northern and western portions, and there are indications of minerals. In Wyoming Wind river country is regarded as one of the richest portions of the State. Mr. Woodruff is disappointed, and Nettleton, because the Indians absolutely refused to accept the offer he made of $100,000 for only about 50,000 acres additional near the town of Lander. A majority of the commission, in disregard of Woodruff's advice not to make a treaty unless the Indians would sell the southern strip, made a treaty to buy the northern and eastern portions of the reservation and thereby secure all the lands the Indians will part with at the present time. That Woodruff's opposition arose solely from his failure to get into another track, even for as much as $1.25 per acre, is evidenced by the record of the first council, when he himself made the proposition to pay the Indians the same amount of money the commission afterward agreed for the identical land secure.

The Denver Blizzard.

DENVER, Dec. 15.—The snowstorm which swept over a portion of the Rocky Mountain regions yesterday, extended from central Wyoming to New Mexico. A hurricane accompanied the snow, and did much damage, especially at Pueblo, and along the Divide. On the Divide it drifted in great banks, eight to ten feet high, preventing traffic of all kinds. Over northern New Mexico, snow is reported in some places to be in drifts eighteen feet high.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

China Resolves Not To Have Anything To Do With It.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—A Washington special says: The Chinese empire has officially notified the State department that it will take no part in the World's Fair. An ultimatum was delivered to the State department through Minister Denby, Saturday.

Hitchcock, representing the Exposition, has been working hard to persuade the empire to take part in the Fair. At a final conference recently held between the commissioner and Chinese authorities, the emperor made known his position. The emperor's grounds for declining to send an exhibit are that the United States have discriminated against the citizens of that empire and that the Chinese could not come to the exposition without being put in a humiliating attitude, needing a special passport, to be granted by a special act of Congress. No objection is raised to the Chinese merchants already in the United States participating in the exposition, but China, as a country refuses to take any part whatever in the fair.

EXPORT DUTIES REMOVED.

Minister Denby at China has informed the secretary of State that while the Chinese government will make no provision for an official representation at the World's Columbian Exposition, it has, in order to facilitate exhibits by Chinese merchants and school, removed the export duty on all articles exported for the exhibition at Chicago.

The Montana Sapphire and Ruby Mines.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—A Helena, Mont., special says, it is admitted at the office of the Montana Sapphire and Ruby company, that the negotiations for the sale of the property to an English syndicate have finally been concluded. The general opinion seems to be that two million dollars with bond and share accounts to the present owners of the property is the price paid.

A Papal Official Deposed.

ROME, Dec. 15.—Mgr. Folchi has been deposed by the Pope from the vice-chancellery apostolic chamber, owing to faults in the administration.

Major McKinley on Retire.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 15.—A dispatch from Canton, O., says Major McKinley is no better today, but his physician apprehends no serious result.

Indignation in Butte, Montana.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—A special to the *Tribune* from Butte, Mont., says: The people are wrought up to a high state of indignation over the action of the Boston & Montana Company resuming its mines in heaps, contrary to the injunction recently secured. The superintendent of the work, after giving his orders, left town. The people are compelled to wear cloths over their faces while on the streets to stifle the fumes. A public meeting has been called for tomorrow. A mob will go out and put a stop to the nuisance, and the police and sheriff will not interfere.

Another Alliance Scheme.

TOPEKA, Kans., Dec. 15.—The Kansas Alliance Co-operative Mortgage Association, capital stock $1,000,000, with Frank McGrath as the central figure, is the latest Alliance enterprise. The charter was filed this morning and business will be commenced January 1st. The object is to negotiate directly with Eastern capitalists for necessary amounts for delinquing the farm mortgages indebtedness without the assistance or middlemen.

The company will obtain securities by forming a fund of the effects, personal and real, of its members.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 15.—The Legislature re-elected United States Senator Daniel without opposition.

New York, Dec. 15.—In the third floor of a tenement on Stanton Street here this afternoon Mrs. Mat Hack and her four-year-old son were murdered. Robbery was evidently the cause of the deed, as $150 is missing.

Paris, Dec. 15.—Admiral Gervais, who commanded the French fleet which recently visited Cherbourg, has been appointed Chief of the general staff of the ministry of marine.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The Chamber of Deputies today adopted a reduction of the import duties on petroleum, also the whole budget, by a vote of 304 to 42.

London, Dec. 15.—Mr. Morris, inventor of the Dr. Morris tube, today committed suicide by shooting himself with a rifle. No reasons given for the act.

Dublin, Dec. 15.—At a political riot at Ennis, County Clare, today, John Dillon was struck on the head with a stone, and his face badly cut.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 15.—The United States cruiser "Baltimore" arrived today en route to San Francisco. All are well.

Montreline, Dec. 15.—The Central railway station in this city has been destroyed by fire.

Growing Vegetables by Electricity.

Experiments looking to the increase of soil productiveness by an unknown extent by means of electricity are now making. They have not been in progress long enough to determine certainly whether the promise they give will be fulfilled, but that promise is dazzling. The government agricultural stations of several of the states, among them especially New York and Massachusetts, are investigating the subject carefully. Simultaneously scientists in Europe are experimenting in the same direction. The results arrived at by Professor Warner, of the Massachusetts station, indicate that electric currents acting on plants and vegetables dissolve out from the soil the salts which the roots need to nourish them, thus allowing these salts to be absorbed quickly by the roots, increasing the plant's growth rapidly.

Meantime a vegetable gardener at Arlington, Mass., has been doing some practical work on his own account that discounts all the achievements of the scientists on scientific grounds. Mr. Hansen, the vegetable gardener, had some flower beds on a certain side of his yard that did not thrive and never had thrived. An electric light was erected in such a position that its rays fell directly upon these beds. They shortly began to grow as they never had done before. Could it have been the light that caused it? Mr. Hansen then introduced electric lights into the hothouses in which he raised winter cucumbers and lettuce. The effect here was as marked as it had been in case of the flower beds, and the gardener's profits were increased 25 per cent. The vegetables were of better quality and grew to perfection sooner than under the old method. Mr. Hansen's plan was to let the electric light shine upon the plants. Some of the scientific gentlemen, on the other hand, seem to have proposed slight electric currents through the plants down to their roots.

Perhaps we are on the threshold of great discoveries in this field. Perhaps this is one of the new methods whereby the earth will be made to yield food for six times as many persons as it now does.

Poor Consolation.

A kindly soul writes in The Youth's Companion to tell us how certain ailments that make mankind howl are really angels unaware and paying dues. For instance, there is gout. It deforms the fingers and toes, makes them look like swollen sausages and sends 50,000 needles through the victim all time. But it is all right, says this consoler. If you didn't have gout you would die speedily from the causes which produce gout.

Then there is that blessed angel rheumatism. Perhaps you have a tendency to heart trouble, a serious one. But you get a good tough case of rheumatism. Bind fast to your knees and ankles, and lo! You can no longer run hither and thither like a squirrel, endangering your life every day by your excessive hurry and activity. You walk temperately and slow like a solemn old lord with the gout.

But really is long life worth having at such a cost? Think of the little, slender hands of youth becoming twisted and hideous with gout. Think of changing the sunny, limitless activity of our who never had rheumatism or the crutch, for the deformed useless joints and hobbling gait of the rheumatic. Think of being unable to walk at all for twenty years. Many people would prefer ten years low of existence, with fully joyous life while they do live.

Struck by Lightning.

When the scientific girl of the period is struck by lightning and lives, the first use she makes of returned consciousness is to write an account of the whole occurrence to a newspaper. This was what Miss Mary C. Avery, of Ledyard, Conn., did. Her story appears in The Popular Science News, and it is full of interest as well as of value scientifically.

Miss Avery was struck while standing in a carriage from church, though she neither saw nor heard the crash. Her father and mother were with her, and presently they saw that she was "stopping over." Her pulse was all gone apparently and her body was limp.

They carried her at once into a house near by and administered brandy and water. It was half an hour before she regained consciousness to some extent, though she showed signs of life almost immediately, and was seized with convulsions so tremendous that it required two men to hold her. She remembers nothing at all of these spasms, and recently insistently, "This goes to prove that the convulsions about which some people raise objections in electrical executions are not indicative of conscious suffering."

The lightning struck her on the left side of head, two and neck and burned her severely. Her first feeling on returning to herself was one of intense pain. Of the rest this cool headed heroine writes:

> The wire in my hat and the hairpin disappeared, and the lining was torn half in two. My collar was split in the middle. My shoes, also the jacket and outer shoes, had on them a peculiar kind of mark, as if the current had passed through. The shoes, after a time of the boots, still showed the marks. The hairpin my dress the mark of a wound. There was no burn, but it was plain to be seen that the current had passed through. I had a bruise on my left side, and my left arm was bruised and lame for a time. The bruise was in the place where the current had passed through. The bruise was in the place where the current had passed through. The bruise was in the place where the current had passed through