

Since 1897 the government of Finland has annually distributed prizes for the best products in belles lettres. The recipients of the prizes for 1902 are Dr. Leino, who got about \$400 for a historic drama; Malla Talola (Mme. Mikko), who got \$325 for a novel; E. Tegengren, \$300 for lyrics, and T. Pakkoja, \$250 for a comedy.

Miss Taka Nawa, daughter of a well-known Japanese editor and entomologist, is herself an entomologist of no small attainments. She paints with skill and has made many colored plates of native insects, especially butterflies and moths. She shares her father's interest in photography and has assisted him in his greatest work of photographing the life histories of most of the Japanese insects injurious to agriculture.

Dr. Ware, of West Virginia, he of the kiss microbe fame, has a follower in Minnesota. He is Senator Horton, of St. Paul, who has introduced in the legislature a bill to prevent miscellaneous kissing. In brief, the senator's bill recites that kissing is dangerous, and that no one shall kiss—or, rather, no two shall kiss—unless they can produce certificates showing that they have no dangerous, disease-breeding germs concealed about them.

An American woman in London writes: "I have said that I am at a loss to know whether the lack of heat in English homes and business buildings is caused by hardness or stinginess. I used to think it the latter till I found numerous delightful English friends objected to my own heated home. Actually some of them 'cut' me every winter so far as calling on me is concerned because they say my rooms are too 'stuffy and hot.'"

A Burges philanthropist has just made an original will. He has left the town \$20,000, which is to be divided in the following manner: The sum is to be separated into seven parts, this being the number of parishes in Burges. Each of these portions must be again subdivided into sums of \$200, for which the poor on the books of the charitable society are to draw lots. The amount is to be spent in setting the winners up in a small business or trade.

The third assistant postmaster general has announced that the entire new issue of United States stamps will be ready for the public by March 1. The bureau of engraving has been at work on them for several months, and those which have already appeared leave no doubt but they will be hand-some stamps ever issued. The eight-cent and the 13-cent have already been placed in circulation. The two-cent, six-cent and 15-cent are now ready for delivery.

One of the most gigantic mining operations ever undertaken is about to be carried out at Cripple Creek, Col. A tunnel no fewer than 14 miles in length is to be bored in order that the minerals may be brought through and forwarded to the coast. The real advantage will be that the ore will then be able to pass from the mine to the port over a comparatively level plane of transit, whereas now the mineral has to be transported over the range of mountains.

Hastings, Fla., is one of the greatest Irish potato growing regions of the state, and the farmers often reap a rich harvest from this crop. The industry has assumed very large proportions. Last season there were shipped from Hastings 32,000 barrels, from an acreage of some 967 acres. This year the acreage has been increased to about 1,600, almost double, and with favorable conditions it is estimated that the yield will be in the neighborhood of 55,000 barrels.

A royal commission has been appointed to consider the question of rapid transit in London. As a consequence many tube scheme bills for which are now in parliament will be delayed until 1904. Reference to the commission is very comprehensive and the work of investigation probably will last four or five months. The most important point to be considered is the question of establishing some authority or tribunal for consideration of all railway tramway schemes of a local character.

The following is the percentage of illiterates among various classes who come to the United States: Scandinavian, 0.6; English, 1.1; Irish, 3.2; German, 4.1; Magyar, 7.5; Hebrew, 23.6; Polish, 37.5; South Italian, 59.1. A law excluding illiterates would, therefore, exclude more than half the Southern Italians and more than a third of the Poles, while it would affect the immigration from the Scandinavian races not at all. It would reduce the German immigration only 4 per cent.

The "greater white house" is at last finished, inside and out, top and bottom. The last stroke of the decorator's brush has been made and each bit of bric-a-brac has been assigned its place. This entire rehabilitation has been consummated within six months after the presidential family surrendered their official home to the contractors. The ancient but rejuvenated mansion to-day represents a total cost of \$3,500,000 expended in construction and repair since its corner stone was laid, in the presence of Washington, in 1792.

COSTLY FIRE AT ARSENAL

Flames Do Nearly Two Million Dollars' Damage at Government Plant in Rock Island.

OVER ONE MILLION SHELLS EXPLODED

Fire-Fighters Compelled to Dodge the Bullets—Military Equipment for the Army Was Stored in the Burned Building—Blaze Witnessed by Thousands of Persons.

Rock Island, Ill., Feb. 12.—Shop A, the principal issue storehouse at the United States arsenal, was destroyed by fire last night, together with its contents. It was filled with cavalry and infantry equipments of every description and a million rounds of Krag-Jorgensen smokeless ammunition. The contents were valued at \$1,500,000. The building was a massive structure, three stories in height, and was erected 20 years ago at a cost of \$400,000.

The fire was discovered at 8:30 o'clock. The arsenal department being unable to cope with the fire, the Rock Island and Davenport city departments were called upon for assistance, and each sent two companies to the island.

Like the Roar of Battle. The exploding of the rifle ammunition for two hours maintained a continuous rattle of musketry resembling a battle. The fire was fought hard until the conditions became dangerous to life on account of the large amount of ammunition in the burning building. The building then was left to its fate, and all attention was devoted to saving the rest of the plant.

Mass of Coals. The sight of the burning building furnished a spectacle to thousands of people who lined the bluffs on both sides of the Mississippi, in the midst of which the arsenal lies on a beautiful island. By midnight nothing was left of the immense shop and all it had contained but a mass of glowing coals. The fire had burned itself out, destroying one of the government's finest storehouses and a most valuable collection of equipment.

Busy with Large Orders. The arsenal had been busy with large orders recently, working 1,500 men and advertising widely for machinists to work on rush orders received from the war department. Most of the factory capacity is left intact, but there is an immense gap opened in the stores on hand by the work of the flames. The new small arms plant, equipped at a cost of several millions of dollars and about ready to turn out the new model of rifles, escaped the flames.

Cause of the Fire. Maj. Blunt, who has been in charge of the arsenal for the last six years, said the fire probably started from defective electric wires. Electric lights were installed in the building but a few days ago and it is thought the wires may have become crossed. The Rock Island arsenal covers 1,000 acres of ground and employs more than 1,400 men. The main shop adjoins the burned storehouse. Altogether the plant formed the largest military supply house in the United States.

Loss Placed at \$1,765,000. Washington, Feb. 13.—Gen. Crozier, chief of ordnance, has received a telegraphic report from Maj. Blunt, ordnance department, confirming the press report of the serious fire at the Rock Island arsenal Wednesday night, and placing the loss at \$1,765,000.

Pleads Self-Defense. Newberry, S. C., Feb. 13.—Hearing on the application for bail for former Lieut. Gov. Tillman charged with the murder of N. G. Gonzales, has been postponed to February 19. In his affidavit Tillman says he was maligned and threatened by Gonzales, that Gonzales had inquired for him the day of the shooting, and that the shooting was due to fear that his life was in danger.

Steamer Wrecked. Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb. 11.—The steamer Madiana, Capt. Fraser, carrying a party of tourists to the West Indies, is a total wreck on the coral reefs, half a mile northeast of North rock, just outside this harbor. The vessel carried nearly 100 passengers. All were saved and part of the baggage and mail was secured before the vessel was finally abandoned.

Aged Journalist Dies. Oskaloosa, Kan., Feb. 10.—Al Patrick, one of the first editors of the Louisville Courier-Journal, died here, aged 80 years. Mr. Patrick was a "forty-niner," having made the first rush to California. When his sister, Mrs. S. S. Cooper, went to her brother's house and looked a moment at the body she fell to the floor paralyzed and died within a few hours.

Urbe-Urbe Is Alive. Panama, Feb. 14.—The Porvenir, a newspaper published in Cartagena, says that after a heated political discussion Gen. Uribe-Urbe shot and killed Gen. Juan N. Valderrama, the commander in chief of the Colombian forces. Only a short time ago it was reported that Gen. Uribe-Urbe had committed suicide.

A Youthful Agent. Carbondale, Ill., Feb. 14.—Charles Dixon, 15 years old, has been appointed station agent of the East and West railroad at Raddleville. The boy only recently discarded knee breeches, and is believed to be the youngest railroad agent in the country to have active charge of an office.

UP TO THE PRESIDENT.

Both Houses of Congress Pass the Bill Opposing a New Department of Commerce.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Congress having passed the department of commerce bill it now goes to the president for his signature.

The new bill provides for another cabinet officer and places under his control the following bureaus, most of them by transfer from other departments: Bureau of corporations, bureau of labor, the lighthouse and steamboat inspection service, the bureau of navigation and of standards, coast and geodetic service, the immigration service, the shipping commission, bureau of statistics of the treasury department, bureau of foreign commerce of the state department, census bureau and fish commission. By the terms of what is known as the Nelson amendment authority and power is given the new bureau of corporations to require specified returns from large corporations and provision is made for publicity as to their affairs to a certain extent.

WILL RAISE BLOCKADE.

Germany No Longer Prevents Settlement of the Venezuelan Question with Allies.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Protocols raising the blockade and disposing of all questions at issue between the allies and Venezuela, except that of preferential treatment, will be signed at the British embassy to-day at noon. This is the expectation of the allies and Mr. Bowen. The German protocol is now ready in a form acceptable to the German government and Venezuela.

The British protocol is being enlarged by the addition of a clause providing that Venezuela will begin March 1 to set aside 30 per cent. of the customs receipts of the ports of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello to be applied to the liquidation of the claims of all creditor nations. The 30 per cent. of the revenues at these two ports will accumulate until The Hague tribunal decides the question of preferential treatment, when it will be divided.

WORK OF TRAIN BANDITS.

Five Men Hold Up the Burlington Express in Montana and Dynamite Safe.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 13.—The Burlington express No. 6, east bound, was held up shortly after midnight on the Northern Pacific tracks eight miles east of this city, near Homestead, by five mounted men. Reports as to the amount of booty secured by the robbers vary. The express messenger says that the robbers did not get more than \$500. In other quarters it is said the plunder will amount to several thousand dollars at least. It is also said that several of the mail pouches were rifled.

The police arrested William McCullagh as one of the robbers. The capture was made by Detective Murphy, who found \$485 in his possession.

DEADLY FUMES OF GAS.

Five Men Lose Their Lives in the Plant of a Gas Light and Coke Company Near Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 13.—Five men were suffocated and a number overcome by escaping gas in the plant of the Northwestern Gas Light & Coke company, at Blue Island, yesterday afternoon. The sudden flow of gas into the room where the men were working was due either to overpressure on the mains or the carelessness of the men in not closing the valves on the machinery which they had overhauled. The dead are: Martin C. Russell, superintendent of the force at work in the plant; George Arnold, fireman; Blue Island; John Luong, laborer; Chicago; J. Larson, laborer, Chicago; Albert Katolph, laborer, Chicago.

To Vaccinate Thousands. Uniontown, Pa., Feb. 14.—The great prevalence of smallpox in the coke region has prompted the officials of the H. C. Frick Coke company to issue an order calling for the free vaccination of all its employees and their families. As the company has 50,000 men on its pay roll this order will affect about 300,000 persons. Fifty physicians have been engaged, and they will begin their stupendous task at once.

Predicts an Uprising. Boston, Feb. 13.—Congressman John S. Wise, of Virginia, predicts a great organized uprising by negroes. He was one of the speakers at the Lincoln day banquet of the Middlesex club here last night. The outbreak, he said, was foreshadowed by "feuds and fighting between the white and colored races in the south, that indicate that our country is rapidly approaching a fearful crisis."

Found Guilty. Jefferson, Wis., Feb. 14.—Frederick W. Stevenson, charged with the murder of Deputy Sheriff William Cooper February 8, 1902, was declared guilty of murder in the second degree. Sentence was deferred.

Died on Wife's Grave. Grinnell, Ia., Feb. 14.—Arthur B. Turner, traveling representative of a Chicago paper company, was found dead on the grave of his wife in this city. He had committed suicide by shooting.

Pled Guilty. New York, Feb. 10.—William Hooper Young, on trial for the killing of Mrs. Anna Pulitzer, pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to imprisonment for life.

ONE THOUSAND DROWNED.

Tidal Wave and Hurricane Sweep Over the Society Islands and Many Lives Are Lost.

THE STORM LASTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS

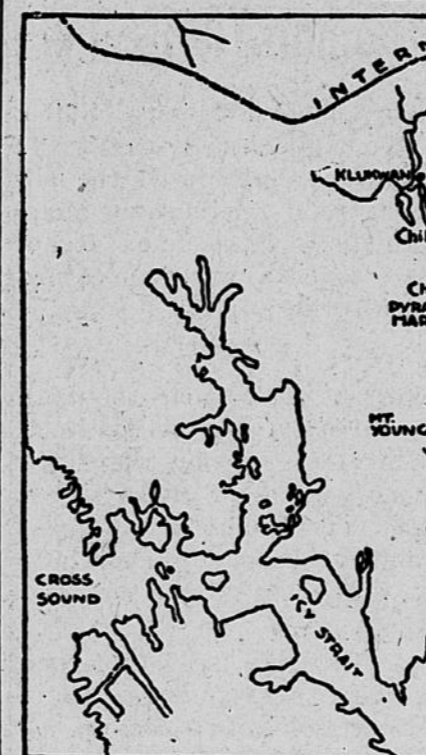
Almost Complete Destruction of All Means of Subsistence and Survivors Are Threatened with Starvation—French Government Takes Prompt Relief Action.

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—A hurricane and tidal wave which swept over the Society Islands and the Puamotu group, 80 islands in all, on January 13, cost the lives of at least 1,000 human beings. News of this disaster in the mid-Pacific reached here yesterday from the steamer Mariposa, direct from Tahiti.

The loss of life was accompanied by an almost complete destruction of all means of subsistence on the islands. All food was swept away and sources of fresh water destroyed.

Lasted Several Days. The storm continued several days, reaching its maximum strength between January 14 and January 16. While from the meager news received at Tahiti up to the time of the sailing of the Mariposa it is estimated

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY DISPUTE.



The Canadians claim that the boundary line, instead of making the broad curve to the northeast, as above, should follow a more direct course, leaving Dyea, Skagway and other important places on the Canadian side of the line.

that 1,000 of the islanders lost their lives, it is feared that the number was really greater.

Half the People Drowned. On Hikueria island, where 1,000 inhabitants were engaged in pearl diving, nearly one-half were drowned. On an adjacent island 100 more were washed out to sea. The islands of Makokau and Hao are depopulated. Conservative estimates at Tahiti place the number of islands visited by tidal wave and hurricane at 80. All of them are under the control of the French governor of Tahiti.

The surviving inhabitants are left destitute of food, shelter and clothing, all having been swept away by the storm.

France Sends Relief. The French government upon receipt of news of the disaster took prompt measures to relieve the survivors and dispatched two warships, the Duranee and Zelee, with fresh water and provisions. The Italian man-of-war Calabria accompanied the two French vessels on their errand of mercy. As the supply of fresh water and provisions was totally exhausted by the storm it is feared that many lives will be lost before the relief ships arrive.

Valuable Shells Lost. Thousands of tons of copra and over 200 tons of mother of pearl shells are known to be lost. The pearl shells are valued at \$1,800 per ton, and many valuable pearls may now be lost to the world forever, as these were considered some of the best pearl islands in the world. The devastated islands are approximately 3,600 miles south of the Hawaiian islands and 1,400 miles from the Samoan group.

Farmer Robbed. Oskaloosa, Ia., Feb. 14.—Charles Carpenter, a farmer residing three miles east of Oskaloosa, was robbed of \$3,700 that was secreted in the cellar of his house. The money was buried in an iron kettle 18 inches below the surface, and the thieves knew the exact spot, although Carpenter asserts that no one but himself knew of the hiding place.

Fatal Explosion. Sheboygan, Wis., Feb. 11.—One person was killed, two perhaps fatally injured, and four others badly bruised by a boiler explosion in the foundry of Charles Helmlinger at Adell. The foundry was demolished and the Burke hotel, across the street, was partially wrecked. The loss will amount to \$25,000.

Killed His Father. Webster City, Ia., Feb. 11.—Daniel Flygstad, residing near Jewel, was beaten to death by his son Banks. The elder Flygstad came home drunk, and in a fight was killed. A coroner's jury declared it justifiable homicide.

FINAL ARGUMENTS.

President Baer of the Reading Company and Clarence Darrow Address Coal Strike Commission.

Philadelphia, Feb. 13.—President George F. Baer, of the Reading company, yesterday made an offer to the anthracite coal workers, before the strike commission, which contemplated a sliding scale, regulated by the price of coal at seaboard. The old scale was to be canceled and all men not under contract were to receive an immediate increase of five per cent., dating from November 1, 1902, to April 1, 1903. At the latter date the new scale was to go into effect, with the proviso that the prices should never fall below the present standard.

President Baer defended the position of the operators at every point, declaring that they were always willing to treat with the men, but could not see the justice in placing their business in the hands of a foreign labor organization led by John Mitchell. He maintained that the wages paid were just and compared favorably with those in any other employment of the same nature.

Clarence S. Darrow, for the United Mine Workers' union, in touching upon the offer of President Baer, said that the men had demanded the same nine months ago, but the operators, in their "blindness, ignorance and stupidity," had refused. He declared the statement of wages produced by Mr. Baer to be false and that the

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The antitrust bill passed in the house on Saturday by a unanimous vote, 245 to 0. It requires corporations "hereafter organized" to file returns covering its articles of incorporation, financial composition, condition, etc., with the interstate commerce commission on penalty of being restrained from engaging in interstate commerce, prescribes penalties for false returns, etc. Memorial services were held in the house yesterday.

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Used Dynamite. Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 10.—A dastardly attempt to hide robbery and murder resulted in the wrecking by dynamite of an Italian boarding house at Portage, this county, early yesterday morning. Two persons are dead, two are injured and a score of others had miraculous escapes from death when the explosive let go. The dead are Tony Grillo, aged 44, and Mrs. Tony Grillo, aged 41.

Death of Dr. Curry. Asheville, N. C., Feb. 13.—Dr. J. L. M. Curry, one of the most prominent educators in the south, died here yesterday, aged 78 years. He served as a representative from that state in the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth congresses. When Alabama seceded from the union he resigned from the United States congress and became a member of the confederate congress.

Skilled for Honduras. San Francisco, Feb. 11.—All the warships in Admiral Glass' squadron started from this port for Honduras yesterday. With the New York are the Boston, Marblehead and Ranger.

Famous Indian Fighter Dead. Albuquerque, N. M., Feb. 12.—Col. J. L. Morris, one of the most famous of the western scouts and Indian fighters, is dead here after a long illness.

For Good Roads. Detroit, Mich., Feb. 14.—Twenty-five states were represented at the first session in the Wayne hotel of the annual meeting of the American Road Makers and the International Good Roads conference.

WORK DONE IN CONGRESS.

Lawmakers in the Senate and House Discuss Matters of Importance and Make New Laws.

STATEHOOD BILL KEEPS SENATE LIVELY

House Passes the Anti-Trust Bill by a Unanimous Vote—Department of Commerce Bill Agreed To by Both Houses—Appropriation and Other Measures Discussed.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The statehood bill claimed the greater share of the senate's attention on Saturday. The committee on appropriations reported the District of Columbia appropriation bill, which carries \$9,354,090.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The Littlefield antitrust bill was received by the senate yesterday from the house and referred to the committee on judiciary. The committee will hold special meetings for the consideration of the question. The statehood bill was further discussed. Senator Aldrich introduced a bill authorizing banks which are national depositories to deposit for the safeguarding of the government other securities than government bonds.

Washington, Feb. 11.—In the senate yesterday the conference report on the general staff bill was agreed to. A bill was introduced which provides that henceforth \$12 shall be the minimum pension allowed, and also provides for an increase to that amount of all pensions now below that figure. The statehood bill was further discussed.

Washington, Feb. 12.—In executive session the senate yesterday ratified the Alaskan boundary treaty, and in open session the conference report on the department of commerce bill was agreed to without debate and it now goes to the president. Senator Dewey (N. Y.) spoke in opposition to the statehood bill.

Washington, Feb. 13.—With the exception of a few minutes, during which some routine business was transacted, the session of the senate yesterday was behind closed doors, the Panama canal treaty being under discussion. A bill providing for postal checks in place of all bills of less than five dollars was introduced by Senator Penrose.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Gen. William Booth, of the Salvation Army, delivered the prayer at the opening of the session of the senate. Senator Dewey spoke against the statehood bill. It was decided to amend the post office appropriation bill by adding as a rider the omnibus statehood bill.

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