

### HOLD-UP IN BLUE CUT.

Work of Train Robbers Near Kansas City.

Kansas City, Dec. 25.—Blue cut, the historic through the operations of the James and Younger bands, who they were pioneers in the train-robbing business, was the scene tonight of a fourth hold-up by road agents.

At 9:20 o'clock tonight, the St. Louis and Chicago express, which left Kansas City at 8:45, was flagged at Blue cut, and came to a standstill. Masked men immediately covered the engineer and fireman and compelled them to get down from their cab. At the same time another member of the band uncoupled the express-car from the rest of the train. The robbers quickly climbed aboard the locomotive and express-car and before the surprised trainmen had time to collect their wits, the bandits were speeding down the steep grade beyond Blue cut, with the engine and express-car.

The express-messenger, A. J. Frier, of St. Louis, was a prisoner in the express-car. When they had gone a safe distance the robbers halted and proceeded to rifle the contents of the express-car. They forced the messenger to give up the keys of the smaller safe, and opening it secured several packages of money.

They then attempted to blow up the larger safe with dynamite, but being told by the messenger that it contained no valuables, they desisted. They then boarded the engine and went about two miles down the track where they abandoned it and made good their escape, having secured several thousand dollars.

When the robbery became known at Independence, a posse of county officers set out for the scene of the hold-up, and at midnight, County Marshal Keshlar was arranging to send out a force of officers from Kansas City.

It was at Blue cut in 1881 that the James gang held up a Chicago & Alton express train, and made one of the biggest hauls in the history of train-robbing. A few years later, another big train-robbing was committed at the same place, and two months ago tonight, on October 25, a hold-up at Blue cut occurred. The men who planned the robbery in October were never seen, and got nothing. Two members of the gang have since been arrested, and are in jail.

### FOUNDERS IN THE GULF.

Many Lives Lost in a Bark Off Vera Cruz.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 5.—A terrific storm occurred in the gulf of Campeche on the 11th and 12th of this month. Among other casualties reported is the wreck of the bark Jamaica with twelve passengers and most of the crew lost. She was bound from Campeche to Vera Cruz, and had a valuable cargo and some treasure aboard. She encountered a norther on the night of the 11th, but got through until the afternoon of the next day, all the time working westward toward Vera Cruz.

So long as the ship remained in good condition she scudded before the wind toward Vera Cruz, and at one time that port was sighted, but one accident after another occurred to the rigging, finally making it impossible to live in the enormous seas. With almost all the sails blown away the Jamaica returned and attempted to back into Campeche, but without success.

In the afternoon of the 12th the rudder became disabled, throwing the vessel at the mercy of the storm. The passengers took up the boats, which were repeatedly swamped. Most of the crew simply put on life preservers and jumped into the sea. The captain was one of these. He strapped 100 Mexican dollars on him and, clinging to a barrel, tried to reach shore. The survivors saw him sink owing to the weight of the metal.

The sight was a terrible one as one passenger after another sank, the boats proving unmanageable. The crew was all drowned, and only three men and a boy of the passengers escaped. The vessel sank soon after she was abandoned. The wreck occurred off the port of Dos Rayas, Tabasco.

### TRAPPED ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

New York, Dec. 25.—Mrs. Estby and her daughter, Clara, aged 19 years, the transcontinental pedestrians, completed the journey from Spokane to this city at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon. They left the Western city May 5, on a wager with a New York woman that they could cross the continent in less than seven months. The conditions of the wager were that each woman was to leave town with only \$5 and earn their living en route. If any sickness befell either, the time consumed by it was to be abstracted from the total time.

### SPAIN'S WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

London, Dec. 25.—A Rome dispatch to the News says: All indications here seem to prove that Spain has been preparing for the event of warlike complications with the United States. The hurried manufacture of a large quantity of cartridges has been ordered at Brescia, and four cruisers have been ordered from the Ansaldo yards in Genoa.

### BURNED TO DEATH.

Awful Fate of the Wife of a California Mining Engineer.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—C. W. Haskell, superintendent of the Savannah mine at Grac Gulch, in Madera county, has arrived in this city with the remains of his wife, who was burned to death last Thursday night. The body will be placed in a vault here preparatory to sending it to New York city for burial in the Trinity church graveyard.

The lady was a daughter of the late Dr. Livingstone, of New York, and a relative of the Vanderbills and Kismas. She was married five years ago in Denver to Mr. Haskell, who is a graduate of the United States naval academy at Annapolis, and was for a number of years connected with government engineering work in various parts of the country.

Mr. Haskell's hands were badly burned in attempting to smother the fire in his wife's clothing. She had placed a candle on a box in the kitchen of the house and got upon another box to get some cake and other food to prepare a luncheon for her husband and herself. The bottom of her clothing touched the candle, and in a moment her dress was in a blaze. She ran screaming out into the yard toward her husband's office, where he was engaged writing a letter. Seizing a blanket from a bed in the office, he ran to his wife's assistance and tried to smother the blaze. He was only partially successful in this effort, and only succeeded in extinguishing the flames with a bucket of water.

He carried the dying woman into the house and attempted with the remedies at hand to alleviate her agony, but she died twenty-four hours after the accident.

### WILL HANG FOR IT.

Two McCann Brothers to Pay the Death Penalty.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 24.—Two more names were today added to the list of names of men who must pay the death penalty at an early day in King county, the supreme court having affirmed the judgment of the lower court in the case of the state vs. Michael, James and John McCann.

Michael, the father, and John and James, sons, were charged with killing a man named Cicero, August 21, 1895. At the trial in the lower court, the father was acquitted and the brothers were found guilty of murder in the first degree. James McCann was a candidate for road supervisor, and Cicero opposed him, and much bad blood existed between the families for some time preceding the crime. The morning of the 21st Michael picked a quarrel with Cicero, while the latter was working on the road. In the afternoon, the McCann boys renewed the quarrel, and James knocked Cicero down. Cicero went home and got a rifle. The two brothers followed. Cicero shot James in the arm, and they grappled, both falling. John dragged Cicero out and shot him in the head with a pistol. The defense made a strong fight in the lower court, and upon appeal raised many objections at every stage of the proceeding, from empanelling the jury to the charge by the trial judge. However, the court finds no error in the proceedings of the superior court, and affirms the judgment. In the opinion, written by Judge Scott, and concurred in by all of the justices, the belief is expressed that there was sufficient evidence against Michael to warrant his conviction with his sons.

### DRANK WOOD ALCOHOL.

And the Wonder is That Any of the Bascals Recovered.

Mattoon, Ill., Dec. 24.—Two deaths, the result of alcoholism, have occurred, and several men are under the care of physicians, and more deaths may be announced. A number of young men, ranging from 17 to 23 years of age, and belonging to a club having rooms in a business block, started in on a holiday celebration last Sunday. One young man supplied the crowd with crude alcohol, and the youths consumed a mixed drink of alcohol, water, sugar and cinnamon drops. About half a gallon of alcohol was used, and several gallons of the mixture was consumed. Some of the partakers became intoxicated, and yesterday John Madison died. This evening Bert Wellman died in convulsions. The investigation of the coroner's jury brought to light that the alcohol had been taken from the Mattoon gas works, and is what is known as wood alcohol, considered to be a deadly poison if taken in any quantity. Physicians express surprise that any of the young men survived.

### BY HIS OWN HAND.

Parsons, Kan., Dec. 24.—E. H. Hunsacker, chief train dispatcher of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad here, committed suicide today by shooting himself with a revolver. He had been drinking to excess.

### LAW MUST NOT BE VIOLATED.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Governor Morton has sent to the sheriff of Queen county a proclamation, calling upon him to see that the law is not violated by those engaged in the Lavigne-Mo-Keever fight, at Long Island City, tomorrow night.

### CARLISLE'S REPORT.

Statement of the Government's Financial Condition—Debt is Increasing.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Carlisle, in his annual report on the state of the finances shows the revenues of the government from all sources to have been \$409,475,408, and the expenditures \$434,878,654, which leaves a deficit for the year ended June 1, 1896, of \$25,203,245.

In addition to the ordinary revenues collected during the year the cash in the treasury was increased by the following sums:

From the sale of 100,000,000 4 per cent thirty-year bonds \$111,166,246; and from the issue of 4 per cent bonds in liquidation of interest accrued on refunding certificates converted during the year, \$4,130, making a total of \$115,296,246.

As compared with the fiscal year 1895, the receipts for 1896 increased \$19,102,215, of which the following are the principal items of increase:

Customs	\$7,863,134
Internal revenue	3,341,192
Profit on coinage of bullion deposited, etc.	1,256,512
Postal service	5,516,089

There is shown to have been a decrease in ordinary expenditures of \$4,015,852.

### ESTIMATE FOR THIS YEAR.

The revenues of the government for the current fiscal year are thus estimated upon the basis of existing laws: From customs \$148,000,000; from internal revenue 150,000,000; miscellaneous sources 20,000,000; from postal service 89,793,120.

Total estimated revenue \$407,793,120. The expenditures for the same period are estimated at \$472,293,120, leaving an estimated deficiency for the year of \$64,500,000.

These estimates of receipts and expenditures, the secretary says, are made upon the assumption that there will be no substantial change in existing business conditions, and that the present scale of public expenditures will not be reduced. But if our ordinary business activity should be resumed and the consumption of articles subject to taxation should increase to its normal proportions, there may be, in fact, no deficiency in our revenues.

### LAWYER STEEVES ACQUITTED.

Jury Came to an Agreement After Three Days.

Portland, Or., Dec. 23.—Xenophon N. Steeves is a free man. This morning at Hillsboro at 10 o'clock the one juror who hung out for conviction capitulated, and a verdict of acquittal was returned to Judge McBride's court.

For over twenty-four hours the ballot stood eleven for acquittal and one for conviction. Saturday the jury stood ten for acquittal and two for conviction, but yesterday one of the obstinate jurors gave up and sometime last night the twelfth man voted "not guilty" and the jury went to sleep. This morning when the bailiff of the court was called he was informed that an agreement had been reached.

Juror Catchings was indisposed from the long confinement. He became so ill yesterday that he had to be taken to a physician.

The great expense of the trial and the time and care expended in trying the case demanded a verdict one way or another, and when the result was announced in Portland general satisfaction was expressed. The Steeves jury locked up last Friday evening and up to last night it was generally expected there would be a disagreement.

Steeves returns to Portland this evening. He was the recipient of many congratulations from friends today on his acquittal. His friends in Portland have been confident of his acquittal throughout, and have resolutely stood by him during the trial.

### A HEAVY FAILURE.

National Bank of Illinois Closes Its Doors—Was a Large Concern.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—The National Bank of Illinois, one of the oldest and best-known banking institutions in the city, with assets of between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000, closed today. The following notice was posted on the doors before banking hours:

"This bank is in the hands of the national bank examiner, by order of the controller of the treasury."

This action was decided upon at a meeting of the directors last night after the bank had been suspended from the Clearing House Association of Chicago.

Of the sixteen banks that cleared through the National Bank of Illinois, two are closed—E. S. Dyer & Co. and Warmansdorf & Heineman. These two are mortgage loan banks and savings societies in a small way, and their failure is not expected to affect any business houses. The assets of E. S. Dyer & Co. are given at \$1,000,000; liabilities, \$1,200,000. Warmansdorf's assets are \$650,000; liabilities, \$400,000. The Security Title & Trust Company was appointed receiver for both firms.

Six banks have made arrangements to clear through other banks, and the remainder of the sixteen are making similar arrangements as fast as possible.

The failure was a great surprise in financial and business circles. The cause of the suspension, as given in resolutions, are "unwarrantable and injudicious loans."

### SOME QUEER TOURISTS.

They Go Abroad as Cattle and Return as Swells.

While hosts of people look over the passenger lists of the lucky ones who are able to go abroad and envy them way down in their hearts, there is a class of men who make frequent trips across the ocean which would hardly excite envy, excepting by reason of their peculiar privileges. This class is humorously called "cattle chambermaids," because of the fact that those who belong to it give their attention to the live cattle that are exported from this country to Europe. The men who do this are the riffraff of the world and when here find it difficult to earn more than enough to keep body and soul together. But when they are lucky enough to get one of these "chambermaid" jobs they feel like millionaires, for they get more money a day for the trip than they could get on shore in a week.

There are a number of Chicago stock yards men who do a large business exporting cattle, and they always have a gang of fellows around waiting for the first chance to go out with a cargo. The average time of these trips from Chicago to London is about fourteen days and the price paid the attendants is \$30 in gold. The chambermaid is at no expense whatever. He is fed, but, oh, such feed. It is worse than that of the animals he looks after. There is always a gang boss and he is who dispenses the "grub." Ordinarily this is boiled fat pork and bread, with only water to drink. The pork comes from the kitchen in a great pot or tub. The boss stabs a chunk of solid fat with the long handled fork, almost a pitchfork in fact, and huris it at one of the "maids" with some choice specimens of billingsgate. It is caught much as a dog catches a chunk of meat in his mouth and no attention is paid to the liquid grease which flies in every direction. The fat pork is followed by a hunk of stale bread, and a drink of water finishes the repast.

But what care these fellows for the fare and the labor going over. They know there will be joy and pleasure when their destination is reached. Once landed in Liverpool or Southampton they are given their \$30 in English gold, this so they will spend it in England, and a return ticket good for ninety days from date.

Then at once begins a season of riotous living. The first thing is a flashy suit of clothes and a walking stick and then off for London. The old hands know better than to "blow in" their money on expensive eating. They have become familiar with the "coffee palaces" to be found all over London, where they get an imperial quart of coffee for one penny and a "bun," equal in size to an average loaf of bread, and thus for two pennies they buy all they can possibly eat. On certain days, when they feel like luxuriating, they may perhaps spend threepence on some dainty like a dozen shrimp, but even with that extravagance indulged in every two or three days the \$30 will not last a long time and give plenty of opportunity to soak themselves with "alf and 'alf."

These chaps always stay until the money is about gone and then back they come to Chicago, where the glory of their London clothes soon becomes dimmed as they loaf around the cattle pens at the stock yards while waiting for another chance to act as chambermaids to a drove of cattle.—Chicago Chronicle.

### DIDN'T APPROVE.

"What am your opinion ob dis 'manual training' dey talk ob introducing into our schools, Uncle Samson?" inquired Mr. Marc Antony Washington, in a respectful tone, of his nearest neighbor.

"I habn't gibben de subject de full benefits ob de probnostications ob my mind, yet, sah," replied Uncle Samson, promptly, though a close observer might have noticed a puzzled look on his sable countenance at the moment he heard his neighbor's question; "but on de whole, I don't approve ob it."

"Is dat so?" said Mr. Washington, in evident surprise; "now I thought you'd be right down pleased to hab your Louisa's Joshua get dat manual training."

"No, sah," said Uncle Samson, growing secure in his own mind, as he went on, "not so long as his maw and me is alive, I don't approve ob manual training in de school for Joshua Romulus. He am a mighty servig-rous chile, dat's true, but his maw has got a good strong arm, and dere's consid'ble power left in mine yet, sah, and what manual training dat boy needs, his maw or me will gib him right here at home, yes, sah!"

### TO MAKE THEM LAUGH.

Some of the superstitions of the Chinese have a humorous turn. They have an impression that when there is a long drought it is because the gods are either angry or in a bad mood, so they dress a dog in a comical way and lead him through the streets. All the people laugh, and it is supposed that the gods cannot help laughing too. After that, no matter how long after, it is sure to rain, and this proves that the Chinese theory is correct.

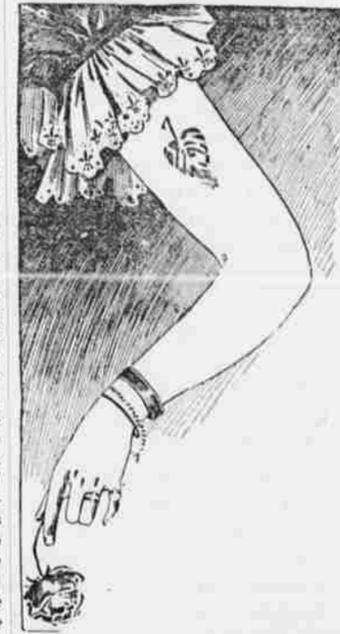
You never had a friend who did not talk about you.

### ARM TATTOOED BY LIGHTNING.

Singular Phenomenon Wrought by the Electric Fluid Upon a Woman.

On the arm of a young woman at Jennisport, Mass., is a photograph placed there by lightning. Mrs. Florence L. Kelly was the victim of this peculiar visitation of Jove. She is a telegraph operator. It is always the unexpected that happens, and this is shown by the story that Mrs. Kelley tells, as follows:

"I have been an operator for several years, and until this strange thing happened to me I was as careless regarding electricity as everyone comes to be who sees it flashing about them every day. You know in a telegraph office whenever there is a thunderstorm we have a brilliant electrical display about



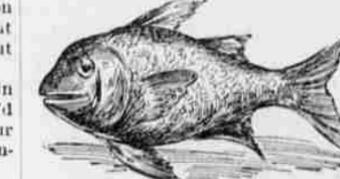
LEAF ENGRAVED BY LIGHTNING.

the switchboard. The lightning darts at us, just like a snake. It seems to be about ready to spring upon you, and yet can only go a certain distance. Every day when I reach the office the first thing I do is to call up the main office at Boston and ask them if they have any business for me to look after. That is what I did on that morning when it all happened to me. Well, Boston said it had nothing and, as a storm was brewing, I shut off the current, so that I believed there couldn't any electricity come in on us and burn out a wire. This done, I sat down to read a paper, when all at once everything grew black and I lost consciousness. The next thing I remember was realizing that something had happened, what I did not know. Then my senses grew clearer and I knew that I must have been shocked by lightning. I began to realize that I still had life and feeling, and I can remember calling out: 'Oh, my arm is burned! My arm is burned.' I looked at the sleeve of my shirt waist and then it came to me. The pattern of the material was of strawberry leaves, and it was a strawberry leaf that the lightning had photographed on my arm. I have asked a great many people to explain this to me, but I have never found anybody yet who could tell why my arm was burned and not my waist. I don't believe anybody can tell."—New York Journal.

### WHENCE CAME THE FISH?

Picked Up in a Sandbed Far from Water After a Heavy Rain.

A short time ago a peculiar fish was picked up under unusual circumstances on a bed of sand near Estover, S. C. There is no stream or pond of water anywhere near that spot, but one day after a severe rainstorm the fish was found there, apparently dead. The finder carried it home, a distance of



THE FISH OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN.

two miles, and placed it in a jar of water, when it revived and yet lives. The peculiar find has attracted much attention, and the great question in the neighborhood is: Where did the fish come from? Many incline to the belief that it was drawn up by the sun or wind from some distant body of water and carried in the clouds overland until it dropped where it was found. The fish somewhat resembles a sunperch.

### ANOTHER CURE FOR CORNS.

Dr. Soffine says linseed oil is a sure remedy for both hard and soft corns. If they are indurated and very painful the relief it gives in a short time is most grateful. Bind on a soft rag saturated with the oil every night and morning until the corn is removed easily and without pain.

About Britons: "Rudyard Kipling says, in his last poem, we must beware of his country when his country grows polite." "He is right. Affection is always dangerous."—Puck.