

All the eastern journals note a better feeling in business circles, but the actual business improvement does not warrant a great deal of exultation. A partial restoration of confidence, however, is something gained towards better times.

It is expected that a tremendous pressure will be made upon the Secretary of War in behalf of the military pets of social life in Washington, who have been ordered to join their respective regiments. But Secretary Endicott is credited with a good deal of backbone, and will not be likely to modify his order.

Cholera in Spain thus far shows no signs of abatement. The new cases daily reported are from five to seven thousand, with a proportionate death rate. In spite of the efforts of the sanitary authorities the disease continues to spread, and fears that it will become general in the autumn are entertained. The sufferings of the people are intense. Hundreds of thousands of people, it is said, have deserted their habitations, seeking refuge from the pestilence in the northern provinces or in other countries.

A noted writer at the East has a word in behalf of insects that are universally voted a nuisance. He says: "Flies are the most important, because most numerous, destroyers of pest-breeding material. When there are too few of them to thoroughly consume the myriad and constantly supplied forms of dead and decaying organic substance, the surplus pollutes air, soil and water, and invites and propagates disease." House-keepers will be glad to know that flies are of some use in the economy of nature.

E. Stone Wiggins, the Canadian weather prophet says mild weather for 1886 is an absolute impossibility, and predicts that it cannot be other than cold and stormy. He gives his reasons at length, which spring from certain positions of the planets. He also predicts one of the most violent storms ever known during the latter part of September, on the Eastern coast. Wiggins has been under a cloud on account of notable failures of his alleged prophetic vision, and we shall see whether his late predictions are fulfilled.

The immense subscription to the new Egyptian loan of \$45,000,000 offers most extraordinary evidence to the glut of capital in all financial centers. The terms of the loan, as things go now, were considered very favorable to investors, but a few years back they would have been scouted by capitalists. Still, such was the eagerness to secure them that \$1,000,000,000 of subscriptions were made to a loan of only \$45,000,000 in all. London alone would have taken \$525,000,000, or more than eleven times the total amount of the loan. In New York the situation was just the same, and everywhere the world seems to have more accumulated property than it knows how to use with safety and profit.

Speaking of cyclones and tornadoes at the West, the New York Sun remarks: Recent experience shows, as the meteorological history of the past also attests, that there is hardly any section of the country in which tornadoes will not occasionally form. Only a short time ago one of these terrible storms missed Philadelphia by a hair's breadth, and wrought destruction in Camden, and a still more fatal tornado demolished the little village of Norwood, near the northernmost border of New York state. It is a singular fact that in the Adirondack wilderness, not more than thirty or forty miles from the scene of the tornado, there is a huge swath through the woods known as "the windfall," where the complete absence of trees along a narrow tract, extending fifty miles through the heart of a dense forest, preserves the memory of a similar storm which swept through the wilderness there thirty-five or forty years ago, and levelled everything in its course. This is also evidence that, although they may not be of frequent occurrence, tornadoes are by no means unknown phenomena in the neighborhood of the Atlantic seaboard.

An interesting practical illustration of the prevalent moral obtuseness in regard to the signing of petitions and of the consequent worthlessness of the latter in most cases, has been afforded by a Texas lawyer, who procured and read in open court a petition, signed by all the county officers and fifty prominent citizens, asking for the summary hanging of a leading and eminently respectable townsman. The latter's brother-in-law and father-in-law were among the signers, and every signature proved genuine.

THE NEWS SUMMARIZED.

The Marquis De Mores Indicted for Murder.

The grand jury at Mandan, Dak., returned an indictment for murder against the Marquis de Mores of Medora for killing Luffrey about two years ago. No new evidence was discovered, but friends of Luffrey have brought the matter up again and are determined to have a jury trial. The Marquis is in the east at present. Court sits ten days longer, and if the Marquis can be reached in time he will probably be tried. At the time Luffrey was shot the case came before two justices of the peace, who acquitted him. The Marquis de Mores in the spring of 1883 had a difficulty at Medora, where he had established an extensive ranch, with O'Donnell, leader of a gang of herdsmen. On the night of June 26 the count's house was surrounded and his life threatened. Later a fight took place between Frank O'Donnell, W. R. Luffrey and another desperado named Wagoner on one side, and the Marquis de Mores, a sheriff of Morton county, Dak., and a posse of citizens on the other. Luffrey was killed and the other desperadoes were captured. Attempts to secure the arrest of the Marquis, but two justices of the peace, before whom the case was brought, refused the desired papers to that end.

Shipwreck on the Pacific.

The Merchants' exchange at San Francisco has just received the following particulars of the loss of the British ship Haddington, wh. The vessel left Astoria July 26, got down as far as the equator, when she struck a heavy gale, which so disabled her as to oblige the captain to put back to San Francisco for repairs. In that gale she lost her mainmast and her chronometer. When off this port she encountered a dense fog, and while groping about ran on the rocks near Point Reyes. The vessel's cargo is a total wreck. All on board except one sailor and the cabin boy were drowned. The cargo consisted of 12,000 barrels of flour, valued at \$50,000, and 17,700 cases of salmon, valued at \$54,000. The Haddingtonshire was a new iron vessel, launched at Glasgow, Oct. 14, and owned by J. A. Shepherd of Glasgow.

An Ocean Steamer's Larder.

London Times: Few persons are aware of the extensive nature of the victualing on board the great ocean steamers. Each vessel is provisioned as follows for the passengers and the crew: 3,500 pounds of butter, 3,000 hams, 1,600 pounds of biscuits, exclusive of those supplied for the crew; 8,000 pounds of grapes, almonds, figs and other dessert fruits; 1,600 pounds of jam and jellies; tinned meats, 8,000 pounds; dried beans, 3,000 pounds; rice, 3,000 pounds; onions, 5,000 pounds; potatoes, 40 tons; flour, 300 barrels; and eggs, 1,200 dozen. Fresh vegetables, dead meat and live bullocks, sheep, pigs, geese, turkeys, ducks, fowls, fish and casual game are generally supplied at each port, so that it is difficult to estimate them. Probably two dozen bullocks and sixty sheep would be a fair average for the whole voyage, and the rest may be inferred in proportion. During the summer months when traveling is heavy twenty-five fowls are often used in soup for a single dinner.

From Washington.

The administration threatens to publish the names of insincere endorers of applications. By paying out silver instead of \$1 and \$2 notes, Treasurer Jordan has reduced his stock of fractional silver \$300,000 thus far this month. It is denied that Secretary Bayard wrote to the Austrian government requesting the withdrawal of its representative at Washington.

It is stated that Mr. John S. Runnels, United States district attorney of Iowa, has sent his resignation to the president, having been politely informed that it would be accepted. The Hon. D. O. Fisher of Des Moines is believed to be the coming man for the position.

It is learned at the department that there is now quite a brisk movement of silver dollars all over the country. The issue averages about \$100,000 a week more than during the same year of 1885, and is slightly in excess of the regular monthly coinage of \$2,000,000.

Owing to the non-arrival at the City of Mexico of Consul General Ewing, of Missouri, who was appointed some months ago, Secretary of Legation Joseph L. Morgan of South Carolina has temporarily assumed the duties of the consulate. Business necessities required the immediate filling of the position.

A prominent department official makes the following declaration: "We have been so embarrassed by insincere indorsements that the administration is going to adopt a new policy. If the error is discovered before the claimant gets his place, we shall simply notify the endorser and urge greater care in future. But if the appointment is made and the endorser is not a real one, we shall publish the names of indorsers as our vouchers, so to speak."

A prominent official of the war department is authority for the statement that in filling the vacancy which will occur next month in the inspector general's department to carry the secret of the war will not consider the applications and recommendations of these line officers who have been serving on the staff of general officers for so many years, but will select a captain of the line who has performed continuous and faithful service with his regiment on the frontier.

Attorney General Garland sent Judge Nelson of St. Paul a copy of the report made by Special Agent Nightingale of the irregularities in the office of the clerk of the district court, William A. Spencer. No charges have been filed against Mr. Spencer, but the regular examination made by the special agent discovered a decidedly unfavorable condition of things in the accounts of the clerk. The office has no salary, and the clerk is paid in fees. "This has tempted him to pile onto litigants all the fees possible to be charged, and as the special agent found, for more. Mr. Spencer is the appointee of the court, and his removal depends upon what action Judge Nelson may decide to take. Mr. Spencer is a prompt official, and has had the esteem of the judiciary department as well as his immediate associates in St. Paul.

Casualty Record.

Ed Freeman of Glendive, Mont., blew one of his hands to pieces while taking a shotgun out of his wagon the wrong way.

The stores of Blumenthal & Bro., Bell Bros., and Silas R. Green, and several other houses were burned at Cadden, Ill. Loss estimated at \$50,000.

The grain warehouse of O. K. Wells, and residences of Edward Dwyer, Washington, and A. E. Aldrich, Sherman, Tex., burned recently. Total loss, \$60,000; insurance, \$40,000.

Miss Kittie Williams, daughter of W. T. Williams, a prominent merchant of Cedar Falls, Iowa, was fatally burned. She was kindling a fire in a gasoline stove when her clothes caught fire, and in an instant she was enveloped in flames.

At Little Collins, La., a gust of wind blows a spark into a powder horn in the hands of Mrs. Tetterte, and the resultant explosion kills her and three of her children, badly injures her husband and two more children, and tears the roof off the house.

Personal News Notes.

W. H. Vanderbilt is believed to have made \$15,000,000 in the last great deal of stocks. Edgar K. Apper, deputy state treasurer of New York and a prominent Democratic politician, dies at Albany.

There are reports of the illness of President Cleveland in the retirement of his camp in the Adirondacks.

Miss Lulu Hurst, the Georgia magnetic girl, has lost all her electricity, but she keeps her earnings, which amount to \$50,000.

Capt. F. D. Garrett, Seventeenth Infantry, at Fort Custer, Mont., is visiting his brother in Louisville, Ky., his first furlough in eight years.

Hon. John B. Guthrie, twice mayor of Pittsburg, a member of the state constitutional convention, and for many years special agent of the United States treasury at Washington, died at Cresson, Pa., after a brief illness aged 78 years.

The Philadelphia Press reports Mr. George W. Childs as saying that Gen. Grant had made a will about a year ago at Long Branch, and that William A. Purinton, a lawyer of that city, had drawn it up—Mr. Childs and Rev. Dr. Morton, rector of the St. James Episcopal church of Philadelphia, being the witnesses of the will. Mr. Purinton declined to speak of the matter, saying that the will may have been destroyed.

The Criminal Calendar.

William Shipperd, a pioneer resident of Ashland, Jackson county, Or., while out hunting in heavy timber, was mistaken by another hunter for a wild animal and shot dead.

The dead body of Lydia Burnett was found on the roadside at Boxville, Ind., with the throat cut. Medical examination proved that the unfortunate girl had been outraged. A farm hand living in the vicinity has been arrested on suspicion.

Marshall McIntire, at Mendota, Ill., arrested E. N. Beitel on a charge of forgery committed in a Iowa town. Beitel was months ago. He was taken to Iowa. Beitel was a brakeman, and is married. He had resided in Mendota several months.

An old man named Willis Roach, having money on his person, was attacked by four unknown men near Frankfort, Ky. A young son of Roach came to his father's assistance, and with a pistol shot and killed two of the men, fatally wounding a third, the fourth making his escape.

John Morris, sheriff of Reeves county, Tex., got on a big spree and used his pistol freely. An attempt was made to arrest him by Sergeant Courtwright and three other state rangers, when Morris opened fire on them, killing C. P. Nigh and seriously wounding Sam Lane. The sheriff was then shot three times and killed.

M. Mcullen, a ranchman living thirty miles east of Pueblo, Colo., was arrested by a United States marshal on a charge of contempt of court in failing to remove fences on government land. Mcullen is accused of resisting arrest, and was shot in the leg by the marshal. It is alleged that Mcullen has 30,000 acres illegally fenced.

Foreign Gossip.

The Bell Telephone works and Bank Note company at Montreal get an \$80,000 scorching.

The Canadian Pacific, between Montreal and Winnipeg, will be open for regular traffic on Monday. Ballasting is approaching completion.

The Montreal Gazette sets forth the miscarriage of justice in Canada, and insists that the dominion should have public prosecutors, no office of that kind being in existence there.

M. Rochefort in his paper, the Intransigent, continues to demand vengeance on England for the alleged murder of Oliver Pain. He still thinks Lord Lyons, the British ambassador, should be made the subject of attack by the friends of Pain, and advises them to publicly insult that gentleman.

Post London Cable: Little notice is taken here of the threatened attack on the British embassy in Paris, which is now guarded by police. The English are accustomed to find amusement in Rochefort's threats. The latter writes that "Lord Lyons must leave his old skin in payment of Pain's murder." Confirmation of the statement that Pain has been arrested as a Russian spy in India is awaited with great interest.

The yacht Sunbeam, on which Mr. Gladstone and his wife and daughter are the guests of Sir Thomas Brassey, has reached Bergen, Norway. Mr. Gladstone has already been greatly benefited by his trip. While the yacht was at anchor he went ashore and walked from Edikferd to Voran, a distance of eighteen miles. Notwithstanding the road was a rough one, Mr. Gladstone was not fatigued, and was delighted with his jaunt. Mr. Gladstone visited Rosendal church and Rosenkrone house. The weather throughout the trip has been delightful.

General News.

The corn crop of Indiana will reach about 100,000,000 bushels—an average of forty bushels to the acre.

Gov. Hoadly and the other Ohio State officers were renominated by acclamation by the democrats.

At Memphis, Mo., George W. Rickford gets a divorce from his wife and elopes with a thirteen-year-old girl.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat offers to give \$500,000 to its readers for a Grand monument in St. Louis.

The double-scurry race between Courtney and Conley against Gaudaur and Hosmer at Albany is won by the former in three lengths. Time, 15 m. 57.1-sec., beating all previous records.

The daughter of John M. Hodgson a candidate for congress ran off with E. Morris, her father's foreman, after refusing to marry the Fifth avenue swell her mother had selected for her.

Sam Hyde's mine, east of Elkhorn, Montana, says the Yellowstone Journal, has been bonded to a St. Paul party, under the leadership of Mr. Ryan, for \$40,000, and men have been sent to work to develop the mine.

William A. Simmons and John G. Blake have been removed by the mayor of Boston from the board of that city for alleged connection with a corrupt transaction by which the municipal treasury was relieved of \$50,000. Simmons was formerly collector of the port.

The different bids for the new court house at Helena, Mont., were opened, and the contract awarded to Ryan and Brunton, for \$137,909.50. A St. Paul firm were the lowest bidders, but on account of informality their bid was rejected. Hodgson, Wallingford & Itern of St. Paul are the architects.

Mr. Fred Austin, a resident of Aurora, Ill., and one of the most popular passenger conductors on the Chicago & Iowa railroad, had some trouble with Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kirby, who boarded Austin's train at Aurora for Hinckley. When the train had gone a few miles Kirby renewed the quarrel and grappled with Austin in the aisle of the car. Some blows were struck, but none severe enough to be very serious, yet as the two stood grappling each other, Austin sank to the floor dead. A post mortem examination showed that death was caused by heart disease, hastened, doubtless, by excitement.

THE BLACK VEIL.

Nineteen Young Nuns in Minnesota Take the Black Veil at the Same Time.

An eye witness thus describes the taking of the black veil, a few days since, by nineteen young nuns of the order of St. Benedict at the convent of St. Joseph, Stearns county, Minn., this being the first time in the history of the order of St. Benedict in the United States that the perpetual vows have been taken by as great a number at once. The order in this state is in a flourishing condition, numbering in the main as 184 sisters. It maintains, at the mother house in St. Joseph, an excellent academy, where a great number of the young maidens of Minnesota have received and are receiving a valuable Christian education. It manages three orphan asylums, where many a little waif has been housed and made a useful member of society. It also supports nine sub-priorities in different parts of Minnesota and Dakota. When I entered the church at 8 o'clock a. m. I found a devout congregation gathered to witness the impressive ceremonies. Soon after came the nineteen candidates in the habit of the order, but with long white veils on their heads, walking up the aisle preceded and followed by sisters prominent in the order, who were seated in the front pews. Pontifical high mass was then celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Abbot Alexius Edelbeck, the ecclesiastical head of the order in the west. The prelate as well as all the priestesses assisting were over six feet tall, and in the magnificent robes they looked excellent. After a very effective and eloquent sermon by Rev. Father Ulrik, the rites began. The nineteen sisters moved slowly up toward the high altar where the kneeling sisters stood. After this they went in pairs to the Abbatial throne where they, after having been asked some questions by the reverend abbot, kneeling read one after the other the solemn vows, binding them for the term of their natural lives to chastity, obedience and poverty. These vows were written by the candidates themselves on parchment, and after reading them they were conducted to the high altar where they affixed their signatures to the instrument on the sacred gospel book. The ceremony over, the candidates knelt in front of the high altar in a double row and prayed. Suddenly they all prostrated themselves on the floor, and extended their hands folded as if in silent prayer. A deep silence reigned in the church, while the four attending sisters covered all the prostrate candidates with

A HUGE BLACK CLOTH, in the middle of which appeared as it was unfolded, a large white Benedictine cross. Candles, with lighted tapers, were placed at each of the corners of what now looked like one giant bier and at each corner one sister in black veil stood with bowed head as if guarding the grave. Now the candidates in solemn dirge, and from an unseen choir came a dirge from a subterranean crypt the doleful strains of the "Miserere." The effect was immense, and when a solemn "De Profundis" was wafted as if on slow, long waves over our heads, and the beautiful voices flooded the immense building you could hear as one sob all over the church. The tolling of the bells ceased, the last deep strains of the "De Profundis" vibrated as in the far distance. The candles, the white cross is lifted, the candles disappear, the candidates rise to receive the blessed feast habit of the professed sister (the cuculla, so called), and which being worn over the ordinary habit is, by the assistance of the sisters in waiting, put on by the abbot and then presents to each the black veil instead of the white they wear, and places a ring on their finger as a token that they hereafter are to be the bride of Christ. Thereupon the crown of green leaves and orange flowers is placed on their brows as a promise of the crowns of glory they hope once to wear, and the candidates, who have now become professed sisters, with silent, slow tread, move toward the pews reserved for them. While the Creed is sung, each sister lights a large wax candle, and a beautiful sight it is to see the many sisters kneeling, each with a burning candle in her hand, held forth as an offering to the creator. During the story, while the censers are swung and the hymns of praise waft forth from the high dome, two and two they move up to the altar and offer the candles to the Lord. This ceremony over, the mass is resumed, and all the candidates receive the holy communion. The hands of the abbot, the father abbot, and thereupon his pontifical benediction, and the solemn rites are over.

The Minnesota State Fair.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Minnesota state agricultural society opens between St. Paul and Minneapolis on Sept. 7, and without doubt will be the largest and best of the many fairs that have ever been held in the northwest. During the years that the society has been in existence meetings have been held in various parts of the state, and while on several occasions the fairs have been very successful, the failure has been frequent. The association have long been anxious to secure a permanent location, believing that in a great measure this would be of great benefit, not only to the organization, but to the residents of the state. These desires have been secured. This Sunday at the coming meeting in all departments will be fully four times larger than at any previous meeting, and the applications for space still keep pouring in. All the railroad centers in St. Paul and Minneapolis are crowded with displays from other states, and will give free transportation both ways to exhibit the goods from any point within the state. The buildings on the ground—thirty in number—are mostly completed, and the charges are announced. The new machinery hall, which will contain the state and national exhibits and a portion of the agricultural display is rapidly nearing completion, and buildings ready to receive goods. The display of agricultural implements will be very large, and in addition to the three large structures devoted to this department five well known firms have now in course of erection private buildings in which to display farm machinery. The stock barns—eight in number—are all ready for occupancy, and the entries in this department are numerous as to assure the finest exhibit ever seen in the state. The buildings are all supplied with water, furnished by three tanks, from which underground pipes supply the several buildings.

More Dakota Census Figures.

All the work on the census of North Dakota is completed, and the copying of the South Dakota returns is nearly done. In North Dakota the number of inhabitants reported is 152,199, against 36,465 in 1880, an increase of 450 per cent. The number of farms is 32,503, against 4,021 five years ago. The last census gave North Dakota only forty-five manufacturing establishments, while the one just finished shows 612. Notwithstanding the increase of 450 per cent in population, the number of deaths has increased but 75 per cent, 720 being reported for last year, while the census of 1880 gives 426 in the northern part of the territory. There are 1,488 ex-Union and 26 ex-confederate soldiers. The first count of the South Dakota returns shows a total population of 261,500, which, added to the official count in North Dakota, gives the total population of the territory 413,759, against 135,177 five years

ago, and 14,181 in 1870. The increase for the entire territory in five years exceeds 200 per cent.

Whisky Does Its Bad Work.

Fred Berkey, Jr., a son of one of the leading citizens of Salem, Ind., while intoxicated appeared on the streets and began an indiscriminate fusillade. He fired nine shots aiming at whoever happened to be in range. Laura Klemmer received two balls; one in the wrist and one in the shoulder; William McLaughan was shot through the hand; W. S. Percie sustained a flesh wound in the thigh; Jordan Payne received a ball through the body, just below the heart and will probably die. Payne when shot was in a buggy with a companion. Dragging Payne from the buggy, Berkey compelled the other man to drive on, and attempted to escape. Finding this impossible he placed a pistol to his head and fired. The ball took effect, and the young man died in fifteen minutes. No cause is known for the bloody work except that Berkey was completely maddened by the liquor he had swallowed.

The News Condensed.

It is said that Russia has decided to abandon her claim to the Zulfikar pass.

Up to July 30 the number of cases of cholera reported in Spain was 48,859, with 21,846 deaths.

At a banquet given to the Catholic bishop of Down and Connor at Belfast the usual toast to the queen is ignored.

A clash nearly occurs between Russians and Afghans, owing to the too near approach of the former to Karatepe.

Adam Forepaugh has his circus attached at Peoria for a debt to a railroad company contracted last year. He settled it.

The secretary of state has applied to the president of Mexico for the extradition of Audemore, the New Orleans postoffice embezzler, on the charge of forgery.

The authorities of New Orleans decline to permit the man-of-war Tascio to enter that port, her captain having refused to permit her to be disinfected and fumigated.

The total amount raised for the Bismarck testimonial fund was \$685,000, of which \$375,000 went to purchase Bismarck's ancestral estate of Schonhausen.

The political crisis in Denmark is reviving. There are four deputies already in prison on the charge of treason. The trial of the leader of the opposition is impending.

A man claiming to be a cousin of President Cleveland's former law partner has been bleeding officeholders and applicants in Washington by representing that he had "influenced."

The wife of Col. J. O. P. Burnside, the defaulting disbursing officer of the postoffice department, has been appointed to manage the affairs of her husband, who was committed to the insane asylum last December.

Gen. Middleton has recommended that a medal be struck for the volunteers who took part in the Northwest campaign. His recommendation has been approved by the Dominion minister of militia and forwarded to England.

Ex-Gov. Osborne of Kansas, who has just returned from Brazil, where he has many years represented the United States as minister extraordinary, has secured his accounts with the department of state, and left for Kansas.

The Boston Transcript says: All the money needed to extend the Wisconsin Central to Chicago has been subscribed, but who are the subscribers, or whether the Baltimore & Ohio takes any interest in the matter or not, cannot now be learned, as the Wisconsin Central officers are very reticent.

The estimate for the French wheat crop is 100,000,000 hectolitres, the yield of an ordinary year, and leaves nothing for export. France will be required to import 15,000,000 hectolitres. Advice from Italy estimate the wheat crop at only 82 per cent of the average year.

The contract for grading the new Wisconsin Central extension, the Chicago, Minnesota & Wisconsin, from Schleiserville to Chicago was let to Harrison & Green of Milwaukee. This firm will employ 500 men, and the grading will be done and the track laid so that trains will be running from St. Paul to Chicago over the Wisconsin Central line by Dec. 1.

Commissioner Thomas says: Edward Rowe, assistant treasurer, has been appointed a member of the local board of examiners of the New York customs district, vice C. A. Stevens, resigned. Mr. Rowe has been for twenty years a member of the board of education for the city of Brooklyn. He is a gentleman of high character and fine attainments.

Wealthy Catholics of Baltimore are talking of erecting a palatial residence for Archbishop Gibbons to occupy after he is made a cardinal. The primate is a very plain man and prefers to remain at the old cardinal residence, but that will be out of the question, as another bishop will occupy it. The leading churchmen say that the new cardinal must have an elegant home.

Medford, Dak. Special: Great excitement has prevailed in this town, caused by the shooting of a young man, John P. Dickson, at a party given at Mr. Samuel Dickson's residence. The party passed off pleasantly until about midnight, when Mr. Dickson informed Miss Dickson that he wished to speak to her. She went up stairs to her room, where in a few moments afterwards the tragedy occurred. The bullet has been extracted and will not prove fatal.

Henry Fink, railway postal clerk, accidentally shot and killed himself recently. He was out gunning in company with the local clerk C. E. Beardsley, about six miles from Bismarck, and the two stopped in a grove on Apple creek to pick grapes. Beardsley was 100 feet away and did not see how the accident occurred. The whole charge of shot entered Fink's neck at the left side and lodged in the base of the brain. Death was instantaneous. Fink's parents reside in New York City.

The postoffice department is called upon to decide the question whether a citizen of the United States can post his letters where he likes. A business man in Washington, who sends out an immense quantity of circulars annually, mails them at a small office in Maryland, where his brother-in-law is postmaster, whose salary is governed by the amount of matter passing through his hands. These circulars have increased his pay from nothing up to a fair-sized salary, and in some way the department has just found it out.

George L. Wright, secretary of the executive committee on the improvement of the Western waterways, is here urging attention to the Mississippi river convention to be held at St. Paul. Only two members of the cabinet, Lamar and Garland, favor the permanent improvement of the Mississippi river, the president and other cabinet members being committed to the economical plan of no appropriations. Mr. Wright is endeavoring to ascertain the position of the administration on the river question, but fears the cause has a hard battle to fight.

Rebecca McDonald of Saratoga, Pa., fell in the street and went into a trance, remained unconscious eight days. During this time her eyes remained in a fixed stare, her limbs were rigid and she was speechless, but she frequently hummed popular airs. On recovering she wrote down on a slate that she had been in heaven. Shortly after that she went into another trance lasting several days, and when she regained consciousness she wrote that she had seen the infernal regions and their occupants. A few days ago she went into a trance from which she has not yet recovered.

SIX MILLION MILES OF FENCE.

Costing \$2,000,000,000—A History of Fence Building.

An Augusta (Me.) correspondent of the Boston Herald writes that, according to the best estimates, there are 6,000,000 miles of farm fences in the United States, costing over \$2,000,000,000. In many states the cost on a farm cost more than the buildings standing on it, and that, too, where lumber is abundant and cheap. The amount of labor and money consumed annually in building and repairing fences—few are aware of it—is just so much taken from the productive interests of the country. Both law and custom prescribe fencing. It is an ancient tradition. The Plymouth colonies in Massachusetts gave us the first fences known in this country in 1632. They were erected to protect planters' crops against damages from creatures going at large. It was said before a meeting of the American Institute Farmers' Club at New York, in 1859, that the farmers in this country were educated under the system of fences; under the notion that a man is bound to protect his property by fencing out the world, that the law has no power, and that there is no general respect for the right of property, but that you must fence out all intruders, and guard your property with walls and fences.

It is all founded on fiction. The law does protect a man's property. His real estate and its products are his, and under the fenced or unfenced, they lie under the protection of the law. In continuation of this matter the correspondent says that most of our New England farms are inclosed with fences—straight, crooked and irregular—good, bad and indifferent. Most farms are so subdivided as to resemble a checker-board. Everything seems to be fenced. The fences are almost as varied as they are abundant. The Virginia rail fence is the pioneer; then the log fence, stone wall, stump fence, pitch pole fence, worm fence and the post and rail fence. Not less than four feet in height constitutes the lawful fence. Stone wall is the main fence in Maine and Massachusetts, and perhaps in Connecticut also. Maine also has the rail and the board fence, and the bush fence. Rail fences are the cheapest. The roots and stumps of large trees, set up edgewise, make most effective fences. The stone wall would last forever, if it were well and carefully laid in the first place and the frost did not play havoc with it. As commonly built, the stone wall will keep out all kinds of stock except sheep. It is insisted that stones could be more cheaply disposed of than by laying in wall form.

Good fences, says a Kennebec farmer, as reported, make good neighbors, yet he refuses for himself to believe in them. There are over 64,000 farmers in Maine, he said. Their farms have an aggregate of 42,000,000 rods of fence, or more than 131,000 miles. Ornamental fences, merely, are not included in these, nor are upwards of 2,000 miles of railroad fencing. In the entire state there are 11,000,000 rods of highway fences, 16,000,000 rods of partition fence; and some 15,000,000 rods of division fences. At a cost of \$1 a rod, which the speaker considered a fair estimate, the total cost of fences in Maine is over \$42,000,000 which is nearly as much as all the farms and buildings are worth. It is twice as much as the value of live stock in the state, and nearly as much as the whole state has invested in manufactures. Reckoning changes and repairs, loss from yearly decay, the cost of breaking roads through snowdrifts caused by high fences, and the interest on the first cost, taxes, etc., and he estimated that the fences cost the state annually, not less than \$6,000,000, which he sets down as so much yearly loss in cash and labor to the farmers of Maine. It seems like a useless and extravagant expenditure.

Being asked what he would do, he said that fences should be confined exclusively to pastures; the rest should be abolished. Road fences only cause the snow to drift in the winter. Fencing a mowing field enables the farmer to feed his stock in it during the spring and fall. His idea is, that all the fencing a farm should have should be simply to confine animals where they are placed. The farmers would rid themselves of a heavy tax by doing away with their road fences, enforcing the law respecting roaming cattle. The law does not compel the farmers to fence the roads, but their occupied or improved lands only. The law respecting the liability of owners of cattle is vague and obscure. Other Maine farmers would abolish fences altogether. It takes 8,000,000 rods of fences for the pastures alone, in which are kept 900,000 head of neat stock. While owners of adjoining lands are required to maintain partition fences, bearing the expense equally, there is no law obliging them to build fences to prevent trespass by neighbors' cattle. The law requires animals to be fenced in, not fenced out. The highway belongs to the traveling public, and the owners of stock roam in the public highway are liable for damages. Fences are being dispensed with in the old countries, and they should be in the new.

CHICAGO.—Wheat, No. 2 spring, 81½c; No. 3 spring, 78c; No. 2 red, 87½c; No. 3 red, 82c. Corn, cash, 45½c. Oats, 26½c; 27½c. Rye, No. 2, 50½c. Flaxseed, No. 1, \$1.20. Mesa pork, cash, \$8.05; \$8.75. Lard, \$6.10; \$6.12. Butter, creamery, 16c; 15c; dairy, 11½c; 10½c. Eggs, 10½c; 11c. Lard 2½c; cents higher.

MILWAUKEE.—Wheat, Milwaukee No. 2, 81½c. Corn, No. 2, 43½c. Oats, No. 2, 26½c. Rye, No. 1, 50½c. Mesa pork, \$8.05; \$8.75. Lard, \$6.10. Butter, dairy, 14½c; 16c. Cheese, 7½c; 7½c. Eggs, 11½c.

MINNEAPOLIS.—Wheat, No. 2 hard, 83½c; No. 1, 79c; No. 1 Northern, 79c. Corn, 43½c; 44c. Oats, 30c; 33c; white, 32c; 33c; new oats, 27c; 28c. Barley, No. 3, 33c; No. 2, 32c. Hay, Timothy, \$8; 10; best upland, \$7; \$7.50.

ST. PAUL.—Wheat, No. 1 hard, 85c; No. 2, 81½c. Corn, No. 2 hard, 43c; No. 2, 42c; 43c. Oats, No. 2 mixed, 31c; No. 2 white, 33c; No. 3 white, 32c. Barley, No