

place the year's production of anthracite coal at 57,000,000 tons, of which more than one-half is still in the hands of coal operators and their agents. There is no contention that one ton of this supply has been mined at a loss to the operators. They do not do business that way. It is a certainty that the price at which coal was selling last June was sufficient to cover all cost of production and leave a margin of profit to the mine owners. Commencing with July 1, however, the coal combine has added 10 cents a ton on the first of each month to the price of anthracite, thus placing an additional tax to the consumer of 60 cents on each ton of coal held by the operators on December 1. This would make a little matter of some \$18,000,000 of profit on the basis of 30,000,000 tons of anthracite, the amount estimated to have been in the hands of the mine owners and operators on the first day of the present month. Allowing the most liberal reductions from the sum to cover interest on the investments, storage charges, interest on wages paid during the summer and other incidental expenses, there will be a sufficient sum left to assure the coal barons a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. And the consumer pays the freight."

CLAIMING to have lost his fortune of \$80,000 as a result of Thomas W. Lawson's attacks on the Wall street interests, Frank D. Austin, aged 42 years, made two attempts on January 17, to throw himself from the Brooklyn bridge. An Associated Press dispatch from New York says: "Austin was prevented from jumping by Captain Devaney of the bridge police, who grappled with him and after a long struggle, in which he was helped by two detectives, placed him under arrest. Captain Devaney was warned that the man was to make an attempt on his life by a pawnbroker whose place of business is near the New York end of the bridge. He told the captain that the man had just left his shop after pawning some jewelry, with the remark: 'I guess the only thing left for me is to jump off the bridge.' With the two detectives the captain rounded the man and followed closely behind as he rode out on a trolley car on the way across the bridge. The car had just passed the New York tower when Austin sprang into the roadway that separated him from the bridge railing. The officers sprang after him and he was subdued after a hard struggle. He was put on another car and sat so quietly that the officers believed he would make no more trouble. Suddenly, however, he jumped from the seat and was half way across the roadway before the officers overtook him. Then followed a most violent struggle, in which three policemen were hardly a match for him. Several women in the car were in the verge of panic when Austin finally was subdued and led back to the car. 'I wanted to end it all,' he told his captors on the way to the police station. 'I have lost \$80,000 in Wall street all on account of that frenzied financier, Thomas W. Lawson.'"

THE record of Mr. Cad Burba, a clerk in the general customs office at Louisville, Ky., puts that of the ordinary economist to shame. The Louisville Times says: "The constant use of one pen point for fourteen years, a penknife eighteen years, an ordinary indelible lead pencil five years, and a key ring nineteen years to the ordinary person sounds incredible, but such is the case with Cad Burba, a clerk in the general customs office here. Mr. Burba, who was in the drug business at New Hope for more than ten years, is now using constantly a pen point he secured second-hand while in the drug business, and since he has been at work for Uncle Sam he has continued to use it, preferring it to any other. During that time he has worn out two penholders, but the point is still in the prime of condition, kept so by the care bestowed upon it by its owner. A fellow clerk was discussing the matter of care of pens yesterday, when Mr. Burba remarked that any pen, or article of any kind, would last for years if given the proper care. To prove his claim he drew from his pocket a knife which he had carried eighteen years. The blades gave evidence of numerous whettings, but not a gap or break could be seen. The knife, Mr. Burba said, had done a full share of work since he had owned it, and is good for many years yet. After exhibiting the knife Mr. Burba drew forth a key ring bearing the date of 1885. It is a souvenir of the Louisville exposition, was purchased as such by Mr. Burba during the festival occasion, and has since done constant service. Mr. Burba has a special pocket for all these articles, and they may always be found there. He says he never breaks the point from a pencil, never loans it; but that he watches it closely and sees to it

that it does not get away; never leaves the pencil, key ring or knife lying on his desk, but replaces them in their respective pockets when not in use, and by such inviolate system and care he always has them about him."

THE recent impeachment proceedings against Judge Swayne of Florida has occasioned a research of the various impeachment cases in the history of this country. The Pittsburg Press says: "Impeachment proceedings against United States officials have not been rare, though only two convictions have been found. The first impeachment case tried by the United States senate was that of William Blount, senator from Tennessee. He was accused of conspiring with British agents to organize a western force for the seizure of New Orleans and all the Spanish territory of the southwest. He was acquitted on the ground that a senator is not a 'civil officer' of the United States. The first conviction was that of Judge John Pickering of the United States district court for New Hampshire. He was accused of drunkenness, profanity on the bench, and making decisions grossly contrary to law. Insanity was pleaded in his behalf, but on March 12, 1803, the senate voted him guilty and the penalty was expulsion from office. The other successful impeachment was in 1862, Judge West H. Humphreys of the United States district for Tennessee, had refused to resign after accepting a confederate judgeship. He was convicted by a unanimous vote."

THE most famous impeachment case in the history of this country was that of President Andrew Johnson in February, 1868. He was accused of high crimes and misdemeanors cited in eleven articles, and the house voted impeachment by a great majority. The trial in the senate lasted three weeks and conviction failed by only one vote. Another impeachment famous in its day was that of Justice Samuel Chase of the United States supreme court, in 1804. From it sprang a national scandal. Political feeling in those days ran to extreme rancor. When the federalists in 1800 felt their grip upon power relaxing they passed a law creating district judgeships and proceeded to fill them with staunch federalists. President John Adams, on the day of his retirement, is said to have worked until midnight appointing judges. President Jefferson, on coming into office, found all the judgeships filled with federalists for life. He sought to have the law creating them repealed, but failed. Then he resorted to impeachment. Pickering was impeached. Chase was attacked, and many others were marked for slaughter. But an obstacle was encountered in Vice President Aaron Burr, who, although of the same party as Jefferson, presided at the Chase trial 'with the impartiality of an angel and the rigor of a devil.' Political feeling was sifted out of the evidence and the charges failed. In 1830 Judge Peck of the United States district court for Missouri was tried by the senate on an impeachment which charged arbitrary and improper conduct in punishing for contempt of court an attorney who had published a criticism of one of Judge Peck's decisions. A majority of the senate voted to acquit after a brief hearing. The last impeachment, previous to the present Swayne case, was that of William W. Belknap, secretary of war, in 1876. He was accused of accepting money for the appointment and retention of a post-trader in office. After the house had unanimously voted his impeachment he resigned and the proceedings stopped.

MRS. HOWARD GOULD recently made an interesting purchase in Paris. It is a tiny chess table used by Marie Antoinette which the unlucky queen used in the Louvre. The New York Press, speaking of the table, says: "It is a quaint bit of furniture—precisely the sort one would expect 'the Austrian woman' to use. The style, naturally, is that of the Louis Quinze, for it was new when Marie Theresa sent it across the Alps to her daughter, and at that time everything appertaining to the Fifteenth Louis was in fashion, even though the throne of France was tottering on its foundations. For Louis was on the throne. The curving and carving of the legs are wonders of the cabinetmaker's art. They are adorned with inlaying of mother-of-pearl and silver filigree of rare delicacy. The top of the table is of fine rosewood, with alternate squares inlaid, in ivory to make the board. In one corner is a little hollow, said to have been worn by the queen's signet ring as she rested her left hand on the glossy surface.

Mrs. Gould declines to say what she paid for the table, but it is whispered the price ran well into the tens of thousands—of francs, at any rate."

MARSHAL OYAMA, the fearless soldier in the Japanese army, furnishes a beautiful example of the truth that "the bravest are the tenderest." Recently the marshal said: "My idea of happiness is to dispose of everything I possess that belongs to the practice of arms and go far into the country with big boxes of books to read for the rest of my days; books that tell of happiness and progress, and not of the terrible deeds of war. And I would rather gather about me my best old friends and little children. Then, in the sunny days, all would be happiness."

JAMES S. METCALF, dramatic editor of "Life" incurred the enmity of the theatrical managers' association because of criticism in his newspaper. An order was issued barring Mr. Metcalfe from a number of theaters. Mr. Metcalfe purchased a ticket to one entertainment and sought to enter, but the doorkeeper denied him admission, saying that he was instructed by his employers so to do. Litigation will probably follow. The New York Times says: "It was a cartoon in Life after the Iroquois theater fire that started the trouble. Klaw & Erlanger sued the publication for libel, and when the suit was lost Mr. Erlanger told Mr. Metcalfe if he used his name any more he would beat his face to a pulp. Then followed the action of the manager's association."

WILLIAM H. LEE, of Schobonier, Ill., claims to be the sole survivor of the Black Hawk Indian war of 1832. The Des Moines Register and Leader says: "With the difficulty which Iowa is experiencing to find traces of its Mexican war survivors, it is hardly probable that any survivor of the Indian war, fourteen years earlier, will be found in this state. Mr. Lee is now in his ninetyeth year. The story of his life shows many hardships, but the pioneers on the frontier a half or three-quarters of a century ago, were inured to hardships. Mr. Lee was brought west from New York when he was three years old. The party made its way on two rafts and a flatboat constructed of logs. The emigrants took all of their livestock with them in their passage down the Alleghany and Ohio rivers, landing at Shawneetown, from there going to Salem, and finally to Vandalia, at that time only a small village. At this place Lee grew to young manhood under the hard lessons of frontier life, assisting his father in his grain treadmill and in sawing lumber."

THE story of Mr. Lee's participation in the Black Hawk war and subsequent life is told by a correspondent in this way: "When the Sac and Fox war, as it was known, the Black Hawk, war broke out in 1832, William H. Lee was only sixteen years old, but he possessed courage equal to the hardy training he had received in his Illinois pioneer life. After the close of the war he made three successful trips to New Orleans by boat, which in those days was considered a feat of unusual importance, each time taking large loads of grain. In 1850 he succumbed to the California gold fever, making an overland trip to that part of the country. This trip was followed by two others. On each of the trips large numbers of cattle were taken along as an investment. The party was attacked by Indians on the first trip, but was successful in defeating the red men. On the second journey the party lost all their livestock. The third trip was thoroughly successful. Returning to his farm in Illinois, Mr. Lee has remained there in active charge until within the last few years, when he turned the active management over to other hands. None of his children are living."

IT IS explained by the writer in the Des Moines Register that: "The Black Hawk war was closely associated with the early history of Iowa. It was near Fort Madison that Black Hawk's followers rendezvoused to take up the war trail and to cross the Mississippi; it was across the river from the very northeastern point of Iowa that the massacre, hardly to be dignified by the name of battle, of Bad Axe occurred and ended the short lived war. It was to Iowa that Black Hawk and the few survivors returned when the war was ended. The Black Hawk war figured more prominently in Illinois history than in that of Iowa, but it is an important chapter in the annals of this state."