HAS TROUBLES OF HIS OWN

George Ridenour Again Attracts Police Attention.

MYSTERIOUSLY SHOT IN RIGHT BREAST

Alleges the Shooting Was Done by an Old Enemy, but the Police Think He Did it Himself.

The tribulations of George Ridenour, who lives in a humble dwelling at 1023 North Twenty-first street, appear to have no end. Ridenour now lies seriously wounded at the Presbyterian hospital, all due, so he asserts, to the murderous hand of Billy Atkins, whom Ridenour claims would win the affections of Nellie Ridenour away from the keeping of her lawful spouse.

Early Sunday morning, some time between 4 o'clock and 4:30, a woman who lives in the house next door to Ridenour was awakened by some person pounding on the back door. Unbarring the door, she discovered Ridenour upon the step outside. He was bleeding profusely from a bullet wound in his left breast, and told his neighbor that he believed his end was near at hand.

Other persons arrived upon the scene and Ridenour was taken into his house and the police telephoned for. Upon the arrival of the patrol wagon Ridenour was found to be very weak from loss of blood, but not too feeble to talk. His story is rather a curious one and bears certain features which lead the police to believe that the wounded man is possessed of a vivid imagination.

Ridenour occupies two rooms at the number given and has been keeping bachelor's quarters since his wife deserted him about three months ago. He said he returned home Saturday night about 11 o'clock, and after sewing some buttons on his trousers and attending to some other little domestic duties made necessary by the leavetaking of his better half he retired.

HIS DOUBTFUL STORY.

About 4 o'clock he alleges he was visited by a dream. He thought his worst enemy, Billy Atkins, he who has been trifling with Mrs. Ridenour's affections, had him by the throat. He was slowly but surely shutting off the dreamer's supply of atmosphere. Ridenour says he finally awakened and as he was about to fall asleep once more he thought he detected a noise. It appeared to issue from a cupboard a few feet away from the bed. With nerves at a tension again he walked with noiseless tread toward it. He asserts that the door of the cupboard then flew open and that two ruffians fell upon him. They fought about the room until the air grew thick and the furniture cut capers as if tossed upon a Kansas cyclone. Then one of the men, whom Ridenour swears was Billy Atkins, drew a revolver and fired three shots at him. The third bullet took effect in the right breast, a short distance below the nipple. Stunned by the shot, Ridenour dropped to the floor and his assailants escaped. As soon as he recovered consciousness he crawled to the door of his nearest neighbor and asked for assistance.

Upon being taken to the station City Surgeon Blythin decided to have Ridenour removed to the Presbyterian hospital, and a few hours later a successful operation for the removal of the bullet was performed. Ridenour at last accounts was resting easy and will undoubtedly recover.

The police visited the home of Ridenour yesterday morning and found many things which discredit his highly colored story. His house is one of a series of cheap frame flats, all of which are occupied. Tenants upon either side of the flat occupied by Ridenour say that they saw no stranger about the premises Saturday night, nor heard any noises which would indicate that assassins were abroad.

HIS TARGET PRACTICE.

Upon the wall of the rear room, one of the two which Ridenour occupies, was found the lithograph of a woman's head, a picture such as is employed in advertising a certain brand of cigarettes. A bull's eye had been marked upon the neck of the picture and several bullet holes indicated that Ridenour has been indulging in a little target practice. The police believe that Ridenour either accidentally shot himself and then blamed the deed upon his enemy in order to gain sympathy, or else purposely did so in order to win back the affections of his wife. It is thought he made a miscalculation in firing the shot and wounded himself more seriously than he had intended.

ATKINS UNDER ARREST.

The police started on a still hunt for Atkins early yesterday morning and succeeded in locating him at Mrs. Boyle's boarding house, 106 South Eleventh street. He was locked up at the station on a charge of being a suspicious character. Atkins says he can prove a complete alibi as to his wanderings Saturday night by no less than seven persons.

Ridenour and his wife have had trouble for nearly six months past. The woman left him about three months ago on account of nonsupport. Ridenour alleges that he has been waylaid by Atkins several times before, once early in the spring, when Atkins is said to have met him at the rear of his residence and to have fired a shot which lodged in a bunch of Ridenour's memorandum books, and again a week ago last Sunday, when Ridenour called at 106 South Eleventh street for the purpose of seeing his wife. He was met at the door of the woman's room by Atkins and another person named Tom Flynn and was thrown into the street. For this Atkins was arrested and at the instance of Ridenour was charged with shooting with intent to kill. Atkins was bound over to the district court by Judge Gordon in bonds of $500 and was awaiting trial when the last trouble came up.

Flatulency is cured by Beecham's Pills.

Mysterious Explosion.

A loud explosion was heard around the city last night shortly after 10 o'clock. It was at first thought to be the gas works, but inquiry at that place failed to throw any light upon the subject. The explosion was heard as far west as Benson, but inquiries at that point failed to elicit any information. Frequently the blowing in of a furnace at the smelting works causes a loud report, but those in charge of the plant stated that the explosion had not come from that place. No reports of any damage or injury to persons were reported in the city last night.

John J. Daly is Improving.

NEW YORK, April 18.—John J. Daly, the millionaire mine owner of Salt Lake City, who is at Roosevelt hospital recovering from an operation performed for appendicitis, is steadily improving.

The Fastest Time to Denver

is made by the Burlington's "Denver Limited."

Leaves Omaha later and arrives in Denver earlier than any train of any other line.

Carries sleeping, dining and free chair cars. Makes only 11 stops in 538 miles. Runs ON TIME over a superb track.

Leaves Omaha, 4:35 p. m.
Arrives at Denver, 7:15 a. m.
Tickets and berths at 1502 Farnam street.

More Evidence Against Kelley.

SOMMERSWORTH, N. H., April 18.—The police here obtained further strong evidence connecting Joseph Kelley with the murder of Cashier Stickney last Friday.

Homeseekers' Excursion.

On Tuesday, April 20th, the Missouri Pacific railway will sell round trip tickets at very low rates to certain points in the south, southwest and southeast. Stopovers allowed on the going journey. For information, land folders, pamphlets, etc., call or address company's office, 13th and Farnam, or depot, 15th and Webster streets, Omaha, Neb. T. F. GODFREY, P. & T. A.
J. O. PHILLIPPI, A. G. F. & P. A.

California

is best and quickest reached via the Union Pacific. 16 hours quicker than any other line.

City Ticket Office, 1302 Farnam St.

EASTER SERVICES AT FREMONT.

Churches Prepare and People Attend Some Elaborate Celebrations.

FREMONT, April 18.—(Special.)—The beautiful weather, fine musical programs and impressive services brought out a large attendance at all the churches today. The floral decorations were much more elaborate than usual, and last evening flowers could not be procured at any place in town. Centennial lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, attended the Baptist church in a body and the building was crowded long before the time for services. The decorations of lilies and potted plants were very tastefully arranged. At the Congregational church a large bank of lilies, geraniums and potted plants extended across the chancel. In front of the pulpit was a beautiful calla with Easter lilies on either side. The music was by the church quartet, assisted by Tony Plambeck, violinist. At the Catholic church early mass was said at 7 o'clock and solemn high mass was celebrated by Father Mugan at 10:30. The attendance was large at both services. Mount Tabor commandery, Knights Templar, attended the services at St. James Episcopal church. The musical program was excellent and the floral decorations showed much taste in their arrangement. At the Presbyterian church a sunrise meeting was held at 6 a. m. The music was rendered by the choir, assisted by Phillip Bloomer, violinist. The services at the Christian, Methodist, Lutheran and other churches were also appropriate to the occasion. This evening the choirs of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches gave a praise concert at the Congregational church. The large audience room and the parlors which open into it were filled with an appreciative audience. At the Christian church a chorus of thirty five voices, under the direction of Prof Bliss of the Fremont Normal school rendered the cantata, "The Great Light," the life of Christ in song. Their tabernacle was well filled. The Odd Fellows attended the Methodist church in a body in the evening. The sermon by Rev. F. M. Sisson was to them especially and was listened to with marked attention.

MAKE CLAMS GIVE FORTH PEARLS.

Resident of North Loup is Experimenting in a Marvelous Project.

NORTH LOUP, Neb., April 18.—(Special.)—A resident of this city who has a leaning toward scientific investigation in matters relating to natural history, but who desires his name withheld from the public for the present, believes he has instituted a series of experiments that may contain the germ of fabulous wealth, and, apparently, too, from what would at first sight appear to be a very unpromising source. His idea is to utilize the rusty-looking fresh-water clam as a producer of pearls by performing a simple but delicate surgical operation on the bivalve and to insert within the pearl-excreting tissues as a nucleus a small fragment of foreign matter around which the pearl is expected to be deposited. Although of rude form and repulsive exterior, some varieties of the clam have interiors of marvelous beauty, and even in a natural state it is possible to find such as have within them traces and even small grains of brilliant pearl, often encasing a small speck of grain of sand. Theoretically it is expected that the irritation caused by the presence of the artificially inserted body will occasion a rapid deposit of the pearly matter, and it is also believed that the pearls can be given any desired color or tint by using as the nucleus brilliant scarlet, green or gold-colored glass beads of small size, the semi-transparent nature of the pearl allowing the color or tint to appear through the deposit. In case the experiments are successful, the industry can readily be developed to any desired extent, since the clams are very prolific and are found in early summer covered with myriads of eggs. These can be cared for artificially and rapidly grow to a large size. They are said to be large enough for treatment the second season after hatching, and the mud at the bottom of any slough where water stood the year round would make an ideal "clammery," and no attention in the way of feeding, etc., would be necessary.

Notes from Bellevue.

BELLEVUE, Neb., April 18.—(Special.)—An Easter social was given at the residence of Dr. D. R. Kerr Saturday evening under the auspices of the Clover Leaf club, to raise funds toward defraying the Sabbath school debt. A fish pond and a "peanut hunt" afforded abundant entertainment for the evening. Several musical and literary numbers added to the evening's enjoyment.

Arbor day exercises were held at the public school Friday morning. Appropriate addresses, declamations, etc., were delivered, after which a number of trees were planted. The pupils enjoyed a half holiday in the afternoon. Saturday, instead of the usual routine of school work, the students of Bellevue college spent the morning beautifying the college campus by planting trees in various places.

Certificates of election were issued this week by the village board to the successful candidates in the late election. There was some question who would be the fifth member of the board owing to the tie between Messrs. Kayser and O'Neal, but the former withdrew in favor of Mr. O'Neal, so the village council, Messrs. Buel Larson, Burtch, Lewis and O'Neal, was declared duly elected. The first meeting of the new board will be held the first week in May.

Miss Josephine Biart of Omaha spent several days with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Biart, this week.

William Thompson of Kansas City is spending Easter with his mother.

Reward for Church Desecrators.

DECATUR, Neb., April 18.—(Special.)—The members of the Episcopal church of this place have offered a reward of $25 for the detection of the culprits who entered their church one night this week and demolished several pieces of church furniture. Not only the members, but the whole town, are indignant over the affair, and if the guilty parties are caught they will be given the full extent of the law.

A mammoth tree was caught in the river here yesterday. It had to be sawed up into logs in the water. Five logs, averaging twelve feet in length and three and one-half feet through, were taken off of the main body of the tree, besides a number of smaller ones. The tree measured from butt to top about 175 feet.

The ferryboat "Queen of Omaha No. 2," which stranded on a bar Thursday afternoon, swung clear yesterday evening a little before sundown. A slight rise in the river helped to get it off.

Gets After Tax Shirkers.

FREMONT, Neb., April 18.—(Special.)—According to the instructions of the county board, Treasurer Nelson has issued a large number of distress warrants for the collection of delinquent personal taxes, and delivered them to the sheriff. An examination of these warrants shows quite an interesting condition of affairs. Many of them are against people who are very poor, and who cannot possibly pay the amounts they owe the county. Many others and those which aggregate the largest sum are against people who live in considerable style, spend plenty of money and are apparently well-to-do. One is against a man who draws a salary of $2,000 per year, and who has paid no personal taxes for eight years. The sheriff proposes to show no mercy to the latter class.

Plant Trees Around Dunbar.

DUNBAR, Neb., April 18.—(Special.)—More fruit trees have been planted by the farmers in this vicinity than ever before in one season. Not only trees, but small fruits of every variety are being planted.

There is quite a contest between some of the republicans over the postoffice. The present incumbent, C. H. Wilson, is a republican and has the endorsement not only of his own partisans, but also of the community.

Funeral of Mrs. Nolan.

BELLEVUE, Neb., April 18.—(Special.)—Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the residence, after which the remains of the late Mrs. John Nolan were taken to South Omaha for interment. The deceased had resided here for many years and had won the esteem of friends and neighbors. She leaves a husband and six children to mourn her loss.

Stranger Killed on the Track.

ROGERS, Neb., April 18.—(Special Telegram.)—Train No. 2 on the Union Pacific ran over and instantly killed a man about a mile east of here this afternoon. The man was a stranger. In his pockets was found the name and address, Dave Powers, Chillicothe, O. An inquest will be held at Fremont at 10 o'clock Monday morning.

Plowing Up Fall Wheat.

DUNBAR, Neb., April 18.—(Special.)—The fall wheat that was winter killed, about one-third of the acreage, is being plowed up and will be planted with corn. The spring wheat that was sown this spring is up nice, and promises a good yield.

Nebraska News Notes.

The Madison creamery is to be started up again.

The new creamery at Burwell is now in operation.

Wayne is making an effort to secure a telepaone system.

Three eagles were shot near Niobrara during the past week.

The Review is the name of a new paper just started at Rogers.

Mills Brothers of Gordon sowed 1,000 acres of wheat this spring.

The St. Paul creamery has been refitted and is now in operation.

The Gretna creamery is now completed and ready for business.

It is said there is now 1,000,000 bushels of corn cribbed in Platte county.

The town of Burchard has all its debts paid and money in the treasury.

A new paper, called the Sun, has been started at Whitman, Grant county.

Fred Oswald of Wood River has purchased 10,000 sheep which he proposes to feed.

People all over Nebraska are setting out more fruit trees this year than ever before.

The town of Hershey is contemplating voting bonds to build a bridge across the Platte river.

The Fremont school board has decided to abolish the commercial course in the High school.

A good hotel is needed in O'Neill and a united effort is being made by the business men to secure one.

Reports from many parts of the state are to the effect that alfalfa is badly winter-killed, particularly on high ground.

A thief entered a Bradshaw house and stole eighteen pounds of bacon and took the gasoline stove along to cook it with.

The village board of DeWitt has paid Mrs. Hood $249.75 and saved a law suit. Mrs. Hood was hurt on a dilapidated sidewalk.

Elk Creek was the only town in Johnson county that voted in favor of granting license for the sale of liquors during the ensuing year.

The late J. T. Hedrick willed $200 to the trustees of the Tecumseh Cemetery association, the income on which is to be perpetually devoted to keeping his lot in repair.

W. C. Lindley of Cerecso says that from the thirty sows which he started in with one year ago he has sold $1,130 worth of hogs, killed enough for meat for his family one year and has forty-one sows left.

C. M. Miller of Tecumseh attempted to split wood the first of the week. The ax became entangled in the clothes line and in descending it struck Mr. Miller in the head, causing a severe scalp wound.

C. Lerum of Plainview has in his possession a curiosity in the way of a calf, which was born blind. The eyes are in their right position, but in place of the eyeball there is a light glossy substance. At last accounts it was alive and doing nicely.

W. G. Boston of David City has so far recovered from his self-inflicted sword wound that he was removed to the Asylum for the Insane at Lincoln, Tuesday. Sheriff Derby and D. C. Reynolds accompanied the patient to Lincoln.

John Williams, an inmate of the Fillmore county poor house, died at that institution Monday evening as the result of a fall down a stairway into the cellar, a distance of nine or ten feet. It was purely accidental and no blame attaches to anyone.

Yesterday County Attorney Butler of Holt county received $250 from Howard Miller of Battle Creek, Neb., to apply on the judgment obtained against the first term bondsmen of Barrett Scott. The total amount so far received from the bondsmen is $2,000, leaving a balance of $3,800.

About 6 o'clock one evening recently some sneak thief entered N. M. Nelson's hardware store at Plainview and got away with about $20. Herb Baldwin had locked the store and gone to supper, and was only gone about thirty minutes, but that was long enough for the thief to do the job.

The Battle Creek Creamery company recently got in from Texas 346 head of young razorback hogs. This is the largest bunch of this peculiar breed of hogs ever brought to this locality at one time. They are supposed to be proof against cholera and other infectious diseases from which the common hog family suffers.

EXCURSION SOUTH

Via the Wabash.

On Tuesday, Apr. 20th, the Wabash will sell round trip tickets to nearly all points south at very low rates. For tickets, timetables and further information call at Wabash office, 1415 Farnam street (Paxton Hotel block), or write.

G. N. CLAYTYON, Agent.

Six-Thirty P. M. Train,
of the
CHICAGO,
MILWAUKEE
& ST. PAUL RY.
Best service,
ELECTRIC LIGHTS,
Dining car.
City office: 1504 Farnam.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

John Riher, Boston, is at the State.

Clint B. Slater of Denver is a Barker guest.

C. R. Lee, Lincoln, is stopping at the Mercer.

J. H. Harvey, Chicago, is registered at the State.

M. G. Swan, Sheridan, Wyo., is a guest at the Mercer.

J. K. Longnecker of Des Moines is registered at the Barker.

George J. Coddington, Fremont, is registered at the Mercer.

Charles Crate and wife, Lincoln, are guests of the Mercer.

Miss Jeannette Hunt of St. Louis is the guest of Mrs. Heth for a few days.

General W. W. Lowe left last evening for a short business trip to Chicago.

W. B. Edmunds of Chicago, who has been in the city for a few days, left last night for Kansas City.

J. E. Blair, who has been visiting friends in this city for a short period, left for St. Louis last night.

W. H. Kelly, Akron; Miss C. Murphy, Nebraska City, and Emil Noel, Lincoln, are Nebraskans stopping at the State.

Mrs. R. B. Beall, who has been visiting in this city for a short period, left last night for her home in Washington, D. C.

James T. Kelley, Miss Effie George, Dorothy Carter and Arthur Schorcht of the "Baggage Check" company are stopping at the Mercer.

L. M. Bennett, accompanied by his wife, returned home last evening from a several months' sojourn in Las Vegas, N. M., where he has been in search of health.

Clarence Buckingham, one of the directors of the Rio Grande & Southern, was in the city yesterday while en route to Chicago from a tour over the lines of the company.

Herman Kountze, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Gertrude Kountze, left last evening for New York City, where they will visit the family of Luther Kountze. Miss Kountze leaves for Europe shortly to spend a year abroad.

W. S. Butterfield, proprietor; George Chenet, Bert Marcus, Charles E. Grapewin and wife, Thomas Evans, Fred D. E. Noe, J. H. Marcus, Anna Chance, Kittie Wolf, Nettie Black, Walter Johnson, Ed McNeil and the three Franchenetti sisters are members of "A Baggage Check" company quartered at the Barker.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

A small prairie fire out near old Fort Omaha was the cause of a fire alarm being turned in to the fire department last evening. No damage.

Pearl Corey, a domestic aged 18 years, who has been employed by the family of J. D. Wood, 1612 Burt street, was yesterday removed to the Methodist hospital. She was suffering from typhoid fever.

MORE SETTLED AND HOPEFUL

Improvement in Monetary Condition is Steady and Persistent.

REFORM OF THE PAPER MONEY SYSTEM

Henry Clews Suggests that There Should Be No Unnecessary Delay in Setting the Wheels of Reform in Motion.

NEW YORK, April 18.—Henry Clews, head of the banking house of Henry Clews & Co., writes as follows:

Owing to the interruption of the Good Friday holiday, the past week has been a broken one in Wall street affairs. Two non-business days between now and next week have caused some postponement of buying operations and encouraged selling by the "bears;" but the stock market has notwithstanding shown a healthy tone and a somewhat firmer tendency in prices.

Upon the whole, the investment market is steadily working toward more settled and hopeful conditions. So far as respects factors which affect financial confidence the change within the last few months has been much greater than is generally understood or credited. Up to last November the most intense anxiety prevailed as to the outcome of the silver question in the election. The result of the national vote was to veto free coinage and provide an interval of four years for the further exposure of that danger and for devising means for the final adjustment of the money question upon a sound and wholesome basis. This week, the president has appointed a commission to make proposals to the European governments with a view to reaching a settlement of this disturbing element through the creation of a system of international bimetallism. At present it would be premature to say what are the chances for bringing about another convention, or of such a convention agreeing upon a plan of international co-operation; but even should neither be accomplished the effect will be a large contribution toward a final disposal of our own silver question, for the failure would deprive the silver party of its most conservative and influential element, the intelligent element, the intelligent bimetallists, and composed of free coinage advocates pure and simple, that faction would stand more than ever discredited before the country and deprived of a very essential element of political support. In this respect, therefore, the financial situation has, within the last few months, entered upon a much more hopeful phase.

PAPER MONEY SYSTEM.

In the broader monetary question—the reconstruction of our paper money system—the drift is toward a careful and thorough consideration of the whole problem. The action of the executive and of congress in this matter may not have been so prompt or so definite as to satisfy the more zealous reformers, but there is nothing to suggest any serious misgivings as to the readiness of the administration to bring this question to the front so soon as matters deemed more immediately important have been disposed of. Whether the question may be approached through the appointment of a commission of experts, or directly by the independent action of congress, is comparatively immaterial. If the reform is to be initiated through a commission, there must be a delay of several months in reaching congressional action; and, even then, congress might be expected to follow the recommendations of the commission only so far as its proposals might conform with their existing preconceptions. But, in any case, the taking up of this question for legislation is probably only a matter of a few months. The administration and congress fully comprehend the supreme importance which the best public opinion of the country attaches to this issue, and undue postponement or superficial treatment of it is simply inconceivable, partisan misrepresentations to the contrary notwithstanding. Here, again, is a most valuable gain in the financial situation as compared with the chaotic conditions existing five months ago; which appeals very directly to our foreign credit.

A similar improvement is to be noted in such aspects of foreign affairs as have a bearing upon our investments. Affairs in Cuba have ceased to attract attention on the Stock exchange, and the fact that the administration has decided upon a policy of non-intervention has removed the feverish apprehension that for months has kept Wall street in a state of tension. So with respect to the unsettled feeling that has existed in connection with the possibility that a European conflict might grow out of the hostile relations between Turkey and Greece. Those complications are now entering upon a new and, it may be hoped, less critical phase. So long as the powers were occupied with compulsions intended to avert violences which might run into the most serious complications, there was an indefinable danger which produced caution in every direction. Now that a war between Turkey and Greece seems quite possible, Russia, speaking presumably for the powers at large, declares that in case of such a war, the concert of the powers will cease its present active intervention and simply wait for results, with the fixed purpose of preventing either of the belligerents which may be responsible for starting the struggle from receiving any advantage from victory. This threat is likely to keep both Turkey and Greece careful about initiating hostilities, and will afford an opportunity for the two countries to settle their disputes peacefully. The result is that, in spite of the belligerent news that comes from the camps of the opposed armies, the opinion is gaining ground in the highest banking circles of Europe—than which there is no better source of knowledge—that these dangerous complications will find a settlement without a widespread war. This is an important gain upon the disturbing political situation that has existed for many weeks past.

CONDITIONS ARE IMPROVED.

The foregoing factors show a most important amelioration of a set of conditions which have been holding financial interests in paralyzing suspense for some months past. So far as these conditions have been domestic—relating, for instance, to silver and currency reforms—these ameliorations have had a direct tendency to elevate our credit abroad; but that result has failed to affect the European demand for our investments, because all the foreign bourses have been alarmed by the events in eastern Europe. The removal of this latter cause of disturbance would therefore be calculated to bring about a revival of our exports of securities. Taking a broad view of the outlook, there is thus reason to hope that the conditions influencing financial operations are entering upon a more normal and hopeful phase. After such a long run of severe experiences as we have passed through, a pessimistic habit of feeling becomes established which prevents the approach of better conditions from being distinctly foreseen or fully appreciated; and, for that reason, the situation of today and the tendencies reaching into the future are far from being credited with all the promise that lies in them. For my own part, I have every confidence that we are now squarely on the way toward a solid recovery and a great revival in all our national interests. The ease in money, the abundance of our stock of gold, the rising drift of credit, and the gradual recovery in the commercial markets are working together to give effect to the hopeful influences above cited.

GIGANTIC STOCK GAMBLING POOL.

Chicago Syndicate Places Immense Sums with New York Operators.

NEW YORK, April 18.—Chicago interests have been more in evidence in Wall street's stock market during the last week than at any time for a long while. Early in the week Chicago sold two of the granger stocks—St. Paul and Burlington—largely. Later tremendous transactions made in Chicago Gas were also set down to the account of Chicago. Wall street has it that a pool with several hundred thousand dollars in hand has made a deposit here for stock market purposes, and has identified with it as manipulative representatives some of the most adroit traders in this city. In one Wall street office $250,000 is said to have been placed at the disposal of a single operator, whose resort to Chicago principals is not to be made until thirty days have elapsed.

Incidental to this arrangement it is said that the New York trader has wagered with the Chicago parties $50,000 that he can pay 100 per cent profit on their investments within a month. This $50,000 bet means practically a guaranty of one-fifth of the amount deposited, the same operator wagering another $50,000 that he can show the 100 per cent made at the end of a fortnight—which will be about the 1st of May—the latter wager, however, involving a contract by which, in addition to the big commissions he will earn, the broker is to be entitled to one-half of all the profits made after the fortnight if the 100 per cent be shown. This is gambling on rather a larger scale than has appeared in Wall street quarters for some time past.

It is, however, stated upon what seems to be good authority that the $250,000 deposited with this particular broker is but one-third of the money sent here from Chicago. In the Chicago pool are mentioned the names of conspicuous business men who have not in recent years figured in any prominent way in Wall street.

MARKET SHOWS A SCARE.

The operations of this pool were for the first time disclosed on the Stock exchange on Wednesday, when the market was given a stampede at its opening. During the two or three previous days the general short interest in the market had been considerably frightened. Particularly in Sugar trust and in Chicago Gas this scare had been sufficient to give the market an upward impetus of consequence enough to make prices of not lately reached. Chicago Gas was especially prominent in this way. It got up around 85. The street was full of cheerful anticipations that the stock, relieved of old-time embarrassments, was on its way to par. New York insiders have for some time past been confident that the property was to be quit of its bad name and get into investment boxes and away from its long career of harum-scarum speculativeness.

In this dispatch last Sunday I quoted Governor Flower on this scare, he being recognized as the financial head of the property now. Governor Flower's confidence was not expressed in halting language. He said then, and says now, that the property is earning the dividends it pays, that it is superior to any threatened competition, that its output is larger than before, that its earnings are materially improved, and sure to be maintained. It is not questioned in Wall street that Governor Flower is sincere in making these statements. It is not questioned in Wall street that the property free from attack will command investment confidence here.

But freedom from attack does not yet seem to have been reached. Thousands of shares of stock were thrown on the market during the opening hour of Wednesday and the price was knocked down in a fifty when along came a dispatch from a private Chicago wire announcing a plan to cut down the price of gas to Illinois municipalities to 60 cents a thousand. Wall street was caught unprepared for this attack—for an attack is what Wall street considers it. There seemed to be an endless volume of stock to be marketed. Rumors began to accumulate suggesting that the stock was sold for the account of insiders, that the controllers of the property were liquidating, that the politicians of Illinois were in battle array marching face on toward the Gas trust treasury.

PROFESSIONALS TURN BEAR.

Official assurances did not get much attention. All the professional talent in Wall street flopped over to the bear side at once. The Chicago pool was credited with taking in at a 2 point profit 15,000 or 20,000 shares of stock sold before the first attack was made. It has since been playing a waiting game, so far as is shown by any surface developments.

Chicago's interest in the attack upon Sugar was second only to its Chicago Gas onslaught. It would probably be an overestimate to represent that more than one-third of the Sugar stock sold was for Chicago, but that amount is within a reasonable calculation. The Chicago selling of that dynamite speculty seemed also to be much more careful than the plunging transactions made in Gas, though the New York traders in Sugar were not less confident of their position on the bear side of Sugar than Chicago was on its local favorite.

No particular news has come out in Sugar trust affairs. The stock has been much overbought. Everbody had a point to buy, and most people with margins to risk have taken on a line on the theory that whatever congress does in a tariff way will be acceptable to the trust—acceptable meaning profitable. It begins to leak out, however, that on the inside of the trust there are some spirited discussions—two or three of the conspicuous millionaire managers wrangling with one another as to the trust's business policy. Some experiments made have proved to be exceeding unprofitable, especially a scheme which proposes the conversion of refuse sugar strips into a product such as the Whisky trust makes. This project has been very expensive.

TROUBLE GROWS SERIOUS.

One clique in the trust made an issue on the further waste of money on such account and over this a row sprang up, a result of which is that a director who is recognized as the representative of a big holder of the trust's securities became so much exercised that he threatened to resign, sell out all of his interests and quit the company for good, charging that honesty in business was not possible where Wall street influence was such that it had continually to be consulted. There is something to be said on a proposition of this kind—something perhaps not altogether complimentary. Sugar trust stock was around 112 when suggestions of this row among insiders came unguardedly to Wall street on Tuesday. Two or three points were knocked off of the quotation as soon as business began on Wednesday, and transactions in Sugar trust stock have since been discouraging to speculators on the long side with their margins. Important men in Wall street—veteran observers—will be badly fooled if Sugar trust quotation does not sooner get down around par.

It is an abnormal market where two or three stocks attract so much attention and monopolize so much of the stock exchange activity as have Sugar trust and Chicago Gas stocks. Among other things it makes plain the disproportion of public interest to speculation in the stock market. The truth is Wall street has none. Commission houses stay empty, commission brokers do no business for old customers; at the most, their earnings are from such crumbs as may fall from the table of the half dozen speculative cliques fighting one another.

European war rumors have been much in evidence, and in the early part of the week they promised to be dominant in making the course of the market. It was on the only occasion only recently when two from abroad—Wednesday—the European cables lost all their influence, incidental to the entrance of the new Chicago pool into the stock exchange activity.

NO TARIFF BILL FOR MONTHS.

Not much attention is given to Washington. Wall street has come to the conclusion that no tariff bill will be enacted for months to come, though information reaching the street from high official sources promises much prompter action.

The anthracite coal stocks have been more or less conspicuous. Ardent efforts are being made in some quarters to make a bull movement in Delaware & Hudson and Jersey Central. The street is full of "guff and bluff" by which manipulative insiders hope to lift quotations. But coal trade conditions are so bad that only a lunatic can entertain the notion that any of the anthracite coal roads are making money. Not one of them is earning the dividend it pays. This sounds like a sweeping statement. It is quite within the facts. I believe it would be quite safe to aver that not one of them is earning one-half the dividend it pays. Outside of Lackawanna I do not believe they are earning any dividend at all. Jersey Central, as I figure it out, is earning a deficit. That poor, overbonded stock is in pitable shape. A group of adroit millionaires are caught loaded with it, having overstayed their market. Jersey Central quotations may not go down fast, but they cannot permanently be held up. An upward spurt might be attempted. In fact, every day there is some new and clever effort made on that account. But for itself and for one of its subsidiary properties the Jersey Central is confronted with a floating debt problem which simply smashes every scheme for its boosting. I really know of no opportunity in the whole stock market list which just as a mere investment seems to promise so sure and large a return as an investment in Jersey Central on the short side. I would not consider it a remarkable result to see 1,000 shares of short Jersey pay $25,000 before next Christmas. This is not bearishness. It is just mere cool calculation.

NORTHWESTERN REFUNDING NEXT.

Announcement has been made during the last week of details of the plan for refunding New York Central and the Harlem bond obligations by means of a mortgage close to that of the Lake Shore refunding plan. The result promised will be beneficial to an extent beyond what Wall street yet appreciates. Such advantages ignored now must eventually become consequential, however. They will be supplemented before long by a similar plan in Chicago & Northwestern, and for some of the other leading properties of the country. I am somewhat surprised to learn that the Lake Shore plan is not going as smoothly as was expected at the start. This, I had upon high authority a week ago, though until today I have not been at liberty to state it.

From the speculative standpoint most of the current advantages are with the bears. There seems to be no courageous or concerted effort attempted on the bull side. Traders on slim margins will do well, however, to keep in mind that though bearishness may promise profits, the market that Wall street now has is so narrow that the accumulated short interest can in any momentary scarce cause a twist that might be exceedingly uncomfortable.

H. ALLAWAY.

British Grain Trade Review.

LONDON, April 18.—The weather during the week has been wet, cold and unseasonable. The promise of the wheat crop is not equal to that of last year. Wheat in the market has been nervous and speculation was on a limited scale. The consumptive demand was only to supply urgent needs. Prices are 6d to 1s above the lowest recently quoted prices. California wheat nearly due was quoted at 29s 6d. Northern spring parcels, May and June delivery, were quoted at 29s. Flour was in poor demand, with a fair supply. Prices were 6d worse. Maize was steady; mixed American maize, destination, 12s 9d bid. Barley was firm; Azof afloat was quoted at 13s. Oats were firmer; American clipped oats, mixed April and May delivery, was quoted at 11s 3d per 420 pounds.

London Money Market.

LONDON, April 18.—Very large withdrawals of bullion from the Bank of England, most of which goes to Japan, have served to harden the money rates considerably during the last few days. Business on the Stock exchange has been small, though the prices for foreign securities have been generally well maintained. A feeling of general anxiety exists through all financial circles here. The outlook for mining shares is also gloomy, though investment stocks are fairly firm. Brazilians fell heavily on the vague rumors of the financial situation at Rio. South Americans are flat. The New York Central funding scheme was so effectually discounted that it has caused a fall instead of a rise. Americans generally are weak, though without special reason. Except in the case of the first-class securities, like Illinois Central, Pennsylvania and Lake Shore, the declines for the week range from ¾ to 1½ per cent.

CONDITION OF NEW YORK BANKS.

Increase in Cash About Equal to the Expansion of Loans.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The Financier says: According to the statement issued by the Associated banks of New York City for the week ended April 17 the clearing house institutions gained $1,532,500 in cash and increased their deposits $2,942,600. As loans expanded $1,475,900, the change in the deposit item agrees closely with the expansion in the other totals. The gain in cash, however, was not as large as the movements of the week had indicated. The flow of funds to this center has been unusually heavy during the past few days and despite the increase of $1,500,000 in loans the reserve is larger than at the close of business one week ago. It is not improbable that the loan increase represents the business of that period, as the demand for money is now at a low ebb and rates are establishing new records, especially in the call loan branch. A matter of some moment just at present is the course of foreign exchange. If the demand for gold on the part of Japan and Austria continues there is a strong probability that specie will be exported from the United States. The present exchange quotations are under the shipping point, but the drain on the Bank of England has resulted in a net loss of gold to that institution of not less than $10,000,000 within the past week, and there is nothing to indicate that it will abate to any extent soon. The movement from the United States, if gold is actually exported will not be on account of the trade conditions here, but will reflect rather the change in the Japan monetary standard and the war preparations in Europe. The domestic situation does not warrant exports at the present time, although continued importations of merchandise in heavy volume may reduce our foreign balance materially.

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

Features and Closing Prices of Saturday's Trading.

CHICAGO, April 17.—This was one of the record breaking days in the wheat market. That article closed, after an exciting day's business, at an advance of 4⅛c on the price it left off on Thursday. The heaviest and most successful of the local speculators in the business were on the buying side, and shorts were caught and badly squeezed. Other grain markets and provisions were comparatively dull. The strength of wheat came almost entirely from abroad.

Wheat was weak for about three minutes at the start, but soon got over that, and "strong," if applied to its subsequent condition, would hardly describe it. It became excited for a few minutes at a time on several occasions. May and July futures started within ¼c of each other, but as the rise in price which followed the weak start was approaching its climax, May shot ⅝c or more ahead of July, which gave rise to the idea that shorts in the former month were more numerous than had been supposed. May opened at from 69¾c down to 69⅝c, as compared with 69⅝c at the close of Thursday's session. It acted in an uncertain way for a few moments at around the prices named, and then commenced a struggle for the meager offerings, which in a little more than a quarter of an hour from the start had advanced May to 71⅝c and July to 71½c. At the bottom of the reasons for the advance was undoubtedly the bad accounts from the country about winter wheat prospects, but a stronger and more direct cause at the moment was the reports received from New York that foreigners were heavy buyers of wheat there. They were said to be taking both spot wheat and futures, and their inquiries for the cash article extended to Chicago. New York sales for export are reported on boatloads, some at an advance of 1c per quarter, equivalent to about 3¼c per bushel. The quantity said to have been sold there for export on Thursday was 421,000 bushels. Respectable in amount as those sales are, they fail to account for the sensational rise the traders in the pit to get hold of offerings as the session progressed. May was chiefly in demand, but July kept after it toward the close at a discount of about 1c per bushel. May sold from 71⅝c back to 71c, which was the recession after the first swell. After it rose again to 72c it had a second downturn to 71⅝c, but following that the reactions were slight, and its progress toward still higher prices persistent and irresistible. It rose in the end to 73¾c for May, and that was the price at the close.

Corn partook but slightly in the bullishness of wheat and it is not unlikely, judging by the readiness with which it responded to the opening weakness in that and that the market would have declined had not wheat been so sensationally strong. The improvement in the weather west forecasted larger receipts and offerings were fairly liberal for that reason. Exports amounted to 2,031,000 for two days. May opened ¼c lower at 23⅝c, sold at 23½c, and closed at 24¼c.

Just a fair business was transacted in oats. The market was firm, entirely a matter of sympathy with wheat. At the opening the tendency was toward weakness, but that disposition was soon nipped, as wheat did its high kicking act, and prices held firm for the rest of the session. May opened a shade lower at 16½c, sold at 16⅝@16¾c, and advanced to 17c, where it closed.

Provisions were only moderately active and advanced principally on account of the extreme bullishness in wheat. Packers had hard for sale every time it advanced over