all traces of the Japanese war. A popular war would cover up an unpopular one, and give the Russians an excuse to make peace with the Japanese or withdraw from Japan's reach and so staunch the bleeding in men and money now going on in Manchuria."

Furthermore, according to the Spectator, military men in Russia believe that war against Great Britain would be conducted in company with Germany, whose colonies could be taken in the event of the British being victorious, while as the Russian fleet has already gone, Great Britain could not inflict injury on Russia.

Danger Pointed Out.

The Spectator proceeds to warn the press against giving Russia occasion for picking a quarrel, especially referring to the "aggressively anti-Russian tone of the Times and the impression of partisanship," which, it declares, "it is difficult to condone, or even understand."

Continuing, the Spectator will say:

That the Times should give occasion to those who desire to embroil Russia and Great Britain is rendered more remarkable by the fact that the Times has done much excellent service in pointing out the trend of German policy. It is to be feared that the harm done by the want of restraint originally shown by the British press cannot now be undone, but at least our newspapers should realize the need of not playing into the hands of the military party in Russia or providing material for those who desire to prove to France that the daily has been treated in an unfair and hostile spirit by the British press. While explosives are lying about there is always need of extra care and circumspection.

The Spectator concludes by urging the government to be vigilant and have its plans prepared for all emergencies, saying:

We must look the fact in the face and prepare to take the consequences of the Japanese alliance. One of those consequences was the active and bitter hostility of Russia and the opportunity afforded to the German emperor to knock the heads of the European powers together and get something of advantage to his nation.

Contraband Reach Vladivostok.

TOKIO, March 4.—It is evident that several vessels laden with coal, provisions and other contraband articles have recently effected the passage of Tsugaru strait and succeeded in reaching Vladivostok. Their exact number and names are unknown, but it is stated that they included British, Norwegian and German vessels. Two of them are said to have carried cargoes of Australian coal.

Japan evidently refrained from making a special effort to prevent their passage, and it is not impossible that she calmly permitted the delivery of the contraband goods, calculating that they would prove useful to herself at a later stage of the campaign.

The Vladivostok squadron continues inactive, though it has an ample supply of coal and the ships are in good condition. It has evidently been instructed by the Russian government to remain close to the Vladivostok batteries in preference to risking a fight in the open seas. It is declared to be only a question of time before this squadron will receive the attention of the Japanese navy.

Fleeing from Vladivostok.

VLADIVOSTOK, March 4.—All is quiet here. No Japanese warships have been seen since February 25, when ten ships were sighted on the horizon, but soon disappeared.

The inhabitants continue to leave Vladivostok for Nikolsk, Khabarovsk or Europe.

There are no signs of spring. The ice is heavy and the cold is severe.

Czar Will Dismantle Gunboat.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The Russian consul has notified the taotai that the authorities at St. Petersburg formally agree, says a World dispatch from Shanghai, to dismantle the gunboat Mandchur, which has been there for some time in defiance of the neutrality regulations. It is stated the guns will be put ashore and that the Mandjur will remain at Shanghai until the end of the war.

M. Doolittle, an engineer on the Union Pacific, has returned from a hunting trip on the Platte. He reports fair shooting.

STODDARD GIVES UP OFFICE

Bitter Political Fight in Arizona Ends with Secretary's Resignation.

GOVERNMENT WILL ERECT CEMENT PLANT

Can Produce Cement Needed for Irrigation Projects Cheaper Than it Can Be Produced by Manufacturers.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Isaac T. Stoddard, secretary of the territory of Arizona, has resigned and his resignation has been accepted, to take effect April 1. Some time ago charges were filed against Secretary Stoddard. He was charged with promoting the incorporation of a company in Arizona for which he received lucrative fees. In itself this was not contrary to the law, as the secretary was entitled to the fees of this office, but when the governor and legislature of the territory sought to curtail the secretary's fees and to put his office on a salary basis, Mr. Stoddard, it is charged, endeavored to prevent the action and not only refused to exhibit his books to a legislative committee, but, it is said, burned them to prevent their inspection.

It is alleged that the fees of the office under Mr. Stoddard's system paid him about $50,000 a year. The fight against Secretary Stoddard became so spirited that he finally tendered his resignation to the president.

Today Senator Platt of New York talked to the president about Mr. Stoddard, who is a son-in-law of Judge Martin of the New York court of appeals. A decision had been reached, however, to accept the resignation and the announcement of the decision soon afterward made.

Will Build Cement Plant.

The Interior department has decided to proceed with the erection of a government cement plant in the vicinity of the Tonto basin, Arizona, for furnishing material for the big irrigation project there. This decision is the result of the rejection of the bids submitted by cement manufacturers, the government estimating that it can erect a factory and produce the cement cheaper than it can buy from the manufacturers.

Captain Becomes Rear Admiral.

The president today sent to the senate the following nomination:

Chief of the bureau of ordnance, with rank of rear admiral, Captain Charles A. Converse.

Report Army Appropriation Bill.

Senator Proctor in the senate committee on military affairs today reported the army appropriation bill, with a number of amendment bills, making a total increase of $2,528,484 in the appropriation over the amount carried by the bill as it passed the house and bringing the total up to $77,620,942.

Cable Under Construction.

Discussion on State department questions occupied practically the entire time of the cabinet today. The project of laying a cable line from Japan to the Island of Guam is under consideration, but no action has been determined upon.

It is said on trustworthy authority that neither Japan nor any other foreign power will be allowed to lay the cable now or at any future time. Whenever a cable line is constructed between Guam and the mainland it will be under the authority and jurisdiction of the United States.

Sundays and Holidays Excluded.

The senate today passed a bill for the amendment of the law governing leaves of absence of persons employed in the executive departments. It specifically excludes Sundays and legal holidays from the thirty days annual leave of such employes and extends the law so as to make it cover the clerks and employes of the government printing office.

Snubbed by Own Government.

General Jose Manuel Hernandez, minister of Venezuela to the United States, who has been recalled by his government, called at the White House today to say farewell to President Roosevelt. In diplomatic circles it is felt that General Hernandez has been treated with scant consideration by President Castro of Venezuela.

Mexico Late, but All Right.

The Mexican ambassador has formally notified Secretary Hay that his government had recognized the new Republic of Panama.

BURKE WILL ENTER BY FORCE

Secures Continuance in Contempt Proceedings Against Senator Powers and His Faction.

CHICAGO, March 4.—Judge Brentano, after granting a continuance in the contempt cases against Senator John Powers and others, instructed the Powers' faction to permit Robert F. Burke and his followers to enter the democratic headquarters. Burke, accompanied by a number of adherents, immediately left the courtroom, declaring his intention to enter the headquarters by force if necessary.

Burke was admitted but his followers were refused admission. The fact was reported to Judge Brentano and he upheld the action of the Harrison faction in closing the doors against an invading force. Mr. Burke later took his departure and so far as known the controversy will rest there until the court decides which party is legally right.

PERISH IN PRAIRIE FIRE

Several Dead and Others Severely Burned and Injured.

ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE DESTITUTE

Estimated that the Loss from Fire and Wind Will Reach Five Hundred Thousand Dollars.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Ok., March 4.—Three persons perished in Wednesday night's prairie fire and the financial loss by the fire and gale is estimated at half a million dollars. The dead:

W. H. MOYER, near Waller; overcome while fighting fire.

DR. HARMON, near Lawton; burned to death in his stable.

UNKNOWN BOY, near Lawton; body found on prairie burned to a crisp.

Further reports of property loss by both fire and wind indicate that the first estimate was too low. The damage by wind extends over seven counties in the southwest. The total losses from fire and storm can as yet only be estimated, but it is the general opinion that they will reach $500,000. Hastings, Olustee, Leger, Walter, Granite, Elk City, Cache, Temple, Snyder, Willow, Bloomington, Sayre and Mountain Park all report damage both in town and surrounding country by wind.

Scores of persons are suffering from burns and broken limbs. At Elk City three members of the family of M. S. Watts were seriously injured by the demolishing of their home in the hurricane.

The area from which reports of damage by wind come is over 100 miles square and means of communication over the district are meager. This difficulty is increased by the fact that poles are burned and wires blown down.

The little town of Francis, west of Mangum, was destroyed by fire but no particulars are given.

Two Deaths at Lawton.

LAWTON, Ok., March 4.—So far two deaths from the prairie fires that swept the Kiowa and Comanche country have been verified, those of Dr. Harmon and an unknown boy, near here, although rumors of deaths at numerous isolated points have been reported.

Twelve persons were burned, three perhaps fatally. Those most seriously burned are John Harmon, brother of Dr. Harmon; Mrs. John Henderson, a widow living near Lawton, and I. C. Strickland, sexton of the Lawton cemetery.

It is estimated that 1,000 persons have been made homeless and are penniless. Suffering among the destitute is intense and the citizens of this and adjoining towns are doing all in their power to bring relief. The aggregate property loss is estimated at $200,000.

Family of Six Burn.

KANSAS CITY, March 4.—Reports of losses from prairie fires in Kansas continue to come in, although the fires have burned themselves out. Near Holland six members of the family of John McClune, a farmer, were burned, none fatally, in the destruction of the McClune home. At Holland the United Brethren church and several small buildings were destroyed.

Losses Continue to Grow.

HOBART, Okla., March 4.—Reports continue to come in of damage done by the prairie fires and winds in the Kiowa and Comanche country. Three residences at Snyder, a small town near here, were destroyed and seven persons were injured, but it is believed not fatally. At Mount Park several houses were demolished and half a dozen persons were injured, none seriously. A strip six miles wide and nine miles long was burned twenty miles south of Hobart.

MONSTER ELEVATOR IS FINISHED.

Updike Company Turning Grain Into New Structure.

MISSOURI VALLEY, Ia., March 4.—(Special.)—The new Updike elevator, the largest storage elevator in western Iowa and one of the largest in the state, is completed and ready for operation this week. This immense structure is built on the same site as the old one which was destroyed by fire October 8, 1903, and is much larger and equipped with more modern machinery. Work was commenced on the rebuilding a short time after the fire and from fifty to one hundred workmen have since been constantly employed on the building. The dimensions are: Entire length, 230 feet; width, 56 feet; height of operating department, 165 feet; height of storage department, 80 feet; length of storage department, 154 feet. The storage department is entirely built of dimension timbers 2x8, laid flat, making the walls eight inches in thickness. The forty-four storage bins, 13½ feet square and 75 feet in depth, are all built of the same material. The operating department is in dimension 56x38 and 165 feet high, divided into six stories, in which is contained all the machinery for cleaning and conveying the grain from the cars to the storage bins. A shed is built over the sidetrack and fifty carloads of grain can be unloaded, cleaned and stored in a day, the cars being unloaded at the rate of one every twenty minutes.

There are two sets of hopper scales on the third floor, each of which has a capacity of 2,000 bushels of grain and will weigh at one time as high as 96,000 pounds. The storage department has a capacity of 625,000 bushels. The entire cost of the building is $110,000. A large item of this cost is the foundation, which was made solid by driving 1,100 piling, twenty-two feet in length, on top of which was laid a five-foot layer of cement. The fire protection for the building is a three-inch water pipe the full height with hose connection on each floor. The piping is connected with the city water works. The smoke stack from the furnace rooms is 170 feet high and is the highest in the state.

This big elevator is to be used by the Updike people as a cleaning and storage station for the thirty odd smaller elevators tributary to this point. They expect in a month or two to have it completely filled with grain, and are now receiving corn, wheat and oats here on an average of thirty-five carloads a day.

Bad Water Causes Sickness.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., March 4.—(Special Telegram.)—The unusually bad water in this city has caused much sickness and the residents are using sterilized or artesian water to a great extent. The schools are being furnished artesian water and water wagons are peddling mineral spring, sterilized and artesian water the same as milk wagons deliver milk. An artesian well at the Young Men's Christian association building furnishes most of the water and a project is now being considered to sell the right of obtaining water from there to the highest bidder. Should this be done, there will be but one water peddler in the city and a new industry of selling water will have been started.

Hot Municipal Campaign.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., March 4.—(Special Telegram.)—Monday is city election day here and a warm campaign is on. The main fight is on the mayoralty. Mayor Husten, the democratic incumbent, is running for a second term. He is opposed by W. G. Haskell, a prominent business man, and the race will be a close one. For aldermen-at-large, Ora Johnson, the democratic candidate, opposes J. C. Pickering, and here, too, will be a close race. The campaign is a clean one, free from mudslinging. Union labor is taking a prominent part in the campaign.

Charge Mother with Kidnaping.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., March 4.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs Howard Culp was arrested at the Milwaukee station last night on a message from Marengo charging her with kidnaping her 14-year-old son. She claims that the boy followed her to Cedar Rapids, where she came to visit friends and escape an unpleasant home life. She advised him to return home, but being the only mother he had, he refused to do so and accompanied her to this city. She will be taken back to Marengo for trial today.

ENGLAND GETS TOBACCO TRADE

Big Deal Consummated by Which British House Acquires American Export Business in Australia.

RICHMOND, Va., March 4.—A deal has been consummated whereby the British-American Tobacco company acquires the export business of Alexander Cameron & Co. and William Cameron & Bro. of Petersburg in the United States and the Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, Australia, branch houses. Concerning the terms of the deal Alexander Cameron said today that he could give no details, as his nephew, George Cameron, is now enroute to San Francisco from Australia with all of the particulars.

Mortality Statistics.

Births—James Kroupa, 1254 South Fifteenth street, girl; William R. Gooch, 3139 Emmet street, girl; Frank Slavick, 2917 South Twenty-ninth street, boy.

Deaths—William H. Platner, 2818 Grant street, aged 65; Hattie Dewey, 2202 North Twenty-first street, aged 29.

NEW SCALE MAY BE SIGNED

Operators' and Miners' Committee Compromises on Wage Reduction.

DECISION WILL BE REACHED TODAY

If Terms of Operators Are Accepted or Little Changed an Amicable Settlement of Difficulties is Probable.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 4.—The operators and miners substitute scale committee shortly after convening today took a recess to allow the miners' scale committee and officers to hold a conference.

After the conference the subscale committee submitted what they said was their ultimatum, cutting their demand in half and asking for a two years' scale at one-half of the 12½ per cent advance in wages given last year. This would make a reduction of 5 cents along the present scales and a decrease in other labor of about 6 per cent.

President Mitchell and F. L. Robbins of the operators said that a general joint session would be held tomorrow to receive the scale committee report. If the terms offered by the operators are accepted or little changed a scale will be signed tomorrow.

CLAIBORNE JURY DISAGREES

Fails to Reach a Verdict and is Discharged After Long Deliberation.

The jury in the H. H. Claiborne case in the United States district court failed to agree and was dismissed at 12:30 Friday. The jury took the case at 6:20 Thursday evening and deliberated until 11 that night, when it was sent to the hotel by the court. It returned at 8 a. m. yesterday and again called in by Judge Munger, to whom the foreman, Frank P. Prince of Madison, said an agreement did not seem possible. Judge Munger thereupon dismissed it.

The case of Mr. Claiborne involved a charge of perjury growing out of his testimony in the case of embezzlement of J. Albert Davis, clerk at postoffice station B, where, in January, 1900, over $1,000 disappeared. Davis was cleared. Claiborne's testimony, which was corroborated by that of others, proved that about the station were evidences of robbery and that the money may have been taken that way.

Nothing was done about Claiborne's testimony until in 1902, when a federal grand jury brought in an indictment for perjury. W. S. Summers was then as now, district attorney. It was then noised about that Claiborne was a friend of Davis, and as such sought to give testimony that would clear him. In the trial just closed Claiborne testified he never knew Davis and had never had any relations of any kind with him.

This indictment against Claiborne, incidentally, was brought about shortly after a story written by Claiborne as a reporter, appeared in The Bee, showing that Summers and Joseph Bartley, the state treasurer through whose peculations in office the state lost over $500,000, spent part of one night in the rear room of an Omaha saloon together.

READY TO HAND OVER MONEY

Bankers' Association Has Five Hundred Dollars to Pay for Conviction of Robbers.

"The association is waiting to pay the $500 reward for the Lyons bank robbers," said Secretary Henry F. Wyman of the Nebraska State Bankers' association, "and will do so gladly as soon as the two men are convicted. The arrest of the two burglars in Kansas City came through the rewards offered and is almost the first arrest of any of the men who during the summer and fall of 1903 were blowing safes in small banks in the state. The Lyons bank was robbed in November, 1903. Bankers, I think, do not really appreciate the work the association has done for them. The standing reward was offered in hope of discouraging the burglaries. The association furnished all legal advice by which the burglars were brought to Lyons. The membership, however, is growing rapidly each year and the association becoming stronger."

DEATH RECORD.

Mrs. Amilda Fields.

SPRINGFIELD, Neb., March 4.—(Special.)—The funeral of Mrs. Amilda Fields, who died in Colorado Monday, was held at Springfield yesterday. Mrs. Fields was 68 years old and had lived in this county for thirty-seven years prior to moving to Colorado a few months ago.

John O. Shelp.

HARVARD, Neb., March 4.—(Special.)—Yesterday the body of John O. Shelp was brought to this city for burial by Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln from Fillmore county, the deceased having resided with them since the death of his wife last June, Mrs. Lincoln being his niece.