Highest of all in Leavening Strength .- Latest U. S. Gov't Report.



FREELAND TRIBUNE. Established 1888. PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY

TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY, Limited. OFFICE: MAIN STREET ABOVE CENTRE.

Make all money orders, checks, etc., payable to the Tribune Printing Company, Limited.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Year .

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FREELAND, PA., JANUARY 25, 1897.

California has developed a new gold field in the Mojave desert. California beautifully observes the stornal fitness of things by growing wheat on her arable lands and locating her gold only where they will not be in the way of agriculture.

Much of the criticism of the Kansas press upon Senator Peffer appears to be based upon the fact that he was carning only \$12 a week editing the Kansas Farmer prior to his election to the Senate. He ought not to be blamed for that. Any man under those circum-stances is to be commended for getting a now job if he can.

An eminent Canadian who recently isited in London declared that Great Britain will sooner of later have to annex the United States as a means of keeping the peace. If that Canadian prophet and the fool-killer ever meet they will have to find something to arbitrate or there will be a sudden in-crease in the mortality rate.

Senator Allen expects his investigating committee to take very nearly a id year in ascertaining "to what ta-at money was used in promoting the minations or in influencing the dion conn, who is now in her seventy-olce of Presidential Electors" in the sight year, was one of a party who went out after mackerel in the sound the other day. Mrs. Andre did not go as solid year in ascertaining "to what ex-

sprung up in Japan and China that it pays to ship the product from the cotton States all the way to San Francisco by rail, and there put it on board vessels for its destination. If, with this handicap, American cotton can hold its own against the product of Egypt and India in the Oriental mar-ket, it must be of superior quality indeed

Figrues are impressive things, es pecially when they are on the right aide. The statement that the exports of this country for October and No-

vember amounted to \$22200,000, which would make the total for the year, if kept up at the same rate, \$1,-380,000,000, is magnificent, and the in-formation that the exports for November alone show a balance of \$59,053. **385** over the imports is very gratifying. This is a great country and it does business on a large scale.

Kansas is preparing to send a train oad of provisions to the destitute of Ghicago and Now York. At the same time Kansas is ralsing a protest against the "dumping" of New York pauper children upon her soil, a practice which, she says, has gone beyond the limits of both charity and forbear-ance. Kansas has a surplus of corn and New York of pauper children, and, as each pays the freight on its product, it would seem most economical State in taking the action it has.

It would not be surprising if our and no Government should have trouble in re-angel's summons. countries, after the cavalier manner in which the former agreements for that purpose were broken off by Congress, but so many advantages can be shown to accrue to both sides in these ar-rangements that it is probable most, if rangements that it is probable most, if not all, of the countries with whom it is desirable to establish them will con-sent to do so, especially if the proposal to make the treaties terminable out to make the treaties terminable only At Rome City, Ind., a Pittsburgh trav

As to Kieptomania. Speaking of the claim that klepto-mania is a "nervous disease," which, very curiously, according to legal and medical practice, seems to attack only wealthy people, the London Chronicle says: "Our prison records are full of cases of people whose offenses are alear-ily due to mere aberration, but who have no such consideration from her majes-ty's judges or from the home secretary as Mrs. Castle has received. We have before us the story of a poor man who, at 50, hegan to steal looking-glasses. He stole nothing but looking-glasses, and he stole them conthnuously. He spent several years in prison for sep-srate offenses of this character, and finally died in prison at the age of 65. Of course, this man's case was not con sidered as Mrs. Castle's was considered --that is, in relation to the prisoner's

...\$1.50

-that is, in relation to the prisoner' mind as well as with reference to the actual offense." The city fathers of Louisville, Ky

have some well-defined notions as re gards the projer means of maintaining a cleanly city. An ordinance has been introduced providing that if any per son shall spit or expectorate or throw or deposit upon any public side-walk for pedestrians, or in or upon any corridor, vestibule or stairway, or in any public room or in any public building, in the city of Louisville, any spittle ing, in the city of Louisving, any spitter, tobacco judge, refuse tobacco, sputum of any emanation of secretion of the head, throat, lungs or mouth, he shall be guilty of a misdemenor and shall be fined not less than one dollar nor more them. more than five dollars for each offense Such an ordinance should be in force in every town and city in the land.

A football game at Osgood, Ind., the other day was broken up by the sudde

spearance upon the field of a number of skunks. The first half of the game was ended, when some boys just out-side of the line, in the edge of the wood, drove a pack of skunks out of a hollow log. They ran through the field in all directions, two of them getting mixed up with boys in a scrimmage. The players weakened in their work, and finally were forced to give up the game Several hundred spectators were pres-ent, a large number of whom were vic-tims of the skunks. Now we know what skunks are good for.

choice of Presidential Electors" in the late campaign. It is a large assign-ment, however, and will take a great deal of time to cover it theroughly. Such a demand for American cotton was more than any other member of the party secured. Mrs. Andre is, probably, the oldest New London lady who has ventured out on such an expedition this year, but she is still hale and hearty, and bids fair to be able to catch fish for years to come.

> There are some mammoth rattlers i lease, judging from the report that t took two 48-pound sacks of men to stuff the skin of a rattlesnake killed by Thomas Hering, of Laurel, recently. It was ten feet two and three-quarter inches long and had 15 ratiles. A ten-foot snake with only 15 ratiles and ca-pacity for 96 pounds of meal in its hide? Well, somewhat of a snake, sure-

The snake editor who gave that story out is onto his job. Helen Kellar, the deaf, dumb and here Reinr, the dear, dumb and blind girl student at the Redeliffe col-lege, has added to her other accomplish-ments that of riding a bleyde. This Pernarkable girl was seen the other day seated on the hind seat of a tandem, riding with a friend on Massachusetts avenue, Cambridge, near the college. The friend guides the machine, while Miss Kellar does her share of the pro-

pelling. She rides gracefully and evi lently highly enjoys it. Haunted with the idea that he had aly a short time to live, Stephen Lang Ford, a wealthy miser of White Hall, pear Richmond, Ky., sent for his nephew, W. A. Langford, and made him α present of \$5,000 in cash and a fine blue grass farm, his idea being to avoid for Kansas to keep its corn at home to freed the children sent to it, but there are other considerations which have doubtless convinced the Sunflower possible litigation after his death. Some time ago the old gentleman had his coffin made and a tombstone prepared, and now says he is ready for the death

> A Lebanon (Ind.) woman weighing 350 pounds eloped the other day with 100 pounds of hired man, but it is hardly probable that he followed the tra-ditional method of sliding down the

At Rome City, Ind., a Pittsburgh trav-after two years' notice, and then by in mutual consent, shall be incorporated in them. Reciprocity with the South American States is especially desir-able and cau probably be established by fair and liberal dealing with them. Quick work, but will it last?

He never bucked the center On the gory, ghastly field; He never grasped a bully's throat And choked him till he "squeaked," He never entered a balloan To navigate the air; He never shot a tiger or Explored a leopard's lair.

A HERO.

The never plunged into the flood To save a drowing midd: the never climbed a snow-clind peak Or faced a finshing blade; He never respued from the fames A grasping little child; He never saved a thousand lives From an engine running wild.

The new reflect the canon's mouth, Oh heard grim war's alarm; He never closed his cycas and rushed Unheedingly to harm; He never clasped a maiden fair And held her foes at bay; He never fisch dhi life to stop A frightful runaway.

But, though the skies be dark above And fortune scema to frown-Though everything appears to have Combined to keep him down-He plods along his weary way With hope still in his broast; He never murners, but least Content to do hive the state -Cleveland Leader.

-----A CURIOUS COUPLE.

The village of R--- is one of the

rome. "At first they had sometimes ventured to lock up their house and make an ex-cursion together into F—." (He mamed the adjoining market town, which I will not further particularize.) "But by and by they gave up such reck-lessness entirely, and whenever one of them went out, the other always re-mained on guard at home. The precau-tion was quite secessary. All the poor in the neighborhood were by this time fully convinced that there was some-thing 'unked' about them; and no one in R —., or for miles round, would have willingly crossed their threshold, even if the door had been left open. But these old misers were altogether too suspicious to renson, and seemed to live in an exce-increasing fear of having their privacy invaded. "My uncle (as he himself toid me shortly before his death) was greatly excreised about this two strange par-ishioners. Many rectors would have considered themselves absolved of all obligations toward people who not merely never attended church, but re-fused even to admit their elergyman into their house when he called. But that was not my uncle's way. Every poor man who lived in his parish he held to be uncer his pastoral protection, and he felt himself bound to look after his interests. In regard to these two old misers, however, it was difficult to quaintest little places imaginable. It is so small, and so out of the way, that is so small, and so out of the way, that you would never find it, except by ac-cident. Indeed, it stands apart in some fields, absolutely concealed in a hol-low, and is only approached on one side by a footpath (which in the winter is usually under water), on another by a cart track of the rudest and roughest description. When you do arrive there, the first object to strike you is the church.

description. When you do arrive there, the first object to strike you is the church. There is something pleasing, some-thing grateful to the eye in this gray, plain, disproportioned little structure. It seems to fit into its surroundings admirably; the farmyard, the cottages, the brook flowing just below (they call it "the river" there, where every-thing is on so reduced a scale), the ever-present geese and sheep and cattle, and the perfect scelusion of surround-ing pastures. Nothing but green which-ever way you look. No house (except the quaint little cluster round the ever way you look. No house (except the quaint little cluster round the ever, way you look. No house decker the alley; a complete environment of everiasting fields. I have seen many churchyards. This one, lying begirt on all sides by the farm homestead, tiny, indifferently kept, shaded by many cypresses and weeping ash, where scarcely once a year, per-haps, is the slumbering soil disturbed for a new grave, and where everything speaks of dreamy restfulness, this churchyard of R—is the spot in which I myself would soonest choose to lie. One I knew who now reposes there-a former rector; the kindest, heartiest, tenderest, most beloved of pastors. Those who have since died in R—-have all wished to be laid near him. And now around him sleeps a little cluster of his horny-handed friends. A happy family. The whole churchyard is is peaceful. But in that especial corner the peacefulness seems always most the orest. e peace

is peaceful. But in that especial corner the peacefulness seems always most profound. It was this rector's nephew and suc-cessor-for R— has been a family liv-ing any time this two centuries past-to whom I am indebted for the follow-ing story. He often strolled out with me when I went to paint, and, while smoking innumerable pipes, told me many interesting local yarns. This one, however, the facts of which had late-ly come under his own experience, quite overtopped all the others in atriking-ness and peculiarity. Here it is, sub-stantially in my informant's words: "You see that cottage over there?" he said, pointing to a dismantled hovel in the corner of the field where I had pitched my canvas. I nodded. "A most remarkable history is at-tached to it," he went on. "Not a legend, but a fact. Of this, I can as-sure you, because I myself had a hand in finding it out. It centers round a cer-tain couple who lived there – the most textraordinary old folk that I ever came neross. I should like you to have seen them. I think you would have admitted them to be the ugliest pair in Eng-land, as they certainly were the most close and unfriendly. During the 15 years that they lived in that cottage, "Umph! Hermits, indeed," I ob-served. "Umph! Hermits, indeed," I ob-

served. "Absolute hermits. There was, how-ever, some slight excuse for their es-chewing all outside company. Each suf-fered from a severe physical infimity. The woman was nearly stone deaf; the man was dunb. When they first came here-15 years ago now, I think-my unele, who, as you know, was then rec-tor, tried to find out what he could about them. He only learned a little, and that little was nothing out of the way. It transpired that the man was an ex-sailor of the royal navy, who had lost his speech after a severe attack of yellow fever in the West Indies. He was now wnittled to a pension, which he drew half yearly, and which my unele only lnew about by the fact that the old fellow had to come to him peri-odically to get his papers signed. The woman was his sister, so she gave the neighbors to understand, and so also might have been inferred from a certain family likeness which was noticeable between them. She was a most ill-fa-vored hag; shrivelled, unkempt, and dirty beyond description. Although she then must have been nearer 70 than 60, her long, touzled hair was still as black as a coal, and hung in hideous matuliness about her hawk-like face, which, with its dark eyes, and its hooked "Absolute hermits. There was, how both them. He only learned a little vas nothing out of the marked in the signs had no meaning in the transpired that the man was had that little was nothing out of the marked it is signs had no meaning in the marked it many the transpired that the mark of the marked it is signs had no meaning in the marked it many the second that the mark of the marked it is a very noticeable eight marked the mark of the marked it is a very noticeable eight marked the mark of the marked it is a very noticeable eight mark of the the second mark of the marked it is a very noticeable eight mark of the the mark of the second mark of the mark

next, and the next; but he did not turn up. At length, after waiting a week, l felt sure that he must be ill, and went over to the shanty to inquire. "I hammered at the door. Nobody answered. I hammered 'louder and louder, with the same result. In the end, as a last resort, I tried it. To my surprise, it was unfastened. I pushed it open and went th. "I cannot tell you what my feelings were as I entered that miserable sty. A more dismal, forlorn, and withal filthy hovel has surely never been in-habited by human beings. There was scarcely any furniture. The walls were black and covered with cobwebs, and the floor—well, I won't attempt to de-soribe it. I think you could cut the at-mosphere with a knife, so thick and foul it was; and fetid, oh, insufferably fetid. It nearly poisoned me, and my first impulse was to beat a hasty re-treat into the open. But a low moan from the corner attracted me. Hooked; and there I saw a sight at once loath-some and pitiable. "Crouching against the wall, upon the damp and moldy floor, was a figure cov-ered with an old sack. I went nearer. At first I could not see which of the twoit was. But, on looking more closely, I made it out to be the old woman. She was almost naked, except for the cov-ering of the sack; and one of her yel-low arms, which hay exposed, looked unspeakably lean and shriveled and weird. I also noted another point. The tangle black hair, which had always amounting to about is. 11d a day, was ample to keep two old folks desantly, and even comfortably, in that cheapest of neighborhoods, these five always gave the impression of being halt starved, and I do not believe that either of them purchased a new article of elothing the whole time they lived in R——. From this people began to infer that they were misers, and as time went on many things happened to strengthen the inference. All along they had dis-overed the greatest anxiety and ap-prehension when anyone tried to gain access to their hovel. Indeed, my uncle has often told me that the expression of the old people's facest when he called there, and one or other of them peered round the chalned door at him, was really quite comical in its suspicious trepidation; and the older they greav, the more pronounced did their preca-tions to prevent outsiders entering be-tome. "At first they had sometimes ventured "At first they had sometimes ventured

low arms, which lay exposed, looked unspeakably lean and shriveled and weird. I also noted another point. The tangled black hair, which had always struck me so about her, was now be-trayed as not being her own. It was a wig; half on and half off at that mo-ment, giving her a fearfully grotesque appearance, and clearly revealing her bald pate, scantily fringed with a few wkists of gray hair, beneath. ""What is the matter? Are you ill?" I asked, bending down, and speaking in a loud, clear voice; for I knew her to be almost stone deaf. "She stared at me with dazed, sus-pleious eyes, and said nothing; only monning egain. "Another moan. "Where is your brother? I shouted. "Has he left you alone?" "She looked hard at me. I could see in her restless black eyes that this time she had caught the purport of my ques-tion. "Brother Tom? she muttered.

ind he felt himself bound to look after his interests. In regard to these two hid misers, however, it was difficult to know what was the kindest course. To

and tangint the purport of my question.
"Tosn't I roared. "Where is he?"
"She looked at me very cunningly.
Her eyes seemed to wake up and sparkle with an almost unnatural brightness.
"Don't you know?" she gasped.
"I shook my head.
"Well, you shall hear,' she went on.
The just going the same way myself, and it's no use keeping secrets any longer. He's dead."
"Dead." I seclaimed, supposing that her wits were wandering, for 1 had

know what was the kindest course. To let them live on in their present half-starved condition, and in that fearfully insanitary hovel, undisturbed, seemed no real kindness. And yet he was loath to set the parish or the sanitary officer upon their track. He held very strong-ly to the opinion that an Englishman's house—even if it be nothing better than a pig sty—is his castle; and, in his heart, by no means approved of the wide com-pulsory power then lately given to the local authorities.

"Dead: I exclaimed, supposing that her wits were wandering, for I had seen him at his hovel door less than a fartnight since. "When did he die?" "She gave a low chuckle. "'Efferen year ago."

"Now, of course, I saw that she was raving. Her hawk-like eyes, fixed on my face in a most forbidding leer, at

my note in a most forbidning feet, at once read my thoughts. "'No, I ain't mad. It's the truth. He died 15 year ago, and I buried him my-self under yonder hearthstone. Get them to dig it up, and you'll find his brane".

pulsory power then lately given to the local authorities. "Besides, after all, what could such authorities do? Compel them to evacu-ate their miscrable shanty, no doubt. But the old people would then simply change their local habitation, not their mode of life. And as regards starving themselves, not all the boards of guard-lams in Somerset could make people eat who did not choose to do so. It was pos-sible, indeed, that they might be medically found of unsound mind; and, in that case, they could be removed to the workhouse infirmary or the county asylum. But even supposing that feasi-ble, it was a course from which my un-cle shrank. And the outcome of it all was that he let things remain in statu quo. them to dig it up, and you'll find his bones.' "As she spoke, the hag clutched my sleeve and half raised herself by a su-preme effort. Her face wore a fieldish-ly exultant grin. Her whole expression was grotesque, and repulsive. She leered into my face with a look that I can never forget. "Yes, yes,' she said. 'All rue—all true. I hid it, and no one knew. And.' with a hideous chuckle, Tve dror'd his pension myself for 15 year!'" uo. "When I succeeded him here, I went to call, now and then, on the old peo-ple; meeting, however, with the same treatment that my uncle had always experienced. Sometimes, they would not open the door at all; at others, they lid so with the chain up, and conversed

did so with the chain up, and conversed with me through a narrow aperture. In reply to my inquiries whether I could do anything, or give them any assistance, I always had a negative returned; until ut last I gave up trying to make head-way in so hopeless a direction, and left the two hermits pretty much to them-selves. "And were her brother's bones found there?" I asked the rector, in the course of a subsequent conversation on the subject. "Yes. He had been buried searcely a couple of feet below the surface. And in a hole in the chimney we found the phsor's savings—more than 2500 in gold and notes. It was paid over to the government, in return for the 15 years' pension out of which they had been cheated." "It was a wonder that no one found The man came to me regularly every

"It was a wonder that no one found out the woman's dual personality." "It was, indeed. But no one dreamed

relves. "The man came to me regularly every half year to get his pension papers signed; and I took advantage of these opportunities to give him some friendly advice, and to remonstrate with him on his folly in starving himself and wearing such inadequate clothing in the coldest weather. Affrst I had made him a present of some old coats, trousers and flannel shirts. But I soon gave up that, for he never wore them; and I formed the impression that he had prob-ably converted them into cash. In fact, I asked him one day what he had done with them all. He only looked cun-uing, affected stupidity, and made some unintelligible signs. Despite his dumb-ness, he could make me understand things very well when he liked—ess-pecially anything connected with his pension papers. It was only when he did not wish to make himself under-stood that his signs had no meaning in them. "In this matter of coming to have his out the woman's dual personality." "It was, indeed. But no one dreamed of suspecting. And the woman must have worked it very cunningly. The dif-ference in her look with and without the black wig was quite remarkable. Then her brother's dumbness was a feature in her favor-no chance of be-ing found out by the voice. Of course, to anyone who had the smallest sus-pleion, the whole thing would soon have revealed itself as plain as a pikestaff. But no suspicion existing, I do not think that the real explamation was likely to cross anyone's mind, and, as a matter of fact, it never did."-London Truth.





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