THE exports of grain from the port of Philadelphia for the week ended on the 30th were very large, amounting to over 2,000,000 bushels, the bulk of which was corn and oats.

On the 30th Baron von Bulow, the German minister of foreign affairs, gave United States Ambassador White a wholly satisfactory explanation of Germany's intention toward Hayti.

A CABINET officer is authority for the statement that the president is not satisfied with the plan of autonomy for Cuba proposed by Spain. He says that something more liberal was expected.

THE coast and geodetic survey has prepared and will soon publish a new map which will cover practically the entire length of the Yukon river and most of its tributaries, including the Klondike.

A CUBAN amazon, known as Capt. Regina Palenzela, with five armed insurgents, it was announced from Spanish headquarters on the 30th, had surrendered to the authorities at Nueva Paz, province of Havana.

GEN. JOHN S. MASON, a veteran of the Mexican and civil wars, died in Washington, on the 29th, aged 73 years. He was retired in 1888. A widow and one son, Capt. Mason, stationed at Fort Sheridan, survive him.

DURING the week ended November 27 failures throughout the United States, as reported by R. G. Dun & Co., were 236, against 300 for the corresponding week last year. For Canada the failures were 25, against 38 last year.

SECRETARY GAGE said, on the 30th, that in the annual estimates he would send to congress he would name about \$20,000,000 and not above \$25,000,000 as the amount of the treasury deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898.

A DISPATCH from Havana says: The World's first figures of Cuba's starvation were timidly moderate. They showed the death of only 200,000. But every painful fact unearthed tends to prove them nearly double that number.

MINISTER WHITE, at Berlin, has been will not tolerate any undue or arbitary measures in obtaining satisfaction in respect to the claim of Herr Lucuers against Hayti.

MR. CHARLES M. LORING, the father of the Minneapolis (Minn.) park system and a prominent miller, who was forced to make an assignment some two years ago on account of indorsements, has affected a settlement with the return to him of a material portion of his estate.

THE Cuban constituent assembly, which met recently at Camaguey to remodel the constitution and elect a new president, issued a manifesto which declared, among other patriotic senti-ments, that " 'Independence or death' is and shall be the unalterable and sacred motto of the Cubans."

THE weekly statement of the New the 28th, showed the following changes: Surplus reserve, decrease, \$847,325; loans, increase, \$14,097,400; specie, increase, \$500,300; legal tenders, increase, \$2,838,400; deposits, increase, \$16,744,100; circulation, increase, \$19,-

THE will of the late John E. Liggett, of St. Louis, has been filed for probate. The instrument is dated June 5, 1893, and is witnessed by Charles F. Ziebold and Mason C. Smith. The bulk of the estate goes to the widow and daughters. Charitable bequests amount to \$10,000. The estate is valued at \$8,000,-

CAPT. F. L. Howe has designated January 10 as the day for his "boom" to move upon the Wichita reservation if no action toward opening it shall be taken by congress prior to that date. Secretary Bliss has directed that the Indian police be reinforced by regular troops, if necessary, to prevent the in-

Louis W. Pratt, collector of interand revenue for the Albany (N. Y.) district, has been peremptorily removed from office, his chief deputy, Harlan P. Draper, being designated to act as collector until a successor to Mr. Pratt can be appointed. It is alleged that he is short about \$18,000 in his accounts with brewers.

PRESIDENT JOHN GARDINER, of Norwalk, O., and Vice-President J. O. Moss were appointed receivers by Judge Wildman, on the 30th, for the Sandusky, Mansfield & Norwalk railroad, a branch of the Baltimore & Ohio. The motion for receivers was made by the principal owners, and is claimed to be a friendly proceeding.

THE coal mining strike in the northern Illinois district ended on the 26th. 12,000 miners going back to work in the Coal City, Braidwood, Carbon Hill, Spring Valley, Lodi, Seatonville, La Salle and Oglesby field. One thousand men remained out at Streator. The settlement was the result of a compromise. The strike had lasted nearly tive months.

MINISTER HOSHI of Japan will return Washington, on the 10th, after an extended visit home, during which he has had an opportunity to confer with the Japanese authorities concerning the annexation of Hawaii to the United States. It is understood that his return will permit the Hawaiian question, so far as it concerns Japan, to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* DECEMBER-1897.

4	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
144	26	27	28	29	30	31	

# CURRENT TOPICS.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

MRS. CAROLINE ABKE, aged 70 years, who lived alone near Leavenworth, Kas., was found dead in her home on the 26th. Marks on ner neck indicated that the woman had been choked to death. A lock on an outside door had been broken, apparently by burglars, and the house was ransacked. Mrs. Abke was eccentric, and was believed to possess considerable money.

THE armored cruiser Brooklyn was drydocked in the timber dock at the New York navy yard in Brooklyn on the 26th. Because of the ship's immense displacement, the task of getting it into the dock was looked forward to with some anxiety. It was accomplished, however, with little trouble and slight damage.

Col. George A. Bute, a prominent mining man of Telluride, Col., is missing, and his friends in Telluride believe that he has been murdered, as he had a large sum of money when he left that camp.

HIRAM MAXIM'S new rapid-firing gun the 26th, with remarkable results. With 25 pounds of cordite it showed an effective range of 16,000 yards.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY is a firm believer in the doctrine that the best way to preserve peace is to be prepared for war. He desires peace with Spain; therefore, he is making preparations which are calculated to inspire the belief in the minds of the hot-blooded Spaniards that, if they provoke war, terminus a heavy freight train crashed they will be inviting their downfall.

THE Madrid Official Gazette publishes the royal decrees granting autonomy to Cuba and Porto Rico, thus removing jured. instructed to intimate to the German | the anxiety that had begun to be exgovernment that the United States pressed on all sides as the result of the government's reticence and unexplained delay.

THE Chinese merchants of San Francisco have combined to suppress the murderous highbinder societies. These business men have signed a compact not to submit to furthur blackmail, and without their usual income the highbinders will be forced to leave the city or go to work.

A DISPATCH to the Frankfort (Germany) Zeitung from Rome, on the 26th, | alongside. Two lives were lost. reported that a sanguinary conflict had taken place between the French and British at Nikki, in the Lagos Hinterland, in which the British were worsted.

SECRETARY LONG has recently placed with the American Ordnance Co. orders as follows: Ten thousand six-inch shells, 15,000 one-pounder shells for rapid-fire guns, 25,000 armor-piercing shell tips, 80 rapid-fire shell guns.

THE naval trial board has made a rethe big battle-ship Iowa at sea. The report thoroughly sustains Commodore Dewey's comment that the ship is as fine a type of her class as there is in the world.

THE steamship South Portland been purchased by a syndicate and is to be put in condition for service between Seattle and St. Michaels, Alaska.

L. ROSWELL HART ROCHESTER, treasurer of the Western Union Telegraph Co., died suddenly at his home in Englewood. N. J., on the night of the 28th, aged 46 years.

CONSUL-GENERAL LEE has reported to the state department that the number of American citizens in Cuba dependent upon the appropriations made by congress is now 1,607. Of the suffering Americans 750 are in Havana province. 253 in Matanzas, and the others are scattered in the remaining provinces.

MRS. ADRIAN ISELIN, Sr., died on the 28th, at her home in New York city, aged 77 years. Mrs. Iselin was Miss Eleanora O'Donnell, the daughter of was born in that city. With ber husband she celebrated her golden wedding on December 11, 1895.

Wu Tinge Fong, Chinese minister, contemplates the erection of a school building in San Francisco, the bringing of a corps of teachers from China and the education of the Chinese youth of that city and coast in both English and Chinese branches.

A TELEGRAM received at Port Townsend, Wash., on the 28th, from Wash ington, D. C., stated that Maj.-Gen. Nelson A. Miles had submitted to the secretary of war a letter in which he recommended that Fort Townsend be occupied by troops immediately. A later dispatch from Washington said that Secretary of War Alger had not been apprised of Gen. Miles' intention

to garrison Fort Townsend. THE British steamship Kensington Capt. Fraggett, arrived at Philadelphia, on the 28th, from London after a tempestuous voyage that lasted all the way to the Delaware capes. Her decks were broken, bridge smashed, stanchions bent and twisted and her entire deck eargo of 30 drums of naphtha and a large quantity of phosphorus washed

overboard. THE grand jury has found true bills against several firms in Denver, Col. for selling oleomargarine. The Colorado Creamerymen's association instigated the prosecutions. It is claimed that eight out of every ten retail gro cers in that city handle eleomargarine. | 30 of \$11,338,125.

THE millinery and furnishing stores of Apt Bros., 39 and 41 North Eighth street, Philadelphia, were damaged by fire, on the 28th, to the extent of \$75,-000, on which the firm carried \$50,000 insurance. The building was damaged to the extent of \$10,000; covered by insurance.

THE steamer City of Seattle arrived at Seattle, Wash., on the 28th, from Skaguay, Alaska. She had on board 25 men who left Dawson City, October 14, coming out over the Dalton trail. They reported a state of things bordering on panic at Dawson, owing to the lack of provisions there.

On the 28th the associated banks of New York city held \$32,560,925 in excess of the requirement of the 25-percent. rule.

ARCHBISHOP KEANE, former rector of the Catholic university at Washington, was received by the pope on the 29th. His holiness congratulated the bishop upon the abnegation with which, in a letter to the pope, he renounced his claim to be included in the list of candidates for appointment to the archbishopric of New Orleans.

As a result of the confession made by Oliver Prevost, alias Gauthier, now confined in jail at Pembroke, Ont., Mrs. Gauthier was arrested, on the 29th, charged with having poisoned and then cremated Rene Debin and Fred Carriere at Port Arthur, Ont., in February last.

THREE men, who represented themselves as detectives, entered the home of Mrs. Mary Eppinstein, 4444 Wabash avenue, Chicago, on the 29th, and after beating Mrs. Eppinstein with revolvers and locking her in a room, made away with her diamonds, valued in all at \$4,000. Ex-Congressman Ephraim M. Woo-

MAR died in Lebanon, Pa., on the 29th, of Bright's disease, at the age of 53. A widow and one son survive him.

OLE HALVERSON, who was shot at Inkster, N. D., by Miss Mary Luxton, died on the 29th. He was conscious was tried at Portsmouth, England, on until death, and begged that Miss Luxton might not be prosecuted, as he alone was to blame. Assigner Arnold has gone through

the books of the defunct Bank of English, Ind., and its branches, and finds sufficient funds to pay the claims in full and leave asurplus of \$25,000. A TERRIBLE railway wreck occurred at Warsaw, Russia, on the 30th. While a passenger train was stationary at the into it, owing to the error of a pointsman. Eleven persons were killed outright and 23 others were seriously in-

THE Bristol City line steamer Exeter City, which arrived at New York, on the 30th from Bristol and Swansea, fell in with the British schooner Elite, Capt. Hargrave, dismasted and in a sinking condition, rescued the crew of five men and brought them safely to

ORE dock No. 4, of the Chicago & Northwestern railway, at Escanaba, Mich., one of the largest in the world, was burned, on the 30th, together with the steamer Nahant, which was lying

Official reports from Havana have it that only four insignificant skirmishes have taken place recently between Spanish troops and insurgents. FRANK A. KEITH and Maggie Godfrey committed suicide together in

Lowell, Mass., on the 30th, by inhaling gas. They were penniless. On the 30th Secretary Alger stated that he had finally decided to approve the sentence of the court-martial in the

#### Lovering case. LATE NEWS ITEMS.

GEN. NELSON G. WILLIAMS died at his home in Brooklyn on the 1st. He was a classmate of U. S. Grant at West Point. At the battle of Shiloh he had formerly the Caroline Miller, which a horse shot under him and the explowas once seized as a filibuster, has | sion of a shell rendered him totally deaf. For 30 years he had been in charge of public stores in New York city.

THE navy department has sent orders to the United States ship Alert, now at San Francisco, to proceed to Brito Nicaragua. This place is at the western terminus of the proposed Nicaragua canal, and the vessel will be kept there in readiness, to co-operate

with the canal commission. ALL sorts of wild rumors were current in Berlin and at Kiel, on the 1st, probably based in the main upon the speech of Emperor William at the opening of the reichstag as to the relations between Germany and China. But most of the reports were discredited.

THE deplorable condition of the island of Cuba grows more apparent. Columbus O'Donnell, of Baltimore, and Refugees and reconcentrados are becoming more and more miserable. According to the representatives from San Domingo, small-pox is making terrible ravages among the reconcentra-

THE rumor that John G. Carlisle, exsecretary of the treasury, intends to to settle in New York, has been strenghtened by the report that the house at No. 4 Washington square, New York city, has been rented, furnished, to Mr. Carlisle for the winter.

THE West Vancouver Coal Co., in which H. C. Holliday and other San Francisco capitalists are interested, is about to develop its coal mines at the north end of Vancouver island and establish a coaling station for Alaskan steamers.

THE canals of the state of New York were closed for the season, on the 1st, and active work was begun at once by the contractors to complete the improvements under the \$9,000 act. The business of the year was unusually

THE boiler in the engine room at the Glenwood coal mine at Des Moines, Ia., exploded on the 1st. Twenty men were in the engine room and not one escaped injury. Eleven were fatally injured. The building was wrecked. THE December statement of the publie debt shows that at the close of business November 30, the public debt, less cash in the tressury, amounted to \$1,009.226,466, a decrease since October

#### MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

Will be Placed Among Friends. Rev. E. A. Powell, of Housotonia, superintendent of the Kansas City district for the orphans' home, St. Louis, has secured and taken home with him May Carr, aged six years, whose father, Wm. Carr, is to be hanged at Liberty, December 17, for having drowned nis three-year-old daughter, Belle, in

the Missouri river. It has been decided not to obta in a home for the child in Missouri, but Rev. Powell will care for her at his residence until after her father is executed, when she will be placed in some Christian family in either Iowa or Minnesota, where the entire community is not familiar with her history. Tae child is un-usually bright, and Rev. Powell says many families would be glad to adopt her, but it is not leemed advisable to place her where her family history is known.

Eagle Tries to Carry Off a Child. Henry Kella, near Blackwater, Cooper county, captured a bald eagle while it was trying to carry off a four-year-old

son of his brother, Theodore. The child was in the yard near the house, which is near Blackwater river, when the eagle made an effort, but the child being too heavy it could not rise off the ground. Its claws be-came entangled in the child's clothing, and Mr. Kella rushed to his nephew's assistance. Taking off his coat, he threw it over the eagle's head, completely blindfolded it. Then, tying its legs together, he released its claws from the child's clothing and carried his feathered captive home, where it was cared, but was afterward taken to Hlackwater and placed on exhibition. The eagle measures & feet II inches from tip to tip. The child was frightened into a spasm, but otherwise was uninjured.

#### St. Louis' Good Showing.

Never in the history of St. Louis has there been such a tremendous increase in the volume of business carried on during a single month as characterized November of this year, according to the statement of the clearinghouse.

The total bank clearings for November corresponding month of last year, an increase of \$25,481,456. The balances for the month were \$12,788,196, while for the same period of 189 they amounted to \$11,589,949, showing an in crease of \$1,257,247. For the last day in the month the clearings were 4.711.233 and the bal-

They Were to Sore Need.

Two little girls, Helen and Stella Wali, inmates of the house of refuge of St. Louis, have fallen heir to \$1,900, and their poor mother, a widow, who was separated from them because she was unable to feed them, will share their good fortune.

It transpires that the attorney for the Polish National society, in which the father and ous-band was insured, had been scarcing for them. The little girls were found on the streets, and the Humane society took them in charge. caused the papers to notice them, and the atcorney, by that means located them.

#### Hon. William H. Letcher.

Hon. William H. Letcher, one of the best-known lawyers in the state, died at St. Joseph hospital in Kansas City. Deceased was born in St. Louis, September 24, and was educated at Washington college, Lexington. Va; was a mitted to the bar in 1848, and located in Marshall soon after. He was elected to the legislature in 1556, and re-elected in 1838 by waigs and Amer-icans. While a member of the assembly he obtained a state reputation in the decate on the "Cape Girardeau Sunday Bill." In 1875 he was adelegate to the convention which framed the present state constitution.

Never Reached Her Destination. Mrs. Hettie M. Burtless, aged 73, of Stotesberry, Vernon county, died in the union passenger station, Chicago, Death was caused by old age. She was on her way to Elburn, Ill., to spend the rest of her days with her son, Irving. For a long time the son had been desirous that his father and mother come to him, and they started on the jour-ney. When the train arrived in Chicago Mrs. Burtless was so weak that she had to be taken off the train in a roller chair. She had been in the waiting-room only a few minutes when she

W. P. Harned, proprietor of the Idlewild herd of shorthorn cattle, held his second annual sale the other day, near Bunceton.

Col. F. M. Wood, of Lincoln, Neb, was auctioneer, and sold the offerings, consisting of 20 young bulls and 24 fancy heifers, for \$6,630. heifers were as good as have gone under the hammer in Missonri for many years. They brought an average price of \$14. per head. The buils averaged \$105 per head. The 33 head brought an average of \$125 per head.

Couldn't Stand the Charge.

Brooding over a charge of theft caused Eugene Hutsell, of 2121 Savannah avenue, St. Joseph, to go insane, and he has been taken to the asylum. Last year Hutsell was employed as janitor of the Francis Street Methodist church, and while working there a number of articles were missed from the pastor's study. Rev. Frank Siler in-stituted a search for the missing articles, and among other places the residence of the lamitor was searched. Nothing was found, and Hutsell was afterward exonerated from all blame.

# Almon E. Marsh.

Almon E. Marsh, one of the two remaining Missouri Mexican war veterans of St. Louis, died recently. Thirteen months ago he was stricken with

paralysis, which finally caused his death. He was 56 years of age. In 1847 he organized Co. K. Missouri regulars, and under Gen. Winneid Scott invaded Mexico. H s right arm was torn off by a sneil in the battle of Cerro Gorio. With his death the St. Louis Mexican War Veterans' union ended, as there is but one member left.

Cotter Cleared. At Springfield a jury cleared George H. Cotter, who shot and killed New-

land McCroskey last May. McCroskey had made some threats against the life of Cotter, it was aileged, and he aiso had a bad reputation for being quarrelsome. Cotter pleaded self-defease, attaougn McCroskey had no weapons of any kind in his possession when killed.

Probably Fatally Kicked by a Horse, S. P. Allen, of Marshall, while at his farm, east of the city, went into the stable, when a fractions horse kicked him in the abdomen. Probably a fatal injury.

Mrs. Emma T. Blanchard. Mrs. Emma T. Blanchard, aged 83, mother of J. M. Blanchard, a prominent business man of Centralia, died ecently, after a protracted illness.

Caused By Hunters. A party of hunters passing through Arnold Bros.' pasture, west of Sedalia, accidentally set fire to the meadow, burning 120 tons of timothy hay.

Was Poor and Lonesome. Joseph Montgomery wrote a note stating that he had no money and was lonesome, and then shot and killed himself, near Independence.

#### NATIONAL MATTERS.

Large Decrease in the Public Debt and How It Occurred—Receipts and Expenditures for November—Rural Free Postal Delivery-Report of the Department of

Agriculture Statistician. Washington, Dec. 2.—The December statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business November 30, 1897, the public debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$1,009,226,-466, a decrease since October 30 of \$11,-338,125. This decrease is accounted for by an increase in the cash due to the deposit of an installment of the proceeds of the sale of the government's interest in the Union Pacific railroad. But for this transaction the cash in the treasury would have been \$771,450 less than last month.

The debt is recapitulated as follows: Interest-bearing debt.............\$ 847,365,629 Debt on which interest has ceased 1.331,280 

\$1,259,890,025 Total ..... This amount, however, does not include \$579.920,933 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, which are offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury. The cash in the treasury is classified as follows: Gold, \$194,089,260; silver, \$507,656,382; paper, \$105,756.181; bonds, disbursing officers' balance, etc., \$38,907,251; total, \$846,409,076; against which there are demand liabilities amounting to \$625 .-745,516, leaving the ret cash balance, \$220,663,559.

#### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES. nparative Statement for the Month of

November. WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The comparative statement of the government receipts and expenditures shows that the total receipts for the month of November, 1897, were \$43,363,605, of which \$18,-194,618 was received from the reorganization committee of the Union Pacific railroad, making the ordinary receipts for the month \$25,168,987.

The total expenditures for November were \$37,810,838, of which \$4.549,-369 was eash in the Union Pacific sinking fund turned into the treasury and repaid to the appropriation from which it had originally been drawn for investment. Hence the month's disbursements include this sum. The ordinary receipts for the month, therefore, were \$25,168,997, and the ordinary disbursements were \$33,261,470, leaving s deficit of \$8,090,483.

Receipts from customs were \$9,830,-325, a falling off of about \$100,000 as compared with November, 1896. The receipts from internal revenue were \$13,530,649, a gain of about \$430,000 for the month.

The excess of expenditures over re-2eipts for the five months of the present fiscal year independent of the prozeeds of the sale of the Union Pacific, was \$46,101,494. The government has received another payment of \$6,100,000 on account of the Union Pacific sale which still leaves due from the committee \$34,153,605 to be paid in four equal installments, the last on Jan-

# RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

Ultimate Success of the System May be Promoted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.-Acting Postmaster General Perry S. Heath, has issued the following circular regarding the rural postal free delivery.

"The ultimate success of the experiment of free delivery of mail, which is now being tried, by direction of congress, in 50 rural districts of the United States, will depend largely upon the promptness with which the carriers can make their deliveries to the patrons on their routes. This be greatly facilitated if those desiring to take advantage of rural free delivery will erect suitable boxes by the roadside, in which carriers may deposit mails as they pass, and from which they may collect the mails intended for transmission. The time which would otherwise be consumed by carriers in reaching residences some distance back from the road will thus be saved, the service will be rendered more efficient, its cost will be reduced and the probability of its becoming a permanent feature of the postal administration will be in-

# DEVOTED MAINLY TO CRITICISM.

Annual Report of the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.-The annua report of the statistician of the depart ment of agriculture, Mr. John Hyde, was issued yesterday. It is devoted mainly to criticisms of the cumbrous and unbusinesslike crop-reporting systom that has been in use in the department during the last few years and to recommendations looking to an improvement of the system. Mr. Hyde states that his brief official connection with the division has been sufficient to impress him strongly (1) with the extreme cumbrousness of the existing system of crop reporting; (2) with the fact that the information obtained is utterly incommensurate with the labor involved in its collection, and (3) with the disadvantage under which the farmer labors in being placed in possession, so much less promptly than other citizens, of the information which the department makes public from time to time concerning the condition of the crops in this and other coun-

# UNDER THE HAMMER.

ale of the Detroit (Mich.) Chamber of Commerce Building.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 1 .- The Detroit chamber of commerce building was sold under the hammer in default of payment of interest on the first nortgage on the building held by the New York Life Insurance Co.

The purchasers are L. F. Fechheimer, of Cincinnati, and Wm. II. Winslow and Francis A. Winslow, of Chicago, who were the only bidders. The purchase price is \$422,650. The building was recently appraised at \$825,000.

#### FLAMES IN A FURY.

An Immense Amount of Valuable Prop. erty Destroyed, with Peril to a Great Many Lives-The Paper House of the F. O. Sawyer Company, with Its Costly Stock of Paper Gutted in Thirty Minutes

-Other Losses. Sr. Louis, Dec. 2.-Fire of unknown origin started in the big four-story brick building occupied by the F. O. Sawyer Paper Co., southwest corner of Third and Locust streets, at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and within an hour the entire building and contents were a mass of ruins. The loss was from \$125,000 to \$150,000, and the insurance was \$75,000.

Over 100 persons, many of them girls, were employed in the paper company's building, and as they had short warning of danger there were many narrow escapes. But everybody escaped without serious injury.

The building of the Woodward & Tiernan Printing Co., south on Third. street, was in danger, and there was a wild panic among the 600 employes. Several hundred girls work in this printing establishment, and at the alarm of fire they became hysterical, and it was some time before quiet was restored.

The fire was one of the worst the fire department has had to fight in many a day. The Sawyer company's building was piled full of a general stock of paper, which was quick to burn. The fire started on the second floor, on which was stored a large quantity of tar paper that was eaten by the flames as quickly as if it were oiled tinder. In less than 15 minutes after the fire was discovered the flames had pierced all the floors, and were darting out of the windows and shooting upward far above the roof of the building. There was much danger of the adjacent buildings on both sides of Locust and Third streets catching fire, and men and women rushed helterskelter down stairways to reach the street. Master James Rowe, 13 years old, who was on the sixth floor of the Woodward & Tiernan building when the cry of fire was given, went down the long fire escape as quickly as a coon down an elm tree. R. E. Fowler, the insurance agent, was standing across the street when he saw the first smoke arise from the Sawyer building. As his office was in that building he rushed over, and just had time to place his books in the safe and escape before the flames darted through his office. Thus the fire took the entire neighborhood by surprise.

The value of the stock in the Sawyer building is estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000, on which was insurance ag-

gregating \$40,000. The building was valued at \$50,000, and carried an insurance of \$35,000. There was also an insurance of \$2,500 on fixtures and \$6,800 on rents. A conservative estimate places the total loss at \$125,000, with a total insurance of

\$84,800. There were many narrow escapes from falling walls. The fire steamers were this morning still playing water upon the ruins.

Considerable damage was done to adjacent buildings not mentioned above. It is thought the fire originated by an employe of the company going into the tar paper room, on the second floor, with a candle, that the gas from the paper ignited and the fire resulted.

# RUSH TO THE YUKON.

Report of Councul Smith, at Victoria, B. C., to the State Department.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2. - Consul Smith, at Victoria, in a report to the state department, discusses the subject of the Klondike gold fields. The advices received at Victoria, he says, indicate that the rush in 1849 to California and later to South Africa, will be eclipsed by the gold seekers headed for the Yukon in the early months of 1898. Agents from England have been at Victoria making arrangements for 3,000 or 4,000 gold seekers. Merchants there have secured great supplies of outfit goods and the transportation companies have made arrangements sufficient to make daily lines between that port and St. Michaels, Dyea, Skaguay and Fort Wrangle.

The Canadian authorities have made every possible arrangement for an all-Canadian route to the gold fields and are trying to make it to the interest of miners to purchase their outfits in Canada. This is to be done through tariff laws. Hop. Clifford Sifton, the Canadian minister of interior, made a trip to the northwest recently and in an address intimated that the 100 pounds exemption now allowed by the Canadian government to the miners would be abrogated by January I, and that probably everything not bought in Canada would have to pay duty. He declined to give any assurance that the tax on mining would be reduced or the "alternate claim outrage" be alleviated.

The consul goes to some extent into a description of the methods of mining in Alaska, gathered from people who have returned from there. One man told him that he regarded Alaska as a more profitable place for miners to go than to Canada, owing to the excessive royalty charged by the Dominion government, which, it seems, there is no expectation of having repealed. The Klondike stratum rules in the direction of Alaska, and those men who have interest in mines there are doing as well as those in Canada.

# FIRE AT MARIETTA, O.

The E. J. Lobdell Bicycle Rim Factory

Burned to the ground. MARIETTA, O., Dec. 2 .- The E. J. Lobdeli bicycle rim factory was burned to the ground last night. Some departments were running, and the men immediately turned on the factory stream, but without avail. Large quantities of benzine and paint were saved at great risk to the firemen.

The storage house and adjoining awellings were saved, but all else were destroyed. The loss is \$50,000; insurance, \$20,000