

HOMES FOR HUNDREDS

NEBRASKA LAND TO BE OPENED FOR SETTLEMENT.

Uncle Sam's Prosecution of Land Frauds Will Rescue Millions of Acres From Cattlemen for Uses of People—Million Acres Recovered.

Within the next few months, and probably not later than August 1, there will be restored to homestead entry and occupation not less than a round million of acres of land in central Nebraska. This restoration will come as a direct result of the government's investigation and prosecution of the public land frauds.

For many years this land has been held to the exclusive use of the big cattlemen. Some of it has been withheld from settlement by the people because of the fact that it lay within the great pastures enclosed by illegal fences, although the title remained in the government. Nominally this acreage has always been subject to entry; in point of fact it has been as effectually withdrawn as though there had been a transfer title. Another part is that which has been stolen by means of fraudulent filings.

The lands thus pre-empted do not represent the total area of the public domain in the State. Altogether, there will be from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 acres subject to entry when the government has concluded its work over the frauds. Three-fourths or more of this lies on the high "divides" and ridges. What its final best use may be is still a problem. At the present time it is made of service chiefly for grazing. Probably 2,500,000 or 3,000,000 acres will prove suitable for "high plains" farming, as this is now understood, and the available acreage will be continually increased as methods become better known and are improved upon by experience. The remainder—the so-called "arid" portions—must now be used, if at all, in conjunction with the valley lands.

Knowledge of this fact has given the cattlemen their control of the whole; for by making conscription of the valleys and water courses, they have prevented any but themselves from using the higher areas. Thus control of one acre carried with it the exclusive use of four or five more.

In the course of their defense and justification, the holders of these great tracts have declared, both in court and through the newspapers, that they have always "welcomed," "invited" and "encouraged" settlement within their enclosures. The history of the cattle country records the untruth of this statement—just as in everyday understanding of motives would indicate. First and last, by every means—by persuasion, by intimidation, by violence—homesteaders have been induced to keep outside the boundaries of these reserves. The owners of the herds have wanted the lands for themselves; settlers have been regarded merely as trespassers, "squatters" with no rights entitled to respect. Almost invariably bona fide homesteaders who have had the temerity to enter the big enclosures have found life an exceedingly difficult proposition.

Five or six of the larger enclosures have now been thoroughly investigated; the unlawful fences have been ordered removed, and hundreds of procured and fraudulent filings have been recommended to the Interior Department for cancellation. Before the summer is over these lands will be returned to the use of the people.

Even now there are many indications that the year will see a tide of immigration exceeding any similar movement of the last two decades. Government agents, railroad officials, newspaper offices and real estate dealers are now being deluged with inquiries coming from all parts of the United States, but chiefly from the east and south. From what is now known, it seems well within the truth to say that approximately 5,000 families will ultimately find profitable homesteads within this reopened area in Nebraska. Furthermore, these cultivable tracts are well distributed, so that those homesteaders keeping small herds of live stock—a wise and economical adjunct to farming—can be assured of ample pasturage and meadow. These lands all lie within the territory covered by the so-called Kinkaid law, which permits an entryman to file upon 640 acres, or one square mile. This law has been responsible for many grave frauds during the two years since it became operative; but, honestly administered, it may still be made to serve the purpose for which it was ostensibly passed—the creation of the "grazing homestead."

Surgery Cures Incurable.

Harold Hurley, a 12-year-old boy of Toledo, Ohio, who had been sentenced to a reformatory for incorrigibility, is said to have shown a complete transformation of character following a surgical operation which removed pressure upon the brain, caused by a swelling of the bone after a fall when he was 5 years old.

Our Mountains Not So High.

According to the latest edition of Gannett's "Dictionary of Altitudes in the United States," many previous estimates of mountain heights are altered. Careful surveys indicate that these estimates have been exaggerated. Mount Whitney has been reduced from 14,938 feet to 14,502 feet, and Mount Williamson, in California, is credited with only 14,500 feet. Mount Ranier has been cut down 163 feet to the height of 14,393 feet. This gives its rival, Mount Shasta, the advantage, with 14,380 feet to its credit.

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC.

Theodore Thomas Orchestra to Appear in Big Event at Sioux City, Ia. Sioux City, Ia., is already making great preparations for its annual music festival, and an extensive array of artists has been engaged for this event.

The series as arranged is to include three grand concerts, to be given at the New Grand theater, May 23 and 24, and as an aid to this plan, the well known Theodore Thomas Orchestra has been secured for concert work at each of the three programs. The mere name of the Thomas orchestra is, in itself, a guarantee of the very finest along orchestral lines, and will undoubtedly prove to be a great attraction to hundreds of music lovers throughout this section of the country.

This orchestra has for many years played an important part in the musical development of this country and today stands without a peer among the great concert orchestras of the world. Its reputation is international and its performance of the great musical works a final authority along orchestral lines. They have taken the leading part with most of the great festivals of the country.

The organization, in its appearance in the Sioux City festival, will be comprised of fifty-five players, the same membership as in the Chicago concerts, and each man an artist in his particular line. Frederick A. Stock, the regular conductor of the orchestra, will lead at this time, and his reputation of the past few years has placed him among the best leaders of the country.

The choral union is, in this particular case, especially happy in its term, as it is a union of the music forces of college and city circles, forming a festival chorus of over 200 voices, and the largest organization of its kind in the state of Iowa. This club was organized two years ago by Prof. J. W. Mather, director of music at Morningside College, and the originator of the festival idea in Sioux City. Last year Handel's "Messiah" was given with great success by the club, and arrangements were at once made by Prof. Mather looking toward a greater and even more attractive program for this year. The series includes two symphony concerts by the orchestra and soloists on the evening of May 23 and afternoon of May 24. In the evening of the 24th, Mendelssohn's great oratorio of "Elijah" will be given by the choral union of over 200 voices, assisted by the entire Thomas orchestra and soloists.

The chorus has been doing magnificent work this year, and this concert promises to be one of the greatest ever given in the northwest. Mr. Stock will lead the orchestra concert, while Mr. Mather will conduct at the "Elijah" performance.

The soloists are as follows: Madame Charlotte Maconda, soprano, New York; Mrs. Hannah Butler, soprano, Chicago; Miss Grace Munson, contralto, New York; Mr. Glenn Hall, tenor, Chicago; Mr. Herbert Witherspoon, basso, New York; Mr. Leopold Kramer, violinist, Chicago; Mr. Bruno Steindell, cellist, Chicago; Mr. Brian Vandenberg, pianist, Cincinnati. Such an array of artists is seldom found outside of the larger music centers of this country, and the musicians of the state are to be congratulated on this opportunity of hearing them so near home.

Madame Maconda is one of the leading sopranos in New York and a singer of brilliant attainments. For years she has been the principal soloist at the Maine festivals under the direction of Mr. Wm. R. Chapman. Mrs. Butler has just returned from an extended concert tour in England and Germany, and met with much success in her work there.

Miss Munson has one of the leading church positions in New York and is especially fitted for oratorio work. Mr. Hall has appeared as soloist with many of the large choral societies of this country, including the Handel and Haydn of Boston, Philharmonic of New York, Worcester festivals, Apollo Club of Chicago, Cincinnati Chorus, and the Ann Arbor festival.

Mr. Herbert Witherspoon, basso cantante, has within the last few years created for himself a reputation second to no other basso in this country. The principal solo part in the oratorio of "Elijah" is that given to the basso, and for this work Mr. Witherspoon is especially fitted. The New York critics speak of his work along this line as something magnificent and satisfying to the last degree.

Mr. Vandenberg received much of his piano training in his home country, Belgium. Later he came to Cincinnati and has since made for himself a reputation for brilliant musicianship and is an artist in the true sense of the word.

The names of Mr. Kramer, violinist, concert master of the orchestra, and Mr. Steindell, cellist, are closely associated with the musical activities of the Thomas orchestra for the past twelve years, as prominent members of the same, and musicians of recognized ability.

The orchestra will give at this festival, for their larger works, Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor; Symphonic Poem (Les Preludes) Liszt, and three Wagnerian numbers, The Vorspiel to Lohengrin, Ride of the Valkyries, and Overture to Tannhauser, and Dvorak's brilliant Carnival Overture and a new overture by George Schumann entitled "Liebesfrühling." Also parts of the Symphony No. 5 by the great Russian writer, Tschaiowsky.

In the arrangement of a music festival of such magnitude Prof. Mather has been greatly aided by the Sioux City Commercial Club and L. L. Ness, secretary, which has, through its constituency, guaranteed the financial backing, so necessary in such an enterprise. Also the efforts of Morningside College, with its strong constituency and the closely allied Conservatory of Music with its able faculty and many music students. This force, with the city section, forms the main body of the choral efforts, and all of these influences have been brought to bear to make this the most successful festival of music ever offered in Iowa, and one which is already attracting the attention of many musicians throughout this section of the country.

An open rate of one and one-third fare has been secured on all railroads entering Sioux City, good May 23 to 25, inclusive.

PEOPLE PLUNDERED BY STANDARD OIL MONOPOLY.

During 1904 the Standard Oil Company saved about three-quarters of a million dollars through the secret rates discovered by the bureau of corporations.

The secret as arranged is to include three grand concerts, to be given at the New Grand theater, May 23 and 24, and as an aid to this plan, the well known Theodore Thomas Orchestra has been secured for concert work at each of the three programs. The mere name of the Thomas orchestra is, in itself, a guarantee of the very finest along orchestral lines, and will undoubtedly prove to be a great attraction to hundreds of music lovers throughout this section of the country.

This orchestra has for many years played an important part in the musical development of this country and today stands without a peer among the great concert orchestras of the world. Its reputation is international and its performance of the great musical works a final authority along orchestral lines. They have taken the leading part with most of the great festivals of the country.

The organization, in its appearance in the Sioux City festival, will be comprised of fifty-five players, the same membership as in the Chicago concerts, and each man an artist in his particular line. Frederick A. Stock, the regular conductor of the orchestra, will lead at this time, and his reputation of the past few years has placed him among the best leaders of the country.

The choral union is, in this particular case, especially happy in its term, as it is a union of the music forces of college and city circles, forming a festival chorus of over 200 voices, and the largest organization of its kind in the state of Iowa. This club was organized two years ago by Prof. J. W. Mather, director of music at Morningside College, and the originator of the festival idea in Sioux City. Last year Handel's "Messiah" was given with great success by the club, and arrangements were at once made by Prof. Mather looking toward a greater and even more attractive program for this year. The series includes two symphony concerts by the orchestra and soloists on the evening of May 23 and afternoon of May 24. In the evening of the 24th, Mendelssohn's great oratorio of "Elijah" will be given by the choral union of over 200 voices, assisted by the entire Thomas orchestra and soloists.

The chorus has been doing magnificent work this year, and this concert promises to be one of the greatest ever given in the northwest. Mr. Stock will lead the orchestra concert, while Mr. Mather will conduct at the "Elijah" performance.

The soloists are as follows: Madame Charlotte Maconda, soprano, New York; Mrs. Hannah Butler, soprano, Chicago; Miss Grace Munson, contralto, New York; Mr. Glenn Hall, tenor, Chicago; Mr. Herbert Witherspoon, basso, New York; Mr. Leopold Kramer, violinist, Chicago; Mr. Bruno Steindell, cellist, Chicago; Mr. Brian Vandenberg, pianist, Cincinnati. Such an array of artists is seldom found outside of the larger music centers of this country, and the musicians of the state are to be congratulated on this opportunity of hearing them so near home.

Madame Maconda is one of the leading sopranos in New York and a singer of brilliant attainments. For years she has been the principal soloist at the Maine festivals under the direction of Mr. Wm. R. Chapman. Mrs. Butler has just returned from an extended concert tour in England and Germany, and met with much success in her work there.

Miss Munson has one of the leading church positions in New York and is especially fitted for oratorio work. Mr. Hall has appeared as soloist with many of the large choral societies of this country, including the Handel and Haydn of Boston, Philharmonic of New York, Worcester festivals, Apollo Club of Chicago, Cincinnati Chorus, and the Ann Arbor festival.

Mr. Herbert Witherspoon, basso cantante, has within the last few years created for himself a reputation second to no other basso in this country. The principal solo part in the oratorio of "Elijah" is that given to the basso, and for this work Mr. Witherspoon is especially fitted. The New York critics speak of his work along this line as something magnificent and satisfying to the last degree.

Mr. Vandenberg received much of his piano training in his home country, Belgium. Later he came to Cincinnati and has since made for himself a reputation for brilliant musicianship and is an artist in the true sense of the word.

The names of Mr. Kramer, violinist, concert master of the orchestra, and Mr. Steindell, cellist, are closely associated with the musical activities of the Thomas orchestra for the past twelve years, as prominent members of the same, and musicians of recognized ability.

The orchestra will give at this festival, for their larger works, Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor; Symphonic Poem (Les Preludes) Liszt, and three Wagnerian numbers, The Vorspiel to Lohengrin, Ride of the Valkyries, and Overture to Tannhauser, and Dvorak's brilliant Carnival Overture and a new overture by George Schumann entitled "Liebesfrühling." Also parts of the Symphony No. 5 by the great Russian writer, Tschaiowsky.

In the arrangement of a music festival of such magnitude Prof. Mather has been greatly aided by the Sioux City Commercial Club and L. L. Ness, secretary, which has, through its constituency, guaranteed the financial backing, so necessary in such an enterprise. Also the efforts of Morningside College, with its strong constituency and the closely allied Conservatory of Music with its able faculty and many music students. This force, with the city section, forms the main body of the choral efforts, and all of these influences have been brought to bear to make this the most successful festival of music ever offered in Iowa, and one which is already attracting the attention of many musicians throughout this section of the country.

An open rate of one and one-third fare has been secured on all railroads entering Sioux City, good May 23 to 25, inclusive.

CONGRESS

In the Senate Friday Mr. Spooner concluded his two days' speech on the railroad rate bill. There was more discussion of the necessity for fixing a day for a vote on this measure and Mr. Tillman gave notice that after the next Monday he would insist that the Senate shall proceed to vote. All the private pension bills of the calendar were passed and Mr. Clapp gave notice that he would call up the Indian appropriation bill. The tariff debate in the House was further continued by Mr. Williams (Miss.), who held the floor for two hours expounding the Democratic doctrine of tariff for revenue only.

The Senate Saturday passed the Indian appropriation bill. An amendment providing for the removal of the restrictions on the sale of the allotted lands of the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles was offered, but Mr. Spooner raised a point of order that was fatal to it. Bills were passed as follows: Providing for the purchase of land in Washington as sites for buildings for the Departments of State, Justice and Commerce at a cost of \$3,000,000; prohibiting the use of foreign built dredges in the United States. In the House Mr. Williams concluded his speech on the tariff. Mr. Cushman (Wash.) started to reply, but was taken from the floor before he really had begun, owing to the conclusion of the general debate on the agricultural appropriation bill, which was before the House. Mr. Foss (Ill.) reported the naval appropriation bill for the fiscal year of 1907.

The next Friday was set by the Senate Monday as the day for beginning to vote on the amendments to the railroad rate bill. Mr. Tillman endeavored to bring May 9 set as the date for voting on the bill as a whole, but failed. Senator Clark of Arkansas occupied most of Monday with a speech opposing the pending measure. The House emergency bill appropriating \$170,000 for the Mare Island navy yard and the San Francisco post-office was passed. Discussion of the agricultural appropriation bill, and incidentally the distribution of free seeds, occupied most of the day in the House. Resolutions that the thanks of Congress be tendered Gen. Horace Porter for his work in recovering the body of Jean Paul Jones, and that Gen. Porter's speech at Annapolis on the occasion of the interment of the body be printed in the Congressional Record were passed. Representative Hearst introduced a resolution that an additional appropriation of \$500,000 be appropriated for the relief of the San Francisco fire and earthquake sufferers.

Mr. Daniel occupied a large part of Tuesday in the Senate with his speech on the rate bill. After debate the resolution thanking Gen. Horace Porter for recovering the body of John Paul Jones was referred to the committee on foreign relations. Mr. Allison explained the disposition which has been made of the money appropriated for the relief of the San Francisco sufferers. Mr. Tillman presented a resolution directing the committee on the District of Columbia to investigate the election of Mrs. Minor Morris from the White House, and especially to inquire whether the superintendent of police and one of the chief witnesses against Mrs. Morris have since received recognition by the appointment of new relatives to office. No action was taken. By a vote of 153 to 28 it was decided to carry through the free distribution of seeds. Many of the items in the agricultural appropriation bill broadening the scope of the department of chemistry were eliminated.

Mr. Newlands on Wednesday introduced a resolution directing the finance committee of the Senate and the ways and means committee of the House to consider the feasibility of the government guaranteeing bonds to be issued by San Francisco to provide money for the reconstruction of the city. Both Mr. Flint and Mr. Perkins of California deprecated the introduction of the measure at this time, and said the California delegation should have been consulted. The resolution was referred to the committee on finance. Mr. Daniel concluded his speech on the rate bill, and then the army appropriation bill was read. An amendment appropriating \$1,500,000 for a supply depot at Fort Mason, San Francisco, was accepted, as was one appropriating \$800,000 for the cable to Panama. In the House the agricultural appropriation bill was completed and passed, including the provision for the free distribution of seeds, which was carried by a vote of 153 to 28. The bill carries \$7,481,440. The military academy appropriation bill, carrying \$1,963,115, also was passed, after the deficiency appropriation of \$1,500,000 to complete improvements at West Point had been stricken out.

The last day of the general debate on the railroad rate bill in the Senate Thursday brought out much criticism of federal judges. Mr. Tillman, by citing individual cases, attempted to show that the power of granting temporary injunctions should be taken from the inferior United States courts in interstate commerce commission cases. He was followed by Messrs. Bacon, Bailey, Teller and Foraker. The army appropriation bill, carrying about \$74,000,000, was passed. The naval appropriation bill, which carries nearly \$100,000,000, was taken up in the House. Mr. Foss (Ill.) explained the measure and the general debate which followed at once took on other lines. The tariff again forged to the front, with the prices of steel rails abroad as the main object of interest.

Notes of the National Capital. The President has sent to the Senate the nomination of Julius Jacobs to be assistant treasurer of the United States at San Francisco, Cal. For the first time in twenty-nine years the Supreme Court of the United States called its docket of original cases, with the end in view of eliminating some of them if possible. Senator Lodge denies the report that he will offer the Philippine tariff bill as an amendment to the House bill removing the tax from denatured alcohol, and also denies that he is opposed to that measure.

FLAYS THE OIL TRUST

PRESIDENT SAYS MONOPOLY'S OPPRESSION MUST END.

Competition-Killing Octopus Declared to Have Gained Three-Quarters of a Million a Year While Independents Suffer.

President Roosevelt Friday transmitted to Congress the report of James R. Garfield, Commissioner of Corporations, giving the results of his investigation of the subject of transportation and freight rates in connection with the oil industry. In his message the President expresses the view that the report is of great importance because of the effort being made to confer upon the interstate commerce commission the power to meet the needs of the situation. The facts set forth in the report, he declares, are for the most part not disputed. That the Standard Oil Company has benefited enormously almost to the present moment from secret rates, many of which were unlawful, the President says the report clearly shows, the benefit thereby secured amounting to at least three-quarters of a million dollars a year.

Message of the President.

Following is the President's message: The Senate and House of Representatives I transmit herewith a report by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Corporations in the Department of Commerce and Labor on the subject of transportation and freight rates in connection with the oil industry. The investigation, the results of which are summarized in this report, was undertaken in accordance with House resolution 499, passed Feb. 15, 1905, but for the reasons given in the report it has been more general and extensive than was called for in the resolution itself.

I call your especial attention to the letter of transmittal accompanying and summarizing the report; for the report is of capital importance in view of the effort now being made to secure such enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission as will confer upon the same the power to meet the clearly demonstrated needs of the situation. The facts set forth in this report are for the most part not disputed. It is only the inferences from them that are disputed, and even in this respect the dispute is practically limited to the question as to whether the transactions of the Standard Oil Company are not generally and extensively than was called for in the resolution itself.

Benefits by Secret Rates.

The report shows that the Standard Oil Company has benefited enormously up almost to the present moment by secret rates, many of these secret rates being clearly unlawful. This benefit amounts to at least three-quarters of a million a year. This three-quarters of a million represents the profit that the Standard Oil Company obtains at the expense of the railroads; but of course the ultimate result is that it obtains a much larger profit at the expense of the public.

A very striking result of the investigation has been that shortly after the disclosure of these secret rates by the commissioner of corporations the major portion of them were promptly corrected by the railroads, so that most of them have now disappeared. It is not to be inferred, however, that the correction of the secret rates is of course on the one hand an acknowledgment that they were wrong, but yet were persevered in until exposed, and on the other hand a proof of the efficiency of the work that has been done by the Bureau of Corporations.

Prosecution Is Promised.

The Department of Justice will take up the question of instituting prosecutions in at least certain of the cases. But it is most desirable to enact into law the bill introduced by Senator Knox to correct the interpretation of the immunity provisions inserted in Judge Humphrey's decision. The hands of the government have been greatly strengthened in securing an effective remedy by the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the case instituted by the government against the tobacco trust, which permits the government to examine the books and records of any corporation engaged in interstate commerce and by the recent conviction and punishment of the Standard Oil Company and Quincy railroad and certain of its officers.

But in addition to these secret rates the Standard Oil profits immensely from rates which are so arranged as to give it an overwhelming advantage over its independent competitors. The refusal of the Standard Oil to secure an effective remedy by the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the case instituted by the government against the tobacco trust, which permits the government to examine the books and records of any corporation engaged in interstate commerce and by the recent conviction and punishment of the Standard Oil Company and Quincy railroad and certain of its officers.

Government Control Needed.

This is a characteristic example of the Standard Oil policy which is inevitable in a system in which the big shipper and the railroad are left free to crush out all individual initiative and all power of independent competitors. The refusal of the Standard Oil to secure an effective remedy by the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the case instituted by the government against the tobacco trust, which permits the government to examine the books and records of any corporation engaged in interstate commerce and by the recent conviction and punishment of the Standard Oil Company and Quincy railroad and certain of its officers.

It is not possible to put into figures the extent to which the Standard Oil profits through the gross favoritism shown it by the railroads in connection with the open rates. The profit, of course, comes not merely from the saving in the rate of freight as compared with its competitors, but by the higher prices it is able to charge, and (even without reference to these higher prices) by the complete control of the market it secures, thereby getting the profit on the whole consumption. Here again the only remedy which the government can effect is by conferring upon the interstate commerce commission the power to take quick and effective action in regulating the rates.

One feature of the report which is especially worthy of attention is the showing made as to the way in which the law is evaded by treating as State commerce what is in reality merely a part of interstate commerce.

Sugar Trust Accused.

It is unfortunately not true that the Standard Oil Company is the only great corporation which in the immediate past has benefited, and is at this moment benefiting, in wholly improper fashion by an improved smelting furnace.

An improved smelting furnace recently installed in a foundry in Canada uses coal instead of coke, at about one-half the cost, and when smelting the sulphide ores the sulphur is used in combustion, making a still further reduction in expenses. It is stated that this furnace does not require crushing and roasting of the ores, which means a very considerable saving.

Loss of Insurance Men.

At a meeting of New York insurance men the question of facing losses by the California earthquake and fire was considered. It was estimated that the property loss would reach \$600,000,000 and that the insurance liabilities would exceed that \$600,000,000. It was generally agreed that rates must be raised. Some of the smaller companies were in favor of taking advantage of the "earthquake clause" in their policies.

Patronize Those who Advertise.



Word from Caracas is to the effect that President Castro of Venezuela has resigned temporarily in favor of Vice President Gomez in order to secure needed rest. A new cabinet will take charge of the dispute with France.

Through its diplomats the Japanese government has announced that after May 1 citizens and vessels of foreign countries would be permitted to enter the Manchurian ports of Antung Hsien and Tatung Kao. Dally will be opened in the near future.

Despite a rigid censorship at Lisbon, Portugal, it is learned that the 1,400 sailors of the warships belonging to that country who recently mutinied are confined to barracks pending court martial proceedings. The mutiny is said to have been due to severe discipline.

The London and Northwestern railway has created somewhat of a sensation in England by establishing a reserved, first-class compartment on its trains as a smoking car for women. This has renewed the public discussion of the alleged increase of the smoking habit among society women.

The strikers in the coal mining district of France have become exceedingly aggressive during the past week, and large bodies of them have marched from place to place, doing considerable damage to property. Several soldiers were injured in trying to preserve order at Lens Wednesday. A number of the miners were also wounded. The trade unions at Lorient voted to begin a general strike.

The steady decline of marriages in Great Britain is shown in the statistics for 1904. There has been a fall of 19 per cent in the marriage rate in the past thirty-five years. In explanation of this decline it appears that the marriage rate for widows has fallen from 21 in 1872 to 12.5 in 1904, and that the rate of remarriage for widowers has fallen from 65.8 to 38, and that for bachelors from 61.7 to 52.8.

The signatures to the Moroccan agreement were hardly dry when it was stated positively at St. Petersburg that a loan of \$250,000,000 had been arranged with Paris capitalists. The French people were said to feel grateful to Russia for the services rendered at Algiers. Later it was reported that the loan would amount to \$400,000,000, the balance being taken by New York, Amsterdam, London and St. Petersburg banks. This amount will barely suffice to meet the short-term bonds and pay the Czar's most pressing debts.

The overwhelming victory of the Constitutional Democrats in all the larger cities of Russia in the elections for the Douma, was said to have caused the second and final resignation of Premier Witte unless Minister of the Interior Durnovo should retire. The premier demands that the Czar grant a written consultation and abandon all idea of keeping the national parliament in autocratic submission. On April 8 the electoral colleges in 128 out of fifty-one provinces, chose 178 members of the Douma and not a single reactionary candidate was chosen. A surprising feature is that in almost every instance the candidates chosen by the peasants were educated progressives. The result indicates that the opposition will control the national parliament by a decisive majority.

The recent peaceful ending to the long deadlock between the Hungarian coalition and the emperor king was brought about through the conciliatory offer of a compromise by the coalition leaders. The substance of it was that these leaders are to take office on condition that they carry out the policy of the former government. Kossuth, the leader of the Independence party, said that the question of authorizing the use of Magyar words in the army was left in abeyance. Dr. Alexander Werkerle was chosen premier of the new cabinet. Kossuth becomes minister of commerce, Count Andrássy minister of the interior and Count Apponyi minister of worship. The commercial union with Austria will remain undisturbed until 1917. The election for the coming parliament will be under the present restricted suffrage, but it is understood the new cabinet will introduce a bill for universal suffrage, after which a new election will be held.

City Schools in the Suburbs.

Prof. Wilbur Jackman of the University of Chicago school of education is leading a movement in favor of erecting Chicago school houses out in the suburbs far enough so that each may have five acres of ground around it. He thinks that the coming system of municipal ownership of street railways will solve the transportation problem by providing special cars or car lines for the children free. Besides, as the children would be going to school in the morning and returning in the evening, they would miss the crowds going to and from business. Mr. Jackman believes that sanitary and beautiful surroundings would tend to make the children friendly toward all kinds of learning. He thinks that at present we are trying to grow children "under conditions never thought of in connection with the cultivation of vegetables or the nursing of beasts."

Raft of Earthquake Books.

Within a week after the California earthquake and fire disaster a hundred books were in preparation in different cities, giving the complete story. One hundred thousand agents have been called for to market the books, some of which were offered to the public before the embers were cool.

Shippers Assail Oil Trust.

The government has begun at Cleveland, Ohio, an investigation into the relations between the railroads and the Standard Oil Company, former Attorney General Mcmeel of Ohio representing the interstate commerce commission. In this work Mr. Monnett is aided by Secretary Chamberlain of the Petroleum Association, which includes nearly all of the independent oil producers of the country.

George Garry, cashier of the Tampa Electric Company, was drowned at Hillsboro, near Tampa, Fla.