Iron County Register

BY ELI D. AKE.

IRONTON. - - - MISSOURI.

NEWS AND NOTES.

A Summary of Important Events.

JEFFERSON DAVIS has arrived in New York from Europe.

COL. JOHN W. FORNEY, the well-known Philadelphia journalist, died on the 9th.

THE President on the 12th sent to the Senate the name of Frederick T. Frelinghuysen as Secretary of State, *vice* Blaine, resigned.

JOHN DAVIS, nephew of Bancroft Davis, and son-in-law of ex-Senator Frelinghuysen, will be President Arthur's Private Secretary.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL JAMES announces his intention to retire from the Government service on January 1, having accepted the Presidency of the Lincoln Bank of New York City.

MRS. DAVIS, wife of John Davis, Private Secretary to the President, is a daughter of Senator Frelinghuysen and will probably preside over the hospitalities of the Executive Mansion. She is said to be a lady of many accomplishments and will doubtless do the honors in the highest style.

THERE are indications that the cotton operatives at Fall River, Mass., Lewiston, Me., Manchester, N. H., and other cotton manufacturing centers are determined to strike for an increase of wages at an early day, and as a preparation for such action are perfecting their organization. The Knights of Labor are particularly active.

THE Post-office Department rules that the sender of any request matter (mail matter requested to be returned if not delivered in a specified time) has the right to lengthen or shorten the time originally mentioned on the envelope, but the letter or matter must remain as long as three days in the office of destination. Postmasters shall return matter upon such requests without charge of additional postage. The same ruling applies to card matter containing simply the name and address of the sender.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR took formal possession of the White House on the 7th. He was unaccompanied, and after entering the mansion spent a little while down-stairs inspecting the recent improvements. He then went through the upper part of the house, and was greatly pleased with the chamber prepared for his use. He dined in the family dining-room, in company with Representative Skinner, of New York. There were no callers, and the President spent the evening with Mr. Reed, his Secretary.

THE Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company have unearthed a series of startling frauds connected with the construction department of their road and have caused the arrest of a number of employees and others, some twenty-five persons in all, engaged in the conspiracy. The swindle has been in operation for six years. It was carried out by means of time-checks, issued to fictitious persons and indorsed over to outside parties in collusion with the Road-master and Section Foreman. A number of well-known Topeka men are alleged to have been engaged in the scheme, and they have been arrested.

THE report of the Ute Commissioners to the Secretary of the Interior is very voluminous. Among the most important of the recommendations are: That the present boundaries of the reservation be established permanently; that the few settlers now on the reservation be paid a reasonable compensation for their improvements; that the White River and Uintah tribes be consolidated, and that portions of the different lands assigned by the recent agreement be changed with consent, and gradually the Indians taught to cultivate their lands, and finally withdrawing Government aid altogether.

THE burial services of the victims of the Vienna theater disaster took place at St. Stephen's Cathedral on the 12th. The cathedral was entirely draped in black. Bishop Augerer officiated. The clergy entered the cathedral in a procession, followed by the Crown Prince, Archdukes, members of the Imperial household, court dignitaries, etc. The large square in front of the cathedral and adjoining streets were filled by many thousands of people. The common grave for the unrecognized victims in the Central Cemetery is 150 feet long and 14 feet wide. The work of lowering the coffins into the grave lasted from noon until nightfall. The number of missing persons has been reduced to 805.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR, who was subpœnaed by the defense in the Guiteau case, was not called to the stand, but submitted his written answers to several interrogatories. The substance of his replies was: He knows the prisoner, having seen him at least ten times, possibly twice that number; had never conversed with him "excepting to return the ordinary salutation of the day, and once or twice in answer to his request to be employed in the campaign as a speaker by the Republican State Committee, of which I was Chairman." To the question: "What political services the prisoner had rendered the Republican party during the last Presidential campaign?" the answer is: "None that I know of." To the question whether there was anything in the prisoner's relations to himself or Gen. Grant, or Senator Conkling, or any of the others of the Republican party, socially or politically, to furnish him with any ground for supposing he would receive any political preferment, the answer is "No." Prisoner. "That is a matter of opinion." The last question was: "Did you ever give him any reason to think that he could have any political or personal influence with you?" Answer: "I never did." Prisoner. "He never had occasion to." The President adds to his answers the following: "I have been requested by counsel for the defense to produce a letter written by the prisoner since his indictment; that letter was received by me in October last, and was not preserved. I do not recollect its contents particularly, excepting that it contained some claim of his having rendered some important services to the Republican party during the Presidential campaign, and an appeal for postponement of his trial to give him time to prepare for defense." Prisoner. "That is all there was to it."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

THE great Wabash Railway bridge, spanning the Missouri River at St. Charles, again went down, on the evening of the 8th, precipitating an entire freight train of some thirty cars sixty-five feet into the river below. The engineer, Jack Kirksby, fireman Chamberlain, and one other employee took the terrible plunge, but strange to say two of them escaped without serious injury. Engineer Kirkby was either killed by the fall or drowned. His fireman came out of the cab to the surface and was rescued. Several stock men leaped from the caboose in time to save themselves as they saw the front of the train plunging into the abyss. It was two years ago on the 8th of November that a similar disaster occurred. That time it was the third span; this time it was the first span that succumbed.

A DETACHMENT of troops has been ordered from Fort Omaha to the vacated reservation of the Otoe and Missouri Indians, in Southeastern Nebraska, to drive off and warn away from the reservation small bands of squatters who are setting out to repeat the Oklahoma adventure on a limited scale. The Indians were removed to the Indian Territory a few weeks ago, and the lands of this reservation were to be sold for their benefit. Meantime the squatters have begun pouring into the reservation, and this being reported to the Secretary of the Interior, at his request the War Department ordered the movement of troops as indicated. It is hardly anticipated that there will be determined resistance.

ADDISON and William Burns, on trial at Clarion, Pa., for complicity in Missouri land frauds, have been found guilty and remanded to jail pending sentence. Many persons in Pittsburgh and Northwestern Pennsylvania have been swindled out of large sums, ranging from $1,000 to $25,000, through these transactions. The Burnses were the chief ringleaders of that part of the country, and are all well known in Pittsburgh, Wm. Burns having been President of a bank there for many years. The case has been prosecuted by the United States, although tried in the State Court, by reason of a want of jurisdiction in the Federal Courts.

IT is reported that President Paramore, of the St. Louis & Texas Narrow-gauge Railroad, has leased the Cairo & St. Louis Narrow-gauge Railroad as a portion of the system.

HIRAM and Valentine Mercer, brothers, shot and killed a Deputy Sheriff and wounded another officer, in Decatur County, Iowa, on the 16th of November last. They subsequently fled to Missouri, taking up their residence with another brother, who owns a farm near Eau de Vie, Christian County. A reward of $1,200 was offered for the capture of the desperadoes. A few days since an officer from Iowa, assisted by the Sheriff of Christian County and a small posse, attempted their capture by strategy. The plan succeeded so far as to draw the desperadoes into an ambush prepared for them by the officers, but both refused to surrender and showed fight, whereupon they were shot down, one being instantly killed and the other dying within a few minutes.

ON an average, there are said to be five applicants for each of the three hundred Presidential Post-offices now vacant.

MRS. ANNA WALSH, a boarder, and Lizzie Ketch, a servant, perished in a burning house at Norristown, N. J.

Two brothers named Alcock, of Little River County, Ark., were found murdered, shot through the head, about five miles from Texarkana, on the Richmond road. Their supposed murders are friends of a man who was sent to the Penitentiary upon their evidence.

A RAILROAD boarding shanty on the Pittsburgh & Erie Road, about seven miles below Pittsburgh, Pa., was destroyed by fire on the morning of the 10th, and sixteen men, sleeping in their bunks in the second story, perished in the flames. The fire was caused by the overturning of a kerosene lamp by one of the cooks while preparing breakfast. The building was constructed of inflammable material, and almost in an instant the entire structure was enveloped in flames. Some fifty men lodged in the building. Many of those who effected their escape were shockingly burned.

By a collision on the North London Railway, near Canonbury, England, seven persons were killed and seventy injured.

IT is reported that the medical experts called as witnesses in the Guiteau case are practically unanimous in their belief of the prisoner's sanity so far as to render him accountable for the President's murder. To the hypothetical question put them by Scoville while on the witness stand they were compelled to answer in such a way as to apparently favor the prisoner, but privately they say if they had been asked directly whether they considered Guiteau responsible or not, they would have felt bound to answer in the affirmative.

D. M. OSBORNE & Co., harvesting machine makers, Chicago, lost over $300,000 by fire on the 10th.

ANNIE HALL, aged 18, fell dead while dancing in Newton Township, O.

A RUNAWAY horse near Carlisle, Ind., fractured Mrs. Anna Pearce's skull, killed an infant, and seriously injured two other children in the buggy.

SENECA V. HOLLOWAY, Paying Teller of the Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) National Bank, is arrested, charged with embezzlement. A partial examination of the books shows a shortage of between $40,000 and $50,000. Holloway was recently elected County Treasurer.

SIMON KOTH, of Chicago, while carelessly handling a revolver at the house of his brother-in-law, Bodenick, shot and instantly killed the latter's four-year-old daughter.

THREE little boys, whose ages range from eight to twelve, all sons of Mr. John Johnson, of Manitowoc, Wis., were drowned by the ice giving way.

H. D. JONES, of Janesville, Wis., employed in the Cargill elevator at La Crosse, while at work on some machinery was caught by his clothing in the belting, from which he could not escape, and was hurled around in the machinery at the rate of 100 revolutions per minute, being horribly mutilated. The wheel made 300 revolutions before the engine could be stopped. He died shortly after the accident.

Two aged maiden sisters, Mary and Louisa Means, who resided in Franklin Township, Westmoreland County, Pa., were murdered the other night in their beds. They had the reputation of being very wealthy, and this was doubtless the incentive to the crime.

HATHAWAY, City Engineer of Coldwater, Mich., has pleaded guilty to the charge of being accessory to setting fire to the Coldwater Armory last June. He said that three other persons were concerned with him, that they had planned four distinct fires in different quarters, and that the motive was to rouse interest in the fire department in order to raise funds for the State tournament which was to be held later on.

AN explosion occurred in Cockrill Colliery, Belgium, causing the death of sixty-six persons.

SECRETARY KIRKWOOD is reported to have acknowledged that there existed among some of the clerks of the Pension Bureau a conspiracy to defraud the Government, but refused to give details as to the extent of the frauds or the persons engaged in the conspiracy. Interesting developments may be looked for soon.

BERNARD MCMAHON, a Philadelphia grocer, was shot dead the other night by a burglar who attempted to enter his house. Robert Barr, who resided near McMahon's house, has been arrested on suspicion of being the murderer.

FORTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

ON the 7th, Senators Sherman, Pendleton, Davies, Lapham, Bayard and Morgan were appointed a joint committee for the preparation of a memorial upon the death of the late President Garfield. Bills were introduced and referred: For the admission of New Mexico as a State; compensating railway companies for transporting mails; establishing a Department of Agriculture and Commerce; making trade dollars legal tender for all debts except where otherwise stipulated. Mr. Morrill's Tariff Commission was then declared in order, but that gentleman declined to speak, and the Senate adjourned.

SENATOR MORRILL addressed the Senate, on the 8th, upon the Tariff Commission bill. He said our nearest approaches to free trade had been seasons of national disaster, as were the years 1833, '47 and '57, and the further we had receded from free trade the better had labor fared and the greater had been the material and educational advancement of the country. At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Morrill moved a reference of the subject to the Committee on Finance, but at the suggestion of Mr. Garland, who desired to be heard on the subject, withdrew his motion. The latter temporarily yielded the floor for some general business, and the subject was formally passed over for the present. The President pro tem. submitted a response by the Secretary of the Interior to the Senate resolution, transmitting a list of the names of officers, clerks and other employees on the rolls of the department, with the salary, date of appointment and grade of office, each State to which charged, and indicating who served in the Union and who in the Confederate armies. Tabled and ordered printed. Among bills introduced and referred were the following: by Mr. Vest—For a bridge across the Mississippi River at the most acceptable point from five to eight miles above St. Louis; by Mr. Ingalls—For the sale of lands of the Miami Indians, Kansas; by Mr. Plumb—For the disposition of the Fort Larned military reservation; by Mr. Cockrell—giving to every soldier or sailor who served ninety days in the Union service during rebellion and was honorably discharged, or to his widow and minor children, 160 acres of public land. The bill granting Mrs. Garfield the franking privilege passed, being the first bill of the session to pass the Senate. Pending a motion for adjournment, President pro tem. Davis called the attention of the Senate to the fact that "the 5th of December, the day on which Congress convened, was the fiftieth anniversary of the day when Isaac Bassett, the much-esteemed Doorkeeper of the Senate, became connected with this body. Half a century ago he entered our service as page, through the influence of Daniel Webster. In all the mutations of parties no attempt was ever made to disturb him. Surely no higher tribute could be paid to his fidelity and to his integrity than that he had been so long and so satisfactorily identified with the history of the Senate. I am sure the sentiment on all sides is cordially expressed when I wish him health and happiness in the name of the Senate of the United States." Adjourned until Monday.

THE House held a brief session on the 9th. The Speaker appointed a committee on the death of President Garfield. Adjourned until Tuesday.

A LARGE number of bills and joint resolutions were introduced in the Senate on the 12th, among the more important being the following: By Mr. Edmunds—For defraying expenses of the treatment and burial of the late President Garfield, the amount being limited to $100,000; also by Mr. Edmunds—To punish polygamy; by Mr. Butler—To establish an educational fund; by Mr. Hoar—For the education of Indian children; by Mr. Plumb—For the sale of a portion of Fort Leavenworth military reservation. The Tariff bill was then taken up and Messrs. Garland and Beck replied to Mr. Morrill.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

IN the Senate, on the 13th, Mr. Vest introduced a bill for the construction of Capt. Eads' ship railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The bill provides that Eads shall first demonstrate the practicability of the scheme by expending $75,000,000 in preliminary work and that when the plan is proved practicable Congress shall guarantee bonds to the amount of $100,000,000. A resolution was adopted in the House for the appointment of a select committee to audit all claims for services and expenses growing out of the illness and burial of the late President Garfield; also to consider what allowance of pension or privilege be granted to the widow and family of the late President.

DR. SPITZKA, of New York, a celebrated medical expert, has made a thorough personal examination of Guiteau, and declares under oath that he has no doubt of the prisoner's insanity. Further than this, he said: "I do not hesitate to reiterate my opinion that an expert who will in this court testify that the prisoner is sane, is, in my opinion, no expert or a dishonest one." Dr. Spitzka underwent a severe cross-examination from Corkhill, but maintained his position unshaken.

H. H. RIDDLEBERGER received the Readjuster nomination for U. S. Senator from Virginia.

RETURNS to the National Board of Health show the general health of the country to be good, save that small-pox, scarlet fever and typhoid fever are epidemic in some localities. Scarlet fever is very severe in New England, typhoid fever is prevalent to an unusual extent in the South and West, and especially in the Mississippi Valley. The most alarming disease is small-pox at Chicago and Pittsburgh. It has been declared epidemic in the latter city.

A GOVERNMENT balloon, in charge of Captain Temple, accompanied by Walter Powell, M. P., and another gentleman named Gardner ascended from Bath, England, and descended at Bridgeport, where Captain Temple and Gardner were thrown out and injured. When thus lightened, it arose with Powell, and was subsequently seen to descend at sea.

AT Coldwater, Mich., a dissolute woman named Mrs. Nettie Wheeler was shot and killed by her husband, who then put three bullets into his own body.

CHUNG ISAG JU, the new Chinese Minister to Washington, with his wife and a suite of fifteen persons, has arrived at San Francisco.

DR. SAMUEL A. GREEN, the Republican nominee, has been chosen Mayor of Boston. There were three tickets in the field—Republican, Democratic and Citizens'. The vote on the liquor question was in favor of license by a two-thirds majority.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

The St. Charles Bridge Disaster.

Particulars of the St. Charles bridge disaster are as follows: The ill-fated train was freight No. 12, eastward bound. By schedule it crosses just before the Warrenton accommondation, meeting the latter at Brotherton, and passing. Engine and tender, thirteen cars loaded with live stock and eighteen with other freight and the caboose went down. Three of the six men on the train when it started over the bridge accompanied it on its wild leap of sixty-five feet into the river channel. That two of them escaped to tell of the awful experience seems a miracle. When the engine was nearly across the span which fell, the caboose was on span No. 3, just leaving the St. Charles side of the river. The span which went down did so in its entirety, the bridge seeming to drop in one piece. Down went the forward third of the train, and then the remaining portion followed so slowly that it seemed to almost stop. Car after car toppled over the brink, until not one was left. A brakeman was on top of a car, well toward the rear. He saw the chasm yawning, jumped to one side, caught the trestle-work, climbed down and walked to the St. Charles side. Less sensational was the escape of W. C. Anderson, of Pattonsburg, Mo., and Pat Crane, of Howard County, two stockmen, and Conductor Durfield, who were in the caboose. The succession of jerks warned them, and they jumped off the rear platform upon the bridge and stood looking at the slowly disappearing train.

The wreck piled in a mass that towered full twenty-five feet above the swirling and turbid stream. Immediately by the pier which held the western end of the treacherous span were the fifteen cattle cars. Near the eastern shore could be plainly seen a few feet of the twisted iron. The engine lay on her right side, the stack pointing up the river, the current of which roared into her cab and tender until it surged over the obstruction. As the line of the wreck is followed westward, it is seen to become heavier and more distinct. There is first a single box-car covered with wrecked portions of the bridge, rearing its ragged outlines over the water, then there seems to have been two cars smashed into one; and then a rapid inclined plane is formed to the most complex part of the ruin, and that is by the western pier, where the cattle-cars are piled up. They seemed to have rushed over the brink with the force of a mighty Niagara, and with a loud and prolonged crash found the ruin that is the most conspicuous feature of this terrible monument to engineering failure.

C. H. Oblinger, brakeman, who went down with the train, but escaped with some slight injuries, tells the story thus: "I was on top of a box-car, the third from the engine, sitting on the brake-wheel, the train running slow—about as fast as I could walk; the engine and two or three cars had got into the span, the former being within a car-length of the abutment, when all of a sudden, as though in a dream, I felt something sinking, and I said to myself, 'My God, has the St. Charles Bridge gone again?' The car seemed to fall a little faster than I did, and two or three times I caught up with it, and the next thing I knew I was standing on top of the car surrounded by water. While in that position I looked over at the cab of the engine, which was just out of the water, and heard the moans of the fireman, who was on top of the cab. I hallooed to him that I could not reach him, and that we would have to take things easy until help came. Soon after a skiff come around and brought us ashore."

N. G. Chamblin, fireman, the other survivor of the plunge, who was rescued with a broken leg and some bruises, gives the following: "I was just thinking, for some reason, about the accident of two years ago, when all of a sudden there was crash and a simultaneous fall of the engine to the water below: The engineer was sitting in his seat in the cab, and I was standing at my usual post. Neither of us made any effort to jump, because we hardly had time to think before we were in the water. I crawled on top of the cab after I released myself from a rod which was holding me down. The engineer I never saw again, so I can not say whether he was killed at once or drowned. I had my left leg broken below the knee, but the fact is I don't know much about it, as I was in the cab, and it was all so sudden."

Jack Kirkby met death at his post. He was one of the oldest and most trusted engineers on the road, and leaves a wife and two children at Moberly.

Two years and one month ago the west span of the St. Charles bridge went down, carrying with seventeen cars loaded with live stock, and six human being.

Miscellaneous Items.

St. Louis tobacco market (Dec. 10): Dark lugs, common to good, $4.75 to $5.25; bright smoking, common to good, $5.00 to $6.00; dark red leaf, $7.75 to $8.00.

Norman P. Bauder, a farmer and wealthy citizen of Gloversville, N. Y., was found dead in a Kansas City saloon, kept by A. T. Wagoner, some weeks ago. It was supposed that he drank himself to death. His brother, however, came on to investigate the matter, and there were sensational developments. Witnesses before the Coroner testified that Wagoner, who is a notoriously hard character, became possessed of the greater part of Bauder's money, and kept him continually dosed with whisky and laudanum. Bauder's brother testified that Norman had disposed of $5,000 in a few months, and that he was not an intemperate man. The jury returned a verdict that deceased came to his death from the effects of slow opium poisoning, produced from continual doses of laudanum administered by Wagoner and his confederates. Wagoner was arrested on an order from the Coroner charging him with murder.

In the Cole Circuit Court the jury in the case of Wm. Spahn against the Missouri Pacific Railway Company returned a verdict awarding plaintiff $8,000 damages. In March, 1880, Spahn jumped from a moving train, and his foot was crushed under a wheel, rendering amputation necessary. He claims that the conductor and employees of the train told him a conspiracy was on foot to rob and murder him; that several men afterward came into the coach from time to time, regarding him with threatening looks, and he becoming alarmed for his life and money jumped off the train. The railway company deny this, saying plaintiff was under the influence of liquor. The case is to be appealed.

Bail being refused in the case of McDearmon, charged with killing A. B. Thornton, editor of the Boonville *News*, he has been remanded to jail for action of the Grand Jury.

Small-pox is increasing in St. Louis.

The man known as Billy West, arrested at Dallas, Texas, on charge of being in the Winston robbery, is said to be Jim Inman. Inman is also supposed to be the man known as "Bob," who was in the Glendale robbery, but is known to be the Billy West who was in the Winston affair. Inman is an outside worker almost altogether, and has been the shrewd man of the James gang for several years. In fact, he has been so shrewd that his name has never hitherto been connected with them, but it has been known to the officers for some time. He will be brought back to Missouri.

Ex-Gov. B. Gratz Brown has arrived home from Europe.

DEATH BY FIRE.

Burning of the Ring Theater at Vienna, Austria—Over 700 Lives Reported Lost—Terrible and Thrilling Scenes.

VIENNA, Austria, December 9.

The *Weiner Algemeine Zeitung*, whose offices are exactly opposite the ill-fated Ring Theater, gives a graphic account of the catastrophe, of which the following is an extract:

"We write with death in our hearts, unable to find words to describe the pain which we suffer. A terrible calamity befell our city last night. The Ring Theater, formerly known as the Opera Comique, is in ashes, and hundreds of human beings are victims of the catastrophe. Nothing like this horror has ever occurred before in this city.

"At ten minutes to seven the fire broke out. The theater was pretty well filled, but happily not entirely crowded. A considerable number of people were still in the dressing-rooms, and a dense mass of carriages occupied the Schalten Ring. It had just commenced to snow, and in the auditorium of the theater there was the usual bustle before the commencement of a performance—people walking up and down looking for their places, and the noise of turning down seats was heard on all sides. The boxes were still empty, but the balcony and galleries were well filled. On the stage everything was in a state of activity and bustle, the workingmen removing scenery, etc. Offenbach's comic opera, "Les Countes D'Hoffman," was to be performed for the second time. Some of the singers and actors had already taken their places on the stage in costume, but a large number were still in the dressing-rooms in the hands of the costumers and hair-dressers. The overture had not yet begun. How the fire commenced cannot yet be definitely stated, and probably it will never be known. According to one version the scenery was ignited by a spark from electric machinery. According to another, a workman with an alcohol lamp caused the disaster. The former version is the more likely one. Director Helemesberger, who stood upon the stage, was the first to notice the fire. A moment after the "flies" were wrapped in flames and the network of wood, ropes and canvas was burning like tinder. The people on the stage were stupefied with fear at first, and they speedily took to flight in most terrible confusion toward the ladies' dressing-rooms, on the left of the stage, where a small staircase led to Hohenstaufen Strasse. In a moment the curtain flew up and a draft blew it hither and thither until, like a fiery tongue, it darted back and forth from the auditorium to the stage. The fire then became master of the Ring Theater.

"Fire! fire! the Ring Theater is on fire!" was the cry that went from mouth to ear. On Ring Strasse the flames were already bursting through the roof, and cries, such as Vienna never heard before, filled it. They seemed not like the cries of human beings, but such awful accents as can be heard only in a death struggle. The scene was indescribable, all those inside the fated building pushing their way toward the street, which was crowded at all points. The audience from the theater struggled and crushed each other, and confusion reigned supreme. Suddenly cries were heard from the windows of the theater leading to the Ring. The balcony over the entrance was soon emptied, and the cries of those at the windows and of those within the theater were awful, and swelled louder and louder. The mass of people in the street was growing denser constantly."

The following is the narrative of Herr Lindman, an actor engaged in the theater: "It was 6:45, and the second signal had been given to the actors that in a quarter of an hour the performance would begin. I was in my dressing-room, and on hearing the alarm I rushed on the stage and found myself in a sea of flames. A violent draught of air rose and a perfect column of fire seemed to rush against the curtains, which it quickly pierced. Then a stream of fire poured into the theater and up to the galleries. I only heard a single horrifying scream—a single cry of unspeakable terror and fearful despair."

He then described the scene of the members of the chorus flying to reach the doorway and escape from the fire.

Inspector Nitzoe escaped from his dwelling in the upper story. He describes the fearful scene in the auditorium as follows: "The people lay there in heaps, and many in the strangest postures. Some had their hands stretched out imploringly, and there were others whose nails were driven into the flesh in pain and despair."

A lady who was in the third row of the parquette at the time of the disaster says: "I was just about to take out my opera-glass from its case, when suddenly I remarked that the curtain was driven out violently toward me. A sheet of fire poured out immediately after over the seats. I grasped my friend by the arm and hurried toward the central entrance, but in a moment all the lights were extinguished, and we were in complete darkness. Only by keeping a firm hold of the railing were we enabled to grope our way down the stairway. Suddenly, to my horror, I found that my friend no longer clung to me. I screamed out her name, and, to my delight, I was answered. She caught hold of me again, and we were crushed out through the darkness with the living mass of fugitives and saved."

LATER—EVENING.

Researches show that the upper gallery must have fallen into the pit, where the only remains found are small fragments of bones. Beyond a doubt 500 gallery tickets had been issued. Only 100 of these are known to have jumped from windows, and competent judges fear the loss of life will be found to be fully 700.

The number of persons actually reported missing is 600.

In regard to the origin of the fire, the Superintendent of Machinery states that the scenery became ignited as the lamps were being lighted by the electric current.

All the performers except three of the chorus were saved.

—A hen was killed in Griffin, Ga., the other day, and in dressing it Mrs. Dunbar found twenty-two full-sized eggs. The *News* tells it, and adds that a Jonesboro hen laid an average of eight eggs a day for three months. The hen would lay sometimes four eggs a days, sometimes six, eight, ten, twelve and fourteen.

—Mrs. General Lander has returned from Europe, and is now at home in Washington. Her two sons are with her, one having returned from his first theatrical tour and the other being at work preparing for Harvard.

—There is a monster orange tree near Fort Harley, Fla., that measures nine feet one inch in circumference. It is over fifty years old, and some seasons has borne over nine thousand oranges.

—A man in his 102d year has been successfully operated on for cataract at Vienna, and at the end of ten days he was able to return to his native village.

—Mrs. Woodhull has returned to this country, and will lecture.

Secretary Folger's Report.

WASHINGTON, December 6.

The annual report of Secretary Folger, transmitted by the President with his message, covered forty pages of printed matter. It states that the revenues for the fiscal year were $360,782,922.57, the ordinary expenses $260,712,887.59, and there was left a surplus of $100,069,404.98. This surplus was disposed of as follows:

To the redemption of bonds for the sinking fund	$74,271,260 00
Fractional currency for the sinking fund	109,691 00
Loan of February, 1861	7,418,050 00
Ten-forties of 1864	2,014,150 00
Five-twenties of 1862	18,500 00
Five-twenties of 1864	3,400 00
Five-twenties of 1865	3,700 00
Consols of 1865	143,150 00
Consols of 1867	959,150 00
Consols of 1868	337,400 00
Texas indemnity stock	100,000 00
Old demand, compound-interest, and other notes	1,833,000 00
To the increase of cash in Treasury	14,637,023 98

The receipts of last year were greater than the year before by $29,352,901.10. The customs revenues were increased $11,637,611.42, and the revenues $11,255,011.59. There was a decrease of expenditures as follows: In the Interior Department for pensions, $671,789.48; for premiums on purchased bonds, $1,734,071.64; and interest on the debt, $13,248,833.93. The receipts for the present year are estimated at $400,000,000, and the expenditures at $270,000,000.

The report recommends that National Banks, at any time within two years prior to the expiration of their corporate existence, be allowed to extend the period of succession by amending the article of association by the votes of shareholders owning two-thirds of the capital, if the bank be found to be in good shape.

THE TREASURY RESERVE.

The Department, the report declares, has pursued the policy long established of retaining as a reserve for redemption of bonds about 40 per cent. of the notes outstanding. In addition, sufficient money has been kept in the Treasury to meet all other demands and obligations outstanding. The reserve has never been below 26 per cent., and never above 45 per cent., of the outstanding notes. The liberal purchase and coinage of silver, and the receipt of them for public dues, has failed to raise the market value of silver. It is recommended that measures be taken to repeal the act requiring the issue of silver certificates, and for the retirement of such as may be in circulation. It is recommended that National Banks be prohibited from retiring their currency except after a previous notice of intention so to do, the length of such notice to be fixed by law. The compelling of such a notice would prevent the banks from suddenly contracting the volume of currency, and creating the embarrassment that followed the passage of the 3-per-cent. Refunding bill of Congress at the last session.

Between June 22, 1874, and 1878, silver coin was not legal tender in payment of United States bonds. The report asks whether foreign bondholders who acquired their bonds during this period may not regard the payment of these bonds now with silver coin as a breach of faith. This Government, the Secretary says, is abundantly able to discharge its debts in money which is everywhere accepted as a true standard of value. Further, on the subject of silver coinage at the rate of $2,000,000 per month, he says:

"We furnish the world with the largest portion of both silver and gold, and our exports command the best money of the world, as they ever should do, and will, unless we bind ourselves to accept of a poorer. We need not appear anywhere as supplicants when we clearly may be the contractors. Some of the European nations whose concurrent action is necessary to any result that is sought, do not yet appear ready to accept limitation, and when ready they may ask for a ratio that will be inconvenient for us to adopt, and reduce the ratio of silver below the standard of our coinage. The most potential means of bringing about any concert of action among different nations would appear to be for the United States to suspend for the present the coinage of silver dollars. It is, therefore, recommended that provision for the coinage of a fixed amount each month be repealed, and the Secretary be authorized to coin only so much as will be necessary to supply the demand.

"The revenue from customs for the past fiscal year was $198,159,676.02, an increase of $11,637,611.42 over that of the preceding year. Of the amount collected, $138,908,062.39 was collected at the port of New York, leaving $59,251,146.63 as the amount collected at all the other ports of the country. The expenses of collection for the past year were $8,419,345.20, an increase over the preceding year of $387,410.04, while there was an increase in the revenue from customs over the preceding year of over $11,500,000."

There was a decrease in the value of imports amounting to over $25,000,000, manufactured wool and scrap and pig-iron showing the most of this decrease.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION.

The report declares that an equalization and simplification of the tariff is necessary, but leaves the method and degree to Congress without a recommendation. The question of disposing of the surplus Government revenues is in this connection taken up. The Department is embarrassed in disposing of the surplus in an economic and lawful way. While there is an alleged stringency in the money market, the call for millions of bonds is slowly heeded, and its offer to purchase bonds is not in full accepted. The entering of the market and buying of bonds at their current rates is not recommended, because experts show that this cannot be done without a loss to the Treasury. The announcement, too, of such a purpose would put up the market price. The report suggests that, in view of this existence of a surplus of revenue, it might be well to lessen certain taxes. A reduction of the tax on liquor and tobacco is not recommended. But bank checks, matches and proprietary taxes are suggested as proper ones to lessen. It is further recommended that if Congress determines on a decrease of the revenue, it seek that end as well through a revision of the existing Tariff laws as through an abatement of the internal revenue.

REFUNDING MEASURES.

On the subject of the refunding measures of the year the report says:

"On the 1st of November there remained outstanding of bonds bearing three and a half per cent. interest, payable at the pleasure of the Government after proper notice, $563,280,950, included in which were $12,035,500 called bonds not matured. If the excess of revenues over expenditures should continue as during the past year, its application to the payment of the bonds can be made at the discretion of the Secretary, and to that extent the Government will be relieved from the necessity of paying any premium of consequent redemption of its bonded debt."

Concerning future refunding measures the report, while making no recommendations, declares that it fears short-term bonds bearing a lower rate than 3½ per cent. cannot be marketed. It is suggested, if any be issued, that they be made not shorter than ten-year obligations.

The attention of Congress is called to the presence of pleuro-pneumonia among cattle in different sections of the country, and to the necessity of quarantining imported cattle.

It is recommended that a better appropriation be made for the life-saving service; that the pension laws be extended to the revenue marine service; and that the project for the search for the Jeannette, suggested by Captain Hooper, be acted upon.

—Mr. James Vick says it may be regarded as an established fact that apples will keep better in moist or damp cellars than in dry ones.

—When they tap a railroad it is to let the water out of the stock.