

## PEMBINA - NORTH DAKOTA.

The thoughtful mother of a little Chicago boy sent the following note with him to his school-teacher: "Miss Fitzgerald: Adolph swallowed a brass padlock last night, and if he has any pain in school this morning as a result, will you please excuse him, and oblige his mother."

A certain minister in Denver occasionally plays havoc with his words. In closing a very impressive sermon on "Death," he said: "Ere long we will all be called upon to shuffle off this mortal coil; or, I should say, shuffle off this—that is shuffle off this mortal—(Ahem!) Let us rise and sing the doxology."

There is a school district in Reno county, Kan., in which there is a school house and a teacher, but not a solitary pupil. Miss Mary Scroggins, the teacher, opens school every morning, and holds herself in readiness to instruct any children who may come, but she is the sole occupant of the building. There are plenty of children in the district, but they attend a parochial school.

Mr. J. S. Moffat, who has been actively connected with the country immediately to the south of the Zambesi for over forty years, first as a missionary and latterly as an official, is about to return to Rhodesia after a holiday in Europe. He first went out under Dr. Livingstone. He was resident magistrate at Taugwa when the Jameson raid took place. Mr. Moffat is now sixty-five, but he has work left in him yet.

How quickly the huge herds of buffalo on the American plains were swept from the face of the earth! A recent careful count by a competent person places the whole number of animals of the kind living today at only 1,024. Dr. William T. Hornaday says in his book concerning the buffalo that it would have been as easy to count the number of leaves in a forest as to calculate the number of buffaloes living at time during the history of the species previous to 1870.

A large amount of American steel is being imported into Scotland. One Scotch shipbuilding firm has received over 10,000 tons of ship plates from America at a price that is \$4,000 cheaper than the same could be obtained in Scotland. Another firm is taking over 50,000 tons, and altogether it is calculated that about 100,000 tons will be imported. Some steel is also being sent from Germany, but not in such large quantities as from America.

The newest fashion in New York skyscraper construction is to begin at the top and build downward. It seems impossible, yet that is what a contractor is doing with a bank building at Wall and William streets. At present the upper five floors, with granite walls, are practically finished. The lower ten are as yet mere skeleton of girders and trusses. The larger blocks of granite for these lower floors were not ready on time, so the builder decided to go ahead on the ones above. It is perfectly safe, yet the appearance of the structure is so unusual that it is a curiosity, even for Wall street.

The Austrian government has recently entrusted a particularly valuable commission to Fraulein Erika Paulas, this being nothing less than the erection of a residence at Bistritz for the official Forest Commissioners. This is the twentieth commission the government has given to Fraulein Paulas, who has not achieved her success without a struggle and much opposition from the building trade, which petitioned the minister of public works to prohibit her from entering for the examinations. Fraulein Paulas gained her architect's diploma at Buda-Pesth, after passing the mason's examination at Klausenburg. In England, the only two members of the Royal Institute of British Architects are the Misses Charles.

Stories about misers are sometimes exaggerated, but it has been verified that a beggarwoman named Marie Leret, who has died at Versailles, left behind her in gold and bonds about \$8,000. The money was found in an old cupboard in the hovel wherein the deceased had lived for over half a century. Marie Leret was eighty-three years old, and was one of the most successful mendicants of the day. She begged persistently at church doors, in the streets, at the railway stations, and received, moreover, substantial gifts from charitable-disposed persons, who had no idea that they were assisting a miser. Of the sum found, nearly \$3,000 in gold fell out of a long stocking, the remainder being in various securities, of which the dividend warrants had not been utilized for eighteen years.

It is said that Formosan savages are puzzled by an extremely simple arithmetical problem. If two of them are to share five articles of food, they divide by taking two apiece and throwing the fifth away. But that is not so bad, after all. It even shows that they have made progress. In earlier times, the stronger of the two would have disposed of his unshared contemporary, and appropriated the whole. It is a movement onward and upward when the rights of others are considered and respected.

## DONNELLY IS DEAD

DEATH'S SUMMONS COMES VERY SUDDENLY.

Heart Failure Takes Off One of Minnesota's Best Known Literary and Public Men—Was Visiting His Wife's Parents in Minneapolis—Was Apparently in the Best of Health a Few Hours Before Death—Taken Ill Shortly After Eating Dinner and Dies a Few Hours Later.

Minneapolis, Jan. 3.—Ignatius Donnelly, one of the best known literary and public men in Minnesota, formerly lieutenant governor and thrice elected to congress, died shortly after midnight last night at the home of his father-in-law, Martin Hanson, 3022 Twenty-eighth avenue north, Minneapolis. At 6 o'clock last evening Mr. Donnelly seemed to be in his usual good health. But soon after eating dinner he complained of feeling ill. He grew rapidly worse and died of heart failure a few minutes after midnight. During re-



IGNATIUS DONNELLY

cent years Mr. Donnelly has spent much of his time in Minneapolis, where he edited the Representative. Although his home is at Nininger, he divided his time between his country place and the city. He went to Minneapolis yesterday morning with his wife and was visiting his wife's parents.

Apparently in Good Health. During the afternoon, Mr. Donnelly was at his office in the Boston block engaged in writing for his publication. He left the office at 4:30 and was apparently in the best of health. He ate dinner with his wife and her parents at 6 o'clock and then complained of feeling sick. He retired and soon afterward was apparently much worse. Dr. Murphy was summoned at 9 o'clock. He found his patient unconscious. Advancing age had weakened the sick man's constitution and it was apparent that his recovery was hopeless; that medical science was of no avail. Without recovering consciousness he died three hours later.

Mr. Donnelly was born in Philadelphia in 1831. He graduated from the high school in that city and at the completion of a three-year course in law was admitted to the bar. Two years later he married. He

Came to St. Paul in 1856 and divided his time between farming and literary pursuits. Mr. Donnelly had the honor of being the first lieutenant governor elected to the state by the Republican party. He was chosen to that position in 1893, and at the expiration of his term was re-elected. The following year, in 1894, he was elected to congress, and twice succeeded himself. When he ran for the office a fourth time a combination was made against him and he was defeated.

Mr. Donnelly continued from that time to be an important and unique figure in politics. After his defeat for congress in 1896 he twice refused a nomination, but in 1870 he ran independently and lost by a narrow margin. He stumped the state, together with Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan, in the interests of Greeley in 1872, and the following year was

Chosen State Senator from Dakota county. Later he was nominated for congress by the Anti-Monopolists and Democrats, but was defeated by Washburn. In 1894 he again ran for congress and was this time defeated by Maj. Straitt. As a man Mr. Donnelly was very social in his nature, bubbling over with good humor and anecdote and an excellent conversationalist. As a speaker he was regarded as one of the best on account of his humor and conclusiveness, and in his writings he had an original way of arraying his facts and weaving his way to conclusiveness. It was in the literary field, however, that he achieved a national reputation. His published works are: "Alantia," "Ragnarok," the "Age of Fire and the Great Cryptogram," which latter attempts to prove that Bacon was the author of Shakespeare's plays. Mr. Donnelly married for the second time on Feb. 22, 1897, his bride being Miss Hanson.

## TO SUCCEED HIMSELF.

Senator McMillan of Michigan Receives the Caucus Nomination. Lansing, Mich., Jan. 3.—Senator James McMillan was nominated by the joint Republican caucus of the forty-first legislature, which will convene today, to succeed himself. His election to a third term in the senate is assured as the legislature is overwhelmingly Republican.

## CUIGNET CONVICTED.

Court-Martial Sentences Him to Sixty Days Imprisonment. Paris, Jan. 3.—The court martial in the case of Maj. Cuignet, who was accused of betraying army documents in connection with the Dreyfus case, has found him guilty and imposed a sentence of sixty days' confinement in a fortress. Gen. Andre, the minister of war, had imposed a similar punishment on this officer for other violations of army regulations and he is now confined at Fort Valerien.

## ROBERTS IS AN EARL.

Queen Bestows New Title on the British Commander.

Cowes, Isle of Wight, Jan. 4.—The steamer Canada, having Field Marshal Roberts on board, anchored off Osborn at 11:45 a. m. yesterday. The ships in the roads were gallantly dressed, the sea front was elaborately decorated with bunting, and the British flag flew from the masthead. The route to Osborn house, at the entrance of which was erected a unique tribute to the queen in appreciation of the field marshal's work, in the shape of an arch of laurel. This was the first time such an arch had ever appeared there in honor of any subject of her majesty. The queen bestowed an earldom on Lord Roberts, with a special remainder for his daughters. He was also made a Knight of the Garter.

A large concourse of people awaited Lord Roberts' arrival at Trinity pier and landing. The field marshal landed from the royal launch at 3:30 p. m., which was the signal for deafening shouts of welcome.

Princess Beatrice, in her capacity as governor of the Isle of Wight, and the duke of Connaught, representing the queen, awaited Lord Roberts, whose arm was

## Still in a Sling.

as a result of being thrown from his horse in South Africa. He was warmly greeted and the party started in royal carriages for Osborn house. The route was lined with troops and thronged with cheering sightseers. Lord Roberts stopped on his way at the town hall of East Cowes, where eulogistic addresses of welcome were presented to him. He then resumed his drive and entered the grounds of Osborn house by the Prince of Wales entrance and proceeded up the noble, troop-lined avenue to her majesty's Isle of Wight residence. After a hearty reception in the council chamber by a number of princes and princesses Lord Roberts was ushered into the presence of the queen. His audience with her majesty was quite private.

Replying to the addresses at the town hall Lord Roberts said he regretted that his return was not accompanied by immediate peace, but, he added, while he feared hostilities would continue for some time, he had implicit confidence in Lord Kitchener and had no fear regarding the outcome. He concluded with a eulogy of the magnificent army of greater Britain, all the components of which, he pointed out, pulled together splendidly.

## GALVESTON'S LOSS.

Figures Relating to Property Destroyed in September's Storm. Galveston, Tex., Jan. 4.—The News publishes a statement of the property losses in Galveston by the terrible storm of Sept. 8. The figures are the result of a most thorough investigation and are accepted to be as accurate as is possible to compute them under the circumstances.

The property loss suffered on the fateful day aggregates \$17,058,275, divided as follows: Residence property and contents totally destroyed, \$6,196,000; damage to other residences and contents, \$2,250,000; church property, \$500,000; municipal property, \$336,000; wharves and shipping facilities, \$65,000; manufacturing plants, \$579,175; county property, \$242,500; public institutions, \$158,000; mercantile buildings, \$397,200; merchandise stock, \$1,391,250; state property, \$110,600; United States government property, \$3,155,500; railroads, telegraph, telephones, etc., \$670,000; goods in transit, \$415,750.

## CUBA AS AN ALLY.

## Willing to Assist the United States in War.

Havana, Jan. 4.—The Cuban constitutional convention is considering promulgations of the future relations between Cuba and the United States. One of these affairs, in the first place, an acceptance of the Monroe doctrine and the establishment of friendly relations with all nations, together with a resolution to proceed in all cases in complete accordance with the United States. In the second place it proposes to put at the disposal of the United States a portion of the shore of any bay on the north coast and of two bays on the south coast for naval stations, together with concessions sufficient to extend for the purposes of defense and sanitation. In the third place it declares that Cuba will place herself on a war footing to help the United States in case such assistance should be needed.

## SMALLPOX IN CHICAGO.

Health Authorities Fear That There Will Be an Epidemic. Chicago, Jan. 4.—Smallpox is slowly but surely gaining a foothold in Chicago. There are now seven cases at the isolation hospital, three of which were taken there yesterday. The last cases, according to the health authorities, had their origin in Chicago, and vigorous measures are being taken to stamp out the disease. The health officials commenced vigorous measures yesterday to stamp out the disease in the lodging house district. They vaccinated a number of places. The inspectors say that there is great danger of an epidemic here, as smallpox is reported in all the towns in the vicinity of Chicago.

## TWENTY-FIVE LIVES LOST.

Three Vessels Said to Have Foundered in the Bristol Channel. London, Jan. 4.—The captain of the bark Idun, which has arrived at Cardiff, reports that during the gale Friday he saw three vessels founder in the Bristol channel, and he believed that as many as twenty-five lives were lost.

## SAILORS HAVE THE GRIP.

Epidemic Spreads at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

New York, Jan. 4.—A grip epidemic is raging in the Brooklyn navy yard. It appeared about a week ago aboard the battleship Alabama and over fifty of the crew are now laid up. From the Alabama it extended to the receiving ship, and within the last two days the number of sailors, marines and government employees stricken has reached 150.

## WAR'S AWFUL ROLL

HEAVY LOSSES TO BRITISH ARMY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

List of Casualties Shows That the Total Deaths Were 604 Officers and 11,554 Men—Many More Die of Wounds and Disease After Returning Home—Information Regarding the Invasion of Cape Town Is Scanty—Hearings Continue Active—British Desert Ficksburg.

London, Jan. 6.—Earl Roberts is already immersed in his arduous duties at the war office. He will take no holiday. The war office yesterday issued a list of casualties during the war in South Africa which shows that the total deaths were 604 officers and 11,554 men. In addition to this 4 officers and 243 men died of wounds or disease after returning home.

There is no further news from Lord Kitchener, who, according to a Cape town dispatch, is calling for 5,000 men to guard the Rand mines. Enlisting in Cape Colony continues active and 500 men will leave Cape Town for the north within the next few days.

Information regarding the invasion is scanty. Col. Williams attacked the eastern invaders near Middleburg but failed to dislodge them. He has since been joined by Lieut. Col. Grenfell and the Boers have retired.

Gen. Brabant has arrived at Graaf Reinet. Advice from Maseru says that three separate columns are still pursuing Gen. Dewet but with no success beyond taking 23 prisoners. Cannon firing is constantly heard. All the English have deserted Ficksburg, taking their stocks of grain across the border and the Boers have looted the town.

## Defense of Cape Town.

Cape Town, Jan. 6.—Recruiting for the colonial defense is proceeding satisfactorily. Nearly 400 men enlisted yesterday morning.

A Boer prisoner who is on parole has published an appeal to the Burgers of the Transvaal to stop their hopeless and useless struggle, and to throw themselves on England's justice and mercy.

Two hundred Boers have recrossed the Orange river, going north. The Russian commanders, Petrowski and Duploye, were killed in the fighting at Utrecht Dec. 25.

## Governor of Transvaal.

London, Jan. 6.—The following colonial office appointments were announced last evening:

Sir Alfred Milner, governor of the Transvaal and British high commissioner; the Hon. Sir Walter Francis Hely-Hutchinson (governor of Natal and Zululand since 1893), governor of Cape Colony; Lieut. Col. Sir Henry Edward McCallum (governor of Newfoundland since 1893 and aide-de-camp to the queen since 1900), governor of Natal; Maj. Hamilton John Good-Adams (resident commissioner of the Buthuanaland protectorates), lieutenant governor of the Orange River colony.

## AGUINALDO IS DEAD.

The News Kept a Secret From His Followers in the Philippines.

New York, Jan. 6.—Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the University of California, who is now staying at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, has received information from secret sources in the Philippines to the effect that Aguinaldo is dead and that his death occurred no less than six weeks ago. The news has been kept secret by Aguinaldo's followers, it is said, for the purpose of prolonging the rebellion, since it was believed that the news of the chief's death would cause such discouragement and alarm that an utter capitulation would result.

President Wheeler obtained this news through several Filipino children, who have been placed in his care by their parents. Two are the sons of Buenavista, a wealthy citizen of Manila, who, before the advent of the Americans in the Philippines, had been an active leader of rebellion against the Spanish.

## BABY FROZEN TO DEATH.

Mother's Discovery on Reaching Home After a Drive.

Lawrence, Mass., Jan. 6.—The four-months-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beaulieu was frozen to death in his mother's arms. The parents live on a farm in Methuen, about three miles from this city, the father being manager of the farm. They brought the baby with them to Lawrence to make New Year's calls and missed the late car for home so they drove home in an open wagon. It was supposed that the infant was warmly wrapped up, but on reaching the house the mother was horrified to find her baby frozen to death.

## MANY SMALL CAPTURES.

Americans Keep the Filipinos Pretty Well Stirred Up.

Manila, Jan. 6.—Generals Wheaton and Bates report many small captures, the destruction of insurgent camps and the seizure of supplies, animals and other necessities. Among the captures in Smith's district was Col. Tehon, the insurgent governor of Tarlac. Gen. Grant is personally in command of a mounted expedition in the mountains of Southern Pangasinan, which, he says, is the only locality where the insurgents are in force. In his district, insurgents entered Gapan and San Isidro in Gen. Funston's district during the 9th and burned a score of houses. The firing was ineffective.

## Struck by a Locomotive.

Holland, Iowa, Jan. 6.—John Smitzer, while trying to drive across the track of the Great Western railroad, was struck by the engine and terribly mangled. Both horses were killed and his buggy was completely demolished.

## Throat Cut Accidentally.

Anks, Iowa, Jan. 6.—Mrs. M. F. Hendricks, wife of Rev. M. Hendricks, slipped on a broken step while going down cellar with a butcher knife and cut her throat so badly that she cannot recover.

## DEATH OF MORGAN OF NEW YORK.

Married Woman Was the Victim of a Most Brutal Crime.

Marble, Ohio, Jan. 4.—One of the most brutal of crimes was committed last evening at Hackney, Morgan county, by which Miss Nellie Morris, aged nineteen, handsome and accomplished, lost her life. As Miss Morris was returning home from the postoffice by way of a path through the fields, she was accosted by Walter A. Weinstein, a young man aged eighteen, who lived near her home. He made indecent proposals to her and she immediately started to run. He grabbed her and threw her to the ground. She screamed and fought hard, finally getting to her feet. Weinstein drew a razor from his pocket and cut her across the neck, severing the neck muscles and laying bare the jugular vein. Miss Morris grabbed the razor with her hands and they were cut to pieces in her attempt to rescue herself from the man. Her fingers were cut off and her wrists were cut, as well as her entire right arm and left arm badly disfigured. Her dress was torn from her in shreds and when people arrived she was almost naked. She died from the effects of her wounds shortly after the assault. She was the daughter of Benjamin Morris, a business man of this city. Weinstein was grabbed by a crowd of men who bound him with ropes, hand and foot, and removed him to a building where more than 1,500 men watched over him. A telephone message was sent to McConnellville for officers to come and take him. The people of Hackney are greatly excited and a mob is being organized to hang Weinstein. Weinstein recently returned from the reformatory, where he served a term for attempting to kill his father, a rich farmer of Morgan county.

## THE BOOZ INQUIRY.

## Congressional Committee Begins Its Investigation.

Philadelphia, Jan. 6.—The Booz congressional committee which was recently appointed by Speaker Henderson for the purpose of making inquiry into the cause of death of Oscar Booz at West Point and to investigate hazing in a general way at the academy, began taking testimony yesterday. Three sessions were held, covering a period of time from 9 o'clock in the morning until midnight. The committee, which consists of Charles Dick of Ohio, chairman; E. H. Briggs, New York; Irving P. Wagner, Pennsylvania; B. T. Clayton, New York and W. I. Smith of Iowa, went to Bristol, Pa., the home of the Booz family, and heard the testimony of four members of that family. In the afternoon four physicians who attended Oscar Booz were heard and in the evening in Philadelphia two more physicians and two other witnesses were given an opportunity to tell what they knew of the case. Most of the evidence adduced has already been brought out by the military board of inquiry.

## DERELICT CONSUL.

He Makes No Accounting for Money Officially Expended.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The auditing officers of the treasury have been engaged for some time in an effort to secure from United States Consul Radcliffe H. Ford, at Yarmouth, N. S., a satisfactory explanation of certain disbursements made by him on account of the relief of distressed American sailors, but so far without result. The office has been investigated by the nearest consul general, and unless some accounting is rendered for the items referred to the case will be reported to the state department as one requiring drastic action. Consul Ford is a native of Maine.

## GIRL IS KIDNAPPED.

## New York Real Estate Man Thinks His Daughter Is Stolen.

New York, Jan. 6.—William L. Radford, a real estate dealer, reported at the bureau of information that he had reason to believe his sixteen-year-old daughter Mary was kidnapped. The girl was slightly ill and was to have met her father at noon at the Sixth avenue elevated railroad. She did not keep the appointment. He waited for three hours and then went home. There he was told that Mary left the house in time to keep the appointment, and that nothing more was known of her.

## SON OF THE PRETENDER.

Lieut. Don Jaime III in Hospital at Nagasaki.

Madrid, Jan. 6.—The Spanish minister at Tokio informs the Madrid government that Don Jaime de Bourbon, son of Don Carlos the pretender to the Spanish throne, is in a hospital at Nagasaki with typhoid fever. Don Jaime is a lieutenant in the Russian hussars and went to China, where he made a brilliant record.

## BODIES SOLD TO COLLEGES.

New Charge Against the Bellevue Hospital.

New York, Jan. 6.—The latest charge against the Bellevue hospital administration is that of delivering bodies to the colleges for dissecting purposes without the knowledge or consent of relatives of the deceased. It is said that about 800 bodies have thus been disposed of in three years.

## PLAGUE AT VLADIVOSTOK.

## Fifteen of Nineteen Cases Are Fatal.

Smayra Quarantined. London, Jan. 6.—The reports of an outbreak of the plague at Vladivostok are confirmed. There have been nineteen cases, of which fifteen were fatal. Owing to a recrudescence of the plague at Smyrna, a quarantine has been imposed by Turkey and Greece on arrivals from that port.

## Shares With Employees.

Anoka, Minn., Jan. 6.—Reed & Sherwood, lumbermen of Anoka, called all their employees together and presented each one with his pro rata share of profits for the past year. The total amount disbursed was a large one.

## Killed by Robbers.

Snyder, Mo., Jan. 3.—Herman Zenith, a schoolteacher, was shot through the heart and killed in his school room by robbers who attempted to hold him up in the school. The robbers secured but a few cents.

## ALLIES IN A TANGLE

MINISTERS STRUGGLE TO ARRIVE ON QUESTION OF INDEMNITY.

American Government Appeals Directly to the Powers to Help the Ministers Over a Diplomatic Barrier Which They Were Unable to Scale—Second Time Washington Has Gone to the Rescue—Question of New Commercial Treaties Will Form Another Diplomatic Tangle.

Washington, Jan. 5.—For the second time since the negotiations among the foreign ministers began at Pekin the American government has found it necessary to appeal directly to the powers to help the ministers over a diplomatic barrier which they were unable to scale. The first instance of this character was when the ministers were considering the punishments sections of the demands to be made of China. The second case involves the question of indemnity. According to advice to the state department from Minister Conger the outlook is hopeless for an agreement among the diplomatic representatives as to the amount and character of the indemnity to be insisted upon by the powers. Acting on Mr. Conger's advice the state department has asked Japan and the several powers of Europe to begin the consideration at once through regular diplomatic channels of the indemnity question. As the other ministers at Pekin are supposed to have advised their respective governments of the hopelessness of reaching a conclusion it appears to be assured that there

## Will Be No Disarm.

from the suggestion of the United States. The Russian government suggested early in the negotiations between the powers that the matter of indemnities be left to the adjudication of the permanent tribunal of arbitration appointed at the outgrowth of the Hague disarmament conference. This idea was endorsed by President McKinley. No conclusion in the matter was reached, however, and the ministers at Pekin were left to wrestle with the task of bringing into accord the divers views of their governments. As some of the ministers were bound by instructions which gave them little if any freedom of action the present deadlock was inevitable.

The question of making new commercial treaties with China has asserted presents another diplomatic tangle. It is probable that the ministers will be unable to agree on the terms of a general treaty of commerce with China which will be acceptable to their governments, and the course suggested by the United States in regard to indemnity is likely to be followed.

## RULED BY J. J. HILL.

Great Northern Maritime May Manage Five Big Railroads.

New York, Jan. 6.—Semi-authentic reports are to the effect that James J. Hill is to become chairman of the directors of the Erie railroad and is to have most intimate relations with the directors of the Northern Pacific and Baltimore & Ohio. It is generally believed in Wall street that Mr. Hill and his friends are now the owners of a controlling interest in Milwaukee. Some of the strongest influences in the Milwaukee management doubt the report that Mr. Hill proposes to lease that road to the Northern Pacific or to the Great Northern, but they are of the opinion that he, with Mr. Morgan, who is practically in control of the Northern Pacific, proposes some kind of a combination that will bring the Milwaukee property ultimately in connection with the Erie and Baltimore & Ohio, or both, into the Atlantic and Pacific system controlled through the modern arrangement known as community of interest and ownership. Probably this combination will be effected through plating the direct management of the great properties involved in it into the hands of Mr. Hill.

## HEAVY FIRE LOSS.

Large Increase Last Year Over the Losses in 1899.

New York, Jan. 6.—Fire underwriters suffered terribly during 1899, says the Journal of Commerce. The aggregate fire loss of the United States and Canada during the year just closed was \$163,362,250. The total losses for 1898 were \$119,650,500, and for 1899, \$136,773,200.

## EARTHQUAKE IN MISSOURI.

It Is Severe Enough to Break Windows.

St. Louis, Jan. 6.—Telegrams to the Post-Dispatch from Nevada, Eldorado Springs and Appleton City, Mo., say a distinct earthquake shock was felt at 9:12 p. m. yesterday. At Eldorado Springs window panes were broken and other slight damage occurred.

## CLERGYMAN IS MAYOR.

West Virginia Town Will Be Ruled by a Baptist.

Wayne, W. Va., Jan. 6.—At the municipal elections Rev. Billups, Republican, pastor of the Baptist church, was elected mayor. He was elected by four votes over the Democratic nominee.

## To Rehabilitate the Baltimore.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The naval board of construction has decided to almost completely rehabilitate the cruiser Baltimore, now lying at the New York navy yard. Her improvements will involve an expenditure of about \$500,000 and take at least a year and a half.

## Murder and Arson.

San Jose, Cal., Jan. 6.—Two weeks ago the home of Conrad Ruff, near this city, was burned and four of Ruff's children perished in the flames. On complaint of Carl Ruff, brother of the bereaved father, Mrs. Conrad Ruff was arrested on charges of murder and arson. Mrs. Ruff was the stepmother of the children. She denies the charge.

The mail steamer Gay, plying on the Lynn canal, was wrecked two miles below Skagway Dec. 31. It is believed the crew was drowned.