A SILVER LEAGUE.

The Three Bimetallic Organizations to Be United.

COMPERS DECLARES FOR PEACE.

The Great Labor Leader Says the Workers Are Opposed to War-Trouble Brewing Among the Engineers of the Plant System.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30. -For some time past negotiations have been pending for a complete consolidation of the American Bimetallic league, National Bimetallic union and the National Silver committee, the three principal silver organizations in the United States, representing all sections of the country. These negotiations have culminated in an agreement by the representatives of the respective organizations by which consolidation has been substantially perfected. Nothing now remains to be done but a ratification by the executive committee of these organizations, each acting separately, which will speedily follow. The consolidated association will be known as the American Bimetallic union. Its principal office and general headquarters will be in Chicago at 134 Monroe street, in the offices occupied by the National Bimetallic union, with branch offices in Washington, San Francisco and perhaps in other cities, both north and south. It is the purpose of the organization to press the campaign of education on behalf of bimetallism with the utmost vigor in all parts of the country. A conference of prominent silver men will be held in Washington on January 22, when a plan of action will be outlined, which, it is said, will have an important bearing on political events next year.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Before leaving for Indianapolis, the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers made a farewell speech to the Central Labor union yesterday in which he denounced a policy looking to war between the United States and England. He said: "Those who are stirring up this war scare are covering themselves with a mask of patriotism behind which is hidden nothing but bluster and pomposity. Around, below and beneath this so-called patriotism is a scheme to enlarge the army and navy. The true patriot is not looking for war. He wants peace. The workers of our country have no quarrel with the workers of other countries. They will not be swayed by political schemers. In the ranks of the sensible, cool-headed workers and true American citizens you will find this so-called war scare has had no effect. Labor is never for war, it is always for peace. It is on the side of justice and humanity."

GOMPERS DECLARES FOR PEACE.

ENGINEERS MAY STRIKE. SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 30.-Chief Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive engineers, had further interviews yesterday with the committee representing the engineers of the Plant system. General Superintendent Dun-Anam has referred the matter of contracts to President H. B. Plant. No advices have yet been received from him. It is expected Mr. Plant will either wire instructions to-day or come in person. It is the impression that President Plant will indorse the position his several superintendents have taken in opposition to written contracts. The engimeers and firemen are said to be standing together and will act in unison. If there is a strike it will be made general, covering the system from Charleston, S. C., to Tampa, Fla., and as far evest as Montgomery, Ala.

TWO BIG ROBBERIES.

Dismond Thieves Get About \$75,000 from Two New York Residences.

New York, Dec. 30.-In addition to the robbery of \$65,000 worth of diamonds and jewelry from the Madison square mansion of I. Townsend Burden Friday night, it now transpires that another robbery, similar in its mode of execution, was committed the same evening in the house of Mrs. Francis N. Barnes, at 239 Central Park, West, at about the same hour at which the Burden house was robbed. The loss in the case of Mrs. Barnes, however, was considerably less than that of the Burden's, aggregating not more than \$10,000.

A STRICKEN TOWN.

Glartford, Kan, Visted for the Third

Time With Disaster. EMPORIA, Kan., Dec. 30.-The three largest business buildings in Hartford. 20 miles south of here, were destroyed by fire at day break yesterday morning Loss about \$30,000 or \$40,000. Last spring Hartford was visited by a cyclone which destroyed a large part of the residence portion of the city and Skilled and wounded a number of people, and only a couple of years previous to that disaster fire destroyed nearly the entire business part of the place, in-

The Jones tamily Not Drowned. Eldorado Springs, Mo., Dec. 30.-The Jones family of six, which were reported as being drowned in the Sac river, have been found. The report was received here that they were found in a perilous position on a large drift mear the center of the stream and rescued by a party in a boat.

BIG ZINC MINE DEAL.

the Smelters in the Country Except Four Said to Have Consolidated.

St. Louis, Dec. 30.-The biggest deal in the history of zinc mining in Missouri will be closed by January 1. It will unite all the zinc smelters of the country except four under one management practically, and the result will be, the promoters claim, better prices for zinc in all branches and a general revival of the industry. The money involved is about \$2,000,000, which is to be furnished by New York and Connecticut capitalists. The deal was engineered by F. Hobart, president of the Kansas & Texas Coal Co., which controls a big zinc smelter at Pittsburg, Kan. The new company will control all the zine smelters in what is known as the southwest Missouri district, embracing the zinc producing territory of Missouri and Kansas. Two smelters in Indiana will come in also.

THE BOND BILL PASSED.

The House Takes a Vote on the Measure by Sections.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.-When the house convened Saturday three hours remained for debate on the bond bill. The vote, by the terms of the rule under which the house was operating, was to be taken at three o'clock. The attendance was large. At three p. m. voting began. By the time the roll call in the first section was half through it was thought that not enough republicans would vote against the first section for bonds to defeat it.

The first roll call resulted: Yeas, 159; nays, 132. Probably 44 republicans voted against the bill. On another roll call the first section of the bond bill passed by a vote of 169 to 136.

The second section of the bond bill passed without division.

INTERESTING TO PENSIONERS. A United States Court Says That a Pension

Check Is Not Attachable. PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Dec. 30. - Judge John Jackson, of the United States circuit court, yesterday released Benjamin F. Morgan, a United States pensioner. Morgan had given his pension certificates as security for a store account. When the pension check came he refused to pay the bill and was arrested for obtaining money under false pretenses. The court held that no pension money could be attached, levied on or in any way made subject to debt, and ordered that Morgan be released at once.

TIRED OF CIVILIZATION.

Iowa Indians Have Leased 15,000 acres of Land in the Kaw Reservation.

GUTHRIE, Ok., Dec. 30 .- The Iowa Indians have just closed a lease with the Kaw tribe for 15,000 acres of land in the reservation of the latter tribe. The Iowas will erect a village there and live off the rental of their allotted lands east of here, which they are leasing to white farmers. They say they are tired of living apart on their allotments, scattered among the whites, who will not associate with them.

A Gathering of Negroes.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 30.-Negro literary lights from the surrounding territory including St. Joseph, Mo., Topeka, Leavenworth, Lawrence, Atchison, Fort Scott and Wichita, Kan., and Macon City, will gather in Kansas City, Kan., Thursday and Wednesday to attend the fifth annual meeting of the Interstate Literary association, which will be held at the St. James Methodist church. The association is composed of many of the most intellectual negroes of this section.

An Old Engineer Retires. KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 30.-After having spent 33 years in constant service as a locomotive engineer, Henry C. Weston gave up his engine on the Meruphis railway last week and retired from the business. Mr. Weston is 53 year, old and is known among railroad men as "Dad" Weston. He was the oldest railroad engineer running out of Kansas City, and the greater part of his work on the road was as engineer of passenger train locomotives.

Northeast Missouri Teachers.

MEXICO, Mo., Dec. 30.-The Northwest Missouri Teachers' association adjourned after electing the following officers: President, L. J. Hall, of Montgomery City; secretary, Arthur Burton, of Centralia; treasurer, J. F. Spornhorst, of Laddonia. The association passed a resolution condemning the proposed constitutional amendment making the legal age for admission to public schools five years instead of eight. The next meeting will be at Centralia, Mo.

Kansas Ploneer I LEAVENWORTH, Kan., D. 30.-Hiram Hamblin, a Kansas ploneer, died here yesterday of diseases incident to old age. He was 82 years old and a native of Vermont. Mr. Hamblin was a strong anti-slavery man, and took a leading part in the border ruffian struggles here during the 50s. He was a con-

tractor and put up many large build-

ings in western cities. Free Delivery to Pe Extended. WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.-A number of post offices throughout the country will be allowed free delivery service next month. There are now 613 free delivery offices and about 90 more are entitled, under the regulations, to be added to the list. The post office department is making a general investigation, but in many the sentiment is adverse to free delivery.

THEATER PANIC.

Awful Scenes in a Baltimore Play House.

Result of a False Alarm of Fire-Twentyfour Persons Crushed to Death and Many Others Injured-Building Packed Full.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 28.-In a senseless panic caused by a defective gas burner and a foolish cry of fire, at the old Front Street theater, last night, 24 people were killed, two fatally injured and ten more seriously hurt. Up to one o'clock this morning, but four of the dead had been identified. Almost all the victims are of Polish nativity and Hebraic extraction, and many of the injured were taken to their homes by friends, rendering it almost impossible to get a complete list at this time.

The theater, which is probably the oldest in the city, was filled from pit to dome with people who had assembled to listen to Hebrew opera, which has been given in the old house twice a week for the past month. The ticket office receipts show that over 2,700 tickets had been sold when, at eight o'clock, the sale of seats was stopped because there were no more left. General admission tickets were sold, however, after this, and it was supposed that there were at least 3,000 people within the walls when the curtain went up on the first act. As the capacity of the house is less than 2,500, the density of the crowd may be imag-

Ten minutes after the curtain rose, one of the attendants went up to the second tier to light a gas jet which appeared to been extinguished. As he turned the cock and applied a match it was seen that there was no tip to the burner. The jet was well down toward the stage on the left side of the house, in plain view of the greater part of the audience, but as the glare from it showed against the wall, some one in the gallery shouted, "Fire! Fire! Fire!"

In an instant there was a mad scramble for the door, in which the whole audience took part. The vanguard of the terror-stricken multitude reached the entrance on Front street, pushed on by the howling, shrieking mob behind them. There those in the foremost rank were compelled to turn to the right and to the left to reach the double entrance way, built in the form of a storm door. Passing through these doors, they reached a flight of steps, leading from each door, downward to a landing, from whence a broad stairway of moderate height would have carried them into the street and to safety." The steps leading from the doorways are but about five feet high, but the landing at their base is narrow. Down these the frightened people hustled themselves in the frightful struggle to reach the open air, and to escape the certain death they thought was behind them.

As the crowds from the two doors, one on the right, and the other on the left, reached the landing, they met. There was a brief struggle, and then some one lost his or her footing and fell. In a moment the crowd, pushed with irresistible force from the rear. crowded upon the prostrate form, and began, in turn, to stumble, reel, and presently to fall prone upon the floor under the myriads of feet coming like a herd of frightened buffalo from be-

In less time than it takes to tell it. the landing was packed 20 or 30 deep with the panic-stricken multitude, and the hundreds behind them were struggling over them to reach the street.

The tumult attracted an immense crowd from the outside, many of whom tried to gain entrance to the theater, thus adding to the confusion. A dozen policemen, also attracted by the shrieks of the frightened crowd, hurried to the scene, and, using their clubs on those on the outside, pushed through the door and to the writhing mass on the landing. When the mass on the landing had been cleared, the frightened mob on the inside were quieted down sufficiently to enable the police to clear the theater. Then it was found that there had been no danger and that not a soul would have been injured had the audience but remained seated.

AN EXPLOSION.

Four Tons of Giant Powder Ignited Near Romeo, Ill.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.-What was believed to be another earthquake shook Chicago at four o'clock yesterday morning and made the country tremble for miles around. It came not in the low, rumbling manner in which earthquakes usually occur, but with a great boom. The shock was caused by the explosion of four tons of giant powder said to have been accidentally ignited near the little town of Romeo, on the new drainage canal, in course of construction. Throughout an area of 50 miles, from Waukegan, Ill., on the north to Kankakee, Ill., on the south, and from Rockford, Ill., on the west to Michigan City, Ind., on the east, the shock was felt. At all these places the explosion was thought to be local, and anxious inquiries were sent in all directions.

No one was killed. The explosion occurred in the powder house near Romeo and about 800 feet from the canal. In Chicago windows rattled and buildings seemed to rock. Probably 1,000,000 people were awakened by the shock.

WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW.

The President's Financial Message Had Bad Effect on Stocks.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.-R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: The failures of the fourth quarter of the year 1895, not yet finished, cannot be definitely stated, but the aggregate of deferred liabilities for the year, while much smaller than in 1893. will vary but little from that of 1894. The year's aggregate of commercial liabilities will probably be about \$170,000,000 in manufacturing over \$73,000,000, or ten per cent more than last year, but in trading about \$88,000,000, or nine per cent, less than last year.

The foreign and financial message of the president were followed by violent reaction in the stock market last Saturday, with grave fears of monetary trouble. The sudden panic shocked business in many departments and the industries cannot be expected to show signs of improvement until the New Year begins. Orders have for months been so much smaller than they were in the summer, when production was expanding and prices mounting rapidly, that new causes of uncertainty have the more influence

In the great textile manufactures the usual holiday duliness is increased by a dearth of orders, though there is some accumulation of goods for the demand expected soon. In woolens the market is extremely dull, soft woolen dress goods and ladies' cloths are a shade lower, and the average of quotations is about 1% per cent. lower for the week. Some makers have gone below last year's quotations

in securing orders. The shoe and leather business does not im prove and both leather and manufactured goods decline slightly, though speculation is again hoisting hides about ten per cent. for all in two weeks and for some kinds 25 per cent.

Wheat and cotton were depressed by last week's panic and have had little time to recover. Wheat receips continue enormous for the week of 3,794,072 bushels against 1,712,908 last year and Atlantic exports, flour included. have been 7,524,950 bushels in four weeks of December against 7,763,690 last year. Russian and other supplies are moving freely, official estimates are wholly forgotten and the men who predicted \$1 wheat have disappeared. Cotton has remained at 84 cents since last Saturday and enormous commercial and mill stocks here and abroad with a demand for goods much smaller than in Senten. ber, hinder an advance. The quantity whice has come into sight is 30 per cent, less than last year to date, but slightly larger than in 1892, when the crop was 6,700,000 bales. Failures for the week have been 322 in the

United States against 3-0 last year, and 40 in Canada against 41 last year.

THE WATERS SUBSIDING.

A Story of the Destruction Wrought by the Floods in Missouri. BAGNELL, Mo., Dec. 28.-The waters of the Osage have begun slowly to subside and the havoc played by the sudden rise begins to manifest itself. Thousands of railroad ties, thousands of bushels of corn and wheat, wagonloads of apples, miles of fence and acres of fodder and feed have disappeared before the mighty onrush of the floods. Houses, barns and granaries by the hundreds have been swept away; cattle, horses and hogs have been drowned and their carcasses line the hills, against which the backwaters beat. Houses and stores all along the Osage valley are filled yet with water, mud and the wreckage of the waves, and woe and desolation appear on all sides. At Tuscumbia, the county seat, every house in town is filled with water and the loss will be immense. A correct estimate of the losses suffered throughout this section cannot

be estimated yet, but will be large. MR. BAYARD'S CASE.

The House Resolutions of Barrett and McCall Will Be Reported in a Modified

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The house committee on foreign affairs held a meeting and considered the Barrett and McCall resolutions relative to the speeches of Amassador Bayard. The committee decided to report the Mc-Call resolution in a modified form. As agreed on it calls upon the president for information as to the alleged utterances of Mr. Bayard and the correspondence on the subject. The resolution has been very much tamed down and made mild in comparison to what it was when introduced. It was thought that in view of present circumstances it would be much better to make the resolution simply one of inquiry.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

It Is Proposed to Hold One in 1896 to Ar

range All Boundary Disputes. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.-Representative Barrett, of Massachusetts, introduced in the house a joint resolution authorizing the president to arrange a conference between the United States and nations possessing territory on the American continent for the settlement of boundary disputes. The president is to invite each nation to join the United States in a conference, to be held in Washington in 1896, to agree, if possible, upon all boundaries in dispute between such ationsn.

Physically Unable to Train. NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Among sporting men here the report is current that James J. Corbett, the erstwhile champion pugilist, has good reason for quitting the prize ring. It is said that he is physically unable to undergo a severe course of training, and that should he re-enter the ring he would be a mark for any first-class heavyweight. According to a friend of Corbett, the big fellow is going the same road traveled by poor Jack Dempsey.

Now It Is American Wheat.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 28.-Italian Vice Consul Jerome Fedeli has received a communication from the minister of the interior of the kingdom of Italy complaining about the spoiled and damaged condition of grain received from this country at ports and warehouses. After the first of the year no grain shipped from this country will be received into Italy, unless it be accondition and dryness.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS.

HARLAN COUNTY's big corn crop is not yet all harvested.

THE Wahoo butter tub factory is

turning out 150 tubs a day. INLAND boasts of a citizen 90 years old who has used tobacco for more than 60 years.

THE Southeast Nebraska Poultry association recently held its annual session at Beatrice.

In the James Ish murder trial at Omaha, the jury after being out three days failed to agree. CLARA HAMER, 14 years old, was re-

cently fatally burned at Aurora while kindling a fire with kerosene oil. THE 14th annual convention of the Nebraska State Firemen's association

meets at Grand Island on January 21. In the case of George E. Hawkins, ex-water commissioner of Beatrice, the jury acquitted him of the charge of

forgery. MRS. L. DONALD, of Grand Island, died recently as the result of a fall received a short time previous. She was 30 years of age and leaves a husband

and one child. THE G. A. R. post at Hastings passed resolutions heartily indorsing the message of the president on the Venezuela affair and commending him for standing up for Americanism, giving assur-

ance that the G. A. R. is with him. ONE farmer near Plattsmouth has about 20,000 bushels of corn which he is holding for better prices. Portions of it is four years old. About 12,000 bushels of this corn he once refused 65 cents for in hopes of getting more.

THREE young farmers, Eli Oryall, J. M. Foster and George Van Patten. were recently arrested at Grafton on the charge of taking two loads of shelled corn from the granary of C. Bosa They pleaded guilty and were held to the district court.

An attempt to rob the First national bank at Arlington was made the other night. Burglars broke open three doors and entered the bank, drilled a hole in the outer door of the vault and blew the combination lock off, but were frightened away before accomplishing their object.

OTTO SEIDLITZ was recently arrested at Plattsmouth upon complaint of representatives of the B. & M. road, charging him with wrecking a passenger train two weeks previous. The defendant being only ten years of age, the charge was changed to "incorrigibility" when he was taken into court.

THE Nebraska State Dairymen's association, at its late session in Lincoln, elected the following officers: President, E. F. Howe, Crete; vice president, F. H. Vaughan, Fremont; secretary and treasurer, S. C. Bassett, Gibbon; directors, B. R. Stouffer, Bellevue; W. A. Carpenter, York; G. A. Merrill, Minden; J. W. Bush, Battle Creek, and J. S. Temple, Cheney.

FRED WAHLGREN, who murdered Augusta Maitland at a laundry in Omaha last June, for alleged infidelity to him, when brought up for trial in the Omaha district court the other day pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life. Wahlgren made a statement to the court that affected the court and spectators to such a degree that a movement was set on foot

for his pardon. EDITOR RAKER, of the Gretna Reporter, was recently fried before Judge Scott at Omaha and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary for criminal libel, but the supreme court suspended execution indefinitely. The libel charged consisted of the publication of a story reflecting upon the foreman of the grand jury last June. An Omaha dispatch stated that the papers of the state were much worked up over the rulings of the court.

W. M. HELM was recently found dead at his home 40 miles southwest of Alliance. He had been shot several days before. It was supposed that he was opening the gate to drive out his cattle when he was fired upon by two or more unknown parties from ambush and instantly killed. The body was riddled with bullets and the horse that he had been riding shot. He had had difficulties with neighboring ranchmen in the sand hills and the killing is supposed to have been the result.

Pensions lately granted Nebraska veterans: Original, John E. West, Crawford; Gustave Sherman, Somerfield; W. E. Gosper, Lincoln. Increase, Ambrose K. Bliss, Redington; William C. Kidd, Nebraska City; Dexter Russell, Trenton. Reissue, Samuel Pettit, Guide Rock. Original widows, etc., Abby C. Cornwell, Elyria; Margaret A. Angell, Highland; Mariah Swalley, Benedict; Dora E. Grogan, Wisner; minor of Jabez Green, Plattsmouth. Additional, Jonathan N. Fletcher, Brewster. Restoration and reissue, Amos Sniff, Elmwood. Original widow, Rebecca Swift, Elmwood.

A FEW days before Christmas Gov. Holcomb commuted the sentences of two convicts in the penitentiary, W. H. Perine and George H. Wilson. Perine was sentenced from Dawes county by Judge Kincaid for 14 years for arson. He was received at the penitentiary October 31, 1890. By allowance for good time his sentence would have expired July 31, 1900. The request for a commutation of sentence was accompanied by a letter from Judge Kincaid, in which he admitted that the length of time was too severe and urged commutation. He left the prison on Christmas eve. Wilson was sent up from Burt county for five years for removing mortgaged property. companied by a certificate of its good His sentence was commuted so as to expire Christmas.