

The gunboat Petrel is already in commission at Mare Island and her detail of officers assigned. The Concord will be the next to go in commission at the navy yard. The Pensacola, Baltimore and Charleston are in various stages of repair.

WAUSAU, Dec. 1.—The flood in the Wisconsin river continues. At Granite Heights, ten miles north of here, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul tracks are about half a foot under water for about half a mile. This water is thinly sheeted with ice, not strong enough for transfer and yet strong enough to seriously impede any attempt to clear the track.

No part of the track is yet washed out, but it is not considered safe to attempt to run through the water.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 1.—Wisconsin Central officials have received advices from Chippewa Falls this morning that the water has reached to within three feet of the falls with indications that by evening the gorge will be as high as the falls. According to reports no damage has resulted in the city up to the present, but the danger is far from being over.

EAU CLAIRE, Wis., Dec. 1.—Owing to the floods there is a total suspension of railway traffic on the Wabash and Durand branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway. Great damage has been done to farmers along the Chippewa river. Farmers' families who escaped to the railway track from the rising water were rescued by trahmen and an engine. The ice gorge three miles from Eau Claire is causing inundation of Chippewa Falls, but protecting Eau Claire and Durand. It extends for miles and cannot be broken. Unless it should give way, no great damage is looked for here.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—The tidings of calamity threatening the villages and towns of the Chippewa river valley, Wisconsin, were confirmed by passengers and crews on incoming trains today. According to them the city of Eau Claire is in the shadow of the big ice gorge which threatens to give way any moment and precipitate a flood on the inhabitants of the valley.

Express Messenger Arthur says the central point of danger is Eau Claire. He continued:

"The express agent, whom I relieved at Chippewa Falls, told me that the great ice gorge is nearly fifty feet high and five miles long and has formed near the lower portion of Eau Claire. This barricade of ice is forming a reservoir of water which is packed with lumber, driftwood and great floes. The only thing which keeps the flood back is the ice gorge. When that gives way something awful will happen. The families are moving away carrying their household goods to high land. Four feet of water covers the Wisconsin Central tracks. The water is rising six inches an hour. The bottom lands are covered and great loss of stock has been reported by farmers. The cellars where supplies are kept have been completely filled with water. I hear the river has already reached the twenty-foot mark."

Train crews report that the engine and coach sent out to the low lands below Durand, came back with two score of men, women and children on

board, who were driven from their homes by the flood and were found nearly dead from exposure and cold. The engineer said he could not finish the trip on account of the rising water.

The Burlington bridge at Chippewa is reported impassable. Reece's Landing, above Alma, is said to be totally covered with water and traffic is effectually stopped. Railway officials have received information that the Chicago, Burlington & Northern road also is handicapped by the ice gorge and rising floods.

Passengers on the Wisconsin Central train, which arrived from the north at noon report that the water already is five feet deep in the streets of Chippewa Falls, and dynamite is being used in an endeavor to break the gorge.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 1.—A special to the Evening Wisconsin from Chippewa Falls says:

The situation at Chippewa Falls is growing more serious every moment. The mammoth ice gorge which formed six miles down the river has backed into the city and an immense volume of water coming from above is spreading on each side inundating the larger portions of the town. Today every merchant is moving to a place of safety. The water has filled the basements of the business blocks almost the entire length of Bridge street. Before evening it is expected the water will have reached the court house, eight blocks from the river. There is much excitement, but everything is orderly. About fifty families on the south side, who were forced to move, were reported in want, and relief was given.

Some families who had taken refuge in empty houses were without food or warmth. Bridge Superintendent Callaghan, of the Central road, was instructed to blast out the gorge at the east, but would not undertake it. He said all the dynamite manufactured could not budge it. It seems all that can be done is to sit down and watch the approach of the flood. The water this morning began to rise at a rate of a foot an hour. It looks as though the entire town would be inundated.

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis., Dec. 1.—The Chippewa river is filled with gorges at many points. At Flambeau farm the river ran over the banks, destroying 300 head of live stock, ruining a dozen farms.

It is feared the course of the river will be changed throwing it directly on the town and completely inundating it. In that event, heavy loss of property and life cannot be avoided.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 1.—The Bank of Westport, which kept an account with the Missouri National, which failed yesterday, suspended this morning for the benefit of the creditors. The failure of the Missouri National caused a run on the Westport bank. The assets are placed at \$31,500; liabilities about \$20,000. The assets include \$27,500 accounts and bills receivable and \$1,200 cash.

Cashier Edward F. Phillips expressed the opinion that the depositors will be paid in full.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1.—The fighting cruiser Brooklyn, the newest addition to the United States navy, was towed from Cramp's ship yard to League Island Navy yard today. The

great white cruiser received an ovation as she proceeded down the Delaware past the docks, and the shipping in this city. The blowing of whistler, ringing of bells and shouts of thousands gathered on boats and docks, marked her progress. After the commandant of the navy yard, Commander Howell, had received for the Brooklyn for the United States government, F. A. Cook, Commodore Howell and the ship's officers gathered on deck and held ceremonies which formally placed the ship on commission. The flag was run up to the mast head, the sailors lined up for salute to the commander, and the Brooklyn was part of the navy.

It is expected the cruiser will be ready to sail in about two weeks.

PARIS, Dec. 1.—The monetary commission has pronounced in favor of a nickel issue. M. Floville, director of the mint, opposed the decision.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Ramon O. Williams, formerly U. S. consul at Havana, arrived here on the steamer Werra from Gibraltar. He said his visit to Spain was not a diplomatic mission but purely for pleasure.

"This has been my first vacation for twenty years," he said.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The comparative statement of receipts and expenditures of the United States shows that during November, 1896, the total receipts were \$25,210,696; expenditures \$32,260,724.

The receipts for the five months of the fiscal year amounts to \$131,650,489; expenditures, \$171,597,385. The deficit for the five months is \$39,946,846, as compared with \$15,869,337 for the corresponding five months last year. The receipts from customs during November amounted to \$9,930,385; internal revenue, \$13,104,828; miscellaneous, \$2,175,482. This is a loss of customs compared with November, 1896, of \$1,524,929; gain from internal revenue, \$64,744; gain from miscellaneous sources, \$684,379.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—Fire in Forster square, Bradford, a big triangular block occupied by forty firms, caused damage which exceeds \$1,000,000. The fire originated in John Holdsworth & Son's block, which was almost gutted. The offices of the Anglo-American and Commercial Cable companies were burned.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The German oil tank steamer Wilkommen, which arrived today from Dantzic, bringing 6,000 bags of beet sugar, reports that shortly after midnight on the 17th a huge meteor shot across the sky from southeast to northwest and plunged blazing into the sea some distance ahead of the Wilkommen. Almost immediately afterward a huge sea like a tidal wave broke over the steamer's bow and swept aft, luckily doing slight damage.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 2.—By the first of the year every flour mill in this city will be running full blast. This is the prediction on change. Many of the St. Louis Mills are now shut down and others are only running half time.

The flour jobbers confidently expect that the price of flour will go up by the first of the year. The millers claim that with wheat as high as it is now, they cannot make flour with profit.