

# The Farmers Leader.

CANTON, S. D.

ARTHUR LINN, PUBLISHER

## DEEDED TO HIS WIFE

### MAGNIFICENT HOME PRESENTED TO ADMIRAL DEWEY.

Contributors to the Home Fund Are Very Angry and Declare that He Has Disappointed the Whole Country—His Right Not Questioned.

WASHINGTON: It developed Nov. 21 that Washington can become excited and greatly so over something else besides politics. Admiral Dewey has stirred up all the trouble by disposing of his own property to suit himself or his wife. He has transferred the beautiful home given him by the people to his new wife. Contributors to the Dewey home fund are very angry and are rushing into print to say that if any such disposition of the home had ever been dreamed of by the admiral's admirers there would not have been money enough contributed to purchase a chicken coop or a dog kennel. It may be said that those who did not contribute have no kick coming, but they are kicking harder, if possible, than anybody else. They are roasting the admiral and saying that he has disappointed the whole country. Mrs. Dewey is already very rich and has homes to throw at the birds, and nobody seems to understand why the admiral was in such haste to part with the magnificent present which came from the nation. Of course the admiral's legal right to dispose of his own house to suit himself is beyond challenge.

### INDIANS ARE ROUTED.

#### Defeat of the Yaquis by the Mexican Battalions.

GUAYMAS, Mexico: After the engagement of Nov. 11 between Mexican troops and Yaqui Indians at Laduna de Coyot, Gen. Luis Corrales dispatched two battalions under the command of Gen. Lorenzo and Col. Hernandez to attack them. These forces, after two days' march, met and engaged a large force of Yaquis. A severe battle resulted in the route of the Indians. The Yaquis left fifteen dead on the field and several wounded, who were taken prisoners. The Mexicans lost two sergeants and two privates killed and two privates and an officer wounded.

On Nov. 12 fifty Indians attacked the town of Torin, the army headquarters, and were completely routed by the citizens. Gen. Torres routed a detachment of rebels Nov. 16, between Potam and Cuesta Alta. Lieut. Col. Alonzo Martinez and two privates were wounded. It is announced that Lieut. Col. Francisco Guillen of the Fourth Battalion was killed while leading a charge against the rebels.

### WOMEN ARE HIS VICTIMS.

#### Dangerous Swindler Is Arrested by the New York Police.

NEW YORK: The police have at headquarters James C. Hart, who spent eight months in Sing Sing for swindling a woman out of \$10,000 worth of jewelry in 1896, and whose latest operation carried on in New York city have consisted of swindling women out of sums of money varying from \$75 to several hundred dollars, their jewelry or whatever else he could successfully lift and carry away. For the past three months Hart has done a lucrative business, and at police headquarters when he was confronted with a number of his victims he confessed to the crimes one by one.

It is believed by the police that in his present operation Hart has secured many thousands of dollars.

### CHARGED WITH BARBARIY.

#### Affidavit that Col. Metcalf Shot a Supplicating Prisoner.

TOPEKA, Kan.: Lieutenant Hall of Lawrence, formerly of the Twentieth Kansas Regiment, in a letter to a Topeka paper, makes the charge that Col. Metcalf, recently brevetted brigadier general for gallantry in the Philippines, shot an unarmed and supplicating Filipino prisoner, and in support of it furnished affidavits of Private Husky of the Twentieth Kansas, and First Lieut. Ferguson of the Twenty-sixth Infantry. Husky swears that at the battle of Calvoan he was ordered by Maj. Metcalf that he saw a prisoner brought out from the trenches to Maj. Metcalf, who shot the prisoner with his revolver, and at the time of the shooting the prisoner was unarmed and on his knees.

### MONSIGNOR BAUER DEAD.

#### Prominent Episcopal Prelate Passes Away at St. Cloud, Minn.

ST. CLOUD, Minn.: Monsignor Bauer, administrator of the diocese of the St. Cloud Episcopal church from the resignation of Bishop Zardetti to the appointment of Bishop Marty, and from the death of Marty to the appointment of Bishop Trobre, died at St. Raphael's Hospital Nov. 21 of diabetes. He was 57 years of age and prominent in church work.

### Victory for Scientists.

MINNEAPOLIS: In the district court the Christian Scientists scored a victory by the dismissal of the grand jury indictment of Mary Brookings and Albert P. Meyer on a demurrer. The defendants were charged with violating the state law by practicing medicine without a license. They demurred on the ground that as they gave no medicine and administered no treatment they could not be said to practice medicine.

### Fatal Kentucky Political Quarrel

MIDDLESBORO, Ky.: Deputy Sheriff Neal Jennings killed John Fee at Blackwater Nov. 21. The fighting was a continuation of the Tate-Bishop trouble, three men having now been killed since the trouble began.

### Rollinger Is Hanged.

CHICAGO: Michael Emil Rollinger, who murdered his wife and set fire to the house to hide his crime, in order that he might marry another woman, was hanged Nov. 17. His neck was broken. In an impassioned speech from the gallows he protested his innocence.

### Prepares for Trial Trip.

NEW YORK: The new United States battleship Kentucky has arrived here to prepare for her trial trip over the official course between Cape Ann, Mass., and Cape Porpoise, Me.

### ACCIDENT NEAR HUMBOLDT.

#### Five Men Were Killed and as Many More Badly Hurt.

STOIX FALLS, S. D.: Five men were killed and five seriously, if not fatally, injured in an accident Nov. 19 on the Omaha railroad at Humboldt, twenty miles west of this city. A work train was backing out of Humboldt when a handcar bearing a number of Italians came around a curve. The men seeing their danger jumped from the handcar, but left it on the track. The work train backed into the obstruction and five of the cars, on which there were a number of Italian workmen, jumped the track, killing five men and injuring five others, one of the latter dying en route to this city. Brook Cobelman, an American, is among the dead, the others being Italians. As soon as the wreck occurred the Italians began making threats against the trainmen, and their demonstrations became so fierce that the crew was compelled to pull out at once in order to save their lives. A relief train was sent from the city with physicians and when it arrived the Italians had quieted down and no trouble occurred. The dead and injured were brought to Sioux Falls.

### REVOLUTION IN COLOMBIA.

#### Government Recruiting Army by Impression Under Martial Law.

KINGSTON, Jamaica: The steamer Atrato, from Colon, reports a widespread revolutionary movement in Colombia and a grave outlook. The government is recruiting an army by impression under martial law, and is levying forced loans in Colon, Barranquilla, Panama and Cartagena, where the Colombians have been taxed \$25 each at 12 per cent. interest, with the alternative of \$150 fine or enlistment. Foreigners are exempted, but commercial houses in Colon are subjected to a forced loan of \$100,000 at 12 per cent., under a guarantee of railroad subvention. Business is practically suspended, famine prices prevailing, and foreign exchange is 800. Foreigners are regarded with suspicion, the government claiming that the strength and popularity of the revolution are due to foreign support.

### WHOLESALE MURDER.

#### St. Louis Midwife Is Arrested on Very Serious Charges.

ST. LOUIS: The Post-Dispatch says Mrs. Henrietta Bamberger, midwife, has been arrested on the charge that she has knowledge of the murder of at least three women and the destruction of scores of babies. The witnesses are Lizzie Rieger, Mary Haar and the latter's married sister, all of whom have been in the employ of Mrs. Bamberger as nurses.

The Post-Dispatch continues: "One witness alleges the body of Lydia Besant, who disappeared in 1897, was buried in a vault."

Another witness declares the body of Miss Annie Zimmerman of Moline, Ill., who died from a criminal operation, was thrown into the Merriam River.

"If the allegations are true the home of the accused is a veritable charnel house."

### A PREACHER SENTENCED.

#### Convicted of Using the Mails for Purposes of Fraud.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.: Judge Allen, in the United States district court Nov. 20 at Cairo, sentenced Rev. J. Marston to a year and a half in the penitentiary for using the mails for a scheme to defraud. Marston, who was a Baptist preacher at Mt. Holly, S. C., in 1892, represented himself to be an agent for the Red Cross society. He traveled over the country lecturing on Cuba and raising funds to provide a home for the poor children who were orphans by Weyler's cruelty. He pretended to send the money he raised by registered mail to Miss Barton, and he exhibited receipts for these letters, but Miss Barton never received any of the money.

### False Chinese Certificates.

HONOLULU: It has been discovered that forged certificates of residence in the Hawaiian Islands have been extensively issued and sent to China to be used to enable Chinese to come into the islands. The certificates are said to be sold for \$100 apiece. The system of registration of Chinese here is so complete that the forgery is instantly detected when any of the forged certificates are presented, and no Chinese have been able to land on them.

### Logan's Body to Be Exhumed.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio: Mrs. John A. Logan, jr., has received a telegram from Secretary of War Root notifying her that he had advised Gen. Otis by cable to have the body of Maj. Logan exhumed and sent home. Maj. Webb C. Hayes, a personal friend of the late Maj. Logan, will reach Manila in a few days, and orders have been issued for him to take charge of the body and arrange for its shipment.

### Jail Delivery.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.: When the turnkey at the county jail in Lincoln the other night was bringing the food to the prisoners, and had opened the door leading into the corridor in front of the cells, Charles Wheeler and Neal Page, two prisoners, leaped upon the turnkey and overpowered him, dashed through the door and escaped.

### Bold Bank Robbery.

PARKER, Kan.: Two masked men broke into the Parker State Bank, and, binding and gagging Cashier Slaughter, who slept in a rear room, blew the safe open with dynamite, securing \$1,500 in cash. Then they stole two horses and escaped, with a posse in pursuit.

### Jones Has No Date Fixed.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.: Chairman James K. Jones, of the democratic national committee, denies the statement in a Washington dispatch that he has settled on either Jan. 8 or Feb. 11 as the time that the national committee meeting will be called.

### Organized Bank Robbers.

TOPEKA, Kan.: Bank Commissioner Breidenthal on the 20th inst. said that an organized gang of bank robbers is at work in Kansas, and warns the bankers to guard their vaults. Six banks have been wrecked recently and all of the robbers have escaped.

### Plague on Board.

NEW YORK: The British steamer Taylor, from Santo, Brazil, is detained at quarantine on suspicion that there is bubonic plague among the crew. One man died at sea, and Capt. Waters and the cook show indications of bubonic swelling.

### Armenians and Kurds Fight.

BERLIN: The Prussian Zeitung announces that Dr. Beck, the well known German traveler, reports that fighting has taken place between the Armenians and Kurds in the village of Erzeroum, Armenia, fifty persons being killed.

### AWFUL DEED OF A FATHER.

#### Kills His Children and Then Ends His Own Miserable Life.

CHICAGO: Carrying out a plot he had apparently conceived with deliberation, Cornelius Corcoran on the 18th inst. shot four of his children, killing three of them, and then ended his own life. The tragedy occurred at his home, 5401 Dearborn Street. The dead: CORNELIUS CORCORAN, 49 years old; MARGARET CORCORAN, 9 years old; died at Mercy hospital. JOHN CORCORAN, 7 years old; died at Mercy hospital. LIZZIE CORCORAN, aged 13 years. The wounded: Kate Corcoran, aged 14 years; may die. If she recovers will lose her left eye. The police are convinced the man was insane.

For some days he had plotted for the death of his children and he nearly accomplished his purpose Nov. 14. Hearing the children cough he arose and in the dark administered laudanum to five of them. Clifford, Timothy, John, Margaret and Lizzie. The first two were removed to the Mercy hospital, where Timothy died the next day. Corcoran exhibited such profound grief over the affair that the police and the coroner thought he had given the laudanum by mistake.

Balked in his purpose to end the lives of the young ones, Corcoran, it is thought made deliberate plans for his act of the 18th inst. Corcoran was injured about three years ago in a collision with a cable car while driving a mail wagon. His leg was broken and his brain was affected, it is said. Six months ago Corcoran's wife, the daughter of Mrs. Wray, became insane and since that time she has been an inmate of an asylum at Kankakee.

### FROM PAUPER TO PRINCE.

#### Inmate of Illinois Poor House Falls Heir to a Fortune.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.: Maurice Meehan, who is an inmate of the Morgan County poorhouse, has fallen heir to \$20,000 which was bequeathed to him by his son, William Meehan, who went to the Black Hills in 1874 from Louisiana, where he was a prospector, and was very successful in prospecting. Since that time nothing has been heard of him until a few days ago, when San Francisco attorneys who had the case in hand ascertained that he had been killed by hostile Indians last May. In addition to the \$20,000 Maurice Meehan falls heir to his son's interests in three mining claims which are said to be valuable, and a large transportation company in Alaska. He went to the poor farm in opposition to the wishes of his wife and son John, who live in East St. Louis.

### "SCIENTISTS" FINED.

#### Those Who Refuse to Be Vaccinated Are Dealt with by Law.

AMERICUS, Ga.: The cases of the Christian Scientists who refused to be vaccinated were settled Nov. 18, so far as the mayor's court is concerned, by the sentencing of E. J. McMath to imprisonment at the city jail for thirty days and a fine of \$15. Five members of the congregation were given fifteen days in some place to be designated by the chief of police, and to pay a fine of \$3 each. The Christian Scientists will take their cases to the supreme court.

### GIVES UP HER CHILD.

#### Chicago Teacher's Ruse to Preserve Her Position in School.

CHICAGO: So that she might go on with her work, Mrs. Ernest Hummel, jr., a teacher in the Phil Sheridan school, stood before Judge Wheatley and gave her baby, 7 months old, to her sister, Mrs. Bertha A. Phelps. The giving was an adoption, and it came about by reason of the board of education ruling that a mother with a child under the age of two years could not teach in public schools, and the board had just acknowledged it had heard of this baby.

### Minister Probably Murdered.

DEXTER, Mo.: Rev. Jesse Moore, living six miles north of here, was found in bed with the top of his head either blown off with a gun or beaten in with a club. An adult son who slept in the same room in another bed declared he had heard no noise. The minister was one of the best known Methodist preachers in southeastern Missouri. Officers are investigating.

### Earthquake in Cuba.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA: Last Friday morning at 9:15 o'clock a decided earthquake shock was felt here, lasting nearly half a minute. Several houses in the city were badly damaged, and the front of the Marine hospital office fell, blocking the street. No persons were reported, but the natives were badly frightened.

### MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$3.00 to \$7.00; hogs, shipping grades, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, fair to choice, \$3.00 to \$4.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 67c to 68c; corn, No. 2, 31c to 32c; oats, No. 2, 22c to 23c; rye, No. 2, 52c to 54c; butter, choice creamery, 24c to 25c; eggs, fresh, 17c to 19c; potatoes, choice, 30c to 40c extra.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$6.75; hogs, choice light, \$2.75 to \$4.25; sheep, common to prime, \$3.25 to \$4.25; wheat, No. 2 red, 65c to 67c; corn, No. 2 white, 32c to 33c; oats, No. 2 white, 25c to 27c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$3.25 to \$6.75; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.50; wheat, No. 2, 68c to 71c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 31c to 32c; oats, No. 2, 23c to 25c; rye, No. 2, 50c to 52c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$6.50; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$2.50 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2, 68c to 71c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 31c to 36c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 25c to 26c; rye, No. 2, 58c to 61c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$6.50; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$2.50 to \$4.50; wheat, No. 2, 68c to 70c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 34c to 36c; oats, No. 2 white, 26c to 28c; rye, 56c to 58c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, 68c to 70c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 32c to 34c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 24c to 26c; rye, No. 2, 55c to 57c; clover seed, \$4.50 to \$5.05.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, 65c to 67c; corn, No. 3, 32c to 34c; oats, No. 2 white, 24c to 26c; rye, No. 1, 54c to 56c; barley, No. 2, 43c to 45c; pork, mess, \$8.00 to \$8.50.

Buffalo—Cattle, good shipping steers, \$3.00 to \$6.50; hogs, common to choice, \$3.25 to \$4.25; sheep, fair to choice wethers, \$3.00 to \$4.50; lambs, common to extra, \$4.50 to \$5.25.

New York—Cattle, \$3.25 to \$6.50; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.75; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.50; wheat, No. 2 red, 72c to 74c; corn, No. 2, 33c to 41c; oats, No. 2 white, 30c to 32c; butter, creamery, 21c to 26c; eggs, western, 15c to 21c.

### TRAIN IN A BOER TRAP

#### OVER A HUNDRED BRITISH SOLDIERS ARE CAPTURED.

ARMORED TRAIN FALLS INTO AN AMBUSH—Lieut. Churchill Among Prisoners—Burglers Tore Up Track and Wrecked the Train and Its Armament.

Intelligence from Natal by way of London Friday was reassuring as regards the safety of Ladysmith, but conveyed the report that the Boers successfully assailed a scouting party in an armored train and captured over 100 British, including Lord Randolph Churchill's son, Lieut. Winston Churchill. Reports indicate that the Boers are moving southward in the hope of cutting off the British communication. The reported death of Gen. Joubert is discredited at the war office. The armored train which the Boers attacked was practically destroyed.

A Lorenzo Marquez paper says that at midnight Tuesday all the cannon on

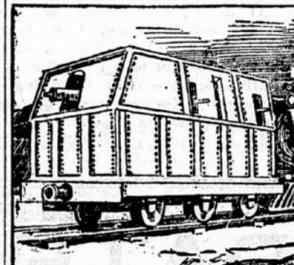


GEN. BULLER IN CAMPAIGN UNIFORM.

the hills surrounding Ladysmith opened fire and that buildings were set afire by the shells. When a Red Cross train in charge of Dr. Brislow went to Chevely to pick up the dead and aid the wounded the Boer patrol demanded a request in writing to remove the unfortunate.

The British war office received a cablegram from Gen. Buller confirming the report of the loss of 100 men north of Estcourt. Lorenzo Marquez specials say that the Boer censorship is very strict and that no newspaper men are allowed to leave the country.

The Natal Advertiser of Durban has a dispatch from Estcourt which says: "When part of the armored train was



TYPE OF ARMORED TRAIN WRECKED BY THE BOERS.

overturned by the Boers turning up the rails the British alighted and exchanged volleys with the Boers. Many fell in this engagement and, the rails being replaced, an attempt was made to place all the wounded on the train. Lieut. Churchill led in this, but the Boer fire continued, wrecking the big gun carried by the British and welligh demolishing the engine and tender.

England is planned to put an army of 100,000 fighting men under Gen. Buller. For the first general movement there will be three infantry divisions, consisting in round figures of 10,000 men each. The cavalry division is computed at about 5,534 men, the corps troops (artillery, engineers, etc.) at about 5,100, while the troops to be employed in the "lines of communication," it is stated, will number 10,000.

The Royal Field Artillery and the Royal Horse Artillery account, at moderate estimate, for about 170 guns, in addition to which must be taken into account the machine and Maxim guns attached to infantry battalions and cavalry regiments, the guns landed from the ships at Durban, and also those, together with field pieces, possessed by the force under Col. Baden-Powell at Mafeking, the garrison at Kimberley, Col. Plummer's force on the Rhodesian frontier, etc. The actual number of these weapons is not known, as many of them belong to the Rhodesia. Of the field batteries on the way to South Africa several will be provided with howitzers, a most terrible engine of war when supplied with lyddite shell. The number of machine guns now being transported to the front with the troops is also very large.

On the field the force will be divided into three infantry divisions, comprising eight brigades, one cavalry division of three brigades, the Natal field force, and "lines of communication." The brigade establishment of each infantry battalion is upward of 1,000 men, and each cavalry regiment over 500 men. The mounted infantry companies will be slightly stronger than the cavalry regiments—nearly 600 men each.

Chicago Man Tries to Die. At Santa Ana, Cal., E. R. Howe of Chicago tried to commit suicide by shooting. The bullet passed through his head, lodging under the right eye. He declared he was without friends and, therefore, did not care to live. Physicians think he will recover.

Ridgeway, Pa., Hotel Burns. The Ross House, a four-story structure at Ridgeway, Pa., has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. It is thought the fire was caused by an explosion of natural gas used in lighting and heating the building. The valuation of the hotel was about \$40,000.

Knockout Results in Death. Harry Hatfield, the lightweight boxer, who was knocked out by Jack Fox in a prize fight in the Pelican Athletic Club, Brooklyn, is dead. He never regained consciousness after being counted out.

### NAVAL DISASTERS RECALLED.

#### Wreck of the Charleston Brings Sinking of Others to Mind.

The wreck of the cruiser Charleston recalls many other disasters which have befallen floating fortresses, carrying various flags into the depths of destruction. The most startling two such disasters, so far as the American people feel concerned, were the blowing up of the United States battleship Maine in Havana harbor Feb. 15 of last year, in which 266 men perished, and the loss of the British battleship Victoria off Tripoli in 1893. The Victoria was rammed by the British battleship Camperdown during maneuvers, and Vice Admiral Tryon, twenty-two officers and 330 men went down with her.

Other similar disasters to warships in the last 100 years have been numerous. A list of the most important accidents to United States ships include: Nov. 24, 1877—United States sloop of war Huro, wrecked off coast of North Carolina; lives lost, 100. 1885—United States man-of-war Missouri, totally wrecked near Gibraltar by an explosion in ship's magazine; no loss of life.

March 15, 1889—United States men-of-war Trenton, Vandala and Nipsic and German war vessels Adler and Eber wrecked on Apia shore by storm; loss of life, 146.

### RUSSIA AND JAPAN FRIENDLY.

#### Minister Paoloff Declares the Rumors of a Conflict Are Ridiculous.

The London story of preparation for war between Russia and Japan over Corea is pronounced by both the Russian and Japanese legations in Washington as ridiculous. Alexander Paoloff, the Russian minister to Corea, is at present the guest of Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador. Mr. Paoloff said that he left Corea only four months ago, going to St. Petersburg, so that his information was direct and official.

"I assure you there is no basis whatever for the reports of conflict between Russia and Japan over Corea," he said. "On the contrary, the two countries have entered into two formal compacts by which it is agreed that the independence of Corea shall be maintained. These compacts were concluded at St. Petersburg and Tokio, and they are so explicit that the reports of conflict as to sovereignty over Corea territory show an entire ignorance of the written agreement under which Russia and Japan are acting toward Corea."

### MILLIONS IN THE SCHOOLS.

#### Commissioner of Education Reports Large Attendance.

The aggregate enrollment in the public and private schools of the United States for the year 1898, as shown in the report of the United States commissioner of education, was 16,087,043, an increase of 422,550 compared with the previous year. The school system in Hawaii is highly commended for its efficiency and attendance. Commissioner Harris says it is important that too much must not be attempted in the way of introducing the English language in the Spanish possessions. All of the daily lessons save one, he declares, should be in Spanish, the exception being the reading of elementary English.

### THE "RAIN OF FIRE."

#### Leonids and Meteors Observed at Only a Few Places.

Reports from various cities show that the expected "rain of fire" was witnessed only at three places Tuesday night. The cloudy weather was general. Prof. Keeler of Lick observatory, California, says he observed about ten Leonids an hour, and one or two fine meteors were seen. In all 147 meteors were seen at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Of these fifty-eight were Leonids. At one time they fell at the rate of one per minute. About twenty-five small meteors were observed at the naval observatory, Washington. They appeared between midnight and daybreak. The watchers at Yale College, who had been up for three nights, were disappointed, as were thousands in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati and other cities. Prof. Young of Princeton College says a snow-storm obscured the sky there.

In nearly every town little parties which seemed enveloped in an apparent air of astronomical knowledge were arranged to watch Leo kick over the potful of small stars and celestial sky rockets that have been accumulating for the past thirty-three years. Most of these yawning star gazers kept their vigil in vain, for few saw either Leo or any of Leo's children.

### May Revolutionize Telegraphy.

Anton Follak and Josef Virag, inventors of the rapid-sending and receiving automatic devices which promise a revolution in telegraphy, arrived in Chicago Tuesday evening from Budapest, Hungary, to make demonstrations of their invention. This series of experiments will be an attempt to send 600 words a minute over a distance of some 600 miles. The electrical experts of Chicago and of the colleges and universities of the vicinity will be invited to be present when the tests are made.

### To Regulate Soldiers' Presents.

Quartermaster General Ludington has issued a circular extending to Cuba and Porto Rico the same privileges regarding Christmas boxes as were granted to the troops in the Philippines. Christmas boxes for Cuba and Porto Rico must be delivered to Maj. F. B. Jones, pier 22, Columbia stores, Brooklyn, N. Y., prior to Dec. 15, and the boxes must not weigh more than twenty pounds.

### Berlin Newspaper Has Revived the Prophecy of Napoleon that South Africa Will Be the Grave of the British Empire.

The Berlin newspaper has revived the prophecy of Napoleon that South Africa will be the grave of the British Empire.



### WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

The advance sheets of a portion of an annual report which Comptroller Dewey is putting out contain facts of interest not only to bankers but to the public as well. The tables of the several classes of banks are especially instructive. By them it is shown that during the last ten years the national banks have increased in number from 3,329 to 3,585 and depositors from 1,650,044 to 2,744,459; savings banks from 849 to 942 and depositors from 3,811,059 to 5,207,053; State and private banks from 2,995 to 4,947 and depositors from 1,071,260 to 2,388,320; loan and trust companies from 177,601 to 624,198, and depositors from 177,601 to 624,198. The total number of banks of all kinds increased 2,420, or 34 per cent., while the increase in depositors was 70 per cent. Loan and trust companies show the largest increase in point of percentage, and also in percentage of business secured. It is in deposits, however, that the full extent of the financial growth of the country is best reflected. Deposits in national banks increased from \$1,442,187,979 to \$2,522,157,500 in ten years; savings banks from \$1,444,301,320 to \$2,320,642,424. State and private banks from \$590,268,190 to \$1,228,995,364; loan and trust companies from \$299,612,895 to \$835,499,064; total increase from \$3,776,410,402 to \$6,768,668,361, or \$2,992,257,959. The total percentage of increase in deposits in the ten years was 83. National banks increased 82 per cent., savings banks 51 per cent., State and private banks 109 per cent. and trust companies 178 per cent.

Some idea of the difficulties Uncle Sam will encounter when he begins to educate his new Spanish-American wards may be obtained from the report of the Commissioner of Education. This shows that the enrollment of scholars of all ages in the United States is now 16,687,643, or nearly 20 per cent of the population. In Cuba last year, with a population of 1,457,771, the enrollment was only 67,473, or only a trifle over 5 per cent., and in addition it must be remembered that most of the schools are such in name only. In Porto Rico the figures show an enrollment of only 27,936, with a population of about 890,000, showing that the wretched schools of the island are attended by only a little over 3 per cent of the total population. The percentage of illiteracy is about 87 per cent for both whites and colored. Thus far, under military rule, it has been possible only to encourage and protect the native schools. Hereafter it will be necessary to inaugurate an American system in Porto Rico and to lay the foundations at least in Cuba.

President McKinley is busy preparing his annual message, and this requires a large share of his time. A great part of the message consists of the summarizing of official reports, and these portions the President dictates to a stenographer. But whenever he comes to a place where he wishes to express his own opinion or ideas, he drops dictation and writes by hand. As soon as he gets to such a place he leaves his stenographer and goes to Mrs. McKinley's sitting room. All his writing is done there, so that he may be in her company every moment of the time that the monotonous repetition of dictation and correction will not annoy the invalid. It is said that in his message the President will urge retention of the Philippines, immediate stable territorial government for Hawaii and Porto Rico. The Cuban question will be left open.

Secretary of the Treasury Gage issued an order to purchase \$25,000,000 of bonds, the primary object of the purchase being the immediate relief of the New York money market. There is a plethora of cash in the treasury, and the Secretary decided it was a good time to give the people an opportunity to sell their bonds back to the Government