sion with Blake, which was known to the police, they refused to arrest Hardy or any one else on suspicion.

ANOTHER ARREST.

After Hardy's examination by the police to-day, the results of which are being kept secret, an Albanian named Matthew Flood was arrested as being implicated. He is janitor of the Female Academy, and he interested himself in the case to such an extraordinary degree that suspicion was turned on him. There appears to be just ground for suspicion against Flood, so the friends of Mr. Conway assert. They reason thus: Flood was working hard to recover the missing boy, and at the same time was in constant communication with Hardy. Mr. Conway accepted the invitation offered by Flood to join him and make a hunt for Johnny. Flood said: "The men must be brave and keep their mouths shut."

DESCRIPTIONS OF BLAKE AND KNAPPS.

The police have also issued a circular describing Blake minutely, and also a man whom they speak of as Knapps, and who probably is the man who was guarding the boy when he was recovered. Although the vicinity of the hiding-place is filled with police and detectives, nothing has as yet been heard or seen of the men whose descriptions follow:

Henry A. Blake, or Avery—Height, 5 feet 5 inches; weight, 135 pounds; age, forty-four; complexion florid; hair heavy, dark brown, generally parted in the middle; eyes brown; eyebrows stick straight out; heavy sandy mustache, with gray spot under the nose false teeth on one side of the upper jaw, occasioning him to lisp a trifle. There is one decayed tooth upper jaw; high cheekbones; nose short, wide nostrils, one spot on nostril which colors red when in drink; fingers long and flat, wide at the tips, stained yellow from nicotine. Clothing, black derby hat, size No. 7; sackcoat, vest, pants, dark, all alike; shoes half-soled, with patch on one shoe just above the counter; the tongue is so worn as to show brown stockings. On the second finger of the left hand there is an initial cameo ring, either "A," "R" or "H."

Knapps, supposed to be the right name—Height, 5 feet 11 inches; weight, 165 pounds; age, thirty-eight or forty years; form straight and slim; complexion swarthy; hair dark brown, nearly brown, worn pompadour; high forehead, good teeth, ears not large, nose medium and well formed, eyes gray. He wears glasses, rimmed, but no string attached. He usually carries them in a case. Thin mustache, turned up at ends. The mustache attracts but little attention. Clothing—He wore a black cap, and is supposed to have two other hats, one straw and one felt; sackcoat, vest of gray mixed cloth, middling height; pants of a lighter shade, shoes short laced, instep high. He wore an open-faced watch, a turndown collar and the vest shows one stud.

PLOT CONCOCTED IN NEW-YORK.

It is believed by many that Blake was the ringleader in the kidnapping, and is a shrewd and desperate man. Mr. Conway thinks that the plot to abduct his son was made up in New-York City, where both Blake and Hardy are known to have been a few days before the crime was committed. Blake had been in the city for some time, where, it is said, he was engaged in the law business. Mr. Conway believes that Blake wrote the letters sent to him. Acquaintances of Hardy say that he went quite suddenly to New-York early last week.

Mr. Conway told the Associated Press representative that he did not suspect Hardy at first. Hardy made himself so conspicuous, however, that Mr. Conway's friends suspected something. The first night of the boy's disappearance he met Hardy in front of the latter's home. Hardy told Mr. Conway that he had been all through Rensselaer and Blooming Grove in search of the lad, but failed to find any trace or clew. Hardy seemed anxious to deposit the package spoken of in the letter in the designated tree. He would shoot dead the man who dared come for it, was his boast. Mr. Conway thanked his brother-in-law for his offer, but refrained from acquiescing.

Johnny Conway will be five years old to-morrow. He is to have a birthday party, and it will be a celebration long to be remembered by him.

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JOSEPH NIMMO'S ARGUMENT.

REASONS WHY HE FAVORS THE DISCRIMINATING DUTY OF THE DINGLEY ACT.

Washington, Aug. 19 (Special).—Joseph Nimmo, jr., has submitted to the Attorney-General an argument in support of the views on Section 22 of the Dingley law submitted by him orally last Saturday. He contends that the section is logically articulated; that it involves no complication of construction, and that the intent of the legislators is so clear upon its face that its meaning is beyond all question. In brief, he says:

The first clause announces a discriminating duty of 10 per cent on goods, wares and merchandise. The second clause mentions a particular classification of goods, to which this discriminating duty shall apply, viz., "goods which shall be imported in vessels not of the United States." The third clause mentions a second classification of goods to which the discriminating duty shall apply, viz., "which, being the production or manufacture of any foreign country not contiguous to the United States, shall come into the United States from a contiguous country." The fourth clause, under certain conditions which are mentioned, exempts goods "imported in vessels not of the United States," which is the exact language employed in describing goods of the first classification, and has no reference whatever to goods of the second classification.

Mr. Nimmo also mentions the fact that the words "shall come into the United States from such contiguous country" describes goods of the second clause class, but which are not mentioned in the exempting clause, and therefore are not qualified by it. The last clause of the section in regard to retail or border trade he regards as an addendum, not affecting the foregoing matter.

Mr. Nimmo then goes into an elaborate argument showing how the maritime policy of the United States differs from its policy in regard to the transit with contiguous countries, and thence shows that Section 22 is in entire harmony with these two lines of commercial policy. He states that the transit trade had its origin on the eastern side of the Continent, in the fact that the St. Lawrence River is closed by ice for nearly six months of the year, and also in the fact of interjecting territory. This latter fact gives to the transit trade a natural character of reciprocity. But on the western side of the Continent on such conditions exist, and there the Dominion Government, by building the Canadian Pacific Railway and by its subventions to a steamer line on the Pacific Ocean has diverted the Asiatic commerce of the United States from American ships, American seaports and American transportation lines. A strong public sentiment has arisen in favor of putting a stop to this aggression, and Mr. Nimmo regards Section 22 as a step in this direction.

He declares that his only object in engaging in this discussion before the Attorney-General is the fact that for thirty years he has paid particular attention to our political and commercial relations with Canada, and that he now has in course of preparation a book upon the subject.

His attention being directed to the reports that Canada will retaliate if this case is decided against her, Mr. Nimmo said: "That is absolutely ridiculous. We hold the advantage over Canada at every point. Nine-tenths of her transit trade is American commerce. Let her try a policy of retaliation. We can ruin her transportation lines and take the commercial life out of her."

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CONFERENCE ON THE $100 CLAUSE.

There was a conference at the Custom House yesterday which was attended by Collector Bidwell, Surveyor McGuire, Naval Officer Sharkey, Appraiser Wakeman and their deputies. The purpose of the conference was to consider questions which had arisen under the section of the Dingley Tariff law limiting to $100 the value of personal effects which a resident of the United States may bring into the country free of duty. There was before the conference a draft of regulations covering the section in question which was prepared in the Treasury Department at Washington. The Department desired suggestions as to these regulations. Neither the regulations nor the conclusions reached by the conference were made public. It has been asserted that, as the law stands, any amount of personal effects may be brought into the country by a foreigner. It is said the Treasury Department takes the ground that foreigners may be required under the law to pay duty on all personal effects. It is not the spirit of the law that they should have privileges greater than residents.

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TELEGRAPH LINES CHANGE HANDS.

Under separate agreements entered into with the two great railway systems of the Republic of Mexico, the Mexican National Railway Company and the Mexican Central Railway Company, the telegraph lines of those companies have passed under the control of the Postal Telegraph Company.

Heretofore telegraphing to the Mexican capital has either been by cable, via Galveston and Vera Cruz, or by the American land lines to the Mexican border, and thence by the lines of the railway companies from Laredo or El Paso to the City of Mexico. The contracts now entered into give the Postal Company a continuous system from the United States to all the principal cities in the neighboring republic. To make this possible the Postal Company extended its lines south from Denver through Albuquerque to El Paso, to connect with the Mexican Central system, and is now building from Little Rock to Laredo to connect with the Mexican National system. This extension will be completed on January 1, 1898.

As a consequence of the extension, the message tolls from American cities have been reduced 40 per cent, making the message rate from New-York to the City of Mexico $1 85 for ten words, and the cable rate from the City of Mexico to London has been reduced from 60 cents a word to 29 cents a word.

After Dinner Take Hood's Pills. Aid assimilation of food, assist digestion, prevent and cure constipation. Get HOOD'S. 25c. of druggists or C. I. HOOD & CO., Lowell, Mass.

Colgate & Co.,

Oldest and largest American Soap Makers and Perfumers.

A WHEAT RECORD PRICE.

SEPTEMBER SELLS AS HIGH AS 95¾ CENTS A BUSHEL.

CASH WHEAT TOUCHES $1 01¾—CONDITION OF THE CORN SUPPLY—SUGAR TRUST STOCK AT 150.

Another new record price for wheat of this year's crop was made yesterday. On the New-York Produce Exchange September wheat (wheat deliverable in September) sold as high as 95¾ cents a bushel, or 1⅛ cents above the previous record of 94⅝ cents, which was made on Wednesday. The advantage, however, was not maintained. The opening price, which was also the low price of the day, was 93¼ cents, and this price was one cent below the closing price on Wednesday. There was a rapid advance in the afternoon on reports of damage to spring wheat to the top price, 95¾ cents. There was a reaction at the close to 94 cents, or ¼ cent below the final figure on Monday. There was great activity in September wheat.

There was less activity but quite as wide fluctuations in December wheat. The opening price and also the low price was 92¼ cents, which was 1⅝ below Wednesday's closing price. The high price was 94⅝ cents, and the final price was 92¾ cents, so that the net loss for the day was 1⅛ cents. The quotation for "cash wheat" (wheat deliverable at once) was, at one time, for No. 1 Northern, $1 01¾, against $1 00½ on Wednesday. The final quotation was $1, which was ¼ cent below the final price of $1 00¼ on Wednesday. Yesterday's sales of wheat for export were ten loads, or 80,000 bushels.

ONLY AVAILABLE SURPLUS.

The United States and Canada possess the only available surplus wheat to supply European demands. In the latest Beerbohm report the estimate of the European crop is reduced to 158,500,000 quarters. On this basis the total requirements of the European importing countries may be figured at 47,500,000 quarters (380,000,000 bushels). The United Kingdom, it is estimated, will require 22,500,000 quarters, France 6,000,000, Germany, Belgium and Holland 11,000,000, and Italy 8,500,000, while 4,500,000 will be required by other countries. "The Corn Trade News," of Liverpool, estimates the world's export surplus at 412,800,000 bushels, against actual exports the last season of 368,216,000 bushels. It reckons that full average crops will be secured in the Southern Hemisphere and India next season. The crops now being harvested will, it says, be ample to carry the trade on until next spring, after which prices will be governed by supplies arriving from Argentina, India and Australia.

Sales of corn for export were fifty-five loads at New-York and outports. The high price for September corn on the New-York Produce Exchange was 33⅞ cents a bushel. The low price, which was also the closing price, was 33⅜ cents, or ⅜ cent below Wednesday's closing price.

A MORE ACTIVE SPECULATION.

A more active speculation in corn is looked for, together with higher prices. Conditions are not altogether favorable for this year's corn crop. People who figured out a crop of 1,800,000,000 bushels have reduced their estimate to 1,400,000,000 bushels, and say that unless the weather becomes good soon the crop may be still less. It is pointed out that there were never three successive large corn crops, and there were "bumper crops" in 1895 and 1896. The plant is very late, and the weather for two weeks has been unfavorable. Corn is thus carried forward to the chief danger—frost in September—when corn is in the milk. The present estimated yield, accordingly, may be cut down materially if the frost reaches the corn. If September is a hot, forcing month the yield will be better. Railroad men say it will be a blessing if the corn crop is cut down this year 50 per cent of what it was last year, because the price would advance. With corn at the low prices of last year the railroads would have to establish low rates for hauling it, and would make little out of the business. The farmer who last year had to sell at 10 to 12 cents a bushel on the farm lost money on the crop. With a crop cut down 50 per cent the price might rise to 45 cents a bushel at the seaboard, and it would make the farmers in the corn belt rich, and the railroads with them, because of the carried-over corn, which is said to be not less than 800,000,000 bushels. If this year's crop and the carried-over crop aggregate 2,000,000,000 bushels, and the farmers receive 10 cents a bushel more than last year, they will be $200,000,000 better off. Some crop experts think the price of corn is likely to work up as rapidly, in proportion, as wheat has gone up.

The financial community believes that the large distribution of money throughout the great agricultural districts, owing to the sharp advances in the prices of farm products and especially of wheat and corn while still in the hands of the farmer, assures a great improvement in railroad earnings and a large increase in general trade. A banker said: "In most seasons the railroads have hauled grain eastbound at low rates, and have not had much return westbound freight. Now, the great expansion in the buying power of the farmer will, through the demand for general merchandise, swell the net earnings of the railroads through the heavy westbound movement of first-class freight."

THE SALE OF STOCKS.

There was a renewal of sales of stocks to take accumulated profits, but there were new buyers in abundant numbers and the losses in values were not important. The common stock of the American Sugar Refining Company (Sugar Trust) in fact reached the highest price at which it ever sold—150. Some of the net losses, comparing the final prices with those of Wednesday, were: Cotton Oil preferred 1, Erie first preferred 1, Hocking Coal and Iron 1¾, Illinois Central 1, Lake Erie and Western 1, Lake Shore 1, Minnesota Iron 1, Rubber common 1, Rubber preferred 2½.

Some of the net advances were: Brooklyn Rapid Transit 1¾, Brooklyn Union Gas 2½, Chicago and Eastern Illinois 2¼, Consolidated Gas 3, Lackawanna 2, Reading common 1, Reading second preferred 1, St. Joseph and Grand Island first preferred 1.

The volume of dealings in stocks was somewhat reduced, but still speculation was on a large scale compared with the fore part of the year. The sales for the day on the Stock Exchange were 328,841 shares.

There was a slight recovery in the price of silver. Commercial bars advanced one-fourth cent to 52 cents an ounce.

The Fourth National Bank yesterday deposited in the vaults of the Clearing House $400,000 in gold, bringing the total gold on deposit up to $56,680,000.

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THE NORTHWEST WHEAT CROP.

AN ESTIMATE THAT IT MAY FALL CLOSE TO ONE HUNDRED MILLION BUSHELS.

Minneapolis, Aug. 19.—"The Journal" prints to-day the sixth annual estimate of H. V. Jones, its commercial editor, of the spring wheat crop of the Northwest, made after a three weeks' trip through Minnesota and the Dakotas, during which time Mr. Jones made a close personal inspection of the fields. He estimates the yield as follows:

Minnesota—Acreage, 4,500,000; yield, 49,500,000 bushels.

North Dakota—Acreage, 4,200,000; yield, 44,100,000 bushels.

South Dakota—Acreage, 2,500,000; yield, 26,100,000 bushels.

Total acreage, 11,500,000; average yield, 10.2; total yield, 119,700,000 bushels.

This would be about an average crop, being nearly the same yield as that of last year. The crop is a difficult one to estimate, owing to the fact that it is so much spotted. A field often yields several grades of wheat. The straw is, as a rule, good, but the heads are not well filled and the quality will probably, as a whole, be inferior to that of last

year. Excessive rains and lack of warm weather are the chief causes of this deterioration of quality and quantity. Mr. Jones says the harvest will not be completed before September 1, and that in consequence bad weather before that date may easily cut down the total yield 10,000,000 bushels. The important fact is that there is no excess of yield. When estimates were first made it was supposed the crop would be a "bumper," and 175,000,000 was the figure set. Now it is seen that it may run down as low as 100,000,000 if bad weather continues. Bad wheat, due to unhealthy conditions, will probably be a feature in the marketing of the crop.

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WHEAT.

THE PROSPECT OF LARGE DEMAND—GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES OF YIELD DISCREDITED.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In view of the speculation which has advanced the price of wheat from 73.62 cents in June to 93.62 within the last few days, an examination of the records may be in order. The Government estimate of production this year is about 100,000,000 bushels smaller than the commercial estimates deemed most reliable, and as the supposed deficiency of wheat from other sources of supply is only about 100,000,000 bushels, it seems to be necessary first to judge whether the Government report deserves credit. The complete returns of exports during the last fiscal year have now been published. My estimates were 145,000,000 bushels, and the official returns show net exports of wheat, flour included, amounting to 145,082,616 bushels. Adding visible supply and half as much more at the end of the year, and the quantity required for seed, with the allowance of 4 2-3 bushels for consumption on the Treasury estimate of population, and deducting the visible supply and half as much more at the beginning of the year, there results a known distribution of 493,182,116 bushels from a crop which the Government estimated at 427,684,346 bushels.

It is nothing new, this grave deficiency. Stocks of wheat must be reckoned from the lowest point, that being most accurately known. They are lower now than at any time since July 1, 1891. The official returns of exports and seed in these six years amount to 1,323,297,029 bushels, and the consumption at the official rate long maintained would amount to 1,910,700,000 bushels, which exceeds by 355,000,000 bushels the aggregate of the yield for these years as reported by the Government. If the new Secretary of Agriculture wishes to distinguish himself, he has only to bring the Government estimates within 50,000,000 bushels per year of the fact. Last year the difference was about 65,500,000 bushels. It is assumed, of course, that the consumption for food has not materially changed, and, while no evidence whatever exists that it has, there is much evidence that the change, if any, has not been of material importance.

It may be assumed with the unhesitating approval of everybody engaged in the wheat and in the milling trades that the Government reports for the last six crops have been about 350,000,000 bushels in error, and as this deficiency has occurred almost entirely in the last four years, the average has been nearly 84,000,000 bushels per year. No one has any excuse, therefore, for supposing that the official estimate for 1897 is within 80,000,000 bushels of the truth, because the Government records are made up each year on the basis of a reported percentage of increase or decrease compared with the year preceding. If the returns have been about 80,000,000 bushels out of the way for four years, they could not be more near the truth this year, unless special means had been taken to reorganize the service, which telegraphic reports indicate may be done hereafter, but has not yet been done.

Thus the presumption is that the Government estimate for 1897, being based upon the percentage of yield in previous years, is something like 80,000,000 bushels too low. The current trade reports make it from 100,000,000 to 130,000,000 bushels too low, but reported changes in condition within the last month appear likely to lessen that difference. It is quite clear that wheat starts the new year with not much stock on hand, but with a crop probably exceeding by about 154,000,000 to 184,000,000 bushels the quantity required for consumption as food and seed, that quantity being 396,000,000 bushels. We exported during the crop year just closed 145,000,000 bushels, and there is every indication that the foreign demand will be larger within the current crop year. It is even probable that it may be as large as in 1892, namely, 191,000,000 bushels, or possibly as large as in 1891, namely, 225,000,000 bushels. If it should reach either figure, high prices for wheat would not be unnatural.

A consideration of much importance remains. The exports of corn were only 62,000,000 bushels from the crop of 1891, but last year were about 176,000,000 bushels, and are going on at about the same rate. There is a large surplus brought over from last year, and, while the crop of this year is not definitely known, there is much reason to suppose that it also is of fair magnitude. The price of wheat, therefore, appears to depend this year largely upon the exports and the price of corn, unless the wheat yield should prove equal to or should exceed the current commercial estimates.

If anybody wishes to dispute these estimates, he has first to take the fact that the stocks of wheat on hand July 1, 1891, and July 1, 1897, being both unusually low, could not have differed much more than the 9,300,000 bushels allowed on the basis of visible supply and one-half more at each date, and second that the exports, less imports of wheat and flour, 996,297,029 bushels in the six years, must be increased by about 327,000,000 bushels, the quantity officially allowed for seeding, and it does not matter much whether a little more or a little less is allowed. There is required some kind of evidence, not vague guesses, but definite proof, that consumption has decreased during the last four years, and has decreased much more than it did during the years of depression following the panic of 1873, when the consumption was at no time half a bushel per capita smaller than in previous years of the utmost prosperity. In that connection the milling reports have to be considered, which show that the actual output of flour from the most important milling centres has not indicated any appreciable decrease in consumption.

Secretary Wilson means to make his Department a credit to the Government. He has to begin by sweeping out of the way the entire conspiracy of false reporting introduced by previous officials, and to find people who will give him news somewhere within fifty million bushels of the truth. If he cannot, his conduct of the Department will fail to reflect credit on the Administration or himself. W. M. G.

New-York, August 19.

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ADVANCE IN THE PRICES OF SALT.

Saginaw, Mich., Aug. 19.—The Michigan Salt Association has advanced the price of salt in all markets of the West 5 cents a barrel, and in the home markets 8 cents a barrel, which brings the price up relatively the same in all markets. The new prices are as follows: Packers, 58 cents; No. 1 steam, 53 cents; No. 2 steam, 43 cents; No. 1 granulated, 43 cents a barrel; dairy and solar remain at the former price. Salt is moving fairly and in good demand, and it was thought advisable to advance the price because the amount on hand is much less than at this time last year and the prospects for the future bright.

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ACTIVITY IN THE WOOLLEN TRADE.

East Greenwich, R. I., Aug. 19.—The Phenix Woollen Mill will start every loom next Monday, and enough orders have been received to keep them going for several months. The mill has been operated only in part for the last two weeks.

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WINDOW-GLASS PRICES MAY ADVANCE.

Chicago, Aug. 19.—Members of the Jobbers' Window Glass Association of the West came together at the Auditorium Annex for the purpose of holding a meeting to consider the question of making a 5 per cent rise in the price of glass. It was deemed unadvisable to take action until after the meeting of the manufacturers next week and postponement was taken until Wednesday. The tone of the meeting was favorable to a rise.

STILL COMING TO BUY HERE!

REDUCED RATES GRANTED TO MERCHANTS BY THE MALLORY LINE.

TWO OPEN ROADS FROM THE SOUTH TO THE METROPOLIS NOW SECURED BY THE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION — THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL LENGTHENS CONTINUALLY.

Despite the refusal of the Southwestern Association to grant reduced rates of transportation upon its lines to members of the Merchants' Association, the association has succeeded in obtaining an opening into the territory covered by that body. The new opening has been made by the Mallory Steamship Company. This company has announced that it will place on sale at Galveston, Tex., on August 28, tickets at a reduced rate to merchants living in Texas or elsewhere, and that it will sell such tickets on all its sailing dates through the month of September. These reduced rates will be granted on what is known as the certificate plan, which is the plan arranged for by the Joint Traffic and Trunk Line associations, but which was not acceptable to any other of the railway associations of the country.

This takes from the Southwestern Association, to which the Mallory Line belongs, two important transportation companies which tap the Southwestern territory. The companies are the Mallory Steamship Company and the Atlantic system of the Southern Pacific Company, the latter having announced that it will place on sale between the dates of August 27 to 31, inclusive, reduced-rate tickets to St. Louis, thereby allowing merchants on its line to reach St. Louis, where on those dates the Joint Traffic tickets through to New-York will be on sale. By reason of this arrangement the situation in the Southern territory has been cleared of many of the complications which before have surrounded it, and a way has been opened for many merchants to a clear and uninterrupted journey to New-York for the purpose of making their purchases. The Old Dominion Steamship Company has already brought a great many merchants to New-York upon the certificate plan, and between September 1 and 4, inclusive, and September 10 and 14, inclusive, will again sell tickets on this same plan from all its points.

Among the visitors at the rooms of the association yesterday were twenty of the delegates of the Wholesale Liquor Men's Association, who have been attending a convention of their organization.

Non-resident merchants who are members of the Merchants' Association, and who are now in New-York, continue to visit the rooms of the association and to register in just as large numbers as ever. Every mail brings fresh accessions to the list of non-resident merchants, which is now several hundred past the 21,000 mark, and the list of resident members continues to grow rapidly. Among the additions yesterday to the resident membership were the following firms:

The Cereal Manufacturing Company, oatmeal; Isaac H. Blanchard, printer; Tide Water Oil Company; J. Henry Haggerty, oils and supplies; Neuburger, Heine & Co., laces; Lawson Bros., curtains; Ignaz Strauss & Co., fans; Todd, Sullivan & Baldwin, clothing manufacturers; Hartley & Graham, guns, etc., and bicycles; Columbia Bank, banking; the Germania Bank of the City of New-York, banking; Goldman, Sachs & Co., banking; Blair & Co., banking; Maxwell & Scoville, banking; Charles T. Wills, builder; Carter Medicine Company, medicines, and Goodyear's India Rubber Glove Manufacturing Company.

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PROSPERITY IN THE WEST.

REPORT OF AN OBSERVANT EASTERN MANUFACTURER.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 19 (Special).—Philip W. Moen, manager of the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company, has returned from a business trip to the West, and says there is every indication of increasing business. At Chicago and Minneapolis there is more activity than there has been since Bryan was nominated. Every manufacturing establishment in the West that has been running short-handed or closed down has more orders than can be filled before the end of the year, and more are coming all the time. The farmers are experiencing a prosperity that they have not had for years, and grain is being shipped as fast as means of transportation can be obtained. Manufacturing men say good times have come, better prices are being obtained in the West, and there is such a demand for everything that can be turned out of the factories that some of the mills are employing extra labor.

"We are beginning to feel the improvement in business in the East," said Mr. Moen, "but it is nothing like what it will be. Our firm is getting piles of orders in every mail. I expect that all the establishments in the East that have had to suspend business will start again, and this will be one of the best years we have ever had."

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WATCH MOVEMENTS SELL HIGHER.

Elgin, Ill., Aug. 19.—The Elgin Watch Company has advanced the price of watch movements 10 per cent. The advance is on all the better grades of movements. Cheap movements have been advanced also from 50 to 75 cents on each.

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NEW MILLS IN FALL RIVER.

Boston, Aug. 19.—The Arkright Mills, of Fall River, were incorporated to-day for the manufacture of cotton goods. The capital is $250,000. Joseph A. Bowen is president and John P. Bodge treasurer, and the directors are Thomas D. Covel, William N. McLane, Patrick Keenan and Lanne Lincoln.

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COTTON MILLS TO START UP.

Fall River, Mass., Aug. 19.—It was announced at the office of the Fall River Iron Works Company to-day that the entire plant of four cotton mills would start up Monday after five weeks' shut down. The mills employ 2,700 operatives.

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COMMENTS ON THE FALL IN SILVER.

London, Aug. 19.—"The Westminster Gazette" this afternoon, commenting upon the "demoralized silver market," says:

"We understand that the Americans who to-day are forcing sales will soon resume purchasing, in anticipation of the reopening of the Indian mints."

Continuing, "The Gazette" questions the accuracy of the view held in America that Great Britain's reply will be favorable to the monetary proposals of the United States.

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THE VILLAGE HOODLUM.

PROFESSOR NORTON UTTERS SOME VIGOROUS WORDS ABOUT HIM AT ASHFIELD.

Ashfield, Mass., Aug. 19.—The nineteenth annual dinner in aid of Sanderson Academy was held here to-day. Professor Charles Eliot Norton, of Harvard, presided, and the other speakers were: Franklin MacVeagh, of Chicago; President Mendenhall, of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute; the Rev. John W. Chadwick, of Chesterfield and Brooklyn; the Rev. Dr. Rondthaler, of Chicago; Professor Thomas, of Lake Forest University, and the Rev. Mr. Pease, of West Troy. Professor Norton's topic was the suppression of the village hoodlum and loafer and the need of more backbone on the part of the authorities, and he proposed the formation of an organization in every community that should crystallize the best moral sentiment of the town and bring it to the active support of the enforcers of the laws. Although a vigorous Unitarian, Professor Norton holds that a revival of Puritanism is needed, with the theological sermon left out. The murder of Mrs. Hattie E. McCloud at Shelburne Falls last January was shown to be the legitimate fruit of a weak spinal column in repressing rowdyism and worse.

Professor Norton said in part: "From all sides we hear complaints of the spirit of lawlessness in the rising generation. And there can be no doubt that the greater independence now allowed to the youth of both sexes than was the case in the past is often abused, and tends in many cases to degenerate into wilful self-assertion, indifference to the rights and interests of others and resistance to authority of whatever nature. The spirit of lawlessness develops rapidly into the spirit of crime. The idle loafer becomes the rough, the rough the villain, the villain the ruffian. The recent horrible crime and appalling tragedy of Shelburne Falls is an object-lesson to this community, which surely should not fail to arouse us to the discharge of neglected duty. It is a calamity for which the community is responsible. O'Neil is not the only criminal; the church-going and well-to-do citizens of Shelburne Falls are partakers in the guilt of his crime."

In closing he said: "It is manifest that it is the duty of all our country villages and towns to take more effective measures for the restraint and correction of the reckless and vicious members of the community, and any measure which promises this end may be worth trying."

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DINNER OF THE LIQUOR DEALERS.

The second annual convention of the National Wholesale Liquor Dealers' Association of America, which has been in session since Tuesday last at Manhattan Beach, closed last night with a dinner at Delmonico's, given at the invitation of the wine and spirit merchants of New-York. Covers were laid for two hundred guests, and the hall was handsomely decorated. A. J. Farmer, of this city, presided, and with him sat Edward L. Snyder, president of the association, and Edwin McCarthy, of New-Haven. After dinner President Snyder made an address of welcome. Letters expressing regret at their inability to be present were read from Secretary of the Treasury Gage, Senators Thomas C. Platt, Murphy, C. K. Davis, Mitchell and William Lindsey, and ex-Senator David B. Hill. The convention next year will be held in Detroit, Mich.

AN OPEN LETTER

TO MOTHERS.

WE ARE ASSERTING IN THE COURTS OUR RIGHT TO THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE WORD "CASTORIA," AND "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," AS OUR TRADE MARK.

I, DR. SAMUEL PITCHER, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over 30 years. LOOK CAREFULLY at the wrapper and see that it is **the kind you have always bought** and has the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. on the WRAPPER. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company, of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.

March 8, 1897.

Samuel Pitcher M. D.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

Do not endanger the life of your child by accepting a cheap substitute which some druggist may offer you (because he makes a few more pennies on it), the ingredients of which EVEN HE does not know.

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Chas. H. Fletcher.

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THE CENTAUR COMPANY, No. 77 Murray St., New York City.

RECIPROCITY WITH FRANCE

THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATING A TREATY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Washington, Aug. 19.—Secretary Sherman has acknowledged the recent overture of the French Government, through Ambassador Patenotre, for negotiating a reciprocity treaty between the United States and France under the reciprocity clause of the new Tariff law, and the Secretary adds an assurance that he hopes to take up this important subject at an early day. It will be the first effort toward a practical application of the reciprocity clause of the new law, and, to some extent, it will shape the future action of the Government on the treaties to be negotiated. In view of this, careful investigation is being made of the status of trade between France and the United States as a preliminary to negotiation.

This has shown that the reciprocity clause will not permit an offer to France of much reduction of duties. The data prepared in this connection show imports from France for the year 1895-'96 amounting to $67,000,000. It is estimated that the duties under the new Tariff law on imports of this amount would be $32,400,000, or 48.35 per cent of the value of the goods. If, however, reciprocity is granted to France, the duties on French imports are estimated at $31,500,000, or 47 per cent of the value of the goods. Thus the reciprocity clause would reduce French duties less than $1,000,000 on a year's imports.

Another estimate shows that the duties on French imports are $32,400,000 under the Dingley law, against $21,000,000, as they would have been under the Wilson law, an increase of $11,400,000 in duties on French goods.

As against this, it is shown that on the imports of the United States to France, amounting to $62,800,000, the duties would be $14,000,000, or 22.28 per cent of the value of the American goods sent to France. From the standpoint of the French Government there is much margin for reciprocity between the French rate of about 22 per cent against American goods and the American rate of about 48 per cent against French goods.

The present negotiations will be a sequel to the arrangement effected by Ambassador Whitelaw Reid on March 15, 1892. France continues to give the minimum rates established at that time, although the United States long since withdrew the reciprocal reductions on sugar, molasses, hides and skins. When the arrangement was first made France granted the minimum rate on the following American goods: Meats, fruit, dried fruit, woods, wood blocks for pavement, staves, hops, prepared pears and apples. Petroleum also secured certain advantages in reduced rates, but it is under separate provisions. These minimum rates are still in force, although the French Government has felt free to restore the maximum rates since the United States ceased to give reciprocity on sugar, molasses, hides and skins.

Ambassador Patenotre's proposition contemplates that the French minimum rates shall be continued if the United States grants reductions under the reciprocity clause of the new law. Otherwise the French Government is likely to restore her maximum rates against meats, fruit, dried fruit, woods, wood blocks for pavements, staves, hops, prepared pears and apples, and possibly petroleum. The French authorities feel that they are entitled to the reciprocity reductions, which at most will not exceed $1,000,000, as heretofore shown, because of the lower percentage of duty levied by France on American goods, compared with the percentage of duty levied by the United States on French goods.

MANY PENSIONS APPLIED FOR.

BUT COMMISSIONER EVANS THINKS THAT THE HIGH-WATER MARK HAS BEEN REACHED.

Washington, Aug. 19.—Pension Commissioner Evans has had a statement prepared as to the number of applications for pensions filed since July, 1886. The comparison shows that in July, 1886, applications for pensions aggregated 2,688; while in June, 1897, there were 6,169, largely for increases and for widows and minor children. Commissioner Evans to-day attributed this large increase of claims to two reasons. He said that the hard times had made many men apply for pensions who had not previously needed them, and the other reason, he said, is the existence of a general feeling throughout the country that the claims of pensioners would receive more favorable consideration from the present Administration than from the last.

"Many soldiers," he added, "felt that the Democratic Administration would not allow their pensions, however just they might be, and in this way thousands of applications were held back until now. We are simply getting the accumulation of a long period, and the work of receiving these applications and filing them away keeps many clerks busy. I believe the high-water mark of pensions has been reached and that now the number of applications will begin to decrease."

NOTES ABOUT NAVAL AFFAIRS.

THE NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON WILL SAIL FROM PORTLAND NEXT MONDAY.

Washington, Aug. 19.—Admiral Sicard, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, has informed the Navy Department that the squadron will sail from Portland, Me., on August 23, and go to Bar Harbor. After remaining there a few days the squadron will steam for Hampton Roads and will arrive there during the first week in September. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt is making arrangements to visit the squadron in the Roads, and will go to sea with the ships to witness some manœuvres and target practice. Mr. Roosevelt is especially interested in this feature of the naval exercises.

The Indiana has left the drydock at Halifax and sailed for Bar Harbor, where she will join Admiral Sicard's squadron and take part in the evolutions on the way down the coast to Hampton Roads.

The Nashville went into commission to-day at Norfolk. No orders have been issued to her, and it is expected that she will remain at Hampton Roads for some time and then be ordered to duty along the coast.

The Navy Department has been informed by the Lighthouse Board that the Dolphin, which went to Bradbury Island, Me., rendered material assistance to the lighthouse tender there, which was in serious difficulty.

The officers who have been on the Monongahela with the naval cadets have been detached from that vessel and will report at the Naval Academy. The officers of the Standish have received similar orders.

Assistant Engineer J. S. Leonard has been detached from the Cincinnati, with two months' leave.

Assistant Engineer Shepard has been ordered to the Mare Island Yard.

Lieutenant C. H. Atwater and Lieutenant V. O. Chase have been ordered to the Amphitrite.

Lieutenant T. H. Stevens has been ordered to the Norfolk Yard.

Lieutenant J. L. Jayne has been ordered to ordnance duty at the Washington Yard.

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MR. SHERMAN'S REPLY TO JAPAN.

SATISFACTION PRODUCED BY ITS EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDLY FEELING.

Washington, Aug. 19.—Secretary Sherman has submitted to the Japanese Government an answer to Japan's last note relating to the annexation of Hawaii to the United States. The answer was delivered to Mr. Hoshi, the Japanese Minister, last Saturday. It is in reply to Japan's note of July 10, which up to that time had not been acknowledged.

Mr. Sherman's answer was marked by its friendly expressions toward Japan, which give special satisfaction in view of the somewhat strained relations resulting from the previous correspondence. Two features are brought out by the answer: It reiterates the position heretofore taken by the Secretary of State as to the right and propriety of annexing Hawaii to the United States. With this, however, is coupled an assurance that the interests of Japan in Hawaii will be fully safeguarded. It also expresses satisfaction at the plan of arbitration between Japan and Hawaii, on the question of Japanese immigration to Hawaii.

The answer is largely an elaboration of Mr. Sherman's former letter, and the policies expressed in no way differ from those previously laid down by him.

Minister Hoshi has cabled the substance of the answer to the Tokio Government, and the full text of it has also been forwarded. It will not reach Japan until September 7, and no action may be taken until the text is before the Japanese Foreign Office. The Japanese Legation is reticent over the dispatch, although there is no effort to conceal the satisfaction felt over the friendly spirit displayed throughout Mr. Sherman's answer. The attention of the Tokio Government has been particularly directed toward these expressions of good will.

THE FIGHT IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

HOW THE CONTEST FOR THE SENATORSHIP IS BEING WAGED.

Washington, Aug. 19 (Special).—The curious campaign waging in South Carolina over the United States Senatorship is thus outlined by a Democrat from that State who knows all the candidates intimately:

"The three prominent men in the canvass are Senator John L. McLaurin, ex-Governor John Gary Evans and ex-Senator J. L. M. Irby. The latter was a mere figurehead in the Senate for six years. Before the country people he cuts antics as an orator. Evans is a plausible speaker, and a younger man than Irby. McLaurin leads. At the approaching primary election he will it is generally thought, have a clear plurality. Evans and Irby will share the oposition vote so closely that it is not positively known which will be second in the race. The Greenville News' is probably right in its estimate that Irby will be second.

"Evans's defeat last year when Earle was elected doubtless injured the ex-Governor's prestige. In that campaign he was rejected on the second ballot, although he had the once overmastering support of Tillman. McLaurin will win, notwithstanding the combination against him. It is well understood in South Carolina that if neither has a clear majority—and it is not probable there will be a majority vote cast for any candidate on the first ballot—the votes of the lowest man, who will drop out of the race under the party rule, will go in a mass to the second man. All the votes not for McLaurin on the first round will be against him. I think he is sure to receive the nomination on the second ballot."

Another South Carolinian said to a Tribune correspondent: "Neither of the men running represents the people or is the right man for Senator. McLaurin, like Tillman, only represents the minority of the Democrats on the tariff question. He is leading because the people prefer him personally to either Irby or Evans."

A MEXICAN WAR PENSION QUESTION.

Washington, Aug. 19.—The Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Webster Davis, to-day rendered a favorable decision in the pension case of the widow of W. McK. Winters, a veteran of Gilpin's battalion of Missouri Volunteers in the Mexican War. There had been a long-standing question of whether or not members of this organization, which was formed primarily for Indian escort service along the Santa Fé road, were entitled to Mexican service pensions. A search of the War Department records showed that the volunteer battalion rendered valuable service in Mexican territory, and on this showing the claim was allowed. The decision will affect a number of pending claims.

A CLERGYMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH.

Huntingdon, Penn., Aug. 19.—The Rev. W. H. J. Houghton, for two years rector of St. James's Episcopal Church here, and of the Episcopal church of Tyrone, died early this morning. His wife, at 4 o'clock, found him breathing heavily, and before medical assistance could be obtained he expired. Mr. Houghton was a native of Salt Lake City.