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SECRETARY MORTON MAKES HIS REPORT

On Conditions of American Agriculture

THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Is Much Improved by Civil Service Extension

FARMERS ARE PROSPEROUS

And Western Farms Are Mostly Free From Mortgage

The Low Price of Products Results From Much Free Land

The Legislation Needed Is That Which Will Furnish a Growing Market Abroad for the Produce of American Farms.

Associated Press Special Wire

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Secretary Morton, in his fourth annual report, just made public, shows that with $280,000, which may be saved from the appropriations from the ourrent fiscal year, there will have been covered back into the treasury since March 7, 1893, over $2,000,000, out of a total appriprialion of $11,179,455.45.

That this great economy was affected with no loss of efficiency he attributes, in a large degree, to the improvement in the personnel of the force under civil service rules, which he declares to be "absolutely indispensable to the maintenance of an economic and efficient administration of the public service." To complete the "already almost perfect system of civil service," in his department the secretary recommends the appointment of a permanent director in charge of bureaus and scientific investigations. The chiefs of scientific bureaus and their assistants, he declares, are not adequately compensated and strongly recommends that the salaries of this class of employes be increased.

The inspection of animals intended for food is treated of at length and stress is laid upon the increased efficiency of the work due to the extension of civil service rules, which has been rapid in this service.

The total number of ante-mortem inspections of cattle, sheep, calves and hogs during the year was 35,917,435, an increase over the previous year of fifty per cent. The total number of post-mortem inspections was 23,164,858, an increase of 25 per cent. The total number of abbattoirs under inspection in 1896 was 102 in twenty-six cities; in 1892 there were but twenty-eight in twelve cities, for the sake of economy the experts of microscopically inspected pork to countries not exacting such inspection have been greatly discouraged. The total amount thus inspected was in round numbers 23,000,000 pounds, of which 21,500,000 pounds went to countries requiring inspection.

Clearances were issued to 891 vessels carrying cattle and sheep. The number of cattle tagged for export was 337,369, and 422,603 inspected sheep were exported. The percentage of loss in transit was considerably less than ever before.

Mr. Morton urges strongly that government inspection should be extended to all animals intended for human food, whether for consumption in the United States or abroad. The cattle and meat trade of Great Britain is reviewed at length. Of live meat arriving in the United Kingdom during the first six months of 1896 the United States supplied 75 per cent of the cattle and 45 per cent of the sheep. The testimony of the department representatives abroad is that cattle from the United States arrive in English ports in excellent condition. The Glasgow market is especially commended to American shippers.

The report shows a steadily increasing demand in England for American horses. During the first nine months of the present year more of these animals were shipped to that country than for any previous entire year.

Reviewing the work of the weather bureau, special stress is laid upon the value of the many timely storm warnings which have been issued by the bureau, and have resulted in the protection from loss or damage of many million dollars' worth of property, to say nothing of the many lives saved from impending dangers. An increase in the percentage of verifications is noted.

During the year the department issued 36 publications, mainly for gratitous distribution. The aggregate number of copies printed was 6,561,700. The publication work has grown enormously during the past few years and increased appropriations must be provided, but the secretary declares neither the department of agriculture nor the government itself can continue for the next five years to increase its publications for gratuitous distribution in the same ratio as for the last five years without disbursing millions of dollars. He protests against the intrusion in the act of the appropriation of the department for the current fiscal year of 82,500 for reprinting horse books and cattle books to be given away by congress.

The secretary again takes occasion to express his opposition to the gratuitous distribution of seeds, and to express the hope that the practice will be discontinued.

The work of the experiment stations is reveiwed at length. He opposes for the present the establishment of an agricultural experiment station in Alaska, but recommends an appropriation of $5000 for a preliminary investigation of the agricultural resources of the territory.

The secretary suggests some sort of co-operation between the agricultural colleges and the civil service commission, with a view to certifying more readily persons adapted for employment in the scientific divisions of the department.

The report concludes with a comprehensive report of the review of the condition of American farmers.

Seventy-two per cent of the farms in the United States occupied by their owners are absolutely free from mortgages or other incumbrances. The secretary refutes the idea prevailing that the farms of the west and south are more heavily burdened with mortgages than those of the east and northeast. States along the North Atlantic, he says, are quite heavily encumbered with farm mortgages, and New Jersey carries a debt of this kind greater in proportion to its farm valuation than any other state in the union. The frequent claim that the farmers are almost universally in debt, despondent and suffering, he declares to be without any foundation, a belittlement of agriculture, and an indignity to every intelligent and practical farmer. The farmers are not mendicants nor wards of the government, to be treated to annuities, but the representatives of the oldest, most honorable, most essential occupation of the human race, upon which all other vocations depend for subsistence and prosperity.

"Legislation," he says, "can neither plow nor plant. The intelligent, practical and successful farmer needs no aid from the government. The ignorant, impractical and indolent farmer deserves none. It is not the business of the government to legislate in behalf of any class of citizens because they are engaged in any specfic calling, no matter how essential the calling may be to the needs and comforts of civilization. Lawmakers cannot erase the natural laws nor restraint nor efface the operation of economic laws. It is a beneficent arrangement of the order of things and the conditions of human life that legislators are not permitted to repeal, amend or revise the laws of production and distribution."

Referring to the stress of competition which the American farmer is compelled to endure, Mr. Morton calls attention to the nearly 2,000,000 of farms of eighty acres each given away by the government under the homestead act during the past thirty years, and to the amount donated under the timber culture law, equivalent to over 500,000 more farms of the same size. Lands long tilled and rendered partially infertile could not, of course, enhance in value and sell in competition with virgin soil donated by the government.

No legislation relative to the public domain has been so directly inimcal to the farmers who had bought and paid for the lands upon which they had lived and labored. It was impossible for farmers in the old states to profitably sell their products in competition with those of the newer states, grown upon lands which cost their owners nothing. Referring to the impression that greater rates of interest are charged for money loaned upon farms than for that loaned on other kinds of real estate, Secretary Morton states that the rate of interest charged on mortgages upon residential property other than farms averages 84-100 of 1 per cent less than the rate of interest charged upon farm loans.

During the fiscal year just ended the exported products of American farms aggregated $570,000,000, an increase of $17,000,000 over the preceding year. In spite of this there was a falling off in the percentage of agricultural products exported to the total exports, but this was due to the unprecedented sale abroad of American manufactured goods. The largest market for our products is admitted to be the home market, but the export trade is the regulator, the balance wheel for domestic trade. It follows that the interest of the manufacturer as well as the farmer is found in the most rapid possible increase of the export of farm products. General prosperity depends absolutely upon agricultural prosperity, and any commercial system which will increase with celerity and extend the exports of our farm products will be of the utmost help to agriculturists.

That political economy which best advances the interest of the agriculturist furnishes the best impetus to the manufacturer of the United States, for his best customers are farmers and those who depend directly for profit upon the prosperity of farms.

Secretary Morton asks if a nation which, like the United States, possesses the greatest power and facilities for producing and manufacturing things which the world demands, is not destined to monopolize the markets of the globe. With the most favorable conditions for varied and successful agriculture and the light burden of national taxation, what country, he asks can compete with this in developing the best results of human toil with a minimum of human effort? The wonderful labor saving contrivances applied to nearly every avenue of production, the wages paid in the United States in the production of wheat and cotton, for instance, are 50 to 100 per cent higher than in the countries with which we compete; so the wages paid in manufactures from metal are from 25 to 100 per cent higher than the wages paid workers in the same industries by other nations. Under the foregoing conditions about 1,700,000 laborers of the American farms are constantly employed in developing agricultural products for exportation. At the same time, with a rapidly decreasing export of manufactured articles from the United States the number of laborers engaged in mechanical occupations, who must depend for their steady employment upon the demand which the world makes for American goods is constantly decreasing.

"It is," he concludes, "probably quite safe to declare that at letst 2,000,000 of American workman on farms and in factories subsist almost wholly upon employment based upon foreign demand for American commodities. And in this contest for feeding and furnishing mankind—notwithstanding the fierce competition which it meets all over the globe, American workmen on farme and in faccommerce are steadily gaining more trade and thus furnishing enlarged wages, under a gold basis, out of which some millions of American laborers and skilled artisans draw their yearly remuneration and upon which they and their families largely depend for employment and comfort."

SHARKEY AND FITZ

Are Training Hard and Giving Their Jaws a Rest

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22.—Although the two men have yet to be formally introduced, neither Fitzsimmons nor Sharkey are indulging in any jaw work concerning the merits of the other. Fitzsimmons realizes that his coming fight with the sailor will be serious work. The Australian has behind him the confidence born of much ring experience and a long string of victories, but he is training now for what he has intimated to his friends is going to be one of the fights of his life. He is well informed of Sharkey's tactics, and is aware that the sailor has a head almost invulnerable to ordinary fist delivery.

There is always an audience at his training quarters when Fitzsimmons begins his work promptly at 12 o'clock every day. The directors of the National Athletic club and a few wise old judges of ring flesh, saw him play six rounds on the sphere today, and afterwards bang Dan Hickey in the nose until that member resembled a five-days' old tomato. The Australian went through his work as if it was real business and the knowing ones pronounce him in superb fettle.

This will be the daily program from now until the day of the fight. Possibly the number of rounds with Stelzner and Hickey may be increased.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES

Five Children Cremated in Incendiary Flames

THE FATHER IS DRIVEN MAD

A Nebraska Murderer Makes a Confession of His Crime

A California Rancher Disposes of an Unsatisfactory Brother-in-Law With a Shotgun—The Sunday Record.

Associated Press Special Wire

HAMILTON, Mo., Nov. 22.—Five children of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder Neal, living five miles north of this city, were burned while the parents were attending a dance. They had eight children. The oldest, a boy of 15 years, and a baby, accompanied the parents to a social party.

About 11 oclock the gathering broke up. Soon after starting home the Neals and those accompanying them discovered the Neal residence on fire. When they reached the burning building the father saw his 11-year-old girl lying burning in the front door, clasping her 3-year-old brother in her arms. The flames prevented rescue. The children were then dead. The father fell in a swoon and has been a raving maniac ever since.

Nora, 9 years old, is the only survivor. She says the children at home, Callie, 13; Hattie, 11; William, 7; Clarence, 5; Julia, 3, and herself, retired at the usual hour in an upstairs chamber. The next she knew the fire was coming up through the floor and the building was enveloped in flames. She says all six were aroused. She rushed to a second story window and jumped to the ground, calling to the others to follow, as the fire had cut off escape by the stairway.

It is thought the fire was caused by an incendiary.

BAD BRIDGEBUILDING.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Nov. 22.—A party of a dozen young people who left Ensley City last night in a wagon for a hay ride, had their merriment changed to death and disaster before they had proceeded a mile.

A new bridge had just been completed across Village creek. While crossing the stream the bridge gave way, precipitating the wagon and its load of human freight fifteen feet below into the water. William Shannon was injured about the head and died today. Maggie Hartigan was injured about the head and back, and will probably die. Charles Barnes was badly injured about the head and internlly. The others injured are C. L. Shannon, C. G. Campbell, Ed Blackburn, Sam Brown, Miss Ella K. Jones, Miss Lulu Williams, Miss Nellie Blackburn and Eph Brown, colored, driver, all more or less seriously.

The cause of the accident was that the stringers of the bridge were too short, and gradually worked off the sills. The water in the creek was six feet deep, so that but for the timely work of those least injured the ladies and those most seriously injured would have drowned.

A MURDER CONFESSED.

OMAHA, Nev., Nov. 22.—Charles H. Elliott, now in the Douglas county jail, has confessed to the murder of Gay Hutsonpillar, his friend, in the Windsor hotel here last Tuesday. His confession covers twenty type-written pages. He says Hutsonpillar was about to leave for Montana, and continues: "I owed him $15 and wanted him to sign a receipt for it and he would not. I told him I would not pay unless he did. He called me a fool and said he would take it out of my hide."

Elliott then picked up a coupling pin and struck his friend, and becoming alarmed at his hard breathing went to a drug store and bought 15 cents worth of chloroform, saturated a towel with it and put it over Hutsonpillar's face. Elliott then left the hotel and took the Northwestern train east and was arrested at Cedar Rapids. He did not know at that time that Hutsonpillar was dead. He adds: "I only took $21.35 of Hutsonpillar's money. The rest of the money found on me, about $65, was sent me by my uncle at Akron, Ohio."

A FAMILY ROW.

JACKSON, Cal., Nov. 22.—A shooting affray occurred early this morning on the Payton ranch, three miles east of Amador City, resulting in the death of J. Thomas at the hands of W. Payton. Thomas married a sister of Payton. Their married life was unhappy, and their matrimonial jars led to several separations, the last taking place a few days ago.

About 5 oclock this morning Thomas repaired to the Payton place, and, rousing the inmates, said he had come for his wife. He was told that it was no time to come, thereupon Thomas drew a pistol and commenced shooting, one shot taking effect in Payton's shoulder. Payton then went into the house, got his shotgun and fired at Thomas, killing him instantly.

AN INDIGNANT PREACHER.

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 22.—Rev. G. Wynne Richmond, who is in the Shawnee county jail awaiting trial on the charge of sending obscene letters to his wife, is indignant about a story printed in Kansas papers, which places him under suspicion of being Rev. Dr. Francis Hermans, wanted in Salt Lake City for the murder of Miss Henrietta Clausen. Richmond tonight declared that the story is absolutely without foundation in truth, and that he was occupying a pulpit in Louisville, Kan., at the time the murder is said to have occurred. He demands a vindication and has asked the sheriff to write out a description of him and furnish it to the Utah authorities.

ATTEMPTED TRAIN-WRECKING.

SALT LAKE, Utah, Nov. 22.—Just before the 7:15 Union Pacific southbound train reached Kaysville, fourteen miles north of this city, an employe of the road discovered men placing obstructions on the track. When he approached and spoke, he was answered by several shots, after which the men fled. They had placed ties across the track, and it is believed it was the intention to hold up the passenger train, due in a short time. The police of Farmington have arrested three suspicious characters found in the vicinity.

LYNCHERS DODGED.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 22.—William Foley, the wealthy young farmer, who was last night arrested at Liberty, Mo., and formally charged with the murder of his aged mother and sister, was brought to this city this morning for safekeeping and placed in the county jail. The trip was made on an early train to avoid any possible show of a demonstration against Foley at Liberty, whose citizens have become thoroughly wrought up over the cold-blooded murder. Foley had little to say, and quietly submitted in every way to the officers' will.

ALLEGED POISONING.

DECATUR, Ind., Nov. 22.—Dr. J. Stoneberger and J. Ulmer, two leading physicians of this county, were arrested last night, charged with administering poison to Mrs. Adeline Brown, who died a few days ago. Her body was disinterred and poison found in the stomach. Ulmer remained in jail over night. They were arraigned before the mayor today and bound over to the circuit court. Both are out on bonds.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

MAYFIELD, Ky., Nov. 22.—A murder and suicide occurred here today. R. B. Baker, a farmer, recently sued for divorce. He and his wife had not lived together for some time, and a bitter feeling existed between them. Today Baker went to see his wife at his residence, and when she would not listen to his overtures he shot and killed her, and then shot himself twice. Both died almost instantly.

HIS PIPE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY

IRELAND'S LETTER.

Was That of a Citizen and Not of a Priest.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—Rev. Dr. Rooker, secretary of the apostolic delegation at Washington, preached at the celebration of the feast of St. Cecilia at St. Agnes churuch today. He made no reference to the report of trouble in Catholic circles at Washington. His sermon dealt entirely with matters theological, but in an interview at the close he said:

"Nothing has been said or done about Archbishop Ireland's letter in which the St. Paul prelate pronounced for the gold standard. If Archbishop Ireland made them any votes by it the Republicans ought to do something for him. As an ecclesiastic, Archbishop Ireland took no part in the campaign. The subject was never mentioned in the pulpit. What he said as a man and a citizen concerns no one but himself."

GEORGE W. FERRIS IS DEAD

The Man Who Built the World-Famous Ferris Wheel

He Was Run Down by Over-work and a Sudden Attack of Typhoid Fever Carried Him Off

PITTSBURG, Pa., Nov. 22.—Geoge W. Ferris, who conceived and built the world-famous Ferris wheel, died at Mercy hospital in this city at 11 o'clock this morning of typhoid fever. Hiss illness was brief, and it was only Friday that he was taken to the hospital. The attending physicians say his system was greatly run down by over-work. His wife came from Canton, O., yesterday, that she might be with her husband in his dying moments.

George Ferris was born at Galesburg, Ill., Feb. 14, 1859. When he was very young his family moved to Carson City, Nev., and it was there the young wheel builder spent the years of his early boyhood. In 1876 he came east. He began a course at the Renssalaer Polytechnic institute of New York city in that year. In 1881 he graduated with high honors. In 1883 he accepted a position with the Louisville Bridge company of Louisville, Ky. It was while with that company that he first visited Pittsburg. He came here to superintend the construction of structural stuff to be used in the Louisville and Nashville bridge at Henderson, Ky. After the completion of the contract Mr. Ferris engaged in the inspection of structural iron on his own account. In 1887, while pursuing that vocation independently, the firm of G. W. G. Ferris & Co. of Pittsburg was established. The concern still exists. In 1886 he was married to Miss Beatty of Canton, O. It was in 1892 that Mr. Ferris conceived the idea of the wonderful Ferris wheel that has attracted the attention of all the people of the world, and which will go down in history as one of the greatest wonders of the century. The monster passenger wheel conceived by Mr. Ferris was built under his personal supervision in this city.

GOLD IMPORTS

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Nov. 21.—The steamship Mariposa has sailed for San Francisco with 400,000 sovereigns on board.

TWO FAMOUS PRISONERS

Now Serving Sentences in English Prisons

MRS. MAYBRICK IS A WRECK

As the Result of Confinement and Mental Worry

Imprisonment Is Also Killing Oscar Wilde, but He Has Only Four Months More to Serve.

Associated Press Special Wire

LONDON, Nov. 22.—From a high official connected with her majesty's prison at Wormwood Scrubbs the Associated Press is furnished the following account of the prisoners, Mrs. Maybrick and Oscar Wilde.

"By anyone who knew Mrs. Maybrick as I did, before her incarceration, she would not now be recognized. She is a complete mental and physical wreck. I wish to say right here that this condition is not due to the prison treatment, but it is the direct result of confinement and mental worry. While she is not insane, her condition borders closely upon it. She has not been at Wormwood Scrubbs for many months, but is now in the smaller prison at Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire. It is found that prisoners in her mental state require as much change as is consistent with prison regulations, and for this reason she has been an inmate of so many prisons. While at Wormwood Scrubbs she was in the hospital for nine months in the year, and her health has demanded like treatment at Aylesbury. She has grown thin and her cheek bones protrude in a manner most unpleasant to see. Her complexion is ghastly, and her eyes have a haunted look. She has all the cunning of an insane person. This is shown by the fact that she has twice endeavored to commit suicide, once nearly successfully, despite the strict watch to which she is constantly subjected. One of these attempts was evidently made in an endeavor to convince the doctors that she was suffering from internal hemorrhages, and went too far. She subsequently made the same attempt and very nearly succeeded. The other attempt was by means of strangulation. Since these attempts the watch to which she has been subjected precludes another such a repetition.

"In talking with her she once said to me, 'I deserve all I got.' This was significant, but her mental condition at the time was such that I did not attach much importance to her remarks. However that may be, she was not, in my opinion, ever proven guilty. I am firmly of the belief that she will not survive another year of prison life. She has now been in confinement since July, 1889. Ordinarily, imprisonment for life means twenty years, there being but few instances where prisoners have been confined on a life sentence after that period, unless some new and pointed facts in relation to their guilt have come to light in the interim. I also think the efforts to secure her release which have come from America and elsewhere, and which have been in the nature of coercing the foreign office, have operated against her, and I also believe that she will be set at liberty within a year."

The official was also asked regarding Oscar Wilde, saying:

"Wilde was also removed from the Scrubbs a short time ago. He is now at Reading. His health is also wretched, and he seems aged and broken. He has spent much time in the hospital and like Mrs. Maybrick has been frequently transferred, and for the same reason. While at Scrubbs he was a model prisoner, so far as complying with the regulations were concerned, but his work was done in a perfunctory manner. I must decline to say at what labor he was employed. Like Mrs. Maybrick, I do not think he would survive another year of prison life, but fortunately for him his sentence expires the last of March. Personally, I do not believe any petitions for his release will be granted."

NEWS OF THE MORNING

By Telegraph: Page 1 and 2—

Cloudy weather today, possibly with rain.

The Sunday record of crime and casualty.

Prof. Moore reports on the weather bureau.

Miss Barton's report on Armenian relief work.

The collier San Benito wrecked off Point Arena.

Sacramentans still think they saw an airship.

Funeral of the late F. P. Arbuckle of Denver.

Another senatorial fight promised in Kentucky.

The Manitoba school question is very far from settled.

Rain is welcomed in famine stricken districts of India.

Fred Grant would take a cabinet position if anybody offered it to him.

Weyler promises to crush the Cuban rebellion along about Christmas.

Reports of effects of prison life on Mrs. Maybrick and Oscar Wilde.

The builder of the famous Ferris wheel dead of typhoid fever at Pittsburg.

Secretary Morton makes optimistic report concerning American agriculture.

Two coroner's inquests—page 8.

Conductor Odell's funeral—page 8.

Madame Zeisler in the city—page 4.

Selections from yesterday's sermons—page 5.

Mrs. Dr. Cutler mistakes morphine for quinine—page 2.

Pastors' opinions on the use of the communion cup—page 8.

A disturbance in the Park Congregational church—page 4.

Blinded by molten metal; Stanford Jewell's serious injuries—page 2.

Talks of Theosophists; Count Wachmeister on evolution—page 5.

"Bud" Price had a quid pro quo in view; a promise of being appointed police commissioner—page 8.

Sports of the day....Yesterday's baseball....Athletic club's field day entries....Football notes—page 3.

In the field of labor....Brotherhood of Firemen demand recognition—Council of Labor matters—page 8.

The water company makes combinations for Martin; Generalissimo Lindley and Lieutenant Otis—page 8.

The city's boundary lines....How the first base line was drawn....Official boundaries on paper and in fact—page 2.

Southern California specials: Riverside's program for Thanksgiving day; the polo club....Garvanza citizens hope to secure Occidental college; literary society's meeting....Antelope Valley's direct road to the gold fields....A fire at Fillmore....Etiwanda notes....Street car line extension at San Diego....Burglars at San Bernardino—page 7.

A CHURCH FIGHT

Michigan Polish Catholics Engage in a Serious Brawl

DETROIT, Mich., Nov. 22.—A special to the Tribune from Bay City says: The two factions which have been dividing St. Stanislaus's Polish Catholic congregation for the past six months, came together today in a battle, in which clubs and missiles were used and nearly a score injured. The church was crowded at 8 oclock mass, when the trouble began. Father Bogacki, successor to Father Matkowski, the former priest, whose action had divided the church and led to hostilities originally, scored the anti-Matkowski faction for purchasing a cemetery of their own, saying they would be cut off from all the offices of the church. After the service, when Father Bogacki started for his house, he was forced back into the church by the crowd. A squad of policemen tried to rush the priest from the church to the parsonage. A battle ensued, and many heads were broken by the officers' clubs. The priest was pushed back and finally toward noon was escorted away from the premises. This evening, accepting Mayor Wright's counsel, the crowd dispersed.

AN ACTOR'S DEATH

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—After several months' illness W. A. Mestayer, the well known actor, died last night of Bright's disease. Mestayer was a man widely respected by the theatrical profession of the United States. After several years' good work at the California theater with the late John McCullough, he came to New York under an engagement with E. E. Rice, and played under his management in al the principal burlesques produced by that manager for several years.

ALL EYES AT SACRAMENTO

Are Turned Zenithwards in Search of the Airship

Hundreds of People See the Light but Can Distinguish Nothing Else—Oroville Bred the Animal

SACRAMENTO, Nov. 22.—Between 6 and 7 oclock tonight hundreds of people again saw floating over the city what is now firmly believed to be an airship. An immense white light was displayed and it was moving rapidly in a southwesterly direction. The light was so high, however, that no other object could be distinguished. Tonight's visitation created considerable excitement and the airship is the sole topic of conversation.

WHERE IT GREW

OROVILLE, Nov. 22.—The rumor that the airship which is alleged to have passed over Sacramento was constructed near this town, seems to have a grain of truth in it. The parties who could give information if they would, however, are extremely reticent. They give evasive answers or assert they know absolutely nothing about it. Not a single person that saw or knew of an airship being constructed near here can be found, and yet there is a rumor that some man has been experimenting with different kinds of gases and testing those that are lighter than air. The experiments were made some miles east of town and no one is able to give any names of the parties, who are evidently strangers, seeking to avoid publicity.

A SYNDICATE DEAL

LIMA, O., Nov. 22.—The Dietrich syndicate, of which E. C. Benedict, President Cleveland's close friend, is president, has just closed a deal by which it acquires possession of all the property of the Ohio and Indiana Natural Gas company. The purchase includes the plants at Lima, Dayton, Piqua, Sidney and Wapakoneta, Ohio, and in many towns in Indiana, and several millions of dollars are involved.

A DEAD RELIC HUNTER.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Robert H. Whitehand, the proprietor of the old curiosity shop store on D street, committed suicide today by blowing out his brains. His place of business was a veritable treasure house of relics, some of which were from revolutionary times.

ANOTHER WRECK OFF POINT ARENA

Collier San Benito Lost Her Bearings

STRUCK THE BAR AND BROKE IN TWO

Three Men by Desperate Efforts Reach the Shore

SIX OF THEIR COMPANIONS

After a Brief Battle With the Waves, Sink to Death

Twenty-Seven of the Crew Are Still Clinging to the Hulk

Men Eager to Offer Aid Are Driven Back by the Heavy Sea Washing Over the Wreck—Heroic Rescuers

Associated Press Special Wire

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22.—The big Southern Pacific collier San Benito is reported wrecked near Point Arena on the California coast. Only five out of a crew of twenty-six men are reported saved. The San Benito was a four-masted iron steamer vessel of 3651 tons. She was 350 feet long and was built in Glasgow in 1884. For years she has been used as a collier by the Southern Pacific to bring coal from Tacoma to this port. She due here yesterday. According to a brief message received from Point Arena today, she went ashore near there last night in a heavy storm and will be a total loss.

CONFIRMATION

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22.—Another dispatch from Point Arena says that the San Benito is ashore two miles north of Point Arena at the mouth of Brush creek. She is on the rocks about one-eighth of a mile from shore. Chief Engineer Woods and five men are on the steamer Point Arena and twenty-eight men are still on board the wreck. The life-saving station has sent its line gun and lifeboat to the scene, but it is thought the gun will not be of service, as the ship lies too far out. The San Benito was commanded by Captain Smith and carried a crew of forty men. She left Tacoma Wednesday with 4600 tons of coal. This was 600 tons short of her usual winter cargo.

FIVE LIVES LOST

POINT ARENA, Nov. 22.—Five lives were lost in the wreck of the San Benito, as follows:

O. W. Scott, first assistant engineer.
F. Condon, second assistant engineer.
M. Pendegast, fireman.
John H. Sheridan, mess boy.
One seaman.

Thirteen men were rescued and the balance are on the wreck.

A FULLER ACCOUNT

POINT ARENA, Nov. 22.—The steamer San Benito, bound from Tacoma to San Francisco, went ashore seven miles north of Point Arena this morning. The steamer struck on a sand bar and broke in two. The San Benito carried forty-four men, and during the severe storm last night must have lost her bearings. The wind was terrific and a heavy sea was running. The vessel struck about 1 oclock in the morning, and an hour later she broke just aft the smokestack. Boats were lowered, but one capsized immediately, with five men in it, four of whom were drowned. Another boat with four of the crew capsized nine times, losing two men. Three by heroic efforts reached shore.

Daylight found the rest of the crew clinging to the rigging. Such a heavy sea is running that it is impossible to render assistance. The drowned are:

John Sherman, mess boy.
W. E. Condon, second assistant engineer, married.
O. W. Scott, first assistant engineer, married.
Michael Pendergast, coal passer.
The other two are unknown.

The steamer Point Arena reached the scene at 11 oclock this morning and sent out a boat, and by great bravery and skillful seamanship rescued seven men.

In making a second trip the boat was almost swamped and was compelled to abandon all efforts on account of the great breakers washing over the wreck. A sailor was washed overboard and reached shore almost dead. He was revived by a doctor on the beach. At 4 oclock this morning a sailor jumped overboard and attempted to swim to shore with a line. The shoulder straps of his life preserver broke and the man went down. Lighthouse Keeper Brown, an Indian, Lazarus, William Caumprey and Al Cunningham manned a boat and made two heroic efforts to connect the wreck with the shore by a line, but were unsuccessful. The steamers Point Arena and Alcazar are off the wreck, but can render no assistance until the sea calms. A passing steamer landed a gun at Point Arena this afternoon and the line will be shot to the wreck tonight. Both parts of the ship are fast in the sand fifty feet apart. Sailors claim the accident was on account of the fog horn not blowing, but the night was clear and the light could be seen many miles.

The names of the crew on board the San Benito at the time of the wreck are not positively known, as sailors and firemen change so frequently just before a vessel sails. It is supposed, however, that the crew that was on the steamer the last trip went out again on the present trip and were on board at the time the vessel struck. The records of the Pacific Improvement company show the list of officers and crew to be as follows:

Captain, William Smith; first officer, R. Zolling; second officer, J. Swan; third officer, C. Vile; chief engineer, Irving W. Ward; first assistant engineer, O. W. Scott; second assistant engineer, C. Condon; third assistant engineer, T. Cleary; carpenter, G. F. Nelson; water tender, W. H. Jeffs; water tender, J. McKeon; water tender, J. Ward; storekeeper, W. Sloan; firemen, J. McDade, B. Fahey, E. Fahey, M. Pendergast, G. Christopher, J. Reilly, H. Jackson, J. Walsh; coal passers, C. Brown, N. Leyva, W. Sheehan, N. Fitzgerald, M. Fernandez, M. Kelly; sailors, A. White, G. Johnson, C. Blanberg, C. Jansen, J.