semi-official telegraph agency, and may accordingly be accepted as authentic. But, fortunately, in spite of its semi-official character and the strong feeling it displays, the article has not produced much effect either on the bourse or in the public mind, although it is seen, from the fact that semi-official writers again threaten to publish the Austro-Russian treaties of 1876 and 1877, that political relations with Russia must be grained. The North German Gazette, referring to the article, expresses the hope that the Russo-German newspaper war will not be renewed, and intimates that if it is the Russian Pan-Slavist press will be left to stew in its own juice, while the Tageblatt advises the public not to be alarmed at the journalistic war, but wait until the Reichsanzeiger publishes the treaties.

Herbert Bismarck in the Reichstag.

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BERLIN, Dec. 15.—Friday's debate in the Reichstag was memorable as the occasion of Count Herbert Bismarck's maiden speech. The greatest interest was shown, and more Deputies were present than on any other day during the session. The public gallerie were also crowded. Among the notable persons present was Lieutenant Wissman.

It was especially remarked that Count Herbert's speech occupied over thirty minutes. It was the event of the day. Count Herbert's voice, enunciation, gestures and abrupt delivery, vividly reminded the audience of his father. At the beginning of the speech his remarks, though delivered in a loud tone, could scarcely be followed. Afterwards he became calmer and more fluent, gaining confidence as he won the sympathy of his audience. Storms of applause greeted the patriotic peroration. Count Herbert cannot exactly be said to have the gift of eloquence, but is is admitted on all sides that he acquitted himself of his task well and handsomely.

An Explanation from Mr. Gladstone.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Mr. Gladstone, in explanation of why he did not redeem his promise of Sept. 11, to publish documents showing that the Cabinet of 1882 had come to the unanimous conclusion that Mr. Parnell and the other Nationalists who were released from Kilmainham jail were free of all complicity in crime, writes that he had found it impossible to produce the documents before the Parnell commission began its inquiries, and he did not deem it expedient to produce the documents or to re-open the subject while the commission was sitting.

Foreign Notes.

Grand Duke Paul, of Russia, will be married to Princess Alexandria, of Greece, next June.

Further discoveries of gold have been made in Wales showing the average yield to be six ounces to the ton.

The Prince of Wales on Wednesday last replaced in the coffin in the private chapel at Windsor the relics of Charles I, which were removed on the occasion of the investigation in 1818.

The St. Petersburg Novoe Vremyea repeats the assertion that Persia has withdrawn her opposition to the appointment of a Russian consul at Meshed, and says that M. Wlassof has been appointed to the post.

The statement of the French Board of Trade shows that the imports during the month of November decreased 38,267,000 francs, and the exports 21,505,000 francs as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Some of the Radical German papers having asserted that Russians had supplied the Soudan with arms and munitions, the Russian embassador has assured Count Herbert Bismarck that such assertions are totally unfounded.

Dr. John Henniker Heaton, member of Parliament for Canterbury, will visit the United States next year, and will endeavor to have a bill submitted to Congress providing for the adoption of his scheme of univeral penny postage.

Emperor William continues to work hard. He receives Generals Von Waldersee and Von Wittich daily. It is reported the latter is engaged in explaining in minute detail the possibility of Germany sustaining a war against France and Russia simultaneously.

It is stated that the authorities at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven are preparing to send to Africa, at shortest notice, a corps of volunteers armed with repeaters and rifled cannons. Foreigners will be admitted to the corps, the only condition being ability to withstand the climate.

The anti-slavery crusade has been successfully commenced in Austria. At the instigation of Cardinal Lavigerie, a meeting on the subject has been held at Vienna, under the auspices of one of the most influential Catholic societies. The papal nuncio attended the meeting, which was presided over by Prince Von Wrede.

The Hamburg Correspondent states that Prof. Geffcken's counsel have applied to the imperial tribunal for their client's release, giving the whole of his property as bail, on the ground that he voluntarily surrendered himself. The application was refused, it being held that the amount of bail offered would not prevent Geffcken from taking flight. His trial is expected to take place at Leipsic in January.

THE MURDEROUS SHOTGUN.

A Farmer Partially Blows the Head Off His Neighbor Without Giving Any Warning.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Dec., 15.—The celebrated Ranck neighborhood, about eight miles northeast of this city, was, to-day, the scene of another serious shooting scrape. Jurd Kibby met Jeff Ranck, on the road near his residence, and being armed with a shotgun, without any warning, fired the contents into the side of Ranck's head, tearing out one of his eyes and inflicting a ghastly wound in the side of his head and face. Ranck is still living, but little hope is entertained of his recovery. The wounded man was taken to his home, but the assassin is still at large, and after the shooting was heard to make threats that he would kill any man who undertook to arrest him. Kibby is a man of family and about fifty years old, and lives on the farm of Washington Ranck, a brother of his victim. The only reason for the shooting, as related by the neighbors, is that Kibby, some weeks ago, took up several hogs belonging to Jeff Ranck, and the latter went, in his absence, and turned the hogs out and took them home. It now seems that the troubles of the Ranck family will never end until a part or all of them are killed off. A few years ago the senior Ranck died, leaving several hundred acres of valuable land to his children, since which time they have been in a constant broil and litigation. Two valuable houses and four barns have been burned on the place, and the incendiarism has been openly charged to one of the sons. About two years ago Jeff, the present victim, shot and seriously wounded his brother Washington, but he recovered, and Jeff was tried in the Fayette Circuit Court, and fined $400. Kibby, who did the shooting to-day, has always been considered a quiet, peaceable man, and it is the belief of many that he was prompted by others to commit the crime. It is also reported that recently arsenic was obtained from the well of Jefferson Ranck, supposed to have been put there for the purpose of poisoning him and his family.

Locomotive Falls from a Trestle.

WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 15.—This morning engine No. 8, pulling the Bellaire & Martin's Ferry accommodation train on the Cleveland, Lorraine & Wheeling railroad, jumped the track on a trestle over Morgan's run and plunged to the ground below, a distance of thirty feet. In its descent the engine turned over twice and landed with the top dumped in the earth. There was only one passenger coach attached, the coupling of which broke, leaving the coach with its twenty-five passengers safe on the track.

The prompt action of the conductor in applying the automatic air-brake saved the coach. Engineer Shealter and his fireman went down with the engine. The engineer was seriously hurt, and died this evening. The fireman escaped unhurt. The engineer and fireman, after recovering from the shock, shook hands and started to climb the steep embankment, when the engineer fell, and it was then discovered that he was seriously hurt.

The Whisky Trust on the War-Path.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—It is announced here that the Whisky Trust has decided on a campaign of extermination against the distillers who have refused to come into the combination. This is to be inaugurated on Jan. 1, by a decided reduction in the price of whisky. "We are going to make a determined effort to shut up these fellows, who have been enjoying the benefits of so much free advertising of late," said Thomas Rice, secretary of the Empire Distilling Company, to-day. "We can make whisky a great deal cheaper than those outside the trust—that has been demonstrated—and we are going to put the price down to the lowest notch possible. I think that will make our enemies squirm." Regarding a dispatch from Cincinnati saying that there was danger of the trust collapsing, owing to the partial withdrawal of a large firm in Cincinnati from the combine, Mr. Rice said that there was no truth in it and that the trust was on as solid a foundation as ever.

The Body of Hawes's Second Child Found.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. Dec. 15.—The body of Irene Hawes, the second daughter of Dick Hawes, was found in the lake at Lakeview at 11:20 this morning, by detective Robbins. The water had been drained until it was only a foot or two deep. The child wore a small slip, half covering the body, and a hemp cord fastened two heavy fish plates, weighing thirty pounds each, to the babe. The searchers had about made up their minds to give up, on the ground that the body was not there, when Robbins thought he would make one more attempt. He threw in his line and brought up the horrid find. The body was badly decomposed, but was at once identified by James Hawes, Dick's brother, as that of the dead Irene. The child was found about twenty feet from the place where Mrs. Hawes's body was concealed.

Creation of Cardinals Postponed.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Catholic News will publish to-morrow a dispatch from Rome stating that, contrary to expectations, the Pope will postpone the creation of new cardinals until the March consistory, because of a disagreement with France over the nominations. The dispatch also mentions the recent concessions made by the Vatican to Russia with regard to episcopal appointments in that country, and other matters, and intimates that the benefits to the Holy See will come sooner or later in the restoration of the temporal power of the Pope.

TALKING ABOUT NEWSTATES

Proposed Changes in the Democratic Bill for Admission of Territories.

Samples of the Outrageous Swindles Practiced Upon Ignorant Pensioners by Unprincipled Rascals at the Capital.

Democratic Senators Will Not Be Permitted to Evade the Tariff Question.

The Undeveloped Natural Resources of Western Canada—Democrats Will Favor Liberal Appropriations—Washington Gossip.

THE TERRITORIES.

Mr. Springer Engaged in Modifying the Provisions of His Omnibus Admission Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—In accordance with with the expressed intention of the Democratic caucus of last Thursday, to support the omnibus bill providing an enabling act for the admission of the Territories of Dakota, Montana, Washington and New Mexico, and of giving to the people of Dakota the privilege of determining whether that Territory shall be admitted as one or two States, Representative Springer, chairman of the committee on Territories, has been engaged in formulating the necessary amendments to the bill reported last session to make its provisions conform to the proposed changes. To meet the change in the time of holding elections for delegates to the constitutional convention, Mr. Springer has prepared an amendment providing that the elections in the four Territories shall be held on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in May, 1889, that the delegates so elected shall meet in convention on the following 4th of July, and prepare constitutions to be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November following. To determine whether or not the Territory of Dakota shall be admitted as a whole, or divided, the proposed amendment to the omnibus bill provides that at the election for delegates to the constitutional convention in May, each qualified elector may have written or printed on his ballot the words "for division," or "against division." If a majority of the votes cast in that part of the Territory South of the seventh standard parallel, running due west to the western boundary of the Territory, shall be "for division," the delegates elected shall assemble at Sioux Falls. If a majority of votes cast north of the seventh parallel shall be for division, then the delegates so elected who may reside north of said parallel shall assemble in convention at Bismarck. Each convention shall then form a Constitution for its State, which Constitution shall be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection. Each State shall be entitled to one Representative in Congress. The appropriation to meet the expenses of holding the two conventions is increased so as to provide for each convention the sum of $20,000. It is provided that, should the people reject the respective constitutions, the territorial government of Dakota shall continue its existence the same as if this act had not been passed, or if the Constitution for either north or south Dakota should be rejected, then the part of the Territory rejecting shall continue under the territorial government of Dakota. In case the people vote for division, provision is made for the appointment of a commission by the two conventions to readjust and agree upon the amount of the Territorial debt to be assumed by each of the proposed States. Mr. Springer will call a meeting of his committee some time next week for the purpose of submitting the proposed amendments to them for consideration. He hopes to be able to report the amendments to the bill to the House at an early day. He will also ask the committee to consider the propriety of proposing an additional section to the omnibus bill providing that whenever any organized Territory of the United States shall have a legally ascertained population equal to the number necessary to entitle it to a representative in Congress, such Territory shall be authorized, through its Legislature, to call a constitutional convention to consist of not less than seventy-five members, who shall assemble at the seat of government of the Territory and form a Constitution for submission to the people. If a majority of the people vote for it, it is to be transmitted to the President and by him laid before Congress, and if the Constitution so adopted be republican in form and in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the United States the Territory shall be admitted into the Union whenever Congress shall pass an act therefor.

PROTECTION FOR PENSIONERS.

Some of the Swindles Now Practiced—Changes that Will Stop Impositions.]

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The pension attorneys in Washington had a harvest which they availed themselves of to the best possible advantage during the long campaign which closed last month. It will be remembered that about eight thousand pensions were granted in the State of Indiana alone during the campaign, and that altogether there were thirty-five or forty thousand pensions allowed during the political season. There are issued daily at the Pension Office, for the information of the public, lists of names with postoffice addresses of persons to whom original pensions or increase of pensions are granted. Copies are given to the correspondents, and they are telegraphed over the country. Despite the efforts of the authorities at the Pension Office to keep advance copies of these lists out of the hands of pension agents, they are procured, and in many instances before the pensioner has received information that he or she has been allowed an original pension or an increase of pension, the attorney secures a contract by which he gets paid for the work which has already been done. The most popular use made of these pension lists, however, is in notifying the pensioners, without any regard to truthful information, that the condition of their cases at the Pension Office warrants the belief that a further increase can be secured. A small fee is exacted for the application for an increase of pension, and a contract signed giving a snug sum if success is achieved in the application for a further pension. The confidence of pensioners is, therefore, often abused and the ignorant are imposed upon.

When the next Congress takes up the general pension laws it is believed that a provision will be made which will cut the pension agents out of their business entirely. It is proposed to make the laws so plain and the form of applying for either an original pension or an increase so simple that the most ignorant will know how to go about it without expense.

CANADA'S MINERAL WEALTH.

Ontario Possesses Vast Deposits of Iron, Copper, Gold, Silver and Marble.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Inasmuch as there has been a great deal of talk lately about Canadian annexation and the division of the Dominion into States of size fit to come into the Union, it might be of interest to know something of that vast country to the north of the United States which, while politically in no way related to us, is so intimately tied up with the prosperity of the United States. Canada is often looked upon as a bleak, barren territory fit to produce little besides lumber, furs and skins. Yet within the confines of the Dominion there are vast areas of agricultural lands capable of producing cereals in sufficient quantities to supply the entire world if crops in all other countries should fail. And in minerals it would seem to be even richer than the United States. In this city this week have been two gentlemen connected with the royal commission on the resources of Canada. These gentlemen were John Charlton, M. P., chairman of the commission, and Archibald Blue, its secretary. They came to Washington to inquire into the methods of the United States Geological Survey and to gather all the information obtainable relative to the mining statistics and the mining lands of the United States and the various States and Territories. They were very well received here, and have gone on to Birmingham, Ala., to witness the tests of a new system for reducing sulphurous and other refractory ores, which are now of little value. Some of these ores were shipped from the mines at Cochill, Ontario, to Birmingham, and are there to be tested. If the new process proves to be anything near as valuable as is claimed, it will revolutionize the work of reducing refractory ores, and will enhance the value of millions of tons of iron ore which are now considered almost useless.

After their visit to Birmingham the gentlemen will proceed to Pittsburg, to look into the mining operations there, and will then return to Canada and prepare their report to be submitted to the Canadian Legislature. Mr. Charlton, in conversation with your correspondent, said this commission was appointed for the purpose of examining into the mineral resources of the Province of Ontario, and making suggestions for the better development of the mines. "We have besides the copper regions about Ludburg and Vermillion, the coal regions between Vermillion and Lake Huron, the mining regions along the north shore of the Georgian bay as far west as the Sioux; the country north of Lake Superior, the silver district west of Port Arthur, and the gold region of the Lake of the Woods, the iron district on the Minnesota border, the iron and phosphate mines of Eastern Ontario, the Goodrich salt district, and the petroleum deposits in the vicinity of Petrolia. We have taken the evidence of mineral prospectors and propertyholders, and have compiled a vast amount of information as to the resources of the province and various matters connected with their development. The result of the investigation shows that the Province of Ontario has vast, almost inexhaustible, mineral resources in iron, copper, nickel, gold, silver, galena, plumbago, salt, phosphates and petroleum, and probably the finest quarries in the world of marble and freestone. Several mines have been established, and have already proved extremely profitable, in the vicinity of Port Arthur. One old miner whom we met there, Captain Nichols, was connected with the mines in Colorado for years, and he informed me that if the same deposits existed in the Centennial State the country would be wild with excitement. I don't think there is any doubt that Ontario, in many respects, is the best supplied in mineral products of any portion of America, and with some changes in the Canadian mining laws, I have no doubt that Canadian mining operations will become as extensive as those on this side of the border line."

THE HARRISON CABINET.

New York May Not Be Represented—Mr. Blaine Has Not Heard from Harrison.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Evening Star says the impression is growing among New Yorkers in Congress that the Platt-Miller contest is going to result in New York's having no representative in the Cabinet. One of the best-informed members of the New York delegation said to a reporter to-day that he did not see any prospect of a compromise, and thought it would be impossible for Mr. Harrison to put a New York man in the Cabinet. "If this contest between Mr. Miller and Mr. Platt continues," he said, "New York will not be represented in the Cabinet. There is no man they can compromise on. Mr. Harrison could not appoint Mr. Miller in the face of the combination in Platt's interest. If he should appoint Mr. Platt it would open up again all the factional fights that we have just settled. New York will have to do without a Cabinet place, and aside from the honor of the thing there is no especial advantage to the State in the position, anyhow." He thought some Western man would be appointed Secretary of the Treasury. The same paper has the following:

"A dispatch sent by authority has been received here by members of the Maine delegation in Congress, informing them, in reply to inquiries, that Mr. Blaine had not heard a word from headquarters at Indianapolis about his entering the Cabinet."

MINOR MATTERS.

The Democrats Will Be Compelled to Toe the Mark on the Tariff Question.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Impatient with the unnecessary and almost disgusting delay of consideration of the Republican substitute for the Mills tariff bill by Democratic Senators, the Republican members of the Senate committee on finance will force the adoption of a resolution which will require night sessions of the Senate. They propose to give the Democrats all they want for the delay, and say the minority in the Senate must pay for their fun by night work. The Republican Senators will not consent to a holiday recess. They may, as stated in these dispatches several days ago, agree to an adjournment on next Thursday until Monday, and then over Christmas until Wednesday, a loss of four business days, but they do not propose to concur in the proposition of the House to take a fortnight recess, or a recess of any other length. They see in the movements of the Democrats in both Houses a positive disposition to delay a final vote on the tariff bill, and will take decisive steps to make them toe the mark.

Demoralized Democrats.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The most complete demoralization seems to have come over the higher grades of Democratic officials in Washington since the election. They all appear to expect official decapitation without ceremony next March, and are trying to enjoy their remaining days of public life. Only a portion of them are on duty these days, and several of them who profess to attend to their work get out late in the morning and stop early in the afternoon. The fashionable hotels and places where they live find them in at 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning. Three or four of the bureau officers very seldom take breakfast nowadays under 10 o'clock, whereas they were out at 8 during the campaign. One of the best evidences that the Democrats are spoilsmen and believe that to the victors belong the spoils, is found in the fact that not a half-dozen officers above civil-service protection are trying to solidify themselves with the incoming administration with a view to retaining their places. They freely announce that they expect to go, and that they are only waiting for the executioner.

Women in Government Service.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A letter has been received here stating that the first woman ever appointed to a government position in Canada or any of its provinces was Miss Mary McPherson, at New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, who was the other day appointed as stenographer to the Provincial Secretary. Miss McPerson came from Boston, and studied stenography in this city. It appears that the British government is almost as much opposed to the selection of women for clerical and other positions as has been this government under the present administration. Under former administrations women were often appointed to places where routine work was to be performed; but as this administration progressed and the clamor for positions by Democratic voters increased, and the determination of the President and his Cabinet officers grew for succession, women were almost entirely barred out. There is not more than 5 per cent. as many women appointed nowadays to positions in Washington as there were five years ago.

Senator Beck's Health.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Senator Beck, who has been convalescing at the home of his son-in-law, Maj. Goodloe, in the suburbs of Washington, paid a visit to the Capitol this morning, and remained some time affixing his signature to various papers which have accumulated during his absence. He was accompanied by his son George, who, with his father, is making arrangements for the latter's visit to the South. Senator Beck expects to leave Washington some time next week, and will visit Aiken, S. C., and Savannah, Ga., and probably other places, making it a point to seek those places the climate of which will prove most beneficial to him. He will not return to his duties until after the Christmas holidays, at the earliest. The Senator's general appearance seemed to indicate a marked improvement in his condition, and persons who have not seen him for some time were satisfied that his temporary rest from official duties has resulted in great benefit to him.

Liberal Appropriations Expected.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—There are good reasons for believing the Democrats in both houses will favor large appropriations during the present session, with a view to decreasing the surplus and obviating the necessity of an extra session of the Fifty-first Congress. What Democrats most dread is an extraordinary session of the next Congress. An extra session, they say, means an immediate determination of contested elections in the House, four new States before the end of the year, 1889, the revision of the tariff, and the decapitation of many Democratic officials' heads, which may otherwise remain intact for many months after the 4th of March.

No River and Harbor Bill.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Senate committee on commerce will not report to the Senate the river and harbor bill which has been compiled by the House. When the House measure comes over, and is referred to the Senate committee, it will be pigeon-holed. It is not thought that a just river and harbor bill can be agreed upon by the two houses, and the Senate committee believes that there should, therefore, be none passed.

General Notes.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—P. E. Micener, of Indianapolis, formerly of Muncie, is at the Ebbitt.

Ex-Governor Foster, of Ohio, arrived to-day.

I. B. Bacon, of Toledo, President Cleveland's brother-in-law, is here on official business. He is superintendent of the Toledo federal building.

John T. Brady, of Indiana, was to-day appointed to a $900 clerkship in the Pension Office. Mrs. Lucy E. Anderson, of Indiana, was to-day promoted in the War Department from skilled labor at $720, to a clerkship class at $1,000, in the office of the Chief of Engineers.

This evening's Star says: "Mrs. Voorhees, wife of Delegate Chas. S. Voorhees, of Washington Territory, is at home to her friends on Tuesdays, at 1717 Twenty-first street. Mrs. Voorhees is the bride of congressional circles, having been married but a month ago."

S. G. Duffey, of Ohio; R. B. Hostetter and A. P. Ingram, of Illinois, have been appointed special examiners in the Pension Office.

THE FIRE RECORD.

Total Destruction of the Putnam Wire-Nail Works at Greencastle.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

GREENCASTLE, Ind., Dec. 15.—The works of the Putnam Wire-nail Company were entirely destroyed by fire this evening, about 8 o'clock. The mill was situated just outside the corporation, and it was impossible to reach them with water. The structure was new, having been completed less than two years ago. The fire is supposed to be the work of an incendiary, and efforts will be made to discover the guilty person. The loss on the mill is close to $12,000, and it is only partially covered by insurance. The total amount of insurance on the building and contents is about $6,000. The loss is much heavier on account of the large amount of stock that was on hand. Eight hundred kegs of nails were destroyed, besides about two car-loads of wire. The insurance is divided between three companies, as follows: Home, of New York, North American, and a third which could not be learned. It is somewhat improbable that the mill will be rebuilt.

Printing-House Destroyed at a Large Loss.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 15.—A disastrous fire occurred to-night in the building on Pine street, between Third and Fourth, occupied by several printing and publishing concerns. Loss on building, owned by Edward J. Gay, $100,000; fully insured. The building cost in 1859, $250,000. The Bechtold Printing Company, loss, $75,000; insurance $60,000. Little & Becker, $10,000; fully insured. Nixon & Jones Printing Company, $50,000; fully insured. At midnight the fire was under control. The Spectator office was located in the building and was damaged to the extent of $2,500.

Other Fires.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—The Chicago Packing and Beef Company's works in the town of Lake, adjoining this city, were partially destroyed by fire to-night. The loss on the building and machinery will probably reach $10,000. The plant was insured in the Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia, the Phoenix of New York and the Springfield, of Massachusetts.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 15.—The country residence of John L. Goben, county auditor, a mile west of this city, was entirely consumed by fire at noon to-day, the cause being a defective flue. The household goods on the lower floor were partly saved, but everything upstairs was destroyed. The loss on the house will be about $4,000, and on the contents, $1,000; insurance, $3,500.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Dec. 15.—Heafer's tile-works, near this city, one of the largest of the kind in the State, burned at 5 o'clock this morning. Loss, $35,000; insurance, $5,000. It is doubtful if the works will be rebuilt. The origin of the fire is not known. Fire began in the business office, cutting off telephone connection, and causing a long and fatal delay in getting word to the city fire department.

CONNERSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 15.—The large barn of John Ross, a farmer residing near Alquina, was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon, the loss including a twine-binder, mower and other implements, and 300 bushels of corn. The damage is estimated at $2,000, with no insurance. Mr. Ross's children, while playing with matches, set the barn on fire.

YAZOO CITY, Miss., Dec. 15.—The Parisot line steamer F. Barksdale, together with 900 bales of cotton and 1,200 sacks of cotton-seed, was burned this morning at Hendrick's Landing, Yazoo river. The boat was valued at $12,000. The insurance is not stated. The cotton was insured for $45,000. The seed was insured with underwriters at New Orleans.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Dec. 15.—To-day the residence of James Swearenger, west of town two miles, was totally destroyed by fire. Loss $1,000; no insurance.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 15.—M. H. Ingalls & Co.'s wholesale boot and shoe house was burned out to-night. Loss, $40,000; insurance, $83,000.

Racing at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 15.—The race-track to-day was in good condition. The weather was cloudy and windy.

First Race—Three-quarters of a mile. Starters: McMutry, Kemp Dillard, Stuart, Orange Girl, Sympathetic's Last, Dan Meeks, Comet and Martin. Stuart won in 1:19¼; Kemp Dillard second, McMutry third.

Second Race—One and one-sixteenth mile. Starters: Skobeloff, Pell Mell, Syntax, Kitty Pease, Pritchort, Luke Dart. Skobeloff won in 2:12; Kitty Pease second. Syntax third.

Third Race—Five-eighths of a mile. Starters: Duheme, Cheney, Red Leaf, Lord Grosvenor, Jimmie B., Vistress, Eternity, Vattell, Porter Ashe, Moonstone, Benton, Playful. Moonstone won in 1:05; Duheme second, Red Leaf third.

Fourth Race—Fifteen-sixteenths of a mile. Starters: Bertha, Derochment, Sherwood, Countess, Montpelier, Jim Navok, Altheren. Altheren won in 1:34¼; Countess second, Derochment third.

Business Embarrassments.

READING, Pa., Dec. 15.—J. C. Debart & Co., extensive shoe dealers of this city, assigned to-day. Liabilities, over $12,000; assets, $20,000.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 15.—Elias Slager, merchant tailor, make an assignment this afternoon. Liabilities, $60,000; assets, $40,000. Eugene Lepman is named assignee.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Anthony Sells, a dealer in precious stones, assigned to-day, giving preferences. Liabilities, $67,000; assets, $71,000.

Seligman, May & Co., wholesale clothiers, of No. 649 Broadway, who failed six months ago, with liabilities of $586,803, and actual assets of $341,838, have made a settlement with their creditors, which went into effect to-day. The creditors have selected trustees, under whose direction the business will be carried on. They will sell the stock on hand, realize on the other assets, and pay the creditors 40 cents on the dollar.

Burglaries and Fire at Dana.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

DANA, Ind., Dec. 15.—Burglars entered W. T. Davis's meat market at this place last night, and secures $10 and an overcoat. They then entered John Bilsland's residence and got $3 and two overcoats worth $60. No clew to the thieves. The night policeman patrolled the town all night but says that he did not see any suspicious characters.

On Thursday morning school-house No. 14, five miles south of here, burned down, and on Thursday night school-house No. 7, four miles southeast of here, also burned. Loss, $1,500; no insurance.

Doings of Winchester Societies.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WINCHESTER, Ind., Dec. 15.—Some sixty or seventy members of the Richmond Rebeckah Lodge came to this city this evening and witnessed work by the lodge here. A lunch was served at 6 o'clock, and an elegant banquet spread after the evening's work was completed.

The W. C. T. U., of this city, are still fighting the saloon interests. At present, through their vigorous efforts, there is not a licensed saloon here. On last Tuesday they filed remonstrances in the case of all those making application to sell liquor, and defeated every applicant before the Commissioners.

A Ticket Agent Makes Restitution.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

COLUMBUS, Ind., Dec. 15.—Col. A. E. Rice, the ticket agent at New Albany, who suddenly disappeared a few months ago with about $500 office money, is here and to-day settled in full with the Jeffersonville, Madison & Indianapolis railroad by whom he was employed. The entire amount taken was paid over and he was granted immunity from prosecution. Mr. Rice refuses to state where he has been since his disappearance or what caused his action. It is believed he has been with relatives in this city for several weeks.

Casualties at Columbus.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

COLUMBUS, Ind., Dec. 15.—James Kyte, a prominent farmer living near Waterton, this county, while hauling staves, last evening, had several oak blocks to fall on one of his legs, breaking it above the ankle.

Dr. A. E. Howe, of Taylorville, was riding in a buggy, yesterday, when his horse became frightened and ran away, throwing him out and breaking his left arm above the elbow.

Charles Melten, a cerealine-mill hand, fell off a box car and was seriously injured.

A Successful Revival.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

KNIGHTSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 15.—The M. E. Church at this place is in the midst of a great revival, under the management of L. H. Murlin, pastor, assisted by Rev. John Hatfield, of Richmond. Fifty-five persons have acknowledged that they have been converted, from the school boys and girls up to gray-haired men and women and still the interest in the meetings continues.

Killed by a Falling Tree.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Dec. 15.—Late word received here states that James Clendoven, an old citizen of Polk township, was killed to-day by the falling of a tree he was felling. A limb struck his head, killing him instantly.

Convicted of Assault.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

GREENVILLE, O., Dec. 15.—Rock Negley, son of Hon. Charles Negley, of Union City, Ind., received a one-year's sentence for assault with intent to kill Charles Kiser, a saloon-keeper of that town, on Decoration day.

Bad Complexions Need CHAMPLIN'S LIQUID PEARL. 50c. A lovely, harmless, beautifying application.

THE INTERSTATE-COMMERCE ACT.

Charles Francis Adams Believes that It Tends to Make Monopolies of Railroads.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—The Hon. Charles Francis Adams, president of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, addressed the Commercial Club, this evening, on the subject of the present condition and tendencies of railroading in this country. He had been asked, particularly, to express his views of the interstate-commerce act and its practical workings. Following are the salient passages of his speech:

Since the interstate-commerce act went into effect, two years ago, there has been what might be called a craze for railroad construction. The interstate-commerce act was in operation. It was impossible to pool, and the long haul regulated the short haul. Then followed a depth of railroad morals among freights agents lower than had even previously existed—and that is saying much. The dishonest methods of rate-cutting, the secret systems of rebate, the indirect and hidden payments made to influence the course of traffic, resorted to or devised during the last two years, I do not hesitate to say, are unprecedented in the whole bad record of the past. In this respect I indorse every word of indignant denunciation which Judge Cooley is reported to have recently uttered. It will be asked why the penalties of the interstate-commerce act are not enforced against those who thus directly and indirectly evade its provisions. The question may be asked of me, why do you not give information and institute proceedings under the law? I merely say in reply that, apart from a prejudice against being an informer, while I am morally sure that these things are done, I cannot furnish legal proof of them. My information comes indirectly or at second hand, and, while I have no doubt myself of its accuracy, yet if I were brought to book as to time, and place, and circumstances, I could not give them. It is this absence of good faith which has brought the railroad system to its present condition, and threatens to carry it still lower. To attribute it to the interstate-commerce act is an utter mistake. If that act were totally repealed to-morrow it would produce but a temporary and stock-jobbing relief. The railroad system must heal itself. No act of Congress or repeal of any act of Congress will greatly help it. But in saying what I have said I do not mean to imply that, in my judgment, the interstate-commerce act is a harmless, much less a useful, piece of legislation. On the contrary, I am very sure that, as it stands, it is not. I has been in operation two years, and we now begin to feel its effects, and to be able to forecast its results; and both its present effect and future results are exactly those which its framers never contemplated, and from which, if they realized them as we do, they would recoil. The process of gravitation and consolidation, so far as the railroads are concerned, was going on fast enough before, but the interstate-commerce act has given it new impetus. Under the operation of the act the smaller local railroads throughout the country are being ground out of existence. It is the long haul which brings in the profit. The smaller, independent railroads cannot have the long haul, and are being forced, whether they like it or not, into the maws of the great systems into which the railroads of the country are rapidly crystallizing. Traffic under the provisions of the act must inevitably seek the railroad having the long haul to the most distant and largest center. The operation of the law in this respect is now beginning to make itself felt upon the smaller distributing points. They are deprived of their markets, for those who formerly bought of them can get the same goods on better terms from the larger and more distant centers. Contrary to every design of those who framed the act, its provisions have lent a new impetus to just those forces which it was intended to hold in check. Under these circumstances, it may, perhaps, be asked what my view of the future is, and what should be done. The railroads of this country are moving rapidly toward some great system of consolidation. Crystallization has gone on during twenty years so that, while the railroad of 300 miles was considered large, one of 6,000 miles is now far from being the largest. The next move will be in the direction of railroad systems of 20,000 miles each, under one common management. The interstate-commerce act, acting on the tendency of natural forces, is at this moment rapidly driving us forward toward some grand railroad trust scheme. Even this, from my point of view, I cannot regard as a thing to be dreaded. I am very sure that a great consolidated corporation or even trust can be held to a far stricter responsibility to the law than numerous smaller and conflicting corporations. Under the existing system no one can be held to account. Evasion is always possible, and invariably it is "the other man" who is responsible for the wickedness. With one large corporation or trust it would be otherwise. A well-devised railroad clearing-house scheme would prove in practice, whether so intended or not, in the direct line of the enforcement of the interstate-commerce act, in all its better features, and it has many such.

If I were asked this evening for concrete propositions I would say, delay, at least for a time, the present too rapid tendency toward crystallization or consolidation by repealing the features of the interstate-commerce act which are precipitating events in that direction. If the anti-pooling provisions of the act may not be wholly repealed let them at least be so modified that contracts made among railroads subject to the approval of the Interstate-commerce Commission, for the division of competitive traffic at reasonable rates, may be binding in law. Then encourage any movement which will tend to raise the standard of commercial morality in railroad circles. Nothing will tend more immediately to that result than the organization of the railroads into some public and regular clearing-house system, through which the traffic management of the country can be taken out of the hands of irresponsible subordinates, who now so vilely abuse it, and be restored to those who should be responsible in fact as well as in name.

Railroads Will Advance Rates Monday.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—The advance in freight rates between Chicago and the Atlantic seaboard, on both east and west-bound traffic, will go into effect on Monday. No attention will be paid by the other lines to the cut of 5 cents on dressed beef by the B. & O. The most important feature of the advance is the restoration of a high grain rate. In anticipation of the advance the grain tonnage during the past few days has been enormous. A falling off will doubtless now ensue, but the reaction will be speedily offset, it is expected, by the heavy corn movement, which is now steadily growing in volume.

Regulating the Railways.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 15.—The State Senate has passed by overwhelming majorities two bills to prevent railroads consolidating in this State without permission of the Legislature, and to enlarge the authority of the Railroad Commission by giving it absolute power to prescribe and regulate freight and passenger tariffs, prevent unjust discrimination, etc. Both bills are likely to pass the House and become laws.

A Woman Loaded with Dynamite.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 15.—The woman named Gallagher, arrested at Queenstown to-day with fifty dynamite cartridges in her possession, left Cleveland, Dec. 7, in company with twenty other Irish men and women. The party consisted of Jack Hewitt, J. McDonald, J. McFarland, Alexander Robertson, James Farry, Bridget Gallagher, John Gallagher, O. Masterson, Wm. Haley, Samuel Nickham, J. Ainsworth, J. Limery, A. Gallagher, D. Coll, T. Carlin, F. M. Wilkern, J. Price, W. Price, M. B. Grist, J. Goolden, Martin Duff and D. Sutherland. When the party started for Ireland surprise was expressed by Irish people all over the city that so many of them should go without intending to return to this country. It was said that they had secured a very low rate of passage on account of going together. None of them are well known and few of them are well-to-do. Several of the party lived in the vicinity of Hanover street, on the West Side. John Gallagher was a relative of some of the more prominent Gallaghers of this city. He lived at No. 78 Herrman street, and has been in this country less than two years. Bridget Gallagher, the woman under arrest, has lived here many years. She is a widow and is quite advanced in life. She went to Ireland on a visit, and intends to return in the spring. None of her acquaintances here will admit that she had anything to do with the Land League. John Gallagher, who is in the party, is not a relative of hers.

Riot in a Justice's Court.

JACKSON, Tenn., Dec. 15.—During the trial, before Esquire Exum, in the Tenth district of this county, yesterday, over a settlement between Tom Brown and a colored family named Hicks, Will Hicks cross-questioned Miss Fannie Brown in a rather abrupt manner, and he was told by her brother T