

BEARING FRUIT.

Senator Elkins' Agitation for American Shipping Interests

AWAKES THE COMMERCIAL MEN

And Ship Builders to the Importance of the Subject.

A NOTABLE MEETING HELD

Of Men with Pronounced Views, at which it is Decided to Begin an Active Campaign for the Measure, which would Restore Us to Our Former High Standing on the High Seas, and Aid in the Restoration of Prosperity--Extraordinary Demand for Mr. Elkins' Speech.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8.—The first practical result from the agitation in behalf of American shipping, emphasized by his exhaustive speech in the senate on Monday, was developed here today. A meeting of representatives of the shipping interests, a gathering of able men with pronounced views, was held in the room of the senate committee on commerce, of which the senator is a leading member, and the subject was ably discussed, with Mr. Elkins' speech and the bill he advocates as a text.

President Cramp, of the Cramp Ship Building Company, was a principal speaker, but there were present C. W. Griscom, who officiated as chairman, W. F. Clyde, Samuel S. Sewall, C. H. Keep, and others prominently identified with the movement for promoting legislation in the interest of American shipping, including ex-Senator Edmunds, Senators Hanna, Frye, Elkins and Perkins.

A committee was appointed to further the project and it was decided to make a determined effort to secure the desired legislation. In addition to the manifestation of interest in the subject, it is also known that the American Merchant Marine Association, with branch headquarters in this city, is taking a lively part in the agitation also, with the senator's bill as the basis of its action. The association, in a circular letter just issued, offers to furnish data upon the subject as a supplement to Senator Elkins' exposition of the subject, and says: "The necessity of protecting American shipping in the foreign trade is becoming more and more apparent and it is likely to be one of the great subjects which will engage the attention of the country in the immediate future. It is also likely that remedial legislation will be enacted at an early date."

Senator Elkins' able address has attracted wide attention and many demands have been made for copies of the Congressional Record containing it. It will appear revised and corrected in the Record of to-morrow.

IN THE SENATE

Mr. Morgan Talks Cuba-Torrey Bankruptcy Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8.—The senate to-day heard Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, for the third successive day, on his resolution declaring that a state of war exists in Cuba. He was severely critical of Spain's methods against American prisoners, and went over in detail the circumstances in the Competitor case. Mr. Morgan said he would close his speech at the next meeting of the senate, when he would present a letter from one of the Cuban officials of the eastern province of the island, showing the complete civil system of government now maintained by the Cubans.

Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, spoke for two hours on the bankruptcy bill, opposing the pending Torrey bill as excessively harsh and designed as a collection agency for large creditors and injuring the substitute as a measure drafted in the interest of thousands of poor debtors struggling on their feet.

Mr. Chandler offered a resolution, which was agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the committee on Interstate Commerce be directed to investigate the payments made or agreed to be made by the inter-state commerce commission for attorneys fees; and also to inquire whether in any cases the attorneys of the commission have also been employed by railroad companies in similar cases; and further to report any additional authority from Congress required for the employment of counsel in any pending proceedings which have been instituted by or on motion of the commission.

The resolution of Mr. Earle, (Dem., S. C.), for the re-organization of senate committees, went over, Mr. Chandler presenting an amendment to be urged when the resolution is taken up. The amendment provides that on Tuesday, April 20, at 2 p. m., the senate will proceed to appoint its committees.

Mr. Hoar defended the Torrey bill against Mr. Nelson's charges of harshness. He said 500,000 debtors were awaiting the relief of this humane bill. The Nelson substitute Mr. Hoar regarded as impracticable.

At 4:45 the senate adjourned until Monday.

THE WOOL TARIFF.

Important Changes Made in an Amendment by Senator Mantle.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Senator Mantle, of Montana, to-day introduced an amendment to the wool schedule of the Dingley tariff bill, which provides for advancing the rates on several varieties of raw wools. It proposes to make the duty on washed wools of both the first and second classes instead of the first class only, double that on unwashed; to double the duty on all classes, "imported in any other than ordinary condition, or which has been sorted or increased in value by the rejection of any part of the original fleece," thus extending the scope of the paragraph in the bill which applies only to wools of the first and second classes. It also adds "cutting off" as a method of increasing wools in value under the paragraph, and striking out the clause exempting skirted wools imported in 1890 or prior thereto. It proposes to amend the paragraph fixing a duty of 22 per cent ad valorem on wools of the third class, and camel's hair valued at 15 cents or less per pound, by changing it to 10 cents and adding "provided that in no case shall the duty be less than five cents per pound." Corresponding changes are proposed on the next paragraph, making the duty 50 per

ONLY ONE BID

For Armor Plate Contract--Illinois Steel Company Enters Field for First Time. Astonishing Low Bid.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8.—The navy department received to-day but one bid in answer to the advertisement calling for proposals for supplying about 8,000 tons of armor for the three battleships, Illinois, Wisconsin and Alabama, and this one was so irregular in form as to be far wide of the advertisement. The single bid was from the Illinois Steel Company, of Chicago, and it proposed to supply the 8,000 tons of armor desired at \$280 per ton, on condition that it be given a twenty-year contract to supply all of the naval armor. In such case the remainder of the armor beyond the 8,000 tons would be supplied at \$240 per ton. The armor was to be paid for in gold coin. An alternative proposition contemplated the erection of an armor plant by the government and its supply with steel by the Illinois Company. No awards have been made and the whole matter probably will be referred to Congress.

The interest felt in the results of today's bidding was manifested by the number of persons present. Lieutenant Stone was there for the Carnegie company; Vice President Davenport and Messrs. Melge and McElvane for the Bethlehem; President Harrah and Mr. Besterle for the Midvale Steel works; Charles Cramp for the Cramp Ship-building Works; William P. Palmer, second vice president of the Illinois Steel Company; General Hyde, president of the Bath Iron Works, ex-Secretary Herbert and a gathering of naval experts from the Ordnance, Engineering and Construction Bureaus.

In view of the fact that Congress by an amendment to the naval appropriation bill had limited the sum to be paid for armor for the three battleships to a maximum of \$300 per ton, as against about \$280 now paid, there was no surprise expressed by the persons present in the secretary's office when Secretary Long, taking his place at the head of the table, announced only one bid had been received, which was from the Illinois Steel Company, of Chicago, a concern which now for the first time enters the field of competition for supplying the navy's armor.

Before the bid was read Lieutenant Stone, for the Carnegie company, and Vice President Davenport, for the Bethlehem Company, presented to Secretary Long written statements of the reasons which compelled these companies which have heretofore supplied the armor used by the government in building the new navy, to refrain from submitting proposals in answer to the present advertisement. Secretary Long glanced at the opening pages of these papers and announced without reading further, that they did not appear to be proposals. A negative reply being made, the latter were laid aside without being read, for subsequent consideration. The proposal of the Illinois Steel Company was then read by the Judge advocate general, not in the usual shape of a filled in blank, which is supplied by the department, but in the shape of two typewritten proposals addressed to the secretary of the navy.

Secretary Long this afternoon made public the letters received from the Carnegie and the Bethlehem companies. President Schwab, of the Carnegie company, writes that they are unable to bid, as they have no facilities and experience we cannot supply the government with armor of the quality we are now making at that price (\$200).

Mr. Sayre, of the Bethlehem company, says that while the company cannot supply the small quantity of armor required at prices materially lower than those at which it still stands ready to do its plant to the government below cost, at a fair price to be fixed by suitable arbitration. If, however, Congress will remove the limitation on price, he believes he can agree with the department upon a fair price not greater than that paid for similar armor by any other country in the world.

A WESTERN SENATOR

Comments on Senator Chandler's Statement Regarding the Tariff.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Commenting to-day upon Senator Chandler's statement of yesterday in regard to the possible failure of the tariff bill because of too high rates, Senator Warren, of Wyoming, said:

"I do not consider it entirely fair and certainly not judicious to impose at this time to western farmers a disposition to the east to come in their tariff votes, or to insinuate that the tariff bill will fail because of radical demands for western interests. Such a presumption would be premature and tend to demoralize rather than intimidate, as perhaps intended."

"The tariff bill will fail, as it ought to fail, if it is sectional and partial, and does not equitably recognize agricultural, mining and lumber interests as well as others. Eastern interests are always well represented, at the capital by competent experts in all eastern economic lines. On the western horizon, the agricultural and western interests are not thus represented, but feeling that they are entitled to some consideration, they appeal to their representatives in Congress, and thus western senators have greater responsibilities and more to do than eastern senators in contending for a just scale of import duties. But their activity must not be taken as hostility."

"If it is decided that one section of the country must take buzzard, while another demands turkey in order to reform the tariff, then reformation had better be delayed, regrettable as such a result would be, and to none more regrettable than to western senators."

West Virginia Penitents.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8.—Penitents to West Virginians have been issued as follows:

Increase—Charles W. Shanks, Putnam county.

Dependent Claims—Minor of William H. Ging, Wheeling.

Widows—Elizabeth Keynolds, Harper's Ferry; Hannah H. Tucker, Berkeley county.

WANTS ANNEXATION.

President of Hawaii Sends a Commissioner to Washington.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 8.—The steamship Monowai arrived this evening from Australia via Apia and Honolulu with the following advices: HONOLULU, April 1.—President Dole gave out the information to-day that William A. Kinney, a local lawyer, had been instructed to go to Washington on the seventh instant as an annexation commissioner. The mail on the 31st ultimo, brought this government some inside information on the annexation question, and it is expected that that important matter will be brought before the present session of Congress. At present Attorney General Smith and A. B. Harris are at Washington in the interests of closer political union. What they have accomplished this government only knows, and its officials refuse to give out anything.

IN DEADLY EARNEST

Turkish Troops on Macedonian Frontier Disappointed.

"SPOILING" FOR AN ATTACK

From the Greeks, so They May Have an Excuse to Invade Greece--Italian Government Denounced by the Social Leader for Joining in the Coercion of the Greeks--Admirals will Not Renew Parleying with the Cretan Insurgents.

ELASSONA, April 8.—The Turkish troops are very much disappointed at the fact that the Greeks have not attacked them and the conversation of the soldiers and subaltern officers shows their temper to be such that in the event of an outbreak of hostilities and the repulse of the Greeks, no Turkish general dare act otherwise than invade Greece.

ROME, April 8.—Considerable uproar attended the interpellation of the government by Signor Imbriani, the Social leader, in the chamber of deputies to-day, who referred to the "odious policy of leading free Italy to commit inconceivable acts of violence against Greece and to trample upon the laws of nations."

Continuing, Signor Imbriani asserted that Italy was playing the role of a vassal to the Dreibund and he criticized the conduct of Greece. The Socialist deputy vigorously attacked the acts of Italy and the concert of the powers for which he was frequently called to order by the president of the chamber and was loudly cheered by his followers.

PARIS, April 8.—A dispatch from Constantinople to the Temps says the proposal to leave the choice of a governor of the island of Crete to the proposed Cretan assembly has been accepted by four of the powers; but, it is added, Germany and Austria still oppose the proposition.

CANEA, April 8.—The admirals of the foreign fleets and the consuls held a meeting to-day at Suda. The question discussed was whether the consuls should renew parleying with the insurgent leaders. It was decided not to do so.

The Mussulmans of Sitia are suffering from want of water, the wells of the town not sufficing to supply their needs, and the insurgents driving them back whenever they attempt to obtain water outside of the town, in spite of the protection afforded by the foreign warships in Sitia bay.

The barracks occupied by the Italian marines doing duty on shore at Candia have been burned to the ground. The cause of the fire is not known.

A detachment of six hundred additional Russian troops and an additional detachment of seven hundred British troops have arrived here.

SALONICA, April 8.—The dispatch of Turkish soldiers from this place to the frontier of Macedonia ceased to-day. All preparations have been made to prevent any hostile movement on the part of Greece.

LONDON, April 8.—Answering a question in the house of commons to-day relating to the date of the evacuation of the island of Crete by the Turkish troops, the parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. George N. Curzon, said that France had asked the powers for their views on the early evacuation of the island by the Turks, but he added, it was impossible to announce the exact date of the withdrawal of the Turkish forces. Several of the powers, he continued, were of the opinion that the Greek troops must first be withdrawn.

PORTO RICO REBELS

Against Spanish Rule--Spanish Government with Another Rebellion on Its Hands.

NEW YORK, April 8.—The Herald to-day says: Fr. Julio Henna, president of the Porto Rico revolutionary committee in this city, had received private information from the committee in the island of Porto Rico to the effect that the country had taken up arms against the Spanish government, the uprising having taken place in Yauco and Adjuntas. Dr. Henna, upon the receipt of the news, at once called together all the members of the committee and held a conference with them at his home.

The news of the uprising, it was reported by a member at the meeting of the committee, had been also received in this city by a well known banking firm in Wall street, which has close business connection with one of the leading banking houses in Porto Rico.

"The movement in Porto Rico has started rather earlier than was expected and agreed upon, but no doubt the circumstances of which we know nothing, must have compelled our brethren in Porto Rico to take the step at once."

Referring to the chances of success of the revolution, he said: "The spirit of the people in Porto Rico is such at the present time that any movement to overthrow the Spanish yoke is almost sure to succeed. The Porto Ricans are tired of Spanish misrule. All we want is to raise an army of 5,000 men and with such an army we can carry every place in the island we assault."

The reforms voted by the Spanish cortes on March 15, 1895, were not put in force until recently and their practical advantage are alleged to be of little account.

Spain Denies It.

MADRID, April 8.—An official denial has been issued of the report that a revolt against the Spanish government had broken out in the island of Porto Rico.

Rhode Island Election.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 8.—Later returns received to-day indicate that the Republican candidate for governor, Gen. Elisha Dyer, was given a plurality of more than 10,000 votes in the state election yesterday, while the plurality for Bennett, secretary of state, and Clarke, general treasurer, are over 11,000. The Republicans have a large majority in both houses of the general assembly, in the majority of 67 in grand committees. In this city, the Democratic and good government voters combined and elected a senator and eight representatives. The straight Republicans elected four representatives. The license question was voted on in six cities and towns. Tiverton was the only place in which the advocates of no license were victorious.

A Sign of Prosperity.

CINCINNATI, April 8.—The earnings of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad for the month of March were \$1,025,586, being an increase over the corresponding month of last year of \$22,158. These are the largest monthly earnings in the history of the road and show an increase of two per cent. This increase in business is due mostly to the new coal contracts which the company has made and this traffic will keep up the increase.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Knoxville Experiences a Calamity--Over a Million Dollars' Worth of Property Burned--Many Jumped From Windows. Several Killed and Injured.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 8.—A special to the News from Knoxville says:

The most disastrous fire ever experienced in Knoxville occurred this morning between 4 and 8 o'clock. The entire block between Union and Reservoir streets, on Gay street, with the exception of the McGhee building, on one end, the longest and handsomest block in the city, is a mass of ruins and the loss is estimated at nearly a million dollars.

The fire was discovered about 4 o'clock in the wholesale grocery store of the McNulty Grocery Company, by a porter of the Knox hotel, which adjoins the grocery. A general alarm was turned in and all the local fire companies were soon on the scene. Their efforts proved futile, however, and the flames spread rapidly.

Among the heaviest losers are: Daniel Briscoe & Co., wholesale dry goods; Storch Bros., wholesale and retail furniture; Marble City Hat Company, wholesale hats; A. P. Lahe Dry Goods Company; Hines & Company, wholesale shoos; S. B. Newman & Company, printers; Cullen, Newman & Company, wholesale hardware; Henneger, Doyle & Company, wholesale hats and shoes; Sanford, Chamberlain & Albers, wholesale drug; Knox hotel; McNulty Grocery Company.

Many smaller establishments, among them three livery stables, in the rear of the burned block, were destroyed.

An explosion of dynamite in Woodruff's hardware store shattered every window in Gay street. The Chattanooga fire department arrived at 8 o'clock and rendered valuable assistance.

Among those injured in the fire were: W. H. Keppart, one of the most prominent men in the city, formerly city editor of the Journal. After assisting five men to escape, he jumped from the third story of the Knox hotel on to the roof of an adjoining building; badly but not fatally hurt.

Joe McMillan, traveling man; jumped from second story; leg broken.

James Hogan, barkeeper Knox hotel; jumped from third story to roof of adjoining building; both legs badly sprained.

John Bogle, resident of Morgan county; rescued from third story of Knox hotel by firemen; probably fatally injured and burned.

Tom Speck, jumped from third story; legs hurt.

J. M. Lopp, of Salisbury, N. C.; jumped seriously injured.

C. L. Hudson, clerk in Knox hotel; jumped, ankle broken.

John McDaniel, jumped; badly injured.

It is now believed that the total loss will amount to about \$1,300,000. The insurance will be about one-half. Among the heaviest losers are:

McNulty Grocery Company, \$15,000, insurance not known; Hotel Knox, loss \$25,000, insurance not known; Daniel Briscoe & Co., wholesale dry goods, building almost totally destroyed, loss \$200,000; E. P. King, insurance \$15,000; S. B. Newman & Co., printers and engravers, loss \$50,000; insurance \$30,000; Cullen & Newman Company, wholesale queensware, loss \$40,000, insurance \$35,000; Henneger, Doyle & Arnold, wholesale hats and shoes, loss \$100,000, insurance \$75,000; M. L. Brose & Co., wholesale grocers, \$75,000, insurance \$50,000; W. W. Woodruff & Co., wholesale hardware, \$250,000; insurance \$200,000; Murphy & Robinson, wholesale hats, \$50,000, insurance \$25,000; A. P. Lahe, retail dry goods, loss \$100,000, insurance \$100,000; Storch Bros., wholesale and retail furniture, loss \$35,000, insurance \$30,000; Sanford, Chamberlain & Albers, \$40,000, insurance not known; B. M. Cusic, livery stable, \$2,000; John McMillan, residence, \$7,000, insurance \$5,000; Hopkins, loss \$390,000, insurance of \$475,000.

The loss so far reported, which does not cover any small losses, amount to the fire stopped at Union street on one side and at Commerce street on the other side of Gay street.

Loss of Life.

The loss of life is uncertain as the register of the hotel in which fifty-six people were sleeping was burned. The proprietor of the hotel says that he had five or six guests who have not put in an appearance. A. E. Weeks, of Locke, N. Y., drummer for a Rochester stamping company, is known to have perished in the flames. R. W. Hopkins, St. Louis drummer, was last seen in the Louis building in a suffocating condition. W. H. Keppart, ex-secretary of the chamber of commerce, saved the life of John Bogle, an old farmer, by dragging him to a window and letting him out on the roof of another building.

Keppart jumped one story and was unharmed. When the firemen thought all the inmates of the hotel had escaped, a woman with an infant in her arms, rushed to the rear window and screamed for help. A net was quickly stretched and the woman was helped to drop the child out, but as the smoke almost choked her, she told them that the woman was finally rescued by the firemen. In the wholesale hardware house of W. W. Woodruff & Co., large dynamite explosions occurred and scores of people were hurt by flying bricks and glass. It became necessary at last, to demolish the walls of one building blown down by cannon to stop the mad career of the fire.

A cabinet-maker named P. C. Dyer, fell dead on the street, from fright.

A man named Robinson, from Pulaski, Tenn., is supposed to be another victim. He was registered in the hotel, and had not shown up.

One Knoxville architect received orders to-day for plans for eleven buildings to take the places of the ones burned.

All the buildings are to be replaced at once.

The latest corrected list of dead and injured is as follows:

The dead: A. E. Weeks, Locke, N. Y.; R. W. Hopkins, St. Louis, Mo.; Robinson, Pulaski, Tenn.; S. E. Williams, Springfield, Mass.

The injured: J. M. Bogle, Tennessee, burned; D. M. Dean, Indianapolis, ankle sprained; Thomas S. Peck, Morristown, Tenn., ankle cut and sprained; Lieutenant Hood, Knoxville, police, cut on face and head by glass from explosion; Claude Harris, Knoxville, cut in dozen places by flying man Asquith, burned and cut by flying glass; it became necessary at last, to demolish the walls of one building blown down by cannon to stop the mad career of the fire.

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TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The next American Bankers' convention will be held August 10, in New York city.

The International Young Women's Christian Association met at Detroit yesterday afternoon.

President McKinley and party arrived at Annapolis yesterday afternoon on the Dolphin, and were received with a presidential salute from the navy academy.

The Rome correspondent of the London News learns that the powers will begin the blockade of Greece simultaneously with a new proclamation to the Cretans. Everything indicates that Greece is firmly determined to resist.

THERE'S NO HOPE

Of Relief for the Flood Sufferers in the South

FOR ABOUT FIVE MORE WEEKS.

No Encouragement in Sight for the Sufferers Except the Prompt Measure Taken by Congress to Supply Them with Food. Fully a Half Million People Directly Affected in the Lower District--Every Day Now Brings Its Sad Tale of Woe.

JACKSON, Miss., April 8.—The following dispatch has just been received from Greenville: Every day now brings us some tale of woe from the overflowed region. Here is one the Associated Press reporter learned this morning which is perfectly reliable:

When the levee broke at Mound Landing, a family consisting of a mother and six children were overtaken by the water, and before they could reach a place of safety four of the children were caught by the furiously rushing current and washed away almost in the twinkling of an eye. Who these people were was not learned in the confusion of the night. It is believed the mother and other two children were taken care of. The railroad bridges across the main streams in the county are going fast. An iron bridge across the Bogue on the Valley route was washed away yesterday. There were some hundred fifty cattle and horses upon it at the time. The southern bridges on the Bogue have also been washed away.

The Yazoo river is running up stream from its mouth nearly to Greenwood, on account of the high stage of the water at Vicksburg. Here to-day the river is on a stand. The river report just received to-day is anything but encouraging, and there is frankly no hope of relief from the present conditions for five weeks at least.

AWFUL SITUATION

Of the Flood Sufferers--Nearly a Half Million People Directly Suffer From the Effects of the Devastation.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 8.—Telegrams received to-night from the flooded districts of the Mississippi delta report the situation unchanged. A heavy rain, accompanied by a strong northwest wind, has prevailed all afternoon. Information from the Flower Lake crevasse says that the break is 1,700 feet wide. Every effort is being made to tie the ends of the levee. To-day was ration day for the destitute refugees at Rosedale and a more poverty-stricken band of negroes than those gathered at the place of distribution would be hard to picture. Only those who were known to the negroes that the government had sent rations and many who were yet able to care for themselves were grievously disappointed at not finding their names on the relief toll.

GREENVILLE, Miss., April 8.—The condition of affairs in this section of the Mississippi river continues serious. Want is to-day at the door of many laborers. The Yazoo-Mississippi delta embraces ten counties with a population of nearly 400,000 people, seventy per cent of whom are farm laborers who depend for their daily bread, on rations issued weekly by the planters and local merchants, on part of the laborer's farming operations.

The planter and merchant, in turn, secure advancements from money centers actually being carried to the laborer until the crops have been planted. The inundation occasions a withholding of credit from the country, thus cutting its most vital cord. From this statement it will be readily seen that every day adds severity to the strain. The promptness with which the federal government has interested itself in the condition of the inhabitants of the inundated districts has brought a strong ray of hope into a situation which is at best gloomy enough.

Louisiana in Dread.

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 8.—The flood wave has not yet given the Louisiana levees its fullest force, and they still average several feet above the water level. It is estimated that the water tonight will leave little damage for the flood to do, and the weather holds more dread for the levee board than the rising river. Along Bayou La Fourche the vegetable crop was ruined and many substantial structures injured, but strange to say the levees regarded as probably the weakest part of the Louisiana system, came through unscathed. This has given the water-side dwellers hope, and they will make a gallant effort to hold the banks.

RATES ON IRON

Adopted by the Joint Traffic Association Pigs, Billets and Blooms.

NEW YORK, April 8.—The board of managers of the Joint Traffic Association have issued schedules of rates on pig iron, billets and blooms, etc., to take effect April 15, which are reductions from the present basis. Pig iron west to east is on a basis of \$2.75 per gross ton, Chicago to New York. Billets, blooms, scraps, etc., over the same territory, \$4.35 per ton, Chicago to New York. West-bound rates are the same throughout. A list of the principal articles of iron and steel manufactures are placed as sixth class in car load lots.

Other rulings refer to rates on wire rods, sheet and tin plate, Pittsburgh to western points and to the fare for the Christian Endeavor meeting in San Francisco, July 7 to 12. This is to be one fare for the round trip to Chicago or St. Louis, plus basis fare of \$5 from Chicago and \$47.50 from St. Louis to San Francisco.

Bessemer Iron Ore Pool.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, April 8.—The iron ore producers of the old ranges have finally succeeded in pooling their interests. The object of the organization, which is called the Bessemer Iron Association, is to conserve the interests of the mine on the Marquette, Menominee, Vermilion and Coeberg ranges. The new schedule varies from \$2.40 a ton for Chapin ore to \$4.40 for a special low phosphorus ore. The reductions which were made in several instances, were large. An ore that sold for \$4.25 in 1896, will sell for \$2.92. A Marquette specular ore that was on the market last year at \$4.50, will be sold for \$3.11. As no transactions have been made in old range non-Bessemer ore, prices have not been established. Standard Bessemer is expected to bring \$2.25 and Niagara, \$2.20.

MONONGAHELA RIVER.

Work on Locks and Dams Between Fairmont and Pittsburgh to Begin in May. River May be Free in Ninety Days. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., April 8.—Major C. H. Powell has reported as successor to Major R. L. Hoxie, in charge of the Monongahela improvement between Morgantown and Fairmont. Major Powell, in company with Major Hoxie, came up to Morgantown last night, and left this morning on a tour of inspection of the river. They are of the opinion that the work of building the locks and dams will begin at once. Mr. G. C. Sturgiss, who has been in Washington looking after the matter, returned to-day, and is also hopeful that the work will begin at once. Mr. Sturgiss says he saw General Wilson, chief of engineers, and had a very satisfactory interview with him, and had the papers necessary for the acquisition of titles for sites for locks and dams between here and Fairmont referred to the attorney general in order that deeds may be procured at once through District Attorney Walker.

This will be done at once, and land owners where the dams are to be put will receive their money. The bids for building the locks and dams will be opened the 27th of this month, and, if satisfactory, contracts will be awarded and work begin as soon as the contractors can make ready for it. Unless something unforeseen should occur, the building of the new locks and dams will begin in May. He says also that the secretary of war will approve the award of the commissioners in the condemnation proceedings for the navigation company's works, and unless the company appeal the case he will draw his check for the full amount of the award, take possession of the property, and make navigation free within the next ninety days.

W. J. BRYAN INJURED.

Platform From which He is Speaking Falls, Precipitating 400 People Twenty Feet--Mr. Bryan Picked Up Unconscious.