OUR GOLD AND SILVER

THE ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Secretary Foster Discusses the Silver Question Before the Great Body of Merchants and Bankers.

NEW YORK, November 17.—The Chamber of Commerce gave its one hundred and twenty-third annual dinner at Delmonico's to-night. The affair was especially notable. Covers were laid for 232. It was just 9 o'clock when the great body sat down at the tables, Rev. Dr. Charles A. Briggs offered an invocation. Letters of regret were received from Vice-President Morton, President Cleveland, and Secretary of State Blaine. Flanking President Smith at the table were Secretary-elect Foster and Hon. Carl Schurz. On the other side of the table were Secretary of the Treasury Foster and Hon. Carl Schurz. Charles A. Smith, in calling the guests to order, said: There is no doubt that the people of the United States are honest and do not give their creditors' worth of silver to pass for the same in payment of debts.

FINANCE AND CHARACTER.

New York could take London's place as the banking depository two things are necessary: First. We must make the world believe that a gold dollar deposited in New York can be repaid in gold. This is a question of character as well as finance, and it concerns the honor of the American merchant. And second, we must have steamships sailing under the American flag to all the world's commercial ports. Commerce regulates exchange, and we can be the world's business permanently and profitably only unless we can deliver the products of the world in our own steamers.

GOLD-AND-SILVER PARTY.

Secretary Foster was then introduced and received with a round of applause. "To maintain the parity of gold and silver is the fixed policy of this Government," he said: "To maintain the parity of gold and silver is the first policy of the Government because we all recognize its supremacy. When we come to the question of how it is the best to pursue to maintain that condition, serious differences of opinion arise. It is to undertake an argument against many of the views that may be advanced by members of the Chamber of Commerce. The great action it may determine to the great body of men in the world ought to be in their undertakings it is the Chamber of Commerce in New York. They should be the practical things that can be gained from the impossible idol, which I prefer. Prior to 1890 we had many good people who believed that our currency should be based upon gold and silver.

TOO NARROW A BASIS.

Based on all sides that gold alone was too narrow a basis upon which to conduct the affairs of the world. Fifteen States of the East who were supposed to be the question of finances indulged in the evil that would follow unlimited coinage of silver dollars. I believe largely for the reason that the manufacturers of the country—the commerce of New York and the East—held that the parity could be maintained even with a smaller coinage.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE.

Notwithstanding the doleful predictions of authorities, we have coined not only 378,000,000 of silver dollars, but reached the figure of 412,000,000. We have besides purchased 168,000,000 ounces of silver bullion, and paid for it by the issue of 156,000,000 of new Treasury-notes, which parity is maintained. Is there now anybody who would have been regarded as a lunatic if he had spoken on the subject but who would have predicted that under such conditions the two metals would be preserved? Is there anybody who would have predicted that the two metals would be preserved? Is there anybody who would have predicted that the business interests would be so combined and whose purposes are so related are moved to indulge in congratulations over the present outlook and the action through the Chamber of Commerce and Congress to repeal the present law, hoping thereby to preserve the party of gold and silver. My purpose to dispute this position; I only make myself the special advocate of what I believe to be its standpoint. I do not propose to make a prophecy as to what is to happen.

NEVER DELIVERED IT.

I recollect about how, in 1876, he had prepared a speech on a silver speech with which to astonish the House of Representatives. I read the speech, and I thought the speech was beautiful, at the time for its delivery. I thought perhaps the speech better than any, and it was never delivered. If I recollect rightly, the Times, which was belittling him, said students had been convicted of hazing in the college in his office. He merely mentioned the fact that many other gentlemen had been as prudent as himself, and every single one discovered he was more or less in error.

HIS OPINION ABOUT PARITY.

Continuing he said: "The question to consider is what policy is attainable, remembering the time that the ideal is impossible, and that the most strain upon our resources will be to resort to the exercise of extraordinary powers conferred upon us to do what the law compels us to do, to maintain the parity of gold and silver in my opinion, with all of our power, conferred by law, with all of our resources to their fullest extent, we could maintain the parity of the two metals if the free coinage of silver prevailed.

CAN BE MAINTAINED.

I am firmly of the opinion the parity of the two metals can be maintained under the present law, to produce in this country about 54,000,000 ounces of gold annually. The present indications are that the balance of trade with Europe for the next two years and for a long period, if the present tariff laws are enacted, will require gold shipments to us to settle the balance in our favor. Under the present law 4,500,000 ounces of silver per month are required for this purchase its value in new 412,000,000 dollars. Under such conditions the means of maintaining the parity will not require the extraordinary exercise of power or to be a drain upon the resources of the country.

COULD STAND THE STRAIN.

However, the balance of trade should turn against us to a great extent, which seems to me improbable, except in the event of extraordinary contingencies abroad, the strain would be; but even then my faith in our resources is such as to compel me to believe that we could weather the storm and preserve the parity. The development of more than $70,000,000 in Europe without embarrassment to any is illustration of the marvellous financial strength of this country, to which I have referred. So in my opinion nothing short of an exceptionally large drain of gold is likely to produce a strain upon our resources in the effort to maintain the parity of gold and silver, unless the coinage silver would take the place of gold in settling balances.

ALL IN THE WORLD.

If the price of silver were advanced from $1 per ounce all of the silver for sale in the world would be attracted to this country. We have but a hundred and odd millions of dollars of $100,000,000 we now have, and that is as fast as the mints could coin them. To maintain the parity under such conditions would be a task requiring more than our immense resources and the exercise of unusual power to the last degree could supply, but with 412,000,000 of silver only per month purchase at the good value the task would be easy.

WHICH POLICIES.

In my opinion, gentlemen, the practical question for us to consider is, which of these two policies will you prefer. I know you have expressed a desire for the repeal of the present law. I understand you do not propose a change of ground. If you have your way you propose to permit silver to take care of itself. The Secretary would call attention to the fact that this would cause silver to decline and thus make the effort to maintain parity, but also he does not believe that Congress shares their views.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

The Secretary further said: Believing that the business world must in the end be brought into harmony with us in the belief that gold alone is too narrow a basis on which to build the world's financial system, I have much hope that the best thought of all concerned will agree to a better and extended use of silver, to be followed by international agreements by which the parity of the two metals upon an accepted ratio may be maintained. I feel quite safe in saying that one of the objectives to an early agreement in the direction I have indicated is the belief in Europe that free coinage is to be the policy of the country.

OBSTACLE REMOVED.

It is to be our policy they know their silver is to come to us, and that our gold will go to Europe. I am not part of wisdom for us to refrain from doing that will impair our ability to maintain the parity. Convince Europe that we can and will, and I believe that will remove the principal obstacle to the agreement so desired is removed. In what I have said I express the opinion of myself only.

Secretary C. Foster responded to the toast "Education, the Law of Wealth As It Is the Law of Christ," and Professor Charles A. Briggs to "Higher Education."

THE FLORIDA SENATORSHIP.

Secretary Crawford Affixes the Seal of the State to Davidson's Commission.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., November 17.—This morning Secretary-of-State Crawford attached the following to Governor Fleming's commission to S. R. M. Davidson as United States Senator, which has been in the Secretary's hands for nearly six weeks awaiting his signature:

In obedience to the opinion and decision of the Supreme Court of Florida and the peremptory writ thereon to me issued this date in the case of the State of Florida, *ex rel.* Francis P. Fleming, Governor, plaintiff, *vs.* John L. Crawford, Secretary of State, defendant, I have affixed the great seal of the State, at Tallahassee, Capital, this 17th day of November, A. D. 1891.

JOHN L. CRAWFORD,
Secretary of State."

The Supreme Court met at 11 o'clock and Chief-Justice Raney read a communication from Secretary Crawford, which stated that the mandate of the court had been executed. No further action was taken in the matter by the court.

Whether or not this qualified signature will be acceptable to Governor Fleming and the court is not known to-night. Heretofore the Governor has declined to accept anything upon the commission except the Secretary's signature and seal in the usual way, without qualification or explanation. The present endorsement on the commission is practically what Secretary Crawford has repeatedly offered to put on it and what Governor Fleming has refused to accept. It is probable, however, that the Governor will now accept it rather than begin another suit in the Supreme Court to compel a signature such as he prefers.

Striking Miners' Riots in France.

PARIS, November 17.—The miners' troubles in the department of Pas-de-Calais continue unabated and the men who still remain faithful to their employers are not in an enviable position. The strikers have endeavored in some cases to forcibly prevent the men from working. There have been several riots, and at Lieven the strikers and police had a hot fight. The authorities have called on the troops.

THE AFFAIR AT THE COLLEGE.

The Dispatch's Informant Explains How He Fell into Error—Dr. Hatcher's Card.

The following letter was brought to the DISPATCH office last night and is published in justice to the writer to this paper, and to the five young gentlemen whose names were mentioned in the item printed yesterday, and to which this refers:

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

It is very unfortunate that such a serious mistake appeared in your columns this morning, though the item referred to was furnished and published in good faith on the part of your correspondent and yourselves. Suffer a few words in explanation. Your informant was absent from college for about ten days prior to the stir referred to in your columns. On the night of the 16th instant he was passing down one of the halls and saw quite a number of the students collected in one of the rooms. He entered and inquired the cause of the excitement. He saw two men strapping a trunk and was informed that one of the occupants of the room had suffered the loss of his scholarship and was preparing to leave college the next morning. He next inquired why this gentleman had lost his scholarship, and was informed that it was taken from him on account of his participating in what he considered only fun, but what was not so lightly considered by the other man or men interested. Your correspondent was informed that all the men who were receiving aid from the college and were engaged in this work had been deprived of that aid. He was very busy and went on to his room and tried to finish up his work. Later he was informed by several gentlemen that matters were coming to a crisis. From other students he learned the names of the men who reported themselves as preparing to leave college.

He had no reason to think that they were trying to make a false impression. He had known aid to be withdrawn from men for similar reasons. The faculty had held a meeting that evening. Everything went to substantiate the report. This scribe, who is a personal friend of one of the DISPATCH reporters and had been requested to furnish any information of interest about the college, found that this matter was causing quite a stir, and seemed to many of the students, your correspondent among them, a feather in the cap of the faculty in that they were taking prompt steps against such actions. Therefore he prepared the following report, which the DISPATCH saw fit to change a little:

"SAD TIMES AT RICHMOND COLLEGE."

"Messrs. (Here followed the names of the five young men referred to) are packing their trunks and preparing to leave on early trains this morning for their respective homes.

"The reason given by these gentlemen for their unexpected departure is, that the college has withdrawn its aid from four of them in the form of scholarships and from the fifth, (name was given) in the form of board by the Education Board of Virginia.

"They report that the authorities of the college have taken this step on account of their participation in ill treatment of some new students a few nights ago.

"It will perhaps be gratifying to many patrons of the college to know that the Faculty are bold enough to protect their sons from mistreatment, while the few will sorrow from the unexpected return of their sons."

This morning your correspondent was informed that the whole matter had been a joke. He considered the subject, and thought best to wait and correct the mistake in this issue. One of the gentlemen has been kind enough to give me quite a bit of information about the matter. Though this gentleman seemed to think your correspondent did wrong in supposing that he really meant what he said on Monday night, he dares trust it again, and now thinks that the matter was all intended to worry the man who reported them to the Faculty. Numbers of very reputable students will testify that the impression conveyed in my report is the one which prevailed in the college-building, certainly until a late hour that night. That they participated in the hazing they have not denied. Several of them were seen to go in the Chairman's office Monday evening after supper. Why should we not suppose they were in earnest in what they said when they came out?

Respectfully, C. T. TAYLOR.

Dr. Hatcher's Card.

The DISPATCH received the following note on the same subject early in the day yesterday:

RICHMOND, VA., November 17, 1891.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Your trustworthy reporter was evidently misled in reference to a matter of serious importance mentioned in your columns yesterday. The statement is made that the Education Board of the Virginia Baptists and also the Committee on Scholarships had withdrawn their aid from certain students at Richmond College because the said students had been convicted of hazing.

I am the president of the Education Board, and also the chairman of the Committee on Scholarships, and I take pleasure in saying that no such action has been taken. So far from it no charge has been preferred against the young gentlemen mentioned in your columns of to-day. I know that you will be happy to make this correction. Very respectfully, H. E. HATCHER.

(It will be seen from the above explanation that neither Mr. Taylor nor the DISPATCH had any idea but that the facts given yesterday were correct, and it was not the purpose of either to in any way misrepresent the situation or to do injustice to either the college or any of the students. These statements are cheerfully made, and it is hoped will be acceptable to all interested and dispel any erroneous impressions that may have been set abroad.)

THE REQUISITION NOT HONORED.

Governor Campbell Declines to Issue a Warrant for Whitman.

COLUMBUS, O., November 10.—A complicated and interesting case has occupied the attention of Governor Campbell and Attorney-General Watson for several days. It was caused by an extradition warrant from Governor McKinney, of Virginia, for the return to that State of William S. Whitman, indicted in Rockbridge county for grand larceny.

Whitman appeared with Colonel Evan Williams and T. R. Johnson, his attorneys, to protest against the requisition being honored. In such cases it is the rule to refer the question either to the prosecuting attorney or Attorney-General, and the latter officer was called on.

WHAT WHITMAN CLAIMS.

Whitman, who is now engaged in business at Ironton, claims that the indictment is due to business differences growing out of an inflated boom, which has now become very flat under an agreement with the Rockbridge Company. He says he entered into an arrangement to build a foundry at Glasgow and operate the same, in consideration of which he was to receive a bonus. As long as the purchasers continued to pay good prices and put down their cash for the property the bonus was paid. It stopped with the cessation of the boom, and the Rockbridge Company gave three notes aggregating about $25,000 for deferred payments. The notes were mailed to Mr. Whitman, at Ironton, O., and the foundry stopped operations. The company endeavored to gain possession of the notes, and failing in this had Whitman indicted. Sheriff Robert R. White, D. W. Shaw, and R. R. Witt appeared here as agents of Virginia.

NOT A VIRGINIA OFFENCE.

After listening to a statement of the case substantially as outlined above, the Attorney-General held that if it was a crime the offence had been committed in Ohio, where the notes were received and endorsed to others, and expressed doubts as to there being anything of a criminal character in connection with the case, believing it to be wholly a business disagreement for adjustment in the civil courts.

On the strength of this Governor Campbell declined to issue a warrant for Whitman's arrest. The father of the defendant is in business in this city and, with several other sons, was present at the hearing.

Executive Discourtesy

GLASGOW, VA., November 17.—The grand jury of Rockbridge county indicted W. S. Witman, of Ironton, Ohio, for felony. Governor Campbell refuses to honor Governor McKinney's requisition. Ohio entered into an agreement with Virginia and twenty-two other States as to the extradition of fugitives from justice, and Governor Campbell's course is being severely criticised.

NO DESIGNS ON THE BALKANS.

Count Kalnoky Gives Assurances of Peace—The Tageblatt's Publication.

VIENNA, November 17.—At a meeting of the Budget Committee yesterday Count Kalnoky assured the committee that the Emperor's speech, referred to by the *Tageblatt*, ought to cause no uneasiness; that although the Emperor drew attention to the contradiction between the preparations for war and the talk of peace, the Government hoped that the problem presented by the strained situation would find a peaceful solution. Count Kalnoky repeated positively that Austria had not designs on the Balkans. In the lower house of the Reichsrath several members asked what the Government proposed to do about the *Tageblatt* publication.

It was dangerous, the Count said, to interfere with such mixed and sunburn races. He announced that the Zollverein treaties would be discussed by the Austrian and Hungarian delegations conjointly in December. Count von Taafe, the Austrian Prime Minister, said the matter had been placed in the hands of a public prosecutor and that that official was taking the preliminary steps to prosecute the author of the alarming reports, which had such a bad effect upon the Bourse.

LOSS OF THE BARK KATE SANCTON.

Nine of the Crew Die From Exposure—Rescue of the Captain and Three Men.

LONDON, November 17.—News was received here to-day that the British bark Kate Sanction, Captain Evans, which sailed from Shields November 4th for Pensacola, was abandoned in a sinking condition in the North Sea on the 10th instant. The vessel encountered terrific gales and finally was strained so much that the men could not keep her afloat. The water pouring in, the men took to the boats and had a terrible experience, nine dying of exposure. The captain and three men were rescued by a passing vessel in a pitiable condition and brought here.

Field Trials at High Point.

HIGH POINT, N. C., November 17.—The morning was rainy and the start late. The wind was very high and the work not good. The Derby stakes were completed. The result was: Wung Lung first, Bob Cooper second, Camille third. Three braces were run in the all-age stakes. The work in the all-age stakes was very good. The ground was very wet. A drizzling rain part of the day and high winds made it difficult for the dogs to find the birds. It is colder and clear and fine sport is expected to-morrow.

Its Excellent Qualities

Commend to public approval the California liquid fruit remedy Syrup of Figs. It is pleasing to the eye and to the taste, and by gently acting on the kidneys, liver, and bowels, it cleanses the system effectually, thereby promoting the health and comfort of all who use it.

THIRD-PARTY FIGHT.

THE ALLIANCE FAILS TO AGREE ON A DEFINITE PLAN OF ACTION.

A Call to Be Issued for a National Meeting of the Anti-Sub-Treasury Alliance Men.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., November 18.—The longer the Alliance remains in session the farther apart grow the various factions. It seems impossible to settle the various organizations down to any definite plan of action or to any united policy. The third-party fight is on in bitter earnest and every move is made with more or less direct reference to this main issue. A split in the Alliance on the sub-Treasury and land-loan principles now seem inevitable. The open meeting of the Alliance this morning was a complete fizzle and lasted but a few moments. When the executive session opened the trouble over the sub-Treasury matter began. A communication was received from the Executive Committee of the anti-sub-Treasury Alliance asking a hearing for the protest prepared by W. Pope Yeamans, of Missouri, under instructions from the St. Louis Convention of last September. The McCune faction opposed any hearing, but Mr. Livingstone, of Georgia, moved the appointment of a committee of five to read the protest and report to the Alliance whether or not it should be read.

A BITTER FIGHT.

On this motion, which was finally carried by a two-thirds vote, a bitter fight was made by the McCune men, who made the charge that the attempt had been made to assassinate Mr. McCune in Mississippi. The committee will call on Messrs. McAllister, Hall, and Yeamans of the Anti-Sub-Treasury Committee this afternoon. These gentlemen will refuse to let the protest be read except in the full Alliance. Mr. McAllister will leave for Fort Worth, Tex., to-morrow and from there will formulate a call for a national meeting of anti-sub-Treasury Alliance men. A separate organization will be maintained all over the country. Before the adjournment of the executive session a significant action was taken which shows that the protest of the anti-sub-Treasury people will receive very little consideration.

THE ROACHDALE PLATFORM.

A resolution was adopted almost unanimously reaffirming the adherence of the Alliance to every plank in the Roachdale platform. Mr. McCune's resolution to reduce the representation one half is likely to pass and give no end of uneasiness to the delegates who have come here with a narrow allowance of funds. It has developed that the treasury is nearly empty, and unless the representation is reduced there will not be enough money to pay all the delegates. The Alliance has been failing of in many States and the State Alliances have been unable to furnish their quota of assessment to the national body. At the Reform Press Association meeting this morning it was decided to permit members who gave their adherence to the main principles of the Alliance to advocate or oppose whatsoever minor ideas they please.

THE F. M. B. A.

The Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association was in secret session till 1 o'clock this afternoon on routine business. The State agents this morning adopted the Roachdale plan, which contemplates cash sales at Alliance stores and a division of profits among the patrons. This is regarded as a black-eye to the Union company. Rumors of scandalous revelations in regard to the action of certain Alliance leaders are still floating around, but no publications have yet been made.

That portion of the Executive Committee of the People's party now here is in almost continuous session. Its efforts are mostly directed toward a consolidation of various industrial bodies in the hope of getting a final endorsement of the third-party idea at the February meeting. The People's party men are still confident of carrying their point. The Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association is having a hard time over the matter of funds. About half the organizations are delinquent and there is no money for the delegates. As a consequence the Ohio delegation left for home at 4 o'clock and many more threaten to leave this afternoon unless the matter is adjusted. As no means of adjusting the matter have been presented it seems that the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association part of the proceeding will soon come to an end.

In the Alliance McCune's resolution cutting down the representation two-fifths both of low finances was adopted. In the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association it is found that many States are delinquent, Ohio being among the number. To-day a resolution was passed not to admit the Ohio delegates until the delinquency was made good. The Ohio delegates would not pay up, and after a long wrangle the operation of the resolution was suspended in their case.

CHAOS REIGNS.

Thus far everything is chaos in the highest degree. There is no enthusiasm, so little in fact that the open meeting announced for this morning was not held for lack of attendance.

The Business-Agents' Association to-day adopted the Rochdale system of selling for cash instead of credit, and dividing profits with the patrons—the Alliance stores to be supplied as heretofore by the Commercial Union.

The Reform Press Association decided to establish an advertising agency in New York for the exclusive benefit of reform papers, of which there are now 1,350. It also decided to establish a plate printing house. The location of this last institution was not fixed, but it will probably be at St. Louis or Cincinnati.

FIERCE FIRE IN ST. PAUL.

Two Large Buildings Gutted—Loss Nearly a Million.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

ST. PAUL, MINN., November 18.—St. Paul last night suffered one of the most disastrous fires in its history, the buildings damaged being those of Griggs, Cooper & Co., wholesale groceries, and Farwell, Ormun, Kirk & Co., wholesale hardware. The total loss is estimated at from $900,000 to $1,000,000, this covered by insurance. The block occupied by the two firms is a brick and stone structure five stories in height, and has a frontage on Third street of 300 feet and on Broadway of 200 feet. Griggs, Cooper & Co. occupy two thirds of the building. The flames first made their appearance at 11:44 o'clock in the fourth floor of Griggs, Cooper & Co.'s establishment, and within less than five minutes the fire department was on hand in force, but a general alarm had to be turned in soon afterward. The fire was in the upper stories. Griggs, Cooper & Co.'s store is divided in halves by a fire-wall running from Third street to the rear and from Farwell, Ormun, Kirk & Co.'s by another wall. The firemen could therefore reach the flames from only three sides, being cut off on the east by the fire-wall. However, they mounted their ladders bravely, faced the flames, which were almost licking their faces, and sent streams horizontally through the windows, thus managing to reach the centre and the east side of the floors. The fire rapidly gutted the top floor, and in half an hour from the time the alarm was sent in flames were leaping heavenward through the roof.

The efforts of the firemen were directed toward keeping the flames confined to the top floors. They were only partially successful, however, for at a few minutes before 1 o'clock the flames worked down a rear elevator shaft and set fire to a stock of 2,000 barrels of sugar stored on the second floor. 100 barrels of which were put in last Monday. The sugar burned fiercely, and six streams were soon directed on this, the firemen succeeding after hours of hard work in drowning out the flames.

Through the roof the flames were communicated to the adjoining store, where they made rapid progress. The upper floor being all aflame the firemen turned their attention to saving the floors below, and by dint of hard work for a time succeeded in confining most of the damage to this floor, though the loss in this department alone would reach fully $300,000, as the more costly and lighter grades of hardware were stored on this floor.

But the fire had too firm a hold to be thus easily vanquished. The flames crept downward in the hardware establishment by the elevator shaft, and one by one the third, second, and first floors succumbed to the flames. The fire in Griggs, Cooper & Co.'s store at this time took a fresh start and turned downward to the ground floor. The fire department fought valiantly but against terrible odds, and at 3:30 the building was in such a shaky condition that it was dangerous to approach it closely.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

The flames set fire to the rear of the frame building used by the Northern Pacific News Company, and two employees named Curry and Bauen attempted to extinguish this. While they were at work the walls tottered, and the crowd started in terror to the two men. They made a rush for safety, and were none to soon, for just as they escaped the wall of the Farwell, Osmun, Kirk & Co.'s store fell outward and the place where they had stood but a moment before was covered with a pile of brick and stone. Several attempts were made to save stock in the less exposed parts of the building, but without avail, and complete destruction of both stock and building seemed inevitable.

The block extended on the south side of Third street from the corner of Wacouta to within fifty feet of Rosabel, was five stories high and belonged to B. C. Shepard. It was estimated to be worth $200,000. The losses are estimated as follows: Farwell, Osmun & Kirk, $400,000; insurance, $150,000; Griggs, Cooper & Co., loss, $350,000; insurance, $350,000; loss on building, $200,000, covered by insurance. Total loss, $950,000. The flames were under control at half-past 4 o'clock this morning, but were fast consuming what remained of the stock. No definite information is obtainable as to the cause of the fire, but it is thought to have originated in some unknown manner in the packing-room on the fourth floor. The fire department was considerably handicapped by the weather, the mercury ranging around zero all night. Help was called for from Minneapolis while the fire was at its height, and two engines from that city rendered effective service. Griggs, Cooper & Co. have secured other quarters and are ready for business this morning, although the fire had not occurred. Both firms saved all their books and accounts. Farwell, Osmun & Kirk will also continue their business without interruption.

THE COLD WAVE.

South Dakota Suffers Intensely—Loss of Stock—The Wheat Crop.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

ST. PAUL, MINN., November 18.—Reports are still coming in in regard to the cold wave. At many points the weather was as cold as that usually recorded in mid-winter, the limit having been reached at Red-Lake Falls, at which place a fall to 20 below zero is reported. Sand Centre reports 12 below; Crookston, 14; Barnesville, 10, and Halleck, 16.

South Dakota suffers intensely, the register in that State being all the way from 4 to 16 below zero. There was considerable delay to trains, and the excessively cold weather came so suddenly that it found people in many places short of coal and with their stock almost wholly unprotected. From the Sioux reservation and points on the Missouri river come stories of loss of stock, many cattle being frozen. David Hall, of Sully county, lost 3,000 head of sheep.

Reports from North Dakota say the temperature is very frigid as far west at Minot. The ground is so thoroughly frozen that no further attempts will be made at fall ploughing.

Reports as to the condition of the wheat crop are conflicting. These sent out by the railroads are to the effect that nearly all the wheat in shock has been threshed, and that the wheat in stack can be threshed at any time. Correspondents, however, give a far less glowing view of the situation, saying hundreds of acres are in shock, and can be now used for nothing except food in the straw.

The latest reports from various points indicate that the backbone of the wave is broken.

STRAINED SITUATION IN SAMOA.

The Reported Illness of the Queen Without Foundation.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

SAN FRANCISCO, November 18.—The steamship Australasia arrived this morning, seven days from Honolulu. Advices received at the Islands October 22d are to the effect that the situation in Samoa was strained, and that at King Malietoa's request the Faipule had agreed to issue a proclamation declaring Mataafa a rebel. In Hawaii since the adoption of the free-sugar provision of the McKinley tariff bill there has been considerable talk about asking the United States to assume a protectorate over the country.

IN EXCELLENT HEALTH.

Rumors of ill health of Queen Liliukolani are without any foundation whatever and receive no attention in Honolulu, where the facts are known. Advices state that the Queen's health is excellent. The Queen has commissioned Hon. A. S. Claghorn, father of Princess Kaiulani, to be Governor of Oahu. While there is considerable political discussion growing out of the preparations for the next legislative campaign in the islands, the discussion is marked with calmness and there are no signs of the disturbing elements that have been reported from time to time.

NEW FLASH-LIGHT EXPERIMENT.

It Will Demonstrate Whether Numbers Can Be Used Safely.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 18.—With a view of having a series of practical experiments as to the merits and utility of Captain Mahan's plan of giving each light of the lighthouse establishment a numerical distinguishing characteristic, the light-house board has ordered the manufacture in France of a fourth-order flashing-lens, No. 23, for trial at Robbin's Reef, New York harbor. The experiments will demonstrate whether numerical flashing signal lights can be substituted for the present system of lights.

THE PLAN IN DETAIL.

Captain Mahan's plan is to give each light a separate and distinct number, and to have that number communicated to the mariner by a system of short and long flashes. The off-shore lights are to be white and the in-shore lights are to possess an element of red.

The purpose of the system is to make each light tell its exact location, and to prevent all possibility of its being mistaken for any other light.

THE STRIKING COAL-MINERS.

It is Believed That Those at Work Will Join Their Ranks.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, November 19.—Dispatches received here to-day from various places in the department of Pas de Calis show that the striking coal-miners are gaining many accessions to their ranks. The strikers now number 36,000, and no doubt is entertained that in a very short time a majority of the men still remaining at work will quit and join the great body of strikers. The authorities are taking every precaution to guard against disorders, and though in some places the miners display a very bitter feeling, there has as yet been no serious disturbances of the peace, only a trivial outbreak here and there that has speedily been suppressed.

Prominent Socialists are at work among the discontented and striking miners spreading their lawless tenets and inciting to riot. They are closely watched, however, and upon the least indication of a general resistance to the law they will speedily be lodged in jail. Cavalry and infantry surround men at work. Neither side will concede anything.

PRINCE GEORGE STILL IMPROVING.

His Mother, the Princess of Wales, Leaves Russia for Home.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

LONDON, November 18.—Prince George, the second son of the Prince of Wales, who is suffering from an attack of enteric-fever at Marlborough House, continues to make satisfactory progress. The Princess of Wales has not been in England for several weeks, she having gone on a visit to her father, the King of Denmark, at Fredensburg. Subsequently she accompanied the Czar and Czarina to Livadia, in the Crimea, where she took part in their Majesties' silver wedding. She has, of course, been notified several times daily as to the condition of her son, and though the telegrams sent to her have all stated that Prince George was in no serious danger she has become so anxious regarding him that she has cut short her visit in Russia and started for home.

THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

Work Suspended, but to Be Resumed When the Weather Permits.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

ST. PETERSBURG, November 18.—Owing to the exceptional severity of the weather the Government has given orders that work on the eastern portion of the Siberian railway shall be suspended for the present. As a measure of relief to the many peasants in the famine-stricken districts the Government is considering the advisability of engaging thousands of them to work in the construction of the Siberian road during the winter. The work of building the line will be resumed as soon as the weather shall be sufficiently. The Czarewitch will shortly undertake the supreme direction of the work of construction.

Compositors to Pay a Fine.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

BERLIN, November 18.—A number of compositors of Berlin have been sentenced to pay various penalties for breach of conduct in stopping work. The magistrates of several towns have given notice that strikers menacing non-strikers or visiting their houses will be punished with the utmost severity of the law. The demands of the Nuremberg compositors for an increase of wages have been lowered 5 per cent. The Bavarian War Minister has refused to receive a deputation of compositors who wished to ask him to withdraw soldiers who are working in the places of the strikers.

A Delegation of Ship-Owners.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, November 18.—To-day M. De Freycinet, President of the Council and Minister of War; M. Ribot, Minister of Foreign Affairs; M. Roche, Minister of Commerce; and M. Devol, Minister of Agriculture, received a deputation comprising a number of ship-owners, oil-merchants, and soap-manufacturers, who called upon them to protest against the tariff so far as it works against the industries in which the members of the deputation were interested. The Ministers promised to support in the Senate measures providing for the importation into France, free of duty, of oil, seeds, and colonial and foreign sugars.

Wale's Tin-Plate Industry Depressed.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

LONDON, November 18.—The tin-plate industry in South Wales is in an exceedingly depressed condition. Since Monday last several works have been shut down, throwing large numbers of men out of employment in many cases. Where the men have nothing but their wages to depend upon there is much suffering. They and their families are completely destitute, and that, too, at the very beginning of winter.

Anxiety for the Elder.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

BREMEN, November 18.—The North-German Lloyd steamer Eider, Captain Bauer, which left New York November 7th bound for this port, has not yet arrived at Southampton, her port of call in England, and some of those having friends on board are becoming anxious. The company's officers here state, however, that they believe the Eider is safe and has merely been delayed by heavy gales.

FATAL EXPRESS-TRAIN COLLISION.

Two Men Killed and Thirteen Injured—Cause of the Accident Not Stated.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

SHAMOKIN, PA., November 19.—Two express trains on the Philadelphia and Erie railroad collided at Jersey City Shore this afternoon, and Lun Ray and Harry Eard were instantly killed. Engineer Williams had both legs broken, and cannot recover. Twelve passengers were also injured.

Cruisers Ready to Sail.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, November 18.—The United States cruisers Atlanta and Bennington are ready to sail from the Brooklyn navy-yard, should they be ordered to do so to-day. Though no official announcement has been made, the general impression is that the Atlanta will go to Rio Janeiro and the Bennington to St. Thomas, West Indies. The Chicago will not be ready for sea for ten days yet. When ready she will go out and test her guns and engines.

Methodist Matters.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

CLEVELAND, O., November 18.—The Methodist General Missionary Committee finished work to-day. Twenty-four thousand dollars was voted for the purchase and improvement of mission property. It was decided that the apportionment in conferences should be made the same way as last year. The total amount for the disposal of which the committee voted is $1,222,000.

Rough Weather on Lake Michigan.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

MUSKEGON, MICH., November 18.—The storm was very severe on Lake Michigan, and a large number of vessels are wind-bound at the entrance of the harbor. Five schooners left last night, and only one, the Cape Horn, has so far been heard from. She arrived at Chicago with part of her deck-load gone.

Lottery Indictments in West Virginia.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

CHARLESTON, W. VA., November 18.—The United States Court grand jury returned indictments this morning against Paul Conrad, president, and fourteen others of the Louisiana lottery for violation of the anti-lottery laws in sending advertisements through the mails.

An Engineer's Retirement.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, November 18.—The case of Chief-Engineer Devalin, recently examined for retirement from the active list of the navy, has, at the request of the friends of that officer, been referred back to the Retiring Board, in order that additional testimony in regard to the origin of the disability may be presented.

To Complete the Equipment.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, November 18.—The United States steamship Newark, the new flag-ship for the South Atlantic station, sailed from Boston to-day for New York to complete her equipment. The Vesuvius arrived at Norfolk from Washington to-day.

Augusta's Crowded Exposition.

AUGUSTA, GA., November 17.—Fifteen thousand people were on the grounds and in the buildings of the Augusta Exposition to-day. The kirmess was presented for the first time in Georgia or South Carolina and 10,000 people were packed into the Music Hall. Two hundred prominent young people of the city participated in it. It will be repeated Thursday night this week, and Tuesday and Thursday nights next week.

A Veteran of Two Wars Dead.

GAINESVILLE, FLA., November 17.—Colonel William W. Scott, the veteran of the Mexican and civil war, and a resident of Florida since 1829, died here to-day; aged sixty-seven. He served as a lieutenant of Captain Livingston's company in the Mexican war, and left the United States service to join the Confederate forces in 1861. He lost an arm at Petersburg. For the last twenty-five years he has been one of the most public-spirited men in Florida and held numerous offices.

TOLEDO, OHIO, November 17.—After a prolonged session, extending long into the evening, delegates to the Knights of Labor General Assembly were able to adjourn *sine die*.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate
RECOMMENDED BY PHYSICIANS
of all schools for the brain, nerves, and stomach.

The truth is hitting hard. No other house DOES—EVER DID—or EVER WILL—sell such STERLING QUALITIES at such LOW PRICES as we quote. We harp on this because it IS TRUE.

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LEVY & DAVIS

GREAT SALE OF Lace Curtains, COMMENCING TO-DAY

A. SAKS & CO.

MARKET QUOTATIONS

REPORTS FROM ALL GREAT BUSINESS CENTRES OF THE WORLD.

Prices for Money, Bonds, Stocks, Grain, Tobacco, Cotton, &c., and in Connection Therewith the Weather Indications.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

FAIR

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 18.—Forecast for Virginia: Fair weather; variable winds; fair and warmer Friday.

For North Carolina: Light, variable winds; fair weather; fair and warm Friday.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET.

NEW YORK, November 18.—The stock market to-day was somewhat more active than that of yesterday and displayed decidedly more strength, especially in the forenoon; but the gains scored during that time were generally lost, owing to the weakness developed in the Richmond and West Point securities and the subsequent checking of the buying power, though no losses for more than small fractions were seen outside of the Richmond and West Point shares.

SHORT INTEREST.

The market shows evidence of a very large short interest both here and in London, and while the speculators are operating for a decline in the main, operators who pay for their stocks as well as the more prominent of the street operators are known to be buying at every material reduction. The London figures this morning were all lower and the traders sold the list at the opening on the strength of a special of foreign markets, but while the foreigners were small sellers at the opening they soon turned buyers and beyond those purchases there was a buying power which advanced the Grangers, Coalers, and Vanderbilts materially, helping along the rest of the list. The gains extended in these shares to 2 per cent., but the

RICHMOND AND WEST POINT STOCKS

were sluggish reports that a preferred dividend would be passed precipitated the attack upon all the securities of that road. The common stock retired from 12 to 10½ and the preferred from 50 to 48½, though the latter afterward recovered to 51. Outside of the dealings in these securities there was no special feature to the trading and the market as a whole closed quiet but firm at something better than last night's figures. Sales of listed stocks were 243,000 shares.

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