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PAUPERS BURNED TO DEATH.

DESTRUCTION OF A COUNTY POORHOUSE.

FIVE OF THE HELPLESS INMATES LOSE THEIR LIVES —BRAVE RESCUES.

JACKSON, Mich., Jan. 24.—The county poorhouse was almost entirely destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock this morning. There were forty inmates, and all escaped except five. The bodies of the victims were brought to the city to-day. The dead are as follows:

Dolly Martin, age sixty, insane, an inmate for twelve years.

Kate Avery, age seventy, insane, an inmate for ten years.

Jane Atkins, age seventy, insane, an inmate for ten years.

Zena Boynton, age ninety-two, deaf.

Charles Elliott, age seventy-two, blind.

The building is situated in a lonely spot about four miles from the city. It was recently built at a cost of $12,000. The fire, the origin of which is unknown, broke out in the inmates' kitchen, and the whole interior was destroyed. The thermometer at the time was 10° below zero. All the inmates lost their clothing, rushing out into the snow in a naked condition. Thirty of the paupers were brought to the city and housed. Some of these will die from the effects of the exposure they were subjected to.

John Doherty, the hired man, brought three of the lunatics down the fire-escape in his arms, thus saving their lives.

An imbecile boy, age nineteen, was found in bed and was rescued by means of the fire-escape. There were only two men, beside the inmates about the place when the fire broke out and they rescued the helpless creatures before other assistance arrived. William Mills, one of the inmates, was the man who first issued "Sanders's Spelling Book." At one time he was worth $250,000.

FIGHTING FLAMES IN SNOW.

THE WEST SHORE FERRY-HOUSE BURNED.

WATER FREEZING AS IT FELL—ONE FIREMAN HURT.

The ferry-house of the West Shore and Weehawken Ferry Company, at 42d-st. and the Hudson River, was completely destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The building is a large two-story wooden structure, sheathed with corrugated iron, and was supposed to be fire-proof. A little after 7 o'clock the employes of the ferry company and of the West Shore Railroad (the building was their New-York passenger depot) who were at work in the building were alarmed by a strong smell of smoke. They at once sounded the special building signal and left the place in a hurry. The fire engines were promptly on hand, but the flames had gained much headway and dense volumes of smoke were pouring from the doors and windows. A fireman was sent at once to the signal box at Fortieth-st. and Eleventh-ave., but the circuit was out of order and the box at Forty-third-st. and Tenth-ave. had to be used to send out a second alarm. The fire was the most difficult with which the firemen had had to contend in a long time. The weather was intensely cold, the snow was falling and almost a gale of wind was blowing from the northwest, sending the dense black smoke back into the street in suffocating masses, which prevented the firemen from working as effectually as they otherwise might have done. In addition to this the heavy corrugated iron with which the building was covered prevented them from getting at the flames.

It was found necessary to send out a third alarm in order to save the Metropolitan Gas Works, which immediately adjoin the ferry-house. Among the first of the engine companies to arrive at the scene of the fire was No. 34, under Captain Cosgrove. The men of this company took up a station near the burning building, and with the men of Hook and Ladder Company No. 4 attempted to make a breach in the iron roof, so as to reach the flames. They were had at work in their dangerous position when Captain Cosgrove, who felt the heat growing momentarily greater, felt the building shake.

"Jump for your lives men!" he shouted, and set the example himself. His lead was followed none too soon, for the men had barely got into a safe place before angry red flames broke in masses from all sides of the doomed building at once and a portion of the roof fell in. James H. McGowan, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 4, had his leg broken in the fall, and was taken in an ambulance to Roosevelt Hospital. In the meantime the police boat Patrol and the fire boat Havemeyer, had arrived at the fire. The Havemeyer devoted her attention entirely to saving the Metropolitan Gas Works. The Patrol, however, made the ice barge Brooklyn move her berth and running into the dock as near the fire as she dared, was soon pouring 2,500 gallons of water a minute from her six lines of hose into the flames. The scene at this time was one of surprising beauty to the spectators. The water was freezing on the untouched portions of the building and the flames as they shot out between the ice-covered portions of the roof cast brilliant prismatic reflections from the frozen water. The snow-covered hills of New-Jersey, just across the river reflected back the flames in a blinding glare which, while it added materially to the picturesqueness of the scene, was extremely disagreeable to the men who were at work. Under the thick canopy of black smoke, the firemen rushed back and forth like spectres sheathed in ice.

Almost touching the burning ferry-house was a big tank half filled with naphtha. The firemen feared an explosion. Chief Shay with the aid of the employes of the gas works, succeeded in so ventilating the tank that when it took fire it burned away quietly and the explosion was averted. It was only after two hours of hard, exacting work that the firemen succeeded in getting the flames under sufficient control as to be certain that they would not spread, and it was found necessary to keep a couple of engines, as well as the fire boat and the Patrol, playing on the ruins pretty much all day. The neighborhood of the ferry-house is a thickly populated tenement-house district and an immense crowd gathered around to see the spectacle. Captain Killalea, with the reserves from the Twenty-second Precinct, and a contingent from the Twentieth, were sufficient to keep the crowd under control and to prevent them from interfering with the firemen.

The fire is supposed to have started in the engine-room of the house. This is situated under a small tower on the water side, north of the pier. It was impossible for the firemen to reach this part of the building from the shore. In the West Shore baggage-room there was a quantity of baggage, most of which was saved. The damage is estimated at $75,000 to the ferry company, $2,000 to the Metropolitan Gas Company and $200 to some street cars which were standing near the fire. The loss is nearly all covered by insurance.

BURNED TO DEATH IN HER CHAIR.

JOBSTOWN, N. J., Jan. 24.—Mrs. Elizabeth Early, age seventy-five, was burned to death at the house of her son-in-law, J. Asbury Ingling, at this place. She fell asleep in a chair by the stove in her room, and it is thought that her clothing took fire in this way.

FRIGHTENED PEOPLE LEAVING A TENEMENT.

Fire was discovered last night in the barber shop of Vincenzo Sabucio, at No. 613 Greenwich-st. The barber shop is on the ground floor of a big four-story tenement house and the inhabitants were thrown into a state of wild excitement by the appearance of the fire engines and the thick smoke which went rapidly through the house. Captain Mount, with a squad of police from the Charles-st. station, was quickly on hand, however, and the police succeeded in getting all the people out of the house without any serious trouble. From the difficulty in reaching the flames, it was thought necessary to send out a second alarm as a precautionary measure, but fortunately the additional engines were not needed and the flames were put out with a loss of less than $1,000. The cause of the fire and the insurance are unknown.

NEWARK GREENHOUSES DESTROYED.

The greenhouses of Charles Wright, jr., Nos. 424 & 430 Morris-ave., Newark, were destroyed by fire yesterday at 6 a. m. The fire started in the furnace-room. The loss is about $5,000; fully insured.

LOSSES IN VARIOUS PLACES.

UTICA, N. Y., Jan. 24.—Mohawk Inn, a three-story, wooden hotel at Frankfort, was burned to-day; loss, $3,500.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 24.—A fire early this evening in the two-story brick building, No. 198 Pearl-st. owned and occupied by Louis Goetz, caused a damage of about $500. Charles R. Diegert, shoe store, same building, lost about $1,300 in stock, and C. Geyer, tobaccodealer, another tenant, lost about $1,500 in stock. Losses all covered by insurance. Mr. Goetz, who was asleep in his bedroom when the fire occurred, was almost suffocated by smoke.

KINGSTON, Ont., Jan. 24.—The Queen Street Wesleyan Church was burned this morning. The loss is $25,000 and insurance $10,000.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 24.—The planing mill of Scott Brothers, in Water-st., was entirely destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock this morning. Loss, $12,000; insurance, $5,000.

ALBANY, Jan. 24.—Five alarms were sent out this afternoon for fires. The losses were light in all of them, with the exception of Page & Sill's Malleable Iron Works, which were damaged to the extent of $5,000; fully insured.

OPERATIONS OF A WESTERN FORGER.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 24.—A well-dressed young man styling himself J. Whitney came here recently and opened an office, being ostensibly in the cattle business. He opened accounts with several banks and deposited a number of drafts signed by Omaha banks aggregating $14,000. Two weeks ago he cashed these and left the city. The drafts went to the Chicago Clearing House and were paid. When they reached Omaha they proved to be forgeries. The Chicago Clearing House has called upon the banks there to make good the loss, but this they decline to do and a lawsuit will probably result. Whitney has made good his escape.

MURDERED AFTER AN ALL-NIGHT SPREE.

A MACHINIST FATALLY STABBED BY A FELLOW-WORKMAN.

Thomas Gilroy, a machinist, of No. 318 Mott-st., was stabbed to death early yesterday morning in the grog-shop of Walker & Walters, at No. 21 Thompson-st., by Robert Brawley, also a machinist, age twenty-three, of No. 40 Thompson-st. On Saturday night a ball was given by several machinists at No. 239 South Fifth-ave. for the benefit of Michael Thompson, one of their number who had been disabled by an accident. Like most affairs of the kind the dancing and festivities lasted far into the morning. Little attention was paid to the excise law and Gilroy, who acted as floor-manager, and Brawley, who was one of the leading members of the committee, were not too sparing of the beer and stronger beverages. They were too jolly to go home when the ball ended and together with some other friends they concluded to wind up the night by visiting the low all-night groggeries which abound in that neighborhood. They got to Walker & Walters's place about 7 o'clock. They had been in good spirits up to this time, but then Brawley made some slighting remark about the management of the ball, which Gilroy took as a personal insult to him and which he promptly resented. One word led to another and then the men clinched and scuffled around the room for a few moments. Elias W. Sickles, the bartender, and one of the bystanders jumped in and separated the men. Gilroy immediately sank to the floor groaning, in a rapidly growing pool of blood which flowed from a broad, deep gash in the abdomen. "I'm done for," he groaned. "For God's sake send for a doctor."

An ambulance was called, but before it arrived the unfortunate man was dead. The cutting was done with a heavy pocket-knife. After the fight Brawley coolly walked to the back part of the room and then started for the door. The police had been informed of the fight, however, and as he left the store he was arrested by Officers McGuire and Connelly, of the Prince Street Squad, and locked up. He was taken to the Jefferson Market Police Court in the morning and held for trial without bail, by Police Justice Duffy.

ARRIVAL OF A COLD SNAP FROM GEORGIA

LIGHT FALL OF SNOW IN THIS CITY—TRAVEL NOT IMPEDED.

Georgia was to blame for it. Perhaps the good people who tramped to church yesterday through the sifting snow didn't recognize the fact, but Georgia was to blame for it all, because the storm began there. It came rolling up from the South and the detectives of the Signal Service Bureau traced it straight back to Georgia. In fact, Georgia and the rest of the Gulf Region is getting into bad repute with the weather authorities this winter. The elements down there have been acting in a most unprecedented and altogether objectionable manner. And whenever the quarrel in the atmospheric family has grown too hot, some obnoxious little storm has been kicked out of doors and sent whirling up the coast to make things disagreeable for the more law-abiding portions of the country. The Gulf is the mother of storms at this season of the year. The warm sea currents from the coasts of South America heat the lower layers of the atmosphere and there is a perpetual struggle for the mastery going on between these and the colder breezes from the northern continent. These atmospheric disturbances draw the northeast winds down the Atlantic coast, and northeast winds mean snow for New-England and rain for the Gulf States every time.

Nearly an inch and a half of rain fell at Montgomery, Ala. Washington was blanketed with three inches of snow. Baltimore and Philadelphia had a little less and New-York barely an inch. As the storm came up the coast it caused a general drop in the temperature along its path of from ten to twenty degrees. It didn't reach New-York until 6:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The mercury felt the general depression, dropped to 10°, and stayed there. In Albany it saw zero and went it four better in order to preserve Governor Hill's toboggan slide in its Jeffersonian simplicity and smoothness, while Boston had to content itself with a temperature of 3° above zero. Through the West there was a light fall of snow, and the cold so far lost its grip on the situation as to allow a general rise in mercury of from fifteen to thirty points. The snow was so light and dry here that neither mails nor telegraph wires were affected. The street-cars ran easily and silently along the snow-cushioned tracks, until the big sweeper with its team of eight stout horses and crew of a dozen stamping, whistling men came along and, remorselessly digging the last grain of snow out of the deepest crevice, flirted it into the gutter. Throughout the day the red column in Hudnut's thermometer rose no higher than the fourteen-degree mark. The cardrivers and conductors drew their heads down into their collars like so many snapping turtles of a retiring disposition, and when they forgot the existence of their feet, trotted beside their cars for a block to or from their stations to induce back to life and a realization of their existence as to sensation and circulation. It was quite cold enough to render the warmth of the elevated cars agreeable, and as the five-cent fare removed any conscientious scruples against riding in them on Sunday, the street-car men were left to freeze slowly in a state of peripatetic solitude.

At 3 o'clock—just in time for the afternoon services—the snow ceased to fall. Then the ring of the shovel upon the pavement was heard in the land, mingling with the chimes of Old Trinity. The free-born youngsters of the East Side who have neither the fear of God nor the beadle before their eyes, dragged out their sleds and wickedly began to slide down hill, or to drag one another up and down the sidewalk. The snow was not heavy enough to affect travel on the Bridge. The grips took a more than usually careful hold upon the slippery cable, and the guards spent a good deal of time inside attending to the heaters. When workmen began to sweep the Bridge the light, dry snow floated away on the wind like smoke, giving the beholder the impression that the huge structure was on fire, or in a state of volcanic eruption with a dozen steam jets issuing from its sides. When the flash and boom from Governor's Island officially announced that the sun was setting, or was at least supposed to be doing so, there was little encouragement for those who waited for clear weather.

EFFECTS OF THE STORM ELSEWHERE.

DENVER, Jan. 24.—A Salida dispatch to *The Republican* says: "Word has just been received here that a snow-slide at Columbia Gulch three days ago carried away twelve or fifteen deserted houses at the old mining camp and completely covered up the mill and house of the Columbia Mine. No one was hurt."

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 24.—Telegraphic communication with Los Angeles, broken up by the recent storm, was resumed on Friday night and all other important points were brought into telegraphic communication with San Francisco yesterday morning.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 24.—There was another heavy fall of snow here to-day, but not quite so great as the last. It was, however, sufficient to seriously interfere with the running of the street cars, and trains were delayed.

PETERSBURG, Va., Jan. 24 (*Special*).—Hail has been falling here steadily all day and lies on the ground in considerable depth. The weather to-night is cold and it is still hailing.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—A snow-storm set in here last night about 11 o'clock and continued till 3 o'clock this afternoon, when about four inches of snow had fallen.

CLAIMING ANCIENT PROPERTY IN BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—The claims of the colored family, Stevenson, in Philadelphia, to property in Baltimore valued at $1,500,000 are being prosecuted by Sylvester Stockbridge, of this city, and by Philadelphia lawyers. There are also members of the family in Baltimore who are claimants. Much of the property involved is in the vicinity of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's depot, in the southern part of town. The French Chevalier mentioned in connection with the claim was not the Chevalier d'Amiens, as stated, but the Chevalier d'Amour. Charles Frances Adrian le Paulmier d'Amour lived in the latter part of the eighteenth century on the property now occupied by the Samuel Ready Orphan Asylum. He deeded the property to Rachel Stevenson, his housekeeper, a mulatto woman, on May 7, 1789, and Rachel deeded it back to him for his life on the following day. The property was sold to Archibald Campbell in 1796, and afterward passed through various hands, including the Barnum family, until it was acquired for the Ready Asylum. The Chevalier d'Amour lived at the place, which comprised about fifty acres, for some time and built there a monument to the memory of Christopher Columbus, which is still standing.

END OF THE IOWA AUDITORSHIP WRANGLE.

DES MOINES, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—The long wrangle over the State Auditorship is settled for the present, at least, by the reinstatement of Auditor Brown, which occurred yesterday afternoon. Nearly a year ago Mr. Brown, then Auditor, was removed from office by Governor Sherman. The latter refused to approve his official bond, stating that Brown had not made a proper accounting of all the moneys and funds belonging to the State and in his possession. Brown was forcibly ejected from his office and J. W. Cattell was appointed to serve during Brown's suspension. At different times since Brown has attempted to qualify by presenting such a bond as he said was prescribed by law, but Mr. Sherman has held them insufficient and during the last days of December the Governor declared that the time had expired during which Brown could qualify and so declared the office vacant and appointed Cattell to serve during the remainder of the unexpired term. Governor Larrabee has had the case under advisement since his inauguration and submitted the law points involved to the Attorney General, who advises him that Brown's bond is in proper form.

THE DECREES OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—All of the documents containing the decrees of the last Plenary Council have not yet arrived from Rome, but the theologians and Archbishop Gibbons, who have been arranging the decrees for publication state that they will be ready in five or six weeks. Professor Wesziner, of Seton Hall College, has been here several weeks assisting in correcting the proofs of the decrees from the printers. It is likely that a condensation of the decrees containing matter most interesting to the laity will be read in all the Catholic Churches of the country.

THE BALKAN CONTROVERSY.

BULGARIAN OVERTURES TO THE PORTE.

THE CZAR'S COURTESY TO PRINCE ALEXANDER—ENGLISH WARNINGS TO GREECE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 24.—Mr. Tzanow, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, accompanied by Gadban Effendi, the Turkish Commissioner, arrived in this city to-day. Mr. Tzanow is impowered to negotiate with the Porte for the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia. Madjid Pacha, the special Turkish Envoy, has been ordered to go to Bucharest.

SOPHIA, Jan. 24.—A messenger has arrived here with a courteous letter from the Czar to Prince Alexander.

ATHENS, Jan. 24.—Sir Horace Rumbold, the British Minister, informed Premier Delyannis to-day that England was prepared to send a fleet to prevent Greece from attacking Turkey by sea. Premier Delyannis replied that Greece would not disarm. The Greek fleet sailed to-day with sealed orders.

THE FRIGHT ABOUT THE PRINCE OF WALES.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The excitement in Chester in connection with the visit of the Prince of Wales to the Duke of Westminster, has subsided. The Prince paid a short, unofficial visit to Chester to-day. No incident worthy of special mention occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone are also guests at Eaton Hall, the Duke of Westminster's residence.

DEFICIENCY IN THE ITALIAN BUDGET.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—Signor Magliani, the Italian Minister of Finance, has announced in the Italian Chamber of Deputies that there is a deficit in the current budget of $10,000,000. The deficit is attributed to cholera and the expense of the expedition to Massowah. He stated that there would be a reduction in the land tax and an increase in the duties on sugar, coffee and spirits which he assured the Chamber would establish an equilibrium.

FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM MEXICO.

MONTEREY, Mex., Jan. 24.—It is announced that General Trevino has been appointed Mexican Minister to Spain and that ex President Gonzales has received the appointment of Minister to France. General Trevino is at present on his ranch Elbalma near Lampasas and expects to take his departure for Madrid in a few days. General Gonzales is the Governor of Guanajuato.

NATIONALIST SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERALS.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—Mr. Parnell has instructed the Nationalist electors of Armagh to vote for the Liberal candidate in the coming Parliamentary election in that division.

THE DISABLED STEAMER SARNIA.

MONTREAL, Jan. 24.—The following cable dispatch was received here yesterday: "The British steamer Sarnia, Captain Gibson, from Liverpool January 7 for New-York, before reported with her steering gear disabled, is making for the South Channel and Liverpool. Her mails were returned on the steamer Bordeier, by which she was spoken, and were transferred to the Cunard Line steamer Gallia, which sailed from Liverpool for New-York to-day."

AN AGED MAN AND WIFE MURDERED.

ST. CATHERINE'S, Ont., Jan. 24.—Further examination of the body of Mrs. Bates, discovered in a burning farm-house near Allanburg yesterday, shows that she died by violence. Her skull was fractured and three knife wounds were found in her body. The old couple had recently received a large sum of money, the proceeds of a sale of live stock.

FRAGMENTS OF CABLE NEWS.

PARIS, Jan. 24.—The Prince of Montenegro, who is visiting this city incognito, to-day called upon M. de Freycinet.

PARIS, Jan. 24.—Advices from Haiphong say that the whole of the Red River delta is completely pacified. General de Courcy has left Haiphong for Hong Kong en route to France.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 24.—Herr Berg, the Vice-President of the Folkething, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on September 30 for a disturbance at a political meeting at Holsteinsborg, in Jutland, and whose sentence was recently confirmed by the Danish Supreme Court, has been committed to prison.

VISIONS OF WEALTH FOR THE HALES.

HEIRS FOUND FOR AN ESTATE BEQUEATHED BY SIR MATTHEW HALE.

HUNTINGDON, Penn., Jan. 24 (*Special*).—Members of the Hale family scattered through this part of the State are elated over the prospects of a fortune, and have employed counsel here to look after their interest in the estate of Sir Matthew Hale, said to be coming to descendants in America. A branch of the family in Ohio recently made inquiries concerning James and John Hale, who were residents of this county many years ago, and whose marriages it is necessary to prove to establish the line of descent. It was through these inquiries that the Hales in this State first learned definitely of the existence of the fortune, although they had heard of it before, and they now claim a share of it.

It is said that Sir Matthew Hale created a trust for the benefit of one of his sons and his heirs; that the descendants of the son in England are extinct; that contingencies have happened under which the principal is payable, and that the present claimants are his heirs. The amount of the trust is large and has been increasing, there having been for many years no person to whom the interest could be paid. This claim differs from those which American office-seekers and lawyers in England have pronounced unfounded. It is personal property, being money invested for the beneficiaries, and is bequeathed by will, so that aliens may take it under the English laws, which would not be the case if it was real estate or if there was no will.

The claimants here have not ascertained the exact amount of the trust and those in Ohio are not disposed to give them any information. The latter were surprised to find that James and John Hale left children and grandchildren here with whom they may have to divide. The two branches of the family are not working in harmony.

THREATENED BY THE SOUTH AND WEST.

MR. WRIGHT POINTS OUT THE DANGER TO MASSACHUSETTS'S INDUSTRIES.

BOSTON, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—Carroll D. Wright, the well-known statistician, read an interesting paper before the Norfolk Club on Saturday evening on "The Future of the Industries of Massachusetts." He said in the course of his address: "The agricultural products of Massachusetts do not exceed $50,000,000 per year. We do not raise wheat enough to feed our people a single day. But we have our mechanical industries turning out $700,000,000 worth of products a year. How shall we sustain ourselves in this direction and also provide for the future? To my own mind there is but one way, and that is that we shall cultivate to the highest point that we are able the development of new industries. I do not mean by the transposition of industries; by bringing an industry from the South or the West to New-England, because New-England is threatened with another influence beyond those that I have named to you. The South is developing her industries at an extent greater than ever before. With her new interest in the Administration she is stepping out into a progress which she never knew, and it is for New-England's advantage that the advancement of the South in an industrial point of view is rapid, great and grand. With her raw material, with her immense resources of coal, iron, timber and fabrics, it is for our interest to see that the South has every advantage for industrial development.

"But that advantage means that some of the coarser industries of Massachusetts and New-England will go South. That must be so logically and inevitably. The development of the West will take some of the coarser products of the East to the West. This then leaves Massachusetts and New-England surrounded by the efforts of the countries of Europe to secure foreign trade, and threatened, not in the ordinary sense, by the advancement and progress of other portions of the United States, with the loss of some of her industries. Then Massachusetts and the East generally must insist in occupying the relation to the rest of the United States that Great Britain and Belgium have occupied with relation to us, and must produce all those finer grades of goods that are now imported. There is no reason in the world why the East should not make the best of West of England broadcloth, or why with her skill and what she can command Massachusetts should not manufacture all the finest tools in use in the world. So that she shall supply the growing South and the growing West. Not only this, Massachusetts should recognize the power and the influence of art as applied to industry. Our industrial schools, art schools and technical schools must be fostered. That done, we stand ready to furnish the United States at least with the best skill that is obtainable in the world. I believe that it is only in this way that Massachusetts can preserve her present position as one of the leading States in manufactured goods in this country."

PHENOMENON AT THE DELAWARE WATER GAP.

PORTLAND, Penn., Jan. 24.—A striking spectacle was witnessed at the Delaware Water Gap, three miles above here, early on one of the recent exceedingly cold mornings. The atmosphere of the lower Delaware Valley was filled with minute floating scales of ice that morning. As the sun arose above the Blockade Mountain, and its rays fell on the ice scales, a brilliant bow was formed, resembling a rainbow, except that it was inverted, the centre of the arc resting on the frozen river, and then rising upward along the dark sides of the mountains on either side of the Gap. The colors were far more vivid and brilliant than those of the most gorgeous rainbow. The magnificent sight remained for several minutes. The broad band of color was only visible as far as the hills made a background for it. The colors faded away gradually.

SEVEN INSANE BROTHERS.

MADE CRAZY BY A FINANCIAL LOSS.

AN AFFLICTED FAMILY FROM THE OZARK MOUNTAINS—A DESPERATE EFFORT TO ESCAPE.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—A dispatch from Moberly, Mo., to-night tells the following remarkable story: Seven brothers all raving maniacs passed through here yesterday on the way to the Bloomington, Ill., Asylum. An inordinate love for money was the cause of the affection. Commissioner Scammit, who has the men in charge, said in reply to inquiries about the case:

"In the Ozark Mountains in Hickory County, Missouri, there lived prior to the war Anson Arnold, a wealthy farmer. His family was large and penurious in their disposition. The acquirement of money seemed to be their whole aim in life, even depriving themselves of necessities to gain it. The family consisted of two daughters and seven sons. The sons were Joseph, Anson, Henry, John, Robert, Uriah and William. They were promising young men till about three years ago, when a sleek individual of good address, one George K. Bibb, visited the home of the Arnolds, and by telling them a plausible story, and convincing them that they could increase their wealth, induced them to invest their little all in a mythical silver ledge in Nevada. They were jubilant with expectation, but after months of anxiety the news was received that Bibb and his Western mine were both frauds, and the wealth of the Arnolds had been absorbed by the heartless impostor. Upon receipt of the news of Bibb's duplicity the seven brothers were stricken with violent insanity."

So much for the circumstances connected with the deplorable facts. While at the Moberly depot Uriah, the most violent of the seven, attempted to escape from the car. He was assisted to the others, but dragged them and four of the Commissioner's assistants the entire length of the car, biting and screaming. His actions excited the other brothers to such a degree that it took the efforts of several persons to keep them from escaping. During the frenzy Uriah had his arm terribly lacerated and Robert's arm was broken midway between the shoulder and elbow. The other brothers acted like demons. They were finally quieted and are now well on the way to their destination. The conductor in charge of the train remarked that in an experience of thirty years he had never witnessed a similar scene and hoped that this would be the last.

ATTACKED BY A MADDENED CONVICT.

NARROW ESCAPE OF KEEPER BOYLE, OF AUBURN PRISON.

AUBURN, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—During the services in the prison chapel this morning, John Daly, a New-York convict under a sentence for three years and six months for burglary, approached one of the keepers with a request to retire. The keeper refused and Daly raised his fist as if to strike the officer, when Principal Keeper Boyle interfered. Daly turned upon the latter, yelled "You're the man I want," and producing a clasp knife from his pocket began slashing at him. Major Boyle fearful of arousing the thousand convicts in the room, attempted to grapple with the infuriated man and wrest the knife from his hands, but a gash on the hand and a desperate lunge at his abdomen convinced him of the necessity of extreme measures, and he knocked him down with his heavy cane.

Three keepers then grabbed the unruly convict, but he struggled furiously and just as he was being taken through the door, yelled "Murder!" at the top of his voice, hoping as he afterward said to incite the other convicts to an uprising. The other keepers, however, produced their firearms and not a man arose.

During the scuffle a woman in the visitors' gallery was seized with hysterics, and her moans and screams added to the excitement of the moment. This is Daly's second term in Auburn. He was sent from New-York for burglary on February 23, 1882, to Sing Sing and was transferred to Auburn, and finished his time on April 20, 1885. Nineteen days after his release he was again arrested in New-York for burglary and sent to Sing Sing for the same length of time. He was transferred again to Auburn in May last. Shortly after arriving here he attacked Major Boyle in the dining-hall and cut him so badly about the legs that he was laid up for some weeks. He has frequently expressed his intention of killing Boyle. He cut through all his clothes to-day, and a steel button alone saved Boyle's life.

SUDDEN ILLNESS OF EX-SENATOR McCARTHY.

SYRACUSE, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—Ex-Senator Dennis McCarthy was one of the speakers at a meeting last evening at the City Hall, held to discuss the question of bonding the city for constructing new water works, for which a bill is now before the Legislature. His remarks were animated, the more so as the bill was introduced by his son, Assemblyman Thomas McCarthy. He closed at 10 o'clock, and feeling weary from the exertion in the overheated hall, walked to the rear of the room, where he stood by the door smoking and listening to other remarks. All at once he felt a dizziness, and with one hand uplifted fell against Fire Commissioner Dunfee, who was standing near and who caught him in his arms. The Senator was carried to an ante-room unconscious and Doctors Didama and Pease were summoned. Before they arrived the Senator revived. He was removed to his home. The physicians said little about his case, and some of his friends claimed that it was an attack of apoplexy. The Senator is feeling all right again to-day, but it is reported, and says that it was only a fainting spell.

GREAT DEPRECIATION IN VALUES.

PORT JERVIS, Jan. 24.—Two thousand shares in the Liberty Gold Mining Company of Colorado, which cost $4,000; 600 shares in the New-York and Colorado Mining Company, $3,000; notes to the amount of $400, and accounts amounting to $650, belonging to the estate of the late H. H. Farmer, of this village, were sold at administrator's sale a few days ago. The whole lot, aggregating about $11,050, brought $1.

DEATH FROM DRINKING TOO MUCH COLD WATER

PHILLIPSBURG, Jan. 24.—Aaron Culver, a fireman in the employ of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, died here recently after a short illness, due to excessive drinking of cold water. Culver's extraordinary capacity for drinking water made him noted along the entire line of the road. It was a common thing for him to drink a two-quart pail or pitcher of water without removing the vessel from his lips. His usual quantity of cold water during the day was four gallons, but he had been known to drink as much as eight gallons. This did not include the quantities he drank in his supper and bed-time, which was correspondingly large. He never drank anything except water. He seemed to be always thirsty, and the craving for water was just as strong in the winter as in the summer.

FINDING A STRANGE BIRD IN A STREET.

PORT JERVIS, Jan. 24.—Louis Remey found a strange bird on the sidewalk in front of his house on Sussex-st. early on Friday morning. The bird made no attempt to fly and its movements on the ground were so awkward that its capture was easy. The bird is about the size of a partridge and its body is perfectly round. It has a short neck and a small head, shaped like a duck's, with a sharp bill. Its eyes are light red. The legs, which are slate-colored, are set close to the tail, making it top-heavy. There are three toes on each foot, and each toe is webbed separately, the membrane being shaped like an oar blade. The head, neck and upper part of the body are dark gray and the under part of the body white. When placed in a tub of water the bird dove and frisked about with wonderfully quick and graceful movements. No one thereabout ever saw or heard of a bird of the kind.

DECLARING THAT SHE POISONED HER MOTHER.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—A well-dressed young woman walked into police headquarters to-night and desired to speak with Chief Harrigan. The chief was not in at the time and the caller expressed great disappointment. Then she burst into tears and said: "I want to be arrested. I poisoned my mother in Chicago five years ago."

The captain's astonishment at this disclosure was such that for a moment he looked searchingly at the woman to see if she was sane. There was not the slightest trace of mental aberration beyond her emotions and she was asked to give the details. She stated that her name was Mary Christian Morg, age twenty-three. She lived in this city eight years ago, but refused to give her address at the time. Later her parents moved to Chicago. Her father and mother lived unhappily, so, to stop the trouble, she claims to have administered poison to her mother. She says that the crime was never discovered and that she has been living in remorse ever since. It so preyed upon her that she decided to give herself up. She was locked up pending an investigation of her story.

READY TO PAY THE CANDIDATE'S BILLS.

PHILADELPHIA Jan. 24 (*Special*).—Another new Republican aspirant for the Mayoralty under the Bullitt bill has come to the surface in John Fields, who was a prominent member of the Committee of One Hundred. The movement in his behalf has gone so far that those interested have agreed to bear all the expenses of the campaign. A prominent politician said to-day that he supposed the necessary expenses to be incurred in the conduct of a campaign would amount to not less than $30,000, and this sum would be assessed by those desiring to make Mr. Field the Mayor of Philadelphia. Mayor Smith is considered practically out of the race, and it is highly probable that the fight will eventually narrow down between George De B. Keim and Mr. Field.

INVESTIGATING MR. RANDALL'S METHODS.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 24 (*Special*).—The methods by which the Randall faction are charged with securing such a large representation at the recent primaries of the delegates elected to the State Convention are to be investigated, and to-morrow affidavits will be prepared in several wards for the arrest of the alleged wrong-doers. It is stated that several delegates were offered positions to turn in and vote for the Administration. The penalty for any violation of the law on this subject is a fine not exceeding $300 and imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

GOOD RENTING PROSPECTS.

BUSINESS PROPERTY LOOKING UPWARD.

ADVANCES EXPECTED IN MANY CASES—NO CHANGE IN DWELLING RENTS PROBABLE.

Among the departments of business which reflect quickly "better times" probably the real estate market is one of the most prominent, and no more delicate barometer to indicate an improvement can be found than in rents for stores and offices. As this is the view held by real estate dealers, they find considerable satisfaction in reporting that the coming season promises to see an advance in this class of property. Although full activity will not be reached for some weeks yet, there have been enough developments to warrant a forecast of the probable results of the season. Regarding dwelling properties dealers are somewhat indisposed to speak, as the renting of houses and flats lags a month or more after business leases have been arranged. Yet even here the signs are said to point to a healthy activity and a maintenance (except in particular cases) of the range of figures of last spring. In every direction of the real estate market brokers seem to see a condition of things which is more than gratifying.

To summarize the statements of many brokers and dealers, here is about how the market looks and is: Business property outside of the dry-goods district is already renting at an advance. For retail store property in the principal avenues and cross-street thoroughfares and well-situated down-town stores, below Canal st., owners are getting a considerable advance. Inquiries are coming in earlier than usual, and tenants are seeking an early renewal of their leases and in only a few cases do they resist a demand for an advance. Landlords are not committing themselves to long leases of this kind of property except at advancing rents each year. The improvement in business is said to be drawing people to the city and encouraging the starting of new enterprises, so that when the demand is under full way it will probably be a most excellent one. In the dry-goods district possibly an exception may be taken to the general outlook and it is expected by some brokers that rents will show a little falling off. As one man put it: "When that trade is good it is generally very good and rent is no object, but when trade is not up to the mark, rent is closely looked after as it becomes an important item." Tenants have, however, shown that they are looking for a future improvement in that they are trying to secure long leases at the prevailing or lower rates. Office property is renting well, so far as the season has gone, and in good localities an advance, it is said, is easy to get. Lower Broadway is attracting an increasing number of tenants who do not feel able to pay the rates asked in the well-settled office centres. The desire of people to enjoy all the advantages of a modern equipped house and the constant expansion of the population sustaining the rent market for dwelling property, and while the generous supply of apartment houses prevents an advance, as a rule brokers expect to see last year's values upheld.

Horace S. Ely, who handles much office property, said on Saturday: "It is too early yet to tell much about the business and I am somewhat in doubt myself about renting prospects. A little business is of course being done, but the movement is not full under way. I do not look for any material change from last year's prices, but I think that the large business will be transacted. Trade generally is improving and people are more inclined to expand their business while others are embarking in new ventures, so it is natural to look for some improvement in rents. My impression is that the business area is spreading and that tenants are more willing to go outside of the old limits in order to get a little lower rents. A few days of bright weather will start the season up well."

At E. H. Ludlow & Co.'s it was stated that there was a good demand for houses to sell, which was an indication that there would probably be a better renting demand when the season opened. Prices would probably be up to those of last year. Houses renting from $2,000 to $3,500 were always in strong demand.

Ferdinand Fish said that he found a larger inquiry for offices than usual at this season and that he had already succeeded in making several leases that would have been impossible a year ago. Tenants demanded modern offices and would take nothing else; choice locations even commanded a premium. Rents generally, however, would be about the same as last year for short terms, but would scale higher for long terms. Retail store property on the avenues and below Chambers-st. rented rapidly and at higher prices than for two or three years. He thought that there was a most hopeful feeling among business firms generally and they seemed eager to secure leases at present prices.

J. Romaine Brown, at Thirty-third-st. and Broadway, expressed these views: "I think that the real estate outlook is excellent in every respect. Inquiries are early both for property for sale and to rent. There is a good demand for dwelling houses all the way up from $12,000 to $100,000. I don't know where it all comes from, and perhaps the low rates of money have led to some speculation, but in the main the business is healthy. It will continue to improve, too, unless strikes should interfere with building operations. I look for an advance in business properties on the thoroughfares. Already many of our tenants have voluntarily offered an advance of 10 to 15 per cent for the prompt renewal of their leases. Dwelling property will probably rent well and up to last year's prices."

Morris B. Bronner, of Morris B. Baer & Co., thought that there was a better outlook generally for business, which could not fail to help the real estate market. "People are coming back to New-York to live," he went on, "who could not afford to live here when times were dull, and there is strong activity in the sales market. The fact that many persons are buying their own houses