

# The Columbus Journal.

VOLUME XXXIV.—NUMBER 38.

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1903.

WHOLE NUMBER 1,709.

## The Old Reliable...

ABSOLUTE SAFETY  
Is the best thing we  
have to offer. Other  
inducements are of  
secondary import-  
ance. Upon this ba-  
sis only, do we solicit  
your business.

The  
Columbus  
State Bank.

The  
Columbus  
Journal.

A Weekly Republican  
Newspaper Devoted to the  
Best Interests of

Columbus,  
—THE—  
County of Platte,  
The State of  
Nebraska.  
THE  
United States,  
and the  
Rest of Mankind.

The Unit of Measure with  
Us is

\$1.50

per Year, if Paid in Advance

But our Limit of Circulation is not  
Circumvented by Dealers  
and Carriers.

Sample Copies Sent Free to  
any Address.

HENRY GASS.

...The...  
COLUMBUS  
JOURNAL.

Is prepared to Furnish Any  
thing Required of a

PRINTING  
OFFICE

CLUBS WITH THE  
Best Papers  
OF THE  
COUNTRY.

## FOR LAND FRAUDS

REPUTED HEAD OF CONSPIRACY  
TAKEN IN CHARGE.

OPERATED ON A LARGE SCALE

John A. Benson of San Francisco Ac-  
cused of Bribing Officers of the Gov-  
ernment on His Present Trip to the  
National Capital.

WASHINGTON—John A. Benson, a  
wealthy San Francisco real estate op-  
erator, charged by the Interior depart-  
ment with being the head of the alleged  
land frauds extending over a number  
of western states and territories, was  
arrested here at length in his annual  
report, was arrested here at the Will-  
ard hotel by Secret Service Officer  
John A. Burns just as he was prepar-  
ing to leave the city for New York.

The charge on which the arrest was  
made was bribery, it being alleged in  
the affidavit of Mr. Burns and in the  
warrant that Benson had paid \$500 to  
Woodford D. Harlan, formerly chief of  
the special service division of the gen-  
eral land office and now a clerk in that  
office, on March 15th of this year, for  
the purpose of extracting from him in-  
formation regarding the investigation  
of his operations at that time being  
made by the land office.

The warrant was issued by United  
States Commissioner Anson S. Taylor,  
and as soon as Benson had been pre-  
tended by Officer Burns he was taken  
before Commissioner Taylor. He was  
wished to have a preliminary hearing  
of his case postponed and the date for  
such hearing was fixed for December  
28th. He gave bail for his appearance  
on that date, when the government at-  
torneys will ask to have him held for  
the grand jury.

A statement was made by an officer  
of the government that the information  
obtained in regard to the alleged  
conspiracy implicates a number of per-  
sons at present employed in the Inter-  
ior department at Washington and  
elsewhere.

Numerous arrests are expected to  
follow that of Benson, in short order  
and some employees who may not be  
arrested will be dismissed from the  
service. It is said that Secretary  
Hitchcock and the special attorneys in  
the case have considered it absolutely  
necessary to the working out of the  
case that no action be taken with re-  
ference to the other alleged offenders  
until the principals in the case had  
been apprehended.

The government attorneys, Mr. Ar-  
thur B. Pugh, who has been the special  
attorney for the Interior department  
on the land frauds, and Mr. Oliver F.  
George, assistant attorney of the De-  
partment of Justice, who has also been  
employed on the case, stated in asking  
for a large bail bond for Benson that  
he had been guilty of bribery during his  
present visit to Washington, since  
last Monday, and in the Interior de-  
partment itself, notwithstanding that  
he was aware of his connection with  
the alleged frauds was fully known by  
the Interior department.

The statement was made later that  
Secretary Hitchcock was so incensed  
at the flagrant of this offense that he  
told the officers to have Benson arrest-  
ed at once, although it had not been  
planned to have him arrested at this  
time.

CONDITIONS ARE COMPLICATED.

Navy Department is Not Giving Out  
Information.

WASHINGTON—After a conference  
between Secretary Moody, Rear Ad-  
miral Taylor, chief of the bureau of  
navigation, and Brigadier General  
George B. Meade, chief of the marine  
corps, it was decided that if pre-  
sent conditions on the isthmus of Pan-  
ama continue, General Elliott will sail  
for Colon on the Dixie from Philadel-  
phia when that vessel goes south  
with the new battalion of marines,  
which has been ordered assembled at  
Philadelphia for dispatch to the isth-  
mus. The Dixie is now on her way  
north for this purpose.

General Elliott has been anxious  
for some days to be given a field com-  
mand and it is the present intention  
of the officials to grant his request.

Postal Receipts Increase.

WASHINGTON—The gross postal  
receipts at the fifty largest postoffices  
in the United States for last month,  
compared with November, 1902, were  
\$3,602,580, an increase of over 7 per  
cent. The highest increase was 25  
per cent at Los Angeles. The heav-  
iest of the six decreases reported was  
15 per cent at Jersey City. New York  
receipts increased almost 9 per cent  
and Chicago over 8 per cent.

To Cut Price of Soft Coal.

CLEVELAND, O.—A meeting of soft  
coal operators will be in session here to  
discuss trade conditions generally.  
There is very likely to be a cut in the  
selling price of coal, especially in  
grades used by manufacturers.

American Nurses in Event of War.

TOKIO—The situation here is more  
favorable than on Thursday. The let-  
ter of Mrs. Anita Newcomb McGee,  
president of the Association of Span-  
ish-American War Nurses, offering to  
the government of Japan, through the  
Japanese minister at Washington, the  
services of trained nurses in the  
event of war with Russia, has pro-  
duced an excellent impression and is  
warmly appreciated as a mark of  
traditional American friendship for  
Japan.

Boodling Blossoms in Nome.

SEATTLE, Wash.—A telegram from  
Nome, December 3, says: The govern-  
ment officials announced today that  
wireless communication with Nome  
would be established inside of ten  
days. Several partly successful tests  
have been made. A financial crisis  
exists in Nome among merchants demand-  
ing cash for all purchases. Boodle charges  
against the city council are being  
freely made. The schooner Zenith,  
with crew and passengers is frozen in  
the winter near Golovin Bay.

## REVENUE LAW VALID.

Supreme Court Upholds New Act in  
an Unanimous Opinion.

LINCOLN—The supreme court on  
Wednesday, in an opinion written by  
Chief Justice Sullivan and concurred  
in by Judges Holcomb and Sedgwick,  
declared the revenue law enacted by  
the late legislature to be constitu-  
tional. A second opinion, written by  
Commissioner Duffie and concurred  
in by Commissioners Letton and Kirk-  
patrick, was allowed to be filed  
through the courtesy of the court, and  
this also upheld the law. Commis-  
sioners Duffie and Letton having re-  
ceded from their former position that  
the insurance sections were bad. Both  
opinions were the unanimous decision  
of the court and the commissioners,  
the second having no voice on the  
final ruling in the case. The result is  
that H. E. Palmer and Ralph Breck-  
inridge do not get their writ to com-  
pel the city tax commissioner of Om-  
aha to enforce the old revenue law.

While upholding the law as a whole,  
the court refused to pass upon any  
section against which a specific ac-  
tion had not been brought and stated  
that it was out of its province to say  
what sections were bad unless the  
matter came before it in a specific  
action.

INSIST ON AN EARLY TRIAL.

Senator Dietrich and General Cowin  
Demand Hearing in Court.

OMAHA—United States Senator  
Charles H. Dietrich of Hastings, with  
his attorney, General John C. Cowin,  
appeared before W. H. Munger Friday  
afternoon for the purpose of ar-  
ranging for the early appearance of  
Senator Dietrich for trial in the re-  
cent indictments found against him by  
the federal grand jury in the Hastings  
postoffice cases. Senator Dietrich  
was not required to give any  
bond. In the absence of District At-  
torney Summers at Lincoln Friday  
evening Assistant District Attorney  
Rush was present at the conference.

Both Senator Dietrich and General  
Cowin insisted on the hearing being  
fixed for the earliest practical date,  
preferably at the beginning of special  
session of the United States district  
court, fixed for December 28. As-  
sistant District Attorney Rush was  
averse to assuming the responsibility of  
fixing the date in the absence of Sum-  
mers. The matter was deferred there-  
fore until Summers arrives.

WANTS SAN DOMINGO.

Senator Heyburn Introduces Resolu-  
tion to Annex Republic.

WASHINGTON—Senator Heyburn  
of Idaho introduced a joint resolution  
requesting the president to acquire by  
annexation the portion of San Dom-  
ingo comprising the dependencies of  
San Domingo and Hayti.

Mr. Stimpson of the United States  
consul at Puerto Plata, San Domingo,  
has cabled the state department that  
a revolution has broken out at San-  
tiago and that the movement is ex-  
tensive and serious.

This is supposed to be the result of  
the failure of the provisional govern-  
ment to receive recognition at the  
hand of United States Minister Powell,  
which fact prevented that govern-  
ment from obtaining money neces-  
sary to maintain itself through a for-  
eign loan.

Nothing is known officially of the  
reported plots against the life of  
United States Minister Powell, but  
the navy will take all necessary pre-  
cautions to protect the American leg-  
ation in San Domingo.

Bill Introduced in the House.

WASHINGTON—A bill was intro-  
duced in the house Friday by Mr.  
Vreeland (N. Y.) to provide for the  
allocation of lands in severity to the  
Indians in the state of New York and  
to extend the protection of the lands  
of the United States over such In-  
dians.

Mr. Hearst (N. Y.) introduced a  
bill to establish a parcels post. It  
provides for a classification of mail mat-  
ter, defining the kind that shall be  
carried in the different classes.

Mr. Gardner (Mass.) introduced a  
bill to create a committee to recom-  
mend legislation for the development  
of the merchant marine.

Appointed by President.

WASHINGTON—The president  
Monday sent the senate the following  
nominations:

Receivers of public moneys: Daniel  
J. Foley, at Eureka, Cal.; Fred Butler,  
at Leadville, Colo.

Postmasters: Alaska—William R.  
Sampson, Seward.

Idaho—George E. Hovey, Burke.

Montana—Lawrence Hauck, Phillips-  
burg.

Russians to Protect Him.

TOKIO—Korea's war minister and  
M. Pavloff, the Russian minister to  
Korea, have entered into an agree-  
ment by the terms of which, in the  
event of an emergency, Russian officers  
will be employed to guard the royal  
palace.

Marines Find Good Camp.

WASHINGTON—In a cablegram  
from Rear Admiral Coghlan, com-  
manding the naval force in Atlantic  
isthmian waters, which reached the  
navy department Thursday night, the  
landing of the battalion of marines  
from the Pacific at Grogon is report-  
ed. The battalion will go into camp  
at that place the medical officers have  
reported that the health condi-  
tions there are fully satisfactory. Gor-  
gon is some distance above the sea  
and comparatively healthy.

Panama is Recognized.

WASHINGTON—Acting Secretary  
Loomis on Thursday received a cable-  
gram from United States Minister  
Merry at San Jose, Costa Rica, stating  
that the government of Nicaragua had  
recognized the new republic of Pan-  
ama by appointing a consul at Pan-  
ama City. Considerable interest, it is  
said, attaches to this announcement,  
because of the doubtful state of feel-  
ing toward the new republic by other  
countries of South and Central Amer-  
ica.

## GRAND JURY WORK

SENATOR DIETRICH AMONG THE  
INDICTED.

COLBY IS ALSO TO ANSWER

R. M. Allen of Standard Cattle Com-  
pany and D. W. Gaines, a Rock  
County Banker, Among Those Who  
Will Be Brought to Trial.

OMAHA—The federal grand jury  
adjourned Thursday afternoon after a  
session continuing from 2:30 to short-  
ly after 3 o'clock, when it filed into  
the court room and announced to  
Judge Munger that it had a report to  
make. The report was made  
through Foreman M. L. Arnold of Be-  
atrice.

Seventeen indictments were found.  
The only one made public was the  
one against John Johnson for selling  
liquor to Indians. Johnson is now in  
jail. Of the other sixteen none were  
given publicity, pursuant to the pol-  
icy of secrecy observed by the grand  
jury and district clerk, whom are  
the only persons except the district  
attorney who have any knowledge of  
the personnel of the indictments. The  
reason for secrecy in these matters  
is that the indicted parties must have  
first been arrested, be in custody or  
have given bonds in order that there  
may be no miscarriage of justice by  
the premature announcement of their  
names.

It is, however, stated from other  
sources that true bills were found  
against former Adjutant General L. W.  
Colby of Beatrice for embezzlement  
of public funds; an additional indict-  
ment against Senator C. H. Dietrich  
for profiting by a federal contract  
while a member of congress in the  
rental of property belonging to him  
to the government; one against R. M.  
Allen, president of the Standard Cat-  
tle company, for illegal fencing of  
public lands; one against D. W.  
Gaines, president of the Rock County  
bank, for perjury and suborning per-  
jury in the matter of honest steal-  
ing; an additional indictment against  
Elliott Lows for conspiracy with J. C.  
Mitchell, postmaster at Alma; J. C.  
Mitchell and W. M. Erwin for illegal  
sale of postage stamps with a view to  
increasing the revenues of the post-  
office at Alma.

Immediately following the report of  
the grand jury it returned to its quarters  
and adjourned until 7 o'clock  
Thursday evening, and at 5 o'clock it  
adjourned sine die.

The present session has been an  
important and remarkable one, largely  
because of the prominence of some  
of the men indicted and investigated.  
The list of those indicted prior to  
Thursday and given out by the clerk  
of the court numbers eighty-three.

At a night session testimony was  
taken in regard to the land fraud  
cases on the Omaha and Winnebago  
reservations. Then the grand jury  
sent word to Judge Munger that it  
was ready to submit its final report.

Judge Munger was in waiting and  
the jury filed into the court room  
Thursday and given out by the clerk  
of the court numbers eighty-three.  
The grand jury submitted its report  
and the court finds that you have been  
efficient and you and you have  
the thanks of the court for it. You  
are now discharged from further ser-  
vice.

HEARS UNION PACIFIC CASE.

Charged With Giving Preferential  
Rates.

WASHINGTON—The interstate  
commerce commission Tuesday gave  
a hearing in the case of the Union Pa-  
cific railroad, charged with giving  
preferential rates to Peavey & Co.,  
who operate elevators at a number of  
western points, including Kansas City,  
Columbus, and several other cities  
in Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

John N. Baldwin of Council Bluffs  
represented the Union Pacific, and  
contended that there was no dis-  
crimination in rates and that its al-  
lowances are not excessive. He said  
there was an agreement with the  
Peavey company through the Midland  
Elevator company at Kansas City,  
and the Omaha Elevator company at  
Council Bluffs, under which the Union  
Pacific pays the elevator compa-  
nies 1 1/2 cents per 100 pounds for land-  
ing grain which passes through those  
elevators.

Iowa Judgeship Unsettled.

WASHINGTON—The Iowa delega-  
tion in congress met to consider the  
judgeship contest for the northern  
Iowa district, but adjourned  
until after the holidays without tak-  
ing any ballot.

Send Uribe-Uribe as Envoy.

CARACAS—According to advices  
just received here the Colombian  
government has decided to send Gen-  
eral Rafael Uribe-Uribe as special en-  
voy to the South American republics.

Chicago Gets National Convention.

WASHINGTON—The republican na-  
tional convention will be held in Chi-  
cago beginning at noon, June 21, 1904,  
the republican national committee  
reaching this conclusion. Pittsburgh  
and St. Louis were rivals of Chicago  
for the convention. Each city was  
well represented in oratory before the  
committee and each also had cash of-  
fers to make. Pittsburgh offered \$100,  
000, Chicago \$75,000 and a hall, and  
St. Louis \$40,000 and a hall. The vote  
was for Chicago, 7 for Pittsburgh.

Buchanan Sells for Panama.

NEW YORK.—William Buchanan  
of Buffalo, N. Y., the first United States  
minister to the republic of Panama,  
sailed Tuesday for Panama to take up  
his new duties.

Wages Cut for \$5,000.

BOSTON, Mass.—A reduction in  
wages averaging 10 per cent and in-  
volving 6,000 operatives was made  
Monday in the cotton mills at Adams,  
North Adams, Mass., and Norwich,  
Conn.

## ARMY MADE OVER.

Nebraska Goes into the Northern  
Division.

WASHINGTON—The secretary of  
war on Tuesday approved the recom-  
mendation of the general staff estab-  
lishing military divisions and some-  
what changing the present boundary  
lines of departments in the United  
States.

There will be four divisions in the  
United States and one in the Philip-  
pines.

The Northern division will be com-  
posed of the present Department of  
the Lakes, the Department of Mis-  
souri and the Department of Dakota.  
The Department of Missouri is en-  
larged by adding thereto the state of Wy-  
oming, which has been detached from  
the Department of Colorado. The  
headquarters of the Northern division  
will be at St. Louis.

The Atlantic division will constitute  
the present Department of the East,  
except the state of Louisiana, with  
the state of Tennessee added thereto,  
and will be composed of the Depart-  
ment of the East and the Department  
of the Gulf. The headquarters of the  
Department of the Gulf will be lo-  
cated at Atlanta, Ga., and the head-  
quarters of the division will be at Gov-  
ernor's Island, New York; headquarters  
Department of the East will tempora-  
rily be Governor's Island.

The Pacific division will be com-  
posed of the present Departments of Cal-  
ifornia and Columbia. The head-  
quarters of the division will be San Fran-  
cisco.

The Southwestern division will be  
composed of the Departments of Colo-  
rado and Texas. The Department of  
Texas will be enlarged by the addi-  
tion of the states of Louisiana and Ar-  
kansas, and Oklahoma and Indian Ter-  
ritories. The headquarters of this di-  
vision will be Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Philippine division will remain  
as so constituted. The following divi-  
sion commanders have been decided  
upon: Atlantic division, Major Gen-  
eral Corbin; Northern division, Major  
General Bates; Pacific division, Major  
General MacArthur; Southwestern di-  
vision, Major General Sumner; Phil-  
ippine division, Major General Wade.  
The order becomes effective Janu-  
ary 15.

TRIED TO LYNCH MARSHAL.

He Had Accidentally Killed a Man in  
Quelling a Fight.

BRAZIL, Ind.—An unsuccessful ef-  
fort was made to take Town Marshal  
Harmon from the jail here last night.  
It is believed, for the purpose of  
lynching him. Harmon was trying to  
quell a fight at Diamond, a mining  
town Wednesday night and accident-  
ally shot Dennis McCann, a miner,  
who later died. Harmon surrendered  
to the authorities here. Last night  
four Darlington men arrived at the  
jail and represented themselves as  
officers to take Harmon to Rockville  
for trial. Harmon recognized them  
as friends of McCann, who had  
sworn to take his life, and the sheriff  
refused to give him up. The men re-  
turned to Darlington, checked the  
home of his son, John W. Harmon, and  
drove his family into the street. They  
have not been arrested. Harmon was  
taken to Rockville and placed in jail  
there.

FREMONT GETS THE CANAL.

The Canal Board of Arbitration Se-  
lects that City.

NEW YORK—The board of arbitra-  
tion, consisting of T. W. Klowman of  
the John F. Kelley Engineering com-  
pany, New York, and George H. Kim-  
ball, the well known western engi-  
neering expert, met here Monday and  
decided to make an award in favor  
of the Fremont Canal and Power com-  
pany, which concern will build a large  
hydraulic power plant for the purpose of  
generating electric energy for light-  
ing and general power purposes in  
and around Omaha, Lincoln, Col-  
umbus, and several other cities  
in Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

HOLD MID-WINTER MEETING.

Good Roads Congress, January 23  
and 24.

CHICAGO, Ill.—W. H. Moore,  
president of the National Good Roads  
association, and Colonel A. S. Mann  
of Florida, met in Chicago Monday  
and arranged to hold the mid-winter  
good roads meeting of the association  
at Ormond Beach, Florida, January  
23 and 24, in connection with the au-  
tomobile races at that place. The  
two events will be followed by simi-  
lar meetings in other parts of the  
country.

At the St. Louis World's Fair au-  
tomobile races will be held by the Na-  
tional Good Roads congress, at which  
time all civilized countries will be in-  
vited by the state department at  
Washington to send delegates.

Revising the Land Laws.

WASHINGTON—The commission  
on public lands, recently appointed by  
President Roosevelt to report on the  
condition, operation and effect of the  
present land laws, and of the use, dis-  
posal and settlement of the public  
lands, held its first meeting Thurs-  
day. This body is composed of Com-  
missioner W. A. Richards, chief of  
the land office; Clifford Pinchot, chief  
of the bureau of forestry, and F. H.  
Newell, chief hydrographer of the ge-  
ological survey.

Senator Morgan Wants to Know.

WASHINGTON—Senator Morgan in-  
troduced a resolution directing the at-  
torney general to inform the senate  
whether he has made or is making a  
purchase of the property of the new Pan-  
ama company, its franchises and con-  
cessions, and if so, what authority on  
the isthmus is recognized in the trans-  
action, and whether any agreement  
has been entered into between  
France and the authorities on the  
isthmus.



John Pierpont Morgan—Stocks have been shrinking.  
John Bull—Yes, Johnny Morgan, as stocks ain't all that 's been  
shrinking.

## TREATY IS A LAW

SENATE PASSES RECIPROCITY  
BILL BY DECISIVE VOTE.

PARTY LINES WERE NOT DRAWN

Principal Speeches Made by Mr.  
Spooners for the Bill and by Mr.  
Bailey Against the Measure—What  
is Provided for by the Treaty.

WASHINGTON—By the decisive  
vote of 57 to 18 the senate on Wed-  
nesday passed the bill carrying into  
effect the reciprocity treaty with Cuba.  
The final vote came at the close of a  
day which was marked by a debate  
which, while at times animated, was  
not acrimonious. The principal  
speeches were made by Mr. Spooner,  
for the bill, and by Mr. Bailey,  
against it. Both senators were sub-  
jected to frequent interruptions. In  
his remarks Mr. Bailey referred to the  
recent agreement of the democratic  
caucus to stand solidly on party ques-  
tions and warned the republicans that  
in the future they could not depend  
on straggling democratic votes in sup-  
port of republican party measures re-  
gardless of whether they were or  
were not in accord with democratic  
doctrine.

The bill passed carries into execu-  
tion the treaty between the United  
States and Cuba, which was ratified  
last March. The treaty provides for  
a reduction of 20 per cent from the  
rates of duty under the Dingley law  
on all Cuban articles imported into  
the United States and a varying re-  
duction of from 20 to 40 per cent  
from the established Cuban duty on  
articles into Cuba from the United  
States. After the passage of the Cu-  
ban bill the senate agreed to the  
house resolution providing for a hol-  
iday recess from December 19 to Janu-  
ary 4.

When the senate convened Mr.  
Spooners spoke on the measure. He  
discussed the varying position of the  
opponents of the bill, and especially  
of the introduction of the Newlands  
resolution inviting Cuba to become a  
part of the United States, deprecating  
it and saying that he hoped it would  
be postponed indefinitely, because, he  
said, sometimes invitations are re-  
garded as commands.

Mr. Spooner also discussed the ef-  
fect of the adoption by Cuba of the  
Platt amendment as a part of the Cu-  
ban constitution and said it should  
remain there forever for Cuba's own  
protection, both as against foreign  
forces and against insurrection. He con-  
sidered that the Platt measure in no  
wise derogates from Cuba's independ-  
ence. He expressed the opinion that  
the United States owns the Isle of  
Pines. The Cubans also think they  
own it, he said, but we had not  
opened a bank account with the God-  
des of Liberty when we free Cuba.

Mr. Spooner spoke on the measure. He  
discussed the varying position of the  
opponents of the bill, and especially  
of the introduction of the Newlands  
resolution inviting Cuba to become a  
part of the United States, deprecating  
it and saying that he hoped it would  
be postponed indefinitely, because, he  
said, sometimes invitations are re-  
garded as commands.

Mr. Spooner also discussed the ef-  
fect of the adoption by Cuba of the  
Platt amendment as a part of the Cu-  
ban constitution and said it should  
remain there forever for Cuba's own  
protection, both as against foreign  
forces and against insurrection. He con-  
sidered that the Platt measure in no  
wise derogates from Cuba's independ-  
ence. He expressed the opinion that  
the United States owns the Isle of  
Pines. The Cubans also think they  
own it, he said, but we had not  
opened a bank account with the God-  
des of Liberty when we free Cuba.

Wreck of the Discovery Found.

SEATTLE, Wash.—A special dis-  
patch from Juneau says that the  
wreck of the steamer Discovery has  
been found. An Indian from Cross  
Sound found the wreck and brought  
the news to Juneau. The revenue  
cutter Rush has gone to the scene,  
taking the Indian as a guide.

Whole Sea is Disappearing.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The sea of  
Azof is disappearing and remarkable  
scenes are in course of enactment.  
At Taganrog the waters have receded  
to such an extent during the last five  
days that the bed of the sea is visible  
for a distance of thousands of feet.  
High winds hurled clouds of sand  
shoreward, covering the town. Ves-  
sels are lying high and dry and the  
greatest confusion prevails in the har-  
bor. Work in the factories has had  
to be reduced to a minimum.

Miners Are to Be Called Out.

ALTOONA, Pa.—National Secretary  
William B. Wilson and the district of-  
ficers of the United Mine Workers at  
a conference held here have decided  
to call a strike of the miners employ-  
ed by the Somerset Coal company be-  
cause of a reduction of 12 1/2 per cent  
in wages. The company has sixteen  
mines in the bituminous fields of west-  
ern Pennsylvania. It is not known  
whether the miners will obey the or-  
der, as many would rather continue at  
work at reduced wages.

Petition for Receiver Denied.

NEWARK, N. J.—The application  
of the Mercantile Trust company for  
the appointment of a receiver for the  
United States Shipbuilding company  
was denied by United States Judge  
Kirkpatrick.

Crime in Paris.

PARIS.—The local police have com-  
pleted gathering of statistics relating  
to crime in Paris. During the year  
ended December 1, a total of 70,000  
cases occupied their attention.

## News in Brief

The latest reports estimate that the  
cotton crop of China will be 70 per  
cent of the average.

Senator Albert J. Beveridge has  
been given the degree of doctor of  
laws by DePaul university.

The postoffice at Altham, Ark.,  
was burglarized and registered pack-  
ages containing \$2,000 are missing.

A dispatch to a London news agency  
from Monte Carlo announces the  
death there of Baron Arthur de Roths-  
child.

The town of Abbott, Tex., was al-  
most wiped out by fire. Fifteen build-  
ings were destroyed, entailing a loss  
of \$75,000.

Edward Larkin, who killed Harvey  
Bardonnar at Salina, Kas., on October  
23 last, was found guilty of murder  
in the second degree.

The charter of the Houston, Beau-  
mont & Northern Railroad company  
has been approved by the attorney  
general of Texas and recorded in the  
depository at Austin.

Building contractors from nearly ev-  
ery large city in the country met in  
Chicago to form a national associa-  
tion. The labor unions were the prin-  
cipal topic of discussion.

After eighteen months of litigation  
the case of the National Salt company  
against the United States Salt com