

JAMESTOWN WEEKLY ALERT.

VOL XXI

JAMESTOWN, NORTH DAKOTA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23 1897

NO 22

HOTEL DACOTAH

Grand Forks Big Hostelry and the Block of Stores Burned.

Heavy Losses Reported—Large Part of the Town in Danger.

Two Persons Burned to Death—Three Others Missing—Fire No. 2.

A destructive fire visited Grand Forks at 4 o'clock P. M. today morning doing a large amount of damage. The hotel and stores, one of the finest hotels in the state, together with all the wholesale and retail stores in that block, were swept away before the fire was extinguished.

The fire occurred in the heart of the city and for a time it looked as though it would spread to adjoining blocks and sweep a large portion of the city out of existence. The amount of the damage is roughly placed at \$800,000, some of which is fairly well protected by insurance. The hotel was built a few years ago, was electric lighted, steam heated and first class in every way. The loss to Grand Forks will be very great.

The burning of the big hotel and block of stores will be a serious blow to Grand Forks. In addition to the elegant hotel the building occupied by Nash Bros., wholesale grocers, the Grand Forks Mercantile Co., wholesale grocers, the Peerless Machine company's office, and W. W. Fegan, wholesale cigars, were burned to the ground. The fire was first discovered about 4 o'clock by W. Buttry, who occupied a room on the third floor of the Nash building. The floor of his room was already hot from the fire which had got a good start down stairs, and he effected his escape through the hotel, which was the adjoining building. The fire department, was in East Grand Forks, assisting the firemen of the east side at a fire in Arnesen's general store, and considerable time was lost in reaching the fire on this side. Before anything could be done the interiors of the three buildings were a mass of flames.

The hotel was a five-story building and the Nash and Mercantile buildings three stories each. There was a brick north wind and the temperature was twenty degrees below zero. Although both pumps at the waterworks pumping station were put at work, it was found impossible to get a stream high enough to do any good. The hotel was well filled and the guests were compelled to make a hasty escape, in many cases coming down the fire-escapes in the biting air, clad in their night clothes. There were many narrow escapes and it was at first reported that three persons had perished in the flames. Many lost all their personal effects, the smoke in the halls preventing a return to rooms. It is feared that Mr. and Mrs. Al. Snow, who roomed in the Nash block, were burned to death; the latter was sick, and neither have been heard of since the fire.

The loss is estimated at \$800,000. The hotel was mortgaged for \$110,000. The insurance was \$600,000. The stores burned and stocks were fairly well insured. The hotel was mortgaged to eastern capitalists and was built in 1896 by a syndicate of Grand Forks men. The furniture and fixtures were valued at \$30,000. The building cost \$108,000.

The fire was well underway in the hotel at 4:30 and at 6 o'clock the walls had fallen and the contents of the building gone. Guests on the fourth and fifth floors were barely able to get out. The electric alarm bell call was turned on in nearly all the rooms and this no doubt saved lives by the prompt alarm. Every room in the house had been taken, something unusual. Many ladies were guests. Both men and women had to dress on the first floor and some in the street. The smoke in the halls and rooms was terribly hot and blinding, and occupants of rooms had to kneel and crawl along to find the stair way. If the fire had broken out in the hotel building proper, or in the lower floors many would have perished, beyond doubt. There was but one fire escape and the extreme cold made it difficult to use that.

The work of the fire department for the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Snow, burned in the Grand Forks fire, was begun Tuesday morning, and all day a large force of workmen were digging among the ruins to discover, if possible, some trace of the missing ones. So far the efforts have been without success. The work is difficult as the entire basement is filled with debris of every description. The invalid's chair which Mr. Snow had was found near the surface of the ruins, and its condition shows the fierceness of the flames. A certain number of bodies have been found. J. H. Ellwood stated positively that he ran up the front stairs of the Nash

building, then started up the stairway leading to the third floor. When half way up he met two persons carrying a third down the stairs. He took hold, and assisted to bear the burden, and, upon reaching the second floor, it was found that the front stairway was in flames, and they went down the back stairs. Upon reaching the platform at the rear Mr. Ellwood, almost overpowered by heat and smoke, was forced to leave the others, and half stumbled, half stepped off the platform to the railroad track. He says that the smoke was so dense that no one attempted to speak, in his haste, he made no note of the appearance, or clothing of his companions, and knows nothing of what became of them. A dozen questions suggest themselves. Who were these people? Was Mr. Snow the person being carried off? If so, who were the others? If any one was rescued in the manner stated why has it not been made known? Can it be that five lives, instead of two were lost? These questions are easier to ask than to answer, and the uncertainty surrounding the whole matter increases the public interest in the excavations going on among the ruins.

Grand Forks Fire No. 2.

Grand Forks has had another costly fire, a large two story dry goods firm being burned out Sunday night. During the evening Proprietor Benner of the firm of Benner & Begg, went into the store to see that all was right and striking a match some draperies caught fire. The firemen were still playing on the remains of the hotel fire and owing to the nature of the stock it was impossible to extinguish the blaze. Stock estimated at \$15,000; insurance \$13,750. The walls of the building are standing but the interior is a wreck.

In the same building are the stores of the Stone Jewelry company and M. Stanchfield, clothier. Both stores are more or less damaged by smoke and water.

GAGE REPLIES

To Some Pointed Questions and Frankly Discusses His Proposals.

Washington, Dec. 20: Secretary Gage explained his currency bill before the house banking committee Saturday. Before the bill was taken up, some semi-political questions were asked. Mr. Mill (Rep. Conn.) called Mr. Gage's attention to the statement made yesterday that the first purpose of the bill was to commit the country to the gold standard.

"You are recognized as a republican," said Mr. Hill addressing the secretary, "and you are familiar with the financial platform of the republican convention at St. Louis. Do you consider that this purpose of more firmly fixing the gold standard on the country conflicts with the principles of the St. Louis platform?"

"No sir," responded Mr. Gage, "as I look at it. The principle of bimetalism must mean one of two things: Either it is two kinds of money of unequal value circulating side by side by reason of the exchange of less valuable for that of greater value, or else two kinds of money of equal intrinsic quality side by side. We have a bimetallic currency in the United States now. A firm establishment of the gold standard, with such interchangeability with silver as will make it acceptable on an equality with gold, will maintain this bimetalism, the same as it has existed for the last eighteen years."

The secretary went on to state that this in no way prejudiced any steps that might be taken to bring silver up to a higher standard of value.

Mr. Cox asked if the results of the Gage bill eventually would not lead to one kind of paper money—bank notes—and no silver except subsidiary silver.

"There is nothing in the plan to operate to that extent now," answered Mr. Gage. "It is in that direction, and, with further legislation developing it, might ultimately lead to such a result. But I would not say that silver will be restricted to subsidiary silver."

The Times Case.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 17.—Public interest grows in the great suit against the publishers of the Minneapolis Times and the court room is crowded by interested spectators at each day's hearing of the celebrated case. The morning session was consumed by attorneys in argument for and against dismissal of the case under indictment. Case will occupy all next week, and possibly longer. Public opinion is divided about equally as to the merits of the case. The most expert lawyers of the Twin Cities and Chicago are retained in the cases.

Prosperity comes quickest to the man who lives in a good condition. Dr. Williams' Little Early Risers are famous little pills for constipation, biliousness, indigestion and all stomach and liver troubles. Woonseberg & Avia.

CHANDLER.

The Republican Senator for New Hampshire Says a Few Things.

Ventures an Opinion as to the Administrations Financial Policy.

Discussed It From a Party Standpoint Only, Not for The Country.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Senator Chandler of New Hampshire has written a letter to the Washington Post in which he says:

"If the secretary of the treasury and his single gold standard associates will cease their demand for impossible currency legislation, congress will pass the necessary appropriation bills, probably take care of Hawaii and Cuba, there will not be a serious party division during the session and there will be an adjournment in May. Business will revive, the treasury receipts will equal the expenditures, the balance of trade will continue in our favor and the Republican party will, in November, 1898, elect a majority of the house in the Fifty-fifth congress. On the other hand, if Secretary Gage continues to press upon congress a bill, the object of which, he says, is, 'First, to commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard,' and the immediate effect of which is to throw doubts upon the sincerity of the president's declaration in favor of continued efforts to secure bimetalism, a political turmoil will arise in congress which will split the now united Republicans into fragments, while it will unite and consolidate the opposition. It is not feasible

To Restrict the Greenbacks; there is more probability that a bill will be sent to the president to increase their amount. It is not possible to secure the passage through either house of a bill making the greenbacks into gold notes or authorizing bonds payable in gold. The effort to do either thing will probably result in the passage of a bill for the redemption of the greenbacks in silver dollars and for the payment of all United States bonds in gold or silver coin, in the discretion of the president, who will be commanded to exercise his option for the advantage of the government, and not for the advantage of the creditor."

"With such an uproar in congress as these proceedings will create, with western congressmen embroiled therein, with presidential vetoes, as threatened by Secretary Gage, under angry discussion, it will happen that all business enterprises and funds and stocks will be disturbed, prices will fall, insolencies will increase, and the republicans will lose the congressional elections in 1898 as disastrously as they did in 1890, and beyond the hope of a favorable reaction in 1900, at which time, therefore, a Bryan democratic president and congress will be chosen."

"Whether we are to have one of these results—political safety—or the other—political destruction—depends entirely upon the course to be pursued by Secretary Gage and those who are reading him forward, namely, the gold standard league of New York and the self-constituted national currency conference. How much Secretary Gage cares for the republican party is of course, a question. President McKinley, whose good faith toward bimetalism is coming to the test, will stop his secretary in his insane career, is not known. It is to be hoped he will. But no political situation has been clearer than the present to sound eyes since the republican party began its marvelous career forty-two years ago. There are times for all things. There is a time to move and a time to keep still, and now is the time to keep still."

"It is simply political suicide for the republican party in this congress to affirmatively open the discussion of the money question and to bring on yet another vote upon currency legislation. We ought to await the progress of international bimetalism, the advent of business prosperity, and the filling of the treasury by the normal workings soon to be seen of the new tariff law. Shall we wait for these things, or rush on to self-destruction? President McKinley must decide. Will he act for his people, or for his plutocrats? Upon his answer will depend the events of 1898."

William E. Chandler.

"December 18, 1897."

Embezzler Caught.

FARGO, Dec. 18.—V. B. Vale of Reynolds, was arrested for embezzlement, by Deputy Sheriff Hansen at the instance of S. Cromwell, a representative of the Fidelity and Casualty Co. of New York, who arrived in the city from Chicago. Vale waived examination and was held to the district court in \$500 bonds.

The accused has been in the employ of the Plino Mfg. Co. since last June as collector and has had North Dakota as his territory. This fall he made some collections and did not turn the amounts in. A farmer who was in the city a few days ago turned up a receipt when he

was asked for some money on a note held by the company against him. The Fidelity and Casualty Co. gave bond for Mr. Vale while in the employ of the company and it is they who are prosecuting the case. The amount embezzled will reach about \$400.

Not Eighteen Months, Valley City, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The trial of Ferdinand Klemeschmidt, charged with homicide in first degree, for killing his son Charles at Sanborn on October 28th, is ended. The jury after being out four hours fixed the punishment at 18 months in the penitentiary.

Well Satisfied With Melbourne. A note from Consul General Bray at Melbourne, dated Nov. 18, says he is very favorably impressed with the city which is a beautiful metropolis of 450,000 inhabitants. "The people are pleasant and affable and the town full of churches, and what more can be asked for."

INDEPENDENT ACTION

Pettigrew's Remarks on the Bill to Prohibit Sealing By Americans.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The bill introduced in the senate to prevent hunting seals by Americans, produced a warm debate and brought a sample of western feeling.

Mr. Davis of Minnesota called up the bill prohibiting the killing of our seals in the waters of the North Pacific ocean and presented letters from Secretaries Sherman, of the state department, and Gage, of the treasury department, favoring the immediate passage of the proposed measure. Mr. Davis explained that the bill was in aid of furthering diplomatic negotiations. After explaining the law at present bearing upon the fur seal question Mr. Davis pointed out that there was now no law prohibiting deep sea sealing and that the shameful admission had to be made by the representatives of the United States in their negotiations with other countries looking to a suspension of such sealing.

Mr. Pettigrew (S. D.) entered a sharp protest to the passage of the bill because it deprived Americans of the privilege accorded to people of other countries. He thought it was time for the United States to definitely dispose of the question by killing all of the seals as they lead upon the Pribilof islands. He thought that the United States had suffered enough annihilation on account of the seal business and he believed that the proposed bill ought to be amended so that if Great Britain did not, by the first of June next, agree to a suspension of pelagic sealing this country would kill all seals, male and female, and thus settle the question once for all.

Mr. Pettigrew then offered an amendment to the bill in line with his remarks. Mr. Davis protested against the adoption of Mr. Pettigrew's amendment. He thought that because Great Britain did not come promptly to our terms was not sufficient reason for this country to enter upon an unexampled butchery of a beautiful and useful animal.

Replying Mr. Pettigrew expressed the opinion that the adoption of the amendment would result in the preservation of the seal herd. He thought that if England would not enter to a mutual agreement for the preservation of the herd just demanded that this country should kill the seals, thus finally disposing of them. He thought it would be more humane and little less troublesome to kill the entire 175,000 than to kill the 30,000 allowed.

Mr. Spooner (Wis.) asked Mr. Pettigrew if he believed that Great Britain as a self respecting nation would enter into any agreement if this government should meet it with such a threat as that implied in his (Pettigrew's) amendment.

Replying, Mr. Pettigrew said the United States had been trying for four years to secure an agreement with England for the protection of the seals, and had failed, England refusing to even enter upon the negotiations.

PETTIGREW WAS WROTH. "For one," he continued, "I am tired of waiting upon England in this as in other matters. It is humiliating that we should be compelled to do so, not only in the fur seal, but in Cuban and financial questions, hesitating to declare our independence because of England's possible objection. The only interest England has in protecting the Spanish interest in Cuba is that it implies in the fact that Lombard street holds the Spanish bonds. This being the case, we can do nothing for suffering Cuba unless Great Britain is willing. So it is in financial matters, and thus it happens that we must send a commission to fawn at the feet of the hook-nosed Jews of London to ascertain whether they are willing that we should do this and so in the matter of our own finances."

National pride and national honor, he said, are opposed to further diplomatic negotiations upon the seal question. By the way, the bill amended as he suggested, would transfer the seal industry in Lapland to the United States and bring to bear influence upon Great Britain which might effect a proper settlement of the question.

YOUNG JOE LEITER

Cost Phil Armour Over a Million Dollars in Wheat Deals.

Sketch of the Bull Campaign Which Forced Wheat to \$1.00.

How the Bull Started—College Dude With Money Backed It.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Dec. 31, 'settling day' of the board of trade, will witness the culmination of the gigantic Leiter-Armour deadlock. The trade will not be surprised then to learn that Armour will lose a clear \$1,000,000 on the December deal. True, he has performed the marvelous feat of bringing 6,000,000 bushels of high grade cash wheat to this city, in defiance of all settled rules of commerce, but that act may result in nothing more substantial than glory. It is a growing belief on 'change that Mr. Armour had to pay dearly for bringing the big volume of wheat to this city, and that his short selling will cost him about 18 or 20 cents a bushel.

Young Joseph Leiter and his associates bought July wheat at 63c, sold out at 73c, transferring to September at 67, since when the price has ranged as high as \$1.06 and the bears have paid accordingly.

Joseph Leiter, the king of the wheat pit, is a smooth-faced, athletic looking Harvard graduate, 30 years old. He lives in magnificent style, has a valet, keeps many horses and dogs and is extremely careful about his dress—almost as careful as he is in business.

When Leiter went into the wheat deal six months ago he knew nothing about the game. Now he is looked upon as the most remarkable man Chicago has produced.

Young Leiter is not a self-made man in the ordinary sense, yet he has made a vast fortune. When he came home from college six years ago his father, old Levi Leiter, looked him over doubtfully. A boy without practical experience and who has spent a deal of money is an uncertain quantity. So the old man, to test his metal, gave him \$1,000,000 to do with as he pleased. And great was the joy of the sharks' threat. A college dude, a Hasty Pudding man with a million! Never was there greater promise of fine plucking.

Joseph Leiter began to plunge into speculations, and he found no end of holes. Speculators, promoters, promoters and confidence men flocked to him and carried away such booty as they could. The young man paid the price and never whimpered. After a time he learned that you cannot beat a man at his own game unless you know it better than he does. His million was nearly all gone before he learned this.

He began to study details. He liked city railway stocks. He gained a marvelous amount of technical and practical knowledge. He took up mining in the same way. The tide turned. Money began flowing back more swiftly than it went out. Old Levi began to realize that his son was not a failure.

More than a year ago the father turned over all his holdings to Joseph. When the financial world learned that a young fellow, not yet 30, had absolute control of \$50,000,000 worth of property it was agast. His fortune is divided among the best institutions in Chicago. It extends to railroads, ranches and mines.

It is supposed that Leiter went into the wheat market as a result of being appointed a colonel on the governor's staff. He was thrown into friendly relationship with the state grain department. Wheat interested him, casually at first, and then the fever took possession of him.

When he appeared in the wheat market six months ago there was joy in the pit. A man with \$50,000,000 and only six years of business experience doesn't come along every day. When young Leiter began trading in wheat he already knew a deal more about it than anyone supposed. He had studied it as he studied mines and street railways. He lacked practical experience, but it didn't take him long to gain that.

Leiter went along smoothly and easily. When the bears felt the squeeze and looked about to see who was applying the power, they could scarcely believe their senses. The Hasty Pudding man carried everything before him.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Interest in the big December wheat deal was greatly increased by the arrival from Washington of Levi Z. Leiter, the millionaire ex-merchant of Chicago, and the substantial admission by him that his millions were at his son's command in his struggle with other interests. "My son has plenty of money to pay for what he has purchased," said Mr. Leiter, Sr. "About his wheat operations he has informed me pretty fully. I have been a merchant a greater part of my life and am much pleased that my son has broadened out into a first class merchant. What is a first class commodity of universal use. The quality of wheat which he has purchased is

of the highest, and I am sure will be in demand at a higher price than he has paid for it. I am well pleased with the situation."

Changed Some of Their Plans.

George B. French, who, it is said, has engineered the tremendous deal in December for the Leiter clique, stated that the ball combination will have at least 6,000,000 bushels of wheat to take care of. The tactics of Armour in raising millions of bushels to the Chicago market, he said, have caused the Leiter following to change some of their plans very materially.

"The impression that we are going out of the market as soon as we conclude this month's trading is hardly true," he continued. "We propose to remain in the field. I am not prepared to say we will ship all our wheat abroad, but we will sell it the best we can."

There was another big increase in the amount of contract wheat in store here, over 500,000 bushels being added to the stocks. Friday and Saturday nearly 2,500,000 bushels were delivered here, all of which was taken by the Leiter people. At least 8,000,000 bushels more are expected to arrive, and in liquidation of this is expected to come the final test of strength for Leiter. The statement of Mr. French concerning the Leiter crowd's intention to stay in the market received some solid confirmation, as there was good buying of May all day credited to them.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE

Bryan's Reference to It in Mexico Favorably Received.

Mexico City, Mex., Dec. 20 W. J. Bryan's reception in Mexico has been one continued ovation. He has been dined by President Diaz, and by the president of the Mexican National railway, and has been given several large public receptions at which great concourses of people turned out to hear him. The press is highly eulogistic of the modest, yet dignified manner in which Mr. Bryan appears. The government made every effort to show the strangers the chief objects of interest and to honor the distinguished guest. In one of his short addresses Mr. Bryan made the following utterance which was received with great favor:

"I might suggest another reason for the interest which I feel in the Mexican republic. Mexico, as well as the United States, is interested in the defense of the Monroe doctrine, which was promulgated for the purpose of preventing the extension of monarchical institutions upon the western hemisphere. The United States and Mexico will hold up the torches of freedom before the nations of the world and prove that the governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed and not from the rights of hereditary power."

Made It in North Dakota.

A Minneapolis paper tells of the success of two LaMoure county farmers the Pepper Bros., who came to North Dakota in 1882, with little or nothing. They located three claims near Edgeley and started in with a determination to operate a big farm upon a strictly scientific and economical basis. They have succeeded. The profits from a 1,200 acre farm for this season were \$15,300 clear cash. They own all their machinery, including a complete threshing outfit, having paid for these things long ago from the profits of the farm. They have made several trips back to the old country since they began to prosper here and now intend to make a Christmas visit home every year. They are enthusiastic over the future prospects of the country in which they live. They claim that land as good as theirs can be had in that vicinity at very low figures, and heartily advise anyone looking for a good investment, or even speculation to put his money in this great wheat country.

The press throughout the state would like to know whether that "odorous bird" still has his burrow under the Napoleon Homestead office?

President C. S. Mellen returned to St. Paul from New York and came with the settled purpose of remaining at the head of the Northern Pacific instead of going with the Union Pacific.

A Minneapolis paper states that the news of the disastrous fire at Grand Forks was received with a good deal of regret by the state insurance department, by which it is feared that the heavy loss to the companies will result in several of them withdrawing again from business in the state.

Charles Lunn and J. Schragg of Winnipeg own a gold coin which is said to be worth from \$50,000 to \$60,000. This coin is a Jewish silver shekel, which experts allege was coined by Simon Macabeus, ruler of the Jews 40 B. C. It is no doubt authentic. The shekel is intrinsically worth 75 cents.