

fell last night in the shape of sleet and snow, brought on by a brisk norther. The thermometer fell about thirty degrees. Reports indicate that the norther is general over north and northwest Texas. A blizzard accompanied by sleet and snow has been raging in the vicinity of Denison, Texas, and in the Indian Territory for the past 24 hours. Stock has suffered greatly.

Altoona, Pa., Dec. 20.—A freight train of twenty-one loaded cars, traveling down the mountain to this city tonight, became unmanageable in consequence of the slippery condition of the tracks, made the twelve miles from Galitz into Altoona in as many minutes, and crashed into a freight train in the yards directly in front of the passenger station. About fifty cars were completely broken up and the Hollidaysburg passenger train, which was standing on the track outside the passenger shed was thrown over on its side. The engineer and fireman of the runaway train were helped from the cab of the wrecked locomotive and both were able to walk away. Three other trainmen were taken to the hospital. One of them is said to be fatally injured. A brakeman named Corbin is still unaccounted for and is thought to be under the wreckage.

S. Kuster of Hagerstown, Ind., who was accompanying a carload of poultry, was fatally injured. Brakemen Corbin and Turner are still missing.

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—One person was possibly fatally hurt and six others were more or less injured this afternoon in a collision of the Roxborough, Wissahickon & Manayunk electric road on the outskirts of this city.

While descending a hill a trolley car became unmanageable on account of the slippery tracks, and descending at full speed, it struck a horse car at the foot of the incline, bringing up against a trolley pole. The roof of the trolley car fell in on the passengers, the stove upset and the wreck caught fire.

J. R. Lamb, aged 29 years, conductor of the runaway car, suffered injuries which will necessitate the amputation of a leg and one arm and may result in his death. The motorman and passengers were severely cut and bruised. The wreckage was consumed by flames.

London, Dec. 20.—Parsons Pasha and other officers have arrived at Kassala to arrange to take over the place from the Italians. The troops will not arrive until Thursday.

The town of Kassala, which under an agreement between the Italian and British governments, is about to be taken over by the latter in the interest of Egypt, is one of the three keys to the Soudan, the others being Dongola and Berber. It is an important strategical center between the River Nile and the Red Sea, situated on a torrent named Elgarsen, which during the rains is 400 or 500 yards in width and protects one face of the defense.

When the Egyptians first occupied the town they fortified it and made it "a place of arms" against the Abyssinians. On the outbreak of the Mahdi revolution, a force under Osman Digna was sent to capture Kassala, then held by a small detachment of Egyptians under Mudir Ahmid Bey Ifal. For twenty-two months Ahmid held out heroically against the Dervishes, frequently sallying forth in search of food.

On one occasion the starving garrison made a sortie and succeeded in capturing 2,000 head of cattle against overwhelming odds. When at length all the ammunition was gone Ahmid surrendered, in September, 1885, on condition that the lives of the inhabitants and soldiers should be spared. In spite of a promise to respect the condition, the Dervishes committed terrible atrocities and Osman Digna had several of the officers executed.

In 1891, when Great Britain and Italy settled their boundary in East Africa, the latter power was permitted to occupy Kassala, until such time as the Egyptians should be in a position to resume possession of the town. In 1894 Gen Barateri availed himself of this permission, and captured it by a brilliant attack.

On May 8, 1896, the Italian government, answering a question in the Chamber of Deputies, announced that Kassala would be retained as it was to Italy's interest to fulfill claims to Great Britain's friendship, which it is understood called for the holding of Kassala by Italian troops, but even then it was believed Italy would hold the place only temporarily. Since that time events have caused the practical abandonment of Italy's colonization schemes in Africa and Kassala, therefore, is to be occupied by the British.

Parsons Pasha takes with him a battalion of infantry and detachments of artillery, engineers and a camel corps, altogether about 1,800 men, he force was embarked at Suakim in the latter part of last month and carried to Massowah, the chief port of Abyssinia, from which point it is marching overland. All the diplomatic arrangements for the cession of Kassala to Great Britain had been completed before the end of September last.

New York, Dec. 20.—Fifty broad silk weavers in the employ of the Meding Manufacturing Co., at Paterson went on strike today for an increase in wages of 10 per cent.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 21.—Fire broke out at 1:15 o'clock this Tuesday morning in the Auditorium building, at Ninth and Holmes, which contains the biggest theater in Kansas City, and one of the big hotels. The fire originated in the servants' quarters, on the sixth floor of the hotel. Though the greatest excitement prevailed among the guests of the hotel, no one was hurt in the panic which followed the alarm of fire.

At 1:40 o'clock the fire was believed to be under control, but at 1:55 the flames burst forth again, despite the efforts of the firemen.

At 3 o'clock it was apparent that the building would be destroyed. A portion of the roof and the domes had fallen in, the outside wall threatened to fall at any moment and all spectators had been driven back from the street.

Though there was great excitement among the guests of the hotel, many of whom sought shelter in near-by buildings, it is quite certain that the fire has been attended by no loss of life or serious accidents.

The Woodward stock company, who have been playing at the theater, saved all their effects. Paxton & Burgess are the lessees of the theater.

At 3:30 o'clock this morning it is certain that the destruction of the building will be complete. All the guests succeeded in saving most of their effects.

Alexander Frazer, owner of the property, states that the building and the hotel and theater furnishings represent an investment of \$330,000. He purchased the property only a few months ago. His insurance, he says, is about \$70,000. Owing to the high rates demanded he had refused to reinsure several policies which recently expired.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—"Trouble in Indian Territory is expected by the commissioner of Indian affairs, and by others in this city who are familiar with the condition of affairs prevailing there," says a Washington correspondent of the Herald. "On January 1st the tribal courts will be abolished by an act passed at the last session of Congress, and the United States courts given full jurisdiction over the Territory.

"In many quarters the officers of the Indian courts have declared that they will forcibly resist all efforts to prevent them doing business, and the United States marshals have given notice that if any tribal courts are held those assuming to conduct them will be arrested.

"A delegation of eight Cherokees, seven of them full-bloods, is now in the city. A few days ago they presented a memorial to Congress asking that the law be rescinded, but Congress has now adjourned without action, and when it again convenes the courts will be out of existence.

"Meanwhile the sub-committee of the Senate committee on Indian affairs appointed to consider the problems in the Territory, has practically decided to recommend amendments to the present law, providing for the apportionment of all lands held by the five civilized tribes among the members of these tribes, and also an amendment providing that all valid leases shall be recognized by the government of the United States and the money paid on account of them covered into the treasury for the benefit of the various tribes.

The Dawes commission has reported its failure to come to any conclusion with all the Indians. Such agreements as have been concluded vary so in their provisions that in view of the fact that eventually a uniform system of government must be provided for the Indian Territory, it is questionable whether any of the agreements should be definitely ratified by Congress until the desired and necessary uniformity can be reached.

"Secretary Bliss thinks no government will be satisfactory until Congress shall provide for the establishment of a single uniform system for the entire Indian Territory that shall place all its inhabitants in possession of the rights of American citizens."

Washington, Dec. 21.—Miss Lella Herbert, daughter of ex-Secretary of the Navy Herbert, died at her home in this city this morning as the result of a fall from the third story of her home on New Hampshire avenue, in the most fashionable part of the city, just off Dupont Circle. The sudden death and tragic features surrounding it were a great shock to the great circle of friends she had made in the course of her life in Washington as the daughter of a popular representative in Congress from the South, and later one of the cabinet circles of ladies, when she presided over her father's household during the four years he was secretary of the navy, under the last Cleveland administration. Her death was traceable indirectly to an accident while horseback riding in her native state of Alabama about two months ago. She always had been enthusiastically fond of riding and while paying a visit to her old home rode a horse that had not been broken. It stumbled and she was thrown violently to the ground, sustaining severe injuries to her back. She was brought back to Washington, but recovery was exceedingly slow and it was not until last Sunday that she was able to go out of the house. On that day she went driving for the first time since the accident, and Dr. W. W. Johnson, the attending physician, noticed considerable improvement.

This morning she was unusually bright and cheerful and chatted animatedly with her married sister, Mrs. Micou, who made her home with the ex-secretary and his daughter. It had been Miss Herbert's custom for several years, to take her breakfast in her room and later prepare for the social obligations of the day. Shortly before 10 o'clock she dressed to go down stairs, but instead of descending went to the rear room of the third story, from which she fell, sustaining in-