MEMPHIS APPEAL.

WEDNESDAY : : : FEBRUARY 11, 1885

THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF FIRES.

The people grumble, as well they may, because they have to pay war taxes in time of peace. There is, however, a much worse tax they pay than that, and it is a tax not enforced by law, but inflicted by themselves upon themselves. It is the amount of money lost every year by fire. There is a feature in this self-imposed tax that makes it a far heavier burden to the country than a corresponding amount of legal tax. Why this is so we will explain, and the explanation is worth attention. Suppose half a dozen men to be standing together who had $100 among them, and one half were to pay the other the $50 they owned; while the money would be in different pockets, the amount of money among them all would still be $100. The same is the case in paying taxes. The country at large owns a certain amount of wealth, when it has paid its year's taxes the money, though in different hands, is still in the country. If three of the six men we mention should throw the $50 they own into the fire, then the total wealth of the whole six would be only $50. In one case wealth has changed hands, in the other it has been destroyed, and the whole six are poorer by the amount burned. This is the case with the self-imposed fire tax. The amount of property destroyed leaves the country that amount absolutely poorer. The insurance may pay the loss by fire, but that does not restore the wealth that has been destroyed; it only takes a portion of the country's wealth that remains after the fire and places it in other hands, and in no way restores the amount of wealth the country has lost. The reader now sees how serious to the country is loss by fire, now different in its results to losses by one party that are gains to another. Understanding, then, the nature of the loss, let us glance at the amount. From an article in the New York *Bulletin* we learn that one-fifth or one-sixth of all the annual gains from all sources of profit in the United States is burned to ashes in the fires that occur. Last year's recorded fires show a loss of $112,000,000—not changed hands, but as thoroughly gone as if it had never existed. During last month, January, 223 fires were recorded by the *Bulletin* where the loss was $10,000 or over. Of these, eleven fires caused a loss of $1,665,000, and there was no extraordinary conflagration during the whole month. The *Bulletin* says: "Even at the January ratio of fire loss, the country appears to be elected to stand a coste by fire of $102,000,000 during 1885, at least, even without any great conflagration of the Chicago or Boston kind to make matters worse." This is a bad beginning for the year, and the $1,000,000 fire at New York last week makes it worse. This is a country of progress and our fires progress, their number increases, and the progress is backward. This increase is so great that insurance officers are finding that the established rates of insurance no longer pay. The *Bulletin* states that the year 1884 cost the fire companies more than the insurers paid in. There must be fewer fires or higher insurance, or, as the *Bulletin* suggests: "The policy condition must hold the insured to accept his own fair share of the risk, so far as his own premises contribute to an increase of the hazard." Is there no remedy for this discreditable condition of things? Discreditable, because the great majority of fires occur through carelessness. There is an effectual remedy, and it ought to be applied. Whenever a fire occurs the occupant, or others concerned, ought to be summoned before a public officer to give an account of how the fire broke out; what measures were taken to extinguish it; how far the building in its construction and in the provisions made was calculated to resist fire or favor its progress? The liability to such an investigation would make every householder careful, and universal carefulness would prevent two-thirds of the fires that are now so serious a loss to the country, and the cause of ruin to many excellent citizens. We have said nothing of the loss of life, loss by a most torturing means. Men cost nothing, it is true, but there are considerations that outweigh cost. In the case before us heedlessness and self-interest are both concerned in the limitation of the outrageous number of fires that occur in our country.

THE TRAMP NUISANCE.

During the winter season the South is the paradise of the tramps. The winter snows and the cold, bleak weather, so unfavorable to their avocation in life, drives them from the North, and the croaking of the wild geese in their flight to a warmer climate is the signal for the tramps to commence their annual invasion of the South. They come singly and in pairs in rapid succession. They follow the tracks of the great railroads, stealing occasional rides and committing occasional robberies. Knowing the odium in which they are held along the great thoroughfares, they betake themselves to the wild woods where the people are ignorant, and frighten the women and children into ministering to their wants. They are never so happy as when arrested and sent to the county jail, where they are provided with food, fire and comfortable beds. Idleness and imprisonment is no discomfort to them. Indeed, they commit crimes for the sole purpose of finding food and raiment. Their appetites are most voracious and the people along the main tramp routes say it is cheaper to keep the old brood on hand than to feed the new brood, still more hungry and ravenous. These creatures are aimless in their purpose, save the purpose to live without work. When they are on the move, they keep moving in search of new fields in which to operate. At present the South is overrun with tramps, men strong, vigorous and healthy; and the army of mendicants is constantly on the increase. The evil is alarming, for nearly every tramp becomes a criminal. He sees that society is his enemy, and determined not to make an honest living by work, and tired of begging, he becomes a desperado, thief and murderer. It is safe to say that there are now 10,000 tramps in the Southern States. It is alarming to think that the people are feeding 10,000 men who will sooner or later become murderers and robbers. These vagabonds are not only so much muscle substracted from the producing forces of the country, but they are a source from which the worst classes of criminals are recruited. Vagrancy is not itself a crime, but crime is sure to follow chronic vagrancy. Tramping causes the loss of self-respect and all the restraints which makes the good citizen. With the strolling vagrant reputation is a matter of no consequence. He has no acquaintances or associates outside of the gang of brotherhood, and they respect neither the law nor the property of others, and they conspire to murder and rob the man who has given them shelter and food. How to rid the country of the tramp nuisance is a grave problem. The Socialists in our leading cities and the tramps strolling over the country if not dealt with summarily will bring forth a harvest of evils, imperiling the stability of our institutions. These evils can be corrected by stern, heroic methods. The people of Herculaneum laughed at the admonitions of wise men and were buried in a common ruin. The American people may smile at internal dangers, but unless they crush out the vagabonds, who have everything to make and nothing to lose by a change, they will discover before the close of the present century an enemy in their midst more terrible than an army with banners. How to prevent vagrancy and the tramp nuisance is a subject which many of the States have been wrestling for several years. But no effectual cure has been discovered. The chain-gang has been tried, but proved expensive and ineffectual. Working the mendicants on the streets and public roads does not lessen the evil. As in the case of other crimes, the severest penalties have proved no more effectual than the mildest restrictions. In France and other countries imprisonment, the galleys, the pillory, branding with a hot iron, have been some of the remedies tried without effect during the last 300 years. In England, the whipping, ear-cropping and hanging with which every crime was punished did not stop vagrancy. But workhouses have been established and they have reduced vagrancy. It is a poor commentary on our civilization to say that there is no adequate remedy for the crime of vagrancy. The law is a terror to thieves and murderers. But for fear of it there would be as many murderers as there are tramps strolling over the country. The word tramp is now synonymous with crime, and when the law makes the tramp a criminal and conveys him to the penitentiary the tramp will evade the State that enforces such a penalty with as much horror as he does an honest day's work.

THE EARTHQUAKE AND ITS VICTIMS.

Dynamite and the stirring events in Egypt have diverted our attention from Spain and the earthquakes there, but the condition is distressing to the last degree. The Spanish press and private letters give the most heart-rending accounts of the woe and wretchedness that is the fate, not only of strong men who can face calamity, but of fragile women and the little ones, who already find the world they have been born into so hard and cruel. The first shocks came amid the joyousness and festivities of Christmas day. In a moment the poor and the rich, the noble and the beggar were, when uninjured, turned out of the cities of Malaga, Mortril, Loja and Grenada and elsewhere, to meet in the open fields the keen winter's wind and endure the falling snow and the ice that seized upon all moisture. At Zafaraya, twenty miles from Malaga, every dwelling was leveled with the ground. Without tents or other shelter, or without food, the inhabitants were driven forth, many weeping the loss of those who were buried beneath the ruins. Hope was vain, for such searching as could be carried on showed that the earthquake did sure work. All that were found were dead, no wounded were discovered. In other places the woe was no less. What made it still greater was the fact that snow was falling, attended by a high wind. Attempts to construct huts of boards and branches of trees were vain, the roaring, cutting wind carried all away. Can the reader catch sight of the scene? The ground covered with snow and ice, snow hurtling through the air, the wind bellowing and casting its heaviest blasts upon the scene, and there, under the pitiless sky, with few garments saved from the dreadful catastrophe to shield their limbs from the wind, were scattered hither and thither the unhappy people. They shiver, and shudder, and weep, oh! such tears may we never know. Beside the rough workman stands the dismayed son of luxury, there the wife and daughter for whom the breeze of the dawn was thought too rough, and there the little ones seeking in vain aid from parents whose hearts are bleeding because they are powerless. No shelter from the wintry gust and no food. All has gone down in the dread disaster and is buried beneath the huge *debris* that covers their city, lying under beams and joists and masonry that once were home. All gone, friends lost, comforts, favorite household objects, cherished memorials, and every atom of food, all entombed. What pitiable subjects for thought in so pitiable a condition. Suddenly shrieks and loud cries to heaven go up from the houseless multitude. Every face is pale with horror, the very dogs cringe and howl in alarm indescribable, for another shock has assailed the shuddering earth. Firm earth no longer. Like billows the ground waves and sways under the terrified crowds and sinks from under their feet; and, more fearful still, it opens, yawning fissures gape for prey. Those who are near the edges are cast within by the shock, the immense gap closes again, and they who had thought the extremity of human calamity was upon them as they shivered, half clothed, in the wind and the snow, find their overflowing cup dashed upon by new catastrophes, for the loved one that was a moment ago sympathizing and showing devotion to the dear ones around has been swallowed up. Death and burial came together. Then comes night, black and bitter, except for the cold white covering of hill and valley. Can we look on these afflicted ones as they suffer through the frost and bear the ceaseless winter's blast during the long, long bitter night? No! Even the thought of such woe is too much for contemplation—what, then, must the sight have been?

Important, if True.

PITTSBURG, PA., February 10.—It is currently reported that the Amalgamated Association has issued a circular to members asking for an expression of views on a ten per cent. reduction of the scale for the coming year. All who are willing are requested to sign the circular and return it to the office of the association before the meeting of the Scale Convention March 4th. The report, if true, is of great importance, as it shows that the association is willing to accept the operators' theories of hard times and meet them as best they can. The officers of the Amalgamated Association refuse to confirm or deny the report.

The Out-Cropping.

When you see indications of coal lying along the surface of the earth, you may know there is more coal underneath. Just so when you see an awful case of salt rheum, you may know that the blood is in a frightful condition. Mr. Francis Saudids, of Duxbury, Mass., writes that Brown's Iron Bitters has proved a long wished-for friend, because it cured his salt rheum, which had tormented him for long and weary years. Three bottles made him feel like a new man. This valued remedy also cures neuralgia, rheumatism, etc.

Horrible Tragedy.

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 10.—A special to the *Daily Register* says: In Pickens county, Dick Mulligan, white, while drunk hurled a chain at his wife and killed his little daughter, who happened to come in at the time. Mulligan, sobered by the tragedy, went to his bed-room and cut his throat.

Four Men Burned to Death.

QUEBEC, February 10.—News has just been received from Lake Simon, the temporary terminus of the Quebec and Lake St. John railway, that on Sunday last, a camp situated six miles from there, and occupied by four men, burned, together with the men.

Store Burglarized.

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 10.—The store of C. A. Austin, confectioner, at Johnston, this State, was burglarized. The top of the safe was blown to the ceiling, where it was imbedded, and the store badly wrecked. The front of the building was sprung out of plumb six inches by the explosion.

THE COTTON CROP.

The Total Product About Ninety-Nine Per Cent. of Last Year's Yield.

Silver and Silver Certificates at the National Banks and Clearinghouses —The Rule

Regarding the Settlement of Balances at New York—Proceedings in Congress.

WASHINGTON, February 10.—The February cotton report of the Department of Agriculture makes the proportion of the crop sent to market from plantations on the 1st of February, 88½ per cent. of the crop, thus leaving 10½ to be marketed. Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Louisiana report 99 per cent., Texas and Georgia 91, South Carolina 92, while Mississippi returns 89 per cent., Alabama 87, and Arkansas and Tennessee 85. The average date of the close of picking was earlier than last year by 6 days in Virginia, 3 in North Carolina, 3 in South Carolina, 1 in Georgia, 3 in Mississippi, 10 in Texas, 8 in Arkansas, and 11 in Tennessee. The date is the same as last year in Florida and Alabama. The average dates reported are, Virginia, December 6th; North Carolina, November 25th; South Carolina, November 20th; Mississippi, November, 23d; Florida, November 30th; Alabama, November 20th; Georgia, November 19th; Louisiana, November 28th; Texas, November 30th; Arkansas, December 4th; Tennessee, November 30th. From the returns of the products, compared with last year, an aggregate crop of about 5,700,000 bales is indicated, or about ninety-nine per cent. of the crop of last year, and but slightly differing from indications of the December report. The comparison is as follows by States: Virginia, 90; North Carolina, 101; South Carolina, 112; Georgia, 101; Florida, 102; Alabama, 106; Mississippi, 98; Louisiana, 97; Texas, 89; Arkansas, 99; Tennessee, 101. West of the Mississippi there appears to be a reduction in the product, notwithstanding the increase of acreage.

SILVER AND GOLD.

Practice of the Banks and Clearinghouses in Settling Balances.

WASHINGTON, February 10.—The Secretary of the Treasury to-day transmitted to the House, in response to a resolution, a communication from the Treasurer of the United States relative to the practice of certain clearinghouses and bank associations to receive silver dollars and certificates in settlement of their balances. The Treasurer says: "It is not known to this office that the Clearinghouse Association of New York, or any national bank thereof, has, since the passage of the act of July, 1882, refused to receive silver dollars or silver certificates in the settlement of their balances, or has at any time refused to receive silver dollars or certificates from the government in payment of balances due from banks, hereinafter to and association. The Treasury, in January, 1879, became a member of the New York Clearinghouse. A provision having been inserted in the articles of association, at the date of July 12, 1882, "that no national banking association shall be a member of any clearinghouse in which such certificates (gold and silver certificates) shall not be receivable in settlement of clearinghouse balances," the associated banks of New York adopted the following:

Resolved, That the resolutions adopted by the Clearinghouse Association November 12, 1878, are hereby modified so far as they prohibit substantially the act of Congress of July 12, 1882.

Members of the Clearinghouse have continued to settle their balances in gold coin or certificates, or United States notes, and as no silver dollars or silver certificates have been tendered, none have been refused. The Treasury, though not a party to the proceeding, has held silver dollars or certificates shall not be tendered, and though it has never in any way waived the right to pay demands in a legal kind of money that may be lawfully tendered for the purpose, has conformed to the practice of the associated banks in paying balances against it at the Clearinghouse. The department has deemed it inexpedient, as a matter of public policy, to force the issue of silver dollars or certificates in the chief financial center of the country until compelled to that step by the condition of the Treasury. Silver certificates have recently been issued in part payment of the day's balance against the Treasury, and have been accepted by the Clearinghouse. They will be again so used whenever the state of the funds in the Treasury may require it.

To the second portion of the resolution as to what amount of gold came into the Treasury in exchange for silver dollars or national silver certificates during January, 1885 the Treasurer says: "There was deposited with the Assistant Treasurer at New York during January, 1885, $20,000 in gold, for which drafts payable in silver certificates by the Assistant Treasurer at New Orleans were issued by the Treasurer. There have been received during the same month $42,000 in drafts on New York, which were collected through the Clearinghouse, in exchange for which silver dollars were returned by the Treasury. These drafts, while not payable in gold, became equivalent to gold, receipts by reducing the balance against the Treasury at the New York Clearinghouse. The exchange was made at par. It is not known whether any other amounts of gold came into the Treasury in exchange for silver dollars or silver certificates."

In reply to another portion of the resolution, the Treasurer says: "The Treasury not being a member of any other clearinghouse than at New York, has no authentic information as to the rules or practices of other clearinghouses in the receipt or payment of silver dollars or certificates. It is publicly reported that silver certificates are accepted in settlement of balances at the Clearinghouse at Boston. Silver certificates are used in the payment of public creditors, including national banks, at all sub-treasuries except New York. This office has no further information as to the rule or practice of individual national banks other than that contained in the resolution of the New York Clearinghouse Association."

In response to that portion of the resolution asking information as to what proportion of customs revenues has been received in silver coin or certificates, the Treasurer submitted a table showing that during forty-seven months, from January 1, 1881, $650,000 in silver and $182,654,000 in silver certificates were paid for customs duee.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The Postoffice Bill in the House—In the Senate.

WASHINGTON, February 10.—*House.*—The House met in continuation of Saturday's session, and immediately went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Little (ark) in the chair, on the postoffice appropriation bill.

Mr. Bingham criticised the action of the committee in cutting down below the estimates the appropriation for the letter-carrier service.

Mr. Dingley advocated a more liberal policy in compensation to American steamship lines for ocean mail service.

Pending the completion of his remarks the committee rose, the House adjourned and the session for Tuesday began.

After reading the journal six above, Kelley moved that the document be amended in that portion which had reference to the scene of yesterday between Mr. White (N.Y.) and the sergeant-at-arms. The journal states that when the deputy produced the mace and proceeded to ward Mr. White, that gentleman "took his seat." It should state he "had taken his seat." This, he thought, due the gentleman from Kentucky. It was also due to the honor of the House that the journal should recite the truth and not the angry impulses of the majority.

Mr. Reed moved to lay Mr. Kelley's motion on the table. Agreed to—yeas, 166; nays, 94.

Mr. Keifer then moved that a committee of five be appointed by the Speaker to examine and report on the question of fact with relation to the proceedings yesterday. A lengthy discussion ensued, which was finally ended by Mr. Reagan moving to lay Mr. Keifer's motion on the table, and declined to yield to Mr. Reed, who wanted a few minutes to reply to his remarks.

Thereupon the Republicans, with a few exceptions, refrained from voting, but they did not succeed in breaking the quorum, and the motion was agreed to—yeas, 154; nays, 52.

The journal was then approved.

The Speaker *pro tem.* announced the appointment of Messrs. Clay and Keifer as tellers on the part of the House during the counting of the electoral vote.

Mr. King, rising to a question of personal privilege, said that, under a misapprehension, he had on Friday last made use of some remarks directed to Mr. Hiscock which he wished now to withdraw.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of business under the special rule.

The Senate bill called up by Mr. Dorsheimer for the settlement of the accounts of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company was objected to.

At 3:15 o'clock, on motion of Mr. Townshend, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole for the further consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill, and Mr. Dingley concluded his speech.

Mr. Holman discussed and advocated the proposed change in the manner of compensating railroads for mail transportation.

The bill was then read by paragraphs for amendments, several of which were offered and rejected.

Pending further action, the committee rose, and Mr. Phelps, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported back the resolution requesting of the President copies of all correspondence in the hands of the government relating to the case of C. A. Vanhocken, an American citizen imprisoned at Port au Prince, Hayti. Adopted.

Adjourned.

The Senate.

Senator Allison presided over the Senate to-day.

The Chair laid before the Senate a memorial in the form of a joint resolution from the Legislature of Dakota urging the division of the Territory and the admission of its southern portion as a State.

The Senate passed Senator Sherman's joint resolution providing for striking medals to commemorate the dedication of the Washington monument.

After some unimportant business, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to prevent the unlawful occupancy of public lands. This is the bill known as the "anti-fencing bill." It passed with slight amendments.

Senator Cockrell asked the Senate to take up House bills on the Senate calendar, but objection was made.

The bill to quiet the title of settlers on DesMoines river lands was then taken up, but at 1 o'clock it was displaced by the anti-silver coinage bill. Senator Morrill, noticing that Senator Sherman, who has the floor for a speech upon this measure, was absent, moved its further consideration be postponed until to-morrow. Carried.

Consideration of the pensions appropriation bill continued, and the Senate committee's amendments were concurred in.

Senator Ingalls said he understood the Senate, by its action yesterday, had resolved that there would be no more general legislation upon general appropriation bills. He asked the Senator from Iowa [Allison], chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, whether he regarded the action of yesterday as binding upon the committee.

Senator Allison—I certainly regard the action of the Senate yesterday as requiring the Committee on Appropriations, as well as the Senate, to observe the rule, and while I cannot speak for the House or every member of the committee, for myself I believe the committee to be instructed to report these bills without legislation.

Senator Ingalls—And that there is to be no surrender in committee of conference?

Senator Allison—I can only speak for myself. I regard the instructions, yesterday, as requiring the committee of conference on the part of the Senate not to report legislation here without instructions.

Senator Ingalls—And that the committee are to adhere to the instructions, even if the appropriation bill should fail?

Senator Allison—Well, Mr. President, they would probably, in that event, take the sense of the Senate. I certainly would not undertake to force an extra session of Congress, with reference to an appropriation bill, without taking advice of Senators upon the point as to whether not, as a member of the conference committee, feel I was justified in agree to legislation upon appropriation bills without a further order of the Senate.

The debate continued at great length, and Senator Ingalls pointed out several amendments which, he contended, had acknowledged were general legislation, but which the Senate declined to strike out, which caused the former to remark "that the world is to come to an end when the Senate rule was to be enforced when Senators wanted it to operate and not to be inforced when they did not want it to operate."

After the bill had been substantially as it came from the Senate committee, all legislative measures found on the bill as it came from the House relating to compensation of pension examiners, etc., were stricken out, the Senate already having passed a special bill containing these provisions. The bill now goes to the House to concur in the amendments made by the Senate's action striking out the provisions referred to.

The Senate then took up and resumed consideration of the House bill repealing the preemption and timber culture laws, which continued up to the hour of adjournment, no decision being reached.

Before adjournment Senator Butler presented the credentials of the re-election of Senator Hampton.

CAPITAL POINTS.

More Money for the World's Fair.

WASHINGTON, February 10.—A number of commissioners of the New Orleans Exposition were before the House Committee on Appropriations to-day, and asked an additional appropriation of $50,000 for the relief of the Exposition. The matter will be considered by the committee tomorrow.

Speaker Carlisle Seriously Ill.

Speaker Carlisle is confined to his bed from illness resulting from a cold contracted during his recent visit to Albany. His illness has assumed a serious nature.

The Anti-Fencing Law.

The anti-fencing law bill passed by the Senate to-day is the Dolphin bill, but having been amended by the Senate it must return to the House for further consideration.

Pilots' Pensions.

A bill will be favorably reported to the House providing that pilots who served in United States gunboats during the late war shall receive the same rate of pension as engineers in the same service are now entitled to.

Ohio Swamp Lands.

Secretary Teller to-day accepted the proposition made by the Governor of Ohio to abide by the field notes in the General Land Office for the determination of the character of lands claimed by the State of Ohio, under the swamp land act of September, 1850, and for patents issued purpose under the act of March, 1857. The title to nearly 200,000 acres is involved, and under the decision an adjustment will be had at once.

Venezuelan Claims.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations agreed to the following resolution as a substitute for all measures before the Senate relating to the distribution of Venezuelan awards: "*Resolved*, That the distribution and payment, principal and interest, of the awards made by the Venezuelan Mixed Commission properly belongs to the Executive, and is hereby referred to that branch of the government."

Marshal Wright's Accounts.

Judge Reynolds, First Auditor of the Treasury, concluded the examination of the accounts of Marshal Wright, of Cincinnati, of expenses incurred during the Ohio election, and referred them to the First Comptroller for final examination. The First Auditor allows all items except those for fees for deputy marshals who were not residents of the State of Ohio. There were about fifty such deputies, whose fees had been allowed at $10 each.

Farm Animals.

Returns of the comparative number of farm animals to the Department of Agriculture show an increase of four per cent. in mules, three in mules, three in cattle, two in swine, and a small decrease in sheep. There has been a decline in values of two per cent. in horses and mules, five per cent. in cattle, three per cent. and ten in sheep and swine. The average values are: Horses, $33 70; mules, $88 55; cows, $29 70; other cattle, $23 02; sheep, $2 14; swine, $3 42. The total value of all aggregates $1,107,000,000; all domestic animals, farm and ranch, $2,456,000,000.

EX-MAYOR EDSON JAILED.

Fined and Imprisoned for Contempt of Court.

NEW YORK, February 10.—Judge Friedman, in the Supreme Court, to-day rendered a decision in the proceedings brought by Theodore Roosevelt and others against Ex-Mayor Franklin Edson, implicated with others, on a motion to punish the mayor for contempt in refusing to comply obeying an injunction order granted by Judge Beach last December, which restrained the ex-mayor from making any nominations for commissioners of public works and corporation counsel. Judge Friedman finds Ex-Mayor Edson guilty of contempt and directs that he be confined in the county jail ten days, and in addition pay a fine of $250.

Convicts Blown Up by Dynamite.

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 10.—Two colored convicts were blown up Saturday while charging a drillhole for blasting, and died yesterday. They blew out a drill-hole with a small charge of powder, and before the drill cooled off inserted a dynamite cartridge. While the penitentiary surgeon was attending the wounded men another blast near by exploded, dashing him against an embankment. He will recover.

Catholic Church Robbed.

CHICAGO, February 10.—The police report that St. Jarlath's Roman Catholic church was entered by burglars last night, who carried off the sacred vessels made of silver, heavily plated with gold, and also some of the rich vestments, and even carried off the poor box. In addition to the theft, considerable damage was done in and about the altar.

TEN PER CENT.

Is More Than the Farmers are Willing or Can afford to Pay for the Use of Money.

An Answer to the Preamble and Resolutions of John R. Godwin Indorsed by the

Cotton Exchange, by a Farmer Who Speaks from an Experience that is Not a Happy One.

To the Editors of the Appeal:

WILLISTON, TENN., February 4.—A merchant of Williston to-day handed me a circular headed, "Reasons Why the Legislature Should Pass a Law Allowing a Ten Per Cent. Conventional Rate of Interest." On opening my WEEKLY APPEAL I found the same thing in it. Will you permit one of Fayette county's humblest farmers to be heard through the columns of the APPEAL on ten per cent.? I have been a close reader of the APPEAL for a long time, but have never before seen an article in its columns so detrimental to the interests of the agriculturist as the preamble and resolutions in your last week's issue, signed by Messrs. Godwin, Hill, Dillard and Porter, and unanimously adopted by the Cotton Exchange of Memphis and addressed to the Legislature now in session at Nashville. Such an indorsement of the preamble and resolutions gives them great weight; therefore, if what is stated in them is not true, and our legislators enact a law allowing a conventional or contract rate of interest, the farmer's destruction will then, in my opinion, be completed. We are just now recovering from the disasters brought on us to a great extent by such a law (I mean we land-owners), but the farm hands, as this extraordinary preamble has truly said, are still in abject poverty and dirty rags, resulting from that law. I shall endeavor to show some of the causes which have brought about the deplorable state of affairs so often alluded to in this preamble before I close this notice of it. I shall also review briefly the results of the contract rate limited to ten per cent in force in Tennessee not many years ago, and see if its inestimable privileges compelled gold into the coffers of the agriculturist and made him stout on account of very prosperity. Let us examine this marvelous preamble, this new revelation about conventional or contract rate of interest, about which Mr. Curtis, vice-president of the Cotton Exchange of Memphis, stated when he called the Exchange to order, that

MR. J. R. GODWIN

was prepared to make "a more intelligent explanation." Now, Mr. Godwin, your "more intelligent explanation" about development and high degree of development, and laws to invite rather than to repel capital, and freedom to employ it consistent with sound public policy, would not be absolutely essential if it that capital should be owned and controlled by the citizens to develop the resources of the State in the all very good manner. Dear sir, does not "intelligently explain" to the average farmer how paying ten per cent. for money will enable him to live in good and these wonderful things, and get rich besides, when he knows there is not a farmer in Fayette county who is clearing five per cent. on the money he has invested in his "explanation," however, enables him to see very clearly why the members of the Cotton Exchange and (as Mr. Godwin says) almost all the Bar of Tennessee engaged in commerce and trade, favor a bill allowing a high rate of interest.

A high rate of interest benefits the money-lender directly, just as a high price for produce does the producer, and a high rate benefits the merchant indirectly by enabling him to charge a higher price for his goods, provisions and wares of all descriptions. But, sir, can you name one—just one—intelligent farmer or manufacturer whose entire capital is invested in money-lending who favors ten per cent.? No intelligent (and I came near saying no honest) farmer will borrow ten per cent. money if he knows he can not make half that much by its use. Your inability to understand why farmers do not favor a high rate of interest, unless it is usury, proves to me that it is just for them and will make them more prosperous to have a small amount of money in the State than a large amount, does not surprise me. Mr. Curtis estimate of your ability to make a "more intelligent explanation" of the matter, and is equivalent to saying that you are very ignorant. Yes, I am sorry to say it, but it is true, we are ignorant, and on that very account often duped and fleeced by designing men. Do you seriously believe that as this preamble on contract interest rate. How to borrow money at ten per cent. to invest in a business that will pay only five per cent., and grow rich by the operation, your "more intelligent explanation" makes about as clear as it does how a man can be profitably engaged by a mule and a jenny pulling through a half-inch hole at the top while there is an inch hole open at the bottom. The fact is, the higher the interest rate is the faster the money-lender and money-lender accumulate, and just as much higher as the per cent. is above the profits of production to that full extent will the producer become poorer.

THE QUESTION IS THIS:

Is it true or not true that a high rate of interest will benefit only the money-lender and those engaged in trade, and be injurious to the best interests of the farmer and all productive interests? Nothing can be plainer than the fact that if any business is carried on only in part by employing borrowed money at a higher rate than the net profits of that business will yield, that it is only a question of time, and the time depends entirely on the difference between the rate of interest and net profits of the business, when the money-lender will bankrupt the business man. If this proposition be true, it is perfect nonsense to say that a higher rate of interest will benefit farmers.

Now, sir, if it is true, as you assert, that the state that makes its laws to favor a high rate of interest will secure the larger volume of money, and that a State has to do to secure the greatest amount of money is for it to make its laws to favor the highest rate of interest of all the States. I ask, in all seriousness, and I do ask every good man and every good citizen, if this question; Was the volume of money in this State as large (I mean banking capital) when the contract ten per cent. interest law was in force as it is now? What were the results of the ten per cent. law? Why, the money-lender grew richer every day, and the borrower, if he was a farmer, became poorer and poorer day by day until he was not only flayed by the money commorants, but his meat was plucked away piecemeal every time he bare. These money vultures then, in compliance with the suggestions of the tender commissionists overpowering their benevolent hearts, proceed to prey on our poor, naked skeletons, and in mercy and "pity unknown," absolutely recommended the Legislature to put a stop to such cruel usage by law, by way of repealing the law, and see if something could be done for the farmers in order that they might meet over again and furnish another sweet morsel with which to gorge their voracious maws. And now that the farmers have gained a little flesh, here comes your "more intelligent explanation" and the Memphis Cotton Exchange sailing around, smelling about, and have really scented the taint, and now stand poised like a vulture in a cloudy day, as soon as the law will permit, to swoop down on us and fasten their talons of conventional rate of interest into our victuals, and

WITH FIRM KEEN BEAKS OF AVARICE

take again the last morsel of bleeding, quivering flesh from our bones. Now, sir, all this noise about capital being induced to come into this State by allowing a conventional rate of interest is, to my mind, senseless prate. Why? The banks are now overflowing with money—the banks in Memphis are. The daily reports found in the papers printed in Memphis state that money is in ample supply to satisfy all demands. If that is true, what do you want with any more banking capital? This is all Tennessee needs or ever will need, unless the rate of interest is lowered to that extent that it becomes a conventional rate. I contend that it becomes your interest and directs that he be confined in the county jail, ten days, and in addition pay a fine of $250.

Convicts Blown Up by Dynamite.

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 10.—Two colored convicts were blown up Saturday while charging a drillhole for blasting, and died yesterday. They blew out a drill-hole with a small charge of powder, and before the drill cooled off inserted a dynamite cartridge. While the penitentiary surgeon was attending the wounded men another blast near by exploded, dashing him against an embankment. He will recover.

Catholic Church Robbed.

CHICAGO, February 10.—The police report that St. Jarlath's Roman Catholic church was entered by burglars last night, who carried off the sacred vessels made of silver, heavily plated with gold, and also some of the rich vestments, and even carried off the poor box. In addition to the theft, considerable damage was done in and about the altar.

AT THE VATICAN.

The Pope Declares that His Situation in Rome is Becoming More and More Intolerable.

His Speech to the Cardinals at the Recent Meeting of the Sacred College.

Some of the Numerous Difficulties Under Which He Labors—Foreign Miscellany.

ROME, February 10.—Michael Davitt is seeking to present an address to the Pope justifying the action of the Catholic Irish Nationalists. The Vatican is unwilling to negotiate with Davitt. Eminent persons, however, are trying to procure him an audience with the Pope.

A SPEECH BY THE POPE.

He Declares His Situation in Rome is Becoming More and More Intolerable.

ROME, January 10.—The Sacred College on the 24th of December every year calls in a body and officially on the Pope to present the compliments of the day. It is the duty of the dean of the cardinals to make a speech. It has always been customary to give more or less of a political turn to the speech, and in replying to this address the Popes have always availed themselves of the opportunity to manifest their opinions on current events. This year the Sacred College called as usual, and the new Cardinal Dean Sacconi addressed his holiness and took occasion to refer in terms of condemnation to the misrepresentations spread by the Pope's enemies of his recent gift of 1,000,000 francs to found a hospital and guard against the scourge of cholera. The Pope appeared to be well pleased with the note struck in the address, and, standing upon his throne and waving his trembling hand, he spoke in reply:

"The annual occurrence of Christmas day, which causes great joy to the Church, brings also great joy to us, and makes us very grateful for the wishes for prosperity which your eminence for the first time has offered to us in the name of the whole Sacred College. This joy would be for us brighter and more joyful if times were less sad for the Church and we could have less difficulties to encounter in her government. Among these difficulties the greatest is that which affects our present condition, which we have always declared unbearable; and daily events show that reality it is becoming more and more intolerable. This just ending year has put in evidence, as your eminence has remarked, that in these actual circumstances not even the exercise of charity remains possible for the Pope here in his own Rome. All remember how thirty the majority of the press attacked our design of opening, in case of necessity, a hospital near our Vatican residence, at our own expense. All remember the perfidious insinuations and interpretations with which it was misrepresented, and with that are now trying to make it, tion was thwarted, and how it became an occasion by which we were obliged to take all the bitterness of that new order of things which reduced our Rome to the condition of a simple private citizen.

"But this is not all nor the worst. It gives us great regret and deep sorrow to behold the infancy with which heretical doctrines are spread and the most sacred dogmas of our very holy religion are attacked here in Italy, in the center of Rome and seat of the universal and infallible teaching of the Church; here where integrity of faith ought to be protected in the most delicate manner, and the honor of the only true religion preserved. It is heartrending to see how, under the protection of public law, the churches of dissenters are daily increasing here; and it is permitted even here in Rome to attack openly the most precious and beautiful unity of Italy, namely, religious unity, through the mad attempts of those who undertake the impious task of establishing in Italy a new Church outside of the only rock established by Christ as a foundation for its everlasting heavenly construction.

"And yet we have reason to fear new and very serious dangers against religion and the Church. The decree Mancini has been presented to Parliament again; a bill which, in many instances, allowing the abolition of the marital bonds, goes directly against that precept given to man in the world's beginning, 'What therefore God hath joined together let no man put asunder;' a bill which long ago, to the teaching of Jesus Christ, the legislator universal, and to the whole economy of the Church with regard to marriage; a bill which does not recognize in the great sacrament the sublime excellence with which our Lord ennobled it, and brought down to the level of a mere civil contract; a bill which degrades woman and humilizes her; a bill which compromises the education and the welfare of children, and breaks the bonds of domestic society and dissolves it; which spreads discord among families, and is a source of corruption for public manners and a principle of ruinous decay for States.

"The experience of no distant times has been so bitter and sad as to force the authors of divorce laws to re-establish by their codes the indissolubility of marriage. Yet, if the desire of sects and the vote of Freemasons should prevail, one would see promulgated from Rome—from which only the purest light of revealed truth and the splendor of Catholic life ought to start—a law utterly opposed to Catholic principles.

"It God will grant that such a great misfortune may be warded off from Italy, we shall thank him with the deepest feelings of gratitude; but we cannot remain without the most grievous fears as long as the present condition of things lasts. As the present order is contrary to the dignity and independence of the sovereign pontificate and impairs the liberty of the Roman pastors in the exercise of their supreme power, it must needs make us feel more and more the weight of other people's domination, and also make the Christian world understand more and clearly the impossibility of submitting to such a state of things and of remaining indifferent under it.

"The Son of God having become a man, who, though infant, escaped the persecution of the implous, and with His divine virtue changed the face of the universe, will no doubt help His afflicted Church and ameliorate the lot of His unworthy vicar. But let Catholics of the whole world hasten divine mercy with their assiduous prayers, and especially with a thorough Christian life, responding to the faith and law which they profess.

"With these feelings we warmly return the wishes and greetings of the Sacred College. As a pledge of choicest favors from heaven, with a particular love we gladly impart to all the cardinals, bishops and prelates, and others here present, the apostolic benediction."

After this speech his holiness sat down, almost exhausted, so great was the emphasis with which he had spoken. The speech has been the subject of wide comment.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Cardinal McCabe Dangerously Ill.

DUBLIN, February 10.—Cardinal McCabe is dangerously ill.

Bismarck's Birthday Gift.

MUNICH, February 10.—King Louis, of Bavaria, has issued a decree permitting and encouraging the collection in Bavaria of subscriptions for the proposed birthday gift to Prince Bismarck.

Germany in the South Pacific.

LONDON, February 10.—It is officially confirmed that the German squadron in the South Pacific has hoisted the flag of Germany at twelve points on the islands of New Britain, New Ireland and New Guinea.

Dynamite Explosion at a Ball.

VIENNA, February 10.—During a ball at the town of Witkowitz, in Bohemia, a dynamite cartridge was exploded in the basement of the building. The staircase was demolished and several persons injured. No one killed.

France Wants a Hand in It.

PARIS, February 10.—The government has asked the president of Deputies for credit of $300,000, with which to organize a French settlement at Obok in Tadjerah bay, on the west coast of the Gulf of Aden, and for the better establishment of the French protectorate over Tadjurah. The Tadjurah country lies at the mouth of