

—Chicago Journal.

WORK AT PANAMA.

Great Ditch May Be Finished Before The Stipulated Time.

There is getting to be a certain monotony, which, however, is quite welcome, in news of work on the isthmian canal. Every month we may expect to get statistics of the work done in the month before, and it is practically a foregone conclusion that it will exceed the record of the month before that. Thus last July a new record was made, with 1,058,776 cubic yards excavated. That, as some persons rashly assumed, was the high water mark, which never could be exceeded and which we could scarcely hope permanently to maintain. But in August that record was surpassed, with 1,247,404 yards, and people said that surely was the climax of efficiency. When another month came around, however, September bobbed up serenely with the new record of 1,481,307 yards, capping the climax in the fine style. And now here comes the October record of 1,844,471 yards, which puts, as Kipling says, the gilded dome on the cap of the climax. And October is the rainiest month of all the year!

Just how much further this climax capping business is to go it would be rash to estimate. Scarcely any degree of progress seems impossible or even improbable under the present efficient and inspiring administration. Last month there was excavated about twice as much as in the whole year 1905, and more than half as much as in the whole year 1906. Moreover, this achievement has been made in the rainiest part of the year, in cuttings where the proportion of rock is increasing—there is now 70 per cent of rock and only 30 of earth—and without any commensurate increase in the number of workmen employed. Thus this October record was made with a force of only 23,097 men on the canal all told, so that there was excavated an amount of rock and earth equal to more than 75 cubic yards for each employe, or a small fraction less than three cubic yards a day for each person employed in any capacity. That is efficiency such as was not dreamed of a year or two ago. When Mr. Wallace was chief engineer and was doing what seemed, and indeed was, fine work, there was talk about the necessity of employing from 60,000 to 75,000 men. One-third of that number is now doing the work far more rapidly than it was supposed the whole great army could do it.

In the presence of such performances criticism is disarmed and doubt is put to shame. We may have to revise our forecasts of canal completion, but it will probably be in the direction of shortening the time required and of declaring the most optimistic estimates of a few years ago to have been unduly cautious and extravagant.

Lumbermen Charge Rate Pools.
The Oregon and Washington Lumber Manufacturers' Association has filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission a complaint against nearly all the transcontinental railroads, charging the fixing and increasing of rates on forest products; that on Nov. 1 the rates were advanced 8 cents a hundred without legitimate reason. It is asserted that the capital stock of the lines concerned grossly exceeds the value of construction and equipment as a basis of rate making.

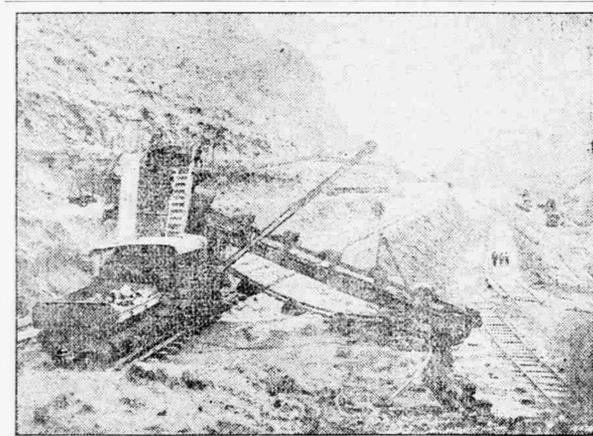
Advertise in this paper.

13 CREMATED IN A NEW YORK CITY TENEMENT FIRE.

Arson Plot Suspected as Cause of Deadly Blaze in Crowded Italian Quarter.

Thirteen persons are dead and seven injured in a fire that swept through the five-story tenement, 2121 Second avenue, near One Hundred and Ninth street, New York. Flames shot through the roof and caused an outpouring of all the people in the neighboring tenements. The fire started in the liquor store on the ground floor, shot up through the air shaft and stairways and trapped all the families in the upper part of the building. Despite all the gromen could do, they were unable to reach the victims.

The persons killed lived on the fourth and fifth floors. The narrow stairways, filled with smoke, prevented them going down with the speed necessary and, crowded together, men, women and children sank to the floor, choked with smoke and were unconscious when the flames reached them. Firemen climbed to the roofs of adjoining buildings from which the tenants had been driven and



AT WORK ON THE PANAMA CANAL.

poured streams of water into the burning tenement.

That the fire was the work of incendiaries who sought revenge is the opinion of the police and firemen. Three weeks ago three Italians were caught attempting to rob a safe in the saloon of Giuseppe Cudano on the ground floor. The safe contained more than \$2,000 which the saloonkeeper's friends had withdrawn from banks during the money flurry. The would-be robbers were arrested and are awaiting trial. The fire started in Cudano's saloon and the police believe it may have been the work of friends of the prisoners.

INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS.

Fire at Memphis, Tenn., destroyed the Danahy and Hungarian hotels, fifteen stores and five saloons. Loss \$50,000. Partial insurance.
President B. F. Winchell of the Rock Island at Guthrie, Okla., said his road would accept the 2-cent fare provision of the Oklahoma constitution.
Owing to the forcible protests of Jewish women against the high price of meat, the kosher butcher shops in Paterson, N. J., have decided to close for a month.

THOSE CONCRETE HOUSES.

Eminent Philanthropist Will Build City of Edison Homes.

Working together, Thomas A. Edison, wizard of East Orange, N. J., and Henry Phipps, a New York millionaire, believe they can solve the tenement house problem.

They plan to do this by erecting an entire city of concrete houses. Mr. Edison having perfected plans recently whereby, he says, he can build within 12 hours and at a cost of from \$1,000 to \$1,200 a beautiful nine-room house, suitable for two families. Each apartment of these double houses can be rented profitably at \$7.50 a month, according to Mr. Edison, thus saving to the working man now paying \$10 a month for a two-room home in the tenements, enough money each month to cover his carfare expenses to and from his work.

Mr. Phipps, who in 1905 gave \$1,000,000 for the erection of model tenements in New York City, recently spent an afternoon in Mr. Edison's laboratory at East Orange, discussing with him the possibilities of the cement or concrete house. The steel manufacturer was accompanied by a corps of architects,

builders and concrete experts, who made a careful investigation of the Edison plans. When they left they were enthusiastic over its possibilities. Mr. Edison purposes to build these houses by forcing a concrete mixture into cast iron molds, which are to be set up after the excavation for the basement is complete.

Canard Liners for Canada.

The Grand Trunk railroad is said to have made a deal with the Canard Steamship Company for a line of steamers from Liverpool to Canada so as to afford an all-British route for passenger and freight traffic between England and the Orient.

The Exposition Deficit.

The receipts of the Jamestown exposition from visitors and concessionaires are now estimated at \$1,000,000, and this foreshadows a deficit of something over \$3,000,000. The buildings alone have cost \$5,000,000. Barely more than 10 per cent of the government loan has been paid.

Elvira Giordano, a ballet dancer with the Milan opera company, dropped dead on the stage at "Ye Liberty" theater at Oakland, Cal., during the ballet in "Mignon."

COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.

Measured by the volume of payments through the banks, the check to trade shows less severity and for the month thus far the average is under 15 per cent. The situation as to money is brighter, although an immediate return to the normal status requires more deliberation. The demand for currency remains acute. More encouragement is derived from the constant additions to note circulation and specie. Interior calls for funds are now more easily satisfied.

Most mercantile lines have felt the adverse turn and there is more caution exercised in the present emergency, yet the hindrances do not obscure the outlook for better results from now on until Christmas. There may be more retrenchment in industrial branches, but the prevailing tone favors a restoration of healthier financial sentiment as the best encouragement for the future.

Less new building affects the planing mills and lumber market, and arrivals of raw materials are under those at this time last year, while prices mainly are easier, particularly hides, which are at the lowest average recorded for some years past.

Failures reported in the Chicago district number 36, against 26 last week and 26 a year ago. Those with liabilities over \$5,000 number 14, against 7 last week and 10 in 1906.—Dun's Review of Trade.

NEW YORK.

While the number of cities report that the tone of affairs has taken a turn for the better, actual business, taking the country as a whole, shows an increased degree of quiet both at wholesale and retail, a working out of the continued scarcity of currency at some points, of lessening activity in industries and of the continuance of unseasonably mild weather, with its natural effect upon distribution of winter goods.

Business failures for the week ending Nov. 21 number 263, against 259 last week, 212 in the like week of 1905, 224 in 1905, 193 in 1904 and 167 in 1903. Canadian failures for the week number 35, against 45 last week and 27 in this week a year ago.—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

THE MARKETS

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$4.00 to \$6.55; hogs, prime heavy, \$4.00 to \$4.75; sheep, fair to choice, \$3.00 to \$5.15; wheat, No. 2, 87c to 91c; corn, No. 2, 56c to 57c; oats, standard, 43c to 44c; rye, No. 2, 74c to 75c; hay, timothy, \$11.00 to \$15.50; prairie, \$9.00 to \$14.50; butter, choice creamery, 24c to 27c; eggs, fresh, 19c to 24c; potatoes, per bushel, 45c to 54c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$6.50; hogs, good to choice heavy, \$4.00 to \$5.30; sheep, common to prime, \$3.00 to \$4.75; wheat, No. 2, 91c to 92c; corn, No. 2 white, 55c to 57c; oats, No. 2 white, 45c to 46c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$4.50 to \$6.00; hogs, \$4.00 to \$4.70; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.65; wheat, No. 2, 96c to 97c; corn, No. 2, 56c to 57c; oats, No. 2, 44c to 45c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 76c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.00; hogs, \$4.00 to \$5.00; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.50; wheat, No. 2, 95c to 96c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 50c to 60c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 46c to 47c; rye, No. 2, 81c to 83c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.00; hogs, \$4.00 to \$4.75; sheep, \$2.50 to \$4.50; wheat, No. 2, 94c to 95c; corn, No. 3 yellow, 65c to 66c; oats, No. 3 white, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 70c to 80c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, \$1.02 to \$1.04; corn, No. 3, 59c to 60c; oats, standard, 48c to 50c; rye, No. 1, 80c to 81c; barley, No. 2, 94c to 95c; pork, mess, \$12.97.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, \$4.00 to \$6.25; hogs, fair to choice, \$4.00 to \$5.10; sheep, common to good mixed, \$4.00 to \$5.50; lambs, fair to choice, \$5.00 to \$7.00.

New York—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$6.00; hogs, \$4.00 to \$5.25; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.40; wheat, No. 2 red, 97c to 98c; corn, No. 2, 63c to 64c; oats, natural white, 51c to 52c; butter, creamery, 25c to 27c; eggs, western, 25c to 30c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, 95c to 96c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 60c to 61c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 48c to 49c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 80c; clover seed, prime, \$9.20.

\$12 a Week Men's Privation.

The report of Dr. Lee Frankel, manager of the United Hebrew Charities of New York, before the State conference of charities and correction, tells of the recent investigation of actual living conditions in the big city. This shows that the \$2-a-day man, who is also the \$200-a-year man, if he have an average family of wife and three children under working age, spends more than he earns for the necessities. Rent for two and rarely three rooms is about \$174; his food costs \$270 for the year, of which his share is 22½ cents a day, or half a cent above the minimum for physical efficiency fixed by Prof. Underhill of Yale; for fuel and light there is only \$25, and perhaps \$5 is spent for daily papers, \$8 for club or church dues, leaving a final balance of \$3, or 25 cents a month, for recreation.

CURRENT NEWS NOTES.

The national mining congress, in session at Joplin, Mo., adopted resolutions favoring stricter federal control of mining lands.
Attorney General W. H. Dixon of Colorado began action in the District Court at Denver to break up the so-called grocers' trust.
Fire did \$200,000 damage in Parsons, Kan. The biggest losers are Kress & Co., \$40,000; Cooper Lumber Company and Dodge-Bryan Lumber Company, \$30,000 each.

KURDS LOOT AND BURN IN LAWLESS ORGIES

Many Villages in Armenia Are Plundered and Then Put to the Torch.

SPARE THE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

Erzerum, Betlis, Van, Kharput and Draibekker Scenes of Speculation by Vicious Hordes.

Constantinople advices say the lawless activity of the Kurdish tribes in the Armeno-Kurdish districts of Erzerum, Bitlis, Van, Kharput and Draibekker is causing lively concern at the Porte, particularly as the foreign embassies are interesting themselves and are urging that prompt measures be taken by the government to prevent a possible massacre. Under the protection of the notorious Ibrahim Pasha, who is known as the "despot of Kurdistan," Kurdish horsemen are making raids without discrimination, Turkish villages suffering equally with Armenian homesteads on the plains around Diarbekir and Jezireh-Ybn-Omar.

Sixteen villages have been pillaged and burned within the last month in these districts and eight villages in the Sert district have met with the same fate. Several of these villages were composed entirely of Moslems and in most cases the lives of the inhabitants were spared, though they were deprived of all their possessions.

The pinch of hunger already is being felt, as everywhere, there is a scarcity of food, fodder and fuel. The missionaries are doing their best to mitigate the misery, but outside help is urgently needed if the danger of a severe famine is to be averted.

The movement in favor of autonomy is gaining ground in Asia Minor as the popular disaffection against the Constantinople government is very strong. But at the same time there is a great degree of loyalty among the Moslems, and this constitutes a powerful support to the present regime. Mass meetings are being held at which the removal of Ibrahim Pasha is being demanded. The Porte has ordered troops from Kharput and Rieppo against the refractory Kurds, and it will endeavor to induce Ibrahim Pasha by friendly persuasion, to come into Aleppo. Some of Ibrahim's villages were shelled recently by Turkish troops and sixty Kurds were killed.

THE NEW CHINATOWN.

Oriental Quarter Arises on the Old Site in San Francisco.

San Francisco's new Chinatown which has arisen on the ruins of the old is ready for occupancy and is rapidly filling up with merchants and tradesmen who were scattered to the four winds by the terrible earthquake and fire of a year and a half ago. All movements looking toward the transfer of the Chinese to a less desirable part of the city failed utterly, and the new Chinatown has risen on the site of the old, under the shadow of Nob Hill and touching shoulders with the financial district. In the first flush of hope after the catastrophe several plans were evolved for moving Chinatown out toward Telegraph Hill or to some suitable part of the Mission district. The site of old Chinatown was needed for the expansion of the financial district. One thing stood in the way of this part of the "city beautiful" dream. Chinese firms and wealthy Mongolian individuals owned much of the property in Chinatown. They were satisfied with the site of their quarter. It was near the big hotels patronized by eastern tourists, and it was not too far from the water front whence their goods came. The Chinese refused to sell and straightway set about rebuilding.

There is a reason why Chinatown was rebuilt before the other parts of the burned area, even before Market street had been repaved. The Chinese property owners had no trouble in getting ready cash. They did not try to borrow from San Francisco banks or even from New York money lenders. The first steamer to China carried long letters describing the situation. Included were drafts on the treasurer of the company which backed the San Francisco firms. The return steamer brought the gold that was needed and the Chinese could tell their contractors to go ahead.

The building department and the health authorities insisted that the new Chinatown be built according to law and the new Chinatown has, of course, lost such picturesque features as were found in the dirt and the squalor and the tumbledown effect of the old buildings. To offset this, however, there will be a heavy gain in healthfulness.

Greater Pittsburg Legalized.

The fight over the consolidation of Pittsburg and Allegheny ended in the Supreme Court when Justice Moody handed down the decision sustaining the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, which had upheld the consolidation which a majority of the people of the two cities voted under a legislative act. The consolidated city has an area of thirty-eight square miles, an estimated population of 500,000, and will contest with Boston the sixth place among American cities for population, a position also claimed by Baltimore.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1492—Columbus arrived at Hayti and learned that the colony left there had perished.

1499—Perkin Warbeck, who styled himself Richard IV., King of England, executed.

1518—Cortez sailed from Cuba to capture Mexico.

1540—De Soto left the coast and began his inland march.

1542—English defeated the Scots at Solway Moss.

1578—Sir Humphrey Gilbert's first expedition sailed to found a colony in America.

1626—St. Peter's, Rome, dedicated by Pope Urban VIII.

1633—Ships Ark and Dove sailed from England with 200 persons to found a colony in Maryland.

1643—Birth of La Salle, the explorer of the Mississippi valley.

1683—Boundary line agreed upon by New York and Connecticut.

1755—Severe earthquake shocks felt along the eastern coast of North America.

1758—Fort Duquesne renamed Pittsburg by the English.

1775—American force took and fortified Cobble Hill, near Boston.

1776—British under Cornwallis crossed the Hudson to attack Fort Lee.

1794—Jay's treaty between the United States and Great Britain signed.

1796—French under Bonaparte defeated the Austrians at Arcola.... Much property destroyed by fire in Savannah, Ga.

1801—The Pillory used in Boston for the last time.

1816—A Philadelphia theater lighted by gas, first in the country.

1832—Eruption of Mt. Etna; town of Bronte destroyed.

1837—Montreal used gas for illuminating purposes for the first time.

1851—Ernest Augustus, King of Hanover and Duke of Cumberland, died.

1852—Napoleon III. elected Emperor of the French.

1860—Legislature of Georgia voted \$1,000,000 to arm the State.

1863—Battles before Chattanooga, Tenn., began....The National Soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg dedicated.

1867—Committee on the House reported in favor of the impeachment of President Johnson.

1871—The Grand Duke Alexis arrived at New York.

1874—British immigrant ship Cospatrick burned at sea, with loss of 473 lives.

1877—The Halifax fishery commission, under treaty of Washington, rendered its decision.

1882—Standard time adopted throughout Canada.

1889—Remarkable cliff dwellings discovered in Colorado.

1889—Alaska first demanded representation in Congress.

1890—Indian outbreak near Pine Ridge, South Dakota.... Battleship Maine launched at the Brooklyn navy yard.

The Scientific Immortality.

Sir Oliver Lodge, the noted British scientist, has delivered another pronouncement on the subject of the immortality of the soul. He says first that the simple important truth to be kept in sight is the commonplace fact that there is nothing immortal or persistent about the body except the material atoms of which it is composed. He dismisses utterly the notion, still taught by part of the Christian church, that these atoms will some day be gathered and reunited so as to constitute a complete man as he appeared on the earth, and who thereafter will last forever. This he regards as merely a clumsy expedient to make pleasing the idea of the homeless, wandering spirit or ghost of the departed individual. Sir Oliver says that nobody knows what the soul is, but that common sense rebels against its being nothing, and that no genuine science had assumed to declare it a purely imaginary nonentity. He holds it must be acknowledged by science that no really existing thing perishes, it only changes form. As this has been shown clearly in the case of matter and energy, it must also be true of mind, consciousness, will, memory, love and other activities which interact with matter and appeal to the bodily senses. These facts of the individual human consciousness, he says, cannot be regarded as nothing, and they will never vanish into nothingness. They did arise with us. They never sprang suddenly into being from previous non-existence. They are as eternal as the God-head itself, and will in eternal being endure forever.

Atmosphere on Mercury.

The transit of Mercury across the face of the sun, Nov. 14, was the occasion of careful observations by astronomers with more or less satisfactory results. William R. Brooks, professor of astronomy at Hobart college, Geneva, N. Y., discovered a diffused ring surrounding the planet. This was thought to radiate the presence of an atmosphere. Near the center of the planet was noticed a white spot, which has been seen at former transits. Many photographs were taken.