

FLORIDA BRIEFS.

ITEMS OF INTEREST GATHERED AT RANDOM.

News from all Parts of the State Summarized.

Fire started in the W. B. McKign Company's store, the Provis, Fleming and Rand building, at Kissimmee, at an early hour last Wednesday morning, burning the buildings occupied by the Mackinson grocery store, A. Petit's bakery and Dr. Lewis' office and residence. The loss is estimated at \$3,000; fully insured.

Fire broke out in the general merchandise store of George Anderson, at Punta Gorda, last Wednesday morning. Heroic efforts were made to extinguish it, but to no avail. The wind was blowing and the Herald building was soon in flames. The residence of John Gill was the next to catch and then the Georgia hotel. All the houses were completely destroyed. The losses are as follows: G. A. Anderson, \$16,000, no insurance; building, \$900, \$400 insurance; Georgia hotel, \$2,000, no insurance; Gill residence, \$1,800; insurance, \$600.

Judge W. A. Hooker, in charging the grand jury of Putnam, called their attention to the necessity of establishing a county poor house in Putnam, and suggested to them that it would be the cheapest way of caring for the poor of the county. He cited instances where counties in Virginia had realized a revenue from such farms. He said that he had advised the establishment of such farms to provide for the poor in different counties in his judicial district, and maintained that they could be kept up and the poor cared for very much more effectually and at much less expense than the counties expend for their paupers.

Delta City.

The newly-erected town on the line of Orlando and Lake counties, Delta City, by name, is steadily growing in population and prominence. Mr. F. B. Munshaw, a representative of the Delta City Improvement company, has just returned from Grand Rapids, Mich., and while there he contracted to get over one hundred new settlers, and negotiations are now pending for running a cheap excursion from the latter place to Orlando in a few weeks. The owner of the land upon which the city is located, is Col. Lemuel H. Davis, a very wealthy resident of Orlando. The city is located on the northern side of the reclaimed Apopka saw-grass lands, the richest farming and grazing lands in the state. Colonel Davis had all the work done at his own expense and now he is looking after settlers.

A New Industry for Inverness.

Senator Albert Williamson is exhibiting a sample of a peculiar muck being dug from the bottom of Tsala Apopka lake, in Citrus county, by F. O. Fishburn, president of the Central Peninsular Muck Mining and Manufacturing Company. The specimen shown was taken from beneath a three-foot layer of ordinary muck. Ordinary muck contains a great deal of sand. This muck seems to contain none, but appears to be pure vegetable matter gellatinized. A lump of it, when pressed with the thumb, swells back to its original shape. A knife blade shaves it without striking a grain of grit. The shavings resemble particles of glue or India rubber. The thinnest shaving is black and opaque, even between an iridescent light and the eye. An analysis is said to have shown that it contains an unusually large proportion of ammonia. The bed from which it came is practically inexhaustible, being three feet thick, and covering a large portion of Tsala Apopka. The company is now building a plant at Inverness, the roof of which will cover two and a half acres. It will operate three scoop dredges. The muck will be mixed with soft phosphate and put upon the market as a special brand of fertilizer.

FOR THE NATIONAL EDITORS.

Arrangements for the National Editorial Association Meeting.

A meeting of the transportation committee of the Florida State Press association and the general passenger agents of the railroad lines centering in Florida, was held at Jacksonville a few days ago to arrange the itinerary for the trip of the National Editorial association through the state.

Those present at the meeting were T. J. Appleyard, of the Sanford Chronicle; John Frank, of the Southern Tourist, Jacksonville; T. T. Stockton, of the Jacksonville Times-Union, as proxy for C. B. Pendleton, of Key West, president of the State Press association, and T. J. Appleyard, as proxy of H. J. Drane; D. G. Akerly, general passenger agent of the J., T. & K. W. railway; A. O. MacDonell, general passenger agent of the F. C. & P. railroad; and Joseph Richardson, general passenger agent of the Florida East Coast line; G. A. McDonald, general passenger agent of the G. S. & F., together with W. H. Lucas, Florida passenger agent, and D. G. Hall, traveling passenger agent of the Georgia Southern and Florida railway.

After some discussion upon the advisability of arranging a tour of the state before or after the meeting of the association, on motion of G. D. Akerly, it was decided that the members of the committee, other than the general passenger agents of the railroads, meet and arrange an itinerary through the

state and submit the same to a meeting of the general passenger association, to be held at the office of D. G. Akerly, general passenger agent of the J., T. & K. W. railway, Saturday morning at 11 o'clock.

One of the trips outlined is for the delegation from the west to rendezvous at Chicago and Cincinnati and meet at Chattanooga or Montgomery, and those from the east to rendezvous at New York or Washington and meet at Richmond and all reach Jacksonville a week before the meeting. From Jacksonville it is proposed to arrange an excursion to Sanford, over the J., T. & K. W.; to Tampa and the lower west coast over the S., F. & W. railway; to Ocala and the phosphate belt over the F. C. & P. railway; to Palatka over the Florida Southern railway; up the Ocklawaha and back, and then to St. Augustine over the East Coast line in time for the meeting, and after the meeting down the East Coast line to Palm Beach and other points in the state. The excursionists are supposed to arrive in Jacksonville over the Georgia Southern and Florida, the Plant System and the F. C. & P. railway.

They will come to Florida one thousand strong, and as nearly all are editors of papers they will exert a great influence in the matter of attracting visitors and securing settlers.

POWDERLY CANNOT VOTE

In the General Assembly of the Knights of Labor.

In the general assembly of the Knights of Labor in session at Washington the proposition to reduce the per capita tax from 2 cents per month to 1 cent was defeated, the drift of the argument going to show the organization needed the money thus derived for the institution of new assemblies and the propagation of the general work of the order. It was also thought that this tax was not so heavy but that it could be borne easily by the members until the organization was on a firmer footing.

The constitution was amended so as to take from the past general master workman the right to vote in the general assembly, but permitting him to retain his seat as an advisory member, with authority to participate in all debates. Mr. Powderly, although now under suspension, is the official thus deprived of the vote in question. He is not present and it was expressly stated that no feeling of animosity toward Mr. Powderly actuated the assembly. The new rule will apply in the same manner to Mr. Sovereign when he retires one year hence: It was said that if a past master workman had the proper standing in his own jurisdiction his district would send him as an accredited delegate and the present provision of the constitution was for that reason unnecessary.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR

Hold Their Nineteenth Annual Assembly in Washington.

The nineteenth annual convention of the General Assembly Knights of Labor began at Washington Tuesday. The sessions will continue for about ten days, but all business transacted at the meetings will be guarded with the utmost secrecy, not even the Knights of Labor, other than the delegates or alternates being allowed admission.

A grand reception and banquet will be held Saturday evening, on which occasion addresses will be made by prominent knights.

General Master Workman Sovereign expresses himself as being very much encouraged by the present state of the order. He thinks the progress of the Knights of Labor is more marked at present than ever before, and that the increase of membership in the face of hard times is exceedingly gratifying.

One of the important subjects to be discussed at the convention will be the attitude of the members of the order toward political parties during the next national campaign. While the populists have embodied many of the principles of the Knights in their platform, the latter think that, in view of their voting strength, the recognition should go further. A large number of delegates are on hand.

THE STRIFE IS OVER.

New Orleans Screwmen Will Work for the Stevedores.

The labor troubles affecting the ship traffic of New Orleans may be considered as finally ended. After about a year's turmoil the screwmen's association have decided to allow members of the association to work for the stevedores.

It will be remembered that soon after the riots on the levee last spring which resulted in a split between the crewmen and the stevedores the screwmen organized an association of their own for the purpose of loading and unloading ships, and at the same time prohibited any of its members from receiving employment from the stevedores. The screwmen's company have been unable to give work to all screwmen and in consequence a large number of them were forced to remain idle or seek employment in other lines of industry. The screwmen are skilled laborers and the decision they have at last made gives general satisfaction. All will now be able to go to work at their trade and at the same time ends a condition of affairs which was harmful to labor and shipping interests.

Belgian Cashier Absconds.

The cashier of the Societe Generale bank at Brussels, Belgium, has absconded, leaving a deficit in his accounts of 2,500,000 francs. When it was discovered that he was missing a warrant was issued for his arrest. It is supposed that his defalcation was caused by speculation in gold mines.

CHANCE FOR OLNEY

TO END THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AMERICA AND ENGLAND,

While England's Attention is Occupied by the Eastern Troubles.

In diplomatic circles at Washington it is believed that the agitation of the powers over the eastern question ends all danger of conflict between the United States and Great Britain over the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine.

It is thought that if the state department presses the matter at this time to a speedy conclusion a peaceable victory will be won by the United States. England has her hands full to hold her own with other powers. If the division of Turkey is imminent, and with war threatened on the continent, it is likely that she would go a long way to avoid embroilment with the United States. Her interests in the east, it is argued, are so much greater that she could well afford to forego her claims of very doubtful value and validity in Venezuela. It is the custom of all nations who make a point of the practice of diplomacy, and especially of Great Britain, to seize such an opportunity as is now presented to the United States to secure a satisfactory settlement of disputes. It is understood that Mr. Olney fully appreciates the situation and is endeavoring to make the most of it.

The question that Spain may cede Cuba to Great Britain rather than let it fall under the influence of the United States, which is made in cable dispatches of Saturday morning, it is not thought much of, for the same reason of England's eastern complications, if for no other reason. England surely doesn't want to add anything more to her troubles. Lord Salisbury's desire to establish a friendly alliance with this country, it is surmised, was influenced by the situation which he saw must develop in Turkey. This country will put no fingers in that pie except to protect American citizens, and even if compelled to join other nations in chastising the Turks, would ask for no part in the partition of the empire, but the moral influence of the friendship of this one disinterested government, it is thought would be beneficial to England in any conflict that may occur over the eastern question.

Altogether, it is argued that events are falling out fortunately for Mr. Olney, and the luck may give the administration a victory which might not be so easily attained under different circumstances. Considerations similar to those expected to influence the action of Great Britain as to Venezuela may operate to secure a satisfactory settlement of the Waller case with France. The dispatches from Paris that this case is being earnestly pressed are construed to indicate that Mr. Olney is availing himself of the situation in that matter, also.

FLAMES IN MERIDIAN

Consume Three Entire Blocks of Business Houses.

The most destructive fire that has ever visited Meridian, Miss., occurred Sunday night. As a result three squares in the business portion of the city are a mass of smoldering ruins, and the sash and blind factory, the pride of Meridian, and by far the most important factory in her manufacturing equipment, is no more. Besides the large plant of this concern, situated on the corner of Fifth street and Twenty-eighth avenue, and the Shippers' Compress warehouse, with over 3,000 bales of cotton contained therein, was almost, if not totally, destroyed by the fire, and a number of bales of cotton in the farmers' warehouse are badly damaged.

It is impossible to tell as yet the total loss, but it is believed that the loss on the sash and blind factory will reach \$150,000, with about \$35,000, or more, of insurance. This concern gave employment to nearly 200 men.

The loss on cotton, building and compress machinery will reach over \$150,000 with a goodly portion of it covered by insurance. It is openly charged that the starting of the fire in the Shippers' warehouse was the work of an incendiary, and the affair will be thoroughly investigated.

MUCH IRON CONSUMED.

The Production is Not Equal to What the Trade Demands.

The Iron Trade Review of the past week says: When it is considered that the furnaces of the country are producing at the yearly rate of nearly 11,500,000 tons of pig iron, and that at the beginning of the month the consumption was in excess of this rate, the inherent strength of the situation becomes apparent in spite of the evidence of weakness that appears in the limited business of the past few weeks. Returns from the district producing the bulk of the country's Bessemer iron shows increasing production, no stock on hand and continued weakness in price, though consumption is at the highest rate yet attained.

Still Figuring on a Fight.

Fitzsimmons and Julian arrived at San Antonio, Texas, last Friday. Julian said he received a telegram from Dan Stuart saying he had made satisfactory arrangements for a battle-ground between Corbett and Fitzsimmons. Julian said Fitzsimmons had signed a new agreement to fight Corbett at El Paso for a purse of \$20,000 hung up by Stuart, and a side bet of \$10,000.

BOLD ROBBERS

MAKE A RICH HAUL OF TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

The Wells Fargo Express Company Were the Victims.

The Wells Fargo Express Company was robbed at the Santa Fe depot, at Colorado Springs, Col., about 10 o'clock Monday night.

Twenty thousand dollars was sent from Denver to the First National bank of Colorado Springs early in the afternoon. This money was in currency of small denominations and was received about four o'clock and too late to be delivered to the bank. The four o'clock package containing the money was placed in the depot safe and both doors locked. There was nothing to indicate its value. Evidently the thieves knew of its existence. When train No. 6 came in about 9:43, there were other packages aboard, with currency to the amount of \$35,000, consigned to the same bank. These packages were delivered to the agent and placed in the safe with the other. After the train had departed, the agent, George Krout, went to the platform to straighten the trucks which were standing there, and when he returned to the office he was met at the door by two masked men with drawn revolvers.

They Got \$20,000

The package containing the \$20,000 was demanded, and the agent was compelled to open the safe and give it up. The agent said nothing about the remaining packages and the robbers left at once. The standing rewards of \$3,000 each for information of the arrest of the robbers holds good and the amount will undoubtedly be increased.

Krout says that when he entered the office, after performing his duties outside, two men, one tall, the other short, confronted him with revolvers pointed at his head and commanded him to throw up his hands. Badly frightened he obeyed. He was then ordered to open the safe.

With trembling hands he slowly turned the combination. When the door swung open Krout explained that there was only one package there and reaching in, he picked up an envelope containing \$20,000, which he handed to the short man. He then closed the heavy door. The robbers, seeming satisfied that the agent told the truth, stepped away from the safe. Krout's action in handing the \$20,000 package through the doors of the safe saved the company \$35,000.

Put Krout to Bed.

The robbers ordered Krout to undress himself and get into bed. After he had done so, one of the robbers took pains to see that the quilts and comforts were drawn tightly over Krout's head and tucked down. When Krout plucked up courage to jump out of bed and go outside there was no one in sight. An alarm was given and by 11 o'clock posers were scouting the vicinity of the depot in the eastern outskirts of the town, but no traces of the robbers was found.

FOR CHANGING REFORM.

Gov. Atkinson Sends a Message to the Legislature.

Governor Atkinson sent an important special message to the general assembly Tuesday morning. The message deals with the question of treatment of misdemeanor convicts in the counties of the state and is based upon the report of an inspection made by Hon. R. F. Wright, formerly assistant keeper of the penitentiary. The message is as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Nov. 12, 1895. GENTLEMEN OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

In my communication to you in 1894 I recommended that provision be made for state supervision of misdemeanor convicts. After the adjournment of the general assembly reports reached me touching the management of these convicts, which indicate such a state of affairs that I felt it my duty as the chief executive of the state, charged with the obligation to see to the proper enforcement of the law, to investigate and place before you facts showing the true state affairs, as the subject might be intelligently considered and wisely acted upon by you.

To perform this important work, I engaged the Hon. R. F. Wright, who had faithfully and efficiently performed the duties of assistant keeper of the penitentiary during the term of my immediate predecessor, to visit each camp in the state where misdemeanor convicts were worked, and make a thorough investigation and report to me.

This task he has partially completed, and I herewith send you his report upon the camps visited. It reveals such inhuman and barbarous conduct upon the part of some of those engaged in working this class of convicts that comment by me is unnecessary to induce you to act promptly to save our state from longer submitting to this burning shame.

There is but one remedy for the deplorable conditions now existing, and that is through state supervision by which uniform treatment can be required under one set of rules enforced by our penitentiary department. I ask that you give this valuable report, which I now submit to you, careful consideration, and to the subject upon which it bears, that attention which its importance demands. The special report made to me upon each camp visited, gives in detail the results of Mr. Wright's investigation and is subject to inspection by such committee as may have in charge legislation upon this subject.

W. Y. ATKINSON, Governor.

NEW YORK IS READY

To Swoop Down Upon Atlanta and the Exposition.

All doubt is now dispelled as to whether New York will do the handsome thing at the Atlanta exposition. An enthusiastic meeting of the committee on plan and scope was held Tuesday afternoon, at which it was unanimously decided to send a full representation of business men to Atlanta to do the honors of their city on Manhattan day, November 25th.

The delegation, which is composed of the cream of New York's citizenship, will be headed by Mayor Strong, who will have the celebrated squadron "A" as his escort. This company is held highly in esteem by New Yorkers and many of them are men of high position and wealth. It is a cavalry organization and will take its quota of mounts in palaces stock cars. The company will also take its mounted band, numbering sixty pieces.

No effort has been made to make Manhattan day one of revelry and wild popular demonstrations. In fact, all such suggestions have met with prompt discouragement on the part of leaders, although there have been warm advocates of such a plan. The idea seems to prevail that Manhattan day shall be celebrated decorously and elegantly as befits the dignity of a great city. Nearly all the names entered thus far are men of prominence, both in the business and the social world, and it is doubtful if such a large body of men of like character ever left New York or any other city at one time in the history of the country.

More than 1,200 have already engaged passage from New York city alone and 500 from Brooklyn. This will require twelve trains of eight coaches each. Ample room is to be allowed and expenses are not to be considered.

BETTER WAGES IN SIGHT.

Ten Thousand Iron Workers Are to Get an Advance.

At the quarterly conference just ended in Pittsburg, Pa., between representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, and John Jarrett, secretary of the Iron and Sheet Steel Manufacturers Association, it was discovered that, according to the provisions of the sliding wage scale, the selling prices of finished material during the past ninety days justified an advance of 2 per cent in the wages of employes in this department of iron manufacture. The wages of twelve thousand workmen are advanced. This involves every sheet iron mill in the country.

A conference is now being held between the iron puddlers and manufacturers of Mahoning valley. The indications are that the wages of the ten thousand puddlers and finishers will be advanced from \$4.25 to \$4.50 per week.

MISS WHITNEY A BRIDE.

Wedded at New York to Mr. Almerio Paget

The marriage of Miss Pauline Payne Whitney to Mr. Almerio Paget was solemnized at New York Tuesday noon. The marriage occurred at St. Thomas church.

The bride who is the daughter of Wm. C. Whitney, former secretary of the navy, is a great favorite in society in New York, Washington, London, and Paris. The groom is the youngest son of the late General Lord Alfred Paget, who was personal aide de camp to the Queen and grand-on of the first Marquis of Anglesea.

Among the guests were President Cleveland, Secretary Daniel Lamont, Secretary of the Navy Herbert, Governor and Mrs. Morton, Sir Julian Pauncefote, and members of the British Embassy and Dr. Chantrey M. Dewey.

THE O'BRIEN SUIT DISMISSED.

He Embezzled the Princely Sum of \$76,000.

The litigation growing out of the defalcation of M. J. O'Brien in the sum of \$76,000 had an end at Chattanooga Tuesday in the dismissal of the suit of the New York Fidelity and Casualty Company against M. J. O'Brien et al.

O'Brien was the supreme treasurer of the Catholic Knights of America, but disappeared after the embezzlement, living in New York in the guise of a broker. The plaintiffs were the foreign bondsmen of the defaulter, they paying the order \$15,000. Judgment was partly secured by a second lien on property given in trust by O'Brien, but on which local bondsmen had a prior lien. The present suit was to obtain for the plaintiffs a proportionate share of the proceeds of the property sale.

GOLD DISAPPEARING.

Now Down to the Lowest Notch Since Last March.

The actual gold reserve Saturday afternoon was less than \$89,500,000. The official figures given out at 2 o'clock put the reserve at \$91,823,039, but from this must be taken one and a quarter million withdrawn Friday and one million one hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars taken out Saturday, which had not been deducted by the treasury bookkeepers. This is the lowest notch reached by the treasury since last March.

Receiver of the N. & W. Road.

A Cincinnati special says; Judge Taft has appointed Henry Fink receiver of the Norfolk and Western railroad on petition of the Mercantile Trust Company, of New York, holding \$16,000,000 of mortgage bonds. Fink had already been appointed receiver of the Fidelity Trust Company, of Philadelphia, holding other mortgage bonds.

SULTAN IS TRICKY

IT SEEMS THAT THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES WILL CONTINUE.

The Porte Treats Communications of the Powers with Mockery.

Each day shows the situation of affairs at Constantinople to be growing more threatening. The reply of the porte to the communications sent to it after the meeting of the ambassadors last Monday has been awaited with interest, as in the note the representatives of the powers used much stronger language than heretofore, and positively insisted upon being immediately informed as to what steps the Turkish government intended to take for the restoration of order in the disturbed province of Asia Minor.

The porte, replying to the identical notes of the ambassador of Germany, Austria and Italy, simply said that information regarding the scheme for reform in Armenia would be forwarded to the representatives of the powers "without delay." In other words, these three ambassadors, at least, have obtained no satisfaction at all. It is not yet known if the notes of the ambassadors of Great Britain, Russia and France have been replied to; but it is presumed that they were also assured that their requests for information regarding the proposed reforms would be complied with "without delay."

Surprise is expressed even by the diplomats of Constantinople, who expect almost anything from the porte, at the official note issued Monday as cabled exclusively in The Associated Press, expressing abdul Hamid's thanks for the "energetic measures taken by the imperial authorities" in "suppressing" the disturbances in Asia Minor, asserting that "order has now been restored in all the districts" recently the scene of riots and conflicts," and adding that "precautions have been taken to insure the maintenance of order."

Mocking the Powers.

This really looks like mocking the ambassadors and is second in importance only to the snub administered by the sultan to Great Britain in honoring Bahri Pasha and giving him the command of the troops going to Zeitoon, after he had been removed from a governorship at the instance of the British ambassador, Sir Philip Currie, for his ill treatment of Armenians.

As to order being restored in the districts, it need only be said that the mobilization of about 150,000 troops to be sent to these districts is progressing as actively as the Turkish government can push such an undertaking, hampered as it is by lack of funds and the incompetency of its officials.

TRADE TOPICS.

Previously Reported Advances in Prices Have Been Checked.

Bradstreet's report on business conditions for the past week says:

"The interruption of general trade throughout the country incident to the election has been emphasized by unusually mild weather which checks demand for clothing, heavy weight textiles and other seasonal goods. Except for iron, steel and cotton, the larger portion of advances in prices of commodities reported since March last has largely disappeared. Anticipations of a continuance of advance in prices and demand this year, the outgrowth of the activity of two and three months ago, have met with disappointment. But there is little reason for the reaction in settlement by many who discuss business conditions. The sentiment of traders generally is that the outlook promises an active spring trade and with the holiday season will prove satisfactory.

"Bank clearings throughout the United States for the week aggregated \$1,221,000,000, a gain of 3.5 per cent over the preceding week. The falling off during the week in comparison with the like total in 1892, when the volume of business was very heavy, is less than 5 per cent. It is to such exhibits as this, together with greatly increased railway earnings, the heaviest iron and steel production on record, widespread advances of wages and prices for cotton and cotton goods, promising prosperity during the coming season that those should look who have felt only disappointment in the falling away of demand since September.

"The feature of the business week among larger eastern cities is an improved demand for textiles with increased strength in iron at Pittsburg after the recent reaction. At cities in the central western states a moderate volume of business is reported without material change, complaints being most numerous from Cincinnati. A fair business is reported from Chicago in shoes and rubbers, owing to the weather conditions. St. Louis reports a larger volume of trade, while at Kansas City the opposite is true, owing to the consequence of prolonged dry weather last month. Similar advances received from Omaha. At Milwaukee, Minneapolis and St. Paul general trade is quiet, in part owing to the mild weather. Grain continues to move freely to Duluth and lake traffic continues active. At the south unreasonably warm weather is complained of and in some instances there are reports of decreased demand for staples, but on the whole the prospect favors an active spring trade. Mercantile collections are improved and in a number of instances long standing accounts are being paid."