

NEWS OF THE WEEK

From All Parts of the New World and the Old.

OF INTEREST TO OUR MANY READERS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week in a Condensed Form.

The Morgan steel combination was incorporated.

Fifty men are imprisoned in a burning mine in Wyoming.

A Topeka carpenter was shot during a raid on a wholesale liquor house.

Dewet's retreat from Cape Colony was checked by the Orange river flood.

Insane Uniontown, Wash., mother who threw her six children into a well strangled them first.

Mrs. Al Taylor was drowned in Yakima bay in an attempt to keep her husband from falling out of a boat.

The Castagnoli theater at Catania, Sicily, was destroyed by fire. Two persons were killed and many were injured.

Clyde Vaughn, the Jefferson youth who made a murderous assault upon a girl with an ax, was sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary.

Dr. Charles P. Amet, once a colonel in the United States army and a participant in the early campaigns in the West, died at Wankegan, Ill., aged 88 years.

A fire in a residence situated in the poor quarters of Birmingham, England, resulted in six men and women being burned to death and four dangerously burned.

Frank H. Hamilton, convicted at Minneapolis of manslaughter in the first degree, was sentenced to seven years' hard labor at the state penitentiary at Stillwater.

"Russia is in dire need of money immediately," says the Petersburg correspondent of the London Daily Mail, "and M. de Witte will be compelled to negotiate a loan."

William Riblet, a m'ner employed in the Revenue tunnel, near Breckenridge, Colo., was overwhelmed in a snowslide in Geneva gulch. Searching parties recovered his body. He was from Johnstown, Pa.

The importation of a force of Portuguese workmen to take the places of Spanish strikers at Vigo, Spain, led to a disturbance. The Portuguese were stoned and shots were fired. Gendarmes were compelled to intervene to restore order.

The manifestations against the clericals of Oporto, Spain, continue. The police are doing everything possible to overcome the disorder. A crowd assembled before the home of the consul of Brazil, who was obliged to appear on the balcony with his wife. They were loudly acclaimed. The police dispersed the manifestations. A few arrests were made.

Government buildings were burned at Iba.

Insurgent general Vinagra was captured at Cavite Viejo.

Germany is likely to be involved in a tariff war with Russia.

Execution of Chih Siu and Hsu Cheng Yu has been ordered.

The war department will dispatch two transports from Portland, Or.

Colonel Robert Pollock, U. S. A., retired, died at Cornelius, Oreg.

Kitchener reports summary of large losses inflicted on Boers up to Feb. 18.

The draft of the British decision on the canal question is being drawn up.

The Nicaragua canal bill is not likely to be reached in the senate this week.

It is reported from a Boer source that General Delarey has been captured.

A Washington mother, in a fit of insanity, drowned her six children in a well.

Governor Geer, of Oregon, has signed the bill prohibiting nickel-in-the-slot machines.

The imperial edict regarding punishments has been delivered to powers. It meets requirements.

News of the loss of the Pacific Mail steamer Rio de Janeiro caused a profound sensation in London.

Dewet's commando has been routed by Plumer. Forty prisoners and all of his artillery were captured.

Mrs. Louise Dryfoos, wife of a well-known liquor dealer of Seattle, Wash., committed suicide by shooting herself with a .45-caliber revolver.

Transport Solace arrived at San Francisco from Manila with six officers and 17 privates sick and wounded. She brought 13 military prisoners.

John H. Mitchell was elected United States senator from Oregon, Saturday night at 12:30. It was the 25th ballot of the day and the 63d of the session.

The Taft commission code requires voters in the Philippines to own real estate worth 500 pesos.

Ashes Waba, an actress, who attended the matinee at the Crescent theater, in New Orleans, was fined \$15 for refusing to remove her hat, in violation of the high hat law.

The choir of the Messiah Episcopal church in New York went on a strike because the minister accused them of girding.

RECORD OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

BILLS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES.

- H. B. 1, amending mining laws.
H. B. 5, times and places of court, Second district.
H. B. 19, relating to electric wires on highways.
H. B. 20, validating certain marriages.
H. B. 21, penalties for injuring or destroying records on public lands.
H. B. 24, amending law for relief of indigent soldiers.
H. B. 25, reorganization of Oregon National Guard.
H. B. 27, uniform system of mine bell signals.
H. B. 33, appropriation \$1,000 for Soda Springs.
H. B. 39, relative to taxation of personal property.
H. B. 44, to aid Oregon Historical Society.
H. B. 54, amending Hancock bonding act.
H. B. 59, punishment for poisoning domestic animals.
H. B. 62, consolidating offices in Multnomah county.
H. B. 63, providing for building bicycle paths.
H. B. 65, providing extra clerical aid for state treasurer.
H. B. 66, fixing witness' fees in Multnomah county—coroner cases.
H. B. 71, regulating surety companies.
H. B. 97, public bidding for county supplies.
H. B. 100, protection of labels and trademarks.
H. B. 102, to prevent coercion and intimidation of voters.
H. B. 108, for collection of road poll tax and manner working roads.
H. B. 110, protection of forests, game and wild fowl.
H. B. 113, duty of surveyors in establishing boundary lines.
H. B. 121, duties of state superintendent of public instruction.
H. B. 122, amending trespass law.
H. B. 126, amending law in relation to kidnapping.
H. B. 128, amending law authorizing furnishing of public records.
H. B. 144, protecting copyrighted plays.
H. B. 146, relating to mining claim locations.
H. B. 149, providing punishment for desecration of American flag.
H. B. 171, appropriation for general expenses of state.
H. B. 177, reserving for domestic irrigation.
H. B. 178, reserving oyster beds in Netarts bay.
H. B. 179, regulating fishing on Alsea river and bay.
H. B. 183, regulating recording of chattel mortgages.
H. B. 187, relative to service of citation.
H. B. 188, primary election law for Multnomah county.
H. B. 189, abolishing separate board of commissioners for Multnomah county.
H. B. 200, increasing salary of deputy clerk of Malheur.
H. B. 205, providing for collection of road poll taxes.
H. B. 208, declaring certain thoroughfares to be county roads.
H. B. 217, protection of oysters and lobsters.
H. B. 219, propagation and protection of salmon.
H. B. 225, relating to final accounts of administrators.
H. B. 229, providing for standard weights of produce.
H. B. 237, fixing Multnomah-Columbia boundary line.
H. B. 249, fixing salary of certain county treasurers.
H. B. 260, appropriation for state departments.
H. B. 262, providing manner of selling state lands.
H. B. 274, relative to Eastern Oregon District Agricultural Societies.
H. B. 275, relative to Southern Oregon District Agricultural Societies.
H. B. 280, annexing panhandle to Baker county.
H. B. 286, compensation of Lane county officers.
H. B. 292, extending time for construction of Siuslaw & Eastern Railway & Navigation Company line.
H. B. 294, making Vancouver avenue a county road.
H. B. 295, punishment for mutilation of hides of cattle.
H. B. 296, fixing compensation clerk of supreme court.
H. B. 311, increasing salary judge of Malheur county.
H. B. 313, increasing salary judge Baker county.
H. B. 346, defining duties of attorney-general.
H. B. 348, appropriation for payment of claims against the state.
H. B. 347, general appropriation bill.
H. B. 349, authorizing city of Portland to levy tax for Oriental fair.
S. B. 1, providing for expression of choice in selection of United States senators by the people.
S. B. 10, relating to drawing of juries.
S. B. 13, taxation of goods, merchandise, etc., in cities and towns.
S. B. 23, increasing efficiency of public schools.
S. B. 29, authorizing Portland to dispose of market block.
S. B. 37, for publication of revised code.
S. B. 38, fixing fees county officers in Multnomah county.
S. B. 44, amending circuit court in Seventh district.
S. B. 56, declaring un navigable streams highways.
S. B. 61, selection and sale of state lands.
S. B. 62, relative to meeting by state university regents.
S. B. 63, food and dairy commissioner act.
S. B. 64, amending code relative to Multnomah judges.
S. B. 72, relating to actions in justice courts.
S. B. 75, providing vestibules for street cars.
S. B. 79, amending act creating Wheeler county.
S. B. 84, monument fund for Second Oregon volunteers. (Houses disagree over amendments. Bill fails.)
S. B. 86, creating office of state bacteriologist.
S. B. 88, preventing unlawful interference with telegraph or telephone wires.
S. B. 97, appropriating \$8,000 for state fair premiums.
S. B. 98, raising salary of supreme court reporter.
S. B. 103, authorizing district and high schools.
S. B. 108, providing for seal boulties.
S. B. 112, providing bounties for destruction of fish destroying animals.
S. B. 114, relative to directors in corporations.
S. B. 116, relating to school lands.
S. B. 126, auditing claims against the state.
S. B. 130, providing office of auditor of Multnomah county.
S. B. 137, creating office of auditor of Multnomah county.
S. B. 138, defining liability of owners of vessels for damage.
S. B. 143, requiring deposit of cancelled warrants with secretary of state.
S. B. 146, relating to location of mining claims.
S. B. 162, providing additional compensation for governor.
S. B. 171, incorporating port of Portland.
S. B. 173, enacting Torrens law system of title registration.
S. B. 174, providing for fish hatcheries.
S. B. 179, limiting printing of biennial reports state officers.
S. B. 180, amending Australian ballot law.
S. B. 189, relating to filing of reports by state officers.
S. B. 190, relative to Oregon Soldiers' Home.
S. B. 191, primary law for Multnomah county.
S. B. 196, fixing salary of superintendent of schools in Wheeler county.
S. B. 197, meeting law regarding transfers of stocks of goods.
S. B. 201, uniform system for taxation of property.
S. B. 202, acceptance by state of certain lands.
S. B. 206, incorporating city of Portland.
S. B. 209, prohibiting saloons within 800 feet of school buildings.
S. B. 210, regulating sale of liquors near mines.
S. B. 216, amending law relating to prosecuting attorneys.
S. B. 220, fixing salaries of certain officers in Baker, Malheur and Clatsop counties.
S. B. 221, charter commission for Portland.
S. B. 227, providing water for state institutions.
S. B. 23, method of building branch railroad lines.
S. B. 234, fixing salary certain county treasurers.
S. B. 238, appropriating \$25,000 for Pan-American exposition.

CHARTER BILL.

Enterprise, Myrtle Point, Medford, St. Paul, Tillamook City, Coquille, Salem, Battleville, Antelope, Dallas, Glendale, Alkali, Oakland, Burns, Stayton, Cottage Grove, Granite, Bonanza, Lebanon, Prairie City, Whitney, Nehalem, Vernonia, John Day, Lone Rock, Pendleton, Vale, Bay City, Condon, Joseph, Ashland, Newburg, Philomath, Canyonville, Baker City, Roseburg, Silverton, Summerville, Elgin, Sunnyside, Sheridan, Grant's Pass, Yoncalla, Mitchell, Falls City, Albany, Heppner, Warrenton, Hood River, Cornelius, Mascot, Grass Valley, Sheridan, Milton, North Yamhill, Independence, Seaside, Astoria, Portland.

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

- H. B. 2, establishment and maintenance of school libraries.
H. B. 4, appropriating \$45,000 for Oregon Agricultural college.
H. B. 11, relative to property bidding for taxes.
H. B. 16, amending act relating to county courts.
H. B. 18, Time of holding courts in First judicial district.
H. B. 25, appropriating \$47,000 to Oregon State university.
H. B. 52, to amend code relating to appeals.
H. B. 111, to reimburse Oregon volunteers for clothing money.
H. B. 175, for payment of scalp bounty proceedings.
H. B. 180, for payment of scalp bounty warrants.
H. B. 203, appropriating money for legislative expenses and deficiencies.
H. B. 338, establishment experiment station at Union.

MITCHELL IS ELECTED

Twenty-Fifth Ballot Gave Him the Senatorship.

HE RECEIVED JUST ENOUGH TO ELECT

Republican Minority, the Majority of the Democrats and a Few Corbett Men Were His Supporters.

Salem, Or., Feb. 24.—John H. Mitchell was elected United States senator at 12:30 this morning. It was the 25th ballot of the day and the 63d of the legislative session. The result was reached on the inevitable last ballot, and was attended by scenes of supreme uproar and enthusiasm on the part of the Mitchell push. On the final ballot Mitchell had 46 votes and Corbett 29. The senator received a minority of the Democratic votes, and these, with the accessions from the Corbett forces were sufficient to elect him.

The hands of the clock had already pointed to midnight and the clerks were engaged in checking up the roll call. There was great excitement and loud calls of the name of Mitchell from the lobby. The first deserter from the Corbett ranks was Hemenway, of Lane. On the previous roll call Mitchell had had 34 votes and Corbett 36. When his name was reached Hemenway, in the last roll call, without explanation, responded, "John H. Mitchell." The call proceeded to the end, and Mitchell and Corbett were then exactly tied, having 35 votes each. Then McQueen, of Lane, arose, and with a brief speech changed to Mitchell, putting him in the lead. He was followed by Roberts, of Wasco, who made a short address, saying he had come here with a clean conscience, but he thought it his duty to elect a senator, and he changed to Mitchell. Colvig followed him from the Hermann ranks, then came Senator Masters, of Douglas, then Thompson, of Umatilla, Senators Dimmick, Probst, Hume and Hodges. Then there was a pause and a mighty suspense. Finally Representative Baitz got upon a chair and tried to address the president. The noise and uproar from the lobby were so great that he could not be heard. He inquired if Mitchell at that time had a majority of the Republican votes. There were loud cries of "Yes," and noisy counter cries of "No" from the Corbett ranks. But he hesitated for a moment and then responded, "Well, it makes no difference. I change to John H. Mitchell." Mitchell now had 45 votes, within one of the goal. About this time the representative delegation got around Representative Schumann, who had on the 21st ballot changed from Bennett to Mr. Corbett, and demanded that he prevent a deadlock. While the push was warring with the obstinate German-American from Multnomah, Mattoon finally yielded to the importunities of his friends and arose and changed his vote to Mitchell. This was all that was needed, and the crowd knew it. Pandemonium reigned for many seconds, and the chair made little effort to check it. The clerks then completed the roll and passed it up to Mr. Fulton, who announced that Mr. Corbett had received 29 votes, Mr. Mitchell 46, and Mr. Bennett 16. The crowd went wild again and fraternized wildly with members, embracing them, shaking them by the hands, and fairly jumping up and down in their joy. The customary speech was expected from Mr. Mitchell, and there were expressions of demands for him to come forward. He had been in the lobby all the evening watching the progress of the voting and waiting for his certificate of election. He was found with no great difficulty and hurried forward through the jostling crowd.

President Fulton appointed Brownell, Roberts and H. A. Smith, of Multnomah, a committee to escort the newly elected United States senator into the assembly hall, and amid wild cheering, waving of hats, umbrellas and canes, Mr. Mitchell made his appearance. He was met and congratulated by Mr. Fulton.

The Next Problem.

Pekin, Feb. 24.—A representative was informed by the foreign ministers today that they think the gravity of the situation is over, but it is expected that difficulties will now arise among themselves when some of the governments send their indemnity claims, and particularly is there uneasiness regarding the attitude of Germany, that her claims must be paid in cash before the evacuation takes place. The other ministers resent this, saying it will be impossible for China to pay, as China has not a large reserve, and the customs receipts go to pay dividends upon former loans, and it is not probable that she could borrow a sum of great magnitude.

Union Employes Barred.

A clause in Oswald Ottendorfer's will bars union employes from a share in \$50,000 left the force of the New York Staats-Zeitung.

Tried to Bribe a Butter Maker.

St. Paul, Feb. 24.—A sensation was created at today's session of the National Creamery Butter Makers' Association, when W. D. Collyer, of Chicago, one of the judges of the butter exhibit, lodged a formal complaint with the executive committee charging a St. Paul butter maker with offering him a \$500 bribe. The executive committee immediately went into executive session, and began the examination of witnesses.

KOBE HOSPITAL BURNED.

Twenty-One Patients Perished in the Flames—Eleven Injured and Several Missing

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 24.—The steamer Idzumi Maru, which arrived this morning from the Orient, brought the news of the burning of the hospital attached to the Kobe university. Twenty-one patients were burned to death, 11 injured and several are missing.

The secret convention believed to have been concluded between Russia and China bids fair to prove a source of serious trouble in the far East. The Japanese press accepted the report as to the existence of a secret Russo-Chinese understanding without reservation. Both Marquis Ito and Mr. Kato, minister for foreign affairs, have admitted that the present situation cannot be passed over, and instructions have accordingly been sent the Japanese representatives in London and Berlin to ascertain the exact views of the governments to which they are accredited. The minister of foreign affairs has dispatched an official telegram to St. Petersburg, asking for a definite reply regarding the alleged existence of a secret agreement.

Russian troops are committing depredations along the northern frontiers of Corea. They often cross the Lumen river and loot villages, carrying off valuables as well as grain and cattle. Their excuse is they are pursuing Boxers. The Korean government has lodged a vigorous protest with the Russian minister for transmission to St. Petersburg.

Yung Wuan, a Chinese reformer, was shot down while teaching an English class in Hong Kong, a man sneaking in and firing four shots, all of which took effect. Another reformer was shot the previous day.

HOLDINGS OF THE FRIARS.

Secretary Root's Answer to a Resolution of Inquiry.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Secretary Root has made answer to the resolution of the senate calling on him for information as to the extent of the holding of lands by religious orders in the Philippines, and as to any declaration made by him or obligation assumed respecting the disposition of these lands.

The secretary, by way of answer, refers to the president's instructions of April 7, 1900, to the Philippine commission, directing the commission to endeavor to investigate the land title of religious orders and to endeavor to afford justice and to settle these in a manner to safeguard property rights and equities. It is added that no one in behalf of the United States government has entered into any obligation other than that set out in the peace treaty in regard to these lands, nor has any policy been announced. The commission has stated the result of its inquiries under this instruction in its report, especially in the sub-divisions entitled, "the friars," "public lands," and "land titles and registration."

The commission has especially investigated the San Jose college claim, and referred it to the supreme court of the islands.

THE CUBAN CONSTITUTION.

Signed by All the Delegates Except Cisneros the Anti-American.

Havana, Feb. 24.—The Cuban constitution, first submitted by the central committee to the convention at the public session of January 27, was signed today. The president and vice-president signed first and then the delegates. Senator Cisneros created a sensation by refusing to sign. Several delegates endeavored to dissuade him from his course, but he was immovable. As the delegates retired, Senator Tamayo remarked: "We are all Cubans, Senator," and Senator Cisneros replied: "Yes, when the time comes to fight the Americans, we will fight them together."

Senator Capote, president of the convention, will deliver the document to General Wood tomorrow. A copy in English will then be sent to Washington.

Boers Captured Foodstuffs.

Johannesburg, Feb. 24.—The Boers destroyed a culvert between Natal Spruit and Klip river on the railroad just south of here, at dawn today. They captured a train load of foodstuffs, and after taking all they could conveniently carry, set fire to the rest of it and disappeared over the veldt.

Policeman Arrests His Son for Theft.

A Philadelphia policeman recently arrested his son on a charge of theft.

Movements of Transports.

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—A cargo of 5,000 tons of general supplies for the army in the Philippines was taken by the steamer Wyfield which sailed yesterday for Manila direct. The freight transport Soama which carried horses from this port for the German army in China and was later purchased by the United States government for transport service, left Nagasaki, February 18 for this port. The transport Buford, with returning volunteers on board, left Nagasaki for San Francisco on February 19.

To Pay Washington Surveyor.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The commissioner of the general land office has recommended a deficiency appropriation of \$201 to pay Isaac M. Galbraith, late deputy surveyor, for certain surveys made in the state of Washington during the year 1895. The account, like many others, has been held up by irregularities, but is recognized as entirely meritorious. If provision is made for its payment, it will be on one of the general appropriation bills.

BILL FOR IRRIGATION

Before Congress Creates Fund for Reclaiming Arid Lands.

IT IS WORTHY OF NATIONAL ATTENTION

History and Objects of the Newlands Bill in the House and the Hansbrough Bill in the Senate.

(Washington Letter.)

Washington, Feb. 26.—Many Eastern people are asking what is this irrigation problem now before congress? Is it a legitimate one for the government to consider? Will it benefit the country?

Its Western advocates, regardless of political affiliations, claim that it is the most important national question today. Eastern legislators, regardless of party, are inclined to smile broadly at this assertion.

Home-Building.

If the internal history of the American republic is studied carefully, however, the conclusion will be reached that national irrigation, properly wrought out, is likely to shortly come to the front as one of the most important national questions of the day. It embodies, in its truest sense, the question of home-building, and the American people have been, up to the present time, essentially a nation of home-builders.

Homes for Millions.

The new homes of the future must be found on irrigated lands. There are, according to accepted government reports, some 74,000,000 acres of rich Western land capable of irrigation if the Western waters are properly conserved. Irrigation is not an experiment in the United States. Under irrigation, yields are very large and a few acres of this land would generously support a family, so that with the arid lands irrigated rural homes would be provided for millions of citizens, waiting and anxious to go upon them.

Arid Land Fund.

The Newlands bill in the house and the Hansbrough bill in the senate, provide for the setting aside of the proceeds from the sale of public lands in the arid states and territories as an "arid land reclamation fund," to be used for building reservoirs, to catch the flood waters of Western streams, and that the cost of such construction shall be put upon the land reclaimed and the land then offered for sale by the government in small tracts, to bona fide settlers, upon easy terms.

Popular Legislation.

More people and a greater diversity of interests than supported the home-stead act will come to the support of such a policy. Such legislation would be even more popular than the free home enactments. What other proposition is before the country upon which labor and capital can better unite and which they can support, hand in hand, without clash or jealousy. Every labor union in the United States which has discussed the question has unanimously supported it; every combination of capital, of whatever sort, which has considered it, has given it unqualified endorsement.

Western Homes; Eastern Markets.

The opening of the vast area of Western lands by irrigation would provide cheap homes, certain of returning the owners a comfortable livelihood. It would create a valuable and growing market for every kind and description of manufactured product and would thus be favored by all classes of manufacturing and commercial interests in the country. It would insure cheaper living in the West which would result in the opening of numberless mining properties whose grade of ore is not sufficiently high to warrant development under present wage conditions. It would create a demand for transportation which would bring to its support every railroad interest.

Valuable Bullion Cargo.

New York, Feb. 26.—The British steamer Chatton arrived in the harbor yesterday from Tampico, with a cargo consisting wholly of lead bullion consigned to M. Guggenheim's Sons for their smelter at Perth Amboy. The percentage of gold in the lead is valued at \$50,000, and of silver amounts to \$20,000 ounces. The whole cargo is valued at between \$450,000 and \$500,000.

A Negro's Crime.

Terre Haute, Ind., Feb. 26.—Ida Finklestein, aged 20, a school teacher, while walking through a lonely strip of woods this afternoon from the school house to the interurban line, three miles east of Terre Haute, was assaulted and killed by an unknown negro, who shot her in the back of the head and cut her throat, severing the wind-pipe. After the assault had been committed, Miss Finklestein managed to get to a farmhouse, with the blood streaming from her wounds and fell unconscious at the door.

Inquest on Millwood Murder.

Leavenworth, Kan., Feb. 26.—The inquest over the killing of Mrs. Rosa Hudson in the joint raid at Millwood last Monday, was held today, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict to the effect that she came to her death from a gunshot wound at the hands of persons unknown to the jurors. No attempt was made to investigate those who comprised the raiding mob, or who did any of the shooting in the joint.

New Chilean Ministers.

Valparaiso, Feb. 26.—It is announced that these diplomatic changes will take place soon: Minister to Mexico—Emilio Bello, who has just resigned the portfolio of foreign affairs, and has been replaced by Ramon Silva. Minister to Peru—B. Mathieu, present minister to Ecuador. Minister to Ecuador—Ricardo Salas.

WYOMING MINE HORROR.

Fifty Men Imprisoned and Probably Dead in a Burning Coal Mine.

Kemmer, Wyo., Feb. 6.—A disastrous fire in the Diamondpoint coal mine No. 1 late this evening was attended with serious loss of life and great destruction of property. There were 50 miners and 15 horses entombed, but one miraculous escape was made, however, by John Anderson, who was working near the mouth of the level. When he realized the mine was on fire, he, with some difficulty, reached the main level, and, by throwing a heavy overcoat over his head and shoulders, pushed his way through the flames and reached the main level completely exhausted and terribly burned, but will recover. He was taken out by friends. All efforts to succor those farther back have failed, as the fierce flames drove the rescuers back. That all have perished is without question.

The scenes around the mine were heartrending. Mothers, wives and sweethearts were weeping and tearing their hair in terrible agony, and all efforts to calm them proved of no avail. The loss of property will reach an enormous figure, and, as the officials are very reticent, the amount and names of those imprisoned are unobtainable at a late hour. The cause of the fire is at present unknown. The mine has been plugged at the sixth level, about two miles from the mouth.

FIRE IN DETROIT.

Wholesale and Retail Piano Dealers Were Burned Out.

Detroit, Feb. 26.—Shortly after 1 o'clock this morning a fire started in the fourth story of the building occupied by Grinnell Bros., wholesale and retail piano and musical merchandise dealers, 221 and 223 Woodward avenue, and in an hour the third and fourth floors of the building were completely burned out, with the fire still burning fiercely. Grinnell Bros. are state agents for a number of prominent manufacturers of pianos, and carried a stock valued at \$100,000. The insurance was \$60,000. The loss on the stock is estimated at \$50,000, and that on the building, which is owned by the Weason estate, will fully equal that amount. Toomey Bros., dealers in ladies' furnishings, are tenants of a store in the same building, and carrying a stock valued at \$30,000. The loss on this is estimated at fully 80 per cent.

France's Importation of Coal.

Of the 10,000,000 tons of coal France is obliged to import annually, 7,000,000 comes from England.

FLIGHT OF DEWET.

Boers' Retreat Northward is Checked by a Flood—Botha Eludes Gen. French.

De Aar, Cape Colony, Feb. 26.—General Dewet, accompanied by Mr. Steyn, reconnoitered the railroad north of Franklind and south of Orange river station yesterday. The Orange river rose five feet last evening. A heavy rain is still falling, and it is believed to be impossible for the Boers to cross the stream. They are being closely followed by Colonel Thornycroft, who left here yesterday by rail. Several other columns are converging on General Dewet.

No Peace Proposal.

New York, Feb. 26.—Charles D. Pierce, consul-general for the South African republic in this city, tonight gave out the following statement: "On the 19th of February I cabled to the envoys at The Hague asking them to please cable me if there was any truth in the statement that President Kruger has asked King Edward for terms of peace; if Mr. Wolverans, the envoy, had written a letter to the Boers in South Africa urging them to surrender. In reply to the above I received the following cablegram: 'The Hague, February 25, 1901.—Newspaper reports regarding Envoy Wolverans' letter are already contradicted in strongest terms in European and American diplomatic circles. 'DE BRUYN.' 'Secretary to Envoys.' 'Also the following cable received today: 'Envoys declare that President Kruger has made no proposals to the British king for terms of peace. 'DE BRUYN.'"

Botha Eludes French.

Cape Town, Feb. 26.—It is reported here that Commandant-General Botha, with 2,000 Boers, has broken away from General French's pursuit in the direction of Komatiport.

Steyn and Dewet Located.

London, Feb. 26.—A correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at De Aar locates General Dewet and Mr. Steyn at Petrusville. He praises the admirable work of Captain Norman Naton, a Canadian engineer, in protecting a large stretch of railroad.

Boers Attacking Richmond.

Cape Town, Feb. 26.—The Boers are attacking the City of Richmond, in the central part of Cape Colony, and reinforcements have been dispatched from Hanover road.