A STRANGE COINCIDENCE

While Kneeling at Grave the Family Monument Fell Upon Her.

GRAVE DIGGERS ARRESTED

Supposed Shaft Was Undermined by Men Engaged in Digging Graves Nearby.

New York, Sept. 9.—While kneeling beside a grave in Washington cemetery at Gravesend, Yetta Blekowitz, 18 years of age, has been crushed to death by the family monument, a heavy granite shaft which toppled over. Investigation led to the belief that the foundation of the monument might have been undermined by the digging of a grave nearby and two of the grave diggers were arrested.

Timber Royalties Increase.

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 9.—The revenue accruing to the provincial government from timber royalties, irrespective of timber licenses, during the months of July and August, has been larger than that of any four months in the history of British Columbia, exceeding $100,000. The total revenue of the government from this source during the whole of last year was only $250,000.

LLOYD GRISCOM,
United States Minister to Japan.

POVERTY IN JAPAN.

Hardships Endured by Some of the Soldiers' Families.

While poverty in Japan must be a thing of hardship and privation, as poverty is everywhere, yet the customs of the people and the friendliness of the climate combine to give it a certain grace and beauty which it quite lacks in Anglo-Saxon countries. Japanese life is lived so simply, even in families of wealth and social circumstance, that the pinch is not half so conspicuous or so ugly as it is in New York, or London, or Berlin.

The poorest houses in Japan compare favorably with those in New York, so say Europeans who have investigated, and as even the best families own the scantiest of furniture, the absence of furnishings in the houses of the poor is not noted. The bedding may be old and tattered, but it is always either hung out to sun or put away during the daytime, so that even where poverty is the direst the visitor is spared the sight of a dilapidated bedstead with a few forlorn rags upon it.

Then, to a foreigner's eyes, every one in Japan dresses about alike, and every one bathes several times a day, so that to be poor looks much less dreadful and much less offensive and repellant to the fastidious spirit than in this country.

A room in and about Tokio can be rented for as low as $1.25 a month, but $1.40 is an average rental. Five cents a day is about what this class of citizen counts on spending for the day's rations, but wages are so infinitesimal that thousands of families have difficulty in getting enough to eat. An Englishwoman living in Tokio tells of an elderly couple of her acquaintance whose two sons have gone to the war. They have no resources; all they can earn in a month by making envelopes is about 75 cents. Many of the landlords, as an act of patriotism, reduced soldiers' rents by one-half at the beginning of the war, but their landlord was not of this type.

The sufferings of the men at the front can be imagined, perhaps, but how about the long privations of the ones who are left behind—the wives and little children, the old grandparents, the middle aged couples?

There is, for instance, one soldier's mother, who is employed from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. in making cake boxes. Her wages average about $1 a month. One deaf old woman, the mother of a soldier, lives in one of the $1.40 rooms, with a niece and her husband and child. The aunt is incapable of earning, and the niece earns only about 15 cents a day at her work, while the husband, who is a baker, earns only 5 or 10 cents a day. A wife, with one eight-year-old child and an infant, has been left entirely dependent on her father-in-law, whose earnings foot up to $4.50 a month. They have just enough to provide food, but nothing left over for clothes or to meet their monthly rent of 75 cents.

Some of the wives and mothers of the soldiers who conquered at the Yalu are making cigarettes for from half a cent to a cent and a half a day!

The average cost of feeding an adult Japanese in Tokio is about $1.50 a month.