CONFER ON STRIKE

Meeting of Those Interested in Seattle.

SAY THE END IS IN SIGHT

Rumor of Peace Declaration Occasions Great Excitement—Proposition Is Submitted by the Street-Car Men.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 29.—After laboring all day the representatives of the Seattle Electric Company, the representatives of organized labor, and the committee of business men, who are striving to settle the street-car strike, failed to reach an understanding, and another meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, at the Chamber of Commerce, to continue the efforts to reach a peaceful solution of the matter.

The same old stumbling-block was encountered today that has stood in the way of a settlement ever since Wednesday. Organized labor says none but union men can be employed by the company. The company says that while it will not discriminate against union men, it will not agree to employ only union men, and reserves the right to employ any man who is competent, be he union or be he nonunion man.

Despite the fact that a settlement seems as far off as ever, for some reason not explainable, representatives of both sides express the opinion that the prospect of a settlement of the difficulty seems brighter now than at any time since the strike began. One reason for this feeling is that organized labor has submitted a proposition which modifies somewhat the original demand that none but union men be employed, and the company will submit a statement in writing tomorrow afternoon defining its position, as outlined by President Furth at the two conferences.

These two propositions will give the arbitrators something to talk from, and as the meetings so far have been characterized by the most friendly feelings on all sides, the members of the conference all express the hope that a settlement will be effected tomorrow.

So great was this feeling that a rumor got started tonight that peace had been declared, and that the agreement would be signed tomorrow. This news was spread like wild fire. Street-car men told it to their friends, patrolmen keeping the crowds in order passed the word along, the telephones at the strikers' headquarters were kept ringing furiously to find out if the story was true, and business men, who have a great deal at stake, eagerly called upon members of the committee for confirmation of the rumor.

The committee met in the Chamber of Commerce rooms at 10:30 o'clock this morning. Some one had brought in a box of cigars, and after exchanging greetings the committee went into executive session. Mr. Furth and Mr. Donworth took up their quarters in Mr. Meikle's private office, where they were joined later by General Manager Grant. The committee representing organized labor occupied the main chamber, and Mayor Humes, Mr. Meikle and Mr. Macdougall talked first with one party and then the other, going from one room to the other, in an endeavor to find a common meeting point.

The breach seemed as wide as ever, and the committee of citizens began their trips from one room to another, carrying propositions and counter-propositions, until about 2 o'clock. The arbitrators got hungry, and an adjournment was taken until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

At the afternoon session, S. W. Harmon submitted a proposition in writing, saying that if the company would agree to it all other issues could be submitted to arbitration. His proposition follows:

"First—All employes of the company may join the union without interference.

"Second—No man shall be discharged on account of his connection with or work in the union, or his advocacy of union principles.

"Third—In case any discharged employe shall believe that he has been discharged on account of his activity in the union, upon request of the executive committee of the union his case shall be submitted to arbitration, in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington."

Mr. Harmon said that if the company would agree to these propositions, all the other demands served upon the company would be submitted to arbitration.

The company claimed to have had out 23 cars today; the strikers say the number was 15. A number of cars were taken back to the barn after making one trip. Sixteen new men started to work today, and the strikers persuaded 14 of them to quit. The strikers are now using the influence of secret orders to get men to leave the cars, and they worked that dodge successfully in a number of instances today. One man was threatened with expulsion from a secret society if he did not give up his job and he complied.

There was no attempt to prevent the cars from running today, though there were fully 10,000 people on Second avenue. The police broke up an incipient riot on the corner of Second avenue and Yesler Way by clubbing their way to the leaders and placing them under arrest. About 20 arrests were made during the day, but none of the men were booked upon serious charges.

The company claims that four of the strikers went back to work today. The strike leaders say their ranks are unbroken and not a man who walked out Wednesday night has gone to work.

ALL MAY WORK.

When Victor Strike Is Off Business Will Increase.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., March 29.—After a short meeting this morning of the advisory board, the Victor business men's committee, President Moyer, of the Western Federation of Miners, and Manager MacNeill, of the United States Reduction & Refining Company, an adjournment was taken until 10 o'clock Monday evening to allow President Moyer to go to Denver and confer with other officers of the federation. At the meeting, Chairman Hoyt of the advisory board was authorized to prepare a statement for the benefit of the public, giving the exact status of the peace negotiations.

Members of the board went to Denver and will return tomorrow evening in time for the conference, which, all parties state, appears to be the decisive one. According to the members of the board the only principle of difference is over the re-employment of strikers. Mr. MacNeill stated they will only be employed as vacancies occur.

In his statement issued tonight Chairman Hoyt, of the advisory board, says:

The company states that it will at any time meet employes or a committee representing them, but refuses to recognize either the union or the federation. The statement of the board recites that the conferences have resulted in bringing about a better understanding between the parties, although no adjustment has been arrived at. It is denied that Mr. Moyer agreed at any time to certain terms and afterwards refused to sign a written agreement embodying such terms. The statement continues:

"We believe that an amicable agreement may be made between the parties within the next 48 hours. We base this belief primarily upon the fact that the difference seems one of form as to the agreement rather than upon the result which we think will be certain to follow if either of the propositions given above shall be adopted. The principal contention at this time is as to a limit of time within which men who have been discharged or are upon a strike shall be taken back. It appears to us that the difference is one of form merely for the reason that we think as soon as the boycott is taken off the increased shipment of ores to the Colorado City mills from the Cripple Creek district will necessitate the employment of all the men who have had experience in mill work."

A final appeal is made to all parties to take no step that will intensify the feeling now existing.

ALLEGED DYNAMITE PLOT.

West Virginia Miners Said to Have Planned Blowing Up Mine.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 29.—Deputy United States Marshal Dan Cunningham returned today from Raleigh County, where he has been serving writs upon the strikers indicted by the recent special grand jury in connection with the trouble at Stanaford.

Marshal Cunningham states that he has in his possession evidence in the shape of an affidavit from a former member of the Miners' Union of an alleged plot to dynamite the drift mines of W. P. Rend, in Fayette County, while the mines were filled with men and mules, and also to surprise and attack the mine guard on duty at the Rend works.

The affidavit is made by James Young, a miner who attended the meetings of the strikers where the alleged plans were said to have been discussed and adopted. The affidavit was made to S. L. Walker, a notary public of Fayette County, and the names of strikers who took part in the meetings are given. It is stated that further investigation will be made for evidence to present to the grand jury.

SETTLING FOR SIEGE.

Massachusetts Textile Operators Strengthen Their Forces.

LOWELL, Mass., March 29.—With a long mill holiday ahead, today was a busy one for union labor in this city. Interest centered in the Textile Council, which for hours was in session working out plans for controlling the army of textile operatives for a 10 per cent increase of wages. Labor men declare that the shutdown has done more to strengthen the union cause than any other incident. Yesterday and today hundreds of new members were admitted to the unions.

After the Textile Council meeting President Conroy stated that plans were perfected for a long siege, indicating that he believed the shutdown would not be one of a few weeks.

The use of labor halls has been given without cost to the Textile Council, and these places will be fitted up as reading-rooms. Fourteen meetings are called for tomorrow, and speakers from out of town are expected at several of them.

LOOKING FOR PRICE LIST.

Scranton Miners Expect a Temporary Reduction.

SCRANTON, Pa., March 29.—No one is looking forward more anxiously than the miner to Thursday, when the operators issue the April circular which will contain the price list on which rates for coal will be based for a year. Invariably so far the price has dropped 50 cents on April 1, and increased 10 cents a month after that for five months, when the 50-cent drop is recovered and continued stationary for the Winter.

Coal is now selling for $5. If it is cut to $4.50 and advances 10 cents a month until September, the miners, under the award of the Strike Commission, will next Winter be receiving a 20 per cent advance over the present rates of pay, as they are to get a 10 per cent advance for every advance of 5 cents a ton that coal takes in excess of $4.50.

WILL AFFECT MANY.

Bridge and Structural Workers Are Out to Win.

NEW YORK, March 29.—According to the officers of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers there is a possibility that the strike of structural ironworkers against the American Bridge Company may eventually throw 200,000 persons out of employment throughout the country. President Buchanan and Secretary Johnson, of the Association, attended the meeting of the Central Federated Union today and talked about the strike.

"We will fight until we win," president Buchanan said. "We have the work of the companies tied up as far as Canada is concerned, and word has come from California that the unions there have fallen in line."

Conferred With Home Lodges.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 29.—The members of the employes' committee of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, who were sent to their homes in order to report to their local lodges, have returned to the city. Several of them had a long conference tonight with Valentine Fitzpatrick, third vice-grand master of the Brotherhood of Trainmen, with whom they will resume the meeting with the company's officials tomorrow.

Early in the day Mr. Fitzpatrick was engaged with others of the committee studying the offers made to the men by the company and drawing up a statement which will be presented to President Hall tomorrow.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that this statement contained nothing different from what had already been said to President Hall in the various conferences.

Twenty Detectives and 50 Workmen.

MARIETTA, O., March 29.—The American Bridge Company brought into this city 50 workmen and 20 detectives today, the former to work with the other nonunion men on the new Ohio River bridge and the latter to look after the bridge company's interests. The strikers are all here, and trouble is feared. The bridge company has brought in large numbers before, but has been able to get few to go to work.

Threaten to Stop Construction.

CHICAGO, March 29.—Structural ironworkers, the men who build the framework of the skyscrapers, threaten to tie up building operations in Chicago with a general strike Wednesday because the contractors have refused to sign an agreement granting them an increase of 12½ per cent in wages. The union has appointed a committee to meet the contractors tomorrow.

Miners Accept Operators' Terms.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., March 29.—A majority of the 10,000 bituminous miners of Indiana have voted to accept the operators' demands that last year's agreements be accepted, with an advance of 17½ per cent in wages. The miners' delegates meet here tomorrow, when the first official returns of the vote will be received.

Pennsylvania Mine Resumes.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., March 29.—The Woodward mine, operated by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Coal Company, which has been idle for some time, will resume work tomorrow. This colliery employs 1200 men and boys.

Brewers Declare War on Workmen.

MAHANOY CITY, Pa., March 29.—At a meeting here of the representatives of the 12 breweries comprising the Anthracite Brewers' Association, it was decided to fight to a finish the strike of the United Brewery Workers for higher wages.

Machine Miners Get More Pay.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., March 29.—The Beerwind White Company, of Windber, employing 4000 miners, has posted a notice of an advance of wages to machine miners of 12 per cent.

NOT TO GET VOTES

President's Western Trip Is for Recreation.

IN RESPONSE TO INVITATIONS

Nor Is He Looking for a Running Mate for the Next Presidential Election—Gossip Over Candidates.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 29.—Some of the opposition papers are determined to make it appear that the Western trip of the President is for the purpose of landing delegates, and insinuations or direct statements make it appear that, instead of recreation, it is politics that is taking the President through the Western States. When President McKinley made his visit to the West, no such accusations could be made, as he had already been re-elected. The allegation is too absurd for much consideration, because everybody acknowledges that the President is unusually strong in the West, and that he is sure of the delegates from all that region.

In spite of the attempts to start talk of Spooner, Fairbanks, Hanna or other men, it is apparent now that no other name will be presented to the convention, and while Roosevelt has never been considered a politician in the usual acceptance of the term, he at least knows that it would be useless for a man to seek the Presidential nomination by a trip of the kind he contemplates taking. The President is going West because since he has been in office he has received many urgent invitations from every state in that country. Moreover, he lived long in the West, and was a great admirer of that section and its people.

He wants to see the states that he has not visited and revisit others. He also wants to get away from the worry and turmoil and exceedingly hard work which the Presidential office entails, and this can only be done by the side excursions that he makes in the open country. The fact that he is going to spend nearly two weeks in the Yellowstone Park region is sufficient to show that he is not "delegate hunting."

Another of the absurd rumors which attaches to the Western trip is that the President is going West for the purpose of seeking a Vice-Presidential candidate. It is odd that anybody can be so silly as to even write such stuff. The President could learn much more about Vice-Presidential possibilities by talking with politicians and visitors from all the states than by making a tour of the West. As usual, a large number of small men are mentioned in connection with the Vice-Presidential office, with the apparent forgetfulness that it is quite a frequent experience that a Vice-President succeeds to the Presidency. As it is so long in advance, quite a number of men are suggested. Senators and Representatives, Judges, and anybody who has only a little reputation.

The visit of Thomas Shevlin, member of the National committee from Minnesota, was sufficient to start a story that Joel P. Heatwole, ex-member from that state, is to be a Vice-Presidential candidate. Friends of Senator Warren, of Wyoming, have had his name in print, and even Senator Bard, of California, is suggested, with the idea that it would be a good thing to have a Vice-President named from somewhere west of the Mississippi. Governor Cummins, of Iowa, is frequently mentioned. While this gossip is interesting in a way, it is absurd when alleged to be one of the objects of the President's Western journey.

MRS. ROOSEVELT ON MAYFLOWER.

Will Cruise on Chesapeake Bay for a Week.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Mrs. Roosevelt and her children will take their projected cruise on the President's yacht, the Mayflower, during the coming week. They bade goodbye tonight to the President, who leaves on his Western trip Wednesday morning, and they then boarded the Mayflower, which has been lying at the navy-yard here for many days. The vessel has been entirely remodeled and is in fine condition.

Mrs. Roosevelt expects to be absent about a week. If the weather is good, the vessel will go out into the open sea, the first stop being made at Port Royal, S. C. If the weather conditions prove unfavorable the Mayflower will cruise in Chesapeake Bay. The start from the navy-yard will be made early tomorrow.

MORGAN NOT PRACTICAL.

Would Make Up Democratic Platform From Ante-Bellum Statements.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 29.—Senator Morgan, of Albama, the greatest long-distance talker extant, is not satisfied with the volumes that he poured into the Congressional Record from the United States Senate, but is still talking. He is following the lead of other Democrats who are making suggestions as to what the platform and National ticket should be for the Democracy next year. Names of candidates do not interest the venerable Alabama Senator so much as platform, and he makes a suggestion which at least has the merit of novelty, when he says that the party should go back to the platforms before the Civil War, and in that way eliminate all of the recent divisions and squabbles that caused so much dissention within the party.

He thinks that from those old documents a platform of principles could be enunciated which would not drive any man from the party, and would allow all to come together under the Democratic standard. Such a declaration from Morgan merely confirms what another Democrat, who served as long in the Senate as he, once said, which was: "Morgan is a very learned man, but did you ever know him to do a practical thing in his life?"

Morgan was asked if he thought that a declaration such as was contained in the Kansas City platform, declaring for independence of the Filipinos, would be advisable, and he most emphatically took the negative side, saying that independence for the Filipinos at the present time would be absurd. About the only Democrat of prominence in the Senate who does not seem to be making a ticket or platform for the next National convention is Gorman, and those who are informed concerning his views say that he thinks his colleagues are talking altogether too much.

THE HAGUE PROTOCOL.

Minister Bowen Will Urge Quick Action by Allies.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Minister Bowen hopes to begin work during the present week with the diplomatic representatives of the Venezuelan blockading powers on the protocol for sending to The Hague arbitration tribunal the question whether these nations shall have preferential treatment in the payment of claims of their citizens against Venezuela.

Mr. Bowen heretofore has submitted to the British Ambassador the draft of a protocol for the purpose stated, a notable feature of which is that the Czar of Russia shall name the members of the court. It is kown that the allies intend to offer some amendments to the draft prepared by Venezuela's representatives, but their nature has not been made known, although one of them is believed to be regarding the proposition relative to the Czar—as there is thought to be some objections on their part to that monarch assuming functions of naming the members of the court.

Mr. Bowen is anxious to have the work completed as soon as possible, and will urge this on the allies' representatives. According to the terms of the protocol of February 14, the first payment of the 30 per cent customs receipts of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello for the month of March are to be paid to the representative of the Bank of England at Caracas, on April 1. This will form the nucleus of the fund with which is to be paid the claims of the various nations that are to be adjudicated by the mixed commissions which are to sit at Caracas.

IMMIGRANTS POURING IN.

Unprecedented Arrivals at Ellis Island Yesterday.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Immigrant arrivals at Ellis Island today broke all records for Sunday in the history of the harbor of New York. By nightfall, when Commissioner Williams' staff had sifted through the great mass brought in by the Philadelphia, the Campania, the Savoir, the Graf Waldersee, it was found that 4555 men, women and children had passed through the chutes and were speeding to their new homes or else awaiting further investigation in the detention compartments.

This is the beginning of the rush season for immigration and this year's record is expected to exceed all others by many thousands. During March of last year 54,000 foreign-born persons were passed through the bureau. This year March, with two days yet to come, has brought the number up to 64,000, while tomorrow and Tuesday will add perhaps 10,000 to the list.

FIRST HOME MAN

But Hermann Is Not Marion's Second Choice.

GATCH-DAVEY FIGHT IN DOUBT

Plan of the County Candidate Naming the Delegates to the Congressional Convention May Have to Be Abandoned.

SALEM, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—From the talk heard among the Republicans of this county there is no possibility of Binger Hermann receiving help from the Marion County delegation, even as a second choice. It is already settled that the delegation will be for a Marion County man and, so far as instructions go, it will have no second choice.

If it should appear, however, that the Marion County candidate cannot be elected, the delegation might vote for some other, but in that case the recipient of the support of the delegation would not, in all probability, be Hermann. Members of both factions of the Republican party are free in expressing the opinion that it would not be right to give the National Administration a slap by nominating a man who is persona non grata at Washington. Nevertheless it is generally felt that Hermann will be considerably in the lead in the Congressional convention, and that he will win unless the opposition speedily unites.

There has been nothing in the political work of the last week that sheds any light upon the probable outcome of the Republican primaries in this county on Tuesday. Even when the lists of delegates to the county convention have been determined, it will not be known whether Gatch or Davey is in the lead, unless the victory is large on one side or the other. In many of the country precincts open primaries will be held and the delegates will be chosen without their preferences being known. In all the larger precincts closed primaries will be held and two slates of delegates will be presented for the choice of the voters. In such cases one slate will be for Davey and the other for Gatch and the result will show something of the strength of the two candidates in the convention.

The contest continues without any bitterness, and it is apparent that the one who wins will receive the most cordial support of the other. Marion County Republicans are out for the nomination of a Marion County man, and unless the unexpected happens a solid delegation of political workers will go to Eugene from this county. The belief is growing that the opposition to Hermann will be able to unite upon the Marion County candidate and make him the candidate of the district for Congressman.

It has been assumed all along that Senator Fulton is giving whatever help he can to Hermann, but that view is being questioned here in Salem. Some men whose relations and surroundings are such that they would be expected to know and carry out Senator Fulton's wishes are talking against Hermann. This may be a political expedient, but it leads some to believe that Fulton has either kept his preferences entirely to himself or is in favor of some other person. Some of Fulton's strongest admirers express the opinion that the Senator is under more obligations to Eddy than to Hermann, and believe that if he exerted any influence it would be for the former. The fact that in some other counties the friends of Fulton are almost solidly for Hermann gives strength to the opinion that the ex-Commissioner has the best wishes of the junior Senator. In Marion County if the Fulton people are for Hermann they are keeping pretty quiet about it just now.

Some objection has been heard to the plan of permitting the Congressional delegation to be named by the candidate from this county who may be able to secure the largest vote in the county convention, and there is a possibility that the plan may have to be abandoned, although it has the approval of both Mr. Gatch and Mr. Davey. The objectors say that the Republicans of this county can be trusted to select the delegates themselves, and the candidates should not ask this privilege.

The first plan of settling the local contest was to let the fight be made on the organization and leave the selection of the delegates to be made in the usual manner, the winner having an instructed delegation, though not one entirely of his own choosing. The plan of permitting the candidate to name the delegates would be something new in the usages of Republicans in this county, and as there are likely to be many men in the county convention who would like to go to the Congressional convention, the plan would have to be abandoned if violent opposition were made.

HANSBROUGH FOR CONGRESS.

Boom Started by United Brotherhood of Railway Employes.

OREGON CITY, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—J. M. Hansbrough, a member of the lower house in the last Legislature, has joined the large army of candidates for the Republican Congressional nomination. As Hansbrough's own county, Douglas, will go for Hermann, the new aspirant will rely upon the strength of the unions throughout the state. He expects the support of the union labor people, and is making his preliminary campaign through the Roseburg Division, No. 1, United Brotherhood of Railway Employes. Will H. Moore, agent of the division, has sent to all labor unions in the first district the following letter:

"Believing the only successful way to secure legislation favorable to unionism is to place our own men in the lawmakers' office, consequently about 18 months ago Roseburg Division, No. 1, United Brotherhood of Railway Employes, decided to place one of its members in the Legislature and set to work accordingly with the result of securing the nomination and election of Brother James M. Hansbrough, a passenger conductor, to the Legislature recently adjourned. Deeming it policy to have a man in office on the side of the majority is why we selected Brother Hansbrough.

"The result of his efforts during the recent session of the Legislature in behalf of unionism is too well known to you all to require publicity, as the enactment of the fellow-servant bill, or co-employes law, introduced and championed by him, is one of the greatest victories ever achieved in the halls of our Legislature for the cause of unionism.

"We, like you, believe that the organized labor of Oregon is entitled to a Representative in Congress, and until we are represented unionism will not receive what belongs to it by right and justice, hence we should assert our rights by electing a union man to Congress.

"As the nomination of a Republican for Congress in this district practically means election, hence it behooves us to secure the nomination of a union man in that party.

"Therefore, we believe that Brother Hansbrough is the man for the place, and in accordance therewith Roseburg Division, No. 1, United Brotherhood of Railway Employes, in regular session assembled, on March 11, 1903, by unanimous action adopted a resolution to be presented to the coming Republican Congressional Convention of this district calling for the nomination of Brother James Hansbrough for Congressman; also the division agent was instructed to communicate with you, requesting your honorable body to adopt resolutions to be presented to the coming Congressional convention, indorsing and calling for the nomination of Brother Hansbrough for Congress, and to use your influence with that end in view upon the delegates to the convention from your locality.

"We kindly ask you to give this matter your consideration at once, as the convention is to convene the 9th of next month (April). Please notify us of your action, trusting that you may be able to give us your strength in favor of Brother Hansbrough."

EDDY CONTROLS IN TILLAMOOK.

Majority of Delegates to County Convention His Friends.

TILLAMOOK, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—The Republican primaries passed off quietly yesterday, and from present indications, judging the sentiment of the delegates to the county convention, the delegation from Tillamook to the Congressional Convention will go unpledged, headed by Representative B. L. Eddy. He was one of the delegates chosen in Hoquarton precinct, which he controlled by a large majority, ex-Senator J. W. Maxwell having a hopeless minority and even failing in getting a nomination to the county convention.

In Tillamook precinct, which is always the bone of contention in a factional fight, the delegates are about equally divided. Mr. Eddy's friends will control the county convention.

Benton Democratic Delegates Named.

CORVALLIS, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—The Democratic County Central Committee has determined not to hold primaries and a county convention in Benton, but has selected delegates to attend the Congressional convention at Albany, April 11. The delegates are: Adam Wilhelm, Abner Woods, Joseph Smith, S. L. Henderson and B. F. Irvine.

Grange Organized at Rainier.

RAINIER, Or., March 29.—(Special.)—S. G. Schoonover completed the organization of a Grange at Goble last night, with 58 charter members. The following were the principal officers elected: M. J. Butler, master; Miss T. M. Castro, secretary; George McKinster, overseer, and George Dungaw.

Every day increases the popularity and sale of Carter's Little Liver Pills. The reason is that when once used relief is sure to follow. Don't forget this.

POPULARITY OF LIFE INSURANCE

Have you ever paused to contemplate the actual figures that represent the enormous volume of life insurance business transacted in the United States? They are instructive as well as interesting, and show the popularity of life insurance as a form of conservative investment throughout the country.

Last year, 1902, was the greatest year ever for insurance business among the old line companies, of which there are 79 regularly operating in this country. The aggregate amount of business done by these 79 standard companies is stupendous. The total amount in force is over eight billions of dollars—$8,719,212,793.

Of this sum, the statistics on life insurance show that the aggregate of production of one single year—that is, the business written in 1902, was $1,595,-969,067. One-sixth of last year's entire production was done by the Equitable Life.

One-seventh of the eight billion dollars' worth of all business in force in 79 companies is in the Equitable Life. There's food for reflection in this point.

New York is the great financial center of the United States, and is the home of the great life insurance companies; naturally, the lion's share of life insurance business is done in the great metropolis, and within the borders of that state. New York carried the largest per capita of genuine insurance. The new business produced in New York during 1902 amounted to $332,181,860. The year 1903 gives promise of being a greater one. There is a total of $1,282,-969,872 in force on residents of New York State.

One-fourth of all the business of last year in that state ($80,739,000) was produced by the Equitable Life. One-fourth of the total business in force at the present time in New York, namely, $298,187,782, is in the Equitable Life.

As the best evidence of what business is done within the State of Oregon by a concern so large and popular as the Equitable, the Secretary of State's books disclose that the Equitable, through the Portland agency, paid, as a 2 per cent tax on its net premiums collected in the state, the sum of $2996.14. No other life insurance company ever paid as much as that.

An interesting object lesson in life insurance popularity is herewith presented in the pictures of the oldest and youngest policy-holders in Oregon. The oldest policy-holder is 78 and the youngest is but 3 years of age—and holds a bona fide policy in his own name. The two in the picture are Hon. John McCraken and Master Bertram P. Levy, son of Jules P. Levy, of Portland. The youthful investor in life insurance has a confident gleam on his intelligent little face which would seem to be sustained and inspired by the knowledge of the help his policy stores up for him in the future. This policy is known as "the savings deposit." The Equitable is not engaged in the ordinary insurance of children so generally condemned by the best element.

The infant policy-holder comes from a family of insurers, who firmly believe in the Equitable Life. His father has two policies. Two of his uncles have had policies mature in the Equitable Life. Both of these reinsured and both induced their sons to take policies in the Equitable. In this family one death claim has also been paid. Insurance runs in the family—and it is not a bad streak, either. In Master Levy's direct family connections there are 16 policies in force in the Oregon branch of the Equitable.

Mr. Samuel points with some degree of pride to an autograph letter which Mr. McCraken sent him, and which tells its own story for the oldest policy-holder.

"I have," writes Mr. McCraken, "for a number of years carried a policy in the Equitable Life on the annual dividend plan, and have similar policies in other companies. My dividends in the Equitable Life are very satisfactory, indeed. They are, in fact, much greater than the dividends of any other company that I have a policy with."

Mr. L. Samuel, the Oregon manager for this company, has been a resident of this city for 22 years. That the business has been so successful, Mr. Samuel attributes not to any personal ability in supervising it, but absolutely to the merit of the Equitable Life's system and the satisfactory returns upon money placed with it. The standing record would seem to show conclusively that there is a reason for the major portion of the business done at home and abroad by this company, which carries upon its board of directors such captains of finance as George J. Gould, August Belmont, D. O. Mills, Alfred G. Vanderbilt, Levi P. Morton, Robert T. Lincoln, Henry C. Frick, John Jacob Astor, Sir William Van Horne, president of the Canadian Pacific and a power in Canada and the United States; Louis Fitzgerald, Chauncey M. Depew, Cornelius N. Bliss, C. Ledyard Blair, Brayton Ives, Jacob H. Schiff, T. Jefferson Coolidge, David Moffatt and many others.

Oregon's Oldest Policyholder.

COLONEL JOHN McCRAKEN, Age 78 Years.

Oregon's Youngest Policyholder.

BERTRAM P. LEVY, Age 3 Years.

CITY IS ALL AFLOAT

Backwater Covers Greenville's Streets.

RELIEF PARTIES IN SKIFFS

No Business Is Being Carried On in the City—Protecting Levee Cut to Prevent Further Rise.

GREENVILLE, Miss., March 29.—The back water from the La Grange crevasse is rising slowly, and nearly all of the city is submerged. Business is paralyzed, and people in the southern section of the city are moving about in skiffs. The rise in the last 24 hours has been two inches.

The reports sent out from here that the city is in danger of destruction are highly exaggerated. The facts do not warrant such statements, while rumors of great loss of life are absolutely without foundation so far as is known. Relief parties with boats have been at work rescuing people in the path of the flood, and the refugees are brought here.

It was said this afternoon that the Mayor had instructed the City Engineer to cut the protection levee in the northern part of the city, as it is believed that it will be the means of letting the water out through Fish Lake. The country beyond the lake is much lower than the city, and if the levee is cut it will stop the rise in Greenville and carry off much of the water now in the city.

All trains left here this afternoon promptly on schedule time. The shutdown of the electric light plant is a serious inconvenience to the people, and lanterns in skiffs may be seen throughout the town at night.

The flood situation outside of Greenville remains practically unchanged, the waters have covered thousands of acres of the fine delta farms, and is sweeping south of Vicksburg. The loss will be heavy, but it is impossible to give anything like a correct estimate of the damage wrought by the flood.

TIDE CAME INTO TOWN.

Whipped by the Wind, Sea Floods City Streets.

NEWBURN, N. C., March 29.—A severe wind and rain storm struck this city last night, and has been raging all day. The Neuse and Trent River has today presented scenes almost equal to the Atlantic on a rough day, being white from shore to shore. In some portions of the city streets are impassable, and on Union Point people have to be taken from their homes in boats, the tide covering the first floor of their houses.

Grave apprehension is felt for the fishermen who left the city early yesterday. It is thought they were struck by the gale when they were miles from land. All prospects for a successful and early truck season are doomed. Much damage was done to small craft around the city.

WATCHED BY NATCHEZ PEOPLE.

Prospects of Breaking Levee Brings Out Crowds.

NATCHEZ, Miss., March 29.—The report that the Arnolia levee, two miles below Vidalia, La., was in imminent danger of breaking attracted hundreds of sightseers from Natchez today. The water was sweeping through, and 50 men were put to work to save the levee. It is confidently believed that the levee will hold.

A message from Clayton Station, La., says that the Tensas River is rising rapidly, and that the back levee is under water. The canal at that place will be closed.

Lucy Crevasse Is Wide Open.

NEW ORLEANS, March 29.—The second attempt to close the crevasse at Lucy has failed, the upper end again giving way. The levee and Texas & Pacific forces have resumed work with a larger force than ever, and there is still hope of success. The crevasse is now 450 feet wide, and its water is inundating a large territory.

The water will undoubtedly spread as far as Bayou la Fourchieur. Several more railroads, in addition to the Texas & Pacific, will feel the effects of the flow if not checked. The river gauge here today is 20.3, showing a rise despite the crevasse.

Yazoo City Partly Flooded.

VICKSBURG, Miss., March 29.—The flood situation in this immediate section is unchanged, but Yazoo City is beginning to feel the effects of the water from the La Grange crevasses. The back water is rising at the rate of two inches a day, and the eastern portion of the town is partly submerged.

The river here has again come to a standstill, after dropping two-tenths yesterday.

Severe Storm at Savannah.

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 29.—A northeast storm of considerable severity prevailed all day, causing much damage to wires, trees and fencing. Lowlands on the islands were flooded. No shipping left the harbor during the day.

MAKER OF PRECEDENTS.

Bryan Wants Chairmanship of Democratic National Committee.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 29.—One of the curious rumors floating in the East is that Bryan's visit to Washington about the time Congress adjourned was for the purpose that he should be chairman of the Democratic National Committee next year. The story goes that Bryan thinks he can manage the campaign so as not to lose all trace of Bryanism and the Chicago and Kansas City platforms.

Realizing that many Democrats are trying to forget the lost campaigns, Bryan wants to keep himself in the foreground as a manager if not a candidate. In past campaigns the chairman has been selected after the candidate has been named and has been the personal selection of the candidate. That sort of a custom would not prevent Bryan from taking the matter in hand now and trying to forestall the convention and candidate. He says that he is a maker and breaker of precedents in the Democratic party.

Atlantic Seal Catch.

ST. JOHN'S N. F., March 29.—The sealing steamers Virginia Lake and Aurora arrived here today from the ice fields, the former with 25,000 seals and the latter with 23,000. They report the following catches:

Grand Lake	28,000	Ferranova	16,000
Neptune	22,000	Laborador	12,000
Vanguard	21,000	Diana	10,000
Greenland	20,000	Leopold	10,000
Iceland	18,000	Erick	8,000
Southern Cross	17,000	Kite	7,000

The foregoing shows the total of 228,000 seals for two-thirds of the fleet, and this year's catch is likely to reach 299,-000 seals altogether.

United States Fleet at Leghorn.

LEGHORN, Italy, March 29.—The United States squadron, consisting of the Chicago, Cincinnati and Massachusetts, has arrived here.