

gaining entrance to England, making the capital their headquarters.

Ambassador Reid gives a reception to American women in London, and while a small fortune is spent in decorations, the refreshments are so plain as to present a curious contrast.

Canadian parliament is considering a most drastic election law, which would disfranchise for six years any voter who failed to cast a ballot for a member of parliament.

Czar will make important concessions for the sake of avoiding a rupture with the duma, granting partial amnesty and allowing the lower house of parliament to select a new premier.

Demands for sweeping reforms in Russia are to be made upon the czar, by parliament. Cabinet virtually decides to grant amnesty.

MICHIGAN FOREST FIRES

Five Counties Devastated and One Hundred Square Miles of Territory Swept by Flames

Milwaukee—A dispatch to the Sentinel from Escanaba, Mich., by a staff correspondent says:

Four known dead, a score or more missing, hundreds of families homeless, several million dollars of property burned, four towns wiped out entirely and a dozen more partially, five counties devastated and one hundred square miles of territory fire swept. This is the dreadful picture that the northern Michigan peninsula presents after the worst fire since the Pestigo disaster in 1871 has spent itself. General Superintendent W. E. Wells of the Escanaba & Lake Superior road, along which right of way the greatest loss occurred, has returned from a trip of inspection over the fire stricken area and says that the flames have gone down and for the time being the danger is over unless a new gale arises to again fan the embers into flames.

Scores of homesteaders and woodsmen are missing, and many have probably perished in the flames.

Territory devastated, five counties—Marquette, Menominee, Delta, Alger and Dickinson.

The territory fire swept is 100 square miles.

Towns Burned

Talbot, Mich., 300 population; only a few houses left standing.

Quinnsec, Mich., 400 population; only one house remains.

Saunders, 150 population; all wiped out.

Niagara, Wis., 300 population; all wiped out.

Towns partially destroyed—Northland, Cornell, Antoine, Spring Valley, Kingsley, Woodlawn, Foster City, Sala, Metropolitan.

D. R. FRANCIS THREATENED

St. Louis—It has become known that former Governor D. R. Francis, president of the world's fair, received an anonymous letter threatening his life unless the sum of \$5,000 was placed at a designated spot on Delmar boulevard, just outside the city limits in St. Louis county between 8 and 10 o'clock last night. Detectives were stationed at the designated place for several hours without result.

Better Than Spanking

Spanking does not cure children of bed wetting. If it did there would be few children that would do it. There is a constitutional cause for this. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 169, Notre Dame, Ind., will send her home treatment to any mother. She asks no money. Write her to-day if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child. The chances are it can't help it.

RAILWAY RATE REVIEW

Attacked by Chandler—Provisions Inserted in Bill by Senate Declared Too Broad.

Washington, May 20—In a signed statement given The Chicago Record-Herald tonight former Senator William E. Chandler, president of the Spanish war claims commission, condemns the court review provisions inserted by the senate in the Hepburn railroad rate regulating bill.

Mr. Chandler's part in the negotiations between the president and Senator Tillman to secure the passage of a strong bill brought him prominently into the limelight in the debates in the senate, and his views on the sections of the bill which he and Senator Tillman assert were the principal features of the negotiations, are interesting. He takes substantially the position occupied by Mr. Tillman and Senator Bailey in regard to the court review amendment, declaring it too broad. The statement follows:

"The railroad rate bill as it passed the house had many merits and some beneficial amendments were adopted in the senate. As a whole it is a great advance over the present laws, which holds the commission as to ratemaking far behind the position it was supposed to occupy when the law was passed in 1887, but which supposed position has been destroyed by various decisions of the supreme court.

Invites Interference.

"The power which is now to be given to the commission to hear complaints of exorbitant rates and to apply remedies is a great assertion of popular and legislative power which will never again be destroyed. The fundamental mistake of the bill as it stands is that it invites judicial interference with the administrative work of making rates which is to be performed in the first instance by the commission.

"The railroads need no protection against the commission except what their situation gives them. They can refuse to obey any order of the commission fixing rates, and thereupon the commission is helpless until it goes into court in one or all of three ways: (1) For mandamus orders against the carrier; (2) for penalties; (3) for damages to the shippers. Whenever these proceedings are undertaken any constitutional rights of the railroads can be asserted, and that class of rights can not be taken away by legislation. Every other right of interference with the commission can be and should be taken away by legislation. Therefore while the bill in any shape in which it is likely to pass will be a great advance upon present conditions, it will not be what the true interests of the people require.

Would Strike Out Clauses

"All invitations to the court to interfere with the rates made by the commission which have been put on in the senate should be stricken out in conference, and even the implied recognition of the right of review in the bill as it passed the house should be stricken out. If these things are not done by this congress they will be done by some future congress which the people will choose for that purpose.

"Meantime we must be thankful that in the first great battle between the people and the railroads the people have won something and the railroads have not won everything. The exceptions to the free pass prohibition make it almost worse than the present law.

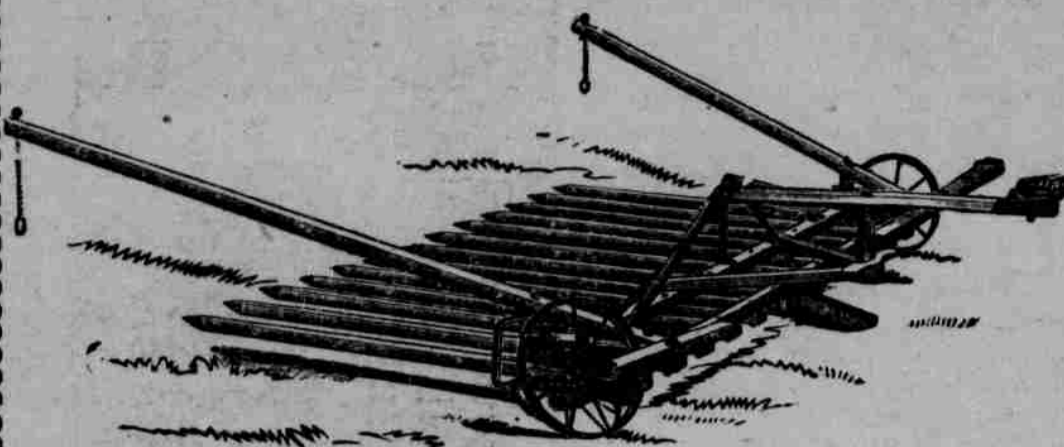
"WILLIAM E. CHANDLER."

PEACE CONGRESS IN A YEAR

The Hague—It is regarded here as practically assured that the second international peace conference will be postponed until the end of May, 1907.

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Nebraska News

Beatrice—T. J. Maloney, a Wymore youth, was fatally shot today by Fred Hanes, a companion. The two boys had climbed a tree when the gun in the hands of his companion was discharged, the entire load taking effect in Maloney's abdomen.

Merna—Material is on the ground for the water works system. The first dirt was turned for the trenches yesterday.

Oakland—The commencement exercises of the Oakland high school will take place in the Lutheran church Thursday evening, May 31. Rev. Joseph Nugent of Des Moines will deliver the address.

Beatrice—The first of a series of summer concerts was given last evening by the Beatrice military band. The band will give a concert Sunday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 at the Institution for Feeble Minded Youth.

Oakland—At a meeting of the school board Wednesday evening, Miss Jessie Powell of Urbana, Ill., was elected as assistant principal in the high school to take the place vacated by Miss Mandlin, who has accepted a position in South Dakota.

Grand Island—The Messrs. Bernhard Weise and Ed Stoltenberg, residing near Abbot, heard a loud noise in the barnyard a few days ago and

upon investigating found a six-foot reptile of the "blacksnake" variety in battle with a 440-pound hog. The snake was killed.

Fremont—Farm work has gone ahead rapidly during the last two weeks and most of the corn is in the ground. The early planting is up and looking well. The condition of small grain is satisfactory. The surface of the ground is dry and would be helped by rain.

Oxford—Work on the proposed Catholic house of worship was to have been begun this week, but will be delayed a few days owing to the prevailing scarcity of workmen. The structure will be of frame, 28x50 feet, exclusive of side wings and will cost when furnished approximately \$3,000.

Tecumseh—This week William Carr & Son of Tecumseh have been given three miles of grading on the Burlington's Lincoln-Milford line near Germantown. At present the gentlemen are doing some work for the Union Pacific near South Omaha, but they will begin work on the new contract at once.

Oxford—The following teachers were elected this week for the ensuing year: Mary E. Foster, Union, Neb., high school principal; Sylvia Miller, Blue Springs, grammar de-