

A GIGANTIC SCHEME.

The Business Department of the Farmers' Alliance Pushing out in a New Direction.

It Has Formed a Company With Leading New York Merchants and Will Start Co-operative Stores.

One Store Already Running Under This Arrangement—Many Others Will Start Soon.

The National Union Company.

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 18.—It is learned through the medium of *Albany* Ward and George T. Cross, the heads of two very important divisions of alliance work in the northwest, that the business department of the alliance in twenty-two states of the union has united with the leading business men of New York city and formed a company similar in its plan of operation to the celebrated *Woolworth* system in England and to the *Zion* co-operative stores of Utah. The organization is called the National Union company and has large means at its command. It is claimed the advantages to the alliance are twofold at least. It will have the business ability and experience of some of the shrewdest men in the nation at its back, while there will apparently be plenty of capital to meet any emergency which may arise and to push business as circumstances permit. In return the alliance will give the organization its patronage.

"It is the aim of this new organization," said Cross, "to buy out the merchant in every trade center of importance, stocking him up with everything he wants in the line of general every-day goods demanded by farmers and make him local manager of the concern. We have options from business men in 41 towns in North Dakota and the work is still being vigorously pushed along. The only transfer to date, however, has been made in Aberdeen. J. B. Moore, dealer in furniture, having contracted with the company to put in his stock of goods and become manager of the local store."

In Minnesota and North Dakota the work is progressing nearly as well as here. In southern Minnesota we have 25 options on desirable business plants in as many flourishing towns and in a week hence we will have representatives on the ground invoicing stocks and making transfers.

Asked about the future of the alliance purchasing company of which he is president, Cross said "it would no longer handle machinery, coal, etc. as in the past. All this business will be turned over to the National Union. The alliance company will continue to exist, however, but its whole energy will be devoted to an interchange of products for farmers of the east and west and the north and south."

The Mining Congress.

DENVER, Nov. 18.—The dedication of the Colorado mining stock exchange building and the opening of the first national mining congress were celebrated here today. At 10 o'clock this morning there was a street parade in which miners and all interested in mining took part. There were also floats bearing mining machinery in motion and a great many tableaux indicative of the many important features of mining were displayed. At the dedication speeches were made by Charles E. Taylor, president of the mining exchange, Hon. Platt Rogers, mayor of Denver, Hon. Charles Abder of Portland, Me., Hon. H. A. W. Tabor, H. W. Crenner, architect of the building, and B. Clark Wheeler of Aspen. All of the speakers advocated the free and unlimited coinage of silver. In the afternoon the mining congress was opened at the People's theatre with ex-Gov. Tabor in the chair.

Delegates from thirty-three states and territories reported present and it was understood that Hon. Niles Searles, formerly chief justice of California, would be elected permanent chairman. This recommendation has not yet been reported. The greater part of the afternoon session was occupied by Senator Stewart of Nevada, who delivered a long address upon the silver question. He took the ground that silver had been demoralized through the influence of Wall street and urged the congress to adopt a set of resolutions that would compel the national house of representatives to pass laws restoring silver to a parity with gold. Gov. Hunt then delivered the address of welcome in which he paid a terse compliment Senator Stewart. After a speech by Hon. C. S. Thomas and the appointment of committees the session adjourned till tomorrow morning.

To Be Taken with Salt.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Senator Hansbrough of North Dakota in an interview in New York briefly indicates his sentiments and those of his constituents on free coinage and presidential preferences. "There were never any republicans in North Dakota who favored free coinage," said he, "and since Cleveland wrote his letter declaring for honest money you can not find a democrat who favors it. There may have been a few before that time but they are a few now. There are few Farmers' alliance members who endorse any and all crank ideas. They say they want free silver, but nobody else does."

"Is the state for Blaine?"

"Just the same as ever. Republicans are for Blaine and the democrats for Cleveland."

The Weather Today.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Montana: Slightly warmer generally fair weather.

The W. N. A. Session.

PITTSBURG, Nov. 18.—The annual meeting of the Women's National Indian Association is in session in the first Christian church of Allegheny. About 200 ladies, representing associations in various parts of the country, are in attendance.

The work of the afternoon was devoted to the committee on the plans of the work and the report of the committee on resolutions. The resolutions pledge the members of the union to renewed efforts for the cause of total abstinence and prohibition; recommend the prosecution of department work; emphasize total abstinence for the individual and legal prohibition for the state; rejoice that capitalists are perceiving the financial benefits of prohibition; by many towns being established with a prohibitory clause in their charter and electing the founder of the Father Mathews professorship in the Catholic university at Washington; approve most heartily the suggestion that a J. B. Gough professorship be founded in an American university at the capital and recommends the endowment of similar chairs in other institutions of higher education; urge women to use every means practicable to secure equal governmental rights in the state and church; declare unalterable opposition to all political parties that in any way protect the liquor system; endorse that party which advocates in its platform the entire abatement of women, prohibition of the liquor traffic and preservation of the Sabbath; recommend carrying of test liquor cases to the United States supreme court in order to secure a decision on the constitutionality of the liquor laws; condemn action of the state department in issuing a circular letter to the United States consuls in South and Spanish America, instructing them to gather all information possible regarding the beer trade in those countries with the view of extending this business; condemn the use by tobaccoists of advertisements in the shape of women's forms and faces and the use of obscene cards in cigar boxes and cigarette packages; protest against immoral theatrical literature and medical advertisements in many of the leading newspapers; advocate dress reform, protests against the legalizing of the Louisiana lottery; protests against the publication in newspapers of details of crime and sensational stories. Resolutions also contain a memorial to congress asking that body to ratify the Bruns treaty relative to the liquor and slave trade in Africa; to pass a bill for a commission to investigate social vice and to pass a bill for a commission on alcoholic liquor traffic. Following the reading of reports and adoption of the resolutions, addresses were made by Mrs. Bokaral, Mme. Abbeba Angelini of Italy and Miss Catherine Guernsey of England who came to the convention as fraternal delegates from Christiana police in London. There was a brief memorial service for the dead of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the convention closed with the benediction. This evening the Demorest gold medal contest took place in Tremont temple.

Bold Bank Burglars.

HONOLULU, Nov. 18.—Honolulu has been treated to a genuine sensation in the arrest and detention of the owners of the British yacht *Beadle*, who are charged with smuggling 30,000 English sovereigns into this port. About Sept. 1 the yacht containing Bloom and Douglass, the owners, and a young man named Joseph Burne arrived in the harbor. The party rented a fine residence on King street, furnished it handsomely, and entertained royally. The yacht was placed in a dry dock and thoroughly overhauled and repaired. The party spent money freely, all payments being made in British sovereigns. On the arrival of the steamer *Australia* from the colonies there came detectives who told the story of the robbery of a bank at Sydney of over 50,000 English sovereigns. The detectives left a photograph in the possession of Marshal Wilson, which tallied with the appearance of the parties here, and left on the *Australia* for San Francisco for the purpose, as he said, of calling to Sydney for further instructions, as there is no extradition treaty between Australia and Hawaii. The party prepared to leave and the officers arrested them but as the detective did not return the charge of smuggling had to be dropped. The owners of the yacht sailed away Monday. During her stay here the captain of the yacht, who brought her from the colonies, left her on account of her suspicious movements. A new captain and crew were taken aboard here and everything prepared for a long cruise. Their destination is said to be Japan but it is intimated that they will touch at San Francisco.

Montanians Abroad.

ST. PAUL, Nov. 18.—M. H. Arnold, Miles City, at the Sherman; Jerry Collins, Great Falls, at the Ryan; J. Frost, Lewistown, at the Sherman; W. H. Carter, Charles H. Gould, and R. R. Phillips, prominent stockmen of Montana, are guests at the Sherman today. Mr. Carter informed a reporter this morning that the shipments of cattle from Montana have closed for the season. What were understood to be the last shipments were made yesterday. "Shipments this year have been larger than ever before," said he, "but more cattle have been shipped in than have been sent out and the ranges are overcrowded. In one little strip of country not more than eighty miles square, between the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, I believe there are 200,000 head of cattle. The other sections are about equally well stocked and that is getting them too thick altogether. If it keeps up we are likely to have a repetition of the trouble of a few years ago when so many cattle starved to death."

Tinplate Again.

PITTSBURG, Nov. 18.—Col. D. Ayer, government agent, who is in the city, had a conference with President J. L. Britton and Secretary W. C. Cronmeyer, secretary of the National Tinplate Manufacturers' association. The officers of the association are preparing a tabulated statement for Col. Ayer of the number of plants in existence, their capacity, and the outlook for the industry.

A MILLION AND A HALF FIRE.

One Person Probably Killed and Two Badly Hurt by the Falling Debris.

One of the Biggest Fires Experienced by St. Louis in a Long Time.

St. Paul Visited by the Fire Fiend—It Is Still Burning Furiously.

A Terrible Fire.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 17.—The cold wave which reached this city last evening was the cause of one of the most disastrous fires that has visited St. Louis in many years. Early this morning one person was probably killed, two badly hurt and one and one-half million dollars worth of property went up in smoke. At about 1 o'clock a fire was discovered in the furnace room of the large dry goods establishment of Penny & Gentles, on the corner of Franklin avenue and Broadway. A watchman quickly turned in an alarm and seeing the terrible velocity with which the flames speedily devoured the inflammable material in the basement sent in a second and within ten minutes after the discovery of the fire a general alarm sounded which brought the whole fire department to the scene. But notwithstanding the heroic work of the firemen the flames quickly ate their way to the top of the building, and within an incredibly short space of time the entire store was a mass of seething flames, the roar of the fire being heard two or three blocks away. A cold westerly wind was blowing at the time, rendering the work of the firemen almost useless, as the water poured on the burning building seemed to have effect no more than oil on the water. The flames spread to Sonnenfeld's millinery store south of Penny & Gentles on Broadway. This is the largest establishment of its kind in St. Louis, occupying four floors of the north end of the famous building. The most strenuous efforts of the firemen to quench the fearful flames seemed like those of the Lilliputians, and notwithstanding their noble work the fire swept on towards the south, eating its way through the thick fire proof walls into the mammoth shoe and clothing house of the Famous company. This is the largest house of its kind in the west and here is where most of the destruction was wrought by the seemingly unquenchable fire fiend. The Famous company occupy a building on Morgan street and Broadway with about 125 feet front and 25 feet deep and four stories high. As soon as the fire attacked the famous establishment the flames here found ready fuel and the firemen's efforts were futile to stay the spread of the devouring element they therefore turned their attention to saving the adjoining property on Broadway, Franklin avenue and Morgan street. The fire was so hot however that no one could remain on the street facing the burning buildings and D. Crawford & Co.'s immense dry goods store on the southwest corner of Broadway and Franklin avenue was greatly damaged by the terrible heat which broke the thick window glass and started a fire in that building, the whole front part of the store at once time being on fire, but the firemen by almost superhuman efforts managed finally to subdue the flames and by this time the heat from the other side of the street had subsided somewhat, enabling the firemen to go on Broadway and fight the flames from better vantage-ground. At 5:15 p. m. the walls of the Famous and Sonnenfeld's building fell into the west alley with a loud crash and a moment later the Morgan street walls of the Famous building fell. A squad of firemen in the alley narrowly escaped being caught under the falling walls. Shortly after 8 o'clock the flames appeared at the corner of the Weiman house, which is directly opposite the Famous building on the east side of Broadway. In a few moments the roof and upper story of the large four-story building were a mass of flames. Dense smoke from the fire from the other side of the street made it impossible for the firemen to work at this point for some time, but a lull or rather a change in the wind swept the smoke away and gave the fire ladders a chance to combat the terribly menacing flames. Before the department could obtain the mastery, however, the row of retail stores from the northeast corner of Franklin avenue and Broadway to the middle of the block were badly damaged.

This fire throws about 1,500 people out of employment, the majority of them being in the service of the Famous company. One life was probably lost and four persons were injured by the fire. The whereabouts of night watchman Jasper, employed by the Sonnenfeld Millinery Co., have not been discovered and it is thought he was killed. Firemen John Lynch and Alonzo Simon were hit on the head by falling bricks and badly hurt, the former so seriously it was necessary to remove him to his home. Mitze Connors, a roofer at the Weiman house on Broadway and Morgan streets jumped from the third story window and his life was saved by the fall being broken by the electric wires. However his leg was broken. A. S. Taylor, a newspaper man, received a severe shock from an electric wire and was hid by some falling debris. The losses and insurance are as follows: Loss on the stock and fixtures of the Famous Shoe and Clothing Co., \$1,100,000; on building, \$250,000; on the stock of Penny & Gentles, \$200,000; on building \$40,000; on Sonnenfeld's stock, \$190,000; on building \$55,000. The insurance on the stock owned by the Famous company is \$750,000; on building \$400,000; on the stock owned by Penny & Gentles, \$150,000; on building \$30,000; on Sonnenfeld's stock, \$130,000; on building \$48,000. Minor losses will aggregate \$55,000.

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Indians Quiet.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—A telegram has been received at army headquarters from General John B. Brooke, commanding the department of Dakota in response to one sent by General Schofield asking the truth about the rumor that Blackfoot's band had left its reservation and started for Pine Ridge. General Brooke stated he had been unable to learn anything definite about the movement but would find out its scope and significance at once. There is no apprehension felt here that this movement will be followed by anything like last year's outbreak. General Schofield said this morning: "The condition of things in the Indian country is today far better than a year ago. There is more content among the Sioux this winter than last and it is mainly due to the fact that the affairs of the government as far as they affect the Indians are, I believe, being better administered. I do not think there are any signs to be discerned now of trouble this winter, for as far as I can see the tribes are quiet."

A \$120,000 Case.

PITTSBURG, Nov. 17.—In the United States circuit court the case of the People's Fire Insurance company against D. W. Holt, was placed on trial today. The case involves \$120,000. There are sixteen similar cases against Holt which will probably be decided by this one. The present suit is to recover \$3,500 paid to Holt on a fire insurance policy. Holt was a lumber merchant in Phillipsburg, Penn., and had a large lumber yard. Some time ago it was destroyed by fire and Holt recovered \$120,000 insurance. He had been insured for \$125,000, apportioned among a number of companies. It is now claimed by the plaintiff that Holt set fire to or caused to be set on fire the lumber to get the insurance; also that by fraud he made his books show that he had on hand about twice as much lumber as he actually had at the time of the fire. A. B. Carpenter, a former employee of Holt, was placed on the stand and his testimony was of a highly sensational character. He testified that Holt instructed him that when he was making his daily returns to the book-keeper of the number of feet of lumber he was to increase the amounts each day until the entire amounts given made a total of about twice that on hand. This done he said that Holt made a proposition to him that if he would fire the lumber that he (Holt) would give him a quarter interest in the business and ten per cent of the insurance, which proposition he admitted he agreed to. Witness then explained how he prepared the boxes saturated with oil to fire the yard, concluding: "On the night of August 21, 1882, Holt came to me about 7 o'clock and told me it was time to finish the work up. Holt then left," said the witness, "and I fired the boxes." Carpenter then told how the crime had preyed upon his mind and he could get no rest day or night from a guilty conscience; how it had transformed him into an old man, his sufferings finally becoming so great he went to the sheriff and confessed all.

Sensational News from Brazil.

LONDON, Nov. 17.—The Telegraph gives publicity to sensational news from Rio Janeiro. No explanation is given as to how the news was allowed to be cabled and as it is known the government of the dictator has taken complete control of the cables and refuse to permit any intelligence not favorable to its interests to be telegraphed out of the country. Today's dispatches are not accepted here as certain to be accurate. The Exchange company's advices from Rio de Janeiro report the complete prostration of the postal service. This it is asserted was suspended today. It is supposed this refers to the general postal service of the republic, though it may mean that of the capital. At the same time the government put a stop to the transmission of all press dispatches by telegraph lines to the various cities of the country. This story is interpreted as meaning that opposition to the dictator's rule is growing in provincial centers and that the authorities are determined as far as practicable to prevent one centre of dissatisfaction and incipient rebellion from gaining encouragement and inspiration from prompt intelligence of revolutionary movements or uprisings in other parts of the republic.

In Rio de Janeiro it is claimed a practical state of siege exists. The city is in the hands and at the mercy of the dictator's soldiers. Most stringent measures have been adopted to prevent disorder or organized opposition to the present opposition. News received at Rio Janeiro, according to the Exchange Telegraph company's advices from the state of Rio Grande do Sul, is of an important character. It is stated the forces of the opposition or party of secession in Rio Grande do Sul are already in the field and are marching fully equipped to meet the army of the central government. The armies are not far separated and a decisive battle may be expected within a very short period.

Previous advices have declared the army of the seceders to be 30,000 in number. How numerous the dictator's forces is not known.

The Exchange Telegraph company's advices also give sensational news from Para. It is asserted the principal naval and military officers stationed in the state of Para have held a meeting and after discussion of the present situation of affairs decided in favor of a declaration of independence from the Brazilian union by that state. This movement in Para in favor of secession is considered so formidable at the capital, according to the Exchange company's despatch, that it is believed the government of the dictator will be unable to cope with it. The only news favorable to the dictator which reached Europe this forenoon is contained in a Rio de Janeiro telegram received at Paris, which says the governor of Sao Paulo, a wealthy and populous state adjoining the state of Rio de Janeiro on the west, sent a congratulatory despatch to the dictator yesterday on the occasion of the celebration of the second anniversary of the republic, indicating the fealty of that state.

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