

Apples are to be plentiful and doubtless cheap. The crop this year is enormous, as borne out by the figures, which estimate it at 43,000,000 barrels, against 27,000,000 barrels in 1901. The exportation, however, is reported as three times as heavy as last season.

A New York court has decided that a municipality is responsible for damages done by signs that merchants are permitted to hang over the streets. A clock hung in front of a jewelry store at Yonkers fell on Mrs. Katherine Leary and fractured her skull. She sued the city and has received an award of \$3,000.

It is estimated that 9,000,000 bunches of bananas were shipped from Jamaica last year. At an average of 35 cents a bunch this would yield \$3,150,000. It is also stated that about \$1,850,000 is paid out annually in wages by fruit companies. This would bring a total of \$5,000,000 to the island in one year as a direct result of the fruit trade.

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.

An appeal is being made to the people of the United States by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and endorsed by the Federation of Women's clubs of the state for aid in the work of preserving the Spanish missions in the vicinity of San Antonio, Tex. These mission buildings, five in number, are among the oldest structures in the United States.

Congressman Robert W. Davis, of Florida, was out hunting south of St. Augustine a day or two ago, when a large black bear took to hunting him. The congressman took a shot at bruin and then fled, but the bear was gaining, and the fugitive climbed a tree just in time to save himself. He remained there several hours before help came and scared away his pursuer.

Ocean records are achieved at an enormous cost. An English engineer has figured that the Campana of 5,000 tons burden, uses 28,000 horsepower to make 22 knots an hour; while the 24-knot ship would have to be much larger and to develop 48,000 horsepower. This enormous horsepower would require greatly increased coal consumption and an engine and coal space which would reduce the freight carrying capacity to a minimum.

Noyes F. Palmer, Brooklyn, has a new process of making large bricks of coal from the siftings and fine dust of coal which, in his opinion, can be utilized to save much of the refuse of coal which is now almost useless. The plan consists of mixing the coal dust with a small quantity of cement, to give it an adhesive quality, and by turning the product out into large, solid masses by the use of an adjustable stone press which he has recently patented.

The new German passenger steamship Kaiser Wilhelm II, which has been built for service between Bremen and New York, is not only the biggest ship in the world, but is designed to be the fastest. According to the contract with the constructors, she must make at least 25 miles an hour, and the builders are confident that she will attain a speed of 27. To enable her to do this four separate sets of mighty engines will drive her. Nineteen boilers supply steam to them.

While there is no rise in price as yet for confirmed gum chewers who purchase their supply in five-cent packages or one-cent slabs, manufacturers who buy spruce gum by the quantity say that it has gone up from 50 to 75 cents a pound. A scarcity of genuine black spruce trees in the Maine woods is the cause. Prior to the time when the large pulp mills were built there was no trouble in securing the gum, many of the professional harvesters having retained large tracts of forest for their own use.

Guam is about 30 miles long and half as wide. The principal city—and about the only one which could be so designated—is Agaña, which has a population of 6,000. It lies upon a beautiful bay, and the town is in the form of a crescent. The streets are wide and pleasant, though not paved, and the houses may be divided into two general classes—those of the well-to-do, which are built of stone and plaster, and those of the poorer classes, that are merely wooden cottages, resting on stilts, the roofs thatched.

A machine which will drill square holes has at last been made. An Englishman named Edward Segitz is the inventor, and his apparatus is said to have solved a problem heretofore regarded as being about as unaccomplishable as the mathematical impossibility of "squaring" the circle. Segitz's machine is a "three-winged" drill, semi-round, which yet cuts from straight edges in its rotary motion. That is, the motion appears to the eye to be rotary, but there is, of course, a maneuver in the triple flange.

THE REAL WORK BEGUN.

Inspection of the Anthracite Mining Regions Started by Arbitration Commission.

REACH SCRANTON AND VISIT MINES.

To Take No Testimony During the Trip—Object of Present Tour is to Become Familiar with Mining So as to Better Understand Testimony of Experts on Both Sides.

Washington, Oct. 28.—The anthracite coal strike commission held its first conference yesterday with the parties to the controversy in the anthracite regions.

Judge Gray, president of the commission, read the order of the president creating the commission and in a general way outlined the procedure to be followed in the presentation of the issues. He stated that the commission would first receive the statements or demands of the miners, who were to be regarded for the purposes of this case as the prosecutors. The reply of the other side would then be heard, Judge Gray said, in order that the commission might have before it a definite issue.

Commission at Scranton. Scranton, Pa., Oct. 30.—The anthracite coal strike commissioners arrived here last night. The commissioners' headquarters are at the Hotel Jermyn, where the party occupies 14 rooms. To-day will be spent in the region north of this city. At 9:15 a. m. the party will leave via the Delaware & Hudson railroad for Forest City in Susquehanna county.

Inspect the Mines. Scranton, Pa., Oct. 31.—The seven commissioners appointed by President Roosevelt to adjust the differences existing between the anthracite mine workers and their employers on Thursday made a tour of the extreme upper coal field, and saw every step taken in the production of coal from the time it is blasted from the ground, hundreds of feet below the surface, up to the point where it is sent to market ready for the use of the consumer. The arbitrators had an interesting day, and returned to their hotel at 6:30 o'clock at night grimy from coal dust and tired after eight hours of observation and investigation.

Maintain Silence. All the commissioners were good listeners but poor talkers when it came down to getting an expression from them on any feature of the mining business. From their actions it is certain they have agreed not to say what they think of the question that will come before them. Several persons approached one or another of the commissioners during the day merely for the purpose of having him say what he thought of some things he saw, and in each case the inquirer was rebuffed.

Mines Inspected. The day's tour consisted of an inspection of No. 2 mine of the Hillside Coal and Iron company, operated by the Erie company, and the coal breaker of the Delaware & Hudson company. The former is located at Forest City, 22 miles north of this city, and the breaker at Carbondale, four miles south of Forest City. On the run up the Lackawanna valley the commissioners viewed with interest the several mining towns situated along the Delaware & Hudson railroad.

Will Take No Testimony. The commission is making this tour so that the members may gain a better idea of mining in order to more intelligently understand the testimony that will be given by experts on both sides of the controversy. No testimony will be taken during the inspection trips. The commission party consists of 14 persons.

Miners' Wages. Scranton, Pa., Nov. 1.—The first important action by the anthracite coal strike commission, which is arbitrating the differences between the miners and their employers, was taken yesterday when it was announced by Carroll D. Wright, recorder of the commission, that if any award affecting the existing rate of wages is made it shall be effective from November 1.

Visit Mines Near Scranton. The commissioners spent the entire day in their inspection of the mines and the mining region about Scranton. They visited the Manville colliery operated jointly by the Delaware & Hudson and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western companies in the forenoon, and the afternoon was spent in riding through the region on a special trolley car.

Seeking New Homes. Chicago, Oct. 28.—Between 40,000 and 50,000 colonists have gone into the far western, northwestern and southwestern states during the months of September and October. The movement of homeseekers and settlers has never before been so great in the history of western railroads.

Held Up and Robbed. Milwaukee, Oct. 30.—An Evening Wisconsin special from Appleton, Wis., says: Martin Cornelius, a wealthy saloonkeeper of this city, was held up and robbed of \$8,000 late at night, by two men, who, after threatening him, made good their escape.

Evans in Command. Washington, Oct. 30.—Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans has assumed command of the Asiatic squadron.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Some Interesting Extracts from the Report of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

Washington, Oct. 30.—A total of 2,370 presidential postmasters were appointed last year, according to the annual report of J. L. Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general, issued Wednesday. This is the largest number appointed in any one year in the history of the postal service. The increase was due mainly to the expiration of commissions during the year and the advance of many fourth-class offices to the presidential grade. The total number of appointments of postmasters of all classes was 16,970, an increase of 1,313. There was a slight increase in the number of removals of postmasters "for cause," as a result of a more strict discipline for carelessness and irregularities. There were 3,058 post offices established and 4,059 discontinued, the latter attributable mostly to the extension of the rural free delivery service and the consolidation of post offices adjacent to large presidential offices. The number of post offices in the United States June 30, was 75,924, of which 220 were first class, 1,023 second class, 3,488 third class and 71,193 fourth class.

The report shows that burglaries of post offices and the robberies of mail boxes are on the increase. Arrests and convictions for all offenses have materially increased. There were 1,746 robberies of post offices, 11 robberies of mail trains, 16 of mail messengers, star route carriers and wagons, and 465 of letter boxes. Of the total of 1,721 persons arrested for violating postal laws, 304 were connected with the postal service, including 112 postmasters.

The administration of postal affairs in Cuba is commended as economical and efficient. The total revenues of the service in Cuba from the beginning of the last fiscal year to May 19, when the island was turned over to the new Cuban government, were \$335,916, and the expenditures \$372,574. Compared with the previous fiscal year, the revenues increased almost \$12,000, and the expenditures decreased over \$30,000, the decrease in the deficit being over 50 per cent.

SIX ROBBERS LOOT BANK.

Steal All the Cash, About \$4,000, in Vault of the Institution at Gardner, Ill.

Gardner, Ill., Oct. 30.—Six men blew open the vault of the Exchange National bank here early on Wednesday morning and took several thousand dollars. They seized Town Marshal Edmondson at the engine house, tied him up with ropes, took him to the bank, and set him in a chair. The marshal is the only policeman, and everybody else in the town was asleep. The vault was blown open with dynamite and the inside of the bank wrecked. The robbers are supposed to have secured between \$3,000 and \$4,000, though the amount is not known. After leaving the bank, they took the marshal to the schoolhouse and tied him to a chair and put a rope around his neck. The chair was placed at the head of a stairway, so that if he struggled to release himself he would fall downstairs and hang himself. The robbers took a train which left at 4:40 for Chicago.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Nineteenth Annual Report of the Commission Presents Some Interesting Facts.

Washington, Nov. 1.—The nineteenth annual report of the United States civil service commission for the last fiscal year has been submitted to the president. It announces substantial progress in the competitive system and general observance of the civil service law and rules during the year. The inclusions in the competitive system during the year were the rural free delivery service, a considerable portion of the field service of the war department, the census office permanent employees and the employees appointed because of increased work during the war with Spain. There were 62,029 persons examined for places and 14,983 persons appointed, reinstated or transferred, a large increase over any preceding year.

Coffee Zone Destroyed. San Francisco, Oct. 31.—The entire coffee zone of Guatemala has been destroyed by the flames and smoke from Santa Maria's blazing mouth. Eruptions threaten the destruction of every living thing within reach of the fumes and fire that pours from the burning mountain, according to a cable to Castle Bros., importers of this city, received from their coffee plantation in Guatemala. Only meager details are given.

Killed Three Girls. Wynne, Ark., Oct. 31.—Mary, Sophie and May Gibson, aged 17, 12 and 10 years, respectively, daughters of Thomas Gibson, a prosperous negro farmer, were killed, and one of them was the victim of a criminal assault at their home near here. A negro named Johnson is charged with the crime and a posse is looking for him.

Found Guilty. St. Louis, Nov. 1.—Edmund Bersch, former member of the house of delegates, was Friday found guilty of perjury in his testimony before the grand jury as to the \$75,000 boodle fund raised to secure the passage of the Suburban franchise bill and given five years in the penitentiary.

Not Guilty. Washburn, Wis., Oct. 31.—The jury in the case of Mrs. Cassidy, charged with the murder of Michael Miller, a logger, returned a verdict of not guilty.

DOWN IN THE COAL MINES

The Miners Are Once More Digging Black Diamonds from the Bowels of the Earth.

THEY ENCOUNTER MANY DIFFICULTIES.

Water, Gas and Other Conditions Make the Work Dangerous—Output of Coal is Increasing Every Day—Gov. Stone Orders the State Troops Withdrawn.

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 28.—Of the 108 collieries operated by the five big companies having headquarters here, only 13 are still idle. The individual operators are rapidly getting into line, and before many more days all of them except a very few will be in operation.

Make Good Progress. Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 29.—With 80 per cent. of the total number of their workers back at the collieries and more than 90 per cent. of the mines open, the larger coal companies are making greater progress than they expected five days ago, when work was resumed. The output yesterday was the largest since the strike end-



THE DIGGING SEASON. —Washington Star.

ed, and in a week or ten days the normal quantity of coal will be mined. About 85,000 men are working.

A Good Showing. Scranton, Pa., Oct. 29.—Official figures from the five big companies having their main offices in Scranton show that 90 per cent. of their collieries are in operation, and that their output is now more than three-quarters of what it is normally.

"Mitchell Day." Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 30.—"Mitchell day" was celebrated in all the principal towns of the anthracite coal region yesterday, and in order that all the mine workers might participate the mines were closed down. The principal demonstration was held in this city and President Mitchell took part. In his address Mr. Mitchell said: "I hope that there will never again be a strike in the coal fields of Pennsylvania. I want the union miners to prove that they are better workmen than the nonunion men. I desire the men and the operators to meet. I do not want to make enemies of the operators."

Troops All to Go Home. Pottsville, Pa., Oct. 31.—It is expected that all troops in the coal region will be ordered home before the beginning of next week. The First battalion of the Second regiment, located at St. Clair, and the First battalion of the Third regiment, at Minersville, left for Philadelphia Thursday. Gen. Schall said Thursday that the two battalions of the Third regiment at Audenried will be sent home Friday.

Four Men Killed. Niagara Falls, N. Y., Nov. 1.—By a sudden rush of gas, supposed to have been sulphurated hydrogen, four men were killed and three seriously affected near the Twenty-fourth street heading of the big tunnel trunk sewer. The dead are: Lawrence Fisher, George Rhodes (colored), Hugo Swanson and William Brandish.

Kruger Will Take the Oath. Brussels, Oct. 31.—Mr. Kruger, formerly president of the Transvaal, has decided to give up his irreconcilable attitude towards the British. He will take the oath of allegiance, and will ask for permission to return to South Africa.

Submit to Arbitration. Lansing, Mich., Oct. 31.—Striking students of the Michigan Agricultural college agree to return to their classes and submit their differences to arbitration by a committee of the faculty.

Shipping Tied Up. Montreal, Oct. 30.—Two thousand dock laborers have struck, completely tying up shipping in this port.

LOOKS LIKE MURDER.

Home of a Farmer in Wisconsin is Burned and Remains of Three Persons Found in the Ruins.

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 31.—A Sentinel special from Palmyra, Wis., says: "What is supposed to have been one of the most diabolical murders ever committed occurred at three o'clock Thursday morning, when the home of William Wickingson, three miles southeast of this place, was burned to the ground, after it is thought the three occupants had been robbed and murdered. The names of those whose charred remains were found in the ruins are as follows: William Wickingson, aged 42 years; Albert Wickingson, aged 40 years; Julia Wickingson, aged 36 years.

Evidence secured points to murder. The most important clues to work upon are that William Wickingson drew \$300 from a local bank Wednesday and that a rig was heard on the road near the Wickingson home shortly before the fire was discovered. In the search of the ruins Thursday William Wickingson's body was found, face downward, with arms outstretched, and near the charred bones of the right hand was found a revolver and \$365 in gold. A tin box was also found, containing burned fragments supposed to be bills amounting to nearly \$1,000. The other bodies

A CALL TO GIVE THANKS.

President Roosevelt Issues the Customary National Thanksgiving Day Proclamation.

APPOINTS NOVEMBER 27 AS THE DAY.

Characterless Year Just Closed as One of Peace and Overhanging Plenty—Declares We Can Praise God Not by Words Only But by Deeds as Well.

Washington, Oct. 30.—President Roosevelt Wednesday issued his proclamation designating Thursday, November 27, as a day of thanksgiving. The proclamation is as follows:

"According to the yearly custom of our people, it falls upon the president at this season to appoint a day of festival and thanksgiving to God.

"Over a century and a quarter has passed since this country took its place among the nations of the earth, and during that time we have had on the whole more to be thankful for than has fallen to the lot of any other people. Generation after generation has grown to manhood and passed away. Each has had to bear its special burdens, each to face its special crisis, and each has known years of grim trial, when the country was menaced by malice domestic or foreign levy, when the hand of the Lord was heavy upon it in drought or flood or pestilence, when in bodily distress and anguish of soul it paid the penalty of folly and a froward heart. Nevertheless, decade by decade, we have struggled onward and upward; we now abundantly enjoy material well being, and under the favor of the Most High we are striving earnestly to achieve moral and spiritual uplifting. The year that has just closed has been one of peace and of overflowing plenty. Rarely has any people enjoyed greater prosperity than we are now enjoying. For this we render heartfelt and solemn thanks to the Giver of good; and we seek to praise Him not by words only but by deeds, by the way in which we do our duty to ourselves and to our fellow men.

"Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States, do hereby designate as a day of general thanksgiving Thursday, the twenty-seventh of the coming November, and do recommend that throughout the land the people cease from their ordinary occupations, and in their several homes and places of worship render thanks unto Almighty God for the manifold blessings of the past year.

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington this 29th day of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and two and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-seventh.

(Seal) THEODORE ROOSEVELT. By the President: (Signed) JOHN HAY, Secretary of State.

UNDER ARREST.

Missing Sharpsburg, Ia., Banker, with Alleged Shortage of \$25,000 Is Captured.

St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 31.—H. C. Christensen, president of the Sharpsburg (Ia.) bank, was arrested at the depot platform in Marysville, Mo., Thursday afternoon on the charge of embezzling the bank's funds. The amount which Mr. Christensen is alleged to be short is not made public, but it is said to be \$25,000. The doors of the bank closed last Monday, and at that time it was stated that there was a shortage. At the same time the president of the institution disappeared. Christensen says he has property enough to make the shortage good.

WU TING FANG RECALLED.

Chinese Minister Ordered to Return Home by Most Direct Route.

Washington, Oct. 28.—Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister, has been recalled to his country by a special edict which was received by him Monday. He is ordered to return by the most direct route to Shanghai and will leave as soon as he can pack his effects, probably within two weeks. He will become minister of commerce and will also be a member of the joint commission to negotiate commercial treaties.

Iowa Bank Robbed.

Des Moines, Ia., Oct. 29.—The boldest bank robbery occurring in Iowa in recent years took place at Prairie City early Tuesday morning. The robbers dynamited the safe of the Iowa state bank and secured an amount approximately \$4,000. They exchanged a fusillade of shots with local officers and escaped.

Roosevelt on the Presidency. New York, Oct. 30.—An article by Theodore Roosevelt on the duties of the president, written in 1900, declares the latter has more power than any other ruler and should be held accountable for his acts or failure to act.

Wheeler Confesses.

Chicago, Oct. 31.—Luke Wheeler has made a practical confession of the Masonic temple tax fixing fraud. He will probably turn state's evidence before the grand jury. President J. H. Gormley and prominent business men may be implicated.

KILLED BY THE CARS.

Terrible Disaster to a Party of Runaway Boys at Lafayette, Ind.—One Beheaded.

Lafayette, Ind., Nov. 1.—Three runaway boys from Watska, Ill., who are thought to have gone to sleep on the Big Four track in the south part of the city Friday, were run over by a freight train. Stanley Buford, aged 14, was beheaded; Dan Neal's scalp was torn from his head and one arm and one leg was cut off, and William Raush was seriously injured. The injured were taken to a hospital. The boys left home Sunday night and were trying to beat their way to Kentucky.

GREAT PERFORMANCE.

Crescens Lowers World's Record by Trotting Two Miles in 4:17 at Memphis.

Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 1.—Crescens in his attempt to lower the two-mile trotting record here Friday afternoon made a wonderful performance, trotting two miles in 4:17 flat. The former record was 4:28 1/4, and Crescens lowered this time by 11 1/4 seconds.

Damaged by Fire.

Bloomington, Ill., Oct. 31.—The state reformatory at Pontiac had another escape from fire loss Thursday. A defective flue in the main building is supposed to have been the cause. The main building was damaged \$25,000. With the assistance of the city fire department the flames were controlled.

Cuba a Foreign State.

Brooklyn, Oct. 31.—Cuba is held to be a foreign state by Judge Thomas in a United States circuit court decision. Crimes committed there during American military rule are subject to Cuban court jurisdiction.

Six Die During Voyage.

San Francisco, Nov. 1.—Six soldiers died during the homeward voyage of the transport Sheridan, which arrived here Friday with 1,011 troops from Manila.

Gen. Miles at Manila.

Manila, Oct. 31.—The United States army transport Thomas, with Lieut. Gen. Miles and his party on board, anchored in Manila harbor Monday night.