

mite. An incident of that nature is related in the telegrams as having occurred at the Pratt mine, near Brazil, Indiana. The fan cylinder was blown into scraps by a bomb placed near it by strikers. It was by the merest accident that human life was not destroyed by the explosion as well. Is the country approaching a reign of terror? If not, what is going to stop the tendency in that direction?

DEVELOPMENTS AT ST. JOHNS.

Our correspondent J. W. Brown, writes from St. Johns, Arizona, under date of December 4th:

"Thus far our autumn has been made up of warm and balmy days, but yesterday an Arizona southwestern struck our town, cooling the atmosphere rapidly to zero. There has been some sickness in our midst recently, caused by fever. Brother Marker H. Peterson has been called upon to part with two of his little children, both girls; and brother Geo. C. Dana lost his wife, a good mother and Latter-day Saint, who left a family of six children, nearly helpless. If there is one condition in life, more than another, that should call forth the sympathies of a community, it is when a family of small children are left motherless."

"Some improvements are being made here, which will give more stability and permanency to the town. Hon. J. T. Leaneur's new brick residence, just nearing completion, would do credit to a more pretentious town. The improvements and extensions made to our C. M. and M. I. make it the foremost mercantile establishment in the locality, and show that the company means business."

"Dr. Karl G. Maeser's visit to us last week, which was greatly appreciated by the Saints here, was timely. The instructions he gave in the four meetings held by him, were such as to inspire all those present with the importance of our educational organizations, and of the necessity of our young people being properly educated. Our public schools are all in a prosperous condition, and are conducted, in most instances, by competent teachers."

SOMETHING ABOUT NATIONAL BANKS

THE annual report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the first session of the Fifty-second Congress contains many interesting particulars relating to finance. The number of banks in existence in the United States October 31, 1891, was 3,694, having in capital stock \$684,755,865; bonds deposited to secure circulation \$152,113,850; bank notes outstanding, \$171,368,948, including \$35,430,721 representing lawful money deposited to redeem circulation still outstanding. The amount of circulation secured by the pledge of United States bonds has increased during the year \$11,795,101.

During the report year 193 new banks were organized, located in forty-one States and Territories, and possessing an aggregate capital of \$20,700,000. During the same time 41 banks went into voluntary liquidation and 25 became insolvent, leaving

as a net gain for the report year 127 associations, with a capital of \$12,553,000, which is, as to number of banks, precisely the net average of yearly increase during the life of the system.

The number of banks now in operation is greater than at any former period. The increase in the totals of capital stock, surplus funds and undivided profits has been satisfactory. This is also true of deposits, loans and discounts.

Of the 193 banking associations entering the system during the year, 99, or slightly more than one-half in number, are located west of the Mississippi river, and 59 in the Southern States.

Of the total number of banks in operation, Pennsylvania has the greatest number of associations, Massachusetts the greatest aggregate capital, and New York leads in amount of deposits.

A carefully prepared table is given showing the number of banks organized, failed and in voluntary liquidation, and the net increase numerically each year since 1863. A notable feature of this table is the large number of banks which have become insolvent during the last year. They aggregate twenty-five banks, with a capital of \$3,662,000. The year 1873, however, appears to have been the most disastrous in point of capital, as during that period the failure of eleven banks, with a capital of \$3,825,000, is recorded. In 1877 ten failures occurred, representing a capital of \$3,344,000.

Of the twenty-five failed banks of last year, thirteen, representing \$1,137,000 of capital, were located in Kansas and Nebraska. The failures in these States were attributable more to bad crops and unwise speculation in real estate than to lack of honest and efficient management.

Mr. Comptroller Lacey's report makes a pamphlet of eighty-six pages. It is a comprehensive State document, and deals in a masterly manner with the philosophy, jurisprudence and statistics of banking institutions and their relation to the industry and commerce of the country.

EXCEEDINGLY CREDITABLE.

WE have given voice to the feelings of the people regarding the laxity exhibited in the enforcement of the city ordinances, and the impunity with which burglary and highway robbery are constantly committed within the city limits, and we are pleased now to be able to say a word or two in commendation of the city officers.

The capture of some of the criminals who have been engaged in the deeds of

darkness which have so aroused the citizens, is a piece of clever work which is creditable to the new Captain of Police and the Sergeant who assisted in it. The recovery of cloth stolen from Mr. Spry, and various articles which have been boldly taken from other persons, shows what can be done by skilful and persistent effort on the part of the police.

If this is followed up, it will not be long before the ruffians who have infested our streets at night and broken into houses whenever there was a chance to steal, will either be caged up or driven from the city.

Captain Janney and Sergeant Donovan have made a bright stroke and are entitled to praise for it. Let the good work go on. There will be no need for talk of a citizens' patrol if this kind of official diligence is continued.

FRENCH AND BULGARIA.

THE cause of the severance by France of diplomatic relations with Bulgaria appear so trifling as to make it appear as if the French government were anxious to find an excuse for a rupture.

A newspaper man had been expelled from Bulgaria because he had persistently and notoriously sent out false and disturbing reports to Paris journals in reference to that country. France demands that he be permitted to re-enter Bulgarian Territory without reference to his conduct. It does not appear that the French government questioned the charge in regard to the obnoxious behavior of the journalist in question, and insists that he be permitted to reside in Bulgaria and, of course, continue his misrepresentations.

The subject is of much importance to the last-named country. Her geographical position, being the key to the orient, is such as to render her an object of envious interest to Russia—and incidentally to France—on the one side and to England and the European powers generally on the other. Misleading newspaper reports are apt to get Bulgaria into trouble with one side or the other, yet France practically takes the ground that she shall have no protection from this source of danger.

The act of the French government is one of pronounced diplomatic hostility, and if the breach is not healed, it is liable to lead to actual war. The movement is necessarily associated with the "Eastern question," and furnishes another of many recent proofs of the closeness of the relations existing between France and Russia.

The question will perhaps be raised