## ST. PIERRE'S DAY OF DOOM.

## To the Last, the Light-Hearted Population Refused to Believe There Was Danger, Though the Warning Was Ample.

Pierre. Martinique, says:

It is not so very long ago that I viz- its.

changed it so utterly. there basked in summer sunshine a other-the effect to the cause. Their little city splashed through with vivid minds were not grooved to such

The special correspondent of the | fall, tell of how short-lived the fright | when on the next morning-Sunday, | to say whether there was danger there | strange quiet of the racked earth. undergone but few changes until the from the great cloud which hung over coming of that frightful day which Pelee's crest, but it seems that none thought to connect these myriads of Where all is now aching desolation floating particles with the deep, mufa chaos of ruined walls, blackened fled rumble which had just been stumps of trees and sickening stench, heard; none to trace the one to the

til it swirled about the Guerin factory, ing of their arrival the company apsetting that building ablaze and destroying many lives, then apprehension grew into fear and soon might have of this small band of soldiery should lapsed into a panic, which doubtless would have saved through flight the lives of the thousands that were soon to be sacrinced.

It was at this crisis that the hand of the government appeared. To Fort nor yet classed with those that are

So it came about that the governor saw fit to exercise moral restraint, it not being within his province or within that of any other man to use physical force in a matter of this of bringing home the governor and his

ernment employes, among these graycanic regions, and wao knew something of the preliminary warnings which come from these excitable hills. When the lava streams came pouring down from Pelee these at once made hurried applications for leaves of absence. The government sought to make an example of the youngest, and in a communication to him denied the application for furlough, and said moreover that if the applicant quitted his post at the time his position would be taken from him. This man -unfortunately, names are hard to his life was worth more than his place and, packing up his belongings, went with his family to some point inland,

It seems that the others were not so hardy, or were more so, according to one's way of looking at it. At all events, when the government's dictum was known all the government employes aecided to remain, and as fear loves company no less than misery does, these affected to make light of the danger so as to better induce

Few have yet left the city, but it would now take little to turn every street into a struggling stream of humanity fleeing panic-stricken from the vicinity of that awful volcano. From tales I have heard one can easily conceive of what a trampling rush might have followed some tocsin alarm -such a mad rush for safety as theater crowds are wont to make when the cry of "fire" is heard.

to give needed warning-not even Pelee. All that day and the next and the next the volcano smoked, and at intervals emitted clouds of ashes, finely pulverized pumice the chemists say the ashes are composed of, but the wind sent the smoke and ashes away from the city, and while the rolling clouds were seen from far-off gan to rattle over the city, with now points and while the ashes fell on and then a shower of sand, of grains the ships half a hundred miles away none in St. Pierre seems to have known that the mountain was even then pouring forth smoke and ashes.

New York Herald, writing from St. was and how quickly the mercurial that was-another growling note was or not. Then, too, the governor was population regained its buoyant spir- heard from Pelee and a small river of coming, and, moreover, his family was consul at St. Pierre, was sitting on Some there were who looked hot, black mud, touched here and coming with him. Could there possiited this poor St. Pierre—this now grave when sakes, white and fine as city of the dead. It had, I am told, powdered namesia, began to sift ing down out of the mists screening and so important personages as these friend came driving by in a buggy. Pelee's summit, to cascade over a were? Also a company of soldiers hundred-foot precipice and then to from Fort de France were coming, follow the line of least resistance un- and while the St. Pierrans were talk- out, and getting out as fast as I can.

> It seems singular that the presence have inspired a misplaced confidence, but it was so, though none seems to have asked what good the soldiers could have done, or even the mightiest army have effected against volcanic Pelee.

The governor came, and with him his family arrived from Fort de France | cataclysm from distant points, that on the little steamboat Topaz. With the governor came the geologists, the wise men who were to sit in judgment and to so fatuously misjudge.

They pondered long, and then gave fatal assurance that all was well. The people read the assurances which the papers printed, drew a long breath of relief and then turned their attention to other things, to affairs of business tacit acknowledgment of the danger and pleasure and all that goes to make up the indolent, happy life of the pleasure loving natives of this isle. And that night—the night of to be restored to the list of still active | May 7-the wise men hastened back

The governor and his family were to have followed the next day, the French cruiser Suchet having been directed to leave her anchorage at Fort de France at 7 o'clock for the purpose

That plan, if carried out, would have brought the cruiser to her doom, and her crew will never cease to thank their saints and bless the blundering mechanic who broke something in the engine-room as the vessel was about getting under way, which accident delayed her departure and probably saved the lives of all on board.

Wednesday night-eve of horror! There are none left alive to tell what the city was like that night, but its southern edge nestles the little village of Carbet, a pretty town of some not one of them was hurt, the town | then could hear no more. having been screened by the high | The little that actually happened cal population-promptly decided that ridge which lay between it and St. Pierre and runs sheer to the sea.

PACIFIC

from tae other.

other side.

effaceable marks of ruin and disaster,

as if some sea of flame had brimmed

back again before overflowing on the

bet that one must turn for the last

act in this horrible tragedy.

DIAGRAM OF VOLCANOES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

Thomas T. Prentiss, United States the veranda at his home in the early

"You had better get out of this," he called to the consul. "I am getting "Oh, you are just merely a little scared," Mr. Prentiss replied. "There

is no need of anyone going away." "It is better to be safe than sorry," retorted the citizen as he whipped up his team and hastened on.

It is from this man, who witnessed the disaster a short time later from a neighboring elevation, with a few who survived the wreckage in the offing, and the few who looked on the

Governor Mouttet. (Martinique Official Whom Scientists Hold Was Responsible for the Great Loss of Life rom the Eruption of Mont Pelee.)

the only eye-witness versions can be

The hour of the disaster is placed at about 8 o'clock. A clerk in Fort just around a little promontory at de France called up another in St. Pierre and was talking with him at 7:55 by Fort de France time, when six or seven hundred people. And he heard a sudden, awful shriek, and

then can be briefly, very briefly told. It is known that at one minute there Its northern wall was precipitous lay a city smiling in the summer and built close up to it was the south- morning; that in another it was a ern section of St. Pierre, a thickly mass of swirling flames, with every populated district whose houses left soul of its 30,000 writhing in the

been condemned and either destroyed or reshipped to the parties from whom it was purchased. The con-

demned vinegar was all from Iowa,

BREAKS JAIL AT VALENTINE.

Missouri and Kansas concerns.

STATE PURE FOOD LAW.

State Commissioner Bassett Wants it

the next legislature convenes. The law gives the food commissioner control only over dairy products and vinegar. The farmers are said to be

well satisfied with the regulation of the sale of dairy products. Heretofore the grocers have opposed a general food law, but now scores of them

express a desire to have such a law

passed for their own protection. Re-

tail grocers as well as wholesale gro-

cers have been heard from. The argument is used that surrounding

states have a pure food law, but Ne-

braska, being without such regula-

tions, the state becomes the dumping

ground for adulterated articles. Much.

complaint is heard on account of

short weight and measure. One-

brand of balding powder which in

Minnesota is sold as a substitute or

"impure," is sold in Nebraska as

genuine. As a result of an inspection

by the food commissioner of vinegars

sold in the counties of Gage, Pawnee,

Otoe Richardson and Nemaha, a con-

siderable quantity of vinegar has

LINCOLN. Neb., June 2 -- State Food Commissioner S. C. Bassett will make an effort to secure an amendment to the present food law when

Prisoner Just Sentenced to the Pen-

itentiary Gets Away. VALENTINE, Neb., June 2 .- The jury returned a verdict finding Harmon Cchwaberow guilty of grand larceny. In the afternoon a sentence of five years in the penitentiary was imposed by Judge Harrington. During an evening session of court the sheriff came rushing into court with the announcement that the convited man had broken jail. Couriers are now scouring the country in every direc-

It is feared that Schwaberow has crossed the line and is upon the Sioux reservation in Dakota or is lying concealed in some nearby canyon. He is said to be a desperate character, aged forty-one years, six feet tall, weight two hundred pounds, very dark complexion. In 1898 he was sentenced to a five years' term in the Nebraska penitentiary for cattle stealing, but was pardoned out about two years later, and has since been a mail carrier. The sheriff is in hot pursuit and offers \$500 reward for his

READY FOR THEIR DEGREES.

Commencement Program for State University Given Out.

LINCOLN, June 2 .- A reduction in railroad passenger rates from all points in Nebraska will be a new incidental feature of the forthcoming annual commencement of the University of Nebraska. It was announced at the administration office of the univertisy that all railroads had agreed to a rate of one fare and a third for round trip tickets to and from Lincoln. The tickets will be on sale from June 5 to 11, inclusive, and will expire on June 16. It is expected that upward of 210 degrees will be conferred on commencement day. Of this number approximately 130 will be given to graduates of the academic colleges and about sixty-five to graduates of the law department. Between fifteen and twenty master's degrees will be conferred.

Assaulted His Divorced Wife. LINCOLN, Neb., June 2.-William F. Knight, formerly of Tecumseh, but now a resident of Lincoln, murderously assaulted his divorced wife. With a heavy pocketknight he cut two vicious slashes in her left cheek, and was aiming a third blow at her heart when his arm was stayed by Night Captain Ireland of the police force, who chanced to be passing on his way home. Jealousy is given as the cause of the trouble. Knight was arrested and placed in a solitary cell. Mrs. Knight will recover, and it is said she is not inclined to prosecute.

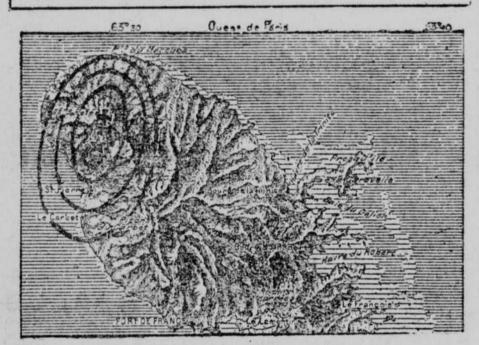
Small Smashup on the Elkhorn. FREMONT, Neb., June 2.-In a minor rear-end smashup at Arlington a way car on the Elkhorn road was broken to pieces and the running gear on two stock cars rendered useless.

Creamery Station to Reopen. STERLING, Neb., June 2.-The Beatrice Creamery company has circulated hand bills announcing that they will reopen the skimming station at this point today.

Declare the Checks Bogus. NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., June 2 .-

A man giving his name as Harry Carroll came to the city and succeeded in passing a number of checks declared to be bogus. One he passed on Mrs. G. W. Anderson for \$7, one on Bader Bros. for \$8.50 and another on A. S. Paradise for \$8.75. His plan was to go into the stores or places of business and after making a purchase tender the check in pay-

ZONES OF DESTRUCTIVENESS AT ST. PIERRE AS REPORTED BY UNITED STATES GEOLOGIST.



and orange and bird's-eye blue, min- the rumble had gone. gled with the green of tropic verdure. Built on a long undulation, which slop-

Over the doomed city the morning and that whitening fall. of May 1 broke in miracle splendor,

The market place, the first section



Professor Robert T. Hill. (First Man to Penetrate to the Crater of Mont Pelee and Report on the Eruption.)

Indian town awakes, was filling with with nerves unstrung by the narrowvenders and purchasers, when the ness of their own escape, it may be first murmur of Pelee, the sleeping that their overwrought minds are giant, was heard-a deep-toned, jarred growl, which instantly blanched the nestly of a column of smoke which faces of all who heard, for those bred arose, black as a pall, from Pelee's in the shadow of the volcano had long since learned to dread its wrath, and, crape into the form of a great upgrowing up, these in turn had taught other generations of the malevolene er that giant bulk. Startled eyes were turned to the gloomy mountain, and were reassured to see it still quiet so far as vision went, for its top was hot to the touch, despite their long hidden in a white mist, and there was | flight through the air. no sign of boiling lava and no fall of burtling rocks.

city that morning, and who by far who tell disjointedly the tale of the been appointed by the government to

color-red tiled roofs cutting sharp | analysis; they were too simple, too lines on walls of creamy white, yellow | West Indian for that. Sufficient that

St. Pierre was gay that night of May 1. The municipal band played music ed to the sea, where it clustered in a in the plaza, as was its wont Thursriot of color near the shore, its sub- day evening. This band night was urban spots could be picked out here the one when youths and maidens and there along the flanking spurs | might mingle in public, and the young and foothills which roll from Pelee's gallants and mademoiselles, promebase, that great volcanic bulk whose nading around the square under the crest is ever shrouded in a veil of watchful eyes of fathers and mothers and duennas, talked lightly of Pelee

Up near Morne Rouge, abode of St. skies bright and blue, and foliage Pierre's well-to-do, there was a washed to a tresher green by a hard lawn party that evening, which carrain which had swept over the island | ried its gayety far into the nightthe preceding night. But it was the zitzas tinkling in the tropic air, and last fair day that St. Pierre was to mantilla-draped girls dancing in the moonlight to the click of castanets.

Friday, day of the evil omen, dawnof the city to show life when a West | ed over St. Pierre. It was made sombre by a thunderstorm, which brooded over the mountains and from whose dark clouds came intermittent flashes of lightning. The nervous started at every thunderclap and anxiously asked one another if that was not Mont Pelee, while others sought to trace the plinding flashes to their source, to see if they were really the mere play of lightning or volcanic blazes from the time-worn crater, which many believed, and all hoped, was long ago extinct. Then a heavy mist settled over the city and its surroundings, and under its depressing influence the day wore itself to a

> Saturday, May 3! Just five days to the obliteration, to death, utterly, wholesale, sudden and tragic! And yet St. Pierre went forth that day to carnival doings, local celebration in honor of something or somebody.

Facts are meager as to that one day and those following, for it must be remembered that nobody survived the horror that was so soon to come. But there were some who had spent days in the city just previous to the tragedy-some who had left it only a scant half-hour before the holocaust. Grieving for their own lost dead and coining visions now, but these tell earwhite shroud to rear its billows of ended coffin. However that may be, there is evidence that all festival gayety went when showers of pebbles be-

St. Pierre, it is now said, was in a more sober humor that evening than Those who by chance were in the it has been within the memory of those that a commission of geologists had

de France, the seat of local authority, had come reports of the uneasy feeling of those dwelling in St. Pierre, Martinique's commercial theater. It is thought that Gov. Mouttet honestly believed there was no cause for alarm and that a panic in St. Pierre would work disaster in many ways, interrupting commerce and injuring the whole island as well as the threatened city. He, if none other, realized that an exodus from the place would be a that lurked in the volcano, which all in Martinique would have the world believe was long ago extinct and never

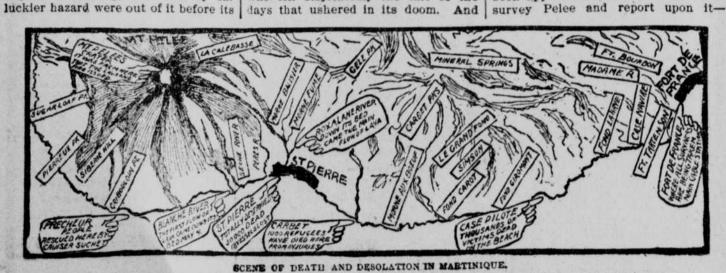
In St. Pierre there were some govbeards who had spent years in volobtain now from Martinique's hysteri-

just where no one seems to know. the others to remain.

Monday, May 5-Less than eighty hours, and the 30,000 lives of St. Pierre are to be blotted out as quickly as one snuffs a candle. Fear is rife among the populace the morning of this day and an unwonted silence pervades the city-the hush that precedes a great tragedy. Macaws and parrots squawk discordantly from cages, fountains tinkle merrily, seas and skies are blue, but pervading all is an air of expectancy-of dread.

But there was none in Martinique

What the residents did know was



(Official French government map of north western Martinique, with points of chief interest at present indicated.)

barely enough room for streets, the throes of death. One moment and buildings huddling close to the steep church bells were ringing joyous and wooded acclivity, as if seeking to chimes in the ears of St. Pierre's 30,escape on the other side of the ridge. | 000-the next the flame-clogged bells The intervening distance was short, were sobbing a requiem for 30,000 By the broad, finely graded, bridge. dead. One waft of morning breeze and tunneled highway which connect- flowed over cathedral spires and ed city with village, one would judge domes, over facades and arches and that a five minutes' brisk walk would roofs and angles of a populous and light-hearted city-the next swept a be amply sufficient to reach the one lone mass of white-hot ruins. The sun glistened one moment on spark-But none sought safety by that road-at least none escaped by it. ling fountains, green parks and frond-The heart-breaking pity of it all is that ed ponds-its next ray shone on fusing metal, blistered, flame-wrecked squares safety was so near-at the end of one's fingers almost. For just over and charred stumps of trees. One the ridge the grass and palms are day and the city was all light and everywhere as green as any in the color, all gayety and grace-the next tropics to-day, while up to the very its ruins looked as though they had crest of its northern slope are the in- been crusted over with twenty cen-

turies of solitude and silence. Prof. Robert T. Hill, United States to the very crest of the ridge, to suck government geologist and head of the expedition sent out by the National Geographical society, has just come So it is the the village folks of Car- in from a daring and prolonged investigation of the volcanic activity in Martinique.

Night fell, the villagers say, with Prof. Hill chartered a steamer and carefully examined the coast as far an unnatural, unearthly quiet. Not a breath of air to stir the palms fring north as Port de Macouba, at the exing on the shores; not a ripple to treme edge of the island, making frebreak the mirror-like clearness of quent landings. After landing at Le still waters. It was as if the hush of Precheur, five miles north of St. death lay everywhere. True earth- Pierre, he walked through an area of quake weather, more than one of the active volcanism to the latter place

villagers observed as they noted the and made a minute examination of

oppressive stillness of the air and the the various phenomena disclosed.