AUTOCRACY IN CONTROL.

SIGNS OF STRIKE'S END.

Russian Factories Reopen—Ministerial Schemes of Reform.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13.—The strike situation, according to reports from the interior, is everywhere improving, even in Poland. Here all danger of a renewal of an acute stage seems to have passed. All the mills, with the exception of the Putiloff Iron Works and two others, have resumed operations.

The imperial ukase summoning a joint commission of masters and workmen, chosen by themselves, to investigate the causes of discontent among the laborers was posted at all the works to-day and made a favorable impression.

The government has increased wages at all the government shops and also the pay of the railroad employes by 15 to 20 per cent. In addition, the Minister of Finance has taken a bold step in recommending to the Committee of Ministers the formation of labor associations for protecting the interests of the workmen.

Meetings of the Committee of Ministers were held Saturday and to-day. One of the most important of the decisions reached was that supervision of industrial life should remain within the province of the Ministry of Finance. The committee decided to instruct the Finance Minister to frame a scheme for the improvement of the lot of workmen, the solution of outstanding questions, including the endeavor to decrease the working hours; the alteration of laws affecting economic strikes not accompanied by public disturbance, medical assistance for workmen and the limitation of the rights and duties of factory inspectors. The committee decided to submit the above questions to the special commission under the presidency of the Minister of Finance, which will take testimony of both masters and men.

Warsaw, Feb. 13.—There was a partial resumption of work this morning at some of the smaller factories.

The officials report that 600 persons were arrested in connection with the strikes, of whom 387 have been released.

Advices from Lodz say that a number of men resumed work this morning, but after a couple of hours they again walked out. The town is quiet.

It is semi-officially announced that as a result of the disturbances at Lodz 144 bodies have been buried, while 200 wounded persons are still in the hospitals.

PEOPLE NOT APPEASED.

Wild Scenes in Hall of Assembly of Nobles at Moscow.

London, Feb. 14.—The "Standard's" Moscow correspondent reports that remarkable demonstrations occurred Saturday night at the annual ball of the Engineering Institutes, held in the hall where the Assembly of Nobles sits. After the customary concert, instead of dancing, the whole gathering drowned the orchestra by singing the "Marseillaise." Then students arose in quick succession and made revolutionary harangues, which were enthusiastically applauded. Proclamations were distributed broadcast amid cries of "Stop the war!" and "Down with the autocracy!"

The scenes continued unchecked and increasing in intensity for two hours. The police formed a cordon around the hall, but were powerless to interfere, as the Nobles' Assembly hall possesses an ancient privilege against arrest.

The proclamations, which were admirably printed, declared that the war of the working classes is not against Japan, but against Russia's worst foe, namely, the Emperor's government.

NORTH SEA CASE CLOSED.

British and Russian Governments Maintain Former Contentions.

Paris, Feb. 13.—The International Commission which is inquiring into the North Sea incident today heard the conclusions of the British and Russian agents upon the testimony presented. The session was attended by many members of the diplomatic corps, including Ambassador Porter and several members of the Japanese legation. Many naval officers were also present. It was expected that the two agents would reach an agreement upon a number of points involved, but the pleadings showed that on the main issues they were not reconciled.

The Russian agent, M. Nekliedoff, pointed out that the British statement refefred to the commission as a court, whereas the two governments had expressly agreed that it was a commission of inquiry, but not a court. Thereupon the British agent, Mr. O'Beirne, withdrew the use of the word court. The incident was taken to indicate the restricted nature of the commission's inquiry.

The British summary of facts is under the following four main heads:

First—That no torpedo boats or torpedo boat destroyers were in the vicinity of Dogger Bank, as shown by the declarations of the fishermen and the official statements of various governments that no torpedo boats belonging to their fleets were in that neighborhood, and that, therefore, the Russians made a mistake largely as the result of apprehension that an attack was about to be made.

Second—That fire was opened without sufficient reason, and was continued for an unreasonable time after the mistake had been detected.

Third—That no effort was made to succor the sinking ships or wounded.

Fourth—That not the slightest irregularity was shown in the conduct of the innocent fishing fleet.

The Russian summary, after setting forth the justification under four heads, concludes:

The imperial Russian government, therefore, maintains that the fire of the Russian squadron was ordered and executed in the legitimate accomplishment of the military duties of the commander of the squadron. Consequently, no responsibility whatever is chargeable against Vice Admiral Rojestvensky or any of the officers of the squadron.

The imperial government sincerely deplores that the incident resulted in innocent victims, and, therefore, the admiral's responsibility being eliminated, the Russian government expresses its readiness to make material reparation by indemnifying the innocent victims, deferring the amount and partition of the indemnities to the Permanent Tribunal of Arbitration at The Hague.

To-day's session practically closed the work of the commission until a decision is reached, when Admiral Fournier will call a meeting for the public announcement. The admirals will hold daily private sessions. It is expected that some days will elapse before a conclusion is reached.

LANSDOWNE'S HINT OF WAR.

Incident of the Strained Relations at Time of Dogger Bank Affair.

London, Feb. 13.—The diplomatic correspondence regarding the North Sea incident and leading up to the appointment of the Paris International Commission was issued to-night. It gives a significant conversation between Lord Lansdowne and Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, when the British government was apprehensive that Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky would continue on his voyage to the Far East without calling at Vigo. Lord Lansdowne told Count Benckendorff that "in that case we might find ourselves at war before the week is over," and pointed out the news of the concentration of British fleets at Gibraltar and elsewhere.

DANISH WEST INDIES' GOVERNOR.

Copenhagen, Feb. 13.—Captain Christian Cold was to-day appointed Governor General of the Danish West Indies. It is understood that the change was caused by a disagreement between the high civil officers and the present Governor General.

GERMAN MISSION IN ABYSSINIA.

Adis Abeba, Feb. 13.—The German diplomatic mission, under Dr. Rosen, arrived here yesterday and was escorted by Abyssinian troops to the palace, where King Menelik received Dr. Rosen in audience. The mission will remain here twenty days. Dr. Rosen expects to negotiate a commercial treaty with Abyssinia, and perhaps establish a German consulate here.

JAPANESE GUNS REOPEN.

Lone Tree Hill Shelled—Railway Line Cut—Kaulbars's Command.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13.—A dispatch from General Kuropatkin, made public to-day, says:

Early in the morning of February 12, 300 Japanese cavalry attacked a bridge near Feng-Tse-Kong and damaged thirty yards of the railroad. Train service was resumed after some delay.

The Japanese bombarded Lone Tree Hill and Sekheyan with siege guns on February 11. One officer was killed and several were wounded.

According to corrected returns the Japanese prisoners captured from January 25 to January 29 number 343, of whom 221 were unwounded.

The War Office has no confirmation of a report from Moukden to-day saying that the Japanese are preparing to retire from their positions on the Shakhe River. On the contray, General Kuropatkin's official dispatch says the Japanese continue to bombard Putiloff Hill.

The wrecking of a railroad bridge between Moukden and Harbin is considered to be the work of a daring raiding party, which crossed from Chinese territory.

The mystery surrounding the causes of General Gripenberg's sudden departure from the front has not been cleared up, and is continuing to be the subject of much irresponsible gossip. General Kaulbars has been shifted to the command of the second army, and it is thought Lieutenant General Bilderling will take over the command of the third army.

News brought direct from the front by a foreign attaché is to the effect that the Russian army is in fine condition and numbers almost 400,000 men. The attaché left the front before the recent action of the right flank, but he says the movement had already been projected, thus putting aside the theory that it was undertaken by orders from St. Petersburg.

Tokio, Feb. 13.—The Russians continued to bombard portions of Field Marshal Oyama's centre and right on Saturday, February 11. The Russians continue the construction of defensive works on their right, to the southwest of Mentapan, where they are erecting an epaulment for a battery of twenty-four guns.

The Japanese recently surrounded a Russian cavalry detachment near Hsien-Chang, killing three men and wounding eleven.

CAMPAIGN TIME NEAR.

Snows Melting in Manchuria—Japanese in Good Condition.

General Kuroki's Headquarters, Feb. 13.—The Japanese artillery, which has seldom replied to the Russian bombardment during the last three months, has become more active, and artillery duels along some portions of the front occur almost daily.

The exceedingly cold weather of the last fortnight has been followed by mild and sunny weather, and the snow is melting rapidly. Altogether, the winter has been much less severe than expected.

The Japanese have endured the cold as well as the Russians. While there has been much suffering on the outposts, where it was impossible to keep fires, and much suffering during the fighting, sickness among the troops has steadily decreased, and there is probably less sickness than any other large army in the field has ever experienced at any season.

HOLLAND ENFORCES NEUTRALITY.

Two Colliers Taken to Batavia—Their Cargoes To Be Sold.

Amsterdam, Feb. 13.—A telegram from Batavia says that on the arrival at Lampong Bay, Sumatra, of the colliers Bulgaria and Sandyford, chartered by the Hamburg-American company, the Netherlands government authorities, in conformity with the neutrality regulations, ordered the vessels to be brought to Batavia. An agent of the Hamburg-American company who arrived there yesterday consented that the cargoes of coal should be unloaded and sold.

A BRITISH COLLIER RELEASED.

Tokio, Feb. 14.—The British steamer Eastry, which was captured off Yezo on February 7, has been released, it having developed that her seizure was a mistake. She was carrying a cargo of coal from Yezo to Singapore.

GERMAN SETTLERS ASK INDEMNITY.

Reichstag Requested to Hasten Payment Under King Oscar's Award.

Berlin, Feb. 13.—The German settlers in Samoa have sent a petition to the Reichstag asking that action be taken toward obtaining for them payment of an indemnity from the United States and Great Britain under the arbitration award of King Oscar of Sweden and Norway, on October 14, 1902. This award, it is affirmed, still remains unsettled, the residents in the mean while being unable to rebuild their houses or develop their plantations.

By previous arrangement among the principals there was published simultaneously in Washington, London and Berlin on November 17, 1902, the text of the decision rendered by King Oscar. The case had its origin in claims by German and British subjects and American citizens for compensation on account of losses alleged to have been suffered in consequence of "unwarranted military action on the part of German, British or American officers in Samoa between January 1, 1899, and May 13 following." The question really at issue was whether or not the British and United States governments should be considered responsible for the losses. The decision concluded as follows:

That the military action in question, viz., the bringing back of the Malletoans and the distribution to them of arms and ammunition, the bombardment, the military operations on shore and the stoppage of the street traffic cannot be considered as having been warranted.

And that therefore his Britannic majesty's government and the United States government are responsible under the convention of November 7, 1899, for losses caused by said military action.

The decision further said that the question of the extent to which the two governments, or each of them, might be considered responsible for such losses, was reserved.

"TRAMP OR GO TO BED."

Only Way Soldiers' Home Inmates Keep Warm—Coal Famine in Town.

Marshalltown, Iowa, Feb. 13.—With thermometers showing nearly 30 degrees below zero, Marshalltown is facing a coal famine, owing to a snow blockade, which to-day gives no prospect of abatement. Two large factories closed to-day for want of coal.

The city is assured of sufficient coal to operate the municipal pumping station until Wednesday, but all street lighting is suspended until the situation improves.

At the Iowa Soldiers' Home, where there are eight hundred inmates, heat in the main building was diminished to-day to help out the hospital buildings, where it is more needed. The commandant gave orders to the veterans to go to bed or to walk in order to keep warm. Many poor people are taking coal from the railroad yards.

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE ILL.

Manitou, Col., Feb. 13.—William Allen White, Editor of "The Emporia (Kan.) Gazette," is seriously ill of appendicitis.

REVOLUTION PREDICTED.

Autocracy Must Fall in Two Years, Says Leading Liberal.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13.—In order to afford the American people a clearer insight into the opinions held by prominent Russians regarding the struggle now raging in the empire against the principle of absolutism, The Associated Press has asked a number of well known Russian writers to express their views. In the following statement M. Demchinsky, a prominent Liberal, who is a contributor to the "Russ," expresses the opinion that autocracy will fight inch by inch, but that the existing order of things will be completely swept away by revolution within two years. He says:

The Russia of to-day stands out in strong relief against the background of her history. Even a cursory glance at the past of the Russian state will show a condition so foreign to the Western mind as to render it easy to understand that future developments also are likely to be along unfamiliar lines. The future of Russia will not follow precedents. The most essential difference between contemporaneous Russian life and that of West European countries is the complete absence of classes in the sense of historically organized groups, possessing special privileges and eternally warring for their preservation, as has been the case everywhere else in Europe. The classes in Russia, of which one hears so much abroad, old as they were, differing as they did in respect to rights and privileges, were almost completely levelled by the liberation of the peasants in 1861 and the establishment of land (zemsky) institutions. Now the interests of all are combined in the zemstvo, and the highest class, the nobility, working side by side with the others, has taken upon itself an entire series of obligations, relating both to persons and to property, toward all the other classes, often subversive of its own special interests

This exceptional position of the classes in Russia has a most important bearing upon the historical course of events, which have already begun to culminate. Any excitement among the so-called third class always gave rise in Europe, especially in those times when a new legal system was adopted, to a reaction of the higher classes, the nobility and clergy. In Russia, however, where the quarrel is with absolutism, which dominates all, the higher class not only joins the other classes in the expression of its discontent, but places itself at the head of the anti-government movement, indicating, with the aid of the press, memorials, etc., the changes which are demanded in the administration of the state. This unity of all classes is comprehensible, because all suffer in different degrees the deprivation of rights, both property and personal. In Russia, with the present bureaucratic police regime, literally no one except the very highest in the bureaucracy has any guarantee of the morrow. Practically, therefore, there is a conflict of all Russia with a small party of the "highest."

Usurpation of personal rights began long ago, and it continued its process of absorption, yielding back something occasionally, until Plehve came. He was the apotheosis of the idea of no rights for the entire population. Plehve had none of the talents of true statesmanship, but with the energy of a fanatic he devoted himself to the erection of a system of State founded solely upon force and arbitrariness. He became the true historical successor of Maliuta Skuratoff. To him and to him alone Russia is indebted for the approach of the downfall of its unlawful existence. The Russian nature is usually slow, but the liberation of pent-up passion has compressed in a few months what might have taken twenty years. Since the assassination of Plehve only half a year has elapsed, and in that short space of time Russia has already drawn near to the threshold of revolution, having already trodden the thorny road of preliminary conflict.

This is the threshold, but revolution itself has not begun; those who think so are much mistaken. For actual revolution we lack the most important things—organization and experience. The latter is especially difficult to acquire. We must have ten or twenty years of such scenes as have recently taken place to teach us how to lead an attack properly. The masses must be educated. January 22 taught much, for with it began that hatred of the people toward the military without which the future victory of the peaceful citizen is inconceivable. We have already heard the cries of the crowd, not scattered cries, but unanimous, addressed to the officers: "Hangman!" "oprichniks!" (the name of the bodyguard of Ivan the Terrible, which has become synonymous with "murderers"). When that same cry coming from the soul shall resound like a colossal chorus throughout Russia, then we shall be able to say that we have crossed the threshold of a revolution.

Every affray shows the increased necessity of organization, and during the pause that organization will proceed until the next conflict comes, precipitated by some act of the government, whose habitual blindness is always a provocative. The volcano always subsides for a time.

Especial perspicacity is not necessary to presage our near future. For the time being everything is going along as if by a preconcerted programme. It is like a well staged revolutionary drama. The action moves naturally. In the first act the people come unarmed to ask for their rights. They are met with bullets and sabres. No expert theatrical manager could have managed it better. The curtain is down again. It is the entr'acté. The strikers, exhausted by hunger, return to their accustomed duties, but the government, feeling the strength of its superiority, begins wholesale arrests and appoints generally an incapable dictator, who does not flinch, even before the gallows.

A bloody vengeance begins. It is not the work of the masses, but of individuals. Before the bomb, secret, terrible, coming without warning, reaction weakens, as if acknowledging in the bomb an enemy which it cannot conquer by its "Oprichniks." Then, with the first weakening of the reaction comes a fresh movement of the masses, this time, however, not humbly supplicating, but boldly—not with prayers, but with demands. If the government mechanism, the crowd of bureaucratics, is still strong enough to oppose resistance, again comes repression, reaction. Then again the bombs. Again weakening. The story may be repeated several times before the end, but finally there comes a general movement, this time shattering everything.

Judging by present conditions, there would be insufficient strength for a second reaction. There will be the usual concessions and a stubborn contesting of each new step. Viewed in the light of history, the period of bargaining, the period of chaos, should continue about two years more. Then the storm will clear our political horizon. As yet the adversaries have brought too few sacrifices to the altar. Humanity has never yet purchased happiness cheaply.

HOCH IDENTIFIED AS HOLMES'S AID.

Declares He Was Out for Money Only—Flattery His Weapon.

Chicago, Feb. 13.—George Slyter, a carpenter, declared positively to-day that Hoch was the janitor of the so-called "castle" of H. H. Holmes, who committed many murders in this city. Slyter said he paid rent to Hoch as janitor in 1892. Hoch denies Slyter's statements. Police Inspector Shippey expresses the opinion that Hoch did not come to this country until 1895, and could not have been employed by Holmes here in 1892.

Hoch made a statement to-day that his matrimoniai ventures were not love affairs. He said:

I want to correct one impression of me given the public. All are led to believe that I am a regular Romeo. I am not. I did not love any of my wives. I have no use for women. It was purely a business proposition with me. When I found they had money, then I went after that. When I got it I left them. They had no charms for me. I advertised for women over forty-five. I found they were easier to separate from their money. Flattery was my chief stock in trade. You can win a woman quicker that way than any other.

BALKAN CONFERENCE AT LONDON.

Resolution Adopted to Place Macedonia Under Control of Powers.

London, Feb. 13.—A conference on the Balkan situation took place to-day at the Westminster Palace Hotel. Lord Stanmore presided. Among those present were the Bishop of Hereford, James Bryce, Herbert Gladstone, the Earl of Lytton and many members of Parliament. A resolution was passed urging the government to take immediate steps to secure adequate reforms, asserting that a continuance of misrule in Armenia and Macedonia would be a disgrace to civilized Europe, affirming the direct responsibility of Great Britain for the establishment of reforms, and setting forth that the only satisfactory solution of the situation would be the appointment of a European Governor of Macedonia at Adrianople, independent of the Sultan of Turkey and responsible only to all the powers of Europe. Mr. Bryce said it was useless to ask the Turkish government to institute further reforms.

GERMAN COAL STRIKE ENDED.

Essen, Feb. 13.—The coal strike is entirely ended. Full shifts went into the mines this morning.

THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY.

Budapest, Feb. 13.—It is stated in Opposition circles here that at the meeting of Francis Kossuth and Emperor Francis Joseph in Vienna on Sunday the demands of the Opposition for electoral reform and the creation of a separate customs system were conceded by the Emperor, but that concessions regarding the army were refused. Herr Kossuth is expected to make a statement concerning the audience at the forthcoming meeting of the Independence party.

The Hungarian Parliament probably will not be able to meet on February 17, because it is not likely that a new Cabinet will be formed by that date. Julius Just (Independent) probably will be elected President of the lower house.

OBERLIN BANK MAY PAY 65 PER CENT.

Oberlin, Ohio, Feb. 13.—A 40 per cent dividend has been declared for the depositors in the closed Citizens' National Bank, by order of the Controller of the Currency. It is stated that another dividend of probably 25 per cent will follow soon. The Citizens' Bank was closed as a result of loans made to Mrs. Chadwick.

STEALS MARCH ON ELSBERG

New Coroners' Bill In and Advanced to Third Reading.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Feb. 13.—In the absence of Senator Elsberg, who is leading the fight for the repassing of his bill of last session, vetoed by Mayor McClellan, abolishing the Board of Coroners, Senator Cooper, of Brooklyn, to-night slipped in a bill reducing their number but materially improving their position. The bill, which is said to have come from the Kings County Republican organization, not merely made its appearance, but was advanced to third reading by unanimous consent, another result of the absence of Senator Elsberg. The Elsberg bill, which was introduced some weeks ago, has only just worked its way in the usual course to general orders, while the Cooper bill thus outstrips it at a single bound. Senator Cooper further indicated his antagonism to the Elsberg measure by announcing that when it came up he would move to have it laid aside.

The Cooper bill reduces the number of coroners in Manhattan from four to two, in Queens and The Bronx from two to one, and leaves the numbers unchanged in Kings and Richmond. It provides that the coroners in all boroughs may name deputies at salaries of $3,000 in Manhattan, $2,500 in Brooklyn and $1,500 in the other boroughs. It also fixes the salaries of the coroners at an increased figure, respectively $8,000 in Manhattan, $7,000 in Brooklyn, $5,000 in The Bronx and Queens and $4,000 in Richmond.

The introduction of this measure will provoke a bitter fight in the Senate, as the Tammany members are bound to oppose the Elsberg bill, vetoed by Mayor McClellan last year, and may place in jeopardy that measure. Meantime, Senator Cooper, by a clever manœuvre, has secured the advantage of position for his measure.

ALBANY GAS SITUATION.

Hearing Thursday Will Determine Fate of Legislative Measure.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Feb. 13.—The fate of the proposed investigation by the legislature of the lighting problem in New-York City will probably be determined by the outcome of the hearing on Senator Fitzgerald's 70-cent gas bill before the Miscellaneous Corporations Committee, on Thursday. The situation appears to be about as follows:

The previous hearings on the resolutions of the Merchants' Association and Public Ownership League, calling for an investigation, were unsatisfactory for both sides, as respects furnishing information to determine the needs of an investigation. The facts that were desired were not put before the committee, and the general feeling was that the legislature should know more about the subject before embarking on an investigation certain to be expensive and possibly abortive.

For that reason the hearing on Thursday will have special significance. The arguments presented by the corporations and the statistics of the cost of production will furnish a basis at present lacking for the study of the question. In the same way the arguments of the various public bodies engaged in arguing the question will be awaited with no little expectation. In effect this hearing will be the final trial of the case of the corporations and the people, and a supplemental hearing to that of two weeks ago. Legislative leaders are not yet prepared to hazard a guess as to whether there will be an investigation or not. That no decision has been reached is certain. Senator Malby and Assemblyman Rogers, who were steering the legislative proceedings in respect to this subject, have had several conferences of late, but the whole question has been left entirely in abeyance, awaiting fresh evidence. If the corporations fail to supply this evidence, the difficulties in the way of the investigation will be materially lessened.

Senator Malby, in discussing the subject of legislative action, said to-night:

The various measures before different committees on this whole matter will be treated together. None will be reported until all. Up to the present time we have before us not even one side of the question as to how much it costs to manufacture gas, and that is what we expect to have on Thursday. Nothing will be done until the evidence is in, but we purpose having the evidence. Then, and not till then, will the question of an investigation be decided. The matter is open now. But if we have to have a legislative investigation to find out the cost of production of gas we will have it.

TO SAVE NIAGARA FALLS.

Resolution to Ask President and Congress to Take Action.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Feb. 13.—The question of the spoliation of Niagara Falls by power companies came up in the Assembly to-night, when the Democratic leader, Mr. Palmer, introduced a joint resolution memorializing the President and Congress to enter into negotiations with the British government to preserve the falls. A similar resolution was passed last year, but the point of Mr. Palmer's resolution was contained in a reference to a bill now before the Assembly and introduced by Assemblyman Wade, which provides for taxing power companies using water from Niagara River. This reference charged that this bill was designed to legalize the taking of water, and was as follows:

There is a suggestion now being considered looking to the imposition of an annual State tax upon the use of this water for commercial power purposes, which, if consummated, will tend to encourage and legalize permanently the policy of despoiling the falls by making such spoliation a valuable source of revenue for the State.

The sentence concludes with the proposition for appeal to the federal government.

Assemblyman Wade, whose bill was thus inferentially attacked, declared that he desired to debate the resolution, and under the rules it went over for a week.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

The Total Strength of the National Guard Is 14,976 Men.

Albany, Feb. 13.—"This State has every reason to feel proud of the work performed by our troops in the joint United States Army and State militia manœuvres at Manassas, Va.," says Adjutant General Nelson H. Henry, in his annual report to Governor Higgins, made public to-day. The report further holds that "future manœuvres should be less exacting; more time should be allowed between problems, and the valuable instruction carried through with a little less hardship and privation for the militia troops engaged."

The total strength of the National Guard at the close of the fiscal year was 839 commissioned officers and 14,077 enlisted men, aggregating 14,976 men, a net gain of 738 in actual strength. This is the largest force since the reorganization of the National Guard, in 1882. There were total gains of 5,278 and total losses of 4,480. Of gains, 3,878 were by first enlistment.

General Henry says that the Guard has been fully equipped by the government with the arms of the United States Army, and that the value of the armament and equipment received is $240,462. Uniforms valued at $104,240 have been received from the government, but a further supply of 4,000 olive drab uniforms will be required to uniform the Guard fully.

FOR FOOD INVESTIGATION.

Resolution to That Effect Introduced in the Assembly.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Feb. 13.—A resolution of considerable importance was introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Sheldon to-night. It is apparently aimed at the investigation of the present situation with reference to adulteration of foods and medicines, and calls on the State Health Department for a report on the subject with recommendations for remedies. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the Commissioner of Health be and hereby is requested to furnish to this House a statement of what effort has been made on the part of the Department of Health for the enforcement of said statute, and whether, in his opinion, other or increased facilities or enactments are essential for the proper enforcement of the pure food law within this State.

ADVISES $2,000,000 FOR CHARITIES.

State Fiscal Supervisor Bender's Annual Report Made Public.

Albany, Feb. 13.—The annual report of Harry H. Bender, Fiscal Supervisor of State Charities, was made public to-day. Mr. Bender says, in part:

The special appropriations for new buildings, improvements, etc., for the State charitable institutions which I have recommended for the coming year aggregate $317,075, and the total appropriations for maintenance $1,528,000, making the total recommendations for all purposes $2,045,075, or over $2,000,000. For the current year there is available for new buildings, improvements, etc., $1,431,886 15, consisting of $534,241 36 appropriated by the legislature of 1904 and $797,644 79, the unexpended balances of former appropriations available for use October 1, 1904.

DISTRESS IN THE WEST

Continued from first page.

ble experience in the mountains last night, and are still held in a snowdrift on Marshall Pass. When it reached the summit of the continental divide, about 2 o'clock yesterday, the train was caught in a snowdrift. The passengers and crew have been without food since noon yesterday, and are held at an altitude of 1,200 feet, with the thermometer 35 below zero.

COLD WAVE FORERUNNER.

Snow and Low Temperature—A Further Drop Predicted.

The forerunner of the extremely cold wave that is expected to reach this city to-day appeared yesterday at noon in the form of snow flurries, accompanied by low temperature and brisk westerly winds. In fifteen hours the mercury dropped 23 degrees, and at midnight hovered at 13 degrees above.

The forecast for to-day announces a clear sky and a colder temperature, with diminishing northwesterly winds.

The cold wave in the Northwest has spread to the Gulf coast and eastward to Tennessee. Zero temperatures are recorded as far east as Ohio and south to Northern Texas. In the Middle Mississippi, Missouri and Lower Ohio valleys the temperatures range between zero and 26 degrees below. The storm which was central on Sunday morning has moved rapidly northeastward. Yesterday it hovered over Northern Maine.

The rain of Sunday, accompanied by a rising temperature, did much to make uncomfortable traffic about the city. The rain pools and snow hummocks were frozen by the subsequent drop in temperature yesterday, and the thoroughfares were unusually slippery.

The temperature of Southern California, which had kept well up to the summer mark this winter, dropped several degrees.

The lowest temperatures recorded yesterday were at Williston and Duluth, 28 degrees below zero.

MICHIGAN STREAMS FROZEN SOLID.

Country Roads Impassable in Many Places—Mail Carriers Abandon Routes.

Detroit, Feb. 13.—Reports from all parts of the lower peninsula of Michigan tell of cold and snow that are the worst of the winter. The railroads are having great trouble and a southbound Big Four passenger train is stuck in a drift five miles north of Niles.

At Standish the streams are frozen solid to the beds and farmers have to drive their stock long distances to water. Rural mail carriers in a number of cases have been compelled to abandon their routes, trains are late all over the State and country roads are almost impassable in many places.

DANGER ON OHIO ONLY POSTPONED.

Rivermen Fear Final Break Up Will Be the Worst in Years.

Cincinnati, Feb. 13.—The river situation to-day is more menacing to property than at any time since the cold weather gorged the Ohio with ice. The ice moved slowly all day Sunday, crushing everything before it, and a new freeze to-day followed a sudden drop in temperature. The new freeze only postpones what rivermen believe will be the worst final break-up of the river in many years.

The damage already done is estimated at from $100,000 to $200,000. In addition to the loss already incurred, vessels and other property valued at more than $500,000 are in serious danger of destruction. Full crews are on board all steamers and steam is kept up in readiness for whatever may happen. The ice is so heavy that ordinary methods are of slight avail.

SIX DAYS ON SNOWSHOES.

New-Yorkers Make Trip from the Adirondacks to Albany.

Albany, Feb. 13.—Harold J. Howland and Arthur Hewitt, of New-York, arrived in Albany to-day after what is said to be an unprecedented trip on snowshoes over the Adirondack trail. They started from Adirondack Village, thirty-five miles from North Creek, and were six days on the journey. They made the trip through the Indian Pass in one day over ten feet of snow, and with a temperature of 24 degrees zelow zero. They climbed McIntyre Mountain on hands and knees, even snowshoes being impracticable there.

HUNDREDS OF DUCKS STARVING.

Sound So Badly Frozen as to Drive Birds to Human Habitations.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

South Norwalk, Conn., Feb. 13.—Long Island Sound is so much frozen over that wild ducks can get nothing to eat and are actually starving by hundreds. All of the wild fowl are so thin and poor as to be hardly eatable. In their desperate straits highly prized mallard and black ducks, sheldrake and whistlers come up to the shore and even into back yards.

Captain George Overton found a large flock of wild ducks voraciously feeding in a pool the other evening. He was able to kill ten before they could fly. Captain Frank Lassen, of Smith's Island, reports that the wild ducks eat all the feed of his chickens at night. Charles A. Byxbee, of East Norwalk, says that gulls have been around his house every day for several weeks in quest of food.

SNOW DELAYS TRAINS UP-STATE.

Oswego, N. Y., Feb. 13.—Freight traffic on the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg division of the New-York Central was abandoned to-day on account of a blizzard which continues to-night. Passenger trains were delayed from one to nine hours, and many trains were abandoned.

Utica, N. Y., Feb. 13.—A hard blizzard is raging in the Mohawk Valley and Northern New-York to-day. Snow has fallen constantly since daylight in large quantities, and trains are either abandoned or five or six hours late.

ICE JAM IN THE ST. LAWRENCE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Ogdensburg, N. Y., Feb. 13.—There is a big ice jam in the St. Lawrence River, near here. The water is eleven feet above high water mark, and great damage is expected.

FOR PREFERRED COURT ACTIONS.

Bill Introduced by Senator Marks Affects Libel Cases.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Feb. 13.—Senator Marks to-night introduced a bill amending Section 793 of the Code of Civil Procedure by permitting the court to place on the preferred calandar actions brought by executors, administrators, trustees and guardians. This is the section which the Appellate Division declared unconstitutional in so far as it made it mandatory for the court to prefer certain actions and conferred no discretion.

In its present shape this bill would also make libel actions preferred cases, but there is a possibility that this may be amended.

BILL TO REOPEN CHENANGO CANAL.

Albany, Feb. 13.—To cheapen coal and other products by reopening and improving the abandoned Chenango Canal is the intent of a bill introduced in the Assembly to-night by Mr. Gates, of Utica. The route of the proposed canal is from New-York Mills, on the Erie Canal, to Binghamton, and by the Chenango Canal extension to Pennsylvania. Eight million dollars is appropriated.

APPELLATE TERM IN 2D DEPARTMENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Feb. 13.—Senator Cooper, of Brooklyn, to-night introduced a bill, in effect creating a Court of Appeals for the Appellate Division of the 2d Department. His measure provides that if this Appellate Division so desires it may designate three other justices before whom appeal may be had. This is to be known as the Appellate Term of the 2d Department.

Senator Cooper's bill, which has the support of the Brooklyn Bar Association, provides, it was said in Brooklyn last night, for an Appellate Term in Brooklyn, to be composed of Supreme Court justices, sitting at stated intervals, to hear appeals from the lower courts, in order to relieve the overcrowded calendars of the Appellate Division.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

CONDITIONS OF MILK PRODUCTION.

Orange County Dairies Are, in the Main, Conducted on Sanitary Principles.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your issue of January 15 I find an article entitled "Disease Germs in Your Milk," with photographs of stables and unsanitary conditions under which such milk is produced. Doubtless such conditions do exist, and I dare say can be found in the suburbs of your great city, in what are known as swill milk stables. But when you say the average dairy barn of the State of New-York is seldom or never swept, cobwebs and dust are loaded on every beam, and poultry are allowed to roost on the stanchions to which the cows are tied, and then say this is an average of the surroundings of dairy farms of the State, I say you are far from the truth.

The milk territory of this State covers a vast area, with some of which I am not at all acquainted. But when you include Orange County I beg leave to differ with you. You will find on inspecting the dairy barns of Orange County that the stable brooms are an indispensable article, as much so as the hay fork, and are used at least twice every day. That nine out of ten of the stables are thoroughly whitewashed and kept in a sanitary condition; that the cows are provided with an abundance of pure running spring water, and that every attention is given to their comfort and health. Cows and poultry do not thrive in the same atmosphere, and the dairyman has learned that it is too expensive to invest $30 or $35 in a dairy cow to convert into a henroost. And the same will apply to the feed his cows consume.

Do you suppose the Alexander Campbell Milk Company or the Borden company and a score of other first class companies located in this vicinity, whose inspectors are alert in the exercise of their duties, and do inspect the premises and dairies of their patrons, would stake their reputations on handling such milk as you mention?

The State inspectors pay us frequent visits and test our milk while it is yet the property of the producer, and I venture to say that not one can in a thousand has been condemned in the last two years. And yet, in the face of this you are frank enough to admit that some of the embalming and adulterating of milk is done at the creameries.

According to your figures, the bacteria in milk multiply with age at the rate of 400 per cent from the first twenty-four to forty-eight hours at a temperature of 45 degrees. Now, I would ask, what is the age of the greater part of your milk when delivered to the consumer? I know of localities where the milk (owing to the distance) is kept twenty-four hours before shipping, and at least as many more in transportation and delivery, which would require at least forty-eight hours to elapse between the production and the delivery to the consumer. Is it a wonder that embalming fluids are necessary for the preservation of the same?

A large portion of the milk consumed in New-York City can be supplied to the consumer at ten or twelve hours of age, and the rest at least not over twenty-four, at a trifle advance in cost. When you take in consideration the rapidity with which the deadly bacteria multiply every twelve hours, is this not decidedly preferable?

It is rare for the farmer to use milk for his own consumption over twelve hours old, and the same at twenty-four is looked upon with horror, regardless of the temperature to which it has been subjected.

We agree with the Board of Health that all milk should be reduced to a temperature of 50 degrees immediately after being drawn from the cow, and kept at that temperature until delivered to the consumer; that all milking should be done in a cleanly manner; that none but good, wholesome feed be fed to the cows; that all milk be sold on its merits as regards butter fat, age, bacteria, etc., and that the price the producer receives for such an article will compensate him for his labor and investment. But just so long as the uniform price of two cents a quart, with an occasional fraction added or deducted, prevails, without regard to age, quality, etc., there is no inducement for, nor can the producer afford to make, expenditure for ice, labor, etc. Milk is not like many other articles, that increases in value with age, and when the people of the great city of New-York insist that no milk shall be sold in its boundaries over thirty-six hours old, then this talk of bacteria, etc., will cease.

A. W. ROE.

Monroe, N. Y., Feb. 11, 1905.

The writer neglected to mention the fact that the statements, "the average dairy barn of the State of New-York is seldom or never swept" and "cobwebs and dust are loaded on every beam and poultry are allowed to roost on the stanchions to which the cows are tied," are not the direct and unsupported statements of The Tribune, but were made by a well known official of the New-York State Dairymen's Association, who has "travelled through every dairy county in our State." This the article of January 15 plainly indicates. That article did not contain any mention of a particular county in which the conditions were especially good or especially bad. Orange County is probably as free from unsanitary dairies as any in the neighborhood of New-York. As the writer of the letter admits, however, conditions are far from being what they ought to be.

TAX ON TRANSACTIONS IN STOCKS.

Inequitable and Burdensome Class Legislation, Says Correspondent.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A tax levied upon the purchase or sale of stocks is an inequitable, burdensome and onerous tax, inasmuch as it bears heavily upon a limited number of individuals, instead of being distributed equally among all citizens.

First—It is inequitable because there is no more reason for imposing a tax on the purchase and sale of stocks than upon the purchase and sale of drygoods or any other commodity.

Second—It is burdensome because it falls with unreasonable severity upon a limited number of citizens, known as "room traders," on the exchanges, and right here it might be well to define the term "the room trader."

The room trader is an absolutely essential part of the membership of every exchange; without him there would at times be no market. Were the commission brokers compelled to depend entirely upon each other for the execution of orders, hours, even days, might at times elapse without purchases or sales, except at great sacrifice. The room trader operates for his own account and will buy or sell, as the case may be, at a moderate variation from the last sale, expecting to find a seller or buyer at a reasonable profit or take a small loss on the transaction. It is manifest that the room trader turns over a great deal of stock, and the taxes are