MY FIRE.

It starts;
A sinuous eyelash from the sun,
A golden, leaf-shaped, dancing thing,
Bending fern-like in a magic breeze.

And grows,
And saps the virgin forest's strength
With writhing, biting arms,
And with its red jaws through the gloom
Cast elfin shadows 'round the room.

And waxing still
It lashes 'round the knotted wood
With soft but cruel sting,
Till, gorged with strength, it fades away
Beneath a coverlet of gray.

And now,
Like molten sunset from the west,
Pulsates as with living breath
Till dying midst the bones its greed has made
Its heart is still, and ashes mark the grave.

—A. R. Allan.

Courting for the Captain.

There was probably no more youthful bearer of a colonel's commission in the Civil War than myself.

Born in a family of soldiers, educated and drilled from infancy as a soldier, I gained high rank as a boy and was able to perform its duties to the satisfaction of my superiors.

But, aside from duty, I was as "larky" as any young college chap in the world.

A box of goods made by the kind hands of loyal women reached my regiment through the United States Christian Commission. The quartermaster, who superintended distribution of the comforts, brought me one evening a note he had found pinned on a pair of woolen stockings. Some fun-loving girl wrote that she would, through charity, correspond with the soldier receiving those foot coverings. The letter was signed "Dolly Miller," and the post office address was given.

I took the slip of paper and when the quartermaster had departed indited a note in my best style to the young lady. The name I placed at the end, though, was not my own, but that of Capt. T. B. Reid, in command of one of my companies. A fine fellow, handsome, brave and young, was Reid—a great favorite also with the ladies. He had won his rank by gallant service and was a soldier all through. Though he always could keep up his end in conversation, yet his early education had been neglected. He wrote a villainous fist, and all his ideas froze before they reached the point of his pen.

I added a V to the initials of my comrade, so as to identify the answer (if one came) when it reached the adjutant's tent, where all mail matter was delivered.

Three weeks after there was a note for Capt. T. B. V. Reid from a town in Ohio. Of course, the screed was delivered into my hands. A very sweet, modest little letter it was. The contents told that some lively girl chum had written the original and signed Miss Dolly Miller's name thereto; but the real young lady said that "the letter she received was so gentlemanly in tone, so interesting in contents, that she, patriotic in the extreme, could carry out the promise made in her behalf, and if Capt. Reid could find amusement or pleasure in corresponding with her she was willing to do what she could to cheer him in his duties and dangers."

Of course, I answered and "spread myself." No fool's letter would do for this bright, honest Miss Dolly, and, being flattered by her high estimate of my early work, I "put in my best licks."

It was not long before letters came and went by each mail. I was really interested in the true, kindly maiden I had never met, and had it not been "for the girl I left behind me" might have explained my first deception and gone in for myself. As it was, I felt rather conscience stricken when I found to what extent my gush and romance had taken hold on the dear young lady's feelings. But I kept it up, all the same.

As I "piled up the agony" on the miseries of a soldier's life and gave utterance to a longing for some tender, loving woman to reconcile me to the world and its trials, Miss Dolly's letters became more and more affectionate and suggestive. She wrote that she was an orphan, had considerable money in her own right, and that she could love a brave soldier and honest gentleman, such as she conceived Capt. Reid to be from the tone of his letters.

I sent her Reid's photograph, taken from my album, and received her own in return. A very sweet, innocent, confiding face it was; "good girl" written in every feature. Reid espied it soon after I placed it among my collection, and he admired it hugely. I did not hint that it had really been sent to him, but I felt more ashamed than ever.

Still I continued the correspondence, and, forced to reply in kind, I dare say that I wrote many words that conveyed great affection and used much language that could easily be construed into almost direct proposals of marriage, though these were always qualified by remarks showing how unwilling I was, or would be, to bring a young wife to share the privations and hardships of a life in the field.

This interchange of words, growing continually more tender, was kept up until after the capture of Mobile. Then my regiment was sent to a point on the Mississippi River.

During the stirring times of action and the confusion of change in station our letters were in many cases miscarried or failed to reach us. I had not heard from Miss Dolly for nearly six weeks, and earnestly hoped she had dropped the correspandence, for it had grown entirely too warm for my comfort and peace of mind under the circumstances.

One day it happened—as things coincident do happen in this world—that I was sitting in the provost marshal's office at the landing, when a large steamboat came down the river. It stopped at our post, as all boats had to, in compliance with military orders. I saw several passengers land, among them a lady. These were left standing on the levee while their passes and baggage underwent examination.

In a few moments the lieutenant commanding the provost guard came to me and said:

"Colonel, there is a young lady here asking for Capt. Reid of your regiment.

Of course I was all attention and activity in a moment. I never doubted that it was one of Reid's sisters (I knew he had several), who had foolishly come to pay him a visit. I was sorry for it, because our camps were no place for a lady, and there were rather strict orders against their admission.

I buttoned up my coat, gave my cap a cant over the right ear and made my way toward the lovely damsel, who stood among most uncongenial surroundings.

Thunder and Mars! I recognized Dolly Miller (from her likeness to the photograph sent me) the moment I laid my eyes upon her.

Here was a fix—of my own manufacture, too. How was I to get rid of it?

I went forward and introduced myself with all the courtesy of which I was posessed as Capt. Reid's colonel and his friend.

I had mentioned myself in some of the letters I had written, purporting to come from T. B. V. R., and a blushing look of pleasure came over the girl's face.

"Capt. Reid has often written of you, colonel, and, while I fully expected to find him here to meet me, I am glad that he sent a substitute I can feel in some way acquainted with."

"Did Capt. Reid expect you?"

"Why certainly. I wrote him three weeks ago that if certain matters did not change for the better I would come to join him here, in spite of all the discomforts he so vividly pictured. The matters did happen. I was tormented out of life by my guardian and his son. The latter wished me to marry him in order to secure the fortune now due me, that has for ten years been in his father's hands. I know, colonel, you are aware of my correspondence with Capt. Reid, and I determined to trust my future with him whom I knew little rather than tempt fate with one I could not like, of whom I knew everything, and all to his discredit."

I had to have time for thought and plans.

"Miss ——?"

"Miller."

"Thank you. Well, Miss Miller, I know that the captain never received your letter. We have been busy at Mobile and have just arrived here—have had no mail for fully 20 days. Our camp is all in confusion as yet and there is much to be arranged. Will you try and content yourself for an hour or two while I go to camp and notify Capt. Reid?"

She consented to wait; the postmaster's private office was given up to her. It was a pretty but distressed face I left behind me as I rode off, considerably worried about my own part and penalty in the affair.

I went straight to camp, sent for Reid and there was a full hour's confab, a good deal of hard swearing on his part, a power of persuasion on my own, before the matter was settled.

I knew the captain well; he had money, a good heart and no entanglements. He was calculated to make a loing husband for any woman. I put the case strongly to him. Here was an honest but unsophisticated maiden, with money of her own, ready to become his wife. I had saved him all the trouble of courtship, won his bride for him and had her safely housed and waiting.

What more could he want? Would Cincinnati,
earnest endeavors on his behalf go for nothing?

Besides, he had always vowed he was in love with the girl, though he had never seen but her picture.

My eloquence gained him over, even as my literary skill had secured the lady. I exhibited all her letters; told, as nearly as I could, the contents of those I had written her, and before two hours had elapsed I led my gallant comrade to his happy, willing sweetheart.

That evening they were married by the chaplain of the —— Massachusetts.

Reid at once tendered his resignation, and was given leave of absence pending its acceptance. The next morning our young couple took the boat for he be so ungrateful as to let all my

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Reid (no V in the name now) are happy, rich and contented in Wisconsin. I hear from them often, but neither has ever given me a hint that any explanations have taken place between them regarding their wooing by correspondence.

So my lark in that line turned out O. K. for all parties, but it might have been a terrible matter for everyone concerned. I have never since been interested in any courtships but my own, and in these I learned how serious such affairs generally are.

An Incident of Fast Railway Travel.

The other day when two miles from Treaty, Ind., Conductor Brooks, of the northbound "Flyer," stepped to the rear platform of the last coach and pulled two ten-dollar bills from the depth of his vest pocket. The stiff breeze blowing carried them from his hands and back along the track.

He frantically grasped the bell cord and gave it a mighty pull, but Engineer John Critz, supposing that it was a signal to stop at Treaty to let off a passenger, responded with two blasts of his whistle, and did not slacken speed. Treaty was soon reached, and when the train halted Conductor Brooks hastened around to the engine and related the tale of his loss. The return trip was begun, with the conductor and brakeman on the rear of the train eagerly scanning the track in the hope of finding the currency. Finally the train was stopped and the crew got off and prosecuted the search all over the right of way, sympathetic passengers joining in the quest. The search was abandoned and the conductor told all hands to get on the train, when the brakeman came upon both bills lying within three feet of each other, and then the train sped on. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Cost of the Transvaal War.

England's Parliament will have to increase its appropriation far beyond the $50,000,000 mark, even though the war is likely to be much shorter than anybody a short time ago thought it would be. The transportation of between 40,000 and 50,000 soldiers for a distance of over 6,000 miles, and their support for several months in a region where, even under the most favorable conditions, the cost of living for soldiers would be high, will entail an outlay far beyond the original estimates. The present debt of the United Kingdom, deducting the sinking fund, is in the neighborhood of $3,400,000,000, which is greater than that of any other nation excepting Russia, which is $3,500,000,000, and France, $4,500,000,000. It is altogether probable that the war with the South African Republic and the Orange Free State will run up Britain's debt at least $200,000,000 beyond its present line.

THE GREAT TREK.

Causes Which Led to the First Migration of the Boers.

It is most important to understand the causes which led to the Great Trek of the Boers, says Alleyne Ireland in the Atlantic. They were the misguided zeal of the English missionaries, the abolition of slavery with the safeguarding of the natives' interests, and lastly, what Canon Knox Little describes as "England's fatuous policy of vacillation, betrayal, friction, irritation, postponing, changing, doing and undoing."

The troubles with the missionaries began even before the colony was ceded to England. In 1811 a certain Mr. Read, of the London Missionary Society, wrote a letter which was widely circulated in England, in which he asserted that over one hundred murders of natives by the Dutch had been brought to his notice in his district, and that the Governor of the Colony remained deaf to the cry for justice. An inquiry was ordered by the government, and every facility was given the natives of proving Mr. Read's charges. After throwing the whole district into confusion by summoning over a thousand witnesses, many of whom were under arms on the frontier in expectation of a Kosa raid, the Circuit Court found that the charges were grossly exaggerated. The net result was the sending up for trial of five Dutchmen. George McCall Theal, in his History of South Africa, says in regard to this affair: "The Black Circuit, as it was called, produced a lasting impression amongst the Dutch. It was no use telling the people that the trials had shown the missionaries to have been the dupes of idle story tellers. The extraordinary efforts made to search for cases and to conduct the prosecutions appeared in their eyes as a fixed determination on the part of the English authorities to punish them if by any means a pretext could be found. As for the missionaries of the London Society, from that time they were held by the frontier colonists to be slanderers and public enemies." That the actions of the misionaries really influenced the Dutch in their determination to leave the colony is shown by a manifesto published by Pieter Retief, one of the most prominent trekkers, in which were set forth the reasons why British rule was no longer endurable. The fourth paragraph of the manifesto says: "We complain of the unjustifiable odium which has been cast upon us by interested and dishonest persons, under the name of religion, whose testimony is believed in England to the exclusion of all evidence in our favor; and we can foresee, as the result of this prejudice, nothing but the total ruin of the country."

DON'T TELL YOUR TROUBLES.

Little Sympathy for Men Who Are Always "Feeling 'Way Off To-day."

"If," said a man of mature years, "I was going to give a word of advice to a young man, one of the things that I should say to him would be this: Don't be sick. That is, don't be an ailing man, not feeling well, and all that sort of thing. Keep your little ills to yourself. To tell how bad we feel does not, as a rule, awaken sympathy. As a matter of fact—and it's all right so, too—we don't cotton much to a man that wants or expects to be coddled all the time; we like better the chap made of sterner stuff, who doesn't worry other people about them.

"This does not mean that a man wants to say he's well, when really he is sick. That would be foolish, as it would be for a man to work in such condition. But nobody likes to see a man going around with a woe-begone expression on his countenance, and the words, 'I'm 'way off to-day' on his lips, and if this is his habit whenever he isn't feeling just right, why, he thereby just counts himself out of it.

"There's a large stock of sympathy on hand in the world, and it's always plentifully offered where it is really needed, but there's mighty little of it expended on people suffering from sniffles. The fact is the world isn't drawn much toward men that are always ailing; but it just hollers for joy over men who are fit and able.

"Moral: Don't make it a point to tell people how miserable you're feeling to-day!"—New York Sun.

HARNESS OF MANY KINDS.

Made Not for Horse Alone but for Various Other Animals as Well.

It is probable that the great majority of people would, at first thought anyway, associate harness with horses only; but harness is used on a considerable variety of other animals. Harness is used in this country on oxen in some parts of the South, and also in logging comps in the North; and ox harness is used in Cuba, South America and Germany. In some of these parts oxen are driven single in wagons. In ox harness a yoke is used instead of a collar, but the ox harness includes traces and a breeching. There is some ox harness exported from this country.

In one part of the world and another is made a good deal of dog harness. In Germany and France, where dogs are used as draft animals, dog harness is a regular article of sale for the ordinary purposes of a harness. Dogs are sometimes hooked up in harness to draw a wagon in this country; but here it would be for sport, and the quantity of that kind of dog harness sold is small and would not be found in stock, but would be made to order.

But while dog harness, in the ordinary form of harness, is not kept in stock here, goat harness is, and in great variety, at prices ranging from $1 to $25 a set. There are some harness makers in a small way, employing a hand or two besides themselves, who make nothing but goat harness. Here goats are used to draw wagons for children's sport. In France goats are sometimes used for draft purposes instead of dogs.

Some harness is used on reindeer hauling sledges in far Northern countries; and is also used for draft purposes on dogs, employed in hauling loads on sleds in Arctic regions. Some harness has likewise been made for use for draft purposes for elephants in their native countries.

Here, for show purposes, harness has been made for elephants and other animals to enable them to draw chariots and other vehicles, and harness has sometimes been made, for like purposes, for ostriches and other birds.—New York Sun.

During May the total charitable, religious and educational gifts in the United States aggregated $3,220,000.

FARMS AND FARMERS

Single Sashes Double Glazed.

One of the ways in which poultry and other stock suffer is from the rapid radiation of heat from the windows at night. Double windows are sometimes used, but these are expensive, somewhat of a bother to put on and hard to keep clean.

The cut shows a single sash, double glazed, which a poultryman has recently described. The sash is made so that the glass can be set on both sides of the wooden bars, leaving a half inch or more of space between. This gives a double window and the cost is said to be not more than 25 cents extra per sash for the glass and the labor of setting. The glazing must be tight and

SASH WITH DOUBLE GLASS.

carefully done to keep out all dirt and dust from the inner surfaces of the glass.—American Agriculturist.

Hay in Better Demand.

Canadian papers are boasting that the war in the Transvaal has created a demand for hay, and that prices have already advanced from 50 cents to $1 a ton in Montreal, and if there were more vessels to take it and lower rates of freight there would be a further advance. So many British vessels were taken as transports for the troops en route for South Africa, and for their equipments and supplies, that it has been almost impossible to send forward the amount of goods that Great Britain wants from America. It is reported that one cargo of Canadian hay has been sent direct to South Africa by the way of Boston, and that other vessels are on the way to Montreal for a cargo. Hay is now in good demand in the United States, and prices are more likely to advance than to decline. If farmers here and in Canada will next year increase their fodder crops as they may, they will find a ready market for all the hay they have to spare, at better prices than they have realized for some years, or we cannot read the signs of the times aright. A little planning for silage and fodder crops will enable them to feed more cattle at home and have hay to sell.

Planting Tree Seeds.

Apple seed and plum and cherry pits can be kept in the cellar in condition to grow with proper attention to watering. But in any ordinary dry cellar the sand gets too dry to prepare the seeds for germinating the first season. It is much safer to bury outside, where they will have regular moisture and more or less freezing and thawing. It is also safe to plant these seeds and pits in the fall, if properly managed. Cover the seed at least three inches deep in drills by mounding two inches about the surface. Early in spring rake off the mound, leaving the seed one inch deep with a mellow surface for a seed bed. In this way the surface is not packed and the plants will make larger growth the first season than we secure with spring planting.—Farmers' Advocate.

Buff Turkeys.

Buff turkeys probably resulted from selected crosses of the bronze and white breeds. In size and general qualities they resemble the White Holland, but with pure buff plumage. The full color is hard to get and every hatch includes birds with black or white in the plumage. This difficulty is perhaps the chief cause of lack of popularity. Buff turkeys are seldom kept on farms, al-

PURE-BRED BUFF TURKEY.

though they are considered equal to the other small breeds for general purposes.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Cover Strawberries.

I would advise those who have not covered their strawberry plants to do so as soon as possible, unless they are well covered with snow, and in that case have the material ready and put it on when the snow melts off. It is the hard freezing, when unprotected by snow or other stuff, that kills strawberry plants. If it is the freezing and thawing of spring that does the mischief, then in the latitude of Southern Illinois strawberries could not be raised, as their entire winter is made up of the alternate freezing and thawing. Put first enough to hide the foliage. Marsh hay is as good as anything; better than straw on account of foul seed.—Wisconsin Agriculturist.

Roadside Weeds.

Not many farmers bother themselves about the weeds that grow alongside their farms on the roads, and, as a rule, not many road overseers care whether the weeds grow on the roads or not; but these same weeds produce seed and keep the farm well supplied with weeds every year, which cost the farmers large sums to destroy. The wise farmer will keep the weeds down at his own expense if they grow on the road.

Weed Seed for Birds.

Some one has said that if weeds were kept down birds of many kinds must become extinct for lack of food. Of this there appears no immediate danger, and we hope that when birds are likely to suffer from this cause there will be people who for humanity's sake will furnish food for them. A handful of oats, millet seed and other small grains thrown out every day in winter will supply a vast number of small birds, and if we were rid of the detestable English sparrow, we could have the trees around our houses thronged with song sparrows, finches, chickadees, wrens, snow birds, and hosts of other birds both winter and summer.

A New Hybrid.

The Brazilian minister at Washington has communicated to the United States department the fact that Baron de Parana in Rio Janeiro has succeeded in producing a cross between the zebra and the mare, a hybrid which is much larger and handsomer than the mule. The male used is what is known as Burchell's zebra, a native of South Africa, which is naturally less wild and more tractable than the mountain zebra, and which has been so far domesticated as to work in teams of six, eight or more together, or with the same number of horses, though it does not work kindly singly or in pairs, as in its native haunts it went in large droves for protection against other wild beasts. The baron claims that they are more docile and gentle than the ordinary mule, quicker, softer mouthed, with no tendency to kick, remarkably sprightly, have extraordinary muscular strength, and are much less subject to disease and far easier cared for than the mule.

The Lean Cow.

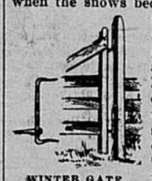
Another cow may be pouring nearly all her feed and part of herself into the milk pail. It is often said that a cow will first take care of herself before she will make milk out of her food. She does not always do it. There are cows that seem intent on making milk and nothing else. They utterly neglect to feed their systems, and such cows will become thinner and thinner. If we are watching the individual and observe a cow like that, we will increase the ration and keep on increasing it as long as we can get returns. It is a little trouble—but not so much, after all—to vary the rations to suit different cows. The cow that is taking on flesh should have very little, if any, fat-forming food. Eliminate the cornmeal, or other similar ingredient, from her ration. Feed her wholly or mainly on nitrogenous foods. For the thin cow, increase the fat-forming elements. —Exchange.

Cultivation of Berries.

Berries should be cultivated from planting time to fruiting season, keeping the ground pulverized between the rows; strawberries, however, should be mulched with straw, which takes the place of cultivation. Blackberries, which often dry up on the bushes before the crop is all matured, can be saved, in most cases, by frequent surface cultivation between the rows, retaining moisture, which nourishes the plants and matures late blooms. The roots of trees spread on every side the same distance as the limbs extend, and therefore cultivation should cover the entire surface; in the case of large trees, none but shallow plowing should be done, so as not to injure the roots.—Farmers' Voice.

A Winter Gate.

A gate that must be used in winter is often opened and shut with difficulty when the snows become deep. If the hinges are made according to the plan shown in the accompanying illustration the gate can be raised continually as the snows become deeper and deeper. The long part of the hinge is made of a rod of iron that will turn easily in the eye of the other part of the hinge. In the lower hinge have three or four holes drilled through the iron rod, as shown. When the gate is to be raised slip a 20-penny wire nail through the required hole beneath the part containing the eye, and the gate will stand at the elevation required. When the snow is gone the gate can be returned to its natural position.



WINTER GATE.

Farmers' Children.

Farms are places for raising crops, not only crops of grain, but crops of men and women. From the farmers' boys and girls come not only the physical health and strength, but also many, aye, most of the brightest minds in the various walks of life. Farmers' boys and girls have ample opportunity for the education and development of their mental faculties. Good schools are abundant and easily accessible. The high schools in the smaller cities are now nearly or quite as good as were many of the colleges fifty years ago, while State normal schools, agricultural colleges and universities furnish wonderful opportunities for the education of the youth of the present day.—Farmers' Advocate.

Getting Rid of Rats.

Mix corn meal and plaster of paris together, about one-third plaster of paris. The rats will eat the corn meal, also some of the dry plaster. As they pick the corn meal out, add a little more meal to it, and mix together, put it in shallow dishes and set it around in different places. Also have some water convenient for them to drink. And in three or four days you will not be troubled with rats.

To Keep Apples.

An experiment made by a Michigan grower of apples shows that if apples are packed in kiln-dried clean sand, and the apples not allowed to touch, they may be put into bins and kept for months, provided the bins are in a cool, dry place and the apples not bruised. Success has been obtained by the use of well-dried corn and oats also, especially in keeping with beets, turnips and potatoes.

Farm Notes.

Whether feeding two or three times

Shelter sheep from cold rains.

Do not allow manure to accumulate in the stables.

Sheep as much as any other stock require dry bedding.

As the roads get bad the loads should be made lighter.

Old stock of any kind decrease in value as they become older.

The most profitable stock to feed is young, thrifty, growing animals.

It is a safe rule on very cold days to increase the grain rations.

It is a loss not to feed sufficient to maintain a good, thrifty condition.

Late fall plowing helps materially in destroying the white grub.

Young animals are easily kept thrifty if they are well sheltered.

The team that is expected to do the hauling during the winter should be well shod, and should have good blankets to protect them at any time they may be left standing in the cold.—Kansas Farmer.

THE HAWKEYE STATE

NEWS OF THE WEEK CONCISELY CONDENSED.

Wholesale Grocers Organize—Fire at Chelsea—Forced by Law to Pay Church Subscription—Des Moines Wants Glucose Plant—Interest Rates Rise.

The co-operative plan of the wholesale grocery merchants of Iowa has been adopted by representatives of the leading Iowa houses and a stock company with $75,000 paid-up capital has been formed and the following officers elected: President, A. P. Spencer, Oskaloosa; vice-president, C. M. Carr, Marshalltown; treasurer, H. Sloane, Marshalltown; secretary, H. J. Johnson, Marshalltown; board of directors, C. M. Carr, H. Sloane, G. P. Smith, A. P. Spencer, J. P. Johnson, J. C. Letts, H. L. Spencer, C. S. Ellis and F. C. Letts.

Saved by the Sleet.

The loss by the fire at Chelsea, on close estimate will foot up to about $3,000 over all insurance. Had it not been for the sleet storm of the previous day nothing could have saved the town from complete destruction, as a high wind was blowing from the northwest, which carried sparks and pieces of burning shingles for fully half a mile. During the fire L. McCall was injured by the nozzle of a hose line falling from a roof and striking him on the head, cutting two very bad gashes.

Church Wins an Odd Case.

The Supreme Court held that a church subscription made on Sunday is collectable. E. M. Donald of Fort Madison, defendant in a case brought by the First Methodist Episcopal Church, appealed from a similar decision by the Lee County District Court. Donald set up a defense that the obligation having been entered into on Sunday was illegal and that there was no consideration. Both claims are overruled.

Rates on Farm Loans Go Up.

Iowa bankers and financial concerns are raising the rates on farm loans, and where 5 and 5½ per cent was accepted until recently 6 and 7 is now demanded and secured. Bankers report that the demand for money is fully equal to the supply for the first time in two years. They attribute it to the tightness of the Eastern money market, and say the East is drawing a great deal of cash out of Iowa.

Boy Drowned.

The 17-year-old son of Al Smith was drowned at Peterson. He was crossing the river on foot and broke through. The ice was too thin to support his weight and he was unable to crawl out. He broke a channel ten feet long towards shore, but the freezing water soon benumbed him. The body was recovered several hours later.

Wants the Glucose Plant.

F. M. Hubbell is negotiating for the removal of the Marshalltown plant of the Glucose Sugar Refining Company to Des Moines. The company has been annoyed at Marshalltown by injunctions against its sewage and it is stated the cheaper fuel in Des Moines would pay the expense of removal in a few years.

Railroad Laborers in a Riot.

A riot took place at Fort Dodge with a party of 100 laborers on the Fort Dodge and Omaha Railroad. The entire police force was dispatched to the depot, where the men were corraled and forced into cars. Several were stabbed. The cars were attached to the east-bound passenger train and taken out of the city.

Frederick Earling Is Killed.

Frederick Earling of Milwaukee, chief lineman, and brother of A. J. Earling, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, was badly crushed in a fall beneath the wheels of a work train at Nemaha and died from his injuries.

Brief State Happenings.

A goat farm is being conducted in Jackson.

Red Oak has granted a franchise to a gas company.

Hog cholera is still raging in some parts of Guthrie County.

The foundation is in for the new $20,000 Catholic church at Tama.

The carpenters are at work on the Iowa Central depot at Algona.

Mt. Ayr is now talking about a water works and electric light system.

Company H of the National Guard has been mustered in at Marshalltown.

During November there were fifty-five berths and twenty-eight deaths in Dubuque.

The State Treasurer has so far received $2,044.78 for the Porto Rican relief fund.

The Northern Iowa Implement Association will meet in Des Moines next month.

It is believed that the Rock Island will erect a new modern depot at Des Moines in 1900.

The list of the Davenport Business Men's Association contains over three hundred names.

A charity ball held at Dubuque increased the fund of the Home of the Friendless by about $1,000.

The State board of control has adopted the grade system of clothing for inmates of penitentiaries.

A farmer of Union township had a herd of nineteen hogs stolen from him. A vigilance committee is proposed.

Rev. Fr. Schulte of Remsen has secured pledges for about $30,000 for a new church in St. Mary's parish.

The Commercial Club at Muscatine has approved of the scheme for a new theater, and will push it all they can.

Plans are being received at Council Bluffs for an electric light plant, to ultimately become the property of the city.

Rev. John Longson has been appointed pastor of the Baptist Church at Belle Plaine.

Jewell believes that the proposed Des Moines, Iowa Falls and Northern will be through there.

An interlocking switch arrangement will be put in at the C. & N. W. crossing at Marathon.

Michael Boyle, an oldtime resident of Council Bluffs, was run down and killed by a freight train.

The west section of the Florentine block in Des Moines was destroyed by fire. Loss about $9,000.

Ninety-seven packages of various kinds containing liquor were seized at the depot at Shenandoah.

The school at Linn Grove has been closed and will be kept closed until the smallpox scare is over.

One hundred and nine conversions are reported as the result of the revival meetings at Oskaloosa.

The Des Moines, Iowa Falls and Northern is having a preliminary survey made from Iowa Falls to Des Moines.

The farm house of John Tansy near Clarion was destroyed by fire and himself cremated. The origin is unknown, as the victim lived alone.

Ex-Judge Horace S. Winslow died in Newton.

The drug store of J. L. Cahill at Thompson was badly damaged by fire. Loss about $1,000.

The 2-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Umstead of Fort Dodge fell into a pail of boiling water and was severely scalded.

Contracts have been let for three elevators of 20,000 bushels capacity, to be built on the M. & St. L. southeast of Fort Dodge.

The trustees of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanics' Art, at Ames, object to it being called the "Agricultural college."

Woodbine has purchased a building to use as a town hall.

Coal miners at Coalville and Kalo have been out on a strike.

A Sunday closing ordinance is being agitated at Hamburg.

The new Presbyterain church at Audubon has been dedicated.

High grade lead ore has been found on a farm in Iowa township.

Hog cholera has devastated herds in the vicinity of Melbourne.

Over $125,000 has been spent on buildings in Newton this year.

Anna L. Everland has been commissioned postmaster at Ferry.

The postoffice at Burns has been discontinued; mail to Elm Grove.

The finishing touches are being put on the new theater at Fort Dodge.

The postoffice at West Lake has been discontinued; mail to Kanawha.

The family of Joseph Kolz of Burlington was poisoned by eating bad cheese.

Dr. G. M. Davis, a long-time influential citizen of Clinton, died, aged 80 years.

The Stanton memorial chimes at Ames have been hoisted and placed in position.

The smallpox scare at Corning has subsided, and the quarantine has been raised.

The light and water system at Valley Junction is being hurried forward to completion.

A steel pipe company has been organized at Waterloo, with a capital stock of $20,000.

A second gas company has been organized in Des Moines, with a capital of $200,000.

Creston will make an effort to secure the 1901 meeting of the Iowa Dairymen's Association.

Two towns in Emmet County have asked to be named Luzon by the Postoffice Department.

Five barbers in Des Moines were fined $12.50 each for keeping their shops open on Sunday.

The Northwestern road has commenced excavations for its new round house at Mason City.

A saloonkeeper at Denison had to pay a woman $400 for selling liquor illegally to her husband.

J. P. Jaques, a miner at Coalville, was perhaps fatally injured by a fall of slate in a mine there.

Five valuable colts belonging to a farmer near Nodaway were run into and killed by the cars.

The last spike has been driven on the Fonda, Marathon and Spencer extension of the C., M. & St. P.

Harry L. Wagoner, aged 24, living near Blue Grass, fell into a well head first and was drowned.

A society lady of Des Moines has been arrested for shoplifting, but was released on making restitution.

Rev. Joseph A. Anderson of Creston has accepted a call to the Swedish Lutheran Church at Boone.

Officials of the Iowa Central say the company will build a fine new depot at Mason City in the spring.

Capt. H. E. Dwyer of Company A, Fifty-second Iowa, at Mason City, has handed in his resignation.

The general store of Shover & Lundy at Altoona was entered by burglars and a quantity of goods taken.

Over five hundred school children have been vaccinated at Rock Rapids. The law is being enforced there.

The C. & N. W. Railroad has paid out $18,000 to laborers at the camp at Quarry every month since last May.

George Harris, colored, shot and killed a colored woman cook at the railroad camp near Fairfield and escaped.

The Associated Charities of Des Moines will hold a charity ball in January, in opposition to the ministerial society.

Jesse Walters, a 17-year-old lad of Waterloo, was shot in the side by the accidental discharge of his shotgun.

Burglars attempted to blow open the safe of the H. A. Bechtel Lumber Company at Adel, but were unsuccessful.

The report of the fish commissioner shows that fourteen cars of fish have been placed in Iowa waters this year.

The site of the postoffice at Broadway has been removed into Delaware County, and Wm. Kehoe appointed postmaster.

Mrs. Archie of Nodaway has commenced action against the C., B. & Q. for $2,000 damages for the death of her husband.

The custodian of the public building at Davenport has been authorized to invite bids for furnishing electric light for that building.

J. S. Crawford of the Cherokee Herald has been appointed an attache to the United States commission to the Paris exposition.

Peter Brown of Missouri Valley was shot in the thigh through a companion dropping a revolver, which caused it to discharge.

C. B. Antes, an engineer at the power house at Muscatine, had his eyes severely burned by an electric spark from the machinery.

Fred Sparks, quarantined for diphtheria at Marshalltown, left town unknown to the authorities, and they have offered $10 for his arrest.

The 12-year-old son of Mr. Smith, living near Danbury, is suffering from lockjaw, caused by a lash of a whip slightly bruising his face.

George Rosenfeld, a wealthy farmer of Story County, left his home near Kelly with $10,000 in his possession with the intention of going to Germany, without telling his family, but he was stopped at Chicago.

Dr. Preston, a physician of the Board of Health at Davenport, recommends that the regulations governing vaccination be put into effect, as smallpox promises to be prevalent over the country this winter.

Sixty-three pupils in the high school at Shenandoah have been converted as a result of revival meetings held there.

Harley Barnhill, the Chicago Great Western brakeman who was injured a few days ago at Green Mountain, had his left leg amputated and hopes are entertained for his recovery.

The records of the Iowa weather and crop service show that the total output of corn in this State for the ten years from 1890 to 1899 inclusive, amounts to over two and a half billion bushels, or an average of over 250,000,000 bushels per year.

The judiciary committee of the City Council of Marshalltown has refunded $34,000 of the city's bonds at reduced rates.

The Iowa Short Horn Breeders' Association has held its meeting at Ames. The attendance has been the largest in recent years, there being in the neighborhood of 100 representative stock men from different parts of the State there.

A new mining discovery is announced at Dubuque. It is the finding of lead ore under zinc ore. The discovery was made in the Pike's Peak shaft, which had been operated by means of a pump for some time past. Great results are expected.

John Savage, a young man of Colfax, fell down the shaft of the Carbondale mine at Des Moines, a distance of 125 feet, and was killed.

W. A. Jefferson has commenced suit in Des Moines against the Keystone Coal Company for $5,000 damages for injuries received in a fall of slate, caused by negligence of the company.

Early the other morning a burglar entered the office of the St. Louis, Keokuk and Northwestern Railroad Company at Fort Madison and secured $134 by opening the safe during the temporary absence of the operator. An attempt was made to rob the Santa Fe depot, but failed.

STATE CAPITAL CHAT.

DES MOINES

The annual report of the railroads of Iowa, made to the railroad commission, is in many ways the most interesting report ever given out by the commission. Iowa, standing fourth in the entire number of States in mileage at the close of the present year, with not far from 9,000 miles of road in operation, will be near second place at the close of another year, because it is now assured that a larger mileage will be laid in the State next year than this. There are thirty-seven companies in the State reporting to the railroad commissioners. This statement, however, is misleading, because many of these are local corporations which only nominally own lines that really belong to the large systems. The great part of Iowa railroad mileage is owned by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, which leads all the other systems; the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Chicago and Northwestern, the Rock Island, the Illinois Central, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern, and the Central of Iowa. For the entire mileage in the State, the following figures are given on the business of the year, ending Jan. 1, 1899: Total gross earnings, $48,466,158; total operating expenses, $31,479,771; compensation of employe, $18,406,883; number of employes, 32,385. These figures indicate an increase of over $3,000,000 in gross earnings over any previous year. The wages paid employes for 1898 were $1,200,000 larger than for the preceding year.

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The biennial report of Richard C. Barrett, State superintendent of public instruction, is full of important recommendations to the Legislature. Mr. Barrett recommends that the Legislature appropriate money to found three new normal schools, one each in the northwest, southwest and southeast corners of the State; that these be located by a commission. He names no specific sum of money to be appropriated. He says that the State normal and the twenty-seven private normal institutions cannot furnish enough first-grade teachers for the city and town schools, to say nothing of the rural schools, in which 70 per cent of the pupils are. Mr. Barrett, pursuant to directions of the Legislature, reports on his investigation of plans for establishing school district librarians. He favors the Wisconsin plan, under which 10 cents per pupil is set aside from the school funds each year, in each district, for investment in books. These he would have maintained as a circulating library for the district. Prof. Barrett strongly urges the township plan of organization for rural schools and making the township the unit instead of the sub-district. This, he shows, would make it possible to have graded schools in rural townships, the pupils being transported from distant parts at the expense of the township.

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A petition will be presented to the Legislature this winter, which is expected to be the largest memorial ever laid before that body, asking the enactment of a compulsory education law for pupils from 6 to 14 years old. Senator Hayward of Scott County has prepared a compulsory education bill, on which the petitions are based.

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Seventy-nine building and loan associations, domestic to Iowa, twenty-seven domestic to the United States, and one foreign building and loan association are doing business in Iowa. These figures are shown by the biennial report of the State Auditor.

State Items of Interest.

Carbon is to have a new stucco mill.

A gas company has been incorporated at Adair.

The U. B. Society at Fremont is building a church.

Louisa County has decided to erect a county asylum.

A lodge of Yeomen has been instituted at Council Bluffs.

The Illinois Central is now running trains into Council Bluffs.

The Fordenwalt school house, near West Point, has been burned to the ground.

The Rock Island will enlarge its equipment in the shops at Valley Junction next season.

The Dubuque Savings Bank, with a capital of $50,000, has filed articles of incorporation.

Joseph Kublic, aged 24, was killed in a coal mine at Des Moines by a premature explosion.

William Eichner, Sr., has been appointed postmaster at Killduff, vice F. J. Birchard, resigned.

Zenas W. Chapman of Bristol and A. D. Wilson of Millnerville have been appointed postmasters.

The excavations for the sewer in Keokuk are believed to be the cause of so much illness in that city.

Application has been made for the establishment of rural free delivery at Atalissa and North Manchester.

Mrs. Bateman of Monroe took some poison in mistake for medicine, but vomiting set in, which probably saved her life.

Two hundred employes of the Fort Dodge and Omaha Railroad near Ullmer went out on strike, but the company settled with them.

An opinion has been handed down in the Supreme Court at Des Moines, favorable to the river fronters in the now famous court house site controversy of that city.

The Iowa State Association of County Supervisors will hold its third biennial meeting at Ames Jan. 18-19.

The postal receipts in Des Moines for November show an increase of $3,084 over the same period of last year.

Two immense engines are being built in the shops at West Burlington for use between Ottumwa and Creston and Ottumwa and Burlington respectively.

Robert L. Don