

MEMORIAL day will be generally observed on Monday, May 30.

MR. FRANKLIN STEELE, of Indianapolis, son of the late Hon. Franklin Steele, pays a real estate tax of nearly \$10,000 in Hennepin county, Minnesota.

THE rains of last week came most opportunely for the grain, which has now come finely and looks as "green as grass." The transformation of the face of nature was magical.

THE supreme court of Ohio has rendered a decision declaring that the laws passed by the last legislature to authorize certain townships to build railroads and lease and operate the same, are in conflict with the constitution and therefore void. This decision will prevent heavy taxation, and in some cases, municipal bankruptcy.

THE secretary of the state board of agriculture of Ohio estimates that the wheat crop of that state will fall 20 per cent. below that of last year. The estimate is based upon the observations in sixty out of sixty-eight counties of the state. Here is another hint of good prices for spring wheat, and the great staple of the Northwest.

THE total New York trade imports and exports of merchandise and precious metals amounted, in 1890, to \$964,579,875 against \$795,235,732 in 1879, an increase of \$169,344,143. The year 1880 will be ever memorable as that in which the foreign trade of the commercial metropolis of the country reached the sum of \$1,000,000,000.

THE Wisconsin Press Association is called to meet at Oconomowoc on Monday evening, June 20, and at the close of the session on the evening of Tuesday, the members will join in an excursion to Washington, Mount Vernon, Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg and Fredericksburg; and while in Washington will call in a body on the president at the White House.

AN idea of the all-pervading prosperity of the country may be obtained from the estimate that, judging by present receipts into the treasury, the national debt will be reduced \$100,000,000 during the fiscal year, and the annual cost of interest of the debt about \$15,000,000. With such an enormous amount of money pouring into the treasury, the time is at hand when the question of a reduction in taxes will be in order.

GEORGE P. POMEROY, of New Jersey, appointed and confirmed secretary of legation to France, is a very wealthy gentleman of New Jersey, who married Miss Helen Cowles, daughter of the editor of the Cleveland, Ohio, Leader, a lady who became a convert to the Catholic church some years ago, to the great sorrow of her father, whose paper is the most intensely anti-Catholic of any of the secular journals of the country.

PROF. JOHN H. TICE, who was the great weather prophet until the advent of his Canadian rival, Vannor, since the first of January has delivered 150 lectures on his favorite topics in Michigan, Western New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana. He admits that Vannor is carrying off the palm in his weather predictions and that he has "made some good guesses," but claims that he can beat Vannor in predictions of earthquakes. Prof. Tice is 72 years of age, and has been a resident of St. Louis for 40 years.

SPEAKING of the water rail routes for heavy transportation, and comparing the merits of them, a writer concludes that the final struggle will come as to the comparative merits of the two routes, when the railroads by the force of competition permanently reduce their rates and surrender the idea of forcing large dividends on watered stock. It seems inevitable they must do this or surrender to the lakes and the river the carrying of Western grain to the seaboard. And this is the traffic of an empire that will not be given up without a struggle.

A TABLE has been compiled by the census bureau showing population, vote cast, and ratio of vote to population, in the sixty largest cities in the United States. There are marked differences between those cities in the ratio of vote. While the average of all is 1 to 5.747 the range is from 1 to 8.896 in Indianapolis, to 1 in 11.341 in Providence, and generally, one vote to four, five and six persons, excluding fractions. The discrepancy in the vote of Providence is caused by the large number of people disfranchised by a property qualification for voting. In St. Paul the vote is 1 to 5.0270; in Minneapolis 1 to 5.0925.

THE visit of the marquis of Lorne, governor-general of Canada, to the northwest, possibly accompanied by the Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria, is an interesting topic to the Manitoban mind, and to Minnesotans as well, especially to those who are aching for a glimpse of royalty. It is announced, apparently by authority, that after this visit to the northwest, the marquis of Lorne will relinquish the office of governor-general and return to England. Official and social life in Canada is very different from that of London, and is understood to be very distasteful to the Princess Louise.

A RECENT decision of the United States supreme court declares in substance that no state has a right to impose what is known as a tax on "drummers." The court holds that such a tax is an infringement of the power vested in congress to regulate commerce among the states; and that here a power is vested exclusively in the federal government, and its exercise is essential to perfect freedom of commercial intercourse between the citizens of the several states, any interfering action of the states must give way. This is the first decision by the supreme court of this question, though in a number of state courts, similar questions have been decided in a similar manner.

CURRENT NEWS.

RAILROADS.

Mike Carrington an employe of the Northern Pacific railroad, at Fargo, was fatally hurt while backing up a car.

Mr. Pugh of Chicago, has secured the use of the Northern Pacific docks at Duluth and will handle at least 50,000 tons of coal there, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul company has advanced the wages of its laborers at different points along its line from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per day.

J. F. Lincoln, now superintendent of the Sioux City division of the St. Paul and Sioux Falls road, has been appointed assistant T. P. Geer, now superintendent of the St. Paul division. Mr. Lincoln's departure will be generally regretted at Sioux City.

The westward emigration has already assumed such proportions that the Winona & Lake Park road will be necessary on several occasions to run double-header passenger trains; in fact, they have found their rolling stock almost insufficient to accommodate the vast number of emigrants now pouring into Minnesota and Dakota.

A contract for grading the road 300 miles up the Yellowstone from Glendive has been let, and is to be completed before winter. Iron for the track, ties etc., will be brought from Bismarck on steamers, and landed at various points along the river. Material for construction will also be brought by rail; and if possible, the track will be laid the 300 miles this winter, which will bring the end of it up near to Huntley.

WEEKLY RECORD OF CRIMES.

Patrick Quinlan shot his mother in New York on Sunday night because she could not supply him with money.

At Philadelphia recently an infuriated German named Frank Thuma, instantly killed his wife at their home, 2230 Mutter street. He then hanged himself.

At Louisville, Ky., John Ferguson and Alex. Hawkins quarreled in a restaurant, when the latter threw a hatchet at Ferguson, crushing his nose. It is thought he will die.

Dr. H. D. Bullard of Delavan, Wis., has been arrested on a charge of exacting exorbitant fees for the collection of pensions. The regular fee is \$1.00 and Bullard always demanded an increased \$2.00.

In Sparta, N. C., C. W. H. Hicks, aged thirty years, killed his wife, first shooting her and then cutting her throat. He immediately made two attempts at suicide by cutting his own throat. Hicks was arrested.

At Toledo, Ohio, a man was attacked and slightly stabbed by two would-be robbers, while returning home from Ortonville. It is supposed they mistook him for Mr. Randall, who they supposed carried home money on his person.

Dallas, Texas, dispatch says: J. B. T. Lygo has been arrested and charged with obstructing letters addressed to Miss Lizzie Sloan, his guest and an important witness in several cases of his against an insurance company. Miss Sloan belongs to Minnesota.

A dispatch from Black River Falls, Wis., gives an account of a fracas at that place between Mr. Castle of the Wisconsin Independent and F. F. Hollister of the Jackson county Democrat, who formerly published a paper at that place. The cause of the quarrel was the personal abuse of each other in the columns of their respective papers. The account says that Hollister got the worst of it.

At Atkinson, Kansas, Charles Gevin, formerly of Iowa met his wife Louisa, who is a waiter in a restaurant on Fifth street, and after a few moments conversation drew a pistol and fired at her. The woman attempted to run, but fell at the second shot. The man emptied four barrels of the pistol into her head, sent the remaining ball crashing through her brain. Both were dead in a few moments.

FIRES AND OTHER CASUALTIES.

At Gardiner, Me., the pulp mill owned by Hatched and Whitney burned. Loss \$30,000; insured.

Joseph Pahl, a German living in Mary township, was drowned while attempting to swim the Wild river on Monday.

Elizabeth Gardine, the wire rope dancer, who fell from a rope while performing, died from the effects of her injuries.

At Napanee, Ont., besides Taylor & Sanderson's woolen factory, totally destroyed, Sir Richard Cartwright's grist mill and Scott & Wagner's saw factory were partially destroyed.

Jack Ward was drowned on Hill Bros. & Lambert's Plate river drive recently, while placing the reason against his head, sent the remaining ball crashing through his brain. Both were dead in a few moments.

The body of Mr. Stafford, the Irish gentleman who was drowned near Redwood Falls during the flood, was found in Redwood, about eight miles below the spot where the accident occurred, and was buried at Redwood Falls.

Reports from points in Ohio indicate that a severe storm crossed central and southern Ohio last Saturday, uprooting trees, downing fences, unroofing houses, and causing great loss of life and property by lightning. The loss at Columbus was \$5,000.

Sunday morning the Island saw mill, on French Island, opposite Onalaska, six miles above La Crosse, was entirely destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire is not known. The mill belonged to Hon. N. H. Witthe, and could not be replaced for less than \$25,000.

By the explosion of a boiler in W. H. Withers' saw-mill, at Tomah, Wis., the mill was completely demolished, and Luke Lowrey, of Spanish Fork, named in the explosion, was instantly killed. Richard Whiting, of La Crosse, was fatally injured. Mr. Withers lives in La Crosse, and only last Saturday his saw-mill at that place was burned, involving a loss of \$25,000.

During the severe rain and hail storm of Friday night, lightning struck the Preston Lake school house, in Reville county, burning it completely, together with a \$2000 cabinet organ, belonging to Miss Resner. The school was closed for the first time in many years. The loss at Columbus was \$5,000.

Col. Tom Scott's health is better. Herman Brock a heavy operator in pork and lard, in New York, has failed.

L. A. Goblright, the old and faithful agent of the associated press died on the 14th.

Trinity college students at Hartford have been dismissed, owing to a case of varioloid.

Gen. W. S. Smith, of Chicago, has assumed charge of the work of the Hudson River Tunnel company at New York, and proceeds in new being made at the rate of five feet per day.

CONGRESS.

Extra Session of the Senate.

Nothing of importance was done in the open session. In executive session the following nominations were confirmed: Michael J. Kramer, Kentucky, now charge d'affaires to Denmark, to be charge d'affaires to Switzerland; Nicholas Fish, resigned; George V. Tompkins, Michigan, to be minister to Uruguay; United States legation at Paris; Thos. A. McMorris, Colorado, to be a member of the Ute commission, vice John B. Bowman, resigned; Geo. W. Atkinson, United States marshal, West Virginia; John B. Hickney, United States attorney, northern district of Florida; Chas. M. Wilder, postmaster at Columbia, S. C.; A. Newton Kimball, receiver public monies, Jackson, Miss.

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LIVELY POLITICAL SENSATION.

Senators Conkling and Platt Resign Their Seats in the Senate of the United States.

The New York Legislature Being in Session They Will Seek Re-election Through the Medium of Re-Election.

The senate of the United States on Monday, and the country as well, had a genuine sensation. Senators Roscoe Conkling and Thomas C. Platt of New York resigned their seats; the resignation by mail, and the senate and the country was informed of the fact by the vice president. This is the culmination of the controversy between the president and the New York senators over the nomination of Judge Robertson to be collector of the port of New York.

The secret was admirably kept and when the clerk of the senate read the formal notice signed by Mr. Conkling and Mr. Platt that they had resigned, the excitement was intense. Conkling's resignation is as follows: WASHINGTON, May 16, 1881.—To Hon. C. A. Arthur, Vice President: Sir—Will you please announce to the senate that my resignation as senator of the United States Senate, from the State of New York, has been forwarded to the governor of that State. I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant, Roscoe Conkling.

The resignation of Senator Platt is almost identical with Conkling's. The letters of senator Conkling and senator Platt to Gov. Cornell, containing the resignation, are very long and give the real reason, which is the nomination of Mr. Robertson as collector of New York.

The principal objection to Mr. Robertson is that he is not a native-born citizen of the United States. He was born in England, and his father was a foreigner. The objection is that he is not a native-born citizen of the United States.

We were told of no personal or political service rendered by Mr. Robertson so transcendent that the collectorship of New York should be taken in the midst of an unexpired term and given to a foreigner. The late secretary of the treasury spoke most feelingly of the faithful services of the people who might be turned out of office by politicians, if the information desired by the honest citizen is to be given.

The whole matter was finally referred to the committee on printing. Mr. Hoar offered a resolution directing the committee on privileges and elections to inquire and report on the propriety of the election of Mr. Robertson.

In executive session, Stanley Matthews was nominated to the office of justice of the supreme court by a majority. The vote stood twenty-one in the negative to twenty-three in the affirmative.

The principal speakers to-day were Senators Edmunds, Davis, Logan and McMillan against, and Senators Sherman, Pendleton and Beck in favor of confirmation. The debate was very similar to that of yesterday, the speeches being to a large extent identical. The late secretary of the treasury spoke most feelingly of the faithful services of the people who might be turned out of office by politicians, if the information desired by the honest citizen is to be given.

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