

There were 6,537 potato distilleries in operation in Germany in 1901-'02; the output of pure alcohol was 93,965,940 gallons.

Chairs were in use in Egypt so long ago as 3399 B. C. The Chinese employed them from about 1300 B. C.

Strange as it may seem, a lot of money is made out of policemen's cast-off uniforms. Quantities are bought by African traders and exported to various parts of the "Dark Continent."

In a dark room, where he could see nothing but the outline of his machine, with a stop-watch held on him and six witnesses present, John A. Shields, of Ottawa, Kan., clattered off 222 words on a typewriter in a single minute.

The warrant under which John Bunyan was apprehended and placed in jail at Bedford for six months during the reign of Charles II. was sold at auction in London for \$1,525.

It is said that in the British house of commons, as soon as the question to be decided is put from the chair, a clerk at the table sets in motion a huge sand-glass, familiarly known to members as the "egg boiler."

A remarkable operation was recently performed at the St. Antoine hospital, Paris, by the extraction of a large nail from a man's lung.

A widow of comely figure and tender age, Mrs. Emma Peake, of Waukegan, Ill., has been courted by two farmers who raise fat stock, mostly hogs.

Harbin is a modern city in the heart of Manchuria, on the Sungari river, 350 miles west from Vladivostok and 600 miles north of Port Arthur.

A species of acacia which grows very abundantly in Nubia and the Sudan is called the "whistling tree" by the natives.

In the Chinese language every name is in itself a description of the object to which the name belongs.

PARTY POLITICS IN MANY STATES

CONVENTIONS ARRIVED, CANDIDATES NAMED AND PLATFORMS ADOPTED.

Illinois Republicans Take Recess Until May 31 Without Breaking Deadlock—Action Taken in Several Other States.

Springfield, Ill., May 21.—The republican state convention, after a brief session Friday morning, took a recess until Tuesday, May 31.

INDIANA DEMOCRATS.

Convention Instructs Delegates to Vote for Parker.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 13.—The most interesting democratic state convention since 1892, when Cleveland and Isaac P. Gray contested for the control of the Indiana delegation to the national convention, was held Thursday.

The convention instructed the 30 delegates to the national convention to vote as a unit for Judge Parker, of New York, for president, and endorsed Thomas Taggart for national committeeman, and recommended him to the national committee as its chairman.

WISCONSIN DEMOCRATS.

Delegates Instructed to Vote for Edward C. Wall for President.

Milwaukee, Wis., May 18.—The supporters of Edward C. Wall defeated the adherents of William R. Hearst in the democratic state convention Tuesday, a resolution instructing the Wisconsin delegation to the national convention at St. Louis to vote for Mr. Wall having been adopted.

The following were elected delegates-at-large to the national convention: Timothy E. Ryan, Waukegan; David S. Rose, Milwaukee; Neal Brown, Waukegan; Charles H. Weisse, Sheboygan Falls.

WISCONSIN REPUBLICANS.

Rival Conventions Select State Tickets at Madison.

Madison, Wis., May 20.—Two conventions, both claiming legal status by right of delegate majorities holding prima facie credentials, and both asserting themselves to be regular republican in nature, were concluded in this city Thursday night.

The following were elected national delegates-at-large: Isaac Stephenson, Marinette; Robert M. La Follette, Madison; W. D. Connor, Marshfield; James B. Stout, Menominee.

The platform strongly indorses the national administration and the state administration of Gov. LaFollette.

The "anti-third termers," as the opponents of Gov. LaFollette styled themselves, received the outspoken endorsement of United States Senators Spooner and Quarles, and Congressman Babcock and Miner.

The delegates to the national convention chosen were: Senator John C. Spooner, Senator J. V. Quarles, Con-

gressman Joseph W. Babcock and Judge Emil Baensch.

Electors were chosen identical with those chosen in the LaFollette convention. This action was taken to prevent any contest relative to the support of President Roosevelt.

The resolutions adopted pledge the convention to the support of President Roosevelt, and Senators Spooner and Quarles. They put the delegates on record as opposed to third term nominations, as favoring just taxation of railroads, an impartial primary election law, the nonpartisan election of supreme court justices and contain a denunciation of the disregard of the distinction between legislative, executive and judiciary departments.

IOWA REPUBLICANS.

"Stand Pat" Faction Wins in the State Convention.

Des Moines, Ia., May 19.—Iowa's long fight between "stand-pat" republicans and liberals upon the issue of tariff revision and reciprocity ended in complete victory for the former in Wednesday's state convention for selecting delegates to the national convention.

The delegates-at-large named were United States Senator William B. Allison, Dubuque; United States Senator Jonathan P. Dolliver, Fort Dodge; J. W. Blythe, Burlington; Gov. Albert B. Cummins, Des Moines.

MICHIGAN REPUBLICANS.

Victory Scored by the Anti-Primary Reform Element.

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 19.—As was expected, the only contest in the state republican convention, held here Wednesday, developed on the question of primary reform, involving the nomination of candidates for state offices the legislature and congress by direct vote of the people.

Delegates-at-large to the national republican convention were elected unanimously as follows: Dexter M. Ferry, of Detroit; Ralph Loveland, of Saginaw; T. J. O'Brien, of Grand Rapids, and Capt. Thomas Walters, of Ishpeming.

The platform enthusiastically endorsed the administration of President Roosevelt on the question of the tariff. The platform insists that no backward steps in party policy be taken.

TRADE REVIEW.

Improvement in Business Conditions Seems to Be Coming Rather Slowly.

New York, May 21.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: "Reports of increased trade are received from a few favored points, but the nation, as a whole, has not improved its commercial position during the past week, in so far as current distribution of merchandise or manufacturing activities are concerned."

"Failures this week numbered 236 in the United States, against 191 last year, and 12 in Canada, compared with 14 a year ago."

Bradstreet's says: "Weather conditions are still the apparent drawback in the trade and crop situation. Temperatures have been too cool to allow of free distribution of spring and summer goods at retail, and they likewise retard germination and growth of crops, though permitting good progress in seeding in various sections of the country."

Fleet Ordered to Tangier.

Washington, May 21.—The navy department has ordered a United States fleet to Tangier to enforce a demand that the sultan of Morocco ransom Ion Perdicaris, the wealthy American resident of Tangier, Morocco, and his stepson, a British subject, who were captured by brigands.

Big Coal Shipments.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 21.—Five million bushels of coal and 2,400 tons of manufactured products started down the Ohio river Friday.

Sunshine Society Meets.

New York, May 21.—Women delegates from nearly every state in the union, from Canada, Panama and several other countries are in attendance here upon the sixth annual convention of the Sunshine society.

RUIN IS CAUSED BY A CLOUDBURST

TOWN NEAR FORT COLLINS, COL., ARE DEVASTATED BY A TORRENT OF WATER.

Colony of Russians Surrounded—Their Homes Being Swept Away—Live Stock Perishes—Six Are Drowned in Wyoming.

Denver, Col., May 21.—A cloudburst at the head of the Cache La Poudre river caused that stream to overflow its banks, and meagre reports received here indicate that great damage has been caused by the flood.

At Fort Collins the river, which normally is about the width of the average mountain river, is now over a mile wide, and the Russian settlement, consisting of about 300 families, is inundated.

POSITION OF LIAOYANG, TOWARD WHICH THE JAPANESE ARMIES ARE CONVERGING.



Liaoyang, toward which the Japanese armies are believed to be converging, is indicated by the arrow in the map. It is situated on the Manchurian railway, is about 50 miles south of Mukden, the old capital of Manchuria, and is about the same distance north of Haicheng, near which place a battle also is expected soon.

whether there was any loss of life at Fort Collins, but it seems safe to predict that there has been. Wreckage of houses, household goods, and carcasses of dead animals are being carried by Fort Collins by the flood.

Six Drowned on Crow River.

Cheyenne, Wyo., May 21.—The Crow river, which runs through Cheyenne, is running bank full as a result of heavy rains. From eight to 12 miles of the main line of the Union Pacific railroad and several miles of the roadbed of the Colorado & Southern road have been washed out.

STEAMER IS WRECKED.

Strikes on Rocks Off the Coast of Cape Breton—Thirteen of Her Crew Are Drowned.

North Sidney, N. S., May 21.—The worst marine disaster in the history of the St. Lawrence river coal trade occurred Friday off Cape North, the northernmost point of Cape Breton, when the British steamer Turret Bay, laden with coal and bound from Sidney to Montreal, struck on the rocks off St. Paul's island, and sank in deep water 20 minutes later, causing a loss of 12 lives.

According to the government agent at St. Paul's island, the steamer struck near Southwest light about 8:30 o'clock in the morning. A dense fog prevailed at the time and the sea was running mountain high.

Almost immediately the Turret Bay backed off into deep water, but sank within 20 minutes. The crew attempted to cut the boats clear, but while thus engaged the vessel plunged down.

Britt and Corbett to Fight.

New York, May 17.—Jimmy Britt and Young Corbett on Monday were matched for the featherweight championship of the world. The fight will take place in San Francisco, but the date has not been set.

POSTAL RECEIPTS.

Will Approximate \$144,100,000 for the Year—Growth of Rural Free Delivery Service.

Washington, May 20.—Postmaster General Payne said that the receipts of the post office department for the fiscal year ending July 1 next would be approximately \$144,100,000.

PAYMENTS COMPLETED.

Final Settlement of Canal Purchase Made Through Warrant for \$9,000,000 Just Drawn.

Washington, May 21.—The treasury department on Friday drew a warrant for \$9,000,000 in favor of J. P. Morgan & Co., as the fiscal agents of the republic of Panama in final settlement of the canal purchase.

A FIERCE BATTLE IS ANNOUNCED

RUSSIANS DEFEATED BY THE JAPANESE WITH A LOSS OF TWO THOUSAND MEN.

The Mikado Loses Two More Vessels Off Port Arthur, One by Collision and the Other by Contact with Hidden Mine.

London, May 20.—The Standard's correspondent at Tientsin cables that while the Japanese fleet was covering the landing of troops near Kaishan on Monday a fierce engagement occurred at Haiyencheng. Two thousand Russians were killed or wounded. The Russians retreated and the Japanese occupied both Karping and Kaichau.

Two Vessels Lost.

Tokio, May 20.—Vice Admiral Togo has reported as follows: "At 1:14 in the afternoon of May 15, in a deep fog off Port Arthur, the Kasuga rammed the Koshino, sinking the latter in a few minutes. Ninety of her crew were saved. The same morning the Hatause, while cruising off Port Arthur covering the landing of the soldiers, struck a mine ten knots-southeast of the harbor entrance. She signaled for help and instantly struck another mine. She sank in half an hour. Three hundred of her crew were saved by torpedo boats."

651 Lives Lost.

Tokio, May 21.—The loss of life incurred by the sinking of the cruiser Yoshino and the battleship Hatause is said to be 651.

Japs Lose Another.

Tokio, May 17.—The Japanese dispatch boat Miyako was destroyed in Kerr bay by striking a submerged mine. The Miyako was lost while assisting in the operations of clearing the Russian mines from Kerr bay, northeast of Tallenwan bay, on which Port Dalny is situated. Five mines were discovered and exploded, and the work was being suspended for the day when the Miyako struck and undiscovered mine, which exploded with tremendous force under stern, on the port side, and inflicted immense damage on the hull.

Japs Forced to Retreat.

Newchwang, May 21.—The reports of the Japanese retreat to Fengwangcheng are officially confirmed. The Japanese, numbering 20,000 men, came upon 32,000 Russians in a strong position on Monday, 60 miles west of Fengwangcheng. It being unwise to risk a battle, the Japanese retreated in good order and with great rapidity.

Russians Repulsed.

Tokio, May 21.—The following official statement has just been issued here: "A section of infantry of the Liaoting forces went in the direction of Saichusan to reconnoiter and met two sections of Russian infantry. The Russians were repulsed in 30 minutes. Our casualties were one officer and four men killed and one officer and eight men wounded. The Russian casualties were one officer and 40 to 50 men killed."

Kuropatkin to Avoid Conflict.

St. Petersburg, May 19.—Confirming the intimations that it is Gen. Kuropatkin's purpose to avoid a decisive combat with the Japanese at the present state of the war, the statement was made by the general staff Wednesday that the commander-in-chief is making preparations to fall back on Mukden and then on Harbin.

To Cut Line of Retreat.

Rome, May 19.—According to the telegram received here from Tokio, two Japanese divisions have arrived near Mukden, with the object of cutting off Gen. Kuropatkin's line of retreat northward.

ELECT NEW BISHOPS.

Methodists Have Chosen Seven of the Eight Men to Be Elected—Their Names.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 21.—When the general Methodist conference adjourned at six o'clock Friday evening seven of the eight bishops to be elected had been chosen and the eleventh ballot, taken just before adjournment, probably has resulted in the election of the eighth. The list of bishops chosen thus far follows: Joseph F. Berry, of Chicago; Henry F. Spellmeyer, of Newark, N. J.; William F. McDowell, of New York; James W. Bashford, of Delaware, O.; William Burt, of Rome, Italy; Luther B. Wilson, of Baltimore, and Thomas B. Neeley, of Philadelphia.

Four More Victims.

Carbondale, Ill., May 18.—Four of the men injured in the mine explosion at Herrin last Wednesday are dead of their injuries. This makes a total of eight men dead from the disaster, with the probability that four others will die.

Fatal Collision.

Piedmont, Mo., May 20.—One man was killed and ten passengers injured as the result of a collision between Iron Mountain passenger train No. 8 and freight train No. 97 near here Thursday.

Hitt Renominated.

Freeport, Ill., May 21.—The thirteenth Illinois district republican convention renominated R. R. Hitt for congress Friday by acclamation and indorsed him for vice president.