

**\$400,000 FIRE
IN ILLINOIS TODAY**

Seven Hundred People Thrown Out of Employment.

NAPHTHA TANKS EXPLODE.

Water Falls, and a Big Stamping Plant is Left to Destruction.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Fire destroyed the Bellows Stamping company's plant at Harvey, Ill., early today, causing a loss of \$400,000 and throwing 700 men, boys and girls out of employment. Insurance of \$275,000 was carried.

A high wind carried burning embers about the village, threatening its destruction. Citizens formed a bucket brigade and prevented the spread of the flames.

Several tanks, two of them filled with naphtha, exploded. Fragments of iron fell almost everywhere, but no one was seriously injured. The water failed at 2:30 a. m., and the firemen left the factory to its fate, and turned their attention to surrounding property.

CAPTURE INSURGENTS.

Rebel Filipinos Being Run Down—Conditions Improve.

Manila, Dec. 31.—Gen. Frederick D. Grant wires that Gen. Alejandro's men are trying to escape from Mount Arayat. Two of them were killed Sunday. There is no water on the mountain and food is scarce.

An official report says the Fourth infantry and the Fourth cavalry in Cavite province have captured 169 armed insurgents and taken possession of their camps at Anabo and Malangan. Captain Biddle, chief of engineers, has returned on the transport Meade from the island of Guam. He says the conditions there have greatly improved by the planting of trees. The American United States water carrying ship laden with supplies, arrived there Dec. 31, after a tempestuous voyage from Cavite, during which her boats were swept overboard. There is much suffering from hunger in the outlying districts of Guam, but no starvation. Two thirds of the population are at Agaña, the chief city of the island, and its vicinity.

The Cold Chill.

Temperatures at 7 a. m., Dec. 31.—New York, 26; Boston, 35; Philadelphia, 35; Washington, 35; Chicago, 34; Minneapolis, 30; Cincinnati, 29; St. Louis, 27; Denver, —18.

SIX DAY RACE.

Seventeen Competitors in the New York Contest.

Boston, Dec. 31.—The six-day bicycle race at the Park Square Garden was started at 1:20 this afternoon with seventeen competitors. There were 3,000 spectators present. Alex. McLean of Chelsea and W. L. Baker of Sydney, N. S. W., were entered to start but did not appear. The race was won by McLean, who rode from 1 p. m. until 6 p. m., and from 7 o'clock until 12 o'clock, thus giving an hour's rest for supper and eleven hours' intermission for the track. The track is pronounced admirably maintained, and the race was a fine one. The riders were all in very good shape today.

At 8 o'clock Gougoutz was in the lead with McEachern second, Kaser third, Simon fourth and McLean fifth. The score at the end of an hour and a half was 35 miles 7 laps.

At 2:32 while the riders were bunched Kaser's wheel slipped and he fell with the other riders piled on top of him. His arm was broken and he was carried from the track. The other riders scarcely had returned to the track when Frederick, Reyser, Miller and Fischer, went down in a heap and were removed from the track.

Just after the second accident McLean ran into a post and was considerably injured.

Troops Reach Manila.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Adjutant General Corbin received a cable message from Gen. MacArthur this morning saying that the transport Buford, New York, arrived at Manila yesterday, and that the transport Warren sailed for San Francisco with 500 convalescent soldiers and a few other passengers.

Transport Coming Home.

Washington, Dec. 31.—According to cable advices received at the war department this morning, the transport Stephen, Dec. 31, will leave for Seattle and the transport Conemaugh, Frederic and Westminster have left the same port for San Francisco.

Storm on French Coast.

Paris, Dec. 31.—There has been a renewal of the stormy weather on the northern coast of France and several shipping casualties of minor importance have been reported.

Grand Rapids Fire.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 31.—The entire plant of the Grand Rapids Book Case company was destroyed by fire today, together with the greater part of the season's output. Loss about \$25,000.

Petroleum Plant Burned.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 31.—The Penn Petroleum company's plant at Coatsville, Pa., was almost completely destroyed by fire today. Loss, \$100,000.

Burned to Death.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 31.—By the explosion of a kerosene lamp at 1533 Lake street, Allegheny today, Lily Brown, aged 22, was burned to death, and her mother fatally injured.

Killed by a Cave-In.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 31.—A special to the News from Hampton, Mich., says that by a cave-in of the Champion mine John Horngreen and George Williams, who were picking ore on the surface, were buried. Their bodies will not be recovered. The shaft-house, also down, is undermined and may go down as the surface is still caving.

Warship to Venezuela.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The navy department has ordered the Scorpion to proceed once to La Guaira, Venezuela, to replace the Hartford at that port.

**ARMISTICE HAS
BEEN PROCLAIMED**

That is the Latest News from the Chinese Capital.

WHAT THE EMPEROR WANTS

His Request Agrees With American Views—German Troops Capture War Supplies.

London, Dec. 31.—A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Peking, dated Sunday, Dec. 30, says an armistice has been proclaimed.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The state department has received from Minister Conger at Peking, dated Dec. 29, a cablegram announcing the Chinese plenipotentiaries have notified the representatives of the powers that the emperor desires the acceptance of their demands as a whole, and Prince Ching requests further conference. They also desire that military excursions to the interior should cease. It is well known that this last request is in accordance with the views of the President.

In diplomatic quarters, the acceptance given by the Chinese envoys is regarded as a most ingenious stroke of diplomacy. Among diplomatic officials it is said that this is not an unconditional acceptance, although it is such a concurrence in the general principle of the note that the powers cannot well set it aside. It appears to be directed toward re-opening the word "irrevocable" and securing more definite and, if possible, more moderate conditions on some of the points involved. It is not clear whether the envoys will sign the note first and then ask for modification, or endeavor to ameliorate the terms before the final signatures are affixed. In any event, it is felt that the gravest features of the trouble are overcome by the submissive attitude of the emperor, and but little remains now but to perfect the details of the peace treaty on the general lines heretofore laid down.

Minister Wu is back from his trip to Montevideo. N. Y. is still without advices from Peking as to what has been done.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—Count von Waldersee reports to the war office under date of Peking, Dec. 29.

"The Chinese who fled south were pursued by Iriote's squadron to Sokein, 160 kilometers southwest of Peking, where the Chinese scattered. Grueberg's column seized great quantities of munitions, quick-firing and Krupp guns, Maxim rifles, etc., at Si Nan Chen, twenty-one kilometers east of Peking, which had been abandoned by the fleeing Chinese."

WHEAT EXCITED.

Prices Go Up on an Announcement of Shortage.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The excitement of Saturday was repeated in the wheat market today on a more extensive scale. May wheat opened at 75½ cents to 76½, compared with the previous close at 74½. As has been noted, it apparently satisfied demand and trade became quieter, men in the pit finding time to throw flour, wheat and other missiles at each other after the annual custom on the last day of the year. The announcement of a decrease in the visible supply of 45,000 bushels reawakened speculation during the afternoon. May, which had touched 75½ in leaps and bounds, soared to 76½ under enormous buying pressure. The close was 76½, the highest since 1900.

BOERS SURPRISED BRITISH.

Turned in on Them at 2:30 a. m.—Casualties, 37.

London, Dec. 31.—Gen. Kitchener, telegraphing from Pretoria Sunday, Dec. 30, says:

"The post at Helvetia was surprised at 2:30 a. m., the enemy first rushing a 4.7 gun. At dawn the officer commanding the post at Swartkops sent out a patrol and the enemy abandoned the gun temporarily. The Boers, however, formed our prisoners around the gun and got away eventually. No ammunition belonging to the gun was captured. The casualties were four officers wounded, eleven men killed and twenty-two wounded. A column was sent out from Maseru, but owing to bad roads it failed to arrive in time."

BOERS TRICKED THEM.

How the Willy Burgers Forged a Telegram.

London, Dec. 31.—Since his arrival in London Maj. Gen. Sir Henry Colville has received information tending to show that Lieut. Col. Sprague actually received a forged telegram purporting to be signed by Gen. Colville, dated Sunday, May 23, saying:

"I am badly in want of mounted troops. Come here at once."

The above telegram was sent off three days before Gen. Colville reached London, and the cause of Lieut. Col. Sprague's hastening there.

One of the principal charges against Gen. Colville is that, after appealing to the commander for help, he abandoned them to their fate.

"I never heard of this telegram," says Gen. Colville, "until now. But it explains the mystery of my alleged message to Col. Sprague. It was known at the time that some one was tampering with the wires near Lindley in the interest of the Boers."

Gen. Colville reported himself at the war office today.

Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood, the adjutant-general, merely sent a subordinate to meet the general.

The Kilpatrick at Singapore.

Singapore, Dec. 31.—The United States transport Kilpatrick arrived here today.

With Transatlantic Liners.

New York, Dec. 31.—Arrived: Staaten-dam, Rotterdam.

Glasgow, Dec. 31.—Arrived: Sarmatian, Portland.

Hamburg, Dec. 31.—Arrived: Assyria, Philadelphia.

Naples, Dec. 31.—Arrived: Kaiser Wilhelm II, New York.

Attorneys Resign.

New York, Dec. 31.—Deputy Assistant District Attorneys Daniel O'Reilly and Forbes J. Hennessy

resigned today after their resignations were requested by District Attorney Philip B. Unger, who has had charge of the indictment bureau for some years, handed in his resignation today.

SALT LAKE CAUGHT IN GRIP OF ICE

City Creek Frozen Up and One-Third of the City Deprived of Water for Much of the Day—The "News" and Other Buildings Left Without a Drop for Steam Purposes.

Jack Frost struck Salt Lake on Saturday night on the crest of a big snow storm. He apparently liked the place so well that he has been abiding here with growing intensity ever since, and with the result that he is beginning to play havoc with "the daily task, the common round" of the average mortal. In some cases his attentions have had the effect of temporarily paralyzing business. Work upon buildings has been suspended, as far as bricklaying is concerned. Engines have refused to run on account of the lack of water, the average small boy in some districts is rejoicing on account of the scarcity of the aboriginal fluid and the superabundance of ice and snow, while those concerned and houses which have hitherto depended upon City Creek for a source of supply, have been hauling water during the major portion of the day in the street sprinkler, which is usually associated with a tropical climate. Especially in this state of affairs held good in regard to the Z. C. M. I. Constitution building, the "News" and other large buildings which operate boilers and engines, and get their water supply from City Creek.

WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT BUSY.

The waterworks department was notified of this appalling state of affairs at an early hour, in fact the telephone wires were kept so hot until noon that Superintendent Hines says it was a wonder that the entire watershed embraced by that system was not thawed out before that time. The department, however, responded nobly to the call, and a force of men was dispatched to the scene of the trouble, armed with axes and other weapons of attack, and an onslaught was made upon the ice which had formed at the mouth of the feed pipes. By 12 o'clock water was flowing through the hydrants and faucets in the buildings, and an hour later the grateful hiss of the steam radiator was heard above the plaint of the half-frozen inmates of the various offices.

COAL FAMINE THREATENED.

Everybody apparently was in a bad humor this morning, from the man that went out to the coal shed at the witching hour of dawn to the business man who adjusted his ear muffs and lay on his fingers for comfort up town. The only happy individuals in town were apparently the coal men and the plumbers, and then even the coal men were not too festive, for, he it known, the supply of black diamonds in Salt Lake is running decidedly short. If the coal famine does not relinquish its grip upon this city there will be a very rapid scramble for lump and nut within the next few days, for the coal bins are getting empty in the yards and relief is not yet in sight.

Mr. Murdoch, who is supposed to

regulate the weather from his eyrie in the Doody building, states officially, however, that it was not so cold last night as some people supposed, being at the coldest part of the night 2 degrees above zero, while the maximum point reached by the thermometer between daylight and dawn was 16 degrees of freezing. This will soothe the man who this morning averted solemnly that his thermometer registered no less than ten degrees below zero. In this connection it may be stated that reports that have come in from various parts of the city in regard to the cold weather this morning all point to the fact that it was cold last night. General Agent Walker of the Chicago Northwestern recently investigated in a self-registering thermometer for which he paid a great price and which he accordingly values beyond the price of pearls. He states that when he arose from his slumbers this morning that this instrument had registered five below zero during the night while the thermometer outside the laundry this morning also registered four below. Taken all in all it was a cold night.

AT THE COUNTY BUILDING.

Jack Frost's attentions in Salt Lake were felt all over town. In the city and county building water was at a premium, to be more correct up to 11 o'clock of the "News" and in this way the office to the great discomfiture of the occupants. At noon, however, the water was sufficiently thawed out to find its way to the third story. At this time the soothing influence of the steam in the pipes induced the lady stenographers employed around the building to doff their furs and attack their typewriters.

From all over the city comes the old story of frozen pipes. This situation was very much in evidence at the Deseret News, and for some hours the entire force despaired, as it seemed a practical impossibility to get out the paper. There was not a drop of steam in the entire building, and the engine boiler was filled and steam produced. To add to the intensity of the situation not a line of telegraph was received over the wires on the regular Associated Press service until 1 o'clock.

SKATING AND SLEIGHING BOOM.

But the small boy was in his glory, routing circulation by the aid of invigorating exercise. With his skates and his sled he held a high carnival, as the youngsters of the street cry that pass the footpaths can testify to their sorrow. The motormen had plenty of invigorating exercise to keep themselves down their brakes with painful monotony, and said things with ditto reiteration as the youngsters

or should ignore what he denominated as false skates, and in the article on the ground that the American public had already passed upon the controversy. The general was in consultation during the day with some of his close adherents and friends in the army and in civil life.

Grand Duke Sinking.

Welmor, Dec. 31.—The condition of the grand duke of Saxe-Weimar, who is suffering from influenza, complicated with inflammation of the lungs, is very serious. The action of his heart is gradually weakening, and he is in painless, but the worst is feared.

Heavy Gas Explosion.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 31.—A heavy explosion of gas occurred in the Hollen-back mine of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal company today. It set fire to the woodwork but was quickly extinguished. Five hundred men were at work at the time. All succeeded in getting out safely with the exception of two who were badly burned.

Lost on the Desert.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 31.—V. L. Hopkins, one of the oldest residents of Yuma, is lost in the desert near Mesquite. There is no hope of finding him alive.

Tombs Prison Service.

New York, Dec. 31.—Ira D. Sankey, the evangelist, conducted the last service of the century to take place in the Tombs prison.

Sitting in their cells, listening to his voice, were three noted prisoners—Dr. Kennedy, accused of killing Dolly Reynolds, Lawyer Patrick, held in connection with the Rice will mystery, and McDonald, the gambler who, it is charged, shot four men in Harlem last week.

Gen. Miles Hesitates.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Gen. Miles was best today by newspapermen seeking to secure from him some explanation of opinion to the recently published article by Former Secretary Alger relative to the beef supply of the United States. He was still undecided as to whether he should make any statement to the critics passed upon his course

Financial Crisis at Manila.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The secretary of war has communicated to Congress a cablegram from the Philippine commission indicating a grave crisis in the monetary affairs of the archipelago. The message was communicated to Congress in connection with a mass of memoranda bearing on the problem which is now to be solved, as to the coinage of some kind of silver to take the place of the Mexican dollar in the Philippines. The commission has urged that they require an answer to the message sent September 7 setting out the necessity for prompt action, and asking what remedy shall be applied. It has been found impossible, apparently, to continue the ratio of 2 to 1 established and maintained arbitrarily, and the Mexican money is being drained away rapidly towards Manila, making it difficult for the disbursing officers to transact business.

SUDDEN COLD SNAPPED THE WIRES

Drop in the Temperature Cuts Off Associated Press Service for Nearly a Day—Lines Will be Repaired Tonight, to Reopen Communication.

"Editors—The cold weather east has snapped the wires in several places. So far we've not had a word from the east today."

The foregoing is the announcement sent out by the Associated Press this afternoon, shortly before the hour of the Deseret News goes to press. It was not welcome tidings, in the closing hours of the Nineteenth Century, to be shut out from the world, with which the people have been brought in such close contact by one of the greatest of the century's inventions. But it had

would come shooting down the hill and right across the tracks in front of the approaching cars. Especially did this hold good on the Warm Springs line where the youngsters hold high links from McCornick's residence down First North for a couple of blocks. With the heavy double-tracked cars that are running on that line, and the difficulty of stopping them in their own length, it will be a miracle if some serious accident does not happen provided the snow holds good and no action is taken to curb the foolishness of these daring youngsters who bid fair to make the crews on the street cars grey-headed.

While the snowstorm of Saturday night did not last very long, owing to the fact that the ground was dry it lay where it fell and as a consequence there has been some sleighing. In evidence—not the best of sleighing, perhaps, nevertheless good of its kind. Quite a lively business has been done in cutters at the livery stables, and the young assain has taken advantage of the first good storm to take his affinity out for a ride; with the result that all kinds of equipage have been seen on the streets.

Possibly the one which caused the most comment was that which appeared on East Temple street at 11 o'clock this morning. It was the typical bob drawn by a big dog; behind the dog sat two small boys having a great time. Just as they passed past the Kenyon a small terror swung out from the curb, seized with the commendable idea of taking the big dog by the ear and throwing him over his shoulder. At this precise moment the big animal took a healthy interest in the proceedings with the result that the juvenile Jehu performed divers weird acrobatic feats in the snow, while the two dogs and the bob annihilated distance like an express train in the direction of Erskin Peak, with the canine in harness, an earnest and persevering end and the result lamenting his indiscretion between jumps.

THE WATER PRESSURE.

Regarding the present conditions of the water supply, Chief Devine said today: "Under the existing conditions there is not enough water in the mains to supply the engine in case of a fire. When the pumps are on full, there is, of course, a vacuum, and the engine sucks air instead of water."

"I have had complaints today from the southeastern portion of town, that there was not enough water for domestic use. At present the pressure is 100 pounds less than it ought to be. The average pressure today has been 15 pounds."

"For two years, and during the extended controversy on the water problem, I have urged that cutters be built in the business districts so that water could be furnished the engine in case of an emergency such as the present."

"At all times, even when there is plenty of water, they would be liable to fill the hose, and it would cost but a limited amount of the appropriation for water service."

After the Kidnappers.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 31.—Mayor Moores today made the following statement: "Bullets or no bullets, I intend to offer a reward for the arrest of the Cudahy kidnappers. That last letter from the kidnappers puts such a serious coloring on the case that it is not right to expect Mr. Cudahy to continue his offer of \$25,000 reward for the arrest and the conviction of the men who stole his boy."

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"I have wired the governor urging him to offer a reward. A special meeting of the council has been called for this afternoon to consider the advisability of appropriating \$10,000 for any person who may bring about the conviction of the kidnappers. The county will also be asked to give some money, and I have no doubt but we will swell the sum to \$25,000."

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**VANCOUVER, B. C.,
IS REJOICING.**

British Columbian Soldiers Return from South Africa.

SERVED WITH A LUNCHEON.

Every Soldier to Receive a Gold Watch—Vancouver Arrayed in Gorgeous Colors.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 31.—This city is in fête today because of the return of the members of the Canadian regiment from the Transvaal. The British Columbian members of the contingent reached this city today. The streets are red with flags and bunting.

The returning soldiers were met at the depot by the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, the drill corps of the public school, and the Military Veterans' association.

All the streets contiguous to the depot were so blocked with citizens as to be almost impassable.

After the soldiers detrained they were served with a luncheon by the ladies of Vancouver, under the direction of Lady Tupper.

This evening there will be an illuminated parade, followed by a welcome reception in the Opera house.

Every member of the Transvaal contingent from this city will be presented with a gold watch, the gift of the citizens.

IS NOT A CANDIDATE.

Hon. Reed Smoot Issues a Statement Regarding Senatorship.

Hon. Reed Smoot, who has been frequently spoken of as a candidate before the Legislature for the office of United States Senator, has issued the following statement:

"Agreeable to promise, I make the following public statement regarding my position as a candidate for the office of United States Senator, to be voted by the Fourth regular session of the Legislature of the State of Utah."

"The question is not whether I shall be Senator, and my personal wishes in the matter should not be considered, but the question is whether I can represent Utah and accomplish most for her interests."

"Second—What is best for the future interests of the Republic?"

"These two questions, I sincerely hope, will be carefully considered by our legislators. I am an American citizen and a Republican, and hold the right to accept any nomination offered me by my party."

"I am sorry the question has arisen as to whether the Senator to be elected shall be a 'Mormon' or a Gentile, but as it has, the present incumbent of the office of Senator, who is a Gentile Democrat, cannot in justice and ought not to be charged against the Republican Gentile portion of Utah."

After careful consideration, I will state that I am not a candidate, and my only wish is that the best fitted for the place may be elected."

I love our dear Utah; I am jealous of her interests; I am deeply interested in her future prospects, and these are more to me than the honor of being United States Senator."

I wish also to thank my many friends, both Gentile and 'Mormon,' for their kind offers of friendship and support given to me, unsolicited, and I appreciate them more than words can express."

OTHER CANDIDATES NUMEROUS.

The action of Mr. Smoot, while it clears the atmosphere somewhat in the eyes of those who have viewed his candidacy with apprehension, does not seem to have lessened the number of names among the members of the legislature, and he has formally announced his candidacy to his friends. Hon. James T. Hammond is also again prominently mentioned.

It does not look as though there will be any opening for headquarters by the various candidates on the lines followed in previous campaigns; but this is not saying that there is not a tremendous amount of activity going on in the camps and among the followers of the various aspirants of the office.

Every candidate has