

Farmer's Alliance.

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NO 36.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

EXPIRATIONS.—As the easiest and cheapest means of notifying subscribers of the date of their expiration we will mark this notice with a blue or red pencil, on the date at which their subscription expires. We will send the paper two weeks after expiration. If not renewed by that time it will be discontinued.

THE MARKETS.

Chicago Grain and Produce.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.
WHEAT—May, 88c; July, 87c.
CORN—May, 57c; July, 56c.
OATS—May, 46c; July, 45c.
PORE—May, 82c; July, 81c.
LARD—May, 12c; July, 11c.
SHORT RIBS—May, 12c; July, 11c.

Chicago Live Stock.

UNION STOCK YARDS,
CHICAGO, Feb. 17.
CATTLE—Estimated receipts, 8,000 head. Natives, \$2.50; cows and bulls, \$2.00; Texas, \$1.50. Market steady.
HOGS—Estimated receipts, 10,000 head. Heavy, \$3.50; mixed, \$3.40; light, \$3.30. Market weak.
SHEEP—Natives, \$1.50; westerns, \$1.20. Market steady.

Kansas City Live Stock.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 17.
CATTLE—Estimated receipts, 1,600 head; shipments, 3,000 head. Steers, \$2.25; cows, \$2.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.00. Market steady to lower.
HOGS—Estimated receipts, 4,000 head; shipments, 2,500 head. All grades, \$3.00. Market steady.

Omaha Live Stock.

UNION STOCK YARDS,
OMAHA, Feb. 17.
CATTLE—Estimated receipts, 3,800 head. Prime heavy, \$2.25; medium heavy, \$2.00; common, \$1.75; choice fancy cows and heifers, \$2.50; common to medium cows, \$1.50; canners, \$1.50; bulls, \$1.25. Market steady.
HOGS—Estimated receipts, 8,000 head. Light, \$3.25; mixed, \$3.15; heavy, \$3.00. Market opened steady to lower; closed strong.
SHEEP—Estimated receipts, 700 head. Market steady.

IRRIGATION IN KANSAS.

A Company Formed to Redeem Arid Lands in the Sunflower State.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 17.—A new irrigation and water power company has been formed here for operating in all parts of Kansas in constructing and maintaining dams, raceways, aqueducts, canals, wells and such other works and appliances as may be required for the collection, conveyance and use of water for manufacturing, supplying water and water power, and for utilizing and supplying water for the purpose of irrigation. One of the principal purposes of this company is to put in operation a system of irrigation that can be used by individual farmers at a small expense, and whether situated on streams or not. Where streams can be utilized that will be done, but it is believed that nearly every quarter section in the state can be successfully irrigated, in whole or in part, by an outlay of only a few hundred dollars, and this will increase the value of the land from three to ten times its present value. With proper irrigation, one fourth of a farm will often produce more than a whole quarter section in its natural condition and a sure crop on part of the farm is better than the uncertain chances without irrigation. Wherever it can be successfully done it is also proposed to use the water for the purposes of power. The company is organized with a capital stock of \$1,000,000 and will have its headquarters at Topeka.

A BEVY OF BRUISERS.

Australian Pug Arrive. Among Them Jim Hall, Who Wants a Go at Fitzsimmons.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Three of the most prominent pugilists of Australia arrived on the steamer Alameda. They are Jim Hall, champion middleweight of the colonies, who whipped Fitzsimmons once and is ready to whip him again; Abe Willis, the champion bantamweight of Australia, who made Ike Weir quit in three rounds, and Billy Maher, a lightweight, who scales 133 pounds and yet stands 5 feet 10 inches. Hall's visit is of great interest to sporting men, for Harris, the turfman, has backed him for a fight with Fitzsimmons and left cash deposits. Hall stands 6 feet 11 inches, and in condition weighs only 150 to 155 pounds. He has a good honest face, but he is a wicked fighter, and hits a more powerful blow than Fitz. His shoulders are not so big as Fitz's, but he is better proportioned and more powerful. Hall said: "Fighting is what I have traveled several thousand miles to do, and I would rather meet Fitz than any other man, because I know I can lick him." Hall is only 23 years old, and has been a professional only eighteen months. In that time he has whipped Fitzsimmons in three and one-half rounds; Jack Slavin, Paddy's brother, in five rounds; Herbert Goddard and a number of other heavy and middle weights. If Hall fails to make a match here with Fitz he will go east and hunt him down.

Thayer vs. Boyd.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 17.—John D. Howe, attorney for Governor Boyd, filed the following motion to dismiss in the supreme court in quo warranto case of John M. Thayer vs. Governor Boyd, in which Boyd's citizenship is questioned:

1. That said relator, John M. Thayer, has no right, title or authority in law to maintain this action.
2. That the petition and relation herein does not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action.
3. That said petition and relation show on its face that James E. Boyd, respondent, is the duly elected, qualified and acting de jure governor of this state, and entitled in law to hold said office and bound to discharge the duties thereof for and during the term of two years from and after the 8th day of January, A. D., 1891.

THE TRADE TREATIES

An Increase Allowed in the Secret Fund of the State Department.

AGAINST FREE COINAGE.

The Silver Question Discussed in the Republican Caucus—The Pool Investigation—Invited to Gen. Sherman's Funeral—Other Capital News.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—That commercial treaties will constitute an important part of the work of the state department during the next few months there can be no doubt. The senate, in executive session, adopted without a quibble an increase of \$10,000 for the secret fund of the state department, and it is understood this is to be expended in negotiating commercial treaties. The secret session of the senate lasted four hours and a half, and, since it was noised about the Capitol soon after the doors were closed, that an increase of the secret fund for the state department was the subject under discussion, it was presumed that there must be a Democratic fight pending against Secretary Blaine. When the doors were opened a Democratic senator who was accosted on the work of the secret session said: "There was no cabal over the increase of the secret fund for the state department. It was granted without a word of protest."

Since the president and his secretary of state have demonstrated the practicability of commercial treaties and shown that these avenues of trade relations can be opened, the obstructions which were supposed to stand in the way of the work upon a large scale are disappearing. The increase of the secret fund for the state department amounts to something like \$200,000, and it is believed that this will be ample to perfect all the commercial treaties desired, and that a half a dozen or more countries will come into our trade combinations within the next ninety days.

AGAINST FREE COINAGE.

The Drift of Opinion in the Republican Caucus.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The caucus of Republican members of the house was slimly attended, and perhaps not a sufficient number to make any action taken binding. The silver question occupied the greater portion of the time of the session, and it was soon seen that the drift of opinion was decidedly against free coinage legislation or any change in the silver coinage laws. Mr. Perkins of Kansas opened the discussion with a speech in favor of free and unlimited coinage. He was followed by Mr. Walker of Massachusetts in a speech against free coinage. Mr. Walker argued that possible free silver coinage legislation was unsettling business and disturbing commercial values, and he urged that the subject be put to rest. Messrs. Henderson of Illinois, Kerr of Iowa and Orson of Kansas were inclined towards a more liberal silver policy, but believed that additional legislation on the subject at this late day unwise for business and political reasons. Mr. Bartine of Nevada urged that the senate silver bill be reported from the committee to the house and be given a fair hearing by that body. Mr. Cannon spoke against free coinage and for further legislation. He favored giving the subsidy shipping bill and other important measures now pending a chance. The following resolution, offered by Mr. McComas, was adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this caucus that the chairman and secretary be instructed to request the immediate presence and continued attendance of absent Republican members during the remainder of the session. The object of the resolution is to have a quorum of Republicans in the house during the remainder of the session in order to dispose of the appropriation, subsidy and other important measures.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—In the senate the credentials of Senators Jones of Nevada and Mitchell of Oregon for terms beginning March 4 next, were filed.

The conference report on the fortification bill was agreed to, and Senator McCannell addressed the senate in advocacy of his bill directing the proceedings of the condemnation against the Union and Central Pacific roads bill, which was referred. The diplomatic and consular bill was then taken up, and several committee amendments agreed to. In executive session an amendment to the diplomatic bill was agreed to for the establishment of telegraphic communication with the Hawaiian islands, and afterwards passed in open senate. Yeas, 25; nays, 22.

After the secret session Senator Quay, being recognized, proceeded to make a personal statement in refutation of certain public stories in regard to his character.

In the house Mr. E. B. Taylor of Ohio apologized to Mr. Fithian of Illinois for having used unparliamentary language toward him on Saturday last. The conference report on the army appropriation bill was adopted. The house then went into committee of the whole on the Indian appropriation bill, but without disposing of it the committee rose, and after adopting resolutions of sorrow at the death of Gen. Sherman, the house adjourned.

The Plot Thickens.

NIACK, N. Y., Feb. 17.—The grand jury presented three more indictments against Assemblyman Demarest for forgery, making seven in all. His bonds were increased to \$11,000, which he furnished.

HEMP FOR BINDING TWINE.

An Important Discovery That Will Demoralize the Twine Trust and Enrich the Farmer.

CHAMPAIGN, Ills., Feb. 17.—The Empire Cordage company of this city claim to have substantially solved the binder-twine question. One of the members of the cordage company said: "We are prepared now to manufacture all the twine for which we can obtain material. I use nothing but American hemp. I think we have now proved that there is not the slightest excuse for importing either the twine or the material to make it. We shall raise 3,000 acres of hemp this year ourselves, and the farmers in this county will raise about three thousand acres more, so that we shall need to bring from a distance the product of only about four thousand acres. That is, we can manufacture the raw hemp from about 127,000 acres. The next harvest will require about one hundred million pounds of twine, and it would require about two hundred thousand acres of ground to produce the amount of hemp necessary to make it. We have demonstrated that the farmers can grow this hemp more profitably than they can raise corn, and its cultivation would withdraw just that much land from corn culture, aiding in the reduction of the corn surplus, and thus helping the farmers in a double sense. Farmers all over this state, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin gave us the most unqualified assurance that hemp twine is superior to sisal or standard twine and fully equal to the best manilla. Six thousand pounds of hemp twine were used last harvest on the great Snake River farm in Minnesota in a good average wheat crop, and the average amount required was one and a half pounds to the acre. These twines can be made and sold more cheaply than the twine trust has ever sold twines of different fiber. American farmers can now grow the hemp themselves, encourage the establishment of twine factories in the wheat-growing states, and save millions of dollars sent abroad for sisal, manilla, and other foreign fibers."

McCarthy Secures Control of United Ireland.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Mr. McCarthy announces that he has received from Egan a deed of transfer for the shares in United Ireland owned by Egan, and that by the terms of the deed, McCarthy is empowered with legal control of the paper.

Burning Tanks Explode.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17.—Eight oil tank cars were destroyed by fire in the lower part of this city. While a crowd congregated one of them exploded, throwing burning oil in all directions, and in the wild rush of people to escape several were badly hurt.

Young Spelman's Escape.

PEORIA, Ills., Feb. 17.—John Spelman, who escaped from a deputy United States marshal near Chicago on Friday night, reached home. His father ordered his arrest, but while an officer was being searched for Spelman once more escaped.

Two Hundred Chinese Burned.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Australian papers received state that by the burning of the steamer Rale at Wuhu 200 Chinese perished.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S SENATOR.

Rev. James H. Kyle, the Independent Candidate, Elected to Succeed Mr. Moody.

PIRRUS, S. D., Feb. 17.—There were fears among the Republicans that Kyle's election would be consummated at the joint ballot. McCormack early informed the reporters to this effect. As the roll was called and names of Democrats were reached, they each sounded "Kyle," and it became evident that the long deadlock was broken and that Kyle (Ind.) was to be elected. The excitement became intense. As soon as the call ended the following Republicans changed to Tripp: Belknap, Donohoe, Douglass, Hall, McCormack, Teets and Wilson. During these changes the excitement became most intense and all sorts of cries were heard, especially on the part of the Democrats. Too late they were and no more changes were made. The ballot then announced was as follows: Kyle, 75; Sterling, 55; Tripp, 8; Campbell, 1; James Henderson, 1. Kyle was declared elected United States senator for the term beginning March 4 next. It was the thirty-ninth ballot.

The Illinois Senatorship.

SPRINGFIELD, Feb. 17.—In the joint assembly the ninety-eighth ballot resulted: Palmer, 101; Oglesby, 80; Streeter, 69; Stelle, 10; Lindley, 3; total, 204. Ninety-ninth: Palmer, 101; Streeter, 70; Oglesby, 27; Stelle, 1; David Hunter, 2; Lindley, 3; total, 204. One hundredth: Palmer, 101; Oglesby, 26; Stelle, 1; Lindley, 3; Hunter, 2; Streeter, 71. Moore continues to vote for Stelle.

Nebraska Legislature.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 17.—The fate of the bounty on beer sugar was sealed when the subject came up under consideration of the report of the committee on miscellaneous corporations. The majority of that body reported in favor of the passage of the bill, House Roll No. 65, which removes that bounty. The minority report favored the amendment of the bill so as to continue the bounty for one year. The minority report was rejected and the bill now goes to the general file.

The Bill Providing for Issue of Bonds for Relief of Drought Sufferers was Considered under Suspension of Rules and Recommended for Passage.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The president and cabinet were formally invited to participate in the ceremonies in New York on Thursday incident to the transfer of the remains of Gen. Sherman to St. Louis, and the invitation will undoubtedly be accepted, unless the state of public business renders it impossible for the president and members of the cabinet to leave the capitol on that day.

FLOODS IN THE EAST

The Business Portion of Johnstown, Pa., Again Inundated.

THE SITUATION SERIOUS.

Citizens of Bradford Being Taken from Their Homes in Boats—No Fatalities Yet Reported—Iron Works Forced to Suspend Operations.

PRYORVILLE, Pa., Feb. 17.—A steady downpour of rain has had the effect of more or less seriously impeding travel on almost every railroad entering the city. The largest landslide on the Baltimore and Ohio for several years now covers the track near West Newton. The Youghiogheny river banks are full and rising. A big flood is feared.

Greensburg reports the streams in that vicinity over the banks, and the people on low lands driven from their homes. Johnstown reports the highest water in Stony creek and the Conemaugh river since the flood. Several bridges have been destroyed. The cellars in the lower portion of the town are filled with water, and work at the Cambria Iron company's plant is suspended.

Reports from Ohio and West Virginia indicate a sudden rise in the branches, with many bridges destroyed and houses flooded, though no lives have been lost thus far.

Johnstown reports the water two feet higher than at any time since the great flood and still rising. The water from Stone creek has commenced to flood the business part of the city.

Later advices from Johnstown say the situation is becoming serious. Nearly all the bridges are gone, low lands are completely flooded, and the flood is running through the business portion of the town. Many people have left their homes and thousands are gathered around the Pennsylvania depot.

A flood, unequalled since 1864, is looked for by experienced river men here. A fall of rain of over thirty hours along both the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers from their mountain sources has been heavy and regular and it is still raining. At many places great damage has been done already.

Bradford reports the lower streets inundated and the people on Ann street are being taken from their homes in boats. The water has put out the fires in the Seyfangs Iron works.

A DASTROUS BLAZE.

Fire at New Westminster Destroys \$500,000 Worth of Property.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Feb. 17.—This city was visited by a disastrous conflagration, which destroyed in the neighborhood of \$500,000 worth of property, and caused the death of John McCannan, a member of the volunteer fire brigade. The fire was discovered in the rear of the premises of a jeweler on Columbia street.

An alarm was turned in, but it was twenty minutes before a stream of water was turned on the fire. By that time the whole block of buildings was in flames and the fire spread to the dwellings and stables on the street back of it. After a two hours' fight, when the firemen had just about got the flames under control, an explosion occurred in the rear of one of the stores. The office, lodge rooms and provincial registry office next caught on fire. Nothing was saved from this building but the papers from the registry office. While fighting the flames the western wall fell in, killing the fireman mentioned, and another man is reported buried under the ruins. The firemen worked to conquer the flames, but the water turned to steam and the fire continued to spread.

Is He the Ripper?

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The police have in custody a man named Sadler who was a fireman on the steamer which arrived from Turkey and who they have no doubt killed "Carpenter Nell." An ugly looking knife, stained with blood, has been traced to Sadler. The station where Sadler is confined is surrounded by an immense crowd of people, mostly women. Wild threats of lynching and tearing the prisoner to pieces, uttered by the most excited of those present are made. When the prisoner was removed to the court an immense force of police was employed and every precaution was necessary to prevent lynching. Opinions differ as to whether the man is the murderer known as "Jack the Ripper."

The Chilean Revolution.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—The Gaulois publishes a Buenos Aires dispatch, which states that the revolutionists have defeated the government forces at Quilto. The same dispatch reports the insurgents as rapidly increasing in numbers and advancing upon Santiago, the capital. Only a few towns remain loyal to the Chilean government. During the course of the fight at Irapapa the mines at that place were set on fire and afterward flooded in an attempt to subdue the flames. The Germans employed at the mines fled into the interior. The work of destruction is supposed to have been done by a party from an insurgentessel.

Invited to the Funeral.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The president and cabinet were formally invited to participate in the ceremonies in New York on Thursday incident to the transfer of the remains of Gen. Sherman to St. Louis, and the invitation will undoubtedly be accepted, unless the state of public business renders it impossible for the president and members of the cabinet to leave the capitol on that day.

GEN. SHERMAN'S FUNERAL.

The Burial Will Take Place at St. Louis Saturday—Gen. Merritt Summons a Military Escort.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 17.—Gen. Merritt has received orders from Maj. Gen. Schofield stating that Gen. Sherman's funeral will start from New York on Thursday afternoon, and the burial take place at St. Louis on Saturday. Ransom post, Grand Army of the Republic, will escort the remains from the depot to the cemetery, and Gen. Merritt was ordered to provide a suitable escort of regular soldiers. Gen. Merritt has ordered several companies of infantry, cavalry and artillery here from Fort Leavenworth, Logan and Riley.

A large meeting of representative citizens, Grand Army of the Republic men and others was held here, and committees were appointed to arrange for the funeral. Military organizations and Grand Army posts in that and adjoining states will be invited to participate.

Admiral Porter's Funeral.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The funeral ceremonies over the remains of Admiral Porter took place from his residence in this city. The event was very imposing, the greatest honor known to naval regulations being paid to the dead hero. The president, members of the cabinet, senators and representatives, justices of the supreme court and army and navy officers of every rank were present. Rev. Dr. Douglass, of the Episcopal church, officiated. It was nearly 3 o'clock when the funeral cortege moved to Arlington, where the remains were interred with the highest naval honors. More than five thousand troops were in the procession.

Over Five Millions Involved.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 17.—A case is pending in the district court of Polk county involving between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. It is the action brought by Dr. M. G. English of this city against the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance company, of Hartford, Conn. The petition alleges that the charter of the company requires that whenever its surplus funds shall exceed \$300,000 the excess shall be distributed among the policy holders, who, as members of a mutual concern, constitute the company. It is claimed that the undivided profits in the company's treasury now amount to over \$5,000,000, and the plaintiff, who has held a policy in the company since 1868, asks for a division and allotment to himself of his proportion of this enormous sum. Decision was reserved.

The Trap Worked.

ATCHISON, Kan., Feb. 17.—Frank Woodyard, a farmer was fatally shot on a farm south of town. He was out with a companion hunting and coming upon a vacant house in a field, pushed the door open and received the contents of an old army musket in his breast. Farmer Cullinan, the owner of the house, had it stored with corn. He had been bothered by thieves and had set the trap, of which Woodyard was the first victim.

Dempsey Looking for a Fight.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 17.—Jack Dempsey has arrived here from Galveston. He will probably agree to fight the winner of the Young Mitchell-Las Blanc fight in New Orleans. Dempsey's friends have asked him to challenge Ted Pritchard to fight for \$2,500 and a purse. They claim that he would gain more money and fame by defeating Pritchard than either Young Mitchell or Las Blanc.

Eighty Thousand Women Want to Vote.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The Central Labor union, which is said to represent 80,000 women, passed resolutions declaring that the disfranchisement of women caused their starvation pay and demanding a vote for every self-supporting woman.

Milwaukee Will Not Get a Franchise.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 17.—The Louisville Base Ball club will be sold within ten days to satisfy a judgment for \$5,000. At an informal meeting of the stockholders it was decided by the men who were in control last year to buy the team at any cost and to strengthen it. This will prevent the franchise going to Milwaukee.

Michigan Lumber Production.

SAGINAW, Mich., Feb. 17.—The total production of pine lumber for 1890 was 4,085,767,849 feet and of shingles 2,460,878,750. Each figure is more than half the total production of the entire north-west, although each shows a decrease compared with the preceding two years.

Troops Under Arms.

BUENOS AYRES, Feb. 17.—Owing to rumors of a fresh revolutionary plot, the government has placed all the troops under arms. The streets are patrolled by cavalry.

Another Scare.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—London is suffering from another "Jack the Ripper" fright. A woman was found in a dying condition with her throat cut and suffering from a stab wound in the chest. The police, however, think the woman committed suicide.

Death of Ben Ali Haggin.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Ben Ali Haggin, the well-known horseman and son of Horsebreeder J. B. Haggin, the breeder of Firenze, Salvator and other well-known sires, died at his residence on Fifty-fourth street.

Murderer Dwyer Arrested.

OMAHA, Feb. 17.—Joe Dwyer, the Missouri miner who murdered John Cunnors and dangerously stabbed Dick Cushing, both railroad laborers, Sunday morning, was arrested at Springfield.

BOYCOTT SUSPENDED

Chairman Finley Defers Action on Disciplining the Southwestern.

PROMOUNCED IT A FAILURE

President Blackstone's Opinion of the Interstate Commerce Act—Superintendent Calvin Goes to Pocatello—Union Pacific Wreck.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Chairman Finley has postponed until Monday the acceptance of the boycott on the Jacksonville and Southeastern, which was to have begun to-day. This action is the result of a conference, and at which all the interested lines were present. The trouble has arisen over the 2 cents a mile rate at which the Southeastern sells its mileage books. It is shown, however, that both the Toledo, Peoria and Western and the Lake Shore sold mileage, good over the Wabash, at the same rate and had been doing so for six years. General Passenger Agent, Kent, of the Southeastern, was urged strongly to join the Western Passenger association, and pending a consultation with his president the boycott order was postponed.

The Alton has not changed the belief, however, that it can make more money at a flat through rate of 2 cents a mile than at the present rates. The other lines agree with the Alton as far as Illinois is concerned, but declare it would be impossible to make such rates pay west of the Missouri.

Fatal Union Pacific Wreck.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 17.—A fatal wreck occurred on the Union Pacific at Brighton, seventeen miles east of Denver. An extra-freight, in charge of Conductor Douglas was taking water at the tank. Fast freight No. 838, in charge of Conductor Scoville, came thundering into the caboose of the extra, tore through it and five cars loaded with stone, also badly damaging a car of wheat and just missing running into a car of powder. John Sprague, fireman, was caught between the engine and tender, and death resulted almost instantly. Conductor Douglas was in his caboose and was thrown out of the wreck. His injuries are thought to be fatal.

President Blackstone's Report.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—President Blackstone read to the directors his annual report. It will not be ready for publication before Thursday. As usual with President Blackstone, he went at the core of things; his argument being that the interstate commerce act had failed as a regulator of rates and that the various states had broken faith with railroads by ordering reductions in rates.

Superintendent Calvin Resigns.

ATCHISON, Kan., Feb. 17.—E. E. Calvin, division superintendent of the Missouri Pacific lines between Kansas City and Omaha, has resigned and Feb. 21 will become superintendent of the Union Pacific, with headquarters at Pocatello, Idaho.

POWDERLY STRICKEN.

The Grand Master Workman Falls From Stair While Making an Address.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 17.—Just as he was concluding his speech at Representative hall, T. V. Powderly, grand master workman of the Knights of Labor, fell from his chair, prostrated by heart disease. Mr. Powderly spoke in Topeka by invitation of the Knights of Labor, and Representative hall was crowded. He was introduced by Senator-elect Peffer, who occupied a seat on the rostrum with him. Congressman John Davis and several other prominent People's party politicians were also seated on the rostrum.

Mr. Powderly had been speaking for two hours and a half and was about to conclude his speech with the Scriptural quotation: "Do unto others," when he fell.

There was grave danger of a panic in the over-crowded hall, but the crowd was quieted by Senator Peffer's assurance that Mr. Powderly would quickly recover and did not even stand in need of a physician. Mr. Powderly was aroused in about five minutes sufficiently to refuse an offer of a carriage, and walked to his hotel.

A Chicago Man's Cotton-Picker.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 17.—The second trial this season of the Todd cotton-picker was made near this city in the presence of a number of prominent cotton factors of Memphis, and the inventor, Mr. C. N. Todd of Chicago. The machine picker picked the staple right along despite unfavorable conditions. The trial demonstrates the machine does not injure growing bolls, as some anticipated at the former trial. It is the general opinion that Mr. Todd's invention will revolutionize the cotton-growing industry.

Jim Smith on His Muscles.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—A dispatch to The Police Gazette from London says that Jim Smith posted £50 at The Sporting Life office and issued a challenge to fight Charlie Mitchell for £500 a side. The challenge has created a great sensation among sporting men.

Natural Gas Explosion.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 17.—An explosion of natural gas occurred in a house occupied by Owen McLaughlin, on River avenue. The interior of the dwelling was entirely demolished. The inmates were badly, but probably not fatally hurt.