MINNESOTA STATE NEWS.

The Ging Insurance.

The answer of the Travelers's Insurance company of Hartford to the suit brought by Julia Ging as administrator of the estate of Catharine M. Ging to collect the $5,000 alleged to be due under the accident policy issued on the life of the murdered girl, has been filed. The nugget in the answer is found in the allegation that the policy does not cover "intentional injuries (inflicted by the insured or any other person)." By special agreement this clause was made not to exclude claims for personal injuries, fatal or non-fatal, received by the insured while in the act of defending herself, family or property from the assault of burglars, robbers, thieves or pickpockets.

The injuries are claimed to have been received "while not defending herself." The last defense is that the suit was not commenced until over one year after the death of the insured, and hence that it is barred by the contract.

Contest Decided.

Judge Ives has decided the election contest case in the office of probate judge of Norman county. The facts are that at the election the face of the returns showed W. W. Calkins to have received 1,387 votes and M. A. Brattland 1,364. On Oct. 10 Gov. Clough, by proclamation, established a voting precinct in the White Earth reservation, embracing six towns in Norman county and three towns in Beltrami county. Ninety-eight votes were cast therein for this office, of which Calkins received 70 and Brattland 28. These votes were counted as cast, and the canvassing board certified the election of Calkins. Brattland appealed, and Judge Ives reverses the decision of the canvassing board and declares Brattland elected. In his conclusions of law he finds that Gov. Clough's action was void and it was wholly unauthorized and without warrant.

A Big Seizure.

Sam Fullerton, of the game and fish law commission, with Deputy Game Warden James Nash, of Minneapolis, made the largest seizure of game ever made in Ramsey county. The seizure took place in the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad yards at St. Paul, and the game seized was venison. Now the officers are looking for the persons who shipped the meat, which filled an ordinary box car and was consigned to parties in Boston, New York and Chicago.

The value of the meat seized is $10,800 at the market price, and something like $50,000 may be realized in fines. The meat is chopped up in pieces ready to be disposed of to retailers, and there is a fine of $50 for each piece seized. A possible settlement may be made.

St. Paul's Pride.

The ice palace of St. Paul will contain 10,000 tons of ice. It is proposed to model it after the Parthenon. The architect's plans show building 110 by 230 with height of 65 feet. Sixty columns 32 feet high will take the place of the marbles of the ancient building and a board roof—not copied after the original—will top off the structure. Inside the building will be illuminated with electric lights. The plans were submitted to the board of carnival directors at its meeting. At the same time various committee reports were received. Among other things it was decided not to incorporate. The executive committee will meet daily hereafter at noon. Special work along the line of organizing clubs will begin at once.

A Queer Impulse.

While passing the Milwaukee depot at St. Paul on her way to church services Sunday morning, Mrs. Richard Casey, wife of a wealthy farmer near North St. Paul, was seized with an irresistable desire to to take a trip. The train was in the depot and she found she had just enough money for a ticket to Chicago. Her husband missed her after church, and, learning of her departure, telegraphed the Chicago police to detain her on her arrival. She arrived in Chicago the next morning, worn out, hungry and penniless, and said she would be glad enough to get back home. She could not account for her action except that she could not resist the sudden impulse.

Off for Venezuelan.

A party of 100 Rice county people will take their departure from Faribault for South America later this month for the purpose of starting a colony in Venezuela, the new colony to be named Faribault. Bert Adams, who was in the original exploring party sent from there last spring, as a civil engineer, will head the party. Its members will continue the explorations already begun, start sawmills and otherwise develop the country. They expect to be absent a long time.

News in Brief.

The amount of wheat in the elevators at Duluth at the close of navigation was 2,000,000 bushels, the smallest stock on hand since 1887.

Frank Green, of Royalton, was acquitted of a charge of attempting the life of his wife.

The improvements at Redwood Falls for the year 1896 make a grand total of $50,000.

Andrew Berg, of St. Paul, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

One hundred and ten Pine county voters took out their second papers in one day at the last term of court.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Officers Elected and Resolutions Adopted by the National League.

Philadelphia, Dec. 12.—The delegates to the annual meeting of the National Civic Service Reform league, which began Thursday in Hotel Walton, held a business session Friday morning. President Schurz was in bad voice, and Henry Hitchcock, of St. Louis, presided.

The officers elected were:

President, Carl Schurz, New York; vice presidents, Charles Francis Adams, Boston; Augustus R. McDonough, New York; Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, New York; J. Hall Pleasant, Baltimore; Henry Hitchcock, St. Louis; Henry C. Lea, Philadelphia; Franklin MacVeagh, Chicago; William Potts, New York, and Archbishop P. J. Ryan, Philadelphia.

Secretary McAnery read the report of the committee on civil service extension; Col. John R. Proctor, president of the civil service commission, explained the operations of the civil service among government employes, and addresses on civil service were made by C. B. Willis, of Cincinnati; W. E. Cushing, of Cleveland; Rev. W. R. Lord, of St. Paul; Henry Hitchcock, of St. Louis; Richard Henry Dana, of Boston, and J. G. Thorp, of Madison, Wis.

Charles J. Bonaparte, of Baltimore, chairman of the committee on resolutions, presented the report of that body, which was adopted after some changes. A synopsis of the resolutions follows:

They refer to the fact that for the first time since the organization of the league its principles were openly repudiated and a revival of discarded abuses threatened in the platform put forth by a national convention and in the public declarations of a candidate for the presidency, and "congratulates the country that the purpose thus foreshadowed to undo the good accomplished by persistent effort during a generation's space have failed of consummation." The league congratulates the country on the "truly remarkable" progress of reform under the second administration of President Cleveland, and especially during the past year, and declares that "for this great achievement, advancing as it does the fundamental principles of free government, President Cleveland deserves the sincere and heartfelt thanks of all good citizens." The league recognizes in the president-elect a friend to civil-service reform, and urges that he adopt as soon as may be practicable a plan which may enable him to base his nominations for non-political presidential offices such as postmasters and consuls, upon ascertained fitness and efficiency, regardless of party or other affiliations. The league further suggests to the president-elect that the public interest would be advanced if no removals were made of fourth-class postmasters, except for cause, and it submits the advisability of extending the system of registration of laborers to all departments.

At the afternoon session a number of interesting papers were read, and the meeting adjourned sine die. It is probable that the next annual meeting will be held at Cincinnati. The place will be selected by the executive committee. A banquet was given the visiting delegates at night by the Pennsylvania association. Herbert Welsh, of Philadelphia, the president of the Pensylvania association, presided and a number of addresses were made by prominent persons.

A Duluth Bank Suspends.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 12.—The National Bank of Commerce failed to open for business Friday morning. A notice posted on the doors stated that, owing to the inability to make any money in the business, the directors had decided to stop. The notice also stated that the bank expected to pay depositors at an early date. The bank is capitalized at $200,000 and has $30,000 surplus. Its deposits have been gradually but steadily drawn down since the failure of the Security bank, and it has been unable to make any profit for some time. Collections were hard and could not keep up with the withdrawals. The bank owes eastern banks as re-discount something like $4,000. E. W. Matter is cashier. The deposits of the bank four months ago were $200,000. At the time of closing Thursday evening they were only $50,000.

Sultan Is Angry.

New York, Dec. 12.—A Washington special to the World says President Cleveland has been called to account by the sultan of Turkey. An emphatic protest was made Thursday by the Turkish government against the language used in the president's message to congress respecting the massacre of the Armenians and the general conduct of the government toward the Christians in the empire. The situation is said to threaten the rupture of the diplomatic relations between the United States and Turkey. Mustapha Bey, the Turkish minister, it is rumored at the state department, has intimated that if some amends are not made by the president he will be obliged to ask for his papers, and will return to Constantinople.

Lives Lost Near Cadiz, Spain.

Cadiz, Dec. 12.—A terrible disaster occurred at Xeres, in the province of Andalusia and 16 miles from this city, Friday morning, through the collapse of a building. A house containing 25 persons collapsed without warning, burying all of its inmates in the debris. The house fell upon an adjoining tenement building which also gave way. The tenement house was inhabited by 85 persons, all of whom were buried by the wreckage. Eleven dead bodies and 45 seriously injured persons have already been taken from the ruins and the work of excavation for the purpose of recovering the others is proceeding as rapidly as possible.

Tannery Burned.

Norwalk, Conn., Dec. 10.—Charles H. Kemper's big tannery building, near Saugatuck, was burned Wednesday. Loss, $25,000; insurance, $18,000. The fire throws 50 men out of employment.

AN OVATION TO WEYLER.

The Victor Returns to Havana—Account of Maceo's Death.

Havana, Dec. 12.—Gen. Weyler arrived here at half past five o'clock Friday evening. He rode into the city on horseback, accompanied by two squadrons of cavalry. His coming had been made known to the public and large crowds gathered to welcome him. He was given a popular ovation from the time he reached the city limits until he arrived at the palace. At some places along his route girls strewed flowers in his pathway and he was in other ways treated as a popular hero.

Havana, Dec. 12.—Dr. Maximo Zertucha, formerly the physician of Antonio Maceo, the second in command of the insurgent forces, who, after the death of Maceo, surrendered to Gen. Tort at Sanfelipe, has been interviewed by a reporter of La Lucha, one of the leading newspapers of this city. Dr. Zertucha says that Maceo intended to attempt to cross the trocha on December 3, but was prevented by sickness. On the next day, however, it was announced that he would go by water around the end of the trocha and meet an insurgent force on the Havana side of the line. Two boats were accordingly prepared, and at night Maceo and 26 men embarked and passed the northern extremity of the western trocha and successfully landed at the point selected.

When, on December 4, the engagement took place between the rebels and Maj. Cirujeda's command, Maceo was encamped with 2,000 men. When the Spanish forces appeared Maceo divided his men into two wings and remained alone with his staff for a moment, watching the fighting, and exclaimed: "This goes well." Shortly afterwards he was hit by two bullets, one striking him on the chin, breaking his jaw and passing out at the junction of the neck and shoulder, and the other striking him in the abdomen, from which wounds he expired in a short time.

The rebels, who were fighting desperately against the Spanish attack, were panic-stricken when they heard of the death of their chief and fled in disorder. The Spaniards then returned to Punta Brava with their dead and wounded. When the field was clear some of the rebels returned and carried Maceo's body off with them. Dr. Zertucha says he does not know where the remains were buried, and thus far the search made by the Spaniards has proved fruitless.

MAY BE REJECTED.

Venezuela Withholds Her Consent to the Treaty.

Caracas, Venezuela, via Hayti, Dec. 11.—Senor Andrade, the Venezuelan minister to the United States, was to leave Thursday for Washington with the cabinet's approval of the Guiana boundary arbitration treaty, but his departure was suddenly stopped. The interpretation put upon this move is that public opinion has conquered and that Venezuela will withhold her consent to the arrangement entered into between Secretary Olney and Lord Salisbury for the settlement of the dispute between this country and Great Britain, thus nullifying all the work that culminated in this treaty. Comments on the part of press and public on the negotiations continue to be very bitter.

Neither Crespo nor the members of his official family are willing to try any longer to stem the apparently irresistable tide and it is confidently asserted that when Andrade leaves for Washington he will bear nothing more than a diplomatic note to Cleveland saying that the treaty will be duly laid before congress when it reassembles next February in regular session.

IT WAS "FIXED."

Sharkey's Trainer Confesses Conspiracy Against Fitzsimmons.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—A large assemblage of ring followers and men about town crowded Judge Sanderson's courtroom Wednesday morning in expectation of hearing sensational developments regarding the manner in which the Fitzsimmons-Sharkey prize fight was "fixed" and they were not disappointed. If credence is to be placed in the story told on the witness stand by "Australian" Billy Smith, Sharkey's trainer, Fitzsimmons was a defeated man before he left New York. According to Smith's testimony, J. J. Groom, J. H. Gibbs, Danny Lynch, Sharkey's manager, and Sharkey himself, were the men who composed the National Athletic club, before which organization the now notorious contest was fought. These four men, Smith swears, engaged Wyatt Earp as referee, with the understanding that he was to award Sharkey the fight directly Fitzsimmons landed a body blow or stomach punch which might be stretched into a foul. Earp was to receive $2,500 for his services.

PARDONED.

Gov. Morrill, of Kansas, Gives a Defaulter His Freedom.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 12.—James L. Dick, the defaulting treasurer of Ellsworth county, who was sentenced in 1893 to 12 years' imprisonment, has been pardoned by Gov. Morrill. The governor had repeatedly refused a pardon on the representation that the convict was in poor health, but when he learned Friday that John Dick, only son of the prisoner and sole support of the latter's wife, had been killed in a railroad accident the pardon was at once signed and sent to Warden Lynch with orders to release Dick so that he could board the next train for his home.

RUN AT A LOSS.

Expenditures Exceed Receipts in Postal Service—Protest Against Abuses.

Washington, Dec. 9.—A vigorous protest against the abuse of the postal service is made in the annual report of Postmaster-General Wilson. He quotes figures which show an excess of expenditures over receipts of $8,127,088 for the last fiscal year, which, however, is a decrease in the deficiency of $1,679,956, as compared with the previous fiscal year. This satisfactory exhibit for the last year has been made possible, the postmaster-general sets forth, by a vigorous policy of bringing suit or pushing collection on bonds immediately after default, which is the only safe practice for the interests of the government and those of the obligers.

The postmaster-general argues that there is no necessity for the annual deficit in the revenues of the department, and that but a few lines of amendment by congress to the postal laws will wipe it out and give in its place a steady surplus. It has its chief source, he says, in the transmission at second-class rates of a large and rapidly-increasing volume of matter never in the contemplation of the law, which gives the nominal rate of one cent a pound on such matter, and assuredly outside of the policy of the law as to newspapers and periodicals.

The report recites the strenuous efforts in the past to secure legislation designed to protect the postal service from this waste of its earnings and the taxpayers from the large burden imposed on them by the regular deficits. But, it says, up to now the combinations and active efforts of the beneficiaries of this abuse have parried all appeals of the department.

Postmaster-General Wilson duscusses the proposed one-cent letter rate, the cheapest postage in the world. He says it would yield a great profit, but it is idle to talk of such reduction while two-thirds of our mail matter is handled at a small fraction of its cost, and the deficits of the department in consequence have aggregated in 11 years, since the act of March 3, 1885, (one-cent-a-pound rate) the enormous sum of $71,377,480. This is made up from the avails of general taxations, and there is the further sum of $15,610,962 earned by the Pacific railroads for transporting the mails, which was certified to the secretary of the treasury for credit upon their indebtedness to the government, an ascertained deficit of $86,988,442. This, in fact, should be further increased by the unascertained overtime letter-carrier claims and the unliquidated indebtedness of the department for telegraph service, left over from the last administration. These would make the actual deficit over $90,000,000.

He characterizes the loss sustained by the franking privilege in transmitting serial libraries, etc., as indefensible, shows that of 348,980,648 pounds of second-class matter handled during the year over 52,348,000 pounds were "county free" matter, and urges the adoption of the Loud bill, now pending in the house, as the remedy. He says the passage of this bill will not only wipe out the postal deficit and insure in ordinary years a surplus which may be used to cheapen postage on letters or to increase the mail facilities of the people, but will really carry out the one-cent-a-pound law of 1885.

The postmaster-general estimates a deficiency in the revenues of the department for 1897 of $3,472,419, and for 1898 of $1,288,324.

Discussing the merits of the postal system, the postmaster-general says the people of the United States may felicitate themselves that in no important respect are they behind any other country in their postal facilities, and in many things they are in the van.

Touching the consolidation of small offices with the nearest money order offices, the hope is expressed that the limitation imposed by the last congress on the authority of the postmaster-general to consolidate offices will be repealed, and that the appropriation bill for the coming fiscal year will permit this reform to be carried forward as rapidly as public interests will allow, as once fairly started its demonstrated success will finally place its benefit beyond controversy. The postmaster-general thinks it the most feasible method for bringing post offices into the classified service.

The results of the free rural delivery experiments are yet incomplete. Time is required to familiarize the people with the innovation and develop its benefits or failures. The thorough working of such a system involves some redistribution of post offices and some discontinuances which cannot now be safely attempted.

Twelve thousand and ninety appointments of postmasters were made during the year, of which 1,341 were due to removals. There were 193 fraud orders issued during the year.

The headquarters of all or nearly all of the avowed lottery concerns have been removed to foreign shores, but it is thought much matter sent by them reaches addresses in this country through the mails, which the department practically has no power to prevent, and that express companies carry large sums of money from our people to them.

The postmaster-general concludes his report with two significant recommendations, which he says are necessary to complete the civil service reforms. The first is to secure fixity of tenure during efficiency and good behavior to the three assistant postmasters-general, whose work is entirely non-political, whose capacity to deal with the large machinery and great expenditures of their respective bureaus must come in great measure from experience, and who preserve the continuity of the department, not in the mere desk or division work, but in the general administration.

The second is to cover into the civil service as many as possible of the postmasters themselves.

"The 70,000 or more postmasters are now the chief spoils of an incoming administration. Under the present system these officials are too apt to think that their obligation to party is higher than their duty to the public, and that the zeal and activity with which they meet that obligation is a surer guaranty of continuance in office than any like zeal and activity for the public service.

"To this belief I am sure is traceable the excessive and occasionally reprehensible partisan activity exhibited by many postmasters during the late and during preceding presidential campaigns."

The report says that if the two items of second-class matter at one cent per pound and of county free distribution paid their proportionate share of the cost it is figured that it would create an apparent surplus in the revenues of $21,440,669, instead of the deficiency of over $8,000,000.

To Be Hanged.

Albany, Ga., Dec. 12.—Sankey Cunningham, charged with assaulting Miss Camp December 3, reached here Friday from Macon, under the escort of Macon militia. The four court entrances were guarded by troops. Within 20 minutes a jury was impaneled. The evidence closed in 15 minutes. The jury returned a verdict of guilty and Judge Spence sentenced Cunningham to be hanged January 1. The trial occupied one hour. Cunningham is a colored man and Miss Camp white.

CAN'T ENFORCE IT.

Anti-Trust Law Practically a Failure—Attorney-General Reports.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The annual report of Hon. Judson Harmon, attorney general of the United States, was sent to congress Thursday. Concerning the anti-trust law, he says that the restricted scope of its provisions, as construed by the courts, makes amendments necessary, if any effective action is expected from the department of justice. Besides, he adds, the fund at the disposal of the attorney general which can be applied to the investigation, preparation and prosecution of cases under this law is wholly inadequate. Of the case of the United States versus the Trans-Missouri Freight association, now pending in the United States supreme court, and the claim that the act does not apply to railroads, the attorney general says:

"While I maintain the opposite view and feel confident of its correctness, the fact that such a question can be raised and has already been raised successfully in one court, affords an nistance of the indefiniteness of the terms of this law, which is a serious obstacle in the way of its prompt enforcement."

A new crimes act is one of the things the attorney general thinks is needed. Further defects in the criminal laws were discovered during the past year. Criminal legislation is hopelessly confused, says the attorney general.

He points out that there is a general statute punishing embezzlement, but there are also many special statutes, punishing embezzlement in particular cases, and he is not aware that it has yet been settled whether the general statute applies to such cases or not. There are statutes punishing frauds on the United States in many specific cases, and there is a general statute punishing conspiracy to defraud the United States in all cases; but there is no general statute punishing frauds against the United States when committed by one man alone. He suggests that a commission could easily and quickly frame a new crimes law, covering a uniform system of punishments. He says that the increasing repugnance on the part of juries to inflict the death penalty and the fact that the law makes no degrees in murder, constantly leads to entire acquittal, and that this danger to society can be at least mitigated by the establishment of different degrees of murder with corresponding grades of punishment.

FOUND DEAD.

Mrs. S. H. Cooper and Daughter Commit Suicide in San Francisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—Mrs. Sarah H. Cooper and her daughter, Harriet Cooper, were found dead in their home in this city Friday morning with the gas turned on and every evidence of suicide. In her will, written Thursday, Mrs. Cooper requests that the bodies of herself and daughter be not taken to the morgue. The Coopers have lived entirely alone except for a Chinese cook, who had been in their employ for 20 years. He has not yet been found. It is expected he can throw some light on the tragedy. The room in which the bodies were found was full of escaping gas which the physicians said had undoubtedly caused asphyxiation.

Mrs. Cooper was president of the Kindergarten association and her daughter was deputy superintendent. Mrs. Cooper had lived here 30 years and was widely known as an educator, philanthropist and writer. She was president of the Women's Press association, president of the Women's Suffrage association, and prominent as an officer of the Women's Christian Temperance union. For many years she taught the largest Bible class in the city in the First Congregational church, her class numbering several hundred adults. She was also assistant pastor of the church under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. C. O. Brown.

When the scandal concerning Dr. Brown was first talked about Mrs. Cooper stood by her pastor and expressed confidence in him. Later developments caused her to change her mind, and she and her daughter became his most prominent opponents and accusers after Mrs. Davidson. Much bitterness in church circles was engendered by Mrs. Cooper's statements on the witness stand at the church trial. Miss Cooper was even more pronounced than her mother in opposition to Dr. Brown. This action estranged many old friends, and the suicide of mother and daughter is ascribed to the brooding over coldness and snubs from former friends.

Smallpox and Yellow Fever.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The marine hospital service has received reports as follows of smallpox and yellow fever in Cuban seaports: The United States consul at Cienfuegos reports that during the week ended November 22 there were in that city 12 deaths from yellow fever and two from smallpox. The United States sanitary inspector at Havana reported 220 new cases and 87 deaths from yellow fever and 54 deaths from smallpox during the week ended November 26. The inspector says he is informed, from what he believes credible sources, that in the eight government military hospitals in the city and its immediate suburbs there are over 10,000 sick and wounded Spanish soldiers.

None the Worse for Her Experience.

New York, Dec. 12.—The British ship Brenda, which recently went ashore near Long Beach, was pulled off by wrecking tugs Friday morning. The vessel is undamaged and apparently does not leak a drop.