

double. Active stock speculation and immense industrial flotillas, but above all, enormous trade and industrial activity, naturally swelled the volume of clearings in the middle states, but the gains in the New England group, including Boston, where copper share speculation has been extensive and the great manufacturing centers, was not so heavy.

The largest monthly clearings up to December were reported in March, while outside of the metropolis the heavy trade was shown as late as October. The flurry in money late in December swelled the weekly bank clearings to an unprecedented sum, making possible an exceptionally heavy December aggregate. Decreases from 1898 at individual cities were few and completely unimportant in the aggregate. The heavy trade in money late in December swelled the weekly bank clearings to an unprecedented sum, making possible an exceptionally heavy December aggregate.

The railroads of the country have done the heaviest business in their history, proved by the statistics in gross and net receipts over all previous records. This, too, has apparently made little impression on the business on such water routes as the lakes, which report the heaviest traffic and the most profitable season ever recorded.

The transportation companies are determined to share further in the unexampled volume of tonnage offering is proved by the general advance in rates scheduled for January 1, 1900. Railway building, though mostly of branches and feeders, has doubled the average of the preceding four years and 50 per cent larger than in 1898.

The record of embarrasments has been of a steadily diminishing scale as regards number and even in liabilities the year's record is an exceptional one and were it not for a few large failures in the last two months of the year, that period as a whole would have been fairly entitled to the appellation of phenomenal. Though the year's record is not as yet complete and the returns to assets and liabilities are still more or less vague, it may be stated that the total number of failures, based on the returns for eleven months and partial returns for December, will be in the neighborhood of 9,500, certainly little in excess of that number, a total smaller than in the preceding year by 17 per cent, 26 per cent fewer than in 1897, 38 per cent lower than in 1896, 25 per cent smaller than in 1895 or 1894.

As compared with 1892, there is even shown a decrease of 4 per cent and the number of failing traders, firms or corporations is, in fact, the lightest since 1882, seventeen years ago. As regards liabilities, while the showing is not so good as expected, there is a reasonable hope of the aggregate not being much in excess of \$150,000,000, which would be a record for the last two years, 25 per cent smaller than in 1897, 51 per cent less than in 1896, 70 per cent smaller than in the panic year 1893 and only 11 per cent more than in 1892, a year of exceptionally good trade.

The return of normal conditions is indicated by the percentage of assets, which may aggregate \$2,000,000, to liabilities, being only 51.6, as against 52 per cent last year, 54.4 per cent in 1897, 59.9 per cent in 1896, 65 per cent in 1893 and 69 per cent in 1892.

The percentage of those failing to those in business, too, will show a marked shrinkage and will be among the lowest ever recorded, the probability favoring a percentage of .085 this year, against .016 per cent last year, .0129 in 1897, .0170 in 1893 and .0106 per cent in 1892, the smallest per cent since 1882.

That the good effect in business has made itself felt in all parts of the country is indicated by the statistics of the states, showing the largest decreases in failures from a year ago, fully one-third in each case. The business community looks forward to 1900 with at least equally mixed feelings of hope and confidence.

Lackawanna Increases Capital. SCRANTON, Dec. 29.—The stockholders of the Lackawanna Iron and Steel company today voted in favor of increasing the capital stock from \$3,725,000 to \$25,000,000. The general impression is that the company is getting in position to meet the needs of the big \$20,000,000 steel concern organizing in Buffalo.

Silk Company Assigns. NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The Castle Silk company of France, in liquidation, has assigned today for the benefit of creditors. Liabilities, \$60,000; assets, \$52,621.

Boers Get the News Easily. Appointment of Roberts Known in Pretoria December 20—Suspicion Rests on Consul. LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Times has a dispatch from Lourenzo Marquez dated December 28, which says: The suspicion that the Boer intelligence department is in close touch with a foreign consulate in Pretoria is confirmed by the fact that the appointment of Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief was generally known in Pretoria December 20, indirectly reaching Delagoa bay from the Transvaal two days ago. Suspicion rests on a consul, who is notorious for his Boer sympathies. There is reason to believe that Pretoria is kept well informed with regard to British military movements. With reference to smuggling contraband, it is stated that Major Erasmus of the Free State artillery is here, his arriving being coincident with that of the French liner. Considering the freedom with which the Transvaal secret fund is spent, considerable mischief may be done unless cargo is impeded by British agents who understand foreign bills of lading.

U. S. CRUISER VISITS LIBERIA

Montgomery Makes a Mysterious Voyage Across the Atlantic Ocean. POSSIBLY AFTER A COALING STATION

In Some Quarters It is Understood Cruiser's Mission Was to Ascertain Extent of French Encroachment on Liberia.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—It has been learned by a representative of the Associated Press that the United States cruiser Montgomery's visit to Liberia is apparently the result of overtures made to Washington by that republic. Though the British government is in complete ignorance of the purpose of the Montgomery's mission, the establishment of Liberia is regarded as scarcely probable, as it is asserted that no Liberian port has any facilities for coaling, all of them being open and surrounded.

The Associated Press representative learns that a far more important step is under consideration. It consists in a joint request of the United States and Great Britain upon France to define the boundary between the territory it claims and that claimed by Liberia. This step is not yet decided upon, but Great Britain only awaits the United States assent to become a party to such a request. It is alleged that France, or many years ago, has been encroaching on Liberia and it was only by a strenuous protest of the United States that she was prevented from appropriating a large slice of Liberia in 1892.

Watching the French. According to Arthur Ponsonby, managing director of the Liberia Rubber syndicate, which recently guaranteed the interest of Liberia's public debt, the Montgomery's visit was probably prompted by a desire to ascertain the extent of French activity. Mr. Ponsonby is a representative of the Associated Press.

Bishop Hartzel while in Monrovia this year strongly urged the government to interest the United States in preserving the boundaries, with the result that Liberia appointed a mission to Washington. It believes it have already made representations and presume the commander of the Montgomery investigated both this and the possibility of a coaling station. The latter Liberia would gladly lease to the United States, but beyond holding her flag upon it it would be of little service.

The feeling among British subjects commercially interested in Liberia is that the republic's progress had better be under the protection of either Great Britain or the United States. But both the British government and those having interests here struggle on in her present condition, everything possible should be done to support her.

Liberia decorated Mr. Ponsonby this week with the Order of African Redemption in recognition of his services against encroachments.

No Connection with Boer War. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Although the naval officials will make no official statement respecting the cruise of the Montgomery to West Africa, it is admitted that the ship was there in the early fall, returning to her station at Buenos Ayres about the first of last November. These dates in themselves may be regarded as sufficient to dispel any impression that the cruise was in any manner connected with the war between the British and the Boers. It is believed that the real object of the cruise is to believe that the Navy department had its eye upon a possible coaling station on the west coast, as is indicated in the foregoing dispatch.

Before and during the civil war the United States had no less than three coaling stations on that coast. They were practically abandoned when the American flag was dropped from the list, but the chief of the equipment bureau, Admiral Bradley A. Foote, has strongly urged that they be re-established so as to insure our naval vessels a source of coal supply when passing from the eastern Atlantic states around to the Philippines and to the coast of Africa. The Suez canal should be closed against them.

The Liberian government always has been willing, and even anxious, that the station on its coast should be kept, if only as a manifestation of the interest of the United States in the colony it created, and so protect it by our moral influence against European aggression. The British conception of the object of the Montgomery's visit to Africa therefore may be entirely within the line of probability as intended, not only to afford us a good coaling station where one is badly needed, but also to exhibit to other nations our natural interest in the negro colony founded by Americans.

THREE MILLION DESTITUTE Relief Measures in India Costing an Immense Sum of Money. CALCUTTA, Dec. 29.—Almost 3,000,000 persons are receiving famine relief. The government is spending nearly two lakhs of rupees daily. It is estimated that the cost of the relief to the end of March will be about 100 lakhs of rupees. On account of the rapid increase in the numbers of people seeking relief, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, invites a closer scrutiny of the claims of the applicants.

ANSWER CHARGES OF FRAUD

Kentucky Republican Leaders Reply to Address of Goebel Democrats. MAKE SENSATIONAL COUNTER-CHARGES

Show How Thousands of Voters Were Intimidated and Distracted—Denounce the Late New-Debt-Governor Bradley.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 29.—The address of the republican leaders, in reply to the recent address of the Goebel leaders, endorsing the contesting candidates on the democratic state ticket, was given out today by the republican speakers, who made sensational charges of fraud and makes some sensational counter charges. It is signed by Governor Taylor, Chairman Barnett, Senator Deboe, Congressman Push and others, including all members of the state central committee. The address is as follows:

In 1898 the late candidate for governor, with a few partisan assistants, conceived the idea of passing an election law which would disfranchise the republicans of Kentucky. The bill was denounced in unmeasured terms by many democrats and many newspapers. It was, however, passed by a vote of 10-9 in the legislature. It became a law and under its provisions all who opposed the Goebel election have been totally disfranchised. The whole election machinery was placed in the hands of the Goebel element.

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DAWES AT THE LOVE FEAST

Comptroller Announces Great Enthusiasm Among the Illinois Republicans.

LAWYERS AGAINST DANGEROUS COMBINES

Parts Will See in It that Trusts in Restraint of Trade Are Legitimate—Antagonists—The Philippines.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 29.—Charles G. Dawes, comptroller of the currency, made a speech at the republican state love feast in the assembly hall today which aroused the greatest enthusiasm and was regarded by many as outlining the policy of the administration on two points, the Philippine question and the attitude of the republican party toward trusts. After comparing the conditions prevailing in 1898 when the republicans came into power, with the present, Mr. Dawes claimed that as the party had proved itself able to cope with adverse conditions it would be able to continue in prosperity.

Speaking on trusts he said it was the duty of the republican party to take hold of the subject energetically and without wavering. It was its duty to conserve public interests. Wherever trusts proved themselves inimical to the public weal they must be restrained and controlled, and if necessary laws must be passed which would so much encourage competition as to bring about the integration of the trusts. Mr. Dawes did not assert that all trusts were in restraint of trade, but those that proved to be such should be legislated against.

People Will Have Justice. "Rather than have in the hands of any corporation the power to absolutely fix the price of a necessity of life at an arbitrary figure, the people of the United States will eventually and rightfully do one of two things, will or should, the people of the United States will secure absolute protection from extortion by governmental regulation, more or less extended as public necessities may require, or they will enact legislation for the enforced creation of competition as to the distribution of some of the necessities and comforts of life is one of the greatest which confront the political parties of the nation, and our party must take the first step in its solution."

Booming Haneys for Governor. The republican love feast prior to the meeting of the state central committee tonight was held at the capitol. Several thousand were in attendance. The practical withdrawal of Governor Tanner as a candidate for re-election last night, precipitated a race scramble for the head of the republican ticket. Chief among the republicans lined up strongly today for Judge Eldridge G. Haney. The love feast today was presided over by Chairman Charles S. Runkle of the state central committee. A number of speeches were made. The candidates announced are: Judge Haney and Richard Yates for governor; Morgan, (Charles) P. Berry, Hancock, and Charles S. Works, Rockford, for attorney general, and M. O. Williams for state treasurer.

Senator Cullom, Governor Tanner and state officers spoke this afternoon.

KYLE BREAKS WITH POPULISTS Considers It Unwise to Go Back to Free Silver Coinage Now. NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A special to the Times from Washington says: Senator Kyle of South Dakota, who has been classed in the republican ranks, has broken with the populists and has declared in favor of the gold standard. He has done so in a declaration that will justify the makers of the directory hereafter in classifying him as a republican in name as well as in fact. He is out of line with his former populist associates, and says so.

Thought I am a bimetalist and have been so from conscientious convictions for twenty-five years," he said, "I would rather take the gold standard than stand by the populists and accept bimetalism with the ingredients of radical socialism that are now associated with it."

It does not favor that part of suggested legislation which gives the secretary of the treasury authority to issue bonds at his own discretion, believing that when the people of the United States find it necessary to increase their public debt congress should be consulted.

On the general question of voting for the gold standard he does not believe that the enactment into law of a principle which is now generally recognized will affect the country disadvantageously.

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MOTHER DIES FROM SHOCK

Mrs. Chapman and Daughter Drown Near Ardmore—News of Accident Causes a Death.

ARDMORE, I. T., Dec. 29.—Charles Chapman attempted to drive through a swollen stream above here today with his family, with the result that Mrs. Chapman and their daughter were drowned. The body of the mother of the mother of Charles Chapman died of the shock.

DEATH RECORD. John Cowles. John Cowles of the city engineering department died Thursday evening at the Methodist hospital. A tumor was the cause of death. Several days ago Cowles went to the hospital to submit to an operation, which failed to give relief.

The deceased was 47 years of age and had lived in Omaha twenty-five years. During the Spanish-American war he went to Cuba, where he served as an ambulance driver. He returned to Omaha last May. He leaves a wife and daughter, the latter being Mrs. Jesse Martin of 2224 Charles street. He was a brother-in-law of Deputy Sheriff Louis Grebe. The funeral will be held Sunday from the family residence. The Masonic lodge will officiate.

Mackellar, Printer, Poet and Author. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Thomas Mackellar, senior member of the firm of Mackellar, Smith & Jordan, type foundry, died today of pneumonia, at his home in Germantown. Mackellar, who was a printer, poet and author, was born in New York, August 12, 1812. He was the author of numerous books, poems and hymns, among them "The American Printer," a treatise on practical printing. He was president of the Type Foundry's association of the United States and was a member of numerous other organizations.

Editor Eugene V. Smalley. ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 29.—Eugene V. Smalley, the editor and publisher of the Northwest Magazine, died at his home in this city at 10 o'clock today. He was a newspaper man, author and publisher. Mr. Smalley was one of the most widely known writers of the northwest. As a political correspondent he had traveled through almost every state in the union. He was secretary of the National Sound Money league.

Former Congressman Griffin. EAU CLAIRE, Wis., Dec. 29.—Former Congressman Michael Griffin, head of the state tax commission, died suddenly this evening at his home in Eau Claire. Mr. Griffin was one of the best known republicans in the state and had been mentioned frequently of late as a candidate for governor. He was chairman of the last state republican convention and served in the last congress.

Old Settler of Black Hills. LEAD, S. D., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Mrs. James W. Smith died in this city last evening at the age of 88. She has been a resident of the Hills for a number of years. She leaves a large number of relatives, among whom are fourteen grandchildren.

Wife of Brigadier General Worth. NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Florence Mansfield Worth, wife of Brigadier General William S. Worth, United States army, retired, died yesterday at Fort Hamilton, N. Y.

Inverly's "Watermelon Man." ELGIN, Ill., Dec. 29.—J. W. McAndrews, the old-time "watermelon man" of the Inverly Mineral company, died at the Elgin asylum today, aged 64 years.

HYMENEAL. Helene to Second Million. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Florence Blythe-Hinckley, heiress to several million dollars left by her father, Thomas Blythe, which were awarded to her after the protracted litigation, has been quietly married to A. A. Moore, Jr., deputy attorney general of this state.

Silvill-McAuley. TYNDALL, S. D., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—C. M. Silvill, a prominent lawyer and partner of United States District Attorney Elliott, was married to Miss Mary McAuley at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Morgan, Rev. Father Kelly of Elk Point officiated.

AMERICANS TO KEEP OPEN HOUSE

Colony in Paris Will Recognize New Government. PARIS, Dec. 29.—The American colony in Paris will recognize New Year's in American fashion. United States Ambassador Porter and Mrs. Porter will receive on Monday or any American in Paris, with or without invitation, will be heartily welcomed. United States Consul General Country will receive on Tuesday in order not to conflict with Minister Porter.

It is announced that M. Cambon, French ambassador to the United States, will leave for Washington early next week.

Defenses for French Coast. PARIS, Dec. 29.—The government will submit to the Chamber of Deputies at the beginning of January a bill providing for the defense of the French coasts and colonies and to increase the strength of the fleet. This does not involve an increase in the expenditure. The cost of the defense of the coasts and colonies is estimated at 120,000,000 francs, spread over two and a half years. This sum will be provided for by 50,000,000 francs assigned as a special fund, an assignment which would free this year by final repayment.

Hernandez Revolution Ended. CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 29.—(Via Haytian Cable.)—The Hernandez revolution may be said to be ended. General Hernandez is fleeing with 200 men to the Colombian boundary. The government troops and the minister of war, General Pulido, are back at Caracas.

Americans to Attend Launching. BERLIN, Dec. 29.—Ambassador White, John D. Jackson, secretary of the United States embassy at Legation Commander Becher, United States naval attaché here,

and excitement to the people of Kentucky. BLACKBURN'S CHANCES ARE GOOD. Only Two Democrats Declare They Will Vote Against Him. FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 29.—Although three days elapse before the assembling of the legislature, the state capital is already filled up with legislative and political leaders, approximating the crowd usually here on the opening day.

Though some of the anti-Goebel leaders are fighting hard to bring their forces against Blackburn, as well as against Goebel, the anti-Blackburn movement does not appear to be strong, and unless it can gather strength by means of the tangle over the state contests, Blackburn will win for United States senator with something like the same margin as he secured in his campaign for him. So far, only two anti-Goebel democrats have declared themselves positively as anti-Blackburn, though it is claimed there are others who are not outspoken.

The anti-Goebel leaders are not doing much talking regarding their plans of procedure, but they are making some strong claims regarding their strength on the matter of procedure. They assert with confidence that they have a majority of one in the senate on the contests and that in both houses there are several members who, though they may vote to send Goebel and Beckham, will not vote to unseat any of the republican legislators elected, against whom contests are pending. This probably refers to several popular members elected as democrats and who are claimed by both sides.

Republicans to Meet at Peoria. SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 29.—At tonight's meeting of the republican state central committee, the delegates from the various counties and April 10 next as the date for holding the state convention.

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MOTHER DIES FROM SHOCK. Mrs. Chapman and Daughter Drown Near Ardmore—News of Accident Causes a Death. ARDMORE, I. T., Dec. 29.—Charles Chapman attempted to drive through a swollen stream above here today with his family, with the result that Mrs. Chapman and their daughter were drowned. The body of the mother of the mother of Charles Chapman died of the shock.

DEATH RECORD. John Cowles. John Cowles of the city engineering department died Thursday evening at the Methodist hospital. A tumor was the cause of death. Several days ago Cowles went to the hospital to submit to an operation, which failed to give relief.

The deceased was 47 years of age and had lived in Omaha twenty-five years. During the Spanish-American war he went to Cuba, where he served as an ambulance driver. He returned to Omaha last May. He leaves a wife and daughter, the latter being Mrs. Jesse Martin of 2224 Charles street. He was a brother-in-law of Deputy Sheriff Louis Grebe. The funeral will be held Sunday from the family residence. The Masonic lodge will officiate.

Mackellar, Printer, Poet and Author. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Thomas Mackellar, senior member of the firm of Mackellar, Smith & Jordan, type foundry, died today of pneumonia, at his home in Germantown. Mackellar, who was a printer, poet and author, was born in New York, August 12, 1812. He was the author of numerous books, poems and hymns, among them "The American Printer," a treatise on practical printing. He was president of the Type Foundry's association of the United States and was a member of numerous other organizations.

Editor Eugene V. Smalley. ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 29.—Eugene V. Smalley, the editor and publisher of the Northwest Magazine, died at his home in this city at 10 o'clock today. He was a newspaper man, author and publisher. Mr. Smalley was one of the most widely known writers of the northwest. As a political correspondent he had traveled through almost every state in the union. He was secretary of the National Sound Money league.

Former Congressman Griffin. EAU CLAIRE, Wis., Dec. 29.—Former Congressman Michael Griffin, head of the state tax commission, died suddenly this evening at his home in Eau Claire. Mr. Griffin was one of the best known republicans in the state and had been mentioned frequently of late as a candidate for governor. He was chairman of the last state republican convention and served in the last congress.

Old Settler of Black Hills. LEAD, S. D., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Mrs. James W. Smith died in this city last evening at the age of 88. She has been a resident of the Hills for a number of years. She leaves a large number of relatives, among whom are fourteen grandchildren.

Wife of Brigadier General Worth. NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Florence Mansfield Worth, wife of Brigadier General William S. Worth, United States army, retired, died yesterday at Fort Hamilton, N. Y.

Inverly's "Watermelon Man." ELGIN, Ill., Dec. 29.—J. W. McAndrews, the old-time "watermelon man" of the Inverly Mineral company, died at the Elgin asylum today, aged 64 years.

HYMENEAL. Helene to Second Million. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Florence Blythe-Hinckley, heiress to several million dollars left by her father, Thomas Blythe, which were awarded to her after the protracted litigation, has been quietly married to A. A. Moore, Jr., deputy attorney general of this state.

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