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NEWBERG GRAPHIC.

VOL. XIII. NEWBERG, YAMHILL COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1901. NO. 26.

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FROM

POORHOUSE TO PALACE

BY MARY J. HOLMES

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

At last Frank, pulling the old blue jacket from under his head and passing it to Mary, said: "Take it to Bill Bender—he offered me a shilling for it, and a shilling will buy milk for Allie and crackers for mother—take it."

"No, Franky," answered Mary, "you would have no pillow; besides, I've got something more valuable, which I can sell. I've kept it long, but it must go to keep us from starving"—and she held to view the golden locket which George Moreland had thrown around her neck.

"You shan't sell that," said Frank. "You must keep it to remember George; and then, too, you may want it more some other time."

Mary finally yielded the point, and gathering up the crumpled jacket started in quest of Billy Bender. He was a kind-hearted boy, two years older than Frank, whom he had often befriended and shielded from the jeers of their companions. He did not want the jacket, for it was a vast deal too small; and it was only in reply to a proposal from Frank that he should buy it that he had casually offered him a shilling. But now, when he saw the garment, and learned why it was sent, he immediately drew from his old leather wallet a quarter, all the money he had in the world, and giving it to Mary, bade her keep it, as she would need it all.

Half an hour after a cooling orange was held to Frank's parched lips, and Mary said, "Drink, brother; I've got two more, besides some milk and bread," but the ear she addressed was deaf and the eye dim with the fast-falling shadow of death. "Mother! mother!" cried the little girl, "Franky won't drink, and his forehead is all sweat."

Mrs. Howard had been much worse that day, but agony made her strong. Springing to his side, she wiped from his brow the cold moisture which had so alarmed her daughter, chafed his hands and feet, and bathed his head, until he seemed better and fell asleep. Fast the shades of night came on, and when all was dark in the sick room Mary sobbed out, "We have no candle, mother, and if I go for one, and he should die——"

The sound of her voice aroused Frank, and feeling for his sister's hand, he said, "Don't go, Mary; don't leave me—the moon is shining bright, and I guess I can find my way to God just as well."

Nine—ten—eleven—and then through the dingy windows the silvery moonlight fell, as if indeed to light the way of the early lost to heaven. Mary had drawn her mother's lounge to the side of the trundle bed, and in a state of almost perfect exhaustion Mrs. Howard lay gasping for breath, while Mary, as if conscious of the dread reality about to occur, knelt by her side. Once Mrs. Howard laid her hands on Mary's head, and prayed that she might be preserved and kept from harm by the God of the orphan, and that the sin of disobedience resting on her own head might not be visited upon her child.

After a time a troubled sleep came upon her and she slept until roused by a low sob. Raising herself up, she looked anxiously toward her children. The moonbeams fell upon the white, placid face of Frank, who seemed calmly sleeping, while over him Mary bent, pushing back from his forehead the thick clustering curls, and striving hard to smother her sobs, so that they might not disturb her mother.

"Does he sleep?" asked Mrs. Howard, and Mary, covering with her hands the face of him who slept, answered:

"Turn away, mother—don't look at him. Franky is dead. He died with his arms around my neck, and told me not to wake you."

Mrs. Howard was in the last stages of consumption, and now she lay back, half-fainting upon her pillow. Toward daylight a violent coughing fit ensued, and she knew that she was dying. Beckoning Mary to her side, she whispered, "I am leaving you alone in the wide world. Be kind to Ella and our dear little Allie, and go with her where she goes. May God keep and bless you my precious children—and reward you as you deserve, my darling——"

The sentence was unfinished, and in unspeakable awe the orphan girl knelt between her mother and brother—shuddering in the presence of death, and then weeping to think that she was alone.

CHAPTER III.

Just on the corner of Chicopee Common, and under the shadow of the century-old elms which skirt the borders of the grass plat called by the villagers the "Mall," stands the small red cottage of Widow Bender, who in her way was quite a curiosity. All the "ills which flesh is heir to" Widow Bender, if she could ascertain the symptoms, was sure to have in the most aggravated form.

On the morning following the events narrated in the last chapter Billy, whose dreams had been disturbed by thoughts of Frank, arose early, determined to call at Mrs. Howard's and see if they were in want of anything. But his mother, who had heard rumors of the scarlet fever, was up before him, and on descending to the kitchen Billy found her sitting before a blazing fire—her feet in hot water and her head thrown back in a manner plainly showing that something new had taken hold of her in good earnest.

"Oh, William," said she, "I've lived through a sight, but my time has come at last. Such a pain in my head and stomach. I do believe I've got the scarlet fever, and you must run for the doctor, quick."

"Scarlet fever!" repeated Billy; "why, you've had it once, and you can't have it again, can you?"

"Oh, I don't know—I never was like anybody else and can have anything a dozen times. Now be spry and fetch the doctor; but before you go hand me my snuff box and put the canister top heapin' full of tea into the teapot."

Billy obeyed, and then, knowing that the green tea would remove his mother's ailment he hurried away toward Mrs. Howard's. The sun was just rising. Within the cottage there was no sound or token of life, and, thinking its inmates were asleep, Billy paused several minutes upon the threshold, fearing that he should disturb their slumbers. At last, with a vague presentiment that all was not right, he raised the latch and entered, but instantly started back in astonishment at the scene before him. On the thundle bed lay Frank, cold and dead, and near him, in the same long, dreamless sleep, was his mother, while between them, with one arm thrown lovingly across her brother's neck, and her cheek pressed against his, lay Mary—her eyelids moist with tears which, though sleeping, she still shed. On the other side of Frank, and nestled so closely to him that her warm breath lifted the brown curls from his brow, was Ella. But there were no tear stains on her face, for she did not yet know how bereaved she was.

For a moment Billy stood irresolute, and then, as Mary moved uneasily in her slumbers, he advanced a step or two toward her. The noise aroused her, and instantly remembering and comprehending the whole, she threw herself with a bitter cry into Billy's extended arms, as if he alone were all the protector she now had in the wide, wide world. Ere long Ella, too, awoke, and the noisy outburst which followed the knowledge of her loss made Mary still the agony of her own heart in order to soothe the more violent grief of her excitable sister. Billy's tears were flowing, too, but at length rising up, he said to Mary, "Something must be done. The villagers must know of it, and I shall have to leave you alone while I tell them."

In half an hour from that time the cottage was nearly filled with people, some of whom came out of idle curiosity. But there were others who went there for the sake of comforting the orphans and attending to the dead, and by noon the bodies were decently arranged for burial.

"There will be no trouble," said one, "in finding a place for Ella, she is so bright and handsome; but as for Mary, I am afraid she'll have to go to the poorhouse."

"Were I in a condition to take either," replied Mrs. Johnson, "I should prefer Mary, for in my estimation she is much the best girl; but there is the baby, who must go wherever Mary does, unless she can be persuaded to leave her."

Before anyone could reply to this remark Mary, who had overheard every word, came forward, and, laying her face on Mrs. Johnson's lap, sobbed out, "Let me go with Alice; I told mother I would."

Billy Bender, who all this while had been standing by the door, started for home, never once thinking, until he reached it, that his mother more than six hours before, had sent him in great haste for the physician. On entering the house he found her, as he expected, rolled up in bed, apparently in the last stage of scarlet fever; but before she could reproach him he said, "Mother, have you heard the news?"

Mrs. Bender had a particular love for news, and now forgetting "how near to death's door" she had been, she eagerly demanded, "What news? What has happened?"

When Billy told her of the sudden deaths of Mrs. Howard and Frank, an expression of "What? That all?" passed over her face, and she said, "Dear me, my snuff, Billy. Both died last night, did they? Hain't you nothin' else to tell?"

"Yes, Mary Judson and Ella Campbell, too, are dead."

Mrs. Bender, who, like many others, courted the favor of the wealthy and tried to fancy herself on intimate terms with them, no sooner heard of Mrs. Campbell's affliction than her own dangerous symptoms were forgotten, and, springing up, she exclaimed, "Ella Campbell dead! What'll her mother do? I must go to her right away. Hand me my double gown there in the closet, and give me my lace cap in the lower drawer, and mind you have the teakettle biled agin I get back."

"Before you go anywhere, suppose you stop at Mrs. Howard's and comfort poor Mary, who cries all the time because she and Alice have got to go to the poorhouse."

"Of course they'll go there, and they ort to be thankful they've got so good a place."

"I want to ask you," said Billy, "can't we—couldn't you take them for a few days, and perhaps something may turn up?"

"William Bender," said the highly astonished lady, "what can you mean? A poor, sick woman like me, with one foot in the grave, take the charge of three pauper children! I sha'n't do it, and you needn't think of it."

"But, mother," persisted Billy, who could generally coax her to do as he liked, "it's only for a few days, and they'll not be much trouble or expense, for I'll work enough harder to make it up."

"I have said no once, William Bender, and when I say no, I mean no," was the answer.

Billy knew she would be less decided the next time the subject was broached, so for the present he dropped it, and taking his cap he returned to Mrs. Howard's, while his mother started for Mrs. Campbell's.

Next morning between the hours of 9 and 10 the tolling bell sent forth its sad summons, and ere long a few of the villagers were moving toward the brown cottage, where in the same plain coffin slept the mother and her only boy. Near them sat Ella, occasionally looking with childish curiosity at the strangers around her, or leaning forward to peep at the tips of the new morocco shoes which Mrs. Johnson had kindly given her; then, when her eyes fell upon the coffin, she would burst into such an agony of weeping that many of the villagers also wept in sympathy, and as they stroked her soft hair, thought, "how much more she loved her mother than did Mary," who, without a tear upon her cheek, sat there immovable, gazing fixedly upon the marble face of her mother. Alice was not present, for Billy had not only succeeded in winning his mother's consent to take the children for a few days, but he had also coaxed her to say that Alice might come before the funeral, on condition that he would remain at home and take care of her.

CHAPTER IV.

Scarcely three hours had passed since the dark, moist earth was heaped upon the humble grave of the widow and her son, when again, over the village of Chicopee, floated the notes of the tolling bell, and immediately crowds of people, with seemingly eager haste, hurried toward the Campbell mansion, which was soon nearly filled.

On a marble table in the same room lay the handsome coffin, and in it slept young Ella. Gracefully her small waxen hands were folded one over the other, while white, half-opened rosebuds were wreathed among the curls of her hair. "She is too beautiful to die, and the only child, too," thought more than one as they looked first at the sleeping clay and then at the stricken mother, who, draped in deepest black, sobbed convulsively. And yet she was not one-half so desolate as was the orphan Mary, who in Mrs. Bender's kitchen sat weeping over her sister Alice, and striving to form words of prayer which should reach the God of the fatherless.

"My mother, oh! my mother," she cried, as she stretched her hands toward the clear blue sky, now that mother's home. "Why didn't I die, too?"

There was a step upon the grass, and looking up, Mary saw standing near her Mrs. Campbell's English girl, Hannah. She had always evinced a liking for Mrs. Howard's family, and now after finishing her dishes, and trying in vain to speak a word of consolation to her mistress, who refused to be comforted, she had stolen away to Mrs. Bender's, ostensibly to see all the orphans, but in reality to see Ella, who had always been her favorite.

The sight of Mary's grief touched Hannah's heart, and sitting down by the little girl she tried to comfort her. Mary felt that her words and manner were prompted by real sympathy, and after a time she grew calm, and listened while Hannah told her that "as soon as her mistress got so anybody could go near her, she meant to ask her to take Ella Howard to fill the place of her own daughter."

"They look as much alike as two beans," said she, "and s'posin' Ella Howard ain't exactly her own flesh and blood, she would grow into liking her, I know."

That night after her return home Hannah lingered for a long time about the parlor door, glancing wistfully toward her mistress, who reclined upon the sofa with her face entirely hidden by her cambric handkerchief.

"It's most too soon, I guess," thought Hannah. "I'll wait till to-morrow."

Accordingly next morning, when, as she had expected, she was told to carry her mistress' toast and coffee to her room, she lingered for awhile, and seemed so desirous of speaking that Mrs. Campbell asked what she wanted.

"Why, you see, ma'am, I was going to say a word about—about that youngest Howard girl. She's got to go to the poorhouse and it's a pity, she's so handsome. Why couldn't she come here and live? I'll take care of her, and 'twouldn't be nigh so lonesome."

At this allusion to her bereavement Mrs. Campbell burst into tears, and motioned Hannah from the room.

"I'll keep at her till I fetch it about," thought Hannah. But further persuasion from her was rendered unnecessary, for Mrs. Lincoln called that afternoon, and after assuring her friend that she never before saw one who was so terribly afflicted, casually mentioned the Howards and the extreme poverty to which they were reduced.

Here Mrs. Campbell commenced weeping, and as Mrs. Lincoln soon took her leave she was left alone for several hours. At the end of that time, impelled by something she could not resist, she rang the bell and ordered Hannah to go to Mrs. Bender's and bring Ella to her room, as she wished to see how she appeared.

(To be continued.)

STRANGEST OF ALL FISH.

Denizen of the Deep that Angles for the Food It Devours.

Most remarkable of strange fishes is the angler fish, whose very name seems a paradox. The fishing fish is nevertheless a reality, and a stern one to all that approach those awful jaws of his. With a body the color of mud, he generally lies in the shadow of some rock on the bottom of the sea, waiting motionless for the approach of his prey. He is provided with an odd kind of fin just over the mouth, and this is held out in front of him to give warning of the coming of something to be swallowed. One taken alive was experimented on and it was found that if this projecting fin was touched with a stick, even though the stick did not come near the mouth, the jaws closed convulsively. This shows that the fin, by some provision of nature, closes the jaws as soon as it is touched.

The mouth is tremendous, growing to the width of a foot, while the whole fish is only three feet long. One of these anglers was caught not long since and, although it was only twenty-five inches long, a fish fifteen inches long was found sticking in its throat. The angler is provided with a peculiar set of teeth, in double or treble rows along the jaws and at the entrance of the throat. Some of these teeth are a foot long. He is not a pretty fish to look at, but he attends strictly to business and will swallow anything that touches his warning fin, whether it be meant for food or not. All kinds of things have been found in the stomach of anglers, from bits of lead and stone to fish almost as large as the angler itself. This is without doubt one of the most peculiar and interesting fish in the whole ocean.

Clever Soapmaker.

Friend—Why do you dump all the dirt into your soap kettles?

Soap Manufacturer—If folks don't find the water dirty after washin' they think the soap is no good.—New York Weekly.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL OVER OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of of the Growth and Improvemeuts of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

A hotel will be built at Enterprise if citizens will give a bonus of $1,200.

Strong indications of natural oil and gas have been found near Milton.

The receipts of the Oregon state land office during April were $23,459.36.

The contract has been let for building a school house at John Day. The price is $3,466.

Baker City wheelmen are having trouble with miscreants who steathily puncture their tires.

The Southern Pacific is putting in a 1,900-foot siding at Rice Hill. Other repairs are being made along the line in that vicinity.

Citizens of Enterprise have organized an immigration board, and will try to secure the co-operation of other towns in the same county.

All but eight or 10 men employed at the Mineral City smelter have been discharged and work has been suspended for a time.

The stages between Canyon City and Burns are now traveling on the summer schedule, and the entire distance of 70 miles is covered in one day instead of two as heretofore.

Six cases of small pox are reported near Athena.

Columbia county will be entirely out of debt by September, 1901.

The bond on the Republic mine, on Griffin creek, Jackson county, has been extended.

Dr. D. F. Lane, of Salem, has been appointed county physician for Marion county.

The Samuels creamery will be moved from La Grande to Baker City and the capacity doubled.

The horse show at Pendleton this year eclipsed anything of the kind ever given in that city before.

A new lumber company is to be opened up at Huntington by the Kelley Lumber Co., of Weiser, Idaho.

It is reported that a rich strike has been made in the Roaring Gimlet mine, situated not far from Gold Hill.

The Ashland mine is yielding more ore now than ever before. The mill is crushing about 25 tons of ore per day.

Reports from the Grand Rounde valley indicate that the prospects for this year's crop of sugar beets is better than ever before.

Mr. Wright, owner of the Big Foot mine, Gold Hill section, has started a force of men at work on the Dougan mine on Sams creek.

The state military board has decided on plans for the coming O. N. G. encampment. The Fourth regiment and First Separate batallion will go into camp, and the Third regiment will engage in a practice drill.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 59@60c.; valley, nominal; bluestem, 61@62c. per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, $2.90@3.40 per barrel; graham, $2.60.

Oats—White, $1.30@1.35 per cental; gray, $1.25@1.30 per cental.

Barley—Feed, $17@17.25; brewing, $17@17.25 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, $17 per ton; middlings, $21.50; shorts, $20.00; chop, $16.

Hay—Timothy, $12.50@14; clover, $7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.

Hops—12@14c. per lb.; 1899 crop, 6@7c.

Wool—Valley, 12½@13½c; Eastern Oregon, 9@12c; mohair, 20@21c. per pound.

Butter — Fancy creamery, 15@17½c.; dairy, 12½@14c.; store, 10@12c. per pound.

Eggs — Oregon ranch, 14@14½c. per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 13@13½c.; Young America, 13½@14c. per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.50@4 hens, $4@4.50; dressed, 11@12c. per pound; springs, $3@5 per dozen; ducks, $5@6; geese, $6@7; turkeys, live, 10@12c; dressed, 13@15c. per pound.

Potatoes—Old, $1@1.25 per sack; new, 2@2½c. per pound.

Mutton — Lambs 4¾@5c. per pound gross; best sheep, wethers, with wool, $4.25@4.50; dressed, 7½c. per pound.

Hogs — Gross, heavy, $5.75@6; light, $4.75@5; dressed, 7@7½c. per pound.

Veal—Large, 7@8c. per pound; small, 8½c. per pound.

Beef—Gross, top steers, $5@5.25; cows and heifers, $4.50@4.75; dressed beef, 8¼@8½c. per pound

It is reported that some of the Staten Island ferry boats are more than 40 years old.

Count de Maquille, the last survivor of King Charles X's pages, died recently at Nantes, aged 88 years.

The United States navy department will exhiibt at Buffalo an 8x20 foot map of the world, on which will be placed 307 miniature lead models representing the war fleets of all nations and their locations from day to day.

THE ARTILLERY ARM.

Secretary of War Will Increase It to Its Full Strength.

Washington, May 13.—Secretary Root is a man to whom wide discretion in the matter of interpreting and administering the laws might have been given. This is shown in his determination to increase the artillery corps at once to its full strength. Congress, in its abject fear of criticism, placed a provision in the bill which looked as if the artillery corps of the army was to be increased only 20 per cent each for five years. But the men who drafted the bill knew what they were doing, and when it came out as a law it provided that not less than 20 per cent should be raised the first year, and not less than 20 per cent each succeeding 12 months until the full strength of the artillery was reached. Secretary Root interprets the "not less" to mean that he is not prevented from making the entire increase at once, and so he directed that it should be done.

This is a very good thing. No branch of the military service needs men so much as the artillery. The fortifications and the equipment of the fortifications with valuable guns has been far in advance of the increase of the artillery. In the Spanish war congress was induced to increase the artillery from five to seven regiments, and the last congress was induced to make the increase to 18,000 men, but with an intimation on the wording of the bill that the increase was to be made only gradually at 20 per cent a year for five years. Every coast state, every state where fortifications are needed, and where they have been erected will applaud the action of Secretary Root, as it means more heavy artillery, and fortifications already in place and fortifications to be erected will have artillery placed upon them, and received the care of trained and efficient men, a care that very valuable defenses have not received during the past three years.

Another thing where Secretary Root showed his judgment was in construing the stupid provision of the Spooner amendment to the army bill, relating to the Philippines. There were two amendments, one prepared by Senator Spooner, giving the president authority to control the Philippines, and Senator Hoar secured the adoption of another regarding franchises, which would prevent anything from being done to improve the condition of the islands. Soon after the Philippine amendment was cabled to the Taft commission, a reply was received shownig that if it was adhered to strictly, it would mean great hardship to the people of the Philippine islands. After mature deliberation the secretary decided to allow the regulations for the cutting of timber which the Philippine commission had enacted to remain in force and not to be interfered with by the Hoar amendment to the army bill. It would have been well, perhaps, to give the secretary some authority in modifying affairs in Cuba, for he has a way of making such modifications of the best interests of the government and the people who aregoverned.

AUSTRALIAN PARLIMENT.

First Under the New Federation Opened by Duke of Cornwall.

Melbourne, May 13.—The opening of the first federal parliament which took place at noon was a most impresive ceremony. The capacity of the exposition building, the scene of the ceremony, is 12,000 people, but the available space was taxed to the utmost. The decorations consisted of regimental standards, trophies of arms and floral festoons.

The doors were opened to ticket holders at 9 o'clock in the morning, and by 11 o'clock the auditorium was filled except the royal dais. This was located beneath the great dome. It held a single row of chairs, the largest, in the center, being surmounted by a small gold imperial crown. The whole was overhung with the royal standard. In front of the royal chair was a small table, on which was a telegraph key, by which the Duke of Cornwall and York was to flash the opening signal throughout the commonwealth, when the Union Jack was to be simultaneously raised in every settlement of the federation.

The majority of the audience was composed of ladies, mostly clad in mauve colored costumes, but many of them were dressed in white. Brilliant scattered groups of army and navy uniforms gave color to the scene. Facing the dais was a slightly raised platform, where seven rows of chairs accommodated the members of the commonwealth parliament. The lofty north transept was devoted to the members of the state parliaments. East and west of the dais were grouped the ministerial staffs. The remainder of the hall and the galleries were packed with a well dressed, earnesst, expectant crowd. A great orchestra enlivened the antemeridian hour with operatic airs.

Our Mail Not Tampered With.

Washington, May 13.—No United States official mail was included in the lot of foreign mail which is reported to have been tampered with while passing through Turkey, thus forimng the subject of a protest from the diplomatic body at Constantinople. The official mail from our minister, Mr. Leishman, and his mail for the state department never passes through Turkey in transit.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which Is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

A new Russian loan of 424,000,000 francs is authorized.

Fire in suburb of Detroit, Mich., did $800,000 damage.

General Dewet, the Boer leader, has resumed operations.

Pennsylvania beat Annapolis in the intercollegiate boat race.

National organization of machinists has ordered a general strike.

Yale beat Harvard 57 to 47 in the annual track and field contest.

The Porte has ordered all foreign postoffices removed from Turkey.

The steamer Princess Louise was wrecked in British Columbia waters.

An attempt was made to sell confidential documents in the Neely case.

Seattle men have bonded 1,000 acres near Willapa bay and will bore for oil.

Esterhazy has made an affidavit that he was the author of the Dreyfus borderau.

Embezzlement charged against ex-School Land Clerk Davis, of Oregon, may be outlawed.

Trouble between the managers of the Buffalo exposition and union workmen for a time threatened a complete tie-up of work, but the difficulty has been settled.

A grip containing dynamite was in process of fumigation at Port Townsend, Wash., when owner told contents, causing a panic among the steamer passengers.

Mrs. McKinley is ill, and has been taken to San Farncisco for a rest. Her illness, while not serious, may cause curtailment of programme for the remainder of president's tour.

Two lives were lost in a New York fire.

The presidential party is now in California.

Eastern wool market shows no improvement.

Martinelli has received the red beretta at Baltimore.

The steel trust will close down the Everett nail works.

English coal miners have decided not to strike at present.

Fire in Augusta, Ga., destroyed $169,000 worth of cotton.

A fire in Seattle destroyed property to the amount of $200,000.

A navai war college is to be established for the naval officers.

The Industrial commission is investigating rate discriminations.

The steamer Tantillion Castle, wrecked near Cape Town, is a total loss.

The contract plans for the cruiser St. Louis have mysterioulsy disappeared.

Forest fires in Pennsylvania are destroying immense quantities of valuable timber.

Much disturbance continues among the eduacated classes in Russia, and the police are kept busy.

A woman of Baker City defended herself successfully with a pitchfork when attacked by a tramp.

Union Pacific has gained control of the Northern Pacific and will prevent the proposed Burlington deal.

The sultan of Turkey has gotten himself in trouble with the ambassadors to Constantinople by interfering with their mails.

The United States Weather Service will be equipped at several points with wireless telegraphy outfits, in the hope of rendering aid to shipping.

Those Porto Ricans who have immigrated from their native country to Hawaii are well pleased with the prospects and say they are doing better there than in Porto Rico.

A new gun now nearing completion at the Watervliet arsenal is expected to throw a projectile weighing 2,370 poundes a distance of 21 miles. It will be on exhibition at the coming fair in Buffalo, N. Y.

News has just arrived of a $75,000 fire at Dawson.

The allies defeated the Chinese west of Kalgan.

Secret societies at Nankin, China, have joined the reformers.

A well of boiling hot water has been discovered at Vale, Or.

China will ask powers to obtain for her a loan to pay the indemnity.

The Cuban constitutional convention adopted the Platt amendment.

It is said that 1,000 pounds of poultry will cost less to raise than 1,000 pounds of beef, and will sell for almost twice as much.

While finding that the seed trade of England, generally speaking, is well conducted, the departmental committee appointed by the board of agriculture recommends the establishment of a central station for the purpose of testing seeds sent to it for official examination.

$800,000 FIRE.

Suburb of Detriot the Scene—Blaze Started in Idle Mill.

Detroit, May 14.—Fanned by a 35-miles-an-hour wind, fire this afternoon swept the west bank of the Rogue river in Delray, a suburb to the south of Detroit, for three quarters of a mile, and destroyed over $800,000 worth of property.

The fire originated in the roof of a saw mill. The plant has not been running for several months, and the roof was as dry as tinder. The building was soon in ashes and the fire swept across a block to where a dredge was tied up. Despite the efforts to save her, this craft was burned to the water's edge. Great embers were picked up by the wind and dropped in several directions, setting fire to buildings.

Delray has a small fire department, which responded with three engines and the fireboat Battle. Even the greatest streams of the fireboat were powerless to check the flames which were rolling down the river bank for hundreds of feet. When darkness fell the glare from the burning poles illuminated the sky for miles. The firemen worked on the fire almost all night to keep it from spreading to other property.

A TRICKY BANK TELLER.

His Scheme for Making Money Led to His Arrest.

New Orleans, May 14.— Samuel Flower, paying teller of the Hibernia National bank, has been arrested here charged with a shortage of $36,000. The Fidelity & Deposit Company, of Baltimore, is on Flower's bond for $25,000. It is alleged that Flower, expecting an examination, sent to another bank in this city a government sealed package said to contain $40,000 and received in exchange for it $40,000 gold clearing house certificates of the denomination of $5,000 each. His cash having been counted by the National bank examiner the evening before and found correct, it is alleged he returned the clearing house certificates to the bank from which he had received them and received in return his unbroken government package, said to contain $40,000. This package was received by the Hibernia National Bank from the sub treasury, of this city, in March last, and contained $4,000 in $1 bills. It is alleged that Flower had preserved the label from an old government package that did contain $40,000 in denominations of $10 each, which he pasted on the package, containing only $4,000 in $1 bills, thereby making it a $40,000 package to all appearances. This package was opened and counted after his departure from the bank.

PHILIPPINE POLICE FORCE.

Already Organized, Including Over Six Thousand Natives.

Washington, May 14.—An extensive resume of the organization and varied conditions of the Philippine native police force is contained in a statement made public by the division of insular affairs of the war department. The reports recites that, because of the poverty of the municipalties, the Philippine commission appropirated the sum of $150,000 to provide increased pay for the body, and offered through General MacArthur, further incentive in the way of increased compensation for cases of meritorious and faithful service. Late reports received at the war department indicate that an efficient and loyal force of native police has now been organized, with prospects of further extension and increased ability. The total force now numbers 6,349 officers and men, a great many of whom are on the meritorious list and receive addtiional pay. The body at present is concentrated in Northern Luzon principally, although the Visayas, Mindanao, Jolo and Southern Luzon have police forces of considerable strength. In many of the towns the men are fully uniformed.

KLONDIKERS IN LUCK.

Miners Are Enjoying Greatest Harvest in the History of the District.

Port Townsend, Wash., May 14.—Returning Dawson passengers on the Victorian, which arrived from Skagway report that the miners of the Klondike are enjoying the greatest harvest in the history of the country, owing to the abundance of the surface water, which is being utilized in sluicing the dirt taken out during the winter months, and the yield of yellow metal will exceed the best expectations of the mine-owners.

The Victoria reports considerable excitement in the north, caused by the smallpox epidemic, and various settlements are taking every precaution to check and wipe out the disease. At Skagway a mass meeting was held, the Indians were driven out of the city, and a strong guard was placed around the town to prevent their return. Nearly all sections are in quarantine. Every stranger arriving is held up and inspected.

Northwest Postal Orders.

Washington, May 14.—The postoffice at Brinnin, Jefferson county, Wash., has been moved one mile to the south, without change of postmaster. The office at Kaufman, Fremont county, Idaho, has been moved two miles north, without change of postmaster.

The Minnesota game warden is hatching 100,000,000 wall eyed pike.