

SPRING BUSINESS PROSPECT GOOD

Western Interests Optimistic as to Trade.

BIG DEMAND FOR METALS

Baltimore Jobbers Jubilant Over Large Orders and Their Ability to Fill Them.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Special telegrams from correspondents of the International Mercantile Agency throughout the United States chronicle the customary irregularity incident to the breaking up of winter.

General sentiment among traders is less optimistic East than West, though nowhere, unless it be the Southwest, is the demand or distribution equal to that of a year ago.

A Significant Feature.

The most significant feature, one which has been almost ignored in the East, is the gain in demand for iron, steel and coke within thirty days, the increased production of the metals named, the putting into operation of plants which have been idle and symptoms of higher prices for some varieties.

Trade features at primary distributing centers include a heavy request for building materials at Chicago, for engineering material at Pittsburg, an increase in most leading lines over last spring at St. Louis, revival of local trade in regions tributary to Minneapolis, satisfaction of jobbers at Baltimore at orders received and ability to fill the same; a change from extra dullness to moderate activity at Philadelphia; a dull retail trade in New England, with Boston's January and February business about equal to that of 1900, but less than in 1902.

In Milling Districts.

New England cotton mills are running about three days a week, and probably will do less by June. After running out of old cotton, many expect to shut down altogether.

Spot business in wholesale lines at Chicago has been checked by the weather, the volume in staple cottons being less than normal. The same is true at New York, where bankers interviewed in several of the larger cities regard favorably the business prospect for the near future.

USED THE FRYING PAN TO PUNISH HUSBAND

Because her husband returned home at 5 o'clock this morning, Carrie Gordon struck him on the head with a frying pan and severely wounded him about the forehead.

Suicide Seems Epidemic Among Bankers of Iowa

Five Managers of Financial Institutions Have Killed Themselves Within a Few Months. Popular and Good Business Men.

DES MOINES, Iowa, March 25.—An epidemic of suicide among Iowa bankers who were driven to desperation by business troubles and killed themselves furnishes a theme for people who believe in suggestion as a motive to action.

Five managers of banks, all supposed to be wealthy, and all ranking high for character and business ability, have taken their own lives this winter. All did it by blowing their brains out.

George D. Wood, president of a bank at Colfax, was the next to commit suicide. His bank has since been found in poor condition.

Next came George D. Wood, of St. Charles, who was not related to the Colfax man. Some mystery surrounds this tragedy.

G. F. Utterback, of Sigourney, killed himself, and it has since been discovered that he had for a long time been systematically using the bank's money in speculation, substituting copies of notes for the originals, which in many cases had been disposed of to raise money. The board of trade is credited with his downfall.

The last in this series is Frank L. Larus, of Corning. He lived in Adams county many years, had been a county officer, and was one of the most popular men there. He was the confidant and adviser of his customers in all their business matters.

TRACING THE CHARGES HOME TO MR. BRISTOW

Committee Learns That Compilation of Data Concerning Members Was Begun Months Ago at His Order.

The McCall select committee of the House, which is investigating the so-called Bristow "charges" concerning members, is gradually tracing the responsibility for these "charges" to the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, despite the fact that he stated when before the committee that he had not seen the "report" until called upon to testify.

In prosecuting its inquiry the committee has ascertained that the data contained in the "charges" were compiled two months or more before Chairman Overstreet asked to have it sent to his committee. The committee has also found that the apparent purpose of its preparation was to substantiate the statement which Mr. Bristow made in his first report, when, after referring to several cases where allowances for clerk hire and leases for buildings had been made upon recommendation of members of Congress, he said: "A hundred other similar cases could be cited."

Ordered Data Prepared. Mr. Waters, superintendent of the division of salaries and allowances, stated in his testimony that he had been directed to prepare the information in November, by Chief Inspector Cochran, who, at that time told him that it was at the suggestion of Mr. Bristow, who would write a formal letter requesting the compilation of the data.

Mr. Waters was asked by Mr. Overstreet if there were not a hundred cases in which members of Congress were concerned, and to this the committee stated that there were, as tending to show that Mr. Bristow wanted to prove that his statement of "a hundred other similar cases" was not an exaggeration.

Department's Mistake. For instance the committee has found one case in which the name of a member is mentioned in the "report" as having been interested as attorney for a man who desired to lease a building to the Government for postal purposes.

The member at the time the matter was pending ascertained that the department believed him to be acting in a capacity of attorney. He proceeded to get the department right in the matter. The department made an inquiry and learned that the Representative was not interested in the case, that it had made a mistake in regarding him as so connected, acknowledged it to the member, and yet when the "report" was compiled that part of the record which cleared the member of all suspicion was omitted, and only the department's own mistake was inserted as tending to show that the member was acting as attorney.

There are several other cases of similar character, it is said, where the compiler of the "charges" concerning members" went out of his way to make misrepresentations.

GENERAL ARIAS CAUGHT AND SHOT

Gave Order to Fire Upon Machinist Johnson.

SANTO DOMINGO INSURGENT

Rebels Hold Only Town of Monte Cristi and End of Revolution Is Near.

SANTO DOMINGO, March 25.—Gen. Nicolas Arias, the insurgent leader, who gave the order to shoot Machinist J. C. Johnson, of the American gunboat Yankee, on February 1 last, has been captured by government troops, and, after a drumhead court-martial, was sentenced to death and immediately shot.

The town of Azua has been captured by the government forces. Monte Cristi is now the only place that is in the hands of the revolutionists. The end of the revolution is fast approaching.

OVATION TO ADMIRAL SCHLEY IN RICHMOND

An enthusiastic reception was given Admiral Winfield Scott Schley, upon his arrival in Richmond yesterday afternoon, to attend the meeting of Acca Temple, Mystic Shrine. He was met at the station by a committee of the Richmond Temple, and was taken on a sightseeing trip through the city.

The Virginia and Commonwealth Club held receptions in the admiral's honor, and he was greeted by hundreds of admirers. Last night a banquet was held at Masonic Temple, at which he was called upon to make a speech.

CHINESE MISSIONARIES FOR PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Bishop Satterlee has received a letter from the board of missions of the church asking him to ascertain if Chinese missionaries, that is, native Chinese priests, can be admitted into the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands, where they are needed to minister to the Chinese Christians in these provinces.

This is a matter of real moment, for the Chinese clergy can deal much more successfully with the large quota of Chinese than can the white missionaries, who are not as conversant with their language and customs. The bishop will probably refer the matter to the State Department.

TREATY PROVISIONS EXTENDED BY SENATE

All existing treaties between the United States and France have been extended to Tunis and other French protectorates, by action of the Senate in executive session yesterday. A treaty embracing these features was ratified.

Exports Via Pacific Increase 100 Per Cent

Northern Border and Lake Ports Also Make Great Strides—Atlantic Cities Still Hold Their Own in Imports.

Recent developments with reference to railway rates on grain to certain of the great ports of the country and the discussions with reference to the growth in commerce of the various ports lend interest to a series of tables just presented by the Department of Commerce and Labor through its Bureau of Statistics.

The tables show the total value of imports and exports through the various ports of the United States for a term of years, and also group the ports by their general frontage upon the Atlantic, the Gulf, the Pacific, the Northern border, and the Mexican border. The picture thus presented of the commerce passing into and out of the country through its various frontages is an interesting one, especially as it shows the growth during a term of years.

What Tables Show.

The tables show that a very large proportion of the imports enter the country through the Atlantic ports and that the proportion of the import trade passing through those ports differs little from that of earlier years. In the export

trade, however, the figures indicate a more rapid growth, or, at least, a more rapid proportionate growth in the shipments through the Gulf, the Mexican border, the Pacific, and the Northern border and Lake ports than through the ports fronting upon the Atlantic.

Taking the Atlantic ports as a whole, the exports of 1893 amounted to \$943,000,000, and in 1900, \$20,000,000, an increase of more than 20 per cent. In the case of the Gulf ports, the exports of 1893 were \$11,000,000, and those of 1900, \$33,000,000, an increase of more than 150 per cent. The Mexican border ports show an increase in exports from \$10,000,000 in 1893 to \$27,000,000 in 1900, also a gain of more than 150 per cent.

Pacific Gaining.

The Pacific ports show a gain in exports from \$20,000,000 in 1893 to \$72,000,000 in 1900, an increase of nearly 100 per cent. The Northern border and Lake ports show a growth in exports from \$3,000,000 in 1893 to \$14,000,000 in 1900, an increase of more than 150 per cent. Even in actual increase that of the Gulf ports nearly equals that of the Atlantic ports, the absolute gain in exports from the Atlantic ports being, from 1893 to 1900, \$77,000,000, and that of the Gulf ports, \$20,000,000.

BROTHERS EXPIRE THE SAME HOUR

Aged Alphens and Martin Porter Dead.

BOTH VICTIMS OF THE GRIP

The Old Men Served in Union Army and Had Celebrated Golden Weddings—Double Funeral.

HARTFORD, Conn., March 25.—A most remarkable coincidence was the death of two aged brothers, at the same time and of the same disease, but in different places.

Alphens and Martin Porter died at 2:30 o'clock of the grip, of which both had been ailing about a week. Alphens died at his home in Farmington, while Martin expired at his home in Avon. Neither knew that the other was ill.

Alphens Porter was ninety-one years and three months old, while Martin was two years younger. Both were prominent men in the neighborhoods in which they lived and died.

One Lived on Homestead.

Both were born in a house which stood on the same land as the house in which Martin died now stands.

Although both the brothers outlived their wives, both celebrated their golden weddings, Alphens in 1862, and Martin in 1857. The brothers had commissions in the Union army during the civil war. Martin being a captain. Martin Porter was for many years engaged in the lumber business in the South, but he returned to his native town many years ago. Alphens was one of the first dactylographers in this State, learning the business from Broadbent, who was taught by Desjardis.

Studied Eastern War.

Both brothers were greatly interested in the Russo-Japanese war and followed the movements of the armies on large maps which they had tacked on the walls of their rooms. The brothers will be buried together in Unionville on Saturday. Separate services will be held where each died and a double funeral will be held later from the Stone Church at Unionville.

Alphens leaves three children and Martin one. It is expected that a large number of persons will attend the funeral, as the Porters were old and highly respected residents.

THREE FALSE ALARMS SOUNDED LAST NIGHT

An alarm was sounded from box 219 last night, and upon investigation, after the firemen arrived it was discovered to be false. This was the third false alarm sounded last night, and the police are most solicitous of making the acquaintance of the responsible party.

It is estimated that it costs the Fire Department \$40 to respond to an alarm, because of the wear and tear on the horses and apparatus. A penalty of \$40 is provided for in the code upon the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for a false alarm.

Mayor Sylvester has instructed his men to stop the nefarious practice, and wants the miscreants prosecuted to the end of the law.

ALEXANDRIA NEWS NOTES

ALEXANDRIA, Va., March 25.—A number of ministers from out of town have recently arrived to take part in the twentieth session of the Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which will begin at the church of that denomination in this city on Wednesday next.

Bishop Alphens W. Wilson, of Baltimore, will preside at the conference, and it is expected that over 200 ministers will be in attendance. At this conference appointments of ministers to churches in Baltimore, Washington and some Virginia towns will take place.

DAIRYMAN WEDS WIDOW.

Charles Frinks, the well-known Fairfax county dairyman, and Mrs. I. Garrett, of Fairfax county, were quietly married at Annandale last night.

ACCEPTS PASTORATE.

The officials of the First Baptist Church yesterday received a letter from the Rev. J. A. Wray, of Knoxville, Tenn., in which he accepted the pastorate of the Baptist church here. This church has been without a pastor since the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Hunt several months ago.

IN CORPORATION COURT.

In the Corporation Court, Judge Barley presiding, yesterday, Carey M. Grobe and P. G. Barry, who were sent to jail by Police Justice Catton a few days ago in default of \$50 bail, were brought into court and released on \$100 bail each. Congressman V. M. Murdock of Kansas

became their surety. The men were charged with having alleged suspicious transactions with Alexandria merchants.

BRANCH AT GORDONSVILLE.

The Virginia Safe Deposit and Trust Corporation of this city has opened a branch office in Gordonsville, Va. W. S. Rogers, of that place has charge of the branch.

POLICE COURT CASE.

In the Police Court this morning Justice Catton presiding, Milton Skelton, a negro, charged with disorderly conduct and destroying property, was fined \$5.

THE SWEET FAMILY.

The Sweet Family entertained a large gathering at the lecture room of the Methodist Protestant Church last night. The proceeds of the entertainment, which will be considerable, will go to the church.

SALE OF PROPERTY.

Mrs. Ada Zell has bought from Dr. George T. Kilpatrick a house and lot on the south side of Commerce Street west of West Street.

MRS. DOWNEY'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Onato H. Downey, wife of Charles F. Downey, will take place from St. Mary's Catholic Church tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock. The Rev. Father Cutler will officiate at the mass of requiem.

Advertisement for Parker, Bridget & Co. featuring 'The Best Maker's Best Goods Make Up the Stocks of P.-B. Clothing.' Includes illustrations of men in suits and text describing the quality and variety of their clothing.

Advertisement for National Biscuit Company featuring 'Quality', 'Protection', and 'Identification' of their products. Includes illustrations of 'Iner Seal' packages and text describing the baking process and quality of the biscuits.