POST CHECK CURRENCY.

A Comprehensive Statement of the Present Status of the Proposition.

By CAPT. HENRY A. CASTLE, Auditor for the Post Office Department.

Simultaneously with the appearance of my article on the Post Check System in The National Tribune of Jan. 29, ultimo, the Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads of the House of Representatives decided to report favorably on the proposition—the first distinct and tangible victory gained by its friends, consequently a long step advanced toward their ultimate triumph. A reform of the nature of the post check currency project necessarily makes slow progress. Time is required to get it presented to Congress in such a way that the National legislators will see that it will not disturb in the slightest the country's financial system. At first blush a good many persons seem to believe that the project would result in an issue of fiat money, but this impression is entirely erroneous. The post check notes would simply take the place of regular Treasury notes or silver certificates as they are retired, and there would not be a change even of a fraction of a cent in the volume of the circulation.

THE PROPOSITION RESTATED.

As previously explained, the Post Check bill proposes to give to the people an easier and more convenient manner in which money may be sent through the mails. The purpose or plan is to have the Government issue notes of denominations less than $5 with blank spaces. The notes possess to every degree the same use as those of the present time, save that they can, when it is the wish of the owner to send money to a distance, be converted into a money order by writing the name of the payee in the blank space provided for the purpose. He then affixes a stamp, cancels it, and forwards to the address of the payee. This note which has thus been converted into a money order is payable upon identification of the bearer at any post-office or bank in the country. What more convenient manner could any business man or other person ask for remitting money? No trip to the post-office is needed to purchase a money order as under the present system. No fee is charged for the order save the two-cent stamp. The notes would be reissued often, thus keeping plenty of money clean and new in circulation.

The theory of the post check notes is that a man has them on hand in the current money which he carries in his pocket. There would be nothing else in the way of small bills. Each man would have his own money order on hand if he had a $1 bill or a $2 bill or a $5 bill which he might wish to transmit. All the money of those denominations would be in the form of post check notes and would pass current as money until converted into checks by indorsement. These notes would constantly flow in and out of the Treasury and there would be no appreciable contraction.

FROM A BUSINESS STANDPOINT.

It is an axiom of business that the time to close a trade is when the customer is convinced and ready, but there is no convenient method in existence at present by which the willing customer can at once carry out his desire to send money for his magazine or what not. It is estimated that the great majority of would-be customers, when they reach a conclusion to make an outside purchase and are ready then and there to close up the deal, postpone the matter until they can find a convenient way to send the money. This putting off is fatal in perhaps 50 or 75 per cent. of cases; therefore, the publisher or larger advertiser loses probably more than half of the business that his enterprise really earns, and this loss is occasioned solely by reason of the inconvenience of doing business by mail under the present methods.

What the proposed device would mean to this publication, as well as to its readers and advertising patrons, may be taken as a measure of its usefulness to the business world and all classes of the people. With post checks superseding all other small Government bills, every would-be subscriber to The National Tribune would have the means at hand of making a safe and acceptable remittance, which he would promptly do while the desire was fresh. The same is true as to purchase of the many useful articles advertised in its columns. The publishers and advertisers, aside from receiving many more remittances owing to the conveniences thus supplied, would get clean, crisp money, ready for deposit in bank, instead of loose silver, a sticky mass of spoiled stamps, or a money order invalidated by some vexatious technical irregularity.

THE PROGRESS MADE.

The friends of the project seem to be satisfied with the progress made during the recent session of Congress and are preparing to bring the matter forcibly to the attention of the next Congress. The bureau in Washington will not be closed, but a force of clerks will be kept busy advancing the propaganda. Mr. C. W. Post, the father of the movement, has added to the already abundant evidence of his unselfish interest in the measure by continuing the agitation. Mr. Post predicts the passage of the two bills at the next Congress if the same generous support accorded to the movement by the newspapers in the past is renewed at the opening of the next Congress.

Substantial progress has certainly been made within the last year. During that time, or in six months' actual session of Congress, the bills were introduced, then amended and re-introduced, referred to the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of the Treasury, considered by a commission of officials of each Department, and then sent back to Congress with a divided report.

Of the two bills introduced the one providing for a fractional post check currency was held by all the members of the joint commission to be, for the present, unadvisable. But two of the members—Assistant Postmaster-General Madden and Auditor Castle—reported in favor of the plan for one, two and five dollar notes, with intimations that important amendments should be made.

At the opening of the second session of Congress last December such pressure was brought to bear again from the newspaper and business houses that the bills were taken up for serious consideration by the committees. The House committee gave hearings, and, after considering carefully the statements pro and con, voted Jan. 30 to report the bill providing for $1, $2 and $5 post check notes, with amendments, with the recommendation that it be passed as amended. The amendments do not change the general principle of the plan, but tend to greater simplicity in detail and are designed to overcome certain objections raised by Treasury officials.

THE AMENDMENTS ADOPTED.

Concerning these hearings and the amendments incorporated into the new bill, the report of the House Committee says: "Your committee then gave hearings to Mr. Roberts, representing the majority members, and to Mr. Madden and Mr. Castle, the minority members, for the purpose of ascertaining whether modifications and amendments to the bill then before the committee could be made so as to obviate the objections urged in the majority report. As a result of the information obtained at these hearings, Mr. Gardner, of Michigan, introduced an amended bill—H. R. 15,042—being the bill upon which this report is made, and which was drawn upon the suggestions furnished by Mr. Madden and Mr. Castle. Your committee believe that the present bill fully meets all adverse criticisms and objections which were made by the majority of the commission against the original bill. The need for a simpler and more accessible form of mail remittance is generally recognized. The fact is recalled that for nearly nine years past the people of the country have had no means provided by the Government of transmitting small amounts through the mails except the money-order system; the postal note, which was in use for 10 years, having been abolished in 1894. The postal note, notwithstanding the fact that it offered no security and was not easily obtained, was popular for small remittances, and many millions of them were sent through the mails during the time that they were in existence. They were abolished because they were not payable to order and were therefore a constant temptation to theft on the part of the postal employees. Since 1894 the growth of mail transactions has been stupendous. During the fiscal year 1894 the number of pieces of mail matter of all kinds mailed was nearly 5,000,000,000, while for the fiscal year 1902 there were more than 8,000,000,000 pieces mailed. During the same period the gross revenue of the Department, which is largely the result of the sale of postage stamps and supplies, has grown from $75,000,000 in 1894 to more than $121,000,000 in 1902. The money order business during the same period has grown from somewhat over $138,000,000 to more than $336,000,000."

The new provisions placed in the bill at the suggestion of Mr. Madden and Mr. Castle were explained in a special document issued by the Committee. They simplify the plan at many points; provide that banks and bankers, as well as Postmasters, may redeem and cancel the checks; give free postage and registry to remittances of canceled checks as mutilated currency to the United States Treasury for redemption; specify that redeemed checks in the hands of Postmasters shall be treated as money and not as money order vouchers, and make other important changes.

A SUBSTANTIAL INDORSEMENT.

On the general subject of the plan proposed in the bill, the Committee uses this unequivocal language: "In practical operation your committee believes that the plan of issuing post check notes would be simple, and, with helpful cooperation on the part of the departmental officials, would easily adapt itself to our governmental methods. It is believed that only by rendering the ordinary paper currency of small denominations capable of being transformed into something similar to a money order can a system of mail remittances be furnished which could be considered as perfectly accessible to all of our people. To make the money itself, which the intending remitter has at hand, thus convertible, instead of making it necessary for the remitter to take the money and, by making a journey of some length, secure a means of remittance, would not only mean an ideal system, but would also mean, in time saved to the people, millions of dollars in the aggregate annually. There are hundreds of things the farmer wants to send money for to the store at the County-seat. Instead of taking a buggy, at expense of time worth perhaps several dollars to him, to go to town to get some trifling article, he would be able to send the money down and get it back by mail or through a neighbor."

SITUATION WHEN THE SESSION CLOSED, MARCH 4.

The bill, as amended, was re-introduced by Representative Washington Gardner, of Michigan, and he and other members friendly to the measure made every effort to have the bill brought up and passed, but this was found to be impossible.

In the Senate the amended bill was introduced by Senator Albert J. Beveridge, and the sub-committee of which he was Chairman favored the bill, but, owing to the congested condition of business in the Senate, it was found impossible for him to secure definite action.

Technically the bill dies with the session, but practically it has advanced to the stage of a favorable "House report," and will no doubt be again promptly indorsed by the same Committee early in the next session, and thus be placed in a highly favorable position for early action in that body.

This statement of facts sets forth an unusual degree of success in a comparatively short time, and this success has been achieved through the hearty efforts of the press throughout the country, the representations from business houses and the pressure from the people generally, who demand this additional postal convenience. Persons familiar with the obstacles thrown in the way of new legislation by Congress will realize the great advancement made toward the desired goal.

Valuable assistance is expected in the coming session from Senator Beveridge, who is in a position, as Chairman of the sub-committee which has this matter in charge, to assist materially in putting the post check bill through the Senate. Mr. Beveridge is firmly of the opinion that the project is one that offers great advantages and conveniences to the public. "It is thoroughly right," he said, "and should be enacted into law."

ALTERNATIVE PLANS AND SUGGESTIONS.

It is a conclusive testimonial to the wide circulation of The National Tribune, and to the intelligent interest taken by its readers in public affairs, that since the publication of my recent article on this subject in its columns, I have been deluged with letters giving indorsements, criticisms or suggested modifications in bewildering variety. If I cannot find time to answer all these letters, or even to study out all the intricate combinations proposed, my esteemed correspondents must not attribute the failure to intentional discourtesy. It is one of my daily drudgeries to sign my name to from 400 to 600 official letters which I cannot pause to read. To examine and pass upon the merits of a fraction of the postal schemes called to my attention every week would render attention to any other business absolutely impossible.

One plan suggested by an experienced Postmaster may be given as a sample: "The Department to issue a card to sell for one cent, print the name of the post-office that orders any on it. The party wishing to send, say, 50 cents, buys a card and 50 cents' worth of postage stamps, which he affixes to the card and addresses it to the party he wishes to send the amount. The card is placed in an envelope and also addressed to the same party. The party receiving the card of stamps takes it to any post-office and gets his amount for it. The Postmaster receiving or cashing such cards with stamps, forwards them once a month to Washington and receives credit for them. Stamps to be cancelled only by the Department on their arrival in Washington."

This device, which is simple enough from the Postmaster's standpoint, involves labors and complications at the Auditor's Office in Washington, the National bureau of concentration and accounting, which are fearful to contemplate. It is these labors and complications which it is the special intent and peculiar merit of the post check system to carefully avoid. To fully explain the complexities which would arise in "auditing" accounts under this plan would require several columns; but I may undertake the task sometime pro bono publico.

A BILLION DOLLAR POSTAL SERVICE.

During the current fiscal year the aggregate financial transactions of the postal service, including the money order system, will exceed $1,000,000,000. All these transactions must be examined by "vouchers" in detail, whether they involve an item of a million dollars paid to a railway company for mail transportation, or a 50-cent money order. The labors incident to this accounting all devolve on the Bureau presided over by the Auditor for the Post-office Department and now employ 600 clerks. These labors increase by the rapid expansion of our mail system, so much faster than any other element of our National operations, that any measure which will simplify or reduce them would be, for that reason alone, entitled to the encouragement of all who share their burdens and responsibilities.

REUNIONS IN A FAR-OFF LAND.

Maj. Watrous Found Members of the Iron Brigade and Sons in the Philippines.

Maj. J. A. Watrous, U. S. A., who is at present in the States, on a leave of absence, says that he found the Iron Brigade in evidence in the Philippines during his sojourn there. In speaking of the old brigade and his observations abroad Maj. Watrous said:

"The Iron Brigade comes to the front nearly everywhere. It has been in Congress, the various professions, in the railroad world, manufacturing and political life everywhere. Of those members who have been in Congress may be named Gen. Edward S. Bragg, Col. Gabriel Bouck, Adj't Gilbert M Woodward, Gen. Rufus R. Dawes, Col. George G. Symes, Capt. M. R. Baldwin, Capt. W. H. Harris and Private John J. Jenkins. But about the old brigade in the far-off Philippines: At one time there were two of us on duty there—Maj. W. W. Robinson, jr., who was a private in the 7th Wis., and myself. He was Chief Quartermaster of the Division of the Department of the South Philippines.

"We had several very pleasant reunions at Manila last Summer. We had not met since March 31, 1865, at the battle of Gravelly Run, near Petersburg, Va., where Robinson did so finely that he was rewarded with an appointment to West Point, and where I had a horse killed under me and was invited in a manner so emphatic to visit Libby Prison that I hadn't the heart to decline the honor, and won a brevet. What a pleasure to meet a member of the old brigade in those far-away islands!

"While in the island I met three fine young officers, sons of one of our old comrades, the late Col. Henry A. Morrow, who joined us in command of the 24th Mich. right after Antietam. All three of his soldier sons went to the Philippines as Lieutenants, two in the Regulars and one as a Volunteer. Someone suggested at one time to Col. Morrow, who for years commanded the 21st Inf., that he send his boys to West Point. His prompt reply was: 'No, sir; if they want to be soldiers they must begin as I did, in the ranks.' The boys were quick enough to adopt his suggestion. The more such officers the better for the army. A daughter of Col. Morrow was engaged to Lieut. J. J. Boniface, of the 4th Cav. He went to the Philippines and when he had been there a year, Miss Morrow joined him and the marriage was performed at Manila early in 1901.

"I was at the town of Ballayan, Batangas Province, waiting for a boat, when a young soldier came up, saluted and said: 'I beg your pardon, but that badge on your watch chain is so familiar that I want to know in which regiment of the Iron Brigade you served.' When I told him he replied: 'My father was a member of Co. B, 19th Ind.' He went away and returned shortly with three more sons of men who had served in the 19th Ind. And we five Iron Brigade soldiers had a splendid reunion right then and there. One of them told me what his father said when he enlisted: 'Go, my boy; for that is what I would do if they would take me.' 'And my governor told me I would not be his son if I did not want to go to the Philippines,' said another, while a third said: 'All my father would say was, "You will be glad you enlisted," and I am.'

"That was a happy and unforgetable hour that I passed with those strapless, stripeless sons of men whom I had accompanied on mighty interesting trips through Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania quite a spell back. I met several other sons of men who served in the old brigade and one grandson. A large percentage of the sons and grandsons of the old soldiers of the '60's, from both North and South, found their way into the Volunteer and Regular Army during the Spanish-American and Philippine wars. I think it safe to say that more than half of the rank and file of both Volunteers and Regulars were the sons or grandsons of men who served in the Union and Confederate armies."

CHINESE NOT STRICTLY MASONS.

But Their Ancient Secret Societies Have Rites Resembling the Masonic.

(New York Sun.)

The recent installation of a Grand Master of the Chinese secret orders in the United States, popularly known as the "Chinese Freemasons," has aroused interest in the question of the connection between the Chinese secret societies and the Masonic body. Allusions to "Chinese Freemasonry" appear periodically in the newspapers, though according to the Cyclopedia of Fraternities there is no such thing as Freemasonry among the Chinese.

The only Masonic lodges in China are in the foreign concessions at the seaports. Their membership is composed exclusively of others than Chinese and they are conducted under foreign warrants. The rites of the Chinese secret societies bear some resemblance to those of the Freemasons, which accounts for the popular supposition of a connection between the two. The similarity, though more apparent than real, is remarkable, in view of the antiquity of both and the impossibility of either to have been patterned after the other.

China is filled with secret societies, most of which have for their object the overthrow of the T'sing Dynasty, with a pretended benevolent purpose to veil the political significance of the organization. The most powerful of these societies, the Kolao Hui, numbers more than 1,000,000.

The Cyclopedia of Fraternities contains an account of an initiation ceremony at a Chinese lodge in Spokane, Wash., at which four white men, Freemasons, were present by invitation. The lodge represented a benevolent branch of the Kolao Hui. There were reference to the "immortal three," circumambulation, four stations at which questions were asked and answers returned, kneeling on crossed swords, tea-drinking, burning incense, a traditional season of refreshment and signs in which the head and hands were raised; yet the Occidental Masons present were unable to detect anything that resembled the Masonry with which they were familiar.

The same authority gives this account of the secret signs used by the Triad Society which was at the bottom of the Taiping rebellion:

"Members always halt on entering a house, and then proceed with the left foot first. When sitting they place their toes together and spread their heels apart. They also recognize one another by the way they place their tea cups on the table and the manner in which they hitch their trousers. Their motto is 'Drive out the Tartar.'" Treason is punished by lopping off the ears of a minor offender. The final punishment is beheading.

STRENUOUS KENTUCKY.

Life in the Mountains Has Still Some Stirring Incidents.

(Grayson [Ky.] Tribune.)

Deputy Castle brought in Bob Henderson, of Elliott County, charged with 'shinering Saturday. Bob is a bad man, having a few months since killed Charles Crozart in that County. He has been in West Virginia, and while en route to Wisconsin to join the colony of 'shiners that recently hurriedly emigrated from Elliott, he stepped over to Caney to visit relatives. He met Coon Moore, who had been out road working, and threatened to kill him, and would have done so had not Jake Coon interfered. Coon was unarmed, but he soon fixed himself and phoned Castle to bring his warrant. They reached Henderson's home after dark and found Bob locked up and snoozing in a corncrib. Coon stood guard while Castle went to the house and made the old man fork over the key and then unlocked the crib. Bob was grabbed by the heels and brought out, pistol and all. Had he made the slightest resistance there would have been one less revenue violator in that section, and he seemed to thoroughly realize it. His journey to Wisconsin will be delayed until Judge Cochran has an interview with him.

THE CAVE-IN OF THE JIM-NED.

Rival Claimants of the Mine and Ranch and the Final Compromise.

BY AD H. GIBSON.

"The Jim-Ned's sure struck it this time, Rhody," said Dave Allison, leaning against the open door of his sister's cabin.

"Struck what?" she asked, pausing in her washing to hear him.

Rhoda Allison was a large, handsome woman of 25. As she leaned one elbow in a half-picturesque attitude against a corner of the washboard she looked what she was—a strong woman, abundantly capable of looking out for herself, and one who would stand up for her rights against the world, if need be.

"Jim Carey has struck gold on his claim," announced her brother, scrutinizing his sister's face to see what effect his words produced upon her.

Her eyes flashed irefully and a glow of anger overspread her face.

"My claim, you mean," she answered indignantly.

Dave grinned; for the dispute between Rhoda and his old chum Carey over the ownership of the land on which the Jim-Ned "mine" was located had furnished him a good deal of amusement and a degree of annoyance.

"Well, Rhody, if you and Carey can't decide it, the law will, I suppose," he replied, lighting his pipe. "Carey is a fine fellow. He saved my life from the Indians once. Better take my advice and compromise with him. He is willing."

"Well, I'm not willing to compromise," she retorted, beginning to make the soapsuds fly in an energetic way that told in what spirit she received her brother's advice. "I bought this ranch fair and square from his partner, Ned Turner."

"Yes, and against my advice, remember. Turner was not a partner with Jim when he sold out to you. But Jim left him in charge of the ranch, while he went to Prescott on business. It was then that Turner took advantage to sell to you, and gave you a title that isn't worth anything," said Dave.

"That's what Jim Carey makes you believe, but the law will show you otherwise."

"No, it won't. There are plenty of men in these mountains who will swear that Turner did a fraudulent thing in selling you this ranch."

"Well, if he can prove it is his claim, why has Carey let Tom and me live here almost a year without trying to put us out? That is what looks queer to me," she answered, still rubbing vigorously on the washboard.

"Because you are a woman. Jim Carey wouldn't treat a woman mean for the world."

"Poo! I'd like to know what you call mean. If his trying to get Tom and me off this ranch isn't meanness, then what is?"

"Jim has worked hard on this place, and can't give it up. He bought out Turner's interest in the claim, because he began to distrust Ned. Then the rascal sold it to you and skipped out. Jim is willing to pay you in full the amount you paid Ned Turner for the claim, if you will only compromise."

"But I won't. So you can trot up to that old prospect hole that he calls his mine and tell him so. And if he strikes gold on my claim and tries to sell the ore or bond the mine I'll prosecute him to the full extent of the law. That's what I'll do! And I'll ride over to the County-seat to-morrow and see an attorney."

Seeing how useless it was to try to bring about a compromise between his sister and his friend Carey, Dave Allison mounted his pony and rode away up the canyon toward the Jim-Ned mine, so named in honor of the two men who had once been equal partners.

When Rhoda Allison's parents had died she had taken her orphan nephew, Tom Hall, a sturdy lad of 16, and, leaving her old home in Kentucky, had come out to see her brother Dave in Arizona. Dave was doing so well as cattleman that Rhoda decided to turn ranch-woman and try the business herself. She found a small ranch up in the mountains that suited her. It was only four miles from her brother's ranch, and, as she found the inmate of the cabin ready to sell at a very reasonable figure, she purchased it against the advice of her brother. Ned Turner represented that he had bought out his partner, who was away at the time, and, although Dave Allison had no proof to the contrary, he did not believe Turner's story. Allison had always been on terms of intimacy with Jim Carey, and he did not believe his friend would dispose of his share of the claim and ranch without telling him something about the transaction. Then, Allison himself had been called away to Colorado on some cattle business, and while he was gone his sister had made the purchase. When he returned he found Rhoda and Tom had entered into their new possession and were already trying the ranch business on their own hook. Rhoda had not found her brother's wife especially pleasant, and this fact hastened her in accepting Ned Turner's offer of the ranch, which included an embryonic mine—little more than a hole in the ground—up the canyon a short distance from the cabin.

About three weeks after the ranch had so suddenly changed hands, Jim Carey had returned and claimed his property. He produced papers showing that he had bought out his partner. Rhoda Allison likewise produced papers, plainly showing that she had bought out Turner, and ended by declaring that she was not going to be run off of her own land by any man living!

"Very well, madam," Jim had said. "I never quarrel with women. So you may keep the cabin and I'll take the mine and work it. All I have in the world is right here, and you shouldn't expect me to give up all my rightful property."

So Jim Carey had pitched his tent up the canyon and began work on the Jim-Ned mine, leaving Rhoda and Tom in undisputed possession of the ranch part of the claim. At first Rhoda had not cared about the mine. So long as she and Tom had the ranch and their little herd of cattle she was satisfied.

But after a while Carey's tent became an eyesore to her, and the daily sight of a large, strapping man with massive shoulders and full, dark beard throwing up dirt and rock out of "that hole" on her land, bought with her own money, grew to be a constant and increasing annoyance to her. Then she sought her brother, and, getting him to act as a go-between, urged the intruder to desist from tunneling into the bowels of her land and leave the claim. Carey, however, bristled up and flatly refused to go, and Dave Allison backed him up in his obstinacy! But Dave was convinced that Carey had been wronged by Turner, and as his friend was ready to pay Rhoda all and more than she had been tricked into paying for the ranch, he had not ceased to persuade her to accept Carey's terms. But Rhoda indignantly spurned the offer brought her by her brother, and determined to have the ownership tested by the law.

The news that Carey had found ore in the Jim-Ned only served to increase her indignation. If there was indeed a rich "find" on that claim she felt highly incensed to think that a big, strong man was trying to take it from her. Smarting under a keen sense of her wrongs, Rhoda Allison put on her bonnet with a jerk and walked energetically up the canyon toward the Jim-Ned. She would see Jim Carey herself and order him to stop work in that mine and leave her land.

As she approached the little mine she noticed that something had just happened there. The north end of the hole had caved in, carrying a great quantity of lose sand and rock into the opening and completely choking the entrance to the tunnel in which Carey worked. She ran to the tent, calling the man's name in an excited voice. She received no response. Then she hurried back to the shaft. Her worst fears were confirmed: Jim Carey was down there, imprisoned in the mine! If he was not dead, he must be in a dying condition, she reasoned, since there was only the one entrance for fresh air and that was now blocked up by the cave-in.

Catching up a spade and pick that lay near Carey's jacket by the south end of the mine, Rhoda slid slowly down the incline of rock and gravel made by the cave-in, into the shaft. Then she began digging away at the rocks and sand that choked up the opening into the tunnel, where she was sure Jim Carey must be.

She did not stop to consider that he had been trespassing on her land. She thought only of a fellow-being imprisoned in that tunnel, and no one but herself to release him.

At first she seemed to make no impression whatever on the pile of earth against which she was waging war. As soon as one spadeful was removed another seemed to take its place. Nothing daunted, however, she worked away, tearing her clothes and blistering her hands fearfully. Unheeding the pain which her injured hands caused her, she picked away rock after rock until she was able to see a little opening at the top of the tunnel. She now renewed her efforts and made the hole large enough to insert her arm. As her hand was extended into the dark passage it came in contact with a cold human face!

With an energy born of the excitement of the hour, Rhoda Allison toiled away with aching hands, until she had enlarged the opening sufficiently to admit her body. Then she began the more difficult task of dragging the senseless form of Jim Carey out into the shaft.

At last the task was accomplished, and she sank back exhausted upon the gravel, the man's head across her knees. The fresh air revived Carey, and he looked up at the woman who had rescued him.

"It was sudden—that cave-in," he said feebly. "I was at the mouth of the tunnel when a rock struck me on the head, and I didn't know anything after that."

He tried to sit up, but the effort was too much for him, and he sank back unconscious.

Rhoda knew that it was useless to try to get the man out of the shaft unaided; so she sat supporting his head, hoping some one would happen along the trail. Small sheets of sand kept descending into the mine. This served to raise the woman's alarm. Should another cave-in occur they would be buried alive in the shaft.

Her repeated calls for help were finally answered by her nephew and a cowboy. With their aid Carey was taken out of the shaft and carried to the cabin, where Rhoda nursed him for two weeks through an attack of fever that followed his accident.

During Carey's illness some of his friends proved to Rhoda that the claim was legally his beyond every doubt. She began packing her belongings at once in a subdued way, strangely at variance with her customary fearless manner, and sent word for her brother to come and move her and Tom back to the ranch.

Next day, when Dave Allison drove up to the cabin to get Rhoda and her things, his sister, with a new light in her eyes and a queer confusion in her manners, met him at the door. Carey, looking pale but very happy, had one hand on her shoulder.

"She's not going," he said to Allison, who was staring very hard at the pair.

"Not going with me?" asked Allison. "How's that?"

"We've compromised," answered Jim, with a grin on his handsome face.

"Compromised?"

"Yes; the cave-in of the Jim-Ned did the business. There's not such another woman in all the world as Rhoda, and all I have is hers. What I want most is her, and you can just drive us to the County-seat to-day. We's just come to an agreement. We've decided to look at a license and consult a preacher instead of a lawyer."

This Will Interest Many.

F. W. Parkhurst, the Boston publisher, says that if any one afflicted with rheumatism in any form, or neuralgia, will send their address to him, at 804-19 Winthrop Bldg., Boston, Mass., he will direct them to a perfect cure. He has nothing to sell or give; only tells you how he was cured after years of search for relief. Hundreds have tested it with success.

Deaths in Illinois Soldiers and Sailors' Home.

S. P. Mooney, Adjutant, Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Quincy, Ill., sends the following list of deaths occuring during February, 1903: Laomi Morgan, Co. C, 135th Ill.; Daniel G. De Witt, Co. K, 91st Ill.; Wiley M. Kealow, Co. D, 118th Ill.; George W. Gill, Co. H, 33d Ind.; Charles Bennett, Co. C, 86th Ill.; John Butz, Co. K, 3d Ind. Cav.; Stephen S. C. Davis, Co C, 136th Ind.; Wilber O. Meserve, Co. D, 84th Ill.; John S. Johnson, Co. K, 93d Ill.; Elza Cook, Co. B, 123d Ill.; Henry Kimmins, Co. A, 45th Ill.; Chas. E. Soerrocker, Co. G, 12th Ill. Cav.; Louis Assebrok, Co. A, 119th Ill.; William Wilson, Co. B, 8th Ill. (Spanish-American).

MUSTERED OUT.

BARTH.—At Buffalo, N. Y., March 13, Henry Barth, Co. E, 187th N. Y. He was a member of Chapin Post, 2, Buffalo, N. Y.

CHILTON.—At Stanberry, Mo., March 8, Dr. Liberty M. Chilton, 1st Ky. Cav. He was a charter member of Marion Post, 119.

CHRISTLER.—At Gahanna, O., Eli Christler, aged 69. Comrade Christler had been a resident of Gahanna for 40 years, and had been Justice of the Peace 22 years. He was a member of the G.A.R. and I.O.O.F. He is survived by one son and one daughter.

COUCH.—At Gentry Co., Mo., March 13, Firman Couch, Co. B, 56th Ill., aged 75. Comrade Couch was a member of Marion Post, Stanberry, Mo.

CRAWFORD.—At River Falls, Wis., Feb. 16, R. M. Crawford, Co. H, 16th Wis., aged 70. He was a member of I. N. Nichols Post, 177.

CROWLEY.—At his home, 2097 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill., Jan. 15, Chas. Crowley, 97th and 98th N. Y. He served four years and four months. He was Past Commander of Winfield Scott Post, of Chicago, and always was a earnest worker. For a number of years he was unable to engage in active business, and this enabled him to devote his time and money attending to the wants of the needy comrades, widows and orphans.

DOW.—At Little Falls, Minn., William L. Dow, Co. G, 5th Iowa Cav., and Brackett's Battalion, aged 73. Comrade Dow was born in Calais, Me., but removed to Minnesota in 1856, and had since resided in that State. He was County Surveyor of Morrison County for 15 years. Thirteen years ago he suffered a paralytic stroke, and had since been an invalid. He was a member of Workman Post, G.A.R., and several other Orders. A widow and three sons survive.

ENSIGN.—At River Falls, Wis., Feb. 23, Wm. S. Ensign, Co. A, 30th Wis., aged 67. Comrade Ensign was Past Commander of I. N. Nichols Post, 177. Fifteen members of the 30th Wis., eight of whom served in Co. A, attended the funeral.

FULLER.—At Bentonville, Ark., Feb. 25, Carroll W. Fuller, Co. F, 4th N. Y. H. A., aged 61. He was Past Commander of Burnside Post, 4, Department of Arkansas; also a member of the Masonic Order. He leaves a widow and two sons.

GUESS.—At Allendale, Mo., March 11, Wm. Guess, aged 60. Comrade Guess was born in Bledsoe Co., Tenn. He volunteered in an Allendale (Mo.) organization when 18 years old, and served over two years.

HYDE.—At Genoa Junction, Wis., March 9, Newton Hyde, Co. C, 13th Wis. Comrade Hyde was born in Hampton, N. Y., July 2, 1820. He served one year with the 13th Wis., and was discharged because of disability.

JOHNSON.—At Springboro, O., Feb. 3, Napoleon Johnson, Co. G, 16th U. S. C. T. He was a charter member of Post 587, Department of Ohio.

MASTON.—At Stanberry, Mo., Feb. 10, W. B. Maston, First Sergeant, Co. G, 56th Ohio. He served many years as County Judge, and had been re-elected Commander of Marion Post, 119, for the sixth time.

MERION.—At Cincinnati, O., March 4, Oliver P. Merion, Second Lieutenant, Co. B, 123d Ohio, and Second Lieutenant, Co. H, 185th Ohio, aged 60. For many years Comrade Merion resided in Minneapolis, but for the past seven years his home had been in Chicago. He died while on a business trip. A widow and three daughters survive.

OSWIN.—At Newman, N. Y., March 9, Geo. Oswin, Co. I, 77th N. Y.

PIERCE.—At Stanberry, Mo., Feb. 6, Benjamin Pierce, Co. A, 13th Mo. Cav. He was a member of Marion Post, 119.

POTTS.—At Columbus, O., March 5, Isaac B. Potts, 65th Ohio. For many years Comrade Potts conducted the leading heating and plumbing establishment in Columbus, but retired some years ago. He was a member of J. C. McCoy Post, 1. A widow survives.

PRATT.—At Newman, N. Y., William E. Pratt, 62d N. Y.

SCHMITT.—At Buffalo, N. Y., March 16, Christopher Schmitt, First Lieutenant, Co. I, 1st N. Y. L. A. (Wiedrich's Battery). He was a member of Chapin Post, 2, Buffalo, N. Y.

STINSON.—At Stanberry, Mo., Samuel Stinson, Co. C, 1st M. S. M. Cav., aged 65. He served three years. Comrade Stinson was a member of Marion Post, 119.

WHITEHEAD.—At Clyde, Mo., March 5, Ralph Whitehead, Co. C, 9th Mo. Cav., aged 65. Comrade Whitehead enlisted in February, 1862, and was mustered out Feb. 17, 1864. He was a member of the G.A.R.

Expenses of an Encampment Trip.

John Boyd, Lookout Mountain Post, 88, Department of California and Nevada, Berkeley, Cal., writes: "If I were an Eastern comrade, and had my railroad ticket, a well-filled lunch basket, and $20 cash, I should not be afraid to make the journey. Of course, one can spend a great deal more, and $20 will not allow him many luxuries or enable him to stop at the best hotels. Were I an Eastern comrade and just landed in San Francisco with $20, I would seek one of the Reception Committee, and say: 'Comrade I want a room for about 25 cents per night.' There are plenty of clean, comfortable beds to be had at that price. Next, I should pick out a good restaurant where a square meal can be secured for 25 cents. Likely the comrade would like to see Golden Gate Park, the Cliff House, Oakland and San Jose, where are located the large orchards. He can make the journey at little expense and have a delightful time. At the expiration of 10 days, he starts home. His expenses may be summed up as follows: Room rent, 10 days, $7.50; trip to Oakland, 20 cents; trip to Cliff House, 10 cents; trip to Golden Gate Park, 10 cents; trip to San Jose, $1.90; curios bought in Chinatown, $3.00. Total amount expended, $15.30. This leaves a balance of $4.70, for incidentals."

A Fine Kidney Remedy.

Mr. A. S. Hitchcock, East Hampton, Conn. (The Clothier) says if any sufferer from Kidney and Bladder Disease will write him he will direct them to the perfect home cure he used. He makes no charge whatever for the favor.

Increasing Scarcity of Oak Ties.

(Railroad Gazette.)

The Pittsburg Dispatch estimates that the combined orders by Pittsburg railroads for this year will run over 2,000,000 ties. The cost of these, estimated at 75 cents each, including transportation, is $1,500,000. The freight amounts to 17 cents per tie from West Virginia, or an aggregate of $340,000. The specifications for first-class ties have been kept up to the standard and on account of this and the diminishing supply of white oak, burr oak, chestnut oak and other varieties in West Virginia the railroads have had to seek ties south of the Mason and Dixon line.

Following the track of the Little Kanawha large tracts of timber lands have been purchased for speculation, and as soon as the extensions are opened the temporary scarcity will be relieved. Railroad officials say, however, that it is only a matter of time when the whole supply will be exhausted.

A South Carolina Finding.

(Chicago Record-Herald.)

"What was the verdict that the coroner's jury returned?"

"Wilful neglect of duty on the part of the deceased. He went out unarmed, knowing the other fellow was in town."

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