

MEANS A SAVING OF \$53 A TON

Famous Krupp Process of Combine Now Has Strong Rival in the New Method.

The Midvale Steel Company, of Philadelphia, won a great victory in a battle between a big gun at Indian Head proving grounds and one of the steel armor plates made by the company under the first contract awarded it by the Government in 1903.

The plate, 6 inches in thickness, was subjected to three shots from a 6-inch gun, the muzzle velocity of the projectiles being 1,357 feet per second. There was no cracking of the armor and none of the shells penetrated as much as 2 inches, which is said to be a better showing than has ever been made by any other armor subjected to test at Indian Head.

In an official statement given out at the navy department it is said the Midvale plate made an excellent showing. This apparently settles all doubt as to the ability of the Midvale company to make armor for the navy as good as that made by the Carnegie and Bethlehem companies by the Krupp process.

Moreover, the Midvale armor is sold to the Government at a price \$53 a ton cheaper than the armor made by the other companies. The latter it is asserted, pay the Krupps for the privilege of the exclusive use of their secret process in this country a royalty of \$33 a ton. The Midvale company appears to have evolved a process of armor-hardening of its own that is as good as the Krupp process.

The plate tested at Indian Head was made by this new Midvale process. It was a representative plate from a group containing 450 tons intended for the side armor of the battleships Mississippi and Idaho. The 450-ton lot is due for delivery to the Government next month and will be the first batch of the 6,000-ton contract awarded to the Midvale company in 1903.

The awarding of this contract to Midvale caused a sensation, as at the time there was much doubt about the ability of that company to make armor of the required standard. A careful investigation of the facilities of the concern was made by order of the secretary of the navy before the contract was given to Midvale.

WEEKLY CROP REPORT.

Rapid Growth of Crop, Winter Wheat Harvest Almost Completed.

The general summary of the weekly crop report issued is as follows:

Favorable weather has caused rapid growth of corn and the crop is in excellent condition. Winter wheat harvest is nearly completed in the principal winter wheat states, and thrashing, which is well advanced. Rains have delayed thrashing in Virginia and Maryland, and caused further damage to grain in shock or stack in Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Spring wheat has continued to advance favorably in the spring wheat region, although black rust is reported from scattered localities in Minnesota and the Dakotas, no material damage is shown and, with favorable weather conditions, serious injury is not anticipated.

In the principal oat producing States, harvesting is well advanced, while in the more northerly districts oats are heading. The crop generally is in promising condition. With the exception of Oklahoma, Kansas and Wisconsin, adverse reports respecting apples are received from all sections. Haying has been delayed by rains in Virginia and portions of the Ohio valley, and considerable damage to hay is reported from Oklahoma, Missouri and Southern Illinois. Elsewhere a good crop is being secured under favorable conditions.

The Norwegian government has agreed to a referendum for dissolution of the union with Sweden.

Hoch Reprivileged.

Johann Hoch, Chicago's "Bluebeard" and confessed bigamist, sentenced to be hanged July 28 for poisoning one of his many wives, was granted a reprieve until August 25 by Governor Deneen. The stay of execution followed hours of anxiety on the part of Hoch, who had never given up hope, and was allowed by the Governor only after the latter had been assured that the necessary sum to appeal the case had been raised. The amount, \$500, was given by an attorney and friend of Hoch's counsel, who declared he was actuated purely by humanitarian motives.

Morton Cuts His Own Salary.

Paul Morton has presented \$25,000 to the Equitable Life Assurance society. Exercising his plenary powers the chairman has cut his own salary of \$100,000, which was voted him by the board of directors to \$75,000. Mr. Morton, when the matter was brought to his notice, refused to confirm or deny the report. It was stated that this action was in accord with the policy of retrenchment decided upon some time ago.

Fever Report From Isthmus.

The Panama Canal Commission received a cablegram from Governor Magoo reporting that Louis Strand, a Swedish employe, was taken with yellow fever at Matichin, July 20 and that J. C. Sutherland, a Scotch employe, was stricken at Culebra, July 21. Governor Magoo further reported that Albert C. Berger, an American employe at Panama, whose home is at Cleveland O., and who was taken sick on July 19, has died.

FAMOUS LINE RE-SURVEYED.

Mason and Dixon Boundary Retraced by Surveyors.

The re-survey of the historic Mason and Dixon line has just been completed by the corps employed jointly by the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

When the legislature of the two states decided not to allow the famous boundary line to disappear so far as visible signs of its location were concerned, they undertook work that proved very difficult and tedious. The surveyors were obliged to cut a path through the mountains and they found many of the old markers and crown stones displaced.

In Adams county, Pa., one stone was used as a doorstep in a dwelling, another in a church; some were doing duty in bake ovens and others were lying miles from their original places. All were recovered, although not without vigorous protest on the part of the persons who were using them. The work of re-establishing the line was very carefully done, and the old stone posts set along its course after Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon marked it out in 1763 were reset in solid cement bases, and iron posts were substituted in places where the old posts had disappeared.

Long Strike Ended.

The long and disastrous strike of the puddlers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers at the works of the Carnegie Steel Company in Youngstown, Girard and Greenville was officially called off yesterday by action of the Executive Board of the Sixth district of the union.

CURRENT NEWS EVENTS.

The Shah of Persia, it is announced, will pay a visit to the United States and Mexico.

The Victorian assembly of Melbourne, Victoria, passed a bill granting the elective franchise to woman.

Secretary Taft and party have arrived at Tokyo and are being shown unusual honors by the emperor of Japan and his ministers.

Six deaths resulted from yellow fever in New Orleans on July 26, and there were 165 cases in 19 centers of infection.

A fire in Blairsville Pa., completely destroyed the chief industry in that place, a porcelain enamel ware factory; caused a loss of \$75,000 and threw 200 men out of employment.

A gasoline automobile driven by A. H. Stoll of Pittsburgh, exploded at Ludwick, Pa. The machine was wrecked, Mr. Stoll and a companion escaped injury. The machine was valued at \$600.

Gov. S. W. Pennypacker has reappointed Gen. Charles Miller, of Franklin, commander of the National Guard of Pennsylvania with the rank of major general for the term of five years.

The Costa Rican government has placed the ban on lotteries and a decree just issued provides a heavy fine for the offense.

Emperor William will visit King Christian at Copenhagen when, it is expected, the vacant Norwegian throne will be discussed.

More than 200 people are homeless and destitute as the result of floods in Atkinson county, Minn., and an appeal for aid has been sent to Gov. Johnson.

An autopsy performed on an Italian who died in New Orleans developed the fact that death was caused by yellow fever.

A plan for the wholesale delivery of military prisoners confined on Governors Island, New York, was frustrated by a sentry, who shot Frederick R. Snyder, who, with half dozen others attempted to escape.

Daniel Thomas, of Warren, O., attempted to jump from a car in Cleveland, and was killed. Thomas left Warren some time ago, and was employed in the tube mills at Steubenville, O.

At the quarterly meeting of the United States Steel Corporation directors the regular dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on the preferred stock was declared payable August 30. The financial statement of the quarter shows net earnings of \$30,306,116.

While Sabbatino di Domenico and his wife were working in their garden in Retreat Park, Denver, Col., three of their children were burned to death and another terribly injured.

Otto Bernheimer, aged 36, a member of Bernheimer & Walter, cotton brokers, and reputed to be wealthy, committed suicide by shooting in his apartment at the Hotel Sevilla, New York.

District Attorney Jerome, in the course of his investigation into the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was shown the famous "Union Pacific syndicate agreement." Mr. Schiff also gave full information.

While a number of miners were at work in the Bank Head mine, at Bauff, N. W. T., an explosion of dynamite occurred, which wrought awful havoc in the mine and killed three men. Several others were injured.

After living for 31 years in the United States August Pfaff, a well-known resident of Cleveland, has been arrested for military service by the German authorities while on a visit to his native town, Haeking, Germany.

Ludewig Rosevitz, employed in the Berwind-White mines, at Windber, Pa., was killed by a fall of coal.

The Very Rev. Augustine F. Schiner was installed as Bishop of the newly-created diocese of Superior, Wis.

Statistics of Bureau of Commerce and Labor show foreign trade of the United States during past year exceeded all records. Exports for first time passed billion-and-half-dollar mark.

Body of John Paul Jones rests in temporary crypt in Naval Academy grounds at Annapolis. The ceremony was simply only a prayer being uttered. All speeches and pomp were reserved for the final interment in the new chapel, now being constructed.

PORTO RICO'S DEMANDS

Wants Insular Senate and Officers Named by Governor.

WILL MEMORIAL CONGRESS

Complain That the Balance of Power Still Rests With an Executive Council.

Delegates representing 65 out of the 66 municipalities of Porto Rico, and of both political parties, assembled in convention at San Juan to memorialize congress with the view of bringing about sweeping changes in the government of this island.

The memorial adopted by the convention recites that this is the seventh anniversary of the American invasion of Porto Rico, and complains that the preponderance of power still rests with an executive council composed of heads of departments appointed by President Roosevelt.

"These heads of departments," it says, "arrive here knowing nothing of the language, customs or needs of the country, and 24 hours after disembarking take their seats in the executive council and determine the fate of the island."

The memorial calls for no change in the composition of the house of delegates, which consists of 35 members elected by the people, but demands the following amendments to the Foraker law:

"First. The organization of an insular senate to be composed of two senators each from seven districts, in place of the executive council.

"Second. That the proposed senate and the house possess the same privileges granted to the house under the Foraker law.

"Third. That the secretary of Porto Rico, the attorney general, the treasurer, the auditor, the commissioner of education and the commissioner of the interior continue in their present offices under the present titles, but that they form no part of the executive council.

"Fourth. That the officials named be appointed by the governor with the consent of the insular senate and not by the president of the United States."

The convention also adopted a petition for presentation to the insular legislature for the protection of the municipalities and the granting to them of autonomy. One result of the convention is the permanent establishment of an organization known as the Porto Rico Municipal league, with Mayor R. H. Todd of San Juan as president.

OUTWITTED BANDITS.

San Franciscan Promises Much for His Life, But Delivers Nothing.

Bound, gagged and at the mercy of Mexican bandits, B. S. Loomis, a citizen of San Francisco, was held a prisoner in the mountains of Cerro de San Juan, near San Blas, Mexico. A promise of the payment of a ransom saved his life, for it was the intention of the robbers to kill him after they had stripped him of all his effects.

In telling of his experience Loomis writes: "While returning from Tepic I was held up by bandits and robbed of my effects. I was bound and gagged and then taken to a narrow canyon to be killed. I bought the bandits off with a promise to pay them \$200, the money to be taken to a certain point on a certain day. They threatened to seize me on the plantation and kill me at night if I did not keep my promise. I did not keep the promise, and instead of sending money I purchased a rifle for my protection."

Earthquake Shocks in Michigan.

Great excitement was caused at Calumet, Mich., by an earthquake shock. Buildings rocked, plaster was knocked from the walls, dishes fell from shelves. Marquette and other points on the Marquette iron range experienced a distinct shock.

Harvester Trust Sued for \$600,000.

At Little Rock, Ark., Attorney General Rodgers filed suit against the International Harvester Company for penalties aggregating \$600,000 for alleged infringement of the anti-trust law passed at the last session of the General Assembly. The complaint recites that the company is a monopoly regulating the prices of harvesters and fixing their output.

Want to Go to Work.

The strikers of the American Steel Hoop company's plant at Youngstown, O., after a meeting which was extremely stormy, declared that they were anxious to have the strike, which has lasted for a year, declared off and that they wanted to be allowed to return to work. Out of 100 strikers at the meeting, but one wanted the strike continued.

Japs Land in Siberia.

Dispatches from Manchuria report the landing of a Japanese battalion and the seizure of a lighthouse on the Siberian coast 700 miles north of Vladivostok, after a preliminary shelling by torpedo boat destroyers.

Building Falls Killing Three.

Three others were killed and a number of others severely injured by the collapse of a two-story cottage at Thirty-second and Fox streets, Chicago. The building was being torn down and the boys were gathering wood for use at their homes when the crash came. James White, a policeman, was badly bruised while rescuing boys pinioned under the debris.

Impression Created That European Anarchists Are to Blame.

The commission of inquiry into the attempt on the life of the sultan of Turkey, is believed to have obtained information indicating that it was a Turkish plot, but as this would never be admitted, even if proven, the authorities are creating the impression that the bomb outrage was the work of European anarchists.

Killed by Explosion.

Three children dead, the mother dying, two others badly injured and the father nearly prostrated, is the terrible sequel to an explosion of a gasoline stove at the home of Levi Tregas at 725 Wood alley, Braddock, Pa. A double funeral of twin children was held in the afternoon, at which the father was the sole mourner.

Fire at Moberly Mo., destroyed the Missouri Grain company's elevator, causing a \$200,000 loss.

EMPERORS MEET

Czar of Russia Holds Conference With German Ruler.

Emperor Nicholas has returned to Peterhof from the Gulf of Finland, where he held a conference with Emperor William.

The marshal of the court, Count Brenkendorf, has sent the following from the island of Bjorkoe:

"At 10 o'clock in the evening of July 23 the German imperial yacht Hohenzollern dropped anchor near the anchorage of the Russian imperial yacht Polar Star. Emperor William, accompanied by Prince Albert of Schleswig Holstein, and his suite, was rowed to the Polar Star. Emperor William was received at the head of the ladder by Emperor Nicholas and the Grand Duke Michael, and cordial greetings were exchanged. The German emperor reviewed the guard of honor and the yacht crew and the two suites were presented, after which their majesties retired to the saloon.

At 11 o'clock at night Emperor Nicholas and Grand Duke Michael accompanied Emperor William to the Hohenzollern, where they remained until 1:30 in the morning.

The meeting between the emperors ended this afternoon with a gala luncheon on board the German imperial yacht, Hohenzollern, after which Emperor William's yacht steamed seaward, escorted for a short distance by the Russian imperial yacht Polar Star. Then imperial salutes were exchanged and the Polar Star put about and returned to Peterhof. A flotilla of torpedo boats, torpedo boat destroyers and small cruisers hovered about the imperial yachts from the time they met until they parted.

POTTERY COMBINE

Consolidation of Plants Said to Have Been Made.

A combination that will practically control the table ware and china trade of this country has virtually been effected with \$40,000,000 capital.

Newton Jackson of Philadelphia has been working on the consolidation since last May, and it is announced more than 75 per cent of the kiln capacity of all the table ware plants in the country stand ready to enter the deal.

Three prominent Philadelphia banks are backing Mr. Jackson. But one large plant in East Liverpool, O., the Homer Laughlin China Company, with 32 kilns, is withholding from the combination, and the Sebring who run three plants at Sebring, O., are also out of it.

Parker Has Narrow Escape.

Alton B. Parker Hall, grandson of Alton B. Parker, had a narrow escape from drowning while swimming in the Hudson river with his grandfather at Escopus. He was rescued by Edward Fritz, of Poughkeepsie. Judge Parker was swimming with the little fellow on his back when the boy became frightened and suddenly began choking his grandfather. By the time that the his grandson released his hold and fell into deep water Judge Parker was thoroughly exhausted for want of breath and could do little to assist the lad. Fritz jumped into the river and rescued the lad. Judge Parker reached shore without assistance.

Boston Wool Market.

New strength is found in the wool market. This is partly a result of the satisfactory opening of the better grades of men's wear woolsens for spring. Leading quotations follow:

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WORKMEN STRIKE IN WARSAW

Thousands Are Idle and in Street Fight One Person is Killed.

Four thousand workmen in the Warsaw iron works, and 5,000 in the Dombrowa steel works struck for higher wages. The striking bakers destroyed a baker shop in Grochow-ska street and in the disturbance which followed one person was killed.

TEXAS OIL FIRE BURNS OUT

Eight Bodies Found in Ruins. Company Suffers Loss at Sour Lake.

The fire in the Texas company's tanks, at the Humble oil field, is practically extinguished. The charred remains of eight negroes have been found, and the search continues.

The loss suffered by the Texas company at the Humble oil field by the burning of approximately 2,500,000 barrels of oil, was augmented at Sour Lake, where lightning struck a tank containing 130,000 barrels belonging to the same company, and another tank containing 100,000 barrels, all of which will be a total loss.

PLOT TO KILL SULTAN.

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KEYSTONE STATE COLLINGS

BLISS HELD FOR TRIAL.

Manager of National Mercantile Company is Given Hearing on a Charge of Forgery.

After a hearing, Charles A. Bliss, manager of the National Mercantile company, at New Castle, was held under \$500 bail for trial at court upon a charge of forgery entered by William Walton. Bliss is alleged to have secured the signatures of many merchants to contracts for collecting their unpaid accounts. A portion of each