BIBLE ASTRONOMY.

Dr. Talmage Discourses Upon an Interesting Subject.

He Belleves It Is Time to Widen Out and Heighten Religious Thought-Old Ruts Should Be Avolded in Christian Work.

In a late sermon at Brooklyn Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage took for his subject "The Astronomy of the Bible, or God Among the Stars," the text being from Amos, ix. 6: "It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven." Preceding the sermon the congregation sang Dr.

Watt's hymn: The heavens declare Thy glory, Lord In every star Thy wisdom sh Dr. Talmage said:

That is first rate poetry from Arms, the berdsman. While guarding his flocks at night he watched the heavens. He saw stars above stars and the universe seemed to him like a great mansion many stories high, silver room above silver room, silver pillars beside silver pillars, and windows of silver and doors of silver, and turrets and domes of silver rising into the immensities, and the prophet's sanctified imagination walks through that great silver palace of the universe, through the first story, through the second story, through the third story, through the twentieth story, through the hundredth story, through the thousandth story, and realizing that God is the architect and carpenter and mason of all that upheaved splendor, he cried out in the words of the text: "It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven."

My hearers, it is time that we widened out and heightened our religious thoughts. In our pulpits and Sabbath classes and Christian work of all sorts we ring the changes on a few verses of Scripture until they excite no interest. Many of the best parts of the Bible have never yet been preached from or indeed even noticed. Hence I to-day begin a series of sermons, not for consecutive Sabbath mornings, but as often as I think it best for variety's sake, on the Astronomy of the Bible, or God among the Stars; the Geology of the Bible, or God among the Rocks; the Ornithology of the Bible, or God among the Birds; the Ichthyology of the Bible, or God among the Fishes; the Pomology of the Bible, or God among the Orchards; the Precious Stones of the Bible, or God among the Amethysts; the Conchology of the Bible, or God among the Shells; the Botany of the Bible, or God among the Flowers; the Chronology of the Bible, or God among the Centuries. The fact is that we have all spent too much time on one story of the great mansion of God's universe. We need occasionally to go upstairs or downstairs in this mansion downstairs and in the cellar study the rocks, or upstairs and see God in some of the higher stories, and learn the meaning of the text when it says: is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven."

Astronomy was born in Chaldea. Its mother was astrology or the science of forctelling events by juxtaposition of stars. The orientals, living much out of doors and in a very clear atmosphere, through which the stars shone especial ly lustrous, got the habit of studying the night heavens. In the hot seasons caravans journeyed chiefly at night, and that gave travelers much opportunity of stellar information. On the first page of the Bible the sun and moon and stars roll in. The sun, a body nearly 3,000,000 miles in circumference and more than 12,000 times as large as our earth; the moon, more than 2,000 miles in diameter. But God is used to doing things on such an omnipotent scale that he takes only one verse to tell of this stellar and lunar manu facture. Yea, in three words all the other worlds are thrown in. The rec-ord says: "The stars also!" It takes whole pages for a man to extol the making of a telescope or microscope or a magnetic telegraph or a threshing machine, or to describe a fine painting or statute, but it was so easy for God to hang the celestial upholstery that the story is compassed in one verse: "Jod made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. The stars also!"

Read on in your Bibles, and after awhile the Bible flashes with the aurora borealis or northern lights, that strange illumination, as mysterious and unde fined now as when, in the book of Job, it was written: "Men see not the bright light which is in the clouds. Fair weather cometh out of the north."
While all the nations supposed that the carth was built on a foundation of some sort, and many supposed that it stood on a huge turtle, or some great marine creature, Job knew enough of astronomy to say it had no foundation, but was suspended on the invisible arm of the Almighty, declaring that "He hangeth the earth upon nothing." While all nations thought the earth was level, the sky spread over it like a tent over a flat surface, Isaiah declared the world to be globular, saying of God: "He sitteth upon the circle of the earth. While running your fingers through the leaves of your Bible with the as tronomical thought in your mind you see two worlds stop—the sun and the moon. But what does that Christian know about that miracle who does not understand something of those two luminaries? Unless you watch modern astronomy, put those two worlds in its steelyards and weigh them, you are as ignorant as a Hottentot about the stupendousness of that scene in the life of Joshus. But I can easily believe it. What confounds me is not that He could stop and start again those two worlds in Joshua's time, but that He could have made the wheel of worlds of which the sun and moon are only night, that you may see other worlds. cogs, and keep that wheel rolling for thousands of years—the fly-wheel of all eternity. If an engineer can start long train, it is not surprising that he can stop it. If God could make and move the universe, which is an express train drawn by an omnipotent engine, I am not surprised that for a part of a day he could put down the brakes on two pieces of the rotating machinery Infidelity is hard up for ground of com-

I could not make a watch if I tried, but

can stop and start it again.
O the stars! Those vestal fires kept burning on infinite altars. Those lighthouses on the coast of eternity. The hands and .weights and pendulum of the great clock of the universe. According to Herschel the so-called fixed stars are not fixed at all, but each one a sun with a mighty system of worlds rolling round it, and this whole system with all the other systems rolling on around some other great center.

But what gladdens me, and at the same time overwhelms me, is that those worlds are inhabited. The Bible says so, and what a small idea you must have of God and His dominion if you think it only extends across this chip of a world which you and I now inhabit. Have you taken this idea of all the other worlds being inhabited as human guess work? Read Isaiah, xiv., 19: Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens, God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited " Now, if He inhabited the earth so that it would not be created in vain, would He make worlds hundreds and thousands of times larger and not have them inhabited? Speaking of the inhabitants of this world,

He says: "The nations are a drop of a bucket." If all the inhabitants of this world are as a drop of a bucket, where are the other drops of the bucket? Again and again the Bible speaks of the host of Heaven, and the word "host" means living creatures. not inert masses, and the expression "hosts of Heaven" must mean inhabitants of other worlds. The psalmist cries out: "Thy mercy is great above the heavens." If there were no inhabitants above the heavens, what use of any mercy? Again, the Bible exclaims: Thy goodness is great above the heav-What could be the use of His goodness above the heavens if there were no inhabitants to enjoy it? Again, the Bible says: "He hath set thy glory above the heavens." And here my text comes in with its idea of a mansion of many stories: "It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven." Is it possible that we who live on the ground floor of this many storied building are the only tenants and that the larger rooms and the more gorgeously upholstered rooms and the more brillianty chandeliered rooms above it are un-Besides this we are positively told in

habited-the world angelic and the world diabolic. Those two worlds added to our own make it positive that three worlds are inhabited. Why, then, stop with three worlds of living beings when there are not only millions, but billions of worlds? Are they all stand-ing like expensively furnished houses in time of financial panic marked "To Let" and no one to take them? All around as in this world we see economy omnipotence. If Christ was going to feed the hungry 7,000 in the wilderness, He made use of the boy's five loaves and two fishes, expending no more of creative power than was needed. "Waste not" God hath written

the Bible that two other worlds are in-

all over this world. And do you sup-pose that God would waste world mate-rial in our solar system to the amount of what has been estimated as seven tions flying apart. Galaxies dissolved. and that only a small part as compared by the last hurricane letting down the with other systems which go to make up this many-storied mansion of the ext, where it says: "It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven." Judging from the extent of the uni-

verse, do you think God would put all his family on such limits as this world marks? If a king have a palace of one hundred rooms, will he put all his princes and princesses in one comparatively small room? As the highest happiness is in making others happy, is it not certain that God would occupy larger places than our small earth with beings capable of happiness? Besides this why all the worlds furthest on and furthest up covered with light? What is the use of light if there are no eyes of inhabitants to enjoy and employ that light? I admit that scientific exploration has discovered that around many worlds there is an atmosphere in which lungs like ours could not breathe, and there are heats or colds that physique like ours could not endure. But do you suppose that we have the only kind of lungs that God can make? Do our bodies exhaust Divine ingenuity and must he make all intelligent creatures with our respiration or pulsation or mastication or digestion or habitude or not make them at all? Because organisms like ours cannot live in Mercury or Saturn or Jupiter or the sun, we have no right to conclude that those globes are lifeless. Without any observatory and without any astronomical calculation, I know that the other worlds are inhabited because my Bible and my common sense tell me so. It has been estimated that in the worlds belonging to our solar system there is room for at least 25,000,000,000 of population. And I believe it is all occupied or will be occupied by intelligent beings. God will not fill them

with brutes. What a monstrosity of ignorance that the majority of Christian people listen not to the voices of other worlds, although the Book says: "The heavens declare the glory of God," and, again: "The works of the Lord are great and to be sought out." You have been satis-fying yourself with some things about Christ, but have you noticed that Paul calls you to consider Christ as the Creator of other worlds "by whom also He made the worlds." It is time you Christians start on a world hunt. That is the chief reason why God makes the

Furthermore, I get now from all this and answer to the question which every intelligent man and woman since the earth has stood has asked and received no answer. Why did God let sin and sorrow come into the world when he could have prevented them from coming? I wish reverently to say I think I being asked to repeat a stanza of Bry-

plaint against the Scriptures when it to demonstrate the gigantic disasfinds fault with that cessation of stellers that would come upon any lar and lunar travel. Here is my watch. world that allowed sin to enter. Which world that allowed sin to enter. Which world should it be? Well, the smaller the world the better, for less numbers would suffer, so our world was selected. The stage was plenty large enough for the enactment of the tragedy. Enter on the stage Sin, followed by Murder, Pain, Theft, Fraud, Impurity, Falsehood, Massaere, War and all the abominations and horrors and agonies of centuries. Although we know comparatively little about the other worlds lest we become completely dissatisfied with our own, no doubt the other worlds have heard and are now hearing all about this world in the awful experiment of sin which the human race has been making. In some way interstellar communication is open and all worlds, either by wing or flying spirits, or by direct communication from God, are learning that disloyalty and disobedience doom and damn every thing they touch, and the spectacle practically says to all other worlds: Obey God, keep holy and stay in the orbit where you were intended to swing, or you will suffer that which that recreant world out yonder has been suffering for thousands of years. But notice that as other worlds rolled

into the first book of the Bible the

book of Genesis, they also appear in the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation. They will take part in the scenes of that occasion which shall be the earth's winding up and a tremendous occasion for you and me personally. My father was on the turnpike road between Trenton and Bound Brook, N. J. It was the night of the 12th and the morning of the 13th of November, 1833. The sky was cloudless and the air clear. Suddenly the whole heavens became a scene never to be forgotten. From the constellation Leo meteors began to shoot out in all direction. For the two hours between 4 and 6 in the morning it was estimated that 1,000 meteors a minute flashed and expired. It grew lighter than noonday. Arrows of fire. Balls of fire. Trails of fire. Showers of fire. Some of the appearances were larger than the full moon. All around the heavens explosion followed explosion. Sounds well as sights. The air filled with uproar. All the luminaries of the sky seemed to have received marching orders. Many a brain that night gave way. It was an awful strain on strongest nerves. Millions of people fell on their knees in prayer. Was the world ending, or was there some great event for which all heaven was illuminated? For eight momentous hours the phenomenon lasted. East, west, north, south, it looked as though the heavens were in maniae disorder.

The spectacle ceased not until the

rising sun of the November morning eclipsed it, and the whole American nation sat down exhausted with the agitations of a night to be memorable until the earth itself shall become a falling star. The Bible closes with such a seene of falling lights, not only fidgety meteors, but grave old stars. St. John saw it in prospect and wrote: "The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind." What a time that will be when worlds drop. Rain of planets. Gravitation letting loose her grip on the worls. Constelladred trillion miles of solid contents | The great orchard of the universe swept | stars like ripened fruit. Our old earth will go with the rest, and let it go, for it will have existed long enough to complete its tremendous experiment. But there will be enough worlds left to make a heaven out of, if any more heaven needs to be built. That day finding us in Christ, our nature regenerated, and our sins pardoned, and our hope triumphant, we will feel no more alarm than when in September passing through an orehard you hear the apples thump to the ground, or through a conservatory and you hear an untimely fig drop on the floor. You will only go upstairs into another story, a better lighted story, a better furnished story, a better ventilated story, a better pictured story and into a story where already many of your kindred are waiting for you, and where prophets and apostles and martyrs will pay you celestial visitation, and where, with rapture beyond the most radiant anticipation, you shall bow before Him that "buildeth His stories in the heaven."

> A Quaint Old Watch. "What sort of a watch is this?" asked Duzenbury, picking up a curious old time-piece from a Harlem watchmaker's show case.

> "That," replied the watchmaker, "is a real curiosity. It is a watch that belonged to Alexander the Great when he died on the barren island of St. Hele-

"The mishief you say. Why, man alive, in the days of Alexander the Great they didn't have any watches."
"That's just what makes it such a rarity."

"And Alexander the Great did not die at St. Helena."

"He didn't, eh? Well, that makes it a still greater curiosity," and taking the rare relic from the hands of Duzenbury, he locked it up in his burglarproof safe. -Texas Siftings.

Dull-Eyed Scientists. Mrs. Hayseed-Who are those gentle nen runnin' into our barn to get out o'

th' rain? Daughter-They are a party of scien ists who are staying at the hotel. They've been out on some expedition or other.

Mrs. Hayseed-I don't see where their eyes was las' night. Anyone might 'a known from th' new moon it was goin' to rain. It was tipped up so it couldn't hold water if it tried -N. Y. Weekly.

-Alice, when very small, was encouraged by her father to be brave, and, instead of crying when she fell, to get up and say "Boo!" The lesson was thoroughly impressed on her mind; and have found the reason. To keep the universe loyal to a holy God it was important in some world somewhere to death, gets up and says 'Boo!'"

THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE.

The Total Vote of the Country on the Three Leading Presidential Candidates. The returns from the various states at the late presidential election show a total vote of 11,823,066, not including the prohibition vote, which will swell

the total to over 12,000,000 votes. In the tabulated returns below Mr. Cleveland apparently had no supporters in Colorado, Kansas, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming, but this was the result of political maneuvering by which the democratic votes of those states were cast for the people's party ticket. In Nebraska the Cleveland vote appears very small, but this was due to the fact that requests were sent out to the demcerats to vote for Weaver and over 60,-000 of them undoubtedly obeyed the instructions. The votes of the states named which cast presidential ballots for Cleveland in 1888 were as follows: Colorado, 37,567; Kansas, 102,745; Nevada, 5,326, and Oregon, 26,522. In 1890 the democratic votes in Idaho were 8,026 and in Wyoming 6,219.

The popular vote in the election of 1888 was divided as follows: Cleveland, 5,538,233; Harrison, 5,440,216; Streeter (Union Labor), 249,907.

In the electoral college of 1888, Mr. Harrison had 233 and Mr. Cleveland 168 votes. In the college of 1884, Mr. Cleveland had 219 and Mr. Blaine 155 votes. The vote of Mr. Cleveland in the present electoral college has been exceeded but once since the war. That was in 1872 when Gen. Grant secured 286 votes. Mr. Harrison's electoral vote is smaller than any defeated candidate has received since 1872.

The combined democratic and populist vote-6,570,735-is 1,487,437 larger than that of 1890, while the total republican vote is 964,416 larger than for congressmen two years ago.

The votes of the various states for the three candidates who names will figure in the electoral college are as follows:

STATES	veland	rison	Ner.
Alabama	138,135	83,871	85,123
Arkunsas	87,057	46,350	11,831
California	117,744	d117,203	25,226
Colorado	**********	3-,614	817
Connecticut	82,395 19,173	77.03: 18.067	972
Delaware	30,134	4.813	7,000
Fiorida	129,386	48.3 6	42,939
Idaho	140,000	N. 190	a10,409
Illinois	426,574	397,401	21,635
Indiana	163,720	2 43,02	22,2.8
Iowa	196,408	219,373	\$1,616
Kansas	******	157,007	a161,229
Kentucky	175, 424	135,420	21,801
Louisiana	87,942	b:6,564	*******
Maine	48,044	62,961	1.147
Maryland	113,866	92,730	2,133
Massachusetts.	176,813	102,814 e221,736	21,000
Michigan	207,384	122,736	22.545
Minnesota	40,247	1,405	10.256
Missouri	268,628	226,76:	41,183
Montana	17,535	15,883	8,057
Nebraska	0:1,913	8 , 227	8 ,783
Nevada		2,840	87,210
New Hampshire	42,078	45,653	1,227
New Jersey	171,042	156,078	969
New York	653,900	60d, 230	3,741
North Carolina .	132,957	100,346	45,108
North Dakota	*********	17,464	a17,650
Ohio	4,4,115	405, 187	14,848 p32,600
Oregon Penusylvania	452,264	516,011	8.057
Rhode Island	21.609	24,843	647
South Carolina	54,698	13,784	4,022
South Dakota	9 (81	31,888	25,063
Tennessee	136,477	99,073	28,000
Texus	229,148	77,475	99,688
Vermont	16,325	37,992	742
Virginia	1:3,977	113,255	12,039
Washington	29,932	36,461	19,261
West Virginia	81,467	80,293	4,063
Wisconsin	177,335	170,791	9,852
Wyoming	********	8,376	n7,583
Totals	5,538,495	5,252,338	1,032,240

Cleveland's plurality over Harrison, 2:6,157.

lican vote, 1,318,397. Combined opposition majority over the democratic vote, 746,076.

a.-Fusion. No democratic electoral ticket. b-Republicans and populists fused. c-Electors chosen by districts, 5 democrats. d-Average, one elector a republican. e-Partial fusion

Paris, Dec. 19.-Ferdinand de Les MONTANA CONTESTS. Leech, Republican, Wins in the Supreme Court on the Boxelder Precinct Case.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 16 -The suoreme court yesterday handed down its second decision in the Boxelder precinct case, involving the control of the next legislature. Like the first it was against the democrats. The decision was on the demurrer submitted by the democrats to the writ of mandate. The demurrer was overruled. The court set next Friday as the date when the Choteau county canvassing board must appear in court to show cause why they should not be compelled to both mentally and physically. give a certificate of election to Leech, the republican candidate. The state canvassing board meets on Monday, the 19th. The democrats are not averse to having the contest drag along in the courts until after this board has fin-

ished its work. A Farmer Squares Himself. Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—The Union

Pacific Railroad Co. was muleted in the district court for \$3,800 in an unique suit. The statutes provide a penalty of \$50 for each failure to whistle before a locomotive reaches a crossing, and Farmer Rale, across whose domain the railroad insisted on running despite his vigorous protests, kept tab on the engineers until seventy-six omissions had been noted. The case was hotly contested, but Hale won. As the informer gets one-half, Farmer Hale considers himself square with the railroad.

Great Drive of Sheep. Boise City, Idaho, Dec. 16. - Early in May Frank Fordyce, a young stock baron of Idaho will attempt to drive from the center of this state to Ogallala Neb. a flock of 45,000 sheep. The distance to be traveled by the animals is more than 1,000 miles, and Fordyce opes to accomplish the trip in about aix months . The sheep will have to cross the Rocky mountains in the wildest part and will have to ford scores of

Senator Gibson Dead. HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Dec. 16.-After a lingering, but apparently painless, ill-ness Senator R. L. Gibson died at 3:15 yesterday afternoon. At the time of his death he was surrounded by the members of his family and several close friends, who wept bitterly when it was see that the noble-bearted statesman dead. Senator Gibson passed away as though he had merely gone to sleep. He ad been confined to his bed here sine the 12th of November, since which time his death has been expected daily. In ecordance with his wishes, his reain s will be buried in Lexington, Ky. | drought.

THE GOLD RÉSERVE.

Secretary of the Treasury Determined That It Shall Not the Impaired.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 -Secretary of

the Treasury Foster, has expressed himself freely to a reporter for the United Press. He said he looked upon the situation not simply as a spectator.
"I am secretary of the treasury," said he, "and will be until relieved on March 4 next. My duty will be performed in the interest of the public welfare as vigorously as if my term was not soon to end. Every resource at my command will be availed of to preserve the parity

of gold and silver."
"How about the reserve in the treas-

'No one can obtain gold from the treasury without paying money for it, and with the money thus received I can recoup the gold. There is also the right vested in the secretary of the treasury to sell bonds if necessary to maintain the gold reserve. The treasury situation as to the cash balance is such as to permit the free use of cash received for gold to again obtain the gold.

"Will the gold reserve be maintained?

"It will be." This was stated with the utmost emphasis. "I firmly believe that with the resources at the command of the department I shall not be seriously embarrassed in maintaining it. I recommended to congress in my annual report that the reserve be increased from \$109,900,000 to \$125,000,000."

As the secretary's report was prepared before the present abnormal drain of gold to Europe started, Secretary Foster reasonably claimed credit for fully anticipating the present pressure and taking all precautions to meet it.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.

A Freight Dashes Into a Work Train in Minecota-Sleeping Men Crushed and Burned.

ALEXANDRIA, Minn., Dec. 19 .- A wreck occurred on the Great Northern at Nelson, about six miles east of here at 1 o'clock this morning. The wreckers stationed at this place were clearing up a small wreck that occurred the night before, and after finishing the work about 9 o'clock, the men went into the caboose and soon fell asleep, expecting the wrecker to pull out for St. Cloud at any time.

About 1 o'clock an eastbound freight came down the long grade west of Nelson and ran into the rear end of the wrecker at almost full speed. All the men in the caboose were killed except two who jumped through the window before the train caught fire. Three men were taken from the burning caboose, but were dead, and the rest of the bodies were burned. Four of the men were found, but all but one was s badly burned that nothing but the bones remained. Six other men, who were in a box ear, were badly injured and one fireman was also badly hurt having an arm broken.

It is pretty hard to lay the blame on any one person in this case, as the conductor had orders to run in on the side track at Nelson and the engineer claims he tried to slack up so they could open the switch, but there was not a brakeman on a car and being loaded and coming down a grade it was impossible for him to do so. The brakeman had no orders from the conductor that they were to stop at Nelson and therefore did not apply the brakes. The coroner and a jury will hold an inquest to-day.

PANAMA CANAL AFFAIRS.

De Lesseps Very Sick-An Effort to Save the Enterprise.

sep's Chateau Lauchenaye will be for mally sold on January 1 in order to establish the usufruct of the estate which will accrue to his wife after his death It transpires that despite the fact that he was confined to his bed De Lesseps was summoned to before a magistrate. pear asked that the cross of the Legion of Honor to be placed on his breast, and when this had been done he asked to have the attendants dress him. Almost immediately he sauk back upon the bed and became delirious. Since then he has thought the serving of the summons was only a dream. He is very feeble,

There is a strong sentiment among certain financiers, headed by Christopher Lee, governor of the credit foncier, that the government should make another attempt to save the canal enterprise. It is said that more than 500,000 shareholders are ready to make a last strong effort to save the money they have already placed in the undertak-

Gerrymander Overthrown.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 19.—The Indiana supreme court to-day decided unconstitutional the apportionment act passed by the democratic legislature two years ago, under the provisions of which the legislature, which will meet next month, was chosen. The finding is that the apportionment laws of 1891 1885 and 1879 are all unconstitutional by reason of the matters alleged in the complaint, but the court also finds that there is a de facto legislature elected, qualified to enact a law which may take the place of the law set aside.

Forsalding the Faith. CINCINNATI, Dec. 19. -- Dr. Henry P. Smith, the suspended Presbyterian preacher, has been asked to start an independent church. He declines, but says if the system is sustained he will not remain in the Presbyterian church as a layman, but consider calls from other denominations, intimating preference for the Baptist church.

Typhus Fever in Mexico. GALVESTON, Tex., Dec. 19 .- A re sponsible gentleman who arrived yes terday from the interior of Mexico reports an epidemic of typhus fever prevailing in several Mexican cities including Aguas, Calientes, Zacatecus and the City of Mexico. At Zacatecas the ravages of the disease have been terrible, and while he could not learn the number of deaths which had occurred it was ascertained that seven physicians had succumbed to the epidemic, which is attributed to the poverty and destitution caused by the

WICHITA'S SCANDAL

Affidavit That Created a Sensation How a Paving Contractor Put His Money

Where It Would Do the Most Good. WIGHITA, Kan., Dec. 15.-In the United States district court the deposition of John V. Moffitt, formerly of Wichita and a politician of state repute, now territorial agent of the Rock Island Land Co., in the jasperite paving case was filed and created a profound sensa-

Moffitt testifies that Robert F. Wilson, of Chicago, the jasperite contract-or, asked his aid to secure the contract for paving Douglas avenue. He told Wilson that it would cost him about \$10,000. Wilson said he would see those connected with him, and while he was away in Chicago doing this Moffitt should see some of the councilmen and find out the lowest price for which the contract could be secured. Mofflit saw Councilman Downing and asked him how much money a majority of the council could be bought for and Downing told him that seven members already had an offer of \$600 each from another paving company, but thought that \$700 each would secure them for the jasperite

When Wilson resurned Moffit swears that he informed him that he thought he could get the contract through for an attorney's fee of \$4,000 and \$4,000 for seven conneilmen and Wilson authorized him to say that he would pay that amount. Moffit then told Downing that the amount agreed on would be paid to the different members of the council in the office of Wilson's attorney on the evening of March 10, before the council met to let the contract, and Downing replied that that would be

satisfactory.

March 9 Mofflitt swears that he told Downing that the money was ready, and they went together to the attorney's office and Downing got his money. The money for Councilmen Fritz Schnitzler and John Herrig was also there, the other four having already taken theirs. About the same period Moffitt was in Contractor Wilson's rooms at the Carey house when Councilman William Johnson appeared, and then Mossit went out for about ten minutes. When he returned Wilson told him Johnson would vote for jasperite, that he had paid him his price. Wilson afterwards told him that the jasperite contract had cost him \$10,000 in attorney fees, beside to conneilmen and drinks.

On cross examination, Moffitt deposed that he had seen Councilman Fritz Schnitzler come out of the attorney's office with one of the envelopes containing money left there for the councilman by L. C. Jackson, who nided Wilson to secure the contract, and that Schnitzler had opened the package and counted out a roll of greenbacks in his presence.

ENGLISH COLLIERY HORROR.

he Bodies of Twenty Dead Miners Recov-Lendon, Dec. 15.—Great efforts were

made to rescue the eighty miners imprisoned by an explosion in a colliery at Wigan.

Despite the efforts to extinguish the fire, the flames spread to the engine house at the tunnel.

This stopped the pumping of air into the mine and added greatly to the peril of those who were in the pit. The fire was not subdued until 4 o'clock in the

Some little time after the bodies of twenty of the miners, who had been suffocated by the noxious gasses generated in the mine after the explosion, were brought to the surface by the rescuing party.

The rescuing parties report horrible scenes in the mine. In the main roads the bodies lie in twos and threes, as the men fell, face downward and heads toward the entrance of the shaft. Large sections of roof and galleries have collapsed. Amid the ruins were found mangled bodies and half burned limbs. The ruins have blocked many parts of the mine and therefore the men searching for bodies are unable to give any definite idea of the number lost.

Several miners who were just alive when found died on the way to the surface or shortly after being taken from the car.

THE INTER-STATE LAW. Another Effort to Make Semething Out

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. -Another turn. was taken at the inter-state commerce law in a bill introduced in the senate by Mr. McMillan, of Michigan, in which it is sought to amend the law by making it unlawful for any common carrier subject to the provision of the existing law to enter into any contract, agreement, etc., with any other carrier for the division of the freight of the different competing roads, or to divide between them, the aggregate or net proceeds of the earnings, except as provided in the bill, Each day of the continuance of such agreement is deemed a separate offense. Agreements such as are prohibited! above may, however, be made, provided they are in writing, duly executed and shall not conflict; with any other provision of thelaw. They may become operative only after having been fileds with the inter-state commerce commission and approved by it. After such approval each party is required to deposit sufficient security to guarantee that the terms of the agreement will be carried out. The other section of the bill deals, with the claims of the method of conviction and punishment.

One Appropriate that Passed. WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, -In the house to-day Mr. Cobb, of Missouri, reports ed from the committee on war claims for reference to the private cal-endar a bill for the relief of the heirs of Mary Am Randolph Curtis Lee, of Virginia, the amount involved Lee, of Virginia, the amount involved, being \$217,000. After several minor bills bud been passed in the morning hour the army appropriation bill was taken up in committee of the whole, when Mr. Anthony, of Texas, offered an amendment that no person pensioned by the government should be permitted to receive any pay under the pending act. It was rejected and the bill passed.