

## IMPORTANT ORDER RELATING TO PENSIONS.

### Present Number of Agencies Reduced One-Half.

### The Object to Effect a Large Saving to the Government.

### The Change Made Possible by an Amendment to the Law Last Year, Which Provides That Pensions May be Paid by Checks, Thus Saving Much Money to the Families of Pensioners That Has Heretofore Been Wasted in Dissipation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The President has signed, on the recommendation of Secretary of the Interior Francis, an important order reducing the number of pension agencies in the United States from eighteen to nine. The object of the order is to effect a very large saving to the Government without inconveniencing the pensioners. The Secretary demonstrates that by this reduction of the pension agencies the cost of disbursement of pensions can be reduced by at least \$150,000 per annum.

The change was made possible by an amendment to the law governing the distribution of pensions, which amendment was approved March 23, 1896. It required that all pensioners should after date be paid by checks remitted by mail. Reports from the pension agencies in reply to inquiries as to the operation of the new law were to the effect that under the law the pensioners are paid much more promptly; that possibility of error is minimized, and that upon the whole it is much more satisfactory to the pensioners than the former law. The agents also advise that the pensioners receive their pensions when remitted by mail at their homes, where, being surrounded by family influences, the pensioner is much more likely to make a judicious disposition of his pension money. Under the previous law many pensioners collected their quarterly payments in person, and under the influence of bad associations were often induced to deprive their families of the benefits thereof.

This executive order will go into effect September 1st next, its execution having been postponed until that date in order that no pensioner should suffer inconvenience of delay in receiving his pension and give ample time for the removal of the rolls and records from the agencies discontinued. The consolidation was made by uniting existing agencies and the entire jurisdiction thereof in order that no expense should be incurred by the making of new rolls. The agencies at Concord, N. H., and Augusta, Me., are discontinued, and payments hitherto made there are ordered made from the agency at Boston, Mass.; the pensioners heretofore paid at Buffalo, N. Y., are to be paid from the New York City agency; those at Pittsburg from the Philadelphia agency; those at Louisville and Knoxville from Washington; those at Detroit from Indianapolis; those at Milwaukee from Chicago; those from Des Moines and Topeka from St. Louis, where a new agency is established.

A new agency is established at St. Louis because of the better facilities there than at Des Moines or Topeka, and for the further reason that there is a Government building at St. Louis which can be occupied without cost to the Government, and there is also a sub-treasury there. The pension agency was removed from St. Louis to Topeka in 1882. There are more pensioners now in Missouri than in Kansas or in any State formerly paid by the Topeka or Des Moines agency. There are in Missouri 53,812 pensioners, in Kansas 42,433, in Iowa 37,798.

The following is the preamble of the executive order: Whereas, By Act of Congress approved March 23, 1896, the law governing the payment of pensions was amended so as to require all pensioners to be paid by checks remitted by mail, instead of permitting those to collect personally who elected to do so, and Whereas, The method of paying by remittance has greatly lessened the labor of pension agencies through which appropriations are disbursed and facilitated the payment of pensions, as evidenced by reports from agents; and

Whereas, The remittance of pensions by mail has proven eminently satisfactory to pensioners who by this method receive their quarterly allowances more promptly, with unvarying regularity and with less likelihood of error, and Whereas, The successful operation of the amended law has now been thoroughly demonstrated, and

Whereas, Under the provisions and in consequence thereof, the number of pension agencies can be materially reduced without any inconvenience whatever to the pensioners, and a great saving to the Government be effected thereby; therefore, from and after the 1st day of September, 1897, it is ordered, etc.

This is followed by the body of the order, which defines the jurisdiction of each agency. The Secretary of the Interior is charged with the execution of the order and directed to cause the agencies to be grouped in the manner provided by the Act of March 3, 1891, which requires that such pensioners shall be paid quarterly and distributes the payments at the different agencies in such a manner as to be most convenient to the treasury officials at Washington and the sub-treasury.

The following are the nine agencies and the number of pensioners paid thereat under the new order: Boston, 94,457; New York, 98,823; Washington, 140,265; Columbus, 104,452; Indianapolis, 116,003; Philadelphia, 106,735; Chicago, 125,233; St. Louis, 161,709; San Francisco, 23,068. Total, 970,673. All pensioners of the United States residing in foreign countries and now numbering 3,781, will

continue to be paid as heretofore from Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Washington. The estimated saving to the Government is as follows:

Clerk hire, \$105,075; salaries nine agents, \$4,000 per annum, \$36,000; contingent expenses of agents discontinued, \$10,182; rent for agencies discontinued, \$9,550. Total, \$161,407. The estimated saving in clerk hire is based upon the cost of that item at the two largest agencies in the service, namely Columbus and Topeka. From those agencies the pensioners are paid at an annual cost of 25 cents per capita for clerk hire. After the consolidation the cost of clerk hire will amount at 35 cents per capita to \$339,737, while that item for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, amounted to \$445,412. The following discontinued agencies pay the rents given below:

Buffalo, \$2,400; Detroit, \$2,400; Milwaukee, \$2,500; Topeka, \$2,250. Total \$9,550. Secretary Francis does not think any valid objection can be offered to this change and believes that the saving will be even greater than estimated. Under the new law, the agents report that about twice as many pensioners are paid during the first two days of each quarterly payment as under the old law. This saving can be effected without any inconvenience to the pensioners and will reduce the annual expenses to the Government to just that extent and may tend to allay to some degree the opposition that has been manifested hitherto to the great pension disbursements of the Government. The total cost for pensions and the disbursements thereof for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, was \$142,206,550, made up as follows: Payments to pensioners, \$138,215,176; fees to examining surgeons, \$672,587; maintaining pension bureau at Washington, \$2,753,790; cost of maintaining pension agencies \$665,027. It is on this last item that the new order is intended to save between \$150,000 and \$160,000 per annum.

### STEAMER NATECHEZ. Meets With a Serious Accident Below Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG (Miss.), Feb. 7.—The steamer Natechez met with a serious accident at 5 o'clock this morning, twenty miles below this city. Captain Leathers and First Clerk Morris reached this city at 10 o'clock in a buggy from the scene of the accident.

Captain Leathers states that while making a landing the boat struck the bank. The great chimneys and stacks and rigging all went down with a crash. One stack went overboard and is directly across the Captain's room, in which he and his wife were sitting, but fortunately did not crash in the room, as the bulkheads were double thickness. The other stack struck one corner of the pilot house and crashed in through the decks. The shock opened many of the forward butts, but struck no timbers as far as could be seen, but caused the hull to take considerable water. The tug Joe Seay went down this evening with a barge to bring up the freight. The Natechez will return to New Orleans and be docked for repairs.

### ICE GORGE GIVES WAY. Steamer Caught by Receding Water and Stranded.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 7.—An ice gorge fifteen feet high and twenty miles long, which has been forming for several days, gave way this afternoon. Several New Orleans and Memphis packets have been caught in the ice and compelled to lay up. If these have not succeeded in finding refuge in the tributaries, the loss may be large.

A telephone message from the scene to-night states that the Buckeye State ran into Blue River in coming to the water in Blue River quickly rose with the passing gorge and quickly receded, leaving the steamer stranded on the shore. Her pilot house and smoke stack were demolished and it is now thought she will be a total loss. Her value is \$40,000.

### FALL OF ICE. Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers are Rising.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 7.—Both the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers are full of floating ice and are rising rapidly, but a dangerous flood is not apprehended. A good boating stage of water is assured, however, and between seven and ten million bushels of coal will be shipped to Southern points during Monday and Tuesday. Several tons were made up to-day and started, but had to lay up because of the ice. The Monongahela, above Brownsville, and the Allegheny, above Kittanning, are still frozen over and as the weather is getting colder, they will probably not break up at this time.

### RIOTING DOCKERS. They Attack the Laborers as They Emerge From the Docks.

HAMBURG, Feb. 7.—The riots which followed the recent collapse of the dockers' strike, the workmen incensed at the failure of their cause, attacking the laborers as they emerged from the docks on Saturday evening at Altona and St. Pauli are serious. Knives and revolvers were freely used. A number of persons have been injured, including several onlookers.

Nearly 100 arrests have been made by the authorities. It was 2 o'clock Sunday morning before the large forces of mounted police succeeded in clearing the streets and quieting the people.

### Failed in Her Mission. ST. JOHNS (N. F.), Feb. 7.—The steamer Nimrod, which left here a week ago, in search of the missing steamer State of Georgia, was sighted from Cape Rice this evening, twelve miles off, working her way slowly and alone through the ice floes. It is evident therefore that the Nimrod has failed in her mission.

A Home at Last.  
NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—After two years of uncertainty as to its new and permanent location, the members of the National Academy of Design have bought a site for its future home at Amsterdam Avenue and Eleventh Street. The purchase price is \$245,000. The location is admirably situated on University Heights.

The Pope Celebrates Mass.  
ROME, Feb. 7.—The Pope celebrated mass this morning before fifty-seven persons, representing different nationalities. Afterward he received Cardinal Marco Mocenni.

## WEEK'S PROSPECT IN HOUSE AND SENATE.

### Morgan Will Take Up the Nicaragua Canal Bill To-Day

### And Try to Secure a Vote to Show Its Strength.

### He Will Probably Abandon It for the Session and Push It With Vigor at the Next Session—Appropriation Bills and the Arbitration Treaty Will Round Out the Week—Both Houses Will Witness the Counting of the Electoral Vote on Wednesday.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—If Senator Morgan pursues his present plan, he will move to take up the Nicaragua Canal bill during the morning hour Monday. He expects the motion to be antagonized and in that event will secure a vote which will, he thinks, demonstrate the voting strength of the canal bill. He expects the vote to be largely in the majority, but whatever the result, he probably will announce his abandonment of the bill for the present session on account of the determined obstruction to its passage, while at the same time, he will declare his purpose to press the measure with more determination than ever at the next session.

The withdrawal of the Nicaragua bill from its present place at the head of the calendar will leave the way open for taking up other measures pressing for consideration. The diplomatic and consular appropriation bill has already been reported and there will be an effort made to secure attention to it Monday. The appropriation committee expects to have the Indian and agricultural bills reported back by Wednesday and will ask for early consideration. Senator Thurston will seek the first opportunity to conclude his speech on the Pacific railroad resolutions; Senator Morrill has given notice of his intention to advance the bill to prohibit the sale of liquor in the Capital and Senator Sherman will abide by his decision to ask the Senate to go into executive session early Monday for the purpose of considering the general arbitration treaty with Great Britain.

As soon as these matters will permit there will be an effort to proceed with the bankruptcy bill and it is not expected that there will be an avowed opposition to consideration. The proceedings relative to the arbitration treaty will be held in executive session and will be long and animated. Wednesday will be the day when the House will join the Senate to the count of the electoral vote. Senator Lodge hopes to get up the conference report on the immigration bill as soon as the House acts upon it, which he thinks will be done the latter part of the present week.

The feature of the week in the House will be the ceremonies on Wednesday for the counting of the electoral vote and the formal promulgation of the election of McKinley and Hobart by the Vice-President of the United States. It is a state occasion, but of a very formal character. Unless the fortifications or sundry civil bill is reported, the House will have no appropriation bill to consider this week and most of the time will be devoted to such bills as the various committees may present and the conference reports. There are three contested election cases, Beattie vs. Price, from Louisiana; Hopkins vs. Kendrick, from Kentucky, and Bennett vs. Boatright, which probably will be decided. In each case the majority report favors the sitting member, a Democrat, and little time will be consumed in disposing of them.

### BASEBALL. Committee's Report and Recommendations Made in It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—James A. Hart, Chairman, Edward Hanlon and A. J. Reach, the committee of the National Baseball League appointed to recommend changes in the code of rules, have submitted their report to President Nick Young. The report is as follows:

We recommend no change in Rules 1 to 3 inclusive, which are those governing the laying of a ball ground, but suggest the incorporation in the rules of a foot note calling attention to an addenda to the playing rules, in which will be found directions for "a simple way of laying off a ball field," which is as follows:

Lay a tape line from center of back stop out into the field 217 feet 3/4 inches to second base. At 90 feet from back stop place home plate, with tape line dividing it diagonally.

Between 150 feet 6 inches and 150 feet 10 inches from the back stop, place the pitcher's plate, with the tape line dividing at the center, 133 feet 7/4 inches from back stop drive a stake. At right angle to the tape line and 83 feet 7/4 inches from the stake and 90 feet from both home plate and second base, place first base on one side and third base on the other. This done, remove the stake, lay lines connecting the bases thus laid, forming the diamond, extending the lines from home base and first base and home base and third base in each direction to the fence, thus forming the foul lines and the catcher's line. Parallel with these lines and 50 feet away, lay the players' lines, extending from intersection with the lines already laid 75 feet. From this point lay lines at right angles to the base lines. At right angle to these and parallel to the base lines 15 feet distant, lay the catcher's lines, extending same 20 feet toward the outfield.

Parallel with and three feet distant from the base lines from home base to first base, lay a line beginning 45 feet from home plate and extending just past first base. On each side of home plate, parallel with lines from center of back stop to second base and six inches distant from home plate, lay lines six feet long, running three feet each way from a line through the cen-

ter of home plate, also lay other lines parallel with and four feet distant in the ones just described; form this into parallelograms four feet by six feet in dimension, thus forming the batsman's position. Observe 11, 12 and 13. We consider these directions necessary. The rules as printed are positively correct, but being drawn from a surveyor's standpoint are so burdened with technicalities as to render them almost undecipherable by a junior player or the average ground keeper.

### MEXICAN NOTES. Monterey Will Soon Have Water Works and a Sewerage System.

CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 7.—A grand ball on a luxurious scale in honor of President and Mrs. Diaz was given last night at the palatial residence of Pablo Escandon of the opulent family of that name. It was in point of importance, taste and display what the Bradley Martin ball will be in New York.

The Bishop of Puebla has discontinued all pilgrimages for the present on account of the prevalence of fever in that city.

The sugar production of Yucatan will be less this year by one-third than the usual amount.

Cities all over the republic are celebrating the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of 1857.

Plans for the first modern sewerage system and water works in the country have been submitted at Monterey for the approval of the Governor in accordance with the concession granted J. A. Robertson of that city. The plans were prepared by the celebrated sanitary engineer, Samuel M. Gray of Providence, R. I.

The water supply will be brought in from a large underground river discovered flowing through the mountains ten miles west of Monterey, and the work will cost \$1,250,000 in gold.

### ON HIS WAY. Corbett Will Soon Arrive in San Francisco For a Visit.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 7.—Pugilist James J. Corbett, whose theatrical company disbanded in this city last night, at the end of a week's engagement, departed this evening for the West, accompanied by Con McVey, who has been a member of Corbett's "The Naval Cadet" company and several other followers. The party will stop one night at Salt Lake, where Corbett and Billy Woods of Denver and McVey will give a sparring exhibition. From Salt Lake Corbett will go direct to San Francisco, where he will remain a few days. McVey, Woods and Kid Egan will probably stop off at Reno, Nev., to complete the arrangements for Corbett's training quarters, and later they will be joined by Corbett, Billy Delaney, Charles White and Corbett's brother, Joe, all of whom will go to Reno from San Francisco. The veteran Billy Delaney will be in charge of the training camp.

### BUSINESS POOR. Goods Not Easy to Sell in the Man- chester Market.

MANCHESTER, Feb. 7.—The spreading of the Indian plague made selling more difficult during the past week, prices complicating the financial position of many houses. Chinese goods were offered at slaughter prices, upsetting trade with the Orient. The prevalent was upset by politics and there was little doing then in that direction. South American trade was rather more active, but prices were poor.

Home trade is the best at the present time. Costume makers are doing bad all around. Spinners are beginning to feel the pinch with dwindling margin of profits. Botten reported a more active week, with well maintained prices. Germany's living chiefly on old orders. The English Board of Trade returns compare unfavorably with last year, both as to yarns and cloth.

### CRIMINAL LAWYER DEAD. Charles W. Brooke Passes Away in New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—Charles W. Brooke, the noted criminal lawyer, died early this morning at the S. R. Smith Infirmary at New Brighton, S. I. Mr. Brooke was taken ill on January 24th, while conducting the Freeman trial in this city. An examination by his physicians showed that he was suffering from a cancer in his intestines and that his condition was critical. An operation was performed, further examination showing that septicaemia had begun and that the cancer had eaten its way through the peritonium. Charles W. Brooke was born in Philadelphia and was 61 years of age. He was a widower and leaves two sons.

### SPANISH REFORMS. The Constitutional Party Has Not Much Faith in Them.

MADRID, Feb. 7.—Prime Minister Canovas del Castillo, in an interview, announced that the Government intended to faithfully execute the proposed Cuban reforms, and that it will not be necessary to wait for the complete pacification of Cuba. He says that it is sufficient if the rebellion is confined to the western portion of the island.

The Marquis of Apeztegui, the leader of the Constitutional party in Cuba, in an interview says that it is doubtful whether the scheme of Cuban reforms will serve to terminate the insurrection. He adds that Captain-General Weyler should not be entrusted with their execution.

### SHELBY FAILING. Gradually Growing Worse and Does Not Recognize Persons.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 7.—A special to the "Republic" from Adrian, Mo., gives the following bulletin of the condition of General Joe Shelby:

General Shelby at 10 a. m. February 7th was gradually growing worse, his mental faculties almost abolished. He scarcely recognizes any person and fails to respond to any questions. His temperature, pulse and respiration gradually rising for the last twenty-four hours, and this time temperature 102.1-5, pulse 108. Small and compressible respiration 50 per minute.

A Millionaire Dead.  
CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—Albert M. Billings, President of the Home National Bank, and a millionaire of Chicago, died to-day, aged 83. His death was due to old age. Mr. Billings is the father of C. J. G. Billings, President of the Chicago Gas Company.

## DID SHEPPARD MURDER JAMES IRVING?

### A Coroner's Jury Accuses Him of Doing So.

### They Were Both Drunk and Placed in the Same Cell.

### The Evidence Points Very Strongly to Him as a Murderer—Sailors on Board the British Ship Elliott Have a Free Fight and the Aggressor Gets Scalded—Piute Indians Lose the Baseball Game—Two Crack Riders on Their Way Here for the Bicycle Circuit Races.

MERCED, Feb. 7.—On Friday afternoon a tramp named Sheppard was arrested for drunkenness and locked up in one of the cells of the City Jail. A few minutes later James Irving, also drunk, was placed in the same cell. Some three hours later Irving's body was found upon the floor of the cell. As there was a red streak around the neck of the dead man, and other indications that he had been strangled, Sheppard was removed to the County Jail pending an investigation.

At the Coroner's inquest Friday night Sheppard testified that he went to sleep after Irving entered the cell, and that when he awoke Irving was lying on his stomach with a handkerchief around his neck trying to strangle himself. Sheppard said that he took the handkerchief away from Irving, and after warning him "not to try that again," went to sleep again. On awakening he found Irving dead. The inquest was then postponed until last night.

Meantime Dr. Sherman made a careful post-mortem examination, and last night testified that Irving was strangled, and that the marks on his neck were such as might have been made by a piece of baling rope which Sheppard was wearing as suspenders, but could not have been made with a handkerchief. It also developed that Irving had 30 cents when put in jail, whereas only 5 cents could be found after his death, while Sheppard, when transferred to the County Jail had about 35 cents. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict accusing Sheppard of murder.

### LIVELY FREE FIGHT. Sailors on the British Ship Elliott Mix Up Things.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7.—There was a lively free fight this afternoon aboard the British ship Elliott at Green street wharf. As a result, one of the combatants is now in the Receiving Hospital and another occupies a cell in the Harbor Police Station.

For several days the crew of the vessel have been asking to be paid off. The captain, however, intends to keep his men, if possible, and has refused to let them go. The sailors, therefore, he says, seize on every opportunity to make a disturbance with the hope that he will release them from their contract. To-day Frank Robinson, a ringleader among them, complained about the quality of the bread that was being given them to eat, and he went into the galley to carry on the discussion with James Williams, the cook.

The latter functionary is an old-fashioned Barbadoes negro chef and prides himself on the excellence of his kitchen. Robinson threw a loaf of bread at his head which hit his opponent in the face. The two men then mixed up and in the struggle a pan of vegetable soup was upset down the white man's neck. Ten other members of the crew rushed into the galley and began to play football with Williams. They hit him with every available object, smashed his plates and broke up all the gridirons in the galley. The captain then halted Officer Campian, who arrested both Robinson and Williams. The former was sent to the Receiving Hospital to have his scalded back and head dressed.

### KIMBALL AND INGRAHAM. On Their Way Here to Join the Big Circuit Racing Team.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7.—Telegrams were received here to-day that Oren Kimble and C. C. Ingraham had departed from Chicago on route for San Jose, to join the big circuit racing team, now quartered there. Kimble hails from Louisville, Ky., and is one of the best men on the American path. The fore part of last year he rode as an amateur, going into the professional class in July. After his advent upon the national circuit he was a very consistent winner, often defeating Bald, Ziegler, Cooper and the rest of the cracks. There was seldom a race in which he did not win a place.

Ingraham comes from Dixon, Ill., and has always ridden as an amateur. In the latter class he was the bright and shining light and unquestionably the American amateur champion. It is said that Bald's employers are very much averse to his going to Europe, so the chances are good that the champion will come West. Cooper is believed to be already upon his way here, while Gardner races at New Orleans on the 23d, 24th and 25th instants, after which he will go direct to San Jose.

### PIUTES BEATEN. They Played Good, Honest Ball, But Are Not Posted on Fine Points.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7.—Ten thousand yelling baseball enthusiasts were at Central Park to-day cheering the Piute Indians in their game with the Alameda Alerts. All their rooting, however, was of no avail, as the redskins could not do anything with their opponents. The boys from across the bay won by a score of 6 to 2.

The Piutes may have been embarrassed at the big crowd, as the grounds were packed and left and center field had to be roped off to accommodate

the overflow. To be charitable to the redskins, the prediction may be made that after practice batting during the week they may do themselves proud at the next game. As it was, they did not exhibit the knowledge of the game now necessary to win by fine points. They played a straightforward, honest game, showed wonderful activity, caught perfectly, knew the rules, but not the technical points; fielded with a neat finish, but could not bat. They did not understand the science of curved balls. Most of them held the bat like a club.

### HEAVY RAIN IN HUMBOLDT. Streams Overflow and Wash Away Farming Lands.

EUREKA, Feb. 7.—There has been a continuous storm here during the past week. The precipitation since February 1st is 6.46 inches, making 30.94 inches for the season. All the rivers in the county have overflowed, and much damage will result from the washing away of valuable farming lands.

On Thursday and Friday Eel River Valley resembled a moving sea of water, and the stream is cutting its banks badly in many places. On Friday the wind reached a velocity of thirty miles an hour, and 2.11 inches of rain fell in twenty-four hours. The Pacific Lumber Company's railroad was badly washed out. No through trains ran all the week, but they are expected to resume service to-day. Ferrying across Eel River at Singley's was possible to-day for the first time in several days. The storm is practically over and the river is rapidly falling. The greatest damage sustained will be the loss of farming lands carried into the sea or distributed along the route of rivers.

### A NEW RAILROAD. Mayor Carlson Believes in One From Salt Lake to Los Angeles.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7.—Mayor William Carlson of San Diego, who has been visiting friends in this city for several days, thinks that Southern California and Salt Lake City will soon be connected by a railroad. He believes that the Nevada Southern road, which runs from a point on the Atlantic and Pacific northeast twenty-six miles to Manvel, will be a link in the proposed Salt Lake and Los Angeles Railroad. He said:

"A railroad is already in operation from Salt Lake City southwest to Frisco, Utah. From the latter point to Manvel the distance is 250 miles, and of this distance 100 miles have already been graded. It will not take over \$3,000,000 to connect Frisco and Manvel. My fight with the opposition stockholders in the Nevada Southern Railroad is not settled yet, but the recent decision of the Supreme Court in favor of President A. W. Foster of the Donohue Railroad, in which it decided that for a certain purpose holders of stock must be bona fide owners of the same, makes me feel very sure of winning my case."

### BODY FOUND. Supposed to be That of a Boy Who Was Drowned in Eel River.

EUREKA, Feb. 7.—The body of a man was found floating in Eel River below Fortuna yesterday afternoon by J. M. Milligan and M. O. Buzen. The remains were recovered and taken to Fortuna where an inquest was held last evening. No one could identify the remains, but it is almost certain that the body is that of Johnny Somerville, a half breed boy, 21 years old, who was drowned in the South Fork of the Eel River, early in January.

Somerville, with Hans Johnson and Clarence Reed, was crossing the river near Garberville, when the boat capsized and Somerville was drowned. His companions were saved by clinging to the boat and drifting ashore. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death by drowning and expressed their opinion that the remains were those of Johnny Somerville. The body was badly bloated and had been in the water some time. Garberville is seventy miles from Fortuna.

### LUMBER COMBINE. One Formed to Control the Mills in the Northwest.

TACOMA, Feb. 7.—It is announced here to-day that the Cargo Mills of the Northwest, including Washington and British Columbia, are likely to be brought under the control of a new lumber combine which is being formed for the purpose of controlling and extending the foreign lumber trade and the maintenance of uniform price lists and grades.

This organization will be the successor of the Central Lumber Company, which recently went to pieces after endeavoring to exercise a like supervision over both foreign and coastwise markets. It is understood that the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company of this city and the Bellingham Bay Company of New Whatcom will not join.

### TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meeting to be Held in San Francisco Next December.

SAN JOSE, Feb. 7.—The Executive Committee of the State Teachers' Association has decided to hold the next convention in San Francisco on December 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st. The reports of the Secretary show that the convention here was the largest in the history of the organization, 1,171 teachers having been duly enrolled. There is a small cash balance of over \$200. It is predicted that the San Francisco meeting will surpass this.

### Must Stay in Quarantine. PORT TOWNSEND (Wash.), Feb. 7.—

One new case of small pox developed yesterday morning among the Chinese who arrived two weeks ago on the Northern Pacific liner Victoria from Yokohama and who are now in quarantine at Diamond Point. As yesterday was the last day for suspects to be held in quarantine, all the forty-six Chinese and two Japanese would have been released last night had this new case not developed.

### Shot Himself. PORT TOWNSEND (Wash.), Feb. 7.—

David Phillips, a barber, aged 17 years, committed suicide at the residence of his parents here last night by shooting himself in the head with a 22-caliber pistol. He had been in business for himself less than a month and was doing well. He was a dime novel fiend and it is thought that as a result he had become mentally unbalanced.