

PUBLIC IS MULCTED BY TRUST
EXORBITANT RATES FOR SURETY BONDS PAID OUT OF OFFICIAL COFFERS.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—Exorbitant charges by the "surety trust" for official bonds, regarding which a report recently was made from Chicago to the United States treasury department, promises new revelation by the Merriam commission which is digging into the conduct of department at the city hall. Since it became a practice two or three years ago to pay out of municipal funds the premium for surety bonds—something not done elsewhere—it is believed the taxpayers have been mulcted out of many thousands of dollars.

The close compact existing among surety companies of the east, one of which has had as a director City Comptroller Wilson, has enabled them to advance surety bond rates until Chicago pays from four to five times as much for bonds as employees of Uncle Sam. Attempts to double and triple the cost of surety bonds of federal employees proved a failure although an advance was scored all along the line. This effort was frustrated by the efforts of the men backed by the assistance of Sub-Treasurer Boldenweck. Mr. Boldenweck, in a report to the treasury department in Washington, went into the details of the claims of the companies and the complaints of the men. Upon the strength of this report a ruling was made by the department to the effect that the bonds of accredited surety companies would be accepted, provided the premium rates were not in excess of 25 per cent more than had been charged for several years prior to that time.

This close agreement upon premium rates serves to explain the bitterness of the opposition during the year to new surety concerns, notably the Consolidated Casualty company, organized by Robert B. Armstrong, former assistant secretary of the United States treasury, in Chicago. The eastern combine has carried on guerilla warfare upon these concerns, but the new year will find the west much less dependent upon the east for surety bonds and insurance than a year ago. The Kansas State Bankers' association has adopted the bonds of the Armstrong company owing to its independence in the matter of rates. It has been found that the premiums paid upon bonds of Chicago officials have been from \$4 to \$5 per \$1,000. It is admitted by several city officials that premiums on surety bonds for municipal employees and officers have been increased from 50 to 100 per cent in the last year or two, and that the city pays the bill. Formerly each city officer or employe was required to furnish his own bond and pay the premium.

There are about 20 surety companies doing a general business in the country, whose bonds are accepted by the government. Nearly all of these companies are members of the combine which is known as the Surety association of America. The principal members of the association are:

- American Bonding company, Bankers' Surety company, Empire State Surety company, Federal Union Surety company, Fidelity and Deposit company, Illinois Surety company, Title Guaranty and Surety company, National Surety company, United Surety company, United States Fidelity and Guaranty company.

According to the testimony brought out at congressional hearings in Washington, the 200 per cent advance in rates discovered was the result of a meeting of representatives of the companies in the association. Bond officials who appeared before the committee insisted that the advance was not made by agreement, but admitted that it was the result of "an interchange of experience." The bond officials complained that they had not been making money and that unless their rates were increased the existence of the companies was in peril. In contrast to this statement Congressman Tawney submitted a statement of profit made by the various companies, showing that all were doing well.

FOUR MEN RESCUED FROM FROZEN RIVER

St. Louis, Jan. 1.—Four men who went down in the collapse of the center span of McKinley bridge yesterday afternoon were rescued late tonight. They were exhausted after a 20-hour battle with death in the ice floes. They clung to a pile-driver scow after the crash and had drifted 10 miles south of the city, when the scow sank at noon today. They saved a ladder from the scow and with this made their way toward shore. A heavy fog prevented their being seen, but their shouts for help were heard tonight and their rescue followed.

TOTAL TIMBER CUT MILLIONS OF FEET

Washington, Jan. 1.—The total cut of national forest timber during the year was nearly 2,000,000 board feet, of which over 1,000,000 feet were given away under free-use permits, says the secretary of agriculture in his last annual report which has just been made. The timber acquired under free-use permits was used by settlers, schools and churches within the forests. The secretary says that the receipts from timber sales were about \$700,000, and continue.

ing from nearly 17,000,000 to less than 10,000,000 feet. California, Wyoming and Oregon had each a free-use cut of between 5,000,000 and 7,000,000 feet. The remaining national forest states follow with lesser amounts. "Of the timber cut under sales, Montana furnished nearly 85,000,000 feet, or 24 per cent; Colorado 44,000,000 feet, or 13 per cent; California 29,000,000 feet, or 11 per cent; and Idaho 35,000,000 feet, or 10 per cent. These amounts correspond to the following percentages of the estimated stand of national forest timber in each state: For Montana, three-tenths of 1 per cent; for Colorado, four-tenths of 1 per cent; for California, four one-hundredths of 1 per cent; for Idaho, one-tenth of 1 per cent. In other words, the cutting is far within the growth capacity of the forests."

MINISTER CANDIDATE FOR A HIGH POSITION

Spokane, Jan. 1.—Rev. Charles H. Braden, an evangelist in Spokane, who figured prominently in the nation's news a few years ago when he decorated the street windows of a local saloon with "horrible examples" in the cause of prohibition, and then gave the owner of the drinkery a certificate of character, saying among other things, "he is a man of his word," has quit the pulpit and his side line as a real estate broker to do a stint of insuring. He is a full-fledged candidate for congress to succeed Miles Poindexter of Spokane, also an insurgent, who has shied his caster into the arena as an aspirant for senatorial honors. Mr. Braden is one of 17 candidates in various parts of the Third district, taking in eastern Washington, with four counties to hear from. He is "agin" Cannon and Aldrich and favors throwing them out of office, boots and breeches. He would also like to take a few falls out of corporate interests and other things. He will organize a club of progressive republicans in a short time and make a thorough campaign in the district.

THREE MEN ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTED BLOWUP

Baltimore, Jan. 1.—Following an attempt last evening to blow up the Gay street bridge of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, three men were arrested on a charge of conspiracy with intent to dynamite the bridge and also the Mt. Clair machine shops of the railroad company. The railroad bridge was not seriously damaged. William B. Shipley, Hamilton W. Lighter, and William Zimmerman, all machinists, were later taken into custody. Detective Captain Humphrey claims to have evidence directly implicating the men.

SAFE IN THE HOME OF HER NEIGHBOR

Saville, Cal., Jan. 1.—While her parents were searching for her in the fear that she had gotten lost on route alone from Pomona to Los Angeles, Dorothy Taft, aged 12, and a cousin of President Taft, was safely with friends of the family in this suburban town. Her father and mother missed her in the crowd at the Los Angeles depot, whither they had gone to meet her last night, and she took a trolley car for her home here. Not finding anyone in the house she went to a neighbor's for the night.

CLOUDBURST MARKS OPENING OF NEW YEAR

Los Angeles, Jan. 1.—A rainfall so heavy as to amount almost to a cloudburst, marked the dawn of the new year in Los Angeles. Car service in all parts of the city was demoralized and in the surrounding country much damage was done to telephone and telegraph wires. Traffic on all railroads entering Los Angeles was delayed. Landslides in Cajon pass tied up transcontinental trains on the Santa Fe and Salt Lake lines.

CHAMPIONS OF YEAR.

Chicago Record Herald.—With champions crowned in each of the various branches of sport and athletics the task of singling down the foremost figures of 1909 simmers down to almost a frolic. The customary army of claimants for the honors continues to set up the old time hue and cry, but in most cases the title bearers hold undisputed right to their laurels. In wrestling Frank Gotch easily proved the master of all his opponents. Foreign grapplers of formidable appearance, heavy, courageous and all but skilled in the fine points of the mat game, crossed the Atlantic to wrest the title from the Humboldt strong man. The old, old story followed, Gotch emerging from all his tangles with a blemish, as it were. Jack Johnson figured in a solitary battle for the heavyweight championship of the ring and his opponent, Stanley Ketchel, outweighed, out-punched and beaten into a state of helplessness down to defeat in jig time. Most of the time the negro giant devoted to cruising around the country picking up easy money on the theatrical circuits. Louis Chevrolet won his title as king bee of the automobile road race drives by dint of some sensational performances on courses throughout the country. Hemery's old mechanism cut a wide gamy among the motor demons and already has planned for a like campaign next year. In Calvin Demarest Chicago furnished the billiard world with one of the most spectacular players ever known to the game. Turning to the professional ranks when scarcely out of his teens, Demarest invaded the big tournaments, and by playing in remarkable form easily asserted his right to hold the championship of the world at the 18 1/2 ballline style of billiards. Johnny McGovern, quarterback and field general of the University of Minnesota football team played the most phenomenal game the western gridiron followers have seen in many moons until cut down by an injury to his collar bone during the memorable battle between the gophers and maroons at Minneapolis. "Babe" Adams, an unknown youngster pitching a bewildering assortment of curves, led Pittsburg in its fight for the baseball championship of the world. John Flanagan, that grand old man of the athletic world, retained his laurels as the greatest weight chucker of them all. Eddie Dungan set the turf world afire by his hair raising rides on the speedy bangtails and Robert A. Gardner electrified the golf world setting some high-water marks in championship play.

Men's Clothing of Quality Be It Ever So Low-Priced

THE most important thing about a clothing store is the clothing it sells. Other factors contribute largely to the success or failure of a clothing store—fair prices, fair treatment, good service, variety and completeness of stocks—but the great fundamental is the Clothing itself. Is it of a character that brings a man back season after season, year after year, and constantly wins new friends?

The kind of Clothing this Store sells meets these requirements. The wonderful growth of the Clothing Store is proof sufficient of that fact. *It is Clothing of quality yet fairly priced—you cannot buy Clothing as good at lower prices anywhere, and locally you cannot get clothing as good at anywhere near our prices.*

Well-known, thoroughly reliable makes from every clothing center make up our lines. One of these, Hart Schaffner & Marx, is the greatest wholesale tailoring firm in the world. Our best clothing is made expressly for us and bears our "Premier" label—the mark of the highest class ready-to-wear clothes to be had.

No store selling but a single make of clothing, or no store selling several small and practically unknown makes without a national reputation to sustain, can hope to match so widely varied and wonderfully complete line as ours.

- PROVE IT YOURSELF**
- Men's Suits \$12.50 to \$50.00
 - Men's Evening Dress and Tuxedo Suits \$40 to \$60
 - Men's Overcoats \$12.50 to \$50
 - Men's Fur and Fur-Lined Coats \$22.50 to \$135
 - Men's White and Fancy Vests \$1.50 to \$12

Special Sale of Young Men's Clothing

This store makes a specialty of Young Men's Clothing, controlling the sale in Missoula of the two greatest lines extant. Fad Clothes and Society Brand Clothes.

All \$15.00 young men's suits reduced to \$11.25	All \$25.00 young men's suits reduced to \$18.75
All \$18.00 young men's suits reduced to \$13.50	All \$27.50 young men's suits reduced to \$20.65
All \$20.00 young men's suits reduced to \$15.00	All \$30.00 young men's suits reduced to \$22.25
All \$22.50 young men's suits reduced to \$16.85	All \$35.00 young men's suits reduced to \$26.25

Missoula Mercantile Co.



Johnson tonight when the offer of a fight with Tommy Burns was shown to the colored champion. The offer was made by Hugh McIntosh and proposed that the winner take all the receipts. "Thirty-five thousand, win, lose or draw are the only terms on which I would meet Burns," added Johnson. "If he agree I will fight him next November at any place."

WINS CHAMPIONSHIP.
Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 1.—Equaling the world's record with 98 targets broken out of 100 at 20 yards, John W. Garrett of Colorado Springs, amateur champion of the United States in 1904, today won the trap shooting championship of the middle west. Will Brennan of Denver, shooting from 15 yards, and Max Henster of Colorado Springs, from 20 yards, tied for second place with 96 each.

KELLY GETS A BEATING.
Savannah, Ga., Jan. 1.—Abe Attell, featherweight champion, gave Eddie Kelly of Buffalo, N. Y., a terrible beating in five minutes of fighting here tonight. The police stopped the fight in the second round.

FOUND DEAD IN ROOM.
San Francisco, Jan. 1.—The body of an unidentified youth, seated upon a chair with a bullet hole through his head was found today by a hotel clerk who had gone to a guest's room to wish him a happy new year. The pockets of the dead man were full

of confetti, indicating that he had been one of the revelers of the night before.

VANCOUVER DEFEATED.
Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 1.—The University of California Rugby team defeated Vancouver easily in the third game of the international cup series here today, but the cup will stay here, as Vancouver won the first two games.

ONE MORE VICTIM.
McAlester, Okla., Jan. 1.—Thomas Abbott may die from injuries received in a football game between Wilburton and Hartshorne at the latter town today. His chest was crushed and a shoulder broken.

BELL TOO LIGHT.
Buffalo, Jan. 1.—Zbyszko, the Polish champion wrestler, tonight defeated Fred Bell in two straight falls. The time was one minute 15 seconds and 51 minutes. Zbyszko outweighed Bell 30 pounds.

CONDITION HOPELESS.
Osceola, Neb., Jan. 1.—The condition of former Governor Miskey was somewhat improved today. There is little hope for his recovery.

MADRIZ SENDS GOLD TO HELP PRISONERS
Managua, Jan. 1.—President Madriz has sent \$2,000 in gold to aid in the work of the Red Cross among the prisoners of war at Bluefields. Generals Toledo and Vasquez have been ordered to the frontier, preparatory to going to Greytown. Vasquez, it is understood, is going to Acopya, where it is likely a battle may be fought before many days.

HELD BY LANDSLIDE.
Claremont, Cal., Jan. 1.—Fifteen Claremont residents are being held prisoners on Mount Baldy because of a landslide. They have provisions for seven days, by which time they are expected to make their way out over the mountain.

DAMAGED BY FIRE.
Alexandria, Egypt, Jan. 1.—The crates tobacco stores containing tobacco worth nearly \$5,000,000, were badly damaged by fire today. The loss is estimated at \$1,500,000.

NEW RUNNING RECORD.
Boston, Jan. 1.—If the track measurement was correct, Robert A. Fowler of Cambridge, New England amateur champion, tonight established a new world's amateur indoor running record for most of the distances up to 20 miles. In a match race Fowler covered the 20 miles in one hour, 48 minutes, 31 seconds. The present amateur record for the distance is one hour, 54 minutes, 54 seconds.

WOLGAST BALKS.
San Francisco, Jan. 1.—According to Sid Hester, the local fight promoter, there probably will be no fight between Battling Nelson and Ad Wolgast, but there are now chances for another match between Wolgast and Lew Powell. Tom Jones, Wolgast's manager, left tonight for Los Angeles.

JOHNSON MAKES TERMS.
Fort Wayne, Ind., Jan. 1.—"Nothing doing on those terms," said Jack Johnson tonight when the offer of \$3,750