

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, has succeeded in interesting the war department and the president in a plan to colonize the Philippines with American Negroes...

An interesting experiment was made recently, says the Philadelphia Medical Journal. A pint of various fruits was picked at random from one stand, washed and the washings analyzed...

Strasburg is about to erect a monument to Goethe. The German poet passed some of the best years of his youth in the Alsatian town and referred to it frequently with words of admiring affection in his memoirs...

A combination is planned in the rubber industry to be known as the International Rubber Co., with a capital of \$25,000,000. The concern, it is stated, will operate under the laws of New Jersey...

The Kansas City court of appeals has decided that the combination of brewers that exists in that city is a trust, and as such it is expressly forbidden by the statutes of Missouri...

Representative Burnett, of Alabama, has favorably reported from the committee on public lands the bill turning over nearly 100,000 acres of public lands of the state of Alabama to the common school system of the state...

George J. Gould is one of numerous rich men belonging to the fire department of Lakewood, N. J. The other evening there was a fire in the home of Mrs. Robert F. Westcott and Fireman Gould failed to respond when the alarm was sounded...

The new Union Steel Co. is to be financed as a \$75,000,000 concern, and will enter upon its reorganized existence about the first of the year as the strongest and most aggressive independent steel concern in the world...

Prince, a collie dog of Brooklyn, ate the other day a porterhouse steak, the reward for his sagacity in giving the alarm when fire started in his master's big stable. Fifty cows and ten horses were in the stable, and it has been Prince's duty to guard them...

French capitalists have subscribed 100,000,000 francs to build ships to transport American coal to French ports on the Mediterranean and the coast of Africa. Ex-President Casimir Perier, who has large interests in the collieries in the north of France, has joined the trust...

The king of England has had his wish granted, and a crown will hereafter appear on all the stamps which bear his likeness. The first to display this is the new set issued for Cape Colony, which appeared the other day. His majesty's portrait appears in an oval and immediately above the head appears the crown...

The post office department has in store a little surprise in the new envelopes about to be issued. The design is different from anything we have ever had in the envelope line. It is nearly square in shape, and there is only one border line. Of course a picture of Washington appears on the stamp, and there is a little scroll about the head with the words, "United States" in it...

Gen. Nord Occupies Palace. Port au Prince, Hayti, Dec. 19.—Gen. Nord, having been proclaimed president of Hayti by the army, took possession of the national palace Thursday morning.

COAL OPERATORS BEGIN.

Testimony for Their Side of Controversy Opened Up Before Anthracite Commission.

NONUNION LABORERS ON THE STAND.

Lawyers Try to Prove That Reign of Terror Existed in the Coal Fields During Anthracite Coal Strike—Stories of Alleged Boycotts and Intimidation.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 18.—The anthracite coal operators opened their side of the controversy with the mine workers Wednesday before the strike commission, and the attorneys who are on record before the commission as representing the non-union men, who have been admitted to the arbitration scheme, began calling witnesses. The sessions were probably the liveliest yet held by the commission. At the morning session the miners' lawyers challenged the fairness of certain wage statements handed to the commission by the Pennsylvania Coal company, and in the afternoon Lawyer Darrow had a spirited discussion with Chairman Gray as to whether or not the miners had a right to know who is paying the lawyers representing the non-union men before the commission. Mr. Darrow asserted they were employed by the coal operators. Preceding this Simon P. Wolvorton, counsel for the Reading company, who delivered the opening address on behalf of all the large coal companies, made the point in his address that the recognition of the union is not an issue before the commission, which brought out a protest from Mr. Darrow. The latter claimed that if it were not, then the operators should be forbidden from presenting testimony that tended to show the union was responsible for all the alleged violence committed during the strike.

Say Reign of Terror Existed.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 19.—The coal strike commission listened Thursday to further testimony tending to show that a reign of terror existed in the anthracite coal fields during the 5 1/2 months of the mine workers' strike. About a score of witnesses were called during the two sessions by the attorneys for the non-union men. They told of serious boycotts, brutal attacks by crowds of men, women and boys, and an attempt to burn the house of a non-union man. In most instances the witnesses testified that the alleged offenders were members of the miners' union. The lawyers for the miners objected frequently to the admission of testimony or hearsay and sometimes objected because of irrelevancy of certain other statements.

Chairman Gray said the commission was not bound by any strict rules of evidence, but asked counsel to confine themselves in examining witnesses as far as possible to direct evidence. He said it was too difficult, in trying to prove that boycotts exist, to get information on the subject. The commission, he said, wanted to know whether a reign of terror existed in the anthracite region, and it did not get that information if the strict rules of evidence were applied. "The coward who will go to the storekeepers," he said, "and tell them not to sell the necessities of life to a poor woman, usually seeks the obscurity that the law of evidence throws around him. If a girl is discharged from her position in a store, because she rode in a street car in inclement weather, while a street car strike was on, the coward who discharged her is coward enough to refuse to testify." He recognized, he said, why some merchants will not come forward and tell who forced him to refuse to sell necessities of life to certain boycotted persons, but if he (Chairman Gray) were a storekeeper, he thought he would risk his all in order to assist in breaking up the cowardly business.

Life Made Miserable.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 20.—Non-union men, some of their relatives and others to the number of 30, appeared before the coal strike commission and told their stories of alleged boycotts, intimidations, dynamiting and violence in various forms, during the late strike. Each witness called was a sufferer in one form or another at the hands, they alleged, of union men. Four witnesses said attempts were made to blow up their houses, one house was badly damaged, many of the witnesses were threatened with bodily harm; several were beaten, one was shot in the leg, every one stoned, boycotted or hung in effigy. One school teacher testified having lost his position because his father did not strike. One man was asked to resign from a Catholic temperance society, and another witness was expelled from a local lodge of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, after a membership of 26 or 28 years, because they were classed as unfair workmen.

Big Lumber Deal.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 17.—Alger, Smith & Co. and the Cliff Lumber company have together purchased the north shore pine owned by Thomas Barton, of Asiland, and Frederick Weyhauser, of St. Paul, amounting to 100,000,000 feet. The consideration is \$600,000 or a little more.

Gen. Nord Occupies Palace.

Port au Prince, Hayti, Dec. 19.—Gen. Nord, having been proclaimed president of Hayti by the army, took possession of the national palace Thursday morning.

CAR RUNS AWAY.

Crashes Into Double-Header Freight and Kills Two and Injures Three Men.

Bradford, Pa., Dec. 20.—A car heavily loaded with lumber on Mays Sidling, near Wetmore, on the Philadelphia & Erie railroad, ran away early in the morning down a steep grade and rushed into a double header freight going east. The lumber on the car shoved forward and pinned both engineers in the wreck, killing them instantly and injuring three others.

The killed: Engineers James Murphy, Kane, Pa., and Charles Dieffenbach, Erie, Pa. Injured: Fireman Graw, Kane; Brakeman Davis, Erie, seriously; C. Chiesel, Erie, slightly.

FIGHT BARRED FROM MICHIGAN

Gov. Bliss Notifies Sheriff at Detroit to Prevent McGovern-Corbett Contest.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 20.—Gov. A. T. Bliss will not permit the McGovern-Corbett fight which was to have been held in Detroit next month before the Metropolitan Athletic club, as had been planned. He wrote Friday afternoon to Sheriff Dickson, of Wayne county, calling his attention to the law on the subject and telling him that he expected him as sheriff to see that the fight was not held in Detroit. In the letter the governor calls the sheriff's attention to the decisions of the supreme court against fights in Michigan and tells him that if he needs assistance to prevent the fight it will be given him.

FOUND GUILTY.

Five Former Members St. Louis House of Delegates Convicted of Bribery—Must Go to Prison.

St. Louis, Dec. 20.—The joint trial of five former members of the house of delegates, which began Tuesday, ended Friday night in a verdict of five years for each man in the penitentiary. The defendants, John A. Sheridan, Charles J. Denny, Charles Gutke, Edmund Bersch and T. E. Albright, were convicted on charges of bribery in connection with the passage of the suburban street car bill, to accomplish which, it was charged, \$75,000 had been placed in deposit, to be used as required. The five defendants, after hearing the verdict, filed motions for a new trial, and each was released on bond.

AWFUL DEED.

At Lapeer, Mich., John Best Kills an Aged Man, Wounds Mother and Sister and Commits Suicide.

Lapeer, Mich., Dec. 17.—John Best, aged 28, single, a man of disordered mind, during the night arose from his bed and ran amuck through the house, cutting Jasper Clegg's head nearly off with a razor, dangerously wounding his own mother, wounded his sister and finished by shooting himself to death. Clegg, who was 60 years of age, boarded at the Best home. Best was committed to the insane asylum about a year ago, but six months later was discharged as cured.

SENT TO PRISON.

Solitary Confinement at Hard Labor for Life Punishment of a Brutal Murderer in Michigan.

Hastings, Mich., Dec. 19.—Mathias H. Utzler, alias John Brantlinger, pleaded guilty of the murder of Mrs. Robert Garrison in Johnston township Monday morning. He had previously admitted that he ravished his victim after death. Judge Smith sentenced the prisoner to solitary confinement at hard labor for life in the state prison at Jackson and Utzler was taken there Monday night.

The Death Penalty.

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 20.—Matthew Alexander (colored), on trial for the murder of Thomas Burke and for committing a murderous assault upon Mrs. Burke in the bedroom occupied by the family on Sunday night, September 7, was sentenced to be hanged at Michigan City April 16. Alexander killed Burke by cutting his throat from ear to ear as Burke rushed to the protection of his wife, who was first assaulted.

Student Kills Himself.

Ottumwa, Ia., Dec. 20.—Because he thought he had failed, to pass his examinations, Everett Harman, of Malcom, Ia., a student at the Iowa Wesleyan university, committed suicide Friday by cutting his throat with a razor. The blade went to the bone but did not cut the jugular vein. Harman died five hours after he inflicted the wound.

Victim of Apoplexy.

Philadelphia, Dec. 16.—John W. Ela, president of the Chicago civil service commission, died here Monday from an apoplectic stroke. He was 62 years old, resident of Chicago 36 years, and a framer of municipal service law.

Over a Billion Assessment.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 19.—The state board of equalization completed its work Thursday and adjourned. The total assessment of all property in the state is \$1,030,127,030, of which Cook county gives \$430,810,072.

Drops Dead.

Toledo, O., Dec. 19.—Charles P. Griffin, one of the best known politicians in Ohio, and former speaker of the Ohio legislature, dropped dead of heart disease in his office Thursday morning. He was 58 years of age.

Death of Gen. Swayne.

New York, Dec. 19.—Gen. Wager Swayne died Thursday at his residence here of a complication of diseases. His widow, two sons and a daughter were at the deathbed.

ARE WILLING TO ARBITRATE

European Allies Express Readiness to Accept Proposal of the United States.

HAGUE TRIBUNAL MAY BE CALLED UPON

President Castro, of Venezuela, Bows to Note of the People Urging Him to Terminate Present Difficulty—Minister Bowen Asked to Arrange Terms.

Washington, Dec. 20.—What is regarded here as a good start, has been made by the United States toward having the Venezuelan claims settled without war. Great Britain, which had assented to arbitration, was followed Friday by Germany and Italy, both of which governments gave replies to our ambassadors. Briefly summarized the attitude of the powers on arbitration with Venezuela is as follows: Great Britain—Will welcome arbitration and will not insist on the United States guaranteeing payment by Venezuela. Germany—Will consider arbitration, but wants a specific guarantee as to payment and time of payment.

Italy will accept anything Great Britain and Germany agree to. It is thought here that The Hague tribunal will be called upon to act in the proposed arbitration.

Bowen Asked to Arrange Terms.

Caracas, Dec. 19.—Lopez Baralt, Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs, has transmitted to United States Minister Bowen a document signed by President Castro as constitutional president of the republic and countersigned by himself as minister of foreign affairs, in which Mr. Bowen is recognized as the only representative of Venezuela in the matter of effecting a settlement of the present difficulty. According to the terms of this document, Mr. Bowen may act without restriction, and he is to use all means possible to protect the interests of Venezuela.

Events here are dependent upon the receipt, through the state department, of the answers of the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the proposal of arbitration advanced by Venezuela. These answers are expected to-day. Should they be favorable, the Venezuelan government strongly desires that a conference of the ambassadors of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the United States then be held in Washington, and that Mr. Bowen leave La Guayra December 23 for the United States on board the Red "D" line steamer Caracas, which is due to reach New York December 29. Mr. Bowen will meet the ambassadors in Washington. No meeting to discuss terms of settlement is to be held on Venezuelan soil.

Pressure on Castro.

Caracas, Dec. 18.—The leading citizens of Caracas had addressed a joint note to President Castro asking him to give full powers to United States Minister Bowen to effect a termination of the present difficulty. This note was transmitted to President Castro at one o'clock Wednesday afternoon. It is signed by all the leading merchants, bankers and agriculturists of Caracas. It reflects truly the consensus of current opinion among the business element of this city. The men who signed the note will meet again to discuss ways and means of obtaining money with which Venezuela can meet her obligations, as well as the guarantees which it will be possible to offer to her creditors.

Thirty-Three Drowned.

Tunis, Dec. 18.—Consequent on the continued rainfall 33 persons were drowned at Tamis, a village in the Cape Nord district, which was suddenly inundated Tuesday night.

Frozen to Death.

Sumpter, Ore., Dec. 19.—John Powers, superintendent of the Tiger mine, was frozen to death in the Greenhorn district. He was 64 years of age.

HEAVILY INSURED.

Mysterious Death of a Man Who Carried \$340,000 of Life Insurance and Had Applied for More.

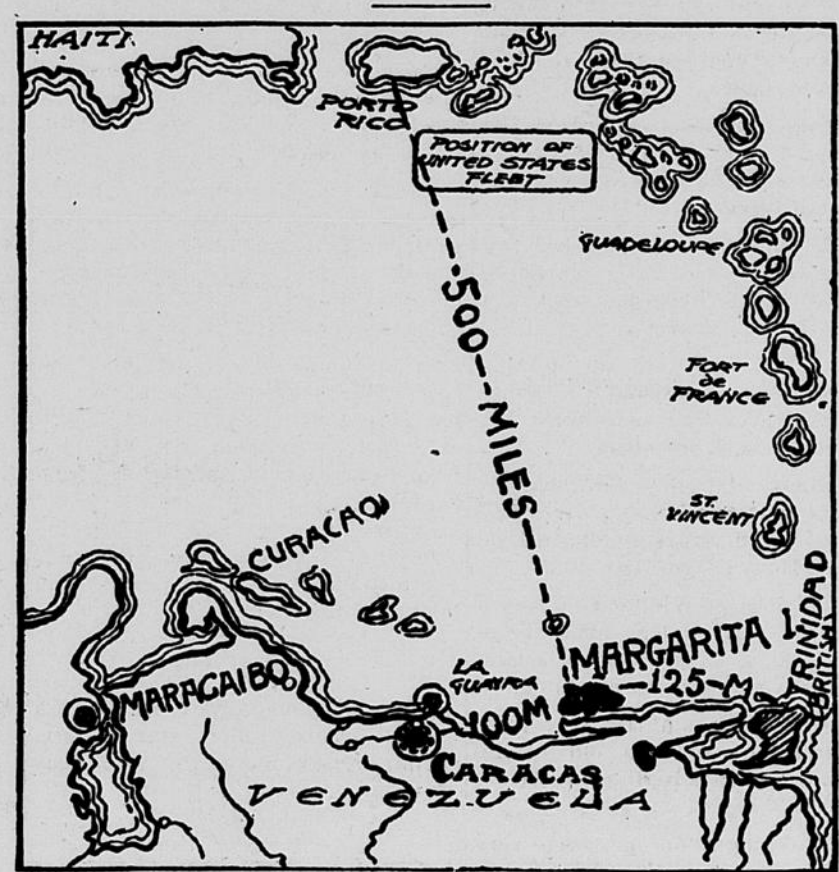
Louisville, Ky., Dec. 19.—It developed Thursday that R. C. Whyne, a Louisville business man who was found dead Wednesday night in the vicinity of Jacob Park, with a gunshot wound in the breast, carried insurance on his life of \$340,000, and had applications pending for \$50,000 more. It was upon the fact that Mr. Whyne carried such a large life insurance and was said to be suffering from rheumatism that a theory of suicide is based. Coroner Kelly said the circumstances were such that the case would require exhaustive investigation. The inquest will be held Saturday. Near Mr. Whyne's body when found, but on the opposite side of a wire fence, was a shotgun with one barrel empty and the other loaded and cocked. His friends and family declare that death was due to an accident and that the gun was discharged while he was climbing through the fence.

A SERIOUS CONDITION.

Famine in Finland Through Which 400,000 Persons Are Destitute and Starving.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—Four hundred thousand persons are reported to be destitute and starving as a result of the crop failure in Finland.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN VENEZUELA.



Map Showing Location of Margarita Island and of Maracaibo.

The Anglo-American church here has undertaken to feed and clothe the school children of four Finnish parishes, and Pastor Francis has issued an appeal for assistance in this work. He says the conditions today are worse than those of 1887, when 100,000 persons died.

Fire in Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Over a score of persons living in the apartment building at 391 to 397 East Forty-fifth street, were forced to flee from their homes Friday evening when a fire was discovered in one of the air shafts in the rear of the building. Members of 12 families rushed through the smoke-filled hallways, some climbing down the fire escapes to the street, while others risked their lives by descending the stairs, which were in flames. Loss to the building and contents is about \$50,000.

Postmaster in Trouble.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 19.—Nels C. Matson, postmaster at Middletown, Des Moines county, Iowa, who has been wanted by the government authorities since May 5 last, for the embezzlement of post office money order funds to the extent of \$390, was arrested in Pekin Wednesday morning. He acknowledged his guilt and was taken before United States Commissioner Howe, who fixed his bond at \$2,000 and ordered him remanded to the county jail.

Pardoned.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 20.—Gov. Savage on Friday gave Daisy Lawrence, aged ten years, of Norfolk, a Christmas present in the shape of a pardon for her father, who is serving a three years' sentence in the state penitentiary for embezzlement. The pardon was granted in response to a pitiful letter from the little girl.

Midget Clown Dead.

New York, Dec. 18.—"Gen. Peanuts," who for a number of years was one of the best known midgets and clowns connected with Barnum's and Forepaugh and Sell's circuses was found dead in bed Wednesday. The midget was a Japanese, 38 years old, and two feet one inch high.

Many Die of Cold in Hungary.

Vienna, Dec. 18.—According to dispatches from Hungary, 63 persons were frozen to death there during the last three days. Wolves are devastating the sheepfolds and have devoured three shepherds.

Treaty Ratified.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate in executive session Tuesday ratified the treaty of friendship and general relations between the United States and Spain.

Boers Coming.

Denver, Dec. 19.—Nearly 9,000 Boers it is said are preparing to "trek" to America and will settle in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

WORK DONE IN CONGRESS

Second Session of the Fifty-Seventh National Assembly Keeps Busy in Washington.

SUMMARY OF THE DAILY PROCEEDINGS.

The Senate Agrees to the House Resolution for Holiday recess from December 30 to January 5.—The House Passes the Pension Appropriation Bill.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A concurrent resolution was agreed to in the senate yesterday providing for an adjournment of congress from December 20 until January 5. The omnibus statehood bill and the bill to promote the efficiency of the militia were discussed, and a bill was introduced to provide a government for the island of Guam.

Washington, Dec. 17.—In the senate yesterday Senator Dillingham concluded his remarks in opposition to the omnibus statehood bill and by unanimous consent it was agreed that there should be no further discussion of the measure until the senate reconvenes on January 5. The militia bill was also discussed. Several minor bills and resolutions were passed. In executive session the treaty of friendship and general relations between the United States and Spain was ratified.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The pension bill, carrying \$139,847,000, and an urgent deficiency bill, carrying \$1,148,400, was passed by senate. Currency bill substitute, permitting national bank notes up to 25 per cent. of paid capital, was introduced.

In the House.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Bills were passed in the house yesterday to provide for the allotment in severalty of the lands of the New York Indians; senate bill for a union railroad station in Washington to cost \$4,000,000, and an urgent deficiency appropriation bill. A bill was introduced to establish a military camp for the use of the United States and national guard troops in the vicinity of Camp Douglas, Wis.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The house yesterday passed the bill transferring from the treasury department to the department of agriculture the power to establish regulation for the suppression of contagious diseases among live stock, and devoted the remainder of the day to the legislative appropriation bill, on which rapid progress was made.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The house passed legislative appropriation bill, with an amendment embodying the Hepburn bill appropriating \$500,000 for enforcing the Sherman anti-trust law.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The house passed a bill to reduce the duties on the products of the Philippine islands coming into the United States from 75 per cent. of the Dingley rates (the present duties) to 25 per cent. of those rates. The McCall resolution, calling for the correspondence in the Venezuelan imbroglio was adopted.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The pure food bill was passed by the house, 72 to 21. Penalty is provided for shipping or receiving adulterated food or imitation of other products, in states or territories. False labeling as foreign product is prohibited.

Posee Slays a Desperate Man.

Farmington, Ia., Dec. 20.—In a fit of ungovernable temper, maddened by an attempt to arrest him, George Stillwell shot and mortally wounded City Marshal Robert Coulter, aged 62, and Justice of the Peace A. E. Musgrove, aged 65. After an exciting chase by a posse raised by Mayor B. F. Ketchum, in which Stillwell fired numerous shots without hitting anyone, he was shot to death.

Hope Abandoned.

Henderson, N. Y., Dec. 20.—All hope for the safety of the steamer John C. Hall and her crew of nine was abandoned Friday when portions of wreckage which proved to be parts of the missing vessel came ashore at Stony Point, about 30 miles from Oswego. The John C. Hall went down in a gale on Lake Ontario on December 11.

The Fatalities at Andijan.

Tashkend, Asiatic Russia, Dec. 19.—Three officials, two soldiers and 150 natives, mostly children, were killed by the earthquake which destroyed the town of Andijan, Russian Central Asia, Tuesday. In addition 300 natives and 17 soldiers were injured and 9,000 houses of natives and 130 Russian residences were destroyed.

Department of Commerce.

Washington, Dec. 20.—A department of commerce bill, providing for a new cabinet officer, will be favorably reported to the house and passage is certain. George B. Cortelyou, the president's secretary, may be appointed. It provides for bureaus for corporations, insurance and manufactures.

Trade Conditions.

New York, Dec. 20.—Dun & Co.'s review reports holiday trade exceeding all predictions. Industrial plants are busy. United States Steel company has 5,280,000 tons of unfilled orders. December railroad earnings are 4.2 per cent. above 1901.

Bank Robbed.

Mullins, S. C., Dec. 19.—The bank here was broken open Wednesday night, the safe dynamited and about \$6,000 in cash stolen.

Parliament Prorogued.

London, Dec. 19.—Parliament was prorogued Thursday afternoon by royal commission until February 17.