New-York Tribune.

VOL. XLV....No. 14,328. NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1886. PRICE THREE CENTS.

TWO DEGREES BELOW ZERO.

THE COLDEST DAY OF THE SEASON.

BLOCKADES ON THE LONG ISLAND RAILROAD—MANY PEOPLE FROSTBITTEN.

"Coldest day yet," said everybody who had to go out yesterday. This statement is beginning to have a somewhat musty flavor, and is losing its rank among the novelties of the season, but it was a stern uncompromising truth yesterday. The little instrument in the breezy structure on top of the Equitable Building, whose duty it is to mark the "bottom figure" of the temperature record, looked the observer straight in the eye in the morning and said: "Two degrees below zero," with an air of truth and innocence that froze the first suspicions of doubt.

Down in the streets people were wearing fur caps and two pairs of gloves and all the extra clothing that could be accommodated. The statement of the weather bureau that "the centre of the cold wave is now resting over the middle Atlantic States" was universally condemned as week and inadequate. The general impression was that not only the centre, but both edges of the wave were resting over this city and bearing down about as hard as they knew how. In the afternoon the clear sunshine raised the temperature ten degrees, and loosened the mounds and cornices of snow on awnings and buildings so that they could drop off when a particularly shiny silk hat came within reach. Further than this, however, nothing was effected in the way of reforming the weather. The loose snow that had been removed from Broadway left the pavement coated with a frozen film, half ice and half snow, that made physical uprightness extremely difficult of preservation. Trucks and wagons slipped about and ran against one another. One driver in upper Broadway was sitting on his high seat, nursing his wrath against the last man who had asked him if it was cold enough, when a truck caught his rear wheel. The shock threw him down upon the footboard, where he hung until some one stopped his horse, and then he dropped half stunned to the ground. Blockades were numerous, and the labors of the policemen whose duty it was to keep things moving in West and South sts. were by no means light. Over-worked furnaces that vainly tried to keep the cold north wind out of the houses rendered the utmost vigilance of the firemen necessary. Bursting water pipes wrung the housewife's soul with anguish, and naturally the plumber caught all the plums distributed by the cold wave.

The Street Cleaning Department last night continued the work of cleaning the more travelled thoroughfares. On Thursday night a large force of Italian laborers was employed in gathering the snow in heaps, and an extra force of horses and carts carted it away. The cold was intense, but Deputy Commissioner Seybold and Superintendent Green kept the laborers at work until after midnight. Over 3,500 loads of snow were taken away from Broadway and the side streets and dumped in the rivers. Broadway was cleared of snow from the Battery to Twenty-third-st. The streets in the dry-goods district were then attacked, and by midnight Lispenard, White, Franklin, Thomas, Reade and Duane sts. were cleared from Broadway to West Broadway. The ferry streets were cleared by the contractors. On the east side Hanover Square, Wall, Fulton, Broad, Beaver, Chambers and Chatham sts. and Park Row were well cleared.

The rivers and bay were covered with an unbroken field of ice. It was brought down both rivers by the ebb-tide in a continuous solid mass, and was carried down into the lower bay and past Sandy Hook. At the flood tide it swept back again as if there was no limit to it. Fortunately, the ice was none of it in large blocks, but was well broken up and offered no obstruction to steamers, while vessels under sail had little trouble. The Sound was also heavily packed with ice, and from City Island it was reported that no open water could be seen. All the incoming vessels by way of Sandy Hook brought evidences of hard experiences with the cold weather. The sea-spray had coated the lower rigging, decks and hull with ice, and some looked as if they were inclosed in glass. Many of the sailors were badly frostbitten. The brig Swiftsure, which had anchored inside of Sandy Hook on Wednesday night, had to slip her anchor and seventy-five fathoms of chain to get under way. The crew suffered severely from the cold. The steamship Lepanto, from Dundee, had a severe experience in the northeast gale and snowstorm of Wednesday and Thursday, and was thickly covered with ice.

Thermometers in Brooklyn showed a temperature of 16° below zero at 6 a. m. yesterday. On the Bridge 4° below zero was recorded and 3° below in the Navy Yard, where the men ceased work on account of the intense cold. The men on the street railroads of Brooklyn suffered severely from the cold.

For the first time since 1881 the Long Island Railroad is seriously blocked. The snow-ploughs and gangs of men worked all day yesterday and late in the night to clear the tracks, but their efforts were almost useless, for as fast as the drifts were cleared the wind blew the snow back and packed it firmly. When the snow first fell little trouble was feared. But the heavy wind gathered the snow before it and piled it into the railroad cuts or drifted it into banks from three to six feet high across the tracks. The eastern end of Long Island is almost entirely isolated, and the Greenport and Sag Harbor trains were not put through last night. Superintendent Barton thinks it better policy to hold a train back than send it ahead to have it snow bound. The road is tightly blocked between Riverhead and Greenport, and the mail train which left Long Island City at 9:15 a. m. on Thursday had not got through at a late hour yesterday. No trains have gone over the Montauk Division beyond Patchogue. All communication with the Hamptons and Sag Harbor is cut off. The trains over the Port Jefferson branch are all blocked. The Locust Valley, Rockaway and North Shore branches are all clear and the trains running on schedule time. Snow-ploughs were sent out to the relief of the Port Jefferson and Greenport trains, and by morning it is expected that the blockade will be raised.

The police of this city reported the following cases of prostration from the cold yesterday: John Banks, forty-two years old, a homeless waiter, was taken to the New-York Hospital with hands and feet frozen from lying drunk in the street at night.

Robert Smith, sixty years old, no home, was found with frozen hands in front of No. 15 Elizabeth-st.; was taken to the Chambers Street Hospital.

August Band, age thirty-five, no home, was found with frozen ears in Washington-st., and was taken to the Chambers Street Hospital.

Early yesterday morning James Green, one of the oldest citizens of Newark, was found lying in a snow-bank near his home, unconscious and nearly frozen to death. He was taken to Police Headquarters and restored to consciousness, and by 12 o'clock he was able to walk home with the assistance of his brother.

ICE PLENTY, BUT HARD TO HARVEST.

BADLY JAMMED BY FRESHETS—THE PRICE MAY BE RAISED NEXT SUMMER.

There has been just one reflection which has supported the average citizen so far through this present cold snap, and that is now knocked from under him by the announcement of the ice companies that their staple will not be any cheaper this year than usual—in fact, that there is a probability of a slight rise in price. While the said citizen has been shrivelling up before the blasts of the winter wind he has comforted his soul with visions of great fields of smooth ice rapidly forming on the Hudson, while the pleasing fancy of a next summer's ice tariff that was trying to underbid the mercury itself crossed his mind. The visions were only the baseless fabric of a dream, however, for if he could have viewed the Hudson with the eye of the iceman instead of the eye of imagination he would have seen its smooth surface broken by an almost continuous line of ice jams.

There are some smooth places, however, and into these the iceman are digging with plough and saw. Heavy freshets in the early part of the winter came roaring down the Mohawk Valley and wrecked the beauty of the Hudson's glassy surface. Where it piled the ice-cakes up in all sorts of fantastic shapes and positions the iceman drops a crocodile tear and passes on to some protected bay, where he saws out food for the maw of the ravenous ice-water tanks of the city. Canals have to be cut through the ice jam up to the ice-houses, and along these the steady procession of cakes is kept moving by a line of men with icepicks, or perhaps a long ice-raft is towed by mules. The ice on those parts of the river which have not been disturbed is from nine to fourteen inches thick. The trouble and expense of towing the cakes through sometimes two or three miles of canals and broken ice may raise the price 25 cents or so a ton for brewers, but the honest iceman pledges his word that the tariff for distribution to families shall not be raised.

Some of the smaller houses along the river bank will be unable to reap any harvest whatever this year. The large companies, some of which have storage room for 1,200,000 tons, always get a stock, if they have to import it from Maine, but the little fellows sometimes get left out in the cold. The ice on Rockland Lake which furnishes the best quality of refrigerating material for New-York is twelve inches thick and is being harvested rapidly. If the cold weather continues a full crop will be obtained this year and at about the usual date.

SKATING ON THE COLD LAKES.

Hundreds of skaters glided across the Central Park lakes yesterday defying the cutting wind which tinged their cheeks. The snow had been cleared from the large lake and the Harlem River by a large force of men, who were occupied all day Thursday in the work. Yesterday afternoon workmen were clearing the small pond at Fifty-ninth-st. and Fifth-ave. The snow is the heaviest that has fallen this season. It is heaped in high banks along the borders of the lakes, inclosing them with a wall of snow. The skating on streams and ponds in the suburbs has been spoiled by the heavy storm and the Park authorities look for larger crowds on the lakes than ever.

Although there was skating in Prospect Park few persons ventured on the ice.

VICTIMS OF THE COLD.

HIGH BRIDGE, N. J., Feb. 5 (*Special*).—Harrison Wright, of Succasunna, N. J., and William Wheeler, supposed to be from New-York, became intoxicated last night at Flanders and then getting in a sleigh started for Wright's home. On their way Wheeler fell from the sleigh, and Wright, too drunk to know what he was about, drove on leaving Wheeler to perish in the cold. His body was found this morning.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 5.—The bodies of a man, woman and six children were found frozen stiff on the prairie near Oberlin Kan., on Wednesday. They are supposed to be one Lemmon and his family who started in an emigrant wagon for Oberlin just before the recent blizzard and have not been heard from since.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Feb. 5 (*Special*).—S. F. Mentzer, age twenty-five, a single man, died at a hotel five miles from here last night from extreme cold.

SNOW AND COLD ELSEWHERE.

THE WEATHER FROM MAINE TO TEXAS—TEMPERATURE IN THIS STATE.

DENISON, Tex., Feb. 5.—The recent storm in the Southwest has in some respects been the most severe of the season. Snow fell all through Northern Texas, and it is expected that much damage will result to vegetation and stock from the cold wave. The news from the Indian Territory indicates that the loss of cattle in the Nation will be exceedingly heavy. The heaviest fall of snow ever known in the Red Fork country is now on the ground—at least eighteen inches on the level. There is much suffering on the San Francisco extension west of here, and the loss of stock on the range will be unprecedented if the snow lies on the ground two days longer, as feed and water are unobtainable. In many of the covers in the timber breaks where the stock usually resort in storms the snow drifts are from ten to thirty feet deep. At Chanteau, on the line of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, in the Indian Territory, snow has been falling hard for the last twenty-four hours, whith no signs of abatement. It is now about two feet deep, with a heavy, cold north wind blowing. The snow has drifted in places to a depth of from five to eight feet, and the already weak cattle will undoubtedly perish. In the Texas Panhandle snow has fallen heavily and the cold is intense. The loss to the cattle interest, in the present famished condition of the stock, will, it is feared, be unusually large.

PROVINCETOWN, Mass., Feb. 5.—The severe storm which struck Cape Cod on Wednesday night continued with unabated fury, the wind blowing a regular blizzard, with blinding snow, making it impossible to see ten yards from shore. Surfmen have been patrolling the beaches for thirty-six hours. At Dennisport the snow has drifted to a depth of six feet, and the roads are blocked.

NEWPORT, Feb. 5.—The West Bay is closed with ice, making communication with New-York by way of Wickford impossible. The mails and passengers go by train by way of Providence.

CANAJOHARIE, Feb 5 (*Special*).—The coldest day for years in the Mohawk Valley. Thermometer 31° below zero at Sharon Springs; 32° below at Gloversville; and 35° below at Rockville.

SARATOGA, Feb. 5.—An intensely cold wave swept over this region last night, accompanied by a northeast wind. The below zero figures are: Rock City Falls, 36°; Saratoga, 30°; Stony Creek, 27°; Balston Spa, 25°; Schuyler, 24°; Bacon Hill, 22°; North Creek, 20°.

BUFFALO, Feb. 5.—Last night and this morning the mercury recorded the lowest point it has reached this winter. At 7 o'clock this morning it stood 14° below zero and it has risen but little since that hour.

WATERTOWN, Feb. 5.—The mercury is 40° below zero here this evening.

ROME, Feb. 5. The cold wave reached here last night. At 7 a. m. to-day the mercury ranged from 20° to 25° below zero. At Troy it is from 5° to 11° below.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—Thermometer at 7 o'clock this morning registered 4° below zero.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—This morning was the coldest of the season. The temperature at the Signal Office registered 2° below zero at 7 o'clock.

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 5.—The weather last night inferred greatly with the running of railroad trains. The Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore trains were delayed for several hours this morning. The temperature at 7 a. m. was 8° below zero

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 5.—The weather last night was the coldest known in this region since the great storm of 1857. The thermometer at the signal station registered 3½° above zero at 7 o'clock this morning. The river is full of ice and travel and mails from the north are greatly delayed.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 5—Last night was the coldest of the winter. At 7 o'clock this morning the mercury indicated 2° below zero. Trains are still delayed and navigation is again suspended, there having been no arrival or departure at this port to-day.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 5.—Last night and to-day have been the coldest here since December 30, 1880, when the thermometer in exposed places at sunrise indicated 8° below zero. This morning at sunrise the mercury ranged from 4° above to 3° below according to locality. Reports from points in this State along the railroads show similar condition, the thermometer ranging in some cases at 10° and 20° below. Trains on all roads which have been interrupted and greatly delayed by Wednesday's snowstorm are now getting all right and resuming schedule time.

TORONTO, Feb. 5.—Last night was the coldest of the season and of many years. The mercury fell to 23° below zero here and to 44° below at Mattawan. The weather moderating.

NON-PARTISAN POLICE FOR CINCINNATI.

COLUMBUS, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—Governor Foraker having dismissed the Coal Oil Police Commissioners of Cincinnati, Mr. Linduff (Rep.) to-day introduced in the House a bill to create a non-partisan police board for the City of Cincinnati. The bill provides for the appointment by the Governor of a police commission to consist of four members, not more than two of whom shall be members of the same political party. The Mayor of the city is to nominate a superintendent and members of the police force, who are to be confirmed by a majority of the board, in whom the power of removal is also vested. [No person shall become a member of the police force who has been convicted of any crime or misdemeanor, or engaged in any unlawful business, and no member of the police shall accept an office, or nomination for any place of trust, or emolument, nor shall he be a delegate or take part in any primary or other political convention. The Mayor has power and authority over the force to call them out in case of riot, and to direct their movements. Each officer and member must be an elector of the city, and must have sufficient education to read and write the English language. All appointments shall continue during good behavior, and at the end of fifteen years' service, unless sooner disabled in the discharge of duty, the men are to be retired on a pension.

HIS EXCUSE FOR MARRYING TWO WIVES.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—Henry Ernest Conrader, a middle-aged, respectable-looking man, in the Criminal Court to-day, tried to plead ignorance of the law as an excuse for having two wives. The women were present, and so were the ministers who had married them. The Rev. Charles H. Frincke testified that he married Conrader to Anna Maria Bademann, and the Rev. John E. Hauser testified that he married Conrader and Ida Krenger about fifteen years previous. Conrader believed that because he had not lived with his first wife for seven years he was entitled to marry another woman. He was convicted of bigamy.

A COMBINATION THAT WOULD NOT WORK.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—The combination in the mail treasury vault of the American Express Company, in this city, failed to work on Wednesday morning, and experts were unable to open the steel doors. They were finally compelled yesterday to go to work with drills, and this afternoon an entrance was effected. The contents were undisturbed, showing that the trouble was owing entirely to some defect in the working of the combination.

LOSSES IN VARIOUS PLACES.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.—Fire this morning in the chemical manufactory of the S. P. Wetherill Company caused a loss of $5,000.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Feb. 5.—The stores and stocks of L. Rothschilds, R. G. McPherson, Mullane & Co., and M. Rosenthal & Sons were burned last night. The loss is $80,000; insurance $40,000.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 5.—A fire in the Roth Manufacturing Company's vinegar works last night caused a damage of $9,000; fully insured.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Iowa, Feb. 5.—Several business houses on Main-st. were burned out yesterday. The losses aggregate $9,000; fully insured.

VINCENNES, Ind., Feb. 5.—A fire at West Shoals yesterday destroyed the building owned by George De Moss and occupied by Stephens & Co., general storekeepers, and C. M. Cooper, liquor-seller. The losses amount to $6,000; insurance $1,300.

AUBURN, N. Y., Feb. 5.—A fire at 5 o'clock this morning in the grocery store of John Lawlor damaged goods valued at $7,000; insurance $1,500. The building was damaged to the extent of $300; insured.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 5.—The horse-shoe nail works of Merrick & Co. and the handle factory operated by Dickey & Co., at Fallston, Penn., were burned this morning about 4 o'clock. The first building, with the machinery, was valued at $20,000 and was insured for $11,000. The handle factory was worth $5,000 and was insured for $2,000. The thermometer registered 13° below zero, and the intense cold and small supply of water made it impossible to save the buildings. Forty men who were employed in the two places are thrown out of work.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—S. P. Wetherill's chemical works, at Tenth and Taylor sts., were burned to-day with a loss of $5,000.

AUBURN, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—John Lawler's grocery store was damaged by fire this morning. The loss is $6,000 above insurance.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 5.—Fire this afternoon destroyed the three-story brick building of the Star Bottling Company. The ground floor was occupied by carpenter shops. The loss is $13,000. E. S. Hoxton, a carpenter, entered the building to remove his tools and was overcome by smoke and died in a few minutes after being taken out. The insurance on the building was $3,500.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Feb. 5.—A brick house owned by Charles A. Miner and occupied by Judge Charles E. Rice, of the Luzerne County Court, and General William H. McCartney, attorney, was burned this evening. The fire was caused by the bursting of a furnace in the cellar. The loss on the building is $22,000, on furniture $8,000. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

NEW-HAVEN, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—The schooner Belle, Captain Young, of Newark, N. J., was destroyed by fire off Canal dock last night. She was worth $5,000 and was uninsured. The captain was the sole owner. Nothing was saved from the wreck.

HIGHTSTOWN, N. J., Feb. 5 (*Special*).—The house of Saxon Tice was burned early this morning. His wife and children fled through the snow in their night-clothing to a neighbor's house. There was no insurance.

SIX MEN DANGEROUSLY BURNED.

RESULT OF A QUARREL AMONG WORKMEN.

POURING COAL OIL DOWN A CHIMNEY TO CAUSE AN EXPLOSION.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 5.—A shanty in East St. Louis last night was suddenly enveloped in flames. The glare of light attracted the attention of all the railroad men who happened to be out. They ran toward the place, and as they did so they heard the most piercing shrieks. The door was forced in and two men staggered out waving their arms wildly. Their clothes were ablaze. Other men were dragged out unconscious. The victims as they were brought out were seized and rolled on the ground in the snow. The faces of the victims were blackened and long strips of flesh peeled off their bodies. They were taken to the Relay Depot, where their injuries were attended to. Six men were taken out of the shanty. They managed to explain that while sitting around the stove talking it seemed to burst open and flames poured out upon them before they could escape. Blinded and dazed, they struggled to reach the door. It seemed an eternity before they heard the cries of those who came to the rescue. Near the back of the shanty, on the ground, was found a tin can, that evidently had contained coal oil. Some of the railroad men who ran to the rescue said the light of the burning shanty disclosed the figure of a man running away. The names of the unfortunate men are: Morris McGlynn, James Donohue, William Gilky, Pat Boyle, Scott Sanderson, Joseph McGee and Fred Erickson.

Scott Sanderson, one of the victims, stated this morning that early in the evening when they went into the shanty for supper, they expected trouble, for an opposing and unfriendly gang of men had been there before them and had fastened the windows and door of the shanty. Sanderson and his friends, however, soon gained admittance. As soon as they entered, the door of the shanty was closed by some one without, and securely fastened, and almost immediately afterward some one began to throw powder down the chimney. The men within filled the stove with oily waste in order to make the chimney (a common stovepipe) so hot that those above could not approach it. The latter then resorted to the plan of pouring oil into the chimney and in a moment the room was filled with flames. None of the men were burned fatally, but the majority of them sustained serious injuries.

DRIVEN OUT IN THE COLD AT MIDNIGHT.

EIGHT FAMILIES MADE HOMELESS AT RUTHERFORD, N. J.

A large tenement-house and a row of shops were destroyed by fire at Rutherford, N. J., yesterday morning. Eight poor families were left homeless and destitute of clothing. The burned building stood near the railroad station. Fronting the railroad track was a row of low wooden shops and back of them rose a tenement-house in which lived seven colored families and one white family. In two of the families were seven small children. Thirty-eight people in all lived there. Just beyond where the tenement-house stood is the village hotel, kept by George Hoffmann.

At 1:30 a. m. yesterday Mrs. Hoffmann, who was sitting up with a sick child, looked out the window and saw smoke issuing from the lower part of the tenement-house, which was occupied as a grocery store by George Hyde. She called her husband, who ran and alarmed the imperilled families. The fire spread rapidly and the tenants came rushing out in the bitter cold in their night clothes, not having time to save anything. There is no fire engine in Rutherford, but there is a volunteer fire department, the members of which do the best they can with buckets at fires. They were soon on the spot and managed by dint of hard word to save the neighboring buildings with the exception of the row of wooden shops, to which the fire quickly communicated. Mr. Hoffmann took the homeless families into his house and he and the neighbors furnished them with clothes. In the forenoon most of the people who were burned out found shelter with their friends in the village. A subscription was started for them by Mr. Hoffmann and $150 was raised before night. A considerable amount of clothing was also sent to the hotel for them.

The burned buildings were owned by William McMain, and valued at $6,000. The origin of the fire is not known.

MIDNIGHT BLAZE IN FRONT-ST.

DESTRUCTION OF AN OFFICE BUILDING—QUICK WORK OF THE FLAMES.

Flames started in the basement of No. 126 Front-st. at midnight last night, and owing to the strong west wind the entire building was in a blaze before the firemen could reach it. Three alarms were sounded in quick succession, calling out the entire fire department for the lower end of the city. The water tower was put into play, but the adjoining high buildings afforded the firemen no chance to fight the flames from any other point. In twenty minutes the fire had so spread as to endanger the buildings No. 128 and 124 Front-st. At several times the roofs and cornices were ignited.

The firemen succeeded in keeping the flames confined to the building where it started, and at 12:45 o'clock the fire was virtually under control.

The burned structure is built of brick and is completely destroyed, only the wall remaining standing. The building was occupied by Haas Brothers, grocers, and J. Neumann, besides coffee and other commission merchants. The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company occupied the basement, where the fire broke out. Little or no goods are thought to have been in the building at the time.

The loss was estimated at $35,000, chiefly to building and contents of offices. No cause could be learned, but it is believed to have resulted from an overheated furnace.

EARLY MORNING FLAMES.

Alarm was caused in the five-story tenement house No. 1,174 First-ave. at 3 a. m. yesterday by a fire which had started in Julius Bernhardt's tin shop on the first floor. When the first company of firemen reached the house members of a dozen families were running down the stairs in their night-clothes. Fearing that some persons might be imprisoned by the flames, the foreman of the company promptly called for the reserves. All the inmates of the house escaped unhurt, however, and the firemen extinguished the fire so quickly that the loss was less than $500. At an earlier hour in the morning the silver-plating shop of Emil Fox at No. 6 Liberty-st. was damaged by fire to the extent of $1,000. Other fires in the morning caused losses of $400 in David Lang's rooms at No. 294 Grand-st. and of $300 in Henry Kiddle's tenement house No. 101 Ludlow-st.

BUSINESS HOUSES DESTROYED.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—A fire broke out in the four-story brick building, Nos. 120, 122 and 124 Exchange Place. Owing to the narrowness of the street, the firemen had difficulty in their work. The fire was not under control until 7:30 o'clock, but the mass of snow on the adjoining roofs prevented the fire from spreading. The fire began in the cabinet-shop of Meyer & Co. on the second floor of No. 122 and spread to the buildings on each side. These were occupied by Simons & Co., manufacturers of steam packing; Martin Kohout, boots and shoes; "Fred" Bentz, merchant tailor; Charles Messengers, brass finisher; and Bryan & Co., dealers in society badges, regalias, etc. The loss is estimated at $20,000 and is partly covered by insurance.

AN ALARM SENT FROM A SCHOOL BUILDING.

While Mrs. Adele Loos was making her kitchen fire yesterday in the rear tenement-house No. 254 East One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., she set fire to her dress and was burned severely. Excited neighbors sent an alarm of fire from the public school in the same street and a fireman afterward called an ambulance which took the woman to the Ninety-ninth Street Hospital. The alarm from the school building, followed by an ambulance call, caused some unnecessary excitement at Fire and Police Headquarters, although the hour for dismissing the school children had passed.

TRIALS OF A POSTMASTER.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—Christ Hiebenthal was postmaster at Bensonville, Ill., until last June, when P. T. Tiedman was appointed by the Administration to the office. This was gall to Hiebenthal, and, it is alleged, that when his successor's commission arrived from Washington the outgoing postmaster detained it in the office and refused to give it up. Mr. Tiedman sent his son to the office and then went himself, but says that it was not until he had threatened to secure Hiebenthal's arrest that he was put in possession of the precious document. This was about June 10, and since then, it is said, Mr. Hiebenthal taunted Mr. Tiedman continually, and finally, forbearance ceasing to be a virtue, the latter took out a warrant for his enemy's arrest. Mr. Hiebenthal was arrested last night, and today the entire population of Bensonville crowded into Commissioner Hayne's room. The defence was not ready, and the hearing was postponed, Mr. Hiebenthal being held in bonds of $1,000. He is charged with illegally detaining mail matter, for which the punishment is imprisonment for six months.

READY TO BEGIN THE HARLEM SYNDICATE SUIT.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—The Rev. W. R. Coovert, who has been absent in Canada for two weeks looking after the interests of the Harlem Land Syndicate, returned here to-day. While absent he attended a meeting of the Canada branch of the Coovert heirs, held at the Royal Hotel, Hastings, at which nearly a hundred persons were present. Mr. Coovert reports everything in readiness now for the beginning of the suit. The papers will be served on the occupants of the property next week.

MR. DAVITT ON THE PREMIER.

COURAGE TO SOLVE THE IRISH QUESTION.

ADDRESS BY SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT—LORD SALISBURY TO WORKMEN.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Michael Davitt, speaking at Holloway to-night, said he believed that Mr. Gladstone is the only English statesman who has the courage and ability to grapple with the Irish problem and establish peace between England and Ireland. The Premier, Mr. Davitt said, had already settled the question of religious inequality and had made an honest attempt to solve the land problem. His failure to deal in a satisfactory manner with the latter question was due to the fact that he had not gone to the root of the matter.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his address to the electors of Derby soliciting a return to Parliament, states that he will do all in his power to co-operate with the new Government in the work of solving the Irish question in a way that will maintain the union and the supremacy of the Crown.

J. Collings, Liberal member of Parliament for Ipswich, whose "three acres and a cow" amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech caused the overthrow of the Conservatives, has been appointed by Mr. Gladstone Secretary of the Local Government Board.

J. Rigby, Liberal member for Wesbeck, Cambridgeshire, has been appointed Solicitor-General.

The Marquis of Salisbury to-day received a deputation of unemployed workmen who called to urge upon him the necessity existing for Government help. Lord Salisbury told the men that he considered the question they presented more serious than the Irish question. He, however, denounced the policy vogue among foreign Governments of fostering industries by the granting of bounties from the public treasury, calling it a false political economy. He expressed the hope that the electors of Great Britain would give Parliament the power to influence foreign Goverments to abandon such policies.

Concerning the land question Lord Salisbury said the proposition to help the poor by furnishing land to reclaim was impracticable, for the reason that nobody would invest capital in the work of reclaiming bad lands so long as the good lands of the country do not pay.

In conclusion the ex-Premier declared that statesmen and Parliament must confront the question of how best to solve the problem of relieving the present general distress. It was growing while the population was increasing and caused emigration. Governmental support of private enterprises might be a good way to afford temporary relief, and the promotion of public works might be another. He would do his utmost to contribute to a satisfactory solution of the problem.

The Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, has been appointed Viceroy of Ireland.

Baron Wolverton, ex-Paymaster-General, has been appointed Postmaster-General.

The new Government is now completed, all the minor offices being filled.

Charles Russell, Liberal Member for Hackney, South, the new Attorney-General, in his address requesting re-election by his constituents, proclaims himself in favor of allowing Irishmen to deal with Irish questions on Irish soil, while, at the same time, he favors maintaining all the safeguards of the supremacy of the crown. He advocates a "real union, founded on mutual good will," which, he says, would be sure to follow the abandonment of the present coercive relations between the two countries.

DUBLIN, Feb. 5.—*The Freeman's Journal*, commenting on Mr. Gladstone's election address to his constituents, says that the Prime Minister explicitly recognizes that no settlement of the land or education question in Ireland is possible without Irish self-government.

The Express, (Conservative) says that it is nauseating to be confronted with such talk as Mr. Gladstone's address contains about an inquiry into the affairs of Ireland when the "Radical Minister" knows that crime, boycotting and breach of contracts are rampant in this country.

ITALY TO ACCEPT SPAIN AS ARBITRATOR.

ROME, Feb. 5.—It is semi-officially stated that Italy will accept Spain as arbitrator in the dispute between the United States of Colombia and Italy over the arrest of Ernest Cerruti, an Italian subject, by the former Power on a charge of treason, provided the action of Captain Cobianchi, commander of the Italian cruiser Flavia Givia, in compelling the Colombian authorities to surrender Cerruti to him on a previous arrest at Buenaventura, be excluded from consideration by the arbitrator.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CABLE COMPANY.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Anglo-American Cable Company to-day, it was reported that the receipts for 1885 had been reduced £93,926, as compared with those of 1884. This was explained by the cutting of rates and the competition of the Mackay-Bennett Company. The chairman of the Anglo-American Company predicted that there would soon be an increase in cable tariffs. He declared that if the Mackay-Bennett people declined to be influenced by the reasons in favor of higher tolls a war of rates would be inevitable.

REPLY OF SERVIA TO THE POWERS.

VIENNA, Feb. 5.—Servia has handed to each of the Powers a reply to their last collective note to her, demanding disarmament. The reply is exceedingly brief and simply declares that Servia has taken cognizance of the contents of the note.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 5.—The *Journal de St. Petersbourg*, commenting on the Turco-Bulgarian agreement, declares that it is valueless, and that it will remain so until it shall be submitted to the Powers and be approved by them.

CRIMINAL MATTERS IN MEXICO.

MATAMORAS, Mex., Feb. 5.—The deputies of the State Congress will be elected Sunday, and it is to be trusted that after the election some sort of order will be restored. Every night pistols are fired in the streets and assaults and murders are of frequent occurrence. On Tuesday night an attempt to assassinate General Villareal, the commander of the troops, was made.

MONTERREY, Mex., Feb. 5.—Bishop Gallagher, of this city, received an account to-day of a poor man in Guadalajara who went to a priest to confess, and while the priest leaned over to listen to the recital of the seeming penitent, the latter plunged a dagger into his heart.

JUMULCO, Mex., Feb. 5.—The entire town is in arms in expectation of an attack by Mexican bandits. It is thought that a number of persons in town are in league with the thieves to pillage the place, which is the terminus of a division of the Mexican Central Railroad in the State of Durango. It is said that the large quantity of bullion which is brought here for shipment to the United States has excited the cupidity of the bandits.

A DOMINION STEAMER MISSING.

HALIFAX, Feb. 5 (*Special*).—The Dominion Government steamer Landsdowne started for Sable Island seven days ago to see if any shipwrecked crews were there. The trip usually is made in forty-eight hours, but the Landsdowne has not since been heard of and considerable anxiety is felt for her safety especially as she was ill-prepared to meet the storms that swept the coast in the last few days.

FISHERMEN ON THE VERGE OF STARVATION.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—A Montreal dispatch says: The most distressing intelligence continues to be received from Gaspe, regarding the starving condition of the fishermen and their families who have been thrown out of employment by the suspension of Robin & Co. To make matters worse the other great fishing firm of Le Boutillier Brothers has also suspended, so that about 5,000 persons are literally on the verge of starvation. The Dominion Government has been petitioned to come to the assistance of these people as there seems to be no hope of the firms resuming business. A communication has been received by the Mayor here from the Rector of New-Carlisle and of Paspediac asking for aid, and intimating that the system pursued by the bankrupt firm was such that the men were at all times dependent on their employers for their daily bread. Now that this has failed them, and unless assistance is provided, the provision stores will be pillaged, mob rule will reign, and life and property will be in danger. Two-thirds of the population of the county of Gaspe are affected by the failures.

FRAGMENTS OF CABLE NEWS.

PARIS, Feb. 5.—The members of the party of the Extreme Left in the Chamber of Deputies consider the present time inopportune for bringing forward a measure for the expulsion of the Orleans Princes. It is thought that the Radicals will abandon their intention of introducing a motion to expel the Princes.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—The Italian bark Silvio, which sailed from Pensacola December 18 for Liverpool, has put into Falmouth. She encountered heavy weather, in which Captain Benvenuto and the mate were drowned, and the wheel, a boat and the bulwarks were smashed. The vessel also sustained other damage. John Murray, a sailmaker from the German ship Lina, from Philadelphia for Hamburg, which fell in with the Silvio, boarded the bark on January 16 and assumed command of her, bringing her into port.

PARIS, Feb. 5.—The strike of factory employes at St. Quentin is extending. The strikers attempted to hold a meeting this evening, but were prohibited by the town officials. In revenge the strikers smashed the windows and shutters of the factories and of the houses of the managers.

AN EX-MAYOR'S CHARGES AGAINST HIS WIFE.

NEW-HAVEN, Feb. 5 (*Special*). — Ex-Mayor Green Kendrick, of Waterbury, made answer in the Superior Court to-day in the divorce proceedings brought by his second wife. He says that she struck him in the face, kicked him in the stomach, attacked him with a knife, a pair of shears and a railroad spike; tried to push him off a train coming from New-York at Stratford in July, has been habitually intemperate and lived an unchaste life for years before he married her.

POWERFUL BOURBON FOR COL. DONAVIN.

MADE UNCONSCIOUS BY ONE DRINK OF NEW-YORK WHISKEY.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Feb. 5. (*Special*).—R. W. Harris, Editor of "The Toledo Bee," an old friend and associate of Colonel Sim Donavin, the prosecutor of Senator Henry B. Payne, went to Colonel Donavin's home in Delaware, Ohio, last night by appointment and to-day prints an extended authorized interview with him. Colonel Donavin was asked what truth there was in the reports that he had been drugged in Washington and Baltimore. He replied: "There is no truth in these reports. I was not in Baltimore except to pass through. I was not drugged in Washington that I know of, but I drank some powerful bourbon in Washington and New-York. As to the report of my having been offered money to leave the country there is not the least ground. I did have a peculiar experience in New-York. One evening a stranger told me he could take me where I could get the best bourbon whiskey I ever drank. I went with him and drank a glass. He wanted I should take another, but I declined and managed to get to my room at the Metropolitan. This was at 6 p. m., and I was unconscious until noon the next day."

"You propose going to Columbus to testify?"

"Yes whether the committee communicates with me or not I am able to prove all the charges I made against Senator Payne and more too. I have the proof, written proofs and the names of witnesses to substantiate every thing."

"Why did you not make these charges known before?"

"I did not think the proper time had come."

"What effect will it have on the Democratic party?"

"It will purify the party and help to purify politics generally in the State. The Democratic party has suffered from coal oil and the way to remove it is to expose the guilty."

TWO PASSENGER TRAINS WRECKED.

A COLLISION ON THE IRON MOUNTAIN RAILROAD—SEVERAL PERSONS KILLED.

PIEDMONT, Mo., Feb. 5 (*Special*.).—The south-bound passenger train left here behind time just before 3 a. m. to-day. It usually passed the north-bound Memphis passenger train at Mill Springs, ten miles south. Two miles north of Mill Springs the trains met at full speed on a curve. Henry Walker and Presley Evans, engineer and fireman respectively of the south-bound train, jumped. Evans was killed instantly, and Walker dangerously hurt. The engines met with a terrible crash and both were thrown from the track. Edward Wallack and Harvey Martin, engineer and fireman on the Memphis train, were killed on their engine. The smoking-car and first coach of the south-bound train were "telescoped," the smoking-car standing at an angle of forty-five degrees over the tender. A passenger, Mr. Coulter, who lives in Little Rock, and a brakeman, William Dicks, were the only persons in the sleeping-car and both were seriously hurt. The smoking-car of the Memphis train was thrown from the track, but fortunately no one was in it. Several passengers had limbs broken. The injured persons were sent to St. Louis to day, and the bodies of Martin and Evans sent to their friends at De Soto, Mo. [The accident was caused by a misunderstanding of orders.

ROBBING THE HOUSE OF A TRAIN-DISPATCHER.

HUNTINGDON, Penn., Feb. 5 (*Special*).—Part of a large sum of money stolen from Thomas Westbrook, train-dispatcher on the Pennsylvania Railroad in this city, on Monday has been returned to him, having been found this morning in a canvas bag which had been left at night in the yard of his house. The robbery was done in broad daylight. Westbrook's wife was alone in