

# Sermons of the Week

Ideals.—The ideal we formed at our mother's knee is the highest we will form in all our lives.—Rev. T. C. O'Reilly, Roman Catholic, Cleveland, Ohio.

Simplicity.—Learn to live simply, in body, in mind, in spirit, and a multitude of burdens shall slip from your soul and you shall know the meaning of rest.—Rev. P. O. Hall, Presbyterian, New York City.

No Compromise.—What the kingdom of Christ cannot effect by conquest it can never effect by compromise, even though the doxology be sung and the benediction be pronounced.—Rev. A. H. Stephens, Presbyterian, Chicago, Ill.

Prosperity.—Prosperity is often ruinous, because it is associated with forgetfulness of God. A dependence on self is substituted; atrophy of the finer faculties of the soul takes place.—Rev. G. R. Burns, Methodist, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Church.—The church has stood for social order, for good government, for freedom, for the family, for education, for the development of the individual, for truth, virtue and charity.—Rev. W. B. Craig, Disciple, Denver, Col.

The Kingdom.—Wherever God reigns in a human soul there His Kingdom is. The weakest Christian, if he be a true son of the kingdom, has all the power of God enlisted in his behalf.—Rev. S. S. Palmer, Presbyterian, Columbus, O.

Judgment.—One might think God sent the earthquake as a direct judgment. No man is warranted, however, in making such an assertion. We do not know the mind of the Almighty.—Rev. Joseph Calloun, Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Success.—Good success does not mean possessing things, but in being somebody. Caesar, having a world, was a failure; Christ, homeless, despised, spat upon, crucified, is the ideal of success realized.—Rev. T. E. Pottorson, Episcopalian, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Church.—If a man is tolerably good out of the church, the grace of God which comes to him in the appointed channels makes him quite considerably better. The spirit of God in the church develops the best in man.—Rev. J. A. Deas, Lutheran, Portland, Ore.

Words and Acts.—Words are worth only what the man behind them is worth. A counterfeit half dollar may look to be silver, but while silver in its face, it is lead in its ring. We cannot do more than what we are.—Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, Presbyterian, New York City.

The True Life.—A true life has God for its center. An aimless life cannot be true, nor a life that aims at anything less than what God has intended we should be. In other words, then, a true life is the life of a child of God.—Rev. R. J. Kent, Congregationalist, Brooklyn, N. Y.

No More Antagonism.—The old platform of religious antagonism and controversy has disappeared, and there is not a single public lecturer of any note in the land today hostile to the Bible. There were many of them a few years ago.—Rev. W. A. Frye, Methodist, Lansing, Mich.

What Is Life?—I never heard of a biologist who could tell what life is. It was Christ that said because of life you shall live. Either He made a great mistake when He said that or they made a great mistake to forget that He said it.—Rev. H. W. Stryker, Presbyterian, Clinton, N. Y.

Communion With God.—Christ came into the world with a real work to do, and He did it. His spiritual nature kept him in close communion with God, and it is the communion that anyone must have who is to do anything.—Rev. A. W. Raymond, Congregationalist, Schenectady, N. Y.

The Newspaper.—The newspaper must give the people what they demand. It may, by tact and finesse, gradually guide its readers to a different point of view, but it must be to the public what the wife is to her husband—while she bends him she obeys him.—Rev. Charles Scadding, Episcopalian, LaGrange, Ill.

Both of Them Satisfied.—"I wonder," said the tall man in the suit of faded black, "if I could interest you in a new and cheap edition of the works of Anthony Trollope." "I don't know," answered the man at the desk. "Go ahead and let me hear what you have to say." The book agent began at once. "Every student of literature knows," he said, "that Anthony Trollope was one of England's great novelists. It is true, perhaps, that he wrote for a limited class." And so on, for ten minutes. "No," said the man at the desk, turning again to his work, "you haven't succeeded in interesting me a bit." "That's all right," rejoined the tall man in the suit of faded black, replacing the sample volumes in his valise with imperturbable composure. "I have just started out canvassing with these books, and I was only practicing on you."

A Distinction and a Difference.—He was young and thought that he knew much, but he confessed an occasional desire for further enlightenment. This time it was a legal point, and he propounded the question to his counselor.

"Mr. Jacques, can a man get a divorce from his wife because she is not religious? I read the other day that infidelity was a cause for divorce."—Lippincott's.

If you would be happy lend yourself to good deeds and don't borrow trouble. Wise men miss a lot of real pleasure because they are not foolish.

## KIDNAPED BY GYPSIES.

**Child Slave Escapes From Band After Four Years' Captivity.**  
The flames of the great South Chicago steel mills were the beacon which a few nights ago lighted a kidnaped boy to his home. After four years spent as a child slave of the wandering gypsies 10-year-old Walter Cutler found a safe haven under their care.

The boy was kidnaped four years ago from South Bend, Ind., where his mother and his stepfather, Frank Cullen, lived. Some time before his father, J. H. Cutler, a South Chicago shipyard superintendent, leaving a widow and two children, died. A year later the mother married Cullen and went with her husband and family to South Bend. The couple had just settled on the outskirts of the Indiana city when 6-year-old Walter was stolen by a band of gypsies. No attempt to secure ransom was made, and for a year the captive was only charged to care for the horses and children of the gypsies.

The band subsisted by horse trading and fortune telling and was commanded by Chief Joseph Casari. The captive was abused by the gypsy children, who regarded him as a slave, and any attempt to resent their cruelty led to more severe beatings by the chief and his followers.

He was compelled to sleep and eat with the dogs and was commanded to keep out of sight when visitors came to the camp. The child became tanned to a hue almost as dark as that of his captors, and because of enforced silence he had forgotten all but a few words of his childhood to the north.

During all of his wanderings the boy remembered the great sheets of flame which rose from the scores of stacks in South Chicago at night and which lighted up the yard in which he and his sister played.

A short time ago the gypsy band in their wanderings reached the vicinity of Chicago. One night the boy looked out from his place among the dogs and saw the great stacks belching forth sheets of flame and once more the memories of his home came back to him. He crept out from among the tents and wagons and stumbled out toward the great lights. When dawn came he took refuge under a bush and slept. When he awoke he pressed on again to where he could see the great mounds of coal.

When the boy reached the city he still was lost. He could not explain his wishes, and for a day he wandered the streets without food. Blind chance led him to the place where his grandmother lived, and in an instant he recognized her.

**Strikes Paralyze Butte.**  
The City of Butte, Mont., for six weeks has been without a telephone service on account of a sympathy strike of operators and linemen for some striking linemen in Utah. The courts have sustained mandamus writs against the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company to compel it to operate its lines, but so far as Butte is concerned the company has made no effort to resume service. The telegraphic service has almost completely isolated the city from the outside world. The strike of the mail clerks several months ago left the postoffice service in a badly crippled condition, mail delivery being almost uncertain as the telegraph. In addition to these troubles the strike of the machinists who went out about a month ago to enforce a demand for increased pay, is gradually closing down the mines.

**Cuts in Ocean Rates.**  
The war between the trans-Atlantic steamship lines was continued, the international Mercantile Marine announcing a reduction in rates from New York to Liverpool on such routes as the Baltic, Cedric and Celtic would be \$72.50, a reduction from \$95, and that the eastward rates would be, from now on, \$77.50, a reduction from \$90. The rate by the Atlantic transport fleet will be \$50, instead of \$70, for routes to London, and the big Adriatic of the White Star line will carry passengers for \$77.50, instead of \$85. The Cunard followed suit with a first cabin rate of \$72.50, including Mediterranean ports, and \$75.00 on the Umbria and other routes to London. Corresponding cuts were expected from the North German Lloyd and Hamburg-American.

**To Collect 50,000,000 Seeds.**  
The forest service will collect 50,000,000 seeds of forest trees in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and California from the Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, western larch, incense cedar and yellow pine. The seeds will be used for broadcast sowing and for planting in forest service nurseries. The broadcast sowing will be experimental, to test the extent to which this method of renewing the forest in the western part of the West can be used. One method of gathering the seeds is to rob squirrels' nests. It is to be hoped that Uncle Sam will not do this without replacing the boards of these bright-eyed little rodents with a generous amount of something "just as good to eat."

**Western Union Stands Pat.**  
The expected conference between the leaders of the striking telegraphers and the Western Union officers did not materialize, and the executive committee of the company maintained the course of the officials in a formal resolution which referred to the "late strike," as though it were a closed incident. President Small of the union and President Gompers of the American Federation were in New York, and both said there would be no surrender. Small said that most of the telegraphers had got jobs on the railroads. The Western Union declared its regular quarterly dividend, as usual, but did not publish the earnings for the quarter, as is customary.

**Meat Wagon Strike Settled.**  
The strike of the meat wagon drivers of New York against the Employers' Association has been settled upon the following terms: Wages are to be the same as before the strike; there is to be no discrimination for or against union or non-union men; sixty-five hours is to constitute a week's work, and all grievances and the question of overtime are to be left to arbitration. None of the competent strike breakers are to be discharged to make room for the strikers.

**Peak Rises from Sea.**  
Dr. C. Eakle and A. B. Meyers, members of an expedition which left Seattle last year in the schooner Lydia to inquire into the formation of Perry Island, have returned to San Francisco. During their stay in Alaskan waters the scientists discovered a new peak, which has since been named McCulloch Peak. By the formation of this peak Perry Island has been separated into a peninsula connected with Bogoslof Island. The whole formation is steaming hot. Several earthquakes due to volcanic disturbances which preceded the advent of McCulloch Peak were felt by both men.

# THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1402—English defeated the Scots at Homeldon Hill.

1504—Columbus took final leave of the New World and sailed for Spain.

1609—Henry Hudson discovered the river which bears his name.

1640—Lord Stirling, to whom James I. gave a large section of what is now the United States and Canada, died in London.

1645—Covenanters defeated Montrose at Philiphaugh.

1742—Faneuil Hall completed and presented to the town of Boston.

1750—Wolfe landed troops at Quebec.

1775—Gen. Washington began to commission war vessels.

1778—Benjamin Franklin sent to France as minister plenipotentiary.

1781—Gen. Washington arrived at Williamsburg and assumed command.

1782—Congress accepted the offer of Virginia's western lands.

1786—Connecticut deeded western land to Congress.

1788—Congress made New York the capital city of the United States.

1789—Alexander Hamilton became Secretary of the Treasury. Henry Knox of Massachusetts became Secretary of War.

1803—Lord William Downs appointed chief justice of Ireland.

1814—Battle of Plattsburgh, N. Y. British made an unsuccessful attack on Baltimore. British bombarded Fort Mifflin, near Baltimore. British abandoned their expedition against Baltimore.

1820—Treaty of Adrianople, ending war between Russia and Turkey.

1841—Walter Forward of Pennsylvania became Secretary of the United States Treasury.

1846—First Mississippi riflemen, under command of Company I, Jefferson Davis, charged the Mexicans at Fort Tehera.

1847—American army under Gen. Scott marched into the Mexican capital. Many lives lost in hurricane off Newfoundland.

1850—Jenny Lind first appeared on an American stage at Castle Garden, N. Y. Alexander H. H. Stuart of Virginia became Secretary of the Interior.

1858—Steamship Austria, Southampton to New York, burned at sea; 471 lives lost.

1861—President Lincoln revoked Gen. Fremont's emancipation order.

1862—Governors of fourteen States met at Altoona, Pa., and approved of emancipation as a war measure. Gen. McClellan appointed to command the defense of Washington.

1864—Gen. Sherman entered Atlanta, ending the four weeks' siege. Gen. Sherman ordered all civilians to leave Atlanta.

1869—National Prohibition party organized at a convention in Chicago.

1871—Henry Irving first appeared in "Faust" at the London Lyceum. Mont Cenis tunnel opened.

1872—Alabama claims against England decided in favor of the United States.

1896—Canadian Pacific railway telegraph line opened for business.

1899—Gov. William McKinley of Ohio opened his campaign for re-election with a speech at Akron.

1894—Hinckley and other Minnesota towns swept by forest fires.

1898—British forces defeated the Derwishes in Omdurman. Admiral Cervera and other captured Spanish officers sailed for Spain.

1906—Emperor of China issued an edict promising constitutional government.

**New Life-Restoring Apparatus.**  
E. C. Hall, writing in the August Technical World Magazine, asserts that Prof. George Poe of South Norfolk, Va., is able to restore life to apparently dead animals, his treatment being based upon the well-known method of forcing oxygen into the lungs. For this purpose he has devised an artificial respirator, modeled in all respects after nature. It embraces two small cylinders, each having an inlet and an outlet, with which plungers work simultaneously, and from which tubes are conducted to the nostrils or mouth of the patient. One cylinder is supplied with oxygen, and the outlet of the other discharges directly into the atmosphere. The plungers are worked by hand and timed according to normal respiration. Thus in one movement noxious gases from the lungs are drawn into one cylinder, while the next movement forces oxygen from the other cylinder into the lungs. This device has been patented and will soon be upon the market.

**Photographing Thoughts.**  
Dr. Hippolyte Baraduc, a noted French physician, has recently published a series of photographs purporting to represent different thoughts or prayers, thus offering some confirmation to the theories of the Theosophists. Dr. Baraduc, on the assumption that the human being is composed of fluid or gaseous bodies as well as that of flesh and blood, exposed various sensitized plates in the dark near to persons in varying states of mind and got differing results. He sometimes uses a green electric light.

**Lead Swindlers Sentenced.**  
Judge De Haven in the Federal District Court of San Francisco has sentenced John A. Benson and E. D. Perry, leaders in extensive California land frauds against the government, each to one year's imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000. At the same time both men were released on \$3,500 each, pending review in the Court of Appeals.

**Appendicitis from Flour.**  
The London Lancet has published an article asserting that appendicitis can be traced to the use of American flour made by the iron roller process.

## OKLAHOMA GOES DRY.

**Election Returns from New State Indicate Success of Prohibition.**  
Oklahoma has ratified the enabling act and become a State so far as Oklahoma and Indian Territory are concerned. Returns from the largest cities and counties of Oklahoma and Indian Territory up to midnight Tuesday indicated that the constitution of the proposed new State has been adopted by a large majority; that the prohibition clause of the constitution has been adopted and that the Democratic State ticket, headed by C. N. Haskell of Muskogee for Governor, has been elected over Frank Fry of Muskogee for Governor. Production reflects no appreciable falling off, but operations would be conducted with greater ease were the tension less in money and cost of supplies.

Transportation facilities by both rail and lake are severely tested by increased general freight offerings and marketing of crops, and with this gratifying condition in evidence it is not clear that commerce is undergoing shrinkage. New demands continue strong for factory materials to complete contracts which run far ahead, especially in steel, forge, car and machinery construction.

The most active branch at present is that of staple merchandise, the absorption of which is remarkably strong and expanding favorably with a year ago in the case of such commodities as flour, oil and mercantile collections in the West. A little complaint, and defaults common favorably with last year in both numbers and liabilities.

Marketings of crops indicate that growers are disposed to secure for current high returns. The general demand for roadstuffs is well sustained and the shipment run heavier than a year ago. Live stock and provisions are in ample supply and the absorption is good for both domestic and foreign needs.

Bank clearings \$23,913,097, exceed those of the corresponding week in 1906 by 15.8 per cent.

Failures reported in the Chicago district numbered twenty-three, against twenty-three last week and twenty-two a year ago, with liabilities over \$3,000 being only two in number.—Dan's Review.

**NEW CHARTER BEATEN.**  
Chicago's Proposed Measure Is Defeated Two to One.

Chicago's proposed new charter was defeated at the polls Tuesday by a vote of more than two to one. The measure was snuffed under in many strongholds of both parties alike, losing in all but four of the thirty-five wards. Fifty per cent of the registered electors turned out, and their ballots were counted by a vote of 59,581 for 121,473 against.

Knowledge had hardly been obtained that the charter was dead than a movement was on foot to secure another instrument that will contain the good features of the defeated measure while it discards the objectionable features that led the voters to turn it down.

An analysis of the vote shows that the campaign made by the United Societies bore much fruit in the shape of ballots against the measure. A majority of the registered electors turned out to vote, and so far as this fall vote, in the main, favorable, though the undertone of conservatism is still perceptible.

Business failures in the United States for the week ending Sept. 19 number 179, against 172 last week, 171 in the like week of 1906, 173 in 1905, 203 in 1904 and 185 in 1903.

Canadian failures for the week number forty, against twenty-two last week and twenty-six in this week a year ago.—Bradstreet's Report.

**STANDARD OIL PROFITS.**  
Earnings from 1899 to 1906 Show to Be \$490,315,934.

Sensational disclosures regarding the fabulous earnings of Standard Oil were brought out in New York at the hearing in the suit of the United States government to dissolve the corporation. Adroit questioning drew from the reluctant lips of Clarence G. Fay, resident controller of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, which had been in seven years Standard Oil's total profits amounted to \$490,315,934, or something over \$70,000,000 a year.

Mr. Fay was also forced to admit that in 1899 the profits were nearly \$30,000,000 and that in 1906 they were \$70,000,000. He also admitted that the Standard Oil managed to cover up its great earnings in that year by deliberately failing to credit the earnings of nineteen subsidiary companies that contributed vast sums to the parent corporation.

It is the first time the company's earnings have been made public.

Figuring on the capital stock now outstanding—\$98,339,382—this is an annual profit of something over 70 per cent. Figured on the basis of the original Standard Oil trust which had a capitalization of \$10,000,000 when it was dissolved and reorganized into the present company with out any additional investment on the part of Mr. Rockefeller and his associates, the annual profit is something like 700 per cent on the basis of the original Standard Oil Company, with a capitalization of \$1,000,000, the annual profit is a little more than 7,000 per cent. On the basis of the little refinery Mr. Rockefeller had when he started out, with an invested capital principally of \$250,000, the present earnings are well as the statistician haven't figured that out yet.

**BLAST ON JAPANESE SHIP.**  
Twenty-Seven Men Killed by Explosion on the Japanese Battleship Kure.

Twenty-seven of the crew were killed and many more injured on the Japanese battleship Kure by the explosion of powder after target practice near Kure. The Kure, under command of Captain Koizumi, went to Kure, where the wound was placed in the hospital. The dead included a lieutenant, two cadets and one staff officer.

Details regarding the effects of the explosion are lacking, but it was terrific and the ship was severely damaged. The blast followed an attempt to remove an unexploded shell from the gun. A majority of the bystanders were fearfully mutilated.

The explosion is under investigation. It occurred inside of the shield of the starboard after-ten-inch gun. It was not the shell which exploded, but powder, which evidently caught fire from the gas emitted from the breach when opened to reload the gun. The hull of the Kure is not damaged.

**Joining Farms and Consumers.**  
The Producers' and Consumers' International Equity Union and Co-operative Exchange has just been incorporated under the laws of New Jersey, with \$1,000,000 capital stock, and the articles of incorporation say the objects of the exchange are "to protect the interests and rights of organized producers and consumers; to bring farmers, producers and workers into closer communication with the co-operative unions of the country, and to co-operate with the American Federation of Labor in promoting the sale and use of goods bearing union labels." The incorporators are Missourians.

# COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

**AT PANAMA.**  
Work Progressing on the Big Dam and Other Main Features.

The work on the locks and dams at Panama has taken such shape that it is now possible to see something of their form. It is believed that the actual masonry work can be commenced at the Gatun locks within eight or ten months. Four steam shovels are now digging out the sites for the locks, and construction can be begun after the excavation for the top lock of 14-foot flight is completed. Two steam shovels are preparing the site for the erection of the spillway works of the Gatun dam. Railroad trestles are being erected across the line that will mark the inside and outside boundaries of the big dam, and from one of these dirt trains are now dumping dirt upon the site of the dam.

Preparatory to the installation of pipeline dredges, by which more rapid work on the dam will be possible, the Charges River has been diverted from its main channel and dammed. The pipeline dredges should be installed by January 1, when the work at Gatun will be as actively in progress as that at Colobra. Suitable sand and rock for the big masonry locks have been located, and what is equally interesting to the engineers, material for the manufacture of all the necessary cement has been located on the Isthmus. It is hoped, however, that cement can be secured for such a price in the United States as to make it more advisable to procure the needed supply there instead of manufacturing it on the Isthmus.

The general features, designs and details of the Gatun and other locks have been worked out together with the general type and number of lock gates to be used. The survey of all the country to be converted into the great Gatun lake has been completed and published reports show that the area will be 171 square miles.

**COST OF LIVING IN 1906.**  
A summary of the report just sent to the printer by the United States Bureau of Labor, of which Charles P. Neill is the head, covering the year 1906, shows that the prices of food were generally higher during every month of that year than in the corresponding month of 1905. The price in December was 4.8-10ths per cent higher than the average for the year 1906, and the year as a whole showed a higher average than any since 1890, the period covered by the bureau's investigation. The increase of last year applied equally to twenty-five of the thirty articles showing the greatest advance were hard, evaporated apples, pork, bacon, ham, fish, mutton and butter. The retail prices of food were 2.9-10ths per cent higher than in the previous year.

The report deals also with the question of wages for manual workers, and gives figures showing that the advance in wages per hour over the preceding year was greater than the advance in the retail prices of food. That is to say, the purchasing power of an hour's wages as measured by food was greater last year than the year before. The increase in this purchasing power was 1.4-10ths per cent. As compared with the ten years' average from 1890 to 1899, the wages per hour were 2.1-10ths per cent higher, and the number of employees 42.9-10ths per cent greater, and the average hours of labor a week 4.6-10ths per cent lower. In the principal manufacturing industries of the country the average wages were 4.5-10ths per cent higher than in 1905. The greatest increase was in the manufacture of cotton goods, where the wages were 11.2-10ths per cent higher, and in only one industry, that of paper and wood pulp, was there a decrease, namely 1.1-10th per cent.

**FARMERS TO FIGHT GRAIN TRUST.**  
Open war has broken out between the so-called grain trust and the farmers of the Middle West. The farmers say they have paid \$1,000,000 for the privilege of using the trust's elevators, and have been organizing, until now co-operative elevators are in operation over Iowa and are being extended into Minnesota and Nebraska. Their organization possesses a \$50,000,000 reserve fund, while back of the trust stands the wealth of the Armour and other millionaire capitalists. The co-operative elevators will get all of the grain of their own members, but in order to win, must also get some of the grain from outsiders, thus crippling the trust. There are a number of other similar movements in Iowa alone, with a total membership of 28,000, operating 250 elevators. Also, the merchants of the Northwest are organizing a co-operative association to combat the mail order houses, the merchants so organized agreeing to purchase one another's goods in order to lessen the expense and secure an expert manager. This movement is of great economic importance.

**Why American Marriages Fail.**  
Again a woman is finding fault with American wives and complaining of the failure of American marriages. This time it is Anna A. Rogers in the Atlantic Monthly, who says that "the excessive uncertainty and excessive physical coddling of young women, and their devotion to physical culture and sports, has evolved a hybrid feminine who is a cross between a magnified, rather unmanly boy and a spoiled, exacting creature who sincerely loves her alone. Thus explaining the failure of American marriages, she says that the "aliphoid, unchivalrous companionship" has grown up between the sexes which after marriage is found to be "a cause for tears or temper." One contributory cause, she says, is the existence of 2,921 courts empowered to grant divorces.

**From Far and Near.**  
A thousand dock laborers are on strike at Galveston, Texas. Traffic on the Southern Pacific is tied up.

Miss Helen Williams of Allegheny, Pa., was killed and four other persons were injured in an automobile accident in Pittsburgh.

William A. Culp, aged 24, awaiting trial for the death of his brother, Floyd C. Culp, died at Turtle Creek, Pa., after committed suicide in the county jail at Pittsburgh by hanging himself, using his suspenders as a rope.

Dr. Longstaffe, who is mountaineering in the Himalayas with two guides and a Gurkha officer has reached the summit of Triest, 28,406 feet. This is the record of the Himalayas.

More persons crossed the Atlantic ocean from this side during the first six months of the present year than during any other similar period. There were 31,000 steerage passengers in that time.

The latest figures available, those for June, show that the gross earnings of railroads operating over 93,500 miles amounted in that month to \$82,038,250, the gain over June, 1906, being \$9,700,423, or 13.4 per cent.

# AT PANAMA.

**Work Progressing on the Big Dam and Other Main Features.**  
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A thousand dock laborers are on strike at Galveston, Texas. Traffic on the Southern Pacific is tied up.

Miss Helen Williams of Allegheny, Pa., was killed and four other persons were injured in an automobile accident in Pittsburgh.

William A. Culp, aged 24, awaiting trial for the death of his brother, Floyd C. Culp, died at Turtle Creek, Pa., after committed suicide in the county jail at Pittsburgh by hanging himself, using his suspenders as a rope.

Dr. Longstaffe, who is mountaineering in the Himalayas with two guides and a Gurkha officer has reached the summit of Triest, 28,406 feet. This is the record of the Himalayas.

More persons crossed the Atlantic ocean from this side during the first six months of the present year than during any other similar period. There were 31,000 steerage passengers in that time.

The latest figures available, those for June, show that the gross earnings of railroads operating over 93,500 miles amounted in that month to \$82,038,250, the gain over June, 1906, being \$9,700,423, or 13.4 per cent.

## A BATTLE ON KANSAS PLAINS.

**American Artillery to Reproduce the Great Mukden Conflict.**  
Out on a wide stretch of Kansas plain the savage battle of Mukden is to be fought again—a mimic struggle which for ten smoke-blown days is to stagger over 80,000 acres of government reservation. There will be the crash of heavy siege guns and the stench of picric acid as the discharging shells hurl earthworks and their dummy defenders in the air.

The infantry, with its siege guns and field artillery, will throw its strength against the redoubts which the engineers have constructed—a fortification which duplicates as far as possible the one being built by Kurapatkin entrenched his Russians at Mukden and over which the little brown men swarmed after their Shimosa shells had blown great breaches in the works.

It is chiefly for the purpose of seeing what American artillery can do under identical circumstances that this mimic battle is to be fought. Dunitze is the explosive with which our shells are to be charged, a picric compound which takes its name from Major Beverly W. Dunn of the United States Ordnance Corps.

The works which are to be attacked by this shell were constructed by the Third battalion of engineers, now stationed at Fort Leavenworth. The redoubt is 30 feet through at the base and 12 feet at the top. It is rivetted with fascines, hurdles, brush and sod and is made as strong as the nature of the soil and subsoils of the region will allow. On the inner face a banquette tread, about four and a half feet below the top, has been constructed, and on this will be placed a large number of dummy figures representing men, to stand sharpshooters.

The work of making this redoubt has occupied the engineers all summer and they believe that it will put the artillery to a stubborn test. It is practically the strongest fortification of modern military construction.

In all about 5,000 men will be engaged in the maneuvers at Fort Riley.

**WORSE THAN BLACK PLAGUE.**  
Greatest Catastrophe World Ever Known Now in Progress.

The greatest catastrophe the world has ever known is in progress at this present moment and the world reels like or nothing of it.

This is the plague epidemic in India, which has now been raging for more than eleven years, and which, so far from showing any tendency to die out, keeps steadily increasing in intensity. Thus, during the six weeks ending May 11 last, 481,892 persons perished from it, or at the rate of over 80,000 a week.

Nothing approaching the appalling horror represented by these figures has ever been recorded before. The nearest to it was in 1905, when, during the last week in March, the epidemic was responsible for 57,702 deaths.

No pestilence of ancient or modern times, of which we have any knowledge, has slain so many millions of people as has this one and the end of which, mind, is not yet.

The "Great Plague" of London, for example, about which everybody has heard, killed at the outside some 80,000 people in seven months, or about as many as are dying weekly in India from a disease which is identical with it in every respect.

The "Black Death" is said to have slain one-third of the total population of England—say 1,500,000 persons; but this is doubtful. Even admitting the correctness of the estimate, however, the mortality of the present epidemic in India has already more than doubled this huge total.

What will be the end no man can foresee or venture to forecast. It may be that all that has gone before, and all that is happening now, is but the prelude of a worse to follow.

**HIGH PRICES FOR COAL.**  
Coal Scarcity May Make Cost of Fuel Highest in Year.

The Pittsburgh Coal Company, the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal and Coke Company and the Pittsburgh and Buffalo Coal Company have refused to accept an order from the Italian government for 500,000 tons of coal, to be shipped to Italy.

For some time past a representative of the Italian government has been in this country trying to obtain coal, first in the anthracite field and afterward in Pittsburgh. In both places he has been unsuccessful. The Pittsburgh operators have decided that it would be impossible to get the coal to sidewater. In Pittsburgh, the order was of the great home demand for coal.

There is a shortage of miners at the present time, and the coal shortage is so serious that it would be impossible to get the coal to sidewater. In Pittsburgh, there are no boats available on which the coal could be shipped.

According to the operators, there is every reason to believe that the price of coal will be higher this winter than ever before, mainly through the coal shortage. The railroads entering Pittsburgh have served notice on the operators that hereafter no cars will be allowed to be sent off the lines owing them. This action will prevent the shipment of thousands of tons of coal until the order is rescinded, which is not expected to happen until after the crop movement is completed. The situation was never more serious than at present.

**Brief News Items.**  
Chicago banks send millions of dollars West to aid in crop movement.

Mayor Becker of Milwaukee intimates that he will in a short time be a full-fledged candidate for Governor.

A strong sentiment favoring Roosevelt for a third term as President is seen by Secretary Struts during a trip.

During a reception at the Elgo Club rooms in McKeesport, Pa., Louis DeLo, a well-known athlete, attempted to kill himself by shooting. His condition is critical.

The Panama canal cost the American government \$34,449,000 up to Dec. 31, 1906, according to a statement of the audited expenditures made as of that date and just published.

Sherman Long, a carpenter, was shot and killed at his home in Columbus, Ohio, by Frank Miller, his brother-in-law, who has had trouble with his wife, and went to Long's house in search of her.

Mrs. Carrie Meyers, a professional ballplayer, fell 1,000 feet from a parachute at Allen, N. Y., and was instantly killed. Eight thousand persons saw the accident.

In automobile accidents Martin Kollogg, street commissioner of Newark, Conn., and Edward Fletcha of Marietta, Mich., were killed, and Frank E. Williams, a Cleveland bank teller, was injured.

The body of L. H. Perkins of Lawrence, Kan., whose death was followed by charges by life insurance companies in which he held policies, will be examined with poison, which he committed suicide with.