

LEAD SWEEP BY FIRE.

BURNING TOWN IS ALMOST DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Starts in a Saloon on Main Street and Flashes Through Entire Business District.

Lead, S. D.—(Special.)—There is general gloom tonight in Lead, the home of the great Homestake mine, for there are few families who have not lost personally in the conflagration which threatened for a time to wipe out the town at 1:30 this morning.

It has been predicted for years that fire would start some windy night in the portion of the city which comprised a block or more of wooden buildings and at last the prediction has come true and it was just as the wise ones said it would be, the loss aggregating \$400,000.

Just why the fire stopped when and where it did is a big mystery to Lead people, since it had everything its own way for four long hours. The wind blew a gale from the northwest and there were thirty buildings ablaze at one time.

NO WATER TO FIGHT IT.

People stood around the hills helpless for a time, for there was a scarcity of water. The flames from burning buildings spread over three blocks of brick and wooden buildings and caught the first row of dwelling houses on North Bleeker street with lightning rapidity and there seemed to be nothing to prevent the general destruction of the entire business portion of the city. The residence portion around the mills and the three great stamp mills themselves.

HOMESTAKE MILLS THREATENED.

The mills stopped crushing ore for once and the miners were brought up from the deep levels of the mines to fight fire. Across the street from the Homestake office, store and the Hearst free library there is a row of wooden buildings which, if they caught, the blaze would surely set the fire buildings on the east side of the street, and nothing could then save the Homestake mills.

DYNAMITE SAVES THEM.

The firemen used dynamite to blow the wooden shells out of the way. Sticks of giant powder were laid clear around the sides of one office building in the center of the wooden row, a fuse was attached, a cry of warning was sent to the brave firemen, there was a deafening roar and three buildings shot up into the air. Plate glass was shattered for blocks around by the concussion.

The powder did the work. The firemen were able to keep back the flames from the Homestake buildings and the Hearst free library, the gift of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst of San Francisco, one of the heaviest holders of the Homestake stock. The first blast of giant powder did such good execution that the second and third were unnecessary. The shot was set off at the office occupied by the Western Union Telegraph company. There are not more than half a dozen whole pieces of glass in the business portion of the city.

One hundred thousand dollars insurance was carried and the loss will range between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

PROGRESS OF THE FIRE.

The fire broke out at 1:30 a. m. in the Dukenberg saloon on Upper Main street, and with a very high wind soon commenced to spread. The K. K. Kluge meat market and the Millie Kemp Photography, adjoining on the east, caught and were partially consumed. P. A. Gushurst's grocery, in a brick building, was skipped. Fire caught on the wooden buildings east of Gushurst's store, occupied by a meat market, Marcoux, furniture, and L. D. Jacobs, stationer.

The Miners' Union hall, at the rear of these buildings, caught next, and at the same time the fire jumped across Bleeker street and destroyed W. B. Dickinson's pharmacy, W. B. Perkins stationery store, Curson's real estate office, J. P. Jenkins' pharmacy and gutted two saloons and a gent's furnishing goods store.

BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

The fire from the Miners' Union hall spread north, soon having the cheap reading houses and "tenderloin district" surrounded. The conflagration spread to the rear of wooden buildings "Mill street, and everything was soon in flames. Commencing with the Abe Pink Cigar Manufacturing company, the fire destroyed the Black Hills Telephone Co.'s office, Henry Jacobs' hardware store, Knester Bros' confectionery store, Wolf Pink Jewelry store, Fawcett & Delehant, grocery; J. L. Cranston's tailor shop, Sergeant Jewelry store, American Express office and a saloon. Across Pine street the fire consumed Cotton & Andrews' saloon, O. Berg's jewelry store, W. C. Bower's justice office, the Western Union Telegraph office, Kytom's tailor shop, Andrews' barber shop and the Homestake lodging house.

Fire companies came from Deadwood, Turraville and Central City, and a great fight was made against wind and fire with a low pressure of water.

BURNED OUT TWICE.

Some of the business men burned out in the fire lost everything they had in the big fire here six months ago. They will begin business again as soon as possible in new buildings. Plans have been drawn for the erection of a new stone and brick building to take the place of the one burned belonging to E. Faust of Lead. Plans are also being made for four brick buildings, including a new hotel.

There will be a new Lead in six months which will rival the finest city in the state. The good people of Lead are rejoicing in the clean sweep the fire made through the bad lands of the city. The toughest resorts of the town were in one of the blocks of wooden buildings burned.

Several hundred people are without homes. Many people have gone to Deadwood and other places to find shelter. The Lead firemen fought the fire for several days. They had everything around them. Firemen came up from Deadwood and other places to help. The Lead firemen will be equal to the present.

City is a mining city of 7,000 inhabitants, founded in 1878, and built on the industries of the Homestake mine, which was discovered in 1875. The city was wholly of Black Hills pine until recent years. Several of the best brick buildings and some of the best business residences have been built. But the major portion of the city is one-story frame buildings. The city is burning like tinder in the hands of the fire. Insurance has been high, but has recently fallen in limited areas. The loss will be partially covered by the insurance.

SENATOR MASON DISGUSTED.

Says Committee is Holding Back His Boer Resolutions.

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—Soon after the senate convened Mr. Sullivan of Mississippi offered a resolution that the Philippine islands are the rightful property, honorably acquired, of the United States; and that "while the misguided Filipinos continue the present war brought on by them, against the rightful authority of the United States, so long as a single gun in their hands is trained upon our flag, no expression of intention as to the future course of the United States with respect to them should be made by the senate."

Mr. Sullivan asked that the resolution lie on the table until he should call it up. Mr. Mason of Illinois then gave notice that tomorrow, after the morning hour, he would enter a motion that the committee on foreign relations be discharged from further consideration of his resolution expressive of the senate's sympathy for the Boers in their struggle with Great Britain. He had, he said, introduced the resolution on December 17, and the case had been in the hands of the committee ever since.

"I have no intention of violating the rules of the senate," said Mr. Mason, but it is clearly the intention of the committee on foreign relations to take no action in regard to the resolution, and I want it brought into the senate and placed on the calendar."

"The committee could give us a report if it would. If a majority of the committee is opposed to the resolution let it report it adversely. That would be making some progress. I am satisfied that 75 per cent of the people of the country are in sympathy with the Boers in their war with Great Britain, and I am just as certain that a majority of this body would favor the resolution I introduced. It is the merest child's play for us to sit here and not be able to get a vote upon it."

WASHINGTON NEWS NOTES.

Items of Interest From Our National Capital.

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—Captain Shas W. Terry, late in command of the Iowa, has been assigned to succeed Admiral McCormick, as commandant of the Washington navy yard.

Quartermaster General Ludington has been informed that the transport Sheridan has left Manila and the transport Westminster left there a day later, both bound for San Francisco.

The republican committee on order of business in the senate discussed the program of legislation during the remainder of the session. No conclusion was reached on any subject. The committee is unanimous in its desire for a final adjournment prior to the meeting of the republican convention in June and efforts will be directed to that end.

The senate committee on appropriations has authorized a favorable report on the house bill providing that the revenues collected from Puerto Rico be expended in that island. The bill was so amended as to include only the money collected up to January 1, 1900. The clause of the house bill authorizing the refunding of future revenue collections was stricken out.

The ratifications of the Samoan arbitration treaty were exchanged at the state department by Secretary Hay for the United States, Lord Pauncefote for Great Britain and Dr. von Holleben for Germany. The treaty submits the claims for arbitration to King Oscar of Sweden.

Senator Allen introduced an amendment to the Puerto Rico appropriation bill, declaring that the constitution was by force of the Paris treaty extended over the island of Puerto Rico and its inhabitants.

THE PLAGUE MAY BE HERE.

A Supposed Case is Discovered in San Francisco.

San Francisco, Cal.—(Special.)—A case of what is supposed to be bubonic plague, though the exact nature of the disease is yet uncertain, has been discovered in Chinatown. The patient, who is a Chinese residing at 104 Dupont street, was immediately isolated and the whole of Chinatown has been placed under strict quarantine regulations.

No fear is apprehended of the spread of the disease, whatever it may prove to be. A large force of police is being kept in Chinatown to maintain the quarantine, and the section pending the outcome of the bacteriological examination of those portions of the body removed from the suspected Chinese.

The physicians interested in the case are not yet prepared to make a definite statement regarding the case, but from others who have had experience in such matters, it is learned that the case will hardly prove to be one of plague, as the dead man has long been a resident of this city. Had he been a recent arrival from the Orient, greater alarm would be felt. The condition of police now watching Chinatown is kept there simply as a precautionary measure.

FOR PHILIPPINE SOLDIERS.

Thirty-Two Cars of Meat Shipped From Chicago.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—Thirty-two refrigerated cars—700,000 pounds—of ham and bacon, cured under government formula, with a view to preservation in tropical climates, bound for the American soldiers in the Philippines, left Chicago on the Chicago & Alton railroad and will go direct to San Francisco, where it will be transferred from the refrigerators to a waiting transport and thence to Manila.

After the hams were smoked and cured in the usual manner, they were placed in a white muslin sack. Then a thin coating of oil hulls was placed around the ham and another sack of white muslin was drawn over all. Then the hams were packed in salt. Stock yards men say that hams thus treated will reach Manila in the best condition, rain, dampness, fog and tropical winds having no effect on them.

Is Merely Child's Play.

London, March 12.—Mr. A. G. Hales, the correspondent of the Daily News, who was captured by the Boers February 9 and released a few days ago, telegraphing from Sterkstroom says: "While I was a prisoner at Bloemfontein I had an interesting interview with President Steyn. He said the burghers were determined to fight to the last man and that the struggle in the Free State would be child's play compared with what would follow in the Transvaal."

"President Steyn predicted that the capitulation of Pretoria would be preceded by events which would astonish Europe. He appointed a deputy president to remain at Bloemfontein during his absence at Pretoria in the interest of the Free State."

DECIDES FOR BOARD.

STATE BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION IS UPHOLD.

World-Herald is Awarded \$4,000 Judgment Against the Omaha Bee For Libel.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—The supreme court adjourned without announcing any appointment of clerk of the supreme court and his assistants. A number of decisions were handed down.

The case of the Nebraska Telephone company against Cornell was decided in favor of the state board of transportation, and the case of the Bee publishing company, plaintiff in error, against the World Publishing company, defendant in error, was decided in favor of the latter.

Both opinions are by Judge Sullivan. In the Nebraska Telephone company case, the supreme court asks the Lancaster county district court to grant an injunction restraining the board of transportation from hearing and acting on John O. Veiser's complaint alleging excessive rates for telephone service respecting the injunction on the ground of the unconstitutionality of the law creating the state board of transportation. The court refused to issue the injunction and the case was taken to the supreme court, which in its decision sustains the action of the lower court.

The Bee-World-Herald case was appealed to the supreme court from Douglas county, where the decision had been rendered in 1895 awarding to the World Publishing company \$7,000 for a malicious libel published by the Bee, concerning the idea that the World-Herald had been maintaining for some time a record of the names of the directors of the Bee, and that it was a tettering bankrupt, and about to pass out of existence. The supreme court holds, however, that damages awarded are excessive, and plaintiff is required to file a remittitur of \$4,000.

WORLD-HERALD WINS.

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The essential portions of the syllabus are as follows: "A newspaper article in which it is falsely stated that a business corporation is maintaining a precarious existence, that it is not able to meet its liabilities, and about to pass out of existence, is libelous per se."

"In this state the measure of recovery in all civil actions is compensation for the injuries sustained. A plea denying the truth of the facts alleged, and the plaintiff's treatment of the plea as sufficient and proof is introduced on the ground that it is sufficient, its infirmity may be cured by amendment."

"Where a defamatory article contains an imputation upon its solvency and stability of a large newspaper concern, it is proper in the trial of an action to receive damages occasioned by the publication of such an article on the ground that it is sufficient, its infirmity may be cured by amendment."

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PAYING UP THE SHORTAGE.

Insurance Comdanps Making Up Moore's Shortage.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—The insurance companies, which in consequence of the supreme court decision in the test case against the Home Insurance company, are compelled to pay again fees paid Eugene Moore and which he embezzled, are doing so with very bad grace. Most of them regard the whole matter as a sort of "legalized robbery" and plainly say so in letters accompanying their checks.

An instance is furnished in a letter received from Marsenal S. Driggs, president of the Williamsburg Fire Insurance company, enclosing a check for \$52 payable to the state treasurer, as second payment of fees for 1895 and 1896. First payment was made by checks made payable to "Eugene Moore, auditor of public accounts." Mr. Driggs, in his letter to the auditor, after outlining the facts, winds up in this fashion: "The state is to be congratulated that it has insurance companies to indemnify it against the dishonesty of its officials. There seems to be no burden too great for insurance companies to bear. We are unable to see the equity in this case, but then New York has much to learn from the 'great and growing west.'"

"We forward this day check for the full amount, drawn on order of the state treasurer, and thank God it is no greater."

HOW TO START A BANK.

Only \$3,000 Necessary Now To Start a National Bank.

New York.—(Special.)—Advice received by local banking interests from small towns and villages throughout the United States indicate that state banks in all sections of the country are preparing to take out charters under the national system, as soon as the currency bill becomes a law.

New York banks are already making efforts to secure the business of these institutions, one bank in this city alone receiving in one day more than thirty inquiries upon the subject. One man from a western town told a bank officer that he expected to start eight banks with a capital of \$25,000 each.

Reports of similar preparations in other sections of the country led to a prediction by an officer of one of the best known banks, that fully 2,000 national charters would be applied for, after existing restrictions were modified.

The Evening Post says: "It was estimated today that any one with \$3,000 capital could start a national bank under the new system. All that is required is \$25,000 in 2 per cent government bonds, which could be secured at ruling prices for about \$28,750. These, representing the capital of the bank, could be sent to Washington and circulation for the full amount of the capital immediately taken out. The organizer of the bank then has only \$2,750 tied up in the enterprise, but could take deposits in the regular way. Whether the system can be properly safeguarded under such requirements is not known, but local bankers are watching the experiment with great interest and more or less concern."

"Such extension of the national system is expected to yield large profits to national banks of this city, since state banks at interior points, keeping their balances with state banks or trust companies in this city, will have to transfer their accounts to national banks (if they wish them counted as reserves), as soon as the new charters are taken out. This, it is thought, may result in a serious loss for some of the large state banks, since such accounts in the aggregate represent a large volume of business."

A bank president cited the difficulties of the present system as the reason why New York banks, with their enormous volume of business, found it expedient to take out only about \$17,000 in circulation. A bank paying \$120 or \$150 for 4 per cent bonds of which only 50 per cent could be issued, would have to tie up \$40 or \$45 on each \$100 so invested, besides paying double the tax called for in the proposed law.

"On that basis the transaction would be decidedly unprofitable, to say nothing of the expenses incident to printing checks, which would still further cut into the income. This is why local banks, carrying the greatest number of out of town accounts and shipping millions of currency each year to western, eastern and southern correspondents, when crop moving demands cut down their money supplies, look out little or no circulation, although it might have materially protected their reserve during periods of money stringency."

"Some of the large state banks of this city have considered informally the advisability of taking out national charters. It is not improbable that certain changes of this sort may be made later on. But the provision of the banking law in this state, allowing the state banks to establish branches in this city, may deter some institutions from making the change."

EX-PRESIDENT A CANDIDATE.

Harrison Said To Want to Be President Again.

Washington, D. C., March 12.—Benjamin Harrison of Indiana, once president of the United States, and still a popular man, looms up as a big stumbling block in the way of the second term syndicate which has pinned its faith to William McKinley.

As Indiana is just now the republican storm center, every bit of evidence going to show that there is an important anti-McKinley movement going on out there is eagerly seized upon by political Washington.

General Harrison is talking and acting as though he would be willing to head a revolt against McKinley on the issues presented in the Puerto Rican bill. He is outspoken in his opposition to the administration's announced colonial policy. He is also open to the suggestion of the Monroe doctrine proposed under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. As his latest announced interview puts him on record as sympathizing with the Boers against the British General Harrison has the popular side of an important issue.

That the friends and former political managers of Mr. Harrison should so carefully time his enunciation of views on the popular questions before the people, shows, according to a Washington point of view, a well matured scheme to boom the former president.

IMPERIALISM A COSTLY LUXURY.

Uncle Sam Must Foot Big Bills On Account of Colonies.

Washington, D. C., March 11.—The house subcommittee on appropriations will report within a few days another urgent deficiency bill, covering \$1,600,000 shortage due to military operations in the Philippines. Of this sum \$750,000 is for a navy department emergency fund. It is proposed by the republicans to place this sum at the disposal of the president for the purchase of coal boats at Cavite, a water boat for the Philippines, and it is proposed to appropriate \$50,000 to take care of insane soldiers in the Philippines. The democrats on the committee object to the loose manner in which congress is asked to place so much money at the discretion of the president. The subcommittee reported the bill favorably to the full committee, but they were required to take charge of it again and re-examine some of the items.

St. Helena for Gen. Cronje.

London, March 10.—The Dutch rings in the northwestern districts of Cape Colony are the only cloud visible in the sky of British prospects. The military authorities have decided that General Cronje and the other Boer prisoners shall be sent immediately to the island of St. Helena, there to remain until the end of the war. Lord Roberts has chosen Lord Bathurst, colonel of a militia regiment at the front, to command the vessel to St. Helena, which was last month placed in cable communication with Capetown and London. It is also asserted that the cabinet has resolved to neither propose nor entertain a proposal at the present juncture for an exchange of prisoners.

MAY CAPTURE STEYN.

PRESIDENT OF ORANGE FREE STATE IN DANGER.

Roberts Presses Line Back From the Modder River and May Yet Capture Him.

London.—(Special.)—A dispatch to the Times from Modder river, dated Wednesday, says:

"The Boers occupy an extensive position between ourselves and both Bloemfontein and Winburg. They include the bulk of the Natal forces and are under General Joubert himself. Only sufficient men have been left behind to hold Van Reenan's Pass and Laing's Nek. Extensive desertions are reported during the week. An engagement is imminent, which will probably be decisive as to the whole war."

London.—(Special.)—Lord Roberts has again outflanked the Boers and Free States and they are retreating rapidly to the north and east, closely pursued by a strong force of British cavalry and horse artillery, while no less than 20,000 infantry are following in their track.

For some time Lord Roberts has had a growing commando of Boers entrenched on his front on both banks of the Modder river, about ten miles east of Paardeberg. The strength of this commando has been put at 4,000, but as the trenches covered a space of fifteen miles they must have been underestimated.

The Boers were faced by the Ninth, Seventh and Sixth divisions, while General French, with his cavalry, was at the last moment brought from the extreme left of the British line to the extreme right, facing the Boer left.

The British operations opened with the cavalry working round the Boer left, covering the march of the Sixth division. The Boers at once fell back to the north and east. The cavalry and horse artillery followed closely, and the Seventh and Ninth divisions and the Zouaves' brigade also marched in pursuit.

The Boers lost one gun, an immense quantity of forage and a number of tents. The retreat has degenerated into a rout. Roberts' headquarters last night were at Poplar's drift, which is probably eight or ten miles east of Koodoosrand drift.

STEYN MAY BE THERE.

It is known that President Steyn within the last two or three days has been with this Boer force. He probably is still with it, and if it can be surrounded he may be captured.

The Boer tactics appear to have been elementary in the extreme, for they had no real defense on either of their flanks, although their entrenchments were intricate, while the nature of the country allowed the easy progress of cavalry in whichever direction was deemed advisable.

The case with which Roberts attained his object strongly indicates that the Boers never intended to make a serious stand at this position, and that it was merely a screen to hide their real point of concentration or was a device to get the British to display their full strength. If either of the suppositions be correct the Boer designs were successful.

From other quarters of the war the reports are favorable to the British, except in the northwestern province of Cape Colony, where the Dutch uprising has set the Cederberg district on fire. In Natal Buller is pushing up reconnoitering bodies of troops northward and westward, backed up by reinforcements.

Scouts report that there are no Boers on the Natal side of Van Reenan's pass. A still more heavy casualty list has been received from Buller of losses during the last two weeks of February, affording evidence of the determined resistance of the Boers in the final operations for the relief of Ladysmith. The catalogue comprises 123 killed, 575 wounded and fifty-four missing. Additionally the returns issued on Monday, it makes the total 1,859 for the fortnight named. Altogether it may be estimated that no less than 6,000 British troops were placed hors du combat by the operations of the relief column during the last few weeks.

General Clements has advanced as far as Oorlogspoort river. His next move will be to the Orange river bridge. Gatacre's mounted infantry have gone to press the retreating Boers, who have two guns in position on Bastard's Nek.

SBARRETTI WILL REMAIN.

Thinks Protests Against Him Have Ceased.

Havana.—(Special.)—Mons. Sbarretti bishop of Havana, says there is no truth in the story that he has asked Rome to recall him. On the contrary, he feels that the opposition originally felt to his appointment is dying away. Moreover, he is not subject to the congregation of the propaganda and has not asked to be removed. He suggests that some one who does not understand the question involved must have put the report in circulation. Senor Gualberto Gomez, discussing the rumor, said: "The great fear that Cubans had was that a bishop would be appointed who would sympathize with and give preference to the Spanish clergy. If Mons. Sbarretti proves himself to be without bias in this respect, as he seems to be doing, all should go well."

The popular committee appointed by the promoters of the movement of protest against the newly appointed bishop, held a meeting at which letters were read from General Gomez, General Laet and other prominent men. It was reported that 500 ladies had given in their names to constitute a committee, or several committees, to continue the opposition. The meeting decided to form local committees forthwith.

A petition has been prepared asking that Colon cemetery be placed under the management of the civil authorities. The grounds of the request being that the church is now separate from the state, and the cemetery, and that the present burial fee, \$18, is much too high.

A further petition will ask for the abolition of convents on the ground that these institutions are "anti-hygienic and non-human."

Sweet Shops and Child Labor.

Cleveland, O.—(Special.)—The morning session of the National Council of Jewish women was omitted today to allow the delegates to visit various Cleveland institutions. A large number of them went to the Jewish Orphan Asylum and the home of the aged.

COCONUT HUSK.

The Fibrous Shell Now Being Utilized for Many Purposes.

That part of the coconut whose properties are not so well known in California is the outer covering of the husk. The inner woody shell of it makes excellent fuel, or, rather, initiates into the mysteries—or, rather, tricks—of the trade, you will also know that it does duty as "spice." How spicy it really is depends upon what is mixed with it. At any rate it is too good a fuel to be thrown away.

But the fibrous outer shell of the coconut was, until very recently, thrown into the bay to float off and finally disfigure the surrounding beaches. There is now a factory on the Berkeley shore of the bay which uses this despised husk in the manufacture of another useful commercial commodity. It is the only factory of its kind in California, and it assumes a position of peculiar importance when it is remembered that it is considered waste matter, which was hard to get rid of and which bid fair to become a nuisance, into an article of great utility. Out of this husk a very aromatic, perfectly sanitary and springy material is being made to serve as a substitute in mattress making for the unsanitary curled hair.

The husk of the coconut shell contains a fibrous material which really makes excellent furniture and mattress filling. It is infinitely superior to shoddy. This industry is only in its infancy on this coast. Twenty-five per cent of the husk is hair or fibre, the rest is dust; but not even this dust is wasted, for nurserymen have found that it makes an excellent covering for winter flower beds. The first process through which the husk is put is that of crushing. This is accomplished by a machine resembling a rock crusher, and sounding very much like one when at work, driven by a forty horse power engine. This is called the picker. The husk comes out of it as dust and coarse half-like fibre, with here and there a remnant of shell. This is picked over by boys and thrown again into the picker.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Following White Man's Methods.

How oddly civilization works her rotaries at times is illustrated in the history of the Osage Indians. The Osage Nation is reputed the richest per capita in the world, they having 400 acres of government land for every man, woman and child and receiving besides \$30 every three months. They recently had handsome houses built by speculative traders, though after a short trial of them they moved back into their tepees and left their fine houses vacant. There are 250 families, and they owe the traders \$400,000, and now more than two-thirds of them are going into bankruptcy to shirk their debts, for their land cannot be taken from them and their quarterly stipend will continue to come. If only the Indian traders themselves enjoyed better reputations for honesty, no doubt the country would heartily sympathize with them for being done out of their money by these savages, who have learned the tricks of the whites. As the Indians did to the whites just about what the Indians had been led to believe from past experiences the whites would have done to them, these promoters of civilization will receive very little pity on account of their losses.

Why Neighbor Jones Couldn't Gather Them.

In a certain Sunday school the teacher was endeavoring to explain that a man could not expect to reap if he never took the trouble to sow, says Tit-Bits. "But what he does sow he will reap," he continued. "To make matters plainer, I will ask you a question. If I planted turnip seed, what do you think I should get?" "Turnips!" shouted several. "Right," said the teacher. "But it don't allus come off," put in one precocious youth. "It didn't wif neighbor Jones."

"Indeed!" remarked the teacher. "Yes," went on the bright scholar. "E sowed some taters a little while ago, but e ain't reaped none."

"Well, perhaps he's gathered them?" "No, e ain't gathered 'em." "Well, dug them up, then?" "No, nor dug 'em up, naythur."

"Oh, I see," smiled the teacher. "The potatoes are not ready yet? He will gather them by-and-by." "No, I don't think as e will," persisted the scholar.

"Why?" asked the puzzled teacher. "Why, yer see," responded the other, calmly, "we gathered 'em when he was in town, the day before he was going to."

Courtship Sweetened.

The driver of a slow passenger train noticed that the stoker always stared intently at the windows of a certain cottage near the line, and curiosity impelled him to ask for an explanation of the habit.

"My girl lives there," said the stoker sentimentally. "Then I suppose she sits in the window watching for you?" surmised the driver.

"No, she don't; she ain't time to play the fool," grunted the stoker. "I only look to see whether the window blind's up or down. If it's up I know it's courtin' night; if it's down I know it ain't. That's all."

"And do you always visit her when you see the blind up?" "You bet I do, boss," answered the stoker, heartily. "It's one of her trips an' onion nights, an' she knows I should not turn up but for that. Courtin' is a dry game without a tasty supper to help it along."

Why He Was Wakened.