

BEST YEAR OF PROSPERITY

TRADE OF THE NATION IN 1902 THE LARGEST YET.

Every Branch of Ordinary Trade and Manufacture Shows an Increase Above Previous Years—Railroads Couldn't Handle the Business—Wages Were Generally Increased and Hours Shortened.

New York.—Bradstreet's review of the business year, to be issued Saturday next, will have the following:

To say that 1902 was the best year this country has ever experienced, while entirely truthful enough in the main, does not suggest fully the enormous strides which the United States took in the year just closed. Practically every branch of ordinary trade and manufacture shows a increase above the best previous years, and yet this immense enlargement of output was not sufficient of itself to satisfy the growing demand for all kinds of materials. In many cases the usual foreign outlet for our products was, perforce, neglected by American producers, who confined their efforts to supplying insistent domestic demand, while in others foreign production was called upon to reinforce domestic output, with the result that new currents and channels were created in our foreign trade. Our export trade, therefore expanded to unprecedented figures.

The railroads of the country, in their efforts to handle the business offered them, suffered as never before from congestion and complaint of interference with production and distribution of the products of the farm, the mine, the shop and the loom was practically universal. Industrial unrest was naturally marked, as it always is either in times of prosperity or of depression, and serious disorganization of some of the country's basic industries resulted for a time. In many cases resort to extremes was rendered unnecessary by liberal recognition by employers of changes in the standard of living, and it is safe to say that two men obtained higher wages or had their working hours reduced without resort to strikes for every one who actually quit work.

Speculation, it is true, felt the checks imposed upon it by conservatism, by short crops in the preceding year, and last, but not least, by high rates for money; but despite the fact that stock market operations were only about one half of 1901 bank clearings, those usually reliable guides of business showed aggregates practically equal to the hitherto unheard of totals of 1901. All this was accomplished with a minimum of friction, as reflected in the form of business embarrassments.

Washington.—Considerable opposition is developing to the ratification of the Cuban reciprocity treaty now pending in the senate. It is not taking quite the form that the opposition to the Cuban legislation took last spring, but it is sufficient in substance to give concern to the friends of the treaty.

From time to time as opportunity offers the president is discussing the matter with senators, particularly those who are known to have objected to legislation extending tariff concessions to the Cuban republic. Several weeks ago it appeared that the treaty when presented to the senate would be ratified without difficulty but some senators now are taking as strong grounds against the treaty as they took against the legislation proposed at the last session of congress. These senators are of two classes, those who are opposed on principle to any "tariff tinkering," and those who represent states whose products may be affected by the concessions extended to Cuba by the pending treaty.

Prices Paid to Producers.

Poultry and eggs—Chickens, roosters, 10@11c; hens, 12½c per live weight; young chickens, \$3@4.50 per doz; turkeys, live weight, 14c per lb., dressed 16c; eggs, fresh, 25@30c doz; ducks, live weight, 11c lb.

Vegetables—Potatoes, 45@50c per cwt; onions \$1 per cwt. Live stock—Beef, live steers, \$3.50 @3.75, dressed, 6½@7c; cows, 3c, dressed, 6c; mutton, ewes, \$3.50@4 per cwt, dressed, 7c; veal, dressed 9@10c; hogs, live, 6@7c; dressed, 8@9c per lb.

Archduke Renounces Rank.

Berlin.—The semi-official Berliner Abend Post says Emperor Francis Joseph has accepted Archduke Leopold Ferdinand's renunciation of his rank and has sanctioned his adoption of a civil name, Woelfling, and has also ordered that his name be stricken from the lists of the Knights of the Golden Fleece and of the army.

Shot By Italian.

Sprague, Wash.—Fred Brown, a young man, proprietor of a restaurant in this place, was fatally shot while quarrelling with an Italian by the name of Peter Sirlani.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

The sales of live stock at the Union stockyards of Chicago this year aggregated \$21,723,000. Dr. D. K. Pearson, whose gifts to colleges have amounted to several million dollars, recently gave \$50,000 to the Illinois college of Jacksonville. About a year and a half ago Dr. Pearson announced that he would give the \$50,000 if the college authorities could secure \$100,000 from other sources before January 1, 1903. The last dollars of this amount has been pledged to resident Barnes of Illinois college.

One of the most important deals in the history of railroad corporations was made known recently. Early in the year J. Pierpont Morgan & Co. will announce the consolidation of the Erie, Lehigh Valley and the Reading railways. The merger will be planned after the manner of the Northern Securities company, the stocks of the companies to be pooled and held as a basis for the issuance of a large amount of common shares, which will take as their name the title to be given the consolidated companies.

The board of trustees of Hamline university in Minnesota announce that an endowment of \$250,000 for the university has been raised, principally in money. James Hill and M. G. and J. L. Norton of Winona gave large sums. The endowment insures the permanency of Hamline along lines which the trustees have laid out.

The navy department will adopt heroic measures to protect the enlisted men at the Puget Sound navy yard, near Seattle, Wash., from the evil influences which exist at Bremerton. An official report from Rear Admiral Stirling, in command of the yards, details a deplorable state of affairs in Bremerton and Acting Secretary of the Navy Darling has issued an order which will have the effect of keeping naval vessels away from that station in the future until the nuisance is abated.

At the conclusion of the church service over the late Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont at Los Angeles, a disgraceful scene was created by the attempt of a number of women to obtain relics of the funeral services. A violent effort was made by these women to reach the beautiful floral pieces presented by the friends of Mrs. Fremont.

Barquisimeto, capital of the state of Lara, which for some time has been in the possession of the Venezuelan revolutionists, has been recaptured by government forces. The towns of San Carlos and Tinaquillo have also been recaptured by the government. The government forces were commanded by General Serno Castillo.

Al Neil of San Francisco won from Tommy Reilly of Seattle recently on a foul in the eleventh round. Reilly put in a straight left in Neil's groin.

Miss Mary Barber, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Barber, and favorite niece of the late President McKinley, recently became the wife of Major Ralph Hartzell.

German Government Silent.

Berlin.—The German government is completely silent as to when the blockade will be raised, or whether it will be raised at all, until every question concerning arbitration is settled. The acceptance of arbitration after the blockade was declared is not received with popular favor in Germany.

General von Boguslawski, one of the foremost military writers, contributes to the Rundschau his views upon the Monroe doctrine. He says the withdrawal of the blockade at this stage would show singular weakness. He quotes the late Prince Bismarck's expression that the Monroe doctrine was "a great piece of impudence."

Ten Men Killed.

Trinidad, Col.—Developments indicate that the wreck on the Colorado & Southern railroad just outside of this city recently which was caused by a collision between a merchandise freight train and a heavily loaded coal train, was the most disastrous in the history of the road, where freight trains alone were concerned. It is known tonight that at least 10 men were killed.

Price of Oil Is Going Up.

Chicago.—A special from New Orleans says: The Standard Oil company has at last secured control of the Beaumont oil fields in Texas and the Jennings oil region in Louisiana. There are only a few small camps remaining outside, and they cut very little figure in the marketing of fuel oil. The price of fuel oil has advanced \$1 a barrel, and the indications are that the quotations will go still higher.

Big Timber Fire.

Louisville, Ky.—Fire, which broke out in the wholesale whisky house of Bonnie Brothers, in the heart of the wholesale whisky district of this city, caused a loss of about \$100,000 and threatened for a time to destroy the Louisville & Nashville Railway company's general offices and other property valued at three or four times that amount.

Fire at Portland.

Portland, Ore.—The Sherlock block at the corner of Third and Oak streets has been damaged by fire to the extent of \$10,000.

BINGER HERMANN RESIGNS

GIVES UP OFFICE OF LAND COMMISSIONER FEB. FIRST.

He Was Lax in His Methods—Charges Against Two of His Subordinate Officials—His Successor Will Be W. A. Richards, His First Assistant—Hitchcock and Hermann at Outs.

Washington.—Binger Hermann, commissioner of the general land office, has resigned and will be succeeded by William A. Richards, now the assistant commissioner of the general land office. The change will take effect February 1, said Commissioner Hermann.

Mr. Hermann's resignation was requested about two weeks ago by the secretary of the interior and was immediately presented. Charges have been preferred against two of the subordinate officials of the land office involving alleged irregularities and they have been given a specific time in which to make answer.

The two officials are Harry King and Fred Metzger, assistant chief of the draughtsmen's division of the government land office. The former is charged with neglect of duty and the latter with mismanagement and unsatisfactory administration of his duties.

The relations between Secretary Hitchcock and Commissioner Hermann have been strained for a long time.

Land Commissioner Hermann's laxness in enforcing the land laws has brought the latter's resignation about, the secretary of the interior believing that the timber and stone frauds particularly were the result of the looseness of Hermann's methods. Many errors, the result of careless examination of records in cases submitted by local land officers, were approved and passed by the general land office and were not detected until they reached the secretary's office for approval.

The secretary also believes that the commissioner has allowed sentiment to play too large a part in the settlement of cases, the commissioner at times so liberally construing the law as to almost nullify it. Local land offices have been so often reversed in their decisions that they were compelled to fall into line with Hermann's general policy, to which the secretary attributes many abuses now existing.

Secretary Hitchcock has ordered an extensive investigation of the work of two of Hermann's subordinates and extremely interesting developments are expected.

Stole Northport Smelter Gold.

Rosslund, B. C.—Peter Swanson, a saloonkeeper from Northport, Wash., was arrested here on the charge of having stolen goods in his possession. His arrest is the outcome of a campaign against a ring of thieves who have been stealing matte from the Northport smelter for some time. The matte is valued at from \$3.50 to \$10.00 per pound, and it is an easy matter for men about the works to put a pound or two in their pockets. This has been done and the swag traded at saloons about Northport until the practice became notorious.

Swanson's place was a well known fence for stolen matte, and when Swanson came to Rosslund he had about 100 pounds of the stuff, valued at \$1000, in his possession. John S. Ingram, chief of police, made the arrest, and Swanson was promptly arraigned on a charge of having stolen goods in his possession. He pleaded guilty to the charge. The maximum penalty is 14 years' imprisonment. He implicated others.

General Miles Visits Empress.

Pekin.—The dowager empress and Lieutenant General Miles exchanged flattering speeches at recent audience, the dowager assuring the general that he "success of the American army was assured under a commander so celebrated."

Officials here discredit the reports that General Tung Fu Siang and Prince Tuan are moving on Siang Fu with troops. The missionaries, however, are said to be retiring from that region.

Killed by Fall.

Boise, Idaho.—Samuel Johnson, a miner, in the employ of the Checkmate Mining company at Pearl, was instantly killed by a fall of rock in the mine. Deceased was working in a stope over the 400 foot level. A rock weighing 300 pounds fell and crushed his head against the foot wall.

Coasted Into the River.

St. Louis.—While coasting down the levee on the ice formed along the river shore opposite Olive street, Mary Galeano, aged 15, and Andre Cafferata, aged 18, broke through the ice and were drowned.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

An athletic club has been organized at Sprague with a membership of 46. Henry W. Brooke of Seattle, who was one of the pioneer business men of Spokane is dead.

The bank clearings of Spokane, as shown by Bradstreets, for the year 1902 will exceed by over 50 per cent those of 1901.

Allen Smith, the younger of the firm of Smith brothers at Republic, committed suicide recently with a 38 calibre bulldog pistol.

During the year 1902 over \$300,000 was spent in North Yakima in new buildings. Of this big sum the greater part was used for residences.

The report of Adjutant General Drain for 1901 and 1902 has been filed with Governor McBride. It covers about 30 printed pages and contains matter of importance to the public as well as the National Guard.

The Creston football team defeated the Davenport high school eleven at Davenport recently for the championship of Lincoln county by a score of 6 to 5.

The large frame residence at Colfax, owned by J. P. Stine, a farmer, and occupied by L. L. Meyers and family was totally destroyed with all contents recently.

The report of Secretary of State Nicholls, recently filed, gives the receipts of his office for the period at \$108,637.85 and the fees collected by the insurance department at \$122,848.46 in addition.

The fruit packing plant of Kelly-Clarke company has closed down at Vancouver, after the season's run of 60 days, during which 70 carloads of dried prunes were prepared for the market.

The committee in charge of the Pacific Coast Congregational congress, which will be held in Seattle from May 8 to May 17, inclusive, announces that G. Campbell Morgan, the noted divine and evangelistic orator, has accepted a request to be present at the conference.

A panic was narrowly averted at the Catholic church on Christmas day at Uniontown through the courageous efforts of Father Faust and the coolness displayed on the part of the celebrant, Father Goller, S. J., of Spokane. The trimmings around the chancel caught fire.

The Spokane Lumber company has closed a deal whereby it acquired 16,000 acres of timber lands along the line of the Great Northern railroad between Milan, Wash., and the Pend d'Oreille river. The tract was secured from the Northern Pacific railroad and the amount involved was about \$100,000. This company had large holdings before in the locality and now owns about 30,000 acres near Milan.

Ed Condin, the halfbreed, was not killed while resisting arrest for implication in the murder of Judge Lewis and wife, as was first supposed. He was fatally stabbed by an Indian at Keller during a quarrel which is said to have had nothing to do with the Keller tragedy. It is reported Condin and the Indian had been together drinking and became involved in a row over some minor matter. A fight followed and Condin was stabbed.

Foolish Women.

Portland, Ore.—Complaint has been filed in the district attorney's office charging A. B. Amandus, a clairvoyant, with the larceny of \$1028 from a Mrs. Moore and another woman living at Mona Villa, a suburb. The women had visited Amandus several times at his office, and he had gained their confidence. He asked the women to bring him \$1500, telling them he would charm the currency and that it would be transferred into a box of gold of fabulous value.

The women finally raised \$1028 in currency, which they gave to the clairvoyant. He placed it in an envelope, sealed it and handed an envelope back to them. He told them to bury the money and not to dig it up until December 23. They hurried away to their home and buried the envelope, according to instructions. On December 23 they dug up the treasure, expecting to find a huge box of gold. Their disappointment was keen when they found nothing but the envelope which had been buried. With trembling hands they opened the envelope and found a bunch of newspaper clippings in place of their \$1028. Complaint was made to the district attorney and detectives were sent to arrest the clairvoyant, but no trace of him can be found.

Blamed for Wreck.

London, Ont.—Andrew Carson, the operator at Watford, the first station east of the wreck, whose failure to deliver orders to Conductor McAuliffe of the Pacific express, to pass the freight at Wanstead, is said by the Grand Trunk officials to have caused the wreck in which 28 were killed and two score injured.

Two Found Dead at Havre.

Havre, Mont.—Two colored men were found dead here under suspicious circumstances. One is a bartender, the other a retired musician of the Tenth cavalry. Morphine or alcohol may have caused death.

WORLD'S NEWS SUMMARY

CULLED FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCHES.

A Review of Happenings in Both Eastern and Western Hemispheres During the Past Week—National Historical, Political and Personal Events Tersely Expounded.

Hadda Mullah, who caused so many outbreaks on the northwest frontier of India, died recently.

Rev. N. B. Naylor of Armstrong, Mo., performed a marriage ceremony recently by which five couples were united.

General Leonard Wood has accepted an invitation of the Kansas Day club to respond to a toast at their banquet, January 28. General Funston will probably be present.

The total number of students in attendance at Cornell University to date is 2968, a gain of 176 over last year.

Count Tolstol has sent a personal appeal to the press asking the papers in view of his advanced age and illness, not to publish any further reports of his condition, as they cause him pain.

It is reported on good authority that Archduke Ferdinand and the crown princess of Saxony and their companions propose going to the United States, there being little probability of their finding congenial homes in Europe.

At Los Angeles, Cal., Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, widow of General Fremont, died recently, aged 78 years.

According to the Railroad Gazette, railroad building in the United States during 1902, aggregated 6026 miles, a total not exceeded in any year since 1888. Second track, sidings and electric lines are not included. Oklahoma leads with 507 miles of new line; Texas comes next with 496 miles; Arkansas is third with 371 miles and Indian Territory fourth with 363 miles.

Signor Mascagni, the Italian composer, who abandoned his American trip while playing in Chicago has been placed under arrest on a charge of embezzlement, made by his former manager, Richard Heard.

Max Hayes, a prominent socialist and labor leader, has sent a long letter to David M. Perry, president of the National Manufacturers' association at Indianapolis, challenging him to debate the relative rights of labor and capital. The place of meeting and date is the privilege of Mr. Perry.

Papers found among the effects of George Pleydell, who was frozen to death at Duluth, Minn., recently, almost within reach of his own doorway, indicate that he was the son of Major Thomas Pleydell of Acton, Middlesex, England, formerly of the royal army, and a man of wealth.

President Dryden of the Prudential Life Insurance company of America has issued a statement announcing that the plan proposed for the merger of the Prudential company and the Fidelity Trust company of Newark has been abandoned.

Mrs. Mary Hartweel Catherwood, the well known authoress, died at her residence in Chicago recently of cancer.

Fire in the center of the business district of San Pedro, Cal., destroyed about \$75,000 worth of property recently. One half of the most prominent business blocks of the city was burned out. Two lives were sacrificed, R. W. Smith, a laborer, and Findezen, a retired sea captain.

Dan McLeod won the championship of catch as catch can wrestling and the \$1500 end of a \$2000 purse in Mechanics' hall at Worcester, Mass., before 1100 people recently by getting the better of Tom Jenkins.

Dewey Is at Ponce, P. R.

Ponce, P. R.—Admiral Dewey has arrived here overland from San Juan and received an ovation. He was warmly greeted by a committee of native officials and citizens and was escorted by them from Juana Diaz to Ponce. The city was decorated in honor of the admiral's arrival, which was followed by a procession with bands of music through the streets. Later the admiral boarded the United States ship Mayflower, which was waiting for him, and sailed for Cuba.

Bold Diamond Robbery.

New York.—In full view of passing crowds, the window in the pawnshop of R. Simpson & Co., in West Forty-second street, was smashed with a Belgian paving block and \$1000 worth of diamonds were stolen.

Wheat Report.

Tacoma.—Bluestem, 1½c higher, closing at 81½c; club, 72c. Portland, Ore.—Walla Walla, 70c; bluestem, 78c; valley, 75c.

A \$750,000 sugar factory is to be erected near Manzanillo, Cuba.

Hope deferred gives the letter carrier importance.