

## News of the Week

United States steel stock, common, went down to 315-8 the other day and the papers say that if Rockefeller, Gould and the Vanderbilts had not come to the rescue there would have been a general smash up. Very frequently of late, the same sort of a tale has been told and the question is how many more times will the big millionaires come to the rescue of the stock market and prevent a panic? If the small fellows have formed a pool to squeeze the Vanderbilts, Goulds and Rockefellers and put them in such a fix that every week or two they have to put up a few millions to prevent a panic, perhaps the day may come when this trio will not have the millions handy to do it. What then?

The holders of stocks and bonds paying annual, semi-annual or quarterly dividends will be looking for their money on the first day of January. What will Wall street do then? The United States treasury has been cleaned of its last cent that can be thrown on the street to prevent a panic. There is an immense amount of "liquidation" going on just at present to enable the banks to get the money that will be needed on that day.

The universal scarcity of coal is causing surprise in every quarter. Why should there be a scarcity at all? It is true that the mining of anthracite was suspended for some months, but President Baer has testified that the hard coal miners could not find a market for more than 60 per cent of the full output and the soft coal mines have been running with full force all the time. Besides that, winter was very late and not half the usual amount of coal was used during September, October and November. Why then is there a scarcity all over the country? The reports in the papers say that some factories and many schools had to close last week in the eastern states for the want of coal. There was danger last week of the great packing houses at Omaha having to close for the same cause. If the daily press would give their reporters orders to write up something else than divorces, murders and burglaries, they might be of some use. They could find out the cause of all this shortage.

The state of Michigan has increased the taxation of the railroads in that state more than one million and a quarter of dollars. The mullet heads of Nebraska decided that they did not want the railroads in this state to pay their fair share of the taxes, each one of the fellows with patches on his pants voting against it in the hope that he might some day get a pass. Meantime he will pay the taxes for the railroads out of his own pocket.

The slimy trust has reached out its tentacles and wound them around the Christmas tree. A toy trust has been organized taking in 95 per cent of the manufacturers of this country and is "capitalized" at \$7,000,000. Every one has in some way to make his contributions to the trusts for they must make prices that will pay dividends on stock watered from 100 to 400 per cent. Now the trusts have laid their heavy hands on the wee little tots and they, too, must become contributors. Teddy says that there are good trusts and bad trusts. Is this toy trust one of the good ones?

There is a consensus of public opinion, generally expressed in all the papers of the United States that are known to ever have any opinions of their own, that the assault by two great empires upon the republic of Venezuela is cowardly and brutal, while all seem to doubt that the great expense that Germany and England have gone to is simply for the collection of some bad debts. The Denver News says: "Just what is behind the sudden raid against President Castro's government is a puzzle. The total amount said to be due to Great Britain and Germany is about \$70,000—a sum hardly large enough to warrant the employment of two squadrons as collecting agents. Everybody knows that a revolution has been raging in Venezuela; that the government of the country is embarrassed and that it is practically without funds. Why do the two European nations choose this particular time to jump on the little country, sink its petty fleet and seize its principal custom house?"

There has never been such a flood of new books thrown on the market since the world began as during the last few weeks. An enormous amount of space in the dailies is taken up in advertising them. Among them is an unusual

proportion treating on economics and sociology. Several attack the trusts and one of them, "Esshek," was withdrawn by the publisher and afterward issued by another. It appears that the study of economics and sociology has just begun among the mass of the people. The old pops of this state who were so reviled a few years ago, would now be received in most of the eastern states as most wise and learned. Many a speech which this writer has heard delivered by the reform farmers of this state in years gone by is now worked up into a 300-page volume and sold for \$1.50 in aristocratic book stalls.

There was a great reciprocity convention held in Detroit and Governor Cummins was there to uphold the "Iowa idea." One argument which it seems would have forced itself upon them all was not mentioned at all, although most of the time was given up to advocating reciprocity with Canada. Here are 45 states and there is absolute free trade among them all. Any man who would advocate the establishment of a tariff between them would be considered insane. The "home market," that is, the traffic between the states, is so enormous that no man can compute it and it is the foundation of all our great manufacturing interests. The wealth that is created is such as the world never saw before. A tariff between the states would greatly reduce that production. Canada for the most part is separated by only an imaginary line. Would not the extension of free trade to Canada have the same beneficent effect that it has in these states? If not, why not?

The New York papers announce that Secretary Shaw will do nothing to relieve the present money stringency on Wall street. Very good reason why he will not. There is no more money in the treasury which he can hand over to the banks. The "working balance" of the treasury fell below \$50,000,000 one day last week.

Mrs. U. S. Grant, wife of General Grant, died at Washington last Sunday at the age of 76. She was one of the old-fashioned wives, caring everything for her husband and children and nothing for the frivolities of modern society. Her death, more than that of any other, marks the line between the generation that fought the civil war and those who will take their onward swing of the centuries.

The United States Investor declares that the predictions The Independent made months ago concerning the inflation of bank credits have been fulfilled. In speaking of the "liquidation" which has been going on for the last two or three weeks, the Investor says: "Last Saturday's bank statement was merely another of those indications, of which the financial world has had so many of late, that the banks are finding that it is much easier to create an uncomfortable situation than to remedy it. The long and short of the matter is that our great promoters and the banks that are back of them have gone so far in their inflation schemes that they are obliged to go even farther."

Another instance exactly parallel to that of the collectors' trust now operating in Venezuela was when England, Spain and France formed such a combination to collect debts in Mexico. They sent their fleets there and the French stayed, undertook to take possession of the country and installed Maximilian as emperor. These governments made exactly the same professions that Germany and England now make.

France has larger claims against Venezuela than Germany and England combined, but has made an arrangement for arbitration and settlement with the guarantee that the custom duties shall be applied to the payment of the award. Now if Germany and England seize the custom houses and take all the revenue, France will be left to hold the sack and out of that situation another complication may arise.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican describes the coal famine in that city as follows: "The situation in this city and in all the cities of the state and this section of the country in respect to fuel is entirely unprecedented. The like of it has never been known in the history of the country, whether within the period of the use of coal as a domestic fuel or back of that when all dependence was upon wood. Probably two-thirds of the people of this town, in the midst of about as severe weather as a New England winter ever brings, are being driven to the most

## Only 5 More Buying Days 'Till Christmas

The prettiest store decorations with the scores of Red Bells made so beautiful attractive by scores of electric lights, superb holiday stocks throughout the entire house. The glistening of the Cut Glass room and exhibit of rich vases and fine chinaware, make a combination unexcelled by any store in the entire west. Such is the verdict of the thousands who daily throng this Progressive Store.

**Fitz Gerald**  
DRY GOODS CO.

## Sensible Suggestions for Sensible Gifts

## Xmas Kid Glove Headquarters



Kid Gloves purchased for Xmas gifts will be fitted free of charge after the holidays and exchanged for correct sizes if returned in perfect condition.

Women's fine French Lambskin Kid Gloves in 2-clasp over-seam glace and suede, and 2-clasp heavy Mocha, pair.....\$1 00  
First quality fine French Lambskin Kid Gloves in 3-clasp over-seam and 2-clasp pique, also 2-clasp heavy mannish gloves, pair.....\$1 25  
First quality fine French Kid Gloves in 3-clasp over-seam suede or glace, 2-clasp genuine Arabian Mocha, 2-clasp genuine Cape Goat, per pair.....\$1 50  
Finer Gloves a pair \$1.75 and \$2 00

## Handkerchiefs for Xmas Gifts.

## Thousands of Initial Handkerchiefs

Women's initial handkerchiefs, pure linen, hemstitched, embroidered initials... 50c  
Women's sheer linen, hemstitched with small embroidered initials, each.....10c  
Women's very fine Irish linen, hand embroidered initials, unlaundered, each...17c  
Men's Japonette silk hemstitched handkerchiefs, large silk initials, each.....10c  
Men's pure linen handkerchiefs, hemstitched, embroidered initial.....12½c  
Men's fine Irish linen initial handkerchiefs.....25c  
Men's silk handkerchiefs, embroidered initials.....25c  
Larger size and heavier quality silk.....49c

## HOLIDAY LEATHER GOODS



A mammoth showing of holiday leather goods of every description, and two special lots of stylish wrist bags, chatelaine bags, combination pocket books and card cases, purses, music rolls, card case, and shopping bags in real seal, walrus, morocco and cape goat; your choice of this lot only 49c and.....25c  
Fine pocket books in genuine seal, walrus, cape goat, combination pocket books and card cases, calf faced and lined, block bottoms, best frames, all new shapes and colors, each.....75c to \$8 00  
Fine chatelaine bags in genuine seal and walrus leather, plain and fancy frames, each.....75c to \$4 00

## Have You Visited Our Cut Glass and Vase Room Yet?

Located in former Ladies' Pattern Hat room, 2d floor, a room of beauty and well worth a visit.

## \$4.50 Lamps for \$3.00

50 of the elegant, genuine Kopp Cerese Red Lamps, absolutely fast colors, central draft success burner, 100 candle power, lift out font, gold plated trimmings, a lamp retailing in Chicago for \$4.50, our Xmas sale price each.....\$3 00  
Special line of fine Mustache Cups and saucers, 12 different styles, regular price 65c, 75c, 85c and \$1.00.....50c

Special lot of German China after dinner coffee cups and saucers, including 10 dozen Haviland China A. D. coffees, worth 50c.....25c  
10 doz Bohemian glass gold decorated Water Sets with jug, 6 glasses and tray, worth \$1.35, complete, as cut.....95c

desperate expedients to keep their houses warm, and often to keep only one or two rooms in the house tolerable. Some of them have a little hard coal which must be used sparingly. Others are relying upon wood; others upon charcoal, soft coal, even engine sparks and boards. Gas heaters and oil heaters come into anxious requisition, shade trees and fruit trees have been sacrificed and oil-soaked bricks are resorted to." Can any man give a satisfactory reason for this shortage of fuel? The Independent surmises that it is the effect of a secret trust movement and that congress would do a good thing by appointing a committee to investigate it.

## The Retort Courteous

One Gust Berg, a denizen of Omaha following an ancient, but fallacious custom, "advertised his wife" in the

World-Herald some days ago, stating that, "whereas," etc., he would "not be responsible for debts contracted by his wife, Tennie Berg." It seems that Tennie was equal to the emergency and she wrote the World-Herald that Gust had not paid any of her debts for the last ten years, "unless she gave him money that she had worked for herself." Gust's advertisement was on a par with the gold standard arguments advanced by the man whose trousers are sadly in need of repairs.

It doesn't take much to move the political teeter board down in Saline county, but this year they have to pay \$1,250.34 for listening to the siren voice that caused them to beat Billy Thompson 390 plurality. The smallest December school apportionment warrant ever issued by the fusionists to Saline county was \$5,579.55; this year the republicans give \$4,323.25.