

DROUTH IN NEBRASKA.

THE TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS OF THE INHABITANTS.

Five Counties in Which the People Are Utterly Destitute—More Than 3000 Families Need Aid—Women and Children Dying From Cold and Hunger—A Plentiful Condition.

The suffering among the inhabitants of the drought-blasted part of Nebraska, including three-fourths of the residents of five counties, is becoming more intense daily, and immediate steps alone can prevent many deaths by starvation.

Three years ago the farmers of these drought-blighted counties raised a very light crop, and the past two years the crops have been almost total failures. Many families have no enough provisions in their homes for one week's sustenance, and no money to purchase the necessities of life.

Many of the merchants feel they have added to the suffering of the people by their inability to sell their goods on credit. The sufferers cannot obtain employment, and unless they receive aid very soon it is the general opinion that the weather will cause to die of cold. The weather is so cold that many will freeze to death, as it is a fact that many are barefooted and have scarcely sufficient clothing to cover their nakedness.

A father and his two children were found dead in their little cabin near Niobrara. It is supposed the mother had been confined to her bed by sickness, and she and her two little ones starved to death. The stomachs of the children were open, and not a trace of food could be discovered.

There is not a stream of water in Perkins county nor a living spring. Wells run from sixty to 300 feet, the majority being 150 to 200 feet deep. The soil is watered, raises good crops; if not it bakes like a solid mass. The roads and much of the prairie resemble asphalt, so hard-baked and smooth are they.

All diggers say the soil is a solid mass 150 feet down, so hard that picks have to be used to loosen it. Over this smooth surface the never-ceasing wind blows from every direction. They are killed with minute sand storms and almost suffocation.

President Mason, of the Nebraska State Relief Commission, has been forwarded a carefully prepared report of the number of destitute families in each of the districts where there is a crop failure. The list is a large one, and it will require all the assistance that can be procured to keep the people in the most urgent of necessities during the cold winter months. The report is made out by Secretary Ludden, as follows:

Chase, 225; Dundy, 130; Hitchcock, 250; De Witt, 100; Hayes, 200; Frontier, 40; Kearney, 100; Lincoln, 70; Dawson, 45; Kimball, 30; Deuel, 40; Cheyenne, 40; McPherson, 40; Blaine, 20; Boyd, 230; Holt, 30; Antelope, 30; Keya Paha, 25; Knox, 25. In many instances people in the districts remote from railroad facilities are eating prairie dogs.

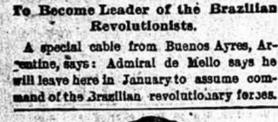
A newspaper man made a trip through the most destitute part of this country. A few deserted huts and frame houses were seen, and there were signs here and there that some habitations had been torn down and removed with the other goods of the owners when they left it. In some cases farm implements were seen in the fields, and at a distance substantial granaries stood just as their owners had left them.

The people of the drought-cursed sections hope to have the Legislature pass measures of relief the first day the body convenes. This may not be done, but all organized relief measures are absolutely necessary to prevent many deaths from starvation.

MELLO WILL COMMAND.

To Become Leader of the Brazilian Revolutionists.

A special cable from Buenos Ayres, Argentine, says: Admiral de Mello says he will leave here in January to assume command of the Brazilian revolutionary forces.



ADMIRAL DE MELLO.

A cablegram from Montevideo says that the grand council of the Brazilian revolutionary junta has decided to forward arms and ammunition as fast as possible to the rebel forces and to the war vigorously against President Moraes, because his peace propositions are not considered to have been made in good faith, and he is pursuing the same policy as ex-President Pezota. There was no conference will be held in any government in which Pezota has influence.

KILLED IN A COLLISION.

The Manchester Express Runs Into a Goods Train Near Chefford.

Fifteen persons were killed and fifty injured by a collision in England between the Manchester express and a goods train. The express train was filled with persons going home for the holidays and was proceeding at high speed for Chefford, the next stop, fourteen miles distant. The goods freight train was switching across the main line. The engineer of the express did not see the other train until his locomotive was close upon it. The brakes were applied instantly, but without perceptible effect. There was a terrific crash, and several cars went to pieces like pasteboard. The injuries of twenty persons are severe.

It is reported that the accident was caused by the high wind overthrowing part of the freight train.

RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Figures for 1894 the Lowest in Twenty Years.

The Railway Age has prepared its annual table for new railroad construction of 1894, and the figures fully reflect the wretched business surroundings of transportation during the year. The figures are the lowest for twenty years, and the only exceptions in this category were 1875, 1885 and 1886. The top-notch year was 1887, with 13,000 miles. The figures show that Arizona leads the list with 138 miles, Illinois next, with 147 miles, and Pennsylvania third, with 133 miles. Only one mile of road was constructed in Oregon. The total mileage in the United States for 1894 is 1919; Canada, 322; Mexico, 74.

ITALY IN THE SOUDAN.

Natives, Commanded by Humbert's Officers, Rode Arab.

A dispatch from Massowah, Egypt, announces that six companies of Italian troops, under the command of Major Toselli, attacked and defeated the Arabs, near Hala in the Soudan. A large number of the natives, including Chief Fetan, were killed. The Italian forces lost ten killed and had twenty-two wounded, drilled and offered by Italians.

THE NEWS EPTOMIZED.

Eastern and Middle States.

CHARLES FERRIER, a sailor, returned to his home in New York City after a long absence, murdered his wife, and then, while his little girl looked on, he turned the pistol against himself and committed suicide.

FOURTEEN persons were bitten by a mad dog at Salem, N. Y., seven of them visited New York City to be treated at the Pasteur Institute.

BISHOP JOSEPH P. THOMPSON, M. D., D. D., of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in this country, died at his residence in Newburgh, N. Y., in his seventy-sixth year. He was born in slavery in Winchester, Va., December 30, 1818.

MATON GILBERT, of Rome, N. Y., suspected of complicity in stealing from a bank in that city, surrendered himself and was placed under bail.

ALFRED TERRELL burned himself, Thomas Evans and his wife saved seven of their children from being burned to death in their beds in Elizabeth, N. J. Even when the floors were sinking beneath his weight, Evans and Terrell saved the life of his youngest child.

CHARLES STAIR was taken from his bed by White Caps, in Dunkirk, N. Y., and lashed with whips.

The New England Society held its eighty-ninth annual dinner at Delmonico's, New York City.

South and West.

RECENT great gold strikes at Leadville, Col., are causing great excitement in mining circles. Trains to the camp are crowded.

DOUGLAS PUTNAM, great-grandson of General Israel Putnam, of Revolutionary fame, died at Hartford, Conn., of the eighty-five, Ex-Governor Alcorn, of Mississippi, died at his home at Eagle's Nest, aged seventy-eight. He was once a member of the United States Senate.

Mrs. A. D. MATSON, at one time a member of the Topoka (Kan.) City Board of Education, died at her home in Topeka, Kan., of the eighty-five. Her husband was a member of the United States Senate.

Governor Hoop, of Texas, sent a requisition to the Governor of Florida for the pardon of E. M. Flieger, of the Standard Oil Company.

A crowd of 4000 persons determined to witness the execution of Cox and Stanley at Maynardville, Ky., tore down the enclosure around the gallows. Stanley and Cox were hanged at 2:45 p. m., both confessed.

Five hundred families in the drought-stricken districts of Nebraska are destitute of food and fuel.

Washington.

Mrs. PERRINE, Mrs. Cleveland's mother, arrived at the Executive Mansion from Buffalo, N. Y., on a visit to her daughter.

Her bill granting Mrs. N. P. Banks, widow of the General, a pension of \$100 a month, passed the House without debate.

The statues of Webster and Stark, presented by the State of New Hampshire for placing in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, were accepted, speeches being made in both branches.

A DESIGN for the monument to mark the birthplace of Washington has been selected by Secretary Sherman.

CHAIRMAN SPRINGER introduced in the House of Representatives a substitute for the Carlisle Currency Reform bill.

The Senate confirmed the nominations of Charles D. Smith, of Missouri, to be Assistant Comptroller of the Treasury, and Henry W. Swift to be United States Marshal, District of Massachusetts.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND and his party of 1000 returned to Washington, D. C., on the 10th inst. The President looking well and browned by his exposure to sun and wind. Later the President took a drive with Mrs. Cleveland.

This first case to test the constitutionality of the Income Tax law has been brought in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. The petitioner is John G. Moore of the firm of Moore & Schley, New York.

The complainant is a director of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and proposes to fight the case through the Supreme Court of the United States. His attorneys are ex-Secretary George F. Edmunds and Messrs. Shellbarger and Wilson.

SECRETARY HERBERT remitted the unexpected portion of the sentences of Commander Oscar Heyerman, Lieutenant C. H. Lyman and others, who were convicted of the Keams case on December 28th in February last.

Foreign.

A DISPATCH from Sydney, New South Wales, says it is stated that the real Sir Roger Hobhouse, the grand old man of the law, died at his residence in the name of William Crosswell.

The British Government was reported to have offered aid to Newfoundland because business on the island was completely at a standstill.

The Emperor of China granted plenipotentiary powers to Chang Yin Huan to make peace with Japan.

A FIERCE battle was fought between the fugitive Chinese garrison of Hai-Cheng and a Japanese force under General Katsura; the Chinese were defeated.

THE TRIAL at Paris of Captain Albert Dreyfus, charged with having sold plans of fortifications and other French Government secrets to the enemy, was concluded. The court martial found the accused guilty. The sentence was that he be confined in some fortified place for the term of his natural life and suffer degradation from all military rank and honors.

CHOLERA has appeared in Argentina, and Uruguay has declared a quarantine against her.

MASSACRED BY THE JAPS.

HORRID BARBARITIES AT THE TAKING OF PORT ARTHUR.

Over Two Thousand Defenseless Inhabitants Wantonly Put to the Sword—Three Days of Slaughter—China is Now Virtually at the Mercy of Japan.

James Creelman, the correspondent in the Orient of the New York World, has furnished full details of the taking of Port Arthur by the Japanese army, under command of Field Marshal Oyama, and the massacre of the Chinese inhabitants. His account abounds in horrors. There is no longer, he says, a Chinese army, and the advance of the Japanese is a pure march of conquest. Regarding the barbarous destruction of life by the Japanese, Mr. Creelman completely exposes the Japanese authorities' attempts to excuse or make it appear less horrible. Great efforts were made to induce the war correspondents to the scene to shut their eyes to the real character of the willful and brutal waste of life. It was the law of war to kill the soldiers of the enemy who resisted and could not be taken prisoners. It was argued. But the correspondents would not be hoodwinked, and pointed to the murder of hundreds of unoffending inhabitants, women and children, and refused to conceal from the world the bloody work of the armed as-

children were freezing out in the mountains the work of exterminating the men went on all night.

In the morning I walked through the streets. Everywhere I saw bodies torn and mangled as if by wild beasts. The slain shopkeepers lay piled in the roadway, with tears frozen in their eyes and bloody icicles hanging from their wounds.

Dogs were whimpering over the stark corpses of their masters. Here and there the famished animals were tearing at the flesh of human bodies still warm. While in company with Mr. Cowan I came across a corpse which had been beheaded. The head lay two or three yards away and a dog was tearing the neck. A Japanese sentry looked on and laughed.

Then I saw a white-haired, toothless merchant dismembered at the threshold of his own shop, which had been looted. Another victim had his breast ripped open by a Japanese sword, and a pet dog lay shivering under his arms.

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I ran forward and made the sign of the Red Cross on the white non-objectionable bandage around my arm, but the appeal was useless. The bayonet was plunged three or four times into the neck of the prostrate man, and then he was left to gasp his life out on the ground.

I hurried back to my quarters and awakened Frederick Villiers, who went with me to the spot where I had left the dying man. He was dead, but his wounds were still smoking.

While we were bending over the corpse we heard shooting a few rods around a road and went forward to see what it was. I saw an old man standing in the road with his hands tied behind his back. One of the ground beside him were the writhing bodies of three other diabolical men who had been shot. As we advanced a soldier shot the old man down. He was lying on his back, groaning and rolling his eyes. The soldiers tore his shirt away to see the blood run from his breast and shot him a second time. His features twisted and his body was convulsed as he died. I turned away from his face and joined at him. We turned away from the place. Remember, this was the third day after the battle.

Next day I went in company with Mr. Villiers to see a court-yard filled with mutilated bodies. When they saw us they pressed two soldiers bending over one of the bodies. One had a knife in his hand. They had ripped open the corpse and were cutting the heart out. When they saw us they covered and tried to hide their faces. I am satisfied that not more than 100 Chinese were killed in fair battle at Port Arthur, and that at least 2000 unarmed men were put to death.

It may be said that an aerial result of the retreating enemy. What cheering and what hand-shaking! What solemn strains from the band! And all the while we could hear the rattle of rifle volleys in the streets, and know that helpless people of the town were being slaughtered in cold blood and their homes pillaged.

That was the coldest night of the year. The thermometer dropped to twenty degrees below zero. While the women and

hills with their protectors. The town was sacked from end to end and the inhabitants were driven to the mountains.

About 5 o'clock there was a sound of music on the parade ground, where all the Generals were assembled with the Field Marshal. I saw a hospital firing the Red Cross flag, but the Japanese fired upon the unarmed men who came out of the doorway.

A merchant in a fur cap knelt down and raised his hands in entreaty. The Japanese now claim that shots were fired from the windows and doorways, but the statements are utterly false.

No attempt to take prisoners was made. I saw a man who was crawling to the troops and begging for mercy planned to the ground with a bayonet, while his head was hacked off with a sword. Another Ottoman covered in a corner while a squad of soldiers shot him to pieces. An old man on his knees in the street was shot at almost in vain. Another poor wretch was shot on a roof top. Still another fell in the street and was bayoneted through the back a dozen times. Just before the Japanese fired the Red Cross flag, but the Japanese fired upon the unarmed men who came out of the doorway.

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PRESIDENT JOHN M'BRIDE.

The New Head of the American Federation of Labor.

John M'BRIDE, recently elected at Denver, Col., to succeed Samuel Gompers as President of the American Federation of Labor, has just turned his fortieth year. He was born and raised in the mining regions of Northwestern Ohio. Fortunately he secured a common school education before he entered the mines, and at eighteen he became Secretary of the local lodge of the Miners and Mine Laborers' Benevolent Association. Shortly afterward he was elected Secretary of the Tuscarawas Valley Miners' Association.

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