

the Louisville & Nashville. There it switched off to the Birmingham Mineral track and went from Gurney to Blockton. The Mineral trains operate over the Southern railway's Briarfield, Blockton & Birmingham branch under a contract arrangement. Six miles south of Gurney is the Cahaba river, a shallow mountain stream which has a depth at this time of only about three or four feet. This river is spanned by an iron bridge with wooden trestles on each side. Its entire length is 800 feet, and the length of the span where the wreck occurred is 110 feet. The bridge was built only four years ago and was regarded as a very safe structure. The main span just beyond it, both made of iron, gave way and precipitated the entire train into the river. The engine landed on its side almost at right angles with the track. The cars piled upon each other through the main span. The entire wreck took fire soon afterward and was rapidly burned to the water's edge. Nine persons alone escaped alive and several of them will probably die.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Dec. 28.—Donald McLean, projector of the Pacific Short Line, which was built from this city to O'Neill, Neb., but which was planned to be built to Ogden, Utah, has returned to Sioux City, saying he has absolutely secured all the capital necessary for the completion of a railway line from Sioux City to San Francisco. Mr. McLean says: "I have completed every arrangement for the investment of \$32,000,000 of English capital for the construction of a railroad line from Sioux City, Ia., to San Francisco. My financial agent is the Continental Trust company of New York. I am here to make arrangements for a survey of the route from O'Neill to the West. I have already negotiated with representative parties from Utah and other states in the West, and the preliminaries are practically settled.

"None of those formerly associated with me are allied now in this new deal. The Manhattan Trust company is left out. Wendell Goodwin and John I. Waterbury have passed to other fields, and F. O. French is dead.

"I am convinced that if my life is spared Sioux City is certain to realize the dreams inspired in the days when we first commenced together."

DIGHTON, Kan., Dec. 28.—The board of county commissioners of Lane county have formally declared the county insolvent and issued instructions to the county treasurer to refrain from further payment of interest on the county's bonded indebtedness. The funded debt of the county is \$125,000. The bonds are held by about forty different corporations and individuals in New York and New England and have been quoted almost at par.

Edward Melmie, chairman of the county board, states that his action was taken simply because the county could not raise money enough by taxation to meet its obligations. He asserts that the settlers of Lane county are not repudiators, and pay their taxes promptly, but that such is not the case with non-resident land-owners. He cites as an example the Jarvis-Conklin Mortgage company, which owns ninety quarter-sections of land in the

county and has not paid a cent of taxes for nearly three years.

About \$109,000 of the county's indebtedness is represented by bonds issued to aid in the construction of the Great Bend branch of the Santa Fe road.

OKALOOSA, Kan., Dec. 28.—In the Jefferson county court here this afternoon Judge Louis Myers handed down a decision in the famous Santa Fe railroad receivership case in favor of the railroad company. He declares that the alien land law, under which he had appointed a receiver for the property, does not apply to railroads. The decision is a complete victory for the Santa Fe company.

SOFIA, Dec. 28.—[Copyrighted, 1896, by the Associated Press.]—As cabled last night, Mme. Stambuloff, widow of the murdered ex-premier of Bulgaria, whose alleged assassins are on trial here, made a short but impassioned speech yesterday before the mixed tribunal which is hearing the case. Madame Stambuloff, when the trial was begun, declined to attend, but in response to repeated requests she attended the sitting of the court yesterday heavily veiled.

When her name was called a deep silence fell upon the assemblage. The widow rose with great dignity and speaking in a voice shaking with emotion, she said: "You have insisted upon my presence and I am here. I have nothing to say, because I do not see arraigned before your honorable body those who are known to be the real assassins of my late husband. You know them, Mr. President, and you, too, Mr. prosecutor general.

"Is it not so? You know them, as all the world does. Where are they? I do not see them here."

Then with a gesture full of fire and indignation, she exclaimed, pointing to the alleged murderers of her husband: "Acquit these miserable people. Summon before you the really guilty men, who are at present the government. I have nothing to add, and I will now withdraw."

This accusation from the widow of the great Bulgarian statesman, known as the Bismarck of Bulgaria, made a deep impression upon the audience, which was composed of people belonging to the higher ranks of society.

The president, judge and procurator general were so unnerved by the terrible earnestness of the woman who thus forcibly denounced the methods employed on the trial of her late husband, that they were unable to put a single question to her, and she left the courtroom a picture of grief, demanding vengeance from a tribunal from which she knew so well that little or nothing would be expected.

The address of Mme. Stambuloff is a matter of general comment in the court newspapers today. The keynote of their remarks, taking from the leading organ of the ministry of Prince Ferdinand, is that the wife and friends of M. Stambuloff ought to have taken measures for the protection of the man who, the government newspapers say, either labored under mental derangements, or was "so convinced of his own misdeeds that he sought death in the street."

FOHENEADY, N. Y., Dec. 28.—A serious riot occurred this afternoon at

Aqueduct, four miles from this city, on the Erie canal, where 300 Italians are employed on the canal improvement. A body of about 150 men from this city who were employed, marched down with guns, knives, clubs, pickaxes, etc., carrying a red flag, and compelled the men to stop working. The sheriff and a large force of deputies quelled the riot and arrested the ringleaders. Early this morning the mob attempted to burn a shanty where fifty workmen slept. The city is full of angry Italians and trouble is expected.

Small pay and excessive prices for food are the cause of the trouble.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—According to news received here from unofficial sources, Li Hung Chang's visit to England and the United States already has borne fruit in a decision of the Chinese government gradually to Anglicize the Chinese people, at least as far as their language is concerned. For Peking government recently issued instructions to the various viceroys and governors of the provinces of the empire to establish schools for the teaching of the English language and Western sciences in all of the principal cities of the country. According to the wording of one clause in the general instructions, the reason for this is that China, in order to keep herself on the terms of equality with the great powers of Europe, must educate the masses and encourage inventive genius and foreign learning among her people, together with that love of country and home and that devoted patriotism so conspicuously ingrained in the hearts of those who have studied such languages and sciences.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The Cuban junta in this city was officially informed today that Maximo Gomez last week passed the eastern trocha at Moran, going west.

Other advices from Gomez state that the Spaniards acknowledge the concentration of insurgent forces in the province of Santa Clara near Matanzas.

DUBLIN, Dec. 29.—During the past night and this morning the bog slide on Castle Island, County Kerry, continued unchecked, a copious rain fall helping the movement. The mass of bog is a mile and a half wide, roars like an ocean, carries away bridge and roads, destroying houses and farms, sweeping through Flesk valley and emptying the peat and carcases of cows, sheep and donkeys and debris of houses into lake Killarney. People living in the direction in which the bog slide is coming have fled and the police are searching for dead bodies. Lord Kenmare has caused a cordon of guards to be drawn around the slide to prevent loss of life. Great excitement prevails in the vicinity and all houses are open to receive the hundreds of people rendered homeless.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 29.—Gov. Bradley has ordered several companies of the state militia to be in readiness to march at an hour's notice to Paris to repel a mob expected there from Cythania to lynch John Howe, who shot and killed Charles Lacey of the latter place. The Paris jail is under heavy guard and the county authorities say that they can keep any mob at bay.