THEIR LIVES CRUSHED OUT.

Falling Walls a Death Trap for Fire Fighters.

Eleven men are dead, five seriously and probably fatally injured and a number of others injured slightly as the result of the fire which destroyed Yore's opera house early Sunday morning at Benton Harbor, Mich. The loss was total. The men lost their lives under one wall, which fell into the street upon them.

At 12:30 o'clock Sunday morning Yore's opera house was discovered to be on fire. The fire had been burning for at least ten minutes before it burst into a visible flame, but meantime a score of people had seen the the smoke or heard the fire alarm, and were spreading the thrilling news that the opera house block was on fire. The alarm was first sounded from the city hall, and was taken up by locomotives and other whistles and bells about the city. The people began to gather, and before the flames broke out to any extent, while the smoking block was still intact, a crowd of hundreds that afterward swelled to 2,000 or 3,000, was surging about the vicinity on all sides of the burning structure.

The fire department promptly responded to the alarm. The St. Joseph fire department soon after arrived with their hose-cart, ladders and fire engine and participated in the work of fighting the flames, then systematically under way. As soon as the flames broke through the windows and walls and let in the draft the burning block was known to be doomed. The falling walls proved to be not only a death-trap for the fire fighters, but dangerous to everyone who was trying to help stay the flames or assist in saving goods. The first to go down was the top part of the alley wall, which buried in its crushing descent with tons of debris fifteen men.

This terrible sight was witnessed by hundreds of horror stricken spectators, and many of them rushed in regardless of fire and smoke to help the shrieking and struggling men. Just before the wall fell the firemen were trying to raise the ladders, and had them placed against the building when the wall tumbled, sweeping everything before it. One could see portions of human bodies through the fallen bricks. Parties going in to save the imprisoned men were overcome by the heat. The first man who went in simply spun around like a top in the intense heat and had to retreat. Finally one gray-headed man persisted in remaining in the ruins working for the buried firemen. Then others hurried to the rescue. The injured and dead were taken from the ruins as fast as possible, and at five o'clock the last man had been removed.

Offices and houses were thrown open and the injured men were carried there, to remain until they could be removed to their homes. The dead were removed to the city hall to be identified. Many were the heartrending scenes as wives, parents and children scanned the distorted and mutilated remains of those lying on the floor. The physicians were unable to care for the injured, and the St. Joseph doctors responded promptly to the call.

After the rear wall fell, burying the firemen, the roof, with an awful crash, gave way and went to the bottom, taking everything with it. Soon after the front and west walls fell, slightly injuring several persons. The east wall was the next, and when it fell it demolished the two-story building adjoining. By 5 o'clock the fire was under control. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Guy Prescott, who worked about the hall with another boy, clearing up things after the theatre closed, stated that he knew how the fire started, "but was not going to give anybody away." He was arrested Sunday afternoon. The property loss caused by the fire is in the neighborhood of $75,000.

Both St. Joseph and Benton Harbor are draped in mourning. The funerals were held together Tuesday, and all business houses were closed.

The Turkish Massacres.

The London Chronicle of Thursday morning contains an interview with Miss Grace N. Kimball, M. D., the American missionary from Bangor, Maine, who did such heroic work in the protection and relief of the Armenians during the late massacres. Miss Kimball had just arrived in London from Turkey and was an eyewitness of the recent massacre in Constantinople and Bebek. She expresses the belief that the massacres were organized by the Turks. Miss Kimball says further: "Undoubtedly a strong revolutionary movement exists in Turkey, but the methods adopted to suppress it are both inhuman and intolerable." The Rome correspondent of the Chronicle says:

"Among the victims of the Constantinople massacres were several Italians, whose heads were carried through the streets on spikes. It is rumored that the sultan had actually issued an irade ordering the massacre of all the Armenians, and the ambassadors had to use threats to get it rescinded."

A Mysterious Drowning.

The bodies of Rev. Thomas Reeser, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church, of Hollidaysburg, Pa., and one of the most prominent clergymen of central Pennsylvania, and John D. Love, a leading merchant of Hollidaysburg, were found lying on the bank of the Juniata river, near Flower Springs, Friday. The two gentlemen had been spending Thursday on a fishing trip. As both were known to be expert swimmers there is a suspicion of foul play.

SILVER AND PROSPERITY.

WHY FREE COINAGE AT 16 TO 1 WILL BRING BETTER TIMES.

Prices of Commodities Would Go Up, Farmers Would Prosper and Idle Factories Would Resume Work —Goldbug Arguments Answered.

"If the Democrats are successful," declare Republicans, "there will be widespread ruin. A panic worse than any recorded in history will ensue, and the suffering of the people will be appalling." Asked to explain, to give reasons for such a dismal view of the future of this country, the inquirer will be met with statements containing the foundationless declaration that free coinage will depreciate the currency, cause wholesale debt repudiation, a loss of confidence abroad, and the return to this country of securities payable in gold; and that the demand for gold will bankrupt the country. That is, of course, a picture of dire calamity. But ask for the proofs, the data that make this conclusion a reasonable one. The Republican, if he has read the newspapers of his party and gold literature, will immediately begin to prate about a "fifty cent" dollar.

Let us look into this basic argument of the Republican party against free silver. What is the gold dollar today? Measured in gold it is worth 100 cents. What is it measured in silver of in other commodities? To do that will seem, to the gold standard man, an impossibility. But get right down to the fundamental principles that underlie the use of gold and silver as money. The gold man will claim that his metal is the natural standard because of its intrinsic value. Its intrinsic value is so much per ounce, and it never fluctuates. As soon as an independent investigator makes the economic fact clear to himself that there is no such thing as intrinsic value he is on the road to becoming an ardent patriot, a supporter of Bryan and Sewall.

There is no such thing as intrinsic value. Jevon, a gold man; Ricardo, John Stuart Mill, Prof. Francis A. Walker, all men of world renown as political economists, declare that value arises out of the relations that exist between things, and that it cannot be intrinsic. Intrinsic quality is possible, because quality is fixed, but value is only fixed by supply and demand, variable things. Thus gold has no intrinsic value. If placed alongside the other products of the earth it would show as does wheat, corn, oats, cotton, silver, fluctuations according to the supply and demand. But gold has been specially chosen by Governments as a unit of value, and an enormous artificial demand for it has thus been created. In this way silver, the other money metal of the Constitution, has been discriminated against, and the money supply of this country, and the Governments and Nations of Europe, has been limited to a material that is vastly inadequate to supply the demands of trade.

Has this great demand for gold affected its value? The gold man will say no! He will declare that a gold dollar is a dollar, and that as bullion the metal will exchange in any country in Europe for the value intrinsically in the metal. Place gold, its supply for the last twenty years, alongside of silver, wheat and cotton and corn, and it will be seen that the average supply was of not a sufficient difference to have affected the comparative value under natural conditions. Why is it then that while gold has remained at its stamped value, the other commodities have fallen, or has gold risen in purchasing value, and have the commodities remained at the regular prices created by supply and demand? Has there been an overproduction of wheat, corn or cotton? Has there been an overproduction of silver? What has caused the seeming fall in prices, or has there been a fall in prices. What is the fact?

Gold has appreciated! Since 1874 it has appreciated between forty and fifty per cent. It will to-day command more in the market to that extent than it would twenty years ago. There has been no overproduction. The supply of cereals has kept pace with the population. It has not exceeded the ratio. It is gold that through Government aid has appreciated in value and forced the prices of commodities down to a basis that is to-day driving men out of business and impoverishing millions of farmers all over the land.

Arthur Balfour declares that when gold appreciates it leaves the country and goes abroad. He said that before the bond issues. The gold of the United States is going abroad. Balfour declared that the greatest curse that could visit a country would be appreciation of its standard of value. The curse is seen in the United States. Thousands and thousands of men are out of employment, and magnificent farms containing the finest land in the world are lying untilled and great factories are still.

The gold man declares that free silver will drive gold out of the country. Ask the gold man what is driving the gold out of the country now. When he declares that free silver will make gold at a premium, ask him what it meant the other day in England when the Bank of England raised its discount rate. Whenever the supply of gold in England is threatened the Bank of England raises the rate of discount; in other words, places a premium on gold, and saves its supply. When the supply in this country is threatened the President of the United States calls for a bond issue, and Americans have recently seen the debt of the country increased by $262,000,000. For that amount of debt the United States Treasury received a trifle over $200,000,000 in gold, which has nearly all disappeared.

Free silver does not mean that the Government will give a dollar for fifty cents. Make the gold man prove his assertion to that effect. Under free coinage the Government would receive silver bullion to the weight of 371¼ grains and coin it into a silver dollar, and that coin would be given to the silver depositor. That dollar would be worth no more than the market value of silver bullion. It might not be worth as much as the gold dollar, but it would place silver on an equal footing with gold. The owner of the silver bullion would get no more than his market value of the bullion for his deposit. Would the price of silver go up? And would the price of other commodities follow immediately? That would happen beyond the slightest doubt, and this is a fact that gold standard men who are familiar with the subject will not deny. What will follow? Prosperity follows higher prices as day follows night. Farms would be tilled again at a profit, factories, now idle, would resume work, the owners being assured of a just price for their goods; idle men would find employment, and the only sufferers would be the Ickelbergers, Bernheimers, Rothschilds, Belmonts and England. With prosperity assured by free silver, is it any wonder that the army of sufferers from the Nation-killing gold standard should rally to the support of Bryan and Sewall?—Madison (N. J.) Democrat.

Watered Stock and an Honest Dollar.

The Western Union Telegraph Company and the Bell Telephone Company have been consolidated, and the capital stock of each company has been increased fifty per cent. The owners of the stock in each of these companies are the greatest howlers for an honest dollar. They are also the greatest waterers of stock in the country. The telephone business has unfortunately cut down the profits of the telegraph business. Competition would soon have forced both companies to lower their rates; consequently, they pooled their interests and formed a trust to keep up prices, and at the same time watered their stock to put more money in the treasury. It is perfectly legitimate for these calamity howlers to deal in inflation, and to combine to make the people pay dividends on watered stock by paying more for telephone and telegraph rates than they are honestly worth; but when it comes to the Nation's increasing the currency by adding to the stock of gold a similar stock of silver, or making fifty-three cents' worth of bullion worth a dollar in money, there are no more fierce, aggressive and uncomprising adherents of National honesty and National honor, and no more bitter and venomous foes of repudiation than these masters in the art of ballooning corporate values.—New York Suburban.

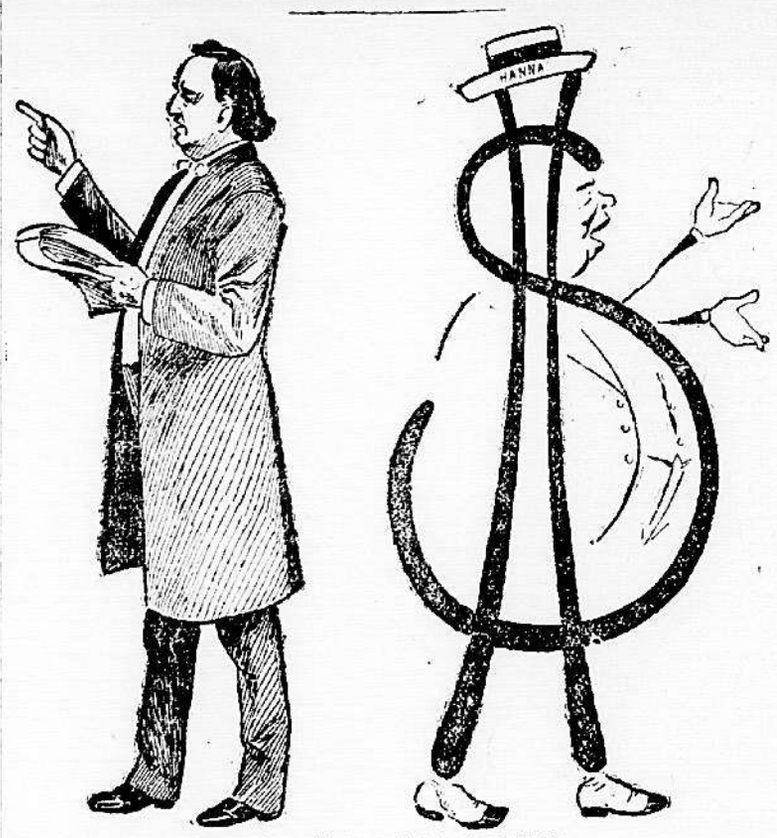
Before and After Election.

England will never consent to silver remonetization, for the reason it is the great creditor Nation of the world. There is but one way to get the gold to maintain parity, that is by buying it, and the only way to buy it is to issue bonds. Since 1894 we have increased the National debt by $262,000,000 in the purchase of gold. This costs us in interests $10,500,000 a year. Another bond issue would have been required for another $100,000,000 before this, but for the fact that gold speculators got scared as to its effect on the elections, and "patriotically" swapped their gold for greenbacks, and so averted the threatened bond issue a few weeks ago. After election it will be different. The Treasury will be loaded up with gold, and the gold sharks will recommence their raids for gold and force another bond issue. The very greenbacks they received in exchange for gold a month ago will be utilized to draw that gold from the Treasury. What is to prevent? They are not to be blamed. It is their business. They make money by it, going and coming.—Pittsburg Post.

A Hot Springs Failure.

The Wm. J. Little dry goods company, of Hot Springs, Ark., was placed in the hands of W. J. Sumpter as receiver Monday, under the insolvency law. The liabilities are about $40,000.

BRYAN'S BRAINS VERSUS HANNA'S MONEY.



WHICH KIND OF TALK WILL WIN?

The Stars in the Flag Are Silver.

Out of the West from the land of the grain,
Comes the sound of a song men are singing:
High on the mountain and over the plain
Is the flash of the flag they are bringing.
Welcome the banner, 'tis no foreign rag,
Look! they are silver! the stars in the flag.

Now at the shop and the forge and the mill
With the beads on her brow Labor standeth:
"What is this army approaching at will?
And what is the thing it commandeth?
Would it 'Old Glory' from battlements drag?"
Look! they are silver! the stars in the flag.

Hark to the cry from the loom and the fields,
'Tis a cry like the cry of a mother:
"Men of the East would you raise golden shields
"In a war on a friend and a brother?
"Who says our banner is Anarchy's rag?"
Look! they are silver! the stars in the flag.

Silver! not gold are the two score of stars,
And they tell for our country its story.
Down with the hand of the Shylock who mars
For a measure of gold, our "Old Glory!"
Here's the reply to Plutocracy's brag:
Look! they are silver! the stars in the flag.

—N. P. Babcock.

Free Coinage.

What is meant by free coinage is that silver shall be coined upon the terms and conditions which apply to the coinage of gold. This was the case from time immemorial previous to 1873. The Government always charges sufficient for refining the metal and preparing it for coinage, added to the profit on the alloy, to pay the expenses of the mint and make that institution self-sustaining. Free coinage means that gold and silver shall be coined with no charge for profit to the Government and only sufficient charge to defray the expenses which the Government incurs. Under free coinage the Government will neither lose nor make by the operation of coining either gold or silver, but it would coin all the gold and all the silver presented for that purpose.

Gold Prices a Disadvantage.

The demonetization of silver led to a general fall of prices through the appreciation of gold. But at the same time, by breaking the international par of exchange between gold and silver, it gave silver-using Nations an advantage in the markets of Europe over countries producing and selling the same commodities on a gold basis. As a result, our great export staples have fallen considerably more than the general average, greatly to the injury, more especially, of the agricultural classes.

Prices of manufactured goods have been better sustained during the last two or three years, but it has been largely by means of combines, and prices have been held up (so far as they have been at all) by limiting production, which is itself an evil of no small magnitude. Besides, the keeping up of manufacturers' prices a little above the silver level is operating to the disadvantage of that class, by stimulating the manufactures of silver standard countries, so that in the end the American manufacturer may be injured even worse than the agriculturalist.—National Bimetallist.

The Cheap Dollar Bugaboo.

In one breath our goldbug friends howl "50-cent dollar," and in the next they declare that free coinage is all for the benefit of the silver mine owner. Well, if the silver miner will only get a 50-cent dollar for his 50 cents' worth of silver, wherein is the benefit to him. But, if on the other hand, he gets a dollar for his "50 cents' worth" of silver, the silver dollar under free coinage must be, not a 50-cent but a 100-cent dollar. There is no one quite so inconsistent as the argumentative goldbug.—Wheeling Register.

Court-Martialed and Shot.

The London Daily Telegraph has a dispatch from Buluwayo saying that Makoni's caves have been dynamited and Makoni was court martialed and shot. The chief died bravely. Wagon-loads of booty were found in the cave.

Krupp Rules Out Foreign Workmen.

The correspondent of the London Standard at Berlin, Germany, says that Herr Krupp, the gun manufacturer, has dismissed all foreign workingmen and officials from his employ, on the ground of betrayal of secrets to foreign governments.

BRYAN'S NOTIFICATION.

Bryan Advised of His Nomination by the Silver Party.

The continuous welcome Lincoln people and large contingents from other parts of Nebraska gave William J. Bryan on his home coming culminated Tuesday evening in a grand demonstration in honor of his formal notification of his nomination for the presidency by the National Silver party. From the time Mr. Bryan reached Lincoln at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning until the tired crowds retired from the streets at a late hour Tuesday night, there was parading galore of the streets of the capital city by local and visiting campaign clubs, nearly all with brass bands in front. There was an escort procession from the Burlington depot to Mr. Bryan's residence; another procession that accompanied the candidate to a mass meeting in the Statehouse grounds, Tuesday afternoon, and the third and greatest preceeding the notification ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, Geo. A. Groot, chairman of the notification committee and Morris Humphreys, of Lincoln, rode together in the midst of the night parade. Men in white duck uniforms carrying flambeaus formed a picturesque part of the display. There were members of the silver clubs from Lincoln and elsewhere in the State. Nearly, if not quite, a thousand mounted men were in line, and these, with the silver capped organizations, fired off skyrockets and Roman candles as they proceeded from the post-office square along the principal streets to the State house. All those members of the notification committee who went to Lincoln to attend the ceremonies were seated on the platform erected at the north front of the capitol building, when Mr. Bryan arrived. They were suffering greatly from the annoyance caused by thousands of small gnats attracted by the glare of a large electric lamp that hung over the stand. Several were obliged to leave the stand, being unable to bear longer the myriads of frantic insects.

With the arrival of the torchlight procession the crowd gathered about the capitol was increasing tenfold. It seemed many times larger than the audience of 5,000 that listened to Mr. Bryan in the afternoon. Norris Humphreys presided at the meeting and introduced Geo. A. Groot, of Ohio, chairman of the notification committee.

It was 10:20 o'clock before Groot's long address was concluded. Mr. Bryan was immediately presented and made a short speech.

Mr. Harrington, of the notification committee, arose at the conclusion of Mr. Bryan's remarks and briefly informed him of Mr. Sewall's selection as the vice-presidential candidate of the silver party.

Mr. Bryan accepted, in a few words, n behalf of Mr. Sewall.

Gaudaur Wins.

Jake Gaudaur, of Toronto, Monday won the rowing championship of the world and $2,500 in addition to the Sportsman's cup, at Putney, Eng., defeating James A. Stansberry, of Australia, who recently defeated "Wag" Harding for the championship of the world. Gaudaur has held the professional championship of America since 1893 and twice before, 1886 and 1887, he held the same honors. Gaudaur and Stansbery have met before. The contest took place at Austin, Tex., in 1893, when Stansberry was not in good form. Since that time Gaudaur has defeated Edward Hanlan, George Bubear, Rogers, Hackett and other professionals at the Halifax regatta. He also "stroked" the four who beat Bubear's English combination. The new champion has made two previous visits to England. In 1883 he was over there with George Hosmer, Ed Hanlan and Wallace Ross, but he had to succumb to Hanlan and Ross despite his clever style, which was very much admired by the English experts. In 1886 Gaupaur rowed Beach, the Australian, for the championship, from Putney to Mortlake. Stansbury won the Australian championship in 1891, when he defeated John McLean, on the Paramotta river. Gaudaur weighed 175 pounds and is six feet high, while Stansbery is about seven pounds heavier and one inch taller.

An American Citizen Arrested.

Samuel J. Tolon, an American citizen and recently a resident of the province of Matanzas, Cuba, has been arrested on board of the Ward line steamship Seneca, on a political charge and is now in custody on shore. Mr. Tolon, who is said to be a merchant of prominence, was arrested just as the steamer was on the point of sailing. It is said the police have been trying for twenty days to effect his capture. The United States Consul-General, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, has been communicated with and it is reported that he has entered a protest against Mr. Tolon's arrest and has communicated with the authorities at Washington.

Election Riots in Madrid.

The elections for members of the councils general in Madrid, Spain, Saturday, have resulted in the return of a large ministerial majority. Serious rioting has taken place at Barcelona, where the electoral college ballot box was smashed and knives and revolvers were freely used. Several persons were wounded during the disturbance.

More Cruisers for Spain.

Admiral Beranger, the minister of marine, has decided to purchase, in Scotland, an iron clad of 10,500 tons and a cruiser of 6,500 tons, costing respectively $3,750,000 and $1,575,000 and two torpedo catchers. He has also decided to place an order in England for a cruiser of $1,500 tons.

THE COTTON CROP.

Last Year's Yield but Little Over Seven Million Bales.

The totals of Secretary Hester's annual report of the cotton crop of the United States were promulgated early Tuesday morning. They show receipts of cotton at all United States ports for the year of 5,426,246 bales, against 8,006,177 last year; overland, 873,465 against 1,087,101; Southern consumption taken direct from interior of the cotton belt, 863,335 against 807,973, making the cotton crop of the United States for 1995-96 amount to 7,157,346 bales against 9,901,251 last year and 7,549,817 the year before.

Mr. Hester has made an investigation of the consumption of cotton by every mill in the South, including woolen mills that have used cotton, and the results show a total of 904,701 bales, but of this 41,066 were taken from outports included in port receipts. This total shows that the mills of the South have used nearly 42,000 more than during the year 1894-95, and that the South has consumed more cotton than ever before known in its history.

He makes the actual cotton crop of Texas, including the Indian Territory, 1,989,582 bales, or, say 1,246,376 less than last year and states that the actual production of the Indian Territory was 64,349 bales. His report on the crop of the different States is given as follows in thousands of bales:

North Carolina, 384; South Carolina, 664; Georgia, 1,079; Alabama, 830; Florida, 48; Mississippi, 880; Louisiana, 430; Arkansas, 620; Tennessee, etc., 252; Texas, 1,990; total crop, bales, 7,157,000. The crop of Oklahoma which is included in Tennessee, amounted to 9,955.

Mr. Hester's report which was issued Tuesday contained interesting facts in relation to the increase in the spindles of southern mills and to new mills which will come into operation during the new commercial year. He shows the number of spindles that have been affected by bad trade and unsettled monetary conditions which he states have lessened the year's consumption to the extent of about 150,000 bales. He makes the average weight of the crop 6 80-100 pounds per bale less than last season and says that it equals 25,000 bales of last year's crop and that at last year's weights this year's crop would have been much less.

PEARL BRYAN'S MURDERERS.

Plot to Liberate Jackson and Walling Uncovered.

Jackson and Walling, Pearl Bryan's murderers, are not hereafter to have the privileges which have heretofore been accorded them in the Covington, Ky., jail. It has been found that through visitors and gifts of food a plan for escape had been made, which was to have been carried into effect at 6 o'clock Monday morning. Jackson was discovered in whispered conversation with a colored burglar, Walker. The plot was revealed by a prisoner. Walker was dragged from his cell and a new revolver found in his pocket and a saw in his cell. Several saws were found in Walling's cell. Jackson's cell was searched, but nothing found there. Visitors hereafter will be closely watched.

Three Hanged at Paris.

At 11:05 Friday morning George L. Wheeler, white, was hanged at Paris, Texas, for the murder of Robert McCabe, in the Chickasaw nation, in June 1895. He lay in wait for his victim and shot him, in the presence of his 9 year old son. Immediately after the removal of Wheeler's body the trap was again adjusted and Silas Lee and Hickland Greeland, the two negroes who murdered Edward T. Caney, Jeff Maddox, Paul Applegate and an unknown man on the shanty boat on Red river on Nov. 4, 1895, were placed upon the gallows. They were dropped at 12:05. All three of their necks were broken. The negroes were hanged separately at Wheeler's request, as he did not want to be hanged with them.

Small-Pox in Cuba.

The Spanish minister has received an official letter from the surgeon-general of the Spanish army in Cuba, declining an offer of vaccine virus, as all the troops have been revaccinated. Small-pox does not prevail among the soldiers, but among the people of small towns and hamlets in the interior of the island. The surgeon-general states that small-pox is decimating the rebel ranks. The government of Cuba is sending vaccine virus to interior towns. During the epidemic of 1866-67 the city of Santiago de Cuba lost over 5,000 by small-pox, nearly all colored people.

Brazil Will Make Amends.

The Brazilian legation in London has issued a note announcing that there is every indication of a peaceful and cordial solution of the difficulty which has arisen between Brazil and Italy, regarding the claim of the latter country for indemnity as a result of the recent and past outrages in Brazil upon Italian subjects.

Suicided.

Alexander B. McIntyre, general manager of the Cleveland, O., navigation company, committed suicide in that city Tuesday morning. The weapon used was a shotgun. The act was committed in a room over the Detroit and Cleveland company's office, at the foot of Superior street. The motive of the deed is not known.

Steam Gin Burned.

The steam gin and saw mill of P. A. Lake near Newell postoffice, Ark., was burned this week. No insurance; loss about $2,000.