

It is an open secret in Germany that the Prussian nobility is not particularly pleased with the present kaiser. They have been used to receiving attention at court simply because of their rank, but Wilhelm II. does not care a straw what a man's rank is, and judges him solely on his personal merits.

There are 190,227 professional beggars in Spain, of whom 51,948 are women. In some of the cities beggars are licensed to carry on their trade. Seeking alms is recognized as legitimate business, and the municipality demands a percentage upon the collections. Seville is the only city in the kingdom which forbids begging in the streets.

Recently a burglar in an English police court was found to carry a piece of coal in his pocket "for luck." Many English criminals think coal carried with them gives good fortune. A belief in coal as a talisman is said to have been held by the early Britons, and it is frequently upon their burial places converted into personal ornaments, such as beads.

To fire a four-inch common shell costs \$17, a six-pounder \$3.86, a one-pounder \$1.14. Every ship has a battery of Colt automatic machine guns which fire cartridges in a stream fed from a belt at the rate of 400 a minute. Four times a year each man fires two belts on one of these guns. It takes a little over two minutes and it costs about \$7 a belt.

American leather, both sole and upper, has been imported in somewhat larger quantities than last year by British shoe manufacturers, owing, it is said, to their increasing orders from the colonies. Not only is the British shoe made chiefly of American leather and by American machinery, but even the metal hooks and eyelets are practically all imported from the United States.

Christian Smith, of Harper's Ferry, is one of the oldest of the veteran railroad men of this country. He is 91 years old. In 1832 he entered the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio and remained with it through all the grades of fireman, engineer, mechanic, conductor, supervisor, trainmaster, dispatcher, ticket agent and passenger agent, well up into the days of the modern railroad.

New York doesn't see any immediate relief in the matter of handling her enormous school population. Statistics just handed in to Mayor McClellan show that last year there were 514,425 children who attended the public schools. This is an increase of 7 per cent. over 1902, and at this rate it is believed the attendance for this year will reach fully 550,000. Schoolhouses are being built as fast as money can be raised and the work done.

The theater habit in Chicago has been shown in a remarkably striking manner by the Iroquois disaster. It is interesting to estimate the amount of money which Chicago people will save should the 36 theaters, closed by the mayor, remain shut for a month. A fair calculation, based on the average attendance at the theaters, places the figure at \$1,000,000. Without doubt Chicago has been spending a million dollars a month on theater amusements.

The speed experiments which have been made over the military railroads between Berlin and Zossen with electric cars, and which have attracted attention, everywhere, were completed November 21. Both cars, which had been equipped with apparatus for measuring the resistance of the pressure of the atmosphere, repeatedly made the trip over the whole distance of the railroad between Marienfeld and Zossen, a length of 14.5 miles, at a speed of from 118.75 to 126.25 miles per hour.

Mr. Justice Brown, of the supreme court of the United States, is in at least one respect an imitator of Lincoln; he blackens his own shoes. After rising in the morning he gets into his underwear and socks, then puts on his shoes and ples the brush. His shoes always look better than those of any other member of the court, great minds being careless, as a rule about pedal appearances. The justice is enormously stout, and at times finds it difficult to see his shoes.

Japanese house servants seem unusually scarce in New York just now. Just what has become of the supply, whether they are all employed, or whether they have left the metropolis to go home and go to war, nobody seems to know. At any rate, they can not be found at employment agencies nor by advertising. Ordinarily a Japanese servant or two can be picked up whenever wanted, and there has been a pretty steady demand for them, especially to work in bachelor apartments and as valets.

One of the most remarkable islands in the world is located in the Gulf of Mexico, about ten miles off the western coast of Florida. It is charted on the maps of the hydrographic office at Washington, and is known as Snails Island. It forms one of the long line of little sandy islets which extend outward from the coast of Florida and are known as keys. The peculiar characteristic of Snails Island, as it is called, is that it completely changes color twice a day, producing a most beautiful effect to the vision of passing tourists.

SAYS PEACE WILL NOT BE BROKEN

Berlin Report Declares Russia Will Comply with the Demands of Japan.

WMI Remain Neutral Even if Great Britain Should Assist the Little Empire—Russian Press Ceases Attack on Japan—Declare Acute Phase of Trouble Is Passing.

London, Jan. 21.—A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Berlin declares that the correspondent is in a position to announce positively that it has been decided at St. Petersburg that Japan's wishes shall be met in such a way as to secure the maintenance of peace. The dispatch adds that the only question is whether Russia "shall declare her decision to Japan alone or to all the powers interested in the solution of the far eastern question."

Attacks Ceasing. St. Petersburg, Jan. 21.—The attacks on Japan in the Russian press are ceasing. The newspapers print prominently reports to the effect that the acute phase is passing, and they continue to assert that mediation is unnecessary.

France Is Neutral. Berlin, Jan. 22.—The German government has become privy to the fact that France declined to give Russia any assurances or armed help, should war be the outcome of the far eastern differences, even should Great Britain aid Japan. It is understood here that Russia asked France to define her position in the contingency of Great Britain actively participating in a Japanese attack on Russia, and that the French government replied:

Japan May Wait. London, Jan. 21.—Whether or not Japan will insist to the bitter end on a treaty recognizing Chinese sovereignty over Manchuria the foreign office does not know yet. It thinks the Japanese themselves will not decide until after the delivery of the Russian reply, which is scarcely expected till next week. Great Britain has not yet taken steps to appoint consuls at Mukden and Antung.

Peace Sentiment Grows. Paris, Jan. 22.—It has been learned in official quarters that the international peace commission (having its headquarters at Berne), which is an adjunct of The Hague arbitration tribunal, has sent a circular note to the powers asking for the adoption of means to secure a settlement of the Russo-Japanese controversy. The note has received serious attention from some of the governments, including, it is understood, that of Washington, which has taken steps to learn the attitude of the foreign governments toward the proposition.

Coreans and Japs Clash. London, Jan. 23.—A special dispatch from Seoul, Corea, dated Friday, says Japanese railway men have been attacked by Coreans at several points along the Seoul-Fusan railway and that the Korean authorities have been notified that unless they prevent a recurrence of these disorders necessary measures will be taken by Japanese troops.

LOCKS THE THEATERS.

Rigorous Rules Adopted by the Chicago Council on Conditional Opening—The Inquest.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—The city council last night adopted a resolution permitting the reopening of theaters under certain conditions, but so rigorous are the specified prerequisites that in the opinion of theater managers they cannot be complied with in less than from three to six months. This means the playhouses will remain closed for an indefinite period.

Chicago, Jan. 23.—Before the coroner's jury Friday Harry J. Powers, director and treasurer of the Iroquois Theater company, and an associate manager of the ill-fated playhouse, placed the responsibility for the absence of fighting appliances from the stage and auditorium upon the house fireman and upon the city fire department. Personally he admitted none of the blame for the conditions which made the holocaust possible.

Great Loss by Fire. Shelby, O., Jan. 21.—The United States Steel corporation sustained a \$3,000,000 loss by fire last night at the plant of the Shelby Steel Tube company. The fire started from a defective electric wire. The product of the entire plant for the last six months was destroyed within an hour, consisting of 800,000 tons, making in all 25,000,000 feet of finished product.

Cuban Congress Closed. Havana, Jan. 20.—President Palma ordered congress to adjourn yesterday afternoon, and the session came to an end soon after the receipt of the order. The presidential message said, briefly, that as the houses had not arrived at an agreement as to the date of closing the session, he directed an adjournment under the authority of the constitution.

Made Thousands. Washington, Jan. 22.—Although on a salary of only \$3,500 a year, August W. Machen made \$20,000 annually while superintendent of the free delivery service of the postal department, according to evidence introduced at his trial.

Democratic Convention. Washington, Jan. 19.—Chairman Jones of the National committee has issued a call for the assembling of the democratic national convention at St. Louis July 6 next to nominate candidates for president and vice president.

FIFTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

Daily Summary of Work Done in Senate and House by the Lawmakers of the Nation.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Bills were introduced in the senate yesterday to prohibit the use of the mails in the conduct of various chain coupon and chain investment schemes; providing for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian territory as one state. In the house the pure food bill was considered.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Senator Patterson yesterday completed and Senator Platt (Conn.) began a speech on the Panama canal question. Senator Morgan introduced a bill providing for the annexation of Panama. The house passed the Hepburn pure food bill on a rising vote 201 to 68, its opponents being unable to secure a roll call on the bill.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Senator Platt (Conn.) concluded his speech on Panama yesterday. He defended the course of the president throughout the Panama revolt and eulogized the executive personally as brave and fearless. The army appropriation bill was under consideration by the house in committee of the whole for five hours, most of which time was devoted to a general discussion of the tariff question.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The senate on Friday adopted the resolution of inquiry concerning affairs in Panama introduced on the 5th inst, by Senator Gorman, and listened to a speech on the Panama question by Senator Dooliver and another on the subject of recess appointments. The house passed 209 pension bills, and also resolutions calling on the secretary of war and the attorney general for information as to the number of horses and carriages maintained at government expense for officers of these respective departments.

TRADE REVIEW.

The General Situation as Viewed by Leading Commercial Agencies—Effect of Weather Felt.

New York, Jan. 23.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "Weather conditions have furnished the chief influences in the general trade situation. To some extent traffic has been hindered especially at the east. Retail distribution of footwear and heavy wearing apparel felt the stimulus, and annual clearance sales removed accumulations of dry goods, millinery, etc. Wholesale business is fairly active, traveling salesmen sending in about average orders, and jobbing trade is normal. Manufacturing plants are more active, with little change in quotations, and the outlook for spring trade is considered favorable. Iron and steel plants that resumed at the turn of the year have obtained sufficient business to continue operating, and thus far the adjustment of wages has not produced the threatened strikes. "Failures this week numbered 358 in the United States against 265 last year, and 33 in Canada compared with 27 a year ago."

Bradstreet's says: "Confidence in a prosperous spring trade finds support in an enlarging volume of business at southern and southeastern markets, an awakening of interest at some northwestern centers and growth even at central, western and eastern markets, where, however, weather conditions are a drawback to the fullest activity."

ONE FOUND GUILTY.

Grand Rapids Alderman Convicted of Accepting Bribe in the Famous Water Deal.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 21.—"Guilty as charged, with recommendation to the court for mercy," is the verdict rendered by the superior court jury yesterday in the case against Alderman Jacob P. Ellen, of the First ward, charged with having accepted a bribe of \$350 from ex-City Attorney Lant K. Salsbury in the Lake Michigan water deal scandal. This is the first trial completed of the 25 that grew out of the recent confession of Salsbury, although eight of the officials implicated have already pleaded guilty. The penalty under the statute is a prison sentence of not more than ten years or less than one year, or a fine of not more than \$5,000 and jail sentence of not less than one year.

Palma Closes Cuban Congress. Havana, Jan. 20.—President Palma ordered congress to adjourn Tuesday afternoon, and the session came to an end soon after the receipt of the order. The presidential message said, briefly, that as the houses had not arrived at an agreement as to the date of closing the session, he directed an adjournment under the authority of the constitution.

Steamers Released. Milwaukee, Jan. 23.—The ice field which blocked navigation on the west shore of Lake Michigan for the past 48 hours was driven out in the lake Friday night by the shifting of the wind, and all vessels which were locked in the blockades between Milwaukee and Kenosha have been released. The Goodrich steamer City of Racine left on time on her usual trip for Chicago after being unable to get out during the day.

Tragedy in Texas. San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 20.—In a fit of anger Everett Bourne, a crippled railroad fireman of this city, Monday night shot and killed his wife and his mother-in-law, fatally shot W. S. Beatty, his wife's stepfather, and then, standing before a mirror, he committed suicide, shooting himself through the heart.

Famous Historian Dead. Chicago, Jan. 21.—A dispatch says that Dr. Herman Eduard von Holst, the renowned historian, scholar and independent political fighter of America and Germany, who was the first professor and head of the department of history at the University of Chicago, died yesterday at Freiburg in Baden.

HOTEL BLOWN UP AND THREE KILLED

Ten Others Injured, Two Probably Fatally, in an Accident Near Marion, Ind.

Explosion Followed by Flames Which Shot from the Ruins and Added Horror to the Situation—Three Men Lose Their Lives in a Catastrophe at Johnston, Pa.

Marion, Ind., Jan. 22.—Three were killed, two fatally injured and eight dangerously injured in a gas explosion in the Sitz hotel, located near the entrance to the National Soldiers' home, three miles south of here, at four o'clock yesterday morning. The dead: Charles Beitel, proprietor; Mrs. Beitel and James Develin.

The fatally injured: Edward Gaskell and L. H. Hobbs. Dangerously injured: Thomas Twigg, Randall Bigle, Carrie Ring, William East, John Daugherty, William Shott, Frank Gaskell and Pearl Gaskell.

Flames Add to Horror. The explosion was followed shortly after by flames, which shot from the ruins and added to the horror of the situation.

There is no fire-plug within a mile of the hotel, and the Marion fire department, though it responded promptly,

FAMOUS ECCENTRIC DEAD.

George Francis Train Expires in a Hotel in New York from Disease of the Heart.

New York, Jan. 19.—George Francis Train died last night from heart disease at Mills' hotel, No. 1, where he has lived for some years. A short time ago he was stricken with smallpox while at the home of his daughter in Stamford, Conn. He defied the authorities to keep him in quarantine, but finally becoming too ill to continue his fight was obliged to submit. Heart disease, from which he died, followed an attack of acute nephritis.

"Citizen" George Francis Train, the most eccentric man in America and one of those who for over half a century has been one of the most conspicuously notorious men of the world, was born in Boston, Mass., in 1829. His life was one of adventure, most of his strange experiences arising from his own idiosyncrasies, and he was before the public more perhaps than any man not in public life.

In 1870-72 Mr. Train was a candidate for the presidency. "It seemed to me," he said, "that with the effect I always had on people in my speeches and in personal contact and with the record of great achievements in behalf of the progress of the world, especially with regard to the development of this country, I should succeed."

But in the midst of this singular campaign, in which Mr. Train charged an admission fee for the privilege of hearing him invoke the suffrages of his hearers, the author did something

DEATH AND RUIN CAUSED BY WIND

Cyclone Visits the Little Town of Moundville, Ala., With Terrible Results.

Thirty-Seven Persons Lose Their Lives—Over 100 Are Injured—Force of Wind Blows People from Their Beds—Much Property Is Destroyed.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., Jan. 23.—A disastrous tornado swept over Moundville, Ala., a town of 300 inhabitants, 15 miles south of Tuscaloosa, early Thursday, and as a result 37 persons were killed and more than 100 injured. Every business house with the exception of a small drug store, was completely destroyed. The tornado struck the city from the southwest and mowed a path of a quarter of a mile wide through the town.

By the force of the storm persons were blown hundreds of feet from their beds in the blackness of night. Through terror, a father, mother and three children, fled from their home to seek refuge, and in their excitement left a five-year-old boy in bed. To-day he was pulled from beneath some timber and thus far it is impossible to find any other member of the family. Bedding, carpets and wearing apparel are scattered for a distance of ten miles through what was a forest, but which is now as clear as if cut by the woodman's ax. Freight cars were torn to splinters, the trucks from them being hurled hundreds of feet from the track.

The depot, the hotel, warehouses, gins, 30 homes, the storehouses occupied by R. L. Griffin, A. W. Wiggins & Son, J. W. Domenick, A. D. Griffin and W. P. Phifer, together with their stocks, were completely destroyed. Where they stood it is impossible to find even the pillars upon which these structures rested. Bales of cotton, which were stored in warehouses, were torn to atoms, the fragments of lint lodging in trees, making it appear as though that section had been visited by a snow storm. Heavy iron safes, the doors of which in some instances were torn from their hinges, were carried away by the force of the wind.

ICE GORGES BREAK.

Cause Damage to Shipping in Cleveland—Much Property in Danger at Other Points.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 23.—A gorge broke above the city Friday, and a flood of water swept down the Cuyahoga river, tearing away three big steamers from their moorings. The vessels were carried down the stream and crashed into the drawbridge of the Superior street viaduct. The boats were all badly damaged by the collision, and it is believed the foundation of the big bridge has been seriously damaged.

Logansport, Ind., Jan. 23.—The El and Wabash rivers have overflowed their banks, as the result of the breaking up of the ice, and much property has been destroyed in this city and county. The swollen current in El river swept away a portion of the electric light plant Friday. The village of Georgetown, on the Wabash, is flooded. Residents were rescued by boats. At Adamsboro a dam was swept away and much property destroyed.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 23.—The ice in White river has carried off a house boat occupied by John Schowe and wife, which had been anchored on the overflowed lowlands. The boat was battered to pieces and Mrs. Schowe was drowned.

Pittsburg, Jan. 23.—At eight o'clock Friday night the government forecaster made the announcement that the Allegheny river registered 24.5 feet and was rising at the rate of 8-10 of a foot an hour. The river is full of heavy ice and passing down rapidly. In the Penn avenue mill district all preparations had been completed when the ice started to come down, and the waters rapidly rose. Many of the mills have their fly pits below flood level and were compelled to shut down, throwing hundreds of men and boys out of employment.

At Greensburg the county commissioners estimate that at least \$20,000 damage has been done to county bridges by the breaking up of the ice gorges in Jacob's creek, the Loyal Hanna creek and the Youghogheeny river.

Fled for Their Lives. Chicago, Jan. 23.—Roused from sleep by the sweep of flames from the big warehouse across the alley, scores of tenants in the Bucklen apartment building, Peck place and Michigan avenue, fled for their lives shortly before midnight Friday night. The fire, which started in the Pittsburg Plate Glass company's building, Peck place and Wabash avenue swept through that structure and attacked the H. E. Bucklen & Co. laboratory and apartment building, causing within an hour a loss estimated at \$350,000.

Educators Will Meet June 26. Winona, Minn., Jan. 23.—Secretary Irwin Shepard announces that the executive committee of the National Educational association has changed the date for opening the annual convention in St. Louis from July 5 to June 28. The convention will be held one week earlier to avoid conflict with the national democratic convention.

Negro Education a Curse. Jackson, Miss., Jan. 20.—In his inaugural address before a joint session of the Mississippi legislature, Gov. James K. Vardaman declared that education is the curse of the negro race, and urged an amendment to the state constitution that will place the distribution of the common school fund solely within the power of the legislature.

UNNECESSARY PA.



During the sessions of the Social Economics Club, in Chicago, during an entire day's discussion as to what are home essentials the husband was referred to only twelve times.

ly, was unable to do anything to save the building. The known dead could be seen in the burning building and their bodies were rapidly cremated.

Cause of Explosion. The explosion, which occurred in the kitchen, was due to the increased pressure in the mains at this point, which probably forced the gas through a weak valve and into the hotel.

All of the injured were removed to the Marion hospital or to the Soldiers' Home hospital. The hotel had 20 rooms, but all of them were not occupied. Most of the injured are oil workers employed in fields between here and Gas City. The building was destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

FATAL MINE EXPLOSION.

Three Men Killed and Ten Injured in a Pennsylvania Mine.

Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 22.—Three men are dead, three will probably die and seven others were seriously injured as the result of an explosion at the Cambria Steel company's works. The breaking of the governor-belt, allowing an immense flywheel to run away and burst, caused the catastrophe.

Shot Through the Heart. Everton, Mo., Jan. 23.—James Reich was shot and killed Friday night by George W. Hamick, after having fired at Hamick because of an old grudge. Reich went to Hamick's home, forced his way into the house and fired at Hamick with a revolver. Hamick seized a shotgun and shot Reich through the heart. Hamick immediately surrendered to the authorities.

Fatal to the Rooster. Sioux City, Ia., Jan. 22.—During a color rush between freshmen and sophomores of Morningside college, a live rooster, decked in class colors, was torn to pieces. The faculty and the Humane society have started an investigation and suspensions may follow.

Cleveland Bank Closed. Cleveland, O., Jan. 23.—The Produce Exchange Banking company, corner Broadway and Central avenue, closed its doors Friday. The assets and liabilities of the bank are each placed at \$1,500,000.

Prohibition Convention. Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 20.—The call for the national prohibition convention to be held in this city beginning June 29, has been issued by National Chairman Oliver W. Stewart.

Dowie Sails for Australia. San Francisco, Jan. 22.—John Alexander Dowie, with his party from the east, sailed for Australia on the steamer Sonoma yesterday.