

Four hundred and fifty thousand pennies a day is the record now being made by the mint presses of Philadelphia.

ALFRED ELY BEACH, editor of the Scientific American, died at his home in New York city, on the 1st, of pneumonia.

The Dominion government has already decided upon a line of action regarding the strengthening of Canadian defenses and the better arming of the militia force.

This political situation in Johannesburg is said to be acute on account of the struggle of foreigners in the Transvaal to obtain equal political rights with the Boers.

The coinage executed at the mints of the United States during December, 1895, was as follows: Gold, \$8,097,145; silver, \$75,502; minor coins, \$107,386. Total, \$8,280,033.

JOHN R. HAIR, born in 1800, and who was at one time a famous and wealthy painter, died at the Chicago Home for Incapacitated on the 2d. His portrait of President Taylor hangs in the White House gallery.

In the house, on the 3d, Mr. Boutwell (Dem., La.) offered a resolution looking to the impeachment of Comptroller of the Treasury Bowler for refusing to execute the laws of congress in paying the sugar bounty.

MISS CLARA BARTON, founder and head of the Red Cross society, who expects soon to sail for Armenia, will speak in a few cities before her departure. It is her desire to secure pledges for \$5,000,000 to insure all necessary support in her new mission of mercy.

P. SHERIDAN, secretary of the Democratic national committee, had, up to the 2d, received and placed on file the applications of five cities which aspire to entertain the next Democratic national convention. They are Chicago, New York, St. Louis, San Francisco and Cincinnati.

THE Montgomery County (Pa.) Historical society, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Valley Forge Memorial association have united in a protest against the removal of the remains of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock from Norristown, Pa., to the national cemetery at Arlington.

THE St. Petersburg correspondent of the Vienna Freie Presse telegraphs that Russia and France have actually promised diplomatic support to the United States in the Venezuelan trouble, and he adds that Russia is prepared to facilitate the United States loan with her own gold reserve.

A DISPATCH reached the British consular office, on the 3d, that Dr. Jamieson had had a battle with the Boers before Johannesburg, resulting in his surrender. A number of his followers were killed and wounded. No details were given. Later dispatches confirmed the news of the surrender.

The annual report of the city health department shows that Chicago had the lowest death rate of any city of 200,000 population or more in the world. The rate, based on the unreviewed figures, is 15.11 for 1,000 of population, as compared with 15.21 last year, and less than for any previous year.

ORDERS have been called by the navy department directing the gunboat Petrel, now in the Asiatic station, to return to San Francisco. The Petrel has been in active service for five years, and is badly in need of new tubing for her boilers. The cruiser Boston will proceed to Yokohama and relieve the Petrel.

THE Astralians have solved the problem of lighting railroad trains electrically, according to a report to the state department from United States Consul-General Maretta at Melbourne. A dynamo placed in a baggage car driven by a belt from the car axle and charges storage batteries, which furnish the light.

THE opera opened a grand charitable bazaar in the winter palace in St. Petersburg, on the 1st, in the presence of a large company of guests. Her majesty and a long and most cordial conversation with Mrs. Breckinridge, wife of the United States ambassador. The bazaar stall in the bazaar was much admired.

MAIL letters marked "Box G" are now passing through the mails and causing anxiety among young Mormons. The letters referred to are a notification from the heads of the Mormon church that the recipient had been selected to go on a mission of which the destination is just as liable to be the Fiji Islands as the southern state or Great Britain.

THE announcement that the duchess of Melphrough, nee Vanderbilt, was very ill of typhoid fever in Rome, first published by the New York World, was, on the 1st, authoritatively pronounced a fake pure and simple. The duchess, in her usual health, was declared to be prosecuting, with her husband, a study of the antiquities and ruins of the Eternal City.

THE Venezuelan minister to Washington promptly cabled his government, on the 2d, of the appointment of a boundary commission and the names of its members. The Venezuelan officials in Caracas had already announced that the commission would be authorized by congress, and had lost no time in preparing that country's side of the controversy for the commission's consideration.

A REPORT from Caracas says that England is now willing to arbitrate the boundary line, but the Venezuelan minister is declining to speak adversely regarding this rumor, saying Venezuela can not now renew negotiations except through the United States.

**JANUARY—1896.**

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### CURRENT TOPICS.

#### THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

#### LIV. CONGRESS.

##### (First Session.)

The senate was in session on the 28th. In the house the bill introduced by the committee on ways and means authorizing the issue of three per cent. coin bonds to maintain the gold reserve and directing the sale of certain bonds to the most competitive bidder in order to meet temporary deficiencies in revenue was passed without division. The joint resolution directing the secretary of the navy to accept the ram Katahdin and build a part of the navy was adopted. The house adjourned until the 31st.

In the senate, on the 29th, Mr. Tamm (rep.) introduced a bill on the Venezuelan question, in which, while disclaiming any belief that either England or the United States desired war, he maintained the vital necessity of upholding the principles of the Monroe doctrine on the entire continent and against all the world. The resolution providing for the recognition of the senate was adopted. Yes, 29; nay, 5. Senator German (dem.) introduced a bill to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the sale of bonds, and the discussion of the financial question became general. The resolution was finally referred to the committee on finance. The senate adjourned on the 30th. In the house, after listening to a report of the committee on the ram Katahdin, and the house adjourned, as per previous arrangement, until the 6th.

#### PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION McNEELY estimates that about 62,000 more immigrants arrived at Ellis Island the last year than in 1894. Estimated 11,000 for December, the total for 1895 is 2,747, and the increase over last year 61,941.

THE New York state legislature convened on the 1st.

UNITED STATES TREASURER MOHRAN forwarded 28,784 checks, aggregating \$6,749,713, in payment of interest due January 1, 1896, on United States four per cent. bonds, 1897, and bonds issued by the Pacific railroads.

THE Cook county (Ill.) grand jury has returned indictments against several bookshop proprietors.

OFFICIALS at the Charlestown (Mass.) navy yard have received orders from Washington to place the monitor Passaic in condition for immediate service.

THE Hamburg-American Steamship Co. has finally adopted Plymouth, England, as a port of call instead of Southampton.

A DISPATCH from Berlin says additional information concerning the proposed American loan shows that the price of the loan made to the syndicate will be the same as that of the last loan, or at least only slightly less favorable to the United States government.

THE London Yachting World says that Capt. Carter and his crew have commenced the work of fitting out the Clyde, the prince of Wales' yacht Britannia for the Mediterranean regatta.

GOV. LEVI P. MORTON of New York, having received satisfactory assurances of the united support of his state, has authorized the announcement of his candidacy for the presidential nomination before the Republican national convention to meet in St. Louis in June next.

DAVID CROCKETT FOGG, who was tax collector of Wyandotte county, Kas., in 1853, and who suddenly disappeared in 1859, returned with a shortage of about \$5,000, returned to Kansas City, Mo., on the 31st. He had made a fortune in his absence of 25 years, and voluntarily returned to make good his shortage.

E. ST. LOUIS was visited, shortly before one o'clock, on the 2d, with one of the most violent and destructive explosions ever experienced there. Several buildings were wholly or partially wrecked; window glass for several squares around was shattered, and several lives were lost, while at least fifty persons were more or less injured by flying glass and wreckage. Opinions differed as to whether the accident was caused by the explosion of a boiler or a lot of fireworks stored in the building where the calamity occurred.

THE Fall Mall Gazette says that Dr. Jamieson, upon receiving a summons to proceed to Johannesburg to assist the Uitlanders, resigned his position as administrator of the British South Africa Co., and that his followers also severed their connection with the company.

The sixth session of the seventh parliament of the Dominion of Canada was opened by Lord Aberdeen, the governor-general, on the 2d, with the usual speech from the throne.

ANOTHER strike of motormen and conductors was inaugurated in Philadelphia on the 3d. Many of the union men who opposed the strike refused to go out, and cars were run on the main lines with noticeable regularity. In the afternoon large numbers of the strikers returned to work, and it was thought the strike would be short-lived.

HEAVY loaded freight cars broke away from an engine in the Pennsylvania railroad yards at Pittsburgh, Pa., on the night of the 2d, and, passing down the grade at Thirteenth street, collided with the north wall of the roundhouse, causing damage estimated at \$10,000.

THE Anchor line steamer Italia, from Mediterranean ports, which was due at New York December 31, had not been sighted up to the 3d. She carries 267 immigrants.

IT was rumored, on the 3d, that the united action of France and Germany in the Transvaal is projected.

THE treasury records show that the entire issue of United States notes, \$240,841,616, has been redeemed since 1879 and received.

PRATT & LETCHWORTH's malleable iron foundry and works at Buffalo, N. Y., shut down, on the 3d, throwing about 400 men out of employment.

AN unconfirmed report was current in London, on the evening of the 3d, that Dr. Jamieson, leader of the filibustering expedition into the Transvaal, who was defeated by the Boers and captured, had been tried by drum-head court-martial, condemned and shot.

THE number of victims of the St. Louis explosion and fire, of the 2d, known to be dead had been increased, up to the night of the 3d, to six, and there were at least three more missing. It is about settled that the explosion was caused by five hundred tons of gunpowder.

GEO. DUFFIELD, chief of the coast and geologic survey, on the 3d presented to the secretary of state the joint report on the Alaskan boundary, which was agreed upon by him and the Canadian representative, Mr. King, at their recent meeting at Albany, N. Y.

GEORGE W. WASHINGTON DAVIS, the negotiator of the financial crisis, was at the Rock Island passenger train near that city, August 9, 1894, by which 11 lives were lost, was on the 3d, sentenced to life imprisonment.

FIRE was discovered, on the night of the 3d, in the Cranberry colliery of Pardee & Co., at Hazelton, Pa., and within an hour had completely destroyed the colliery structure. There were absolutely no facilities available to fight the fire.

REV. NATHANIEL G. CLARE, D. D., LL. D., for nearly thirty years prominently identified with the management of the American board of commissioners of foreign missions, died at his home in Boston, on the 3d, from heart disease, aggravated by his advanced age.

THERE was a minor current at Norfolk, Va., on the 2d, that the yacht Talsman, having on board a party of wealthy gentlemen from New York, had been wrecked off Cape Hatteras and the entire party drowned.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are being raised in Germany in behalf of the Boers who were wounded at Kruger's laager, and 100,000 marks had been subscribed up to the night of the 3d.

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### MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

#### State Board of Health.

The annual meeting of the state board of health was held in Jefferson City. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Dr. F. J. Lutz, St. Louis; vice-president, Dr. T. H. Hudson, Kansas City; secretary, Dr. Willis P. King, Kansas City. All cases against St. Louis midwives for advertising as physicians were disposed of with the exception of two, all others having complied with the law by removing the signs as directed by the board.

#### HEALTH IN THE STATE.

The report of the secretary, which will shortly be made to the governor, will show the general condition of health in the state to be excellent. During the first part of 1895 the board quarantined about a dozen places in the state on account of smallpox, but at the time of making the report there was only one point in the state where the disease existed and that was Charleston.

Secretary King complains of the ignorance of local authorities all over the state as to the law governing the board, and of the lack of promptness in reporting epidemics.

#### A Disastrous Tour.

Poor in pocket, but rich in experience and by no means crushed in spirits, the Missouri University glee club returned to Columbia from their holiday tour through Missouri and Kansas. Two of the members of the club came in on foot, but the rest of the club had sufficient wealth left to secure seats in a wagon, and rode in, cheering lustily and waving their musical instruments in the air. In Kansas the club were greeted with almost empty houses at every point, and left a trail of debt behind them. At Atchison they were stranded, and were obliged to borrow money from Columbia in order to continue their tour. They had better luck in some of the Missouri towns, however, and in Kansas City performed to a crowded house. But they still owe several hundred dollars, and are resolved to give Kansas a wide berth in future. The object of the tour was to pay off the debts of the foot-ball team.

#### St. Louis Great Business Year.

Says the Globe: Commerce. The clearances of the St. Louis banks were \$1,118,573,210 in 1895, \$1,139,505,575 in 1894, \$1,231,571,943 in 1892, \$1,139,014,291 in 1893, \$1,127,502,906 in 1894, and \$1,244,323,633 in 1895. There was a gain in 1895 of 10.34 per cent. over 1894. When the "good old times" of the recent past are spoken of anywhere in the United States, 1895 is always in the mind. That year represented the high-water mark in general trade in St. Louis as well as in the rest of the country. The country at that time, as gauged by the business barometer, was at the topmost degree of prosperity. Yet in extent of bank clearings, which are a fairly trustworthy index of trade in general, St. Louis in 1895 beat its record in 1892.

#### State Penitentiary Population.

When the books of the Missouri state penitentiary were closed for the year 1895, it was found that the population for the year 1895 was 1,800. There were received 305 males and 21 females, making a total of 326, and there were discharged 856 males and 31 females, and 21 males died, making a total of 908. On December 31, 1894, there were 2,178 convicts in the prison, and on December 31, 1895, 1,196.

#### Secretary Lesueur's Statement.

Secretary of State Lesueur gives out the following statement, showing fees, corporation tax, etc., collected by his department, and turned over to the state treasurer for the year 1895:

From notaries public, \$7,205.00  
Miscellaneous fees, 4,022.60  
Land department fees, 503.00  
Interest on U. S. domestic, 54,265.00  
Corporation tax (foreign), 3,135.00  
L. R. Robinson, of Paris, Mo., were brothers of the deceased.

THE Alfred Harding Co.'s works, located in the southern part of Poplar Bluff, were destroyed by fire the other morning. The fire originated in one of the dry kilns. The company employed a large number of men, and manufactured barrel headings. The loss is estimated at \$35,000, with \$3,000 insurance.

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THE school of Miss Richard, director of the school of mines at Rolla, reports the school in good condition, although attendance has fallen off.

### MISSOURI CULLINGS.

Thirty-one railroads now St. Louis. The Frisco railway now enters St. Louis over its own tracks.

S. A. Gleason, aged 93, pioneer settler of St. Clair county, died at Roscoe. Fully 35,000 pounds of poultry, mostly dressed, was shipped from Lathrop, recently.

Post office receipts at St. Louis during 1895 averaged a gain of ten per cent. over 1894.

Mrs. Maria Creel, an old resident of St. Louis county, died recently, leaving 72 descendants.

The Shelby county state bank of Clarence has increased its capital stock from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

L. C. Shanholz was jailed in Nevada on the charge of having stolen a horse from a Vernon county farmer.

Fred Meyer fell from a window in the fifth story of the Third national bank building, St. Louis, and was killed.

Miss Nellie Wilson, daughter of R. E. Wilson, president of the New Florence and was married to Amos J. Palmer, of St. Louis.

The old citizens of Moberly, those who have made the town their home before and since 1873, held an experience meeting at the city hall.

The courthouse of Lafayette county is to be re-modeled and improved, an order appropriating \$12,000 therefor being made by the county court.

The farmers' special course at the state university, Columbia, will be attended by the largest number of students ever known at Columbia.

In default of \$300 had Robert Tharp, from Pierce city, and quite aged, was committed to jail, charged with making and issuing counterfeit money.

Otis Jackson, who was held for the St. Louis, by poison, of Station Agent Stevens, several weeks since, at Lathrop, has been discharged by Justice Riley.

Miss Hardeen, daughter of Louis Hardeen, Muskegee ferry, St. Louis county, was accidentally shot by a young man named John Warren. She will recover.

The residence of Dr. J. D. Forest, Sedalia, was burned at one o'clock the other morning. The family had a narrow escape from cremation, fleeing in their night clothes.

A camp of United Confederate veterans has been organized in St. Louis, and an effort will be made to secure for that city the national reunion of the organization in 1897.

REV. Allen J. Van Wagner, for eight years, pastor of the Congregational church at Creston, Ia., has been called to take charge of the Congregational church at Carthage.

In the amount of second-class mail handled the St. Louis office stands third, or after New York and Chicago. This is an index of the enormous publishing business carried on in the city.

Six men were injured in a wreck on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas near Clayville. The wounded were taken to Sedalia for treatment. Conductor Hackett has taken all the blame upon himself.

THOMAS Wilson was married to Miss Annie Peeler, the pretty daughter of a wealthy farmer near Fayette. The bride's parents objected to the match, so a friend stole her out and escorted her to town.

REV. G. L. Leyburn, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Booneville, and Mrs. Belle L. Woolfolk were married at the residence of William M. Lumberger, in Booneville, Rev. W. R. Dolyns, of Marshall, officiating.

C. M. Robinson, lumber dealer, died at Lamar of pneumonia. He leaves a widow and three children. Judge Robinson, of the Missouri supreme court; William Robinson, of Nevada, Mo., and L. R. Robinson, of Paris, Mo., were brothers of the deceased.

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### DUN'S COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

Number and Extent of Failures for the Year Just Closed, as Compared with Those of 1893. Prairie Speculation in the Produce Markets, Which Checked Exports, Resulted in a Low Range of Prices—More Favorable Outlook.

New York, Jan. 4.—R. G. Dun & Co. say in their weekly review of trade, issued to-day:

The commercial failures during the complete year 1895 number 13,497, against 13,885 in 1894, but the aggregate of liabilities is slightly greater, \$174,196,000, against \$172,992,000. The bright promise offered by a large decrease in the first quarter was followed by a small increase in the second and third quarters and a large increase in the last quarter of the year. In that quarter, also, the deferred liabilities of each firm in business increased, and also the proportion of deferred liabilities to payments through the clearinghouses. The effects of unreasonable speculation in materials creating an advance in prices of goods, heavy purchases ahead of distribution and enormous increase in production clearly appear in the returns.

Produce markets have been the theater of surprising changes, which have influenced all business. The average in cotton was wisely restricted in order to give producers a better chance for fair returns, and the crop was further reduced to some extent by injury, but growers were injured still more by frantic speculation, which checked exports, and by false information and advice.

Wheat producers suffered in like manner from wild speculation which prevented the exportation of many million bushels and false reports which encouraged farmers to keep back their grain until the cereal had been taken off the market by speculators. The inevitable consequence has been a very low range of prices, the yield being clearly in excess of all demands.

The great crop of corn has materially affected the price of meats.

The course of industries during 1895 has been materially affected by speculation in materials. Mismanagement witnessed a tremendous advance with a rush to buy far exceeding the ordinary demand for consumption. Prices rose beyond all reason, exciting still more the anxiety to buy beyond actual needs. Thousands of producers strangely mistook the extraordinary buying for a vast increase in consuming ability and extended plants, opened mills, increased forces, and rushed production in many lines far beyond actual consumption. Inevitably both traders and manufacturers were left, toward the close, with considerable stocks unsold and claims against customers who were themselves tied up by purchases beyond their distributing power. Hence the general shrinkage in prices for the past three months, and though in scarcely any department did prices rise higher than in former years, they were found out of relation to existing demand.

Railroad earnings show a decided improvement over last year, 5.6 per cent. for the year and 6.9 per cent. for December, though 4.6 per cent. smaller than in 1892.

The rapid outflow of gold with high rates of interest, caused anxiety, which was checked by the decision to issue clearinghouse certificates at New York, Boston and Philadelphia, and by prompt attention to financial questions in congress; but at the close another issue of bonds is expected. Offers already exceed the amount of the issue proposed.

The recent decrease in imports of merchandise and some increase in exports warrant hope that trade balances may be more favorable hereafter, but much depends upon the course of securities which foreign holders are selling to some extent in order to share in the expected profits on bonds. Rarely has there been a situation so complicated, and the near future is difficult to forecast, but it is the widespread impression that a large sale of bonds will speedily revive confidence and activity.

#### THE PORTE WILL PERMIT

George W. Johnson, of Texas, and Miss Luda Lamb of Hannibal, were married recently. The bride is a granddaughter of Claybourne F. Jackson, governor of Missouri at the outbreak of the rebellion, and the groom a grandson of George W. Johnson, lieutenant-governor of Kentucky during the war.

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### THE BOND ISSUE.

Secretary Carlisle Issues a Notice to Prospective Subscribers for One Hundred Million Coin Bonds, Coupon or Registered, at 4 Per Cent. Interest, at the Rate of Four Per Cent.—The Notice Also Made to Cover Prospective Legislation.