

CURRENT TOPICS.

SMALL-SIZED and medium-built men constitute two-thirds of the present congress, it is asserted by some one who has made a patient investigation.

MRS. DANDRIDGE, of Winchester, Va., who was mistress of the white house during the administration of her father, President Taylor, is still living, and is visiting friends in Baltimore.

A NEBRASKA girl, whose rejected lover committed suicide after bequeathing her all his property, amounting to \$10,000, tore up the will in court and renounced her claims in favor of his mother.

A BERLIN shoemaker has invented an artificial stone sole for footwear. It is made of a solution of some kind of patent cement and pure white quartz sand. A pair of such soles will last for years on any pavement, and are said to be elastic and easy on the feet.

ROBERT C. WINTHROP, of Massachusetts, the venerable ex-speaker of the house of representatives, called on the president recently. Mr. Winthrop has enjoyed the acquaintance of every president in the United States with the exception of Washington and Jefferson.

A DECISION of the Brooklyn supreme court, giving the wealthy Smith family, of Long Island, possession of the Blue Point oyster beds, affects over a thousand poor oystermen, who had so long worked the beds at a nominal fee that they considered them public property.

THE decision of the Behring sea arbitrators will hardly be ready before the end of the year. Six months are allowed for preparing each side of the case and the replies, and then come the arguments of counsel and the deliberations of court. The president remarked in New York that the arbitration would cost \$150,000.

A NOVEL device for stirring up the delinquent boarder has been put to use by a landlady in Newburyport, Mass. A blackboard, protected by a glass door, is placed at one end of her dining room. When any boarder fails to pay for two successive weeks his name is written in large letters on the board, and is not erased until a satisfactory settlement is made.

CONGRESSMAN ALLEN, of Mississippi, after making a speech in opposition to the expensive funerals of congressmen, says he received a letter from a constituent asking: "When you die, John, we won't ask congress to pay the expenses of your funeral. You've got enough friends down here, John, to give you a respectable burial, and we would take great pleasure in doing it."

THE French ministry of war has been engaged for more than a year in making experiments in the preservation of meat. The experiments have resulted in the discovery that frozen meat can be kept for eight months without any change in its appearance or powers of nourishment. The meat can be carried also on the railroads for four days without detriment, even in the hottest summer weather.

THE remarkable birds of Manitoba are described in the new volume of the "Proceedings of the United States National Museum." In the spring season of the year thousands of prairie larks there salute the day by bursting all together into a splendid explosion of song, pouring out their rich, strong voices from every little height and perch, singing with all their might. They sing all day, and at night joyously hail the moon.

OF real importance may be a new method of impregnating logs with zinc chloride, in order to preserve them, now in use in Austria, and known as the Pfister process. The timber is impregnated in the forest as soon as possible after being felled. The zinc chloride solution has a specific gravity of 1.01, and is forced into the thick end of the log by a force-pump. The novelty is in the dealing with the timber in the green.

MISS LENA WOODARD, of Thorn Creek, Wash., sowed the seed from one head of barley four years ago. She harvested the crop with a pair of shears and sowed the amount received the next year, again harvesting it with her shears. The third crop her father cut with a grass scythe, getting enough barley from this crop to sow forty acres last spring, which averaged forty bushels to the acre when threshed, making a total yield of 1,600 bushels from one head of barley in four years.

A NEW fast mail system, said to be capable of wonderful speed, has been devised by Dr. B. E. Osborn, of Auburn, N. Y. It consists of an aerial electric mail car made of aluminum, supported with compressed hydrogen and running on two large trolley wires. Electricity from the wires communicates through the motor inside the car and sets into rapid motion a series of fans and wings. The front is surmounted by an electric light. This car, it is claimed, will transport about one hundred pounds of mail.

AN ingenious resident of Bridgeport, Ct., has worked out an invention which will probably become a great boon to the unfortunate afflicted with deafness. It is, briefly, a device which makes the deaf hear. It is the same to the ears as glasses to the eyes, and consists of a soft rubber disk and spring, so shaped that when inserted in the ear it will focus the waves of sound on the natural drum of the ear with such intensity that the afflicted person receives impressions from the outside with remarkable distinctness that nature had seemingly desired to withhold from the poor unfortunate.

Epitome of the Week.

INTERESTING NEWS COMPILATION. FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

THURSDAY, May 5.—A remonstrance was presented in the senate against legislation to close the world's fair on Sundays. Bills were passed to establish sub-posts of entry at Superior, Wis., and Ashland, Wis. In the house the river and harbor bill (\$47,000,000) was presented and Mr. Holman (Ind.) and Mr. Breckinridge (Ky.) attacked the bill as being an extravagant one.

FRIDAY, May 6.—In the senate a resolution was discussed to pay the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations for their interests in the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservations about \$8,000,000. Eulogies were delivered upon the late Senator Wilson, of Maryland. Adjourned to the 9th. In the house the session was devoted almost entirely to consideration of the river and harbor bill. An adverse report was made on the bill proposing an amendment to the constitution providing for uniform divorce in the several states.

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FROM WASHINGTON. The exchanges at the leading clearing houses in the United States during the week ended on the 6th aggregated \$1,280,683,610 against \$1,088,019,716, the previous week. The increase as compared with the corresponding week of 1891 was 4.0.

THE business failures in the United States during the seven days ended on the 6th numbered 209, against 211 the preceding week and 242 for the corresponding week last year.

THE Chinese minister denounces the exclusion bill and says the measure is a most flagrant violation of treaty stipulations.

It was shown at the sixty-eighth anniversary of the American Sunday School union, held in Washington, that 1,664 Sunday schools have been established during the past year, with 7,018 teachers and 59,551 scholars.

THE visible supply of grain in the United States on the 9th was: Wheat, 35,191,000 bushels; corn, 4,902,000 bushels; oats, 3,532,000 bushels; rye, 879,000 bushels; barley, 603,000 bushels.

THE resignation of Charles Emory Smith, United States minister to Russia, was formally tendered to the president in order to resume his journalistic duties in Philadelphia.

B. B. SMALLEY was nominated for governor in the democratic convention at Montpelier, Vt. The resolutions in favor of Cleveland but do not instruct the national delegates.

REPUBLICANS of Rhode Island in convention at Providence elected delegates to the national convention who go un-instructed.

In New York Charles Pinckham, Jr., formerly president of the Bank of Harlem, was arrested on the charge of misappropriating \$70,000 of the bank's funds.

An earthquake shock in Lancaster county, Pa., was followed by a terrific rain and hailstorm which unroofed houses, leveled barns and caused loss of life.

ABEL SMITH shot and killed his wife in a fit of jealousy at Canarsie, L. I., and then threw himself before a train and was instantly killed.

In Boston a plot to burn the state house was discovered.

In the Sixth district of Ohio the republicans nominated G. W. Hulick for congress. In the Twelfth Illinois district the democrats nominated John J. McDonald, and in the Thirteenth Indiana district James S. Dodge is the republican nominee.

REPUBLICANS of Wisconsin in convention at Milwaukee elected Henry C. Paine, John C. Spooner, Lucius Fairchild and Isaac Stephenson as delegates at large to the national convention. The platform indorses President Harrison's administration, favors protection to American industries and labor, opposes the free coinage of silver, and declares the educational issue in the state as permanently settled.

THE Kansas republicans in convention at Hutchinson nominated George T. Anthony for congressman at large. The delegates elected to the national convention were instructed for Harrison. The platform heartily indorses President Harrison's administration; commends the McKinley tariff and reciprocity and praises Secretary Blaine's administration of the state department.

PATRICK O'SULLIVAN who was sentenced to life imprisonment for connection with the murder of Dr. Cronin in Chicago, died at the penitentiary in Joliet.

GREAT damage was reported from cities in Illinois, Iowa and Kansas by floods.

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THE republicans of Minnesota in convention at St. Paul elected delegates to the national convention and adopted a platform indorsing President Harrison's administration, protection to American industries, favor a currency based on gold and silver, and denounce speculation in agricultural products.

TOM BAILEY and L. D. Staughter (both colored) were hanged at Little Rock, Ark. Staughter murdered his mistress and Bailey killed a peddler. Thomas Lawton was hanged at Canon City, Col., for the murder of John Hemming in 1891.

THE report of Bishop Thoban on mission work in India at the Methodist conference in Omaha shows 30,000 members have been added to the church in the past four years.

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Snow fell to the depth of 16 inches throughout the northwestern tier of counties in Nebraska.

THE Butters & Peters Salt and Lumber Company plant near Ludington, Mich., was wiped out by fire, the loss being \$175,000.

IN San Francisco Charles Tamerlin, a stevedore, committed suicide while drunk by throwing himself into the furnace of a fire trap.

THE percentages of the baseball clubs in the National league for the week ended on the 7th were: Boston, .833; Brooklyn, .722; Louisville, .611; Pittsburgh, .579; Cincinnati, .536; Philadelphia, .500; Washington, .480; Cleveland, .471; New York, .438; Chicago, .389; St. Louis, .394; Baltimore, .111. The percentages in clubs of the Western league were: Milwaukee, .800; Kansas City, .714; Columbus, .643; Toledo, .546; Omaha, .400; St. Paul, .333; Minneapolis, .250; Indianapolis, .000.

THE people's party in Kentucky made the following congressional nominations: First district, B. F. Keys; Second, Thomas Pettit; Third, C. W. Biggers; Fourth, M. E. Gardner.

A CLOUBURST caused a flood near Orlando, O. T., that drowned many cattle and washed away several houses and barns. John Crockett was killed.

A BOAT capsized at Woodsdale island, near Cincinnati, and Alice Larue and Katie Clark, young ladies, were drowned.

IN western Kentucky Buffalo gnats were causing great loss. It was estimated that 1,000 horses had been killed by them.

IN Colorado and Wyoming storms were causing cattle and sheep to die by thousands.

THE death of James Goudie, Sr., famous as being the builder of the first steamboat, the "Royal William," that ever crossed the Atlantic, occurred in Chicago.

SAMUEL BARROWS' house was burned at Tombstone, A. T., and Barrows' 3-year-old son and 17-year-old brother-in-law were burned to death.

IN convention at Albuquerque the democrats of New Mexico adopted resolutions in favor of the absolute free and unlimited coinage of silver. Cleveland delegates were elected to the national convention.

REPUBLICANS of Montana in convention at Missoula elected an un-instructed delegation to Minneapolis on a strong silver platform. Both Harrison and Blaine were indorsed for wise statesmanship.

AT his home near English, Ind., Nathaniel Strawn celebrated the centennial anniversary of his birth.

CHINESE immigrants continue to enter America in large numbers by way of British Columbia ports.

AT Anthony, Kan., W. H. Wilkins and family, consisting of his wife and five children, were smothered to death by the caving in of a dugout in which they lived.

THE famous singing master, Lamperli, died at Milan. Among his pupils were Mme. Albini, Miss Van Zandt and Campanini.

IN London John David Nicholl, editor of an anarchist paper, was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

FLAMES in Niening, China, destroyed 2,000 houses. A number of persons were killed and thousands were left destitute.

FORTY-FIVE dwellings and many places of business were burned at Fairville, N. B., and eighty families were left homeless.

IN London Scott's famous Haymarket restaurant was burned and four waiters perished in the flames.

FIFTY miners lost their lives by an explosion in the Northern Pacific coal mine at Roslyn, Wash., on the 10th. The number of dead cannot be accurately given, but it is believed that all those in the mine at the time of the explosion were killed. The work of rescue was begun promptly and ten mutilated and blackened corpses have been removed from the mine. The explosion is supposed to have been caused by an accumulation of fire damp.

THE influx of Chinese into British Columbia is assuming large proportions. The majority of the new arrivals, after paying the Dominion poll tax of \$50 per head are smuggled into the United States. The revenue collected by the Canadian government from Chinese immigrants at Victoria last month reached \$14,000.

THE house committee on elections on the 10th decided the contested election case of Reynolds vs. Shonk, from the Twelfth Pennsylvania district, in favor of Shonk, the sitting member. The vote on the case was unanimous.

THE public schools of Marquette, Foster-ville and Toronto, O., have been discontinued until September in an attempt to check an epidemic of scarlet fever which is raging in that vicinity.

FIRE broke out in the stable of Henry Gusne in New York City on the 10th, destroying the building and roasting to death twenty-seven horses.

THE supreme court of Ohio on the 10th decided the Father Quigley school case in favor of the state, confirming a judgment of a fine upon the priest for refusing to give to the truant officer the names, ages and residences of the pupils in a Toledo parochial school. The great point in the decision is that it holds the state has the right to compel the education of its children.

A BILL which was taken up by the senate on the 10th and passed to change the boundaries of Yellowstone park elicited some strong remarks from Senator Vest in regard to the influence of a lobby seeking to secure from the house of representatives the passage of a charter for a railroad through the park for speculative purposes, and a further statement that the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company had charged an officer of the government with offering to sell to him a railroad charter to the park for \$30,000. The rest of the day was passed in executive session. After passing several resolutions for printing various government reports the house proceeded with the sundry civil appropriation bill, Mr. Coggswell, of Massachusetts, opposing the policy of the committee in neglecting to make proper provision for certain public works, while other members spoke in favor of larger appropriations for surveying public lands. Mr. Dingley, of Maine, closed the debate in a general criticism of the committee on appropriations for the duplicity displayed in the pending bill. The house then adjourned.

SUBMERGED.

Towns and Farming Lands in the Illinois Valley Under Water - An Enormous Amount of Damage Results.

OTTAWA, Ill., May 6.—The streets of this city are rivers, the public parks lakes of water and mud and private grounds buried beneath acres of water. This is the evidence left by one of the most stupendous rainstorms and cloudbursts that have passed over the Illinois and Fox river valleys in fifty years. The terrific floods of Monday and Tuesday, precipitating oceans of water upon this territory, were but as pigmies to giants in comparison to the awful downpour of waters Wednesday night.

For four hours the storm beat upon the residences and the streets and the factories with remorseless fury, and when dawn broke Ottawa, Marseilles, Utica, Peru and La Salle, with nearly every foot of the intervening farming lands and roads, were a great lake of mud and water. Not a street nor an alley nor a residence lot in the four cities escaped. Perhaps the greatest share of damage fell upon Ottawa and La Salle. In Ottawa the glass factory district, containing five huge glass factories, a pot mill and the powerhouse, a car barn of the electric street railway, was buried beneath from 4 to 12 feet of water. None of the factories will be able to operate for a week. It is almost an impossibility to approximate the damages to these five cities, but it can safely be said to be not less than \$1,500,000.

Along the Illinois river, which raised to a height of 22 feet above low water mark, the Pioneer Fireproof Construction Company's great plant, the Victor rolling mills, the Porter hay carrier shops and Sanders Brothers' planing mills were several feet under water. Besides this damage to the factories, the residences located in the flats and in the glassworks' district are badly damaged, and on the south side of the Illinois river thousands of dollars' worth of beautiful lawns and parked streets are wrecked.

La Salle is an island in a waste of waters, the immense floods gathering volume from every creek and stream along the Illinois river. The conditions in residence and business districts are the same as in Ottawa and the damage will reach \$300,000.

At Peru Water street and the business portion of the town was badly damaged and the lower part of the town is under water, residence and business property being buried beneath hundreds of tons of water. The Peru rolling mills are also under water and the damage is very heavy, being not less than \$350,000.

At Marseilles the entire eastern end of the city, known as the "old town," has been afloat all day and hundreds of people were driven from their homes. The loss to the manufacturing district through the ruin of the race and the new power gates and the breaking of the lower levee is very heavy, and may cause the suspension of all the paper and wood mills for a month. The loss to the little city in this case will foot up a total of \$200,000.

The great Utica cement works are under water, and Utica's damage will amount to \$100,000 or about that sum. Besides the damages to the cities the Rock Island railroad tracks are washed out in half a dozen places between Marseilles and Utica, a total of nearly 2,000 feet having been destroyed. The road will not be able to move trains for two and possibly three days. The Covell creek bridge of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is gone, preventing trains from entering Streator. The Illinois & Michigan canal is damaged and broken in many places between Ottawa and La Salle, and navigation will be impossible below Ottawa.

JOLIET, Ill., May 6.—Not since August, 1864, has there been so extensive a flood in Joliet as that of the present. Rain began falling at 10 o'clock Wednesday, and increased with incessant lightning and thunder. At 9 o'clock Thursday morning workmen at Hyde's mill, near the upper dam, telephoned to the police station that they feared the dam would go out, in which case the middle portion of the city would be placed under water. Policemen and firemen started out to warn the thousands of persons to get to the bluffs, and in less than half an hour hundreds of homes were left empty, and citizens living high and dry had plenty of visitors. The water ran over the bank of the canal above Hyde's mill before many could leave their homes, and these were taken out by men in carriages and wagons. At Lockport the water held full sway, flooding the lowlands and causing havoc among the mills. The paper mill, the wire mill, the oatmeal and flour mills and other industrial plants are under water, and many of the homes within reach of the flood have been vacated.

DES MOINES, Ia., May 6.—Continuous rains in Iowa for the last week have resulted in high water and great damage to railroads. About the only lines in Iowa that have not suffered are the Northwestern and the Burlington. Travel by wagon is impossible on account of the condition of the country roads.

CRESTON, Ia., May 6.—A terrific storm of thunder, lightning and rain swept through this region Thursday night. The rain came down in sheets, the heaviest for years. Country bridges were swept away and great damage was done in the country.

GRAND STAND FELL.

Fatal Accident at a Political Meeting Down in Texas.

CLEBURNE, Tex., May 6.—There was an immense crowd Wednesday to hear the joint debate between Hon. James S. Hogg, present governor, and Judge George Clark, gubernatorial candidate. About 3 o'clock a portion of the grand stand fell with a crash, carrying down hundreds of men, women and children. There were two fatalities, and many limbs were broken and people seriously injured. Debate was suspended for quite awhile, but later on the program was carried out.

O'SULLIVAN IS DEAD.

With His Dying Breath He Protests His Innocence of the Cronin Murder.

JOLIET, Ill., May 6.—Patrick O'Sullivan, the iceman, died in the prison hospital at 7:40 Thursday evening. His story follows him to the grave. Up to the last moment of consciousness he protested his innocence of the murder of Dr. Cronin. The confession which has been anxiously awaited for months and which O'Sullivan partially promised about two years ago will never be publicly heard.

For an hour before his death O'Sullivan was in a stupor. He began to sink rapidly late in the afternoon and during lucid moments could only gasp a few words to those who sat around his bedside. His sister, Ann O'Sullivan, of Chicago, and a brother, Henry O'Sullivan, of Fond du Lac, were near him during the last hours. Dr. J. T. Ferguson, the city physician, attended him. When it was seen that the end was near the watchers attempted to let the dying man know his real condition. In broken whispers he replied: "I am innocent." It was an effort for him to talk, and these words were all that came from the weak lips. Shortly before 7 o'clock he rallied slightly and called for a glass of water. After that he became unconscious; the breathing was labored and feeble and at 7:40 he became silent in death. The relatives at the hospital at once announced that the body would be taken to Monroe, Wis., for burial.

O'Sullivan's death has diminished the chances of reaching the men who planned Dr. Cronin's brutal murder. His connection with the horrible affair has become a matter of history. It was he who made the contract for medical services with Dr. Cronin. One of O'Sullivan's business cards came to Cronin on the fatal night of May 4, 1889, and it was in answer to this summons that Cronin drove to his death. The Carlson cottage was but a few yards away from O'Sullivan's house, up in the neighborhood of North Ashland avenue. Carlson testified that O'Sullivan and Bourk were seen together at the cottage, and that O'Sullivan said: "Everything has been fixed." It was proved that O'Sullivan was a member of Camp 20. This and other circumstantial evidence would him deep into the meshes of the conspiracy. In the face of it all he has protested his innocence since the time of his arrest. He was the only prisoner who wished to testify at the trial. Since his imprisonment under life sentence he always claimed to have been the sacrifice offered by the real murderers, and repeatedly threatened to "tell all" if given another trial. When he was taken down with quick consumption the promised confession was expected.

TRAVELERS MANGLED.

A Passenger Train on the Santa Fe Road Plunges Through a Bridge Near Dumas, Mo.—Seven Persons Killed, and Many Injured.

FORT MADISON, Ia., May 6.—One of the most frightful railroad accidents in the history of the west occurred early Thursday morning on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe track 25 miles west of this station, near Dumas, Mo. The accident happened at a bridge 150 feet long and 30 feet high, as consequence of which the following people lost their lives:

Lon Marker, Kansas City, Mo.; S. E. Vericler, Westport, Mo.; Lester Correll, brakeman, Kirksville, Mo.; J. C. Graves, Macon City, Mo.; William Hines, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; woman and child 9 months old, whose name could not be obtained, supposed to be from Los Angeles, Cal.

Those injured, some seriously, others slightly, are: Robert Schultz, Lexington, Mo.; Amena Buttrick, an Italian going to Chicago; Conductor Tucker, of Chicago; A. D. Meade, Stillwater, Minn.; Postal Clerk Claude Bosh, Vermont, Ill.; Postal Clerk R. E. Duetcher, Chicago; Porter John Gunther, Chicago; O. L. Boies, Kansas City, Mo.; N. S. Brazier, Okla. City; J. H. Snyder, Lexington, Kan.; S. A. Lough, Chetopa, Kan.; James Moran, Sedley, Ind.; Frank Graves, Sedley, Ind.; W. G. Smith, Hartford, Conn.; F. W. Moore, Winnebago, Ill.; R. H. Moellen, Kansas City; Mrs. A. J. Sullivan, Coffeyville, Kan.; Mrs. Alice Hughes, Saden, Kan.; Mrs. J. H. Keating, Raton, N. M.; R. H. Cowlin, Chicago; J. H. Winslow, Chicago; Mrs. Jane Haisy, Riverside, Ill.; Martin Rigg, brakeman, Kansas City; W. A. Isham, Riverside, Ill.; W. A. Isham, Riverside; J. Fred Horton, Reading, Pa.; Mrs. E. P. Ullen and son, Athens, Pa.; William Adams, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England; H. M. Cutler, Chicago; Andy Ronan, express messenger, Riverside, Ill., and about fifty more with slight cuts and scratches.

When the accident occurred a severe storm was raging and the train was running at reduced rate of speed. Near Reverse is a small stream which the road crosses by means of a wooden pile trestle. There was an unusually heavy rainfall for several hours before the express was due there and the little stream was swollen until it pressed beyond its banks. The pressure of the water moved the wooden bridge on its foundation until it was out of line with the track; as the bridge was not washed away it was impossible for the engineer at a distance to see that there was anything wrong. The engine left the track and it and the bridge went down into the creek, followed by two baggage cars, the mail car, the tourists' sleeper and a Pullman car. The California through sleeper, the last car in the train, remained on the rails.

Many of those injured are in a very serious condition, but in only two cases is a fatal termination anticipated. No one is blamed except the company, which employs no track-walkers in such a perilous time as this.

FOUR FIREMEN BURNED.

Oil in a Detroit Mill Explodes With Possibly Fatal Results.

DETROIT, Mich., May 6.—During a fire in the Union linseed oil mills at 1:30 o'clock a. m. Thursday a number of barrels of oil on the second floor burst, and before the firemen could escape the burning oil fell upon Lieut. J. P. O'Rourke, William Burgess, James Broderick and Daniel Freeman, who were so badly burned that they had to be sent to the Emergency hospital. Loss on building and stock \$40,000 fully insured.