

At the annual meeting of Lloyd's bank, limited, in Birmingham, the chairman, in reviewing the year, remarked that the English municipalities now owed the enormous sum of \$1,750,000,000. Much of this had been wasted. Their extravagance had been so great that the money market was now "practically closed to them."

During January and February 400 acres of high-grade cotton will be planted in Antigua. There are now 4,000 acres under cotton cultivation in the smaller islands of the West Indies. During the summer a sample of Sea Island cotton was received at Liverpool from Barbados, and it was declared to be the best cotton ever seen in England.

The total coal production for the United States up to December 31, 1902, is estimated at 4,600,000 short tons. That means that a pyramid built of this material as high as Pike's peak (14,108 feet), would have for its base a rectangle 1.14 mile square. If the coal were spread out over the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut it would cover both of them a foot deep.

An interesting addition to Wyoming's exhibit at St. Louis will be furnished by Netta Green, principal of the public schools of Meeteetse, Wyo. It is a relief map of the state, 12 feet square, made from all the newspapers of Wyoming. The paper is reduced to a pulp, and while still moist is molded. The map is almost completed, and locates every mountain and stream in the state.

In spite of the reduction of transportation charges of 10 cents per ton, the receipts from the traffic of the Suez canal for the year 1903 are only a little less than those of the previous year, so that a further considerable increase of traffic can be stated. The receipts were \$20,700,000 or \$20,000 less than in 1902. If the tolls had not been reduced the traffic would have yielded a revenue of \$21,800,000.

Several years ago mongooses were imported into Cuba to kill rats on the sugar estates. They have now become so numerous and are destroying so much poultry that the government is offering 25 cents for each of the animals dead or alive. The experience of Cuba with this animal is the same as that of Jamaica, where it is such a pest that means of getting rid of it has been a serious question for a long time.

Six hundred and sixty men, women and boys employed in the woolen factory of T. F. Taylor, at Batley, Eng., received \$5 each from Mr. Taylor as a reward for abstaining from tobacco for the last 12 months. One hundred and forty-one men and boys and 519 women had kept the pledge which they were invited to take a year ago. As a result of the year's experiment, 40 of the men have decided to give up tobacco altogether.

On the East Side, New York, and at the North End, in Boston, the schools in the poorer districts are kept open at night to give the children of the crowded tenements a clean and comfortable place to study their morning's lessons, with some one to help them on difficult points. The children resort to these evening study rooms in surprising numbers, and the teachers help them patiently and encourage them to further effort toward a fair education.

Each crew of a naval vessel consists of seven men besides the captain of the turret, who has general charge. There are two guns in each turret, so that when in action there are in a turret 15 men. At each gun there is a pointer, a trainer, a sight setter, a rammer man, a hoist man, a breechlock man and a loader. Each has his station, and the seven men practically become part of the gun, working together like a machine.

Where is the New Yorker who will not say that he knows a good thing when he sees it? Well, there were a few who fell far short of this estimate the other day, when a man stood on the sidewalk in front of the Hoffman house offering to sell a twenty-dollar gold piece for a dollar. The experiment is an old one, but despite the peddler-like importunities of the money merchant, he didn't make a sale, and he was twice threatened with arrest in the bargain.

Among the features of the postal reform system recently introduced in Russia is one which provides for the mailing of telegrams. They need not be presented at the telegraph office, as in this country, but can be dropped in any letter box. Prepayment is made by affixing to the envelope before mailing a number of stamps corresponding to the message rate. Upon collection by the carrier the message is delivered to the department of telegraphy and by them opened and the message forwarded to the party addressed.

The World's total coffee production in 1902-03 is estimated commercially at 16,400,000 bags (of 132.25 pounds each) against 19,000,000 bags in 1901-02 and 14,700,000 bags in 1900-01. Brazil produces ordinarily from two-thirds to three-fourths of the entire crop of the world. No official statistics upon production are issued by the Brazilian government, and the commercial estimates that are given out as the Brazilian crop are simply the receipts at the ports of Rio Janeiro and Santos, from which is exported practically all of the Brazilian crop.

TORNADO CAUSES RUIN AND DEATH

TERRIFIC STORM STRIKES THE SUBURBS OF CHICAGO AND ELSEWHERE.

Many Buildings Are Wrecked and Several Lives Are Lost—Michigan and Wisconsin Also Swept by the Gales and Floods.

Chicago, March 25.—A cyclone that missed Chicago by the narrowest of margins caused death and destruction in the suburbs last evening, while throughout the middle west there raged a wind and electrical storm that played havoc with property.

In Indiana Harbor three deaths are reported, many were injured and a dozen or more persons are missing. Other settlements in the neighborhood of Chicago which felt the fury of the storm are Hammond, East Chicago, West Pullman, South Chicago, Burnside, Thornton, Dauphin Park, Washington Heights, Morgan Park, Blue Island and Harvey.

Buildings Wrecked. At East Chicago a large section of the south wall of the Republic steel and iron mill was blown in and several dwellings were also destroyed.

At Hammond the damage was considerable. Four dwelling houses were destroyed, three barns demolished and the palatial residence of W. H. Hammond has one entire wall blown in.

At Other Suburbs. The German Lutheran church at Thornton was wrecked by the wind. At Washington Heights several persons were injured, houses were blown down or unroofed, and it is feared that more serious results will develop. In Morgan Park and Fernwood, as well, the storm reached the proportions of a tornado. Five houses were unroofed. Almost every house in Burnside was damaged in the storm.

Damage at Other Places. Joliet, Ill., March 25.—Several barns were blown from their foundations and a number of houses wrecked by a storm of cyclonic features. At East St. Louis lightning struck many buildings, among them the plant of a fireworks manufactory, which exploded, and three of the larger buildings were burned. A large number of persons were injured, many dwellings demolished, and the loss will reach many thousands of dollars.

In Michigan. Detroit, Mich., March 26.—Conservative estimates of the damage of flooded rivers and creeks of lower Michigan place the property loss at more than \$1,000,000. At Lansing alone the figures are placed at \$200,000. Two lives have been lost, those of an unknown Armenian, who was standing on a bridge at Lansing, when it collapsed and was washed away, and a boy who was drowned in a flooded street at Owosso.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 26.—The flood situation in western Michigan is the worst in 35 years. Grand river is rising by leaps and the valley which it drains resembles in many localities large lakes, while at other points the swollen stream is quite two miles wide. All the large nearby towns along it are practically under water.

In Wisconsin. Milwaukee, Wis., March 26.—Belated reports of Thursday night's severe rain and windstorm in southeastern Wisconsin are coming in, and indicate a great deal of damage was wrought. In Racine county the damage is estimated at \$15,000. Appleton reports that Peter Verbost, living near Wittie Chute, was killed by lightning while crossing a field near his home.

New Reply Postal Card. Washington, March 25.—The post office department has given notice that a new domestic reply postal card of the one-cent denomination will be issued when the supply of reply cards of the old design at the various postal distributing stations is exhausted. The new card will bear the portrait of Gen. William T. Sherman on the message side and a portrait of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan on the reply side.

On a Tour of Inquiry. Seattle, Wash., March 25.—A party of wealthy Japanese has arrived to visit the principal centers of the United States, inspect rolling mills and factories of all kinds, look into the condition of the poor, examine the practical working of the laws, and ascertain, if possible, whether religion enters to any appreciable extent into the actual daily life of the people.

Flour Mills Shut Down. Minneapolis, Minn., March 25.—Eighteen Minneapolis flour mills shut down Thursday morning indefinitely. A thousand people are out of work. The shut down is far more sweeping than had been looked for. The two big companies had previously announced that not more than one or two of the mills of each company were likely to be closed.

Post Office Robbed. Bloomington, Ill., March 25.—Safe blowers dynamited the safe in the post office at Piper City, 30 miles northeast of here, Wednesday night and secured the contents, amounting to \$700 in money and stamps. The explosion was heard by citizens, but no one investigated. There is no clew to the direction taken by the robbers.

Cattle Lost in Snow. Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 26.—In the ranching country around Medicine Hat and Moosejaw, 40 per cent. of the cattle have been lost in the snow and will likely perish.

FIFTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

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

Washington, March 23.—In the senate yesterday the bill providing for the purchase of a site and the erection of a building for the departments of state, justice and commerce and labor, was considered. A resolution was introduced to inquire as to the legality of the recent order of the commissioner of pensions granting pensions to soldiers of the civil war who had reached the age of 62 years. In the house no business of importance was transacted.

Washington, March 23.—The senate spent the greater part of the time yesterday on the Indian appropriation bill. The house outside of a few routine matters devoted the entire day to further discussion of the post office appropriation bill.

Washington, March 24.—The senate spent most of the time yesterday considering the Indian appropriation bill. Charles Dick, successor to the late Senator Hanna, of Ohio, took the oath of office. In the house the time was occupied in further discussion of the post office appropriation bill.

Washington, March 25.—The senate passed the Indian appropriation bill yesterday. In the house eight pages of the post office appropriation bill were disposed of and the question of an investigation of the post office department was defeated.

Washington, March 26.—In the senate yesterday a resolution was adopted to consider whether it was desirable to amend the rules relating to impeachments. In the house the post office appropriation bill occupied the time.

TRADE REVIEW.

Conditions as They Appear from Reports to Leading Commercial Agencies.

New York, March 26.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: "Little net change in trade conditions is noted for the past week. Storms and floods did much damage to property and threatened agricultural prospects at the start, but subsequently the weather improved and the outlook brightened. Spring trade is expanding, although still backward to some extent, and new labor controversies have added to the number of unemployed, despite an amicable arrangement of the sheet and tin plate scale. Building operations would be vigorous if employers and wage earners could adjust differences.

"Failures this week numbered 226 in the United States, against 214 last year, and 12 in Canada, compared with 26 a year ago."

Bradstreet's says: "Better weather has helped the retail trade, thereby strengthening the tone of wholesale and jobbing business, hitherto rather pessimistic because of backward spring demand. Distribution as a whole, however, is not up to a year ago. The averting of the strike in the bituminous coal industry is a strengthening feature to general business throughout the west, but prices, which had advanced on the fear of a conflict, still show considerable steadiness."

IS REJECTED.

Empress Dowager Refuses to Enterain Proposal for Open Alliance with Japan.

London, March 26.—The Daily Telegraph prints a dispatch from Shanghai, which says that the empress dowager has negative a proposal made by Gen. Yuan Shi Kai and Gen. Ma that China conclude an open alliance with Japan in view of Russia's repeated violations of Chinese territory west of the Liao river. St. Petersburg, March 25.—Russia expects Japan's army to strike the first blow in the vicinity of New-Chwang. It is firmly believed here that Japanese troops will be landed on neutral Chinese territory on the west coast of the Liaoting gulf, either at Tienkancheng, in Kinchau bay, or at Shanhaiwan.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—The press is officially authorized to deny the report, circulated in Berlin and published in the United States by a news agency, that the Russian armored cruiser Bayan was blown up by a floating torpedo in the harbor of Port Arthur March 16.

Last Opponent Withdraws.

Lincoln, Neb., March 26.—W. H. Harrison, of Grand Island, a candidate for governor against Gov. Mickey, withdrew from the race Friday. Harrison is a member of the state senate and has been backed by those Nebraska interests which lie north of the Platte river. The other candidates against Mickey, Dinsmore, of Sutton, and Robertson, of Norfolk, have been out of the race for several days and he now has no opposition. J. R. A. Black, of Bloomington, the other aspirant, has decided to stay out.

To Open the Exposition.

Washington, March 25.—Although President Roosevelt cannot attend the opening exercises of the Louisiana Purchase exposition, he nevertheless will be a participant in them. He has consented to press the button at the white house which will start the machinery of the exposition. This ceremony will take place at one o'clock (eastern standard time) on April 30.

Two Killed in Wreck.

Niles, Mich., March 26.—An extra west-bound Michigan Central freight train was wrecked four miles west of here by a washout. Engineer Edward French and brakeman Frank E. Young, of Jackson, were scalded to death in the engine by escaping steam. Fireman Ross Moses, of Jackson, was terribly scalded and may die. Ten freight cars were demolished.

REIGN OF MARTIAL LAW IN COLORADO

TWO COUNTIES UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

Purpose of Order in San Miguel County Is to Prevent Return of Union Miners—Son of the Sheriff Says the Strikers Are Armed.

Denver, Col., March 25.—Martial law is in operation in two Colorado counties—San Miguel and Las Animas. Reports from both districts are to the effect that conditions at present are peaceful. At Telluride, San Miguel county, press censorship is exercised and no news is sent out except such as approved by the military authorities. No press censorship has yet been established at Trinidad or other towns in the coal field. At the capitol no secret is made of the fact that the purpose in declaring martial law in San Miguel county is to prevent the return to Telluride of the union men who were expelled from the camp by an organization of armed business men, who have announced their intention to go back, under protection of an injunction granted by District Judge Theron Stevens.

Says Strikers Are Armed. Pueblo, Col., March 26.—John Clark, Jr., son of the sheriff of Las Animas county, where martial law is in effect, returned here yesterday from Trinidad, and said: "Almost every striker in that dis-

SHUTDOWN IS THREATENED.

Thirty Thousand Men Will Be Affected, It Agreement with Operators Is Not Reached.

Des Moines, Ia., March 26.—Refusal of the miners in joint conference with the operators to arbitrate questions affecting the wage scale in the first and fourth districts has threatened a shutdown of every coal mine in the Thirtieth district, which includes the entire state of Iowa and a portion of Missouri. The miners demand a day wage of \$2.24 for unskilled labor in the district referred to and the operators refuse because of conditions existing in those districts which render that character of labor much cheaper. No objection is made to the scale in other districts.

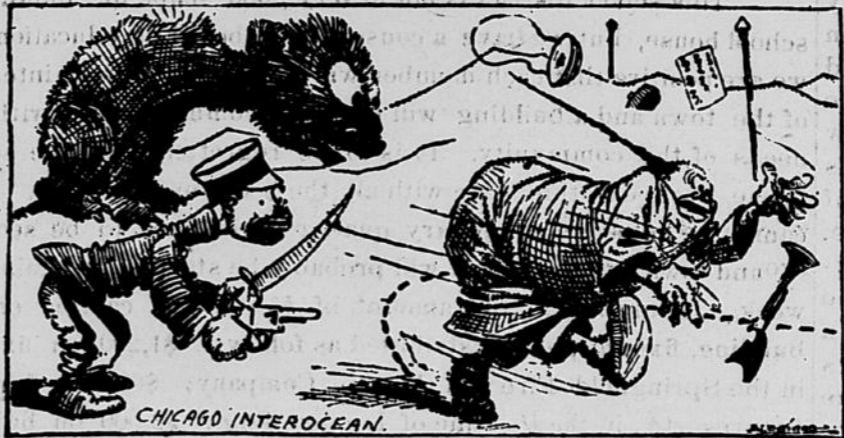
Thirty thousand miners will be affected in case the representatives of the miners refuse to arbitrate and a general shutdown is ordered. The operators have issued their ultimatum and the miners are holding a private session in order to canvass the matter.

PRAIRIE FIRES IN THE WEST.

Number of Small Towns in Nebraska Threatened—Thousands of Acres Burned Over.

O'Neill, Neb., March 26.—Prairie fires which have raged in Holt, Rock and Wheeler counties for two days are now threatening a number of small towns. Inhabitants from these towns and surrounding country are fighting the progress of the flames, which already have devastated several thousand acres of farm and grazing lands, and burned a large number of farm

HOW CHINA WILL GO TO WAR.



A RACE WAR.

Fight Between Whites and Negroes in Arkansas—Three of the Latter Killed.

Dewitt, Ark., March 24.—Three negroes were killed in a battle between blacks and whites Wednesday at St. Charles, this county. A posse of deputy sheriffs was engaged in a search for two negroes who had seriously wounded two white men in a fist fight at St. Charles, and while passing through a section of woodland they were fired at from a thicket by a party of negroes. The whites returned the fire and instantly killed Garrett Flood, Will Madison and Will Baldwin. The tragedy has greatly aroused the community and further trouble is feared. A posse left here for St. Charles.

Passed Away.

Scranton, Pa., March 24.—A. J. Colborn, Jr., former state and national president of the Patriotic Order of Sons of America, died at his home here, aged 42 years. He was a political campaign orator of considerable ability.

Canal to Be Opened.

Keokuk, Ia., March 24.—Orders have been issued to open the United States Des Moines Rapids canal for navigation on April 1. Steamboat men are anticipating a heavy traffic this year because of the fair at St. Louis.

For Good Roads.

Springfield, Ill., March 24.—A call has been issued by Gov. Yates, Secretary of State Rose, and heads of other state departments, for a state good roads convention to be held in Representative hall in this city May 3 and 4.

Ex-Congressman Dead.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 23.—Chapman Freeman, who represented the First district of this city in congress from 1874 to 1878, is dead at his home in Stratford, near here, aged 74 years.

Murderer Executed.

Washington, March 26.—United States Minister Powell cables the state department from San Domingo City that President Morales has captured and caused to be promptly executed Gen. Nicholas Arias, the insurgent leader who was tried by drumhead court-martial and convicted of killing Machinist Johnson in the steam launch of the United States steamship Yankee a few weeks ago.

Hereroes Repulsed.

Berlin, March 26.—A cable dispatch was received Friday from Col. Leutwein, the governor of German-Southwest Africa, announcing that a fight occurred at Omatako Mountain, March 16, which resulted in the Hereroes being repulsed with the loss of ten men killed. The German loss was two men killed and two wounded. The Germans surprised a Herero village March 19, capturing many head of cattle.

Charged with Murder.

Helena, Mont., March 26.—Mrs. W. W. Works was arrested here Friday by the chief of police on orders from Bloomington, Ill. Mrs. Works is charged with murdering her husband, Michael Colton.

PANAMA TANGLE MUST BE SOLVED

UNITED STATES WILL PROCEED WITH CANAL REGARDLESS OF LITIGATION.

France Is Told That Government Will Not Submit to Any Extortion by the Old Company—Letter from President Roosevelt.

Washington, March 23.—Although the litigation in Paris over the transfer of the Panama canal property to the United States is considered worthy of the dispatch thither of W. A. Day, assistant to the attorney general, and C. W. Russell, special assistant attorney, this government will not permit a legal tangle to interfere with the shoveling of dirt on the isthmus.

The first meeting of the Panama commission was held here, and it became known diplomatic correspondence had been held with France on the subject. Informed of Situation.

This communication was made the occasion to inform France that the United States now having possession of the canal strip will not allow litigation to interfere with the construction of the waterway and that progress in that direction would be made regardless of the complications in Paris. A response has been received from France in an expression of appreciation of this government's position. The French government expresses a willingness to assist in removing the legal obstacles.

Will Not Be Held Up.

This government will submit to no shrewd game to make it pay more than \$40,000,000 for the French Canal company's property. That sum is waiting distribution to the proper parties, but the United States will not wait to dig the canal until the disputants determine who shall receive the money. Mr. Day will look after the transfer of shares of stock in Paris and Mr. Russell will devote his attention to seeing that the votes of the stockholders are legally recorded. The president has decided the expenditures of the canal commission shall be disbursed through the war department. The legislation under which the commission will make its expenditures is extremely liberal, no limit being set for some of them.

Letter from President.

President Roosevelt entertained the members of the isthmian canal commission and Secretary of War Taft at luncheon yesterday. During the luncheon there was a general discussion of the duties of the commission and the general scope of the work. In course of the discussion a letter written by the president March 8 was read. It was in the nature of instructions to the commission. After a reference to the importance of the work, the president in the letter declared he had selected the members of the commission because of their ability and standing, but if at any time they neglected to serve with fidelity and efficiency he would feel at liberty to remove them. The president also urged the commission to disregard any and all influences that may be brought to bear on them in the selection of their assistants. The letter closes as follows:

Results Must Be Achieved.

"The plans are to be carefully made with a view to the needs not only of the moment but of the future. The expenditures are to be supervised as rigorously as if they were being made for a private corporation dependent for its profits upon the returns. You are to secure the best talent this country affords to meet the conditions created by every need which may arise. The methods for achieving the results must be yours. What this nation will insist upon is that the results be achieved."

DEATH OF EDWIN ARNOLD.

The Famous English Poet and Author Passes Away Peacefully at His Home in London.

London, March 25.—Sir Edwin Arnold, the author, died in London yesterday. He was born June 10, 1832. Although Sir Edwin suffered of late years from partial paralysis, he was not taken seriously ill until last week. Early yesterday morning he had a relapse from which he did not rally and died peacefully at 10:30. Sir Edwin continued his literary work until quite recently, his last writing being in connection with the Russo-Japanese war, in which he was greatly interested.

The career of Sir Edwin Arnold has been one of peculiar interest. He attained high rank in both his chosen professions, literature and journalism. The most successful of his writings have been "The Light of Asia," an epic poem upon the life and teaching of the great Indian prophet Buddha; "The Light of the World" and "With Sadi in the Garden."

Death of a Veteran.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 24.—Gen. Thomas Armstrong Morris, of this city, is dead at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. M. Chambers, at San Diego, Cal., where he was staying for the benefit of his health. Gen. Morris was the oldest living graduate of West Point, having received his diploma from the national military school in 1834. He was 91 years old.

Fatal Explosion.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 24.—Sharps' hotel, Lewis' restaurant and several small buildings were destroyed Wednesday by an explosion of natural gas. The body of William Lawton, a pipe line man, has been recovered from the debris, and it is feared that other guests of the hotel have been killed.