

SEVERE STORMS.

Great Damage Done by Heavy Rains in Illinois.

TORNADO AT MOORINGSPOINT, LA.

Ten Persons Reported Killed—Houses Are Blown Down at Benton, Ark.—Heavy Snow in Texas—The Storm in the Northwest—Fear a Flood.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Telegrams from all parts of the west tell of damage by flood and storm during the last 24 hours. In Illinois, heavy rain has fallen, streams are flooded, making the roads impassable, and damaging winter wheat. Joliet is threatened with one of the worst floods in its history. Hickory and Spring creeks are out of their banks and the Desplaines river and the lower level of the canal raised 16 inches yesterday. Families are moving out of their houses and lowlands are flooded. Water is sweeping through the lumber yards and the Rock Island trunk is submerged in the vicinity of Lacon; wheat has been badly damaged by the 24 hours' rain and the roads are impassable for marketing corn. The Sangamon river is rising, threatening destruction to thousands of bushels of cribbed corn. It has rained for 69 hours and is still raining, but is growing colder. In northern Michigan the rain was also severe. Ice gorges at Fisher and other points on the Menominee river are threatening serious consequences to Menominee and Marinette. In Minnesota a blizzard raged all day yesterday, with alternating rain and sleet, and with falling temperature.

TORNADO AT MOORINGSPOINT, LA.

TEXARKANA, Ark., Jan. 4.—A tornado struck Mooringsport, La., 25 miles west of here on the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf railroad at 3:30 o'clock Saturday and blew down every house but two in the town. The Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf officials dispatched a special train from here to the town to render whatever aid it could. The entire Goodman family, five in number, were killed outright, and the two children and mother-in-law of Mr. M. J. Morgan are fatally injured. Five other persons, whose names could not be learned, are dead.

HOUSES BLOWN DOWN AT BENTON, ARK.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 4.—A destructive windstorm occurred at Benton, 25 miles south of here Saturday afternoon, and from all accounts extended a considerable distance south. Many dwellings were swept away and it is believed that loss of life resulted. The operators say that the telegraph wires for a distance of several miles were blown down and thousands of pieces left to repair the damage. A private telegram from Benton reports 20 houses blown down, but does not say whether any lives were lost. Cameron was also struck by the storm and one man killed.

HEAVY SNOW IN TEXAS.

WICHITA FALLS, Tex., Jan. 17.—The southbound passenger train, due here Saturday at noon, has not yet reached this point, owing to the heavy snow in the Panhandle. Wires are down north of Clarendon and no intelligence can be had from the lost train. A snow plow was started north from Clarendon yesterday morning, which has not yet reached Claude, 30 miles. Snow drifts of 15 feet are reported in sections. The northbound passenger leaving here yesterday evening turned back at Clarendon on account of inability to make further progress.

THE STORM IN THE NORTHWEST.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 4.—The storm which began here Saturday morning still rages unabated. There has not been much snow as yet, nor is the temperature very low, but the high wind has driven the light snow into deep drifts wherever obstruction has offered. Only 3/4 inches of snow has fallen here. From all over the state and in South Dakota come reports of light snow and high wind. Telegraph and telephone service is impeded to a considerable extent, but is not yet cut off. The worst trouble experienced by the railroads is with snow drifts in the yards.

FEAR A FLOOD.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 4.—During the past 48 hours there has been a continuous down-pour of rain in this section of the state, and the same condition has prevailed all up the Osage valley. Grave fears are entertained of another flood in that river equal to the one that devastated the lowlands along its banks a little over a year ago and swept away hundreds of dollars' worth of property.

SOUTH CANADIAN ON A BOOM.

PUNCKILL, I. T., Jan. 4.—The South Canadian river is higher than it has been for a number of years. The "Blue Goose" saloon, which is situated in the middle of the river, was turned over by the flood last night. Six men were in the house at the time it was capsized, and they all lodged on a log which had become fastened in the river. They were rescued about noon yesterday by people on the Oklahoma side. They were in the water for 15 hours.

Idaho Legislature a Deadlock.

BOISE, Ida., Jan. 4.—The populists and democrats are in a deadlock over the organization of the legislature. The democrats demand the speaker and control of all the important committees.

WILL OPPOSE CONFIRMATION.

Silver Senators Will Protest Against the Displacement of Bryan Men.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The silver senators have been considering among themselves during the Christmas recess the question of the attitude they shall assume on nominations to office made in place of silver men who were removed because of their alleged participation in the recent campaign, and have decided with practical unanimity to oppose confirmation. Just how many nominations there are of this character no one seems to know or to have taken the trouble to determine, but the matter has been placed largely in the hands of Senator Jones, of Arkansas, because he is both a silver advocate and chairman of the national democratic committee.

M'KINLEY IN EARNEST.

The President-Elect Said to Favor Early Action in Behalf of International Bimetallism.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Congressman Mondell, of Wyoming, who arrived yesterday direct from Canton, where he interviewed the president-elect, said: "Maj. McKinley is in earnest on the subject of an international agreement. He is in accord with the spirit of Senator Wolcott's resolution and believes that action should be taken at once. He is in favor of calling the conference in the early spring. He says it is idle to talk of postponing action until after the tariff is disposed of, because if anything is to be accomplished the preliminary steps will have to be taken at once."

DIVORCE COMPLICATIONS.

Nearly a Hundred Cases at Wichita Not Closed Because of Unpaid Costs.

WICHITA, Kan., Jan. 2.—Investigation of the records of the district court has shown that nearly a hundred divorce suits are still pending in which parties had supposed that divorces had been granted. Attorneys are accused of retaining costs which, under a rule of the court, must be turned over before the decrees can be entered upon. Rumors of these irregularities have reached some of the persons now living in distant cities, and the clerk has received letters from one woman in Chicago and another in Cincinnati, stating that they supposed their divorces had been granted and that they had again married.

WOLCOTT GOING ABROAD.

He Will Confer with European Bimetallists on a Monetary Conference.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, chairman of the special senate committee to arrange for a bimetallic conference of the nations of the world, is going abroad to confer with European bimetallists on the subject. The purpose of his visit are known and approved by President-elect McKinley, and his trip is made at the request of his associates on the senatorial committee.

Final Official Figures.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—The official canvass of the vote of Maryland for president November 3 was completed today. The total vote in the different states was 13,888,763. McKinley, republican, received 7,101,401; Bryan, democrat, 6,470,656; Palmer, gold standard, 135,950; Levering, prohibitionist, 130,560; Bentley, national, 14,392; Matchette, socialist, 33,539. McKinley's plurality is 630,742 and his majority over all 316,399.

Pingree Avoids Display.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 2.—Mayor Hazen S. Pingree left for Lansing this morning to take the oath of office and assume his duties as governor of Michigan. He was accompanied by his family and a dozen friends. At the station he called for a 1,000-mile ticket, which should be good for himself and family. It was sold to him. The trip was unostentatious, as was the brief inaugural ceremony at Lansing.

Iowa Teachers in a Wreck.

DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 2.—A passenger train on the Keokuk & Western southbound was wrecked yesterday morning two miles south of Norwalk, injuring several passengers and perhaps one fatally. It was a heavy train, loaded with teachers going home from the state association. The ground under the tracks was softened by rain so the rails spread. One coach and baggage car were turned upside down and others tipped over.

Last Reception the Most Brilliant.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The closing New Year's reception of the present administration was the most brilliant of Mr. Cleveland's whole eight years in office. Seven thousand persons stood shivering outside the white house yesterday for periods varying from one to six hours. But patience had its reward in every case, for the president and Mrs. Cleveland shook hands with every one of them.

Autonomy Formally Ratified.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The Spanish minister at Washington was yesterday informed by a cablegram from Madrid that the queen regent had signed the decree inaugurating government reforms in Porto Rico. They are especially significant at this time, because of the avowal of Spain that they will be extended to Cuba when the island is pacified.

Chicago's Heavy Death Rate.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—There were 23,270 deaths in Chicago during 1896, an annual death rate of 14.37 per 1,000, taking the lowest figure of the school census for the city's population—1,619,266. Also, 1,000 fewer persons died last year than in 1895.

USEFUL LIFE ENDED.

Tragic Death of Editor McCullagh, of the Globe-Democrat.

He Fell 25 Feet from the Second-Story Window of His Apartments, Dashing His Brains Out—Brief Review of His Life.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 2.—Joseph B. McCullagh, editor of the Globe-Democrat, was found dead on the pavement in the rear of his residence, No. 3,837 West Pine boulevard, at 6:30 o'clock Thursday morning. He had evidently jumped from the window of his bedroom on the third floor of the house, sometime between midnight and day break, and dashed his brains out on the stone flagging of the yard. He had been confined to his room since November 10 with acute asthma, complicated with nervous depression, as a result of his arduous labors in the recent election.

The theory of suicide is not accepted by all of Mr. McCullagh's friends. It is believed by many that he had one of his attacks of asthma during the night, and in his struggle for breath he threw up the window to obtain air, and in his weakened condition tottered and fell out.

Joseph B. McCullagh was born in Dublin, Ireland in November, 1845, and when 11 years of age came to this country on a sailing ship, working for his passage "before the mast." Arriving in New York in 1853 he was apprenticed to learn the printing business in the office of the Freeman's Journal. Five years later, in 1858, he came to St. Louis and entered the office of the Christian Advocate as a reporter. In 1859 he began work as a reporter on the Missouri Democrat. When the war broke out he acted as correspondent for the Cincinnati Commercial and this work gained him a great reputation. Later he acted as Washington correspondent for that paper. In 1868 he became editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer, and subsequently, in 1870, went to Chicago and took charge of the Republican of that city. The great fire of the following year swept the Republican out of existence and Mr. McCullagh assumed editorial management of the Missouri Democrat, at St. Louis. The paper later on consolidated with the Globe and McCullagh continued in charge of the Globe-Democrat from that time to the present. He never married.

FAILURES OF 1896.

The Year Just Closed Has Been a Disastrous One to Business Interests.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—E. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says:

There have been more commercial failures in 1896 than in any previous year except 1891—about 14,829, against 13,197 last year, with liabilities of about \$225,000,000, against \$175,194,000 last year, an increase in number of about 12 per cent, and in liabilities of 29 per cent. The holiday makes it impossible to give exact figures until next week, but the monthly returns heretofore prepared show that \$25,000,000 of the excess, over last year, was in the two months, August and September, in which manufacturing liabilities were \$10,500,000 larger than last year, trading \$10,100,000, and brokers and other commercial, \$19,200,000 larger. Of the latter class, \$1,941,116 out of about \$18,500,000 were in those two months; of the manufacturing class, \$2,910,336 out of about \$8,292,000 in the whole year were in those two months, and of the trading class \$2,158,548 out of about \$10,500,000 in the whole year. The ratio of defaulted liabilities to clearing house exchanges was \$1.37 per \$1,000, against \$2.25 last year, and \$1.35 in 1897. The average of defaulted liabilities per firm in business was \$190.57, against \$145 last year and \$200.16 in 1897.

The year closes with an epidemic of failures, mainly at the west and in banks, loan and trust companies or concerns dependent on them. The action of clearing houses at various places indicates no want of confidence, and several banks which have failed will be enabled to pay in full, but disclosures of unsoundness in a few widely known institutions, in the abnormal state of popular feeling, after an exciting contest on the monetary issue, has caused distrust and suspicion where it is frequently undeserved. There has been no monetary pressure to cause trouble, nor have important western products declined in value. There has evidently been too liberal assistance given by some fiduciary concerns to speculative operations. No drain on eastern funds has resulted since the first alarm at two large failures, and the money then sent has all returned.

TRAIN ROBBER CAUGHT.

John Kennedy, Supposed Leader of the Blue Cut Gang, in the Toils.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 2.—John Kennedy, who is supposed to be the leader of the band of robbers that stopped the Chicago & Alton passenger train in Blue cut on December 23, and after breaking the train into three sections, robbed the express car safe of a large sum of money, is locked in a cell at the county jail. He is charged with robbery in the first degree which, in Missouri, is an unailable offense. Kennedy was arrested by W. S. Cain, special detective of the Chicago & Alton railroad, and the county marshal, who found him at the corner of Eighth and Main streets. Kennedy had just eaten his breakfast and had sauntered slowly down the street when the officers nabbed him. On his person were found several torn bills, supposed to be a part of the money taken from the express car on the night of the robbery.

It is not a far cry from Kennedy's home in Crack-er-Neck to the old rendezvous of the James boys, who first reduced train robbing to an exact science and made the Blue cut famous.

ANNUAL SEED DISTRIBUTION.

Secretary Morton Anxious to Have the Task Off His Hands Earlier This Year.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The annual seed distribution will take place earlier than ever this year, for Secretary Morton is determined to get a bad job off his hands as quickly as possible. He has furnished every congressman with a sackful of pretty colored labels, and all they have to do is to stamp their names on the labels and address them. It would take 60 big railroad freight cars to carry the seed the government will give away this year, at a cost of \$130,000. Some of the congressmen who took the most trouble last year in sending out seeds to their constituents were defeated for re-election.

PRESIDENTIAL POST OFFICES.

President Cleveland Will Name Forty-Eight New Postmasters at Once.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—In the list of the 48 fourth-class post offices which will become presidential offices tomorrow the west fares very well. Kansas has two in the list, Indian territory one, Arkansas one, Missouri one, Texas one, Utah one, Minnesota five, Illinois three, Indiana two and Ohio three. The others are scattered among the southern and eastern states. It is the intention of President Cleveland and Postmaster-General Wilson to name these 48 postmasters at once, and to have the appointments ready for the senate immediately after the holiday recess. To prevent a flood of applicants the department has been keeping the list of offices secret, the intention being to let the nomination of postmaster in each case be the first notice of the office having become by reason of its increased receipts a presidential one. This programme would enable the president to escape much of the importunity and worry from gold democrats anxious to get berths reasonably certain to last for a period of four years. Among the western offices which President Cleveland will have the privilege of appointing postmasters for four-year terms beginning Friday, or as soon thereafter as they are nominated and confirmed, with the salary of each, are: Fort Riley, Kan., \$1,000; Lebanon, Kan., \$1,100; Cassville, Mo., \$1,000; Wynnewood, I. T., \$1,000; Dexter, Ia., \$1,000; Humiston, Ia., \$1,000; Sutherland, Ia., \$1,000.

THE BILL PREPARED.

Measure Providing for an International Bimetallism Conference Ready for the Republican Caucus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The republican committee appointed to draft a measure providing for an international conference to secure the establishment of bimetallic was in session for two hours yesterday, and when it adjourned had agreed upon a bill to be presented to the republican caucus which will be held soon after the assembling of congress next Tuesday. The bill agreed upon is brief, and merely confers upon the president the right to appoint delegates "to any conference which may be called which has for its object the re-establishment of bimetallicism." It does not distribute the selection of delegates as did the legislation of the Fifty-third congress between the president and the two houses of congress, and, more over, leaves the number to be selected entirely to the discretion of the president. Senator Wolcott gave the committee a full account of his conference with Mr. McKinley, from which he had just returned, reassuring them of Mr. McKinley's hearty interest in the committee's proceedings and his earnest desire to do all in his power to carry into execution the promise of the St. Louis convention to secure international bimetallicism if possible.

MASKED MEN MAKE A MAUL.

They Held Up a Station Master in New Jersey and Secured \$30,000.

CAMDEN, N. J., Dec. 31.—Two men, one of whom was masked, armed with pistols, entered the Gloucester City station of the Reading road about six o'clock last evening, and, under threats of instant death, compelled Thomas Randolph, the station master, to open the safe. They secured \$30,000, and, leaping into a carriage standing near the platform, drove off. Randolph says he recognized the masked man as George Lufkins, a former conductor of the road. Officers were sent out in different directions, but failed to find the robbers.

Pennsylvania Miners Strike.

SHARON, Pa., Dec. 31.—A long strike among the Mercer county coal miners is imminent. The miners demanded a raise of five cents per ton increase, and upon the refusal of the operators to grant it they quit work. The miners, about 350, in the Black Diamond and Trout mines came out first, followed by 400 employees of the Grove City mine and 200 in the Westerman, Filer & Co. mines. The trouble was caused by the increase in wages granted in the Pittsburgh district.

War Among Tammany Leaders.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The long continued strife between the Tammany factions, led by County Clerk Henry Purroy and John C. Sheehan, chairman of the Tammany executive committee, broke out into open war yesterday, when Purroy and his followers announced their bolt from Tammany. Beth Sheehan and Purroy gave out statements which were bitter in their personal ties toward each other.

An Informer Beaten to Death.

VANCEBURG, Ky., Dec. 31.—Sam May, suspected of violation of the revenue laws, enticed Washington Smith to a secluded covert one mile from the Ohio river last night. He then accused Smith of informing on him, struck him down with a stone, and, assisted by his brothers, Hents and Hiram, beat Smith to death with clubs and stones. Sam May was arrested and a posse is in pursuit of the other two brothers.

Two Policemen Indicted for Murder.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 31.—Officers Sexton and Brown, of this city, were yesterday indicted at Salem, Ind., on the charge of willful murder in the killing, on Tuesday, of young John Rippey, whom they mistook for a criminal named Brooks, on whose trail they were. The officers were refused bail and, owing to the intense excitement at Salem, were taken to New Albany for safe keeping.

FREE HOMES.

Senator Platt Will Present a Report Against the Measure.

STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Secretary Francis Will Do Nothing More Than Assign Allotting Agents to the Wichita Reservation—Hoke Smith Reversed—Hawaiian Annexation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Many measures of public importance will come before congress when it reconvenes tomorrow from the holiday recess. A sharp contest and much spirited debate is certain in each chamber. In the senate the Cameron resolution and the free homestead bill are both sure of an animated reception. In the house the Pacific funding bill and the Loud mail bill will occupy the time. Senator Platt will present the minority report of the senate committee on Indian affairs in opposition to the free homestead bill, which heads the senate calendar. The report opposes the bill on the general grounds of the vast expense its adoption would entail upon the government. The measure is on the senate calendar as unfinished business, but there is no doubt it will have to wait determination of the fate of the Cameron resolution. Those who are opposed to the bill will ask that no action be taken for a time, and as they are prepared to successfully oppose any effort to force its passage at this time, the outlook is not especially promising. Until the past day or two it appeared certain that the Cuban resolution would be sprung immediately after the senate resumes business on Tuesday. It is now possible, even probable, that it will go over, at least for a few days. If the movement to have the committee on foreign relations again consider the question as to when it shall be taken up prevails, the question cannot be raised until after the committee meeting on Wednesday, and the advocates of the bill are becoming quite sanguine that if they succeed in preventing consideration until Wednesday they will secure a still further postponement. Senator Gear, chairman of the Pacific railroads committee, is doubtful of the advisability of pressing for the consideration of his funding bill until after the action of the house on the same measure, and may wait upon that body. If he does not delay on this account he will make an effort to get the bill upon Tuesday, or immediately after the homestead bill shall be disposed of.

STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The monthly treasury statement of the public debt issued shows the debt on December 31, less cash in the treasury, to have been \$992,929,582, a decrease for the month of \$2,839,577. The decrease is accounted for by an increase of \$2,963,281 in the amount of cash in the treasury. The increase in the cash was the result of the recent sale of first mortgage Pacific railroad bonds belonging to the Central Pacific sinking fund. The debt is recapitulated as follows: Interest-bearing debt, \$847,364,690; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, \$1,383,070; debt bearing no interest, \$872,502,201. Total, \$1,221,249,961. This amount, however, does not include \$650,809,573 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury.

OPENING WICHITA LANDS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Secretary Francis Saturday said about the proposed opening of the Wichita reservation: "I am trying to get around to it but cannot say when I will take it up." An erroneous impression prevails in the territory that the secretary also contemplates opening the Kiowa and Comanche lands in addition to the Wichita reservation. Secretary Francis will do nothing more than assign allotting agents for the Wichita reservation at this time. It is expected that by the time this work is concluded the department of justice will have finished the adjustment of the legal questions.

FRANCIS REVERSES HOKE SMITH.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 4.—A special from Perry, Ok., says: News received here from Washington is that Secretary Francis has reversed ex-Secretary Smith's decision relative to claim-holders who made runs for the Indian reservation in the Cherokee strip in September, 1893. The report has caused considerable excitement, and hundreds of contests before the land office will result. Several thousand persons are affected. Smith held that persons who obtained claims by running from Creek, Otago, Osage and Ponca Indian country were disqualified, and Secretary Francis decides that they are qualified.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The wires are already laid to annex Hawaii during the McKinley administration. The New England senators are alert and the Hawaiian oligarchy is active. The annexation element in Hawaii looked upon the republican victory in November as opening the doors for admission to the union. They are not asking to come in as a state, but will be satisfied with a territorial form of government to start with.

Antitoxin for Pneumonia.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—According to a Brussels dispatch to the Chronicle Dr. Mennes, of Louvain, has discovered an antitoxin for pneumonia.