

LABOR STRUGGLE

ALL IOWA COAL MINES CLOSED BY A STRIKE.

THE SITUATION SUMMED UP

What Miners Demand and What Operators Are Willing to Grant—A Long and Hard Struggle Seems Likely as Matters Are Now Viewed.

DES MOINES, Ia.—The Iowa miners and operators failed to agree, and 13,500 miners are on a strike.

Every mine in Iowa is closed.

The conference adjourned a session covering a period of six weeks.

Summed up the situation is this:

First—The miners demand a reduction in the price of blasting powder from \$2 to \$1.75 per can. They demand a uniform advance in the scale of wages paid top men and that drivers in districts Nos. 1 and 4 shall receive the same scale as in districts Nos. 2 and 3.

Second—The operators claim that they are standing by the Indianapolis agreement and in so doing cannot submit to general increases in the wages paid unskilled labor throughout the district. There is no dissatisfaction with the scale paid skilled workmen in any district.

Telegrams were sent John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, asking him to come to Des Moines and aid in a readjustment of differences. Mr. Mitchell has agreed to go to Colorado to assist in the labor trouble there and it is not unlikely he may stop at Des Moines.

President White of the Iowa miners said:

"The miners have made every attempt to arbitrate and were unable to reach an agreement. There is nothing else now to do but to fight it out to the end. I shall never sanction an agreement under the present conditions."

Leading operators say the position of the miners is untenable and that they cannot reach them so long as they cling to their present position.

It is believed the lockout may be the beginning of a long and hard struggle. The strike and lockout will affect mines in Appanoose, Mahaska, Kookuk, Wapello, Marion, Jasper, Polk, Boone and Webster counties, Iowa, and those in Putnam county, Missouri.

In Polk county there are 1,500 miners, while more than \$2,000,000 is invested in the business in this county alone.

HEINZE MUST PAY BIG SUM.

Montana Copper King Fined \$20,000 for Contempt of Court.

BUTTE, Mont.—F. Augustus Heinze, the Montana copper magnate, A. L. Frank, superintendent of the Johnstown Mining company, and J. H. Terrier, superintendent of the Rarus mine, Heinze properties, were found guilty of contempt of court by Judge Beatty in the United States court Wednesday in the action brought by the Butte & Boston Mining company against the defendants for entering the Michael Davitt lodge claim and extracting therefrom valuable ore on what is known as the Enargite vein.

Mr. Heinze was fined \$20,000, while Frank and Terrier were fined \$1,000 each, the fines to be paid by 11 o'clock Thursday morning or the defendants to be taken to Helena in custody of the United States marshal and confined until the fines are paid. Carlos Warfield, another defendant, was found not guilty and discharged.

OLD AGE PENSION ORDER.

It is Criticized in the Upper Branch of Congress.

WASHINGTON—Good Friday was devoted by the senate to almost continuous discussion of political questions. The time until 2 o'clock was devoted to consideration of the Carmack resolution, proposing an inquiry into the legality of the recent executive old-age pension order. Mr. Malory was the principal speaker, but he was frequently interrupted by republican senators. He contended that Secretary Hitchcock had transcended the limits of executive authority in issuing the order.

The latter half of the day was devoted to the postoffice appropriation bill, but no appreciable progress was made with that measure, the speeches on it being in the main political and of a general character.

They End Their Troubles.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The dead bodies of John B. Altman, aged 68, and his wife, Julianna, aged 47, were found in their home, both having been asphyxiated by gas, by their own arrangement. Buried by debt, advancing years and the recollection of a fortune vanished are supposed to have led them to commit suicide. They left a note saying they had taken their own lives. In the cellar was found the dead body of their pet cat, which had been chloroformed.

Provisions Plentiful in Manchuria.

ST. PETERSBURG—The chief of the commissary department, Rostkovsky, says that not a pound of meat or bread is being sent to Manchuria, as the cattle and grain available there are more than sufficient for the demand.

For Unlimited Subsidiary Silver.

WASHINGTON.—The senate committee on finance endorsed an amendment to the sundry civil bill, providing for the removal of the limitations as to the coinage of subsidiary silver.

McKinley Memorial Trustees.

CANTON, O.—President Day, of the National McKinley Association has issued a call for a meeting of the trustees of the association to be held at the Manhattan hotel in New York May 9. It is expected that some action on the designs will be taken at that time.

Cousin of Admiral Dewey.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—George K. Perrin, one of the oldest lawyers in the state and a cousin of Admiral Dewey, died here.

RUSSIAN CHIEF OF STAFF.



MAJOR GENERAL PFLUG

Major General Pflug, who is chief of the Russian military staff in Manchuria, stands high among the military men of the empire and has the confidence of those who follow the affairs of the nation. He is a thorough soldier of the modern Russian military type, and has proved his ability in many departments of the service.

WON BY THE JAPS.

Land Engagement Near the Town of Chong Ju.

ST. PETERSBURG—The emperor has received a dispatch from General Kouropatkin giving a lengthy report from General Mishchenko, dated at 10 p. m. March 28, which says an important engagement took place near the town of Chong Ju, in which the Russians were defeated, retiring in perfect order.

The Japanese suffered heavily, but the Russian losses are not stated.

Cavalry and infantry on both sides were engaged. The Russians occupied a commanding position. The Japanese fought gallantly, but owing to their heavy losses were unable to occupy the position abandoned by the Russians.

General Kouropatkin's report, in part, is as follows:

I have the honor to respectfully communicate to your majesty the report of General Mishchenko, March 28, 10 p. m., which says:

"For three consecutive days our small outposts attempted to draw the Japanese cavalry into action, but their patrols, after contact was established, retired beyond Chong Ju (about fifty miles northwest of Ping Yang)."

"Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy were posted five versts beyond Chong Ju on March 27, six companies marched toward Kasan and on March 28, reached Chong Ju at 10:30 a. m. As soon as our scouts approached the town the enemy opened fire from behind the wall. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied the heights 600 yards distant. An engagement ensued.

"In the town a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry were lying in ambush. Our men were reinforced by three companies and attacked the Japanese with a cross fire. Notwithstanding this and our commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their grounds and it was only after a fierce fight of half an hour's duration that the Japanese ceased fire and sought refuge in the houses. The Japanese hoisted the Red Cross flag at two points.

"Soon afterwards three squadrons of the enemy were seen advancing along the Kasan road at full gallop toward the town, which two of the squadrons succeeded in entering while the third fell back in disorder under repeated volleys from our troops. A number of men and horses were seen to fall. For an hour afterward our companies continued to fire on the Japanese in the town, preventing them from leaving the streets and houses.

"An hour and a half after the beginning of the engagement four companies were seen on the Kasan road hastening to attack. I gave the order to mount and the entire force, with a covering squadron, advanced in perfect order and formed in line behind the hill. The wounded were placed in front and the retirement was carried out with the deliberation of a parade."

Coinage Executed in March.

WASHINGTON—The coinage executed at the mints of the United States during March aggregated 15,285,503 pieces and \$5,232,168 in value, as follows: Gold, \$3,605,790; silver, \$1,431,508; minor coins, \$164,870. In addition, 3,469 pieces were coined for the Philippine government.

In the Nation's Strong Box.

WASHINGTON.—Tuesday's statement of the treasury balances in the general fund, exclusive of the \$150,000,000 gold reserve in the division of redemption, shows: Available cash balances, \$224,600,151; gold, \$115,424,209.

Wood Concedes Victory.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Returns have been received from seventy-one out of seventy-five counties and they show that Governor Jefferson Davis carried fifty-three and Judge Wood eighteen counties in the democratic state primaries last Saturday. The counties carried by Governor Davis are entitled to 302 delegates in the state convention. The number necessary to nominate is 222. Judge Wood has conceded that on the face of the returns he has not enough counties to win the nomination, but will contest.

Will Limit Immigration.

LONDON.—The alien immigration bill was introduced in the House of Commons and passed its first reading without a division. The bill follows the recommendations of the report of the royal commission on alien immigration, issued August 11 last, that the immigration of certain classes into the United Kingdom be subjected to state control. Home Secretary Akers Douglas, in introducing the measure, referred to the increase of crime due to the admission of the undesirable classes.

THE CANAL BILL

THE MEASURE TO BE GIVEN ATTENTION THIS WEEK.

APPROPRIATIONS ALSO COME UP

Swayne Impeachment Resolution to Be the Feature of the House—Discussion to Take Place on Various Bills in Both Branches.

WASHINGTON—The early part of the present week will be devoted to the postoffice appropriation bill and when that measure is disposed of the Panama canal bill will be taken up. The canal bill will be among the few measures other than appropriation bills which will receive attention before the final adjournment session. It is expected that the measure will be debated at some length, and it is expected that amendments to it will be offered by senators on both sides of the chamber. It is expected that by the time the canal bill shall be disposed of the sundry civil bill will have been reported from the committee, whereupon it will be considered.

During the week there will be discussion of various other bills, including the bill for the protection of the president, on which Mr. Hoar will speak on Monday; the pure food bill, on which Mr. Heyburn will speak Tuesday, and the Chinese exclusion bill, which will be discussed on Wednesday by Mr. Patterson. Thursday will be devoted to eulogies on the late Senator Hanna.

The Swayne impeachment resolution will be the feature of the proceedings in the house. Legislation for the District of Columbia will have the right of way part of Monday and the balance of the day will be utilized for the passage of bills under suspension of the rules. Tuesday and Wednesday the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriation bill, to which the senate has made amendments, will take precedence, and the military academy bill will be disposed of during this time, as will conference reports on several minor house bills.

Thursday the Swayne impeachment case will be called up, and present indications are that debate on this subject will consume the balance of the week.

The report of the McCall investigation committee is looked for the latter part of the week.

OPPOSE ARBITRATION TREATY.

Irish Protest Against Any Alliance with England.

CLEVELAND, O.—The Irish nationalists of this city have adopted strong resolutions protesting against an arbitration treaty between the United States of America and Great Britain. The views of George Washington relative to the danger of alliances with foreign powers is cited and the opinion is expressed that such a treaty between the United States and Great Britain would be an undesirable condition to the other European powers and would tend to disrupt and destroy the friendly relations that now exist between the United States and those countries. A copy of the protest will be sent to Senators Foraker and Dick.

CHLOROFORMED PASSENGERS.

Pickpocket Arrested on a Rock Island Train.

DES MOINES, Ia.—One of the most original pickpockets ever to operate in the west was captured on a Rock Island passenger train near Centerville. With a rag and cotton wound around his forefinger, as though it were injured, he saturated it with chloroform and sat down by the side of a drowsy passenger. Opening a paper he became interested in a story and soon worked his finger near enough his victim to cause an unnatural stupor. He had victimized several passengers when arrested by detectives. In his grip was found knock-out drops and other professional material.

Sugar Factory Moves West.

BINGHAMPTON, N. Y.—The work of dismantling the Binghamton beet sugar factory, which is to be removed to Blackfoot, Bingham county, Idaho, will be begun within a few days. The change is made because it has been difficult to persuade the farmers in this locality to raise enough beets to successfully operate the plant. The Idaho soil and climate are well adapted to beet culture and farmers there are eager to make contracts to raise enough to supply the factory.

Orders Cannon from England.

PARIS.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Figaro says that Russia has ordered 250 cannon in England for the Manchurian army. He adds that the Tenth and Seventeenth army corps will not start for the seat of war before the end of the month.

Pink Fish for Yellow Men.

SEATTLE, Wash.—The Seattle Trade Register says that orders have been placed with local dealers in the last few days for 225,000 cases of Alaska pink salmon for shipment to Japan for use by the army. The immense purchase will go forward by the Shawmut, sailing Saturday, while each following ship will take some 75,000 cases have been purchased by Japan in San Francisco and that large purchases have also been made in Vancouver, B. C.

Antarctic Explorers Safe.

LYTTELTON, New Zealand.—The British Antarctic steamer Discovery and the relief steamers Morning and Terra Nova arrived here Friday. The relief ships, which left Hobart December 5, reached the Discovery February 14 and found all the members of the expedition in excellent health and good spirits. Scientific work was continued by the explorers throughout the winter of 1903. They established the fact that the interior surface of Victoria land continues at a height of 9,000 feet.

RIOTS ARE FEARED.

Russia is Taking Every Precaution to Avoid Trouble Easter Week.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Reports received by the ministry of the interior indicate that the precautionary measures taken to prevent anti-Jewish disturbances during Easter week, when the ignorant are easily aroused to a sort of religious frenzy against the Jews by the dissemination of false stories regarding "blood atonement," will result in the avoidance of trouble.

In spite of the precautions it is feared there may be riotings, but the authorities may be relied upon to suppress these with a strong hand. The following telegram was received today from Odessa:

"Reports of anti-Jewish disturbances, which are always common at Easter time, cause more uneasiness this year than usual because of occurrences of last year. The authorities have confidence in Governor Eikhart, who is in charge of the city and who is an energetic and humane man, as well as in Baron Kaubers, commander of the troops in southern Russia. Under the circumstances any serious disturbances are considered impossible.

The newspapers have printed warnings and the city is placarded with warnings that all who disturb the peace will be severely punished.

RUSSIANS SAY IT WAS A VICTORY.

Claim that Japanese Suffered Heavy Loss in Latest Fight.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The following semi-official dispatch has been received from Liao Yang:

In the first encounter with the Japanese in northern Corea, which was crowned with victory for the Russian arms, the enemy's losses were ten times those of the Russians. According to Corea reports the Japanese buried fifty men, while 120 wounded were removed with the help of 500 Koreans to the headquarters of the Japanese main force. The confusion of the Japanese was so great that they raised two Red Cross flags in token of surrender. Throughout their war with China the Japanese never showed themselves so distracted. The people here are in high spirits over the news of the first brilliant fight in Corea.

PROMISE JAPS WARM RECEPTION

Preparations to Circumvent Attempt to Bottle Up Port Arthur.

PORT ARTHUR.—Preparations have been made to give the Japanese a warm reception in case they again attempt to block the harbor. Vice Admiral Togo was right in surmising that Vice Admiral Makaroff is responsible for the change in Russian tactics and the inspiration of Russian seamen.

A Signalman named Aronkono, who, during the bombardment of Vladivostok, remained at a small signal station on Askold island near the enemy's ships and wired information of the movements of the enemy to the fortress has been decorated with the cross of St. George.

FOOD SUPPLY OF PORT ARTHUR.

Japanese Refugee Says There is Enough for One Month.

NEW YORK.—A Japanese merchant who left Port Arthur in one of the many Chinese junks which are now driving a profitable trade supplying Port Arthur with foodstuffs, estimates that the food supply is sufficient for one month, says a Wei Hai Wei dispatch to the Times. He asserts that the garrison does not exceed 10,000, excluding the naval strength.

Work on damaged vessels is progressing diligently. In the bombardment of March 10, 90 per cent of the Japanese projectiles burst. There were three small fires as a result, but no serious conflagrations.

Casualties in a Skirmish.

SEOUL.—A report has reached here that 50 Japanese and 100 Cossacks were killed and wounded in a skirmish that occurred between Anju and Chong Ju. Marquis Ito, upon taking his departure yesterday, submitted to the government some suggestions for Corea reform. The emperor has appointed Yi Chi Ying, a former minister of foreign affairs, as a special ambassador to bear presents to the Japanese emperor and return the compliment of Marquis Ito's visit to Corea.

Holds Societies Unlawful.

DETROIT, Mich.—In a sweeping decision, handed down on Monday by Judge Brooke of the Wayne circuit court, the Riverside club and Plumbers exchange of this city, an organization of plumbers against which proceedings were brought by Prosecutor Hunt on the ground that they were organized to fix prices and stifle competition, were restrained from continuing business, which the court holds to be "an unlawful enterprise inimical to the public welfare."

Princess Edward Passes Away.

BERLIN.—Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar died here Sunday of acute pneumonia.

Turkey Will Exhibit.

WASHINGTON.—According to dispatch received here it is learned that the Council of ministers for Turkey has unanimously approved the proposition for an exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition. A great number of natives are permitted to partake in the exhibit. Religious services of the Islamic faith will be held at the Mosque of Omar, which is an exact representation of the most celebrated mosque of Constantinople. The export of the water from the Jordan has been authorized.

Delegates from Philippines.

MANILA.—The Republicans and Democrats here are organizing to elect delegates to the national convention. They will urge the adoption of legislation favorable to the Philippine islands.

Bombay Plague in India.

BOMBAY.—The latest available bubonic plague returns for the whole of India for the week ending March 1, show the appalling mortality of 40,527, an increase over those of the preceding week.

Expect a Fight on the Yalu April 2.

ST. PETERSBURG.—A correspondent of the Novosti at Liao Yang, under yesterday date reports that the Japanese have moved on the Yalu river and that a conflict between them and the Russians is expected about April 2d.

Aged Writer and Reformer Dies.

BOSTON, Mass.—Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz, the writer and reformer, died at her home in Belmont at the age of 83 years.

EXPRESS HELD UP

CAR BLOWN OPEN AND THE MESSENGER KILLED.

MASKED MEN DO THE WORK

Engineer Compelled to Carry Them Away—Dynamite Used in the Destruction—Contents of the Car Are Taken.

ACRAMENTO, Cal.—Three masked men held up the Oregon express, south bound on the Southern Pacific railroad at Copley, near Keswick, killed W. J. O'Neill, the express messenger, and carried off the contents of the express box. The train is known as No. 15, and stopped at Copley, a small station, for water. As the train came to a standstill three men jumped on and cut the train in two, taking the engine and express car down the track a short distance. They stopped the engine and demanded that Messenger O'Neill open the express car. He refused, whereupon they blew up the express car with dynamite and deliberately killed O'Neill by shooting him through the head. The bandits then robbed the car of its contents, but it is not known how much they obtained.

After robbing the express car the men cut the car loose and, getting on the engine, compelled Engineer Joesink to go ahead. When near Keswick the men dropped off the engine and disappeared in the night with their plunder.

REDDING, Cal.—It is evident that the three armed men who held up the Oregon express and attempted to rob it at Copley were novices. They took human life without provocation and the methods they employed to open the safes were so crude that they gained but little plunder.

The particulars of the robbery were obtained when the train, minus the express car, reached Redding. When the train pulled into Copley the highwaymen emerged from the brush. They first encountered a tramp, who was attempting to steal a ride. He was jabbed in the ribs with a rifle muzzle and made to enter the smoker. Meanwhile one of the robbers knocked on the door of the express car. W. J. O'Neill, the Wells-Fargo messenger, asked him some question. The reply was evidently satisfactory, because O'Neill slid the door back about eighteen inches, when a rifle bullet was sent through his body. It passed near his heart and the messenger fell back dead. O'Neill was not armed. He evidently believed from what he was told that the knock came from a member of the train crew.

NO LONGER NEED OF DELAY.

President and Attorney General Talk Over Canal.

WASHINGTON—President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox had a conference subsequent to the receipt of the information that the government of Colombia had lost its suit in the French courts against the new Panama canal company, and that now there was no longer any reason for delay in the transfer of the company's concessions and property to the United States. They discussed carefully the facts of the situation.

At the conclusion of the interview Attorney General Knox announced that there now was no more reason for delay than might be occasioned by the transfer of a title to a twenty-foot lot in Washington.

The attorney general added that the action of the French court had disposed of the last legal obstacle in the way of the transfer of the canal company's property.

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

President Decides Upon the Appointment of Judge Baxter.

WASHINGTON.—The long fight over the displacement of United States Attorney W. S. Summers of Nebraska is ended. The president will appoint Judge Irving W. Baxter of Omaha to the position. The appointment is expected to go to the senate Friday. The appointment of Judge Baxter was settled on at the White House in a conference between the president and Senators Millard and Dietrich, and D. E. Thompson. The two senators and Mr. Thompson agreed upon Judge Baxter, and so assured the president.

The term of District Attorney Summers has been out for two years, but he has held on, regardless of this.

Situation is Appalling.

PETERSBURG, Ind.—The flood situation in this country is appalling. White river, above here, is thirteen miles wide in places and twenty feet deep in the channel. Patoka river, which flows through the country's center, is three miles wide for nearly forty miles. Farms are under water, bridges and fences are gone, the soil washed away and much stock drowned. The loss now reaches \$250,000. The wheat is ruined. It is feared there will be two more feet of water.

Boer Leader Wants Peace.

KRUGERSDORP.—General Delarey the former Boer commander, addressing a congress of farmers on Wednesday, said that he regretted the forthcoming representation of scenes of the Boer war at the St. Louis Exposition, which he said would be a shameful production. General Delarey said that he wished to bring to the notice of the world the fact that the Boers had abandoned all thoughts of vindictiveness towards Great Britain and that now it was their privilege to work in peace.

Bullets Ended Their Lives.

KEOKUK, Ia.—Examination of the bodies of C. Lemlee and wife the aged couple found burned to death in their dwelling house at Montrose, disclosed the fact that each had a bullet hole through the head. A revolver with two empty chambers was found in the kitchen near where the man was found. The coroner's jury found that Lemlee had killed his wife, set fire to the house to hide his crime, and then shot himself. The police are now working on the theory that they were murdered.

POSTOFFICE APPROPRIATIONS.

Rural Carriers May Receive Subscriptions to Papers.

WASHINGTON.—After two days' consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill the senate committee reported it tonight and it will be taken up in the senate tomorrow. On account of its incomplete state the exact amount of the increase made cannot be given, though it is said the bill will carry not more than \$1,000,000 over the bill as passed by the house, except for an emergency measure incorporated in the bill.

The house bill provides for the rental of the Pennsylvania railroad site in New York for postoffice purposes, but the senate committee decided that it would be better business policy to buy the site. Therefore an appropriation of \$2,000,000 is made for that purpose.

Among the amendments to the bill is the following: Salaries of rural free delivery carriers are fixed at \$720 a year, and the carriers are permitted to carry merchandise for hire and receive subscriptions for and deliver newspapers and periodicals, so long as this occupation does not interfere with the proper discharge of their duties. It is stipulated, however, that the carriers shall not discriminate against any newspaper.

COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION.

Gets into a Wrangle Over Repeal of Desert Land Act.

WASHINGTON.—The question of committee jurisdiction resulted in a lively session on Wednesday in the house committee on irrigation of arid lands. The committee adjourned when the hour of 12 o'clock arrived with an appeal from the ruling of Chairman Mondell pending.

The trouble arose over a bill introduced by Representative Reeder, providing for amendments to the national irrigation act. When the bill was taken up by the committee Mr. Reeder moved to strike out the first two sections. Subsequently this motion was made to cover all after the enacting clause of the bill.

Mr. Underwood immediately proposed a substitute, which was a repeal clause for the desert land law.

Mr. Marshall of North Dakota made a point of order against this substitute, first that it was a matter over which the committee had no jurisdiction, and second that it was not germane to the pending bill. The chairman sustained this point of order, and from his decision Mr. Underwood appealed.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT.

Decrease for the Month of March Is \$2,612,533.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business, March 31, 1904, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$915,422,101, a decrease for the month of \$2,612,533. The debt is recapitulated as follows:

Interest bearing debt, \$895,156,740; debt on which interest has ceased in maturity, \$2,670,510; debt bearing no interest, \$292,234,486; total, \$1,290,122,096. This amount, however, does not include \$955,117,869 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding which are offset by an equal amount of cash on hand for their redemption. The cash in the treasury is classified as follows: Gold reserve fund \$150,000,000; trust funds, \$936,896,569; general fund, \$144,983,607; in national bank deposits, \$162,058,353; in the Philippine treasury, \$5,162,945; total, \$1,299,011,475, against which there are demands outstanding amounting to \$1,023,311,479, leaving a cash balance in the treasury amounting to \$374,699,995.

THE BENNETT WILL CASE.

A Ruling that Leaves Mr. Bryan Without a \$50,000 Bequest.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A finding that the sealed letter by which Philo S. Bennett expressed a wish that \$50,000 should be given to William Jennings Bryan and his family was not a part of the last will of Mr. Bennett returned by the jury Thursday in the superior court in the trial of Mr. Bryan's appeal from the decision of the probate court.

This finding, which upholds the decision of the probate court, was given in accordance to instructions to the jury from Judge Gager, who presided at the superior court trial. Judge Gager's ruling on a question which has never before come directly before the court of Connecticut decided that the sealed letter could not be admitted as evidence in the trial.

The decision followed arguments which had occupied most of the two preceding days of the session, regarding the admissibility of this letter as evidence, counsel for Mr. Bryan contending that it should be admitted, while the attorneys for Mrs. Grace Imogene Bennett, the widow, and other heirs presented opposing arguments.

Minority for Representative.

WASHINGTON.—Representative Gillette of California has prepared and submitted the minority report against the resolution adopted by a majority of the committee on judiciary to impeach Judge Swayne of the northern district of Florida of high misdemeanors. Every ground urged by the committee for impeachment is attacked in this report.

General W. H. Payne Dead.

WASHINGTON.—General William H. Payne, counsel for the Southern railway, a distinguished confederate officer, and commander of the famous Black Horse cavalry at the first battle of Bull Run, died Wednesday, aged 73 years.

Ravages of Bubonic Plague.

BOMBAY.—The latest available bubonic plague returns for the whole of India for the week ending March 19, show that appalling mortality of 40,527, an increase of 7,000.

Grand Rapids Without Gas.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—The suffering of the flood victims will now be aggravated by the failure of the gas supply. Tuesday night all the gas mains leading to the flooded west side became filled with water and there is no possibility of their becoming opened for use before the flood completely recedes. It is not known to what cause the filling of the mains is due, although it is supposed that a number of small pipes burst and that the high water quickly entered the mains.

Live Stock Markets