

GREAT FIRE IN ST. LOUIS

In the Heart of the Retail Section of the City.

FOUR BLOCKS WERE BURNT

Property Worth \$1,500,000 Destroyed.
—Losses Were Distributed Among Many—One Man Killed.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 6.—Property to the estimated value of \$1,500,000 was burned today, the greater part of four blocks of buildings and their contents between Third and Sixth streets and Franklin avenue and Morgan street, in the heart of the retail section, being destroyed. One fireman was killed, nine other members of the fire department were injured more or less seriously, and five or six citizens were hurt slightly. None of the injured will die, as far as known tonight.

The loss on both buildings and stocks of goods is approximately \$1,500,000. Definite figures are exceedingly hard to obtain. There were six retail concerns which were heavy losers. The remainder of the loss is divided in varying proportions among a score or more of small shopkeepers or firms. Only two concerns suffered loss of over \$100,000—Penny & Gentles and Schaper Bros. The buildings in which the two concerns were housed were owned by the Mary K. Knox estate, and were erected at a cost of \$165,000. Penny & Gentles' loss, which is covered entirely by insurance, is estimated at \$135,000. Schaper Bros.' loss is estimated at \$100,000. These two concerns occupied about half the block on the west side of Broadway, south from the corner of Franklin avenue, and the buildings were entirely destroyed.

The rest of the block on the west side of the street is taken up by the buildings occupied by the Famous dry goods store, whose loss was comparatively slight.

On Franklin, just back of Penny & Gentles, the building occupied by the Fuch Millinery & Cloak Company suffered a loss on the stock of \$40,000. The store occupied by D. Crawford & Co., at Broadway and Franklin avenue, was entirely burned, with a loss on buildings and stock of \$70,000. The People's Housefurnishing Company, at 814 North Broadway, was completely wrecked; loss \$50,000. At 812 North Broadway, Deere Bros.' store, filled with a stock of 5 and 10-cent goods, sustained a \$33,000 loss on buildings and stock.

The fire swept through the block from Broadway to Fourth street and burned all the buildings from 827 to 809 North Fourth street. These buildings were old three and four story structures, some occupied as tenements above and stores below, while others were vacant. Here the St. Louis Dressed Beef & Provisions Company, Herboth Mercantile Company, the Schisler-Cornelia Seed Company, and three small stores, suffered an aggregate loss of \$65,000, while the losses on buildings amounted to fully \$45,000.

Among the firms and individuals that suffered heavily from the fire are the following, whose places of business were on the east side of Fourth and west side of Third streets:

A. Nasse, wholesale grocer; Plant Seed Company; Krenning Glass Company; Bassett's plumbing establishment; McLain & Alcorn Commission Company; Bueller Block Commission Company; Nelson Distilling Company; Hake & Sons Commission Company; George A. Benton, produce; Bauer Flower Company; Shaw & Richmond, produce. Their losses aggregate thousands of dollars and are partly covered by insurance.

Late tonight John Cummings, private watchman of Penny & Gentles, was arrested and is being held, pending an investigation into the origin of the fire. He was taken into custody as the result of a statement by a woman rooming opposite, to the effect that she had seen a man answering the watchman's description, lighting matches in the store previous to the fire. Cummings denied having had anything to do with it, and states that he was at home when the fire broke out.

Wm. Goebel Is Dead.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 6.—The bullet fired by an unknown assassin last Tuesday morning ended the life of William Goebel at 6:45 o'clock this evening. The only persons present at the death-bed were Mr. Goebel's sister, Mrs. Brawnnecker, and his brother, Arthur Goebel, of Cincinnati, who has been in constant attendance at Mr. Goebel's bedside, and Dr. McCormack. Justus Goebel, a brother, who has been hurrying from Arizona as fast as steam would carry in a vain hope of reaching his dying brother in time for some token of recognition, arrived 40 minutes too late.

Hazeltine, the Marine Artist.

New York, Feb. 6.—William Stanley Hazeltine, the marine artist, is dead in Rome, aged 64 years. He was a native of Philadelphia.

Capt. Sigbee, the hero of the Maine, and who will take charge of the naval intelligence bureau on February 1, has purchased a house in Washington.

CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

Not to Interfere With the Nicaragua Canal.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The United States and Great Britain, it was definitely learned tonight, have reached an amicable agreement respecting the operations of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty as affecting the right of construction and control by the United States of the proposed Nicaragua canal. The result marks the termination of conferences between the officials of the state department and Lord Pauncefoot of fully a year's duration, during which a number of meetings were held and the subject fully discussed by the representatives of the governments interested.

Great Britain agrees to a modification of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty by which she practically relinquishes any claims respecting a legal control of the Nicaragua canal after it shall have been constructed. The result, therefore, is to eliminate that feature of the treaty bearing on the subject of dual control and to leave the United States free to construct and thereafter control this great inter-oceanic waterway.

In all the discussion which has been had, both in congress and out of it, for a long number of years, over the proposed canal, the question of England's rights under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has formed a prominent feature, and on more than one occasion has given rise to the question whether or not the United States government had the moral right to provide for the construction of the canal without modification of the treaty.

From the same authoritative quarter it is ascertained that England has made no demands for a quid pro quo for her abandonment of whatever rights she may have had under the treaty, and which she now promises to relinquish. Just what shape the agreement between the governments interested is to take is not named, though it is assumed that some formal instrument will be drafted and sent to the senate for its confirmation.

TREATY OF CHILE AND JAPAN

Commercial Regulations Agreed Upon—Steamer Line Contemplated.

San Francisco, Feb. 7.—C. M. Vicuna, minister from Chile to Japan and the United States, who has been several weeks preparing a report to his government on the successful negotiation of an important commercial treaty between Chile and Japan, left for Washington today. Minister Vicuna, in speaking of the treaty, said that it embraced reciprocity features in addition to the "most favored nation" stipulation. Both nations make certain reservations as to their relations with their immediate neighboring nations. The provisions of the treaty look forward to the establishment of a steamer line between Japan and Chile. On this point the minister said:

"Chile, I think, is going to find a great market in Japan for nitrate of soda. Japan uses 500,000 tons of fertilizers annually. Steamers from Japan can bring to Chile the paper, lanterns, silks and cottons, and they can return with the fertilizer in question as a principal cargo.

"Japan now gets her nitrate and other things from Germany. The latter obtains them from Chile. My country goes to Europe for tea, paper and silks. Japan and Chile should and must trade directly with each other. Japan is becoming a great manufacturer of cheap cottons. My country can consume large quantities of light and cheap cottons."

SERIOUS RIOT IN PUERTO RICO

Parades of Two Political Parties Clash, and Blows Were Struck.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Feb. 7.—On the January 27, while the federals were celebrating their victory at Fajardo they met a republican parade. A collision ended in a riot, the result of which was that one man was killed and six seriously wounded. Fourteen of the town's best citizens are in jail, charged with murder.

The federals had secured permission to parade in order to celebrate their victory. The republicans had requested permission to parade also, but were refused, as, according to the general orders governing elections only one party can parade on a given day. The republicans decided to disobey the orders and marched to meet the federals.

When the victorious party saw the republicans coming they charged their opponents. A fierce fight ensued; revolvers and knives were drawn, blades flashed in the sunlight and shots rang out. The city police were not on hand, but a squad of insular police charged the mob and soon quelled the riot.

Rebellion in Borneo

Tacoma, Feb. 7.—Mat So Selloh, the rebel leader of North Borneo, has again stirred the natives there into rebellion, according to Oriental advices received here. They commenced warfare last month, attacking Gaya bay, when the British and Chinese shops were looted. The rebels then retreated into the jungle. Several days later they were followed by a force of 250 bluejackets and Sikh policemen. Five miles inland these were attacked and driven back by Selloh's men, who fired at them from a dense growth of underbrush. A number of the British were killed and wounded.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Interest in the Growing Western States.

Improvements at Ballard.

A permit has been granted to the Seattle Electric Company to build a new trestle for the Ballard division of the Consolidated Street Railways Company, extending along the shore of the bay between Omaha and Alva streets, and the right was also granted to build another trestle west of the present one along Salmon Bay. It is the intention of the street railway company to expend \$50,000 in the improvement of its line to Ballard to meet the traffic demands created by the growth of that city, and to that end three new motor cars of 160-horse power each have been ordered from Eastern manufacturers. The track will be taken up and laid along the new trestles and on Western avenue the line will be reconstructed in a modern manner.

Saw Mill to Be Moved.

Patton & Holches, of Scoggin valley, have leased the old mill site, 12 miles west of Forest Grove, formerly owned by Colonel T. R. Cornelius, and will commence at once the removal of their saw mill from Scoggin valley to that point. The mill at this location will be accessible to a large supply of the very finest yellow fir, and situated 10 miles from Seghers, where the lumber will be loaded on cars and shipped to Eastern parties, who have placed two large contracts with the mill. There is not an idle saw mill in Washington county, and this year, owing to the demand for lumber outside of the state, will be the best year for the industry in the history of the county.

As to Issuing School Warrants.

The state superintendent has delivered an opinion to the effect that school district warrants should not be issued by the clerk or signed by the directors until they have first been audited and allowed; nor should the warrants be delivered by the clerk until he has procured the signatures of the directors. "The usual way of doing this is at a meeting of the directors. After the claim is audited, the warrant should be signed as a part of the transactions of the meeting, and the clerk should then deliver the same to the party to whom it is due. It might, however, come under some method of procedure covered by some by-law that the board has adopted."

To Saw More Lumber.

The lumber business is active in Clackamas county, and new machinery is being added to increase the capacity of several mills. Miller Bros., of Eagle creek, are having improvements made that will increase the cutting capacity of their mill to 10,000 feet daily. F. L. S. Bagby, of Bagby Bros., Molalla, came up from Portland, where he had placed orders for machinery that will increase their cutting capacity to 12,000 feet per day. The latter firm is doing considerable business in the way of furnishing oak lumber to boat-builders in Portland.

State Park Infected.

The gardener of the capitol grounds in Salem has found indications of the dreaded San Jose scale on some of the trees. He immediately began spraying, and will spray not only the affected trees but also all the trees and shrubs under his care.

Pacific Coast Chat.

A Eugene man has loaded 100 bales of hops on one car.

Burns intends to build a stone jail, to supply a long felt want.

A Nestucca man has 775 cases of cheese awaiting shipment.

The Spokane exposition is incorporated with a capital stock of \$10,000.

Thirteen knot sawyers at a Fairhaven sawmill went on a strike last Monday morning.

At Endicott a 3-year old child of F. E. Stanfield fell into a watering trough and was drowned.

Fish Commissioner Reed says that the Coos bay salmon hatchery will be built the coming summer.

The superintendent of the Stockton mine, Susanville district, it is reported, will erect a 40-stamp mill.

William Kingsley, a logger, was killed by the north bound passenger at Machias, Snohomish county.

O. Finnigan, a train dispatcher, was found dead in bed at Seattle. Heart disease is the presumed cause of death.

The new militia organization, Company M, of Whatcom, was mustered into the Washington National Guard last week.

Charles Dally, a Coquille City boy, has shipped a box of 23 dozen frogs to San Francisco. He gets 75c to \$1.50 a dozen for them.

Hobart W. McNeill, a well known citizen of Seattle, who died on the 27th at San Jose, Cal., will be buried at Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Some ranchers on Poison creek report that in their part of Harney county stock feed is as good in the mountains as it was in April last.

Two citizens of Burns have leased land to the northeast of the town, for the purpose of constructing a first-class race track and baseball grounds.

MANY RICH ORE SAMPLES.

Mrs. Weathered Collecting a Mineral Exhibit to Take to New Orleans.

One of the best mineral exhibits ever taken out of Oregon will be on exhibition at New Orleans during the National Editorial Association convention, to be held there, beginning March 1. The idea of a mineral exhibit to be taken South and East originated with Mrs. Edyth Weathered, and she is looking after the matter personally.

On a recent visit to Grant's Pass Mrs. Weathered met a large number of enterprising citizens who at once appointed committees to collect an exhibit. Mrs. Weathered was greatly pleased with the enthusiasm manifested by those interested in Southern Oregon mines and this part of the state will send a very rich lot of samples. This town will be represented in the souvenir book.

Mrs. Weathered is now in Eastern Oregon, where she has gone to finish the work of collecting minerals, which was begun on her recent visit to that part of the state. She has visited most of the large mines and reports all owners and managers quick to perceive the wonderful advantages of advertising through the National Editorial Association. Five hundred sample boxes of ore are being arranged and superintended by Mrs. Weathered. She will have full charge of these at New Orleans, and will distribute them where they will bring the best results.

Mrs. Weathered has made a special study of Oregon mines and has written many articles on this particular resource of the state. The souvenir book being prepared to be given away will have many pages devoted to the mines of Oregon, with illustrations of mills and new mining towns, which will show to the Eastern people that the minerals of this state and their development are assured facts.

Many of these samples of ore collected by Mrs. Weathered will, on her return from the East, be turned over to the permanent mineral exhibit in Portland. Some of the very rich samples will be returned to the mine owners, who have kindly placed them in Mrs. Weathered's keeping for the New Orleans exhibit.

Mining Near Bandon.

Messrs. Dixon & Stone, lessees of the Madden mine, have piped off considerable surface, and are awaiting the arrival of lumber from Adolphsen's mill for sluices. When completed they will commence piling in pay sand.

Mr. Butler, purchaser of the Zumwalt black sand mine, has six or seven men employed, and has done considerable work, running night and day when a good supply of water was on hand. Mr. Butler says that the pay dirt was about 10 feet deep, but did not learn as to the amount of dust he was taking out.

Just across the river from Newt, Jim Culver is mining, and has taken advantage of the bountiful supply of water to pipe off the surface and he will soon be able to test the richness of his mine.

Messrs. Page and Tom Kelly, lessees of the Deyve mine at China flat, have been busy repairing flumes and ditches and commenced piling. They have had considerable trouble with their flume, falling timber having smashed it at the same place three different times.

Mine Turns Out Rich.

Lon Corbett, half owner in the Royal, one of the best in the now well known up-river group of mines, has brought to town half a sack of ore from his mine. A portion of it, selected at random from the sack, was tested by an assayer of La Grande, and showed \$55 to the ton—\$45 of silver and \$10 of gold. The owners of the mine are enthusiastic over the results thus far, and are pushing the work rapidly. They believe the ore is valuable enough to be shipped with profit. It costs, according to previous estimates, for wagon and railroad freightage and for smelting, \$24.50 per ton. If the ore shall hold out as good as that shown in the assay, it can be handled to advantage. But it is believed that at least two mills will be erected before another year, and this would mean the development of all the mines in that group. The Royal is located about five miles from the line of the proposed new railroad, 14 miles from Sumpter, and 15 miles from Granite.

Promising Ledge.

Polk Dewa, who lives on the Big Applegate, below the Nick Wright place, is opening a promising ledge on the hill west of the creek, says the Ashland Tidings. The first discovery of this peculiar formation revealed only a number of stringers, but they were very rich in free gold and almost wholly free from sulphurets. Further prospecting shows these stringers to be coming together, and Mr. Dewa now has a ledge about a foot wide, and the ore is of the most promising character. Persons who have examined this discovery think it will develop into a permanent vein of much value. Mr. Dewa is greatly pleased with his prospect, and will push work as fast as possible on the ledge.

R. H. Whitehead is up from the mines near Leland, says the Medford Mail. He brought with him about \$1,800 in gold—just an even 70 ounces, at \$18.30 per ounce. This was taken from two short side races, and was the result of eight or 10 days' run.

WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW.

Large Deliveries Made on Previous Contracts.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

This year starts with much of the year's business already done, and all comparisons will prove misleading if that fact is not taken into account. Last year the certainty of great improvement had come before the year opened, and there was a rush to get in orders before works became crowded and prices advanced. This year the works are already crowded for months ahead in most lines, and prices had already advanced so far that recoil had already commenced in some branches, and was thought probable in others.

With the exception of woolen manufactures, the chief industries have met less new business in January than last year, though deliveries on previous contracts have been larger than a year ago. Wheat rose 1 cent, but soon reacted. Atlantic exports were only 1,466,594 bushels, flour included, for the week. Pacific exports have been 4,209,306 bushels in five weeks, against 3,670,854 bushels last year.

Speculation in cotton has raised the price to 8½ cents, without improvement in the demand. The receipts from plantations still fall so far behind last year's that low estimates of yield are expected.

Wool is rather weaker in some grades, but stronger in others, so that the average of quotations is steady, notwithstanding some sales at concessions.

The iron and steel industry is so far tied up by contracts reaching through most of the year, that the effect of production exceeding consumption is felt only in some instances.

Failures for the week have been 232 in the United States, against 224 last year, and 34 in Canada, against 25 last year.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$2.50@2.50 per sack.
Lettuce, hot house, 40c per doz.
Potatoes, new, \$18@20.
Beets, per sack, 75@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c@1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, \$1.00@1.25 per 100 pounds.
Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Butter—Creamery, 31c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 20c per pound.
Eggs—20c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—13@14c; dressed, 14@15c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00@19.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.35; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14.00; shorts, per ton, \$16.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 4½@5c; cows, 4@4½c; pork, 4½c; trimmed, 6½c; veal, small, 6c; large, 4c.
Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 52@53c; Valley, 52c; Bluestem, 54c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$2.90; graham, \$2.25; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 34c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$15@16.00; brewing, \$17.50@18.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$18; chop, \$16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$10@11; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 30@37½c; store, 22½@27½c.
Eggs—16@16c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@4.00 per dozen; hens, \$4.50; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$7.00@8.00 for old; \$4.50@6.50; ducks, \$6.00@7.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12½c per pound.
Potatoes—55@80c per sack; sweets, 2@2½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; parsnips, \$1; onions, \$1.50@2.00; carrots, \$1.
Hops—7@10c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4½c; dressed mutton, 7@7½c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.00@4.50; cows, \$3.50@4.00; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 7@8c; small, 8½@9½c per pound.