

The Alexandria, A FIRE TREE. a splendid six-story department house in Chicago, was set on fire by a belated Christmas tree illumination on December 29th, 1901, and totally destroyed. The Chicago Tribune of the 30th thus speaks of this blaze:

"It seemed as if the whole building was in flames a minute after the first alarm," said M. Moulton, the day elevator boy. "Everybody got out, but some had close calls."

"Mrs. Heiner had just lighted the candles on the Christmas tree," said Paul Kennedy, "and the next anyone knew the whole tree and part of the room were on fire."

Owned by Mathieson Estate.

The building belonged to the estate of F. O. Mathieson, who died in Paris last year. Dunlap, Smith & Co. were the agents and sent word to all the tenants that they would be cared for in another building at Fifty-fifth street and Monroe avenue, unless otherwise provided for.

The Alexandria was erected shortly before the World's Fair by the Hyde Park Gas company and was largely of wood interior. The loss on the building was estimated at \$40,000, fully insured. The property lost by the tenants was estimated at \$20,000. The majority carried insurance. L. Well, a furrier and woman's tailor, fixed his loss at \$40,000, while W. S. Best, who conducted a delicatessen, placed his loss at \$1,000. Both carried full insurance.

Christmas trees are more ignitable than Christmas stockings. The incineration of all the enumerated property above and the jeopardizing of three score of human lives could never have been brought about by just hanging up stockings.

During the year RAILROADS. nineteen hundred and one there have been constructed in the United States more than five thousand miles of new lines of railroad. And yet we are informed by many gifted populists that there is no prosperity in the United States.

Farming lands have in the year enhanced in value from ten to forty per cent all over Nebraska, and yet there is no thrift nor health in us.

Corn, cattle, hogs, sheep and horses are at the highest kind of figures and money is borrowable at the lowest rates ever known in America, and yet "the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer," say the oracles of Bryanarchy.

And now if Capital and Labor come to an amicable agreement and no more fighting comes between them, and strikes are forever abolished, what will the malcontents, the vagarists and the populists do for ammunition?

The Conservative THE WESTERN OIL ASSOCIATION. notes with great satisfaction the prosperity of the Western Oil Association, located at Denver, Colorado, and of which Mr. C. M. Hicklin, born and raised in Nebraska City, and son-in-law of Mr. Geo. W. Hawke, is a very active, prominent and useful member. This company, it seems, has oil enough to grease the axles of all the business of all the world. Its properties are in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico. They seem to offer a fine opportunity for conservative investments.

To use the power SUBSIDIES. to tax by levying upon all the people to raise money to donate to a few of the people, is an injustice and an outrage. It makes no difference for what such a tax and the gift may be made. It is no better, no more just, when bestowed upon manufacturers than when it is given to a syndicate of shipbuilders, or sugar-factory-building.

All federal and all state taxation ought to be exclusively for public purposes. A tax laid for any other than a public purpose, ought to be declared inimical to the general welfare and void because not laid in accord with the spirit and letter of a democratic form of government. When will American courts so hold with righteous unanimity?

THE MEMORIAL TO WM. L. WILSON.

When Hon. Wm. L. Wilson, of West Virginia, died, he was president of Washington and Lee University, Va., and it was proposed to raise \$100,000 to endow a chair of economics in that institution in his memory. Ex-President Cleveland, in whose second cabinet Mr. Wilson had been Postmaster General, gave \$1,000, and the fund has grown until it has reached more than \$95,000. It is considered that the memorial is assured, and it is well. In this generation there has been in public life no higher type of man than Mr. Wilson. A scholar, a gentleman, a patriot, a thinker, despising the ways of the demagogue and trimmer, he saw the sound principles for which he stood lose popularity. A man of principle, and knowing that he was right, as subsequent events have demonstrated that he was, he refused to bow before the storm of passion, snapped his fingers in the face of an insane popular clamor, and retired from public position, ending his days in honor and dignity and usefulness in the congenial atmosphere of an old and honorable educational institution. No man of the generation deserves more than the Hon. William L. Wilson a perpetual memorial. Character united with ability to make him great.—Charlotte Observer.

NEW BUILDING PLANNED.

The Department of Agriculture has for many years been insufficiently provided with house-room, and its valuable collections insecurely stored in all kinds of temporary and leased quarters. Mr. Mercer of Omaha introduced on the 18th of December the following bill, designed to remedy this defect:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Agriculture be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause a suitable and commodious fireproof building, for the use and accommodation of the Department of Agriculture, to be erected within the District of Columbia on such portion of the grounds of the Department of Agriculture, belonging to the United States, as he may deem expedient, said building to be constructed in accordance with the approved plans heretofore secured in pursuance of the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March second, nineteen hundred and one, and he is hereby authorized, after due advertisement for proposals, to enter into contracts within the limit of cost hereby fixed, and subject to appropriations to be made by Congress, for the erection of said building complete, including heating apparatus, elevators, and approaches, and the removal of the present building or buildings of the Department of Agriculture on said grounds.

SEC. 2. That the supervision of the construction of said building shall be placed in charge of an officer of the Government especially qualified for the duty, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to the approval of the head of the Department in which such officer is employed, who shall receive for his additional services an increase of twenty-five per centum of his present salary, such increase to be paid out of the appropriation for the building herein authorized.

SEC. 3. That the limit of cost for the construction of said building complete, including heating apparatus, elevators, and approaches, and the removal of the present building or buildings of the Department of Agriculture is hereby fixed at two million dollars, and no contract shall be entered into or expenditure authorized in excess of said amount.

Mr. Bryan is as true to his fallacies as was Mrs. Micawber to the unhappy Wilkins. He will never desert them, even though every other citizen turn against them. Mr. Bryan is rapidly assuming the attitude of the one juror who could not find a verdict owing to the obstinacy of the other eleven.—Montana Record.

STOPS THE COUGH AND WORKS OFF THE COLD.

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