MINING IN THE BLACK HILLS

Getting in Readiness for the Session of the Mining Congress.

IS TO BE INCORPORATED IN COLORADO

Chilkoot District Promises to Be Another Cripple Creek, Mines There Carrying the Same Kind of Ore.

DEADWOOD, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The executive committee of the American Mining congress met in Deadwood last Thursday for the purpose of drafting articles of incorporation and a constitution and bylaws. There were present at the meeting: Hon. J. A. Richards of Boise City, Idaho, president of the congress; Prof. E. R. Buckley of Missouri, second vice president; S. W. Russell of Deadwood, first vice president, and Irwin Mahon of Scranton, Pa., secretary of the congress. It had been the intention of incorporating the American Mining congress under the laws of the state of South Dakota, but after a consultation with the leading lawyers of the Black Hills it was found that the limitations of the statutes of this state presented obstacles which would work a detriment to the congress in certain things, so it was resolved at the meeting to apply to the state of Colorado for a charter, and to incorporate under the laws of that state.

Entertainment Money Pledged.

The members of the executive committee, since their arrival in the Black Hills, have been the guests of the Black Hills Mining Men's association, and at the meeting of the association on Thursday night were the guests of honor. At that meeting the work which the association has done toward raising the necessary funds for the entertainment of the members of the American Mining congress, which will hold its first meeting under its new charter in Deadwood and Lead, was shown, and the sum raised to date amounts to $5,000, with $10,000 more pledged by the different big mining companies of the Hills. The committee finished its work Thursday afternoon, and it will be submitted to the congress at its first meeting for ratification and adoption.

The Black Hills Mining Men's association has taken hold of the matter of the coming meeting of the congress in dead earnest, and were it to be held tomorrow it would find everything prepared for the meeting. The association has been actively at work adding to the costly collection of minerals which it gathered at the time of the quarto-centennial exposition held in this city, and when the congress meets next year it will possess the finest collections of ores and minerals in the west, and the most costly.

Rival for Cripple Creek.

KEYSTONE, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The Chilkoot district of the southern Hills is producing some mines which will not be long in attracting attention, and mines, too, the product of which will make the district famous. This district is the only one in the Black Hills which resembles in its characteristics the Cripple Creek district of Colorado. The geological formations and the ore taken from the mines are the same in everything and will prove to be as rich. Several of the properties which are being worked in the district are producing a very fair quality of ore, notwithstanding the fact that very little work has been done on any of them. One of the best developed properties is that of the Ivanhoe company, which has lately resumed work on its shaft, which is following down a five-foot vein of ore. Assays from the vein will go from $19 to $35 a ton gold. The ore is a free milling proposition, the concentrates from which are said to be very rich, and the company is now making arrangements to ship a carload of it either to Denver or Omaha for treatment.

Buys Old Water Right.

CUSTER CITY, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The old Spring creek and Rockerville flume and water right has been sold, and it is rumored that the purchaser has been S. A. Baxter, who is putting in the smelter at Sheridan, Pennington county. The water power will be utilized to run the electric light plant which will be built by the Dakota-Calumet Copper Mining company at that place, but it will require a great deal of repairing before it will be in condition to furnish power for that purpose. The flume was built in 1880 by Captain West at an expense of $80,000 and was used for the purpose of bringing water to miners working the high bars along the banks of the creek. It never was a paying investment, for after the water had been brought to the ground most of it failed to pay even good wages. It has for many years been a historical landmark, but has for that time been of no practical use, and its purchase by Mr. Baxter will undoubtedly be the means of putting it to a profitable use now.

The Empire-Baker group of mines, owned by William Tarrant and partners, is one of the best group of claims situated near Custer City. This group of claims consists of fourten locations, on all of which there is a showing of ore. Since it has been in the possession of its present owners there has been $10,000 expended on it in development work, and the expenditure has not proven a bad investment, in the opinion of Mr. Tarrant, who is giving the work his supervision. This work has been done, for the most part, on three locations, on the outcrop of a large vertical, which has been traced on the surface for a width of over 150 feet for the entire length of the three claims mentioned. At different places along its surface openings have been made, and from them all ore has been taken which will assay well. Running through this big vein of ore is a seam about twelve feet wide, which carries free gold, and from which assays running up into the hundreds of dollars to the ton, gold, have been made. The average value of this twelve-foot seam, however, is about $10 to the ton, but there are occasional pockets in it which are very rich. The ore is a free-milling, concentrating proposition, and the owners are undecided whether to negotiate for a plant or not, some of them thinking that the mine will stand a little further development. Work is going on and the ground seems to be holding its own wherever opened on the course of the vein, and it is more than probable that the results of the development work will be the erection of a mill of some kind. The owners have recently refused to bond the ground for handsome sums.

Producing Rich Ore.

The Bi-Metallic group of claims, situated in the same district with the famous Sunbeam mine, is producing some very rich ore, but the vein from which it is being taken, a vertical, is a very narrow one, at the present depth of the shaft, about forty-five feet, being but fourten inches wide. The ore carries free gold, and a sample taken the entire width of the vein, and assayed last week, gave a return of $101 in gold and two ounces in silver to the ton. The property is owned by John Wise and associates, who are working a shift of four men on it.

New Strike in Old District.

HILL CITY, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—A new strike of rich gold ore has been made in the vicinity of the Bengal Tiger and it is attracting a great deal of attention from miners of this district. The time was when the Bengal Tiger was considered the richest mine in the Black Hills, and its former owner, James Long, took from it while it was yet a prospect several small fortunes in specimens, some of the specimens containing more gold than quartz. He sent some of these specimens to New Orleans by the request of the management of the exposition which was held in that city several years ago and they were confiscated by the management or lost; at least Mr. Long never heard from them again. These specimens were worth—and it is a low estimate—$15,000, for they contained that much gold, and the collection was a small one. Since that date the mine, although it continued to produce rich rock, never produced any near as rich as before. A mill was built on the mine, but it never paid to operate, the vein from which all the rich ore had been taken seeming to grow barren as depth was made on it. It proved to be a "specimen" mine and, although it still contains good ore, a hoodoo seems to follow it and of late it has not been worked. The new strike in the vicinity of this once famous mine is said, however, to be of a different nature from the strike in the Bengal Tiger and, while the ore is rich, the values appear to be more evenly distributed through it.

Work on the smelter of the Dakota-Calumet company is progressing rapidly and the plant should be in operation shortly after the first of the year. The other copper proposition in the same vicinity, the Maloney Blue Lead, is developing finely and the ore in the drifts from the main tunnel is growing richer all the time. It is said that a smelter will also be erected on this ground next year. The parties developing the Blue Lead have placed almost $100,000 into the work, but the showing that it is now being made seems to have warranted their faith in the ground.

RAILROAD MIXES IN THE FIGHT

Northwestern Determined to Keep State Capital on Its Line of Road.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The latest development in the campaign now being waged by friends of the towns of Mitchell, Huron and Redfield to secure the resubmission by the coming session of the state legislature of the state capital location question is an understanding which is said to have been reached by the Chicago & Northwestern railroad interests, which at present favor Pierre and are opposed to the resubmission of the question.

According to seemingly reliable information which has been received here, the officials of the railroad company who have personal charge of the matter of prevention, if possible, the removal of the capital from a town on their line of road, are preparing to concentrate their forces upon Huron, which is on their road, if it appears that the removalists have enough votes to control the legislature and resubmit the capital location question.

Prisoner Sets Himself on Fire.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—County Coroner Hawkins of this city was today notified of the death, under unusual circumstances, of a man whose name is said to be Chester Weatherham, at Garretson, this (Minnehaha) county. Weatherham was placed in the Garretson jail on the charge of intoxication. Last night he in some manner set himself on fire, receiving injuries which resulted in his death about two hours after. It is believed he by some means secured matches and started the fire, but whether or not with suicidal intent is not known.

Bound to Commit Suicide.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Edith Blanchard, a young woman who is employed in a local hotel, last night, as the result of a quarrel with a sister who works at the same hotel, attempted to commit suicide by drinking a quantity of wood alcohol. While a physician was working over her she informed him that it was useless to try to save her life, as she would make another and more successful attempt as soon as an opportunity presented itself. It is said the girl came from Spirit Lake, Ia., where her family is highly respected.

Pardon for Perjurer.

PIERRE, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Governor Herreid has granted a pardon to Patrick Carber, who has served a little over a year on a four-year sentence for perjury, having been sent from Lawrence county. The pardon had been recommended by the pardon board, as well as asked for by the jury and presiding judge of the court in which the conviction was secured. Besides it was shown that the wife of Carber is dying of consumption and could live but a short time. On this showing the pardon was granted.

Don't Accept Counterfeits.

For piles, skin diseases, sores, cuts bruises, burns and other wounds nothing equals DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. Don't accept counterfeits. None genuine except DeWitt's. "I have suffered since 1865 with protruding, bleeding piles and until recently could find no permanent relief," says J. F. Gerall of St. Paul, Ark. "Finally I tried DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, which soon completely cured me."

BICYCLE TRUST REORGANIZED

New Company Is Formed to Take Over All Properties of Old Concern.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The American Bicycle company committee has adopted a reorganization plan, filed with the Central Trust company of New York, which provides for a new company to acquire the properties from the old by purchase.

The new company will issue $2,500,000 6 per cent cumulative first preferred stock for cash redeemable all or any part at 110, $10,000,000 non-cumulative 6 per cent preferred stock preferential as to both dividends and assets and $10,000,000 common stock. Holders of the present 5 per cent debentures will be entitled to par in second preferred stock. Preferred stock is entitled to $50 in new common stock for each share and to $9 first preferred stock in return for a required assessment of $9 a share. The common stock is also assessed $9 a share and may receive $9 in new first preferred stock and $25 in new common stock.

The stock of the new company will be held under a voting trust for five years. A syndicate has underwritten the cash payment required.

A Man Badly Injured.

Or painfully hurt, burned, bruised or wounded gets quick comfort from Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It conquers pain. 25c. For sale by Kuhn & Co.

RAILWAY CLERKS COMBINE

Demand More Money and Less Work from Santa Fe Company.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 21.—Efforts are being made by the general office clerks of the Santa Fe to form a union. There are about 150 freight clerks, handlers and checkers in the employ of the road here, who have prepared a schedule which is now in the hands of the general superintendent.

In addition to asking for a 40 per cent increase in wages the freight and passenger traffic clerks require an eight-hour day and pay for overtime.

MURDERED MAN AN OMAHAN

John W. Barringer of St. Louis Was Born in This City.

FATHER ARMY OFFICER STATIONED HERE

Stabbed by Man Who Attempts to Commit Suicide Immediately After Committing the Crime.

John W. Barriger, who was stabbed to death by Thompson Morton at St. Louis, was a native of Omaha, the son of General John W. Barriger, who for many years was chief commissary of the Department of the Platte, serving under Generals Augur and Crook. The family resided on Caldwell street, near Twenty-sixth, where the man killed Friday was born.

John W. Barriger was a nephew of D. W. Barriger of this city, who is connected with the Omaha Elevator company, and who was chief clerk of the commissary department while his brother was chief commissary officer. Mr. Barriger was in California at the time of the tragedy. He arrived in Omaha Saturday evening, and in response to a telegram from his brother, General Barriger, left for St. Louis that night.

Additional details of the tragedy are as follows:

As the murderer was dragged from his victim, into whose body he was frantically attempting to drive a large clasp knife, Morton swallowed bichloride of mercury. Froth upon his lips aroused the suspicions of the policemen who arrested him and prompt use of the stomach pump prevented him from carrying out his prearranged plan of suicide. Barriger lived but thirty minutes and made no statement.

As the officers held Morton before his victim he said haughtily and without a vestige of remorse: "He don't need to identify me. I did it." Later in the office of chief of detectives Morton said: "Gentlemen, it is absolutely useless to question me; I will not discuss this matter. It would only involve others and make more trouble. I should not have done it."

It is known that Morton was frequently employed on construction work with Barriger near Cape Girardeau, Mo., and it is said they had some disputes concerning their work. Morton was discharged by the company a few months ago, but it does not appear that Barriger was in any way responsible for his discharge or that the friendly relations of the two men were interrupted.

Barriger married four years ago Miss Edith Beck, a beautiful St. Louis girl. He leaves a young child and his widow.

When Barriger came to work the morning of the tragedy he seemed to be in cheerful spirits, and when Morton called at an office adjoining his own and asked to see Mr. Barriger the latter called pleasantly to Morton to come in. Employes say the two men conversed in low tones for a few minutes before the sound of the scuffle attracted attention. Barriger then ran out into the hallway, with Morton clinging to him and brandishing a large knife. In the hall the two men fell to the floor together, and before Morton could be subdued he had driven the knife into Barriger's body four times.

CLERKS' UNION ORGANIZED

Men and Women Join New Lodge Under American Federation of Labor.

Retail Clerks' union No. 220 was perfected at Labor temple yesterday with a charter membership of ninety-eight. Its charter was obtained from the American Federation of Labor and the permanent organization was effected by Thomas L. Wilson, fourth vice president of the International Association of Machinists, who is a national organizer for the American Federation. The union was started, and in fact temporarily organized, about two weeks ago. William Grieb, secretary of the local lodge of International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, and other prominent labor representatives participated in the meeting.

The clerks elected as their president, secretary and treasurer, respectively, William S. Striker, Miss Florence Wheeler and Miss Alma Anderson. Women as well as men are, therefore, members of the new union.

Miss Mary L. Gibbon, a stenographer, addressed the meeting, directing her remarks particularly to the members of her own sex who had affiliated themselves with the union.

"It is high time you girls and women were improving your condition," said Miss Gibbon. "Do you not think you have worked for $1 a day about as long as you ought?"

The answer to this question was one round of enthusiastic cheers, in which it was noticed all the female members joined with a vim, as if to give emphasis to their feelings.

Miss Gibbon dwelt upon the necessity of working women and girls organizing for self-protection and expressed a hope that every female clerk in Omaha would join the clerks' union.

One of the gentleman members of the new union said he fully expected to see the membership reach several hundred in a very short time.

BURT'S COMING IS DELAYED

President of Union Pacific Tarries and Negotiations Are Retarded.

No developments in the negotiations for a settlement of the Union Pacific strike are probable before the last of this week or the first of next. President Burt will not be in the city until Friday and possibly Saturday, and no steps are to be taken until he arrives. He was expected back from New York sooner than this, but information came from his residence yesterday that he had planned to spend Christmas with his son in Chicago and would not be in Omaha until Friday at least.

President McNeil of the boilermakers, who has been in direct communication with President Burt, is still in Kansas City, but will be in Omaha to meet Mr. Burt on the latter's return. All the strike leaders are anxious for a resumption of negotiations with Mr. Burt, who they hope will come back from New York prepared to settle up all pending differences. No sanguine expectations are being indulged in, however.

ROBS CHURCHES FOR LIVING

George Hayes Gives Up Information as to Unique Criminal Career.

When placed in the "sweatbox," George Hayes, who was arrested by Detectives Drummy, Mitchell and Stryker for the theft of the crucifix and altar decorations of St. Mary Magdalene church, branded himself as a professional church robber and gave up information which allowed the officers to directly trace to his thievery the loss of property from six different edifices in Omaha.

Hayes claims that his home is in Evanston, Ill., but from articles in his possession he is known to have come from an eastern state and during the last few weeks has been traveling to this city from San Francisco. Hayes travels in the best of style, as the sleeping berth coupons found on him show, and he admits that he has robbed innumerable churches while enroute, extending his journey eastward from the proceeds realized by pawning the articles he secured.

Several of the churches from which he confessed taking property had not missed the articles until notified Sunday afternoon by Detective Drummy, who followed the trail exposed by the prisoner's confession, securing sufficient evidence to insure his trial in the district court, it is thought by the officers.

TRAINS AT MERCY OF SNOW

Unable to Make Time Because Tracks in Places Are Blocked.

The terrific winds and heavy storms in the west during the last few days have seriously impaired train service. While the worst effects have been felt by the Union Pacific, whose line traverses that territory where blizzards and snowdrifts are more frequent, every road entering Omaha has, to some degree, been hindered in transportation. Yesterday scarcely a road had its trains in on time. Those entering from the east and south were late in some cases, but this was of course due to heavy Christmas travel, and not to the weather.

The Union Pacific did not have a through train from the west Saturday nor Sunday, both Nos. 2 and 6 being abandoned, and No. 102, the new exclusive fast mail train, was badly off schedule. The Union Pacific was able, however, to run its Denver trains on as good time as usual. It was through Wyoming where the trouble occurred. Between Sidney and Cheyenne the tracks were entirely blocked with snow and in other places they were seriously interfered with.

The Rock Island failed to bring in its through train from the west Saturday, but managed to pull it through yesterday.

LUTHERANS DEDICATE CHURCH

Three Impressive Services Held Commemorative of the Occasion.

FREMONT, Neb., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The new German Evangelical Salem Lutheran church on Fourth street was dedicated today in the presence of a large number of people. Services were held morning, afternoon and evening, the formal dedication services being in the morning and conducted in the German language. The church was well filled when the procession of the clergy, in their somber black robes, arrived at the outer door of the robing room, and after receiving the keys of the church from the trustees passed through to their seats in the chapel. Rev. C. Goede, the pastor of the church, then took his position in front of the altar and read the usual opening service. The solemn service of consecration was then read by Rev Fred Wupper of Hooper, the secretary of the Nebraska synod. It closed with impressive prayers dedicating the building and all therein to the service of God. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Wupper and a second sermon by Rev. L. Grauenhorst of Columbus. At the close of the last sermon Rev. Charles Goede was formally installed as pastor of the church by Rev. Wupper. He was accompanied at the altar by two deacons of his church, B. Langhoop and August Eichstadt, jr. Music was occupied today by the chorus. The interior woodwork is of hard pine and the seats oak opera chairs.

The interior of the church presents a tasteful appearance. The walls are a dark green. The ceiling, which extends up into the roof, is of pressed metal and of a lighter shade than the walls. The altar is of an elaborate Gothic design of pure white, trimmed with gold, and the pulpit of the same design. Opposite the chancel at the north end of the church is a gallery, which was occupied by the chorus. The interior woodwork is of hard pine and the seats oak opera chairs.

The services this afternoon were in English and opened with the singing of the old hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Two sermons were delivered, one by Rev. A. B. Leamer of West Point and the other by Dr. Neef of Yutan. Revs. Sick of Fontanelle and Wupper of Hooper preached in the evening.

The new church is a direct outgrowth of the opposition of the Missouri synod to secret societies. It was organized about two years ago and worshiped in the Advent church on Fifth street. Last winter a number of members felt themselves forced to leave the other Lutheran church here on account of others of its members being turned out of the church on account of belonging to secret orders and joined them. Rev. C. Goede, then of Bennington, was secured as a pastor, and under his ministry the church has prospered. The new building cost upward of $4,000, and its completion is largely due to the energy of the pastor and the trustees, three of whom, B. Langhoop, Aug Eichstadt and A. Janowski, were removed from the old Luthern church for joining lodges.

CASES SET DOWN FOR HEARING

Supreme Court Makes Assignment for the Call of January 6, 1903.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Following is a list of cases that will be called for hearing January 6 in the supreme court: Teske against Dittberner, Madison; Farnham against Lincoln, Lancaster; Ferguson against Herr, Richardson; Inglehart against Lull, Douglas; Leake against Lucas, Dodge; Dale against Council Bluffs Savings bank, Douglas; Parker against Nothomb, Seward; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad company against Young, Lancaster; Hillers against Yeiser, Webster; Miles against Ballantine, Frontier; Vlia against Grand Island & E. L. I. & C. S. Co., Hall; Perry Live Stock Commission company against Biggs, Seward; Plainview State bank against Hecht, Pierce; Penfold against Grover, Douglas; Reischick against Reiger, Richardson; Gallentine against Fullerton, Buffalo; Becker against Breen, Douglas; Joslin against Williams, Douglas; Coleman against Spearman, Sarpy; Spence against Apley, Thayer; Genau against Abbott, Saline; Lydick against Gill, Burt; Normand against Bank of Talmage, Otoe; Normand against Bank of Brock, Otoe; South Omaha against Tighe, Douglas; Fowler against Thomsen, Dodge; Western Union Telegraph company against Wakefield, Dixon; Berlet against Dreihause, Nemaha; Stocker against Nemaha county, Nemaha; Sickler against Mannix, Buffalo; Pope against Whitcomb, Saline; McHale against Maloney, Douglas; Spearman against Gately, Sarpy; McKee against Fagan, Sherman; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad company against Custer county, Custer; Valley county against Milford, Valley; Lincoln against First National bank, Lincoln, Lancaster; Gretch against Maxfield, Saline; Mensinger against Steiner Medinger company, Douglas; Smith against Thompson, Otoe; McEldon against Patton, Otoe; Farmers bank against Boyd, Otoe; U. P. Steam Baking company against Omaha Street Railway company, Douglas; Standley against Clay, Robinson & Co., Douglas (two cases); Carlson against Jordan, Kearney; Omaha Loan and Trust company against Dale, Douglas; Cuyler against Tate, Sherman; Bright against Chapman, Sherman; Reno against State, Sheridan; Moline against State, Phelps; Boucher against State, Keya Paha; Morris against Linton, Douglas; National Wall Paper company against Columbia National bank, Lancaster; Parker against State, Boyd; Connecticut Trust and S. D. company against Fletcher, Franklin.

Brought Home for Burial.

WEST POINT, Neb., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The body of Mrs. Victoria Grobowsky, a former pioneer resident of this county, who died in St. Bernard's hospital, Council Bluffs, was brought here for burial. She was 82 years old and leaves two sons, Michael, of Washington, D. C., and Thomas, of Beemer. She died of old age.

Warrant for Express Company.

FREMONT, Neb., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Deputy Game Wardens Simpkins and Carter were in the city yesterday looking after the shipment of prairie chickens and quail from Verdigris to Chicago. Deputy Carter filed a complaint in the county court, charging T. D. Buchanan, the messenger of the American Express company, running between Bonesteel and Omaha, and the express company with unlawfully having in their possession 500 prairie chickens and thirty-six quail. A warrant was issued for the parties and the case will probably come up on Monday. It is thought that the express company, which is really the party in interest, will put up a strong fight. The wardens are of the opinion that the unlawful traffic has been going on for some time with the connivance of the company.

OIL SHIP BURNS IN HARBOR

Life Saving Crew Goes to Rescue, but Fails to Reach Vessel.

GLOUCESTER, Mass., Dec. 21.—A large vessel, believed to be either a tank steamer with oil or a sailing craft loaded with some highly inflammable material, was burned tonight in Massachusetts bay about twenty miles outside of Boston harbor. A life saving crew from Gloucester made an effort to reach the ship, but a strong southeast gale drove them back when they were still ten miles away.

About 10:30 tonight Boston fishermen came into port and reported passing within two miles of the burning vessel, but did not attempt to ascertain its identity. The crew of one of them reported smelling burning oil and stated that the vessel was a large one. They were unable to say, however, whether it was a steamer or a sailing vessel, but they thought the former. These two fishermen passed about 8:30, but at 10:30 it could still be seen from shore, burning fiercely.

The vessel was first noticed about 4 o'clock this afternoon by the keeper of Eastern Point Light at the entrance of the harbor.

At that time the vessel was evidently enveloped in thick smoke, but a few minutes later a sudden explosion took place and flames broke out. The Dolliver's Neck life saving crew at once started for the ship, but the weather was tempestuous and after getting some ten miles off shore and a considerable distance from the burning vessel, they became exhausted and turned back. Just before they did so they saw a small schooner, evidently a fisherman, run up close to the vessel and after lingering a few minutes, sail away. This led them to believe that it had been able to rescue some of the crew.

About 10:30 tonight the Boston schooners Gertrude and Emma W. Brown came in, both having passed within a short distance of the burning vessel, but neither was able to give its name or tell of the fate of the crew.

RATES WILL NOT GO UP

Journal of Commerce Says New Schedules in Some Cases Are Slow Decreases.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The Journal of Commerce tomorrow will say: For some time past reports have been current that beginning with the first of the year railroad freight rates will be increased on general merchandise. A printed copy of this classification proves that no general increase in rates has been effected and furthermore there do not seem to be any heavy advance on any class of goods in transferring them from one class to another.

There are in all some 200 changes. Some of these will impose a slight increase in freight rates, while many show actual reductions. By far the greater part of the changes made consist in fixing a minimum weight on which a carload rate will be allowed or in increasing or reducing the minimum weight already established on certain kinds of shipments.

Not a few changes leave the classification undisturbed, but impose new conditions as to how the merchandise is to be packed in order to enjoy the same rating as under the present classification.

ORIENT WILL RUN NEXT YEAR

By Using Missouri Pacific Tracks Trains Can Commence in February.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 21.—A. E. Stillwell, president of the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient, returned today from New York and announced that, beginning about February 15, the Orient would operate trains south of Wichita to Sweetwater, Tex., using the Missouri Pacific tracks for about thirty miles from Wichita, until the Orient lines are laid.

This announcement is made following a conference with George Gould, president, and Russell Harding, third vice president and general manager of the Missouri Pacific, both of whom are directors of the Orient company.

BETTER WAGES ARE DEMANDED

Louisville & Nashville Men Claim Pay Should be Raised.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 21.—The executive committee of the firemen and engineers of the Louisville & Nashville, which held a conference on Saturday with the general manager of the company, made a demand for an increase in wages and gave the management until January 15 to reply.

The executive committee which presented the request will meet on that date to receive the answer. It is not believed that a strike will result, even if the demands are refused, as the men say they do not desire to "tie up" the system.

ABOLISH GRADE CROSSINGS

Cleveland Decides to Spend Ten Millions on Elevating Tracks.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 21.—Work will be commenced in the spring to rid Cleveland of 115 grade crossings. The estimated cost is $10,000,000, and it will require ten years to do the work. Seven railroads are concerned.

FLAMES RAGE IN KNOXVILLE

Burns Three Wholesale Houses and Blaze Still in Spite of Firemen.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 22.—Fire has just broke out in the Knoxville knitting mill building on Commerce avenue, in the heart of the wholesale district. The same block is threatened with total destruction, which burned out in 1897, causing a loss at that time of over $1,000,000.

BIG MONEY POOL HELPS OUT

Demonstrates Powerful Interests Are Bound to Protect Market.

LOAN CONTRACTIONS ARE NOT HEAVY

High Prices a Serious Handicap to New Enterprises and Also a Serious Setback to the Export Trade.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Henry Clews, in his weekly letter, says:

The creation of the $50,000,000 loan pool by many of the big New York banks had a decidedly beneficial effect. It was a very practical demonstration that powerful interests were agreed in protecting the market against an unnecessary crisis; that good and legitimate borrowers would secure such accommodation as they might need, and that no funds would be available for speculative purposes. What the emergency was, serious enough to call for such unusual action, is not revealed. It was probably general, and can no doubt be traced back to the large amounts of money involved in various underwriting and syndicate operations. For some time past it has been no secret that this was the weakest spot in the whole situation, and some of our ablest financiers have been sorely puzzled to know how the period of stress anticipated at this season of the year would be met. It is believed that all serious danger has been averted, and such, it is to be hoped, will prove to be the case. The mere assurance that $50,000,000 will be available in case of crisis tends to remove apprehension and prevent such an emergency. It may be the money will not be wanted for the same reason that a depositor will not withdraw his account so long as he has confidence in his bank. The influence, however, of this offer by strong bankers upon sentiment is highly important and beneficial. Call money was easier at once, though time money remains about 6 per cent.

Small Contraction of Loans.

It is worthy of note that in spite of the heavy liquidation of the last three months the contraction of loans has been only $50,000,000 since highwater-mark in the middle of August. This is a comparatively small reduction, and is probably explained by the fact that American loans abroad have been freely extended or shifted to New York. Foreign bankers have been somewhat distrustful of American methods of financing, and this has thrown us more upon our own resources at a somewhat inconvenient season. As a result we ought to ship less gold in 1903 for settlements. So this enforced retrenchment has its advantages.

While time money is on a 6 per cent basis and good stocks on a 4@4½ per cent basis, it is evident no legitimate widespread bull market can be expected, in spite of the 200@300 points decline lately experienced. Either money rates or stocks must decline in order to equalize this difference; just which remains to be seen. There is much reason in the argument that after such an uninterrupted decline as that just noted a good reaction is due. Considering the activity and soundness of general business, any improvement in the monetary situation would certainly warrant a fair recovery. The year closes with no signs of a cessation in that activity; on the contrary, there is every evidence that, if merchandise prices could be made to decline somewhat in proportion to the drop in stocks, a new and safer business level would be reached on which plenty of new contracts could be placed with confidence.

High Prices a Handicap.

Present high prices are a serious obstruction to new enterprise. The effect of high prices has been strikingly illustrated in our foreign trade returns, which showed a loss of $116,000,000 in exports during the last eleven months and an increase of $75,000,000 in imports. Much of this loss can be traced to the deficit of last year's corn crop and its effect upon other cereals and meats which form a large part of our exports; but higher prices for cotton and oils, also manufactured products generally, stimulated imports and checked exports until our excess of exports for the eleven months of this year was only $337,400,000, compared with $527,900,000 for the same time last year and $571,900,000 the year before. So persistent and heavy a decline in our international trade balance is highly significant. There is a probability of a change for the better in this respect, for there is a good demand for corn for export this year, and the recent declines in wheat and corn are favorable to an outward movement of those staples.

Reaction Anticipated.

The immediate outlook for the stock market is for a natural reaction after the recent very heavy decline in prices. Currency is beginning to return from the interior more freely and treasury absorptions are diminishing, while lower prices for wheat and corn promise a better supply of export bills. To this extent the situation seems slightly better. The Venezuelan situation is a less disturbing factor, for there seems to be no misunderstanding between the United States and European powers about the acquisition of new territory—the vital point of the Monroe doctrine. Preparations for January disbursements will soon be completed and a temporary money flurry would not be surprising. About the middle of next month, however, the monetary situation should show improvement, and if other developments continue favorable we will certainly have a good trading market. The general trend of the market for the present promises to be more confident on the buying side.

Foreign Financial.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The tone of the Stock exchange at the end of last week was cheerful, the feature being the general improvement in Americans. Those securities were uneasy in the early part of the week, but closed firmer. The feeling that the end of the money stringency abroad has been sighted, together with increasing confidence in the judgment of Wall street and a hope that there will be no further gold shipments to New York and Buenos Ayres this month has added strength to the tone. At one time South American securities were threatened by the Venezuelan situation, but they stiffened on later developments, coupled with the crop report from the Argentine Republic. Canadian rails advanced in sympathy with Americans and home rails were helped by satisfactory traffic returns and the prospect of better dividends. Africans were stronger in the expectation of better conditions in South Africa. The fact that there is no longer any fear of an increase in the bank rate this year, together with the prospect that the market will right itself when money flows in January and the indicated rise in consols contributed to the buoyancy at the end of the week.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—During the last week the bourse has in a manner been influenced by the Venezuelan situation. Values remained firm under light trading. The success of the bank combination for the relief of the New York money market made a good impression here and the prophets of disaster admit that again they were mistaken. The Vossiche Zeitung says it supposes that European financial magnates supported the New York combination, promising to discontinue the withdrawal of loans. Money continues to be abundantly offered here. The rate for the carry-over reached 5¼ per cent, but call money was only 2½ per cent. Foreign exchange had a downward tendency and domestic loans were firm. Foreign rentes developed considerable activity during the week and almost all industrials here have gained, particularly chemicals. Several electrical coal shares weakened upon warmer weather and the decline in coke shipments. Irons gained several points notwithstanding the fact that some price reductions were annexed during the week. The London iron syndicate reduced the price of rails by 4 marks, and the Siegen syndicate reduced the price of foundry iron 2 marks. Shares of the Hamburg-American and the North German Lloyd lines advanced moderately upon Hamburg buying. The international association of sugar statistics estimates the European crop this year at 5,174,743 tons, a decrease of 1,308,900 tons from last year. In Germany the yield is estimated at 1,704,296 tons, a decrease of 580,480 tons. German railroad receipts for the month of November amounted to $24,300,000, an increase of $1,062,700 over the same period of last year. The foreign trade of Germany for eleven months of this year amounted to 40,044,216 tons of imports, a decrease of 16,588 tons from the figures for the corresponding period of last year. Exports for these eleven months amounted to 30,802,382 tons, an increase of 2,453,374 over last year. The exports of iron and manufactured articles increased 855,707 tons during the first eleven months of 1902 as compared to the first eleven months of 1901. The increase in the exportation of cement to the United States for the time specified amounts to 132,000 tons.

MADRID, Dec. 21.—The Bank of Spain proposes to establish branches in Havana, Mexico City, New York and Buenos Ayres.

Dry Goods Market.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 21.—DRY GOODS—The cloth market last week was firm and steady and after protracted negotiations fair business was done. Inquiries from India were numerous, with tendencies to increase. The placing of business from China of a sorting-up character assisted the recovery of exchange. A moderate trade through the miscellaneous South American and Levant channels was executed during the week. Yarns were moderate. Business was slightly in favor of buyers, although the week's turn-over did not weaken the position of producers.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Hogs Are Higher, with a Good Market—Sheep Dull and Cattle Slow.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—CATTLE—Receipts, 300 head; market slow; good to prime steers, $5.40@6.50; poor to medium, $3.00@5.25; stockers and feeders, $2.00@4.50; cows, $1.25@4.50; heifers, $2.00@6.10; canners, $1.25@2.40; bulls, $2.00@4.40; calves, $3.00@7.25; Texas fed steers, $3.75@4.80.

HOGS—Receipts, 21,000 head; estimated Monday, 38,000; left over, 3,000; market 10@15c higher; mixed and butchers, $5.90@6.30; good to choice heavy, $6.35@6.55; rough heavy, $6.25@6.55; rough heavy, $6.00@6.25; light, $5.60@6.05; bulk of sales, $6.00@6.30.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 1,500 head; sheep dull; lambs lower; good to choice wethers, $3.75@4.40; fair to choice mixed, $2.75@3.85; western sheep, $3.50@4.40; native lambs, $4.00@5.35; western lambs, $4.00@6.35.

Official yesterday:

	Receipts.	Shipments.
Cattle	5,454	4,033
Hogs	37,554	4,853
Sheep	11,850	2,422

Kansas City Live Stock Market.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 20.—CATTLE—Receipts, 600 head; market unchanged; choice export and dressed beef steers, $5.10@6.00; fair to good, $3.70@5.05; stockers and feeders, $2.25@4.00; western fed steers, $3.00@5.25; Texas and Indian steers, $2.65@4.05; Texas cows, $2.00@2.70; native cows, $1.25@3.85; native heifers, $1.75@4.00; canners, $1.75@2.75; bulls, $1.85@3.95; calves, $2.50@6.00. Receipts for the week, 40,850 head.

HOGS—Receipts, 2,600 head; good hogs 5@10c higher; top, $6.30; bulk of sales, $6.05@6.17½; packers, $6.00@6.15; light, $5.85@6.10; yorkers, $6.05@6.10; pigs, $5.50@6.00. Receipts for the week, 29,500 head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 200 head; market steady; native lambs, $4.00@5.40; western lambs, $3.85@4.35; fed ewes, $3.00@3.95; native wethers, $3.00@4.60; western wethers, $3.00@4.20; stockers and feeders, $2.00@3.55. Receipts for the week, 35,300 head.

New York Live Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—BEEVES—Receipts, 30 head, all consigned direct; no sales reported; dressed beef steady; city dressed native sides, 7½@11c per lb.; Texas beef, 6½@7½c. Cables last received quoted American steers at 12½@13½c, dressed weight, and refrigerator beef at 10c per lb. for average. Exports today were 1,625 beeves, 947 sheep and 4,550 quarters of beef.

CALVES—Receipts, 192 head; all offerings mainly westerns, no sales reported; city dressed veals, $11.00@14.00 per cwt.

HOGS—Receipts, 1,056 head; no sales reported.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 6,876 head; market very dull, with generally lower tone; about 12 cars of stock unsold; sheep sold at $3.00@4.00 per cwt.; culls, $1.50; lambs, $5.00@6.00; dressed mutton, 6@8c per lb.; dressed lambs, 7½@10c.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 20.—CATTLE—Receipts, 2,000 head, including 1,500 Texans; market steady; native shipping and export steers, $4.50@6.00, with strictly fancy worth up to $6.75; dressed beef and butcher steers, $4.00@5.75; steers under 1,000 lbs., $3.75@5.00; stockers and feeders, $2.40@4.00; cows and heifers, $2.25@4.50; canners, $1.50@2.50; bulls, $2.50@4.00; calves, $4.00@7.00; Texas and Indian steers, $2.15@4.25; cows and heifers, $2.30@3.35.

HOGS—Receipts, 3