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BEATS THE WORLD

General Greely's Interesting Report on the Climate of Oregon and Washington.

Conclusions Which Will Surely Attract Thousands to Make Homes in that Section.

Bids Received by the Government for the Construction of a Great Ship for Coast Defense.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Last july the senate passed a resolution directing the transmission of the reports prepared under the direction of the chief signal officer upon the climate and climatic conditions of Oregon and Washington territory. These reports, together with illustrative charts and letters from Gen. Greely have just been published and in view of the emigration to the far northwest will be found of general interest. The rainfall on the Pacific coast is the heaviest in the United States, ranging from 70 to 107 inches annually, but this enormous fall covers only six per cent. of the area of Oregon and Washington Territory. On the other hand the area where less than ten inches fall is less than five per cent. of the whole. Wheat can be grown in nine-tenths of these two states without irrigation, owing to the rainfall. Agricultural operations are more fruitful with smaller rainfall than in some other sections with considerably larger precipitation. Remarkably equable temperature conditions are also obtained, the entire range of mean annual temperature over this territory being but 8½ degrees, from 45½ at Fort Colville, in northeast Washington territory, to 54 degrees at Ashland, Ore. In 300 miles of latitude along the coast the range of temperature in the summer time is only 32 degrees, from 56 at Port Angeles, Washington, to 59½ at Fort Stevens, Ore. During the winter months the mean temperature of more than half of these states is above the freezing point and on the coast ranges between 40 and 46 degrees. Gen. Greely says: "To summarize, Oregon and Washington are favored with a climate of unusual mildness and salubrity. While in the immediate coast regions they have very heavy rainfalls, yet such rain occurs during the winter months, from December to February, and in all cases the wet season gives place gradually to dry seasons, during July and August. While a predominating amount of rain falls during the winter, yet the spring, early summer and late fall are marked by moderate rains at not infrequent intervals. These climatic conditions favor to a marked extent the growth of most of the cereals and other important staples."

Bidding to Build a Ship.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Bids were opened at the navy department to-day for the construction of an armored coast defense vessel of the Monitor type, 4,000 tons burden. The bidders for constructing the hull and machinery according to the department's designs were Cramps & Sons, Philadelphia, $1,614,000; the Juitard Iron Works, New York, $1,690,000; Union Iron Works, San Francisco, $1,628,950. No award has yet been made.

Great interest was felt at the navy department in the opening of the bids, and it was concluded generally that the figures proposed by the lowest, $1,614,000, constituted a fair price for the work. The closeness of the bidding was remarkable. There are many features of interest about the new craft. The one connected with the boilers has apparently given much trouble to the bidders, and may influence the award of the contract. The specifications provide for two ordinary return tubular marine boilers, of 1,500 horse power, but the remainder of the 5,400 horse power required is to be supplied by coil boilers. These have been tried with great success on yachts and in a modified form by the French government, but their use in naval vessels will be largely experimental. If they come up to the expectations they will result in a large saving of space and weight, but at least one bidder—Cramp—does not feel confident of the results, for he proposed to-day to enlarge the two tubular boilers and in consideration of this departure from the designs to waive all claim to any bonus for horse power in excess of 5,400. The next lowest bidder, the Union Iron Works, agreed to accept the department's plans and guarantee results. The new vessel will be a departure in design from any vessel in the navy and Capt. Hichborn, who is acting as chief of the bureau of construction, is confident she will be the most formidable vessel for her displacement of any in the world and able to cope with anything afloat. She approximates the Monitor type, of 5,000 tons displacement in cruising trim. When she goes into action, by taking on water ballast she sinks until her deck is but eighteen inches above the water level, thus diminishing the size of the target exposed to an opponent. The sides covering her machinery are to be covered with eighteen inches of armor, besides the protection afforded by the coal bankers. The barbettes containing the guns are to be of 16 inch steel and the deck will be of steel, two inches thick. She will have a speed of sixteen knots. At this speed she can steam 632 miles, but at the ordinary cruising speed, about nine knots, she would travel 2,722 miles without renewing her coal supply. But the remarkable feature will be the tremendous power of her armament. In the forward barbettes, mounted on a turntable and manipulated by hydraulic power, she will carry a sixteen-inch rifle, weighing 110 tons and forty-nine feet long, one of the largest guns afloat. In the rear barbette there will be a twelve inch rifle, weighing forty-six and a half tons. A fifteen-inch dynamite gun, fifty feet long, will project from the bow. The vessel will also carry six thirty-three-pounders, three nine-pounders, two six-pounders and four three-pounders, all revolving cannons and rapid firing machine guns. Electric search lights on a hollow steel military mast will complete the ship, which will take three and a half years to build.

No Fears For the Brooklyn.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—No apprehension is felt at the navy department on account of the steamship Brooklyn, which a British steamer reported with a broken shaft sail coming to New York. The shaft was broken while on the China station and the accident was reported to the department. It is explained that her being ordered home under sail by way of Cape Horn was the easiest passage for sailing vessels, instead of by the way of Good Hope, which would have been her course under steam. The department heard from her from St. Thomas, W. I., March 31, long after she was spoken of by the British vessel. All hands were well. She is expected at New York in about two weeks.

The Guns of the Trenton.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The Trenton, when wrecked at Samoa, carried down with her some fine modern rifled guns. These may be readily placed on another vessel or the fortification of the naval station at Pago Pago if they can be recovered; consequently some curiosity is expressed by naval officers as to whether Admiral Kimberly has taken steps to raise the guns from the shallow parts.

Carter Coming Home.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—[Special to the Independent.]—Delegate Carter will go home next week, and he does not expect that any collector of internal revenue or surveyor general will be appointed until he has visited Montana and conferred with the republicans there. He has made no recommendations for those places.

Paul McCormick, of Montana, is here, on business connected with the Big Horn Southern railroad.

THE APPOINTMENT RECORD.

But Two Nominations of President Harrison Rejected by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Of 350 nominations sent to the senate during the special session by President Harrison, the following were rejected: Murat Halstead, minister to Germany; Isadore T. Loventhal, postmaster at Modesta, Cal. The following remain unacted upon and therefore died at the end of the session: Wm. H. Whiteman, to be associate justice of the territory of New Mexico; Edward I. Kirsheedt, to be marshal for the eastern district of Louisiana, and six postmasters. President Harrison's nominations were contained in 284 messages. During the special session of the senate at the beginning of President Cleveland's term he sent to the capitol 418 messages; eighteen of his nominations failed to receive confirmation, but there were no rejections. At the last session of congress during the administration of President Hayes the senate failed to act on 106 of his nominations and rejected three. This record has never been equaled.

A Mixture in the Treasury Department.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The appointment of Ellis. A. Roberts as assistant treasurer of New York was made without his knowledge, and now there is some doubt if he accepts the offer. The death of Assistant Treasurer McCue makes it essential that there should be as little delay as possible in the qualification of his successor. The situation is further complicated by the change in the office of United States treasurer. Mr. Huston has telegraphed he will be in Washington by the end of the present week, but so far has not indicated when he will qualify and relieve Mr. Hyatt. There is an impression at the department he will delay qualifying until after affairs in the New York office have been settled, which will take five weeks. A declination on the part of Roberts will delay matters still further.

Will Go Slowly.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—It is unlikely the navy department will proceed to establish a naval station at the harbor of Pago Pago on the Samoan islands until the Berlin conference concludes its work. The last congress appropriated $100,000 for this purpose, and the money is now available, but it is thought that any radical step at this juncture might tend to jeopordize the success of the conference. Besides the 600 tons of coal sent to Samoa on board the Monongahela, and which should be there now, the ship Sachem, which sailed from New York a fortnight ago, carried 2,000 tons and should make the passage in about ninety-five days.

National Capital Notes.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Secretary Blaine has received information from Consul Allen at Kingston, Jamaica, of the sale by the colonial government to an American syndicate of the entire Jamaica railroad system.

The commission to select a site for a navy yard on the north Pacific coast, has returned to Washington. Its president, Capt. A. L. Mahan, had an interview with Secretary Tracy yesterday.

The contract for the construction of the machinery of the armored cruiser Maine has been awarded to N. F. Palmer & Co., at $735,000.

Collector Magone, of New York, was at the treasury department and had interviews with Secretary Windom, and Assistant Secretary Tichner. The latter said Magone's visit related entirely to the routine business of his office. From other sources it is learned that he placed his resignation at the secretary's disposal.

It is understood W. O. Bradley, of Kentucky, has declined the Corean mission, to which he was nominated a few days ago.

Wrecked on the Tonga Islands.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The United States consul at Auckland has informed the state department of the wreck of the American ship Red Cross, of Richmond, Va., on the Tonga Islands. Nineteen of her men are destitute at Auckland.

The Lydecker Case.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The Lydecker court martial adjourned this afternoon. It is believed they finally voted upon the case but cannot dissolve the court until ordered by the secretary of war, who may have other business to lay before them.

SAFE AT BRUSSELS.

Boulanger Concludes Not to Stand Trial Before the Senate.

PARIS, April 3.—Gen. Boulanger has issued a manifesto from Brussels to the French people. He says he will not submit to a trial by the senate, but he is willing to be tried before a magistrate or jury. He says he will await the elections, which will make the republic habitable, honest and free.

The Presse says Boulanger left Paris at the request of friends, who were informed he would be tried by an exceptional tribunal and would not escape alive. During his absence Boulanger will continue the struggle for a revision of the constitution.

A rumor is current that the government is about to issue a decree of banishment against Boulanger.

BRUSSELS, April 3.—Boulanger and Arene, member of the French chamber of deputies, arrived at Mons, Belgium, this morning. They were met at the railway station by Rochefort. The party repaired to the Hotel Monarque, where they held a conference.

Boulanger is stopping at the Hotel Mengelle. He registered under the name of "Bruno." After a conference with Rochefort at Mons this morning he returned here. A demonstration in his honor was made both at Mons and this city. The Independence Belge warns him his expulse from Belgium will follow any intrigues on his part against the French government.

Boulanger's Friends on Trial.

PARIS, April 3.—Senator Naquet and Deputies La Guerre, Laisant and Turquet and Paul Derouelde, leaders of the league of patriots, were arraigned for trial to-day. The court room was crowded. Derouelde, addressing the court, said the objects of the league of patriots were not secret. He claimed the use of the word "mobilize," in the communications of members of the league, did not prove the existence of a military plot. Notwithstanding the action of the government in dissolving the league the organization would continue to exist and would show its full strength whenever it might be needed. La Guerre, and others of the accused, followed with speeches similar. They declared the motives of the organizers of the league were purely patriotic.

At the trial of leaders of League of Patriots to day, the assistant procureur accused the league of connecting itself with the army of the new party, denounced the issue by the league of its manifesto condemning the bombardment of the Atchloff expedition of Sagallo by the French admiral, and declared the issue was an act of stupidity. Laguerre, one of the accused, vehemently protested against this language. Naquet, another of the accused, interposed with the remark: "Let the assistant procureur drivel on." The assistant procureur demanded that Naquet be committed for contempt. The proceedings created a sensation. Naquet finally withdrew his objectionable expression.

A Noted Steamer Changes Hands.

BOSTON, April 3.—The closing episode in the record of the steamer Haytien Republic as a trader between Boston and Hayti occurred this morning, when the craft that has been the object of so much disagreement was sold at auction for $41,000. The purchaser is Wm. Lewis, of New Bedford, who will fit the Republic for Behring Sea and the Arctic Ocean as a whaling supply steamer. When built she cost $112,000.

BOOTH STRICKEN.

The Great Actor While Playing with Barrett at Rochester Taken Suddenly Ill.

The Attack Pronounced a Case of Partial Paralysis, and Absolute Rest Ordered.

A Promise that a Cure Will be Effected in a Little While—Mr. Barrett Not so Sanguine.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., April 3.—The Lyceum theater to-night was thronged from the orchestra rail to the dome. It was the first night of Booth and Barrett, and the two great tragedians were presenting the story of "Othello, the Moor." Intense interest accompanied the play from the moment the curtain was rung up, and none of the hundreds who scanned the face of Mr. Booth noted any warning of what was so soon to befall him. He was thought never before to have been seen in this city more nearly at his best than he was to-night as Iago. The fortunes of the dusky Moor and his crafty fellow had progressed through the first act, followed with deep interest and keen enjoyment by the throng in front. Iago seemed lithe and active with perfect life. The curtain went down before a house whose hush of perfect attention then broke and relapsed into hearty applause. While the second act was preparing, Mr. Booth, though uttering no complaint, is now known to have felt an approaching culmination of the oppressive heaviness that for several days has caused him no little discomfort. He went on, however, and progressed nearly through the act with his usual facility. He was urging his physical powers by a strong will, but at the call for the last scene in the second act his will succumbed to physical weakness. A slight dizziness that for several days had tormented him greatly, increased and darkness came upon him. His attendant and others observed something was amiss and sprang to his assistance. A physician was hurriedly called and after a hasty examination he expressed the fear that Mr. Booth had sustained a shock of partial paralysis. This so alarmed Mr. Barrett that he determined to dismiss the audience. He was greatly overcome by what he considered the dangerous illness of his colleague and when he stepped before the audience it was evident he was greatly excited. Mr. Barrett's dismissal of the audience was in these words: "Ladies and gentlemen: I am called upon to perform the most painful duty of my life. My colleague has shown symptoms of breaking down for three or four days past and his condition is so serious it is impossible for him to act. We had hoped he would rally from the attack and would be able to play his part to-night, but one of your physicians, Dr. Summer, says it would be perilous for him to attempt it. Mr. Booth has sustained a partial stroke of paralysis and we fear this is the beginning of the end. I cannot express to you the deep sorrow with which I make this sad announcement. The world has probably heard for the last time the greatest actor who speaks the English language. We shall, of course, cancel all our engagements, and I hope we shall be able to remove Booth to his home. It pains me to speak these words; I am sorry to disappoint this great audience, but the play cannot go on. It would be presumptious in me to undertake to fill the place of this great man whom you have come to see and hear, and it would be worse than useless to attempt to proceed further. I know you will be indulgent and that you will fully appreciate the sad plight in which we are placed. The management will make such arrangement as may seem best for refunding your money."

The condition of Mr. Booth it seems did not fully justify this speech. There had been no attack of paralysis and the actor was suffering no pain. Reporters were not allowed to see Mr. Booth at his hotel and Mr. Barrett would not talk, but the business manager of the company said Mr. Booth's illness was not serious enough to justify alarm. He said the company's engagement for the rest of the week and possibly next would be canceled, but hoped to go on as usual after Mr. Booth had been given a brief rest. Mr. Booth will be taken to New York to-morrow. Late to-night Mr. Barrett sent a card to the Associated Press stating that the physicians gave assurances that a week or ten days of absolute rest will restore Mr. Booth to health.

BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

Sir Charles Russell Presenting the Case for the Parnellites.

LONDON, April 3.—The Parnell commission has resumed its sitting. Sir haries Russell opened the case for the Parnellites, his remarks thus far being characterized with singular moderation. He declared the testimony of the 340 witnesses for the Times irrelevant; admitted that crime prevailed in Ireland to a greater or lesser degree and said the collapse in the matter of the alleged Parnell letters abolished the pith and marrow of the inquiry. The court was asked by the Times for an indictment of a whole nation, a proceeding which Burke declared unfeasible. Judicial rules were invalid when a whole people moved. Thoughtful minds were convinced the time had come to try the experiment of home rule in Ireland.

When the Parnell commission met this morning Russell resumed his argument in behalf of the Parnellites. He contended the objects of the Irish National League were justifiable before God and man. The issue before the commission depended upon the proof that Parnell and his colleagues, under the cloak of the land movement, had planned murders and outrages. If no such evidence was produced the commission must declare the accused men, who were earnestly endeavoring to lift an intolerable burden from the shoulders of their countrymen, innocent.

The examination of Parnell is fixed for Tuesday next.

To Build an Opera House.

BILLINGS, April 3.—[Special to the Independent.]—Citizens of this place to-day incorporated a stock company, called the Billings Opera House company, for the purpose of building an opera house here at a cost not to exceed $20,000. The capital stock is $20,000, in shares of $10 each. The following directors were elected: O. Hoskins, A. L. Babcock, O. F. Goddard, H. H. Mund, B. S. Scott, J. Bond and H. W. Rowley. Architects are preparing plans and specifications and the work will be begun within a few days.

Disappearance of a Railroad Man.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 3.—Jas. Beatty, traveling auditor and car accountant of the St. Paul & Duluth railway, living in Duluth, has disappeared. At the time of disappearance, March 9, he had in his possession about $1,200, with which he was to lift a mortgage from a piece of his Minneapolis property. The mortgage remains unpaid. The possession of the money leads his family to fear that he has been foully dealt with.

Could Not Agree.

NEW YORK, April 4.—The jury in the trial of Vincenzeno Quarteraro for the murder of Antonio Fiaccanio Oct. 24, were discharged at 12:45 this morning, being unable to agree. They had been out since 5:15 last evening and stood four for conviction and eight for acquittal.

Nihilists Unearthed.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 3.—An extensive nihilistic printing establishment has been discovered in Warsaw and many persons connected with it have been arrested.

WOMEN WILL RULE.

Many Towns in Kansas to be Governed by the Gentler Sex.

KANSAS CITY, April 3.—The election yesterday was a very hot contest. J. J. Davenport, the anti-ring republican, was elected mayor and all the other republican candidates except treasurer. The women played a very important part in the municipal elections in Kansas. Eight hundred women voted in Wichita and two women were badly defeated for members of the school board. Harris, a liquor dealer, was chosen mayor. At Atchison 500 women voted, their ballots equally divided between the democrats and independents. B. H. Waggener, democrat, was chosen mayor. At Topeka the women made a strong fight, but it is believed the democratic ticket is elected. At Rossville the women elected their ticket. At Leavenworth Susan B. Anthony made a heroic fight for her brother, D. R. Anthony, republican, for mayor, but he was defeated by a large majority. Four thousand women voted. Oskaloosa again elected women officers by sweeping majorities. At Cottonwood Falls Mrs. Minnie Morgan was elected Mayor with a full council of women.

The Rhode Island Result.

PROVIDENCE, April 3.—The state election will not probably be decided until tomorrow. A new fourth party is in the field and has unsettled matters greatly. It was born for the single purpose of opposing resubmission to the people of the prohibitory amendment. The party was made up largely of republicans. Men who have before refused to affiliate with the prohibition party, though believing in that party's general objects. The third party, or prohibitionists, was working for a similar purpose, against resubmission. The fourth party nominated an independent state ticket, but in Providence and most of the towns are joining with the third party on legislative nominees. The result is that while there were four general tickets in the field there were only the usual number of legislative tickets. The legislature is republican in each branch, which will be reduced if this city is democratic, and it is likely to be. The legislature will vote to resubmit the prohibitory amendment. Thirty towns out of thirty-six, including all the cities but Providence, give Davis 10,094; Ladd, republican, 9,174; Richardson, prohibitionist, 903; Chace, law enforcement, 4,952. Davis lacks 1,835 of a majority.

Mixed in Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, April 3.—City elections were held throughout Missouri yesterday, but as far as reported politics did not cut much figure. The democrats elected a majority of the ticket in Jefferson City, Sedalia, Cape Girardeau, Mexico and Springfield; the republicans in Booneville, Marysville, Carthage and St. Joseph, while the people's and other mixed tickets were successful in more than a score of other places.

OBJECT TO COMPETITION.

The New York Musical Union Wants Strolling Musicians Kept Out.

NEW YORK, April 3.—The Musical union of this city is endeavoring to prevent the landing of strolling bands from Europe who are in the habit of coming here in the spring and returning in the fall with the money earned during the summer. It is urged such immigrants come within the provisions of the foreign contract labor act, but heretofore they have escaped detention by swearing they came as individuals and not as bands under leaders. When the steamer Westernlorn arrived this morning from Antwerp Supt. Simpson, who was at Castle Garden, discovered there were no less than 400 musicians on board, nearly all of them having spent the summer here for years past. Representatives of the musical union learned of this influx and immediately urged a strict investigation. The suggestion is made that they can be held under the pauper act, if evidence is not forthcoming to warrant their return under the foreign contract labor law. A representative of the Knights of Labor is interesting himself in the matter.

TRAIN WRECKERS FOILED.

Futile Attempt to Derail a Vestibule Train on the Pennsylvania.

MANSFIELD, Ohio, April 3.—A fiendish attempt was made to wreck the Pennsylvania limited vestibule passenger near Canton, at midnight. Pieces of iron were lightly wedged into the switch near Littletown. The east bound passenger train passed safely over the obstruction, but the unusual jolting caused the train men to be alarmed and they reported the matter to the operator. He investigated the cause and stopped the limited before it reached the switch. Irons had been placed in the switch with the east ends raised so as to derail the west bound train while allowing the east bound to pass over with only a little jarring. The switch is only sixty feet from the bridge and the momentum would have thrown the whole train into the creek and the consequence would have been terrible.

Favors the Army Bill.

PESTH, April 3.—The government has secured a large majority for the army bill on its passage to a third reading in the lower house of the Hungarian diet. In conjunction with the bill the house passed a resolution allowing the military authorities to use their own discretion as regards the use of the Hungarian language in the examination of Hungarian candidates for promotion.

Loves His Father's Enemies.

BERLIN, April 3.—The emperor, as a mark of renewed confidence has summoned to Perrenhaus Dr. Von Puttkamer the minister who was dismissed by the late Emperor Frederick. It is semi-officially announced the prosecution of the Volks Zeitung for defaming the memory of Emperor William was undertaken by the present emperor.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

Mary Anderson, the actress, sailed for Europe yesterday.

In Australia rains, which have been of great benefit to crops, have fallen.

It is said the sultan of Turkey has discovered a plot to depose him, and to place his brother's heir on the throne.

It is rumored at Berlin that the German man-of-war Olga, which was beached in the recent storm at Apia, has been refloated.

The privy council has reversed the decision of the Canadian court which had declared that metals discovered on the coast of British Columbia belonged to Canada.

Trutee, one of the largest grain dealers in Berlin, has suspended payment; liabilities, 6,000,000 marks. The failure affects the corn exchanges of Vienna, Pesth, Amsterdam, Paris and New York.

On the Paris bourse yesterday Comptoir des Compte closed at 125 francs; Societe des Metaux, 25 francs; Rio Tinto, 299 francs. At London copper closed at $41.10 cash, and $40.15 for three months.

Four large rifles for the new cruiser Charleston have been finished and sent on their railroad trip to San Francisco. Their carriages will be completed in two or three weeks and will be sent along immediately afterwards.

The recent hurricane in the South Pacific caused great damage on the island of Tahiti. Parts of the island were submerged and many people drowned. On the island of Tonga the hurricane created great havoc. Thirty persons perished.

At the Forthampton and Pytchley hunt spring meeting the Ascot plate for two-year-old, five furlongs, was won by Alva. The great Northamptonshire stakes, one and three-fourths of a mile, were won by Claymore.

DAKOTA ABLAZE.

Furious Prairie Fires Raging Over Our Sister Territory, Doing Great Damage.

The Wind Blowing With Great Velocity and the Grass Just as Dry as Tinder.

Houses and Outbuildings Destroyed, Live Stock Killed and Hundreds Rendered Homeless.

SCOTLAND, Dak., April 3.—Another dreadful prairie fire swept over the country south of Scotland yesterday, and its path is marked by the smouldering embers of many homes. A high wind prevailed, and the grass being dry as tinder, the terrific force of the fire was beyond description. Besides isolated farm houses, barns and the contents reported destroyed, the town of Olivet, the county seat of Hutchinson county, was more than half consumed.

BLUNT, Dak., April 3.—The whole country around Blunt is being devastated by prairie fires. Several buildings in the suburbs have been burned, but the city is as yet safe. J. I. Richardson lost 500 sheep, cattle and hogs, and many farmers are homeless. A strong wind arose before the fire, doing considerable damage.

LEOLA DESTROYED.

ABERDEEN, Dak., April 3.—Leola, the county seat of McPherson county, twenty-five miles northwest of Aberdeen, was destroyed by a prairie fire during yesterday's whirlwind. Sixty dwellings and business houses were burned, entailing a loss of $150,000. The only buildings remaining are the court house, two stores and six dwellings. C. W. Old and Thomas Wardell were terribly burned, and couriers from the demolished village say they can not live until morning. Leola is a town with no railroads or telegraph and further particulars can not be obtained. Persons who have driven across the country to Westport, the nearest railway station, say the surrounding country is nearly devastated. Hundreds of farm houses are in ashes and the carcases of burned animals line the road.

VERMILLION, Dak., April 3.—Word reached here to-day of very destructive prairie fires north and west of here. Gillett's saw mill and 800 cords of wood were entirely destroyed, and also several other buildings. A number of narrow escapes are reported.

CAUGHT IN THE FLAMES.

RAPIC CITY, Dak., April 3.—A prairie fire started one mile northeast at noon yesterday and was driven by a sixty-five mile gale. Three houses were burned, one of them being occupied by Mrs. Bailey, a girl companion aged 17 years named Eloise Madison, and a hired man named Astal. The three left the house and ran through the flames. Mrs. Bailey and Astal escaped with some severe burns. Miss Madison fell and her clothing caught fire and was burned completely from her body. She was taken to a neighbor's and lies at the point of death. The house and household goods are a total loss.

BENTON, Dak., April 3.—The most devastating prairie fire ever known raged over the prairies west and north of Lake Benten yesterday and last night. The wind was a hurricane for nearly twenty-four hours and swept the fire along with resistless force, passing the widest fire breaks as nothing and leaping plowed fields with a bound. It licked up houses, barns, stock and in some places human lives.

REE HEIGHTS, April 3.—A town west of here on the Northwestern road is almost destroyed. Dempster station, on the Watertown branch, is reported destroyed. Spaulding's ranch, near there, is also reported to have been consumed. Crossing into Lincoln county over a tract of land comparatively unsettled and covered with a rank growth of grass, it swept on with renewed velocity. It is reported that Henry Kourth, Mr. Bergly, M. Moon and others near here lost nearly all their buildings and their contents.

MILLER, Dak., April 3.—The prairie fire last night destroyed about forty houses, many barns, and large numbers of horses and cattle and left about forty families destitute. In the southern part of this county a terrible gale added to the terrors of the situation. The loss is estimated at $50,000.

FIRES IN EVERY DIRECTION.

JACKSON, Dak., April 3.—The prairie fires prove more general than at first believed. Additional losses are reported from all directions, and messengers bring the news of stubborn fights to save endangered property. Fires were raging in every direction and each seemed to pursue a distinct course of its own. A fire which would have swept this village from the face of the earth has been traced to its origin. The search culminated this afternoon in the arrest of James Thavnijck. When arraigned he plead guilty and was sentenced to pay $25 and costs, or in default thereof sixty days in jail. There is much dissatisfaction expressed about this sentence. Public opinion is that justice has been too highly tempered with mercy.

HURON, Dak., April 3.—No prairie fire in the history of this part of Dakota equals that of yesterday. In this county the losses are much less than in the counties west. Half a dozen houses were burned and many settlers lost their barns, stock and large quantities of hay and grain. The wind blew from fifty to sixty miles an hour and sent the burning embers over ploughed ground and fire-breaks, setting fire to everything in their course. The fire came up so rapidly that the settlers had only time to save themselves and leave their property to the mercy of the flames. Near Highmore Miss Sweeney was burned to death and near St. Lawrence Mr. Babcock perished in the flames.

FIRED THE GOVERNOR.

West Virginia's Executive Allows His Temper to Rule Him.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—A Post special from Charleston, Va., says: "Last night as Editor Reber, of the State Tribune, was standing in a grocery store he was accosted by Gov. Wilson who shook his fist under his nose and threatened him with personal violence for a criticism made on the governor's official actions. The grocery keeper, not being an admirer of the governor, ordered him out of the store, and as he failed to go summarily ejected him by force with the injunction never to enter his doors again. This is the second attack made on Reber by Wilson during the past four weeks, friends interfering each time."

The Regency Agreed To.

THE HAGUE, April 3.—In compliance with the wishes of the state council parliament to-day agreed to the establishment of a regency.