

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE

IRA L. BARE, Proprietor.
TERMS: \$12 IN ADVANCE.
NORTH PLATTE, - NEBRASKA.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Nearly all of the foreign ambassadors called upon Secretary Hay to bid him farewell before he left on the presidential trip.

Governor Odell has signed the bill which authorizes New York City to accept the \$5,200,000 gift of Andrew Carnegie for a free library system.

A man named Petroff attempted to enter the royal palace at Bucharest, the Rumanian capital, with a view to murdering King Charles, but was prevented by the sentries after a severe struggle.

Suit has been instituted against the Chicago & Northwestern railroad for \$250,000 damages by forty-four claimants alleged to have been injured in the wreck at Depe, Wis., June 24, of last year.

Carefully compiled statistics of the Gazette show the gold production of the Cripple Creek district up to the close of April make a total of over \$100,000,000. Gold was first found in this camp in 1859.

The London Times announces the approaching marriage of Mr. Archibald Edward Balfour, second son of Mr. Archibald Balfour of London, to Miss Vivian May, eldest daughter of Mrs. Sartoris of Washington.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says the Russian government has forbidden the exhibition at Moscow of Repine's life size portrait of Count Leo Tolstol, representing him in the costume of a peasant and barefooted.

While the first train from Pekin to Tien Tsin was traversing the bridge between Lo Fa and Yang Tsun, it was derailed through the collapse of a culvert. Eleven Chinese were killed and forty Chinese and twenty Americans injured. One American cannot recover.

The Michigan house of representatives passed by unanimous vote a stringent anti-cigarette law, and if concurred in by the senate and signed by Governor Bliss, it will be unlawful to manufacture, sell or give away any cigarette or cigarette paper in that state.

The London Daily Chronicle says it learns that Dr. Ludwig Mond has discovered a method of producing illuminating coal gas at two pence per 1,000 feet, which will effect a revolution by cheapening electric power and also as bearing upon the production of open hearth steel.

Norris Humphrey, for twenty-five years a leading business man of Lincoln, Neb., committed suicide by shooting. The death a year ago of his brother and partner brought about a receivership for the property, and the litigation which followed, it is said, unbalanced his mind.

Forest fires are raging at a number of upper Michigan peninsula points, and unless there is a drenching rain soon great damage will be done and many hamlets and villages endangered. The whole north country is very dry, less than a quarter of an inch of rain having fallen during the month.

There really seems some reason to expect an early advance in diamonds. This has not been decided upon, but five firms in London which control the market and are themselves controlled by the De Beers Mining company of South Africa, think it probable that the price of diamonds would have been much higher but for the war.

It is reported from Belgrade that the Albanians in old Serbia are committing wholesale atrocities.

Fred Dickson, well known as an opera singer with the Bostonians, was found at Hough's Neck, Mass., hanging in his cottage.

Three cases of the bubonic plague have occurred at Bazra, Asiatic Turkey.

Seven fresh cases of bubonic plague have been discovered at Capetown and five Europeans and two colored people have died from the disease.

The Union club of Cleveland, O., whose membership comprises the wealthiest and most prominent business and professional men of Cleveland, has decided to build a new club house at the corner of Euclid avenue and Harrison street to cost \$800,000.

The comptroller of the currency has decided that additional rooms which the collector of customs at New York proposed to build in the custom house out of the appropriation for repairs cannot be constructed under the appropriation.

Postmaster Samuel G. Dorr of Buffalo died of heart disease.

L. P. Hunner, on trial for illegal banking, pleaded guilty at Alma, Wis., to the charge of receiving money after knowing the bank was insolvent and was sentenced to one year at Waupun.

A. D. Ingersoll, the largest land owner in Tazewell county, died at Pontiac, Ill., where he was on a visit to his daughter. He was 75 years of age. He owned 1,600 acres of land in Tazewell county and 1,268 acres in Mason county.

A TOWN FLAME SWEEP

The City of Jacksonville, Florida, Suffered a Great Conflagration.

THE LOSS IS VERY MANY MILLIONS

Heart of the City Eaten Out by the Devouring Element—Business Blocks and Residences in Great Numbers Are Entirely Wiped Out.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 4.—The most disastrous fire in the history of this city began yesterday shortly after noon, in a small factory, started by a defective wire, according to the best belief, and burned for nearly ten hours. In that time property damage estimated from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 was caused.

According to the city map 130 blocks were burned, many of them in the heart of the business and residence section, where the estimate of houses to the block is ten. Many of the finest public and private buildings were destroyed, including hotels, theaters, churches and residences.

The casualties cannot be accurately estimated tonight. That there were several seems to be well authenticated. Among them was that of Fire Chief Haney, who sustained a bad fall. The mayor ordered all saloons closed and has impressed help to clear the wreckage. The mayor stated that he estimated the loss at \$15,000,000 and that 10,000 to 15,000 people were homeless.

Along the entire length of Beaver street, from Davis street to the creek on Liberty street, all buildings have been destroyed. This is fourteen solid blocks of residences. For the same distance Ashley and Church streets have both been completely blotted out. When the fire reached Bridge street in its eastward course it enveloped in flames an area three blocks wide, taking in Duval, Monroe and the north side of Adams street, burning the entire section of the city and running fourteen blocks to the Duval street bridge.

How much further in that direction the city is burned it is impossible to learn, the street being impassable, but it is feared that St. Luke's hospital was burned and it is said that the Presbyterian church in East Jacksonville is ablaze. If this is correct, the fire must have extended five blocks further east. The fire, which broke out at 2:45 o'clock this afternoon, has covered, as far as is definitely known, a distance of two and a half miles by half a mile wide.

When the fire reached Julia street it was a roaring conflagration and there was no prospect of its being put under control. The local military companies were called out to keep the crowds back and the fire department began to use dynamite to blow up houses a block from the fire hoping thus to prevent the fire from spreading. So fierce was the blaze, however, and so strong had become the wind, that millions of sparks and flying, burning shingles spread over five or six blocks, setting the roofs of the houses on fire in advance of the department.

It is impossible at this hour to ascertain the losses, but it is estimated by insurance agents that it will be between \$5,000,000 and \$9,000,000. Six live are reported lost in the conflagration. The mayor has called a meeting of the city council for tomorrow to consider ways and means of relieving the sufferers.

Well Known Farmer Killed.
NEW LONDON, Ia., May 4.—Harry Helphrey of Canaan township, a well known farmer, was killed while at work in his field by the accidental discharge of a shotgun. He had leaned his gun against a fence post and was plowing, when, in making a turn, the horses knocked the gun down and it exploded. The contents entered Helphrey's heart, killing him instantly.

Typhoid at German Ports.
BERLIN, May 4.—An epidemic of typhoid fever has broken out in several forts and villages in the neighborhood of Metz. The Eighth Bavarian regiment has alone last sixteen men from the disease and has 281 men sick.

Wins Holy Terror Case.
RAPID CITY, S. D., May 4.—P. B. McCarty of this city has received word from the supreme court at Washington that he has won the Holy Terror case, which gives him one-eighth interest in the Holy Terror mine at Keystone.

Gould Gets Arkansas Line.
MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 4.—A special from Helena, Ark., says: John J. Horner, president of the Arkansas Midland railroad, today admitted that his road would pass under the control of the Gould system within the next sixty days, probably sooner. He returned yesterday from St. Louis, where the deal was practically closed. The sale included the main line from Helena to Arkadon and the branch from Pine City to Brinkley.

CHINA CANNOT MEET DEMANDS.

Must Have Aid to Pay Indemnity—Tone of Waldersee's Letter.

PEKIN, May 3.—At a meeting of the ministers yesterday the report of the indemnity committee was read. Regarding the resources of China the report was very voluminous. It was practically a repetition of Jamenson's well known pamphlet on the subject. Sir Robert Hart offered suggestions similar to those already credited to him and cable to the Associated Press. It is asserted that the revenues from all available resources will not allow China to pay the indemnity unless assistance is rendered.

The next meeting will be held next Tuesday. The subject of Count von Waldersee's letter will then be taken up and a reply to it will be drafted. The ministers assert that they know what they want without being told. They particularly object to any of the legation guards being under any authority except that of the ministers themselves.

NEBRASKA PENSION FRAUDS.

Fred Dorer Taken to Omaha for Crime Against Veterans.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., May 3.—Fred Dorer, alias Fred Dolan, who was arrested here on a charge of drunkenness two weeks ago and later identified as a man wanted by the government authorities for pension frauds, was taken to Omaha today for trial in the federal court. Pension Commissioner Tedrow of this city recognized the man as one who is alleged to have committed pension frauds near Beatrice, Neb., in April, 1899. It is claimed that Dorer represented that he was a special pension examiner and could secure pensions and increases in pensions for the old soldiers in that district. Under this pretense, it is alleged, he collected a sum of money and then left the country.

WU THINKS CUSTOMS TOO LOW.

Says Present Rate is Inadequate to Provide for New Loan.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—It is believed here that the hitch which is said to have arisen at Pekin over the proposition to increase the Chinese customs duties to meet the indemnities demanded by the foreign powers is caused by the objection by Mr. Rockhill of his plan for the abolition of the likin duties as a condition for his acquiescence in the customs increase. The United States government has in the past admitted a readiness to permit the Chinese to increase custom rates providing there was no discrimination between the powers. Minister Wu says that the present 5 per cent rate is totally inadequate to provide a sinking fund for a new loan.

COMING HOME OF TROOPS

Many of the Volunteer Troops to Return Before the End of May.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3.—Major Miller, chief quartermaster at Manila, has cabled the war department an approximate schedule of the sailing of transports from Manila with troops to be mustered out of service, as follows:

May 10, Hancock, with the Thirty-first; Buford, with the Forty-first; Pennsylvania, with the Fortieth.

May 20, Logan and Kilpatrick, with the Thirty-eighth, Forty-third and Forty-fourth; Indiana, with the Forty-second.

May 25, Grant, with the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth; Ohio, with the Forty-seventh.

If there should be any surplus they will be sent on the Thomas.

Iowa is Launched Again.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 3.—The battleship Iowa was launched today from the Bremerton navy yard, after undergoing repairs and a thorough overhauling. Less than four weeks were required in the great undertaking, although six weeks had been allowed by the navy department. The Iowa is now awaiting sailing orders.

Twins Burn to Death.

SIoux CITY, Ia., May 3.—Jay and Joy, the 3-year-old twin children of Mrs. Layton Hubbard, were burned to death in a stable at Hawarden, Ia. The children were playing in the barn and set fire to some papers. The charred remains were found after the barn had been destroyed.

Shot Through the Heart.

NEW LONDON, Ia., May 3.—Harry Helphrey, farmer, while plowing in the field, leaned his shotgun against the fence. In making a turn his horses knocked down the gun and it went off, sending the lead into Helphrey's heart, killing him instantly.

Canada to Control Road.

OTTAWA, May 3.—The scheme by which the Manitoba government hopes to control passenger and freight rates within the province has been ratified by the Dominion railway committee. The provincial government will lease that portion of the Northern Pacific railroad lying within the province for a term of 999 years. It will be immediately turned over to McKenzie & Mann of Toronto for management, the government fixing all freight rates.

THE CREDIT OF JAPAN

Secretary Komatz Defends by Saying the Panic is Not Serious.

EXPENDITURES LARGE BUT PRUDENT

Government Has Something to Show for the Indemnity Money Paid Out of the Treasury and No Very Great Debt—Situation Quite Thoroughly Gone Over.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Midori Komatz, secretary of the Chinese legation at Washington, in an interview today with an Associated Press reporter, made an interesting statement of the financial situation of Japan. He said:

"A good deal of comment has been provoked about the financial conditions in Japan by the publication of a very elaborate report sent to the United States by Consul General Bellows, and it is gratifying to me to see the American public taking so much interest in my country. While having no hesitancy in endorsing the statement contained in the consular report as generally correct, everything has two sides and it is a disagreeable thing to have one's worst part exposed, the better one being left out.

"I do not deny that our financial situation today is anything but satisfactory. It is true that the government has deferred all such undertakings as would involve new loans. It is true that a few local banks have been compelled to suspend payment and stringency is prevailing in the money market. It is also true that our imports have increased tremendously since the inflow of the Chinese indemnity. The total value of our imports, which was 138,700,000 yen (\$69,350,000) in round numbers in 1895, the year the peace treaty was concluded, increased to 324,700,000 yen in 1898, while the value of exports was 118,000,000 yen and 166,200,000 yen in the respective years.

"You will be greatly mistaken, however, if you should attribute all this to the improvident waste of money or unproductive and useless enterprises. Although a large portion of the Chinese indemnity has been used for the redemption of war expenses and military and naval expansion, yet the estimate of iron foundries, the extraordinary reserve fund and the capital of local industrial banks have drawn no small shares from it. Railways, telegraph, telephone and postal service have made great strides in the last few years and an enormous amount of money has been absorbed in their improvement and extension. You will observe at this moment twelve twin screw steamers of over 6,000 tons each, all newly built, plying between Yokohama and Europe, while three great merchant vessels, recently constructed in England, are running between Hong Kong and San Francisco, under the management of a Japanese company, and more than thirteen steamers from 3,000 to 5,000 tons, are being employed on lines to Bombay, Australia, Vladivostok, etc.

"Notwithstanding this, our public debt, as it now stands, does not amount to more than 437,900,000 yen (\$18,950,000). The foundation of our financial arrangement is too firmly established to be affected by any transient depression, any more than the bottom of a river is apt to be shaken by the feeble waves caused by a passing wind.

"There is no danger, in my opinion, that the present situation will result in any serious crisis. On the contrary it will produce, I am quite confident, a beneficial effect upon the national progress by affording the people a lesson that no good times should be abused by luxury or extravagance in any form."

Use of Wireless Telegraphy.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3.—A demonstration of the practical usage of wireless telegraph which occurred in Belgium has been reported to the state department in the communication from Consul General Guenther at Frankfurt, Germany. A captain of a chanel mail steamer, which was fully equipped with wireless telegraphic apparatus, reported that on his last trip in he received a wireless message from a French lighthouse, anchored some twenty-five miles from Dunkirk on the Belgian coast, stating that the warning light could not shine again until aid was received from shore.

The C. R. Harper Manufacturing company of Marshalltown has filed articles with the secretary of state.

Russia Ready to Borrow.

BERLIN, May 3.—The Vossische Zeitung prints a special dispatch from St. Petersburg announcing that Russia has virtually arranged with France for loans amounting to 500,000,000 francs and that another Russian loan is being negotiated with English and American bankers in London. The dispatch further says that the czar is planning for a trip abroad during next August, and that he will soon visit Copenhagen and Darmstadt.

MR. SAVAGE BECOMES GOVERNOR.

The Ceremony of Taking the Executive Chair Simple in the Extreme.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 4.—The ceremony by which Ezra P. Savage was inaugurated governor of Nebraska was simple. The incoming and outgoing governors met in the executive office. Immediately, and without any formality, Governor Dietrich signed his name to the resignation prepared in his office. This document was then taken across the hall to the secretary of state and was accepted by that official. Mr. Savage was then told of the acceptance. He walked into the private office of the governor-discharge of his duties as the chief discharge of his duties as the chief executive of the state.

Governor Savage's first official act was the signing of the senatorial commission for Senator Dietrich. This was done with the pen used by the former governor in writing his veto messages and the pen was formally presented to Senator Dietrich after the commission had been signed.

Senator Dietrich about June 1 will go to Washington and will probably make his headquarters there during the summer.

"I will remove no office holder, man, woman or child, except for cause," said Governor Savage when questioned concerning the policy he would pursue. All appointees of his predecessor will be allowed to hold their offices so long as they do their duty. I intend to watch all of them, but as long as every one satisfactorily fills his place there will be no trouble."

The present clerical force in the governor's office will continue to serve under Governor Savage. Mr. H. C. Lindsay will remain, at least for a month, as the governor's private secretary, and R. J. Clancy, chief clerk, will hold his position so long as he desires to do so. Miss Lena Meyer, niece of Senator Dietrich, will remain permanently as stenographer.

NEBRASKA CROP CONDITIONS.

Weather Favorable for Advancement of Farm Interests.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, May 4.—The past week has been warm and dry, with more than the normal amount of sunshine. The daily mean temperature has averaged 9 degrees above the normal. The maximum temperature on the 25th was between 80 degrees and 90 degrees and at a few places exceeded 90 degrees.

The rainfall of the week amounted only to slight sprinkles, except in the central and southwestern counties, where it ranged from a quarter to slightly more than half an inch.

The past week has been very favorable for the growth of vegetation. Oat seeding is practically completed. Spring wheat and oats are coming up, and the stand is good. Winter wheat has grown well. Grass is generally backward for the season, but has grown well during the past week.

Veteran Heir to Fortune.

PLATTSBROUGH, Neb., May 4.—John Phillips, an old veteran of this city, has been notified of the death of his father at McConnellsville, O., and that he is one of the heirs of a large estate. Nothing had been heard from Mr. Phillips for twenty years, and a letter from a brother in Peoria, Ill., states that hundreds of letters of inquiry were sent to postmasters throughout the United States and that his address was finally secured when the matter was finally referred to the commissioner of pensions at Washington.

Cuts Off His Own Hand.

WINSIDE, Neb., May 4.—Theodore Erickson, an old man of this place, took a handaxe, and laying his left hand on the sidewalk, hacked it off at the wrist. He struck it three blows. Then leaving the hand and the axe on the walk he sat down on a step, where he was found and cared for.

Fix Date for Reunion.

WEEPING WATER, Neb., May 4.—The business men held a meeting here and fixed the time for holding the G. A. R. district reunion on August 20 to 23rd, inclusive. They are making arrangements for a large attendance, and a grand time is anticipated.

Lodge Books Found in Canyon.

HOLBROOK, Neb., May 4.—The official books and records belonging to the Odd Fellows lodge, which were supposed to have been carried off by the absconding secretary last fall, were found in a canyon north of town. The books are in bad condition.

Monument to Nebraska Soldiers.

MADISON, Neb., May 4.—Bids were opened here for the erection of a monument to the memory of three young men who lost their lives in the Philippines. There were six bidders. G. F. Shephard secured the contract, his bid being \$800 with a \$200 donation. The monument is to be twelve feet eight inches in height, granite pedestal, two bases, carved cap and an oxidized copper figure of a soldier in khaki uniform.

IS GOULD AND CLARK

These Are the Men Now Figuring in Union Pacific Theories.

BUYING IN ORDER TO CONTROL.

New Yorker Thought to Cherish Three-Road Control Scheme—Clark Wants Outfit for New Line, and is Said to Be Seeking Privileges in the East.

NEW YORK, May 2.—The Mail and Express says: It was learned from official sources that William K. Vanderbilt is a large holder of Union Pacific stock and that he acquired his holding after reaching a full understanding with E. H. Harriman. Those in a position to know assert that Mr. Harriman was placed at the head of the road at the instance of Mr. Vanderbilt, although others declare that Mr. Harriman is the joint choice of Messrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, George J. Gould and Kuhn, Loeb & Co.

Mr. Harriman is a close personal friend of Mr. Vanderbilt and was picked out to manage the Union Pacific because he was regarded as an able railroad man. From sources close to Mr. Vanderbilt, it appears that the present management of the Union Pacific is not only in thorough accord with that gentleman, but has stood ready for a long time to make a deal with the Chicago & Northwestern, which the Vanderbilts control. But up to the present year of great deals, Mr. Vanderbilt, it is said, thought it was better for the Northwestern to have several strings to its bow, rather than tie up exclusively with the Union Pacific.

The Burlington deal, however, changed the western situation and the aggressive policy of Messrs. J. J. Hill and J. P. Morgan in combining the Burlington, Northern Pacific and Great Northern forced the Northwestern to prepare for future emergencies.

There are excellent reasons for the assumption that Mr. Vanderbilt has been the largest buyer of Union Pacific on the great rise to nearly 120 either for his own account, with a view to increasing his interest, or on account of Chicago & Northwestern, so that the latter can exercise a leading influence in Union Pacific.

There is good ground for believing that George J. Gould, as president of the Missouri Pacific and a leading director in Union Pacific, has been a heavy buyer of the latter stock and that by means of his large private holdings of stock which may later be turned over to the Missouri Pacific, the latter road will, jointly with the Northwestern, and possibly the St. Paul, control Union Pacific.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 2.—The Evening Express this afternoon published a report that private advices have been received here to the effect that John W. Gates, the steel magnate, is responsible for the recent phenomenal advance in Union Pacific stock and that Gates is acting for Senator W. A. Clark and associates, who are endeavoring to secure control of the Union Pacific as an outlet for the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake railroad.

ANNIVERSARY OF MANILA BAY.

Admiral Dewey and His Comrades in Battle Meet at Banquet Board.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2.—The third anniversary of the battle of Manila bay was celebrated here tonight by a banquet at the Raleigh hotel, participated in by officers of the American fleet who took part in that conflict. These numbered about twenty-five persons, less than one-fourth of those who were in the battle. The greater number of them came from stations along the Atlantic coast, from Portsmouth, N. H., to Norfolk, Va. The floral decorations were unusually attractive, but four large American flags, with the American eagle and shield as a centerpiece, were the features of the decoration.

Center of Population.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The census bureau issued a bulletin announcing that the center of population of the United States, excluding Alaska and recent territorial acquisitions, on June last was six miles southeast of Columbus, Bartholomew county, in southern Indiana.

German's Surprising Action.

HONG KONG, May 2.—It is reported that the Germans have selected a concession at Canton, that the preliminaries have been arranged and that possession will be taken soon.

Warrant for Thousands.

SOUTH MALESTER, I. T., May 2.—A warrant containing 3,000 names was issued by United States Judge John R. Thomas, in the northern district, and given to Marshal Bennett for service. The complaint was made by Hon. Tams Bixby, acting chairman of the Dawes commissions, and is against the Creek fullbloods who refuse to be enrolled. The commission has tried for several weeks to get the Creek Indians to enroll to no avail, avail.